

Fifty Year History of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS)  
Annual Chronology of Historical Landmarks

By Raymond Mathews

Historian

**1975**

**The Texas Chapter journey started on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Rudder Tower on the campus of Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, Texas.** There had been interest in forming a Texas Chapter for many years. The President of the Texas A&M Chapter, Mike Van Den Avyle provided a meeting place where more than 100 fisheries workers from across the state met to form the new statewide chapter. Of those in attendance 83 paid dues and became Charter Members of the Texas Chapter.

**Ed Bonn**, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), was elected **first Chapter President**; Jim Davis, TAMU Extension Service, President-elect; Robert Stevens, TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division, Secretary-

Treasurer; and Rich Noble, TAMU, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Dues were set at \$3 for senior members and \$2 for student members.

The **objectives of the American Fisheries Society** are defined in Article 1 of the Constitution of the organization, which include the conservation, development, and wise utilization of recreational and commercial fisheries, promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice, and exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects. The founders of the Texas Chapter added a new one- “to encourage the exchange of information by fishery workers within Texas.”

Although the official Chapter Charter could not be approved by the parent society until their annual meeting in September 1976, for all practical purposes the **Texas Chapter began on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Texas A&M University.**



**November 1975, the formation of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on the Texas A & M College Station Campus. First Row (L-R):** Shari Rische, Wade Butler, Allen Forshage, Charles Mulford, Ken Sellers, Ed Lyles, Steve Smith, and Roy Bamburg. **Second Row:** Dwane Smith, Paul Crandall, Bob Zerr, Nick Carter, Jimmy Dean, Buck Henderson, Leo Lewis, Lou Guerra, and Joe Toole. **Third Row:** Bill Rutledge, Charlie Menn, Ronnie Stapleton, Bill Brown (USFWS), Charles Leigon, Charlie Inman, and Mike Ryan. **Fourth Row:** Paul Seidensticker, David Pritchard, Billy Follis, Barry Lyons, Roger McCabe, Dr. John Garcia, (Texas Tech. University), Dick Luebke, Gary Mooney, Alan Wenger, Rhandy Helton, and James Lasswell. **Fifth Row:** Ernest Marsh, Joe Kraai, Bill Bailey, John Prentice, Clell Guest, Jeff Morris, Rick Clark, Phil Rurocher, Royce Dewey, and Jack Crabtree. **Sixth Row:** Elgin Diets, John Moczygemba, Bob Bounds, Kirby Gholson, Ed Bonn, and Bill Provine.

## 1976

The newly received **Chapter Charter** was presented by Secretary-Treasurer Robert E. Stevens to Chapter President Ed Bonn. Mr. Bonn stated that the Charter should be held by the incumbent Chapter President for his term in office, so he passed it on to newly installed Chapter President Jim Davis. This tradition of passing the Chapter Charter on to the incumbent President has continued for 50 years-sort of like the passing of the eternal torch.

Membership increased to 133 members by the end of the year, but less than 50 people attended the second annual meeting at Lake Brownwood. Lodging was made available at the Texas Extension Service 4-H Center for \$15 per day, including meals.

The early days of the Chapter were not very organized, and committee assignments were not very productive. The committees were plagued by attrition and inactivity, as exemplified by the Awards Committee, which provided no awards because nobody was nominated.

To Whom It May Concern:

We the undersigned hereby petition the American Fisheries Society for the formation of a local chapter for the State of Texas as set forth in the attached bylaws.

<u>Neil E. Carter</u>	<u>William G. McLean</u>
<u>Ernest B. Henderson</u>	<u>Luskid Hall</u>
<u>Lomie Peters</u>	<u>James S. Smith, Jr.</u>
<u>Don Steinbach</u>	<u>Lou C. Stout</u>
<u>Richard A. Walle</u>	<u>Neil C. Packer</u>
<u>Mark E. Chittenden</u>	<u>Smith, O'Keefe</u>
<u>Robert R. Shubert</u>	<u>John James Huber</u>
<u>William H. Neid</u>	<u>Marj C. Grossard, Jr.</u>
<u>Wallace H. Scherman</u>	_____
<u>Jim Davis</u>	_____
<u>Rich Straum</u>	_____
<u>Thomas Trueman</u>	_____
<u>Michael J. Vander Linde</u>	_____
<u>James H. Bondar, Jr.</u>	_____
<u>Daughen E. Walsh</u>	_____

**Twenty-three people signed the petition to the parent society requesting the formation of a local chapter for the State of Texas, 1976.**

Chapter President Ed Bonn recognized the problems at the annual meeting in his report. He **established a Resolutions Committee** to provide input to the parent society and work on improving the Chapter. He stated that the purposes and objectives of the Society were to unify the relationship of fishery workers throughout the State, assist researchers in development of their efforts through constructive review of presentations given at the annual meeting, and to recognize quality work in the fisheries field.

The **first newsletter** was published in March. It was a two-page (two sided) flier which reported on the formation of the new chapter, elected officers, and some committee work in progress. For instance, it was reported that the Awards Committee chaired by Dr. Joe Lock (Baylor University) with assistance from Dr. Bobby Whiteside (Southwest Texas State University - SWTSU) and Bob Bounds (TPWD) developed awards in two categories including "Outstanding Professional Fisheries Worker of Texas" and "Outstanding Fishery Student Effort." Two additional newsletters were published later in the year.

Meryle Broussard, President of the Texas A&M Chapter, reported on activities of his chapter and made recommendations for the new Texas Chapter members.

The **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department moved** from the Capitol complex to its new headquarters building in southeast Austin.

**Landmark federal legislation** was passed this year, H.R. 200, which **extended U.S. jurisdiction over fisheries to 200 miles**, set up eight regional councils to manage fisheries in this area beyond previous jurisdiction, and provided for a Gulf of Mexico regional council comprised of members from the five surrounding states.

## **1977**

**The third annual meeting was held in conjunction with the larger Southern Division AFS 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in San Antonio** on October 9th. That turned out to be a good step for the chapter, because there was a lot more attendance and participation in committee work.

Chapter members Jimmy Dean and Bill Bailey (TPWD) were awarded second place for their paper "Reproductive Repression of Largemouth Bass in a Heated Reservoir" at the meeting.

This was the **first year that the Texas Chapter awards were given**. Dr. Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU) was Chairman of the Awards Committee. Chapter awards were presented to Don Steinbach (TAMU Extension Service) for **fish culture work**, Edward Bonn (TPWD) for **fisheries management**, John Prentice and Richard Clark, Jr. (TPWD) for **fisheries research**, and David Pritchard for **fisheries administration**. Since 1977, 95 awards have been given by the Chapter to honor those making significant contributions to the fisheries profession.

Chapter President, James T. Davis (TAMU Extension Service) sought to fill Chapter committees with people who would be active and improve the functioning of the Chapter. It worked.

**Ed Bonn, the Chapter's first President, retired from the TPWD** after 35 years of service. **The Chapter awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation** at the annual meeting for his work on behalf of the Texas Chapter. He urged the members to initiate an active publicity campaign about the Chapter's goals and encourage membership.



Three Texas Chapter members standing in front of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's office at the Heart of the Hills Research Station, October 1977. L-R: Dick Luebke, Barry Lyons, and Paul Crandall (All TPWD). Dick Luebke is a charter member of TCAFS and later became Chapter President in 1988.

**Carl R. Sullivan, AFS Executive Director, was visiting dignitary** to the joint Southern Division-AFS Chapter annual meeting. He discussed several facts of interest, including the fact that the Southern Division AFS is the second largest of its kind in the U.S., exceeded only by the Western Division. The AFS membership is rapidly approaching 7,000 members. He also stated that the **monetary values of fish** established by the AFS had **withstood a court case in Virginia**. Since this court case, the AFS monetary values of fishes have helped reclaim losses from fish kills in hundreds of court cases, which stands as a reminder to the strength, knowledge, and integrity of our membership.



**L-R: Ronnie Ballard, John Moczygemba, and Ron Miller. Preparing tire bundles to enhance fishery habitat in Lake Texoma, February 1977. ED BONN**

The Chapter President began receiving the **AFS Diary**, a weekly report to the Executive Committee from the office of the Director, AFS. The Diary included a report on the low salary being paid to fishery workers in the U.S., and efforts by the AFS Executive Committee to communicate that problem to the Legislators and Governors of the 10 lowest paying states, urging a revision of pay structures.

This was the **first year that the official approved annual meeting minutes were published in the Chapter Newsletter** to let all members know what actions were taken on their behalf.

Representatives from the Texas Chapter as well as five Gulf States (including Texas) participated in a panel on **“Marine Recreational Fishing in the Gulf Area”** at the AFS annual meeting.

The Texas Chapter treasury contained about \$529.

## **1978**

The fourth annual meeting was held at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos on September 30th. Annual meetings have traditionally been held in the fall since the beginning of the organization.

The Texas Chapter **published its first annual Proceedings**, containing six peer-reviewed papers, an accomplishment which has been perpetuated and improved upon every year since then. Dr. Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU) prepared **“Guidelines for Authors Contributing to the Fisheries Sessions of the Annual Meeting, Texas Chapter,”** which was sent out as an attachment to Newsletter #9 (September 1978). This guideline document was very useful for authors and a necessary part of developing the Chapter’s Annual Proceedings. Bill Davis (TPWD) was the **first Editor** of the Texas Chapter Proceedings. He was recognized at the annual meeting for his efforts.

The **Program for the annual meeting** was the **first one published in a Chapter Newsletter (#9)**. The technical presentations showed a lot of maturity and professionalism as the Chapter began to show improvements with age and experience. Eighteen papers were presented in the Technical Program, followed by **another first in the Chapter’s history—a Discussion Forum** to consider statewide fisheries issues. The Discussion Forum was about developing policies concerning the stocking of grass carp, Florida largemouth bass, Nile perch, peacock bass, and striped bass. A great deal of concern and caution was expressed about stocking exotic species in Texas waters.

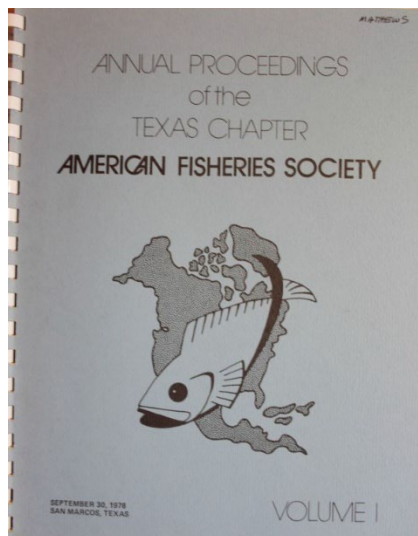
Much of the discussion focused on the **recognition of a new and growing menace to lakes and rivers in the state, *Hydrilla***, and whether it was wise to use grass carp as a biological control. The years that followed would see many more discussions and opinions presented about the problems with *Hydrilla*, as well as water hyacinth, proliferation in state waters.



**Above: Charter member. Ronnie (“Chigger”) Ballard is out setting gill nets in Lake Texoma, November 1978. BRUCE HYSMITH**

Bob Kemp (TPWD Director of Fisheries) was given the opportunity at the annual meeting to talk about the TPWD fisheries programs and to answer questions. This was a beneficial opportunity for Chapter members to learn about the fisheries issues of the time and to exchange information among professionals (one of the goals of the Society).

This was the **first year that a Membership Directory was published** by the Chapter and distributed to all members to improve communication among fisheries workers. In addition, Jim Flynn (Hydrolab Corporation) contacted over one hundred fisheries related workers by phone to tell them about the Chapter's goals and encourage membership, which helped add a lot of new people to the organization.



Cover of the Annual Proceedings of the Texas Chapter, Volume 1, September 30, 1978, meeting, San Marcos, Texas.

**Chapter awards** were presented to Pat Hutson (TPWD) for outstanding fish **culture** work on smallmouth bass, Edward Lyles (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS) for outstanding fisheries **research** in aquatic protection (in the non-member category), and Dr. Clark Hubbs (University of Texas –UT) for outstanding fisheries **research and education**. This was the **first year that the Chapter Proceedings included information about the award recipients**, and the contributions they made to the field of fisheries that earned them such recognition.

Chapter member John Prentice (TPWD) represented the Texas Chapter as an invited speaker to the Symposium on Selected Cool Water Fishes of North America, sponsored by the North Central Division AFS, March 7-9 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Chapter treasury increased to \$772, and the membership was 105.

## **1979**

The fifth annual meeting was held at Texas A&M University with eighty-one attendees from fourteen different agencies and universities. Texas A&M Chapter President Charles Cichra introduced dignitaries at the meeting including Dr. Wallace G. Klussman (Head, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, TAMU) and Dr. Perry L. Adkisson (Vice-President for Agriculture and Renewable Natural Resources, TAMU).



Although no specific theme was developed for this year's meeting, a special attempt was made to include several papers concerning marine fisheries. **Marine fisheries** were recognized as an important part of the profession that was **under-represented** in the Texas Chapter. Dr. Andy Landry of the Moody College in Galveston chaired the Technical Session and had several invited papers presented on marine fisheries, including those on marine fisheries management, ichthyoplankton of saltmarsh and beach-front marine environments, and research on shrimp. A total of thirteen technical presentations were given.

A **fish fry social** was provided by the Texas A&M Chapter after the meeting. This was the **first of many** fish fry socials. The Texas A&M Chapter was recognized by Dr. Bobby Whiteside, Texas Chapter President, for being immensely helpful with arrangements for the meeting on the campus.

The **Farm Pond Management Committee was formed** to provide better information about raising fish in farm ponds. At the time several different fishery agencies, including the TPWD, USFWS, U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAES) gave different guidance to farmers and ranchers regarding how best to manage their farm ponds. The Chapter members realized that this was not good for the profession or their agency's credibility, and they spent a year working on new guidelines that everyone could agree with.



**John Moyle, first paid editor for the AFS, designed the cover and format of the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society and was first used in volume 88, January 1959 (Moffitt 2001) and was used on the first cover of the Annual Proceedings of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society, Volume 1, 1979.**

The Chapter provided the **Fish Culture Award** to Robert R. Stickney (TAMU) for his work on the culture of *Tilapia*, catfish, and freshwater shrimp, and for the book he published entitled, "Principles of Warmwater Aquaculture." Phil Durocher (TPWD) received the **Fisheries Research Award** for the data analysis of TPWD's inland fisheries collection records. Gary Valentine (SCS) was awarded the Fisheries Management Award for his many years of pond management service to the public and training SCS staff in fisheries management. Rich Noble (TAMU) received the **Fisheries Education Award** for seven years of dedicated fishery education and research leadership. Charles Inman (TPWD) was presented with the **Special Recognition Award** for 25 years of fisheries research and management with the TPWD, including studies of diseases and parasites of warmwater fishes and research and management on Florida largemouth bass.

The AFS membership nationwide was reported as 7,824 on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Sullivan, Executive Director AFS, reported in the AFS Diary that "The whole Chapter can be proud of the effort" in publishing the Proceedings of the Chapter's Annual Meeting.** The AFS Diary is a weekly report to the Executive Committee from the Office of the Director.

The Chapter membership had climbed to 243, and the treasury had \$382.22 at meeting time on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The major expenditures during the year included publishing the Proceedings at a cost of \$387.27, and \$134.39 for reproduction and postage for four newsletters.

## **1980**

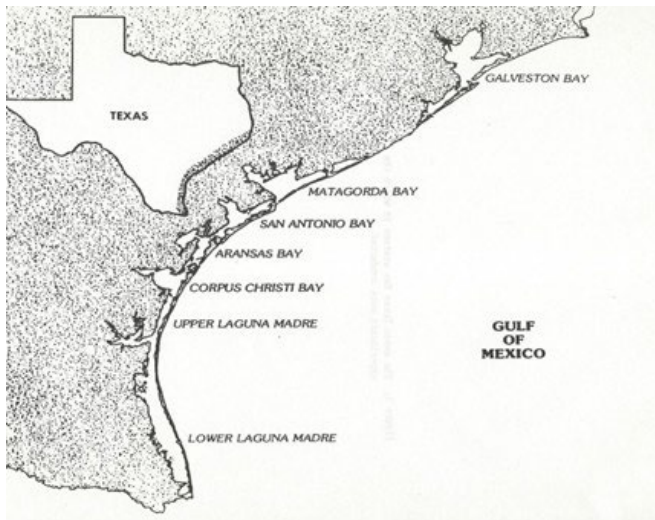
The sixth annual meeting was held at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) on September 26<sup>th</sup>, with sixty-three attendees from twelve different agencies and universities. Registration was in the lobby of the Life Sciences Building on Campus Drive. Dr. Arnott, Dean of the College of Science, UTA, gave the welcoming address. He gave a brief history of the university and spoke of his own interest in fisheries biology. An evening social, including a fish fry, was held at a picnic area on the shores of Lake Arlington.

Fourteen presentations were made at the Technical Session of the annual meeting. Mike Millard opened the session with a talk about the USFWS fisheries program in Texas.

The Farm Pond Management Committee completed and approved new guidelines leading to its first publication "**Stocking and Management Recommendations for Texas Farm Ponds.**" Many thousands of copies of this document have been handed out over the years, and it is still in great demand today. The Chapter's position on the publication was stated in Newsletter # 15, as providing "technically sound advice on pond management, as developed by the state's only professional society of fisheries biologist and managers."

The Warmwater Streams Committee, Southern Division AFS, held their **first Warmwater Streams Symposium** on March 9-11<sup>th</sup> at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville). Several Texas Chapter members participated in it.

The AFS published the 1980 version of "**Common and Scientific Names of Fishes,**" which was the most used document in the field, at least until it was updated in 1991.



The seven Texas Bay systems in which the 21 rotenone experiments were conducted (Green et al. 1980).



**1980 TCAFS Officers, L-R: Richard Noble (president), Allen Forshage (secretary), Bobby Whiteside (past- president), and Charlie Inman (president-elect).** COURTESY OF ALLEN FORSHAGE.

he **Dingell-Johnson (D-J) Federal Aid to Fish Restoration Bill**, Senate Bill 1631 and House Bill 6074 were introduced on the floor of Congress this year and was easily the **most important recreational fisheries legislation ever introduced**. Major opposition was expressed by the boat and motor industry; however, the merits and need for the additional funding to provide for fishery management was recognized by Congress and the bill passed in 1982. The AFS was incredibly involved in the process.

The Chapter did not give any awards in 1980.

The **AFS Environmental Concerns Committee** provided chapters with a draft protocol for establishing AFS policies and positions on environmental issues. The Texas Chapter contributed comments on several critical issues, including coastal management quality, non-point source pollution, wetland degradation, sedimentation, cumulative effects of small-scale habitat modifications, eutrophication, toxic substances, mining impacts, alterations of river and stream flow, and acid rain. The AFS used information from all of the chapters to develop an **Environmental Policies document**, which was published and used to provide guidance to all AFS chapters and members.

According to the published document, **“the Society has a responsibility to the people of North America to anticipate, detect, identify and define existing environmentally related fisheries opportunities, preventing problems, and resolving issues.”**

Chapter membership stood at 120 and the treasury had only \$100.40, primarily due to expenditure in printing last year’s Proceedings which was done at a private company for \$456. Subsequent printings were done at TAMU at a much-reduced cost, saving the Chapter a lot of money.

## **1981**

Twenty scientific papers were presented at the seventh annual meeting held at TPWD headquarters in Austin. The meeting was extraordinarily successful in that it was attended by 85 members from 15 state and federal agencies, corporations, and universities. This represented the most broadly based attendance that the Chapter had seen at their annual meetings. Charles Travis (TPWD Executive Director) gave the welcoming address. He challenged members to find better and more effective means to meet the challenges of the next decade and emphasized the need for solutions to the increasing pressures that are being placed on the declining resources. He said we need better research, production, and education of the public. The Coors Hospitality Room in north Austin was provided for the social after the meeting.

The **Chapter officers realized there was a need to increase the funds** in the treasury to pay for work that Chapter members were recommending. This was the first year that dues collection became a real priority. An **Advertisement Committee** was formed and chaired by Allen Forshage (TPWD) with a goal of raising \$750 for that year. This committee was **formed to investigate and pursue methods to obtain constituents who would contribute** to the Texas Chapter. The response was not overwhelming this first year, although \$250 was contributed by fish farmers, sporting goods suppliers, and environmental consultant companies.

This was the **first year that papers submitted for publication** in the Chapter's Proceedings had to conform to the "**Instructions for Manuscript Preparation**," which was attached to the May Newsletter (#20).

A new **Resolutions Committee** was established, and their first order was to inform members about critical issues affecting fisheries, to make recommendations for Chapter positions on issues of importance to fisheries, and to provide facts and information on such matters. The Texas grass carp issue was the first topic the committee dealt with, at the request of Ralph Manns.

A 3-day symposium at the 111<sup>th</sup> AFS annual meeting on "**Hybrid Grass Carp** Biology, Management, and Potential for Aquatic Plant Control," attracted 156 technical papers, indicating the interest and concern about this issue.

The **Chapter presented awards** to Billy White (TPWD) for his work in **fish culture**, Al Green (TPWD) for **research** on estuarine fishes, Dr. Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU) for **outstanding educator**, and Dr. Jim Davis (TAMU Extension Service) for special category contributions.

President Charles Inman reported on the activities of the Texas Chapter at the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Society annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee and at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium (dealing with *Sciaenids*) in Houston.

The Chapter published 2,000 copies of its publication "Stocking and Management Recommendations for Texas Farm Ponds."

A **new journal**, the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, sent out its Volume 1, Number 1 in the fall of this year.

The AFS provided an **acid rain resolution** to the EPA expressing concern about the potential impacts to fish populations. The EPA responded with the following statement: "We appreciate and share your concern about the acid deposition issue. Although we do not believe that we have a scientific understanding of the phenomenon adequate to propose mitigating legislative measures, we are committed to obtaining this understanding as expeditiously as possible." This led to congressional hearings and the finding that acid rain does impact fishery resources, which resulted in various mitigating measures, such as low sulphur coal and scrubbers on coal fired power plants.

Membership slowly increased to 145, representing 15 organizations.

## **1982**

Changes were made to the usual annual meeting program this year. Prior to 1982, every annual meeting contained three elements: a business meeting, technical paper presentations, and a social (usually a fish fry). This year a **panel discussion** was added, and the meeting was extended into a **two-day event**. The panel discussion was entitled "Using Exotic Species of Fish in Texas." Because of the interest and success of the panel discussion, it has been a feature of many of the subsequent annual meetings.

Gary Valentine, Chapter President, gave the President's Address (a tradition that apparently started with the second annual meeting of the Chapter) in the Sunday House, Kerrville, Texas. Gary Valentine listed the achievements of the Chapter and suggested that his goal was to strengthen existing activities rather than adding new commitments.

Gary Valentine spoke in favor of maintaining the two-day meeting schedule because of the success and turnout for this year's meeting. It allowed for more activities to be conducted. He complimented Dick Luebke (TPWD) on managing the arrangements for the new two-day meeting. On the first day the Chapter conducted registration, a business meeting, and an evening barbecue and social beer. A technical session, panel discussion, and field trip to the Heart of the Hills Research Station near Mountain Home occurred on the second day.

120 people attended the eighth annual meeting. A picture of the officers of the Texas Chapter was sent to AFS headquarters by Clell Guest, Publicity Committee Chairperson, for publication in the next issue of *Fisheries*.

This was the **first year that the official Texas Chapter stationery was ordered.**

A **notebook display** on the Chapter activities and accomplishments was developed for the AFS parent society annual meeting by Jimmy Dean, Maury Ferguson (both with TPWD), and the Publicity Committee. Gary Valentine suggested creating a Chapter brochure.

Joe Tomasso (SWTSU) took over as Editor of the Newsletter.



**Attendees at the 1982 annual meeting, outside the Sunday House in Kerrville, Texas.**

**Chapter awards** were given to Roger McCabe (TPWD) for work with striped bass **culture and management**, Clell Guest (TPWD) for diverse **research** projects that were the first ever at the new Heart-of-the-Hills Research Station, and Bob Hofstetter (TPWD) for 30 years of **research and management** of oysters.



**TCAFS officers at the 1982 annual meeting in Kerrville. L-R: Gary Valentine (past-president), Gary Matlock (president-elect), Maury Ferguson (secretary-treasurer), and Don Steinbach (president).**

The TPWD's Intranews newsletter (Volume 2, Number 13) included a story entitled "Texas Chapter, American Fisheries, Holds 1982 Meeting." The goal of the Society, award recipients (including pictures), and technical presentation titles were published in the story.

Gary Matlock (TPWD) addressed the Chapter members at the annual meeting on the benefits of the **Fishery Scientist Certification** offered by the AFS parent society. The program is meant to serve as a means of upgrading the professional image and as a mark of accomplishment. Many Chapter members have since been certified by the AFS.

The Chapter sent letters of support to Texas Congressmen for the proposed **Dingell-Johnson Expansion Bill**. The Congressional Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee reported great opposition to the bill from lobbyists for companies that sell boats, motors, and fishing gear. The AFS Diary (Volume 8, Number 20) reported on the Dingell-Johnson Expansion Bill, including credit to the Texas Chapter for writing letters to try to "shore up soft spots" in the legislation. The bill passed, adding a 3% tax on the sale of new boats and motors. **Those funds are used for federal support of fish management and research.** A **new milestone** for the Chapter was reached when the **5,000th copy of its publication "Stocking and Management Recommendations for Texas Farm Ponds"** was printed and mailed out. This publication is distributed by the TPWD, TAES, and SCS. The Texas Chapter's stocking guide received a genuinely nice

mention in the AFS Fisheries Management Section Newsletter. An estimated 10,000 copies of this publication were printed and distributed over the years, making it the **most sought-after fisheries publication in the state.**

Copies of old Proceedings were donated to student members, universities, and other organizations that could benefit from them.

This was the **first year that the Chapter contributed funds (\$25) in support of the AFS Working Capital Fund** Committee's raffle prizes, to for use at the national AFS meeting for helping the Society increase its operating funds. The Chapter officers discussed the prospect of having their own raffle at future meetings, which was initiated at the 1984 meeting.

Congressional inquiries into the causes of acid rain and effects on fisheries were held in May. The AFS's Acid Precipitation Committee provided testimony at these hearings.

The **Environmental Concerns Committee** of the AFS parent society canvassed each chapter for nominations of national and local issues suitable for publishing in a position paper. The Chapter reported on dredge spoil disposal sites in Texas bays and estuaries, grass carp stocking, the value of leaving brush habitat in new reservoirs, and freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries.

A glossary of "**Fish Health Terms**" was published by the Fish Health Section of the AFS parent society.

The Chapter had to deal with several **organizational problems** this year. According to Article VII of the AFS Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules, only a member of the Society in good standing may be a voting member of a subdivision of the Society. Texas Chapter Bylaws were not consistent with those of the Society, as 60% of the Chapter members were not members of the Society. It was determined that this was because parent Society membership was expensive and discouraged membership of some fishery workers, especially students and technicians. In addition, Texas Chapter Bylaws require that members must be residents of the State of Texas, but five members of record were from outside of State. Thus, **changes were made in the Chapter Bylaws** to be consistent with those of the parent Society. As it stands now, a person can be a member of the Texas Chapter without being a member of the parent Society, but they cannot hold office. This came at a time when losses in membership in the AFS were increasing (15%), and the chapters were being urged to step up recruitment efforts (from The AFS Diary, Volume 8, Number 16). The Bylaw requiring a Texas Chapter member to be a Texas resident was not amended.

The treasury increased to just under \$1,000, and membership stood at 129. 120 members attended the annual meeting, probably because of the barbecue dinner. The sale of Proceedings brought in \$50, but the Chapter lost money on the barbecue dinner. Apparently, fisheries biologist really like barbecue.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was held in Jacksonville, Florida, and several Chapter members presented papers there.

## **1983**

The Texas Chapter held its ninth **Annual Meeting jointly with the Oklahoma Chapter at University of Oklahoma's Biological Station on Lake Texoma. This was the Chapter's first meeting involving a chapter outside of Texas.** The meeting was very successful in terms of information exchange. Sessions included a **Striped Bass Panel** and a technical session.

The Southern Division AFS **recognized two Texas Chapter members** with Honorable Mentions at their annual meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. W. Clell Guest (TPWD) was recognized for his paper "Survival of Adult Florida and Northern Largemouth Bass Subjected to Cold Temperature Regimes" and Robert R. Stickney for his paper "Winter Feeding of Channel Catfish in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas."

The Farm Pond Management Committee began work on a companion publication to their previous one entitled "**Assessment Techniques for Small Ponds.**" The Executive Committee (EXCOM) asked this Committee to gather information on the effectiveness of stocking guidelines for writing a Farm Pond Fisheries Evaluation Manual.

Joe Tomasso, Newsletter Editor, started a **new format for the Chapter Newsletter.** The first newsletter of the year reported at the EXCOM meeting announced the meeting site for the next annual meeting and issued a first call for papers. The second newsletter reported on the midyear EXCOM meeting, provided details of the upcoming annual meeting, and included meeting registration forms. The third and final newsletter of the year provided a summary of the Chapter meeting.

Allen Forshage (TPWD) and Bryan Brauner reported that the **Exhibits and Advertising Committee** met its goal of **raising \$1,000 for the Chapter**, \$300 contributions and \$700 from display fees. In addition to the monetary contributions, Allen got Coors and Budweiser to donate beer and Coca-Cola Distributors to donate sodas for the annual meeting social.

The Chapter published its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Proceedings, which for the first time included the Fishery Workers Directory.

A **Paddlefish Symposium** was conducted in St. Louis, Missouri on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Several Texas Chapter members participated and reported on the status of this species in Texas rivers.

Malone's Hatchery in Arkansas reported at the Southern Division AFS meeting that they had **successfully produced a sterile triploid grass carp.** This species has seen widespread use in Texas lakes and rivers since the polyploidy procedure was developed.

The Chapter presented its **Fishery Worker of the Year Award** to Robert Kemp (TPWD) in the category of special recognition.

This was the **first year that the Chapter paid for an invited speaker**, Dr. Tom McIlwain, to speak at the annual meeting, as a means of drawing attendance at the meeting to hear a nationally recognized fishery expert presentation.

Dr. Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU) organized a **Fishery Biology Symposium** for the Texas Academy of Science annual meeting on behalf of the Texas Chapter.

A Texas Fish Farming Conference and Annual Convention of the Fish Farmers of Texas was held at the Rudder Tower, TAMU. The Chapter's fish stocking guidelines were a major consideration at the convention. Dr. S.K. Johnson (TAMU) organized the convention.

The Chapter treasury continued to steadily grow as dues pretty much covered routine expenses, and contributions and display income began to start adding much needed funds. The treasury stood at about \$1,500.

**The USFWS announced plans to terminate the personnel of the Cooperative Fishery Research Units at universities.** The AFS urged members of the Texas House Appropriations Committee to seek funding for the Coop Units, and apparently it helped since Coop Units are still an important part of many university programs.

## **1984**

The **first annual meeting to be held at a coastal site, Port Aransas**, occurred this year. This was done as an attempt to increase the membership of coastal fisheries workers, who had not been a significant part of the Chapter to date. Chapter President Gary Matlock organized the successful effort which helped bring more coastal members into the Chapter. A very successful shrimp boil was donated by the Texas Shrimp Association.

Subsequently, three other annual meetings have been held at coastal sites, including ones in Galveston (1991), Port Aransas (1993), and Corpus Christi (1999).

A very successful **Discussion Forum**, moderated by Dr. Ed Klima of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Galveston, was conducted at the tenth annual meeting on the topic of **freshwater inflow to bays and estuaries**. John Specht of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) spoke about the inflow to the Mission-Aransas Estuary, Gary Powell spoke about the Texas Department of Water Resources (now the Texas Water Development Board - TWDB) Bay and Estuary Program, and Dr. Jeff Matthews (USFWS) spoke about coastal ecology.

Gene McCarty conducted a tour of the TPWD's **John Wilson Marine Fish Hatchery** in Corpus Christi on Saturday afternoon following the annual meeting. This was TPWD's **most modern fish hatchery**. Work there focused on the production of red drum, spotted seatrout, and snook.

This was the **biggest year to date for revenue generation**, largely due to Ed Hegen's aggressive work as Chair of the Exhibits and Advertising Committee which established a precedent by which to increase funds in the treasury. This committee laid the groundwork for seeking raffle and door prizes for the annual meetings by contacting a wide group of organizations and businesses for donations. The **now famous Texas Chapter fundraising activities at the social** were initiated this year. Bruce Hysmith's (TPWD) skill as an auctioneer of donated fishing equipment and outdoor gear to raise funds for the Chapter was realized. He developed such classics as "Bait-a-Hole" which raised a lot of money for the Chapter and proved to be a lot of fun for all.

Texas Chapter members were active participants at the Southern Division AFS meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. **A Techniques Manual, "Warmwater Streams Techniques Manual/Fisheries," for warmwater fisheries was developed** by the Division's Warmwater Streams Committee, chaired by Chuck Killebrew in 1983 and Ben Jaco in 1984, with the help and a lot of participation by Texas Chapter members. Texas

A&M Chapter President Jeff Isley reported at the Southern Division AFS meeting that the student chapter of the AFS had approximately 70 members and that their annual meeting (which was mostly comprised of the presentation of technical papers) is held during April each year.

There were 250 copies of the Chapter's Proceedings VI printed this year, which was the largest number to date. They sold for \$1 per volume.

Chapter President Gary Matlock formed a committee to develop a **Procedures Manual** that defined each committee's goals and activities, responsibilities of the chairman and members, schedules, and past accomplishments that could be updated annually. He brought up the **need for an Archivist/Historian**, which was the first time that a need for such an effort was recognized as important. No action was taken on that recommendation, but the Chapter files were maintained by Chapter Presidents in remarkable condition.

Dennis Palafox, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, made a motion at the annual meeting to see a **descriptive write-up of those persons accepting nominations to office** inserted into the last newsletter before the annual meeting to aid the membership in voting. This motion was approved and has been provided each year since.



**TCAFS officers at the 1984 annual meeting at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas.**

**L-R: Gary Matlock (past president), Maury Ferguson (president), Brian Murphy (president-elect), and Mike Zeman (secretary-treasurer).**

Valerie Morrel, Chair of the Publicity Committee, and Mac McCune prepared the **Chapter's first Membership Brochure**. One thousand copies were printed for \$856. Mac McCune also published an article in the Gulf Coast Magazine about the Texas Chapter AFS, which helped publicize the goals of the Society and the Texas Chapter.

Members of the Texas Chapter's Farm Pond Management Committee attended the Fish Farmers Conference at TAMU, January 25-27<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance included Ed Schwille (Chairman), Richard Noble (TAMU), Paul Doss (Southwest Fish Hatchery, Inc.), Brian Murphy (Texas Tech University - TTU), Billy Higgenbotham (TAES), and Holt Williamson (San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center). The **name of this committee was changed** this year to the **Pond Management Committee**, since urban ponds are also of importance to the Chapter.

Income totaled \$1,509 and expenditures were \$2,059 for the year, leaving the treasury with a balance of \$1,082. Fourteen companies contributed to the Chapter for a total of \$250, which was a great help to the treasury.

## **1985**

The eleventh annual meeting was held at the Texas Tech University Center in Junction, Texas on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen papers were presented at the meeting, including six in the panel discussion on aquatic vegetation. Three papers were published in the Proceedings.

The **Chapter membership climbed to 182 and the treasury grew to about \$2,000**. This was a very good year for the Chapter. **Twenty-one companies provided contributions and/or exhibits** (a fee was charged) for the annual meeting this year, which was a great help. Names of the participating companies were published for the first time in the March 1985 Newsletter (#33).

A new ad hoc committee on **Urban Fisheries** was created.

The **first bound publication of the Texas Fisheries Directory** was completed.

The Pond Management Committee published their second document, **"Assessment and Corrective Management for Fish Populations in Small Impoundments."**

The Chapter awarded **two recipients the Outstanding Fisheries Workers of the Year Award**. Dr. Connie Ray Arnold (University of Texas Marine Science Institute – UTMSI) received one for **fisheries research** and Dr. Donald Wohlschlag (UTMSI) the other for **fisheries education**. Dr. Connie Arnold received his award for outstanding accomplishments in the reproductive biology of fishes and his successful spawning of numerous species through the alteration of photoperiod, temperature and internal hormones. Dr. Donald Wohlschlag received his award for valuable contributions to the many thousands of scientists he has helped to educate.

Gary Valentine (SCS) moderated a panel discussion on **"The Pros and Woes of Aquatic Weeds and their Control."** Gary Valentine pointed out that the issue of aquatic vegetation is two-sided. Sometimes it is a nuisance and sometimes it is beneficial. The discussion covered the positive attributes of aquatic vegetation for sport fishery and waterfowl habitat but most of the attention focused on the problems that nuisance aquatic vegetation poses for power generation lakes, small ponds, urban impoundments, and recreational users of lakes. **Hydrilla was equated with Godzilla** to illustrate the damage that the exotic weed causes to aquatic systems.

The Urban Committee, chaired by Phil Durocher (TPWD) with help from Frank Schlicht (Houston Power & Light Company), conducted its **first ever "Kids Fishing Day"** in the cooling water reservoir at the Baytown

Plant. The spring event was so successful that another one (co-sponsored by the Texas Outdoor Writers Association) was held in Austin during the summer.

The Pollution Committee of the Southern Division AFS presented a history of their organization.

The **first woman President**, Maury Ferguson, was elected this year. Since then, the Chapter has elected four other women as Chapter President.

Maury Ferguson initiated the Chapter's **first ever support of a foreign fishery student from Mexico**. Texas was the first Chapter in the nation to go international in its outreach program for improving educational opportunities for fishery biologist students. Maury also sought volunteers for the Historian/Archivist position, but no one took the bait, so the Chapter's archives continued to be passed to each President over the many years of the Chapter's history.

## **1986**

The twelfth annual meeting was held at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos from October 31 to November 1. A **Discussion Forum on red drum culture and management** was moderated by Dr. Thomas Linton.

The Pond Management Committee revised and printed their original publication "**Stocking and Management Recommendations for Texas Farm Ponds.**"

The Chapter undertook the task of elevating the Chapter Proceedings from "**gray literature**" (which was uncitable in AFS Journals) to peer reviewed literature. Gary Carmichael and Dick Luebke (TPWD) worked long and hard in coordination with Dr. Bob Kendall, AFS Editor-in-Chief, to bring the standards of the Chapter Proceedings up to the standards that meet with AFS requirements for published material. **Because of their efforts, the Chapter has a publication quality proceeding that many chapters in the nation do not.**

This was the **first year in which representatives from the parent society attended the Chapter's annual meeting** (recognition that the Texas Chapter was doing well and being noticed).

## **1987**

The thirteenth annual meeting was held at Schreiner College in Kerrville on September 25-26. Bobby Farquhar moderated the **Panel Discussion on Pond Management for Recreational Fishing**.

The treasury was growing big enough that the membership was entertaining new ideas of what to do with money in the best interest of the chapter. The Chapter routinely made nominal contributions to the Southern Division AFS and the parent society, but the membership wanted to put the money to work in Texas.

The **Texas Chapter Scholarship Fund** was established with the growing treasury funds, and since that time many fishery students have benefited from the generosity of the Chapter.

Texas Chapter members were invited participants to the North American Lake Management Society's Regional Symposium on Applied Lake and Reservoir Management in Austin.

Dues were raised to current levels of **\$8** for regular members and **\$5** for student members.

An **award for Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** was given to The Sportsmen's Club of Texas (SCOT) for its aggressive educational and conservation-oriented efforts promoting an appreciation of fishing and fisheries resources and habitat. Alan Allen, SCOT's Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

The recipient in the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year** award in the **culture** category was Kerry Graves (USFWS San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center) for his outstanding efforts in the development of zooplankton production, sampling, collection, and harvesting methods that have improved larval fish production and facilitated research. This was the only such award this year.

This was the **first year that the Chapter presented an award for "Outstanding Presentation."** It was presented to Kerry Graves, who also received the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year award, for his paper "A Method for Harvesting Large Quantities of Zooplankton from Hatchery Ponds" which he co-authored with Jacob Morrow (USFWS San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center).

## **1988**

The fourteenth annual meeting was held in Abilene during October 7-8. A Panel Discussion on "**Water Use in the 90's – An Impact on Fisheries**" included Dave Buzan (Texas Water Commission - TWC), Sam Chapman (EPA), Robin Riechers (TPWD), John Sweeten (TAES), and Hal Schramm, Jr. (TTU) as moderator. The panel discussion and questions showed an increasing concern about the water quality impacts on fisheries, and a new concern about the instream flow needs of riverine fishes.

The opening address at the annual meeting was given by Dr. Larry McKinney and Susan Rieff (both with TPWD) on "**Future Water Development and Wildlife in Texas.**" They spoke about **new legislation** amending both the TPWD Code and the Texas Water Code, affecting both the TWDB and the TWC. These changes enhanced the consideration of fish and wildlife resources during the State water permitting process. TPWD's Resource Protection Division was put in a better position to protect natural resources through interaction with project sponsors and the TWC. Terrestrial and aquatic mitigative action was made a consideration of permit hearings, which has been to the benefit of bottomland hardwood habitats and other important yet dwindling natural resources.

The **Chapter's Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year award for education** went to Dr. Kirk Strawn (TAMU) for major contributions to the advancement of fisheries science as an educator and graduate student advisor. The **Fisheries Research Award** went to Dr. Gary Garrett (TPWD) for his continuing work on the recovery plan for the Guadalupe bass, *Micropterus treculi*. Receiving **honorable mention for work in fish culture** at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos was Loraine Fries (TPWD). The **outstanding presentation** was by Joe Fries entitled "Effects of Several Feeding Methods on Growth, Survival, and Condition of Striped Bass." Catherine Dryden (TAMU) received **honorable mention for her presentation** "Genetic Characteristics of Walleye from Dale Hollow Reservoir, Tennessee."

## **1989**

The fifteenth annual meeting was held in San Antonio on October 5-6. The **Outstanding Presentation** was made by R. Clay Smith for his paper "Behavior of Introduced Red Drum and Habitat-use Overlap with Largemouth Bass in a Power-Plant Cooling Reservoir" which he co-authored with Brian R. Murphy as a graduate student at TAMU. His award was presented at the 1990 annual meeting.

The **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award** in the **management category** was presented to Joseph Kraai (TPWD) for his work on the development of trout fisheries in Panhandle reservoirs, research in radiotelemetry, yellow perch management, catfish management, and the effects of water level fluctuations on West Texas fisheries.

The **award recipient in the culture category** was Robert Vega (TPWD) for his work in dramatically improving broodfish condition, egg production, and hatching rates at the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA) Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff. Consequently, a new record high number of red drum fingerlings were produced and stocked in 1989.

The **award recipients in the research category** were Roy Kleinsasser and Gordon Linam (both with TPWD) for their work in modifying Karr's index of biotic integrity for application in evaluating fish communities within Texas aquatic ecoregions. Their modifications have proven to be very useful in assessing stream fish community status and environmental impacts and identifying necessary protection activities for Texas streams.

**Honorable Mention in the research category** went to Dr. Robert Edwards (Pan American University) for his research in community dynamics of estuarine and freshwater fishes and for recovery efforts concerning several endangered fishes (e.g., San Marcos Recovery Team).

The **award recipient in the administration category** was Dr. Gary Matlock (TPWD) for his many achievements in directing fisheries programs, such as the establishment of the Lone Star Lunker Program, increased protection of sport fishing through length limit management, addition of problem fish to the harmful fish list, establishment of paddlefish, striped bass, snook, tarpon, and Guadalupe bass restoration programs, increased hatchery production, development of management plans for shrimp and oysters, development of genetic marking programs to evaluate stocking success, and restoration and expansion of the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery.

A **Panel Discussion** on "**The Use of Regulations in Fisheries Management**" included six papers followed by a question-and-answer session. The discussion included regulation issues and the role of the GCCA, Texas Black Bass Unlimited, Outdoor Writers,' and TPWD's Law Enforcement in Texas fishery management. Participants included Dick Anderson (USFWS), Hal Osborn (TPWD), Ray Poage (GCCA), Joe Rogers (Texas Black Bass Unlimited), Dan Klepper (San Antonio Express-News), and Jim Robertson (TPWD).

The Chapter membership was about 200, and the treasury had about \$3,000.

## **1990**

The sixteenth annual meeting was held jointly with the Oklahoma Chapter AFS at the University of Oklahoma's Biological Station on Lake Texoma. This was **the second time that the Texas Chapter held a joint conference with the Oklahoma Chapter**, and both times had very successful results.

**The 1990's was when the Texas Chapter really became a professional organization** that had a lot of impact on fisheries resources in the state. The Chapter had enough members and financial resources to be highly recognized and respected for the work and issues it became involved with.

Efforts begun in 1986 to get the **Chapter Proceedings sanctioned by the parent society** as published and citable literature cleared their last hurdle. Next year's Proceedings became the first one no longer considered "gray literature."

The **first two college scholarships** were awarded this year for \$150 each. The recipients were Tommy Michael Bates (TAMU) and Michael W. Brice (TTU). By comparison, in 2000 the Chapter gave four scholarships for \$700 each. Since 1990, the Chapter has given 34 undergraduate and graduate scholarships. The Chapter considers the money well spent, representing an investment in the future of Texas fisheries.

The annual meeting was held at Lake Texoma on September 20-21. A Panel Discussion on **"Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management"** included Bob Hartman (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks), Allan Carter (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission), Lee Redmond (Missouri Department Of Conservation), Benny Fontenot (Louisiana Department Of Wildlife and Fisheries), Kim Erickson (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation - ODWC), Nick Carter and Maury Osborn (TPWD), and Dr. James Schooley (Northeastern State University). This was the Chapter's **first multi-state fisheries program**. It generated a lot of regional interest in fisheries issues, which is one of the goals of the Society and the AFS chapters. Although this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Annual Meeting, it was the **first time that fisheries issues from five neighboring states (Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, and Oklahoma) were made a part of the program**.

Issues considered during the Panel Discussion included: **interjurisdictional management agreements** between Oklahoma and Texas for Lake Texoma; Louisiana and Texas for Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, and Sabine Lake; and Arkansas and Texas on the Red River. These agreements involve fishing licenses, sport fishing regulations, releases of exotic species, water quality, water rights, and a host of issues that the multi-state panel made fisheries workers aware of.

There were four awards for **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year**. The recipient for **fisheries administration** was Gene McCarty (TPWD). He was recognized for his leadership role in the funding, design, construction, and operation of new and recently renovated state fish hatcheries. Glen Alexander and David Campbell (both with TPWD) shared the award for the **culture category**. Glen Alexander, Manager, Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery, was recognized for his work with striped bass and striped bass hybrids. David Campbell, Manager, Tyler State Fish Hatchery, was recognized for his work in handling and spawning big bass in the Lone Star Lunker Program. David Terre (TPWD) received the award for **management**. He was recognized for his participation in Chapter activities and for his contribution to the statewide fishery management database.

Joseph E. Kraai (TPWD) received the award for **Outstanding Presentation** for his paper “Relationship of Net Annual Water Level Changes with Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass in a Texas Reservoir.”

## **1991**

The seventeenth annual meeting was held in Galveston on October 13-14. There was no Discussion Forum at this year’s meeting, but there were 15 technical presentations.

The Chapter joined forces with the TPWD to **host the 121<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in San Antonio**. The meeting was a raving success and gained considerable respect nationwide for the Texas Chapter.

The **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year** award went to Pat Hutson (TPWD). Pat was recognized for his **administrative accomplishments** as a TPWD program leader for largemouth bass, rainbow trout, paddlefish, and smallmouth bass. Under Pat’s direction, record numbers of largemouth bass fingerlings were produced this year (7 million).

The **Fish Culture Award** went to Jake Isaac, Jr. (TPWD) for his successes with raceway spawning of largemouth bass. Jake was also a key biologist in the development of techniques for the intensive culture of paddlefish.

The **Fisheries Management Award** went to Mark Webb (TPWD) for his work with the promotion and development of urban fishing programs in the Houston metropolitan area. He was also a principal investigator on a study which evaluated the effects of an experimental 10-inch minimum length limit for crappie on three reservoirs.

The **Fisheries Research Award** went to Ronnie Pitman (TPWD) for her work on paddlefish restoration. An award for **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** went to The Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas, a non-profit corporation committed to the maintenance, preservation, enhancement and creation of wetland habitat. The organization contributed \$1,000 for student scholarships.

This was the fourth year that the Chapter presented an award for **Outstanding Presentation**. This year it was presented to Mark Stacell (TPWD) for his paper “Photosensitivity of Channel Catfish to Oxytetracycline.”

**Student scholarships** were presented to Jim Tolan (Corpus Christi State University) and Michelle Badough (SWTSU).

## **1992**

The Chapter held its eighteenth annual meeting at Camp Rio Vista near Ingram.

A total of 14 papers were presented at the annual meeting, including three invited papers and three technical papers for peer reviewed publication. The invited papers were intended to highlight **“Critical Issues of the 90’s.”** Papers included a discussion by D.R. Sager (TPWD) on the “Effect of Contamination on Fishery Resources,” R.O. Anderson on “Biodiversity in the Realm of Fishery Resources,” and L.D. McKinney (TPWD) on “Biopolitics – Political Impacts on Biological Issues.” An overview of the **Operation Share a Lone Star Lunker Program** was provided by D.R. Wade and D.L. Campbell (both with TPWD).

The **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year** award in the category of **management** went to Ken Sellers (TPWD) for his work promoting youth fishing in the Waco area and for helping to provide angling opportunities to the physically and mentally challenged. He was also involved in identifying and reducing pollution in the Bosque River.

The award in the category of **research** went to Bob Colura (TPWD) for his efforts to develop methods for spawning and culturing spotted seatrout on a production basis. He conducted research to determine which conditions in culture ponds have the most influence on spotted seatrout survival.

**The Fisheries Education Award** went to Brian Murphy (TAMU). The award in the **culture** category went to Camilo Chavez, Jr. (TPWD) for his work in the culture of millions of marine and freshwater fishes during his career. As superintendent at the Dow Hatchery, the production of red drum broke an old record of 7.5 million fingerlings, with a new record of 9 million.

Maurice Muoneke (TPWD) received the award for **Outstanding Presentation** for his paper "White Bass Exploitation in the Brazos River System, Texas."

A **Special Recognition award** was given to Bobby Farquhar (TPWD) for his years of service to the Texas Chapter and to the anglers of Texas. He has served as president of the Texas Chapter and played a key role in initiating the TPWD's Volunteer Angler Recognition Program. The need to inform the angler about the state's fishing opportunities prompted him to co-author a book containing fishing information and maps on 133 reservoirs in Texas entitled "**Set the Hook! Guide to Lone Star Lakes and Lunkers.**"

The Chapter joined forces with the TPWD again to **host the 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies** in Corpus Christi. This joint effort was also a great success, adding additional prestige and professional respect for the Chapter.

## **1993**

The nineteenth Annual Meeting was held at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas.

At the Chapter's awards ceremony, Bruce Hysmith (TPWD) was recognized as the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year** in **management** for his many educational activities with youth and civic groups, his continued dedication to the fisheries resource, and his work on striped bass management. **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work awards** were given to Joe Martin (TPWD) for his work on sport and commercial fish harvest surveys on the Texas coast and Steve Gutreuter (TPWD) for his management of statewide databases for the Inland Fisheries Division. Jay Rooker gave the **Outstanding Presentation** at the meeting entitled "Ontogenetic Shifts in Diet, Habitat, and Diel Feeding Periodicity of Schoolmaster Snapper."

**Three \$500 scholarships were given to graduate students** this year: Erica Schlickeisen (SWTSU), Brian Blackwell (TAMU), and Nancy McFarlan (TAMU).

The Chapter's Urban Fishing Committee completed and distributed the publication "**Guide to Urban Fishing Programs.**"

## **1994**

The twentieth annual meeting was held at the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) conference facility next to Lake Travis. A Panel Discussion on “**Clean Water for Texas**” was moderated by Dick Luebke (TPWD). Each member of the panel had a special issue presentation involving clean water. **The panelist and their issues included** Stephen Twidwell (TNRCC) on “Water Quality Assessment of Texas Surface Waters,” Myron Hess (Law Firm of Henry, Lowerre, Hess & Frederick) on “Water Quality and the Texas Antidegradation Standard—When does Water Pollution have to be Justified?,” Dave Buzan (TPWD) on “Clean Water for Texas—Texas Parks and Wildlife Department View,” Elizabeth Materna (USFWS) on “Contaminants, Advisories, Discharges,” and Dr. Gary Garrett (TPWD) on “Water Quantity and Quality: West Texas as an Indicator of the State’s Future.” A special evening presentation on instream flow assessment on the Lower Colorado River was provided by Doyle Mosier (LCRA).

Dick Luebke was recognized as the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in administration** for his development of the technician career ladder for the Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions of the TPWD and his leadership of staff at the Heart-of-the-Hills Inland Fisheries Research Station. Ted Engelhardt (TPWD) was recognized as the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in culture** for techniques he developed to increase the number of forage fishes produced at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery. Steve Magnelia (TPWD) was recognized as the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in management** for his lead research role on a rainbow trout over-summering survival study on the Guadalupe River. A **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** Award was presented to Robert G. Howells (TPWD) for his work on determining the status of freshwater mussel resources in Texas and for making recommendations for their management. Travis C. Kelsey (SWTSU, now Texas State University) gave the **Outstanding Presentation** for his paper “Survey of Fishes of the San Marcos River, Texas” which he co-authored with Dr. Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU).

The Chapter revised and distributed the Texas Fishery Workers Directory to Chapter members to improve communication and keep up with the ever-growing membership.

## **1995**

The twenty-first annual meeting was held at Texas A&M University in College Station. More effort was made to attract coastal fishery presentations and participation. As a result, several presentations were made on freshwater inflows to Texas bays and estuaries.

Three \$500.00 scholarships were funded through the **TCAFS Scholarship Endowment Fund**.

Roger McCabe (TPWD) was recognized as the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in administration** based on his leadership on the striped bass program for broodstock procurement, spawning, and stocking; management of the TPWD’s fish, shellfish, and aquatic plant permitting program for introductions into Texas waters; coordination with the USFWS on Section 7 (Endangered and Protected Species) compliance as it applies to fish stocking; and public outreach by organizing the “Pathways to Fishing” booth at the TPWD Expo from 1993-95. Robert Adami (TPWD) was recognized as the **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in culture** based on his management of the highly successful fish production of red drum and spotted seatrout at the TPWD’s Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Station in Palacios.

Dr. William E. Neill (TAMU) was recognized as the **Outstanding Worker of the Year in education** based on his chairmanship of the TAMU's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and training he has given to students of fishery science over many years. Spencer Dumont (TPWD) received the award for **Outstanding Fishery Worker of the Year in management** for studies leading to the management of largemouth bass harvest in Brownwood and Coleman reservoirs and blue catfish in Ft. Phantom Hill and E.V. Spence reservoirs, and for native plant re-vegetation along the shores of Coleman Reservoir.

Dr. Maurice Muoneke (TPWD) was recognized as **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in research** based on his studies of white bass population dynamics in Texas and hooking mortality in spotted bass, Guadalupe bass, white crappie, bluegill, blue catfish, and flathead catfish populations. He also co-authored two major review papers "Biology and Management of Grass Carp: Literature Review" and "Hooking Mortality: A Review for Recreational Fisheries."

Tom Heffernan and Robin Reichers (both with TPWD) were awarded a **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work Award** for their work in bringing the Texas Gulf Shrimp Limited Entry Plan to fruition. Dr. Sterling (Ken) Johnson (TAMU) was awarded a **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work Award** for his role as the State's foremost fish disease specialist. Jay Rooker (UTMSI), Robert Weller (Texas Tech University), Gil Rosenthal (UT), and John Findiesen and Karen Quinonez (SWTSU) were each awarded \$500 **scholarships**.

The **Texas Chapter was awarded the Outstanding Chapter in the Southern Division AFS for the first time in its history** at the Southern Division's annual business meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on September 26<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was held concurrently with the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Texas Chapter was involved in the **Striped Bass Symposium** at the Southern Division AFS Midyear meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Roger McCabe (TPWD) organized and moderated the symposium.

As of July 1995, membership stood at 287 and assets exceeded \$28,000.

The USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE), TPWD, and ODWC worked on environmental issues associated with the proposed **Red River Chloride Control Project**. The USCOE used this information for the completion of an FSEIS on the project in 1996. The Chapter took a significant position on the need to resolve environmental issues on this project.

This year saw a **Record World Fish Production** of 112.3 metric tons, based on a report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Fish farming contributed to most of the recent growth, but fish stocks were also reportedly being overexploited and could result in the crash of some fishery populations. However, an additional 20 million metric tons of annual fish production was deemed feasible if underdeveloped resources were exploited, bycatch and waste were reduced, and measures were taken to reduce overfishing.

## **1996**

A **joint annual meeting with the Oklahoma Chapter** was held at Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro, Texas near Lake Texoma. The mixture of technical papers from both states provided a wealth of information on fishery studies and findings. Several added features of the meeting made it one to remember, including a Career Development Seminar, Aquatic Habitat Restoration Workshop, Introduction to Internet Workshop, Fish Fry Social/Auction, Student/Professional Mixer, and Boat-About on Lake Texoma.

The **Boat-About**, organized by the Lake Texoma Bass Club, **was another first for the Chapter**. Members of both chapters were allowed to bring their fishing gear, and the bass club provided the boat and expertise.

This was the **first time the Chapter put so much effort into workshops**, with a total of four being held at the annual meeting. The first workshop focused on **aquatic vegetation identification and control in a farm pond and aquaculture setting**. This workshop was led by Marley Beem, Aquaculture Extension Specialist with Oklahoma State University (OSU). The second workshop/panel discussion focused on **aquatic habitat restoration** and included speakers from the USCOE, Tennessee Valley Authority, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. A **continuing education workshop on the Internet** was presented by Chris Cummings (TPWD). A **“fishery habitat improvement”** continuing education workshop was organized by Gene Gilliland and Mike Reed (TPWD).

The **awards for the Outstanding Student Presentation** went to Craig Paukert (OSU) for his paper “Distribution, Abundance and Reproductive Activity of Paddlefish in the Keystone Reservoir System, Oklahoma: First-year Results.” The **Outstanding Professional Presentation** was given to Gene Gilliland (ODWC) for his paper “Delayed Mortality of Tournament-caught Largemouth Bass.” Another presentation and subsequent paper submitted for peer review for publication that drew much interest was **“Fish Stocks at Risk in Texas”** by Gary Garrett (TPWD), Robert Edwards (Pan American University), Clark Hubbs (UT), Loraine Fries (TPWD), Stewart Jacks, and Don Wilhelm (USFWS). **Their studies showed that approximately 25% of the 169 native freshwater fish fauna are either endangered, threatened, or approaching that status.** This paper was a culmination of work by the Fish Stocks at Risk Committee, which was charged with providing insight and guidance on fishes that are not yet but may soon become threatened or endangered. It was the hope of this Committee of the TCAFS that listing fish species of conservation concern would stimulate research and awareness for these species at risk. The value of these efforts was not only to avoid permanent loss of genetic information from these fishes, but also to guide us in maintaining quality environments for all of our aquatic organisms. Resource managers are continually faced with difficult issues arising from water uses, impoundments, interbasin transfers, and water quality and quantity problems among others. It is becoming more difficult as our population grows and demand for water resources increases, providing recreational opportunities for our citizens without compromising our natural resource heritage and opportunities for future Texans.

The Chapter again updated the Texas Fishery Workers Directory.

The Texas Chapter received the **award for Best Chapter in the Southern Division AFS** for the last two years, which Chapter President Kathy Ramos took great pride in. She said it reflected well on the involvement of not only the officers and committee chairs but the membership at large. She said in her “President’s Message” published in the newsletter (Volume 22, Number1) that “we are being held up as an example to others because of the strides that we have made in fiscal responsibility and professional development. The recognition is nice, but the pressure to excel and continue to improve is tremendous.

**This was the first year that the Chapter went online with its own web site** [Texas Chapter - American Fisheries Society](#) as Fred Janssen (TPWD) got our Chapter home page running on the internet. From this point on, much of the Chapter history was electronically preserved on the web site with postings of all the Chapter’s Newsletters, issue statements, meeting announcements, links to other sites, and a host of other information.

The Chapter began a proactive initiative with position statements on environmental conservation issues affecting fisheries. This effort was spear-headed by Mike Reed (TPWD).

Total assets of the Chapter were \$31,806. **The Chapter raised \$2,400 during the raffle/auction** at the annual meeting, which exceeded last year's earnings of \$1,800. Friendly competition between chapters kept the bidding on auction items fresh. This **money was used to finance the Chapter's student scholarship fund**. Once again, the Texas Chapter found **Bruce Hysmith's (TPWD) role as Ringleader** for the auction and raffle to be one of the major reasons for the Chapter's financial success. He earned his name in history as quite a "sporting character." Dr. Clark Hubbs bought every hat at the auction, proving that he is truly a man of many hats. Additionally, since the assets of the Chapter were becoming very significant, Dr. Fran Gelwick (TAMU) solicited financial support to assist students who give presentations at AFS meetings. The EXCOM did not immediately buy into such student aid but began providing funds in a **Student Outreach** program for those who applied for financial assistance in the following years.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Division Midyear Meeting was held at the Sheraton Gunter-San Antonio and was co-hosted by the Oklahoma and Texas chapters. Special sessions were held on Intensive Management in Small Impoundments, Instream Flow, Sand and Gravel Mining, and GPS/GIS workshop.

The TCAFS provided support letters for authorizing the **Mississippi Cooperative Resources Agreement (MICRA)**, H.R. 2939, introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. MICRA is an alliance formed in 1991 by 28 states located within the Mississippi River Drainage Basin because of serious declines in fishery resources. The alliance is **one of the country's largest natural resource partnering efforts**. The Mississippi River Drainage Basin is one of the world's largest and most valuable ecosystems, providing habitat critical to a multitude of fish and wildlife. These large interjurisdictional rivers and their fisheries are affected by a wide variety of developments, including navigation, power generation, and water withdrawals. The implementation of MICRA was viewed as a positive first step in addressing the environmental problems, especially declining fish stocks, in the Mississippi River drainage basin.

The **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies** was held October 5-9<sup>th</sup> in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with a theme of "Fifty Years of Learning and Understanding." Texas Chapter members presented papers at the reunion meeting.

The **Fisheries Action Network** was developed by the AFS to provide information transfer between the states. Each chapter provided a contact person. Mike Reed (TPWD) was the contact for the Texas Chapter.

A survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Census for the USFWS showed there were **35.2 million anglers** in 1996 whose **total expenditures rose 69%** between 1991 and 1996 to \$67.9 billion. All **outdoor recreation activities**, including fishing, hunting, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing, resulted in the spending of \$96.9 billion during that same time period, indicating a 59% increase in spending on these activities. Put another way, that represents **1.9% of the gross national product**, which confirms that **Americans have a national love affair with fishing** and other forms of outdoor recreation.

The **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year** awards went to Billy Higginbotham (TAMU) in the category for **education**, Gary Garrett (TPWD) for **management**, Gene McCarty (TPWD) for **administration**, Ivonne Blandon (TPWD) for **research**, and Jimmy Gonzales (TPWD) for **technical support**. An award for **Special**

**Recognition went to the Reeves County Water Improvement Board. An Honorable Mention Award** for technical support went to Eric Young (TPWD).

**Scholarships** were awarded to Chad Thomas (SWTSU), Anna-Claire Fernandez (UTMSI), Kenneth Ostrand (TTU), and Dawn Lee Johnson (UT).

## **1997**

**No annual Chapter meeting was held this year as the Chapter decided to change its meeting time from the fall to winter to accommodate the coastal fisheries group. The Chapter did not sit on its haunches though as it teamed up once again with the Oklahoma Chapter to host the Southern Division AFS Midyear meeting in San Antonio, February 13-16.** The meeting included a **GIS and Instream Workshop**, and several symposia: Instream Flow, Human Dimensions of Fisheries, Morone Biology and Management, Fish Assemblages, Intensive Management of Small Impoundments, Reservoir Fishes Biology and Management, Marine Scianenid Biology and Management, Instream Sand and Gravel Mining, Catfish Biology and Management, Pollution Management, and Atchafalaya River Basin Ecology. A **Student Career Development Workshop** was very useful to students trying to gain an understanding of the job market and the diverse professional careers in fisheries. Once again, the joint session effort was very successful and added substantial monetary profits to the Chapter's treasury. The Southern Division AFS leadership decided after this meeting that subsequent midyear meeting profits would be split between the Division and participating Chapters.

The Fish Culture Section AFS hosted a special symposium **"A Century of Fish Culture"** at the annual meeting in Monterey, California. Pat Hutson, President-elect of the TCAFS, was one of the organizers of the symposium. Chapter members Joe Warren and Todd Engeling (both with TPWD) provided presentations on striped bass and black basses, respectively. Nineteen speakers discussed the changes in culture techniques for different species from 1896 to the present.

Tom Brandt of the National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center in San Marcos discovered that an **introduced snail, red-rimmed melania, *Melanooides tuberculata***, and its introduced trematode may be **affecting the survival of the federally endangered fountain darter, *Etheostoma fonticola***. At least three populations of this snail and trematode are known in Central Texas. One green-throat darter, *Etheostoma lepidum*, collected from the San Marcos River was found with 160 cysts on a single gill arch.

The **Magnuson-Stevens Act** was passed to ensure **sustainable fisheries are maintained in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. Critical issues of law include overfishing, essential fish habitat, bycatch, and international management. Six-month and one-year internships were offered through the AFS to assist the NMFS implement the habitat requirements of the Act.

The **International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**, with support from a growing number of outdoor organizations, businesses, and natural resource agencies, solicited Congress to pass legislation to provide a fee from participants of non-consumptive wildlife-related outdoor activities. The initiative, known as **Teaming With Wildlife**, passed and added a dedicated excise tax on camping and boating items binoculars, cameras, etc. In doing so the program generates about \$350 million for state non-game and fish programs. The fund has helped conserve and enhance more than 1,800 wildlife and fish species. Funds are allocated to each state based on population and land area. **Texas receives up to \$17 million annually** for projects involving land acquisition, education, restoration, research, and planning. It has created constituents of all who enjoy natural resources while allowing resource agencies to better

address the challenges of environmental management. The Texas Chapter's Issues Committee supported the legislation by providing letters of support to State Congressional representatives and our Governor.

A **coalition of U.S. seafood associations** and companies announced the development of a voluntary set of **"principles for responsible fisheries"** to guide the U.S. seafood industry in responsible resource use. The principles seek to improve the way seafood is caught, processed, and distributed **to ensure environmentally sound use of seafood resources**. They also offer guidance to government managers. U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton ruled on March 26<sup>th</sup> that Interior Secretary Babbitt violated the Endangered Species Act in 1996 when he withdrew the proposed listing of the Texas' **Barton Springs salamander** after state agencies agreed with the USFWS on a cooperative conservation plan for the species. Thus, the salamander was returned to the Endangered Species List and a conservation plan was approved between the City of Austin and USFWS.

The Humane Society reported that an undercover survey of shrimp trawlers in ports along the Texas coast found 41% of them operated with their TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices) tied shut, thereby causing serious **stranding mortality in populations of the endangered Kemp's Ridley seaturtles and marine fisheries**.

A new **catfish processing record** was established in 1997, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with 525 million pounds (live weight) processed, which was 11.2% more than processed in 1996.

The treasury stood at \$32,552, with major expenses including the newsletter and web site software. Membership was 210 regular members and 15 students.

## **1998**

**The first annual meeting held in the winter** was held at the Cain Center in Athens, followed by a tour of the wonderful aquarium and hatchery complex at TPWD's **Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center**.

A Panel Discussion on **"Ecosystem Management"** was moderated by John Prentice (TPWD). Six topics were presented by the panelists, followed by questions and comments from the audience and the panel. **The panel speakers and their topics** were as follows: 1) Harold Schramm (Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Mississippi State University) speaking on "The Benefits and Cost of Doing Ecosystem Management," 2) Julie Anderson (TPWD) speaking on "Developing the Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan," 3) Gary Valentine (U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service) speaking on "USDA Programs to Assist Landowners in Ecosystem Restoration," 4) Carl Frentress (TPWD) speaking on "Ecosystem Management," 5) James Sutherlin (TPWD) speaking on "A Case History of Human Alterations to Upper Texas Coastal Ecosystems," and 6) M. Todd Merendino (TPWD) speaking on "An Ecological Investigation of Robbins Slough Drainage, Mad Island Wildlife Management Area; Ecosystem Response to Management Strategies." These topics were very timely and attracted considerable interest at the twenty-third annual meeting.

Continuing Education and Special Workshops were added to the annual meeting agendas as a regular feature. Dr. Fran Gelwick (TAMU) put together the **first Career Development Workshop** and Richard Ott (TPWD) organized the Trade Show.

Members of the **Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society** participated in the annual meeting due to their interest in the Texas Chapter's technical program and panel discussion.

A first ever **Fishery Knowledge Bowl** was held, with questions in all categories of fishery science being asked of our officers. Since there was no documented history on their performance, it is assumed that it may not have been exemplary—just kidding.

A new angler organization known as "**F.I.S.H.**" was formed, which stands for **Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat**. This group is concerned with the management of aquatic habitat in Texas's public waters. Their web site address is <http://www.honeyholemagazine.com/h14001.htm>.

**Outstanding Fisheries Worker awards** were given to Robert Ditton (**education**) and Tom Dorzab (**fish culture**). **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work Awards** were given to Fred Janssen, Chris Cummings, Dan Lewis, Dan Strickland, Gary Graham, and Jim Davis. **Recognition Awards** for Rivers Initiative Work were given to Mike Ryan, Victor DiCenzo, Paul Seidensticker, Rafe Brock, Jimmy Dean, Clell Guest, Mark Howell, Spencer Dumont, Steve Poarch, and Bobby Farquhar.

Stewart Jacks reported continuing concern over the spread of exotic species, such as **zebra mussels**.

The AFS held its **first Student Writing Contest** to recognize students who do an excellent job of communicating the value of fisheries science research to the public.

A **Swordfish Moratorium** was announced on January 20<sup>th</sup> by a group of 27 chefs at seafood restaurants to initiate a "Give Swordfish a Break" campaign—a voluntary moratorium on preparing and serving swordfish until a fishery recovery plan could be developed as an expression of concern for over-fishing of this species by longline vessels.

President Clinton announced on June 12<sup>th</sup> a **Sustainable Fisheries Initiative** in which he proposed an additional \$194 million over five years to reduce over-fishing and protect essential fish habitat. The funding bill was approved by Congress and provides state-of-the-art fishery research vessels and increased research and promotion of public-private partnerships to develop aquaculture to meet its goal of helping to restore depleted fish stocks within 10 years.

A **Procedural Manual for TCAFS Endowments** was developed by John Prentice (TPWD) and other members of the EXCOM to establish a high-interest-bearing account to be used for student scholarships.

**New voting procedures** to elect Chapter officers were developed and approved by the EXCOM to increase member participation in the elections. Mail-in ballots were initiated, as opposed to voting at annual meetings, where only 25-30% of the members attend and vote. The mail-in procedure worked well and has been used ever since it was adopted this year.

The **Chapter's total assets** were \$40,546, with major sources of income originating from capital gains and interest on investments, membership dues, revenue from the annual meeting, revenue from the Southern Division Meeting, T-shirt and hat sales, and donations. **Major expenses** were newsletters, postage, awards, scholarships, publications, advertisements, and fees.

## **1999**

This year's annual meeting was held at the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi. The Panel Discussion was "**Water Use Issues In Texas-A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge For Fisheries Managers.**" Cindy Loeffler (TPWD) opened the panel presentation with an overview of **Senate Bill 1**, the landmark Texas water legislation passed by the 75<sup>th</sup> Legislature and signed into law by then Governor Bush. Texas is expected to double in population by the year 2050, with urban areas growing fast. To ensure the State's natural resources, especially its lakes, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries, are not short-changed, the TPWD took an active role in implementing parts of the new law. Dr. Larry McKinney (TPWD) spoke about the politics of water. Other presentations were made about reservoir fisheries, instream flows, freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries, and wetlands. Twenty technical presentations and three posters were presented. A guided tour and social at the Texas State Aquarium was very interesting to all that attended.

This was the first year that a "**Texas Chapter AFS Membership Survey**" was conducted. Seven questions were asked of members dealing with meeting time, activities/events at the annual meeting, continuing education workshops, important fishery issues, web site use, and interest in mentoring or continuing education. This survey was useful to the Chapter officers in continuing to meet the needs and interests of its members.

A quote from AFS President William Taylor in Fisheries (Volume 23, Number 8), seemed very relevant then and now: "Effective management of fisheries and aquatic resources depends on our ability to be inclusive, relevant, innovative, and professional."

A **record for cash prizes** was set this year totaling more than \$3.97 million for **competitive bass fishing**. The competition was sponsored by the Wal-Mart FLW professional bass tournament. The first-place angler won \$250,000.

NMFS officials informed the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council that **bycatch reduction devices (BRDs)** required in shrimp trawls to reduce red snapper bycatch appeared to be working well. Only eight of 100 shrimp trawlers inspected by the Coast Guard have been cited for not using BRDs.

In 1999, U.S. recreational fishermen spent almost \$9 billion, which translates into more than \$25 billion to the U.S. economy (\$5 billion in Texas) according to the NMFS.

**Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year** award recipients were Loraine Fries (TPWD) in the category of **Administration**, and Pat Hutson (TPWD, retired) for **Special Recognition** for his career in fisheries. The **Best Presentation** award recipients were Gene R. Wilde and Kenneth G. Ostrand (TTU).

**Scholarships** were awarded to Scott Hollingsworth and William Granberry (TTU), Brian Bohnsack and Michael Morgan (TAMU).

## The New Millenium

### 2000

**ArkLaTex 2000**, a **joint chapter meeting with the Arkansas and Louisiana chapters**, was held in Bossier City, Louisiana for a **first ever 3-chapter joint meeting**. It was a considerable success by all accounts.

The panel discussion for the annual meeting addressed the topic **“Vegetation Control and Fisheries Management.”** Don Turman (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission) moderated the discussion. The opening presentation was made by Sam Pittman (SePRO) on chemical control of vegetation, followed by Mike Freeze’s (KEO Fish Farms) presentation on control of vegetation with grass carp, David Stewart’s (Sensible Management of Aquatic Resources Team) on mechanical harvesters for vegetation control, and Debbie Magin’s (GBRA) on an integrated approach to vegetation management. This year’s annual meeting included the **most papers (46) ever presented** at the Chapter’s annual meeting.

**Amendments to the Bylaws** were adopted officially by the Chapter at the annual meeting, and those are included in the Appendix. The major changes were in sections 6, 9, and 11. The membership was trying to add a student subunit (**Texas Tech – added as subunit in 2000**), and the Texas Chapter needed to modify our Bylaws to allow a subunit. The Texas Tech Student Subunit operates under the auspices of the Texas Chapter. In addition, the **AFS constitutional consultant**, Joe Margraf, reviewed the Chapter’s old Bylaws and suggested changes to bring it more in line with the AFS Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules.

A workshop on **Fish Sampling with Hydroacoustics** was provided by Bruce Ransom of Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc. Another workshop on **Interpretation of Electrophoresis Data** was provided by Loraine Fries (TPWD).

In 2000, more than **nine million anglers made an estimated 76 million marine fishing trips** to the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, according to the NMFS. The estimated marine recreational finfish catch was 429 million fish, more than 57% of which were released alive.

The **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award** went to Gene R. Wilde (TTU) in the category of **research**. **Special Recognition awards** went to Emily Harber, Joe Hernandez, Robert W. Wienecke, and John Moczygemba (TPWD), and Joe N. Fries (USFWS).

The **Best Presentation Award** was given to J. Warren Schlechte for his presentation “Incorporating User Conflicts into Experimental Design: A Lake Fork Perspective.” Co-authors were Richard Luebke and T.O. Smith (TPWD). The **Best Student Presentation Award** was presented to Scott D. Hollingsworth for the presentation “Mortality Assessment of Tagging Largemouth Bass” co-authored by Keven Pope and Gene Wilde (TTU).

**Scholarships** were awarded to Mandy Cunningham and Calub Shavlik (TTU), and Laurianne Lancaster (SHSU).

Chapter membership was about 220, and the treasury account had about \$42,000 including stock investments.

## **2001**

The **Silver Anniversary Meeting** was held in San Marcos at the San Marcos Activity Center. This year the Texas Chapter Charter was officially twenty-five years old. Charter members received complimentary registration and were specially recognized with a certificate during the banquet. Keynote speakers were Ed Bonn (first Chapter President) and Dick Luebke (TPWD and past Chapter President). **Chapter awards were presented during the banquet for the first time this year, instead of during the business meeting.** The continuing education workshops and mixer (complete with glass bottom boat rides) were conducted at Aquarena Springs.

The theme of this year's conference was "**Values and the Aquatic Environment.**" Beyond the biological assessment of value which includes parameters such as water quality, species diversity, and habitat complexity, lies an often-harder value to quantify and articulate concerning the contribution of our natural resources and a healthy environment to society as a whole. The panel members addressed this as they spoke on the value of the environment from several angles including **economic** (Dr. Richard Woodward, TAMU), **social** (Frank Shockley, Stephen F. Austin State University), and **religious** (Rev. Terri Morgan, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission).

The **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award** in the category of **fisheries administration** was given to Ken Kurzawski (TPWD), **fisheries education** to Kevin Pope (TTU), **fisheries management** to Brian Van Zee (TPWD), **fisheries research** to Reynaldo Patino (TTU), and technical support to David De Leon (TPWD). A **new award** for **Outstanding Fisheries Student of the Year** went to Timothy Bonner (TTU). **Awards for special recognition** went to Rhandy Helton (TPWD) for fisheries management, Rosie Roegner (TPWD) for technical support, and posthumously to Walter D. Dalquest (TPWD and Midwestern University) for pioneering fisheries research and management. The award was hand-carried by Mark Howell (TPWD District Supervisor in Wichita Falls) to his widow.

At the annual business meeting of the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, held in Louisville, Kentucky on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the **Texas Chapter won the Outstanding Chapter Award for 2001.** The Texas Chapter is no stranger to this award, having previously won it in 1995 and again in 1996. In his summary of achievements that earned the chapter this prestigious award, Awards Committee Chair Gene Gilliland listed the following: largest membership of any Southern Division chapter (over 200), 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, publication of four newsletters per year as well as an excellent website, assistance with formation of a student subunit, giving four \$500 scholarships with funds from a special endowment fund, revision of Farm Pond Stocking Assessment and Management Recommendations (including making it web-based), recognition of outstanding achievements of chapter members, and particularly active Issues Committee. By winning the award, the Texas Chapter is automatically considered, along with the winners from the other parent Society divisions, for the Best Chapter Award at the society level. Congratulations to the Texas Chapter for another job well done!

American Rivers, a conservation organization, has listed the Red River upstream from Lake Texoma as one of America's 20 most threatened rivers due to salt removal projects.

**Four scholarships were awarded**, including two undergraduate scholarships to Mandy Cunningham (TTU) and Cody Winfrey (TTU), and two graduate scholarships to Abrey Arrington (TAMU) and Laurianne Dent (SHSU). **The Texas Chapter has awarded a total of 34 scholarships since the first ones were given in 1990.**

The TCAFS had 130 members: 114 regular and 16 student members.

Chapter President Gordon Linam created an **Archives Ad Hoc Committee** and asked Ray Mathews, Jr. to chair the committee. Ray had recently completed organizing the files and writing the history of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES). The charge given to this committee was to organize and maintain the Chapter's files, assimilate historical information about the Texas Chapter, and document the history of the organization.

## **2002**

Ray Mathews, Archives Committee Chair, presented the "History of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society-Silver Anniversary" poster at the Southern Division AFS 2002 Midyear Meeting and Southeastern Fishes Council Annual Meeting hosted by the Arkansas Chapter of the AFS in Little Rock, Arkansas. Gordon Linam (left), TCAFS President presented Ray Mathews, Jr. (TWDB, Archives Committee), with an award for Special Recognition at the TCAFS 2002 annual meeting in Junction.

## **2003**

The 2003 annual meeting was held in Galveston at Moody Gardens. Spencer Dumont, chair of the Continuing Education committee coordinated the training on Aquatic Nuisance Species-Hazard Assessment Critical Control Point (ANS- HACCP). The workshop presented an approach to evaluate risks of spreading nuisance species and to identify areas where the risk can be minimized or eliminated. With Texas' history of nuisance species, this work- shop was very beneficial and informative to both students and professionals.

History is an important part of who we are and what we stand for, as well as what we accomplish. This was a banner year for several of our members in making new history with their accomplishments. Dr. Tim Bonner, Texas State University, received the Educator of the Year Award at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Tim follows in the footsteps of another highly recognized educator, Dr. Bobby Whiteside, who recently retired; his faculty position being filled by Dr. Bonner.

**NEW FISH SPECIES DISCOVERED IN VENEZUELA.** Two TCAFS members had newly described fish species named after them: Drs. Kirk Winemiller and Clark Hubbs. Two of Dr. Winemiller's students described three new species of *Geophagus* during their exciting research in the Orinoco and Casiquiare drainages of Venezuela. One of them was named *G. winemilleri* in honor of their distinguished professor at Texas A&M University and published it in *Zootaxa* 439: 1- 23 (2004).

Dr. Kirk Winemiller's student, Hernán López-Fernández, described a new cichlid fish species. Hernán is a Venezuelan PhD student studying under Kirk's direction at Texas A&M University at College Station.

Dr. Clark Hubbs received a TCAFS Plaque recognizing his contributions to the Chapter and creation of the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, founded by Ray Mathews, Historian/Archivist.

**BIOGRAPHY OF A FISHERY BIOLOGIST EMERITUS DR. BOBBY WHITESIDE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY** by Ray Mathews. Dr. Bobby Gene Whiteside is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Texas State University, formerly Southwest Texas State University, in San Marcos, Texas. The Biography describes his career and many accomplishments he made to fisheries biology in his research and students he taught.

Two educational workshops were held this year: Invasive Exotic Species in Texas Waters; Examples and Identification, and Aquatic Nuisance Species – Hazard Assessment Critical Control. A Symposium: Recent Advances in Marine Fisheries Research was part of the annual meeting; moderated by Jay Rooker.

Due to rising publication costs, bound copies of the Annual Proceedings of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society were made be available by request only. The 2003 and future Proceedings were made available in Adobe format on TCAFS web page and have been every year since 2003.

## **2004**

This year's annual meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World in Grapevine, Texas on January 21-23, 2005. Our theme, "Bass Management in Texas" was the topic of a special contributed paper session.

This year, the TCAFS joined the Texas River and Reservoir Management Society (TRRMS) to hold a Discussion Forum on Instream Flows in Texas. It was coordinated by Cynthia Gorham-Test (BioWest and President of TRRMS), along with Richard Kiesling (USGS), Doyle Mosier (TCEQ), and Kevin Mays (TPWD).

The TCAFS Pond Management Committee worked on revisions for the pond management manual. New sections for the manual were drafted and submitted for review, covering topics such as aeration, aquatic vegetation, clearing muddy water, fertilization, alkalinity, and water fluctuation.

It was another great year for the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Gary Garrett, President, reported that the Chapter co-hosted the Golden Alga Workshop, will host the Propagated Fishes in Resource Management workshop in San Antonio next summer and will host the 2006 Southern Division meeting. These endeavors raise the profile of the Texas Chapter, enable valuable networking opportunities for our members and raise needed funds for scholarships and other Chapter activities.

Pond Management Committee Chair, Craig Bonds, provided a synopsis of the TCAFS Pond Management Committee's efforts to date: 1) Completed revisions for several new and existing sections of the pond management manual and finalizing revisions for a couple other sections. 2) These sections will be incorporated into the manual within the next few months. 3) The References sections has received a major facelift with the addition of a wealth of new citations for publications and a sub-section containing relevant website links. 4) We are in the process of editing the entire document to make needed clarifications, additions, and deletions. 5) We are on track and looking forward to posting this revised edition of this very popular pond manual on our TCAFS, TPWD, and TAMU COOP Extension websites by the end of 2004. 6) Thanks to committee members Bob Lusk, Dr. Fran Gelwick, Dr. John Taylor, Dr. Michael Masser, Dr. Ya-Sheng Juan, John Tibbs, Greg Conley, Fred Janssen, Charlie Munger, and Peter Schaefer for their hard work.

Photo of Tim Bonner by Ray Mathews, Historian



**NEW HISTORY MADE BY TCAFS MEMBERS YOUNGEST EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR by Ray Mathews.**

History is an important part of who we are and what we stand for, as well as what we accomplish. This was a banner year for several of our members in making new history with their accomplishments. Dr. Tim Bonner, Texas State University, received the Educator of the Year Award at the 2004 Annual Meeting. What made this award unusual was that Dr. Bonner has only been a professor for two years, making him the recipient of this award for the least amount of time serving as an educator, and making him the youngest recipient to ever receive this award. If this is a measure of his teaching and student research direction capabilities, he is destined to have a very distinguished career. He does follow in the footsteps of another highly recognized educator, Dr. Bobby Whiteside, who recently retired; his faculty position being filled by Dr. Bonner.

Dr. Tim Bonner with Educator of the Year Award he received at the 2004 Annual meeting of the Texas Chapter, American Fisheries Society in College Station, Texas.

**NEW FISH SPECIES DISCOVERED IN VENEZUELA.** Two TCAFS members had newly described fish species named after them: Drs. Kirk Winemiller and Clark Hubbs. Two of Dr. Winemiller's students described three new species of *Geophagus* during their exciting research in the Orinoco and Casiquiare drainages of Venezuela. One of them was named *G. winemilleri* in honor of their distinguished professor at Texas A&M University and published it in *Zootaxa* 439: 1- 23 (2004).

Photo of Clark & Cathy Hubbs by Ray Mathews



Clark Hubbs with his wife, Cathy, at the 2003 annual meeting of the TCAFS. Clark received a plaque recognizing his contributions to the Chapter and creation of the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, founded by Ray Mathews, Historian/Archivist.

Photo of Kirk Winemiller



Dr. Kirk Winemiller with Hernán López-Fernández, the student who described the new cichlid fish species. Hernán is a Venezuelan PhD student studying under Kirk's direction at Texas A&M University at College Station. The photograph is seining in the Venezuelan Llanos with Hernán López-Fernández. Stuart Willis, a former TAMU fisheries undergraduate student, now a graduate student at University of Manitoba was also involved in the fish sampling in Venezuela.

**BIOGRAPHY OF A FISHERY BIOLOGIST EMERITUS DR. BOBBY WHITESIDE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY by Ray Mathews.** Dr. Bobby Gene Whiteside is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Texas State University, formerly Southwest Texas State University, in San Marcos, Texas. He received his A.S. degree in Wildlife Conservation from Eastern Oklahoma A&M College in 1960, B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from Oklahoma State University in 1962, M.S. in Zoology and Fisheries Biology also from Oklahoma State University in 1964, and Ph.D. in Zoology and Fisheries Biology from Oklahoma State University. His M.S. thesis title was Biology of white crappie, *Pomoxis annularis*, in Lake Texoma, Oklahoma; and his Ph.D. dissertation title was Population dynamics of fishes in farm ponds in Payne County Oklahoma. Bobby is a past president of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and he was awarded the Outstanding Texas Fisheries Worker Award in the area of Education 1981-82 by the Texas Chapter AFS. He was also awarded the Fellow Award in 1978 by the Texas Academy of Science. He served as a member of the Warmwater Streams Committee for the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society from 1992-

2000 and was a member of the Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board (1991-97), Endangered Resources Technical Advisors Committee (1991-93), and San Marcos River Advisory Committee (1992-93) for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. He continues to be a cooperator with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the San Marcos, Comal, and Edwards Aquifer Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Contingency Plan (1989-present), as well as a member of the San Marcos and Comal Springs and Associated Aquatic Ecosystems Recovery Plan (1984- present). He has authored twenty-six journal articles and the chapter of one book, as well as many reports. Most recently we were honored by Dr. Whiteside's informative Continuing Education class on "IDENTIFICATION OF SMALL FISHES FROM TEXAS RIVERS AND STREAMS" at the 2004 TCAFS annual conference. The course covered little guys and gals like minnows, topminnows, and darters. Bobby also included some information on sunfishes, such as bluegill, orangespotted, and longear sunfishes as well. It was very educational training and useful in our line of work. Most of us know Bobby as a very friendly, down to earth, high-energy professor and researcher, enthusiastic student motivator and mentor, skilled fisheries taxonomist and biologist, dedicated family man, as well as an avid fisherman.

## **2005**

TCAFS President Dave Terre said that his Goals for the TCAFS during the 2005 Calendar year were the following:

- 1)** To increase diversity and visibility of TCAFS by reaching out to some "non-traditional" entities in the fisheries field (e.g., private business, fishing organizations, media outlets, and the general public). He said that at our annual meeting in Grapevine, that we brought together fisheries scientists, river authorities, private business, the media, and the Bass Angler Sportsman's Society (B.A.S.S) to discuss issues surrounding the management of largemouth bass in Texas. This single effort resulted in positive statewide and national press coverage for the TCAFS. It resulted in a \$1,000 dollar donation to our student scholarship program and \$800 towards the deferment of our meeting expenses.
- 2)** To maximize student involvement in our chapter and to increase funding for our student scholarship program. Student papers represented about fifty percent of our contributed paper and poster sessions at our Grapevine meeting. We provided discounted room rates and opportunities for free meeting registration. We hosted a student professional mixer and a special student workshop on professionalism. We secured a \$5,000 donation to our student scholarship program and awarded four student scholarships of \$1,250 each (a record). Look for a bigger and better student scholarship program in 2005 with improved opportunities for Texas fisheries students at our annual meeting in San Antonio in 2006.
- 3)** To recognize and support TCAFS members, both past and present, for outstanding achievements or contributions made to Texas fisheries. If you've been keeping up with our newsletters, I hope that you've seen the pieces written by Ray Mathews (our TCAFS Historian) on Joe Kraai and Dr. Bobby Whiteside. These two members left a legacy in the Texas fisheries profession, and I believe we should recognize folks like this every opportunity we get. At our Grapevine meeting, you heard a proposal to establish a student research award in honor of Dr. Clark Hubbs. Several of our members are taking a leadership role in making that happen led by Ray Mathews, Historian, and the TCAFS will be in full support of that effort. At our Grapevine meeting we set aside time for a special awards program and recognized Roger McCabe and Todd Driscoll for their outstanding work in fisheries administration and management. I challenge every member of the TCAFS to openly recognize their fellow TCAFS members by nominating them for an

award, getting involved in the awards committee, or by contacting Ray Mathews for a special article in our newsletter. He cited the recent work of Ray Mathews in our newsletters and wanted us to continue in that direction. He indicated his support for the student research award in honor of Dr. Clark Hubbs.

4) The TCAFS Scholarship Program is Growing according to Dave Terre. The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation and the Texas B.A.S.S Federation have recently made significant contributions to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program. President Dave Terre openly thanked and recognized both organizations for their contributions at our annual meeting in Grapevine, Texas. Contributions made by the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation totaled \$5,000, making it possible for us to award four student scholarships (2 graduate and 2 undergraduate) of \$1,250 each, at our meeting. Jimmie and Kirk Green were present at the meeting to accept a "Special Recognition in Fisheries Work" award on behalf of the foundation. Dave Terre presented the award saying: "This award is in recognition for a generous contribution made to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Student Scholarship Program.

5) In November 2004, the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation contributed \$5,000 in support of this very important and highly valued program. Our two organizations share a common vision for the future of fisheries in Texas. These funds will go a long way toward helping Texas fisheries students achieve their educational and career goals. It is unselfish actions like these that will also help support continued research and help ensure the future of fisheries for tomorrow". Jimmie and Kirk were also recognized for their hard work in securing the contribution from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation. Terre said: "Let it be known that the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society extends its deepest appreciation for the hard work shown by these two individuals. Neither of these two individuals are currently Texas Chapter members. However, Jimmie, a Staff Services Officer for TPWD Inland Fisheries, and Kirk, a longtime angler and knowledgeable aquarium enthusiast realized the true benefits of our student scholarship program; enough to motivate them to seek this generous contribution on behalf of the Texas Chapter. Its unselfish actions like these that epitomize the vision I have for this organization. The joining of members and non-members alike (i.e., the public) will allow us to achieve goals that were not possible by our members alone. It shows that TCAFS is a strong organization that is much larger than itself and will achieve great things with buy-in from our constituents.

6) Also, in a surprise announcement at our annual banquet in Grapevine, Tim Cook, Conservation Director of the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation, presented checks to the chapter totaling \$1,000 dollars toward our student scholarship program. Tim was a guest speaker at our "Bass Management in Texas Symposium" and is a lifelong angler. Mr. Cook said that he appreciated the opportunity to come to speak to our organization and believes that TCAFS and B.A.S.S. share a common vision for the future of fisheries in Texas. The Texas B.A.S.S. Federation wishes to help fund fisheries students, especially those involved in the field of fisheries management. President Terre and Mr. Cook will be working together over the coming years to make this happen. Also, look for the B.A.S.S. to be a big part of the SDAFS meeting in San Antonio, Texas in February 2006. This is yet another opportunity to bring both our organizations together and create opportunities for communication between fisheries scientists and anglers alike.

Photo of Special Symposium in Bass Management in Texas.



Pictured above are the speakers who participated in the special Bass Management in Texas Symposium at the January 2005 Annual meeting; left to right – Mike Brice, Steve Magnelia, Randy Myers, Kevin Storey, Billy Higginbotham, Allen Forshage, Todd Driscoll, Tim Cook, Dave Terre. Dijar Lutz-Carillo also participated but did not make it to the photograph.

Photo of members of the July 2005 EXCOM meeting.



Pictured are members who attended the July 2005 EXCOM meeting: (left to right) Aaron Jubar, Mike Brice, Kevin Storey, Dave Terre, Dennis Smith, Debbie Wade and Craig Bonds.

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was named the “2005 Outstanding Chapter” by our parent society in Bethesda, Maryland. The fact that the TCAFS is now receiving NATIONAL RECOGNITION for their hard work. The lists of accomplishments have been many, and Dave Terre thanked all our members for their personal dedication to our organization, its mission, and the fisheries of Texas. I also want to extend my personal thanks to Ray Mathews and Fran Gelwick who did an awesome job putting together our nomination document. In addition, Dave thanked all the people who played leadership roles on the key projects that made us deserving of this recognition. Dave Terre was asked to attend the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting and accept this award on the Chapter’s behalf on September 12<sup>th</sup>, which he did.

The TCAFS pond management manual was completely updated in 2005. This document is known throughout Texas for its utility to private pond owners who wish to manage fish in their private ponds.

## The History of the Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship Award



The Scholarship Committee oversees and conducts the Texas Chapter's Student Scholarship program. Scholarship awards are provided on an annual basis to help deserving students attain their educational and career goals in the fisheries-related sciences, and to promote good stewardship of aquatic resources in the state.

The TCAFS endowment fund was established in a high-interest-bearing account to be administered by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Chapter with guidance from the Endowments Committee (EC). Additional funds are deposited by the Secretary/Treasurer at the direction of the Chapter EXCOM at any time.

The Clark Hubbs Research Award was established to be consistent with the fisheries research legacy established by Dr. Clark Hubbs, Professor Emeritus, The University of Texas. Research proposals and students considered for this award targeted freshwater, marine, or estuarine fishes. Evaluation criteria are based on research proposals that the committee determines should be funded. These include the following:

- Research involved with the ecology, biology, taxonomy, and life history of Texas fishes.
- Research aimed at restoration or preservation of fish species and their habitats.
- Relevance of research to conservation and preservation of fishes and their habitats.
- Feasibility of the research in meeting current needs of the science.
- Scientific merit involved in development of the experimental design.
- Research involved with rare, threatened and endangered fish species, and their critical habitat needs.

Clark Hubbs with his wife, Cathy, at the 2003 annual meeting of the TCAFS. Clark received a plaque recognizing his contributions to the Chapter and creation of the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award.



The very first Clark Hubbs Research Award was given to a deserving student in 2005, including a certificate and \$250. Raising funds for the Clark Hubbs Research Award was new and did not bring in the funds needed or that we felt appropriate for this prestigious award, and the last \$250 award was presented in 2011. Beginning in 2012, the TCAFS began funding the Clark Hubbs Research Award using funds raised during the auction and raffle held at the Annual TCAFS meeting. By doing so, we were able to raise enough funds to increase the award from \$250 to \$500 until 2022. The TCAFS approved using Endowment Funds for the Clark Hubbs award in 2021, which only provided for Scholarship Awards, so the name of the Clark Hubbs Research Award was changed to reflect that requirement and became known as the Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship. The first time Endowment Funds were used to fund this Scholarship Award was in 2022 in the amount of \$1,500 and since that time the Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship has been tied to and funded at the same levels as other TCAFS Scholarships. Thanks to the TCAFS EXCOM and Endowment Committee, the Clark Hubbs Scholarship will continue into the future. Beginning with the 2025 TCAFS Annual meeting, the Clark Hubbs Scholarship and all TCAFS Scholarships will be increased to \$2,000 each and it is hoped that those scholarship amounts will continue to increase in the future.

## **2006**

The 2006 AFS Southern Division Spring meeting was considered incredible by Chapter President, Debbie Wade, with over 500 people in attendance with people from all aspects of fisheries: students, professionals, freshwater, marine and aquaculture. It was great to see so many people together in Texas working to enhance the fisheries of the Region and of course as always it was a big thrill to see Texas excel in all aspects. Debbie also thanked Dave Terre and the army who put this meeting together over the last year. Incredible efforts were made to generate funds to support the meeting by many members of the Chapter under the direction of Brian Van Zee and Charlie Munger with the result that we were able to fund many aspects of the meeting from outside sources.

An excellent product was achieved with great professionalism. Congratulations were extended to all of those recognized at the TCAFS business meeting. Four scholarships were awarded to students: two to undergraduates, Chris Arredondo and Josh Perkin, and two to Ph. D candidates, Bart Durham and Casey Williams. This year we were able to recognize outstanding individuals who have been active members of TCAFS for years. Outstanding Fisheries Worker Recognitions were presented to: Kevin Pope – Education, Todd Robinson – Technical Support and Loraine Fries – Research. Special Recognition Awards were presented to: Joan Glass for work on Golden Algae; Bruce Hysmith for his support of the Chapter through Continuing Education and in his capacity as auctioneer; and Dave Terre for fundraising and supporting the Chapter. In addition, two participants in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, Austin de la Cruz and Nicolas Bertrand, who were mentored by Mike Gonzales of the San Antonio River Authority, were present at this year's meeting and each received an award from the Chapter.

Debbie Wade, Chapter President, noted that plans are going forward to develop the Clark Hubbs Research Award. She noted that Ray Mathews and his team are working to develop the process for

implementing this award. This will be a unique and special award for our Chapter which will be funded through its own endowment.

#### **History Making Events in 2006 – Presented at annual meeting by Ray Mathews, Historian.**

- 1) Texas Chapter AFS Welcomes Its Youngest Member. Heather Kuler, 15, from Tyler, Texas came to the TCAFS annual meeting in Grapevine, Texas last January. She was sponsored by Debbie Wade, TCAFS incoming President, and both had a grand time. Heather was so impressed that she joined the Chapter, making her the youngest member we have ever had. Not only was that new historical item a thrill for all of us, but Heather worked at the Registration Desk and the Raffle. Many of you may remember her handing you prizes you won or obtained through the auction. Heather is a volunteer at TFFC in Athens and Debbie has been mentoring her for a potential career in fisheries biology.
- 2) History of the TCAFS Skeg, and other Memorable Historical Items. The history of the now famous Chapter Skeg began in 1990 when Bobby Farquhar, then TCAFS President, won it in a raffle at the annual meeting held next to Lake Texoma, and used it the next morning to bring the business meeting to order as a sort of gavel. From that moment on it was passed down from Chapter President to President at the business meeting; a tradition that has continued for 15 years. Gene McCarty was the recipient of the skeg from Bobby, and so on down the line of Presidents over the years. According to Bobby, back in those days the raffle was a “junk raffle,” and any little item, like the skeg or some fishing hooks, sinkers, box of earth worms, etc. were what you got. The Chapter has certainly come a long way since then. We now have great raffle and auction items, and not surprisingly, we have a lot more funds for student scholarships these days.
- 3) Randy Rushin – Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc., Longest TCAFS Exhibitor and Sponsor. Randy Rushin, President of Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc. has been a TCAFS meeting exhibitor and sponsor since the 1998 annual meeting in Athens, Texas at the TFFC Facility. After almost a decade of experience with the Texas Chapter, he is still going strong, and now holds the record for our longest continuously active exhibitor and sponsor. Randy has been a great sponsor to the Chapter, having contributed funds to many of the projects – including the traditional beer keg at the raffle. He is a good resource on any kind of water quality monitoring instrument, and many of our agencies have purchased equipment from him.
- 4) The Patsy B. Hollandsworth family foundation made the largest contribution ever to the Texas Chapter for student scholarships. Thanks to the work of Dave Terre and other EXCOM members, the Hollandsworth family contribution of \$10,000 made the TCAFS history book the largest contribution ever received. The Chapter has made a total of 54 student scholarships, and thanks to contributions like these, the future looks good for continuing to award these scholarships.
- 5) The Texas Chapter was selected as the 2005 Outstanding Chapter Award recipient, and Dave Terre received the award at the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. According to the outstanding letter signed by Barbara A. Knuth, President of the American Fisheries Society, the Texas Chapter was selected in recognition of its accomplishments in the areas of Aquatic Stewardship, Information Transfer and Outreach, and Member Services. The Outstanding

Chapter Award Application was filled out and documented by Ray Mathews and Fran Gelwick from the TCAFS archives and history documentation.

- 6) The archives of the TCAFS are as up to date as I seem to be able to get them. The old members have apparently sent me all the pictures and documents that I will get after several years of gathering such information and putting it into the Chapter's archives. Much of it is in digital format now, so future members can access that information for whatever use they may have.
- 7) The EXCOM prepared for the next Annual Meeting on February 9-11, 2007, at the Cherotel in Lake Jackson, Texas. And get this, we had the whole hotel to ourselves. I was expecting to document a whole lot of new history there, because that will be a first – TCAFS has an entire hotel for the 2007 Annual Meeting. That is another event that will make new history for us.

Internet Re-Design - Fred Janssen, Chair of the TCAFS Website, initiated a re-design of the entire TCAFS web site Implemented new systems for submitting scholarship applications and award nominations. We had to work out a few kinks and apologize to the folks that ran into problems! Conducted another successful year of online voting.

The pre-meeting lunch at Buzzard Billy's in Waco was attended by several of our real old buzzards, plus some of the up-and-coming EXCOM members. The TPWD Waco field office sign has been the prop for many years of pictures that fill our Chapter archives.

Photos of Buzzard Billy's & TPWD field office sign (Volume 32 (3))



On a sad note, Chapter President Debbie Wade, revealed that recent months have made her very aware of how fragile life and good health are, and that we need to look at our friends and family and enjoy the time we have with them. It seems that each month we hear that one of our friends within the Texas Chapter has a family member who needs our thoughts and prayers. Most recently, Gordon Linam and his family have come to our attention with the injury to his daughter, Abby. She referred to the notice about a fund being set up for Abby in the newsletter and urged TCAFS members to please take the time to read that notice and to act in accordance with what your heart tells you.

## **2007**

Art Morris stated in his TCAFS President's Message that the best news for TCAFS this spring is that the annual meeting went swell. We had over 100 folks attend and by all accounts everyone had a great time. As with most endeavors, no one person could have pulled it off and a big thanks goes out to several folks for their contributions. Jvonne Lalla and Juan Martinez did a bang-up job on the auction items. Chef Bobby Miller served up one heck of a pile of crayfish. Bruce Hysmith for his always amusing auctioneering technique. John Moczygemba for his efforts in getting us new leadership. All the folks who gave presentations should be commended for a job well done including our Continuing Education instructors – Craig Scofield and Nathan Khun. Ray Mathews should be commended for creating the first Clark Hubbs Memorial Scholarship program and Dave Terre for his fund-raising efforts. Deborah Wade unexpectedly held down the registration table. A special thanks goes out to the Wetlands Special Session presenters – Kay Jenkins, Woody Woodrow, and Jeff Gunnels – for their very interesting presentations. Sea Center folks for hosting our evening social and the staff of the Cherotel for catering to our ever-changing needs. The Texas Chapter AFS had the entire hotel for our annual meeting, which was new to our history, and Ray Mathews, Historian, added this to the archives of the Chapter. There are numerous others that volunteer to be committee chairs and all of you that attended that makes each annual meeting a great opportunity and the TCAFS an excellent organization.

The TCAFS History Committee Report by Ray Mathews Jr., Chapter Historian, stated that the Chapter has achieved several new historical accomplishments and milestones recently, and he would like to share those with you. It is the duty of the historian to keep tabs on issues that fall into our history making progress, and I am pleased to announce the following:

- 1) The annual meeting at the Cherotel Brazosport Hotel and Conference Center in Lake Jackson, Texas was entirely reserved for TCAFS members. That is the first time in our history that we had an entire hotel to ourselves for an annual meeting.
- 2) One of our members received an Outstanding Fisheries Worker award for the 3rd time. Dr. Gary Garrett received the Outstanding Fisheries Worker award for Fish Culture this year. In previous years, he received the award for Research and Management. This is a historical milestone for Gary because it is the first time that a Chapter member has been awarded the Outstanding Fisheries Worker in three categories.
- 3) Katrina Cohen was awarded the first Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, which included a \$500 check to help with her thesis research at Texas State University on the "Food habits of the suckermouth catfish *Hypostomus* in the San Marcos River (Hayes County)." Dr. Tim Bonner is her committee supervisor and nominated her for the award.
- 4) Randy Rushin, President of Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc. has been a TCAFS meeting exhibitor and sponsor for 10 years, which is a record for any of our sponsors. At this year's raffle, he won the bid on a guided fishing trip, and then gave it to Mandy Scott, who had been bidding for it also. Randy just wanted to give some more money to the Chapter scholarship fund and put a smile on Mandy's face. He succeeded, and proved he is a good friend of the Chapter.

In addition to these milestones in the TCAFS history, Ray Mathews Jr., TCAFS Historian, received a box of display items from Debbie Wade, Chapter Past-President, that were used for educational outreach back

in the 1980-1990's, which turned out to be a treasure of old pictures of Chapter members and annual meeting events. The box was in the TPWD District 3B Texas Parks & Wildlife Department field office in Tyler, Texas, and was apparently in an office formerly used by Barry Lyons, Steve Poarch and now by Kevin Storey. Most of the display items were from the 1989 annual meeting in San Antonio, and three of those pictures are shown below. The display was used to show activities and goals of the TCAFS, and the pictures used to show them are now 18 years old. It is rare that I receive something that is important in documenting our long history, and when I do, I am very grateful and make it a part of your archives.

Photo at Auction and Raffle 1989.



TCAFS President Earnest Alan (Mac) McCune and Bruce Hysmith at Auction and Raffle in Lone Star Party Room in 1989 – 18 years ago.

Photo of 1989 Award Recipients.



1989 Award Recipients – Left to Right: Gene McCarty (Dir., Coastal Fisheries), Robert Vega (Mgr., Corpus Redfish Hatchery), Cathy Dryden (Redfish Hatchery Biologist), Gordon Linam (Inland Fisheries, San Marcos), Joe Kraai (Inland Fisheries, Canyon).

Photo of 1989 Banquet at Lone Star Brewery.



This is the 1989 Banquet at Lone Star Brewery Party Room in San Antonio. TCAFS members identified those indicated.

Continuing Education – Bruce Hysmith Reported on two workshops that were offered at the annual meeting. The workshops were titled “Modeling with Geographic Information Systems: geo-processing models and the availability of geo-spatial data in Texas” and “Challenges to conserving Texas coastal wetlands.” There is a definite transition to digital data-based analysis in fisheries biology research, based on what we are seeing in continuing education and recent research.

Art Morris, Chapter President, reported that the scholarship folks (Ray Mathews and Mike Morgan) are gearing up to pass out grants to outstanding students who can use a helping hand in their scholarly endeavors, so pass the word along to anyone you feel might qualify. Making announcements of Chapter Scholarships and Awards and getting it out to the Colleges and Universities is vital to getting outstanding students to apply. In later years the Chapter experienced many more applicants. Craig Bonds and/or Dave Terre (TCAFS Endowments Committee Chair). Four scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 are awarded at the annual meeting to two undergraduate students, one master’s student, and one Ph.D. student. Each applicant must be a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society or pay their membership dues when the scholarship application is submitted. The Scholarship Committee will select the scholarship recipients based on academic excellence, professional activities, promise of future professional involvement, and significant contribution to the field of fisheries science. The Scholarship Committee has more members now, which is important for making the best applicant selections.

Craig Bonds, TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer reported that after considerable discussion among TCAFS EXCOM members and Committee Chairpersons, a motion was made at the most recent TCAFS EXCOM meeting by Craig Bonds and seconded by Charlie Munger to leave \$12,000 in the chapter's cash account

and move the remainder of the account (approximately \$46,000) into a suite of investment accounts according to the recently approved TCAFS Investment Policy Statement and directed by Merrill Lynch. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote. The cash account will function as it was intended - to cover annual chapter operating expenses. The investment accounts will allow Chapter assets to work and grow toward the goal of better long-term capital wealth with the primary objective of funding student scholarships. Craig Bonds and Dave Terre (TCAFS Endowments Committee Chair) set the TCAFS on a financial policy that has been beneficial for many years, and especially with respect to increased amounts of scholarship and awards for students. This has increased interest by students in the TCAFS, and the leadership roles they now volunteer for.

Since the Texas Chapter annual meeting in March, Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Committee Chairperson served as the liaison between our Chapter's Student Outreach Committee and Bass Brigade outdoor leadership program for high school students. She reported that this program had the potential to be a great recruiting tool for our fisheries profession and our TCAFS chapter. She volunteered as a "Covey Leader" (camp counselor) for the Rolling Hills Bobwhite Brigade camp in June to get a feel for how these camps are run, and what it will take to launch the new Bass Brigade camp. She reported that she was very impressed with what I experienced there. The students not only learned hordes of information about quail biology, ecology, and management, but also developed their public speaking and presentation skills. The rapid-fire pace of the camp was very challenging for all of us, and fueled the students' desire to excel, even when assigned projects kept us up until the wee hours of the morning. The Brigades website is [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org).

At the August Bass Brigade steering committee meeting, members discussed the immediate needs of the organization and narrowed down our choices of venues for the next summer camp. The venue ultimately chosen was the Lower Colorado River Authority facility at Lake Buchanan Dam. Mandy Scott thanked the TCAFS for voting at the annual meeting to donate \$300 of the Chapter's money to the Bass Brigade. The Brigades were able to double that amount with the assistance of a matching grant, and that \$600 served to fully sponsor two cadets for the following summer's Bass Brigade camp. Ray Mathews, TCAFS Historian, concurs with Mandy about the importance of the Texas Brigade. The mission of Texas Brigades is to educate and empower youths with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy. The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TCTWS) has related summer wildlife conservation camps. Based on Ray's authorship of the History of the TCTWS, he recommends reading the history of the TCTWS at the following website: <https://tctws.org/about-us-2/history/> since it has a companion wildlife history that references the TCAFS.

Ray Mathews, Clark Hubbs Research Award Committee Chairperson, reported that the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award Committee of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was seeking deserving students enrolled in fisheries-related curricula who were interested in applying for a research scholarship award. As committee chair, he asked that Chapter members disseminate this information by posting this letter and application form in their respective university departments. No nomination is necessary. More than one undergraduate or graduate student from the same university may apply. Also, previous TCAFS scholarship recipients are eligible to apply for the research award. The research award was announced at the annual meeting January 17-19, 2008, in Junction, Texas at the Texas Tech University Center. This will be the second year for this prestigious award, and it will be a distinct honor for the student recipient. The award winner will be required to attend the annual meeting to receive the

award. Each applicant must be a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society or pay their membership dues when the research award application is submitted. The Clark Hubbs Student Research Award Committee selects the award recipient based on the following criteria: 1. Merit of the research application (criteria described in announcement). 2. Consistency with the research legacy of Clark Hubbs. 3. Promise of future professional involvement and significant contribution to research in the field of fisheries science. Applications are required a few weeks before the annual meeting, and the deadline is announced each year in the application announcement.

Greg Conley, Awards Committee Chairman, reported the annual nomination was open for awards at the annual TCAFS meeting, this year being held at the Texas Tech University Junction campus in January 2008. The link to the Awards page on the chapter website is [Awards | Texas Chapter - American Fisheries Society](#). The categories are as follows: 1) Administration 2) Culture 3) Education 4) Management 5) Research 6) Student 7) Technical support 8) Special recognition. Those award categories have remained unchanged to the present day.



Photo of 2007 TCAFS Chapter Award Recipients.

Pictured at right (from left to right): 2007 TCAFS Chapter award recipients who were present at the TTU Junction meeting to receive their awards; Bart Durham (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Research ), Preston Bean (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Student), Zachary Shattuck ( Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Student – Honorable Mention), Corey Clouse (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Technical Support ), Chad Thomas (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Special Recognition in Fisheries Work, and Greg Conley, Awards Committee Chair. Lance Robinson and André M. Landry, Jr., PhD were not present.



Photo of Endowment and Scholarship Committee Members and Candidates.

Pictured at left (from left to right): Dave Terre (Endowments Committee) Johanna Weston – B.S. candidate, University of Dallas, Megan Bean - M.S. candidate, Texas State University, Preston Bean – Ph. D. candidate, Texas State University, Mike Morgan (Scholarship Committee). Luke Murphy – B.S. candidate, Texas A&M University, Galveston was unable to attend.

Ray Mathews, Jr., Historian/Archivist, reported that the TCAFS has an active EXCOM that works on fund raising and management issues, student awards and scholarships, and annual meeting planning. This summer the Chapter had meetings at the Texas River Center in San Marcos (June 26th) and the Texas Tech University Research Station in Junction (September 19th). EXCOM meetings tend to be a combination of work for something that means a lot to all of us and fun outings. Important changes to the student award process were considered for both scholarships and endowments at the June 26th meeting. There are numerous procedural changes recommended for the scholarship and endowment programs of the TCAFS, and these are always addressed at the Business section of the Annual meetings. The Texas Rivers Center has been completed for offices of Texas State University professors and students, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff, as well as staff of the Texas Rivers Center program. It is both an institutional and educational facility at Aquarena Center. The Aquarena Center staff offer guided glass bottom boat tours of Spring Lake and the Endangered Species Museum. A part of the annual meeting involved testing out kayaking skills on the South Fork of the Llano River, which is a unique experience the Chapter enjoys at all the annual meetings at this location. According to Dr. Timothy Bonner, TCAFS President-elect, that river has a high density of Guadalupe Bass, the State Fish, and field ecology training will be part of the continuing education kayaking tour available as part of the next annual meeting.

Eight photos of the TCAFS EXCOM members in conference room at new Texas Rivers Center, and related photos, including Spring Lake, Kayaking, Glass Bottom Boats, and Museum.

(Photos by Ray Mathews, Archivist/Historian)





## **2008**

Tim Bonner, TCAFS President reported that Texas Tech University-Junction was a terrific host. Tom Arsuffi, Lisa Herring, Derrick Ard, Patsy Taylor, Dining Services staff, and several others were instrumental in planning, organizing, and servicing the meeting. The campus and associated research station are excellent facilities for meetings, education, and research. He encouraged our membership to take advantage of these resources when possible. Several individuals volunteered countless hours to assist with the mechanics of the meeting. Janet Wisian was a tremendous asset in coordinating meeting plans with TTU-Junction, organizing onsite lodging, and handling several other tasks. Craig Bonds kept track of the cash flow before, during, and after the meeting and handled the registration process. I appreciated his help and advice throughout the planning and implementation of the annual meeting. Jvonne Lalla, Juan Martinez, Travis Sansom, and the rest of the Publicity & Exhibits Committee did a phenomenal job in hustling auction and raffle items. Tim suggested that \$3,647 profit is a new record for dollars generated at a TCAFS meeting, and I am going to go with that as a new record. Dan Daugherty and the Editorial Committee did a great job in soliciting and organizing the presentations. Dan prepared the 2008 Proceedings of the meeting. Mike Morgan, Ray Mathews, and the rest of our Scholarship committee members spent a lot of time perusing applications before the meeting to select students for scholarships and the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award.

Speaking of student scholarships, students and faculty greatly appreciate the relentless efforts of Dave Terre in soliciting funds for TCAFS scholarships. Dave wears many hats in the fisheries profession, securing and managing TCAFS scholarships and endowment funds are just a few of his many talents. Thanks to the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation for your dedication in supporting students in the fisheries field. Greg Conley (and family) and the Awards Committee were busy before and during the meeting, reviewing award nominations, selecting award winners, and scoring oral and poster presentations. Thanks to Megan Bean for preparing the job board, while our Student Outreach Committee Chair Mandy Scott was preoccupied with other “commitments” (congratulations were made by many on the new addition to her family!). Plenary Session participants Rob Clarkson, Phil Bettoli, and Jackie Watson provided stimulating and informative presentations on balancing native fish conservation with game fish management. All our contributed session presenters and poster presenters did an excellent job of Informing others about fisheries research in Texas and elsewhere, which is essential for the professional development of our membership. Thom Hardy taught a Continuing Education course on instream flow techniques and advances in technology.

It's with great sadness that Ray Mathews, TCAFS Archivist and Historian, shared the news that Dr. Clark Hubbs passed away Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. He died at the age of 86, after a battle with cancer, at home in the care of his wife, Cathy, and three children. The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society offered our condolences to Cathy and their whole family, who have been such wonderful friends and colleagues to the Chapter. Clark was born March 15, 1921, and was the second child of noted naturalists Carl and Laura Hubbs. He developed a love for the science of fisheries biology at an early age. His parents paid Clark and his sister and brother five dollars for collecting a new genus and one dollar for collecting a new species. They also paid them five cents for each species collected. Not surprisingly, Clark became an ichthyologist, a scientist who studied fish and truly loved his chosen profession.

During World War II he served in the army in the 96th Infantry Division Headquarters, including the invasions of Leyte and Okinawa. After the war, he obtained his PhD from Stanford in 1951 under the GI

bill. He met his wife of 58 years, Catherine, while on a field trip with the Stanford Natural History Club. In 1951, Clark Hubbs became an assistant professor of zoology at the University of Texas and subsequently became an associate and then full professor. From 1974 to 1976, he was chairman of the Biology Department, and from 1978 to 1986 he was chairman of the Zoology Department. He was professor emeritus at the time of his death.

During his long career, he published more than 300 articles. He was still collecting field data for his studies in January 2008. He was editor of *Copeia*, the journal of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists for more than a decade, and a former president of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists, the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Texas Organization for Endangered Species, and the Texas Academy of Science. He was Chair Emeritus Science Committee Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute. He was a tireless supporter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Edwards Aquifer, and protection of endangered species. Four different species were named after him.

In addition to Dr. Hubbs many professional accomplishments, he was a great asset to the mission of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He was one of the founders of the Chapter, Past President, and a Charter Member of the Chapter. An award was approved by the Chapter three years ago in his honor, the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, and is the first and only award for student research in fisheries biology that the Chapter provides. The Chapter worked to endow the award in his memory, and it was finally accomplished with the help of many dedicated Chapter members. Dr. Hubbs was also a founding member and the only Leader of the Rio Grande Fishes Recovery Team for its 30- year history. Under his leadership, the team was an active force in conservation of fishes in west Texas and southern New Mexico. He was instrumental in furthering fisheries research in Texas and a staunch advocate for preventing extinction of many rare species.

He also played a pivotal role as an expert witness in the litigation of the Edwards Aquifer for the protection of spring flows for endangered species. Dr. Clark Hubbs will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on in his students, his research, and his inspiration for the next generation of conservation scientists. Besides being a brilliant fisheries biologist, it is noteworthy to mention that Dr. Hubbs was a character. As an example, when we were returning from a sampling trip on the Rio Grande, he made Ray Mathews stop at several streams to sample the Western mosquitofish, one of his favorite fish species for distributional ecology and population structure. Ray said that he could not determine how Clark was evaluating what streams he wanted to stop at, and so he finally asked him about one of them. Clark said he just liked the name of them, the one in question was named "Woman Hollering Creek," near San Antonio. He said he just had to sample the fish species in a creek with a name like that. Ray said his heart was and still is heavy with sadness, but he also smiled a little when I remember those times spent with his friend, colleague, and mentor: Dr. Clark Hubbs.



Photo of Dr. Clark Hubbs in a boat with Dr. Gary Garrett sampling fish on the Rio Grande.

Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Committee Chairperson reported on the Bass Brigade Youth Leadership Camp set for July 2008. “The future of fishing is our responsibility”, said Dr. Gary Van Gelder, Bass Brigade Committee Chairman of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. He, along with a newly formed steering committee and volunteers, brought back the Bass Brigade fisheries camp for high school students on July 7-11, 2008, at the LCRA facility at Lake Buchanan Dam. Largemouth bass (and other freshwater fish) biology, behavior, ecology, management, as well as water issues comprise the core curriculum. Successful cadets leave with higher levels of confidence and improved communication, presentation, and leadership skills. Past cadet graduates declare the brigades are the most intense training program of their life, and an awesome, challenging experience.

Ray Mathews, TCAFS Historian/Archivist reported at the TCAFS 2008 annual meeting had some noteworthy historical issues associated with it, and I would like to bring those to your attention. The most important achievement that needs to be high recognized is that Bruce Hysmith marked his 20th anniversary as the auctioneer for the annual Auction and Raffle. His first time as auctioneer for the annual meeting was at the Kerrville meeting in 1988. Two decades of service to the TCAFS is more than any one person has contributed to any position in the 33 years of this organization.



Photo of Bruce Hysmith as Auctioneer.

Another less noteworthy achievement was the first barefoot presentation by a speaker at any annual meeting. Jackie Watson gave her presentation entitled “Finding a balance between conservation and

management in Utah,” in her bare feet because she said it helped her relax. It must have helped because her presentation was very good.



Two photos of Jackie Watson giving her barefoot presentation.

The history of the TCAFS has spanned over 33 years, and as a tribute to the Chapter’s achievement Ray Mathews prepared a Windows Movie Maker Project entitled “A trail of memories through the history of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.” It incorporates digital images from the early years of our organization through the present with his narration about the history and set to music in the <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnLFmX9EyDk> for those interested in viewing and listening to it. This link has been successfully hyperlinked.



Junction Meeting Photo Gallery, Photos Courtesy of Ray Mathews.

In the President's Message, Tim Bonner reported that the 2008 Hurricane Season will be remembered for a long time in Texas. The one-two punch of Hurricane Dolly and Hurricane Ike on the Texas coast disrupted the lives and livelihoods of most coastal residents. Updates on the death toll, number of missing persons, and destroyed homes from Hurricane Ike are appalling and tragic. Governmental services, universities, industries, and local businesses sustained substantial infrastructure damage and must be renovated or rebuilt before employees or students can return to a normal routine. In the meantime, many coastal residents have temporarily relocated and adjusted to losses in income. This was a disruption to the TCAFS as well.

## **2009**

Brian Van Zee stated in his President's Message that the biggest benefit that we as biologists and researchers get from conferences and annual meetings is the dissemination of new and relevant information as well as networking with colleagues. He thanked Teresa and Gabrielle Conley for once again volunteering their time and assisting with the raffle and auction! Speaking of the auction, he said we need to thank Bruce Hysmith for cutting his California vacation short so he could be back in time to serve as the auctioneer! Brian said we grossed over \$5,700 in this year's auction alone. Not to mention all the additional funds which Dave Terre and Ray Mathews have rounded up over the past year! It's amazing to see the kind of support that we have, from the membership as well as the public, for the TCAFS and our student scholarship program! A very special thank you goes to the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation for once again donating \$15,000 in support of our fisheries students! That is simply fantastic! Brian also thanked Michele Nations, Larry Hodge and Ray Mathews for taking photos of the conference and for helping us preserve those moments!

Ken Kurzawski, President-elect of the TCAFS, stated in his message to the Chapter that one of his goals as an officer is to continue and improve our involvement with the AFS parent society. He has been an officer with the Fisheries Administration Section of the AFS the last 4 years and this experience has left him more convinced than ever of the importance of the AFS to fisheries professionals whether they are with government organizations, universities, or private businesses. Ken was especially pleased to accept at the Southern Division meeting in New Orleans the new SDAFS Award honoring the Chapter with the highest percentage of members registered in the AFS. Ray Mathews, Historian, noted this was a new first for the TCAFS, and will go down as an accomplishment for all members of the Chapter. Ken said he would like our Chapter to win that award every year! For those who are not members of the parent society, please consider joining as one of the best investments you can make in your career. For students, it's an especially great way (with the reduced student price) to show your commitment to your chosen profession.

Bass Brigade update was given by Mandy Scott at the annual meeting. She introduced Shelby Perry (former Bass Brigade cadet). Shelby gave a Power Point presentation on her experience as Bass Brigade cadet. Shelby expressed her appreciation for the support the TCAFS provided to the Bass Brigade. Several TX Chapter members volunteered their time to Bass Brigade in July 2009, helping 21 high school youth to cultivate their interest in the outdoors into a passion for conservation. The TX Chapter of AFS donated \$300 towards Bass Brigade in 2008 and 2009 and has already pledged another \$300 for the 2010 camp. Mandy recommended checking out the [new Brigades website at https://www.texasbrigades.org/](https://www.texasbrigades.org/) The Bass Brigade was held July 12-16, 2010, at a new location—Warren Ranch Lodge near Coleman, TX.

Clark Hubbs Research Award update presented by Ray Mathews. He gave a Power Point presentation on Clark Hubbs Award and presented the award to recipient – Ben Labay (TX State; plaque and \$250 check). Ray also presented a PowerPoint tribute to deceased TCAFS members in 2008 (Dennis Pridgen and Clark Hubbs).

Endowments presented by Dave Terre: Ray Mathews raised \$775 this year for the Clark Hubbs Research Award. Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation contributed \$15,000. Various author donations totaled \$600. Mike Reed donated \$100 in memory of Dennis Pridgen. Two \$1,000 donations were received in memory of Dennis Pridgen. Raised a total of \$23,775. Dave reported account balance (\$59,832.94) and discussed investment fund performance during the recent economic downturn.



Photo of Dave Terre with Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Board Members at luncheon.

Endowments Committee Chairperson Dave Terre and TCAFS Members Jimmie Green and Mike Brice give the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation Board Members a luncheon “thank you” their generous contributions made to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program. The presentation was made at Cace’s Seafood Restaurant in Longview, Texas.

Exhibit/Raffle presented by Juan Martinez. Juan thanked those that helped the committee, which grossed over \$5,730.50; netted \$4,807.52 at the annual meeting banquet.

Scholarship presented by Mike Morgan. He recognized John Findeisen’s help. He mailed 66 announcements to university programs, 11 applicants for 4 individual awards of \$1,500 each. Scholarship Recipients: Michele Parmley (TX State) – undergraduate student • Nicholas Bertrand (TX State) – undergraduate student • Joshua Perkin (TX State) – M.S. graduate student • Bridgette Froeschke (TAMUCC) – Ph.D. graduate student.

Membership was presented by Dennis Smith. This past year the chapter membership was down a little after the annual meeting. We ended the year with 181 members of the chapter, 26 fewer members than we had in 2007. We have 86 paid members thus far for 2009. Last year at this time we only had 60. This number does not include members who pay their dues through the parent society. Approximately half our members pay through the parent society. However, after the annual meeting ended, we had a record-setting year for membership. We ended the year with a total of 239 members which was the most since Dennis had been membership chair and likely the most ever. It was an increase of 58 members over the 2008 total.

**In Memoriam: Dennis Pridgen 1/9/1959 to 10/19/2008**  
**Natural Resource Specialist V, Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**

Dennis graduated from Auburn University in 1987 with a BS in Biological Science with a major in fisheries. In 1990, he earned his Master of Science from Auburn. He began his career as a biologist for the Florida Game and Fish Commission in Ocala, Florida, before accepting a biologist position in 1993 with Texas Parks and Wildlife at the Rockport Marine Laboratory. During his tenure at Rockport, Dennis was a very active member of the Aransas Bay Ecosystem team who collected long term data for the routine management of the fisheries. He shared his wealth of knowledge and dedication as he worked with and trained many new biologists and technicians. He was actively involved with the sampling during the shrimp fishery bycatch studies conducted in the late 90s. His most recent passion centered around his work with marine seagrasses. He helped design and participated in studies that will help evaluate the effectiveness of the first Texas marine habitat regulation implemented in 2006 regarding the protection of seagrass. Dennis learned to fish with his grandfathers and to hunt with his father and brothers. He maintained his love of the outdoors throughout his life. He was committed to preservation and restoration through his work and his leisure and published papers in support of his efforts. Except for his time at Auburn and in Ocala, he lived on the gulf coast where he continued learning about this unique ecosystem. He shared his passion for his endeavors with those in his life, delighting in telling all the details of his adventures. His stories will be sorely missed.



Photo of Dennis Pridgen (Vol. 35(1))

Dave Terre, Endowments Committee Chair reported that Dennis' Family and friends gave generously to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of former TCAFS Member Dennis Pridgen. Mike Reed, a past TCAFS member and friend of Dennis', contacted Dave shortly after his passing and asked him if he could donate in memory of Dennis. Shortly after that, Dennis' brother, Michael, contacted Dave and told him that Dennis' neighbors (Shelia and David Flores, Cynthia and Rob Magill, Erin Baldwin, and Family) had raised funds from the sale of his estate and would be donating those funds to the Chapter. Michael said he also wanted to match their donation in the memory of his brother. Dave was touched by the generosity of Dennis' family and friends and how they had come to value the Chapters' Student Scholarship Endowment to honor Dennis's legacy and his friendship. A total of \$2,125.00 was deposited in the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of TCAFS

Member and Fisheries Biologist Dennis Pridgen. Dennis made a lasting difference in the lives of many people and in the fisheries profession.

Auction/Raffle Events reported by Ray Mathews, Historian/Archivist, 2009

The TCAFS Auction and Raffle has been an event that everyone looks forward to with great anticipation. Bruce Hysmith has now served as the auctioneer for his 21st year. His first time as auctioneer for the annual meeting was at the Kerrville meeting in 1988, and this year he brought his lovely wife, Wanda, to keep him out of trouble.



Greg Conley (Awards Chair) with his wife, Teresa, thanked Bruce Hysmith for leading Auction/Raffle Event, and daughter (energetic sales representatives for the Chapter's shirts, hats, and raffle tickets).



Craig Bonds (Treasurer) keeping track of Auction item sales.



Photo of Lisa Mohaganer.

Lisa Mohaganer won a prize at the Raffle, with Joan Glass (Sponsorship Committee) who retired from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after many years of service.

Even the Chapter Historian, Ray Mathews, enjoyed winning a fishing pole in the raffle.



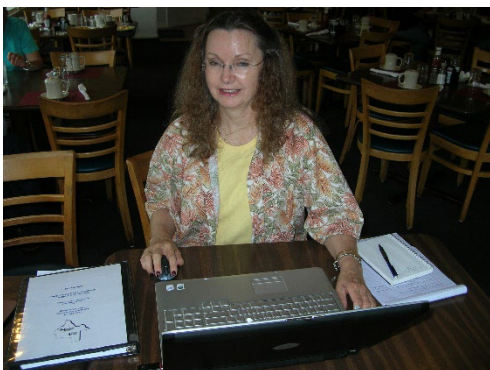
Photo of Ray with fishing pole.

Announcement: Texas Chapter has a new Historian/Archivist – Michele Nations. Ray Mathews, Former Archivist/Historian, TCAFS, reported at the annual meeting that he is pleased to announce his replacement for the position of Archivist/Historian for the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. After serving in that position for 10 years, he decided to step down and give someone else the opportunity to contribute to this position. He said that he met Michele Nations at the TCAFS annual meeting held January 2009 in Fort Worth which included the Golden Alga Symposium, where she was taking pictures of the meeting highlights, award recipients, and opportunities of interest. Since he was doing that for the Chapter as a photo-documentation function, he was delighted to find someone else who had that interest. After getting to know about Michele's advanced photographic skills and her interest in documenting the various aspects of the meeting, he started thinking about her as being a good candidate for the position that he would step down from. He then learned that she is also the Editor of "Hatchery Happenings" for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and furthermore that she worked with her local library to help set up pictures for the "Portal to Texas History." Based on her interest and background, Ray recommended Michele as his replacement. Ray said that he was excited that Michele accepted the position with enthusiasm, and has the background, interest, and talents to

add a new dimension to the functions of Archivist/Historian of the Chapter. He felt confident that our membership would be pleased with her contributions.

Michele has worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since March 1987 as a Fish and Wildlife Technician, initially at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery and then as a Staff Services Officer for Inland Fisheries Region 2 Hatchery Office located at the Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery. As Editor of "Hatchery Happenings," since October 2003, she documented accomplishments of the various hatchery programs from all over the state, and her writing, photographic and graphic skills are very evident in her work. She learned to work with Microsoft Publisher software to set up documents for magazines and newsletters, and Adobe Acrobat Professional software to save 150+ megabyte documents into 2- 3-megabyte files, which can be easily emailed or put on a website without taking up too much memory. Her educational background includes a B.S. (1973) and M.S. (1975) degrees in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry from Angelo State. She also has a Secondary Teaching Certification. She also has an additional M.S. in Psychology and Counseling from Tarleton State University. She enjoys working with her local library on a project called "Portal to Texas History," <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/TCAF/>. This project involves compiling historical documents and making them available on the internet. The "Weaver Collection" on this website is an example of her work. Michele has been working with databases for about 10 years; creating and maintaining some for budgeting/expenditure tracking, reprint cataloging, time sheets, training, inventory, audits, maintenance, etc. in her work for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She said she was looking forward to creating a database that will track not only photographs with captions, but records that will help document the history of the Chapter. Ray Mathews transferred all the Chapter archives and historical documents to Michele and spent several hours with her going over all the digital files, photo-documentation, newsletter reports, biographies, and history documents that he created or compiled from other sources and contributors for the Chapter. Ray said that he could tell that Michele would take those archives and add a new dimension to them in the form of a database with extensive management that she is skilled at doing. That will be very good for the Chapter, and I encourage you all to work with her, provide as much information as you can to her, and help her to do this job in an exemplary manner. Michele told Ray that she looked forward to using the current Chapter website and her skills in computer technology to showcase the pictures and history of the Chapter.

Michele has served more as Archivist/Photographer since 2009 to the present. Ray Mathews volunteered in 2023 to serve more of the Historian role for writing the TCAFS 50 Year History using much of Michele's Chapter archives since 2009.



Photos of Michele Nations at Salado Inn April 2009 transferring Ray Mathews history documents and photos to her for archiving on her computer hard drives. (Photos and documents sent to Michele by email on site).

“Today is Tomorrow’s Yesterday,” by Michele Nations Archivist/Historian. Michele reported after accepting her new position that Ray Mathews did such a wonderful job that she hoped she would be able to continue in his footsteps! In fact, Ray made his contribution to our history. He was granted a 25-year membership pin from the American Fisheries Society in appreciation for the many years he had been a member. Although he joined the AFS in 1973 and became a Certified Fisheries Scientist in 1979, his continuous membership started in 1983 with the TCAFS. Brian Van Zee received the award for Ray at the annual meeting in Nashville in August since Ray was not able to receive the award in person. He has been a member for a quarter of a century! “Today is tomorrow’s yesterday.” That’s Michele’s favorite saying since becoming historian/archivist, so Janet Wisian of Texas State University put the saying near the top of the History web page. So, what does “Today is tomorrow’s yesterday” have to do with being a historian? It means that we need to collect the news from today so that people tomorrow will have it for their history.

To take a glimpse at yesterday, we need to look at other recent additions to the TCAFS website. There are death notices of two past members: Alan Wenger and Ed Bonn. Michele stated that she never met Alan, but she did have a brief opportunity to speak to Ed Bonn back in the 80’s when she was updating Joe Warren’s reprint database. In her mind, Ed was famous for all his work with striped bass. John Moczygamba sent her the following write-up since Ed had been the District Leader in 2A for over 30 years.

In Memoriam: Ed W. Bonn by John Moczygamba. The first president of the Texas Chapter of the AFS passed away on October 5, 2009. On November 5, 1975, at a combined Inland Fisheries and Coastal Fisheries Staff Meeting in the Earl Rudder Building on the Texas A & M University campus in College Station, the Texas Chapter had its beginnings. Ed was elected the first president and planned the next meeting in the fall of 1976 at the 4-H Center on Lake Brownwood. In 1946, Ed began his fisheries career with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department with a short stint in Austin and two years in Wichita Falls before settling down in Denison to manage the fisheries of North Texas until his retirement in August, 1977. The district office moved around the Denison area several times before it finally ended up on the present property on the shores of Lake Texoma and became known as the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station. Back then he and his crew made an office of lumber from the German POW camp, which housed German prisoners that helped build the Denison Dam. In May of 1957, a flood wiped out the office. By the fall of 1958, the present-day building was in place much higher up the hill. Ed worked out of this office until his retirement.

Ed Bonn published several papers including: 1) “Lake Texoma White Bass Tagging Study” 2) “The Food and Growth Rate of Young White Bass in Lake Texoma” 3) “Culture and Propagation of Striped Bass and Their Hybrids” 4) “Annotated List of Fishes of Lake Texoma, Oklahoma & Texas” 5) “Effects of Rotenone on Municipal Water Supplies” 6) “Effects of Hydrogen Sulfide on Channel Catfish.” He headed the statewide striped bass program from its beginnings until the spring of 1977. He then headed 3-B Enterprises as a consulting biologist for 12 years. Ed was active in Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, and was past president of the Grayson County Texas A & M Club. He loved family, cooking, and his farm. He was a great man and contributed a lot to the fisheries of Texas.

Michele Nations reported that it has been a busy year for Ray Mathews. In July 2009, he accepted a new job with the Texas Department of Rural Affairs in Austin. Here is what he has to say about his new position: As the Environmental Regulatory Officer for the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA), Ray performed advanced environmental compliance and monitoring for environmental assessments that are part of the federal funding requirements of the Disaster Recovery Act of 2008. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) selected TDRA as the state agency in Texas to administer the funds for infrastructure recovery projects resulting from impacts by hurricanes Rita, Ike, and Dolly. Ray said he considered the work very satisfying, because it helps the many people who were devastated by the series of hurricanes that impacted the Gulf Coast and Rio Grande Valley; challenging because of the immense range and diversity of recovery projects that must be tracked and monitored; and ecologically important to minimize or avoid environmental impacts (including those to fisheries). With a funding level of \$3 billion, it is the largest public works project in the history of the State of Texas. It will provide several safety features to reduce future hurricane impacts, such as backup generators to power water and wastewater facilities, hospitals, and fire and police stations; as well as improve evacuation routes for coastal areas. Although Ray Mathews stepped down from being the Archivist/Historian, he is still very active in the Chapter and continues to chair the Clark Hubb Student Research Award Committee.

## **2010**

TCAFS President Ken Kurzawski reported that not surprisingly, Texas bucked the recent trend of lowered attendance that has recently plagued many professional meetings. Our turnout was great with 147 people registered. Starting with Thursday's continuing education classes and social through Friday's plenary session and the presentations that followed, attendees were treated to an informative, diverse, and enjoyable meeting. Thanks to everyone who helped make the meeting a success. I'm especially grateful to the invited speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors, and all who volunteered in some capacity including members led by our officers and committee members, volunteers from TPWD and Texas State University, and member's families! The Hart-Morris Conservation Center at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center was a great venue for our meeting. Representation at the meeting from the various sectors of the fisheries profession in Texas was the most diverse that Ken could recall for a stand-alone chapter meeting.



Photo of Hart-Morris Conservation Center at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Aaron Jubar, Continuing Education chair, reported that the TCAFS annual meeting at TFFC in Athens featured two continuing education seminars. Larry Hodge, TPWD Information Specialist, hosted a short course entitled "Basics of Digital Photography". The seminar included an indoor presentation as well as some hands-on outdoor instruction. Participants were able to take advantage of the mild weather to practice some of the photography techniques they learned in the course. We also offered an additional continuing education course entitled "Benefits of AFS Certification". Special thanks to Craig Bonds for his help in planning and co-hosting this course.

Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson, reported that we had good participation by students at this year's annual conference in Athens. Overall, 31 students attended the meeting and enjoyed a student-professional mixer on the first evening, and 9 participated in the student-mentor Lunch on Friday. Many also gave oral and poster presentations. The Student Outreach Committee had a career resource table set up in the vendor area which included a Jobs Board, career guidance brochures, and information about Bass Brigade, the conservation leadership program for high school youth who are interested in aquatic life. The Bass Brigade was held July 12-16 at the Warren Ranch in Coleman County. All 24 cadet positions were filled, and the TCAFS was well represented with 5 members volunteering as leaders or instructors.



Photo of Bass Brigade.

Michele Nations, Historian/Archivist, reported that she has been working on a database that I hope will help me get an idea of the different affiliations represented in our membership. She tried to break the affiliations down to different types. Here's an example of what is on the list so far: • Environmental research companies (Bio-West, Inc., Hach, Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Eureka Environmental, and SWCA Environmental) • Pond and lake management services (Magnolia Fisheries and Total Lake Management) • Non-profit organizations (Galveston Bay Foundation, PAL Services, Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas, Welder Wildlife Foundation, and Sportsmen's Club of Texas) • Texas universities (SFASU, SHSU, TAMU, TCU, TSU, TTU, UH, UNT, UTA, UTMSI, UTPA, UTSA, UTT, and WTAMU).

Dave Terre, Endowment Chair, reported that the TCAFS established a new relationship with the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth to deliver scholarships to deserving Texas fisheries students. They donated \$2,000 to the Endowment Fund for the 2010 annual meeting scholarships. They also donated two \$1,500 scholarships for the 2011 annual meeting, to honor the legacy of Harvey Tennison: one of the co-founders of their club.

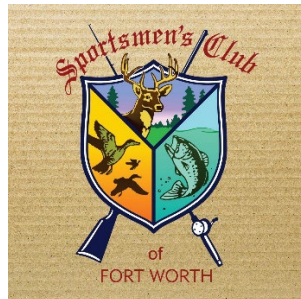
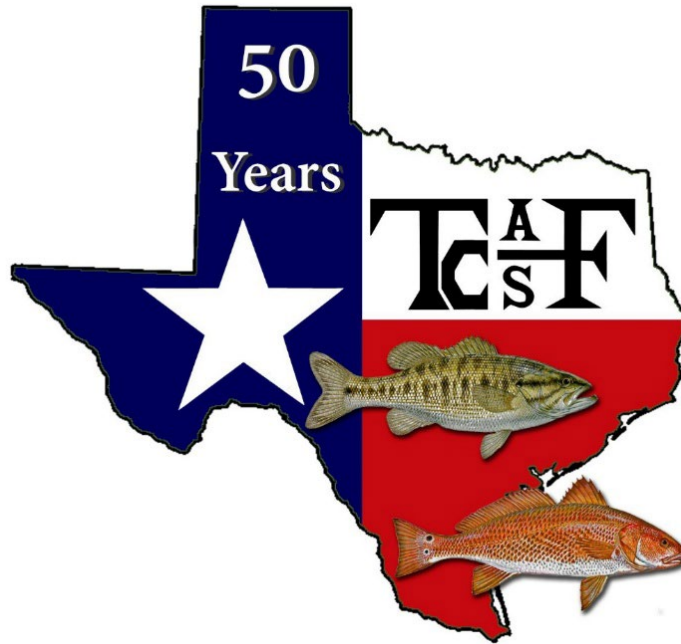


Photo of their Club Emblem.

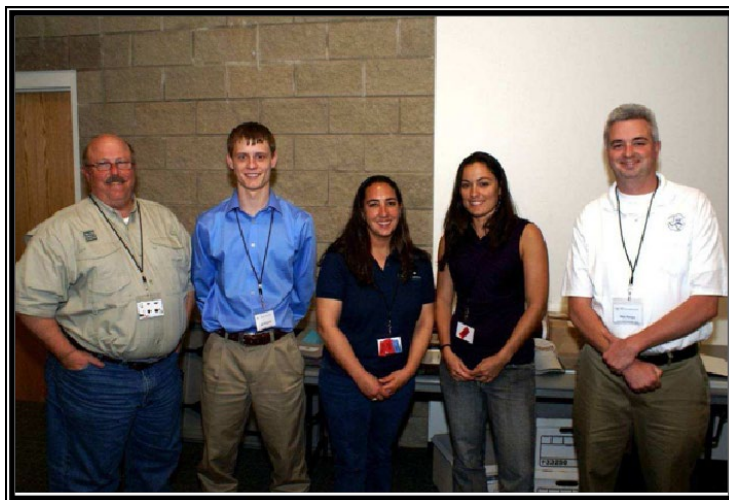


Photo of scholarship recipients from the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth.

The Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth also made a generous \$2,000 donation to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Fund as a contribution towards the three scholarships that were awarded at the 2010 annual meeting held in Athens Texas. Scholarship recipients this year were Jake Wimberley (BS, TAMU), Laura Bivins (MS, TAMU, Corpus Christi), and Gabby Ahmadi (Ph.D., TAMU, Corpus Christi).

## **2011**

The Texas Chapter AFS annual meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in San Marcos on February 10-12, 2011. The theme of the Plenary Session is "Fish Habitat: Contemporary Approaches for Assessment, Conservation, Enhancement, and Restoration."

Program Overview Continuing Education Workshop 1) Application of Side-Scan Imaging Sonar and GIS Software for Mapping Aquatic Fish Habitat – Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts (Georgia DNR). 2) Fish Habitat: Contemporary Approaches for Assessment, Conservation, Enhancement, and Restoration. Presentations and speakers are listed below 3) Aquatic Plants for Fish Habitat: a National Perspective Dr. Michael Smart (USACE - Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility) 4) Low-Cost Sonar Habitat Mapping: a New Tool for Research and Management of Fish Habitat across Aquatic Landscapes Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts (Georgia DNR) 5) The Big Picture for Fish Habitat Conservation: Moving the Needle in Texas through Collaboration at Regional and National Scales Tim Birdsong (TPWD-Inland Fisheries) 6) A Classification and Threat Condition Assessment of the Rivers and Streams of Texas Ryan Smith (The Nature Conservancy) 7) Estuarine Habitat Restoration Efforts on the Texas Coast: Leveraging Resources to Maximize Restoration Opportunities in our Multi-use Estuaries Jamie Schubert (TPWD-Coastal Fisheries). The Continuing Education Workshops are moving towards higher technology fisheries research and conservation training and research.

Congratulations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Redfish Bay State Scientific Area Seagrass Team who received an Outstanding Team Award at the agency's upcoming Employee Recognition Awards on August 23, 2011. Of the 10 members on this team, 5 are members of the Texas Chapter AFS. Congratulations to: • Willy Cupit • Faye Grubbs • Ed Hegen • Jeremy Leitz • Perry Trial.

Invasive aquatic vegetation such as giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) is one of the greatest threats to the aquatic resources of Texas. Salvinia was most likely transported from South America to the U.S. through the aquatic garden or aquarium trade. It was first discovered in the Houston area in 1998 and is now reported on 17 Texas reservoirs. Given ideal growing conditions, giant salvinia can double the area it covers in 7-10 days forming thick mats that disrupt water chemistry, render aquatic habitat unsuitable for native species and interfere with boating access. Effective management of giant salvinia begins with public awareness and requires the integration of techniques such as: containment, physical removal, herbicide applications and biological control. The only proven biological control agent for giant salvinia is the giant salvinia weevil (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*). It is important to remember that biological control is a long-term option. It may take years of research and focused management for the weevils to reach their full potential. TPWD encourages everyone to help protect our natural resources and carefully remove all

vegetation from your boat, trailer, and other equipment when leaving the boat ramp. The TCAFS has also taken the initiative of reporting this to the public. Invasive species in our waterways is recognized as an important impact on fisheries and is being reported on more often at our annual meetings.

According to the April EXCOM and meeting report the TCAFS was being solicited by the parent society and the southern division to make donations to help defray the costs of their meetings. Members at the meeting stated their belief that it would better serve the Texas chapter membership not to give donations directly for the cost of the meeting but look at a case-by-case basis of supporting individual travel to these meetings. Factors to consider when deciding if to support travel would include such things as financial need, importance to chapter and state of an individual attending these meetings (e.g., chapter, divisional, and parental AFS office holders), etc. These criteria have been used in all future travel support for members attending AFS and SDAFS meetings.

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org) recently released their top 10 “Waters to Watch”, which included the Llano River, a list of rivers, streams, estuaries, watershed systems, and shores that will benefit from habitat conservation efforts to protect, restore, or enhance their condition. Conservation plans in essential freshwater, estuarine, and marine habitats are implemented by regional Fish Habitat Partnerships that were formed to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The purpose of the Llano River project is to work with willing landowners to protect and improve aquatic habitats of Guadalupe bass and other species in the Llano River. Through more than \$1.4M in grants and donations from project sponsors, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Anheuser Busch Corporation, project partners are taking action to protect and restore instream, riparian and upland habitats in the Llano River Watershed that support healthy habitats, natural ecosystems, and sustainable populations of Guadalupe bass. This was the first time such a targeted habitat for a fish species was supported by a national program.

TPWD fisheries biologist Mark H. Howell passed away, as reported by colleague Robert Mauk, Secretary-Treasurer. Mark H. Howell, 55, died on Saturday, July 30, 2011, in Wichita Falls. Mark earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries Biology and Wildlife Biology from Kansas State University in 1984 and a Master of Science Degree in Fisheries Biology from Murray State University in 1988. His first professional assignment was at Matapeake Island, Maryland, where he served as a fisheries biologist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. In 1990, Mark joined the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Huntsville, Texas, and after 18 months transferred to Wichita Falls as the supervisor of the newly formed Inland Fisheries District for an eight-county region. In that capacity Mark served the people of Northwest Texas for 20 years. A well-known outdoorsman, naturalist, and conservationist, he was active in the community in many outdoor issues. Some of these projects included serving on the governing board for River Bend Nature Center; organizing and serving as adviser for the Texas Master Naturalists, Rolling Plains Chapter; and he was the outdoor writer for The Times Record News, the newspaper that serves Wichita Falls and the surrounding areas. A longtime member of AFS, he currently was serving on the AFS Investment Committee and was an AFS certified fisheries scientist.

Michele Nations, Historian, made one of her first Newsletter articles. She reported that a lot of things go into making history. You’ve heard of time capsules? She asked us to look at what was going on thirty-five years ago in 1975 and 1976. As Michele reported, she had to remember that many of the people reading this article may not have been born yet. Here is one of the first photos from the beginning of the Texas Chapter that Ray Mathews obtained while going through files at the TPWD Headquarters. Michele

reported that TCAFS members may recognize some of the names, such as Allen Forshage and John Moczygemba. Michele also reported that she did some fine tuning the past photo below with some previously unidentified TPWD staff. Furthermore, she got help in identifying those staff with the help of several other TPWD staff. Their names are now complete in the caption. She thanked all of those who sent in their comments and names.



Both Photos of TPWD Inland Fisheries staff in 1975 Updated Version

**TPWD Inland Fisheries staff present at the meeting forming the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, 1975.** Front Row (L to R): Joe Toole, David Pritchard, Danny Bodeker, Roy Bamberg, Allen Forshage, R.G. Mooney, Robert Cooke, Jack Crabtree, Larry Campbell, and Lonnie Peters. Second Row: Ed Bonn, James Lasswell, ?, ?, Leo Lewis, ?, Bill Rutledge, ?, Royce DeWry, and ?, Clell Guest. Third Row: Dwane Smith, Barry Lyons, Joe Kraai, W.H. Bailey, Robert Gamble, Randy Helton, Kirby G. Holsen, Alan Wenger, Bill Provine, Archie Lee, and Charlie Inman. Fourth Row: John Moczygemba, Roger McCabe, Billy Follis, Steve Smith, W.H. Bailey, Paul Seidensticker, Neil Carter, Bob Bounds, Jimmy Dean, Elgin Dietz, Charles Menn, and Jeff Morris.

The country was celebrating its bicentennial – two hundred years of being a nation. Fireworks were everywhere. Gerald Ford was our president. Nationally, H.R. 200 was passed that established a 200-mile fishery conservation zone and provided that the United States would exercise exclusive fishery management authority over all fish within the zone, including anadromous species of fish spawned in the fresh and estuarine waters of the United States.

While all of that was going, the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was in its first year. The chapter president was Ed Bonn, who we lost just last year. The TCAFS newsletter was first published in

March of 1976. Keep in mind that these were the “good ole’ days.” The newsletter was typed on a typewriter, copied . . . two pages (printed on both sides) . . . and then mailed (postage \$0.13) to the members. It contained such things as how the chapter had its beginnings, who the elected officers were, and what was happening in the Awards Committee, which consisted of Dr. Joe Lock of Baylor University, Dr. Bobby Whiteside of Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University), and Bob Bounds of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Ray Mathews did a wonderful job of gathering early photos. Now, I need your help to keep history alive by donating photos or news items from your group, whether it is an agency, company, or university. Every member is important.

In the news: Dr. Robert B. Ditton to be enshrined into Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. The awards committee of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame met in August of 2010 in Hayward, Wisconsin and chose Bob Ditton for enshrinement. His enshrinement occurred on Thursday, October 13th during the American Sportfishing Association's Sportfishing Summit that held in New Orleans. This award honors persons who have had a lasting national or world impact on the benefit of freshwater sportfishing. During Robert's (longtime member of AFS and TCAFS) long successful career, he taught several classes at the graduate level focusing on Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Outdoor Management. Dr. Robert Ditton passed away on October 30, 2009.



American Sportsman's Association logo.

Craig Bonds, TCAFS President stated in his Newsletter the following: Fellow fisheries professionals, significant progress has been made in updating the TCAFS Procedural Handbook and bylaws since our last newsletter was published. As planned, the Procedural Handbook was separated into four stand-alone documents: 1) Chapter Purpose and Goals; 2) Bylaws; 3) Procedures; and 4) lists of past presidents, meeting locations, and award/scholarship recipients. Each now resides within its own web link on our chapter web page under the newly created “About Us” menu tab. Bylaws revisions have been provided to chapter members through our email Listserv and your reviews were incorporated. The Parent Society's Constitutional Consultant reviewed and approved the latest round of edits. A final revised draft was posted on the Chapter website and was updated to its current version as of April 2020 [About | Texas Chapter - American Fisheries Society](#).

Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards for 2011 were presented at the annual meeting in Galveston. These awards are given in several categories including Administration, Culture, Research, Student, Technical Support, and Special Recognition. Members are nominated by their colleagues and

selected by the awards committee. Below are this year's award winners and a summary of their accomplishments from their nomination letter.

Craig Bonds, Administration. Craig Bonds has served as the Region 3 Director of TPWD Inland Fisheries for the past 5 years. Since that time, he has emphasized research and partnerships within the region and has maintained involvement in both areas despite additional duties at the administrative level.



Photo of Craig Bonds receiving TCAFS Administration Award.

Chris Thibodeaux, Culture. Chris Thibodeaux and his AE Wood hatchery crew “advanced the science” of Guadalupe bass culture during the 2011 culture season. The Guadalupe bass stock restoration project for 2011 was high profile within TPWD and in the media as well.



Photo of Chris Thibodeaux receiving TCAFS Culture Award.

Kirk Winemiller, Research. Dr. Winemiller's research interests include patterns and mechanisms of resource partitioning in fish communities; life history strategies and population regulation; predator-prey interactions; relationships between form and ecological function in fishes; management of biodiversity and multi-species fisheries; food web structure and function; and responses of fluvial ecological systems to variation in flow regimes.



Photo of Kirk Winemiller receiving TCAFS Research Award.

Robert Wienecke, Technical Support. In recognition of 44 years of dedicated service to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division, we proudly present Robert Wienecke with this award. Given Robert's long tenure with TPWD a more appropriate title for this award might be the "lifetime achievement award". In service to both the Hatcheries and Management and Research branches of the division.

Special Recognition. TTU-Department of Biology: Gene Wilde, Aaron Urbanczyk, Doug Knabe TPWD-River Studies: Kevin Mayes, Clint Robertson, Kevin Kolodzjczyk TPWD-Hatcheries: Dale Lyon, Carl Kittel, Daniel Field, Greg Polk. In 2011, the upper Brazos River stopped flowing for a prolonged period during an extensive drought throughout the region. Isolated pools initially formed, then only a few of the largest pools were left by the end of summer. The Upper Brazos River is the only section of the Brazos River basin where smallmouth shiners are found and is the only section of the Brazos River that supports a stable population of sharpnose shiners. Extirpation of either species in this section of river would likely lead to extinction. To ensure that neither species would go extinct during this drought and no flow period, TTU and TPWD developed a plan in early Fall to capture some remaining shiners and hold them in a TPWD hatchery in case section-wide extirpation occurred. On September 15-16, 2011, Texas Tech and TPWD staff collected 1,725 smallmouth shiners and 1,388 sharpnose shiners and relocated them to the Possum Kingdom Hatchery. The rescue effort was extensively covered by local and national media outlets bringing attention to the importance of these endemic species as well as the drought conditions affecting the entire state.



Group Photo of TCAFS Special Recognition Award.

Kevin Mayes, Special Recognition. Kevin Mayes has devoted more than 20 years to advancing the science of instream flows as a biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In the face of increasing water demand, he has been well positioned and his work has been critical to ensuring flow protection in streams and rivers through dedication and the application of science. Mr. Mayes has acted as the lead TPWD instream flow biologist for the past decade and has represented the Department on many governmental and peer panels related to flow issues.



Photo of Kevin Mayes receiving TCAFS Special Recognition Award.

## **2012**

George Guillen, Chapter President, made his report on the annual meeting as follows: Fellow TCAFS colleagues, we held our Chapter's annual meeting February 9-11, 2012, at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Conference Center in Galveston. Attendance was great again this year based on our official figure of 193 registered guests, comprising a diverse mix of professionals and students. Sixty-four members participated in the continuing education workshop on Freshwater Mussel Ecology and Identification offered by Robert Howells and 77 attended the Invasive Species Workshop instructed by Luci Cook-Hildreth. Both workshops received great reviews and provided training on the identification and ecology

of Texas freshwater mussels and important invasive species respectively. The plenary session consisted of five talks, each adhering to a common theme (Invasive Species and their Impacts on Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems). Thirty-two technical presentations and twenty posters provided quality and timely information transfer opportunities. Podcasts of plenary and technical presentations are available for viewing online (<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/12meet/TCAFS2012/>). The host hotel provided an excellent venue for our meeting. We are especially thankful to Greg Whittaker, Animal Husbandry Manager, of the Moody Gardens Aquarium and Rain Garden exhibits who gave TCAFS members complimentary passes to each exhibit during the entire meeting and hosted the Thursday night student social at the aquarium and provided behind the scenes tours for interested members. Mr. Whittaker was also one of the plenary speakers who gave an interesting presentation on the public aquarium industry and their role in the management of aquatic invasive species and release of aquarium specimens.

George Guillen thanked Craig Bonds for presiding and advising him, Ken Kurzwski for aiding and providing useful advice throughout the meeting, Dan Daugherty and Tim Birdsong for organizing the review of submitted presentations and posters and for putting together a phenomenal program, Greg Conley and Brad Littrell for collecting an awesome assortment of raffle/auction items, Paul Fleming for stepping up to the challenge and filling the big shoes of now retired Bruce Hysmith. Paul did an awesome job of auctioneering!! Special thanks to Michele Nations and Kevin Storey for taking pictures. Many thanks go out to Matt Chumchal and the Awards Committee for their hard work facilitating the recognition of our peers for outstanding work. I would like to also thank Mandy Scott who did a great job organizing the student mentor luncheon this year.

As in past years, George Guillen said it was great to see our many talented student members receive generous scholarships from our various programs. This would not be possible without the ongoing work of Dave Terre, Mike Morgan, and Ray Mathews who have done a phenomenal job administering student scholarships and soliciting funding support this last year. Speaking of funding we want to give special recognition to our meeting sponsors (Silver-Level Sponsor: Sea Grant Texas; Bronze Level Sponsors: Water Monitoring Solutions, and HACH). Also, special recognition goes out to Randy Rushin and Water Monitoring Solutions who celebrated their 10-year anniversary by matching donations during the Friday night auction. Finally, we want to thank our Student Scholarship sponsors including the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation, Sportsmen Club of Fort Worth, and Water Monitoring Solutions – Randy Rushin. Finally, we want to thank all the presenters and session moderators for making this a great meeting. Since our meeting, important changes have occurred in the leadership of one of our key subcommittees. After numerous years of dedicated service to the Clark Hubbs Student Research Scholarship Sub-Committee, Mr. Ray Mathews has stepped down as Chairman. Ray along with the other sub-committee members were instrumental in building the scholarship fund to the point it is today. However, we are excited to welcome Mr. Kevin Mayes who has agreed to serve as the new Chair of this important sub-committee.

Richard Ott, President-elect made an interesting and forward-looking assessment of the fisheries biology and its future. The field of fisheries is in flux. What was just blood and guts sport fish management 30 years ago is now aquatic ecology encompassing a much broader range of topics and disciplines. Furthermore, the age of instant electronic communication includes stakeholders that previously had little interest in fish or fisheries in topics that influence fish habitat management. The recent conflict between property owners and anglers regarding stump cutting at Lake Conroe illustrates how different perspectives can influence the actions of the agencies that manage and improve fisheries. What would

seem like a simple plan to mark safe boat lanes becomes much more complicated when differing opinions on a plan are offered by stakeholders with different perspectives and those perspectives are mutually exclusive. What does this mean for the membership of Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society? Well, maybe it means we have been too narrow in the marketing of our membership to just scientists and regulators. Maybe it is time that we try to include not only anglers (as we did at the Grapevine meeting in 2005) but also reservoir and river controlling authorities, property owner groups, GIS/GPS users, outdoor recreationists, and governmental entities with an interest in clean water. This may be a hard sell at first; "American Fisheries what?" they will ask, but in the long run our society will be better served and will be able to better serve.

2012 Student Scholarship Award Winners. Scholarship Committee Chairman Mike Morgan (left), and Endowments Committee Chairman Dave Terre (right), pose with TCAFS Student Scholarship winners Ruben Palacios, Karen Drumhiller, and Larissa Kitchens and Harry Tennyson Scholarship by the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth winners William E. Smith and Matt Van Landeghem.



Group Photo of 2012 Student Scholarship Winners.

Steven Curtis (Texas State University) (left) receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Ray Mathews, Chair & Founder of the Clark Hubbs Research Award.



Photo of Steven Curtis receiving Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Ray Mathews.

George Guillen reported in the TCAFS summer newsletter that some of us were involved with recent attempts to develop environmental flow standards for freshwater and marine ecosystems in Texas through the Senate Bill 3 process. This program had a very ambitious timeline and required making some very important recommendations with sometimes next to nothing in terms of data. Like many others who survived this process and participated in this effort, we as fisheries biologists and managers quickly realize that we are but part of a much larger administrative and legal network of professionals who are also working on the project and dealing with uncertainty (e.g., hydrologists, engineers etc.). I have found out that not having enough data is often not the major problem, but rather navigating the different value that is placed on various forms scientific evidence (e.g., best available science) and comfort level that various professions have and exhibit in the face of uncertainty and lack of data. These “human factors” that are often overlooked when planning new programs, is often the primary obstacle to reaching consensus and informed decision making. Individual and collective differences in perceptions of acceptable risk and scientific evidence are often the greatest obstacle to decision making. We as fisheries biologists must recognize these differences to effectively work on multidisciplinary teams tasked with addressing critical conservation issues.

While attending the AFS Parent Society meeting this year George Guillen met with several members involved with the publication of Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes. They had a booth at which they previewed a new online database that will be extremely useful to folks planning new studies. The program will allow you to search out similar studies nearby and compare your data, if you follow a standard method, with regional and watershed averages and percentiles for population parameters, density, lengths etc. It will also allow you to contribute to building the database if you wish. This is consistent with the digital trend in all aspects of fisheries science that our history has been documenting for the TCAFS and AFS. This trend is making fisheries science a multi-disciplinary field, with much more exact data to evaluate, identify, sample, and report on our findings.

Richard Ott, President-elect, gave an opinion. He said it is likely all our membership at one time or another in their education was exposed to Aldo Leopold’s book Sand County Almanac. It was likely

required reading for anyone expecting a career in resource management or resource science. If you haven't read it lately, I suggest you take the time to read it again and recharge your emotional, philosophical, and spiritual batteries. In his book Leopold promotes the concept of stewardship as it relates to anyone given the power of influencing a resource. I say influencing because stewardship is not limited to management, or study of that resource, it can also relate to exploitation of that resource. Leopold writes "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." In the fisheries field we frequently manage/influence resources that do not belong to us. It may be the natural resources (the animals, the plants, the land, the water) or it may be the finances entrusted to us by the people who utilize those resources for us to use to study, improve, or protect those resources. It can also be the truth revealed by scientific study. Such opinions expressed by our colleagues are helpful to students and professionals alike and help enhance our wisdom in the profession we are involved with.

Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson, reported that currently the Texas Chapter of American Fisheries Society has two student sub-units: Texas A & M, and Texas Tech. These sub-units function as clubs on their respective campuses, electing officers, holding meetings and socials, and sending representatives to the annual Texas Chapter meeting. As a charter member of the Texas Tech sub-unit, Mandy stated that she could vouch for how much fun it is, and how valuable it is as a career-advancing activity.

Michele Nations reported that Luncker David Campbell has retired from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after 46 years. David was hired as a fish hatchery assistant back in 1965 and then became the hatchery manager at the Tyler Fish Hatchery in 1973. In 1975, he signed up as one of the first members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. During his career, David enjoyed working with a variety of species that included black bass, striped bass, palmetto bass, peacock bass, blue and channel catfish, crappie, several types of sunfish, northern pike, and walleye, as well as some forage species to keep his bass happy. With encouragement from TPWD Fisheries Director Bob Kemp, David worked toward increasing the size of trophy bass throughout Texas. Little did he know that his real success would come in the form of a fish named "Ethel." In November 1986, Ethel was pulled out of Lake Fork by Mark Stevenson. She weighed a whopping 17.67 pounds. The ShareLunker program was born. The ShareLunker program brought nationwide attention to Texas and its big bass when Ethel was put on display at Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri. David Campbell was Inducted into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 2011.



Photo of David Campbell with Lunker Bass.

People caught onto the idea that catch-and-release was possible and that it allowed for the spawning of the big bass and distribution of the offspring throughout the state. Then there was the construction of a state of-the-art hatchery, ShareLunker care and breeding facility, visitor center and Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, which was finished in 1996.

Feature article in TCAFS September Newsletter by Robert Adami, Jr. with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, reported on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Shrimp Inspection program that was established in 1998. Prior to that time, farm inspections were conducted by TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division staff on an intermittent basis as the shrimp farming industry developed. The shrimp inspection program is authorized under Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 57, Subchapter A - Harmful or Potentially Harmful Fish, Shellfish, and Aquatic Plants. This rule encompasses all aspects of exotic shrimp culture, transport, disease management and best management practices. As part of the regulatory process, commercial shrimp farmers must acquire three state permits to operate in Texas. These permits include the: Wastewater discharge permit issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to discharge wastewater into public waters, an Aquaculture Permit issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture, and an Exotic Species permit issued by TPWD to culture exotic shrimp. Shrimp farming in Texas started on a pilot-scale in the late 1960's with Texas A&M University researchers developing indoor tank culture. Outdoor rearing pond culture protocols started in the 70's and 80's. Numerous commercial shrimp farms were launched in the 1980's based on technological advances made by researchers. In the late 90's the industry reached its peak in Texas with 15 commercial facilities, nine operating along the coast, six inland facilities operating in west Texas and three research facilities. However, due to high volumes of imported foreign shrimp, the price of domestic shrimp has dropped dramatically since 2004. Nonetheless, most shrimp farmers have maintained their state issued permits in case market prices rebound. Currently, only six commercial shrimp farms are operating on the Texas coast, along with two inland and two research facilities. This was the first feature article published in the TCAFS Newsletter.

Richard Ott, TCAFS President-elect, commented (in the November Newsletter) on his thoughts following a question someone had asked him what the role of TCAFS is after seeing his annual meeting T-shirt. Richard gave an answer that included all the different aspects of what fisheries biologists do that are members of the TCAFS. After careful thought he decided that the answer is much broader. Indeed, our core is related to fish, but we are also resource managers, administrators, clerks, scientists, educators, economists, marketers, data analysis's, researchers, regulators, taxonomists, toxicologists, chemists, aquaculturists, consultants .... the list is seemingly endless. Furthermore, fish are not the only organisms we do our "stuff" with, there are mollusks, commercially important (and tasty) invertebrates, commercially non-important invertebrates, destructive invertebrates, aquatic macrophytes, bacteria, phytoplankton, zooplankton colony filter feeders... Again, the list seems endless. When he tried to classify where we do our "stuff" and where organisms we do it with live, there was another list: lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, reservoirs, swamps, seeps, potholes, oxbows, bogs, bays, estuaries, oceans. Then he tried to classify the ecological factors or processes that influence the organisms or where they live. Climate, land use, human influence, economy, sociology, government, politics. The diversity is mind-boggling, and this has just scratched the surface. When forced to define who we are, he suddenly had a greater appreciation of our diversity both of purpose and of interest. Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society it's not just about fish anymore!

TCAFS Logo Enhancement by Craig Bonds. The green TCAFS logo with the Guadalupe bass has served our chapter well. However, to be more inclusive to our coastal colleagues, Chapter officers thought it would be a good move to include a saltwater fish on our logo. Because the Guadalupe bass is the state's official freshwater fish, we decided to also include the red drum, which is the state's official marine fish. We also decided that the green fish were blending into the green logo background and not allowing enough color contrast for the fish to visually "pop" out. We contacted Patrick Cooney, a graduate student at NC State and recent designer of the new SDAFS logo, to inquire if he'd be willing to help us design our enhanced logo. Patrick worked with our Chapter officers on numerous iterations of various designs, allowing us to settle on our two favorites. Now it's up to the Chapter membership to select their favorite logo option.



Graphic designs of two options for enhanced TCAFS logos.

History – (Michele Nations) - Michele reported that she has submitted information to Portal to Texas History at the University of North Texas. - Michele said that biographical sheets will be sent out in the upcoming newsletter. - Michele reported that efforts to redesign the History web page on the TCAFS website are near completion. - Michele requests the TCAFS 2011 and 2012 membership lists. - Michele reported that Ray Mathews is working on a history document. Michele also reported that the TCAFS Facebook page was being updated with photos and scholarship information.

Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday by Michele Nations. Past Scholarship Recipients in the Present – Where are They Now? Scholarships have been awarded by the TCAFS since 1989 with the goal of providing scholarships being to recognize academic and professional excellence and to help deserving students attain their educational and career goals in the fisheries-related sciences, and thereby promote good stewardship of the aquatic resources throughout the state. Winners are selected annually by the Scholarship Committee from applications submitted by undergraduate and graduate (M.S. and Ph. D.) students from across the state. The selection of the winners is based on 1) academic excellence, 2) professional activities, and the 3) promise of future professional involvement and 4) Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday by Michele Nations.

These scholarships mean more than money to the students who receive them, as I will show you in this and future articles. I want you to meet a few of the people who have won them and allow them to tell you what the scholarship meant to them. 1) Let's start with John Findeisen, one of the 1995 winners: The scholarship paid for my last semester (Spring 1996) of graduate school at Southwest Texas State University. In June 1996 I accepted a Fish and Wildlife Technician position with the Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and was stationed in Wichita Falls, Texas. 2) Another 1995 recipient, Gil Rosenthal gave me this report of what's been happening since he won the scholarship: I got my Ph.D. in 2000, did a postdoc at UCSD (University of California, San Diego) on visual

communication in marine fish, started a faculty job at Boston University in 2002, and moved to Texas A & M in 2006 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2009. The scholarship helped me conduct fieldwork for my Ph.D.



Photo of John Findeisen. Photo of Gil Rosenthal.

Michele Nations reported that in 1996, four scholarships were given out, with one going to Kenneth Ostrand. Through web searches Michele did her due diligence as Archivist and was able to find him and ask him about what was going on in his life. Here is his reply:

“I am currently the Deputy Director of the USFWS's San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center. After graduating from Tech, I worked for the Illinois Natural History Survey and was the Director of the Sam Parr Biological Station. I worked for them for about 5 years. I then took a position as the Program Head for the Ecological Physiology Program at the USFWS's Abernathy Fish Technology Center in Longview, Washington. I was there for about 7 years before taking my current position.”



Photo of Kenneth Ostrand doing field collections in river.

The next recipient that Michele contacted won scholarships in 2006 and 2009 – Josh Perkin. Like the previous people who have been presented in this article, he exemplifies what scholarships are all about. His dedication to the field of fisheries is evident because he has won 2 of the 3 possible scholarships, and he continues to excel in his career. After winning the undergraduate scholarship in 2006, I went on to graduate school at Texas State University-San Marcos and studied movement and habitat associations of the Guadalupe bass, as well as long-term patterns in stream flow and fish assemblage composition in the Guadalupe River Basin. As a Master of Science student, I was awarded the TCAFS Graduate Student Scholarship, as well as the Outstanding Fisheries Student of the Year Award in 2009. After graduating from Texas State University-San Marcos, I began work on a Ph.D. at Kansas State University where I studied fish biodiversity response to stream fragmentation and was awarded recognition from the AFS in the form of a John E. Skinner Memorial Award from the National AFS in 2010, the Otto Tiemeier/Frank

Cross award from the Kansas Chapter AFS in 2011, and Best Poster, as well as Best Paper presentations from the Kansas Chapter AFS during 2012. I actually handed in my dissertation just today (Nov. 2, 2012) and have accepted a postdoctoral research associate position split between Kansas State University and the University of New Mexico. Throughout my career as a graduate student, awards from the AFS served as motivational mile-marks and much-needed financial support that I used to further my career as a fisheries biologist. The Texas Chapter AFS will always be my home chapter, and I sincerely hope the future brings an opportunity to continue fisheries work in Texas and perhaps eventually a leadership role in the chapter.



Photo of Josh Perkin, recipient of the TCAFS Scholarships in 2006 & 2009.

Michele Nations summarized her findings as follows: As you can see from the stories of these people, it is a true honor to receive scholarship awards. On the History page of the TCAFS website, I mention that history is alive and that what is happening today is tomorrow's history. We need to capture today so that those who come after us will see our footsteps. We see the footsteps of the people who have won the scholarships, and if you look at history from the "footstep" perspective, you might see that their footsteps mark the record of leadership. Who will follow in their footsteps? Will it be you?



Graphic design of footsteps.

## **2013**

A dual chapter meeting was held on October 10, 2013, between EXCOM members from the Texas (TCAFS) and Oklahoma (OKCAFS) Chapters of the American Fisheries Society. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate and plan the upcoming joint meeting between the TCAFS and OKAFS chapters at the Tanglewood Resort and Conference Center on Lake Texoma (Pottsboro, TX) on February 13 – 15, 2014.

Richard Ott, TCAFS President's Message. Sometimes we take water for granted. Sure, 7/10th of the planet is covered by it and fresh water (the kind we can drink) is only 2% of that but what is the value of that water? According to my local water provider (Southern Utilities) the value of water is a flat fee of \$20.62 per month plus \$2.05/1,000 gallons (up to 10,000 gallons) and \$3.20/1,000 gallons for greater than 10,000 gallons. The irony of all this is that a resource needed by every living organism on the planet and that humans cannot survive without for more than about three days has so little financial value. As resource professionals we are often caught in the middle of these arguments trying to explain to aggravated constituents the vulgarities of Texas Water Rights laws. At the same time, we are conducting instream flow studies to estimate the biological value of water to the ecosystem. How much do the fish

need, how much does wildlife need, how much does the ecosystem need to continue to function? All these functions have value but putting a price tag on it can be very tricky and even trickier to explain to lawmakers. As our Texas population grows, and climate becomes more unpredictable the inevitable triage of water needs will need to be conducted. One of the functions of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society is to provide outreach and we do this at the local, regional, and national levels. Water allocation as well as water quality will become an increasingly important issue to be addressed by our membership.

The Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship was established in 2012 to honor Michael Gonzales, former Deputy Director of Technical Services at the San Antonio River Authority. This internship opportunity is awarded to a highly motivated outstanding undergraduate student of a Texas institute of higher education. The internship is designed to provide an individual interested in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, other Natural or Environmental Science to intern with the San Antonio River Authority Environmental Sciences Department in San Antonio, Texas.

### **Portal to Texas History**

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/TCAF/>

By Michele Nations

The Portal to Texas History was created and is maintained by the University of North Texas Libraries' Digital Projects Unit. They provide their digital content to a worldwide audience. Each month the Portal averages about 150,000 visits. Most of these come from people in the United States, but the rest are from every corner of the world. Visitors from Canada and the United Kingdom are the second and third highest in use. The source for most of the traffic to The Portal to Texas History is from search engines like Google, Yahoo, and Bing along with the social networking sites like Facebook. In 2002, when the UNT Libraries began planning The Portal to Texas History, their goal was to ensure long-term sustainability. In other words, they wanted to create a digital gateway to collect, archive, and display items of historical value in ways that would allow future generations to access what was collected. All of us have seen the progress of technology (e.g., computers that take up a floor in a building, punch cards fed into computers for programming, no internet (!), no email). Their challenge was/is to collect photos and documents from the past and present and digitally preserve the material for the future. They have also spent a great deal of time and money procured through grants and donations to ensure everything is backed up to several sites.

The UNT Portal to Texas History has partners consisting of Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, genealogical societies, and private families. And now, the Portal has the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society as one of its partners in preserving history. So far, Michele has provided 59 newsletters from 1987 to recent years and 80 photos from the 2012 annual meeting. She plans to continue adding recent photos and newsletters while reclaiming older items from documents and slides.

Capture Today . . . For Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday.

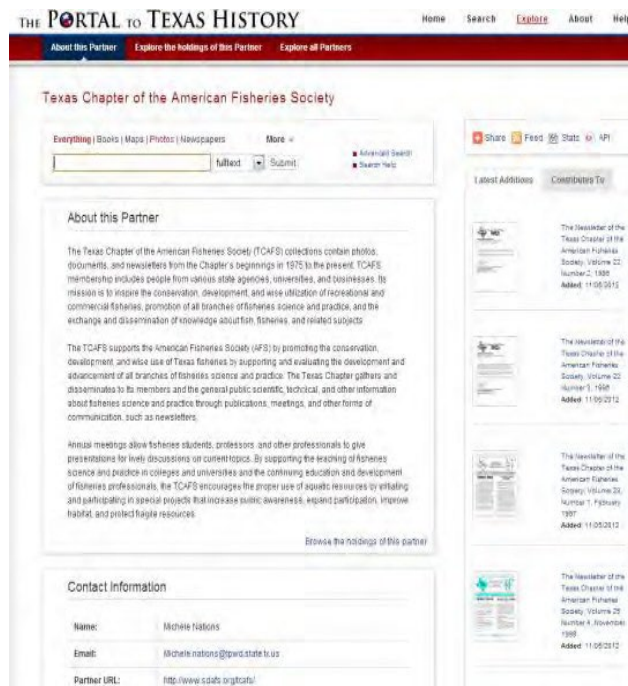


Photo of Portal to Texas History.

Richard Ott, President's Message: I am happy to announce our neighbors to the north the Oklahoma Chapter American Fisheries Society (OKAFS) will be joining us at Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro, TX for a joint meeting. This is both exciting and worrisome. Total attendance at our last few TCAFS annual meetings have hovered near 200; inclusion of OKAFS at the 2014 meeting is likely to increase that number by nearly half. To accommodate the increase in attendance (and consummate submission of presentations and posters) some temporary changes to the meeting format were necessary.

Bruce Hysmith, President-elect's message: Currently at issue are the zebra mussel infestation, blue-green algae blooms, and the effect of drought on Lake Texoma. Unfortunately, we cannot solve these issues; we can only promote awareness and provide public information to allow better understanding of these issues and their potential impacts. So far, the zebra mussels have not been as devastating as earlier reported in the great lakes' region, Kansas and Oklahoma. The stocking of two non-native fish species completely changed the angling complexion of Lake Texoma: 1) striped bass by ODWC in 1965 and 2) smallmouth bass by TPWD in 1981. Neither flood, severe winter, drought, nor invasive species have compromised recreational angling on Lake Texoma and as stewards of this vast resource, ODWC and TPWD personnel intend to maintain status quo.

TCAFS Student Scholarships will be fully funded in 2014 according to Dave Terre, Endowment Committee Chair. Thanks to generous donations by the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation and the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth, our student scholarship program will be fully funded during 2014. These donations also help build the financial security for our program into the future. The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation (PBHFF) donated \$17,500 to the TCAFS in September 2013. This will allow us to fully fund four scholarships at \$1, 500 each and allow us the opportunity to grow our Student Scholarship Endowment for the future. Our relationship with the PBHFF began in 2004 with a single donation of \$5,000. Since that time, they have provided funds for 33 scholarships over the past nine years. Because of the hard work of Jimmie and Kirk Green who continue to grow and nurture our relationship with the PBHFF, along with the proper management of our endowment investments, we are securing a solid future for our scholarship program.

Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting the PBHFF board members at our past two annual meetings and we hope that they will again attend our meeting at Lake Texoma in 2014. If you see them there, please let them know that we greatly appreciate all they've done for the TCAFS. In October, the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth (SCFW) agreed to fund two fisheries scholarships (\$1,500 each) to honor the legacy of one of their founding members, Harry Tennison. Our relationship with the SCFW began in 2011 because of some behind the scenes work by Dr. Ray Drenner who had a personal connection with this outstanding organization. Since that time, the SCFW has provided the funds necessary to allow us to award six scholarships over the past three years. We've accomplished this through a pass-through grant offered to students by the SCFW through their university. The SCFW allows us to use our proven student scholarship selection process to choose the Harry Tennison Scholarship award winners each year. This process is administered by Mike Morgan and the TCAFS Student Scholarship Committee.



Photo of student scholarship winners and Mike Morgan.

Award Committee Update by Dave Buzan. Texas chapter members and their supporters contribute significantly to our understanding of fish ecology, fisheries management, and recreational fishing both within the state and nation. At our 2013 Lake Conroe meeting, we recognized individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions both to our chapter and fisheries science. The summaries below offer only a brief glimpse into the broad, important contributions each of our awardees has made.

Special Recognition: Randy Rushin first began exhibiting at TCAFS at the 1998 meeting in Athens and has continued since the 2002 Junction meeting as founder of his company, Water Monitoring Solutions. Randy is a devoted supporter of the student scholarship fundraising efforts of our chapter. Over the years, he and his company have contributed more than \$10,000 through direct donations to the scholarship fund and purchases at the annual auction. To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of his company at last year's meeting in Galveston, Randy matched some of the auction's proceeds with a generous contribution of \$5,000.

Photo of Randy Rushin award.



Special Recognition: East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation is a conservation and philanthropic organization whose members share a passion for conservation, outdoor recreation and education, and community service. Since being founded in 1994, they funded construction of the native aquatic plant nursery at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. The foundation also secured a 20- year lease of private land along the Neches River to provide bank angling access to one of the state’s most popular white bass runs. It partnered with TPWD to pay angler tag return awards for a flathead catfish exploitation study. The foundation has funded multiple projects in support of kids fishing events at the Tyler Nature Center, including purchases of rainbow trout, fish feeders and feed, two fishing piers, an angler pavilion and fish cleaning station and rods and reels. Members regularly volunteer to assist with events and have even provided fish-cooking demonstrations to attendees.



Photo of East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation Special Recognition Award.

Special Recognition: Dr. Kirk Winemiller, who is a Regents professor at Texas A & M, his students, and collaborators have studied riverine and fish ecology throughout Texas and the world for over 20 years. This work is published in more than 200 scientific publications, agency reports and conference contributions. Dr. Winemiller served on the National Academy of Science committee that reviewed the Texas Instream Flows Program, was a member of the initial Science Advisory Committee established to help state agencies address environmental flows and has served as an advisor in the development of flow recommendations for several rivers in Texas. Recently he organized two special sessions on environmental flows and river ecosystem connectivity at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Austin, Texas.



Special Recognition:

Loraine Fries began her

TPWD career in 1989 at the old Lewisville hatchery and then moved to AE Wood and has, through the years, performed in many roles, fulfilling the needs of the Inland Fisheries Division whenever and wherever called upon. Loraine has been a prolific researcher and published extensively through the years. Her final position was Director for Analytical Services/ Inland Fisheries. A major portion of her recent research concentrated on golden algae, and she was an active member of the state's Golden Algae Task Force. After 24 years of service with TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division, Hatchery Branch, Loraine Fries hung up her dip nets, sampling gear, analytical tools and writing pen. Working with Drs. Bobby Whiteside, Dick Anderson, and Tom Brandt, Joe Fries evaluated effects of handfeeding versus demand-feeding on striped bass growth and survival. Later as biologist at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center, Joe Fries work shifted to working with salamanders, aquatic insects, and wild rice. He specialized in developing culture techniques for these species and has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles over the years. He also served as a Texas State University adjunct faculty member on numerous graduate student theses. With Loraine, Joe has recently retired and enjoys being a scuba diving grandparent.

Outstanding Fisheries Student: Rebecca Pizano, an MS student in the fisheries program at Texas A&M University, has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while immersed in her research. Her project showed how combined impacts of drought, low flows, high salinity, and concentration of pollution severely impacted the aquatic and riparian components of the Lower Neches.



Photo of Rebecca Pizano receiving Outstanding Fisheries Student Award.

Outstanding Fisheries Technician: Bill Hughes shows a passion and dedication for natural resource management that sets a standard for those around him to follow. Bill dedicated himself to expanding and managing the Native Aquatic Plant Nursery at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. He was instrumental in the nursery's design, construction, and maintenance. In 2012 he doubled the nursery's capacity by constructing an additional 6 raceways which he then populated by splitting existing nursery stock. Bill's efforts provided 1,228 mature native plants used in 10 different aquatic habitat projects across Texas in 2012.



Photo of Bill Hughes receiving Outstanding Fisheries Technician Award.

**Outstanding Fisheries Culturalist:** Jennifer Butler is an enthusiastic and highly skilled marine Fish Culturist at Sea Center Texas. She was instrumental in designing, acquiring, and installing rotifer culture equipment which has substantially increased production of marine rotifers, a key aspect of the state's successful southern flounder culture. The early success of the middle-coast spotted seatrout stocking program can be largely attributed to her role in coordinating collection of brood stock. Her contributions extend beyond the state. The past two years, she has helped Florida International University refine their culture techniques for larval spotted seatrout and red drum they were using for their toxicology work.



Photo of Jennifer Butler receiving Outstanding Fisheries Culturalist Award.

**Outstanding Fisheries Management:** Mark Webb is highly respected by his peers as a consummate professional who sees the big picture and knows how to bring people and resources together to reach a common goal. In his role as a district supervisor for TPWD's Inland Fisheries, Mark partnered with the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation to stock sport fishes in Lake Houston. Mark also used restitution from a pipeline spill to establish native aquatic plant nurseries and evaluate grass-carp-resistant native aquatic plants in Lake Raven. He, with two co-authors, published a manual for establishing native aquatic plants in reservoirs. This manual serves as a primary reference and establishes BMPs for the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership's habitat impairment mitigation strategies, a national effort.



Photo of award.

**Outstanding Fisheries Education:** George Guillen, an associate professor of biology and environmental science at the University of Houston Clear Lake, guides his students as they explore how land use affects urban watersheds, freshwater inflow supports populations of organisms, water and habitat quality affect health of marine and freshwater ecosystems, and oil and chemical spills impact estuarine ecology. George is the executive director of the Environmental Institute of Houston which has become a pacesetter in building partnerships in research, education, and outreach. Through his leadership, the Institute encourages environmental literacy within the greater Houston – Galveston area by providing environmental and science-oriented educator workshops.



Photo of award.

**Outstanding Fisheries Administration:** Tim Birdsong is Chief of Habitat Conservation for TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division. In partnership with Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, Tim led development of the Southeastern US Native Black Bass Initiative, a new National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Keystone Initiative expected to provide over \$30M in new funding for river conservation in the region over the next 10 years. Tim was the primary author of the Business Plan for the overall regional initiative and of three successful grant proposals selected for funding through the initiative. The three grants provided TPWD \$425,000 for conservation of Guadalupe bass populations in the Llano River.



Photo of award.

Dan Fitzgerald (center) receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Chapter president George Guillen (left) and Kevin Mayes, Chair of the Clark Hubbs Committee (right).



Photo of award.

## **2014**

Bruce Hysmith, President's message: TCAFS 2014 at Tanglewood Resort on Lake Texoma was a definite hoot! Despite some early problems with reservations and such, things leveled out and we had a great meeting. We had lots of space and rooms which provided excellent accommodation. I do not think anybody golfed, but Tanglewood has a great course. And fishing, I think maybe a few of you indulged in our fishing. Bruce accepted being Chapter President. As Richard Ott, Past-President passed the historic Skeg of Responsibility to Bruce, and wish him the best for the upcoming year, he also asked the membership to look inward and determine if they can serve the chapter in some capacity.

Kevin Story, President-elect's message: I got quite a surprise in our most recent business meeting at Lake Texoma when outgoing president Richard Ott brought it to the attention of our membership that I have served as Newsletter Editor since 2005. I am still enjoying that role because it allows me to lend a hand in keeping the Texas Chapter running, it is something I enjoy doing and it does not require too much of my time. From my background in Marine Biology, I am reminded of hermit crabs that can retreat into the safety of their shells but eventually they outgrow their homes and need to find bigger ones. May we all grow together in our quest to fill bigger shells!



Michele Nations, History Committee Chair, reported that the Facebook page for the TCAFS included new posts of approximately 100 photos from the annual meeting. Michele made a request of members to let her know who are in the pictures to link for the history aspect. She wants to post any events, programs, etc. to spread the word about what the Chapter is doing.

Michele started a Twitter account for the Chapter – @TCAFS. She has been entering metadata for the photos and newsletters that she has submitted to UNT Portal to Texas History (into the Portal site and in her photo and membership Access databases). She has continued collecting professional and biographical info from TCAFS members and will be sending a request for a curriculum vitae (CV) from members to update her library. Michele worked with the families of Gary Powell and Dennis Smith to prepare for the poster and presentations. Michele wanted to thank the following people for helping her prepare and set up the Gary Powell memorial poster and the Memories PowerPoint presentation in the hall at annual meeting. Dan Daugherty, Debbie Wade, Ray Mathews, Rick Ott, Jake Norman, Greg Southard, John Taylor, and Danny Lewis.

John Taylor and Danny Lewis, Internet Committee, reported that Podcasts of the presentations from this year's meeting will be up on the website in a couple of weeks. John and Danny worked with Gloria Schoenholtz in early March to get the TCAFS website converted to WordPress and mentioned perhaps having a demonstration next year of the platform. Danny mentioned adding Michele Nations to the Internet Committee considering her online work with the Facebook page and Twitter.

Kevin Storey, Newsletter Editor, reported that there have been some issues with losing the listserv, but the new email group system (Google Groups) seems to be working satisfactorily. The company that formerly serviced the listserv for AFS and a selection of chapters went out of business.

Fran Gelwick, TAMU-AFS advisor, reported that the student chapter sold T-shirts during the 2014 annual meeting as well as a planned fundraiser (fish fry) held the following weekend. Both increased funds for the sub-chapter, which uses the money to pay some costs for TAMU-AFS members to attend the TCAFS annual meetings.

Dave Buzan, Awards Committee Chair, reported at our 2014 Lake Texoma meeting, we celebrated the contributions of our colleagues to fisheries. Texas chapter members and their supporters contribute significantly to our understanding of fish ecology, fisheries management, and recreational fishing both within the state and nation. Special thanks to chapter members who submitted nominations and Awards Committee members (Leslie Hartmann, Mukhtar Farooqi, Dave Terre, Robert Mauk, Mark Webb, and John Payne). Outstanding Achievement Awards are presented below.

### **2014 Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award Winners**

**Special Recognition – Gary Garrett:** Gary played a leadership role over the past 4 decades in the conservation of Texas native fishes and recovery of imperiled fishes throughout the desert southwest. He authored more than 70 scientific publications on the conservation of natural resources in Texas and in 2009 became Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Watershed Policy and Management Program. He served in that role until his recent retirement. He has served as president of several conservation societies, editor of three scientific journals, and led multiple imperiled fish recovery teams.



Gary Garrett in kayak.

**Special Recognition - Fishes of Texas Team:** Dean Hendrickson, Adam Cohen, Ben Labay, Doug Martin, Melissa Casarez, Texas Natural History Collections, University of Texas at Austin. The Fishes of Texas Project documents fish occurrences in Texas, using specimen-based records from 46 museums, and makes them accessible to anyone via the web, functioning as a virtual museum. The project does far more than just serve compiled data. It also normalizes, georeferences, and verifies specimen identifications; all accompanied by extensive documentation. It is the single most authoritative source for documentation of distributions of all Texas fishes over space and time. The Fishes of Texas team’s iNaturalist website provides an efficient and effective way for anyone interested in the state’s fishes to update and expand the museum database and interact with curators. The modeling and conservation planning research done by the Fishes of Texas team has helped maximize the value of its high-quality database for applied fish and aquatic conservation management actions.



L-R: Rick Ott (TCent), Dean Hendrickson (Fishes of Texas Team), Dave Buzan (Awards Committee Chair)

**Special Recognition – Todd Driscoll:** Todd is a skilled communicator and a leader of teams. His accomplishments during the past year were exceptional. Most notable were manuscript publications in peer-reviewed journals (1 in print; 1 in press; and 1 accepted); approval of his Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership grant proposal and partnership collaboration; implementing largemouth bass length limit change, surveying anglers, and increased access at Lake Kurth; developing a justification (in collaboration with the Louisiana Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife) for the proposal to change blue and channel catfish length limit on TX/LA border waters; and documenting Lake Naconiche fishery characteristics following grand opening.



Todd Driscoll at Lake Kurth.

**Outstanding Fisheries Student – Tony Rodgers:** Tony has an outstanding academic record, both as an undergraduate fisheries student at South Dakota State University (Dean’s List every semester) and as a Master of Science fisheries student at Texas A&M. He worked part-time and as a summer employee for South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa on fisheries projects. For his master’s thesis at Texas A&M, Tony is researching the relationship between flow variation and reproduction, recruitment, and growth of several minnow species in the Trinity and Brazos Rivers. This project involves collaboration with the River Studies Unit of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and findings will contribute to the goals of the Texas Instream Flows Program.



L-R: Rick Ott (TCAFS President), Tony Rodgers receiving award, Dave Buzan (Awards Committee Chair).

**Outstanding Fisheries Technical Support – Patsy Berry:** Patsy is the Staff Services Officer for Region 2 at Texas Parks and Wildlife in Waco and has worked for the agency for over 25 years. For several years, Patsy has helped support the Texas Chapter with conference setup, registration, and auction accounting. In addition to the technical support she provides, you can always find Patsy helping those who "look lost" and do not know which direction to go at our meetings.



L-R: Rick Ott (TCAFS Prent), Patsy Berry receiving award, Dave Buzan (Awards Committee Chair).

**Outstanding Fisheries Culturist – Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery Team:** The Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery Team consists of Dale Lyon, John Paret, Tom Wyatt, Ryan Rogers, and Charles McDougall.



L-R: Rick Ott (TCAFS President), John Paret receiving Outstanding Fisheries Culturist award, Dave Buzan (Awards Committee Chair).

The team was called upon to domesticate striped bass brood fish to be used in the event wild-caught brooders are not available. The Possum Kingdom Hatchery staff developed proper fish care protocols, adequate feeding schedules and effective temperature and photoperiod cycles resulting in useful female brood fish for egg/fry production, after being held in captivity for one year. These processes are complex and exacerbated by the fact that striped bass are not normally responsive to this type of captive environment. The first successful spawning of captive brood fish occurred in 2010, and over a four-year period, the staff at Possum Kingdom has produced approximately 1.8 million fry, and 170,000 fingerlings.

**Outstanding Fisheries Management – Brad Littrell:** Brad has participated in the development of management plans for areas such as Cedar Ridge Reservoir near Abilene, Lower San Antonio River Basin Texas Instream Flow Program (TIFP), and Brackenridge Park Ecological Study in San Antonio. He coordinates with different agencies, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Brazos River Authority (BRA), Sabine River Authority (SRA), San Antonio River Authority (SARA), and Lower



Brad Littrell receiving Outstanding Fisheries Management Award.

Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to develop fisheries management strategies.

**Outstanding Fisheries Education – Reynaldo Patiño:**

Reynaldo has worked in fisheries education and research in Texas for over 26 years. He is the Unit Leader of the USGS Texas Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit and Professor of Natural Resources Management and Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University. He has developed/revised and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in aquaculture and aquatic ecophysiology for 25 years at Texas Tech and trained and mentored nearly 50 graduate and



L-R: Rick Ott (TCAFS President), Reynaldo Patiño receiving Outstanding Fisheries Education award, Dave Buzan (Awards Committee Chair).

undergraduate students and postdoctoral and research associates.

**Outstanding Fisheries Researcher – Warren Schlechte:** has worked as a research biologist/biometrician for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for about 15 years and currently serves as the Research Coordinator for Inland Fisheries Management Special Projects. He assists with study design and data analysis for most of the management, research, and hatcheries biologists. He conducts research in fisheries management, collaborates on hatchery research, and teaches basic statistical procedures to hatchery staff. He has authored/co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed articles and written three book chapters. Three of his publications won the John F.



Warren Schlechte with award.

Dequine Award for Best Paper, and two of his presentations made at 30 professional meetings were awarded Best Presentation.

**Outstanding Fisheries Administration – Dave Terre:**

Dave, who is currently the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s Chief of Inland Fisheries Management and Research, has been a fisheries biologist for over 30 years. He coordinates Texas’ inland fisheries management and research programs, guiding strategic planning, budgeting, communication, recommendations, and operations. He also coordinates department participation in the Toyota Texas Bass Classic which has yielded nearly \$2 million dollars in support of department outreach initiatives, national promotion of Texas fisheries, and new partnerships with public and private partners.



L-R: Rick Ott (TCAFS President), David Terre receiving Outstanding Fisheries Administration award, Dave Buzan (Awards Committee Chair)

**2014 Student Scholarship Award Winners**



Endowment Chair Dave Terre (left) and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan (right), pose with 2014 scholarship recipients (left to right) Harry Tennyson Scholarship by the Sportsman’s Club of Fort Worth winners Lisa Havel and Maëlle Cornic and TCAFS Student Scholarship Award winners Landes Randall, Jessica East, Takona Tipton, and Crystal Purcell. Scholarships were each worth \$1,500.

**Clark Hubbs Student Research Award - Jessica East:**

Jessica accepts the award from Kevin Mayes, Chair of the Clark Hubbs Committee. She earned degrees in Zoology and Conservation Biology, with a minor in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a Graduate Certificate in Fisheries Management from Oregon State University while working for the Oregon Department of Fish and



Wildlife. She is currently working on a master's degree at Texas Tech University.



**2014 TCAFS Student Scholarship Award** winner Crystal Purcell and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan. Crystal, a native of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, is a B.S. student at the University of Dallas majoring in Biology. She comes by a love of angling and hunting naturally; her father is a District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

**2014 Harry Tennyson Scholarship by the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth winners:**

Endowment Chair Dave Terre (left) presents 2014 Harry Tennyson Scholarship awards made available by the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth to winners **Lisa Havel** (center) and **Maëlle Cornic** (right). Lisa is working on a Ph.D. at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute where she is studying the settlement process in larval red drum, primarily through behavioral experiments in the field and laboratory. Maëlle is working on her Ph.D. in Dr. Jay Rooker's lab at Texas A&M University at Galveston studying the early life ecology of blackfin, bluefin and yellowfin tuna larvae in the Gulf of Mexico.



**2014 TCAFS Student Scholarship Award** winner **Jessica East** and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan. Jessica is pursuing a master's degree at Texas Tech University working on the food web ecology of the Pecos River.

**2014 TCAFS Student Scholarship Award** winner **Landes Randall** and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan. Landes is a master's student in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Texas A&M University under Dr. Jay Rooker. She is studying the distribution and



abundance of larval bluntnose flying fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico and trying to understand the oceanographic conditions that affect their densities.



**2014 TCAFS Student Scholarship Award winner Takona Tipton and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan** and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan. Takona is a senior at Texas A&M University studying Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. She was chosen as the Outstanding Sophomore in the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences in 2013. After graduation in December, she plans to pursue a master's degree.

Endowment Committee Chair Dave Terre, with Greg Courington, Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation Board Member, and Jimmie and Kirk Green enjoyed the 2014 meeting at the Tanglewood Resort on Lake Texoma.



**Michele Nations, Historian, presented tributes for TCAFS members who passed away in 2013:**

**Poster and PowerPoint Tribute to Gary L. Powell:**

**Education**  
A.B.D. Vertebrate Zoology (Ichthyology), 1969-1975, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.  
A. B. Zoology (Chemistry), 1965-1969, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

**Professional History**  
President, Aquatic Science Associates, Environmental Consultants, 2003-2013.  
Division Director, Texas Water Development Board, 1985-2003.  
Program Director, Texas Water Development Board, 1975-1985.  
Research Scientist III, National Institute of Health, 1973-1975.  
Graduate Teaching Assistant and Laboratory Instructor in genetics, physiology, comparative anatomy, ecology and environmental science; University of Texas at Austin, 1969-1975.

**Affiliations**  
American Fisheries Society, Texas Chapter  
American Institute of Fish Research Biologist (Fellow)  
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists  
Ecological Society of America  
Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association (Europe)  
Estuarine Research Federation  
Gulf Estuarine Research Society  
North American Lake Management Society

**Selected Projects**

- Chairperson, Scientific Review Panels, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Brooksville, Florida, 2005-2008.
- Member, Peer Review Panel, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, Sarasota, Florida, 1998-2008. (Hydrological-Biological Monitoring Plan)
- Environmental Consultant for Canyon Regional Water Authority, New Braunfels, Texas, 2004-2006. (Water Rights Permit, Application for Amendment; review of expert testimony)
- Environmental Consultant for Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin, Texas, 2004-2005. (Matagorda Bay Health Study)
- Program Director, Texas Instream Flow Program, Texas Water Development Board, Austin, Texas, 1987-2003.
- Program Director, Texas Bays & Estuaries Program, Texas Water Development Board, Austin, Texas, 1975-2003.

## GARY POWELL

### A Successful Man

1947—2013



**Scientist**



**Husband**



**Brother**



**Son**



**Father**



**Grandfather**



**Teammate**

**In Memory of Gary Powell**

Donations may be made in honor of Gary Powell by writing a check to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment. In the memo section, write "In memory of Gary Powell." These donations will be credited to the Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship Award.

Gift amounts are tax-deductible to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Checks can be sent to:  
TCAFS Endowments Committee  
6505 Fressia Ct.  
Austin, TX 78739



*Today is tomorrow's yesterday!*

**PowerPoint and Article Tribute to Dennis Smith:  
Dennis Gene Smith  
November 15, 1965 – December 12, 2013**

Dennis Gene Smith, 48, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at his residence in Wichita Falls, Texas. Dennis was a member of TCAFS and had served on the Executive Committee as the chairman of the Membership Committee for the Chapter for many years.

He graduated from Windthorst High School in 1984 and from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in wildlife management. He had completed his studies for his master's degree in aquatic biology from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos but never had the time to complete his thesis because he went to work full-time for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1993. He was the hatchery manager at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery near Electra, Texas at the time of his death.

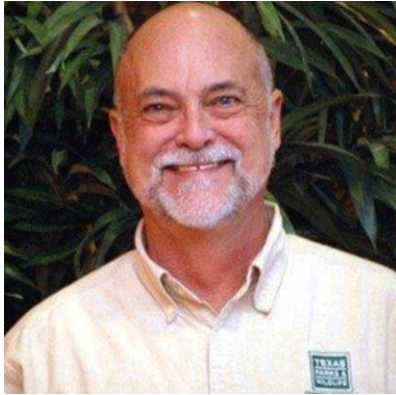


Dundee State Fish Hatchery Staff: L-R, Cody Talley, Bobby Spencer, Daniel Field, Drew Begley, Jesse Ibarra, Don Reinisch, Greg Polk, Ryan Rogers, Dennis Smith, and Tom Wyatt

Dennis was a member of the award-winning TPWD Golden Algae Task Force: Back row, L-R, Jason Vajnar, Tom Dorzab, and Jake Isaac. Front row, L-R, John Paret, Gerald Kurten, Aaron Barkoh, and Dennis Smith.



In the summer TCAFS newsletter, Kevin Storey included in his President-elect's message: As fisheries professionals, we have a shared concern about water resources and droughts usually get our attention. The upcoming TCAFS annual meeting in Tyler from January 15-17, 2015, will have the theme "Drought and its effects on Texas fisheries."



Paul Hammerschmidt has retired from TPWD after 41 years. He began my career with TPWD in 1974 as a Wildlife and Fisheries Technician in Rockport. Since then, my career has been a diverse one. He was area biologist for the San Antonio Bay System, Blue Crab Program leader, Research Director at the Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research 4 Station, and Director of the Artificial Reef Program. He was 2-term chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Crab Committee and President of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in 2000. He has written over 35 scientific and peer-reviewed publications as an author and co-author. And for the longest

time I began to think my name was Anonymous from the numerous documents I had written or contributed to writing while in Austin. Some of the most significant ones include complete rewrites of the shrimp and oyster proclamations. He said he was proud to have helped to develop the shrimp and blue crab license limitation programs and to coordinate the compilation of the 38 volumes of Administrative Record Discovery materials for a lawsuit brought against the agency by the shrimping industry. After transferring to Headquarters in 1993, I was given the job of coordinating many of the division's programmatic responsibilities to the agency, such as the regulatory and rule-making process, Legislative Budget Board (LBB) Measures, the Blue Crab Advisory Committee, education and outreach activities, and Expo. Photo of Paul Hammerschmidt in TPWD shirt  
Photo of Hollandsworth Family (Vol. 40 (2))



Gary Saul, Director of Inland Fisheries for the TPWD retired after 23 years. Gary Saul started work at TPWD in 1982 in Coastal Fisheries as Director of Finfish Programs and later as Director of Harvest Programs where he worked to refine the sampling procedures used in fisheries surveys. Probably his best accomplishment in Coastal was recommending Robin Riechers be hired as our economist. Gary left the Department after 6 years to work on national environmental issues for almost 10 years. During that time, he joined the faculty and taught at Texas State University and was selected to serve on the National Research Council/ National Academy of Science's Committee examining the decline of sea turtles. Gary returned to TPWD in 1997 to develop a strategy for addressing the infrastructure and permit issues facing freshwater fish hatcheries. He was promoted to Chief of

Fish Hatcheries and subsequently Deputy Director. Much of the work done by our team provided the justification for pursuing the Freshwater Fishing Stamp. Gary played a role in bringing the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) enterprise to the Department. Photo of Gary Saul.



**In Memoriam – Robert Paul Schmidt II.**  
1957-2014  
By Carl Kittel

Photo of Robert Paul Schmidt II in kayak.

On July 29, 2014, the U.S. aquaculture community lost a respected member and leader when Robert Paul Schmid, II passed away in a work-related accident in San Marcos, Texas. Rob served as the Hatchery Manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery since 2008, where he and his team are known for their exceptional productivity and innovation in helping to rear fish for stocking purposes in Texas' lakes and reservoirs. From 1991 to 2007, Rob built and managed Simaron Freshwater Fish Inc., in Waller Texas. In the 1980s, Rob attended Florida Institute of Technology and earned a B.S. in Aquaculture. Rob then worked on numerous aquaculture research and production projects including the culture of Mahi Mahi in Florida and Hawaii before joining Simaron. Rob was also active in the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the World Aquaculture Society.

*History: Michele Nations reported on the recent unexpected loss of TPWD Inland Fisheries employee Rob Schmid, who was the hatchery manager at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos, TX.*



Photo of Robert Paul Schmidt II in hatchery.

In the Winter Issue of the TCAFS Newsletter (Vol. 40 (3)), Bruce Hysmith, in his President's message, reminded us of the following:

2014 has been one heck of a year for me. For sure my interests in fisheries and related issues is waning and sitting next to the swimming pool with a cool beverage and tending my myriad of potted plants has become paramount. I never thought the day would come, but I am so ready for retirement, I am sure I will regret it, right now I am ready. My interests and thoughts now lead me on travelling excursions with Wanda and sometimes granddaughters Payton and Emily. Payton is a senior at Denison High School and Emily is a sophomore.

And now a word about the state of our fisheries. To no one's surprise, the state of our fisheries is tied to the recent climatological events associated with drought. Since the onset of our most recent drought, changes have come about in our reservoirs and streams. Golden alga, zebra mussels, giant salvinia, bighead and silver carp and a myriad of other invasive plant and animal species sort of head the list and the list may be growing. I can remember reading about zebra mussels infesting waters of the Great Lakes, but the thought of them being in my Lake Texoma never occurred to me, but here they are, and they will probably eventually spread throughout drainage systems across the length and breadth of Texas.

### **2014 National Fish Habitat Award Winners Honored**

The winners of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP)/American Fisheries Society (Habitat Section) Awards were honored for their extraordinary achievements at the Restore America's Estuaries/Coastal

Society Summit, in conjunction with the National Fish Habitat Board meeting on Wednesday, November 5th at the Gaylord Convention Center, just outside of Washington, DC. Tim Birdsong of Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) of Alaska received the National Fish Habitat Partnership's Fish Habitat Award for Extraordinary Action in Support of Fish Habitat Conservation. Tim's work on the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative centered on conserving Guadalupe Bass in rivers of the Texas Hill Country.



Tim Birdsong of Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) of Alaska received the National Fish Habitat Partnership's Fish Habitat Award for Extraordinary Action in Support of Fish Habitat Conservation.

Tim's work on the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative centered on conserving Guadalupe Bass in rivers of the Texas Hill Country. Conservation efforts have involved a range-wide genetic assessment of Guadalupe Bass, refinements to Guadalupe Bass culture techniques, fish stockings, fish population and habitat assessments, fish habitat restoration, and an economic impact study. These collective actions have contributed to the repatriation of Guadalupe Bass populations in portions of the Blanco and San Antonio rivers, and the preservation of genetically secure, self-sustaining populations of Guadalupe Bass in the Pedernales and Llano Rivers.

## **2015**

Kevin Story, Chapter President, made a point in his message to the Chapter about the importance of climate change, drought years vs. flood years, and reservoir storage impact on fisheries. His opening statement was "What a difference a year makes! This time last year, Texas was gripped in an extensive drought and the drought map was colored with shades of red, orange, and yellow that it gave the appearance the state was on fire. At that time, according to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), reservoir storage capacity of the 119 reservoirs they monitor was 25,296,619 acre-ft and based on their combined Conservation Storage and Conservation Capacities they were 66.5% full." A year later, it was a different story. He reported that "This spring the rain started and it seemed like it would never stop, an event that could draw parallels with the biblical account in Genesis 7:24 where "The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days". This month, Kevin reported that the reservoirs that TWDB monitors are 83.6% full and reservoir storage is up to 38,902,895 acre-ft. We fisheries

professionals are relieved our freshwater systems are recharged and our fish have more room to swim in and our anglers don't have to contend with access issues. Unfortunately, the deluge of water has come at an enormous cost to many of our citizens. Extensive flooding in areas has resulted in losses of lives, possessions, property, livestock, wildlife and livelihoods. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down..."

Dave Buzan, President-elect, reminded us in his message that the 40th Anniversary TCAFS Meeting in 2016. He asked members to set their calendars for our 2016 annual meeting which will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our chapter. Reserve your calendars for the tentative meeting date: January 21-23, 2016, and set your GPS for the unique YO Ranch Hotel in scenic Kerrville.



Dave Buzan stated that he has been working on the Keynote Speaker's address, which he plans to focus on advances in fish biology, fish ecology, and fisheries management during the past 40 years. Specifically, Dave would like the address to focus on the contributions of all levels of staff for various agencies and companies and emphasize how every role has led to major advances in fisheries. Dave further elaborated that day-to-day contributions are often overlooked and that this address is a prime opportunity to highlight them. Dave Buzan requested assistance from Dave Terre, which they plan to collaborate on these efforts.

History (Michele Nations): Michele thanked the chapter for remembering that we are entering the 40th year. Michele will be working with Dave Terre and Ray Mathews (previous historian) to create a slideshow and handbook for the 2016 annual meeting that will highlight the chapter throughout the last 40 years.

Michele Nations, TCAFS Historian, provided Part 1 of Dick Luebke's presentation, given during the January 2001 TCAFS meeting (from the February 2015 Winter issue of the TCAFS Newsletter, Volume 41(1)). What follows is the second and remaining installment, which provides information from the Chapter's 25th history and anniversary by Ray Mathews, TCAFS Historian. Our 40th anniversary is coming up next year, and we are going to begin celebrating this year as we reminisce about "Then and Now." We might also start taking glimpses toward the future and what the 50th anniversary might include!

TCAFS PRESENTATION – PART 2 by Dick Luebke - 1/22/2001 1990 to 2001. I think the decade of the 1990's was when the Texas Chapter really came into its own. We had enough members and enough financial resources so that we could tackle some big tasks and not only accomplish them but accomplish them in style. Here are some of the most noteworthy accomplishments from the 1990s:

- ◆ In 1990 we finally cleared the last hurdle to get our annual proceedings sanctioned by the parent society, so we are no longer considered gray literature.
- ◆ The year 1990 also saw the Texas Chapter award its first two college scholarships. We gave two that year for \$150 each. By comparison, this year we will be giving four scholarships of \$700 each. Since 1990 we have given 30 more to deserving undergraduate and graduate students across Texas. After all, these students represent the future of Texas fisheries. What better investment can our Chapter make?
- ◆ In 1991 we showed what we could really do when we joined forces with the TPWD and hosted the 121st Annual Meeting of the Parent Society in San Antonio. Those of us who worked on that project know how much time and determination it took, but we also know how much it was noticed by our colleagues around the country. The Texas Chapter was something to be reckoned with!
- ◆ The next year, 1992, we decided to be gluttons for punishment and again teamed up with the TPWD to host the 46th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) in Corpus Christi. This was another enormous effort that helped show what our Chapter was and is capable of.
- ◆ In 1994 and 1996, revisions to the Texas Fishery Workers Directory were printed and distributed to Chapter members.
- ◆ We won an award from the Southern Division as the Outstanding State Chapter in 1996.
- ◆ Our Urban Fishing Committee completed and distributed a publication entitled "Guide to Developing Community Fisheries" (<http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tc-manuals/>).
- ◆ Also, in 1996 we threw our hat in the electronic communications ring by developing our own Texas Chapter website, thanks to Fred Janssen (<http://sdafs.org/tcafs/>).
- ◆ By 1997, we couldn't stand the fact that we'd gone several years without hosting some kind of national or regional meeting, so we teamed up with the Oklahoma Chapter to host the Southern Division mid-year meeting in San Antonio. Once again, not only did we pull it off successfully, we pulled it off with style and, I might add, a substantial monetary profit. In fact, I think it was that mid-year meeting that caused the Southern Division leadership to require any profits from subsequent mid-year meetings to go to the Division rather than to the Chapters. See what you get for doing such a good job?
- ◆ We added as a regular feature to our annual meetings Continuing Education and Special Workshops.
- ◆ Last year, in 2000, we took our previous successes at joint Chapter meetings to a new level when we teamed up with both Arkansas and Louisiana to have a 3-Chapter joint meeting in Bossier City, Louisiana. I think by all accounts it was a tremendous success for everyone. I know this has taken considerable time to present, but I think it's important to see where the Texas Chapter has been to fully appreciate where we are now (2001) and where we can go from here. I've been fortunate enough to have been along for

the ride the entire first 25 years, and I have to say that my active participation in the Chapter has truly enriched my professional fisheries career.

Dave Buzan reported that our past-President, Bruce Hysmith retired in September 2015 after a 41-year career in fisheries management. It's sobering to realize he has worked in the fisheries field longer than the Texas Chapter AFS has existed! He has long been a fixture at our annual meeting as auctioneer and under his direction untold sums of money have been squeezed out of the pockets of members in support of student scholarships. He retired from that post a few years ago but filled in again at the Tyler meeting, an event that became the swan song for the "Bruce Show"!

Retirement tribute to Bruce Hysmith by Michele Nations, TCAFS Historian. Bruce first received his bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from the University of Central Oklahoma (formerly Central State College) at Edmond. From there, he went on to earn a master's degree in fish and wildlife management from Oklahoma State University where he wrote his master's thesis entitled "Influence of Sediment Cycling on Primary Productivity in Lake Carl Blackwell, Oklahoma." Upon graduation from OSU, he was hired as a research zoologist for the Dow Chemical Company performing shrimp aquaculture research and development in Freeport, Texas. He began his career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in the Coastal Fisheries Division at the Perry R. Bass Marine Research Station (formerly Marine Fisheries Research Station) near Palacios in 1974. Even though he was only there for three years, he conducted research and published results on the hatching and pond rearing of penaeid shrimp, spotted sea trout, red drum, and striped bass. The highlight of which was pond rearing red drum on artificial diet and acclimating fingerlings to freshwater for stocking in inland reservoirs. In 1977, seeking more challenges and wanting to head back north, he transferred to an Inland Fisheries Division position as fisheries biologist in charge of the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station where he was to be responsible for managing fishes in all the public waters of eight North Texas counties.



*Bruce and friend on Lake Texoma, 1978*



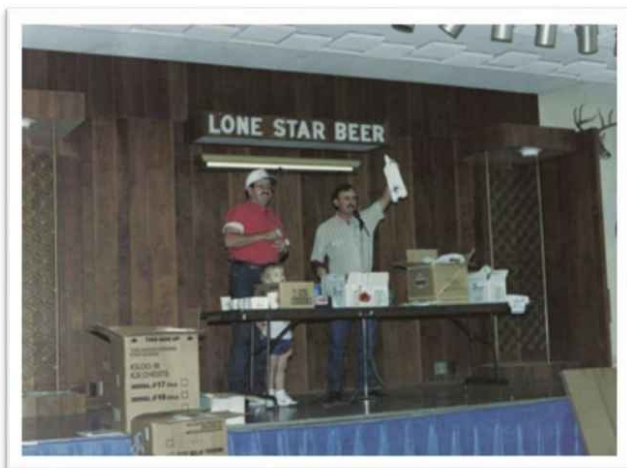
*December 1984, Bruce sitting at this desk at the Lake Texoma Station. Photo by Ronnie Ballard.*

Thirty-eight years of hard work have yielded some major accomplishments, in which he: 1. Helped to institute uniform fish harvest regulations on Lake Texoma for Texas and Oklahoma; 2. Worked to create a Texoma Fishing License good in Texas and Oklahoma waters of Lake Texoma; 3. Assisted in a seasonal pool and lake level management plan for Lake Texoma; 4. Played a role in developing a premier striped bass fishery in Lake Texoma following stockings by Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to establish stripers; 5. Established a reproducing population of smallmouth bass in Lake Texoma; 6.

Developed pre-impoundment strategy for newly impounded Lake Ray Roberts to include nursery ponds for young Florida largemouth bass and channel catfish and fish habitat; 7. Cultivated constituent support like the Six Old Geezers fishing club who provided initial funding for two of their newest and largest boats valued at some \$80,000; 8. Resisted the Red River Chloride Control Project; 9. Participated in developing a shoreline management plan and a seasonal water pool for Lake Texoma; and 10. Authored or co-authored around 14 scientific publications and 100 Federal Aid Project Reports. Favorite among research projects was the “Striped Bass Hooking Mortality on Lake Texoma” in 1992 where he and his colleagues HAD to fish for stripers in Lake Texoma for two years. It was a tough job, but someone had to do it!



Bruce has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1969 in graduate school days and a member of the TCAFS since 1976. One of his enjoyable jobs for the chapter was auctioneering at annual meetings, which he began in 1988 and finished in 2011. As Bruce explains, “The auction/raffle grew over the years and participation was great; our folks are very generous and it showed in our steady increase in revenue.”



*Left: TCAFS president Earnest Alan (Mac) McCune and Bruce at the auction and raffle in the Lone Star Party Room during the 1989 annual meeting in San Antonio.*



*Rick Ott transfers the leadership of the TCAFS over to Bruce at the 2014 Chapter meeting.*

He contributed his energy and enthusiasm to help TCAFS in various roles besides that of auctioneer. He was the chair of the Continuing Education Committee from 1998 to 2007, and then when he said, "I am right at the lick-log of retirement, again, and I consented to be a candidate for President-elect of the Texas Chapter AFS. Am I crazy or what? I take serving very seriously, serving the membership of the Texas Chapter AFS." He won the nomination in 2013 and became president in 2014. Again, he accomplished what he set out to do - to develop a bistate meeting for 2014 with the Oklahoma Chapter AFS in the Lake Texoma area. When contacted about meeting with the TCAFS, the Oklahoma chapter moved their meeting time from fall to winter to accommodate the joint venture. Bruce worked with them and successfully coordinated the planning of the meeting that was held at Tanglewood on Texoma Resort. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie between the two chapters. Bruce formally retired as a 41-year-veteran fisheries biologist with TPWD at the end of August, 2015. Now he is beginning a new career called retirement! He and his wife Wanda reside in Denison in the same house they've lived in for the past 35 years. Wanda is retired from the Denison Independent School District (DISD). They plan to travel around and see their four grown children, nine grandchildren (half of which are grown), and four great-grandchildren. Also, Bruce serves as vice-president of the DISD board of trustees and commissioner on the Denison Housing Authority Commission, and Wanda is on the board of directors of the Jack and Jill Day Care Center in Denison.

#### SEAFWA 2015 Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Brian Van Zee

Brian Van Zee of Waco was named fisheries biologist of the year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). Van Zee is a fisheries biologist for the Inland Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and is headquartered in Waco. "It gives me great pleasure to present this year's Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award to Brian Van Zee," SEAFWA President Bob Ziehmer said. "His contributions to fisheries conservation that began in Texas have led to ripples across the country." Van Zee was instrumental in helping TPWD deal with one of the greatest threats Texas fisheries resources have faced, the introduction of invasive zebra mussels to Texas waters. "Brian developed and fostered more than 40 key partnerships that helped our agency and constituents

understand and address this very dynamic and complicated situation,” said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith, who nominated Van Zee for the award. Through new relationships with governmental agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, private industry and the media, Van Zee fostered collaborative information gathering and sharing, training, statewide monitoring, education and awareness, and delivery of two innovative control efforts. “Brian has been at the forefront of our efforts to contain the rapidly expanding population and to try and keep it from threatening other waters,” Smith said. “Simply put, he has quickly become one of the state’s foremost authorities on how best to contend with this threat to our waters, aquatic habitats, and boating and fishing traditions.” Van Zee organized innovative treatments on a 30-mile stretch of river and a reservoir marina. He worked with others to develop, fund and execute a public awareness campaign. Because of his efforts, more than 200 people have been trained to inspect boats for the mussels, and boater inspection and statewide monitoring programs have been implemented. To keep the public informed and engaged in fighting the invasion, he authored more than 50 press releases and gave hundreds of media interviews. Because of his program’s success, Van Zee has given multiple presentations and training courses to different organizations across the country that are also fighting invasive species. Van Zee is also responsible for coordinating the Texas statewide fish-stocking plan as well as fisheries management and research operations in the central and western portions of Texas. He and his wife Jill have two children, Breeley and Raelynn. “All of the achievements that were mentioned are the result of not just my efforts but rather those of many great people and team players,” Van Zee said. “I am very blessed to get to work for TPWD and all of the great staff that we have in the agency. That goes for our field staff as well as all of my supervisors and TPWD’s executive leadership, who trust us and support us in our work. I think the award really says volumes for who we are as an agency. “I also want to recognize my wife and daughters for always supporting me in my work,” he added. “I am truly a lucky man to have such a loving family and I thank God for them and for the blessings that they are.” The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) is an organization whose members are the state agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources in 15 states, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Van Zee was TCAFS President in 2010.



*Ed Carter (L), chair of the SEAFWA awards committee, presented the Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award to Brian Van Zee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the SEAFWA annual meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, November 3. Thomas Harvey, © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

According to Ray Mathews Jr., TCAFS Historian/Archivist, the history of the TCAFS Skeg is our longest lasting permanent memorial item. The history of the now-famous Chapter Skeg began in 1990 when Bobby Farquhar, then TCAFS President, won it in a raffle at the annual meeting held next to Lake Texoma and used it the next morning to bring the business meeting to order as a sort of gavel. From that moment on it was passed down from Chapter President to President at the business meeting—a tradition that has continued for 15 years. Gene McCarty was the recipient of the skeg from Bobby and so on down the line of presidents over the years. According to Bobby, back in those days the raffle was a “junk raffle” and any little item, like the skeg or some fishing hooks, sinkers, box of earth worms, etc., were what you got. The Chapter has certainly come a long way since then. The present skeg is noted below after 25 years of being passed down from TCAFS President to President.



*Fran Gelwick handing the famous skeg to Dave Terre at the annual meeting held in Grapevine, Texas in 2005.*



*Current skeg presented to Kevin Storey at the 2015 meeting*

## Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday! Capturing Today for Those Who Come Tomorrow!

*By Michele Nations, Archivist/Historian*

By Michele Nations, Archivist/Historian Being the archivist/historian for the Texas Chapter is an honor. I get the opportunity to look back and see how the Chapter has grown into the impressive organization that it has become and how people have been following in the footsteps of those who have come before. For me, those footsteps were those of Ray Mathews. Such big shoes to fill! Even as I work on preparing the history of the last 40 years and being so grateful for all of the work that Ray did for TCAFS's 25th anniversary. Even from our very beginning on the TAMU campus, students have played a big part of our history. The TCAFS leadership has placed an emphasis on encouraging student participation through scholarships (first given in 1989 to Tommy Bates, TAMU), best student presentation awards (first given in 1996 to Craig Paukert, OSU), and best student poster awards (first given in 2002 to James Turner, TAMUG). It seems like every committee, and especially the student outreach committee, is devoted to helping Chapter professional members interact with students.



Members of college and university fisheries/biology faculties have been and are preparing students for tomorrow. Looking over past awards, Tim Bonner's name has popped up a few times. As a student from Texas Tech, he won the award for best presentation in 1998. Tim's name appeared again in 2001 when he received the Outstanding Fisheries Student award. Gene Wilde was his PhD advisor. In 2004, his dedication to and love for his students and fisheries were made evident when he received the award for Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in Fisheries Education as the youngest person to receive the award in TCAFS history. Tim is following in the footsteps of such renowned education award winners as Clark Hubbs (UT, 1978), Richard Noble (TAMU, 1979), and his predecessor, Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU/TX State, 1981).



*Above, at the 2004 College Station meeting Tim Bonner received the Outstanding Fisheries Worker in Education award as the youngest member to win the award.*

It has taken involvement at all levels for our chapter to be where it is today: from students to professors, from technical staff to researchers, from support staff to administrators, and from technicians to management and hatchery biologists. The category that takes awards a step farther is that of special recognition. These people or organizations don't fit into the normal categories and may not be members of the chapter, such as the beautiful people from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation, winner of the Special Recognition award in 2005. The Couringtons not only help us financially but also attend and participate in our annual meetings as shown in the photo from the 2015 meeting. We love their smiles!



*Above, seated, L-R: Larry and Donna Courington; standing, L-R: Cindy and Greg Courington of the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation (2015 annual meeting banquet in Tyler). Photo by Michele Nations.*



## **2016**

TCAFS President, Dave Buzan, stated in his Winter report that the chapter and our annual meeting are where we come together to grow, celebrate, and glimpse the future. Randy Rushin, our president-elect, reminded Dave that our population will double as the supply of readily available water decreases over the next decades. The adage, "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting" resonates now as it did a century ago. We are in that fight, struggling to ensure there is water for healthy streams, lakes and estuaries. Ensuring water for people and ecosystems will be the future contribution many of you will make. Golden algae continues to be an enigma as we now fight to control zebra mussels. For decades, many of us working and playing on rivers saw mussels and looked at them with little more than passing curiosity. Our work begins in earnest to divert many of them from path to extinction. Our battle of 35 years ago to ban commercial netting in bays is being replaced with the work of restoring oysters to their cornerstone role in our estuaries. Plenty to do, lots to learn, much to enjoy. Grow your role in our chapter family, it is where we will lay the foundation for much of what is accomplished in the next 40 years. Dave was making the historical significance to this being the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TCAFS.

Randy Rushin followed up with his President-elect's Winter message. He stated that the TCAFS had been an important part of his life since 1998, when he attended his first conference at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Since that meeting, Randy said that he always looked forward to attending TCAFS meetings and being part of the membership. He shared that he is truly excited to serve as President-Elect! Our chapter has a unique culture that supports the growth and development of our student members as well as professionals. We are dedicated to helping the next generation be successful contributors to the field of fisheries science. Our chapter is a forward-looking organization that is always looking for ways to improve meetings, presentations, collaboration and fisheries science. With those thoughts in mind, he said that he was always reminded of ideas put forth by Past-President Rick Ott in which he observed that fisheries science is no longer an isolated field of study but encompasses a broad range of disciplines including engineering and hydrology. He suggested that we should consider marketing our chapter and conference beyond scientists and regulators to include anglers, river authorities, water districts and any other individual or entity interested in clean water. Randy believed that he was right. Our population is rapidly growing all the while our available water resources are diminishing. How will we meet the future water demands of the population, agriculture, and industry without harming the ecology of water bodies? Randy said that he would like the chapter to consider this idea as the theme of our annual meeting.



## *Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards - 2015*

*by Michele Nations, Awards Committee Chair*

Michele stated that it was really an honor to work on the awards committee and be its chair where we seek out individuals and/or groups to recognize and honor them for their achievements. I liken the responsibility to anglers seeking to find a trophy fish. We cast our lines and nets out in the form of emails, newsletter articles, listserv notices, Facebook posts, and one-on-one conversations with people who might have someone on their team that deserves recognition. Then it is up to the individual(s) to put together the information on the nomination form and send it in where it is judged by members of the awards committee. This year the people who participated in selecting the winners were Megan Bean, Dave Buzan, Tim Bonner, Dakus Geeslin, Charlie Munger, and Rick Ott.

Fisheries Administration – Carl Kittel Since Carl started work for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2006, he has assumed the responsibility of managing the statewide production and stocking of the native and non-native fish species in Texas, which was approximately 25 million fish for 2015.



Fisheries Education – Dr. Frances Gelwick has touched the lives of many friends, colleagues and students during her career. Over the course of her career at Texas A&M University (since 1995, and prior to retiring in 2015), she has had over 30 peer-reviewed articles, four book chapters and 21 graduate students during her tenure at Texas A&M University. Her passion for teaching has carried her into many different classrooms; Dr. Gelwick taught 17 different classes through the span of her career.



Fisheries Management – John Moczygmba. After graduating from Texas A&M University in May 1969, John began working for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a summer intern for Bob Kemp at the Inland Fisheries District Office in San Antonio studying the life history of flathead catfish in the Medina and Rio Grande Rivers. After a tour in the Army, John returned to TPWD in November, 1971 and was stationed at the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station under Ed Bonn and later Bruce Hysmith where he has been ever since. The biggest project was striped bass introduction into Texas from 1971 to 1976, as well as the experimental stocking of walleye into Lake Cypress Springs (1971-1975), impacts of increased hybrid striped bass stocking (1987-1991), hooking mortality of striped bass in Lake Texoma (1987-1994), evaluation of guided and unguided anglers from lakes Texoma and Fork (1997-2000), impacts of tournament mortality on a Texas Largemouth Bass fishery (2006-2010), and most recently a catch card survey of anglers at Lake Mineral Wells.



Fisheries Research – Dr. Timothy Grabowski joined the USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Texas Tech University in 2010 as Assistant Leader for Fisheries and is also Assistant Professor with the Department of Natural Resources Management. Tim’s research covers multiple basic and applied research areas and extends geographically from the Southern Great Plains to the Gulf Coast to marine waters off Iceland. Tim has successfully established strong collaborations with state and federal agencies, as evidenced by the 14 grants awarded to him as PI or Co-PI by multiple agencies since joining the unit, a grantsmanship record that reflects the high value funding agencies placed on his research results. Some of his most recent projects with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department focus on the effects of instream flows on Guadalupe Bass throughout their range in several watersheds, and on the state threatened Blue Sucker in multiple river systems.



Fisheries Research - Honorable Mention – Gerald Kurten Gerald has worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries (IF), Hatcheries Branch for over 24 years in various capacities: as hatchery biologist, hatchery manager, hatchery program director, and fish hatchery research and analytical services director. Though more than half of his tenure in these capacities does not require participation in research, his enquiring mind and dedication to science motivated him to conduct research or collaborate on numerous research projects important to TPWD’s mission, other natural resource agencies, and fisheries professionals. His research topics include golden algae control as well as ways to increase pond productivity and improve hatchery operation efficiency. Gerald has authored/co-authored over 27 publications, one of these was awarded the North American Journal of Aquaculture Best Paper Award. He also contributed to a book chapter in “Aquaculture Pond Fertilization: Impacts of Nutrient Input on Production” published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2012 and an article to the Featured Collection: Golden Alga (February 2010) of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work– Greg Conley is a regional Kills and Spills Biologist for TPWD, covering portions of the Canadian, Red, Cypress, Sabine, Sulphur, upper Neches and upper Trinity River watersheds. In this role, Greg coordinates closely with the oil and gas industry, transportation authorities, water utilities, local municipalities and other organizations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fisheries and other aquatic resources from development projects. In 2015, Greg conducted proactive assessments and planning to avoid and minimize impacts from 45 development projects. Additionally, Greg responded to 71 fish and wildlife kills and pollution events, recovering damaged or lost resources.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Zoe Ann Stinchcomb Zoe Ann Stinchcomb was first hired primarily to develop learning activities at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, but through her own initiative, other activities were undertaken in order to reach non-traditional customers and provide learning experiences above and beyond what is available at TFFC. Zoe Ann has established a working relationship with groups as diverse as Wildlife Forever (a national conservation organization), the Texas Wildlife Association (a statewide private landowner organization), Stephen F. Austin State University and Texas Tech State University, the North American Native Fishes Association, Sky Ranch (an outdoor learning youth camp), Trinity Valley Community College, Blooming Grove Elementary School, St. John's Episcopal School, and the Athens, Grand Prairie and Highland Park Independent School Districts in developing and implementing outdoor learning opportunities.



Certificate of Appreciation – Michele Nations is an active member of TCAFS who currently chairs the Awards Committee after having served as a member of that committee for several years. If that were not

enough, she also chairs the History Committee, a position she assumed in 2009 when veteran historian Ray Mathews retired after 10 years of service. She instituted and maintained the Chapter Facebook page where she is a prolific poster on topics related to fisheries. For years she has also donated her photographic skills in service of the Chapter by documenting its activities. She has been employed with TPWD for almost 29 years and she started her employment with the agency as a F&W Technician at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery in March 1987. Soon afterwards she transitioned into the administrative and staff support role in the hatchery regional office. In that capacity Michele has seen them come and go. During her tenure in the regional office, she has relocated eastward from the Dundee State Fish Hatchery in Electra to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and finally back west again to the Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery.



## 2016 Student Scholarship Awards

Harry Tennison Scholarship – Gunnar Nystrom chose to attend Texas Christian University and he plans to receive a dual degree with a B.S. in Biology and a B.B.A in Entrepreneurial Management. At TCU, he currently works as a research assistant and outreach program coordinator with the TCU Bat and Nextera Wind Energy Project studying the effects of wind turbines on bat activity. In addition, he works as a research assistant in the Toxicology and Endocrinology lab on campus where he studies the effects of environmental contaminants on the physiological processes of fish. His current project consists of analyzing the effects of environmental pesticides (i.e. DDE, a metabolite of DDT) on roach fish from the Syr Darya River in Kazakhstan.



Harry Tennison Scholarship – Jeff Plumlee was an undergraduate student at Texas A&M at Galveston for three years in the Marine Fisheries program. In addition to regular coursework, he was also employed as a lab technician and student worker in the Shark Biology and Fisheries Science lab under primary investigator Dr. Dave Wells. While in the lab, he focused on studying the feeding ecology of coastal sharks using stable isotope and stomach content analyses. In May of 2015, Jeff completed his requirements for the undergraduate research scholars program at Texas A&M, and in December, graduated with honors from the university.



TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Kaylan Dance Kaylan Dance developed an interest in fisheries research while attending Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus, where she received a B.S. in Marine Biology. During her time as an undergraduate, she volunteered and worked in several labs that were conducting fisheries research - which inspired her to pursue an M.S. degree. She is currently working on her Masters in Marine Biology through the Shark Biology and Fisheries Ecology lab at Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus, under Dr. David Wells. Her thesis research aims to assess the role of artificial reefs to associated fish communities off the Texas coast. She is currently utilizing natural dietary tracers to identify the primary source(s) of organic matter, and to characterize fish- habitat relationships of predators associated with artificial reefs. Results of this work will provide useful information concerning the value and functional role of artificial reefs as habitat.



TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Matthew Dzaugis attended the University of Maine and earned a B.S. in Marine Science. The fall of his freshman year at the University of Maine he began working as a field assistant/ lab technician for Dr. Gayle Zydlewski studying Shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon in the Penobscot River and throughout the Gulf of Maine. The research he was doing for Dr. Zydlewski turned into his Honors Thesis in which he studied the diet composition of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon and assessed the prey availability in the Penobscot River to help define critical habitat for these endangered species. As a graduate student at the University of Texas he is continuing to follow his interests in marine ecology working in Dr. Bryan Black's Ecosystem Oceanography Lab. Using research techniques he learned over the years, as well as techniques new to him such as climate mapping and sclerochronology, he is studying climate effects on several fish species in the Gulf of Mexico.



TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Caroline Arantes is interested in ecology and conservation of fishery resources in freshwater ecosystems, including fish population and community ecology, management approaches, and the effects of human drive-impacts. Caroline has worked extensively with local people, institutions and conservation organizations to implement community-based management systems for the arapaima, the Amazon’s most historically important and overfished species, and to develop research that seeks to understand a broad range of problems and research questions. Her research has addressed fish biology, ecology, traditional knowledge, and resource governance and her studies have been published in eight peer-reviewed, international journals. She also published six book chapters, 30 abstracts in conference proceedings, and has presented orally at various scientific meetings. She is now developing a study for her Doctoral Dissertation at Texas A&M university to test the hypothesis that deforestation of Amazon River floodplains impacts fish communities and fisheries productivity. Together with Dr. Kirk O. Winemiller, her PhD advisor, Caroline, developed a quantitative methodology that compares fish communities, fishery yields, and forest cover along a gradient of forest conservation status (e.g., from the most preserved to the most degraded areas) in order to facilitate examination of the relationships among variables and evaluation of alternative causal relationships.



TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Thomas TinHan was raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and it was there that he began his education as a marine scientist, with nearly unlimited opportunities for fishing and diving. While working towards his Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he had the privilege of interning under Dr. Kim Holland, assisting with acoustic and satellite telemetry studies of tunas, sharks, and reef fishes. In 2010, he went on to pursue a Master's degree at California State University, Long Beach, under Dr. Chris Lowe, where his thesis research focused on monitoring the movements of yellow snapper and leopard grouper in relation to spawning seasons at a small no-take reserve in southern Baja, Mexico. Upon graduation in 2013, he continued his eastward progression and moved to Galveston, where he is currently a PhD student under Dr. David Wells using a multi-pronged approach (stable isotopes, electronic tagging, vertebral trace element analysis) to study the feeding ecology and movement patterns of juvenile bull sharks over multiple temporal and spatial scales along the Texas coast.



Ryan Vazquez receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Gordon Linam, of the Clark Hubbs Committee. Ryan is conducting research on the conservation genetics of the federally endangered Sharpnose Shiner and Smalleye Shiner in the Brazos River for his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University under Dr. Gene Wilde. Results of Ryan's study will support captive spawning and repatriation efforts of these native Texas fishes. Ryan received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA and received a Post Baccalaureate Research Fellowship at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.



## *Presentation Award Winners from 2015 Meeting in Tyler*

Best Professional Oral Presentation: Michele Nations (far left, Awards Committee Chair) and Kevin Storey (far right, TCAFS President) pose with the winners of the Best Professional Presentation Award: (LR) Nate Smith, Dan Daugherty (presenter), Paul Fleming (principal author), all from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The winning presentation was entitled "Use of side-scan sonar to identify and count Alligator Gar: potential for evaluating population density from sonar imagery."



Best Professional Poster Presentation: Michele Nations (far left, Awards Committee Chair) and Kevin Storey (far right, TCAFS President) pose with the winners of the Best Professional Poster Award: (L-R) Ryan Vazquez, Aaron Urbanczyk, Gene Wilde, and Corey Coleman, from Texas Tech University. The winning poster was entitled "Size-selective predation by Gulf Killifish on endangered Sharpnose Shiner."



## 2016 Best Presentation and Poster Awards

Professional poster: “Effect of pond permanence on aquatic insect-mediated flux of methylmercury to terrestrial ecosystems” by Chumchal, Matt (primary author), R. W. Drenner, K. J. Adams, F. Greenhill, C. Gober, A. Courville, and L. Lossau, Texas Christian University Professional presentation: Disparity between state fish consumption advisory systems for methyl mercury and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendations: a case study of the south central U.S.” by Adams, K. J., R. W. Drenner, and Matt Chumchal (presenter) from Texas Christian University; and D. I. Donato from the US Geological Survey. Published in Environ Toxicol Chem 2016; 35:247-251 Matt Chumchal as he gives the winning oral presentation, January 22, 2016.



## 2016 Student Scholarship award winners



Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan poses with (left to right) Thomas TinHan, Matthew Dzaugis, Caroline Arantes (in front), Kaylan Dance, Jeffrey Plumlee, Gunnar Nystrom and Endowments Chair Dave Terre.

## President's message

*by Dave Buzan*

Dave Buzan, TCAFS President, stated in his mid-year message that there was exciting news for our Chapter! Dan Daugherty and a group of enthusiastic volunteers have taken the bull by the horns and started planning for our chapter to host the 2019 Southern Division AFS meeting in Texas. In addition, Randy Rushin contracted with a hotel in Corpus Christi to host our 2017 chapter meeting. In last June's newsletter, Kevin Storey, our Past-president reviewed the extreme rains that fell on Texas last May, causing millions in property damage and personal tragedy associated with loss of 12 lives along the Blanco River through Hays County. A recent article in Texas Monthly reviewed some of the history that laid part of the foundation for that tragedy and serves as a reminder of the tension between scientific recommendations, public policy, and societal responsibility. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was hired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1984 to study flood hazards in Hays County. The county participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and hence must regulate development within the flood plain. The 5-year study resulted in substantially larger floodplain boundaries. Wimberley residents were skeptical and formed a group, Guardians of the Blanco River Watershed, to oppose implementation of the new boundaries. County commissioners sued FEMA, sought support from U. S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, argued the map was federal overreach and that it greatly exaggerated flood risks. As a result, Hays County was allowed to play a major role in developing new floodplain boundaries in 1996 which were considerably reduced from the Corps study boundaries. Although FEMA's newest draft floodplain boundary map, developed since the May 2015 devastating floods has similar boundaries to those of the Corps study in the 1989, local opposition continues because increased area in the floodplain limits where people can build, affects property taxes and local control. For now, residents can continue to build in areas shown both in the 1989 Corps study and the FEMA post-2015 flood study as likely to flood in a 100-year flood. Dave Buzan stated that It reminds him that as scientists we play important roles in generating scientific information that supports policy development. Your science and the ways in which you communicate it lay the paths we travel in using science to guide policy and society in making a healthier Texas to live and play in.

## President-Elect's message

*by Randy Rushin*

Randy Rushin, TCAFS President-elect reflected in his mid-year message that it's hard to believe that a third of a year has passed since our Chapter meeting at the YO Ranch! He said it's been a long time since we held a TCAFS meeting on the coast and even longer since we've had one along the coastal bend. In fact, the last time we had TCAFS in Corpus Christi was way back around the turn of the century (1999, to be exact). At that Corpus Christi meeting, the Panel Discussion was "Water Use Issues in Texas - A 21st Century Challenge for Fisheries Managers." Cindy Loeffler opened the panel presentation with an overview of the recently signed Senate Bill 1. The panel discussed concerns about the rapid growth of Texas' population, especially in urban areas, and its effect on our State's natural resources, especially its lakes, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries. Dr. Larry McKinney spoke about the politics of water. Other presentations were made about reservoir fisheries, instream flows, freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries, and wetlands. Although that Corpus meeting was held nearly 2 decades ago, the issues surrounding our water resources have not changed, but instead, have become even more complex. Our focus at the next TCAFS conference will be to continue this discussion about how we will meet the future

water demands of our population, agriculture, and industry without negatively impacting the ecology of our water bodies.

### **Individual Category - Community Outreach – Michael Homer**

*By Michele Nations*

For Michael Homer, current TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer, community outreach starts at home. He has been blessed with his wife, Nikki, and his two daughters: 5-year-old Averie and 1-week-old Georgia Marynn, born 4/28/2016. When asked about his award, Michael said, “In order to get a community service award, you have to have a great community to work with that has a similar vision and that is open to new ideas. He focuses his outreach on promoting fishing opportunities, fish stockings, the Neighborhood Fishin’ Program, how reservoir water levels impact fish populations, and how groups can pull together to enhance the habitats in their local fisheries. The media are some of his important tools that have a wide reach and a great influence. He gives interviews to radio and television stations, and he and Natalie Goldstrohm contribute articles biweekly to the Abilene Reporter News fishing column and monthly to Fishing Hotspots. They also maintain a Facebook that helps keep people in the Abilene District up-to-date with things happening in their area. <https://www.facebook.com/tpwdifabilene>



Michael with his daughter Averie and a nice catch.

### **TCAFS Charter Member Retires from TPWD**

*By Michele Nations*

As TCAFS Co-Historian with Ray Mathews we keep track of all the happenings within the Texas Chapter. As a TPWD retire, Michele stated that she thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie throughout the years and hope to continue for many years to come with the TCAFS. She reflected on having watched people retire this year; people like Aaron Barkoh, Dale Lyon, John Moczygemba, and John Dennis. Michele stated that John Moczygemba stood out from among the rest for his participation in the formation of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He was there on the Texas A & M College Station campus, November 1975, where more than 100 fisheries workers from across the state met to form the new statewide Chapter based on Ray Mathews TCAFS 25 Year Silver Anniversary History 1975-2001 document.

John was involved in fisheries management years before that date. After graduating from Texas A&M University in May 1969, John began working for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a summer intern for Bob Kemp at the Inland Fisheries District Office in San Antonio studying the life history of flathead catfish in the Medina and Rio Grande Rivers. After a tour in the Army, John returned to TPWD in November 1971 and was stationed at the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station under Ed Bonn and later Bruce Hysmith where he continued until retirement in 2016. The biggest project was striped bass introduction into Texas from 1971 to 1976. John was involved November 1975, the formation of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society at the Texas A & M University, College Station Campus.



L-R: Ronnie Ballard, John Moczygemba, and Ron Miller. Preparing tire bundles to enhance fishery habitat in Lake Texoma, February, 1977. ED BONN



L-R, Michele Nations, Awards Committee chair; John Moczygemba, Outstanding Fisheries Worker in Management award winner; and Kevin Storey



**November 1975, the formation of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on the Texas A & M College Station Campus. First Row (L-R):** Shari Rische, Wade Butler, Allen Forshage, Charles Mulford, Ken Sellers, Ed Lyles, Steve Smith, and Roy Bamburg. **Second Row:** Dwane Smith, Paul Crandall, Bob Zerr, Nick Carter, Jimmy Dean, Buck Henderson, Leo Lewis, Lou Guerra, and Joe Toole. **Third Row:** Bill Rutledge, Charlie Menn, Ronnie Stapleton, Bill Brown (USFWS), Charles Leigon, Charlie Inman, and Mike Ryan. **Fourth Row:** Paul Seidensticker, David Pritchard, Billy Follis, Barry Lyons, Roger McCabe, Dr. John Garcia, (Texas Tech. University), Dick Luebke, Gary Mooney, Alan Wenger, Rhandy Helton, and James Lasswell. **Fifth Row:** Ernest Marsh, Joe Kraai, Bill Bailey, John Prentice, Clell Guest, Jeff Morris, Rick Clark, Phil Durocher, Royce Dewey, and Jack Crabtree. **Sixth Row:** Elgin Diets, John Moczygemba, Bob Bounds, Kirby Gholson, Ed Bonn, and Bill Provine.

## **2017**

Randy Rushin, President, TCAFS, thanked all members for supporting TCAFS 2017 meeting in Corpus Christi! By all measures, this conference was a smashing success! All the committees did a FANTASTIC job putting together the meeting. Randy said that he had always heard that the hardest part of being President was planning the meeting. Well, for him at least, it was not that difficult because we have such OUTSTANDING people planning and coordinating every fine detail to make the convention extra special. Some high points from the meeting: • 77 presentations; 43 by students • 40 Posters – (double our normal); 20 by students • 46 students paired with mentors for the luncheon • 10 scholarships at \$1,500 awarded (4 more than usual) plus Clark Hubbs Award of \$500 • New RECORD fundraising – beat the record from last year by 40%! • New RECORD attendance – 292 attended the banquet As I've repeatedly said, our chapter has a unique culture that supports the growth and development of our student and professional members. Randy said we are dedicated to helping the next generation be successful contributors to the field of fisheries science. Our chapter is a forward-looking organization that is on a path of constant improvement - including meetings, presentations, collaborations, and fisheries science. Randy said that planning for the next annual meeting will be our first time doing everything online. As a conservation-minded organization, we need to lead by example and paperless is a good start.



Michael Homer, President-elect, TCAFS, stated that he was quite honored to serve TCAFS as its President-Elect in 2017. After serving as Secretary-Treasurer for the last two years, he was pleased to hand the reins over to Niki Ragan and take on this role. He thanked Mike Morgan for his willingness to run for the President-Elect position as well and for his dedication and service to the Texas Chapter by serving as the Scholarships Committee chair for the last 10 years. I have big shoes to fill from our other past-presidents and our current President, Randy Rushin, for their leadership and successful meetings. We had record attendance of 292 people in Corpus Christi as well as had two years in a row of record fundraising. For these successes. Finally, all of the members for supporting him and believing in his abilities to lead the chapter as its next president. My involvement is a way I can give back to the society that has afforded me so much personally and professionally. The chapter has committed to hosting the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) meeting in January 2019 to be held at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX. Dan Daugherty has willingly volunteered and been appointed by the EXCOM to serve as the 2019 SDAFS meeting chairman.

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## Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards - 2016

by Michele Nations, Awards Committee Chair

The Corpus Christi TCAFS meeting had some interesting awards given. For instance, Matthew Acre received three different awards: the Harry Tennison Scholarship, the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, and the Outstanding Fisheries Student Award.

Fisheries Administration – Thomas Lang, TPWD Inland Fisheries. Tom Lang has been an enthusiastic addition to the TPWD Inland Fisheries Management Office in Wichita Falls since 2012 to the present. He has served on the Diversified Community Angling Committee, established three Friends of Reservoirs Chapters, designed, implemented, and directed agency outreach activities while cultivating numerous relationships with media, business, and organization leaders. Tom and his staff have conducted habitat enhancement projects at Possum Kingdom Lake, Lake Arrowhead, and Lake Wichita and have garnered two nationally competitive grants to support those efforts. He also represents TPWD in a leadership role on the City of Wichita Falls Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee.



Fish Culture – Donovan Patterson, TPWD Inland Fisheries. Donovan Patterson was hired as a Hatchery Biologist at TFFC almost two years ago. Since that time, he managed the pond culture program at TFFC very effectively and learned about operations at TFFC in general. TFFC has had a very good year during 2016 in terms of Florida Largemouth Bass production (stocked 907,000 fry and 4,390,000 fingerlings) and Channel Catfish production (stocked 26,783 fingerlings). In addition to being busy with fish culture activities, Donovan took time to work on answering questions posed by the Hatchery Research Coordinator. He has compiled data from all Florida Largemouth Bass production ponds over the last ten years and has analyzed the data statistically using several methods with help from John Taylor and others staff within TPWD. As a result of this analysis, TFFC will propose to stock first cycle ponds with 125,000 to 150,000 fry per acre and 5 to stock second cycle ponds with 100,000 to 125,000 fry per acre.

Fisheries Education – Dr. Matthew Chumchal, Texas Christian University. Dr. Matt Chumchal has been a professor at TCU since 2007, first as an assistant professor and then as an Associate professor. He is an aquatic ecologist specializing in mercury contamination of fish and aquatic organisms and the bioaccumulation and trophic transfer of mercury. Together with Ray Drenner, he leads the Aquatic Ecology Lab and works with his students in a variety of ecosystems including lakes, rivers, wetlands, and the Gulf of Mexico. Using a variety of fisheries and ecological techniques, which include otolith and stable isotope analyses, they seek to find answers as to why some organisms have elevated

concentrations of mercury. Outstanding contributions through his work at TCU consist of seeking grants to assist students' studies, helping with thesis work, serving on committees, and encouraging students to participate in TCAFS meetings. He motivates his students to be the best they can be. Matt, at left, is shown holding the three awards he won with Ray Drenner with his certificates for his support as co-author.



John Tibbs has been a District Fisheries Management Biologist for the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division for over 19 years and is highly respected by his staff, peers, and supervisors. John is a very knowledgeable and dedicated fisheries biologist who routinely goes above and beyond what is expected to manage the fisheries in his district. John has fulfilled the leadership role in helping to set the direction of catfish management in Texas. He was instrumental in getting the TPWD Statewide Catfish Management Plan entitled "A Vision for Catfish in Texas" completed and published in 2016, which will provide a diversity of high-quality catfish angling opportunities by creating, expanding, or maintaining fisheries for Channel, Blue, and Flathead catfishes in waters across the state.

Fisheries Student – Matthew Acre, Texas Tech University. Matt Acre is currently a PhD student at Texas Tech University. He is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources where his work is funded by a state wildlife grant being administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). His doctoral research project titled "Assessing the effects of flow regime variation on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, TX" will have direct implications to state and federal natural resource management and policy decisions that will ultimately benefit all Texans. During his project, Matt has developed exceptional leadership skills and is proficient in planning, coordination, and communication with graduate students, state governmental agencies and research partners, such as TPWD and the Lower Colorado River Authority. Matt has delivered presentations on his research at the annual Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, the Southern Division of AFS mid-year meeting, and at the Larval Fish Conference in Quebec.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work– Abe Moore, TPWD Video Producer, Communications Division. As a video producer with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Communications Division, Abe Moore educates and inspires Texans to care about Texas' wild things and wild places, and this is particularly true for the videos Abe has produced on wide-ranging topics in fish and fisheries. Whether it is profiling fishing opportunities for Alligator Gar or Guadalupe Bass... or spotlighting the need for natural flow regimes on regulated rivers... or profiling TPWD's response to fish kills resulting from oil spills in east Texas... or highlighting native fish monitoring in west Texas streams, Abe shows sincere interest, patience, and enthusiasm with an incredible skill for storytelling that absolutely does right by fish,

biologists, and anglers alike. He is a pleasure to work with, and we are lucky to have someone with his unique skill sets so passionately interested in the conservation of fisheries resources. Abe is fantastic at capturing the passion/enthusiasm of the biologists and for telling complex stories in a way that viewers are able to connect with as to why our work matters and the importance of the fisheries biologists' roles in the conservation of Texas fisheries resources. Through this work, Abe provides an invaluable service within the professional fisheries community and advances the mission of TCAFS by promoting the conservation of fisheries resources and showcasing the important work of fisheries professionals.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Research – Dr. Timothy Bonner, Texas State University. Dr. Timothy H. Bonner is a leader in the field of fish ecology, which is illustrated by 74 publications, including 38 manuscripts that have been published within the past 5 years. Dr. Bonner has published research in 30 journals, co-authored 2 books, including the “Freshwater Fishes of Texas” and has over 850 citations. He has contributed to aquatic science literature which has been almost exclusively within the state of Texas but has had an impact that reaches far beyond state lines. Through his research, he has advanced knowledge within fish community ecology, life histories, population dynamics, and reproductive ecology. He is passionate about research and about sharing it with others, which is evident in the graduation of 39 masters and doctoral students. Since beginning his graduate career with his master’s degree at Texas State University, earning his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University, and now currently holding a professorship position at Texas State University, Dr. Bonner has become a leader in fisheries research in the state of Texas.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Technical Support – TPWD Inland Fisheries Data Analysis and Data Administration Group (DAAG)- Chris Cummings, Sarah Haas, Danny Lewis, John Taylor, & Jimmy White. Since 2011 the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division Data Analysis and Administration Group has been instrumental in providing guidance and assistance to the TPWD River Studies Program in an initiative way to organize and catalogue historical and current river and stream fisheries and habitat data into a server-based database platform called “GoFish”. The team has worked patiently with multiple River Studies’ staff to create a system for data storage and to consistently implement changes throughout this process to ensure that River Studies’ and Inland Fisheries Division’s needs are met. Jimmy White (former TPWD employee), Danny Lewis and Chris Cummings took the lead in behind-the-scenes programming to create a user interface that facilitates efficient data entry, organization, and extraction, thus allowing all staff to more effectively and efficiently manage and report their data. John



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Randi Wayland, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Hall of Fame. Randi (Ron-dee) Wayland has a lifelong passion for boating and fishing that she has helped instill into thousands of students. Among her many roles are boating safety instructor for over 20 years, area chief of the TPWD boater education program, chairwoman of the Freshwater Fishing Advisory Board, past president of the Texas Association of Bass Clubs, board member of Texas Black Bass Unlimited, and inductee into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. In addition to helping organize numerous fishing tournaments, Randi has been heavily involved in the Toyota Texas Bass Classic for the last ten years. Here is a broader view of Randi’s accomplishments: served 15+ years as a Governor-appointed member of the TPWD Inland Fisheries Advisory Board (several years as Vice-Chair and currently serving as the Chair); seven years as the president of Texas Association of Bass Clubs and is currently acting as an advisor; teaching basic and advanced fishing classes for the TPWD Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program; judge for the Toyota Texas Bass Classic since its beginning (10 years); twenty years as Area Chief for TPWD state mandated Boater Education Program; board member of Texas Black Bass Unlimited over 10 years and is currently the secretary; Texas Outdoors Partners charter member representing more than 4 state-wide fishing organizations; board member of SMART (Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation); public school teacher in Texas for 30 years; Adjunct Professor at San Antonio College for 45 years teaching water safety; taking challenged kids and adults fishing for more than 20 years; 2016 inductee into The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame; and started fishing as soon as she could hold a pole (Her dad built her a little row boat at age 4, and she hasn’t been without a boat since then!). Her greatest joy is to see a child (any age) catch their first fish and be happy that she had a little hand in making that happen.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation has been supporting the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program by donating a total of \$182,500 since 2005 (2005- 2016). They share the TCAFS commitment to provide both educational and financial assistance to Texas Fisheries Students as they pursue their educational and career goals. Both organizations are dedicated in fostering excellence in education and recognize the future of Texas fisheries depends on young people who will eventually be leading the way to manage these important resources. Family members also support us by coming to our meetings, which is very much appreciated. All TCAFS members and scholarship winners (both past and present) owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Sportsman’s Club of Fort Worth Founded in the 1950’s by Harry Tennison, Charlie Stephens, Paul Leonard, Jr., and Mickey Schmid, the Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth (SCFW) is a long-standing, all volunteer, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that devotes its resources to outdoor and wildlife charitable and educational activities with an emphasis on serving area youth and

youth organizations. The purpose of the Club is to (a) encourage conservation of wildlife and good sportsmanship and safety in hunting, fishing, and related activities, and (b) encourage and develop in youth an appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife and the outdoors, including supporting youth involvement in hunting, fishing, fishing, wildlife conservation and related activities. The SCFW has funded two fisheries student scholarships each year, from 2011 through 2016, in honor of Harry Tennison; one of their founding club members. These 12 scholarships, totaling \$18,000, have been paid directly to the student's university to help fund costs for attending college, thereby helping them attain their educational and career goals in fisheries.



## *2016 Student Scholarship Awards*

TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Cody Craig Cody. Craig is earning his Ph.D. at Texas State University. Questions about distributions and what controls naturally as well as anthropogenic effects have continued to dominate his research topics. The future of aquatic resources in the world will be in part, dependent on how current and future generations use and protect current resources. Cody believes there is a delicate, but obtainable balance between the needs of the environment and the needs of society. The philosophy, which drives most of his research and curiosity in natural resource conservation, is to find that balance between the needs of society and the needs aquatic systems, so that aquatic systems will not deviate from their natural trajectory, and future generations can enjoy and appreciate them.



TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Kesley Gibson. Kesley Gibson is earning her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. Kesley would like to inspire and guide future students in accomplishing critical research by working closely with management to provide science supported solutions to the problems facing our oceans, including declining fisheries, ocean acidification, and degraded habitat. She has taken advantage of media and outreach opportunities to communicate these concerns on many occasions to a wide range of audience members. Her most recent work involves shark tracking. Previous work includes acute toxicity of freshwater mussels and snails.



TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Friedrich Keppeler. Friedrich Keppeler is earning his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. Since the field of fisheries science is very dynamic, he is used to looking for new frameworks and techniques that enhance the precision and the reliability of his conclusions. He has broad goals in his scientific career: to propose and test ecological theories with fishes using simulations, experiments, and field studies, to address the current crises that we have been living in terms of biological loss, and to divulge the results of his research or his ideas to the non-specialist audience. He plans to do this through social media (e.g., blogs, website, radio, and tv) and books. To Friedrich, this is a good way to engage the local population in important ecological issues and divulge scientific knowledge.

TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Hailey Boeck. Hailey Boeck is earning her M.S. at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. She has a strong work/volunteer background in Texas, Alabama, and Georgia. Hailey has a history of memberships and active positions in scientific societies and many other groups. Her current Thesis research is directed to assist the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in guiding science-based policy for movement of oysters between Texas bay systems, especially in relation to the potential use of hatchery-produced oysters for aquaculture in Texas. Hailey is interested in becoming a researcher and/or professor in a field-centered environment, and is interested in genetics and migratory behaviors.



TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Elizabeth Hunt. Elizabeth Hunt is earning her M.S. at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. Her current research allows her to look at species from a genetic standpoint and allows for fine scale resolution of species relationships and the biogeography of the northern Gulf of Mexico. This research is directly supported by the advent of new molecular techniques and the ability to obtain large amounts of molecular data. Upon completion of her Masters, she plans to move on to obtain a PhD, focusing on the molecular ecology of fishes as it relates to species relationships and gene flow in the marine environment. She is not only interested in molecular ecology, but also the biology, ecology, and diversification of fishes. Ultimately, Elizabeth would like to conduct research that will provide the best available data to managers and policy makers to assist with fisheries management decisions for long-term species and stock sustainability.

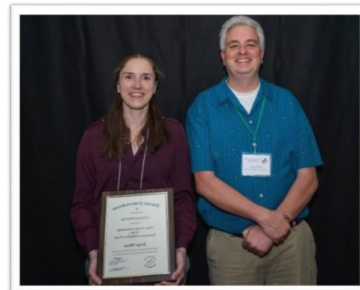
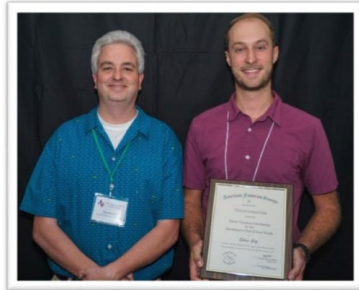


TCAFS Scholarship: B.S. – Taylor Cabbage. Taylor Cabbage is currently a sophomore at Texas A&M University at Galveston. She is double majoring in Marine Fisheries and Marine Biology and is expected to graduate in May of 2019. Taylor is an artist and has used her talents to educate the public on issues related to fisheries and environments. She also donates artwork for fisheries related fundraising at silent auctions. She is actively involved in several voluntary leadership positions and has interest in studying the process of raising marine species to supplement wild populations. Taylor wishes to pursue her passions of science and art by being able to perform field/lab fisheries research while communicating her findings to the public through easy-to-understand artistic interpretations. Her website is [www.tlctreasures.weebly.com](http://www.tlctreasures.weebly.com).

Harry Tennison Scholarship: Ph.D. – Matthew Acre. Matthew Acre is earning his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University. He is currently investigating the effects of flow regime variation on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, Texas. He is monitoring movements via radio telemetry and submersible ultrasonic receivers. This work will provide critical information for policy makers charged with managing both species conservation and water resource needs. Matthew plans to work at the global/international level as well as here at home in Texas to integrate cutting edge research with policy in order to develop and implement effective conservation, management, and restoration actions.



Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Ethan Getz. Ethan Getz is earning his M.S. at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He has participated in research and internships in Texas, Wyoming, and North Carolina. Ethan believes there is an inherent value to wilderness, and it is important for us to preserve some aquatic systems as they occur naturally. Fisheries science is appealing to him because it does not solely focus on resource use or conservation but is a combination of the two. His lifelong passion will fuel a productive career in fisheries science. Recent and past research includes work with red snapper and telemetry tagging, and turbidity effects on juvenile surf-zone fishes.



Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Jennifer Morton. Jennifer Morton is earning her M.S. at Texas A&M University. Through work and research, she narrowed her focus from a broad interest in conservation to a concentration in aquatic resources, and freshwater mussels, in particular. Her employment with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources helped to cement that interest for her by participating in aquatic surveys that informed varied management decisions and was involved in work that impacted management decisions across the state. Jennifer has always been interested in the outdoors and conservation, but this was the first time she saw the implementation of policies based on work that she had done. More recently, Jennifer has been working as a Research Assistant with the Freshwater Mussel Research Group at the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (TAMU-IRNR). With the Freshwater Mussel Group, she has been able to combine both the research-driven focus of her early college career and the practical management applications of her work.

Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Erin Reed. Erin Reed is earning her M.S. at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. While in Texas, her short-term goal is to make scientists and our science more approachable to the public. Through the lab project to Map Spawning Seatrout Aggregations in Port Aransas, she plans to bridge the gap between local fishers and researchers to encourage open communication about their beloved resource, its habitat, and the importance in learning more about their resources to maximize longevity of a fishery such as the Spotted Seatrout in Texas. Erin's long term career goal is to use her graduate degree as a Fisheries Scientist to continue in fisheries research. Currently, Erin wants to continue in the scientific direction of her thesis work by exploring the effects that climate variability has on today's fisheries.



## **Clark Hubbs Student Research Award – Matthew Acre**

Clark Hubbs Student Research Award – Matthew Acre. Matthew Acre (center) receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Kevin Mayes (left), of the Clark Hubbs Committee and Dave Buzan (right), TCAFS president. Matt’s research will assess the effects of flow regime variation on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, Texas.



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### **2017 Student Scholarship award winners**



Endowments Chair Dave Terre (left) and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan (right) pose with the 10 TCAFS student scholarship winners of 2017. The students from left to right are Hailey Boeck, Elizabeth Hunt, Friedrich Keppeler, Kesley Gibson, Ethan Getz, Jennifer Morton, Cody Craig, Erin Reed, Matthew Acre, and Taylor Cabbage.

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### **2017 Best Presentation and Poster Awards**

**Professional poster:**

"Impacts of Deepwater Horizon crude oil exposure on the swimming performance of juvenile and young adult Mahi-Mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*)" by Mager, Ed, J. D. Stieglitz, D. Nelson, R. M. Heuer, G. K. Cox, D. D. Benetti, D. A. Crossley II, and M. Grosell, University of North Texas.

**Professional presentation:**

"Are Age Estimates from Longnose Gar and Spotted Gar Sagittal Otoliths, Pectoral Fin Rays, and Branchiostegal Rays Accurate?" by Buckmeier, Dave, R. Snow, N. Smith, and C. Porter, TPWD, Inland Fisheries, Heart of the Hills Research Station.

**Student poster:**

"Identifying the most efficient host fish for the Texas Fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*) for captive breeding" by Seagroves, L. A., and A. N. Schwalb, Texas State University.

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**Student presentation:**

"Movements and demographics of Blue Sucker in the lower Colorado River, Texas" by Acre, Matthew, T. B. Grabowski, D. Geeslin, and A. Pease, Texas Tech University.

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## *Presentation Award Winners from 2015 Meeting in Kerrville*

### **Best Professional Oral Presentation:**

"Disparity between state fish consumption advisory systems for methyl mercury and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendations: a case study of the south central U.S." by Adams, K. J., R. W. Drenner and Matt Chumchal (presenter) from Texas Christian University; and D. I. Donato from the US Geological Survey. Published in Environ Toxicol Chem 2016; 35:247-251"

### **Best Professional Poster Presentation:**

"Effect of pond permanence on aquatic insect-mediated flux of methylmercury to terrestrial ecosystems" by Chumchal, Matt (primary author), R. W. Drenner, K. J. Adams, F. Greenhill, C. Gober, A. Courville, and L. Lossau, Texas Christian University

### **Best Student Oral Presentation:**

"Nursery Origin and feeding ecology of juvenile Bull Sharks in the northwest Gulf of Mexico" by TinHan, Thomas C. (presenter), Jay R. Rooker, and R. J. David Wells, Texas A & M University – Galveston



*Michele Nations (far left, Awards Committee Chair) and Dave Buzan (right, TCAFS President) pose with the Best Student Presentation Award winner, Thomas TinHan*

### **Best Student Poster Presentation:**

"A scanning electron microscopy study of variation in tuberculation across the range of the Sand Shiner (*Notropis stramineus*)" by Pinion, A. (primary author), S. D. Kim, and K. W. Conway, TAMU – College Station

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## **2018**

Mike Homer, Jr., President, TCAFS, stated that he could not believe the 42nd Annual Meeting was behind us and now we can set our sights on hosting the 2019 Southern Division meeting at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Reflecting on the last meeting, he said he was thoroughly impressed at the continued dedication of our members in helping with the planning and implementation efforts of the meetings, fundraising, and the high-quality of work that has been conducted and presented. He thanked our meeting sponsors, our guest speaker, our continuing education leaders, as well as to all those who assisted with making the meeting possible. At our meeting at the Hilton College Station, we had 210 members register and 232 attend our banquet, which is the second highest attendance for a non-joint meeting since 2008. Attributed to the generosity of our membership and because of the efforts of our Publicity and Exhibits Committee, the auctions and raffles raised about \$10,595 that help's support the chapter's endowment for student scholarships – this is the second highest amount raised! He thanked our Past-President, Randy Rushin, for his service to TCAFS, which under his tenure as active President, the chapter achieved record attendance for the 2017 annual meeting in Corpus Christi as well as the highest record for fundraising for the chapter's endowment. Randy's mentorship as well as that from previous Past-President, David Buzan, helped him have what seems as a seamless transition to the role as President. He congratulated our new President-Elect, Dr. Dan Daugherty. With his leadership, the chapter EXCOM pressed on to addressing newly voted revisions to the chapter's bylaws and procedures

and working with the SDAFS committees with planning efforts for SDAFS 2019. During Mike's tenure as President, he set out some of his goals that he wanted to work towards that should benefit the chapter. First, he hoped to work with the existing committee chairpersons to improve member involvement with our committees. Many individuals have voiced that that wish to be more involved with our chapter, and improved communications between the EXCOM, committee chairpersons, and the membership is crucial to succeed. Second, striving for continued growth of membership and improving diversity are goals he wanted to see our chapter strive for by broadening our scope of recruitment. He was confident that expanding our communications to non-traditional educational institutions, private-sector businesses, and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in our values and mission should yield some progress. Recently, Mike attended a webinar on the AFS' stance on Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), and TCAFS as well as the other chapters have been charged to be a voice for support for this potential legislation that would benefit fish and wildlife conservation if it were to be enacted. He encouraged members to visit the AFS webpage <https://fisheries.org/recovering-americas-wildlifeact/> for more information. With each member's participation, Mike said we can be a great voice to advocate for this instrumental legislation that would greatly benefit the management of wildlife and fish populations.



Dan Daugherty, President-elect, TCAFS stated that as many of you many know, one of the primary responsibilities of the president-elect is to lead the charge in planning next year's annual meeting. Next year, he stated that it's going to be a special one, as our chapter will be hosting the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society – the collective of 18 state and multi-state chapters and over 25 student subunits representing the southeastern US and Puerto Rico. As you might imagine, planning a meeting this size is no small task. With attendance in excess of 500 people, over 15 technical and standing committees, 5 to 10 workshops, and well over 150 oral and poster presentations, there's a lot to accomplish, including finding a suitable place to accommodate us. Fortunately, our chapter's long-standing relationship with Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center on Galveston Island continues, as they have agreed to partner with us to host the meeting January 24th – 27th, 2019. The details are still in the works but suffice to say we have the place to ourselves, including the use of their aquarium for an evening 3 social. A dedicated team of TCAFS members have graciously volunteered their time and talents for over a year now to put this meeting together, and with just under a year to go, we are in great shape to be ready for next year.



Randy Rushin, Past-President, TCAFS asked members to please join him in congratulating Michael Homer, Jr. for planning an outstanding annual meeting! Randy said the convention in College Station was one of the best TCAFS meetings in our chapter's history. Michael is a diligent, thoughtful, and detailed leader who will continue the legacy of growth, outreach, and professionalism of our organization. Randy also congratulated our new president-elect, Dan Daugherty. For those not aware, Dan volunteered at the Kerrville meeting in 2016 to lead the planning efforts for Southern Division AFS. Under his leadership, the committee chairs already made great strides towards organizing the 2019 SDAFS convention. Randy said that the one thing that kept him involved in TCAFS for the past two decades is that our chapter has a unique culture that supports the growth and development of our student and professional members. We are dedicated to helping the next generation be successful contributors to the field of fisheries science. Our chapter is a forward-looking organization that is on a path of constant improvement - including meetings, presentations, collaborations, and fisheries science. This is his last newsletter contribution, as I move on as a TCAFS past president, so I want to take this opportunity to tell you all that I sincerely appreciate your support and confidence in his ability to lead this outstanding organization over the past couple of years. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve you in this capacity and was truly the highlight of his professional career.

### *Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards - 2018*

*by Michele Nations, Awards Committee Chair*

Fisheries Administration – Spencer Dumont, TPWD Inland Fisheries. In his role as Regional Program Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife's East Texas and Coastal Region Spencer reportedly personifies the ideals of the servant leader. His focus is entirely on helping others achieve their goals to improve fishing for the anglers of Texas. Spencer has a rare combination of scientific knowledge, communication skills, critical thought processes, and humility that makes him both highly effective in his role and a joy and blessing to be associated with. As the Regional Program Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife's Inland Fisheries Management Region encompassing East Texas and the Texas Coast Spencer is responsible for oversight in a large and diverse area extending from the Ark-La-Tex through deep East Texas and west along the coast to Corpus Christi. Besides covering multiple eco-regions, Region 2 includes the Tyler, College Station, Corpus Christi, and Houston Metropolitan areas.



Fisheries Management– Alice Best, TPWD Inland Fisheries. Alice Best has a passion for natural resource management that drives her work. She views fisheries biology through an artist’s eye and an ecologist’s training. Her work on lotic systems in Houston is bringing knowledge of typically overlooked fisheries to the public, helping urban anglers connect to the ecosystems of which they are an integral part. Alice has utilized her background in graphic arts to develop a series of brochures to introduce community fisheries to Houston anglers with an understanding of the Houston Metropolitan area as a series of towns and cities interconnected by traffic corridors. Alice’s extraordinary talent is helping connect anglers across an avidity spectrum with resources they frequently didn’t know existed close by. Alice brings a myriad of talents and a fresh perspective to Inland Fisheries Management. Alice is an important part of the solution to creating new methods of fisheries management for a changing fisheries landscape.



Fisheries Management – Niki Ragan-Harbison, TPWD Inland Fisheries. Niki Ragan – Harbison exhibits a spirit of cooperation and team building that allows her to create relationships and reach out to both traditional and non-traditional resource users in a process that few can master but is natural to her. Coupled with a background in outdoor recreation, a scientific thought process, and a deep desire for continuous learning Niki brings a valuable and unique skill set to the fisheries management table. Niki’s perspective is always broader than what’s traditional leading to outreach events using photo props, balloon fish hats, and other creative devices to bring science and angling to thousands of constituents that otherwise might never be reached. In addition, Niki brings critical thinking into her research objectives to determine what techniques are truly effective in the long term for developing urban fishing. She has been an important part of Texas fisheries management throughout her career with Texas Parks and Wildlife at the Heart of the Hills Research Center, her graduate studies on coastal estuarine ecosystems at Sam Houston State University, and most recently, her role as a Fisheries Biologist at the TPWD College Station – Houston Inland Fisheries Management Office. Niki’s constituent-oriented research interests are helping to develop the next generation of management strategies to refine our methods of developing angling in urban areas.



Fisheries Technical Support – Carl Vignali, TPWD Inland Fisheries. Carl Vignali is a Renaissance Man with a wide variety of skills and interests that make him a rare asset as a Fisheries Technician. He brings knowledge and skills to work every day obtained from his graduate work with Paddlefish at Texas A&M, his past careers in construction and ranching, and his work with Parks and Wildlife Hatcheries. These talents have translated to a special project Carl is leading to try to establish a reproducing Channel Catfish population in a popular State Park lake utilizing surplus Catfish spawning structures no longer needed by A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery and the construction of a specialized urban electrofishing boat built from a boat surplus by another group.



Fisheries Student – Luke Bower, Texas A & M University. Luke Bower is an outstanding doctoral student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. A member of the Winemiller Aquatic Ecology Lab, Luke is researching the community ecology of fishes in streams at locations in Texas, eastern and southern US, and other continents. He has authored or coauthored 5 scientific journal articles and presented papers at 13 conferences and symposia. Luke has obtained research funding from NSF, other grants and fellowships, and has demonstrated exemplary professional leadership through service on multiple university and professional committees, including organizing the annual ecological integration Symposium at Texas A&M last year. Throughout his academic career, Luke demonstrates exemplary professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a firm commitment to academic excellence.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work - Dakus Geeslin, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Dakus Geeslin is a professional aquatic scientist, stalwart of outreach and education, outstanding fisherman and renowned fishing instructor, and a great mentor and leader. Dakus earned bachelors and master's degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University where he studied fishes of the Angelina National Forest. He earned his chops as an aquatic ecologist in the streams and rivers in Colorado and returned to Texas developing expertise in water quality, environmental flows, water resources and policy development while working for the Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he currently serves as the Policy and Education Team Leader for Coastal Fisheries. Dakus also fosters conservation efforts through leadership roles in Trout Unlimited, Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited, Reel Recovery, Austin Fly Fishers, Bass Brigade, and Texas Brigades, to name a few. Dakus also leads research efforts to identify instream flow needs for rivers and streams in Texas.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work - Mike Morgan, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Mike is a long-time member of TCAFS. For the past decade, he has served as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. During this time, he reviewed hundreds of applications to select deserving candidates to receive TCAFS scholarships. Interestingly, Mike was a recipient of a TCAFS scholarship at our meeting in 1999 and again in 2002. Mike Morgan is a coastal ecologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Coastal Fisheries Division in Dickinson. He conducts habitat assessments on proposed impacts to freshwater and estuarine habitats – including streams, wetlands, oysters, and seagrass – on the upper Texas coastal plain and provides recommendations to minimize habitat impacts. Mike received degrees in fisheries from Michigan State University (B.S.) and Texas A&M University (M.S.). He has been an active AFS member for 27 years including the Texas Chapter since 1998.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work - Paul Fleming, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. For a number of years now, Paul has graciously volunteered his professional services as the TCAFS auctioneer during the annual meeting banquet, making it a point to attend - even in years when he has been unable to attend the rest of the meeting. Paul's enthusiasm and engaging style have been extremely entertaining, drawing larger and larger crowds each year. His efforts have greatly impacted the success of the auctions, in turn benefitting the fundraising efforts in support of the student scholarship programs. We hope this award can serve as a token of the Chapter's appreciation of Paul's skills, efforts, and dedication.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Research – Inland Fisheries AHE Team (John Findeisen, Michael Mayo, Bill Johnson, Jeffery Bowling, Ray Lenderman, Joe Moorhead, Shawn Malone). Following Hurricane Harvey’s disastrous path resulting in untold numbers of first responders and volunteers risking their own safety and comfort to rescue thousands upon thousands of people left helpless by Harvey’s unforgiving and relentless onslaught. A team from TPWD’s Inland Fisheries Division had a particular set of skills, talents, and equipment ideally suited for the dangerous and unpredictable nature of flood-water rescues. Over several days in deep and sweltering SE Texas, sleeping on cots in gymnasiums and elementary school classrooms, this team rescued dozens of stranded folks, assisted with body recovery, and transported workers for powerline repair. This team exhibited remarkable professionalism and compassion and provided an invaluable service to local and state law enforcement for Harvey’s rescue operations in southeast Texas. These employees were true professionals and were extremely conscientious about how they operated their equipment and the service they provided to those in need.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work– Sarah Robertson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Since joining the TPWD River Studies Program in 2013 as an Aquatic Biologist Sarah Robertson has assumed a lead role in planning, organizing, and delivering of semi-annual BioBlitz’s (aka – bioassessments), in partnership with UT Austin. Beginning in 2012, these bioassessments were a new initiative for TPWD, and were intended to support management needs of TPWD properties (e.g. - State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas), expand recreational initiatives such as TPWD’s Texas Paddling Trails and River Access and Conservation Area Programs, and inform future research and conservation efforts through TPWD’s Native Fish Conservation Area initiative. The bioassessments have supported data-driven recommendations to multiple State Parks (Colorado Bend, Garner, Village Creek) and 9 Wildlife Management Areas (Kerr, Alabama Creek, Alazan Bayou, Gene Howe, Matador), increasing consideration of species of greatest conservation need fishes in site management plans. The Cypress Basin Bioassessment is also expected to inform adaptive management of the Cypress Basin Flows Agreement, which has an objective of ensuring adequate instream flows to sustain the ecological, recreational, and economic value of Caddo Lake, its watershed, and the larger Cypress Basin.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work - TPWD Inland Fisheries Division's Watershed Conservation Program (i.e., Megan Bean, Preston Bean, Beth Bendik, Tom Heger, Melissa Parker, and Ryan McGillicuddy). Human populations in Texas are now approaching 28 million, and projections show continued and rampant population growth into the future. As human populations expand and the state continues to transition from a rural to decidedly urban state, Texas will undoubtedly continue to experience rapid shifts in watershed land uses. These changes have the potential to degrade aquatic habitats and negatively affect fisheries resources. To confront this challenge, the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division's Watershed Conservation Program actively engages in watershed management processes to ensure consideration of fisheries and aquatic resources and encourage watershed management practices that restore and preserve fish habitats. The Watershed Conservation Program consults with private landowners, offering technical guidance on conservation best management practices to restore and preserve natural watershed conditions leading to healthy aquatic habitats for Texas fishes (e.g., natural land cover to support recharge of aquifers and natural spring flows, functional riparian zones that manage for natural levels of inputs of sediments and nutrients and provide connections between terrestrial and aquatic food webs). Since 2013, this technical guidance influenced management of 434,739 acres of private lands in focal watersheds of the Southern Great Plains, Edwards Plateau, and Chihuahuan Desert ecoregions, and guided specific conservation projects on those lands that resulted in restoration or enhancement of 49,661 acres of riparian and upland habitats. Collectively, these restoration projects provided direct benefits to more than 50 spring systems and over 360 miles of rivers and streams.



## *2017 Student Scholarship Awards*

TCAFS Scholarship: B.S. – Loicka Baille Loicka Baille is an international student from France and Lebanon, currently studying Ocean Engineering and Wildlife and Fishery Sciences at Texas A&M University. Through this curriculum, she hopes to work in the preservation and discovery of the oceans. She is especially interested in wave power technologies, ocean's pollution removal, ocean acidification and many other marine issues. In five years, she pictures herself working on a Master's in Marine Biology somewhere near the sea. This way, she will be able to apply her engineering formation to solve marine biological issues.



TCAFS Scholarship: B.S. – Elaine Chen. Elaine Shen is currently a senior at Rice University earning her B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Her senior thesis investigates the fish biodiversity of nearshore Caribbean marine ecosystems using a combination of visual censusing and genomic approaches. In the past, she worked on quantifying the benthic diversity of an oil platform with the NOAA Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Galveston, Texas.



TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Louisa Torrance. Louisa Torrance is a graduate student at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi in the Fisheries and Mariculture Program. Born and raised in Texas, she earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Biology (emphasis in Freshwater and Marine) and worked as an 8th grade science teacher from 2012 to 2016. She is the AFS 2017/18 Southern Division Representative for the Student/Early Career Subsection and a member of the AFS Continuing Education Committee. Her research project titled “The Importance of Low Salinity Habitat of Red Drum” uses otolith chemistry and stable isotope analysis to learn how red drum are using tidal creeks and rivers in the Nueces and Mission-Aransas Estuaries and has allowed her to experience many beautiful mornings out on the bays.



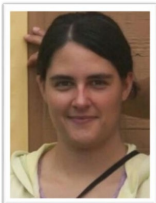
TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Yasmin Quintana Morales. Yasmin Quintana Morales is earning her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University at College Station. She is currently investigating the effects of the invasive armored catfish in the native fish community of the Usumacinta River in Guatemala. Yasmin is working towards the creation of a research department focused on hydrobiological resources in the Center of Conservationist Studies in the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, with partnership from different sectors at national and international level. She would like to promote ecological and interdisciplinary research in aquatic ecosystems and fisheries in developing countries.



TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Travis Richards. Travis Richards is currently working on his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University at Galveston with Dr. David Wells. His research interests include marine community dynamics and food web ecology with an emphasis on predator-prey relationships, food web structure, and the role that animal movement and migration plays in forming trophic linkages between spatially distinct habitats and communities. For his dissertation Travis is studying the trophic ecology of fishes and invertebrates inhabiting the deep sea within the northern Gulf of Mexico. He is particularly interested in understanding the importance of diel vertical migration in forming trophic linkages between epi-, meso- and bathypelagic assemblages and in assessing connectivity between deep-pelagic and deep-demersal fauna in the DeSoto Canyon Region of the Gulf.



TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Andria Salas. Andria Salas is earning her PhD at The University of Texas at Austin. Andria’s research interests are driven by how species interact in complex ways with each other and their habitat. Her masters work investigated the indirect effects in trophic and evolutionary networks of species at the ecosystem scale. Andria’s current dissertation research explores how larval reef fishes use acoustic cues produced by reef-dwelling organisms as navigational signals to orient to settlement sites. Her work explores each level of the question by studying the temporal and spatial patterns of sound production, how these sounds propagate, and how they are received by larval fishes. Andria will next join the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service in the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program. She will be in the Office of Habitat Conservation working on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.



Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Derek Bolser. Derek Bolser is currently a Master’s student in Dr. Brad Erisman’s lab at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI). His work thus far has focused on using aggregating behavior to improve data quality for stock assessment. He recently completed a study intended to improve individual growth estimation for data-poor fisheries, and currently uses active acoustics to estimate fish biomass on offshore petroleum platforms in the northern Gulf of Mexico.



Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Michelle Bromschwig. Michelle Bromschwig is working towards her M.S. degree in Fisheries and Mariculture at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Her thesis work seeks to describe the larval fish food web near a coastal inlet of Texas. Michelle has a broad interest in the ecology of fishes and the management of essential fish habitat, especially for early life stages.



Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Tyler Steube. Tyler Steube is completing his M.S. in Fisheries at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. Under Dr. Ben Walther, he is investigating the effects of seasonal hypoxia on the feeding ecology of demersal fish in the northern Gulf of Mexico using stable isotopes. This research integrates otolith microchemistry with trophic webs for a more comprehensive understanding of environmental resilience. Tyler has served as instructor for conservation education in the Great Lakes, Florida Keys and the Bahamas. He is excited to pursue research using natural markers for stock management while working alongside the public to achieve sustainable fisheries.



Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Jacob Wright Jacob Wright is earning his M.S. at Texas Tech University. Jacob has been previously employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. During his time there, he gained firsthand experience on the challenges state Agencies face when managing and protecting natural resources. His current master thesis research will focus on evaluating the feeding ecology of a non-native Naked Goby population in the Concho River near San Angelo, Texas. He is investigating their potential niche overlap with native benthic species, such as the Bigscale and Texas Logperch, using gut content analysis and stable isotope analysis. Jacob’s career goals are to be employed by a state or federal agency, or consulting firm as a fisheries biologist. In this role he intends to use sound science to develop effective management plans, and do his part to educate the public about the beauty in their own back yard.



2018 Clark Hubbs Student Research Award – Amanda Pinion. Amanda Pinion receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Kevin Mayes (left), of the Clark Hubbs Committee. Amanda is a PhD student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University and her major advisor is Dr. Kevin Conway. She is working on assessing relationships among populations of Sand Shiner, *Notropis stramineus*, (as it is currently known) and conducting taxonomic revision while addressing issues of species delimitation. This morphological and molecular investigation could help clarify the relationships and identities of several potentially genetically distinct and geographically isolated lineages.



Thanks again to all of our active TCAFS members who participated in this year’s fundraising efforts. We raised over \$10,000 to be allocated for student scholarships that help aid our pioneering fisheries scientists of the future.

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*2018 Student Scholarship award winners*



Endowments Chair Dave Terre (rear left) and Scholarship Committee Chair Jennifer Butler (rear right) pose with 9 of the 2018 student scholarship winners. Front row (left to right) Elaine Chen, Michelle Bromschwig and Yasmin Quintana Morales, middle row (left to right) Derek Bolser, Travis Richards, Louisa Torrance, and Loicka Baille, and back row, (center left to right) Jacob Wright and Tyler Steube. Andria Salas could not make the meeting.

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## 2018 Best Presentation and Poster Awards

### Professional poster:

"American Eel: utilizing modern techniques to assess conservation status in Texas" by Casarez, M., S. Curtis, D. A. Hendrickson, A. E. Cohen, K. Mayes, G. P. Garrett, and F. D. Martin

### Professional presentation:

"Loiterers, leavers, and leptokurtosis: synthesizing movement ecology of Guadalupe Bass *Micropterus treculi*" by Perkin, J., J. E. Pease, and T. Grabowski.

### Student poster:

"Salinity adaptation in golden alga" by Richardson, E., and R. Patiño.

### Student presentation:

"Mercury body burden and maternal transfer, egg quality and fecundity of Alligator Gar in the lower Trinity River: Are bigger fish always better for recruitment?" by Harried, B. L., D. J. Daugherty, D. Neeley, T. M.

Sutton, B. K. Soulen, J. Fuller, D. Kim, A. Melton, M. Rubiano, A. P. Roberts, and D. J. Hoeinghaus.

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## Presentation Award Winners from 2017 Meeting in Corpus Christi

Professional poster: "Impacts of Deepwater Horizon crude oil exposure on the swimming performance of juvenile and young adult Mahi-Mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*)" by Mager, Ed, J. D. Stieglitz, D. Nelson, R. M. Heuer, G. K. Cox, D. D. Benetti, D. A. Crossley II, and M. Grosell, University of North Texas.

Professional presentation: "Are Age Estimates from Longnose Gar and Spotted Gar Sagittal Otoliths, Pectoral Fin Rays, and Branchiostegal Rays Accurate?" by Buckmeier, Dave, R. Snow, N. Smith, and C. Porter, TPWD, Inland Fisheries, Heart of the Hills Research Station. Randy Rushin (left, TCAFS President) and Michele Nations (right, Awards Committee Chair) pose with the Best Professional Presentation Award winner, Dave Buckmeier.

Student poster: "Identifying the most efficient host fish for the Texas Fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*) for captive breeding" by Seagroves, L. A., and A. N. Schwalb, Texas State University.

Student presentation: "Movements and demographics of Blue Sucker in the lower Colorado River, Texas" by Acre, Matthew, T. B. Grabowski, D. Geeslin, and A. Pease, Texas Tech University. Randy Rushin (left, TCAFS President) and Michele Nations (right, Awards Committee Chair) pose with the Best Student Presentation Award winner, Matthew Acre.



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*Postcards from College Station*



## President's message

by Randy Rushin

Randy Rushin stated in his mid-year message that we want to welcome our newest Student Subunit to the Chapter – Tarleton State University! It's exciting to see so many students interested in joining and participating in our chapter. When I say participating – I do mean taking on active roles to support the chapter. TCAFS is the one of the few organizations where students can work side-by-side with professionals.

Randy was involved in a field evaluation that a landowner had implemented for a land management program supported by US Fish & Wildlife and TPWD. Originally, they were interested in managing the deer population and then decided they wanted to reintroduce turkeys. Randy said he had no idea that there is very extensive and stringent process for being eligible to receive turkeys. Through this program, the landowner began implementing other Best Management Practices (BMPs) that also benefit stream flow and water quality. As a result of their efforts (and significant financial commitment), they have inspired other landowners in their area to implement similar BMPs. The improved stream flows and water quality also benefits fishery habitat.

While on tour Randy also learned about a program through the Texas Forest Service called Forests to Faucets. The idea is that through good forest management, the quality of our water supplies will be improved. He reflected on how this also benefits fish habitat – while this program is not focused on fisheries, their work has a direct positive impact on fisheries. In fact, the initial water quality and stream flow improvements in the watershed he toured is so promising that some organizations are looking into the feasibility of reintroducing paddlefish!

## President-Elect's message

by Michael Homer

Michael Homer stated in his mid-year message that he was pleased to announce that Mike Montagne, Project Leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, has offered to serve as the 2018 annual meeting keynote speaker. Mike Montagne has worked for the USFWS for 24 years, managing National Fish Hatcheries in Colorado and Utah, and is now the Project Leader of the Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (TXFWCO) in San Marcos. Mike has been the Project Leader for the TXFWCO and has been responsible for; the conservation of aquatic species, recovery efforts of listed and candidate species, and conservation, restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitats in Texas. Currently, the TXFWCO, other USFWS offices, and our partners, are focusing on watershed level conservation in multiple river systems in Texas. Two of the main watersheds the USFWS are concentrating on are The Big Cypress Bayou and the Big Bend section of the Rio Grande.



## Tarleton State University TCAFS Subunit



Tarleton State University recently added a Fisheries Science degree through the Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department. So far, a handful of students have switched to this major and some incoming freshmen have been accepted into this program. In January, a few students from Tarleton attended the TCAFS meeting in Corpus Christi. Chapter members were able to meet many professionals and learn a tremendous amount about current research projects, all while feeling right at home. Our Chapter Subunit members knew that our Chapter was an organization of which they wanted to be a part of. This spring semester began their journey of becoming an AFS subunit. The Tarleton State University Subunit recently received approval from Texas Chapter to be officially recognized through AFS.

### Texas A&M Corpus Christi TCAFS Subunit



President - Tyler Steube- MS, Fisheries and Mariculture, available at [tsteube@islander.tamucc.edu](mailto:tsteube@islander.tamucc.edu) or [tyler.steube@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.steube@gmail.com) and 614-271-2118

Vice President - Polly Hajovsky- MS, Fisheries and Mariculture, [polly.hajovsky@tamucc.edu](mailto:polly.hajovsky@tamucc.edu)

Secretary/ Treasurer - Michelle Bromschwig, MS Fisheries and Mariculture, [bromschwig@islander.tamucc.edu](mailto:bromschwig@islander.tamucc.edu)



## Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) updates

By Louisa Torrance



### Outreach

Members organized a fantastic fisheries outreach table during Math and Science Night at Flour Bluff Elementary. Activities included Color Your Own Fishing Pole, fish ID flashcards, and fish skeleton exploration. We also collaborated with the CCA Marine Development Center at Flour Bluff, who hosted a touch tank of regional marine organisms. Roughly 80-100 students and parents attended the event.



## TPWD launches new "Texas Rivers" Conservation License Plate

AUSTIN – Texans can help the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department keep the state's rivers healthy and flowing through their purchase of the new Texas Rivers conservation license plate, available now at [www.ConservationPlate.org/Rivers](http://www.ConservationPlate.org/Rivers). "The new plate design features a Texas river cascading over boulders and past cypress trees while gently carrying a kayaker downstream past a fly fisherman casting into a yellow sunset," said Janis Johnson, the Conservation License Plate program manager at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "We expect this plate will appeal to a broad group of people, including swimmers, tubers, anglers, canoers and kayakers, water conservationists and all of the people who love and appreciate Texas rivers." The Texas Rivers plate sells for \$30, with \$22 going directly to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help conserve Texas rivers. This revenue will help fund the Department's "Conserving Texas Rivers Initiative," a public-private partnership that helps build and sustain capacity among local landowners, communities, and non-governmental organizations to conserve their hometown rivers. Since 2010, the initiative has helped restore more than ten thousand acres of springs, creeks, and streamside habitats for fish and wildlife. It has also helped restore Guadalupe Bass, the official state fish, in rivers of the Hill Country.

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## Mike Gonzalez Internship

*by Dave Terre, Endowments chair*

In 2013 we began a special relationship with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to honor a common friend in Fisheries, Mike Gonzales. Mike was an employee of SARA and a longtime member of our Chapter. Upon Mike's passing, in 2012, a memorial fund was set up in his name at SARA. Under a Memorandum of Agreement between the Chapter and SARA, the Chapter is provided the opportunity to provide a fisheries internship to one undergraduate student member each summer. This student can gain broad exposure to the field of fishing which will be helpful for choosing a career path or going on for an advanced degree. For those of you that knew Mike, this perfectly honors his legacy in mentorship and teaching in fisheries. This past year (2017) marked our 5th year in the program. Here is a list of the students who have received internships: Jacob Sengele (2013) • Willow Howard (2014) • Aline Trejo (2015) • Chris Adkison (2016) • Carly Rotzler (2017) Carly Rotzler provided the following account of her experiences in summer 2017. "The Michael Gonzales Internship with the San Antonio River Authority's Environmental Sciences Department (ESD) was my first choice of summer internships. Having grown up in San Antonio I have been walking and biking down the Riverwalk and Mission Reach for years. Watching the unfolding of the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation project inspired me to major in Environmental Science. I was excited to get the opportunity to learn more about the river while obtaining practical skills. What I got out of it was more than what I anticipated. I enjoyed traveling

to all the different sampling sites and the hands-on approach of being able to see and wade through most of the creeks and streams throughout the watershed. I appreciated the opportunity to learn/perform every job in the field (observations, sample collections, measurements, calibrations, etc.).



## **2019**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DAN DAUGHERTY. Dan stated that the proverbial dust has finally settled on the over two-year planning effort we started back in the fall of 2016 to host the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society's annual meeting in conjunction with our Texas chapter meeting this past January. Despite the untimely issues with the Federal shutdown, we recorded the third highest attendance in the history of the SDAFS, with over 550 attendees taking part in seven technical committee meetings, 14 continuing education workshops, and almost 300 technical presentations. What seemed like a very daunting task to execute - both logistically and financially – we pulled off with little more than a hiccup. In the interim, I have received many compliments from attendees and vendors on virtually every aspect of the meeting, from the quality and diversity of the professional events to the evening socials, to the choice of venue. As such, I thank each, and every one of you for your support, encouragement, assistance, and attendance – regardless of the capacity, you served and represented your chapter well. There are, however, several individuals and entities that wholly deserve special recognition. The success of our meeting can largely be attributed to the Herculean efforts of Ken Kurzawski, Alice Best, Allison Pease, Jake Norman, Lynn Wright, Sarah Haas, Debbie Wade, George Guillen, Michele Nations, Josh Perkin, Jessica Baumann, Nicole Rankin, Tom Lang, Randy Rushin, Stephen Curtis, Stephanie George, Niki Ragan, Greg Southard, Annette Sudyka, Michael Homer, Chris Mace, and Ben Yeager. The financial support of all our sponsors and vendors, headlined by Mossback Fish Attractors, was absolutely critical to our ability to provide a quality experience to our attendees. And last, but certainly not least, the staff of Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center, who provided a wonderfully inviting and professional atmosphere and went out of their way to make sure that each, and every aspect of our meeting went off without a hitch. New leadership welcomed include Alice Best and past-president Dave Buzan to co-chair our editorial committee, Shaun Donovan to head up publicity and exhibits, and lastly, Dr. Matt Acre has agreed to assume the role of our newsletter editor (this being his first one!).



PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE BY KIRK WINEMILLER. With this being my first newsletter entry as chapter president-elect, Kirk thanked the membership for selecting him to join the leadership team of our wonderful organization. He said that he has benefitted greatly from his three decades of TCAFS membership, and he was glad to have this opportunity to give back. We have always had one of the best chapters (one could argue the best chapter), and he has been amazed by the remarkable developments in how our profession confronts fisheries challenges with science and policy. Our chapter members have been at the forefront of many of these innovations, and each new cohort of fisheries students and professionals has surpassed the lofty expectations set by the previous ones. It was clear to him that he would need plenty of assistance to get up to speed on chapter business, and he was thankful that several people already have helped me establish some footing. He especially appreciated advice received from current president Dan Daugherty and past presidents Michael Homer and Dave Buzan. His major task for this year was to organize next year's chapter meeting. Related to this was a call for ideas and volunteers for workshops for next year's meeting. In recent years, we have held two workshops during Thursday afternoon prior to the evening student/professional mixer. Past workshops have covered topics ranging from genomics, otolith microchemistry, freshwater mussel biology, statistics, and remote sensing. Potential topics might include protection of endangered species; managing invasive species; how to prepare for employment by agencies, NGOS or consulting firms; ecological modeling; environmental flows; or tips for publishing in peer-reviewed journals.



INSIDE "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?" The chapter decided to start a new series titled "Where Are They Now?" In this series the chapter attempted to find past TCAFS award recipients, particularly past student members, and see where their professional career has gone since their time with the Texas Chapter. The chapter found Rob Weller who won best student presentation in 1996.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ROB WELLER—BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION 1996

Q: Where are you now and what is your current role?

A: I currently live in Albany Georgia, which is located in the SW portion of the state. I work for the GA Wildlife Resources Division as the Fisheries Management Regional Supervisor. It is a 39-county region in

SW Georgia. We manage two warmwater hatcheries, three major reservoirs and the fisheries of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers. We have 13 salaried professional and technical staff.

Q: After your time in Texas and winning the award in 1996 what was the path that led you to your current position? Did you go straight to GA or were there many job stops along the way?

A: I was employed by the State of Georgia in the fall of 1996 as a biologist working with the invasive flathead catfish populations in the Altamaha River System. I was promoted to Senior Biologist in 2001 in our Waycross Regional office where I was responsible for managing Georgia's American shad population, the Okefenokee swamp and Satilla River fisheries, and a public fishing area. I was promoted to my current position in 2004.

Q: Are you still working with Flathead Catfish occasionally?

A: I still do some work with Flathead catfish. We do standardize ictalurid sampling in our major rivers each year, so I still get to wrestle with some big ugly flatheads. As the regional supervisor I spend more time in the office doing administrative work, but I still get out in the field.

Q: Any particular memories of TCAFS meetings that you would like to share with the Texas Chapter?

A: I always enjoyed attending and presenting at the Texas Chapter meetings as a student. There were really good interactions between the fisheries professionals and students, and I always felt like I got really good feedback on my research. The socials were also a great time.

Q: Would you consider your time as a student in TCAFS an important steppingstone in your professional development?

A: Being a member of the TCAFS was a great experience as a student for the reasons I mentioned above. In addition, there was a lot of interesting fisheries projects to learn about due to the size and ecological diversity of Texas and the several Universities involved with the Chapter.





*Members who participated in the state threatened and endangered freshwater fishes workshop in San Marcos, Texas pictured from left to right: Kevin Conway, Tim Birdsong, Sarah Robertson, Melissa Casarez, Adam Cohen, Bob Edwards, Gordon Linam, Matthew Acre, Stephen Curtis, Nate Smith, Josh Perkin, Lance Williams, Kirk Winemiller, Megan Bean, Gary Garrett, Bob Gottfried, & Kevin Mayes*

## STATE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FRESHWATER FISHES WORKSHOP

BY TIM BIRDSONG AND MATTHEW ACRE

Freshwater fishes are the most at-risk group of vertebrates on the planet. Currently, they are experiencing extinction rates two orders of magnitude greater than the background extinction rate. Texas freshwater fishes are equally threatened. In order to begin conservation efforts, a species needs to be formally recognized as such. Coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries Division, a group of freshwater fish experts gathered in May 2019 to assess the status of Texas freshwater fishes and assemble recommendations on those in need of the added protections offered through listing as State Threatened or Endangered. Experts completed a tiered assessment process to update the state-level conservation status rankings for 91 of the 191 native freshwater fishes known to occur in Texas. The updated rankings will inform upcoming revisions to the Texas Conservation Action Plan and related list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Updated rankings will also inform forthcoming efforts by NatureServe to reassess the global conservation status of freshwater fishes and help guide related conservation activities. Workshop results are expected to be presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at their August 2019 meeting and disseminated for public comment in fall 2019.

1<sup>ST</sup> WOMEN'S LEAD-  
ERSHIP GROUP  
MEETS AT THE 2019  
SOUTHERN DIVISION  
OF THE AMERICAN  
FISHERIES SOCIETY



## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP GROUP

BY ALICE BEST, PROGRAM CHAIR OF THE 2019 MEETING OF SDAFS

The first Women's Leadership Group met at the 2019 Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Even with the huge turnout, they were able to introduce everyone and facilitate a lively and organic round-table discussion. Attendees shared stories of their career paths and planned academic studies; their personal challenges and triumphs; and issues that face women in fisheries and possible solutions to overcome them. A primary action item that came from the meeting was to set up channels of communication to support networking and mentoring and to start to tackle some of the issues that people were passionate about, so we established a Listserv and Slack group. Slack is an online tool where users can participate with channels, each housing conversations they are interested in. For example, one channel will focus on retention of women within the professional workforce, and another will focus on balancing being a mom and biologist. As the first group and meeting of its kind, the SDAFS Women's Leadership group is still figuring out its place in the Division. There has been a strong demand for the formation of a group where women and men of SDAFS can come together to support women in fisheries, and responses during and after the 2019 meeting were overwhelming and humbling. The group will continue to meet at annual SDAFS meetings to establish a mission statement, goals, and formalize support. Between meetings, those wishing to join or support the SDAFS Women's Leadership group may join the Listserv or slack group by emailing [fisherieswlg@gmail.com](mailto:fisherieswlg@gmail.com).



# AQUARIUM PYRAMID AT MOODY GARDENS SAVES THE DAY

BY ALICE BEST

By early January it had become apparent that some aspects of the 2019 Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in Galveston, TX would need to be reworked. With federal facilities closed and planned SDAFS visits cancelled, and most other attractions already booked, the outlook for arranging local field trips for SDAFS looked grim.

The Aquarium Pyramid at Moody Gardens stepped in to save the day. George Guillen, Chair of Local Arrangements for the meeting, first approached the Aquarium about a possible tour for SDAFS attendees who bought tickets to the aquarium. However, Roy Drinnen, Assistant Curator of Fishes at Moody Gardens had a better idea: free 1.5 hour behind-the-scenes tours for SDAFS attendees.

Over the next two days, Roy and his team led four tours behind—and in some cases over—public exhibits, through the bowels of water filtration and supply systems, and around the aquatic quarantine facility. On the tours we learned how feeding schedules are planned and managed, logistical strategies used to ensure a complex team of staff and volunteers function seamlessly, and when, why, and how you do a water change on a million-gallon tank. SDAFS attendees returned to the technical sessions talking about seeing arapaima up close, how animal personalities affect how each handler interacts with them, and the challenges of managing complex, artificial ecosystems.

Roy and Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid Staff, thank you! You created one of the best conference field trips a fisheries biologist could ask for.



Roy Drinnen, Assistant Curator of Fishes at Moody Gardens, shows SDAFS attendees the access bridges and infrastructure of the South Pacific Biome tank which is normally cleverly hidden from view, while discussing outreach programs and fish care.



Roy Drinnen talks to SDAFS attendees on the dive platform about the Caribbean Tank.



Behind-the-scenes tours included a full explanation of filtration and water supply systems for the aquarium, including how the facility is designed to withstand tropical storm events. All machinery is raised and the last major flooding event during Hurricane Ike resulted in the loss of only one auxiliary pump.



# TAMU AFS SAMPLES HICKS LAKE

BY LAUREN YANCY

In April 2019, the Texas A&M Student Chapter visited Hicks Lake in Bastrop to do a sampling of the two lakes and report back to residents. Electrofishing was used to sample an even spread of each lake.



“What is the neighborhood doing to maintain the lakes?” asked Joshua Perkin. “Nothing at all!” Beverly, a resident of the Hick’s lake neighborhood answered. However, the TAMU AFS group sampled abundant numbers of bluegill and largemouth bass. There was a total of 471 fish caught in both the upper and lower lakes. The 2011 Bastrop fire had ruined property all around Bastrop and the lower lake was then used for helicopters to scoop water out of the lake to fight fire. Ever since, the lake has not come up to the previous level and the resi-

dents only strategy of management seemed to be releasing fish caught in the upper lake back into the lower lake.

Table 1. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; fish captured/hour) confidence intervals (CI) for five of the most common species captured at Hicks Lake in April 2019.

Species	Upper CPUE CI	Lower CPUE CI
Black Crappie	4.7	0
Bluegill	128.2	187.1
Green Sunfish	12.9	14.5
Largemouth Bass	70.6	132.3
Redear Sunfish	45.9	64.5



Dr. Perkin led the crew explaining distinctive fish anatomy and distinguishable traits. It was a great field experience for undergrads who had not participated before in electrofishing.

# 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.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
STUDENT SUBUNIT FUNDRAISING/DONATION  
SOLICITATION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

BY SHAUN DONOVAN

PURPOSE:

This document outlines the guidelines and procedures for Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) student subunits in their role assisting the Publicity & Exhibits (P&E) Committee in fundraising and donation solicitation for the Annual TCAFS meeting. **This document does not establish responsibilities or expectations of any student subunit; involvement in fundraising and donation solicitation is strictly on a volunteer basis.** If any student subunit does choose to take part in this process, they are expected to notify the sitting P&E Committee chair as soon as possible to allow for proper coordination as outlined below.

GUIDELINES:

Student subunits are only expected to solicit donations from entities/individuals in or near the community of their institution (e.g. The Texas A&M University Corpus Christi subunit would solicit in Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, Rockport and surrounding communities).

Student subunits are not to solicit donations from chain stores (e.g. Academy, Dick's Sporting Goods and Bass Pro Shops), those solicitations are the responsibility of the P&E Committee chair.

The student subunit President will be responsible for coordinating with the P&E Committee Chair to ensure that all donated items are collected and transported to the annual meeting. If the student subunit will not be attending the annual meeting the Committee Chair will be responsible for coordinating transportation of items to the meeting.

PROCEDURES:

Student subunit representatives will solicit for donations using the TCAFS Meeting Sponsorship and Donation Request Packet developed by the P&E Chair for each annual meeting.

If a vendor/individual chooses to donate or purchase a sponsorship, the subunit president will forward the completed form to the P&E Chair who will forward the form to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Student subunit Presidents are responsible for communicating all student subunit solicitations to the P&E Committee Chair by updating the donation solicitation Google Doc maintained by the P&E Chair and shared with the student subunit once they notify the chair of their intention to participate.

AWARDS/PRIZES:

All participating student subunits will be awarded 25% of the funds raised from the items they contributed to the silent/live auction at the annual meeting. For example, if the items collected by student subunit A raised a total of \$1,000 during the annual meeting, that subunit would receive a check for \$250. The remaining money raised from the items collected by the participating subunits will be tallied with all other funds raised by the Chapter during the annual meeting.

## MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### New Publications

- Smith, N. G., D. J. Daugherty**, E. L. Brinkman, M. G. Wegener, B. R. Kreiser, K. M. Kimmel, A. M. Ferrara, and S. R. David. *In press*. Advances in the conservation and management of the Alligator Gar: a synthesis of current knowledge and introduction to a special section. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.
- Sakaris, P. C., **D. L. Buckmeier**, **N. G. Smith**, and **D. J. Daugherty**. *In press*. Daily age estimation reveals rapid growth of age-0 Alligator gar in the wild. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*.
- Buckmeier, D. L., and N. G. Smith**. 2019. Validation of annuli and identification of discontinuities in sagittal otoliths of juvenile Alligator Gar. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*; early view online doi: 10.1002/nafm.10341
- Daugherty, D. J., D. L. Buckmeier, and N. G. Smith**. 2019. Sex-specific dynamic rates in the Alligator Gar: implications for stock assessment and management. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 39:535-542.
- Daugherty, D. J., K. L. Pangle, D. L. Buckmeier, and N. G. Smith**. 2019. A tale of two timescales: using otolith microchemistry to improve our understanding of alligator gar movement in the lower Trinity River, Texas. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 6:51-57.
- Fleming, B. P., and N. G. Smith**. 2019. Spatial distribution and hybridization levels in Guadalupe Bass five years after remedial stocking. Pages 231-244 in M. Siepker and J. Quinn, editors. *Managing Centrarchid Fisheries*. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 87, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Colvin, S.A.R., S.M.P. Sullivan, P.D. Shirey, R.W. Colvin, **K.O. Winemiller**, R.M. Hughes, K.D. Fausch, D.M. Infante, J.D. Olden, K.R. Bestgen, R.J. Danehy, and L. Eby. 2019. Headwater streams and wetlands are critical for sustaining fish, fisheries, and ecosystem services. *Fisheries* 44(2):73-91.
- Bower, L.M., F.W. Keppeler, E.R. Cunha, Y. Quintana Morales, D.E. Saenz, E.O. Lopez-Delgado, T. Bokhutlo, C.C. Arantes, M.C. Andrade, C.R. Robertson, K.B. Mayes, and K.O. Winemiller**. 2019. Effects of hydrology on fish diversity and assemblage structure in a Texas coastal plains river. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 148:207-218.
- Andrade, M.C., **K.O. Winemiller**, A. Fortunati, D. Chelazzi, A. Cincinelli, P.S. Barbosa, and T. Giarrizzo. 2019. First account of plastic pollution impacting freshwater fishes in the Amazon: ingestion of plastic debris by piranhas and other serrasalmids with diverse feeding habits. *Environmental Pollution* 244:766-773.
- Arantes, C.C., **K.O. Winemiller**, M. Petreire, and C.E.C. Freitas. 2019. Spatial variation in aquatic food webs in the Amazon River floodplain. *Freshwater Science* 38(1):213-228.
- Arantes, C.C., D.B. Fitzgerald, **D.J. Hoeinghaus**, and **K.O. Winemiller**. 2019. Impacts of hydroelectric dams on fish and fisheries in tropical rivers through the lens of functional traits. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 37:28-40.

**Member Awards in 2019:**

TPWD Awards

Dan Daugherty—Distinguished Service Award & Outstanding Achievement Award

Greg Southard—Distinguished Service Award

Mike Matthews—Problem Solving Award

A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery Team—Team Award (members: Bryan Norris and Mike Matthews)

College Station Management Team—Team Award (members: Alice Best, Dawn Dorsett, Mike Gore, Niki Ragan, Mark Webb, Carl Vignail)

Aquatic Enhancement Team—Team Award (members: John Findeisen)

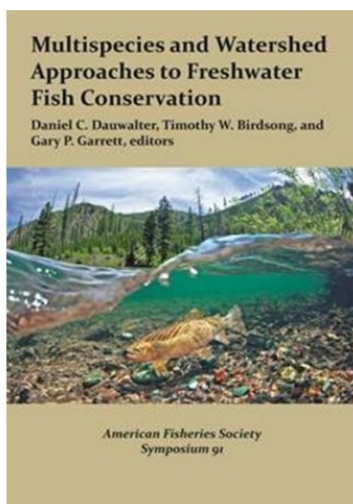
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE BY DAN DAUGHERTY. Dan stated in his final 2019 year message that as many of you already know, the Texas Chapter was selected to receive the American Fisheries Society’s Outstanding Large Chapter Award for 2019, which was presented at the first ever joint annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society in Reno, Nevada. The award recognizes outstanding professionalism, active resource protection, and enhancement programs, as well as a strong commitment to the mission of the Society. One award is given to small chapters (less than 100 members) and large chapters (100 or more members), annually. Immediate past-president, Michael Homer, president-elect Dr. Kirk Winemiller, and I accepted the award at the AFS business meeting on behalf of the chapter. Dan congratulated membership on this award. He said that It is certainly a testament to the long history of engagement and activity of our chapter, and an honor to receive. Speaking of engagement and activity, our 2020-chapter meeting will be held 23-25 January 2020, at the Hilton-Waco. Dan mentioned that he was continuing to work with the TCAFS leadership team to streamline the way we do business within the chapter, as well as look at the possibilities of providing greater services to all our members. He said we are currently in the process of securing a debit card associated with the chapter’s cash account to improve the efficiency of our purchasing transactions. Working with our new publicity and exhibits chair, Shaun Donovan, we developed a new model for our meeting fundraising and donation efforts that directly involves our student subunits.



PRESIDENT-ELECT’S MESSAGE BY KIRK WINEMILLER. Kirk stated in his final 2019 annual message that he would take advantage of this forum to invite TCAFS members, future TCAFS members, and anyone interested in fish, fisheries, natural resource conservation, and aquatic and ocean sciences to attend the 2020 meeting of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society that will be held at the Waco Hilton. This

promises to be a memorable meeting at a historic location in the heart of Texas. The hotel is downtown on the Brazos River and just across the street from Indian Spring Park and the iconic Waco Suspension Bridge, the first of its kind in Texas. Before construction of the bridge in 1869, crossing the Brazos River was a dangerous ordeal for cattle drives on the Chisholm Trail. The toll was 5 cents per head of cattle, no doubt a tidy sum in those days! Just up the street from the Waco Hilton is the Cameron Park Zoo and in the other direction is the Baylor University Campus. On Thursday, we will have continuing education workshops on pond management (taught by Steven Bardin) and how to get hired in fisheries (presented by a professional panel) that have been organized by Lynn Wright. Friday and Saturday morning will be packed with technical sessions and poster presentations of the latest research being conducted in fisheries and aquatic/marine ecology. The Friday night banquet, awards presentations and fund raiser always are highlights of our meeting, and of course we close with the chapter's annual business meeting. This will be our first ever meeting in Waco, a city easily reached by people throughout our great state. Kirk said he looked forward to seeing members in Waco for the 2020 TCAFS meeting.

**MULTISPECIES AND WATERSHED APPROACHES TO FRESHWATER FISH CONSERVATION BY DANIEL C. DAUWALTER, TIMOTHY W. BIRDSONG, AND GARY P. GARRETT, EDITORS.**



**BOOK INFORMATION**

The recently published AFS Book, *Multispecies and Watershed Approaches to Freshwater Fish Conservation* (Dauwalter et al. 2019), is now available for purchase through the American Fisheries Society (AFS) online bookstore. Of the 28 chapters of this book, 12 profile freshwater fish case studies from Texas.

This book was inspired by seminal papers (e.g., Dauwalter et al. 2011; Williams et al. 2011) that prescribe the need for watershed-scale approaches to freshwater fish conservation and facilitated through cooperative, multi-agency partnerships (e.g., fish habitat partnerships and landscape conservation cooperatives), the concept of collaborative stewardship has now been embraced and operationalized throughout the United States. A litany of trans-formative case studies in delivery of multispecies, watershed-scale conservation are now available that identify strategies and approaches transferrable to other areas and systems. Many of those case studies are included as chapters in the book and demonstrate solutions to conservation challenges for native freshwater fishes, such as alteration of natural stream flows, physical habitat degradation, stream fragmentation, and introduction of nonindigenous species. These issues are commonly implicated as causes in the decline or loss of native freshwater fish populations. They are ubiquitous to rivers and watersheds throughout the United States, and although innovative solutions have been demonstrated, those have not been widely disseminated throughout the fisheries conservation community. Numerous chapters demonstrate holistic, multifaceted, and integrated frameworks to confront pressing conservation challenges that can only be

effective when addressed at watershed scales. These include case studies that share strategies and approaches to restore natural stream flow patterns that meet the life history requirements of freshwater fishes. Others profile pathways for building strategic focus, partner engagement, and public support to restore connectivity in fragmented streams. Successful efforts to implement largescale management of nonindigenous species are also profiled, along with innovative strategies and solutions to proactively and preemptively implement conservation measures to preserve pristine systems threatened by human development. Additional chapters communicate big picture perspectives that help reflect, recalibrate, and provide a vision for the future as we continue to refine and enhance the tools and strategies employed in the conservation of native freshwater fishes and their habitats. Collectively, the chapters of this book demonstrate effective solutions and offer hopeful, optimistic, and inspirational case studies that identify foundational strategies for which future conservation programs and initiatives can be established to effectively conserve native freshwater fishes throughout the United States and beyond.

Dauwalter, D. C., T. W. Birdsong, and G. P. Garrett, editors. 2019. Multispecies and watershed approaches to freshwater fish conservation. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 91, Bethesda, Maryland.

Dauwalter, D. C., J. S. Sanderson, J. E. Williams, and J. R. Sedell. 2011. Identification and implementation of native fish conservation areas in the upper Colorado River basin. *Fisheries* 36:278–288.

Williams, J. E., R. N. Williams, R. F. Thurow, L. Elwell, D. P. Philipp, F. A. Harris, J. L. Kershner, P. J. Martinez, D. Miller, G. H. Reeves, C. A. Frissell, and J. R. Sedell. 2011. Native fish conservation areas: a vision for largescale conservation of native fish communities. *Fisheries* 36:267–2.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

KERRY GRAVES—BEST PRESENTATION 1987



### INSIDE “WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”

This series was established to find past TCAFS award recipients, particularly past student members, and see where their professional career has gone since their time with the Texas Chapter.

This issue we have found Kerry Graves who won best student presentation in 1987.

If you want to hear from a particular past student member, let us know and we'll try to track them down.

The current structure of the series is a Q&A, much like a traditional interview. If you have suggestions to make this series better, please let us know!

Q: Where are you now and what is your current role?

A: I am presently the Hatchery Manager of the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery (USFWS) in Tishomingo, OK.

Q: After your time in Texas and winning the award in 1987 what was the path that led you to your current position? Did you go straight to OK or were there many job stops along the way?

A: At the time that I won the award I was a Fish Biologist at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center (now named the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center) in San Marcos, TX. I spent 7 years at San Marcos beginning as a volunteer, then as a Biological Aid, then as a Fish Biologist. In 1989 I accepted an Assistant Hatchery Manager position at the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery. In 1990 I transferred to the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery as Hatchery Manager and then in 1995 I came back to Tishomingo as Manager.

Q: Do you recall the presentation you gave that won you best presentation?

A: The presentation that led to the award was titled " Method for Harvesting Large Quantities of Zooplankton from Hatchery Ponds".

Q: Any memories of TCAFS meetings that you would like to share with the current Texas Chapter members?

A: I always enjoyed attending the TCAFS meetings to see friends and colleagues and meet new people. I always left the meetings with new information that I could apply at my station.

Q: Any advice to students and young professionals?

A: My best advice to students and young professionals looking for their first job is to volunteer at a hatchery or other facility where you would like to start a career. I see lots of job applications, and everyone has similar college degrees and experience doing things in college laboratories, but I am interested in people that have shown they can function well in an actual work environment. Also, do not limit yourself to a certain geographic area in applying for jobs. Go wherever you need to go to get that first job. You can eventually work your way back to where you want to be.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
STUDENT SUBUNIT FUNDRAISING/DONATION  
SOLICITATION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

BY SHAUN DONOVAN

PURPOSE: This document outlines the guidelines and procedures for Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) student subunits in their role assisting the Publicity & Exhibits (P&E) Committee in fundraising and donation solicitation for the Annual TCAFS meeting. This document does not establish responsibilities or expectations of any student subunit; involvement in fundraising and donation solicitation is strictly on a volunteer basis. If any student subunit does choose to take part in this process, they are expected to notify the sitting P&E Committee chair as soon as possible to allow for proper coordination as outlined below. GUIDELINES: Student subunits are only expected to solicit donations from entities/ individuals in or near the community of their institution (e.g. The Texas A&M University Corpus Christi subunit would solicit in Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, Rockport and surrounding communities). Student subunits are not to solicit donations from chain stores (e.g. Academy, Dick's Sporting Goods and Bass Pro Shops), those solicitations are the responsibility of the P&E Committee chair. The student subunit President will be responsible for coordinating with the P&E Committee Chair

to ensure that all donated items are collected and transported to the annual meeting. If the student subunit will not be attending the annual meeting the Committee Chair will be responsible for coordinating transportation of items to the meeting. PROCEDURES: Student subunit representatives will solicit for donations using the TCAFS Meeting Sponsorship and Donation Request Packet developed by the P&E Chair for each annual meeting. If a vendor/individual chooses to donate or purchase a sponsorship, the subunit president will forward the completed form to the P&E Chair who will forward the form to the Secretary-Treasurer. Student subunit Presidents are responsible for communicating all student subunit solicitations to the P&E Committee Chair by updating the donation solicitation Google Doc maintained by the P&E Chair and shared with the student subunit once they notify the chair of their intention to participate. AWARDS/PRIZES: All participating student subunits will be awarded 25% of the funds raised from the items they contributed to the silent/live auction at the annual meeting. For example, if the items collected by student subunit A raised a total of \$1,000 during the annual meeting, that subunit would receive a check for \$250. The remaining money raised from the items collected by the participating subunits will be tallied with all other funds raised by the Chapter during the annual meeting.

Contact: Shaun Donovan [sdonovan@sara-tx.org](mailto:sdonovan@sara-tx.org)

## OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER NOMINATIONS REQUEST

BY MICHELE NATIONS, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

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

Every year the Awards Committee solicits nominations for the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in eight categories. The awards are based on fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas and can span more than one year.

Fisheries Administration Fish Culture  
Fisheries Education  
Fisheries Management  
Fisheries Research  
Fisheries Technical Support  
Fisheries Student  
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 nomination form for the 2020 meeting can be found on the TCAFS Awards page: <https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-awards/>. Once it is filled out, email it to the current Awards Committee Chair.

## MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### New Publications

Smith, N. G., D. J. Daugherty, E. L. Brinkman, M. G. Wegener, B. R. Kreiser, K. M. Kimmel, A. M. Ferrara, and S. R. David. In press. Advances in the conservation and management of the Alligator Gar: a synthesis of current knowledge and introduction to a special section. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.

Sakaris, P. C., D. L. Buckmeier, N. G. Smith, and D. J. Daugherty. In press. Daily age estimation reveals rapid growth of age -0 Alligator gar in the wild. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*.

Buckmeier, D. L., and N. G. Smith. 2019. Validation of annuli and identification of discontinuities in sagittal otoliths of juvenile Alligator Gar. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*; early view online doi: 10.1002/nafm.10341

Daugherty, D. J., D. L. Buckmeier, and N. G. Smith. 2019. Sex -specific dynamic rates in the Alligator Gar: implications for stock assessment and management. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 39:535 -542.

Daugherty, D. J., K. L. Pangle, D. L. Buckmeier, and N. G. Smith. 2019. A tale of two timescales: using otolith microchemistry to improve our understanding of alligator gar movement in the lower Trinity River, Texas. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 6:51 -57.

Fleming, B. P., and N. G. Smith. 2019. Spatial distribution and hybridization levels in Guadalupe Bass five years after remedial stocking. Pages 231-244 in M. Siepker and J. Quinn, editors. *Managing Centrarchid Fisheries*. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 87, Bethesda, Maryland. Colvin, S.A.R., S.M.P.

Sullivan, P.D. Shirey, R.W. Colvin, K.O. Winemiller, R.M. Hughes, K.D. Fausch, D.M. Infante, J.D. Olden, K.R. Bestgen, R.J. Danehy, and L. Eby. 2019. Headwater streams and wetlands are critical for sustaining fish, fisheries, and ecosystem services. *Fisheries* 44(2):73-91.

Bower, L.M., F.W. Keppeler, E.R. Cunha, Y. Quintana Morales, D.E. Saenz, E.O. Lopez-Delgado, T. Bokhutlo, C.C. Arantes, M.C. Andrade, C.R. Robertson, K.B. Mayes, and K.O. Winemiller. 2019. Effects of hydrology on fish diversity and assemblage structure in a Texas coastal plains river. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 148:207 -218.

Andrade, M.C., K.O. Winemiller, A. Fortunati, D. Chelazzi, A. Cincinelli, P.S. Barbosa, and T. Giarrizzo. 2019. First account of plastic pollution impacting freshwater fishes in the Amazon: ingestion of plastic debris by piranhas and other serrasalmids with diverse feeding habits. *Environmental Pollution* 244:766 -773.

Arantes, C.C., K.O. Winemiller, M. Petrere, and C.E.C. Freitas. 2019. Spatial variation in aquatic food webs in the Amazon River floodplain. *Freshwater Science* 38(1):213-228.

Arantes, C.C., D.B. Fitzgerald, D.J. Hoeinghaus, and K.O. Winemiller. 2019. Impacts of hydroelectric dams on fish and fisheries in tropical rivers through the lens of functional traits. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 37:28 -40.

Gao, X., M. Fujiwara, K.O. Winemiller, P. Lin, M. Li, and H. Liu. 2019. Regime shift in fish assemblage structure in the Yangtze River 11 following construction of the Three Gorges Dam. *Scientific Reports* 99(1):4212.

Member Awards in 2019:

TPWD Awards

Dan Daugherty—Distinguished Service Award & Outstanding Achievement Award

Greg Southard—Distinguished Service Award

Mike Matthews—Problem Solving Award

A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery Team—Team Award (members: Bryan Norris and Mike Matthews)

College Station Management Team—Team Award (members: Alice Best, Dawn Dorsett, Mike Gore, Niki Ragan, Mark Webb, Carl Vignail)

Aquatic Enhancement Team—Team Award (members: John Findeisen)

## **2020**



TCAFS 2020 MEETING—WACO, TEXAS

JANUARY 23-25, 2020



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KIRK WINEMILLER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY KIRK WINEMILLER. Kirk stated in his first message of 2020 that before launching into his perspective on 'the state of the world', I wanted to express his gratitude to chapter members for entrusting him with this leadership position. He said he was greatly comforted to know that he had 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 made his job easy. He is especially indebted to past presidents Michael Homer and Dan Daugherty, and our secretary/treasurer Natalie Goldstrohm for their guidance and service to the chapter. It was great to see many members at the Waco meeting. Kirk 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; and he looks forward to an even better event in 2021 with thanks to Dakus Geeslin for assuming the role of president-elect. He also thanked Matt Acre for his outstanding work as newsletter chair during the past year.

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 time, 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. He said that he does not 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 transcontinental 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 am 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 the future, when I expect we will be preparing for our next annual meeting – always an enlightening, enjoyable, economical, environmentally unobtrusive, and intimate gathering.



## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

Dakus reminisced that given all that has transpired in the last few months, it feels as if our TCAFS annual meeting in Waco is distant memory. He acknowledged 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. Dakus said he was inspired by each of our members and am honored to have been selected as president-elect. He thanked the membership for placing their confidence in him and our leadership team to continue serving you and maintaining our position as one of the best chapters in the AFS organization. He stated that he looked forward to working with a fisheries legend, our president, Kirk Winemiller, to ensure our 2021 annual meeting is a success. He also thanked Kirk, past president Dan Daugherty, and secretary - treasurer Natalie Goldstrohm for providing guidance and helping him in this role. He 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 disrupted our rhythm and altered many areas of our lives, both personally and professionally. Ordinarily we would be busy with research, monitoring, 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, he found many inspirations and sources of hope for the future. For one, as scientist, 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. Dakus said that he hopes each of our members continues to adapt and find their 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!

## TCAFS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



- The Waco meeting was attended by ~226 fisheries students and professionals.
- A total of 93 students attended this year's 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.

## 2020 TCAFS STUDENT AWARDS WINNERS



### Undergraduate

Elizabeth Boshers. Elizabeth 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.

Lauren Yancy. Lauren was 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, Elizabeth Boshers, & Jennifer Butler



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Lauren Yancy, & Jennifer Butler

## Master's

Apria Valenza. Apria is a first year Masters' student studying Fisheries and Mariculture at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Her 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 her undergraduate career at UNCW, she completed an Honors Thesis researching the ecophysiological response of juvenile southern flounder growth to settlement habitat. He hopes to continue to his Ph.D., so that he can continue researching critical questions in fisheries ecology and be able to teach the next generation of fisheries ecologists at a university.

Hunter Bailey. Hunter 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 brood stock 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.

Liam Batchelder. Liam 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.

Natalie Beeken. Natalie is 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). She previously worked as a fisheries technician III at salmon hatcheries in remote Alaska, where she participated in fisheries monitoring surveys aboard marine vessels. Her 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. She has 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. Her 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: Apria Valenza



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Hunter Bailey, & Jennifer Butler



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Liam Batchelder, & Jennifer Butler



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Natalie Beeken, & Jennifer Butler

## Doctorate

Kelsey Martin. Kelsey 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.

Brittany Harried. Brittany is earning her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas with Dr. David Hoeninghaus. 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.

Jason Selwyn. Jason 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, Kelsey Martin, & Jennifer Butler



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Brittany Harried, & Jennifer Butler



Pictured: Dan Daugherty, Jason Selwyn, & Jennifer Butler

## BEST PRESENTATION AND POSTER AWARDS — 2019 & 2020

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, Joshua, 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 Depart, 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

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 Hoeinghaus.

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 TCASF 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/>

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HALEY KOKEL

Haley Kikel is 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). Colt's job is with MetLife Agricultural Finance. They moved from College Station, TX, to Kansas City, KS, in 2015, and then to Aledo, TX, in 2019. Now that they live in Aledo, TX, Heley has recently been able to start my own business, Fish On Aquatic Plants. In addition to her business, she helps 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. Her interest in wildlife and fisheries began when she participated in the Wildlife Habitat Education Program through 4-H. She became more focused in fisheries during her undergraduate degree coursework at Texas A&M University (TAMU) and graduated with a master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from TAMU in May 2017.

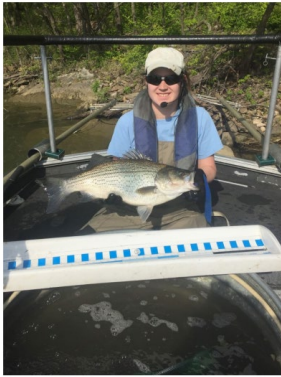
Being a member of the TCAFS has helped her work toward her current career. She became a member and officer of TAMU AFS in 2012 and was President from 2013 to 2015. During her involvement in TAMU AFS, she worked with the officer team to increase chapter involvement by holding regular meetings, reestablishing the Fish Fry Fundraiser, hosting social and community events, providing students with volunteer opportunities, and encouraging and organizing students to attend TCAFS meetings.

Haley attended her 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 her confirm WHERE ARE THEY NOW? HALEY KOKEL, WHERE ARE THEY NOW. In 2015, she presented her master's research at the TCAFS meeting in Tyler. She continued her involvement in AFS when she lived in Kansas City by joining the Missouri Chapter. Her next TCAFS meeting was the most recent in Waco. Her primary goal in attending was networking, since she had not lived in Texas for several years. Speaking to other professionals at the meeting about her experience and place in her career. Haley was encouraged to start a native aquatic plant nursery. While at the meeting, she also helped by taking pictures at the TCAFS banquet. She plans to continue her involvement in TCAFS, and her goal for next year's meeting is to be a mentor for the student-mentor luncheon.

Haley's fisheries field work experience began when she volunteered at the TPWD Fisheries Management Office in Snook in fall 2012. Later, she was offered the opportunity to work on the native aquatic plant nursery and to conduct her research, establishing native aquatic vegetation in conjunction with an integrated pest management program. She worked for Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) from 2015-2016 as a public service assistant at the MDC Discovery Center. She 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, she 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 they moved to Aledo. It is amazing how things can change in just one weekend. Going to the TCAFS meeting in January, she was very set on the idea that an aquatic plant nursery was not an option for her. However, she started working on Fish On Aquatic Plants as soon as she returned home. After some quick brainstorming with Colt, they decided she could begin this new phase of her career in their backyard. In less than two weeks later, she was moving forward with starting

the business and purchasing supplies. While she currently has 11 species of aquatic vegetation planted, she will be able to grow at least 20.

Heley is looking forward to her first plants reaching maturity to sell in June. Her goals are to expand her nursery to offer more species of plants and have more inventory available. She also wants 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. Heley is very grateful to TAMU AFS and TCAFS for the opportunities she has been given and connections she has made. Haley thanked the TCAFS, for asking her to be featured in "Where are They Now." Haley Kokel Owner and Horticulturist Fish On Aquatic Plants 116 Oakwood Dr. Aledo, TX 76008. [haley.kokel@fishonaquaticplants.com](mailto:haley.kokel@fishonaquaticplants.com)



## SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

ELIZABETH L. ROSAS

## MICHAEL GONZALES INTERNSHIP



Wildlife science is something Michael has had a passion for ever since she can remember. After graduating high school, she developed a profound interest in aquatic sciences which led her to pursue a degree in Aquatic Biology at Texas State University. In her last years of school, she became heavily invested in an undergraduate research project which further developed her interest in fisheries research.

Soon after graduation, she began searching for career opportunities that would help the skills and knowledge she had acquired over the past four years. That was when she 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 her and her future career. She was given the opportunity to work with a phenomenal team who taught her an incredible amount regarding field research, ranging from calibrating special equipment, fish identification, to general data recording methods. Michael enjoyed the fact that she was able to learn new techniques while still utilizing those that she had acquired at the university. The internship she 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 her that she had made the right choice to pursue this type of profession. She gained the confidence to know that this is something she can be happy with doing for the rest of her life. She was mentored by some of the best people in the industry who gave her the confidence to continue her education. The experience she gained as the Michael Gonzales Intern prepared her to pursue a master's degree in fisheries research. With this she hopes to continue down this route and build a career participating in research projects like what she aided in at SARA. Michael is beyond grateful for the opportunity she was given this past summer, and she knows that the knowledge and experience will stay with her as she continues to develop her professional career.

## **2021**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DAKUS GEESLIN. Dakus stated that as his favorite sportscaster, Harry Caray, would say "Hello again, everyone! It's a beautiful day for baseball." In addition to his favorite past time, the spring season in Texas is perfectly suited for any of your favorite outdoor activities. He hoped that all our members have been able to take advantage of the spring weather and reconnect with family and friends in a safe way. As our country continues to open up, Dakus said that he hopes our members will remain vigilant in our fight against the COVID-19 virus and take all the necessary precautions to keep family, friends, and community members safe and healthy. Furthermore, Dakus stated that as we continue to manage through the rapidly changing environment brought on by the pandemic, he is frequently reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of this community of fisheries professionals and students. The strength, determination, and adaptive capacity of our members was on display within the last year as we planned, coordinated, and hosted our very first, and hopefully last, virtual only Texas Chapter annual meeting.

The virtual planning committee executed the virtual meeting plan flawlessly. A huge shoutout goes to our past president, Dr. Kirk Winemiller and past secretary/treasurer Natalie Goldstrohm for their service and leadership to our Chapter. Other virtual planning team members that deserve special recognition include Dr. Sarah Haas, Alice Best, Shaun Donovan, Dr. Tiffany Hopper, Hanna Bauer, and John Taylor. We simply could not have pulled this off without your innovation and dedication. Our committee chairs also did a great job in their various roles and responsibilities to support our chapter meeting. He thanked the entire membership, and said he was proud to be on the team. He said it was an honor and privilege to work alongside all the members. As much as he enjoyed the virtual meeting given the circumstances, he

shared Tim’s sentiments expressed in the following article that he is also looking forward to an in-person meeting with next year. Dakus welcomed both Tim Birdsong as president-elect and Sarah Robertson as secretary/treasurer to the team. Dakus said he has worked with both Tim and Sarah for years and know we are in good hands with these two serving as chapter officers. Moving into the spring and summer and into the next phase of the pandemic, he said he is hopeful that we as a profession and society can get back to some of our activities, habits, and practices. He said he sure misses the days of being able to freely attend large conferences, sporting events, or bluegrass music festivals. Like many of you he said this past year has brought on a sense of loss from not being able to gather in person and draw energy from the crowd of fans or reconnect with friends and colleagues. Whether we like it or not, the pandemic has changed our world and the way we function within it.

Many aspects of our lives will not be the same as they once were. It will be challenging to adjust to new ways of doing things but also comforting to welcome back familiar ways of life. However, as we experienced in planning the 2021 virtual meeting, our community of fisheries professionals is highly adaptive and nimble. In biology and ecology, adaptation refers to the process of adjusting in behavior, physiology, or structure to become more suited to an environment. The future will surely require us to be adaptive and flexible as we look for ways to thrive in challenging environments. In closing, Dakus said that he encourages all of us to continue to be adaptive in your lives and lean in to help others as we acclimate to different work environments, methods of communication, and develop strategies to maintain our vital connections to one another, virtually or in-person. We have some great ideas and plans to reconnect in person for our 2022 TCAFS annual meeting. He signed out by stating he looks forward to seeing all our members again real soon. Until then, happy trails!



Dakus Geeslin, TCAFS President.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT’S MESSAGE

BY TIM BIRDSONG

PRESIDENT-ELECT’S MESSAGE BY TIM BIRDSONG. Tim stated that he is obviously biased, but he is constantly struck by the strong character and resolve of fisheries professionals. He said we share an unwavering commitment and deep-rooted passion to conserve wild things and wild places, to ensure the science-based management and stewardship of fisheries resources, to create opportunities for anglers,

paddlers, boaters, and others to get outdoors and reconnect with nature, family, and friends, and to help the public recognize and experience the quality-of-life benefits associated with our fisheries resources. Quoting one of his favorite singer-songwriters, Guy Clark, “that’s the kind of stuff I like to be around,” and I am incredibly thankful to have found/made fisheries conservation my chosen profession.

He said he has now dedicated more than two decades of his life to the conservation and management of fisheries resources (as a student and professional), which has been incredibly fulfilling due in large part to the network of passionate and committed professionals who Tim has had the opportunity to build lasting friendships and meaningful collaborations. That network includes a diverse group of resource managers, researchers, administrators, landowners, anglers, paddlers, educators, philanthropists, and advocates who he considers true conservation heroes, luminaries, and mentors. A shared attribute is their hopeful, optimistic perspective on conservation and their desire to make a positive and lasting difference for current and future generations. Their lives and careers have offered figurative road maps that daily help inform his outlook and decisions. In reflecting on his professional network, he recognized that many (if not the majority) of those relationships, friendships, and collaborations were formed at meetings of the American Fisheries Society (i.e., chapter, division, section, committee, parent society) but usually not in conference rooms (and definitely not during virtual conferences). Conference plenaries, symposia, and technical sessions have offered opportunities for exposure to research projects and conservation initiatives being undertaken by colleagues throughout Texas and nationally, but those generally represented one-way communications if not supplemented with opportunities for informal, unstructured, and untimed conversations.

Although not fully apparent to Tim until this pandemic, he now recognizes the critical importance of providing opportunities in a conference setting for professionals to engage in relaxed and unscripted dialogue, which can progress into new professional connections, project-specific brainstorming, and meaningful long-term collaborations. Speaking from his own experiences, new professional connections are often made during impromptu meet-and-greets in the exhibit hall, while tagging along with mentors and colleagues on a lunch or dinner outing, over breaks while attending a continuing education course, during a beach cleanup or other service project, amid hallway conversations at the conclusion of a technical session, while chatting on the shuttle bus in route to the annual AFS Spawning Run, or while standing in line for refreshments at nightly conference networking events. Obviously, these types of interactions were limited to nonexistent during the pandemic, which we hope to rectify in 2022. As we look ahead to the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting,

Tim said he is incredibly excited to reconnect in person and be reenergized professionally. At present, we plan to hold the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting in person at a resort and conference center in the Texas Hill Country during the early February timeframe (shortly following the Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for January 20-23, 2022, in Charleston, SC). Tim said it is our desire to arrange an all-inclusive, onsite, retreat-style atmosphere with plentiful opportunities to reconnect, socialize, refresh, build, and expand your professional networks. This includes tentative plans to launch the inaugural TCAFS Annual Spawning Run (late afternoon trail run), half-day field trips, a half-day chapter-wide service project, a fish conservation film/movie night (with popcorn and refreshments), nightly riverside socials (possibly with live music), late afternoon hiking, fishing, and paddling options, and a family style BBQ and other group meals. Stay tuned as we formally confirm and announce the location and dates for the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting. Tim said It promises to be an event and

experience members will not want to miss. Until then Tim said stay safe, fellow fish squeezers, and he looked forward to reconnecting with members soon!



Tim Birdsong (beardless and hatless version, center of back row) with editors, authors, and supporters of the AFS book, "Multispecies and Watershed Approaches to Freshwater Fish Conservation" at a related networking event held at the AFS Annual Meeting in Reno, NV (2019).

## 2021 TCAFS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—UNDERGRADUATES

*Harry Tennison Scholarship—*  
**Jansen Ivie** is from Brock, Texas, and is a senior at Texas Tech University where he is working on a B.S. in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Fisheries Biology. He is currently working on a project that examines patterns of piscivory by invasive Brown trout in tributaries of the Jemez River. His study will help to better understand how non-native Brown trout affect native fishes. Jansen is interested in salmonid fisheries with a focus on restoration, stream ecology, and invasive species. He is planning on working toward a M.S. starting in the fall of 2021.



*Harry Tennison Scholarship—*  
**Tommy Johnson** grew up in Willis, Texas, where family and friends got him hooked on fishing and the outdoors at an early age. After attending Texas Brigades in high school, he developed a passion for fisheries and wildlife conversation. He is a senior at Tarleton State University where he will earn a degree in Wildlife Sustainability and Ecosystem Sciences with concentrations in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, as well as Biology. Upon graduation, he hopes to work on a master's degree in a fisheries-related field and to continue volunteer work in fisheries education with groups like Fishing's Future, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Bass Brigades.



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—MASTERS



*Harry Tennison Scholarship—*  
**Connor Gallagher** grew up outside of Louisville, Kentucky, but his love of the water led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in Marine Science at Eckerd College in Florida. He spent time working offshore as a biologist for Florida Fish and Wildlife before joining Dr. Richard Kline's lab at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) to pursue a master's degree. His thesis work utilizes acoustic telemetry and an autonomous surface vehicle to examine the movement patterns and habitat usage of both common snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) and fat snook (*Centropomus parallelus*) within the Bahia Grande in South Texas. In addition, he is collecting life history data to better characterize the South Texas snook population. After graduation, Connor hopes to pursue a career in fisheries at the state or federal level.



*Harry Tennison Scholarship—*  
**Blake Thornton** is a second-year master's student studying biology at Angelo State University (ASU). Blake's thesis work is focused on fish health. He is examining the parasite communities of white crappie in four bodies of water in and around San Angelo, Texas, and comparing the age-specific rates of infection. This work will provide the first record of the parasites of white crappie in the Concho Valley and will provide valuable information regarding host age and parasite community association. Blake is highly interested in fisheries biology and management and volunteers often with Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries in North and West Texas. He hopes to

begin a career in fisheries management with TPWD Inland Fisheries or a Texas based pond and lake management company following his graduation from ASU in May of 2021.



*TCAFS Student Scholarship*— **Christa Edwards** is a second year master's student at Texas State University (TSU). Christa has been studying spring-associated fishes throughout Texas, and her thesis focuses on the habitat associations, specifically vegetation associations of the Fountain Darter in the San Marcos and Comal Rivers. In the future, Christa plans to continue her career in fisheries by researching endemic and imperiled non-game fishes throughout Texas.

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—DOCTORAL

*TCAFS Student Scholarship*—**Sara McGillewie** is earning her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas with Dr. David Hoeinghaus. Her research focuses on the socio-ecological dynamics of suburban succession in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. For this work, Sara is generating a GIS hub to aggregate relevant social and environmental data. With this information, her dissertation will seek to investigate how developer, homeowner, and homeowner's association (HOA) decisions influence aquatic ecosystem function, resistance, and resilience. After completing her PhD at the University of North Texas, Sara will seek a post-doctoral research position and will build a career in aquatic ecosystems and fisheries research.



*TCAFS Student Scholarship*—**Emily Meese** is pursuing her Ph.D. in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University at Galveston with Dr. Dave Wells. Emily's dissertation uses isotopic methods to characterize food web structure and dynamics in Matagorda Bay, Texas. Her dissertation uses a bottom-up approach by quantifying isotope signatures of all primary producers to understand linkages across upper trophic levels. Emily is excited to pursue a career in fisheries science and continue researching marine fisheries in an academia position.



## 2021 TCAFS STUDENT AWARDS WINNERS

### CLARK HUBBS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD



The 2020 TCAFS Clark Hubbs Student Research Award was awarded to **Hayden Roberts** in Dr. Perkin's lab at Texas A & M University. Hayden's master's thesis project assesses the spatial ecology of Alligator Gar in the lower Brazos River Basin.

### OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER—STUDENT



The Outstanding Fisheries Worker in the Student category goes to **Christa Edwards**. Christa is an exceptional graduate student at Texas State University and on a trajectory to be an outstanding professional in the fisheries field. With a bachelor's of science in Marine Biology from the University of Tampa, Christa shifted her interests to freshwater systems and organisms. Currently, she is lead on five Texas fish-related research projects, assists on several other fish and mussel related research projects, successfully transitioned the ichthyology laboratory to an online delivery, and was instrumental in collecting the largest Silver Chub ever reported in the Wichita River.

## BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—ORAL

**Brittany Harried**

University of North Texas

**Project title:**

***Host selectivity and local environmental conditions determine cutaneous microbiome structure of North Texas stream fishes at the onset of drought***

**Co-authors:** Donald Walker and David Hoeninghaus

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

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## BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—POSTER

**Lauren Yancey**

Texas A&M University

**Project title:**

***Diel fluctuations in Comanche Springs Pupfish abundances in San Solomon Springs, Balmorhea State Park***

**Co-authors:** Joshua Perkin and Matthew Acre

## BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—ORAL

**Ryan King**

Baylor University

**Project title:**

***Low-level dissolved organic carbon subsidies drive a trophic upsurge in a boreal stream***

**Co-authors:** Caleb Robbins, Alyse Yeager, Stephen Cook, Robert Doyle, Jasmine Maurer, Coowe Walker, Jeffrey Back, and Dennis Whigham

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



## BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—POSTER

**Joshuah Perkin**

Texas A&M University

**Project title:**

***Conservation biogeography of headwater catfish in the United States***

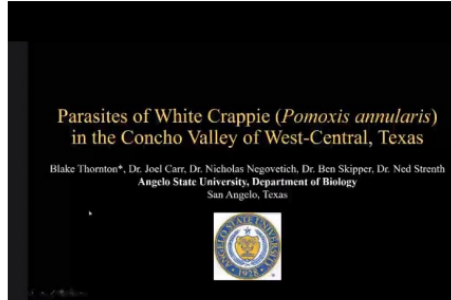
**Co-authors:** Stephanie George Parker, Megan Bean, and Dijar Lutz-Carillo

**BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—ORAL**

**Blake Thornton**  
 Angelo State University

**Project title:**  
*Parasites of White Crappie (Pomoxis annularis) in the Concho Valley of West-Central, Texas*

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**BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—POSTER**

**Florian Kappen**  
 Texas A&M University

**Project title:**  
*Megafish movement: Testing stream fish movement paradigms using alligator gar*

**Co-authors:** Joshua Perkin, Hayden Roberts, Maximilian Claus, Dan Daugherty, David Buckmeier, and Matthew Acre

**Megafish movement: Testing stream fish movement paradigms using alligator gar**  
 Florian Kappen, Joshua S. Perkin, Maximilian Claus, Hayden Roberts, Matthew R. Acre, Daniel J. Daugherty, David L. Buckmeier

**Introduction**

The restricted movement paradigm (RMP) posits that riverine fish populations consist of a stationary ( $\theta_{st}$ ) and mobile ( $\theta_{mo}$ ) component whose heterogeneous movement behaviors result in leptokurtic distributions of movement data (Fig. 1). The high peak in these leptokurtic distributions originates from a stationary component that does not move far, while a wide spread at the tails originates from the often smaller mobile component that moves much further.

Despite application on a global scale, the RMP is not yet tested for megafish (i.e., fishes >10 kg in adulthood). Therefore, we explored the application of the RMP to alligator gar (Fig. 2).

We tested four hypotheses related to the RMP including (H1) presence of leptokurtosis, (H2) a diffuse spread of the dispersal with seasonal variation, (H3) individual fish switching between stationary and mobile behaviors, and (H4) a general model for fish dispersal in rivers would predict alligator gar movement.

**Materials and Methods**

We used previously published telemetry data collected from 42 alligator gar on the Lower Trinity River, Texas (Buckmeier et al. 2013) and analyzed dispersal (i.e., movement from tagging locations and displacement (i.e., movement from previous location)).

(H1) We tested for leptokurtosis using D'Agostino's test for normality and accepted H1 when leptokurtosis was present.

(H2) We tested for increasing movement distances through time and variability with season for  $\theta_{st}$  and  $\theta_{mo}$  using the 'Tostover' package in R. H2 was accepted if distances increased with time and showed seasonal variation.

(H3) We classified individual fish per tracking event as stationary (movement <  $\theta_{st}$ ) or mobile (movement >  $\theta_{st}$ ) and accepted H3 if classifications varied.

(H4) We compared observed movement components with predictions from Adger & Wolter (2014) and accepted H4 if confidence intervals overlapped.

[https://1fjduf35czd41a05pgltrtej-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/01/Kappen\\_Florian\\_TCAFS\\_2021.pdf](https://1fjduf35czd41a05pgltrtej-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/01/Kappen_Florian_TCAFS_2021.pdf)

**Megafish movement: Testing stream fish movement paradigms using alligator gar**  
 Florian Kappen, Joshua S. Perkin, Maximilian Claus, Hayden Roberts, Matthew R. Acre, Daniel J. Daugherty, David L. Buckmeier

**Results**

Leptokurtosis occurred in most of the tracking events (81 supported; e.g., Fig. 3). Movement distances did not show a monotonic increase through time (Fig. 4) and only the mobile component was found to increase (30 periods supported). Individual fish switched between stationary and mobile movement behaviors, suggesting mobility was not fixed (not supported). The predictive model for fish dispersal in rivers consistently over-predicted alligator gar movement because of the absence of diffuse spread (not supported).

**Discussion and Conclusions**

This study indicates that the RMP is applicable to megafish species like the alligator gar, though general predictions of alligator gar movement remain elusive. Whether dispersal is controlled by a diffuse spread or by a diffuse spread over time, this was not the case for alligator gar. We hypothesize that movement is being regulated by different factors rather than diffuse spread. This was indicated by our results and in line with patterns observed in previous alligator gar research in studies.

**Acknowledgements and References**

This was funded in part by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Acknowledged at (2021) Alligator Gar movement and macrohabitat use in the lower Trinity River, Texas. *WIS* 34(2):222-228. Adger & Wolter (2014). Patterns and predictors of fish dispersal in rivers. *Fish & Fisheries* 13:656-672.

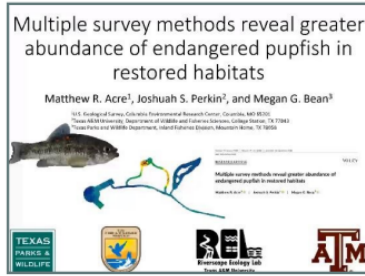
**BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—ORAL**

**Matthew Acre**  
United States Geological Survey

**Project title:**  
*Multiple survey methods reveal greater abundance of endangered pupfish in restored habitats*

**Co-authors:** Joshua Perkin, Megan Bean

[https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=fmcloud\\_front\\_request&id=7656&cmd=file&target=fls1\\_TWFodGhldyBBY3JlLm1wNA](https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=fmcloud_front_request&id=7656&cmd=file&target=fls1_TWFodGhldyBBY3JlLm1wNA)



**BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—POSTER**

**Joshua Perkin**  
Texas A&M University

**Project title:**  
*A gap in the armor: Spearfishing reduces biomass of invasive suckermouth armored catfish*

**Co-authors:** Caleb Blanton, Nick Menchaca, and Kristy Kollaus

**A Gap in the Armor: Spearfishing Reduces Biomass of Invasive Suckermouth Armored Catfish**  
Joshua S. Perkin<sup>1</sup>, Caleb S. Blanton<sup>1</sup>, Nick Menchaca<sup>2</sup>, Kristy A. Kollaus<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Ecology and Conservation Biology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, <sup>2</sup>Atlas Environmental, San Marcos, TX, <sup>3</sup>Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio, TX

**Background**

- Suckermouth Armored Catfish (SAC) have invaded aquatic ecosystems on a global scale (Fig. 1A)
- The San Marcos River in southcentral Texas is one of these invaded systems (Fig. 1B-C)

**Study Area**

- SAC are spearfished to control their population size in the San Marcos River between Spring Lake Dam and the Interstate 35 crossing (Fig. 2)

**Methods**

- Although 1,200 SAC on average were removed from the San Marcos River during 2014-2018, the effects of this removal were not quantified (Fig. 3)
- We used the Bayesian Biomass Estimation Method of Froese et al. (2018) to quantify the effects of the removal
- Our study is published in the journal *Fisheries* if you would like more details (Blanton et al., 2020)

<https://1fjduf35czd41a05pgltrtj-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/01/TCAFS-2021-Perkin-et-al-Poster.pdf>

**A Gap in the Armor: Spearfishing Reduces Biomass of Invasive Suckermouth Armored Catfish**  
Joshua S. Perkin<sup>1</sup>, Caleb S. Blanton<sup>1</sup>, Nick Menchaca<sup>2</sup>, Kristy A. Kollaus<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Ecology and Conservation Biology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, <sup>2</sup>Atlas Environmental, San Marcos, TX, <sup>3</sup>Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio, TX

**Results - Catches Declined**

**Results - Model Showed Increase in Fishing Mortality**

**Conclusions**

- This study suggests SAC control through organized spearfishing is supporting the population
- Despite the control success, eradication (i.e., total removal) will be challenging
- Our work demonstrates the benefits of applying fishery stock assessment tools to measure the efficacy of invasive species control programs

**Acknowledgements**

- We thank A. Earl, T. Heard, W. Nowlin, C. Riggins, and T. Rodriguez for logistical support
- The manuscript benefited from reviews by members of the Riverwide Ecology Lab at Texas A&M
- Funding was provided by a Texas A&M University Undergraduate Applied Biodiversity Science Conservation Scholarship to Caleb Blanton

**Citations**

Blanton, C.S., J.S. Perkin, N. Menchaca, and K.A. Kollaus. 2020. A gap in the armor: Spearfishing reduces biomass of invasive suckermouth armored catfish. *Fisheries* 45:293-302.

Froese, R., et al. 2018. A new approach for estimating stock status from length frequency data. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 75:2006-2015.

## 2021 OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKERS

*Fisheries Management*—**Greg Binion** has worked in the realm of fisheries management for over fifteen years, twelve of which have been spent with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department as a biologist at the Corpus Christi Fisheries Management District Team in Mathis, Texas. Greg should be recognized for his ability to build partnerships with numerous entities focused on improving fish habitat and access to anglers. In between those efforts, Greg also makes time for his other passion, research; he is often called upon to assist with existing projects because of his creativity and his meticulous aptitude with editing. Other than his outstanding work ethic, Greg is probably best known for his always-calm and professional conduct, which is highly regarded amongst his team and his peers. It is because of all of these strengths that we feel that he has earned this year's award.



*Special Recognition*—**Charles Cruz** is a second generation TPWD employee, who has worked in the State's fish hatcheries as well as the San Angelo management office. One area where Charles excels is his welding and fabrication skills. Over the years he has made many improvements to boats and equipment in the San Angelo Inland Fisheries office, which includes many custom modifications to an electrofishing boat that has improved its function and that were completed with a high level of craftsmanship. More recently, he built a boat stocking system that reduces handling stress on stocked fish. Charles stands out from other technicians in his attention to detail and determination to make things as best he can. One thing I am certain of Charles: if he's going to build something, it's going to be done right. Additionally, he has been invaluable during kid fishing events. One event that that comes to mind is the annual West Texas Rehab Camp where he always makes sure every kid gets the chance to catch a fish. Charles is a vital member of the San Angelo fisheries management team and one of the best fisheries technicians in TPWD.





*Special Recognition*—For over 33 years, **Ken Kurzawski** has been a stalwart leader in the management and conservation of Texas freshwater fisheries resources, with extraordinary contributions in fisheries policy. As Chief of Information and Regulations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries Division, Ken has advised fisheries managers and conservation biologists throughout the state on data-driven regulatory options that support the science-based management of recreational and commercial fisheries, imperiled nongame fishes, exotic species, freshwater fish habitats, and other topics to help achieve the Division’s mantra of “providing the best possible fishing opportunities while protecting and

enhancing freshwater resources.” Throughout his career, Ken has been actively engaged at all levels of the American Fisheries Society including President of the Texas Chapter in 2011, President of the AFS Fisheries Administration Section 2015-2017, and through service on the AFS Governing Board. With plans to retire in August 2021, Ken is well-deserving of special recognition from the Texas Chapter AFS for his unwavering commitment, sincere passion, and exemplary service within the fisheries profession.



*Special Recognition*—Since joining Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2013, **Monica McGarrity** has made extraordinary contributions in the management and conservation of fisheries and other aquatic resources through the development and im-

plementation of science-based strategies for mitigating the effects of aquatic invasive species. Monica conceived, designed, and implemented a litany of new education, outreach, prevention, monitoring, research and management programs that have helped establish a comprehensive aquatic invasive species management program for the state. One of her most noteworthy achievements was leading the development and implementation of one of the largest riparian invasive species control projects in the USA, which has now treated nearly 14,000 acres of salt cedar to restore habitats for two endangered fishes along 178 miles of the upper Brazos River. Monica also recently finalized and presented a comprehensive revision of the exotic aquatic species regulations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, which was unanimously adopted by the Commission. Monica is well-deserving of special recognition from the Texas Chapter AFS for her unwavering commitment, sincere passion, and exemplary service within the fisheries profession.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*New volunteers for the Membership Committee. The committee is now represented by:*

**Michele Nations, Chair**

Retired from TPWD  
Listserv Contact

**Haley Kokel**

*Fish on Aquatic Plants*  
Social Media Guru

**Stephen Curtis**

TPWD, *River Studies Program*  
Membership Outreach

*Thank you and welcome to Haley and Stephen!*

## POND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*The Pond Management has new members. The committee is now represented by:*

**Greg Binion, Chair**

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

**Steve Bardin**

Texas Pro Lake Management

**Sean Deery**

Blessed Bayou Wildlife & Fisheries Consulting

*Thank you and welcome to Steve and Sean!*

## STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Several TCAFS members have graciously volunteered to serve on the Student Outreach Committee. The committee is now represented by:*

**Josh Perkin, Chair**

Texas A&M University

**Scott Collins**

Texas Tech University

**Levi Sparks**

Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District

**Margaret Stadig**

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

*Thank you and welcome to Scott, Levi, and Margaret!*

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- PRESIDENT ..... Dakus Geeslin
- PRESIDENT-ELECT ..... Tim Birdsong
- PAST PRESIDENT ..... Kirk Winemiller
- SECRETARY-TREASURER ..... Sarah Robertson

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

- AWARDS ..... Brittany Chesser
- CONTINUING EDUCATION ..... Lynn Wright
- EDITORIAL ..... Alice Best & Dave Buzan
- ENDOWMENTS ..... Brian VanZee
- HISTORY ..... Michele Nations
- INTERNET ..... Sarah Haas & John Taylor
- ISSUES ..... Kevin Mayes
- MEMBERSHIP ..... Michele Nations, Haley Kokel, & Stephen Curtis
- NOMINATING ..... Greg Cummings
- POND MANAGEMENT ..... Greg Binion, Sean Deery, & Steve Bardin
- PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS ..... Shawn Donovan & Steve Bardin
- SCHOLARSHIP ..... Jennifer Butler
- STUDENT OUTREACH ..... Josh Perkin, Scott Collins, Levi Sparks, & Margaret Stadig

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matt Troia  
[matthew.troia@utsa.edu](mailto:matthew.troia@utsa.edu)



## 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

PRESIDENT'S FINAL MESSAGE OF THE YEAR BY DAKUS GEESLIN. Dakus gave greetings to all TCAFS members and fisheries colleagues! He said he hoped this message finds members and their families enjoying the brief but beautiful fall season. Deer season has opened, the flounder season is closed for the first time in our regulatory history, and rainbow trout are stocked in our local waterways for anglers to enjoy. He hoped to take advantage of the latter himself. Dakus shared a few observations and lessons learned from the annual meeting. Like many of you, he said he often finds the AFS conference experience, whether it's our state chapter, division, or parent society meeting, serves as a mighty recharge of the personal and professional battery. Time spent away from the daily grind interacting with colleagues, meeting new ones, and taking in a variety of talks and symposia has served as a powerful source of inspiration over the years as he re-emerged into the work of our home ground and waters. Put simply, he said he needed this experience and the periodic gathering of our tribe and sharing of accomplishments and ideas to do his job to the best of his ability and better serve the people of Texas. Thinking through this a bit more, he noted several aspects of our profession at this meeting that are particularly inspiring. First and foremost, our future is in good hands with the cohort of students soon entering our profession. The skills in applied fisheries biology and research, written and verbal communication, and the ability to network displayed by students is far more advanced than the time when I came out of graduate school. For example, one of his highlights of the conference was serving as a reviewer of college student resumes/CV and conducting mock interviews. The graduate student assigned to me was well on her way to a successful career in our field. This young lady, currently at the Ohio State University, had secured a National Science Foundation grant that paid for her graduate school in full. She was seeking doctoral programs and shared that she would soon be visiting marine science programs in Texas. Dakus did his best to recruit her to several of our fine marine science institutions along the coast. Spending a few hours reviewing her CV and walking through a mock interview had him wanting to offer her a job on the spot. She was that good! To say he was highly impressed would be an understatement. Dakus said he sees this within our own chapter student members.



He said he was able to talk with several of our student members during the poster social and was anxious to see where our students end up in their careers. Again, the future is bright. Adaptive, flexible, resilient, determined. He observed our profession displaying each of these powerful adjectives this week. It is no secret that there were several significant challenges with the event organizer and the hybrid in-person/virtual format. Talks and symposia were often canceled without notice, presentations

weren't always loaded and ready for the presenter, the list goes on. Things did not go smoothly at the AFS meeting in Baltimore that he attended. However, time and time again he noted that our tribe was setting the example for adaptive ecology and resilience as we worked together to overcome challenges throughout the week. This too was incredibly inspiring as we made it work and pulled our personal laptops together, ran cords, and remained positive and determined to have a quality experience. Teamwork was alive and well in Baltimore. As we approach our annual meeting in February, he said he was confident the planning team led by Tim Birdsong will prepare for all the things that could go wrong and have a backup plan in place. Based on his experience with the planning team that pulled off the virtual meeting last year he said he knows that anything is possible with our team of volunteers. In closing, he said that he looked forward to seeing all our Chapter members in February, for sharing some time together, and recharging our collective batteries. Until then, he bid us to be well.



## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY TIMOTHY BIRDSONG

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S FINAL MESSAGE OF THE YEAR BY TIMOTHY BIRDSONG. Timothy said that as members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS), we are 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. According to Timothy, this is the shared and unifying mission that motivates and inspires us to join with each other as researchers, aquaculturists, resource managers, conservationists, consultants, administrators, educators, and advocates to lead, demonstrate, promote, and otherwise enable the science-based stewardship of fisheries resources in Texas. Just as Texas is a large coastal state with expansive, biologically productive, and ecologically diverse freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems, Texas boasts a large, diverse, and thriving community of fisheries professionals. It's remarkable when considering the immense and varied disciplinary expertise and the culture of service, mentoring, and collaboration that exists within TCAFS. These are only a handful of the elements that have resulted in TCAFS continually being recognized as a leader in the fisheries profession (most recently as recipient of the 2019 AFS Outstanding Large Chapter Award). Since formation of TCAFS in 1975, the value proposition for engagement as a TCAFS member has not simply been limited to the opportunities offered for individual growth but more importantly, the plentiful opportunities to actively serve within TCAFS and truly lean into and help advance the mission. Attendance at TCAFS annual meetings is definitely of value to attendees, but if you desire to truly experience the full benefits of TCAFS membership, he encouraged members to serve as a TCAFS officer, committee chair, or committee member (more than a dozen to choose from), engage in continuing education courses and field trips (three to choose from at the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting), serve as a presentation judge, moderate a technical session, participate in the student-mentor lunch, or volunteer to help organize and coordinate special events, such as our upcoming inaugural TCAFS 5K Spawning Run. While engagement and service in these roles is critically important to TCAFS operations, it results in a more immersive experience for you that will undoubtedly expedite your professional growth and prepare you to play increasingly significant roles in the future, expand your professional network, and contribute to the growth and development of your colleagues and our entire community. As with any volunteer organization, engagement by our members is critical to the continued relevance and success of TCAFS. Timothy thanked all the members for all they do for Texas fish and fisheries. Collectively, we are making a real difference, and he said that he is incredibly excited to reconnect at Mo-Ranch February 3-5, 2022, to learn, be encouraged, and be inspired. It will be an event to remember, and he looked forward to seeing everyone there!



Tim Birdsong, TCAFS President-Elect, holds a Striped Bass at Lake Texoma.



North Fork Guadalupe River at Mo-Ranch.

## AFS MEMBERS FROM MULTIPLE DIVISIONS JOIN TOGETHER TO BUILD A NEW MODEL FOR COLLABORATION

BY KEVIN MAYES



Sharpnose Shiner *Notropis oxyrhynchus*, endemic to Texas, is a prairie stream cyprinid belonging to the pelagic broadcast-spawning reproductive guild. This specimen was collected from the Brazos River in Seymour, Baylor Co., TX. Photo credit: Kevin Conway

### What

Over 60 American Fisheries Society members from the North Central, Southern, Northeastern, and Western Divisions have expressed interest in joining a new collaboration to address problems related to prairie stream fish research and conservation. This collaboration will advance through a symposium at the 2021 national AFS meeting in Baltimore entitled “Creating and Implementing an Ecosystem-wide Integrated Research Agenda and Conservation Plan for Prairie Streams: A Shared Vision, Next Generation Synthesis, and Future Action Plan.”

### Why

Prairie ecosystems once covered 2.8 million square kilometers of North America. Numerous Great Plains fish species have been declining for decades. Prairie stream ecosystems face unprecedented threats from surface and groundwater depletion caused by human development, stream fragmentation, invasive species, native species loss, energy development, and climate change. These stressors compromise the integrity and function of stream ecosystems and result in continued loss of native biota.

### A New Vision

Increasing threats to aquatic resources demand new collaborative approaches. For large ecosystems, such as prairie streams, one state, one agency, or one research lab cannot be effective alone. Collaborative synthesis in ideas, data, and action is needed for restoration and preservation of prairie fish assemblages. However, this collaboration requires creative and innovative ideas, a common vision, good coordination among participants, and a clear plan for future action.

### The Symposium

This symposium will serve as a forum for retrospective and historic analyses, current studies, projections to help provide directions for a future regionwide ecosystem-based synthetic conservation plan, and guidance for future research on prairie fishes and ecosystems. Nine organizers are joined by 23 other coauthors to present 15 talks and a panel discussion. Topics address: (1) conservation vision and objectives, (2) existing tools and information resources, (3) information gaps, and (4) resource management challenges. The diverse fisheries experts involved in the symposium represent three

federal agencies, one non-governmental organization, six state agencies, five cooperative fish and wildlife research units, and six universities.

## Ultimate Outcome

The ultimate outcome of the collaboration is to foster broader landscape and riverscape efforts to preserve and protect these important native fish resources of the North American Great Plains before additional extirpations and extinctions result in irreversible ecosystem impacts. In addition, we hope to develop a new model for across employer, across location, and across disciplinary synthesis that can be transferred to other systems and locations.

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

### A YEAR OF SWIMMING FISH BY CAMERON EMADI

I am a Ph.D. student in Environmental Science at the University of North Texas in Dr. Edward Mager's lab. We began working on a project in early 2020 with biologists at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division at the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in Mountain Home, Texas. The center is nestled in the Hill Country not too far from Fredericksburg. The project was created to assess fish swimming performance (e.g., maximum endurance and burst swimming speeds) to facilitate better stream crossing designs that consider the fish's swimming capacities. Structures like bridges or culverts can funnel water creating zones of high-water velocity which might hinder migrations, cause extirpations, or otherwise harm local fish populations. In this study, we looked at four fish species, all of which are designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need by TPWD: the Guadalupe Bass (*Micropterus treculii*), Guadalupe Roundnose Minnow (*Dionda nigrotaeniata*), Guadalupe Darter (*Percina apristis*), and Plateau Shiner (*Cyprinella lepida*). We are nearing completion of the project, but I spent considerable time down in the Hill Country last fall working on the adult Guadalupe Bass portion of the project. Being born and raised in North Texas was a great experience to spend time in the scenery and beautiful environment we have hidden down in the Hill Country. The experience of working with the scientists and staff at the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center and the time I spent in the Hill Country will definitely be a highlight of my Ph.D. experience. I look forward to going back down to attend and present my research at this year's annual TCAFS meeting!



Cameron Emadi with Guadalupe bass. Photo credit: Cameron Emadi

PRESERVE OUR HISTORY TODAY  
BY MICHELE NATIONS,,  
TCAFS ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN COMMITTEE CHAIR

*It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.*  
-William J. Murtagh, "Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America

What is "history"? It's a term that relates to past events as well as the discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about these past events.

*The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future.*  
-Stephen E. Ambrose

How do we know about our TCAFS history? Thanks to Ray Mathews, we know quite a bit. He was the archivist/historian from 1999 to 2009, and he was amazing in his compilation of documents and files, plus preparing the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society History & Chronology, Silver Anniversary Edition Celebrating 25 Years of Fisheries History (September 2001), which can be found on the History page of the TCAFS web page ([https:// units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-history/](https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-history/)), and a poster that shows the TCAFS history from 1975 to 2005, which will be posted to the website in the near future.

As the new Archivist/Historian in 2009, I began working on an update to his work. Then in 2015, I was asked to chair the Awards Committee. Those who know me will understand that I jumped at the chance to help the Chapter in this capacity – not only would I be able to highlight people doing great things, but I would also be able to use my database skills to track judges and presentations, figuring that I could also use the information in my efforts to keep track of our It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.

The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future. -Stephen E. Ambrose. That kept me busy until 2020 when I stepped down from being the Awards committee chair and Brittany Chesser took over that position. Now being retired, I'm enjoying history more fully again. All those paper documents that Ray began with (e.g., proceedings, newsletters, and letters) are being scanned in as digital files, if they have not already been done so. I'm also getting back to the database I started to track members and, with it, also capturing members' photos. I was able to complete two posters with the help of Ray and Stephen Curtis for the TCAFS exhibit at the AFS meeting in Baltimore.

Here are the posters that will also be available at the TCAFS meeting in Hunt. We now have so many ways to capture history. Our lives are a legacy – a gift that only each of us can give. You can even tell me your personal story of how you became interested in fisheries. I love reading the applications for the scholarships when students are asked what brought them into this field.



# Lone Star History of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday!

Michelle Ballman, Texas Chapter Archivist/Historian, retired Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries, michball@texas.gov  
Ray Matthews, Volunteer, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, former Fisheries Biologist/Geologist, State of Texas, rmatthews@texas.gov

## Brief Overview



The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a continuation of the tradition, development, and growth of the American Fisheries Society, the predecessor of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, which was organized in 1908.

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Members have ranged from 60 to 100 members in the past. Presently, the Texas Chapter has approximately 100 members. Members include biologists, ecologists, fisheries managers, and others.



The Chapter is active in many areas, including education, research, and conservation. It provides a forum for members to share information and collaborate on projects.

## Chapter Mission and Committee Goals

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is committed to the conservation, development, and growth of the American Fisheries Society, the predecessor of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, which was organized in 1908.

Year	Event
1908	The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was organized in 1908.
1910	The first meeting was held in Austin, Texas.
1915	The first annual meeting was held in Austin, Texas.
1920	The first annual meeting was held in Austin, Texas.
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2015	The first annual meeting was held in Austin, Texas.
2020	The first annual meeting was held in Austin, Texas.

## Fishery Resources of Texas

There are a wide variety of fishery resources in Texas, including freshwater, saltwater, and estuarine resources.

The freshwater fishery resources of Texas include the Red River, Brazos River, Colorado River, and Rio Grande. These rivers provide habitat for a variety of fish species.

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## Members 2021 - 2022 and Future 2023



## With a Focus on the Future



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**2022**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TIM BIRDSONG

Tim Birdsong's President's Message. Tim stated that In June 2022, advocates for conservation of fish and wildlife resources celebrated bipartisan passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773) by the U.S. House of Representatives. Now is time for each of us to individually consider taking action to help the Recovering America's Wildlife Act cross the finish line by calling or messaging our Senators and asking them to advance the bill in the. You can also spotlight on social media any pertinent ongoing research and conservation projects that you are leading and tag #recoverwildlife and your Senator's social media account.

Tim reported that It eventually passed by both chambers of U.S. Congress, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would result in an unprecedented level of financial investment nationally in the conservation of species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), a status generally afforded to at-risk species in need of conservation intervention. Congress currently requires each U.S. state and territory to assemble and routinely update State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), which emphasize actions necessary to con serve SGCN and prevent the need for their listing as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

According to Tim, current federal funding for implementation of SWAPs is primarily provided through the State Wildlife Grants Program, which nationally allocates approximately \$50 million annually. In Texas alone, estimated annual funding needed to effectively implement the Texas SWAP is \$132 million, including \$6.2 million annually to conserve the 106 species of freshwater fish and mussels recognized as SGCN. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act seeks to address this funding shortfall by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to implement SWAPs, including \$57.4 million annually in Texas. In support of fish conservation efforts in Texas, this funding would help fill critical research needs, expand monitoring programs, restore or enhance degraded habitats, re store connectivity in fragmented rivers and other natural landscapes, preserve intact habitats through conservation easements, propagate and repatriate fish populations, and deliver a multitude of other actions necessary to re store and preserve fish SGCN.

Tim asked the membership to please consider taking time to support passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a once in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the conservation of America's most at-risk species. Tim thanked members for all they do for Texas fish and fisheries. Together, we're making a real difference!

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY CHRISTOPHER MACE

Christopher Mace's President-Elects Message.

### *Diversity makes us stronger*

Greetings colleagues! Christopher stared out with a quick introduction and on to business. He said my name is Christopher Mace, and I was selected as President Elect at the most recent Texas Chapter – AFS meeting at the Mo Ranch. He reflected that some of you I have known for years, while others I have

been pleased to recently meet. His fisheries career started in the Truckee Meadows area of Northwestern Nevada, working with threatened and endangered freshwater fishes. From the iconic Cutthroat Trout in high mountain lakes of the Sierra Nevada's, to the venerable Pup Fish in the Ash Meadows oasis in the Armargosa Valley, he was blessed to be exposed to the incredible and diverse aquatic life of western freshwater species. Graduate school helped solidify his desire to continue fisheries work with fisheries restoration projects such as restoring native species for sportfish in Puerto Rican reservoirs. Being a small island on the border of the Caribbean and Atlantic oceans, the fisheries diversity paralleled what he had seen in western America. From Dajao (Mountain Mullet) to Dorado (Dolphin Fish), he tried to study them all. Mountain reservoirs, rainforest streams, brackish lagoons to the vast open ocean, the diversity was remarkable. In 2009, (got here as fast as he could) he joined the professionals at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a Natural Resource Specialist in the coastal town of Rockport. His work continued documenting the native diversity of fish populations. *Anchoa mitchilli*, *Brevoortia patronus*, and *Xiphias gladius*; the salty waters of the Texas coast teemed with biodiversity! In those 25+ years, the one trait he noticed ran true no matter which ecosystem he was working was, the more diverse, the more adaptable to change.

Fast forward to this year's May meeting of the Texas Chapter at the amazing Mo-Ranch. In the headwaters of the Guadalupe River, he found species that took him back to childhood fishing trips with my Papa. Sunfish took small flies readily and provided several anglers with their first catch on a flyrod. What a spectacular venue for the meeting and he wished to take one moment to thank Tim Birdsong, Dakus Geeslin, and all the chairs and volunteers that worked to put this meeting together.

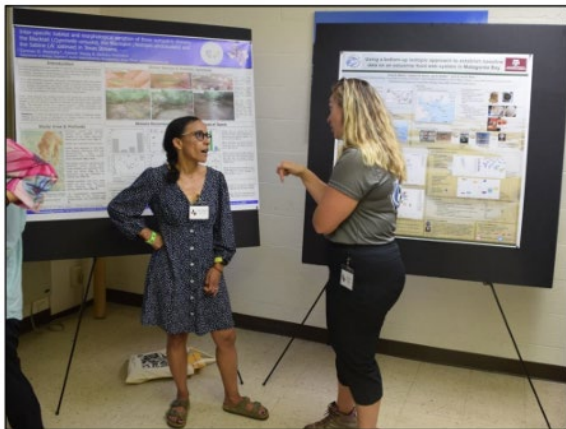
As he transitioned from a shady bench near the river into the conference room to prepare for the talks, he was struck with a different type of diversity. He said he does not recall attending a fisheries meeting with greater student participation. As he wrote his President-elect report, he said he was not reviewing attendance numbers, nor looking back at records. However, it struck him that this particular meeting felt different. Perhaps it was the timing of the meeting, as it was postponed from the traditional February date to early May to account for yet another wave of the Coronavirus. Perhaps it was the location, with its summer-camp ambiance. Either way, seeing young professionals engaged in conversations with tenured folks energized me. Discussing student research projects in the packed poster rooms was the highlight of the afternoon. The energy amassed from two years of virtual classes, zoom meetings, isolation and quarantine was being released and I could see people beaming with anticipation of some normality for the future. Whatever the new normal will be, I recognize the young professionals will be ready to take the baton. Texas is the land of the extremes, always has been. The new generation of fisheries professionals is learning to adapt to drought and floods, wildfires and hurricanes, freezes and heatwaves, pandemics and politics. And to think, all I had to learn was Latin names and statistics! As he noted in his work with fisheries, diverse populations are stronger and more adept to handle change. Equally, a diverse chapter membership will help us tackle the problems of the future, whatever they may be. It's important to stimulate our young professionals to keep fisheries relevant and proactive. Membership kindles old and new relationships alike and facilitates networking that can lead to career long partnerships. He said that he sincerely hopes we can not only maintain but increase participation and diversity of our younger membership. It is one of his overarching goals as president-elect. In the next short months, he will be reaching out to folks with a call for volunteers. There is work to do now to ensure a successful Texas Chapter, and Christopher for one intended to maintain this post-COVID energy and leverage the hard work of the chapter members into 2023 and beyond. Moreover, if you have ideas,

you'd like to share that could stimulate and support a diverse student membership, please consider volunteering on one of the many important behind-the-scenes teams. More information about the officers may be found at <https://units.fisheries.org/tx/officers-and-chairs/>.



Inspiration Point. Courtesy Mo-Ranch.

## ANNUAL MEETING AT MO-RANCH



Meeting attendees participating in the poster session. Photo credit: Haley Kokel



TCAFS President Dakus Geeslin, President-Elect Tim Birdsong, and Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Robertson posing with recipient of TCAFS Student Travel Awards. Photo credit: Haley Kokel

## OUTSTANDING PRESENTATION AND POSTER AWARDEES

- 2022 Professional Oral Presentation Benjamin Walther, Texas A&M–Corpus Christi. Tracking hypoxia exposure and consequences in the northern Gulf of Mexico with chemical proxies.
- 2022 Student Oral Presentation Erin Nguyen, Texas A&M–College Station. Drier and Dire: Ecological forecasting and conservation contingency planning for imperiled Great Plains fishes in Texas.
- 2022 Professional Poster David Peterson, Stephen F. Austin University. A 70-year regional perspective of an east Texas urban fishery.
- 2022 Student Poster Rebecca Mangold, Texas A&M–College Station. Does spatial location matter when estimating stream fish richness? A test of spatially constrained rarefaction in the Colorado River Basin, Texas.

### **Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award** American Fisheries Society, Fisheries Administration Section *Repatriation of Guadalupe Bass to the Blanco River*



From left to right: Tim Birdsong, Tim Bonner, Greg Cummings, Kevin Mayes, Ken Kurzawski, John Botros, Archis Grubb, and Megan Bean.

## OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKERS

- **2022 Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Education**  
Joshuah Perkin, Texas A & M University, College Station
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Student**  
Lindsey Elkins, Texas A & M University, College Station
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Student**  
Garrett Stamport, Texas A & M University, College Station
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Fisheries Management**  
Dusty McDonald, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Corpus Christi
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Special Recognition**  
Annette Sudyka, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Heart of the Hills Science Center
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Research**  
Clint Robertson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, River Studies



Annette Sudyka (left) and Clint Robertson (right). Photo credit: Haley Kokel

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

### **Harry Tennison Scholarship**

#### **Hayden Roberts – Texas A&M University—College Station**

Hayden began his interest in a career in freshwater fisheries during his undergraduate schooling at Coastal Carolina University, where he later had the opportunity to work for several state and federal agencies across the United States in areas including Alaska, Virginia, Illinois, and now Texas. As a current Master's student at Texas A&M University, Hayden's work investigates the predictors of Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) movement, specifically the importance of tributary use for reproduction and persistence of the species in regulated rivers. His work provides crucial information on Alligator Gar that can be used to aid in the management of the species and other migratory fishes facing similar ecological pressures. After his anticipated thesis defense in the Spring of 2022, Hayden will continue his schooling at Texas A&M as a PhD student investigating the species distribution, genetics, and morphology of River Carpsucker (*Carpoides carpio*) in the Colorado River Basin.



### **Harry Tennison Scholarship**

#### **Johnathan Ellard – Texas A&M University—College Station**

Johnathan Ellard is from Caldwell, Texas and is a junior attending Texas A&M University where he is pursuing a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences with an emphasis in aquatic sciences and aquaculture. He is currently leading a project that's assessing fine-scale movements of alligator gar in the lower Brazos River basin to contribute to the understanding of fish movement at the individual level using active telemetry, as well as shed light on possible habitat associations during a diel period. He is involved and assists many other projects including those in the Riverscape Ecology Lab under Dr. Joshua Perkin. After his undergraduate career, he plans to continue his education by pursuing a M.S. in a fisheries-related field.



**TCAFS Student Scholarship Award**  
**Neina Chapa – Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi**

Neina Chapa grew up in Tampa, Florida where her love for fisheries science led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology at the University of South Florida- St. Petersburg. She spent time working for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Fisheries and Limnology Technician before joining Dr. Jennifer Pol lack's lab at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. Neina's thesis work is focused on oyster reef restoration in St. Charles Bay, Texas. She is evaluating habitat provisioning for oysters and reef-associated fauna in restored intertidal and sub tidal oyster reefs by using eDNA metabarcoding and traditional field sampling techniques. After graduation, Neina plans to continue her career in fisheries at the state or federal level.



**TCAFS/Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship Award**  
**Melissa Wolter – Texas State University**

Melissa Wolter is a first year master's student at Texas State University (TXST). Melissa is from Austin but grew up along the Texas coast as well. Currently, she is working on multiple projects including fish and mussel assemblages in multiple drainages across Texas, spring associated fishes within the Edward's Plateau region, and the mechanisms affecting changes in aquatic communities around dams. In the future, Melissa plans to continue her career in fisheries by working with agencies and consultants to study and protect Texas' aquatic resources.



**TCAFS Student Scholarship Award**  
**Owen George – Texas Tech University**

Owen George is from Seward, Nebraska, and is a second-year master's student at Texas Tech University. Owen's thesis work is focused on food web dynamics in New Mexico mountain streams. He is examining the effects Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) have on the secondary production of native fishes that are listed as species of conservation concern in the Jemez River Basin. Owen is interested in stream food web dynamics and the conservation of native fishes. He plans to pursue a career as an aquatic ecologist focusing on the conservation of native fish species.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TIM BIRDSONG



Tim Birdsong, TCAFS President, wade-fishing for Guadalupe Bass on the Pedernales River  
(Photo credit: Tim Birdsong)

Tim Birdsong's final President's Message. Tim stated that the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) 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. For 2022, TCAFS established the following goals in support of this mission, which align with the priorities of the AFS Southern Division and parent society: 1) Organize and sponsor forums to present new findings and exchange ideas, 2) Provide continuing education opportunities with an emphasis on training and courses that are not commonly offered by academic institutions and/or that will be essential tools in the future, 3) Develop communication materials and publicly accessible information to promote the value of fisheries, aquatic habitat, and fisheries science, 4) Develop relationships, partnerships, and collaborations with other professional societies, conservation organizations, decision makers, and stakeholders to establish and promote mutual goals of fisheries science, education, and stewardship, 5) Develop and disseminate scientifically based communication materials that represent and reflect the mission of the Society to political leaders, decision makers, stakeholders, and the public, 6) Provide online resources of value and interest to members and non-members, 7) Use innovative techniques to determine and respond to the needs and opinions of Society members, 8) Improve participation of students and professionals at all levels to assure recruitment, retention and leadership development, and 9) Promote demographic and disciplinary diversity within the Society and fisheries profession.

Many of these goals were achieved through program offerings at our 2022 TCAFS Annual Meeting, which included a plenary and panel discussion themed around "angling for conservation" (Goal #4). Panelists representing TCAFS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, angling tournament organizations (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Major League Fishing), angler-based conservation non-profits (Coastal Conservation Association, Trout Unlimited), and the fishing industry (Living Waters Fly Fishing) discussed partnership opportunities to advance fisheries science and conservation. TCAFS also hosted three continuing education workshops focused on watershed and ecosystem-management strategies, application of side-scan sonar in aquatic conservation, and careers in applied fisheries research (Goals #2 and #8). The technical session (Goal #1) included 48 poster presentations, 32 oral presentations, an evening seminar and short film on "Fly Fishing the Republic of Texas," and an inaugural 5k spawning run. Of the 202 registrants, 144 were professionals and 58 were students, with 41 of those students participating in the student-mentor luncheon (Goals #8 and #9). A virtual meeting option allowed for

remote participation by 20 members (18 professionals, 2 students; Goal #6). Student participation in TCAFS was encouraged by awarding 19 student travel awards (Goals #8 and #9), which covered lodging costs at the meeting. TCAFS also continued to financially support student scholarships and participation by high school students in the Texas Bass Brigades (Goals #8 and #9), a week-long, intensive, hands-on training experience in fisheries management; prepared materials spotlighting and advocating for passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (Goals #3 and #5); actively managed our social media pages (Goal #6), and conducted multiple Google-based surveys to obtain input from members on key decisions regarding scheduling and planning of the 2022 and 2023 annual meetings (Goal #7).

As Tim reflected on these and other accomplishments from 2022, he said it is apparent that TCAFS has remained incredibly active, productive, and relevant. On behalf of the TCAFS Executive Committee, Tim said that we offer our sincere appreciation to all our members. He said that fall is here, our weather has cooled, and many of our fisheries teams are winding down the busy field sampling period. Students and professors are prepping for exams and folks in general are starting to look towards the holiday season for a break from the daily grind of our hectic schedules. With travel restrictions due to COVID currently in the rearview mirror, November marks the start of what is forecasted to be a busy travel season. As you plan the next couple of months, Tim Birdsong said to please save the date for the next Texas Chapter AFS meeting, scheduled for February 23-25th in Corpus Christi. The Chapter officers are working to finalize plans for the upcoming 2023 TC-AFS meeting, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina. Corpus Christi Hotels and marina. Tim thanked President-elect, Dr. Christopher Mace, who so graciously gave of your time and talents to make this year's annual meeting and other TCAFS activities a success. He furthermore thanked the membership for all they did for Texas fish and fisheries. He said that collectively, we are making a real difference, and he is incredibly excited to reconnect in Corpus Christi in early 2023 to learn, be encouraged, and be inspired. It will be an event to remember, and he is looking forward to spending time together on the Texas coast!



Corpus Christi Hotels and marina.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. CHRISTOPHER MACE



Fall is here, our weather has cooled, and many of our fisheries teams are winding down the busy field sampling period. Students and professors are prepping for exams and folks in general are starting to look towards the holiday season for a break from the daily grind of our hectic schedules. With travel restrictions due to COVID currently in the rearview mirror, November marks the start of what is forecasted to be a busy travel season. As you plan the next couple of months, please save the date for the next Texas Chapter AFS meeting, scheduled for February 23-25th in Corpus Christi. The Chapter officers are working to finalize plans for the upcoming 2023 TC-AFS meeting, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina.

Adjacent to the Corpus Christi T-heads, the venue's location is on prime waterfront property, boasting stunning views of Corpus Christi Bay, an indoor/outdoor heated pool, fine dining, and convenient location near popular Corpus Christi attractions such as the Texas State Aquarium, the USS Lexington aircraft carrier, the Corpus Christi Marina, and Arad Urban Park. A room block is being held at the state rate of \$104/night single occupancy (King Bed), or \$114.00/n for double occupancy (two double beds). Be sure to make your reservation early in order to ensure you capitalize on this discounted rate!

Analyzing the results of the recent Member's survey, we've noted there is strong support to continue to engage our members and provide valuable activities during the meeting. A majority (68.4%) of members that responded to the survey preferred the traditional January/February meeting time period. Over 91% responded that 2-3 days was the best length of event. And not surprisingly, the top three most valuable parts of the meeting were oral presentations, the social networking sessions, and the poster session. Other noteworthy mentions were the student / mentor luncheon and continuing education courses. Also, based on the survey results and given the increasing number of quality abstract submissions, we're planning two rooms of talks, running concurrently. This meeting's events kick off on Thursday February 23rd, with two continuing education courses starting in the afternoon, and a field trip out to the CCA Marine Development Center marine fish hatchery and research center. Space for these events may be limited, so please sign up early. Thursday evening, we'll have the poster presentations and a student/professional mixer to meet and greet in the main Ballroom. Friday we'll start the day with a plenary talk, followed by presentations and the student/mentor luncheon. The presentations will continue through the afternoon, and the banquet dinner will be Friday night. The event will conclude on Saturday with presentations and the business meeting. I'm excited about the next meeting, but I'd be remiss if I didn't

mention that none of this would be possible without the support of our members, sponsors, and all the committee chairs and volunteers that provide behind the scenes support and volunteer their time. There is still plenty to do, so if you'd like to get involved at any level, please feel encouraged to reach out to me or to any of the planning committee members, and we'll get you plugged in. See you in Corpus Christi!

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

### MICHAEL CURTIS

I am a PhD student at the University of North Texas (UNT) working in Dr. David Hoeinghaus' lab. Our project is funded by the Texas Comptroller, and we are working with biologists from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) and the labs of Dr. Zacchaeus Compson at UNT and Dr. Carmen Montaña at Stephen F. Austin University.

My research centers on meta population dynamics and habitat use of two federally endangered Cyprinids, Small eye Shiner (*Notropis buccula*) and Sharpnose Shiner (*Notropis oxyrhynchus*), both of which have seen a drastic reduction in their range due to construction of dams and the continued effects of climate change and are currently extant in the upper reaches of the Brazos River. I will be surveying 22 sites along the Upper Brazos for the next 3 years using multiple traditional and novel sampling methods to assess factors, including cooccurring species and habitat variables, that may impact the presence, abundance, and distribution of the focal species. The primary objectives of this project are to better understand factors influencing the species' distributions and population dynamics, make conservation recommendations for the species at appropriate spatial and temporal scales, and contribute to a 'best practices' long-term monitoring program for the focal species.

I am passionate about the conservation of imperiled fishes and being a conduit to share knowledge. This passion has led me to help create the University of North Texas' Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society, of which I am currently serving as the organization's inaugural president. I have a fervent desire to share knowledge of fish ecology and conservation with other individuals at UNT as well as interact and educate the general public at our events. I hope to continue as a post-doctoral researcher upon completion of my PhD and ultimately become a research professor at the university level. I look forward to reciprocating the opportunities and experiences I have had and to inspire future fish ecologists.



## STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

### STORY LESHER

I recently graduated with my Master of Science degree in environmental science at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Growing up in South Dakota and completing my undergraduate studies at Grinnell College in Iowa, deciding to move to Houston to attend graduate school was an intimidating but exciting decision. From a young age, I knew I wanted to be a marine biologist when I grew up. I always had a hunch that I was passionate about marine science but was never able to get the opportunity to confirm it. While looking for post-undergraduate opportunities, I saw an opening to study Dwarf Seahorse (*Hippocampus zosterae*) along the Texas coast at the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) with Dr. George Guillen and Dr. Jenny Oakley. I jumped on the opportunity, which would give me my first chance to do research in the marine realm, even though it meant moving across the country.



Joining this project gave me the opportunity to participate in the study design, all field sampling, data management, analysis, and report compilation for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, who was the contracting agency. The goal of the project was a preliminary density, distribution, and habitat assessment on the understudied Dwarf Seahorse in Texas. We began sampling in the summer of 2020 during the height of the pandemic, traveling to sample bay systems all the way from Galveston Bay to the Lower Laguna Madre. We collected data on water quality, seagrass bed canopy, percent cover, and biomass, as well as nekton community data. Using a pushnet, we caught 79 Dwarf Seahorse that summer, from Matagorda Bay to the Lower Laguna. It was amazing to spend the entire summer on the water, collecting information on these tiny marine animals. I was able to use the data collected to write my master's thesis, "Habitat Use, Distribution, and Density of Dwarf Seahorse (*Hippocampus zosterae*) along the Texas Gulf Coast". I was lucky enough to be able to participate in a second summer of sampling, examining the effectiveness of different gear types to catch Dwarf Seahorse. At EIH, I was also able to take part in sampling for many other projects, not just along the coast, but all over Texas. This opportunity confirmed my love for field work and the study of marine life. Now, post graduate school, I am looking for opportunities that will allow me to continue to study what I am passionate about. I hope to make a career in coastal fisheries, participating in research that supports a balance between what is best for our coastal environment and the needs of our communities.

Story Leshner graduated from UHCL with a master's degree in environmental science in 2022. Her thesis project was "[Habitat use, distribution, and density of dwarf seahorse \(\*Hippocampus zosterae\*\) populations along the Texas gulf coast.](#)" While completing her degree at UHCL, Leshner worked as a graduate research assistant at EIH. She also served as a team lead for the [2022 National Lakes Assessment](#).

**2023**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHRIS MACE

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Christopher Mace's President's Message. Fall has arrived, and with it the first cold front. Much needed rains are falling along the Texas coast bringing relief to dry conditions and the oppressive summer heat. Students and professors are back to class, and fisheries biologists are out sampling bays, lakes, and rivers. It is a busy time for all. To add to the busy climate, November 2023 is election season for some political positions across the state, so it's time to brush up on the candidates and proposals on the ballot. Texas is blessed with a long history of supporting our natural resources, but we need to continue to remind our political representatives of the importance of conservation and sustainable resource use. Additionally, there are a couple of noteworthy issues on the November 7 ballot, and Christopher Mace encouraged TCAFS members to be well informed on these items before stepping in to cast your vote. The following is an excerpt of some Explanatory Statements for the November 7th Constitutional Amendment Election that members may be interested in. Christopher recommended that members read multiple interpretations of the proposed amendments in order to better understand the pros and cons completely. Proposition 1—HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management." Proposition 5 - HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy." Proposition 6 - SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state." Proposition 14 - SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be

used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.” There are a total of 14 proposed constitutional amendments listed on the Explanatory Statements for the November 7, 2023, Constitutional Amendment Election, and you may be interested in some of the others I did not mention here. So again, Christopher highly encourages members to review both the candidates running for positions and the proposed amendments early to make the most informed decision on how to cast your vote.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT’S MESSAGE

BY STEVEN BARDIN



I am elated to announce that our upcoming annual chapter meeting will be held in Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas. As many of you may know, I live on the edge of west Texas, just outside of Abilene in Comanche. Being so far west it feels ironic to be planning a meeting in Nacogdoches. It will be the furthest east the chapter has ever held a solo meeting and our first visit to east Texas since 2015.

Nacogdoches has a storied past beginning with Caddo native American settlements that included a large village, maize agriculture, and a ceremonial center (now known as Washington Square). The Nacogdoche tribe word for friend was “tejas”, so many attribute them to not only naming Nacogdoches but also Texas itself. The Spanish arrived in Nacogdoches by at least 1542 and set up a mission, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches in 1716. In 1779 Don Antonio Gil Y’Barbo wrote the first civil laws, established streets, and built “the Old Stone House”, officially creating the first Texas town, Nacogdoches. Over the decades the Spanish, French, and eventually Texans disputed over the area. The city has flown nine flags: Spanish, French, Mexican, Magee-Gutierrez Republic, Long Republic, Fredonia Republic, Texas, Confederate States, and United States.

Nestled in the midst of this historic town is the venue for our meeting – The Fredonia Hotel. This iconic establishment, originally built in 1955, has been a focal point of Nacogdoches’ social scene for over six decades. The hotel is unlike any chain hotel you have ever visited, it was built using a community stock and bond funding system, where investors could purchase a share for \$100. Over 1000 investors raised \$500,000 to build the hotel. It was designed at the time to be a modern wonder with a “New Orleans” feel. Upon opening it was considered the most successful community owned hotel in the nation. Unfortunately, the late 1960s saw a decline in profitability and the eventual sell of the hotel. It changed

hands multiple times before being purchased again by local stockholders in 1989, this time by raising 7.5 million for the purchase and renovations of the hotel. In 2015 the Fredonia was sold to the current ownership group who invested \$18 million in renovations that were completed in 2017. The hotel gives a nod to the history of the area with the Nine Flags Bar, 1st City Café, and the Republic Steakhouse along with amenities that included two pools (one heated year-round), cozy fire pits in the courtyard, and an outdoor movie theatre. The Fredonia boasts not only of its rich history but also of modern amenities that promise to make our stay comfortable and our meeting productive.

For those who may want to take a break from the meeting's schedule or delve into the local culture, Nacogdoches has a plethora of shops, eateries, and entertainment spots. The streets are lined with quaint boutiques, artisanal shops, breweries, and historic sites that provide a glimpse into the soul of Texas.

Another striking feature of the town is the abundance of water. In the center of Nacogdoches is Bonita Creek which winds through town eventually merging into Bayou La Nana, which feeds Kurth Lake and eventually Sam Rayburn Reservoir. To the west of Nacogdoches lies the 2200-acre impoundment, Nacogdoches Lake, which is fed by Bayou Loco, Caney Creek, Yellow Bank Creek and others. To the east of town lies the Bayou Carrizo, Naconiche Creek, and the Attoyac River. The area reservoirs are managed by the TPWD Inland Fisheries Jasper District headquartered nearby at the Sam Rayburn dam in Brookeland. In that same location is the newest Inland Fisheries hatchery, the John D. Parker East Texas Fish Hatchery.

While in Nacogdoches, it would be remiss not to mention Stephen F. Austin State University. As a hub of education and innovation, this university has been the cornerstone of higher education in East Texas since 1923 and an extraordinary source of student and faculty contributions to the TCAFS. We look forward to the opportunity to explore their community and campus during our time in Nacogdoches.

As we gear up for this annual chapter meeting, I invite each one of you to immerse yourselves not only in the discussions and sessions but also in the rich tapestry of history, nature, and culture that Nacogdoches offers.

Together, let's create memories, forge stronger bonds, and set the course for a brighter future for the fisheries community of Texas.



The 2024 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches, TX, from February 22-24th, 2024. Photo Credit: Countylinemagazine

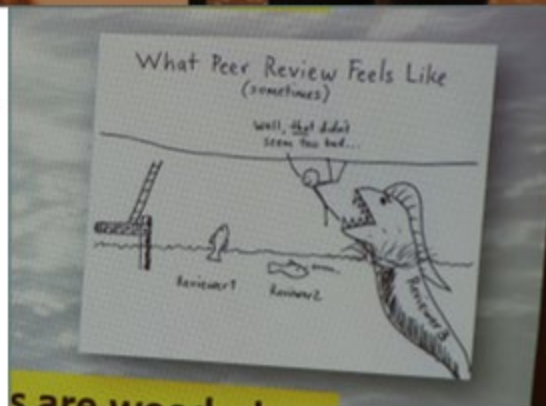
## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING IN CORPUS CHRISTI



Archis Grubb delivering a Continuing Education workshop on the topics of Ecology, Status, and Research Techniques of Crayfish in Texas.



Dan Daugherty presented the continuing education workshop "Writing, Reviewing, and Revising: A Survival Guide for Peer-Reviewed Journals" and how to overcome the trials and be successful.



## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING IN CORPUS CHRISTI

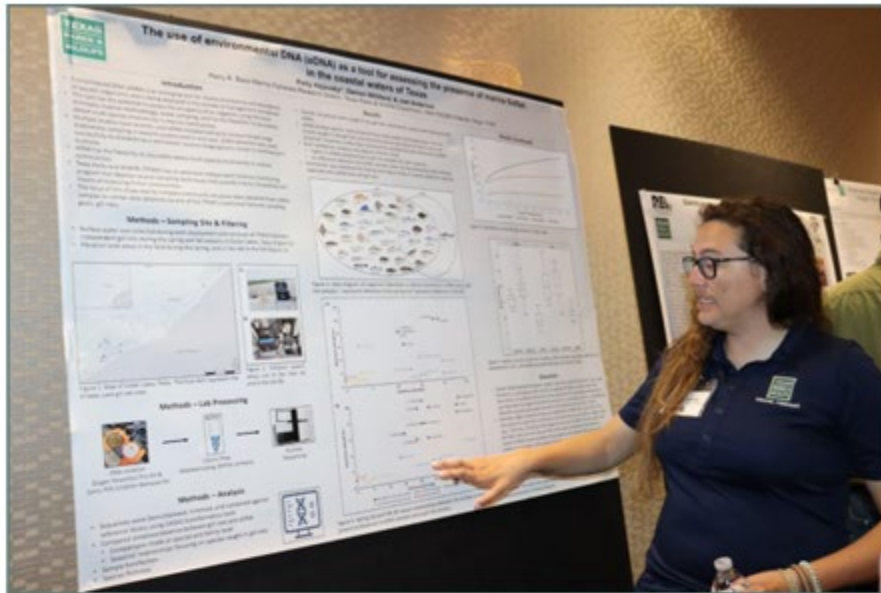


Five student chapters were represented at this year's meeting. Pictured here, student members from Texas A&M University-College Station. Left to right: Jake Wolff and Blake Elzi. Photo by Michele Nations.



Five student chapters were represented at this year's meeting. Pictured here, student members from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Left to right: Jessica Randall and Olivia Robson. Photo by Michele Nations.

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING IN CORPUS CHRISTI



A total of 33 posters was presented at this year's meeting. Above, Polly Hajovsky, TPWD, presents poster entitled "The use of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a tool for assessing the presence of marine finfish in the coastal waters of Texas." Photo by Michele Nations.



The prized auction item at this year's dinner and awards banquet—a paper mâché anglerfish, complete with a bioluminescent lure. The winner was Thea Frederickson with the Lower Colorado River Authority. Photo by Michele Nations.

## DAVE TERRE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

BY MICHELE NATIONS, TCAFS HISTORIAN

Dave Terre's involvement with the TCAFS began in 1982 when he enrolled at Texas Tech University and his professor suggested giving a presentation at an annual meeting. In 1985, his career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began when he was hired as a Fisheries Technician in the Abilene Management office. His career progressed to District Supervisor in San Marcos, then to the Regional Fisheries Director in Tyler, and finally to the Chief of the Management and Research Branch in Austin from 2007 until his retirement from TPWD in 2020.



He received at least 13 significant professional honors or recognitions during his career:

- Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Outstanding Achievement-2009
- TPWD Employee Recognition Award for Partnership-2007
- TCAFS Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the year three times: 1990 and 2006 for Fisheries Management and 2014 for Fisheries Management
- Texas Tech Department of Natural Resources Outstanding Alumni-2011

Dave was very active in AFS:

- As TCAFS President, he was also the General Chair of the 2006 SDAFS meeting in San Antonio,
- He chaired multiple committees, including Endowments where he grew the principle balance for student scholarships to over \$450,000.

Craig Bonds, Inland Fisheries Division Director, said when Dave retired, "Dave's fingerprints have left an indelible and enduring mark upon TCAFS and TPWD Inland Fisheries and also to the quality and diversity of fishing opportunities in Texas. Dave continues to be a tireless advocate and worker on our behalf and for the anglers of Texas. Words are insufficient to fully express our gratitude to him for his positive impacts on the fisheries within Texas."

It was Dave's vision and development of the Endowments fund/committee and his tireless efforts to seek out and nurture part-



## DAVE TERRE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED)

nerships with the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation, the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth and others that allowed the Chapter to grow the Endowment fund to over \$450K! Because of his efforts, the Texas Chapter is now able to fund student scholarships and will be able to continue doing so in perpetuity. No other AFS Chapter or even the parent society can make this claim. It's for this reason the Scholarship and Endowments Committees worked with the TCAFS EXCOM this past year to designate and formally name one of the TCAFS scholarships in his honor.

The first Dave Terre Student Scholarship was awarded to Michael Curtis., a University of North Texas doctoral student.



Above, Brian Van Zee (Endowments Committee Chair), Michael Curtis (Scholarship recipient), Dave Terre, Cathy Terre, and Jennifer Butler (Scholarship Committee Chair).

## PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following professional members who were recognized for their contributions over the last year!

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Education**

Marsha Williams—The University of Texas at Tyler

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Student**

Hayden Roberts—Texas A&M University - College Station

Noah Santee—Texas A&M University - College Station

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Fisheries Management**

Lynn Wright—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

Blake Thornton—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

John Ingle—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

Charles Cruz—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Special Recognition**

Robert Wienecke—Heart of the Hills Fish. Science Center (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Technical support**

Jarrett Burnett—Inland Fisheries Division (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Administration**

Robin Riechers—Coastal Fisheries Division (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Research**

Joshuah Perkin—Texas A&M University - College Station

- **Distinguished Service Award**

Ray Mathews, Retired Fisheries Biologist, Receiver of the AFS Golden Membership Award

## STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following student members who were recognized for their contributions at this year's meeting!

- **Best Student presentation: Oral**

Emily Meese—Texas A&M University at Galveston

*Multivariate analysis of fish communities in Matagorda Bay, Texas*



Pictured from left to right: Chris Mace (President Elect), Olivia Reves (Best Student Awardee), Tim Birdsong (President).

- **Best student presentation: Poster**

Olivia Reves—The University of Texas at San Antonio

*Evaluation of fish communities on an urban-rural gradient in the San Antonio River Basin from 2016 to 2021*



Pictured from left to right: Chris Mace (President Elect), Olivia Reves (Best Student Awardee), Garrett Stampert (TAMU-College Station), Tim Birdsong (President).

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

#### **David Creamer—Texas Tech University**

David is originally from Chicago, IL and first became interested in invasive species after observing huge die offs of invasive alewives on the beaches of Lake Michigan. After attending the University of Miami, and managing a genetics lab at Auburn University, he is now a master's student at Texas Tech University. His project involves creating risk assessments of New Mexico and Texas lakes to zebra mussel invasion. After earning his master's, David plans to pursue a PhD in freshwater ecology.



#### **Isabelle Cummings—Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

Isabelle is from Wylie, Texas, and moved to Corpus Christi in 2019 to pursue her bachelor's degree in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. She spent the second half of her undergraduate studies interning at the Harte Research Institute to research phytoplankton and water quality, which led her to remain at A&M and the Harte Research Institute for her master's degree under Dr. Gregory Stunz. Currently, she works as a member of the Sportfish Center for Science and Conservation, and her master's thesis involves developing surveys to research southern flounder migration, harvest and effort, and age and length composition in Texas bays. After graduation, Isabelle plans to maintain her position researching fisheries to provide critical data for future fisheries management decisions.



## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Mikaela Feder—The University of Texas at Arlington**

Mikaela grew up in Minnesota. Her love of freshwater and fish began as a child as she grew up going to her grandparent's lake home in northern Minnesota. Mikaela earned her bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), where she started her research journey with freshwater fish in both the lab and field. She has a master's degree from Michigan State University (MSU) in



Fisheries and Wildlife. During her time at MSU, she examined alternative methods to manage an invasive species in the Laurentian Great Lakes. Currently, Mikaela is a Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Her work utilizes Trinidadian killifish, *Anablepsoides hartii*, to better understand processes by which organisms adapt to and persist in freshwater systems. The goal of her project is to test the influence of increased predation on stress and reproductive hormones.

#### **Cassandra Rendon—Texas A&M University-College Station**

Cassandra and is from San Antonio, Texas. She is a student of the Honors College at Texas A&M University- Commerce majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Sciences. Cassandra is also on the Track team as a Discus thrower. She is currently working on an undergraduate thesis with Dr. Bjorn Schmidt studying the effects of a recent



severe drought on fish communities in North Texas. The data she collects from this project will aid in the effort to conserve freshwater fish biodiversity, especially in light of increasing drought conditions due to climate change. After graduating with my Bachelors Degree, Cassandra plans on pursuing a Masters Degree in Fisheries Science as well as continuing her athletic career as a thrower.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Hayden Roberts—Texas A&M University-College Station**

Hayden began his interest in freshwater fisheries during his undergraduate studies at Coastal Carolina University, where he later had the opportunity to work for several state and federal agencies across the United States in areas including Alaska, Virginia, Illinois, and now Texas. He successfully defended his Master of Science research in May 2022 which investigated the predictors of Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) tributary associations, where part of his master's work is now published in *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*. Currently, as a second year PhD student, Hayden is now investigating the distribution, abundance, genetics, and morphology of Llano River Carpsucker (a potentially undescribed catostomid) in the Colorado River basin of Texas. Throughout his graduate studies, Hayden has used various integrated approaches to learn about the ecology of freshwater fishes where his objective is to provide important information for managing threatened species inhabiting Texas rivers and streams. He hopes his multidisciplinary approach in Ecology will provide him with the expertise needed to be a research grade scientist (such as with the USGS or TPWD) after completing his dissertation research.



#### **Lauren Soliz—Texas Tech University**

Lauren is a second-year master's student at Texas Tech University. She is from Boerne, Texas and received her bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University. Lauren is studying the effects of invasive riparian vegetation and fish on stream food webs. Her study sites in Del Rio, Texas make up critical habitat for the Devil's River Minnow, a federally threatened species. After graduation, Lauren hopes to transition into the coastal side of fisheries and work with Texas Parks and Wildlife.



## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Wade Wilson—Texas Tech University**

Wade is from Coalville, Utah, and received a Bachelor of Science from Utah State University before working as a fish culturist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Wade is currently pursuing a



master's degree in aquatic ecology from Texas Tech University under Dr. Jane Rogosch. Wade's thesis work will examine food web dynamics in the upper Red River and evaluate the relative importance of aquatic and terrestrial food sources to prairie fish species of greatest conservation need. His work will advance understanding of prairie fish feeding ecology and provide new information to aid in their recovery. After completing his master's degree, Wade plans to pursue a career as a freshwater fisheries research biologist focusing on

conservation and restoration of native fish species.

#### **Jacob Wolff—Texas A&M University-College Station**

Jacob is from La Grange, Texas. Jacob is a senior at Texas A&M University majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences with minors in Geographic Information Science and Technology, as well as Ecology and Conservation Biology. He is currently conducting two research projects in Dr. Joshua Perkin's Riverscape Ecology Lab along with helping out on other research projects where he can. One project Jacob is conducting is a long-term fish



metacommunity analysis on White Creek—highly altered tributary of the Brazos River that was rerouted in order to build Easterwood Airport. He will use the findings of this study to identify the impact that this change in natural flows has had on fish communities across different scales. The other research project he is working on is focused on a test of the validity of the R statistical package 'fishmove' in predicting dispersal of Guadalupe Bass in the Colorado and Guadalupe River Basins in order to improve conservation and management of the species. Jacob is currently serving as

the president of the AFS subunit at Texas A&M and upon graduation, he intends on pursuing graduate school, followed by a career in academia.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### GUADALUPE RIVER TROUT UNLIMITED SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Berit Batterton—The University of Texas Marine Science Institute**

Berit grew up in Baltimore, MD where her proximity to the Chesapeake Bay led her to pursue a bachelor's in Environmental Science and Biology at the University of Pennsylvania. She then joined Dr. Ken Dunton's lab at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute where she is a PhD student. Berit's dissertation work aims to understand the effects of climate change on salt marsh productivity in Texas, with the goal of conserving these crucial fish habitats. In particular, she is working on assessing marshes in the Lavaca and Nueces Deltas using long-term monitoring, field experiments, and mapping. After graduation, Berit hopes to pursue a teaching and research career in the aquatic ecology field at a liberal arts college.



#### **Garrett Tucker—The University of Texas at San Antonio**

Garrett grew up in Plano, Texas, where he developed an interest in fisheries science through exploring local creeks during his childhood. This led Garrett to Texas Tech University, where he received a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in fisheries biology. Garrett is currently a second-year master's student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where his thesis focuses on temperature regimes of springs and spring-fed streams in the Edwards Plateau and thermal physiology for spring-associated fishes, both the threatened Devils River Minnow (*Dionda diaboli*) and Rio Grande Darter (*Etheostoma grahami*). His research will provide crucial information on thermal habitat availability within Texas and species-specific vulnerabilities to increasing temperatures, aridity, and decreased spring discharge. Upon completing his master's degree, Garrett hopes to continue in a career in fisheries science that will allow him to work towards the conservation of native fishes for future generations.

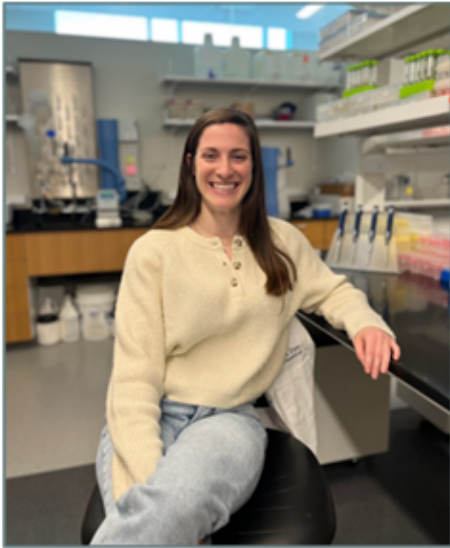


## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CLARK HUBBS AND DAVE TERRE SCHOLARSHIPS

### ***Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship***

#### **Kayla Dye—Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

Kayla received her B.S., with an emphasis in Health & Medicine, from Webster University in 2018. After spending two years working in a hospital, Kayla interned with the Marine Dynamics Academy in



Gansbaai, South Africa. This internship piqued her interest in conservation genomics and fishes, so she decided to switch career paths. She is now pursuing a master's degree at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi under Dr. David Portnoy. Her current research focuses on conservation genomics of freshwater fishes in the Pecos and Devils Rivers. Kayla is assessing genetic diversity both within and across populations of five species listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the state of Texas, while accounting for differences

in habitat and flow regime. This project will provide critical data for resource managers and conservationists.

### ***Dave Terre Student Scholarship***

#### **Michael Curtis—University of North Texas**

Michael is a PhD student studying metapopulation dynamics of two federally endangered shiner species in the Upper Brazos. He is an active participant with the American Fisheries Society and is the current president for the University of North Texas Student Subunit and Webmaster for the Estuaries Section of AFS.



## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### TEXAS CHAPTER AFS SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Hannah Rempel**

Hannah Rempel is a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute, with a Master of Science in Biology from California Polytechnic State University. Her current work seeks to address how the ecosystem roles of parrotfishes and surgeonfishes vary in response to local-scale human stressors such as reef degradation and contamination using molecular, isotopic, and palaeoecological techniques. Her previous research includes developing a predictive model of coral healing from parrotfish predation and evaluating how the intensity of parrotfish coral predation varies across the Caribbean in response to differences in parrotfish and coral abundance. Her broader research interests are in how human-related stressors influence the trophic interactions and ecosystem services of marine fishes. In addition to research, she co-developed several Coral Reef Ecology and Conservation lessons for 4-5th grade students that have been implemented by the Texas State Aquarium and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve.



The University of Texas Marine Science Institute

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY SHAUN DONVAN, SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

As you may have heard, the parent society meeting is coming back to Texas! The 2025 annual meeting will be held August 10-14, at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotels in downtown San Antonio. With this big event coming to town, there's also a big need for volunteers to help with the local planning. While we're still more than two years out from the event, it's important to start filling these roles ASAP to give ourselves plenty of time for planning. Needed roles include organizing symposia and talks, poster session coordination, general scheduling, week of volunteer coordinator, silent auction coordination, fundraising, signage development and tours. AFS headquarters will provide assistance with many of these tasks, but we still need local leads.

If you're interested in joining the local planning team, please reach out to Shaun Donovan at [sdonovan@sariverauthority.org](mailto:sdonovan@sariverauthority.org) or (210)302-3258.



My name is Hester Huynh, and I am a high school senior from Houston, Texas. This summer, I was accepted into the American Fisheries Society's Hutton Junior Biology Program, as one of 43 scholars nationwide from an applicant pool of 543. The Hutton Program's mission is to bring underrepresented groups into the fisheries field. I was matched with my mentor Jennifer Butler, a Hatchery Biologist at Sea Center Texas, as well as Juliana Moore, the Education and Outreach Coordinator. As an intern at Sea Center Texas, I was immersed in both the scientific and educational sides of the field of fisheries. As part of the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sea Center is tasked with aiding the protection of Texas' coastal ecosystems marine resources by supplementing wild populations with millions of spotted sea trout, red drum, and southern flounder a year. This process involves culturing fry in indoor tanks and rearing juvenile fish in outdoor saltwater ponds before releasing them into Texas coastal waters. Under the wing of Jennifer Butler, I was able to experience all steps of this process at least once, from preparing brood stock diet and changing out the pump baskets, monitoring juvenile fish using a dip net, backwashing pumps, feeding juvenile fish, fertilizing ponds, pulling and reading zooplankton, as well as waking up at 4:00 am to harvest and release the fish! Overall, this experience was extremely rewarding and educational. In addition to my internship, I attended the Hutton Scholar Summit at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, where I met with 30 other scholars participating in their internships all over North America, including people from Hawaii and New York. We spent the week learning about the programs on campus, visiting the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center, and volunteering at a kids fishing derby! This was an amazing opportunity where I was able to learn from fisheries professionals, such as Dr. Steve Lochmann and Dr. April Croxton (the president of AFS!), who have inspired me greatly to continue my journey to working in fisheries. During my internship, every day was something new, which is why I have become hooked on this field! We faced challenges such as dangerously low dissolved oxygen levels, dinoflagellate invasions, and even sinkholes! The Hutton program has made me well equipped to pursue a career in the fisheries field, and I am so grateful for my mentors and for AFS. In the future, I hope to highlight the importance of diversity in environmental education as well as work to protect endangered species and threatened ecosystems in Texas.



## SUMMER FIELD TECHNICIAN IN ARIZONA

BY REGAN DOSS, UNDERGRADUATE, UT-SAN ANTONIO

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This summer, I had the opportunity to work as an undergraduate field technician for The University of Texas at San Antonio. I had the unique opportunity to sample over a hundred sites throughout the vibrant Colorado River Basin for nonnative Virile crayfish. From observing aquatic populations, conducting habitat surveys, to collecting stream eDNA samples, I learned many new field skills. Under professors Dr. Matt Troia and Dr. Jen Smith, this unique opportunity allowed me to combine my passion for aquatic ecology with my love for exploration, all while contributing to nonnative species management of cray fish.

Our goal was to sample and document aquatic species in various bodies of water throughout the Colorado River Basin. Invasive Virile crayfish, originally from other parts of North America, pose a significant threat to the ecosystems of Arizona and New Mexico. Their presence can disrupt native aquatic life and lead to negative consequences for local biodiversity. Our work wasn't just about sampling and collecting crayfish; it was about understanding their dispersal, habitats, and impact on native species. We meticulously documented our findings, noting the habitat type, water quality, and location of each crayfish encounter. This data will later contribute to GIS mapping aimed at better documenting the movement of this invasive species.

Now, as I reflect on my time as a field technician, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to these conservation efforts of Arizona and New Mexico. My passion for desert stream fish has been deepened and I have grown very fond of the Southwestern US. One of my favorite sites was Sabino Canyon Creek outside of Tucson, Arizona. I enjoyed interacting with the people along the hiking trails, as well as observing various native fishes. Overall, this experience allowed me to observe desert fish species, explore various streams and rivers, and learn important field skills.

## EXPLORING CAREERS IN FISHERIES SCIENCE

BY COREY HOWDEN, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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I became a member of the Texas A&M chapter of the American Fisheries Society in the fall semester of 2023, and my life has taken a remarkable turn since then. This journey began when I transferred to Texas A&M, bringing with me a modest biology background from a local community college. I chose to major in Ecology and Conservation Biology with a specialization in Vertebrate Zoology and added a minor in

museum studies, a decision that would open doors to advanced coursework aligning with my academic and career goals.

My pivotal encounter with the Texas A&M Chapter of the American Fisheries Society happened in my Aquaculture 1 class when I met Hannah Evans, the Vice President of the chapter. She introduced me to the chapter's activities and offered insights into the broader AFS organization.

Beyond my involvement with the AFS chapter, I eagerly pursued employment and internship opportunities that broadened my horizons. It was during my first semester when I took Aquaculture 1 that I fell in love with aquaculture and sustainability, two fields intrinsically tied to modern agriculture and aqua culture. The class project involved raising channel catfish throughout the semester, and I found myself deeply in vested. After the semester, I stayed on to help release the catfish into a local pond, part of a partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Inspired by this experience, I approached my professor, Dr. Gatlin, to explore further opportunities at Texas A&M's Aquaculture and Research Facility. He informed me about volunteer positions and the possibility of moving into paid roles. Fast forward to the fall semester of 2023, and I landed a position in Dr. Sinks' lab. In this role, I immersed myself in the world of aquaculture, gaining valuable insights into hatchery self-sufficiency, water sample processing, and the care of the fish.

As the semester progressed, additional opportunities came my way. I enrolled in a class that prepared students for graduate-level thesis work, and I was fortunate to be assigned to Dr. Kevin Conway, the curator of fishes at Texas A&M's Biodiversity and Research Collections. My ultimate career goal is to work in academia, either at the university or museum level, focusing on ichthyology. Dr. Conway played a pivotal role in my journey by connecting me with the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections, where I started working with fish collections, with the potential for advancement.

I am immensely grateful for the resources and support provided by Texas A&M University. The camaraderie among peers and the encouragement from faculty members opened doors to various organizations and refined my experiences, bringing me closer to my career goals.

For anyone embarking on a similar journey, my advice is straightforward: engage with your peers, reach out to faculty, and actively seek academically enriching opportunities. With dedication and perseverance, my journey is a testament to the incredible possibilities that await those who seize the opportunities offered by institutions like Texas A&M University.



## SUMMER RESEARCH TRIP TO GUYANA

BY KENDELL HASTINGS, TEXAS A&M UNIVERISTY

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My name is Kendall Hastings, and I am a senior at Texas A&M University from Kerrville, Texas, studying Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences. This summer I had the opportunity to go on an undergraduate research trip to Guyana, South America. I was one of three undergraduates from Texas A&M University selected to go on this trip funded by the National Science Foundation. This was a joint trip with three other undergraduates and professors from Stephen F. Austin University and two professors from Texas A&M University, Drs. Kirk and Leslie Winemiller. My project focused on studying the correlation between ecological niches and morphological characteristics of the neotropical catfish of Guyana.

On the second day of our ten-day trip, we arrived in the Yupukari Village in Guyana, near the Rupununi River. We spent the next week boating up and down the Rupununi to different main channel and pond fishing spots. We fished with seine nets, fishing poles, and handlines. The diversity of our catch included various tiny catfish species which were only a few centimeters in length, weakly electric knifefish, colorful, red-bellied piranhas, and beautiful tiger shovelnose catfish. We caught 30+ catfish species including *Ochmacanthus flabelliferus*, *Pimelodus blochii*, *Vandellia sanguinea*, and *Platydoras hancocki*.

Since each student on the trip had a different research project focusing on different groups of fish, we brought back almost every species we caught to measure and take tissue samples from later. Usually, we would fish in the morning and arrive back at camp in the afternoon to process our catch. We would take a bit of tissue from each fish caught, drop it in a small bag of salt to preserve it (until we had a freezer available), and label it with the species name, total or standard length, and sampling site number. These samples were to have their carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios analyzed later in a laboratory to determine the trophic position of the fish.

Since my project was also focusing on morphological characteristics, we took 29 different morphological measurements - mouth position, paired fin length and width, median fin length and width, etc. - for almost every member we caught from order Siluriformes. The goal of this is to look for a correlation between the stable isotope ratios/ trophic levels of the fish, size of fish, and morphological characteristics. We will be mapping out the trophic position of each fish species based on the carbon and nitrogen ratios. The collected morphological measurements are expected to support each species' trophic level that is inferred from the stable isotope ratio analysis. We will also be comparing the stable isotope ratios of the fish present in the main channel and ponds.



## HISTORY COMMITTEE REQUEST

BY MICHELE NATIONS, CO-CHAIR, HISTORY COMMITTEE

My favorite saying is “Today is tomorrow’s yesterday.” And as I say on the History page on the [TCAFS website](#), history is alive! What is happening today is tomorrow’s history. We need to capture today so that those who come after us will see our footsteps, our photos, our research, our passion for what we believe in and fight for.



In November of 1975, a group of men and one woman joined together to form the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on the Texas A & M College Station campus. The American Fisheries Society formally recognized the Chapter in 1976.

The 50th anniversary meeting for the Texas Chapter will be held in 2026. To document this golden anniversary, Ray Mathews is preparing the TCAFS history, which will include highlights of the many activities which have contributed to the tremendous growth of our chapter. He needs your help in gathering photos for what is happening in your lives today, photos of you and your team or class out collecting samples, electrofishing, planting to restore waterways, etc. Photos and articles would be perfect, from today or many years ago. All would be appreciated.

Send them to:

Ray Mathews, [oceanrayaustin@gmail.com](mailto:oceanrayaustin@gmail.com)

Michele Nations, [MichNat.TCAFS@gmail.com](mailto:MichNat.TCAFS@gmail.com)

I have another request. During our next annual meeting, would you please help me by taking photos throughout the different sessions and activities? I can't be everywhere, and I think everyone has a cell phone with a camera, right?

*Thanks!  
Michele*

**2024**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEVEN BARDIN

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 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 Woman 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 every day, 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

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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 privilege 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 be come 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 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](mailto: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

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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.

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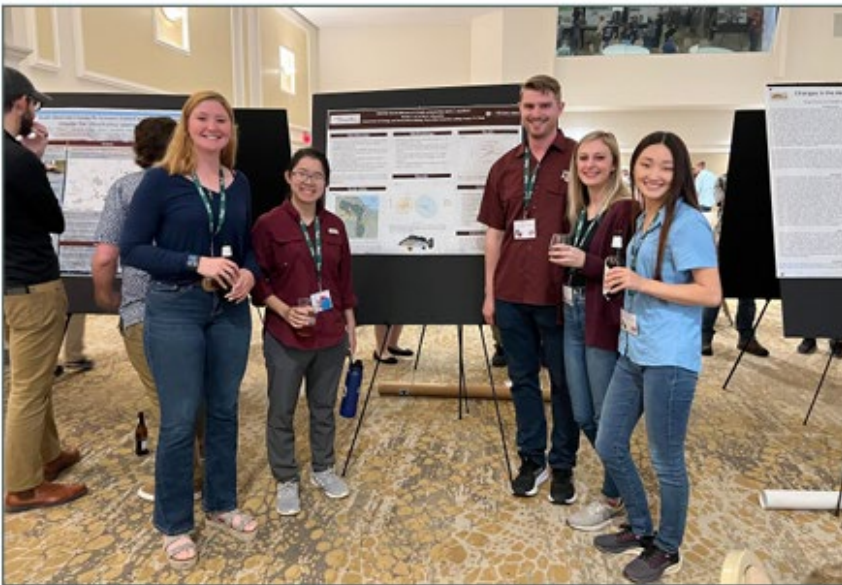
## HIGHLIGHTS FROM NACOGDOCHES LA NANA BAYOU CLEAN-UP

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.

## 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.

## **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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

## 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

### **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.

## 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

### **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 endangered

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.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### Harry Tennon 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 Guadalupe 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.

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2025





The 2025 Texas Chapter AFS Annual Meeting was held at the Hilton College Station & Conference Center from **January 16-18, 2025**.

**The is the 50-Year Anniversary of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, based on the first organizational meeting in 1975. The TCAFS received its Charter from the American Fisheries Society in 1976, which makes 2026 our official 50-Year Anniversary.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This work would not have been possible without the careful annual records of those who served the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for a half of a century. Fisheries biology is more than just a career, it is a passion. The men and women who work in this field do so not for monetary reward, but to be a part of the fisheries profession and this is their history in Texas.

The author would like to thank the numerous Texas Chapter AFS members who contributed information, records, Proceedings, Newsletters, and pictures.

25-Year History: Dick Luebke, Charles Munger, John Prentice, Ed Bonn, Bruce Hysmith, Allen Forshage, Kevin Storey, Roger McCabe, Danny Lewis, Fred Janssen, Bobby Miller, Paul Hammerschmidt, Gary Powell, Beth Tyler, and John Moczygamba were especially helpful with their time and contributions. I am also indebted to the reviews provided by Dick Luebke, Charles Munger, and Gordon Linam. I would also like to thank Gordon Linam for having the confidence in my historical skills to ask me to write the 25 Year History of the TCAFS document.

50-Year History: Michelle Nations, Brian VanZee, Dave Terre, Chris Mace, Stephen Bardin, Stephen Curtis, Ryan Seymour. The 50 Year History has been a challenge to compile and document in three separate documents by Historical Sketch, Historical Highlights, and Annual Chronology. I would like to thank my wife, Mela Mathews, for putting up with me during this time demanding mission and providing reviews.

Raymond Mathews

Archivist/Historian  
Texas Chapter AFS

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