



Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society Spring 2009 Newsletter

June 2009

Steve Lochmann, Editor

Chapter Business Meeting Summary

The following are the minutes from the AR Chapter AFS Business Meeting held February 6, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel in Bentonville, Arkansas.

President Billy Justus called the meeting to order at 9:48am. Approximately 65 chapter members attended the business meeting. Secretary Chris Racey determined that a quorum was present and a motion was put forth by Tim Burnley to accept the 2008 AR Chapter AFS business meeting minutes. Jimmy Barnett seconded the motion and there was unanimous support to accept the 2008 business meeting minutes. Billy Justus then asked SDAFS vice president Steve Lochmann to address the group. Steve brought forth messages from current SDAFS president Steve McMullin and SDAFS president-elect Cecil Jennings. Steve McMullin encourages all chapter members to be also members of the parent society. A plaque was awarded to the Texas Chapter because they had the highest percentage of chapter members that were also members of the parent society (69%). Steve McMullin would like to make the SEAFWA meeting more popular to students because they are more likely to attend the spring SDAFS meetings than the SEAFWA meeting. Students will no longer be required to publish a manuscript in conjunction with the SEAFWA meeting if they would like to present. This should remove some of the barriers for students that want to attend and present at the SEAFWA meeting. Steve McMullin also wanted to remind everyone that the parent society meeting will be held in August in Nashville, TN. Cecil Jennings encouraged chapters and subunits to maintain their websites and keep them up to date.

Cecil wanted members to know that the SDAFS will be updating the strategic plan since the parent society is currently in the process of updating its strategic plan. At this point, Colton Dennis asked Steve Lochmann how the percentage of parent society members within a chapter is calculated and what that percentage is within the AR Chapter. Steve indicated that he would look into it and that the percentage of AR Chapter members that are also parent society members would appear in the next newsletter.

Billy Justus next asked AFS president-elect Don Jackson to say a few words. Don mentioned that AFS realizes that federal employees have a difficult time becoming AFS officers. He also cautioned members that we should be careful to project the proper message to government leaders with what we say and do. Don then indicated that AFS has a mechanism to assist with funds for folks in leadership positions to attend governing board meetings. AFS has been attempting to address the need for more fisheries scientist professionals coming up through the ranks. A new strategic plan for AFS will be presented in March at the governing board meeting. AFS is also developing more online voting capabilities to increase voting participation for policy issues. Don mentioned that the annual meeting will be in Nashville, TN and that he would like us all to attend so that the Southern Division is well represented. At the meeting in Nashville, AFS will initiate a new student-professional mentoring program where a student shadows a professional everywhere the professional goes during the annual meeting. Don would like to engage more young professionals (students) in the profession and noted the importance of students' abilities to use emerging technologies in fisheries. Don

indicated that the theme for the 2010 parent society meeting in Pittsburgh, PA will be “Merging our Deeper Currents”. Finally, Don noted that AFS is a people-oriented society, and that one of our greatest strengths is that we care about the folks around us.

Treasurer’s report

Interim-treasurer Mike Bivin provided the report. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Tim Burnley and seconded by Jimmy Barnett. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee reports

Nominating and Awards

Committee chair Joe Stoeckel provided ballots to the membership to vote on the candidates for Treasurer (Jimmy Barnett and Frank Leone) and President-elect (Ginny Adams and Mike Eggleton). Each candidate gave a brief biography with the exception of Frank Leone, who was notably absent and rumored to be fishing at Lake Hamilton. Secretary’s note: On 2/5/09, the Arkansas Bass Association (ABA) was presented the Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement for their dedicated service to the fisheries and aquatic habitats of Arkansas. Dr. Ward Gardner, president of ABA, accepted the award on behalf of that organization.

Environmental Affairs

It was determined that there is currently no committee chair, but there is a need for this committee to be more active. Billy Justus and president-elect Darrell Bowman asked for volunteers. Jeff Quinn and Rich Grippo indicated that they will be willing to serve on the committee. John Jackson noted that the committee will be able to vote in a chair.

Education Liaison

Committee chair Bill Shinn provided a list of regional and state science fairs and asked chapter members to help with the judging at the fairs. Bill reminded folks to pick out the student projects that best represent the chapter at each of these fairs. Bill provided plaques for the judges to take with them. He also indicated that those

who wish to be judges should contact him for more information.

Activities and Raffle

Committee chair Jimmy Barnett indicated that \$473 was raised with the silent auction this year and the money went to help pay meeting expenses. Jimmy indicated that the chapter has been raising an average of approximately \$500 each year with the silent auction. However, he reminded members that it is never too early to start finding silent auction items for next year, and that they do not just have to be fishing-related items; “people will buy anything!”

Newsletter

Committee chair Steve Lochmann had nothing to report.

Webmaster

Interim webmaster Rich Grippo indicated that former webmaster Alan Christian had taken another job out of state. Rich also indicated that he did not wish to be webmaster.

Subunit reports

ASU

Rich Grippo provided the report. Rich said that subunit members worked at the White River NWR deer check stations. Members also participated in Adopt-A-Highway litter pick-ups. The subunit will be hosting a Beast Feast this coming spring and are looking to start up a Stream Team. Allison Asher was selected as the subunit’s Outstanding Student Member.

ATU

Clay Spikes provided the report. Clay indicated that subunit members will be participating in a trash pickup and will host several guest speakers. They will also be jointly hosting the Wildlife Conclave with UA-Monticello in March. The subunit is currently trying to raise money for the event with a quiz bowl. David Johnson was selected as the subunit’s Outstanding Student Member.

UCA

Julie Day provided the report. Julie reported that the subunit, despite being newly formed, already

has a dozen members. The subunit went on two camping trips, and hosted a speaker. They will also be working the AGFC snakehead project, providing assistance at a fishing derby in June, and picking up trash in the caves of northwest AR. There was no Outstanding Student Member selected this year by the subunit.

UA-Fayetteville

Matt Dekar provided the report. Matt reported that the subunit will be participating in several float trips and Springfest, a public outreach event. Matt was also selected by the subunit as the Outstanding Student Member.

UAPB

Brad Fontaine provided the report. Brad reported that the undergraduates have been doing internships and then presenting their experiences at subunit meetings. The subunit also participated in a Pine Bluff city cleanup and will continue to use catfish cleanings for a subunit fundraiser. They will be hosting a white bass fishing tournament on Caney Bayou, and participating in a camping trip. Brad extended an invitation for other subunits to join in on the camping trip. Brad was selected by the subunit as the Outstanding Student Member.

Old Business

Jim Wise mentioned there would be some revisions to Regulation 2 and that he would like to see some backing from the Chapter, universities, etc. Additionally, there will be some revisions to Ecologically Sensitive Waterbodies (ESWs) in October. This will be a large undertaking and it is anticipated that some ADEQ commissioners may not allow addition of new water bodies. The Environmental Affairs Committee will need to be involved with this issue over the next 3-5 years. Jim passed along that Chris Davidson would like to see the Chapter take a written stance on the Fayetteville Shale issue. It was suggested that the Chapter could issue a letter from President Darrell Bowman stating the Chapter's position. Jim also said that they would like folks from the Chapter and Environmental Affairs Committee to attend ADEQ Commission meetings. Jim Petersen

asked Jim Wise to let Chapter folks know what they can do to help with this situation and where and when events will be held.

Election results

Ginny Adams (UCA) was elected the new President-elect and Jimmy Barnett (AGFC) was the new Treasurer.

Billy Justus then introduced Darrell Bowman as the President of the Chapter.

New Business

Darrell thanked Billy Justus and Mike Bivin for their dedicated service and presented each of them with a plaque. Darrell then presented the best paper awards to Calvin Fisher (UAPB; Best Undergraduate Student Paper; "Propagation and rearing methods for yellowcheek darter *Etheostoma moorei*"), Nick Carmean (ATU; Best Graduate Student Paper; "Spatial and temporal implications of day versus night electrofishing in a large floodplain river ecosystem"), and Lee Holt (AGFC; Best Professional Paper; "Discovery and distribution of the Northern Snakehead *Channa argus* in eastern Arkansas"). Darrell thanked all who helped put the 2009 meeting together, specifically Jim Petersen for putting together the workshop and Jack Wingate for making meeting arrangements. Darrell reported that 116 people (87 professionals and 29 students) attended the 2009 meeting as calculated by Mike Bivin during registration.

Webpage

The focus of the meeting then turned to the chapter webpage and a need for a webmaster. Lee Holt suggested the EXCOM talk with Lindsey Lewis and Jeff Quinn thought the EXCOM should talk with Frank Leone because of their experience maintaining a website. Jeremy Risely commented that Frank is maintaining his own website through Yahoo and that it costs \$10-12/month. Rich Standage then mentioned that the chapter needed to contact SDAFS or the parent society. Darrell suggested that the EXCOM take the ideas brought forth from the membership and address the webpage and webmaster issues within the next month outside of the business meeting.

Environmental Affairs Committee

A discussion then ensued on exactly who is actually a member of the committee. Matt Schroeder and Jim Petersen indicated that they were on the committee. It was also suggested that a list of committee members appears on the website. Darrell then appointed Rich Grippo as the chair of the committee because Rich is not an agency person, which has caused problems in the past. Rich accepted the position as chair of the committee. Darrell then reiterated the need for the committee to be active.

Newsletter Committee

Darrell indicated that Steve Lochmann is stepping down as Newsletter Editor because of his current and upcoming SDAFS duties. Steve gave a brief description of the duties of the newsletter editor. Steve mentioned that the chapter puts out 3 newsletters per year (spring, fall, winter) and that he had a newsletter template (Word document) available that is transferred to a PDF when distributed. Steve said that it takes approximately 6-7 hours over a 2-week period to put each newsletter together, and that the toughest thing is just getting folks to send in the information for the newsletter. Darrell then asked for volunteers to accept the Newsletter Editor position, and he had no takers. Darrell indicated that he would be contacting folks over the next few weeks to get someone into that position.

Darrell next mentioned that it is important for the chapter to have updated and accurate contact information for the membership. John Jackson suggested that subunit presidents provide their current contact lists to Mike Bivin, who will then turn the list over to newly elected treasurer Jimmy Barnett. Jimmy indicated that there would be a need for a new chairperson for the Raffle Committee since he was the new treasurer. Lea Gray volunteered and was installed as the chair of the committee. Colton Dennis mentioned that everyone enjoyed the meeting, and Darrell recommended that we continue to have good annual meetings by looking for additional sponsors to cover some of the meeting costs. He noted that over \$4,000

was donated by Bentonville Convention and Visitors Bureau and additional funding or promos were provided by Jack Links and Eureka Environmental Engineering. Steve Lochmann then indicated that the Oklahoma Chapter is interested in having a joint meeting with Arkansas in 2010. John Jackson suggested that we contact them very soon, because they tend to set their meetings dates early in the year. President-elect Ginny Adams will follow up with Oklahoma.

Steve Lochmann made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Tim Burnley. There was unanimous support for the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.



**Make plans soon to attend the
139th Annual Meeting
of the
American Fisheries Society
August 30 – September 3, 2009**

**The Renaissance Nashville Hotel
(1-800-266-9432)
is the conference host hotel.**

**Registration information is available at
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs09/reg.html>**

Arkansas Chapter AFS Unit Financial Report

January 1, 2009 – April 10, 2009

Balance brought forward (January 1, 2009): **\$15,618.57**

INCOME

Interest (Simmons Bank), January 2009	\$3.10
2009 Meeting Registration (pro-86 stu-30)	\$8,930.00
2009 Membership dues (pro-81 stu-82)	\$1,230.00
2009 Meeting silent auction proceeds	\$473.00
Cash deposit (withdrawn to make change at 2009 meeting)	\$200.00
Bentonville Convention Contribution Deposit	\$4,300.00
Workshop registration	\$1,700.00

Total Income **\$16,836.10**
SUBTOTAL **\$31,772.80**

DISBURSEMENTS

University Bus Lines (2009 Chapter Meeting)	\$1,000.00
Trophies, plaques, and awards (2009)	\$508.48
Printing for 2009 meeting	\$87.03
Science Fair – trophies, plaques, and cash awards (2009)	\$650.38
2009 Chapter 'Best Student' cash awards (ATU, ASU, UAF, and UAPB)	\$200.00
2009 Meeting expenses printer cartridges	\$37.13
Cash withdrawal (withdrawn to make change at 2009 meeting)	\$200.00
Clarion Hotel (2009 Chapter Meeting) \$500 paid 2008 not shown here	\$7,788.34
Fastlane Bowling (2009 Chapter Meeting)	\$2,940.89
Postage	\$4.95

Total disbursements **\$13,417.20**

Balance on-hand (April 10, 2009): **\$18,355.60**

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

Jimmy Barnett, Treasurer



**Announcing the
The Southeastern Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Annual Meeting**

November 1-4, 2009

**Omni Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia**

See www.seafwa2009.org for details

Education Committee Report

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society takes a special interest in aquatic sciences projects entered into the 2009 Arkansas State and Regional Science Fairs. Members of the Chapter attend the regional science fairs and present awards to the best aquatic sciences project in the High School and Junior High divisions.

1. The West-Central Regional Science fair was held on February 25-27 at Arkansas Math and Science School (ASMSA) in Hot Springs, Ar. The judge was Richard Standage. The winner of the High School division was "Disrupted patterns of Fin and Eye development in *Cottus caroliniae* Cave Fish" by Steven McFarlin. Honorable Mention went to "Water Quality of lakes Ouachita, Hamilton and Catherine" by Yeng Yang and "Determination of Fertilizer Chemicals in Greers Ferry Lake" by Leo Walthall.

2. The Central Regional Science Fair was held on February 28th at University of Arkansas at Little rock (UALR) in Little Rock, Ar. The judge was Bill Shinn. The winner of the High School division was "Creek Characteristics and Nutrient Level" by Robinson Ford from Russellville High School. Honorable Mention projects from the high school division included "Effects of Riparian Settings on Embeddedness of Substrate

in Rock Creek" by John Petersen from Little Rock Central High School, "Detection of Tetracycline Resistant (TeT) Genes in Bacteria Isolated from Catfish Fillets by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)" by Safia Nawaz from Little Rock Central High School, "Salinity's Affect on the Fresh Water Life Cycle as seen in Daphnia" by Taylor Rogers from the Lisa Academy in Little Rock, "The Effects of nitrogen depletion on the Lipid Content of *Botryococcus braunii*" by Carmen Gondhalekar from Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, and "Rock Creek Water Quality" by Will McSpadden, Zach Altizer and Carson McKnight from Pulaski Academy in Little Rock. The winner from the Junior High division was "Goldfish Demonstration of Torpor" by Spencer Rogers from the Lisa Academy Middle School in Little Rock. The honorable mention projects from Junior High were "Cleaning the Environment and Making Energy-One Molecule at a Time" by Tatenda Mukunyadzi from The Anthony School in Little Rock, "Surface temperature vs. Salinity in Stream Water" by Sonya Mehta from The Lisa Academy in Little Rock, and "The Effects of Insecticides on the Protein Levels of Brine Shrimp" by Sarthok Gary from The Lisa Academy in Little Rock.

3. The South-East Regional Science Fair was held on March 13th at the University of Arkansas at Monticello in Monticello, Ar. The judges were Lael Will and Brett Timmons. The Junior High division winner was Lindsey Moore from Ridgway Christian School, Pine Bluff. Her project was "Nature vs. Nurture: Do farm raised fish revert to instinct when fed live prey?" The Senior High division winner was Josh W. Brown from Ridgway Christian School, Pine Bluff. His project was titled "Go Green with Solar Powered Water Heaters."

4. The South-West Arkansas Regional Science Fair was held at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ar. The judge was Don Turman. The winner of the High School division was "Are we Swimming in P.O.O. (Plankton Microscopic Organisms of Organic Matter)" by Ashley Fite from Glen Rose High School. The winner of the Junior High division was "Going Green" by

Houston McCullough from Camden Fairview Middle School.

5. The North-West Arkansas Regional Science Fair was held on March 13th at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ar. The judge was Matthew Dekar. The winner of the Junior High division was "Evaluating the health of our Streams" by Haley Bowman from Washington Junior High in Bentonville. The winner of the High School division was "The discovery of a correlation between fluorescent whitening agents and macro invertebrate's bio-diversity in Streams Part 2" by Kaleb Horlick from Fayetteville High School.

6. The North-East Regional Science Fair was held at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, Ar. The judge was David Hages. The winner of the Junior High division was "The Conduct of Water" by Lillie Pitts from Annie Camp Junior High in Jonesboro. The winner of the High School division was "Spring River after the Flood" by Mikey Lack from Nettleton High School.

The 55th Annual 2009 Arkansas State Science Fair was held April 3-4 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ar. Teams of scientists serve as judges and choose category winners, recipients of special awards, and overall state winners. Recipients of awards for "Best of State" are chosen from the top two winners at each of the seven regional fairs as well as the state fair. Sponsorship of three overall winners (one team and two individuals) and their teachers to attend the 2009, Intel International Science and Engineering fair (ISEF) is generously provided by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The ISEF will be held in Reno, NV May 10-15, 2009.

The winner of the 2009 High School Division "Best Aquatic Science Award" by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was "The effects of Suburban Runoff on Creek Life" by Jill Del Sol from Fayetteville High School. She received a plaque and \$100.00. Judges were Steve Filipek, Reed Adams and Bill Shinn.

This project tested whether storm and field-water runoff from neighborhoods affects the creeks into which they drain. Initially, the idea was to determine the direct impact on creek life by taking a sample inventory of the macro invertebrates before the runoff point, and after the runoff point to test for differences. Later, the causes of any hypothetical differences in creek life were to be reinforced with basic water quality tests for nitrates and phosphates.

Organism collecting data, facilitated with the pollution-sensitivity scale of the S.O.S. pollution-sensitivity sheet, directly contracted the hypothesis by highlighting the lack of diversity upstream of runoff, and the abundance of diversity downstream. The cause of this was suggested by a slight difference in nitrate levels: there was a 0.2 ppm increase from upstream to downstream.

This project is important because the issue of pollution is an incredibly prevalent one in the modern world. Eutrophication, or a chokehold on water-based communities due to an excess of oxygen consuming life, is being reported in an overwhelming number. One of the causes of this is fertilizer containing nitrous or phosphorous chemicals, and can result in diminishing our planet's fragile, yet essential biodiversity. With more research of humans' impact on our waterways, we can learn how to better reduce negative influences and further conservation efforts for our unique planet.

We want to extend a special thanks to chapter members who took time out from their work to attend and judge the science fairs.

Bill Shinn, Chair

A Special Note...

This year, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission was a Platinum Level Sponsor for the 2009 Arkansas State Science Fair in Conway, Arkansas. Platinum Level Sponsors generously gave at least \$10,000 to The Arkansas Science and Engineering Fair. We want to commend the vision of the Commission for seeing the

importance of the science fair to the development of future natural resource managers in Arkansas.

Nominations and Awards Committee Report

This year, the Arkansas Bass Association (ABA) received the Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement. The ABA was nominated for their dedicated service to the fisheries and aquatic habitats of Arkansas. Activities of the ABA include a Christmas tree habitat project and an annual Arkansas River Clean Up. The ABA also sponsors a scholarship program for junior or senior fisheries and wildlife student with an interest in fisheries management. The award was presented to Dr. Ward Gardner, president of ABA.

At the Arkansas Chapter AFS Meeting in Bentonville, the chapter elected Ginny Adams as president-elect and Jimmy Barnett as Treasurer. Ginny is putting together the 2010 Chapter Meeting. Please think about nominations for president-elect and secretary for next year. Send your suggestions to jstoeckel@atu.edu.

Joe Stoeckel, Chair

Raffle Committee Report

The Raffle committee thanks those of you who contributed or acquired items for the raffle in Bentonville. The proceeds from the raffle goes a long way toward making the annual meeting profitable. Please begin to think about vendors/contacts to solicit for items to be used in the 2010 raffle.

Jimmy Barnett, Chair

Student Subunit Reports

Arkansas State University – Jonesboro
unavailable

Arkansas Tech University – Russellville
Unavailable

University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

Our focus this semester has been helping the community with debris removal after the ice storm in January. We also participated in the Northwest Arkansas Regional Science Fair and presented the Best Aquatic Sciences Award on behalf of the American Fisheries Society. Congratulations to Haley Bowman (Junior Level) and Kaleb Horlick (Senior Level) for their dedication and hard work! On May 2nd, our sub-unit will be assisting the Biology Department during Springfest, Fayetteville's annual public outreach event with the University of Arkansas.

Matthew Dekar, Subunit President

mdekar@uark.edu

University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff

The spring semester is flying by, but not without the UAPB club getting to enjoy it. We recently had our annual white bass tournament on Caney Bayou, which was a huge success. Our club is in the process of planning a camping trip to Lake Catherine State Park, about which we are very excited. In addition, we will be helping out for Earth Day celebrations in downtown Pine Bluff, on April 18th. We have also recently donated \$75 dollars to the Pine Bluff Single Parent Scholarship Fund. The club has been keeping busy, and we plan to gain steam on through the summer.

Brad Fontaine, Subunit President

bfontaine@uaex.edu

University of Central Arkansas – Conway

The UCA subunit just completed a week of snakehead sampling in conjunction with AGFC and USFWS. Nearly two dozen subunit members and UCA students participated in the eradication and fieldwork, bringing back over 600 pickled northern snakeheads. In February, several members assisted USFWS Cave Biologists with a cave cleanup near Calico Rock, and to round out the semester we will be planning a Buffalo River float trip. All other subunits are welcome!

Julie Day, Subunit President

julie.lynne.day@gmail.com

Arkansas Chapter – AFS Officers

President: Darrell Bowman

President Elect: Ginny Adams

Treasurer: Jimmy Barnett

Secretary: Chris Racey