

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



Macrhybopsis marconis

May 2020 Newsletter
Volume 46, Issue 1

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KIRK WINEMILLER



Before launching into my perspective on 'the state of the world', I would again like to express my gratitude to chapter members for entrusting me with this leadership position. I'm greatly comforted to know that I have help from some amazing members who make our chapter one of the best in the country, not only during the years when we receive official recognition as such, but year in and year out. Our officers and committee chairs make my job easy. I'm especially indebted to past presidents Michael Homer and Dan Daugherty and our secretary/treasurer Natalie Goldstroh for their guidance and service to the chapter. And it was great to see many of you at the Waco meeting. I thought the talks and posters were exceptional this year, and Natalie along with Shaun Donovan, Sarah Haas, Alice Best and Michele Nations did a fantastic job to make that event a success. I look forward to an even better event in 2021 and thank Dakus Geeslin for assuming the role of president-elect. And I must thank Matt Acre for his outstanding work as newsletter chair during the past year. Matt will assume a new job in another state, and I wish him the very best.

As I write this message to our membership, it is impossible to avoid acknowledging the fact that we are living in unusual times. The COVID-19 pandemic now looms over almost every aspect of our lives, and one of the worst things about this is uncertainty about the future. The pandemic will pass, but precisely when and how remain unknown. What does seem certain is that aspects of our lives may change as a result of this experience. Will online education and conferencing become more accepted practices? Will people become wary of commercial air travel, especially to international destinations? What about large gatherings, such as the AFS annual conference? As of this writing, AFS is still planning to hold its 150th anniversary conference in Columbus, Ohio, from August 30 – September 3, 2020. Several other scientific societies already have either canceled or postponed conferences planned for this summer, but what are the longer-term prospects for large meetings? Is air travel worth the cost in terms of money, carbon footprint, and now potential health risks? The current pandemic has revealed ways that people can meet remotely even though these may not be as interesting or enjoyable as face-to-face gatherings. Some of these platforms nonetheless can be quite effective for sharing scientific information and discourse. I don't know the answers to these questions, but we surely will learn some things in the coming months and years. Economic uncertainty also looms large. Can our global economy continue churning if it depends on inter- and trans-continental movement of people and goods that promotes transmission of pathogens? As biologists, we understand that a global human population of nearly 8 billion (and growing) accompanied by mass migration is a pandemic waiting to happen. Microbes are always evolving – always probing us, and novel diseases have emerged throughout human history. Do we possess sufficient knowledge and tools to counter their attacks?

One tragic consequence of the current pandemic is the attention it has diverted from other important challenges that confront us. As fisheries professionals, we are keenly aware of human impacts on nature and threats to the sustainability of natural resources. As Aldo Leopold famously wrote, "one of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds". No matter what the future may hold for human health and welfare, our profession must continue its work to advance sound natural resource conservation and management. We also need to redouble efforts in support of sound policies and environmental education. Climate change did not cease to be a problem after the latest pandemic reared its ugly head. Nor did pollution in the form of plastics, PFOAs, pesticides and other human-made compounds stop being a problem. We are still challenged to find sustainable ways to exploit fisheries resources and improve aquaculture in order to sustain the nearly 8 billion people inhabiting the biosphere. There has never been a time when it was more important to be a fishery professional. I'm proud of our chapter and its members, all of whom are making a difference. Keep the faith – and be well! I hope to have a more cheerful message in our next newsletter, when I expect we will be preparing for our next annual meeting – always an enlightening, enjoyable, economical, environmentally unobtrusive and intimate gathering.

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PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

Howdy, everyone. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family happy, and well. Given all that has transpired in the last couple of months it feels as if our TCAFS annual meeting in Waco earlier this year is distant memory. Looking back at the calendar, it shocked me to discover the meeting was merely and little more than three months ago. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge those that made our 2020 meeting such a success. We are fortunate to have such a passionate and committed team of officers, committee chairs, and volunteer members serving our chapter. I am inspired by each of you and am honored to have been selected as president-elect. Thank you for placing your confidence in me and our leadership team to continue serving you and maintaining our position as one of the best chapters in the AFS organization. I look forward to working with a fisheries legend, our president, Kirk Winemiller, to ensure our 2021 annual meeting is a success. I want to thank Kirk, past president Dan Daugherty, and secretary-treasurer Natalie Goldstrohm for providing guidance and helping me in this role. I have started soliciting bids for the 2021 annual meeting and hope to visit a few of the prospective facilities along the coast and elsewhere this summer.

As my favorite all time baseball broadcaster, Harry Caray would say "Holy Cow!" As spring gives way to summer and the Texas temperatures begin to rise, we will undoubtedly look back on the Spring of 2020 as one of the most memorable of our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our rhythm and altered many areas of our lives, both personally and professionally. Ordinarily we would be busy with research, monitoring and sampling, and fisheries administration related travel. The world looks much different now. The level of uncertainty associated with the global pandemic is high and only time will tell how society manages



and recovers from all of this. However, as the old Persian adage states "this too shall pass."

As we establish our newfound rhythms of telework, conference calls, and zoom meetings, I have found many inspirations and sources of hope for the future. For one, as scientists, biologists, and problem solvers our profession is well suited to deal with the changes we are experiencing. We are adept at recognizing and managing for large scale changes and disruptions associated with evolutionary biology, climate change, and anthropogenic impacts to our natural resources. We have already observed real time COVID-19 related adaptations in the way of communication, networking, and developing strategies to ensure our health, safety, and well-being. In the world of conservation and natural resource management, our most valued resource is us, our human resources. Let's not forget to take care of each other and our fellow humans during this time. I hope each of you continues to adapt and find your rhythm as we work together to address our human and natural resource issues. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Be well and fish on!

2020 TCAFS STUDENT AWARDS WINNERS



Undergraduate

Elizabeth Boshers

Elizabeth Boshers is from Longview, Texas, and is currently a senior at The University of Texas at Tyler earning her B.S. in Biology. Her senior independent research investigates the impact of chicken processing plant wastewater on the fish and macroinvertebrate communities of the Sabine River, and in the past she enjoyed working as a research assistant on aquaponics projects. She is interested in the connection between natural resources and the people who use them, and would like to find ways to make those relationships more sustainable. In the future, she plans to obtain her M.S. and either find a habitat management position with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, or work in developing sustainable food production methods.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Elizabeth Boshers, & Jennifer Butler

Lauren Yancy

Born and raised in College Station, Lauren Yancy is a junior studying Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences through the at Texas A&M University. She is currently working on a study under Dr. Joshua Perkin focusing on the diel movements of Comanche Springs Pupfish. Through her time at Texas A&M, Lauren has become highly interested in restoring native fish populations, as well as studying fish ecology. In the future, she hopes to get a glimpse of working with restoring salmon populations; which is something that has always intrigued her. She plans on pursuing a master's degree after the fall of 2021.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Lauren Yancy, & Jennifer Butler



TCAFS 2020 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Master's

Apria Valenza

I am a first year Masters' student studying Fisheries and Mariculture at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. My thesis will investigate the effects of hypoxia on the displacement and food web dynamics of Atlantic croaker in the northern Gulf of Mexico. During the last two years of my undergraduate career at UNCW, I completed an Honors Thesis researching the ecophysiological response of juvenile southern flounder growth to settlement habitat. Once I graduate with my Masters I hope to continue on to my Ph.D., so that I can continue researching critical questions in fisheries ecology and be able to teach the next generation of fisheries ecologists at a university.



Pictured: Apria Valenza

Hunter Bailey

Hunter Bailey is currently a master's student in Dr. Lee Fuiman's laboratory at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. His thesis work is focused on understanding the nutritional ecology of southern flounder broodstock and their offspring with the aim of improving Texas' current southern flounder stock enhancement program. This work is in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife CCA in Flour Bluff, Texas and Sea Center in Lake Jackson, Texas. After graduation, Hunter will pursue a PhD program in marine science to continue working at the interface of conservation and research with state and federal agencies.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Hunter Bailey, & Jennifer Butler

Liam Batchelder

Liam Batchelder is pursuing his M.S. in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University- Galveston with Dr. Jay Rooker. Liam's thesis work focuses on quantifying recruitment of fishes inhabiting seagrass beds and marsh edges in Matagorda and Christmas Bays with a focus on assessing the quality of each habitat as it relates to growth and community diversity. After graduation Liam plans to continue his studies of juvenile marine fishes in pursuit of a Ph.D.. Liam has a broad interest in the ecology of marine fishes, and hopes to apply his future research to the management of fisheries resources at the state or federal level.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Liam Batchelder, & Jennifer Butler

Natalie Beeken

I am currently a master's student in Dr. David Portnoy's lab within the Fisheries and Mariculture program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC). I have previously worked as a fisheries technician III at salmon hatcheries in remote Alaska, where I participated in fisheries monitoring surveys aboard marine vessels. My thesis research project considers a potential epigenetic effect, specifically through investigating DNA methylation patterns, due to oil exposure from the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill in different tissues of wild-caught juvenile red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) collected in differently oiled areas within a Louisiana bay system. I am constructing reduced-representation bisulfite-converted DNA libraries for next generation sequencing and bioinformatic analyzes to quantify methylation changes and evaluate a possible oil impact at different scales across the genome. I have a broad interest in finding ways to improve conservation genetics of recreationally and commercially important fish species on both an individual and population level through the use of different molecular techniques, including those for sustainable restoration aquaculture and stock enhancement. My future career plans include working for a state or federal agency as a fisheries biologist and/or geneticist to assist with fisheries management decisions, particularly within the Gulf of Mexico or Pacific Northwest region.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Natalie Beeken, & Jennifer Butler

Doctorate

Kelsey Martin

Kelsey Martin is completing her Ph.D. in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi under Dr. Greg Stunz. Her dissertation, entitled “Distribution and abundance of economically important fish species in the western Gulf of Mexico,” seeks to enhance the scientific understanding of the relationship between artificial reef complexity and fish community complexity at commonly exploited fishing sites. Kelsey is excited to pursue research that promotes better fisheries management and hopes to work in the National Marine Fisheries Service at NOAA upon completing her Ph.D.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Kelsey Martin, & Jennifer Butler

Brittany Harried

Brittany Harried is earning her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas with Dr. David Hoeinghaus. Her research is focused on using the response-and-effect traits framework to analyze the effects of drought-induced fragmentation on fish assemblage dynamics and skin microbiome relationships for intermittent stream fishes in North Texas. As a part of this work, she is generating a traits dataset that includes species-specific metabolic rates, hypoxia tolerance, and digestive and metabolic enzyme activities, in addition to internal and external morphology. After completing her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas, Brittany will seek a post-doctoral position, and will ultimately pursue a career in fisheries research.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Brittany Harried, & Jennifer Butler

Jason Selwyn

Jason Selwyn is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi with Dr. Derek Hogan. His research interests include the evolutionary ecology of fishes particularly how dispersal dynamics shape the evolutionary trajectory of meta-populations. For his dissertation research Jason is studying the influence of habitat quality on the dispersal of a Caribbean reef goby. Jason plans to continue his career in fisheries related research through a post-doctoral position.



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Jason Selwyn, & Jennifer Butler

TCAFS 2020 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS



TCAFS 2020
PRESENTATION
AWARD
WINNERS

BEST PRESENTATION AND POSTER AWARDS — 2019 & 2020

BY MICHELE NATIONS, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Due to the time it takes to receive all the judges' scores and get them evaluated, the best presentation and poster awards are not given out until the following meeting. The 2019 SDAFS/TCAFS meeting in Galveston was more challenging than usual with its multiple venues and increase in presentations and posters to be judged. Nine venues, 126 oral and poster presentations! Luckily there were 66 people who volunteered their time at the meeting to be judges, several from other states.



Winner of the **Best Professional Oral Presentation** was Josh Perkin of Texas A & M University.

His presentation was entitled:

Life history theory predicts long-term fish assemblage response to stream impoundment

Referenced as:

Perkin, Joshuah, N. Knorp Burger, T. Borsig, A. Gebhard, L. Hix, and T. Johnson



Winner of the **Best Professional Poster Presentation** was Evan Pettis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept, Coastal Fisheries Division.

His poster was entitled:

Using low-cost, recreational side-scan sonar and echosounder units to inform oyster reef restoration in Aransas Bay, Texas

Referenced as:

Pettis, Evan and E. Clarkson



Winner of the **Best Student Oral Presentation** was Christopher Steffen of Texas A & M University at Galveston.

His presentation was entitled:

Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Egress Displayed by Southern Flounder in the Galveston Bay Complex

Referenced as:

Steffen, Christopher, M. Dance, D. Wells, J. Miller, and J. Rooker



Winner of the **Best Student Poster Presentation** was Cody Craig, Texas State University.

His poster was entitled:

Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Egress Displayed by Southern Flounder in the Galveston Bay Complex

Referenced as:

Craig, Cody and T. Bonner

And now for the 2020 Waco winners!

Best Professional Oral Presentation: Ryan King, Baylor University, for his presentation entitled *Low-level dissolved organic carbon subsidies drive a trophic upsurge in a boreal stream*, referenced as: King, Ryan, Caleb Robbins, Alyse Yeager, and Stephen Cook.

Best Professional Poster Presentation: Josh Perkin, Texas A & M University, for his poster entitled *Conservation Biogeography of Headwater Catfish in the United States*, referenced as: Perkin, Joshuah, Stephanie George Parker, Megan Bean, and Dijar Lutz-Carillo.

Best Student Oral Presentation: Brittany Harried, University of North Texas, for her presentation entitled *Host selectivity and local environmental conditions determine cutaneous microbiome structure of North Texas stream fishes at the onset of drought*, referenced as: Harried, Brittany, Donald Walker, and David Hoehinghaus

Best Student Poster Presentation: Lauren Yancy, Texas A & M University, for her poster entitled *Diel Fluctuations in Comanche Springs Pupfish Abundances in San Solomon Springs, Balmorhea State Park*, referenced as Yancy, Lauren, Joshuah S. Perkin, and Matthew Acre.

If you want to watch the winning oral presentation for the Waco meeting, check out the podcasts on the TCAFS website. Sarah Haas, our internet and all-things-digital guru, did an awesome job of preparing them.

<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-meetings/2020-meeting-home-page/2020-meeting-podcasts/>

Go to Saturday morning and select the 8:30 and 9:00 times and you will understand how these people got their good scoring.

Another interesting piece of information is that according to the TCAFS Procedures: The recipients of the Outstanding Student Oral and Poster Presentations will also be eligible for a \$500 travel award if he/she makes the same presentation at a meeting of the Society (or any of its chapters or divisions) within the next 18 months.

A lot of effort goes into the planning and preparation for each annual meeting, whether it's a joint meeting with the SDAFS or TCAFS only. The officers, committee chairs, professors working with their students and professional fisheries personnel putting together research findings, people giving their time to prepare nominations for awards, people helping to evaluate scholarship applications, people taking photos, people who attend and show support, and volunteers assisting in anything they are asked to do – coordination and teamwork make our meetings possible. Each person, in whatever capacity he/she serves in, is a valuable part of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

-Michele

TCAFS 2020 PRESENTATION AWARD WINNERS



TCAFS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

TCAFS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



- The Waco meeting was attended by ~226 fisheries students and professionals.
- A total of 93 students attended this years' meeting in Waco, that's roughly 41% of the overall attendance but contributed 50% of the presentations.
- Lynn Wright organized a student workshop (pictured above) that was a huge success. Over 30 students attended and seven professional members participated as panel members:
 - Mike Montain (USFWS)
 - Jerry Mambretti (TPWD)
 - Dave Terre (TWPD)
 - Brad Litrell (Bio-West)
 - Paul Dorsett (Solitude Lake Management)
 - David Hoeinghaus (UNT)
 - Carmen Montana (SFA)
- The student mentor lunch had 98 participants and we thank the mentors for their time.

JOIN TCAFS

JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER

BY MICHELE NATIONS, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR,
NATALIE GOLDSTROHM, SECRETARY/TREASURER

The TCAFS had 218 members at the end of 2019. The year is still young, and the membership total is up to 255. Let's keep it growing!

Membership is on an annual basis and expires December 31 of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for professionals and \$5.00 for students. In order to qualify for student membership, you must be currently enrolled as a student. We would also like to encourage your membership in The Society (AFS).

If you attended the 2020 TCAFS meeting in Waco, the registration included your 2020 membership dues. If you still need to pay for your 2020 TCAFS membership dues, you can either pay for them using the online form or by mailing the paper form.

The membership form can be found at the following website:

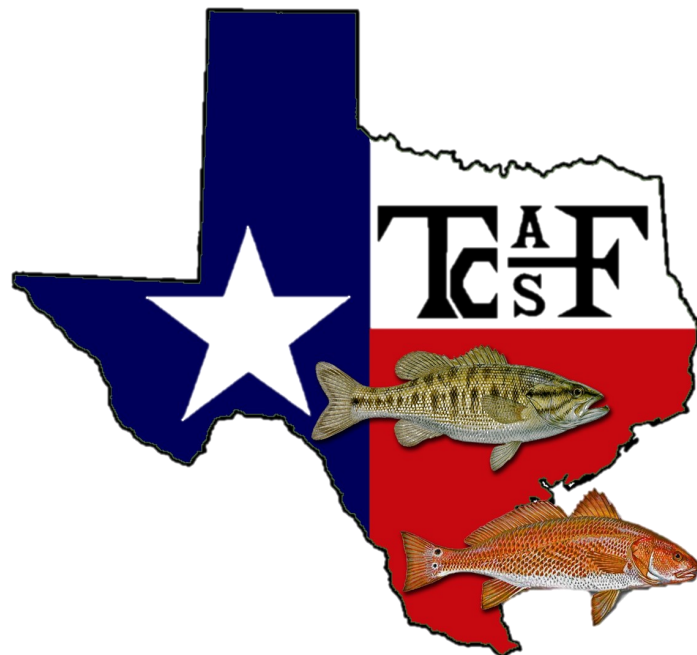
<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-membership/>

If you would like to pay using a credit card, the online will automatically direct you to make a payment with PayPal. Or, if you would like to pay by check, please make payment to TCAFS and send your payment and membership form to:

Natalie Goldstrohm
5325 N 3rd St.
Abilene, TX 79603

For questions concerning TCAFS membership or membership payment, please contact the TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer, Natalie Goldstrohm, at natalie.goldstrohm@tpwd.texas.gov.

Also, if your email address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the Chapter newsletter.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HALEY KOKEL

Howdy!

I am Haley Kokel. I am the owner of Fish On Aquatic Plants, married to Colt Kokel, and full time mom to Bridget (3 years old) and Darren (2 years old). For Colt's job with MetLife Agricultural Finance, we moved from College Station, TX, to Kansas City, KS, in 2015, and then to Aledo, TX, in 2019. With the moves associated with Colt's job, I have had opportunities to have new and unique experiences while having the challenges of working with what was in relatively close proximity to where we lived. Now that we live in Aledo, TX, I have recently been able to start my own business, Fish On Aquatic Plants. In addition to my business, I help with the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) Awards Committee's social media, lead the social media for the Ledbetter Volunteer Fire Department's Christmas Lane of Lights, and assist with social media and marketing for Oma's Honey.



My interest in wildlife and fisheries began when I participated in the Wildlife Habitat Education Program through 4-H. I became more focused in fisheries during my undergraduate degree coursework at Texas A&M University (TAMU) and even more as I worked on and then graduated with my master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from TAMU in May 2017. Being a member of the TCAFS has helped me work toward my current place in my career.

My involvement in TCAFS began as a junior at TAMU. I became a member and officer of TAMU AFS in 2012 and was President from 2013 to 2015. During my involvement in TAMU AFS, I worked with the officer team to increase chapter involvement by holding regular meetings, reestablishing the Fish Fry Fundraiser, hosting social and community events, providing students with volunteer opportunities, and encouraging and organizing students to attend TCAFS meetings.



I attended my first TCAFS meeting in 2012. As a student, I participated in the student-mentor luncheon each year. Whether one-on-one or in a group, learning about different career paths within fisheries helped me confirm my

decision to continue my education in fisheries. In 2015, I presented my master's research at the TCAFS meeting in Tyler. I continued my involvement in AFS when I lived in Kansas by joining the Missouri Chapter. My next TCAFS meeting was the most recent in Waco. My primary goal in attending was networking since I had not lived in Texas for several years. Speaking to other professionals at the meeting about my experience and place in my career, I was encouraged to start a native aquatic plant nursery. While at the meeting, I also helped by taking pictures at the TCAFS banquet. I plan to continue my involvement in TCAFS, and my goal for next year's meeting is to be a mentor for the student-mentor luncheon.



My fisheries field work experience began when I volunteered at the TPWD Fisheries Management Office in Snook in fall 2012. Later, I was offered the opportunity to work on the native aquatic plant nursery and to conduct my research, establishing native aquatic vegetation in conjunction with an integrated pest management program. I worked for Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) from 2015-2016 as a public service assistant at the MDC Discovery Center. I also worked as an hourly fisheries management technician for MDC in 2017, primarily sampling lakes and the Missouri River. As an intern for MDC Fisheries Management in 2018, I started a native aquatic vegetation nursery and wrote a plan to revegetate a renovated lake. In July 2019, after almost a year of uncertainty, Colt transferred positions with MetLife, and we moved to Aledo.

It is amazing how things can change in just one weekend. Going to the TCAFS meeting in January, I was very set on the idea that an aquatic plant nursery was not an option for me. However, I started working on Fish On Aquatic Plants as soon as I returned home. After some quick brainstorming with Colt, we decided I could begin this new phase of my career in our backyard. In less than two weeks later, I was moving forward with starting the business and purchasing supplies. While I currently have 11 species of aquatic vegetation planted, I will be able to grow at least 20. I am looking forward to my first plants reaching maturity to sell in June. My goals are to expand my nursery to offer more species of plants and have more inventory available. I also want to provide education to the public about fisheries and aquatic vegetation, as well as volunteer to teach youth through organizations such as 4-H, Texas Bass Brigades and Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Wildlife Conservation Camp.

I am very grateful to TAMU AFS and TCAFS for the opportunities I have been given and connections I have made. Thank you, TCAFS, for asking me to be featured in "Where are They Now".

Thanks!
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instagram.com/fishonaquaticplants

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MICHAEL GONZALES INTERNSHIP



SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

ELIZABETH L. ROSAS



Wildlife science is something I have had a passion for ever since I can remember. After graduating high school, I developed a profound interest in aquatic sciences which led me to pursue a degree in Aquatic Biology at Texas State University. In my last years of school, I became heavily invested in an undergraduate research project which further developed my interest in fisheries research. Soon after graduation, I began searching for career opportunities that would help the skills and knowledge I had acquired over the past four years. That was when I decided to apply for the Michael Gonzales Memorial Intern position at the San Antonio River Authority.

Being chosen to be the Michael Gonzales Intern (summer 2019) made such a significant impact on me and my future career. I was given the opportunity to work with a phenomenal team who taught me an incredible amount regarding field research; from calibrating special equipment, fish identification, to general data recording methods. I enjoyed the fact that I was able to learn new techniques while still utilizing those that I had acquired at university. The internship I had with SARA was so meaningful for me because it allowed me to see what it was like to have a career in fisheries research. It verified to me that I made the right choice in myself to pursue this type of profession. I gained the confidence to know that this is something I can be happy with doing for the rest of my life.

I was mentored by some of the best people in the industry who gave me the confidence to continue my education. The experience I gained as the Michael Gonzales Intern has prepared to pursue a master's degree in fisheries research. With this I hope to continue down this route and build a career participating in research projects like what I aided in at SARA. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity I was given this past summer, and I know that the knowledge and experience will stay with me as I continue to develop my professional career.

TCAFS 2020 BUSINESS MEETING MINTUES

NATALIE GOLDSTROHM, SECRETARY/TREASURER

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 11:50PM by Dan Daugherty.

Motion to Approve Meeting Agenda – Mike Homer made motion, Alice Best seconded the motion, motion approved.

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Natalie Goldstrohm.

Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes – Kevin Mayes made a motion to accept, Levi Sparks seconded, motion approved.

President's Report (Dan Daugherty):

Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) received the 2019 AFS Outstanding Large Chapter Award in Reno.

TCAFS hosted the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in 2019. This meeting had the third highest meeting attendance. Thank you planning committee for your outstanding work.

TCAFS provided a profit split of \$20K to SDAFS and TCAFS had \$35K profit. Letters of Support – RAWA were sent (TX Congressmen Carter, Crenshaw, Hurd, McCaul, and Roy).

Was able to loan the TCAFS poster stands to the Desert Fish Counsel meeting and SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas for sponsorship recognition at both meetings.

Those that were on the planning committee were given awards for their involvement in the 2019 SDAFS meeting.

Southern Division (Craig Bonds):

Thank you for all those who were involved in planning the SDAFS meeting.

The profits from the 2019 meeting will help sustain the SDAFS and will be able to fund some travel for SDAFS representatives to attend meetings. Upcoming SDAFS will be Little Rock, Arkansas (2020), Virginia (2021) South Carolina (2022), TBA (2023), North Carolina (2024), TBA (2025), New Orleans, LA (2026).

Procedures manual for SDAFS was revised and is available online.

There are some services that are available through AFS such as conference calling, unit email listservs, unit website support, and investment opportunities.

President-Elect (Kirk Winemiller):

The 2020 meeting was the first held in Waco.

Wanted to offer thanks to the Hilton Waco staff and the officers for all their help with planning.

There were 233 people registered for the 2020 meeting (132 professionals, 93 students, and 8 sponsors).

The diversity of participants was great with many different agencies, universities, and private sectors.

Secretary-Treasurer (Natalie Goldstrohm):

Beginning balance as of 1/1/2019: \$103,418.20

Total Income for 2019: \$127,591.56

Total Expenses for 2019: \$171,974.45

Total Transferred to Endowment Fund: \$7,656.36

Ending balance as of 12/31/2019: \$51,378.95

(See attached budget for 2019 financial details.)

Awards (Michele Nations):

Thank you to all the judges that helped during the meeting.

Gave award to Craig Bonds for his work in fisheries.

Gave out 4 presentation awards for presentations given at the 2019 SDAFS meeting and 16 fisheries awards at the 2020 meeting.

History (Michele Nations):

Is still considering creating a poster for the 150th AFS meeting of the TCAFS history.

Will work with Dave Terre to capture a history of the endowment account.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright):



2020 TCAFS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

Steven Bardin of Texas Pro Lake Management lead the Evolution of Pond Management Going into 2020. Had a panel for advancing your fisheries career: guidance on pursuing employment or graduate school. About 35-40 people attended each work shop. If there are ideas for continuing education, please reach out.

Editorial (Alice Best/ Dave Buzan):

Had 39 talks and 35 posters at the 2020 meeting. Thank you to those who agreed to move from oral presentations to posters.
Submitted the 2018 proceedings and are working on the 2019 proceedings.

Endowment (Dave Terre):

Thank you for our sponsors at the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth and Patsy B. Hollingsworth Family Foundation. Student scholarships are supported by these ongoing sponsors.
Thank for the San Antonio River Authority partnership for the Michael Gonzalas internship. This year's recipient was Elizabeth Rosa.
Account balance in endowment was \$378K and \$11K was transferred into the endowment in 2019 including funds from Patsy B. Hollingsworth.
Funded 10 scholarships in 2020. One \$500 Clark Hubbs Award and nine \$1,500 scholarships.
18.49% return investment earning (\$57K).
Trying to invest into diverse groups and create a self-sustained account to provide funds for student scholarships. Cannot remove more than \$8K without impacting the base of the account (this value is less than cost of the scholarships, thus we do not have enough money in the endowment to be self-sustaining long term).
Craig Bonds suggested creating a Chapter Investment Policy with the overall goal of the account to help with transparency and buy in.
Does TCAFS want to create other opportunities with funds in addition to the endowment (AFS certification for members, research grants, etc)?
It is important to consider how creating new opportunities will impact those who have provided funds in the past. Some would rather provide funds to the endowment rather than other opportunities.
It was decided that funds in the checking account will be transferred to the endowment.

Internet (Sarah Haas):

If there are items that need update on the website, please let Sarah know.

Membership (Michele Nations):

There are currently 137 professional and 107 student members for 2020.

Newsletter (Matt Acre):

There are a few new sections to the newsletter.
Considered changing to creating just 2 newsletters a year, however TCAFS bylaws indicate that there shall be 4 newsletters annually. If there are any changes to the number of newsletters annually, then it must be changed in the bylaws first and then voted on by the membership.

Nominating (Dan Bennett):

Thanks to the candidates that agreed to run for office this year (Dakus Geeslin and Marsha Williams). There were about 70 members that voted. Dakus Geeslin from TPWD -Coastal Fisheries is the new President Elect.
Dan Bennett is stepping down from the nominating committee and passing the chair to Greg Cummings.

Pond Management (Greg Binion):

Consolidate all suggested revisions for Section 1 (Pond Characteristics) and sent out document to the PM committee for comment and review. Once Section 1 is fleshed, he plans to set a PM committee meeting to begin discussion and to delegate writing responsibilities for Section 2 (Stocking Guidelines).

Publicity/Exhibits (Shaun Donovan):

Raised over \$7K for student scholarship and had about \$5.5K from sponsorships.

2020 TCAFS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler):

One student was not able to attend and will mail plaque.

Issues (Vacant): Dan Daugherty nominated Kevin Mayes to the position and he accepted.

Student Outreach (Josh Perkin):

Approximately 41% of the 2020 meeting attendants were students from 13 universities and one high school.

Half of the presentations given were from students.

Had 98 people participate in the student/mentor lunch.

Thank you to Lynn for planning the continuing education for students. This continuing education might be a great write up for the newsletter.

There are two new facility advisors for the subunits. Steven Barden at Tarleton State University and Dr. Collins at TTU.

Student Subunit Updates

TX A&M – College Station

Increased registered members by 2x.

Have a grant to help fund Subunit members attend TCAFS meeting.

Shaun Donovan awarded the group \$100.00 of their fundraising efforts for the auction and raffle.

TX A&M - Corpus Christi

Chapter has many undergraduates in subunit and in their leadership.

Continues community involvement with 4 beach clean ups and monofilament recycling programs.

Creating a system for travel awards for subunit members.

Tarleton State University

2nd year as the chapter being a subunit.

Working with Josh Perkin to become a formally recognized subunit with AFS.

Working on community projects such as outreach events (arranged trout stocking, will provide a tackle loaner at the event, and is working with Fishing Futures to provide fishing education to families). Additional the subunit helped at the Abilene Trout Fest outreach event providing angler education with Texas Parks and Wildlife and others.

Texas Tech University (no report)

Old business: Procedures and Bylaws Edits (Discussion and Possible Action)

Randy Rushin made a motion and Ken Kurzawski seconded the motion, motion approved.

Installation of Officers

Dan thanked Mike for his service and Mike thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve and encouraged others to become involved.

Dan Daugherty presented Kirk Winemiller with the skeg and “Roberts Rules for Dummies”.

Kirk Winemiller presented Dan Daugherty with his Past President plaque.

Dan Daugherty is now the Past President, Kirk Winemiller is now President, and Dakus Geeslin is President-Elect.

New Business

Kevin Mayes asked the membership for consideration to donate funds to the Jimmy Pigg scholarship for the Warm Water Streams Society. Dan made a motion to support with \$250 and Mike Homer seconded, motion approved.

Mike Homer mentioned that AFS is looking for continuing education opportunities and those wanting to host a symposium. Additionally, there was an extension for abstracts for the Columbus meeting.

Adjourn: Kirk Winemiller made the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:34PM.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR—CHANGING OF THE GUARD

BY MATT ACRE

I would like to start by saying thank you. Over the last eight years with the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society I have formed many friendships and learned many valuable skills. For me, TCAFS is home. The people who work so hard to make this such a standout organization are what drive me to want to be part of the Texas chapter. This last year as the newsletter editor has been a lot of fun for me, and it is with a heavy heart that I announce my upcoming departure. My wife, Kristen, and I will be moving to Missouri to begin new careers. I accepted a position with USGS and she with Mizzou starting this month. However, the show always goes on, and I am very excited to announce that a new Matt is in town... Matt Troia has accepted the newsletter editor position. Matt is an assistant professor in the Department of Science and Ecology at the University of Texas at San Antonio and will begin as the editor for the second issue this year.



Matt Troia in Chattahoochee National Forest

TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY PURPOSE AND GOALS

The general purposes and responsibilities of the Texas Chapter are as follows:

1. Support AFS Parent Society objectives. Specifically:
 - A. Promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries;
 - B. Promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice;
 - C. Gather and disseminate to Society members and the general public scientific, technical, and other information about fisheries science and practice through publications, meetings, and other forms of communication; and
 - D. Encourage the teaching of fisheries science and practice in colleges and universities and the continuing education and development of fisheries professionals.
2. As the smallest geographically defined unit recognized as being operationally independent in the Society's Constitution, a Chapter shares the purposes of the Society but is intended to advance the Society's objectives over a more localized area than the Divisions, in this case, within the state of Texas.
3. The Texas Chapter generally provides for interaction among professionals within Texas. The Texas Chapter is a unit of the Southern Division.
4. Facilitate communication among members (by newsletters and other means) regarding fisheries science issues and the conduct of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
5. Hold meetings, publish works, and perform other activities on a technical and semi-technical level that advance the status and performance of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
6. Determine the views of members relative to professional topics affecting their performance, for example, by conducting surveys and considering resolutions.
7. Present the views of Chapter members to the Division membership, the AFS membership, and to the general public and government agencies within the Chapter's boundaries.
8. Hold annual meetings at which all Bylaw responsibilities are carried out.
9. Serve as technical and professional advisors to government agencies within the Chapter's region.
10. Promote the fisheries profession within the Chapter's boundaries through active and positive relations with journalists, government officials, special interest groups, other professional organizations, and the general public.
11. Promote proper use of aquatic resources by initiating and participating in special projects that increase public awareness, expand participation, improve habitat, and protect fragile resources.

TCAFS

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is committed to the conservation, development, and wise utilization of recreational and commercial fisheries, the promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice, and the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects.

TCAFS NEWSLETTER

Editor—Matt Troia
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Note from the newsletter team:

If you have ideas for stories or photographs from the field you would like to share please email Matt Troia.

We can help develop and write stories, so please reach out, even if the idea is not completed yet.