

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Summer 2024 Newsletter
Volume 50, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEVEN BARDIN



Greetings, TCAFS Membership!

It's been a while since we last gathered in Nacogdoches for our annual spring meeting. If you weren't there, you missed out on one of the most successful and engaging meetings in our chapter's history. It was a true testament to the power of our society and the impact we can make when we come together. And no, it's not just because I was involved in the planning!

The Fredonia Hotel was an extraordinary venue, the perfect blend of nostalgia and history, modern amenities, and unbelievable food. Of course, the meeting was filled with all the activities we have grown to expect from a chapter meeting, including continuing education opportunities, outstanding poster and oral presentations, and recognition of students and professionals.

But, we didn't just talk the talk;

we walked the walk—or should I say, waded the water? We tackled a stream clean-up on Banita Creek for our first-ever service project. Armed with mesh bags, gloves, and led by Dr. Carmen Montana, we wrestled with trash covering miles of shoreline. We hauled it all out, from old tires to soda cans, leaving the stream sparkling like a prized catch. It was a messy job, but someone has to do it, and we did it with pride! Congratulations to all those who volunteered for this.

Since that memorable meeting, our executive team has met to create a work plan for the remainder of 2024. We have some small challenges to tackle this year, including changing how we count chapter members vs. meeting attendees and a curious question of whether it would be worth selecting a second president-elect to make meeting planning easier to coordinate with other societies. Speaking of meeting planning, we have committed to preparing a 2025 spring chapter meeting even though we also have the AFS meeting in San Antonio later that year. Your President-Elect, Dr. Josh Perkin, is leading the search for every possible venue within 5 miles of his lab at Texas A&M. We support another College Station meeting as it is appropriate leading up



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ITEMS OF NOTE

- Opportunities to serve the Chapter on Page 19!
- TCAFS memberships can be completed online now! Click [here](#) to start or renew a membership today!

TCAFS 2024
PRESIDENT
MESSAGES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

to the 50-year TCAFS anniversary in 2026. If you want to know why, contact Ray Mathews so he can explain how College Station has a historical meaning to establishing our chapter.

But wait, there's more! Our society members are also heavily involved in planning the 2025 AFS meeting in San Antonio and the coinciding Black Bass Summit. These two events, across the river from each other, have the potential to create a powerhouse of knowledge and networking. It's an opportunity for us to showcase our expertise and passion for fisheries science. Thank you to Shaun Donovan and the entire Black Bass planning committee for representing the chapter. I'm already hooked on the excitement, and I hope you are too (that pun is for you, Dr. Silvy).

Now, here's where we need your help. We need to fill five important chair positions: History, Issues, Internet (Listserv), Membership, and Scholarship Co-Chair. Those of you who are extremely observant will notice that three of these positions were held by the TCAFS Super Women Michele Nations. She has made the extraordinarily tough decision to pass her numerous chapter responsibilities onto the next generation of future chapter leaders. We cannot thank Michele enough for her service to this chapter. Each of these vacant roles plays a crucial part in the functioning of our chapter, and by taking on one of these positions, you'll be directly contributing to the future of our society. Please feel free to contact me or any other committee chair for more information.

One last thing before you go: I come from the private sector, where fish, data collection, and fisheries knowledge are products for sale every day. One of the things I remind my staff to remember is that when our work becomes tedious and monotonous because we see it and do it everyday, our clients are having the opposite experience. They look at what we do with wonder and excitement; if you return that energy, you will be rewarded with a lifetime of positive interactions. My challenge is to find that excitement in your daily work and share it with others. The best way to do this is simply by taking pictures of your work and providing them to the Internet Social Media Chair Haley Kokel. With your permission, the chapter will post your photos on our social media to show the world that Texas is led by professionals who love fisheries work.

So, what are you waiting for? Your expertise, your passion, and your unique perspective are all invaluable to us on a committee or to help promote positive fisheries work. Together, we'll continue to make waves in fisheries science. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a student who loves all things aquatic, our community has a place for you. Thank you for your dedication, your hard work, and your unwavering commitment to our shared mission. Let's make the next year our best yet, filled with fish stories.

Steven Bardin President, Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY JOSHUAH PERKIN

My Fellow Fisheries Professionals,

Two score and nine years ago (1975) our founding members brought forth on this western edge of the southern division a new society, conceived in scales and covered with slime, and dedicated 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. That formation occurred in College Station, Texas – widely regarded as the hole in the center of the donut of interesting things to do in the easternish-southernish region of the state. As I sit in College Station today and draft this President-Elect address, it's amazing to think of how our society has transformed since those early days. To be clear – not much has changed in College Station: there are still too many cars for the limited functional roads, the football program is still somehow our greatest pride *and* humiliation, and the Brazos still runs muddy like it's run all along. Our Texas Chapter, however, has changed considerably. We have emerged as a tremendous advocate for student involvement and scholarship, the range of fisheries topics addressed at our meetings is remarkably diverse, and the number of presentations has grown to the extent that we now require two concurrent sessions and approximately 0.75 acres of real estate for posters. We're outgrowing the capacity of the average-sized Texas city to host us!

I am incredibly honored by the priv-

ilege to serve as President-Elect for the next year. Many of you may know me as the tall guy at the meetings, no not the incredibly tall one – that's Dave Peterson – I'm the other one that always checks his posture when Dave walks by (love you, Dave!). For the past six years I've served as the Student Outreach Committee Chair, a.k.a. the sweaty, stressed-out guy feverishly trying to connect students and mentors during the luncheons; all-the-time naively believing that chaos can become order if you just shout out enough names. From this experience I've learned that our community is made up of some of the most outstanding students and saint-like mentors – mentors willing to buy lunch sometimes for three students when I had originally promised it would be only one. It is a thrill to join the leadership of such an amazing group of people.

I am very grateful to my opponent Shaun Donovan for agreeing to run for the position and his many years of service to the TCAFS. Shaun's service continues to grow. He has agreed to serve as a special ad hoc committee and liaison to AFS where he will help to plan the 2025 meeting in San Antonio during August 10-14, 2025. This promises to be an outstanding meeting and is timed in conjunction with the 2025 Black Bass Symposium. Shaun and his colleagues have already worked to ensure that our state freshwater fish (the Guadalupe Bass) is featured on the AFS meeting logo. Thank you, Shaun!

At the business meeting in Nacogdoches, Texas in February 2024, the

TCAFS 2024 PRESIDENT MESSAGES



PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

membership voted to hold a Texas Chapter AFS meeting during the typical timeframe of January-February 2025. This meeting will be in addition to the AFS meeting in San Antonio later in August. This is, of course, in strong contrast to the easy workload Steven Bardin promised me when I accepted the nomination for this position. *“Come on man, it’ll be fun – there’s one meeting to plan and the broader AFS will do most of the work”*, Steven said, before adding *“and oh yeah, teach more students about traditional fisheries management; we don’t need more people that can identify chubsuckers.”* Clearly Steven was wrong on both of those topics – I mean, the recent taxonomic shake-up of the *Erimyzon* genus probably has a lot of us feeling like we need to brush-up on chubsuckers; am I right?

My primary job as President-Elect is to coordinate the organization of our state chapter meeting. I am thankful for the guidance I have already received from members of the executive committee, past presidents, and many of you that have served as career-long mentors for me. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have ideas for the chapter meeting or if I can help you in any [fisheries-related] way. My email is jperkin@tamu.edu. Please notice – and this has been a life-long struggle for me – there is not an ‘s’ at the end of my last name. Vanna White was supposed to send me one, but it never arrived. Anyway, details on the location and timing will be forthcoming so please stay tuned!

Finally, because I would be nothing without the amazing students I get to work with every day, I’ve included a group photo instead of an individual photo for this address. We call this “The Aggies Crossing the Brazos”, inspired by Washington Crossing the Delaware, and probably my most President-Elect worthy photo.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NACOGDOCHES TOUR OF BONITA CREEK PRESERVE

During the Spring 2024 TCAFS meeting, 42 meeting attendees participated in a tour of the Bonita Creek Preserve near Nacogdoches. This was a great opportunity to experience the diverse and beautiful fish fauna of East Texas. Thank you to the Montaña Aquatic Ecology Lab for organizing and leading this event!



Thanks to Haley Kokel, Ray Mathews, Carman Montaña, and Michele Nations for contributing photos to this newsletter.

TCAFS 2024
ANNUAL
MEETING



TCAFS 2024
ANNUAL
MEETING

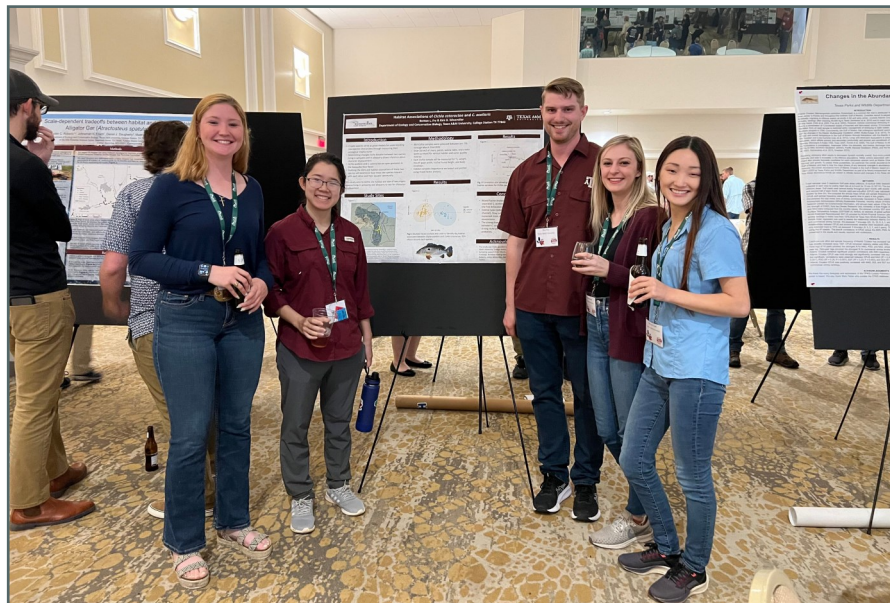
HIGHLIGHTS FROM NACOGDOCHES LA NANA BAYOU CLEAN-UP

During the Spring 2024 TCAFS meeting, 43 meeting attendees participated in a clean-up of La Nana Bayou near Nacogdoches. Thank you to the Montaña Aquatic Ecology Lab for organizing and leading this event!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NACOGDOCHES PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

During the Spring 2024 TCAFS meeting, members contributed 45 oral and 42 poster presentations as well as two continuing education workshops.



Thanks to Haley Kokel, Ray Mathews, Carman Montaña, and Michele Nations for contributing photos to this newsletter.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NACOGDOCHES INAUGURAL FISHERIES OLYMPICS

During the Spring 2024 TCAFS meeting, the SFASU Biology Department and TCAFS Student Outreach Committee hosted a student mixer which included the inaugural Fisheries Olympics! Thank you to the SFASU Biology Department and TCAFS Student Outreach Committee for organizing this event!



TCAFS student members participating in the Fish Decoding event.



TCAFS student members participating in the 10-legged wader race.

Thanks to Haley Kokel, Ray Mathews, Carman Montaña, and Michele Nations for contributing photos to this newsletter.

TCAFS 2024
ANNUAL
MEETING



TCAFS 2024
AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Fish Culture
Paul Cason



Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Fisheries Education
Steven Bardin



PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Fisheries Research
Kevin Conway



Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Fisheries Student
Chase Nimee



TCAFS 2024
AWARDS

TCAFS 2024
AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

**Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Special Recognition in Fisheries Work**
Ivonne Blandon



Past President Appreciation Certificate
Chris Mace



STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

Best Student Oral Presentation

Anastasia Umstott—Stephen F. Austin State University

Beta diversity of stream fishes in east Texas: partitioning variation among spatial scales



Best Student Poster Presentation

Jacob Wolff — Texas A&M University - College Station

*Does Rio Grande Cichlid (*Herichthys cyanoguttatus*) induce trophic niche shifts in native *Centrarchids*?*



TCAFS 2024
AWARDS

TCAFS 2024

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

TCAFS Student Scholarship

Nichole Dopp—Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi



Nichole is a senior undergraduate student at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi majoring in Biology with a concentration in Marine Biology. These past two semesters, she has gained invaluable experiences while interning in Dr. Benjamin Walther's Fish Ecology Lab studying food web interactions through stable isotope ecology in inshore Gulf fish species. Additionally, she has assisted doctoral student Jacob Oster,

with his "Project Breathless," a study examining the effects of hypoxia of inshore bay fishes, specifically Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*), red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), and southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) using otolith isotope chemistry measurements. Upon graduation with her Bachelor's Degree in May 2024, Nichole intends to pursue a Master's Degree in Deep Sea Ecology focusing on food web interactions. Nichole is a seasoned scuba diver and enjoys all water sports from swimming, surfing, snorkeling, and paddle boarding.

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Jonathan Ellard—Texas A&M University - College Station



Johnathan is from Caldwell, Texas and received his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and a minor in Ecology and Conservation Biology. Johnathan began his research career in the Riverscape Ecology Lab after his first year at Texas A&M as an undergraduate. During this time, Johnathan was involved in many research projects and contributed to publications related to flow-recruitment relationships of Shoal Chub, meso-

habitat and macroecological correlates for Blue Sucker, and a study he led looking at scale-dependent tradeoffs between time and habitat in explaining Alligator Gar movement. He has held the Event Coordinator and Vice President position in the American Fisheries Society subunit at his university and was selected and served as an Undergraduate Research Ambassador for the university for two years. Johnathan is now a first-year master's student studying fish assemblage changes in the Upper Sabine River and Village Creek under Dr. Joshua Perkin. His thesis work will advance the understanding of fish assemblages within these systems and provide insight for better management strategies, especially among mussel host fishes. Upon completing his master's degree, Johnathan hopes to pursue a career in natural resource conservation and management.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

TCAFS 2024 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Foundation Student Scholarship

Dillon Flowers—The University of Texas at Tyler



Dillon is originally from Durango, Colorado. He became interested in fisheries and fish biology at a young age while fishing or exploring the various fishes that lived in the nearby irrigation ditches. He is a second year Master's student at The University of Texas at Tyler under the guidance of Dr. Ryan Shartau. Dillon's thesis work is investigating the physiological mechanisms related to two alternate acid-base regulatory pathways within various fish species, using rainbow trout and channel catfish as models. His work is the first to examine the cellular mechanisms of how some fishes like the channel catfish, can independently regulate tissue pH, allowing them to tolerate sustained exposure to high CO₂ tensions. Dillon

plans to pursue a fishery related job as a conservational physiologist, to understand how fishes are adapted to various stressors in their environment and apply this information to conservation and management.

Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Foundation Student Scholarship

Owen George—Texas Tech University



Owen George is from Seward, Nebraska, and is currently a PhD student at Texas Tech University. Owen researches the food web dynamics in headwater streams of the Rio Grande Basin in New Mexico and Texas. Specifically, his study assesses the effects non-native fishes have on the productivity of native fishes through competition and predation. His work will provide information on data-deficient fish species and identify the potential effects of non-native fish. After completing his doctorate degree, Owen plans to pursue a career in stream ecology, working to

conserve fish species that are of conservation concern.

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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Christa Kieley—Texas A&M University at Galveston



Crista is from Cleveland, OH, and is currently a third-year Ph.D. student at Texas A&M University at Galveston. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of New England, where she assisted with various types of harmful algal bloom research, marine instrument design, and scientific illustration. Currently, Crista's research focuses on cyanobacterial blooms and their toxins in the warm-monomictic reservoirs found

throughout the state of Texas. After graduation, she hopes to continue harmful algal bloom and phytoplankton ecology research.

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Michaela Labare—Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi



Michaela is from New Paltz, New York and received her B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of New England in 2019. After her degree, she spent time as a Laboratory Technician and Research Assistant in the lab of Dr. Laura Katz at Smith College working on protist ecology and

genomics. She then received her M.S. in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD in 2022 where she researched the use of environmental DNA metabarcoding and fish egg DNA barcoding to characterize pelagic spawning fish communities as well as understand interannual variation in pelagic spawning fish output along the California coastline. She is now pursuing her PhD at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi under Dr. David Portnoy. Her dissertation research focuses on population genomics of the spotted seatrout throughout the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

TCAFS 2024 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Dave Terre Student Scholarship

Rebecca Mangold—Texas A&M University - College Station



Rebecca Mangold is from San Antonio, Texas, and received her bachelor's degree at Texas A&M University. Upon graduation, she joined Dr. Joshua Perkin's Riverscape Ecology Lab as a full-time technician which led to her current position as a master's student with the lab. Rebecca's thesis work focuses on the impact of land cover/land use (LCLU) conversion on fish communities in the Neches and Sabine River Basins of Texas. Her work will inform conservation efforts by quantifying assemblage changes as a result of LCLU through time and across spatial gradients. After completing her master's degree, Rebecca hopes to pursue a career as an aquatic biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Zach Moran—Baylor University



Zach is originally from Virginia where he first became interested in fisheries as a research technician studying the diets of invasive Blue Catfish. He then completed a master's at Arkansas Tech University focused on spatial distributions of Blue Catfish and how they should be used to structure standardized sampling designs. Since then, he has had the opportunity to study hurricane impacts on sportfish assemblages in Puerto Rico, spawning dynamics of Brown Trout, and diets of invasive Northern Snakehead. In addition, he worked as a fish biologist for Georgia Department of Natural Resources with the responsibility of managing native wild trout and two warmwater fisheries. Zach is currently a PhD candidate at Baylor University studying impacts of wastewater enrichment on trophic dynamics in the Brazos River, nonlethal sampling methods for species of conservation concern, and drivers of mercury contamination in inland and coastal Brazos River Alligator Gar populations. After graduation, Zach plans to teach fisheries science at an accredited university or serve as a federal fisheries biologist.

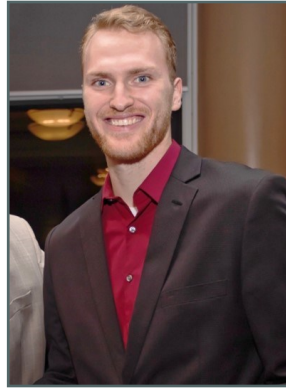
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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Blake Munz—Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi



Originally from Indiana, Blake's interest for marine biology came from watching Shark Week as a kid. This led Blake to receive his B.S. in Marine Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from The University of Tampa. During Blake's final two years, he conducted research looking at desiccation stress in two intertidal green algal species, however, through a few smaller projects, he discovered his passion for conservation ecology, especially of neglected/understudied species. His thesis will utilize scale chemistry to track Atlantic Tarpon, habitat use patterns and trophic ecology. Blake has access to a unique set of archived scales from the 1950's to be used in conjunction with contemporary scales from Boca Grande, FL. The results will be used to reconstruct a historical time series of movements and trophic interactions for Atlantic Tarpon in the eastern Gulf of Mexico while also validating the use of scale chemistry for vulnerable species. After graduation Blake hopes to pursue a career as a conservation ecologist with the goal of working for Florida Fish and Wildlife studying smalltooth sawfish conservation.

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

C. Melman Neill—The University of Texas Marine Science Institute



Mel grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he was surrounded by extensive waterways and a vibrant fishing culture. This led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Minnesota with a focus on fish physiology and behavioral ecology. After a four-year stint working as a PADI divemaster, a university research technician, and a marine science educator, he began his graduate career at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. Mel is now a second-year PhD student in the lab of Dr. Simon Brandl, where his dissertation research seeks to identify links between organismal energetics and ecosystem functioning in cryptobenthic fishes like blennies and gobies. After earning his PhD, Mel hopes to pursue an academic research career applying quantitative biology to practical conservation priorities.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

TCAFS 2024 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Chase Nimee—Stephen F. Austin State University



Chase Nimee grew up near Chicago (IL) where he developed a love and appreciation for wildlife and the outdoors. Chase completed his undergraduate degree in Zoology at Southern Illinois University and soon after found his passion for studying freshwater ecosystems. Currently, Chase is a Master's student at Stephen F. Austin State University studying two endan-

gered shiner species (Sharpnose and Smalleye) in the upper Brazos River, Texas. From field experience in Texas, Chase has learned to appreciate Texas freshwater biodiversity, and recognizes the urgency for conservation of our aquatic ecosystems and its fauna. Chase hopes to continue working hands-on with freshwater species of conservation concerns in the future by pursuing a career in freshwater fisheries with a state or federal agency.

Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship

Ingrid Vasconcellos Bunholi—The University of Texas Marine Science Institute



Ingrid is from São Paulo, Brazil, and her interest in molecular ecology applied to fisheries started during her B.S. in Marine Science at the Federal University of São Paulo when she realized the power of genetic techniques for management and conservation of elasmobranchs. In order to expand her skills, Ingrid moved to the US to pursue her doctoral degree in Dr. Jordan Casey's lab at UTMSI. Ingrid's dissertation work aims to apply different genetic tools to understand fish diversity and dispersal, from individual to community

levels across coral reefs and coastal oceans. In particular, she is working on using environmental DNA/RNA, microbiome analysis, and population genomics to understand spatiotemporal variation of fish communities across diverse environmental conditions and biogeographical patterns. After graduation, Ingrid aims to continue her academic path as a post-doctoral researcher to eventually becoming a professor in a research institution.

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Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth

Jacob Wolff—Texas A&M University - College Station



Jacob graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in May of 2023. During his undergraduate studies he led two research projects. One aimed at studying fish meta-community dynamics over time in White Creek, a tributary of the Brazos River. The other being a study that aimed to predict movement of Gua-

dalupe bass in the Colorado and Guadalupe River basins. He is currently starting his second semester as a masters student at Texas A&M under Dr. Joshua Perkin. His thesis draws on the topic of ecological "winners" and "losers" in today's world by investigating two desert fishes: the Rio Grande cichlid, an ecological "winner" that has spread wildly outside its native range, and the Ash Meadows speckled dace, an ecological "loser" with a limited distribution and federally endangered status. In the future, Jacob aims to pursue a career in research with an emphasis on the conservation of imperiled fishes and solving broad-scale ecological questions.



CALL FOR OFW NOMINATIONS

BY BETH SILVY, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Once again, we are asking that you acknowledge your peers who may be deserving of the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year (OFW) Award! This award recognizes fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas, which can span more than one year, in the following categories: Fisheries Administration, Fish Culture, Fisheries Education, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Research, Fisheries Technical Support, Fisheries Student, and Special Recognition in Fisheries Work.

Nominations can only be made by TCAFS members, and the nominee must also be a member. However, the exception to this is for the category of Special Recognition in Fisheries Work where only the one who submits the nomination must be a TCAFS member. This Special Recognition award can be for an individual or organization.

The nominees for each category may meet one or more of the requirements found on our website.

Nominations are due on **December 1, 2024**. To submit a nomination, please fill out the nomination form, in its entirety, and email it to me at bsilvy@tamu.edu or you can fill out a google form for nominations [here](#). Nominations will be accepted year-round.

COMMITTEE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

BY MATT TROIA, SECRETARY

The ExCom seeks Chairs for the following committees:

- History
- Issues
- Internet (Listserv)
- Membership

Please direct inquires to Secretary, Matthew Troia (troiamj@gmail.com), or President, Steven Bardin (steven@texasprolakemanagement.com).

The Student Scholarship Committee seeks a Co-Chair

Please direct inquires to Secretary, Matthew Troia (troiamj@gmail.com), or Scholarship Committee Chair, Jennifer Butler (jennifer.butler@tpwd.texas.gov).

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

TCAFS 2024

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

2024 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Natalie Goldstrohm, Josh Perkin, Randy Rushin, Mike Morgan, Brian Van Zee, Adam Whisenant, Roni Maddox, Carlos Rocha, Angel Velasquez, Jane Rogosch, Beth Silvy, Haley Kokel, Jennifer Butler, Ray Mathews, Hayden Roberts, Carmen Montana, Hannah Evans, Lucas Stevens, Madalynn Davis, Blake Cellars, Luke Scribner, Hayden Osborn, Dylan Kwak, Anthea Frederickson, Zoe Nichols, Adrian Reyna, Ryan Seymour, Stephen Davis, Preston Bean, Nate Smith, Dan Daugherty, Matt Troia, Cynthia Holt, Levi Sparks, Doug Knabe, Michele Nations, Dakus Geeslin, Christopher Mace, Steven Bardin, Stephen Curtis, Greg Cummings

Call to Order (Christopher Mace): Meeting called to order by C. Mace at 11:00 AM

Determination of a quorum : Yes, by C. Mace.

Motion to Approve February 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes: D. Geeslin motion to approve, second by D. Daugherty; minutes approved.

Motion to Approve Business Meeting Agenda:

- Discussion – D. Geeslin asked if student subunits were included; C. Mace confirmed.

- P. Bean motion to approve, second by G. Cummings; agenda approved.

President's Report (Christopher Mace): It's been a year of growth for TC-AFS, with the formal addition of the UT San Antonio Sub-unit. Chris working on report to AFS on behalf of TCAFS and to SDAFS. Will make these reports and notes available to Steven to continue reporting needs. TCAFS is meeting expectations and goals. Congratulated the members on an excellent year!

President-Elect (Steven Bardin): Nothing to report.

Secretary-Treasurer (Stephen Curtis): Stephen thanked everyone for their support in hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting Provided a summary of finances for 2023 Starting Balance = \$22,968.68, Ending Balance = \$32,663.56

Student Support: \$13,000 to Endowment Fund, \$4,200 in Student Travel Awards, \$4,500 in Student Scholarships = \$21,700 in student support for 2023

Nominating (Greg Cummings):

Election results for this year:

- President Elect: Josh Perkin & Shaun Donovan; Perkin elected as President Elect.

- Secretary: Matt Troia & Jane Rogosch; Troia elected as Secretary.

Greg thanked everyone for their support in finding candidates for our officer positions; he will accept nominations throughout the year for any of our positions

History (Ray Mathews, Michele Nations): Ray wrote the 25-year history for the Chapter; volunteered to write the 50-year history of the Chapter; currently working on 2017. Michele will be uploading a DropBox folder link on the website for members to browse photos from the meeting.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright): Chris Mace thanked continuing education presenters on behalf of Lynn Wright.

Editorial (Preston Bean, Kelley Kowal): 45 oral presentations and 42 posters presentations at 2024 meeting. Thanked Dave Buzan, Kelley Kowal, Ryan Seymour, reviewers of abstracts, and moderators of sessions. Dave Buzan is working on past proceedings.

Endowment (Brian Van Zee): Provided 13 scholarships at \$1,500 each: 8 from SCFW, 2 from GRTU, and 3 from TCAFS = \$19,500. Brian Van Zee visited with SCFW & GRTU about increasing scholarship amounts to \$2,000; they are both on board, so TCAFS will increase our amount to \$2,000 as well. Plan to provide 13 scholarships @ \$2,000 each in 2025. Brian provided an overview of the TCAFS Endowment Account; our account is now being managed by TCAFS/Edward Jones; end of 2023 at \$500,485 Discussion by Dakus Geeslin et al. about whether to increase number or value of our scholarships; Randy Rushin asked if we should con-



2024 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

sider reducing the number of scholarships and increasing the amount; academic professors/students provided support for keeping number of scholarships the same and increasing the value of each scholarship. Brian Van Zee will follow up after meeting with SCFW and GRTU to confirm support to increase values to \$2,000

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler): Three students that were not able to make it; plaques were given to attendees to deliver to students.

Awards Updates (Beth Silvy): Awards are going well; Beth requested additional applications for OFW awards and mentioned that she will receive awards at any point during the year. Moving to Google Forms only for judging in 2025.

Internet, Audio Visual, and Social Media: (Michele Nations, Ryan Seymour, Haley Kokel):

- *AV Update* (Ryan Seymour): Thank you to everyone who helped with AV stuff during the meeting.

- *Meeting Website Update* (Ryan Seymour): Will be uploading meeting photos, Best Student Poster/Oral Presentations (with approval) to meeting page, and award winners in coming days. Still looking for AFS Student Subunit websites, social media, etc to link to website. If you have been a Hutton Mentor in the State of Texas, please email Ryan Seymour any photos you have from your time with the program. Ryan Seymour would like to start highlighting recent publications by active TCAFS members on the website, will be working on developing a Recent Publications page and a way for members to submit links to papers.

Social Media Update (Haley Kokel): Haley is wanting to highlight student's work on our TCAFS social media page; she will send out an email on the listserv requesting photos/descriptions/etc; she would also like to spotlight achievements

Membership (Michele Nations): 95 members through dues only + 157 through registration = 252 members. Steven Bardin discussed the need for us to move away from 'affiliate member' status per request of the Society; Steven Bardin suggested easiest path forward would be to drop our solo TCAFS membership dues; Ryan Seymour mentioned potential burden for students to be Society members; Nate Smith mentioned that the \$12 membership dues are likely not bringing in additional income and we could offset that income with a \$10 increase in meeting registration or something similar. Brian (Van Zee?) mentioned that this change to \$12 TCAFS dues would impact student eligibility to apply for student scholarships; S. Bardin mentioned that students would need to be Society members. Chris Mace mentioned cleanest option of removing membership button and replacing with TCAFS Listserv button. ExCom will follow up on this topic.

Newsletter (Matt Troia): Post meeting Spring Newsletter will go out after this meeting. Matt is happy to keep serving as the Newsletter Chair (following election to Secretary).

Pond Management (Todd Sink): Todd not in attendance; provided update at last ExCom meeting about Pond Management Manual.

Publicity/Exhibits (Dylan Kwak): Dylan thanked Steven Bardin for administering the live auction and welcomed two new co-chairs, Thea Fredrickson & Zoe Nichols. Total raised: \$21,899.02 = \$12,000 in sponsorships/exhibitor fees + \$10,535 in raffle, auction & SWAG; minus \$635.98 in raffle/auction items.

Issues (Chris Mace for Mukhtar Farooqi): Mukhtar was not present but emailed update. No issues to report on this year. Mukhtar stepped down as chair citing inactivity for numerous years. Bill Kirby is the sole remaining committee member; will ask Bill if he is interested in being chair of the committee. Dan Daugherty discussed potentially dissolving the Issues Committee; asked if we would need to officially change

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2024 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

by-laws; recommended that we transfer the Issue Committee from a standing committee to an ad-hoc committee

Student Outreach (Josh Perkin): Very successful student mixer: 45 students participated. 109 attendees of the student-mentor lunch. Given pending responsibilities as president-elect, Josh Perkin mentioned that he would like to step down as committee chair; Josh Perkin will solicit interest for a new committee chair.

Student Subunit Updates

TXA&M – College Station (Jake Wolff): Lucas Stevens current president; 15 dues paying members. Monthly meetings with a variety of speakers; things are going well
TXA&M - Corpus Christi (Olivia surname?): Not present.

Tarleton State University (): Hayden Osborn current vice president; 10 members
Hoping to host additional events like trout stocking and kid fish events

Texas Tech University (NA): Not present.

University of North Texas (Michael Curtis): Not present.

The University of Texas at San Antonio (Roni Maddox): Roni Maddox current president; 15-20 members. Monthly sampling, career panels, diving workshop.

The University of Texas at Tyler (NA): Not present.

Old Business: Reminder, 2025 AFS meeting that will be in San Antonio (Shaun Donovan). Steven Bardin provided update on behalf of Shaun Donovan. Discussion about appointing/creating a 'position' for Shaun in his role to assist the Society with local arrangements for the 2025 AFS Meeting; recommendation to create an ad-hoc planning committee to improve communication between AFS and TCAFS. Mike Homer made a motion to appoint Shaun Donovan as the head of an ad-hoc planning committee for the 2025 Society Meeting; Randy Rushin seconded; motion passed. Discussion about hosting our own 2025 TCAFS Meeting in the Spring or skipping our TCAFS meeting and only supporting the 2025 AFS Meeting. Mike Homer mentioned considering competing requests for donations/sponsorships; Doug mentioned trying to host a small meeting; Shaun Donovan (via S. Bardin) mentioned potentially hosting a small virtual spring meeting; Levi Sparks inquired about impacts to student scholarships; Dan Daugherty mentioned that we should be cognizant of hosting our own TCAFS meeting in tandem; Brian Van Zee recommended we continue on our TCAFS rotation as usual and then support the AFS Meeting. Poll to gauge interest in skipping our TCAFS Meeting versus hosting our TCAFS Meetings on normal schedule – all in favor of hosting our annual TCAFS meeting in early 2025 minus one. Doug Knabe recommended that we consider increasing our student travel awards to assist with students to attend both a 2025 TCAFS and AFS Meeting. Chris Mace recommended that we table the discussion and continue the conversation after this meeting following additional follow up conversations with the Society & Shaun Donovan

Installation of Officers: Josh Perkin was inducted as President-Elect. Matt Troia was inducted as Secretary. Christopher Mace is now the Past President, Steven Bardin is now President.

New Business: New Logo incorporation of AFS logo and refresh for the 50th anniversary. Discussion regarding our revised logo that includes the Society's logo per requirements that all units and subunits incorporate the Society's logo. Brian Van Zee motioned to accept the logo, Nate Smith seconded, motion passed. AFS Parent Society expecting a 2025 logo for that meeting in San Antonio; update to follow. Michele Nation's recommended adding a 50-year note to our current logo; Michele Nations will update and send to ExCom. ExCom emails removed from website due to spam/phishing. Steven Bardin provided context to the removal of ExCom and Committee Chair emails from our TCAFS Website. Plans to add Contact Us button. Secretary position to team with Michele to answer general emails. Mike Homer provided an overview of the history of the Black Bass Symposium; planning to host a 25-year Black Bass Symposium in conjunction with the 2025 AFS Meeting. Requesting



2024 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

\$1,000 to support the cost of the symposium. Brian Van Zee motioned that we support the Black Bass Symposium at \$1,000; Randy Rushin seconded; discussion – recommendation to re-discuss at 2025 TCAFS Meeting; motion carried. Josh Perkin asked how papers will be published for this symposium; Dan Daugherty mentioned that the plan is to publish papers in a special Fisheries issue. Cynthia Fox Holt mentioned that Texas is planning to host the 2025 Hutton Scholar Summit; provided an overview of the Summit with a request for funding support. C. Fox Holt requested that TCAFS provide 30% of the total cost with a maximum contribution of \$5,000. Dan Daugherty asked if it would be possible to provide \$2,500 this year and then revisit before the event; Cynthia said yes. Dan Daugherty motioned that we contribute \$2,500 to the Summit with a maximum cap of \$5,000; Levi Sparks seconded; motion carried.

Adjourn: Dakus motion to adjourn; Randy seconded; Meeting adjourned at 12:44 PM.

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**TCAFS
BEHIND THE
SCENES:**

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE
CHAIRS AND
MEMBERS**

**STUDENT
SUBUNITS**

BEHIND THE SCENES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTSteven Bardin
PRESIDENT-ELECT.....Joshuah Perkin
PAST PRESIDENTChris Mace
TREASURERStephen Curtis
SECRETARYMatthew Troia

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

AWARDSBeth Silvy
CONTINUING EDUCATIONLynn Wright
EDITORIAL.....Preston Bean
.....Kelley Kowal
ENDOWMENTS.....Brian VanZee
HISTORYMichele Nations
.....Ray Mathews
INTERNETRyan Seymour
.....Michele Nations
.....Haley Kokel
ISSUES[vacant]
MEMBERSHIP.....Michele Nations
NOMINATINGGreg Cummings
POND MANAGEMENTTodd Sink
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS.....Dylan Kwak
SCHOLARSHIPJennifer Butler
STUDENT OUTREACH.....Josh Perkin
.....Scott Collins
.....Levi Sparks
.....Margaret Stadig

STUDENT SUBUNITS

- Texas A&M – College Station
- Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
- Tarleton State University
- Texas Tech University
- University of North Texas
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- The University of Texas at Tyler

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matthew Troia



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.

A message from the newsletter team:

If you have ideas for stories or photographs from the field you would like to share please email Matt Troia (troiamj@gmail.com). We can help develop and write stories, so please reach out, even if the idea is not completed yet.

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

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