



## Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society Fall 2008 Newsletter

October 2008

Steve Lochmann, Editor

### President's Message

Hope that you are enjoying your fall—perhaps taking some vacation, spending a little extra time with family, or maybe just being able to work on that project for which you never seem to have time. All is well with me if, when fall and winter roll around, I can take a break from budgets and emails and other things associated with the office and spend some time outdoors (at one time I thought there would be more of that as I got older but seems I was mistaken). Aside from the therapeutic benefits, I often come up with plans to address work-related issues (and AFS newsletters) when left alone in a boat or up a tree.

I'd like to begin this newsletter on the topic of the last--threats to aquatic organisms. The summer newsletter addressed threats from a few of our more prominent invasive fish (the northern snakehead and Asian carp). However, increasing water use and effects of climate change could one day be of equal or greater ecological concern. Regardless if air temperatures continue to increase over the long term or not, as our population and related agricultural demands increase, we can anticipate that surface- and ground-water withdrawals will increase. I've observed this first hand on the Black River as the predominant row crop has shifted from soybeans (back in the 1970's soybeans were seldom irrigated) to rice (which requires irrigation). When I was a child, it was rare to see a hydraulic pump on the side of the river but now it is common for there to be three or four pumps per river mile. USGS has gaging records for a station at Black Rock dating back into the 1930s and in the last decade (and admittedly through some drought periods), minimum baseflows have declined to near the

all-time low in two different water years. As minimum baseflows decline, there is the obvious habitat threat of dewatering, but there are also threats associated with declining water-quality (lower dissolved oxygen saturation rates because of higher water temperatures, for example). As detrimental as those circumstances may be to aquatic resources (and particularly sensitive taxa), however, the demand for water will dictate that priorities of the general population will probably not lie with fish and invertebrates.

So, consider this. Even though we may not be totally convinced that this globe is warming, maybe the risk to aquatic resources is such that we should begin thinking of ways that both climate change and water use be studied over the long term. The scale of the problem alone lends itself to something that will require a large group, or..., we can just continue to keep our fingers crossed.

*Billy Justus, President*

### Announcing the Arkansas Chapter AFS 2009 Annual Meeting

The 2009 annual Chapter meeting is shaping-up to be a good one - You won't want to miss it! The meeting will be held in Bentonville in Northwest Arkansas. Bentonville is in Benton County, also know as, "...the wettest dry county in Arkansas..." You might want to bring the spouse or whole family to this one as the Northwest Arkansas area offers lots of amenities, great restaurants and bars, shopping, scenery, trout fishing, and many other forms of entertainment.

This interesting and fun-filled extravaganza and scientific collaboration will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, pre-ceded by a Chapter sponsored workshop on February 3rd. Call the Clarion at 479-464-4600, to reserve your room at the special meeting rate of \$70 and tell them you are attending the Arkansas AFS meeting. The special meeting room rate is available now until January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Please make your reservations well ahead of time to help us plan with the Clarion for number of attendees at the meeting. You can check out the Clarion Hotel and Convention center at [www.bentonvilleclarion.com](http://www.bentonvilleclarion.com). While at the website, also check out Boston's Gourmet Pizza Bar and Grill located in the Clarion.

The meeting will feature a special workshop, interesting and cutting-edge science technical sessions (only if you submit your presentation), and a focus on media relations in fisheries management. Meals will be included with registration including breakfast and lunch, and an evening meal each night. For those of us just returning from the Southern Division AFS meeting in New Orleans (and those of you that missed it), the Mardi Gras theme will be continued at a crawfish and shrimp boil (if approved by Tim Burnley) including Hurricanes, on the last evening of the meeting. The evening prior will feature a Student-Professional Mixer and banquet at Fast Lane Entertainment – perhaps the most fun (“funnest” according to Stephen Brown) place in Northwest Arkansas ([www.fastlanebowl.com](http://www.fastlanebowl.com)).

Complete meeting agenda, workshop information, and meeting pre-registration form will be available in the next newsletter. We hope all members put this annual meeting on your calendars to get together in Northwest Arkansas.

*Darrell Bowman, President-Elect*

## *FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS*

For the

**2009 Annual Meeting**  
of the  
**Arkansas Chapter**  
of the  
**American Fisheries Society**

**FEBRUARY 3-6, 2009**  
**Bentonville, AR**

**Abstracts due by December 30, 2008**

**Please email abstracts as a MS Word document to Chris Racey at**

**[clracey@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:clracey@agfc.state.ar.us)**

**Questions, call (501) 978-7317**

### **Meeting Minutes** **September 26, 2008**

To preserve our planet's valuable natural resources and avoid the ridiculously high gas prices, the AR Chapter AFS EXCOM has chosen not to have formal meetings. Instead, we've used email and the always proven telephone to conduct chapter business. Now on to the business... Stuart Wooldridge of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) made a request for our chapter to support monetarily the future proceedings of the striped bass and hybrid striped bass management symposium that is slated for the 2009 AFS meeting in Nashville, TN. The EXCOM has decided to support this important symposium by providing \$350 toward this effort. Jeff Quinn, also of the AGFC, has requested support for an upcoming AFS paddlefish book. The EXCOM has also decided to support this effort by providing \$350. The 2009 AR Chapter meeting is still in its developing stages, but it looks like it will be held somewhere in Bentonville, AR from February 3-6, 2009. The original plan had been to host the meeting in Fayetteville, but those negotiations fell through. The EXCOM is still in the process of looking at contracts with Bentonville-area

hotels and businesses, but the Clarion is currently at the top of the list. The meeting program and schedule are currently being developed and will be posted on the Chapter website in the coming months. Funding (sponsorships) for breaks and socials has been discussed, and the EXCOM welcomes any suggestions or potential sponsors. The deadline for meeting abstracts will be Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Abstracts should be directed electronically to Chris Racey ([clracey@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:clracey@agfc.state.ar.us)).

*Chris Racey, Secretary*

**Arkansas Chapter AFS  
Unit Financial Report**

June 25, 2008 – September 29, 2008

**Balance brought forward (June 25, 2008): \$ 16,297.59**

**INCOME**

Interest (Simmons Bank), July-September 2008 \$ 20.98

**Total Income \$ 20.98**  
**SUBTOTAL \$ 16,318.57**

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Striped Bass Committee, SDAFS (Symposium Donation) \$ 350.00  
American Fisheries Society, Paddlefish Publication Donation \$ 350.00

**Total disbursements \$ 700.00**

**Balance on-hand (September 29, 2008): \$ 15,618.57**

The AR Chapter EXCOM serves as the Chapter's auditing committee and regularly oversees the financial records as noted in the EXCOM minutes.

*Stephen Brown, Treasurer*



**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Division AFS  
Student Colloquium**

**November 7-9, 2008  
Fall Creek Falls State Park  
Pikeville, TN**

**Call 800-250-8610 for reservations**

**For additional information  
please contact: Tyler Black or  
Jonathan Davis at  
[ttufisheries@gmail.com](mailto:ttufisheries@gmail.com)**

**or visit**

**[orgs.tntech.edu/sfa/colloquium.html](http://orgs.tntech.edu/sfa/colloquium.html)**

**Call for Officer Nominations**

This is the first call for nominations for Chapter officers for 2009. Nominations are open for President-Elect and Treasurer. President-Elect is primarily responsible for organizing the 2009 Chapter Meeting and serves on the Chapter Excom. The President-Elect serves on the Chapter Excom for a total of three years (one as president-elect, one as chapter president, and one as immediate past-president). Treasurer is primarily responsible for keeping the chapter books, meeting registration, and collecting member dues, and serves on the Chapter Excom. The treasurer serves a two-year term.

Nominations can be sent to:  
Joe Stoeckel,  
Fisheries and Wildlife Program  
Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, AR 72801.  
(479-964-0852)  
[jstoeckel@atu.edu](mailto:jstoeckel@atu.edu)

## Raffle Committee Report

The Raffle Committee needs everyone to collect items for the spring 2009 meeting. The more we collect the more money we can raise. Get out and look for items on which you would like to bid. Hope to see you all at the spring 2009 meeting.

*Jimmy Barnett, Chair*

## Call for Award Nominations

This is the first call for nominations for the Robert Jenkins Individual Achievement Award of Excellence and the Joe Hogan Outstanding Conservation Achievement Award of Excellence.

The Individual Achievement Award goes to someone who has provided an important or long-term service to our Society, our fisheries resources, or our profession. The Outstanding Conservation Achievement goes to an individual, agency, or organization that has provided leadership or outstanding assistance in helping to conserve fisheries resources.

Nominations can be sent to:

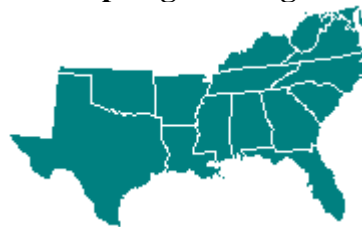
Joe Stoeckel  
Fisheries and Wildlife Program  
Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, AR 72801.  
(479-964-0852)  
[jstoeckel@atu.edu](mailto:jstoeckel@atu.edu)

## Student Subunit Reports

Arkansas Tech University - Russellville  
unavailable

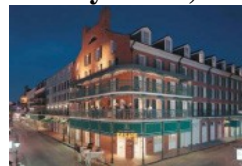
*Christopher McKee, Sub-Unit President*

## 17<sup>th</sup> AFS Southern Division Spring Meeting



New Orleans, LA

Royal Sonesta Hotel  
January 15-18, 2009



**Abstract Deadline: October 24, 2008**

**Details at:**

**[www.sdafs.org/meetings/2009](http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2009)**

## Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

The Arkansas State University Wildlife and Fisheries Society (WFS) has begun the new year by electing officers. The officers for the 2008-2009 academic year are:

WFS President and Wildlife Subunit President –  
Alex Zachary

WFS Vice President and Fisheries Subunit  
President – Wendy Crase

Fisheries Subunit Vice President – Seth Fisher

Wildlife Subunit Vice President – Kevin Keen

WFS Secretary – Christy McElroy

WFS Treasurer – Allison Asher

The WFS completed the first quarterly trash clean up in October. In early November, AGFC Elk Biologist Michael Cartwright will visit the WFS to give a presentation. Other plans for November include working deer check stations at White River National Wildlife Refuge and volunteering at the Delta Waterfowl Banquet.

*Wendy Crase, Sub-Unit President*

[wendy.crase@smail.astate.edu](mailto:wendy.crase@smail.astate.edu)

### **University of Arkansas – Fayetteville**

We are starting our fall activities with a canoe and fishing trip on the Kings River in October, jointly organized by the Wildlife Society. During the fall semester, we have also made progress linking undergraduates with graduate research in fisheries, both in the laboratory and in the field. Next semester, we hope to, once again, participate in Springfest, a public outreach program connecting the University of Arkansas with the city of Fayetteville.

*Matthew Dekar, Sub-Unit President*  
[mdekar@uark.edu](mailto:mdekar@uark.edu)

### **Aquaculture America 2009**



**Washington State Convention Center  
Seattle, WA**

**February 15-18, 2009**

**Abstract Deadline: August 1, 2008**

**Details at:  
[www.was.org/](http://www.was.org/)**

### **University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff**

The semester is underway and the club is already deeply involved around the campus, as well as the community. We have recently participated in the great Arkansas clean-up in the Pine Bluff area. In addition, we are preparing the AFC club float for the upcoming homecoming parade on Campus. As Halloween approaches, we will be having organizational meetings regarding our annual involvement with Boo on the Bayou, a Halloween event held by the Delta Rivers Nature Center, in which we will have representation. The fall camping trip is in the final planning stages as it looks like we will have an exciting weekend getaway on the scenic Buffalo River. We look forward to what the future holds for this club and its members.

*Brad Fontaine, Sub-Unit President*  
[bfontaine@uaex.edu](mailto:bfontaine@uaex.edu)

---

### **Arkansas Chapter - AFS Officers**

**President: Billy Justus**  
**President Elect: Darrell Bowman**  
**Treasurer: Stephen Brown**  
**Secretary: Chris Racey**

**University of Central Arkansas – Conway**  
unavailable

*Julie Day, Sub-Unit President*