



American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2002

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its annual business meeting on February 22, 2002 at the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Steve Lochmann called the meeting to order at 17:20.

The minutes from the 2001 business meeting were passed out to the attendees. Steve reminded everyone that the minutes had been published in the newsletter. He also stated that the minutes are available on the website. Steve Filipek motioned to accept the minutes and Jimmy Barnett seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

John Jackson gave the Treasurer's Report. A hard copy of the financial report was passed out to chapter members. John stated that the ending balance as of December 31, 2001 was \$10,956.55. John also told the chapter that the chapter money had been taken out of the Merrill Lynch account and transferred to an interest bearing checking account. This was a decision that the EXCOM had made because the Merrill Lynch account was losing so much money and the fees were going to increase. Jimmy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Don Turman seconded.

Joe Stoeckel then presented the candidates for President Elect and Secretary. A biographical sketch of each candidate was passed out to the chapter. The candidates for President Elect were John Harris and Ken Shirley. The candidates for secretary were Susan Rogers and Darrel Bowman. Joe thanked each candidate for accepting the nominations. He then opened the floor for nominations. Bill Layher motioned that nominations cease and Betty seconded the motion. Ballots were then collected.

Steve gave members from the parent society an opportunity to address the chapter. Carl Burger thanked everyone for their invitation and stated that the leadership workshop that day had been great.

Ken Beal then addressed the chapter. Ken thanked the chapter for the invitation to the meeting and stated that he was looking forward to the technical meeting.

Steve gave Southern Division President Jeff Boxrucker a chance to speak to the chapter. Jeff addressed the Chapter and encouraged everyone to participate in AFS activities. He told the chapter about the leadership program that has been developed through AFS. These courses will not just be held at AFS meetings but can also be held at agencies. He told the chapter how the student affairs had been expanded. Jeff stated that he was going to be keeping in close contact with the technical committees.

Bill Shinn, chairman of the Education Liaison committee, then addressed the chapter. He explained to the chapter the purpose of judging the science fairs. Bill passed out the state science fair schedule and solicited for volunteers to participate in judging the science fairs. Bill then told the volunteers to get back with him and finalize the list of volunteers.

Chris Davidson was given a chance to report on the chapter webpage. He asked if anyone had any comments for suggestions. No suggestions were given.

Steve announced that April Layher would be the next newsletter editor. She asked for items for the newsletter to be given to her by March 20th. Her E-mail address is aolayher@agfc.state.ar.us.

Steve then gave an update on the digitizing of the "Fishes of Arkansas" book. The book has been scanned using optical character recognition software. The scanned pages are now being reviewed and checked for errors. Once the reviewing process has been completed, the text will then be turned over to the authors.

Steve then informed the chapter about the Bear Creek Lawsuit. He informed the Chapter that we had agreed to become a plaintive in the lawsuit against the Corps of Engineers.

Steve then told the Chapter that the EXCOM had decided to donate money for Fishing and Youth Aquatic Education Clinic that Robb Beadle and the 4-H will be holding July 17-22, 2002.

Steve turned the floor over to Jimmy Barnett who thanked everyone for his or her efforts. He reminded everyone of the silent auction and the raffles.

Joe then announced the results of the elections for President and Secretary. Ken Shirley was elected President Elect and Susan Rogers was elected Secretary.

The subunit reports were then presented beginning with the Fayetteville Subunit presented by Shawn Hodges. He stated that the subunit had started back up. He told about a project that they were doing to try to preserve a wetland called Wilson Springs. He stated that they were in the process of changing their bylaws. Shawn also told the chapter that they were trying to get more undergraduates involved with the subunit.

The UAPB Subunit report was given by Tom Hungerford. He informed the chapter about the fishing derby that the subunit had done. He stated that they had a camping trip scheduled for this spring. Tom stated that the UAPB Subunit had about 20 members.

Steve informed the chapter about the update to the bylaws and procedures manual that Charlie Gaegen had initiated and completed. These changes more clearly defined the roles of the Executive Committee and the committees.

Steve then told the committee about the chapter awards. The Robert M. Jenkins award was given to North Arkansas Fly Fishers. Stan Todd gave a history of the North Arkansas Fly Fishers and presented the award.

The Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement went to John Harris. Steve gave a summary of John's accomplishments. John Harris was not able to attend the meeting so Art Bogan accepted the award on his behalf.

Charlie presented the outstanding student awards for the three subunits. He informed the chapter how the students had been selected. The award winners were Shawn Hodges from Fayetteville, Tom Hungerford from UAPB, Kendall Moles from ATU. Charlie then told the chapter about some changes in the bylaws that affected the Education Liaison committee. The Past President had been made a member of the Education Liaison Committee and would help the committee chairperson stay in contact with the subunits. Charlie also recognized the past presidents of the chapter and invited them to a Past Presidents breakfast.

Steve then recognized the planning committee for the Southern Division meeting. He stated that the planning committee had put in a lot of work in organizing the meeting.

Steve then asked the chapter if there was any old business. Andrea Radwell, from the Fayetteville Subunit, stated that the subunit had been asked to come up with a position on the Wilson Creek issue. She then gave a brief history of the issue. She asked the chapter to help them with their position statement.

Steve then introduced Gus Rassam, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society, and asked him to address the chapter. Gus greeted the chapter on behalf of the parent society. He stated that the parent society was doing well. Gus told the chapter about a couple of programs in which AFS is involved. He asked the chapter members to be involved with these programs to the extent that they could. He then informed the chapter about two positions that were coming up with AFS.

Steve asked for more old business and there wasn't a response. Steve then installed Betty Crump as President and she presided over the rest of the meeting.

Betty began addressing the chapter by thanking all of the planning committee members and said how she appreciated their help. She stated how this was a special meeting because it was not only a meeting with the Southern Division of AFS but also the 50th anniversary of the Southern Division and a joint meeting with the Southeastern Fishes Council. She encouraged everyone to promote the chapter.

Betty then presented the Past President plaque to Steve Lochmann. She also presented the outgoing Secretary plaque to Diana Andrews.

Betty then opened the floor to new business. Betty asked John if he had any ideas or suggestions about what to do with our money to get the best investment. John told the

chapter that he and Steve had discussed putting the money in something that is more secure. Bill Layher stated that he would leave the money where it was. John stated that perhaps some of it could be put in to some CD's or other higher interest bearing accounts. Betty asked John to get some information about different ways to invest together and give it to the EXCOM to decide how to handle the money.

Betty stated that the Tennessee Chapter had mentioned hosting a joint meeting with the Arkansas Chapter in 2003. The Tennessee Chapter did not know at that time if they would be able to host the meeting. Betty told the chapter that they would be contacted by E-mail as to the location of the 2003 meeting.

April informed the chapter about the meeting T-shirts that were on sell. She stated that a student at UAPB had designed the graphics for the T-shirt. Betty encouraged the members to purchase a T-shirt.

Joe Stoeckel then solicited the chapter for paper judges.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:42.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Andrews, Secretary
Arkansas Chapter
American Fisheries Society