

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Summer 2025 Newsletter
Volume 51, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JOSHUAH PERKIN

Dear members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society,

It would perhaps be an understatement to suggest that these are trying times for many of our members. We are experiencing a period of targeted termination of federal employees and the federal institutions that support our mission to conserve, manage, and promote fish and fishery resources. Some senior personnel were encouraged to accept early retirement buyouts,



while early-career members lost their jobs. These changes to the workforce disproportionately affect both long-standing leaders and members of our Society as well as the emerging generation of future leaders. For others, disruptions or complete elimination of federal funding sources have made research more challenging or impossible. The sentiment of these federal-level actions was recently echoed at the state level through a bill targeting elimination of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – thankfully that bill was withdrawn after incredible pushback and support for the Department. Suffice to say it is a time of uncertainty for much of our membership and many are left wondering how to proceed. Though I have no elegant solution to our challenges, these trials are indeed shared by our collective and thus connections through the Chapter are perhaps more critical now than ever. I am heartened to hear about members whose positions were eliminated using network connections formed or strengthened through involvement with our Chapter to secure new jobs. Though we have no choice but to weather this period, we do have a choice in *how* we respond. The adage “hard times make for stronger bonds” offers a silver lining to our shared experience. It is my hope that we continue to lean on each other as we remain focused on our mission. In fact, evidence of this has manifested at the highest level of our Society in the form of a joint statement between the AFS and other natural resource societies. This joint statement can be viewed on the [AFS website](#).

An often overlooked but immensely positive exercise is the recognition of the many small victories we have achieved as a Chapter. Notably, this year we celebrate our 50th year of existence and our forthcoming 2026 meeting will be a major milestone as it represents half a century since our Chapter



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ITEMS OF NOTE

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

TCAFS 2025
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONTINUED)

was first recognized by the Society. We had a successful meeting in College Station, TX in January where we recognized notable achievements by our members. For example, the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was given a Special Recognition award. Though the Division has countless achievements, a notable and very countable achievement was the recent production of the billionth hatchery-raised fish released into Texas coastal waters! The fish, dubbed "Billie the Billionth" was a Red Drum – our State Saltwater Fish. In another recognized achievement, the San Antonio River Authority was awarded for their outstanding work in conserving and restoring the San Antonio River. The fruits of their labor will be on display as our Society gathers in San Antonio for the annual conference in August. At the student level, the recently formed University of Texas at San Antonio Student Subunit was awarded the Most Active Student Subunit. These are only a few of the many awards showcased in this newsletter that I hope everyone can take a moment to recognize and appreciate. Our chapter also continued the new tradition (in Aggieland if you do something twice it's automatically a "tradition") of providing a local service project as a part of our annual meeting – this year we helped in the restoration of the riparian zone of Wolf Pen Creek.

We have a busy year ahead of us. Chairs and members of multiple committees have set goals for improving the quality of our Chapter. Dr. Beth Silvy is working with the Awards Committee to ensure the award names reflect and celebrate the outstanding performance of our members. Ryan Seymour is managing our listserv to improve communication among our members and leadership. Steven Barden and the Issues Committee have exciting ideas for expanding the scope of the committee to address the needs of the membership. Tommy Johnson and the Membership Committee are engaging in important work to align our Texas Chapter membership with membership of the larger Society. We are pursuing the expansion of the Executive Committee for the Chapter to include (in sequence of service) Vice President, President-Elect, President, and Past President. Given the growth of our membership and expansion of our annual conference, the added time allotted to planning our conference two years in advance will benefit our ability to find suitable venues at reasonable costs. We are also very excited to have the Society meeting in San Antonio August 10-14, 2025. Many of our members are working to help plan this meeting, notably Shaun Donovan as our liaison to the AFS Planning Committee. Some of the revenues generated by the Society meeting will flow to the Texas Chapter following the meeting, allowing us to further the pursuit of our goals. I hope many of you can join us in Alamo City as we host the Society – here's to seeing you in San Antonio!

Finally, the story behind the snapshot of my own Shakespearean tragedy. I became interested in Alligator Gar movement ecology seven years ago and early in the first study a five-foot long fish perished. Though the study of fish biology is usually conducted through death of fishes, this death felt particularly unfortunate given we recognized it was an older fish. To save as much information as possible, a group of students and I deposited the gar in the Collection of Fishes at the Texas A&M University Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections. The fish was ultimately used for tissue samples and a cutting-edge research project funded by the National Science Foundation to use computed tomography (CT) scanning to build three-dimensional (3D) models of large-bodied organisms that are rarely scanned. The [3D CT scan imagery](#) was amazing and revealed the retention of a large hook in the stomach of the fish. Fast-forward to this past Christmas season when I found myself searching for an Alligator Gar skull replica as a gift (hey, fish people love any gift that is fish related). To my great surprise I learned that an artist on Etsy used the CT scan of the gar to make a 3D-printed replica of the skull. I immediately ordered one! That one was stolen from the porch. I immediately ordered another! A month after Christmas my would-be gift arrived. As I opened the box – just as Hamlet was



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

forced to embrace the realities of death and decay when reunited with Yorick's skull – I was forced to reflect on the mortality of a great fish. Then, at the Chapter meeting in College Station in January, my guilt reached full effect when Kirk Winemiller gave a fascinating talk about why we should not kill old, large, long-lived fishes. I think the moral to the story is two-fold: (1) porch pirating and Forest Gump's view of life unite in the theme of "you never know what you're gonna get", and (2) the skeletons in your closet inevitably escape and may one day be literally mailed to you – might as well embrace them.



TCAFS 2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TCAFS 2025
AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award

Michele Nations – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (retired)
Ray Mathews – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (retired)



Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award *Special Recognition*

Coastal Fisheries Team of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



PROFESSIONAL AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award Contributions to *Administration*

San Antonio River Authority – Aquatic Biology Team
Austin Davis, Mitch Magruder, Caille Marshall, Adrian Reyna,



Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award Contributions to *Management*

Travis Tidwell – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



TCAFS 2025
AWARDS



TCAFS 2025
AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS
(CONTINUED)

**Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Contributions to *Education***

Todd Sink – Texas A&M University at College Station



**Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Contributions by a *Student***

Anastasia Umstott – Stephen F. Austin State University



PROFESSIONAL AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Most Active Student Subunit
Student members of the UT–San Antonio Subunit



TCAFS 2025
AWARDS



Lifetime Achievement Award
Michele Nations – Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department (retired)



Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Contributions to *Research*
Carmen Montaña – Stephen F. Austin State University



Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award
Contributions to *Administration*
Diana Isabel – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



TCAFS 2025
AWARDS

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

Best Student Oral Presentation

Jacob Oster — Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi



Best Student Poster Presentation

Katelyn Defrancis — Stephen F. Austin State University

Exploring the Relationship Between Index of Biotic Integrity and Species Composition Variability in East Texas Streams



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Student Scholarship

Anastasia Umstott — Stephen F. Austin State University

Anastasia is originally from Pennsylvania and received her undergraduate degree from West Virginia University. After graduation, she spent a summer studying fish communities in Maryland streams and developed a love for fisheries and freshwater ecosystems. Currently, she is a master's student at Stephen F. Austin State University studying the taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic beta diversity of stream fish assemblages in the Neches and Sabine River basins in East Texas. She aims to provide a holistic view of community assembly in one of the most diverse regions in the state. After earning her master's from SFASU, she plans to pursue her PhD in fisheries science.



Dave Terre Student Scholarship

Hannah Adams — Texas Tech University

Hannah is a current Texas Tech University undergraduate student majoring in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Wildlife Biology. She is currently the TTU AFS student subunit president as well as an undergraduate researcher in the Collins Aquatic Ecology Lab. Her current research focuses on evaluating the body condition of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in alpine stream systems with and without non-native Brown Trout.



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SCHOLARSHIPS



TCAFS 2025

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)

Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship

Kylie Perkins – University of Houston at Clear Lake

Kylie is from Brigham City, Utah, and first discovered the world of fisheries while getting her undergraduate degree in biology at Brigham Young University. Kylie is now a master's student at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a research assistant at the Environmental Institute of Houston. Her thesis is on the use of eDNA metabarcoding to study fish assemblages which was performed while working as a crew lead for the National Rivers and Streams Assessment in Texas in 2023 and 2024. Following this degree, Kylie hopes to continue her education by getting a PhD in biology, focusing on marine ecology and fisheries.



Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Foundation Student Scholarship

Erica Hagemeyer – Sam Houston State University

Erica is in the final stages of her master's degree at Sam Houston State University. She is from Livingston, Texas and received two bachelor's degrees from Texas A&M University at Galveston. Erica is studying how environmental parameters influence fish diversity in head water streams. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career with Texas Parks and Wildlife.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)

Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Foundation Student Scholarship

Roselyn Aguila — Texas A&M University at Galveston

Len is a PhD candidate in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University at Galveston and a 2025 Knauss Marine Policy Fellow. She comes from the Philippines where she pursued a career in the fisheries focusing on establishing genetic population structures of highly migratory fishes. She currently works on establishing the stock structure of Pacific swordfish in the Eastern Pacific Ocean using single nucleotide polymorphisms which will help in determining the appropriate working model to manage the swordfish stock in the region.



Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by The Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth

Madison Nguyen – Texas A&M University at College Station

Madison is from Missouri City, TX and she is currently attending Texas A&M University to pursue her Bachelors of Science in Ecology and Conservation Biology. She is also working on research under Dr. Kirk Winemiller about the diversity of fishes in tributary creeks along the Essequibo River in Guyana. Ever since she was little, she has always been interested in fish as her dad would take her out to go freshwater fishing. As she got older, the love for fish and aquatic habitats stuck with her and has gotten her where she is today, where she hopes to pursue a career in some kind of aquatic or fisheries field.



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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(CONTINUED)

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

Meghan Booknis – Texas A&M University at College Station

Meghan is a first year masters student at Texas A&M University. Her love of freshwater fish started during her undergraduate career at Texas A&M where she worked as an undergraduate technician in the Riverscape Ecology Lab. She worked on several graduate level research projects and learned a wide variety of field techniques. She published her undergraduate research work on environmental and ecological correlates of blue sucker occurrence in regulated rivers in the River Research and Applications Journal. Currently, Meghan studies blue sucker habitat usage in the Lower Colorado river of Texas. She is employing a three-pronged approach including PIT tag tracking, eDNA, and conventional sampling to assess the validity of the tributary movement model which postulates that blue suckers are utilizing tributary habitats for recruitment. Meghan is also the current President of the Texas A&M student subunit of the American Fisheries Society. After graduation, Meghan hopes to work as a biologist or technician with TPWD in the River Studies or Inland Fisheries department.



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

Danny Martinez – Texas A&M University at Galveston

Danny is currently pursuing his Master's at Texas A&M University at Galveston with the Shark Biology and Fisheries Lab and also works full time as a technician for the Galveston Bay Management Team with TPWD's Coastal Fisheries Division. His thesis project involves re-researching red drum feeding habits in the Galveston Bay system and will examine spatial



patterns, temporal patterns, and ontogenetic shifts in their diets. After graduation, he hopes to work his way up to become a biologist with the Coastal Fisheries Division.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(CONTINUED)

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by The Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth

Jacob Matthew Oster – Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi

Jacob Oster received his B.S. in Biology from Juniata (joo-nee-ah-tah) College and his M.S. in Estuarine Environmental Science from University of Maryland. Currently, he is in the last year of his PhD program at Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi where his dissertation focuses on utilizing fish otoliths and eye lenses to assess lifetime mercury contamination and hypoxia exposure in key recreational fish species in coastal Texas. Jacob also has a passion for work with science policy, which he explored through a yearlong fellowship with the National Academy of Science Gulf Research Program.



Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by The Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth

Christina Marconi – University of Texas Marine Science Institute

Christina Marconi grew up in Connecticut and developed a love for the ocean at an early age. She is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute with a Master’s degree in Marine Conservation from the University of Miami, and a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of Connecticut. Her research investigates species interactions and resource use patterns, integrating traditional approaches with advanced molecular techniques. By utilizing environmental DNA (eDNA) and DNA metabarcoding of gut contents, Christina aims to uncover insights into fish community dynamics and dietary behaviors. Driven by a strong commitment to marine conservation, Christina aspires to contribute to sustainable fisheries



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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(CONTINUED)

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

Allison Weber – Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi

Allison grew up in Missouri and received a B.S. in Biology and B.A. in Chemistry from Drury University. During this time, her interest in marine and fisheries science grew to include a passion for genetics and its applications for understanding population structure and species adaptation to environmental changes.



She is currently pursuing a doctorate in marine biology at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi under Dr. Chris Hollenbeck. Her research aims to better understand eastern oyster population structure and function, using genomic techniques to evaluate population structure and investigate mechanisms of hybridization that can inform fisheries management, commercial aquaculture practices, and conservation and restoration efforts. Upon completing her dissertation, Allison hopes to use her genetics expertise to build a research career focused on sustainable marine resource management, addressing critical is-

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

Benton Fry – Texas A&M University at College Station

Growing up in the land of 10,000 lakes, Ben fell in love with fisheries at a very young age. He received his Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Minnesota, where he worked for four years with Drs. Leslie Knoll and Jim Cotner studying nutrient cycling in natural lakes. Currently, Benton is a Ph.D. Candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Texas A&M University, working under Dr. Kirk Winemiller. Benton's thesis researches the ecological niche of two peacock bass species (*Cichla cataractae* and *C. ocellaris*) in the Essequibo River Basin in Guyana. Additionally, Ben is developing a method to use conventional and eDNA metabarcoding to accurately determine fish assemblies in Texas



streams and rivers. His career aspirations are to be a research scientist for a state agency and develop best management practices for self-sustaining sport fish populations while balancing healthy aquatic ecosys-

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(CONTINUED)

Harry Tennison Student Scholarship by The Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth

Karmann Kessler – The University of Texas at San Antonio

Karmann’s interest in freshwater ecology began during her undergrad studies at Shepherd University in West Virginia. After graduating, she worked in the Aquatic Ecology Department of the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center. Currently, she is pursuing her doctorate at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her



dissertation work focuses on lab-based physiology experiments that characterize temperature- and mass-dependence of consumption and respiration of four darter and minnow species endemic to the Southern Appalachians, as well as bioenergetic modeling of these four species. The goal of this research is to understand the elevational range limit of these species and forecast how climate change may shift these limits upslope. In her free time, Karmann volunteers with the Friends of the National Conservation Training Center and Government Canyon Natural Area to assist in community outreach. Karmann’s aim is to find a career that bridges research and communication so she can continue advocating for freshwater conservation while investigating ecosystem threats.



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JANUARY 18TH 2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

TCAFS Business Meeting Minutes January 20, 2025

Attendees (n = 46):

Hannah Adams, Travis Aguilar, Joel Anderson, Preston Bean, Alice Best, Megan Booknis, Jennifer Butler, David Buzan, Melissa Casarez, Blake Cellars, Greg Cummings, Stephen Curtis, Dan Daugherty, Shaun Donovan, Carson Dugger, Johnathan Ellard, Owen George, Lee Gudgell, Christine Jensen, Tommy Johnson, Tyson Keese, Kanyan Klein, Doug Knabe, Haley Kokel, Brad Littrell, Chris Mace, Elizabeth Malloy, Ray Mathews, Carmen Montaña, Mike Morgan, Josh Perkin, Kasey Pruet, Sarah Robertson, Randy Rushin, Luke Scribner, Ryan Seymour, Isabella Silva, Colter Smith, Levi Sparks, Travis Tidwell, Matt Troia, Brian Van Zee, Angel Velasquez, Ben Walther, Adam Whisenant, Kirk Winemiller

Call to Order (S Bardin) – Meeting called to order by S Bardin at 11:01 AM

Determination of a quorum – Yes, by S Bardin.

Motion to approve 20 January 2025 Meeting Minutes by R Seymour; Second by Daugherty; Minutes approved by S Bardin.

Motion to accept agenda by C Mace; Second by J Perkin; Agenda approved.

ExCom Reports

- President (S Bardin) – Provided overview of meeting; Noted attendance by the Parent Society President, Miguel Garcia-Bermudez, may be first for TCAFS. Noted first TCAFS lifetime achievement award to Michele Nations.
- President Elect (J Perkin) – Thanked meeting attendees for a successful meeting. Thanked Ray Mathews for contributions to TCAFS Archivist & Historian.
- Secretary (M Troia) – Thanked Chapter membership for the opportunity to serve as Secretary over the past year; look forward to continuing service during the next year.
- Treasurer (S Curtis)
 - Provided overview of 2024 financial statement. Started year with balance of ~\$32k and ended year with balance of ~\$39k. Donated \$1k to Bass Brigade and \$1k to SDAFS Meeting. Transferred ~\$17k to endowments account.
 - Noted that cost of hosting meetings has been increasing and need for larger host venues is a challenge in recent years; ExCom and membership should discuss strategies for overcoming this challenge.

Committee Chair Updates

- Awards (B Silvy) – Provided overview of awards at this week's meeting. Noted the new recognition of Most Active Student Subunit Award. Proposed change of name of Administration Award to Outreach Award so the name better represents the nature of the award.
- Continuing Education (B Thornton) – Not present. S Bardin noted that two workshops were offered and that attendance was 50 for the forward-facing sonar workshop and 60 for the plant ID workshop. The biodiversity collections tour was attended by 86 and the non-native plant removal service project by 22. B Thornton will begin soliciting continuing education workshops now for the 2026 TCAFS meeting.
- Editorial (P Bean) – Thanked the meeting attendees who moderated the sessions. Attendees contributed 45 talks and 51 posters. D Buzan has proceedings from last year completed and they are accessible on the TCAFS webpage.
- Endowments (B Van Zee) – Thanked J Butler for collaboration on scholarships. Thanked Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth and Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited for support of scholarships. Since 2024 TCAFS meeting, B Van Zee proposed to two aforementioned sponsors to increase scholarship amount from \$1500 to \$2000 per recipient and both sponsors agreed starting at the 2025 meeting. B Van Zee provided a slideshow with endowment financial summary past several years. Endowment peaked at ~\$570k at end of 2024. Noted that goal is to build fund so same scholarships can be awarded should external sponsors decide to step away in future years. S Donovan asked if the long-term strategy is to keep growing the fund or maintain the current amount and increase number of scholarships. B Van Zee opined that the number of scholarships awarded should be maintained so the exclusivity/recognition is not lost/reduced. P Bean asked about rate of return and B Van Zee



2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

indicated that rate is ~10% per year which amounts to ~\$14k per year available for scholarships. L Sparks asked about other ways to allocate endowment funds, for example, student travel awards and B Van Zee indicated that bylaws require endowment fund must be allocated to scholarships. D Buzan asked academic faculty if they prefer to increase/hold steady the scholarship number or monetary amount per scholarship. B Van Zee clarified that sponsors make final approval of recipients

- History (R Mathews) – Summarized three different history documents are now available on the TCAFS webpage: Historical Sketch, 50-Year Highlights, Annual Chronology. R Mathews has agreed to produce an oral history and M Nations will also contribute.
- Internet/Audio Visual (R Seymour) – Thanks talk contributors for smooth online submission of slides at this year's meeting. Noted 4-6 hours typical for website updates. Noted that officer email addresses have been removed because of spam activity; plans to repost email addresses in pdf format to prevent/reduce spam activity. Noted that the listserv is currently an (obsolete) Google Group; recommends moving to another platform.
- Social Media (H Kokel) – Noted that social media recovery email accounts are now compiled. Solicited updates from student subunits.
- Issues (S Bardin) – Recruited new committee members. Noted that the committee will address traditional issues, but will add new role of publicizing issues in fisheries science, including creating posters of common issues (e.g., invasive species) for dissemination.
- Membership (T Johnson) – Requested updated member list from the Parent Society. Working with R Seymour to update list of TCAFS members.
- Newsletter (M Troia) – Spring newsletter will be created and disseminated soon. Soliciting contributions from all members, particularly student subunits.
- Nominating (G Cummings) – Noted challenge of soliciting nominations from TCAFS members and encouraged members to nominate their peers. Thanked all members who cast ballots this year. Noted that voting relies on emailing ballots and this makes the solicitation challenging.
 - Treasurer election: Brad Littrell (winner) vs. Spencer Dorsey
 - President-Elect election: Alice Best (winner) vs. Joel Anderson
- Pond Management (T Sink) – T Sink not present. L Sparks noted that the committee is progressing with a manual update.
- Publicity and Exhibits (D Kwak) – Raffle and auction generated \$9773 and sponsors donated \$10500 at the 2025 meeting. S Bardin reminded business meeting attendees that auction items donation for 2026 meeting can happen anytime. J Perkin asked about communication with the Parent Society regarding the 2025 Parent Society meeting in San Antonio.
- Scholarships (J Butler) – Awarded 13 scholarships at \$2k each. Solicited application judges (not from universities, given conflict of interest). K Mayes, chair of the Hubbs Subcommittee, indicated that he will step down and will be replaced by M. Casarez.
- Student Outreach (Montaña) – Attendance of student-mentor lunch was 130 (sum of students and mentors). Attendance of student mixer was 50. Thanked judges for participation in the boat-building competition.

Student Subunit Updates

- Tarleton State (L Scribner) – Not in attendance.
- TAMU College Station (M Booknis) – Currently have ~30 dues-paying members. Hosted gar sampling trip in fall 2024 semester. In spring 2025 semester, planning trip to the coast, fundraiser, hosting speakers (David Wells, Donovan Patterson)
- TAMU Corpus Christi (B Walther) – In year of relatively low student participation.
- Texas Tech (H Adams) – Currently have ~50 active members, but working on recruitment.
- UNT (Student President) – Organized multiple events including lake clean ups and participated in Denton Day of the Dead in fall 2024 semester. Plan to host ice cream social and recruitment events in spring 2025
- UT-San Antonio (I Silva) – Currently 20-30 active members. Host monthly sampling events

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JANUARY 18TH 2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



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2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

on Guadalupe River, tabling on campus twice per month to recruit new members in fall 2024 semester. J Perkin noted that I Silva inquired about fundraising at Parent Society meeting in San Antonio in 2025; confirmed that a booth/table would be available to sell merchandise.

- UT-Tyler -Not in attendance.

Old Business

- San Antonio Parent Society meeting update (S Donovan) – Noted that sponsorship of the parent society meeting is on his agenda, starting next several weeks. Noted that 70-80% of sponsorship funding is allocated to Parent Society meeting and the remaining funds are allocated to the hosting chapter. Goal is to raise ~\$125k. Noted that TCAFS will organize the Monday plenary session and that several speakers have been proposed. Noted that the black bass symposium would take place all week, with most events taking place on Thursday. Thanked TCAFS membership for their support, including many volunteers who are serving on sub-committees to plan the meeting.
- Present and vote on changes to bylaws – M Troia read changes to business meeting attendees. D Daugherty recommended terminology of SDAFS: Vice President, President-Elect, President. M Homer asked for background/context on the proposed bylaws changes. NAME indicated that planning meetings is cheaper and smoother if the process starts two years in advance (as opposed to one year, as the process currently is). C Mace asked if this will add strain/challenges to the nominating committee. G Cummings answered no because still only one election each year (after the first year, which will require two). S Bardin asked for motion to proceed or table. C Mace motioned to proceed with vote. J Perkin seconds. Motion passes. M Troia will send revised bylaws to Parent Society for review and approval.
- 2025 Hutton Jr. Fisheries Summit - R Seymour provided overview of the proposed TCAFS involvement. Parent Society will not host summit in Texas and employees of Texas may not participate in the summit due to Texas Governor's order against DEI initiatives. R Seymour reported the proposal for TCAFS to support a Hutton Scholar, which would require a \$5000 donation from TCAFS. At 2024 TCAFS business meeting, membership voted to approve a \$2500 donation that has not yet been dispersed. S Curtis recommended finalizing 2025 TCAFS meeting finances before voting on the additional \$2500 donation. M Homer motion to support \$2500, following financial report from Treasurer, pending approval by ExCom. R Rushin seconds. Motion passes.

New business

- M Homer – Requests for a motion to donate \$1000 for the 2025 black bass symposium. J Perkin asked for clarification on how funds to be allocated. M Homer clarified for publication, administrative costs, etc. J Perkin asked many folks (show of hands) plan to participate in black bass symposium? Opined that the symposium represents an appropriate number of TCAFS members to justify supporting the \$1000 donation. R Seymour motions to make \$1000 donation to Black Bass Symposium. Seconded by T Johnson. Motion passes.

Installation of new ExCom

- S Bardin passes presidency to J Perkin (including signed boat skag and Roberts Rule for Dummies book). J Perkin thanks TCAFS mentors for support throughout career and pledges to pass along service and support during his term as president.
- J Perkin charges to the ExCom during next year: Changes to awards (see recommendation from B Silvy); recommendations for listserv changes from R Seymour; recommendations for Issues Committee; Work with T Johnson on membership; Work with S Donovan on Parent Society Meeting sponsorship funds allocated to TCAFS; Finalize bylaws change to include Vice President; Work on Hutton scholar support.
- J Perkin recognize S Bardin for contributions and presents S Bardin with plaque and print.

Adjourn

- J Perkin requests motion to adjourn. C Mace – motions to adjourn. T Johnson seconds.
- Adjourn at 12:30 pm



2025 Q2 EXCOMM/OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

TCAFS ExCom/Officers Meeting Minutes (via Teams) June 13, 2025

Attendees (n = 14):

Steven Bardin, Preston Bean, Alice Best, Greg Cummings, Shaun Donovan, Spencer Dorsey, Anthea Fredrickson, Brad Littrell, Ray Mathews, Zoe Nichols, Jose Perez, Joshua Perkin, Ryan Seymour, Matthew Troia

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by J Perkin at 2:02 pm. Motion by Mathews, Second by Seymour; None opposed; Motion approved.

Determination of quorum; Yes J Perkin, S Bardin, M Troia, B Littrell are present.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 18th business meeting by R Mathews; second by B Littrell; None opposed; Motion approved.

Executive Committee Reports

- President (J Perkin) – Parent Society sent a reauthorization charter plaque; R Mathews clarified that the Chapter President retains the charter plaque; R Mathews requested a photo of the plaque for the 50-year history document that is in preparation.
- President-Elect (A Best) – Contacted 12-14 hotels about 2026 Chapter meeting; costs are a bit high in the Houston/Galveston area; Will try to host the meeting at a coastal venue, but prohibitive costs may require an inland/central venue. J Perkin offered any assistance with venue selection/planning; P Bean inquired about tentative 2026 Chapter meeting dates; A Best suggested the last two weeks of January or first three weeks of February; J Perkin indicated that there are a few meetings we should try to work around; A Best indicated it is likely that many Chapter members will be affected by federal funding cuts; wants to brainstorm ways to accommodate these members; potentially shared hotel rooms (e.g., sign up sheet to coordinate); Could offer a reduced registration rate, but it is difficult to fairly determine financial need; seeking ideas from all folks.
- Past President (S Bardin) – Nothing new to report
- Secretary Update (M Troia) – Nothing new to report.
- Treasurer Update (B Littrell) – Gained access to all accounts three weeks ago, so now fully able to execute Treasurer responsibilities. Had several deposits since taking over (meeting registration from TPWD \$1,600, \$250 from Parent Society); Paid \$2,500 for tax preparation service; Wrote check for \$4,500 to Parent Society for Hutton scholarship sponsorship; Current checking account balance ~\$22,000.

Committee Reports

- Ad Hoc report (S Donovan) – Planned for 2,000 registrants at San Antonio Parent Society meeting in August, as of today registration count is 777; Apple snail removal and Student/Early Career events are still anticipated to be well-attended. Waiting to hear back from Executive Director (Jeff Kopaska) about a Sunday Tour of SARA; would be good to have a couple of TCAFS ExCom representatives in attendance. A Best asked for clarification on date and time; morning of Sunday August 10th. S Donovan noted that support of Parent Society meeting preparation from the Chapter has been tremendous. R Seymour asked how many TCAFS officers/ExCom members will be in attendance; M Troia, J Perkin, R Seymour.
- Awards (B Silvy) – Not present. M. Troia provided an update from B Silvy's email.
- Continuing Education (B Thornton) – Not present.
- Editorial (P Bean) – Proceedings have been completed for 2025; waiting for work to start on 2026 meeting; Proposed purchasing new easels for poster session at Chapter meeting; need to get an estimate on number needed and per-unit price; will follow up in next ExCom meeting with this estimate.
- Endowments (B Van Zee) – Not present. Sent email with update; J Perkin summarized B Van Zee's emailed report. J Perkin opened discussion; B Littrell indicated that the standard procedure is to transfer \$6,000 after each Chapter meeting from checking account to endowments account; B Van Zee mentioned that this has not been done in past; B Littrell recommends holding off on transferring \$6,000 to endowment; R Seymour asked if a motion is

TCAFS 2025

MAY 13TH 2025
EXCOMM/OFFICERS
MEETING MINUTES



TCAFS 2025

MAY 13TH 2025 EXCOMM/OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

2025 Q2 EXCOMM/OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

needed; S Bardin clarified it is not needed; A Best recommended discussing this closer to the 2026 meeting.

- History (R Mathews) – Been working on oral history; prepared orally annotated PowerPoint working with R Seymour. Highlighted Kevin Mayes' accomplishments working on instream flows for 35 years at TPWD. R Mathews asked about timeline of nominations for lifetime achievement awards; J Perkin clarified that nominations are accepted any time of the year. R Mathews indicated interest in hearing about progress with pins, shirts for 50th Anniversary. A Best suggested B Silvy might work on this; S Donovan mentioned there are local vendors and he can facilitate; B Littrell pointed out S Bardin's vendor recommendation, needed to update the logo; R Seymour indicated need to track down high resolution logo image; A Best spoke with S Curtis about location of logo on Google Drive; B Littrell volunteered find a vendor and get purchased. J Perkin asked if R Mathews will deliver a presentation at the 2026 Chapter meeting Yes; Mathews agreed that he would and asked how long of a time block for this presentation; A Best indicated that the Editorial Committee will work out details. P Bean indicated that his committee is willing to be flexible with amount of time; could do 40 minutes.
- Internet/Audio Visual (R Seymour) – Will travel to Austin to record oral history by R Mathews. Continuing to make progress on updating the Chapter listserv.
- Social Media (H Kokel) – Not present.
- Issues (S Bardin) – Committee received several requests to address various topics such as the procedure for new laws; possibly could be covered via contributions to the Chapter newsletter; New commitment to education. A Best mentioned sportfish restoration reauthorization. J Perkin mentioned potential changes to coastal fisheries independent gillnetting data.
- Membership (T Johnson) – Not present.
- Newsletter (M Troia) – Spring newsletter is forthcoming.
- Nominating (G Cummings) – Have two nominees for 2026 President-Elect; Need nominees for 2026 Secretary.
- Pond Management (T Sink) – Not present.
- Publicity and Exhibits (T Fredrickson, Spencer Dorsey) – S Dorsey present and agreed to serve on committee; J Perkin appoints S Dorsey to the committee; S Curtis sent A Fredrickson contact about discounted fly rods.
- Scholarships (J Butler) – Not present.
- Student Outreach (Montaña) – Not present. J Perkin also on Student Outreach Committee but had nothing to report.

Student Subunit Updates

- Tarleton State (L Scribner) – Not present.
- TAMU College Station (Davis Stares) – Not present.
- TAMU Corpus Christi (Kayla Dye, Ben Walther) – Not present.
- Texas Tech (H Adams, Scott Collins) – Not present.
- UNT (Student President) – Not present.
- UT-San Antonio (I Silva) – J Perez noted elections; plans for more outreach/professional development.
- UT-Tyler – Not present.

Old Business

- Excom vote to awards categories; A Best raised question about Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth Sportsman having requirements for scholarships that are potentially not aligned with new categories proposed by B Silvy. J Perkin acknowledged and recommended tabling Ex-Com vote for now.

New Business

- Hutton Scholar update: R Seymour indicated that the Chapter was able to fund a scholar



2025 Q2 EXCOMM/OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

who was placed at a Texas-based river authority. S Donovan indicated SARA is hosting two Hutton Scholars, one funded by TCAFS, one by SARA. B Littrell thanked R Seymour and SARA for their commitment to Hutton program.

Call to Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by R Mathews, second by A Best; none opposed.
- Adjourn at 3:03 pm.



TCAFS 2025

MAY 13TH 2025
EXCOMM/OFFICERS
MEETING MINUTES

**TCAFS
BEHIND THE
SCENES:**

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE
CHAIRS AND
MEMBERS**

**STUDENT
SUBUNITS**

BEHIND THE SCENES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENTJoshuah Perkin
PRESIDENT-ELECT.....Alice Best
PAST PRESIDENTSteven Bardin
TREASURERBrad Littrell
SECRETARYMatthew Troia

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

AWARDSBeth Silvy
CONTINUING EDUCATIONBlake Thornton
EDITORIAL.....Preston Bean
.....David Buzan
ENDOWMENTS.....Brian Van Zee
HISTORYRay Mathews
INTERNETRyan Seymour
.....Haley Kokel
ISSUESSteven Bardin
MEMBERSHIP.....Tommy Johnson
NOMINATINGGreg Cummings
POND MANAGEMENTTodd Sink
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS.....Anthea Fredrickson
.....Zoe Nichols
SCHOLARSHIPJennifer Butler
STUDENT OUTREACH.....Carmen Montaña

STUDENT SUBUNITS

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matthew Troia



TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY PURPOSE AND GOALS

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

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

A message from the newsletter team:

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

TCAFS

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

TCAFS NEWSLETTER

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