



American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2003

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its annual business meeting on March 5, 2003 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Jackson, Tennessee. President Betty Crump called the meeting to order. Other officers present were Ken Shirley, President-elect; John Jackson, Treasurer; and Steve Lochmann, Past President. There were 38 members present at the business meeting, which represented a quorum.

Steve Filipek, President of the Southern Division of AFS, greeted the chapter. He discussed the Southeastern meeting and how it has declined in quality for both fisheries and wildlife. The Southern Division leadership approached the Southeastern Directors about including training and workshops to boost attendance. Additionally, the timeline of publishing the Proceedings will be changed. The next Southern Division Spring meeting will be in Oklahoma, and the Southeastern meeting will be in October in Mobile, Alabama. Finally, Steve addressed volunteerism and its importance to the chapter. He encouraged members of the chapter to volunteer for committees.

The minutes from the February 2002 annual meeting were approved after a motion from Jimmy Barnett, which was seconded by Chris Davidson.

John Jackson presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy of the financial report was passed out to members. John reminded the Chapter that last year it was decided to take the money out of Merrill Lynch. The major income last year was the Southern Division meeting. This meeting was also the major expense last year, but the chapter came out ahead once the books were settled. As of December 31, 2002, the chapter had \$15,945.57, which is in an interest-bearing checking account.

Betty mentioned that the Chapter would pay Whodat's for the amount they were shorted at last year's meeting. The Chapter will bill the Southern Division for their half of the cost, as proceeds from the meeting were split between the Chapter and the Southern Division. The Chapter will also bill the Southern Division for the other incidentals from the meeting. Steve Filipek motioned to accept the financial report as presented and Steve Lochmann seconded.

Joe Stoeckel presented the slate of candidates for President-elect and Treasurer. A biographical sketch of each candidate was handed out with each ballot. The candidates for Treasurer were Chris Racey and Mike Bivin. The candidates for President-elect were Chris Davidson and Diana Andrews. Joe thanked the nominees for running. Ballots were then collected.

Steve Lochmann presented the Past President's report. All three student subunits submitted their bylaws to the EXCOM, which requested a few changes. The subunits have since amended their bylaws and submitted them to the parent society. Dirk Miller, who deals with the AFS Constitution, has provided some interesting comments. He will provide his edits to the subunits, and Betty will work with the subunits as Past President. Steve will address some of Dirk's suggestions when new business is discussed, later in the meeting. Betty thanked Steve for his hard work with the subunit bylaws.

April Layher discussed the newsletter. She asked that everyone honor the deadlines that were published in the last newsletter. Additionally, she requested current addresses be provided. Students that expect to move a good deal should indicate that on their membership renewal so April may send the newsletter to the university. The next deadline for submissions is April 1.

Chris Davidson discussed the web page. Abstracts from this meeting will be available on the web page. He requested any comments or suggestions anyone has. Chris reported that the page has been kept up to date.

Ron Johnson presented the report for the Environmental Committee. He stated that the primary goals of the Environmental Affairs Committee were two-fold: to help in the dissemination of information to Chapter members by way of newsletters and meetings and to represent the Chapter membership in resolutions to our elected officials at the state and national levels. It was a relatively quiet year, with no recent resolutions. Most projects of concern (e.g., Buffalo River, White River) are largely stalled at the moment. Ron discussed Senate Bill 45, which is a proposal to reorganize state agencies. Several members of the Chapter would be directly impacted by this reorganization. Efforts are underway to obtain more information about this bill so that the Chapter can prepare an appropriate response. The Environmental Affairs Committee requests the membership's help in identifying focal areas of concern.

Bill Shinn reported on the Education Committee. The primary objective of this committee is to help with the state Science Fairs. The Chapter presents awards at each fair. Bill passed out the dates and locations of this year's fairs and went over who from the chapter was covering each fair. The state fair is April 4-5, and a plaque will be given out there as well. April mentioned bringing applications for the summer ecology camp to the fairs, and Bill stated it would also be a good idea to bring copies of the newsletter so the students will be aware of what the Chapter does.

Jimmy Barnett thanked those who brought items for the raffle, particularly Mark Oliver, Ken Shirley, and Steve Filipek. Jimmy reminded the Chapter that the silent auction was underway. Door prize items were determined to be for students. Additionally, Jimmy implored the Chapter to start now looking for raffle items for next year.

Joe Stoeckel presented the election results. Mike Bivin was elected Treasurer and Chris Davidson was elected President-elect.

Arkansas Tech presented Tommy Lane the Outstanding Member award for the Subunit. He was Vice President of the student subunit in 2002, and he was public relations officer for the Fisheries and Wildlife Society student subunit. He is also a research assistant at Tech and has volunteered for numerous projects. Regarding the subunit, there are 36 paid members, and the majority of these are active members. In spring 2002, the subunit volunteered on a number of projects, including spotlight surveys and fishing tournaments.

Dan Magoulek presented the Outstanding Member award for the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville to Mandy Scott. She has been very active in the unit; she has served as president, helped organize a number of fundraisers, and has been very beneficial to the subunit. Mandy then presented the subunit report. The subunit has been working on recruiting new members, and one solution was to team up with the subunit of the Wildlife Society. Additionally, they had a booth at the student involvement fair to sign up individuals who want information on subunit activities. The chapter has also sponsored a canoe trip on the Buffalo River and held a fundraiser after a football game. The subunit was successful in securing money from the University to send members to conferences.

Ben Lubinski reported on the subunit at the University of Arkansas- Pine Bluff. Membership has increased from last year to 21 members. One of the goals of the subunit is to increase volunteerism, and they have been very active in the community, including helping with fishing derbies, picking up trash, helping clean up Bayou Bartholomew, and helping build a nature trail. The subunit raised funds through cleaning catfish. They have also created a website for the subunit, which can be accessed through the state chapter website. Nate Wiese received the Outstanding Member award for the University of Arkansas- Pine Bluff for his dedicated work for the subunit.

Betty presented the best student paper awards. Carrie Cavanaugh of Arkansas State University received the award for the best undergraduate paper at the 2003 annual meeting. The best graduate paper award went to Chris Green of the University of Arkansas- Pine Bluff.

Bill Shinn presented the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement to Dr. Harry Dupree. He had a long career in fisheries, including serving as the Director of the Stuttgart Research Center for nearly 25 years. He made numerous contributions to warmwater aquaculture and to the center. Steve Lochmann will present this award to Dr. Dupree's widow on Friday, March 7 in Stuttgart.

Ron Moore presented the Robert Jenkins Award for Group Achievement to the Northwest Arkansas Bassmasters. This group has consistently helped improve habitat in Beaver Lake through helping place trees in the reservoir, they have organized a number of charity fishing tournaments in Beaver Lake that have helped numerous charities, and they have provided funds to improve the reservoir. This group has an excellent relationship with other fishing groups and has help students at Central Junior High School improve grades as well as learn to fish. The contributions of the Northwest Arkansas Bassmasters have been invaluable.

Betty discussed old business. The Professional Bass Fishing Hall of Fame is being built in Hot Springs, and they have asked the chapter to help raise funds for the facility. Betty encouraged the Chapter to help out when and where possible, although details are not available yet. Bill Fletcher and Don Brader, organizers of the hall of fame, were unable to attend the meeting.

Betty introduced Ken Shirley as the new Chapter President. Ken presented Betty with a plaque honoring her service as President. Ken then addressed the Chapter and thanked everyone for their confidence in him as well as Betty for her efforts. Ken encouraged the committees to continue their efforts, as they complete the real work. Additionally, he requested more activity from professional members, as their numbers have dropped in recent years. However, student membership has remained steady, and he commended the students for their activity. To boost membership, it was suggested that retired members be re-recruited. Additionally, members who miss the annual meeting may simply forget to renew their membership; reminders would suffice in this case.

Ken brought up new business and turned the floor over to Steve Lochmann. In order to get the students more involved in the Chapter business, it would be helpful for the Presidents of the subunit to sit as full voting members on the EXCOM. This would require a change in the bylaws, which must be voted on by the Chapter. He passed out the suggested changes in the bylaws to the Chapter members. Subunits would pay for their Presidents to attend the EXCOM meetings and the annual meeting; however, if the subunit were unable to fund the transportation, the Chapter would cover those costs. After 30 days have passed, the Chapter may vote on this issue. Other state chapters have similar bylaws. Brian Wagner suggested removing the names of the subunits from the proposed bylaws so that the Chapter would not have to revise them if a new subunit were created or if one were dissolved. Discussion was generally positive.

Both the Ouachita and Ozark National Forest Plans are to be revised and drafts will be submitted in 2005. The Chapter is interested in providing input into the plans, although Betty may not be involved due to her affiliation with the Forest Service. Ken, Steve Filipek, Bob Limbird, and Jeff Farwick have been participating on a joint AGFC/USFS team that is exploring this issue. Ken established an ad hoc committee that will keep watch on this issue and ensure the Chapter's involvement. Members include Joe Stoeckel, chair, as well as Rich Grippo, Sam McCord, Steve Filipek, and Bob Limbird.

Ken brought up the 2005 annual meeting. Due to the timing of the draft Forest Plan Revisions, it was decided that the proposed joint meeting with the Arkansas chapter of TWS be held in 2005 rather than next year. Tentatively, the 2004 meeting will be held at the Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff.

Darrell Bowman suggested that in the future, committee reports and old business could be shortened so that more time is available for new business. The Chapter's time for the room had nearly run out by this point in the meeting, prompting this comment.

Finally, Betty presented John Jackson a plaque for his service as Treasurer. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rogers, Secretary
Arkansas Chapter
American Fisheries Society