

2011 Arkansas Chapter AFS Business Meeting Summary
Submitted by Ben Batten (Secretary)
February 4, 2011

Current Officers as of the adjournment of this meeting:

President – Colton Dennis
President-Elect – Lindsey Lewis
Treasurer – Christy Kitterman
Secretary – Ben Batten

The following are the minutes from the AR chapter AFS Business meeting held February 4, 2011 at the Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR

President Ginny Adams called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. There were approximately 50 members in attendance. Secretary Ben Batten determined that a quorum was present, and Chris Racey put forth a motion to accept the 2010 AR Chapter AFS business meeting minutes. Steve Filipek seconded the motion, and there was unanimous support to accept the minutes.

Ginny Adams asked Dr. Steve Lochmann, who is the current Southern Division (SDAFS) President to address the membership.

Dr. Lochmann announced that Mike Allen had recently been elected as Vice President. He wanted to thank UCA for hosting the 2010 student colloquium. He announced the following student winners from the 2010 SDAFS meeting (Asheville, NC) who were honored in January, at the 2011 SDAFS meeting in Tampa Bay: Best student poster – Tyler Stubbs and Paul Tober (tie), Best student presentation – Matthew Wegner, and Best student sub-unit – North Carolina State. Dr. Lochmann also announced that Dr. Hal Schramm had recently been honored with the Southern Divisions achievement award.

Dr. Lochmann made the membership aware that each president of SDAFS is required to come up with a work plan. His plan emphasizes science and management. He also mentioned that when the publication company of Taylor and Francis agreed to handle the publication of the AFS journals, they payed the AFS \$1 million dollars. The point he was trying to make is that knowledge is valuable.

Dr. Lochmann issued three challenges to members of SDAFS, and especially members of the Arkansas chapter:

1. Students need to focus on doing good science.
2. Professors need to teach their students to be scientists and professionals. All students should be able to answer questions, such as: What's the control in the experiment? Where is the replication? Do I have enough statistical power to draw conclusions? If students cannot answer these questions, it is a failure of the professors.

3. Fisheries managers should use sound science to make wise management decisions.

Dr. Lochmann stated that his personal crusade was: "No biologist left behind". All AFS managers in SDAFS should have access to all of the AFS journals in order to make wise decisions.

President Adams emphasized what an honor it was to have Dr. Lochmann, a chapter member, serving as SDAFS president.

Treasurers Report

Jimmy Barnett provided the report. Jimmy stated that we started the year with \$15,000, got up to nearly \$19,000. He stated that we have spent nearly \$10,000 on the year, and that including money from meeting income (~\$6,400), contribution from The Wildlife Society (\$1,000-2,000), and silent auction (\$810), we should be just in the black. Jimmy also stated that this meeting had 145 registrants. A motion was made by Rich Grippo to accept the Treasurer's report, and Steve Filipek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Awards

Committee chair Joe Stoeckel provided ballots to the membership to vote on candidates for Treasurer (Christy Kitterman and Jason Throneberry) and President-elect (Tim Burnley and Lindsey Lewis). Due to time constraints, and inclement weather, no speeches were given.

Environmental Affairs

Committee chair Rich Grippo gave the report. He stated that we had written two separate letters which were sent to politicians concerning two different causes during the last year.

The first was concerning the use of ATV's in the Ouachita National Forest, and especially in the area of Wolf Gap, due to extreme environmental degradation. The result of this letter was that the positive economic impact of ATV use was considered more important than the negative environmental impacts by the legislators, though the opposite is believed to be true by the Environmental Affairs Committee. Steve Filipek mentioned that the USFWS is also studying this area. We should check with them to see what they are finding so that we are not at cross purposes.

The second letter was a request to deny the permit application by Saline County to dredge, fill and perform construction on the Little Fork of the Alum River for developing a drinking water reservoir. Rich stated that rather than just oppose this and other similar projects that we should work to find a solution to the greater problem of getting water to this area. Jim Wise added that it was not possible to get this permit because of the presence of two T and E species in this stream.

Education Liaison Committee

Committee chair Bill Shinn provided dates and locations of regional science fairs and tried to solicit volunteers, whom received plaques to hand to award winners.

Activities and Raffle Committee

Committee chair Jimmy Barnett reported that the silent auction from the previous meeting had netted the chapter \$809.

Newsletter

Jeff Quinn was absent, and nothing was reported for the newsletter.

Webmaster

Ben Batten stated that he had recently spoken with Beverly Birdsong, the webmaster concerning contract and invoice issues. The most recent contract, for \$500 per year had been signed in June of 2009, and was to run until the end of that year. \$250 was paid ahead of time, with \$250 due in January of 2010. Birdsong gave Batten an invoice, and basically asked for only \$250 to cover the amount due in January 2010, but also to cover to the current date, essentially giving us a year of service for free. Birdsong suggested that we go to an hourly format at \$25/hour due to the low number of hours required for the chapter. Steve Filipek proposed a motion to accept this situation, and Steve Lochmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with no discussion.

Subunit Reports

In the interest of time, due to snow falling during the meeting, and worsening travel conditions, subunit reports were skipped, but were to be put in the upcoming newsletter.

Old Business

2013 National AFS meeting in Little Rock

Darrel Bowman reminded us what an honor it was that we are hosting this meeting, and that he is the meeting chair. Dr. Lochmann is program committee chair (he will be working on developing the program with the 2013 AFS president). Bowman stated that he is currently assembling a steering committee. He said that we are 2.5 years out, so we are still ahead of the curve. In the near future (March), he is planning to have a meeting and get more serious about planning. Ginny Adams suggested doing a co-chair option for some committees to share responsibility/leadership since AGFC employees have been instructed that they cannot chair committees for this meeting.

Election Results

Ginny announced that Christy Kitterman (AGFC) had been elected treasurer and Lindsey Lewis (USFWS) had been elected President-Elect.

Ginny Adams introduced Colton Dennis as the new president of the Arkansas Chapter. She gave him a big thank you for all of his hard work in assembling a successful meeting.

New Business

Colton thanked Ginny Adams for her service as President, and Jimmy Barnett for his service as Treasurer, and awarded both plaques. Colton then presented plaques and \$50 checks to the following students for being outstanding chapter members: UCA – Clint Johnson, UAPB – Clint Peacock, ATU – Chris Steelman (accepted by Joe Stoeckel), and ASU – Joe Sellers (accepted by Paul Sikkel). Finally, Colton presented best paper awards to Richard Walker (GBM^c and Associates; Best Professional Paper; “Movement patterns of southern redbelly dace, *Chrosomus erythrogaster*, in a headwater reach of an Ozark stream) and Loren Stearman (UCA; Best Student Paper; “Assessment of stream fish community structure in the Fayetteville Shale”).

Colton thanked Ben Batten for his help in putting the meeting program together. Next, he thanked the ex-com for their hard work and everyone who helped put the socials together and make them function well. Colton thanked Jeff Quinn for his work over the past year as new editor of the newsletter. Finally, he thanked Steve Filipek for his work in putting the Natural Gas Symposium together, as this was a timely subject, and that having this meeting with the Wildlife Society made a good thing even better.

2013 National AFS meeting in Little Rock

Colton Dennis stated that he had worked on putting together the SDAFS Reservoir Symposium meeting in Atlanta, and it took two years to plan. He emphasized that we will need all hands on deck in order to make the event a success. He wants to get spreadsheets put on the Arkansas AFS webpage so that people can begin to sign up for their choice of duties such as program, av, socials, etc. right now.

Colton talked about the importance of fundraising, and said that we need to begin making a spreadsheet with sponsor names and contact information. He also advocated putting a suggestion box for fundraiser events on the webpage. He suggested a simple recipe book, and said that each member probably has some recipe that they are famous for. We could compile these into a book and sell them at the national meeting. Darrel Bowman reminded the membership that we used to more actively fundraise by selling T-shirts, etc. Now, for the last several meetings, we have been happy to just break even. Bowman said that for the 2013 meeting, we will have to have a treasurer, separate from the chapter treasurer. We will probably need to raise at least \$50,000 for this meeting. Billy Justus said that it might be a good idea to look back at the last 3-4 years of budget to get an idea of what we can improve on. Chris Racey reminded everyone that the SEAFWA meeting will also be in Little Rock in 2012, and that it may pose competition for fundraising.

Donations

It was mentioned that member Allen Carter donated \$300 to purchase aquatic science books for the subunits, and should receive a letter of thanks from the chapter.

It was also mentioned that Chapter member Betty Crump and her husband who own Kirby Landing on Lake Greeson donate \$100 each year to the chapter, and that they should also receive a letter from the chapter.

Nominating and awards committee

Dr. Joe Stoeckel announced that he is stepping down as chair of the nominating and awards committee. Colton Dennis graciously thanked him for his years of service, and said that the chapter would be honoring him with a plaque for his service. Colton called for volunteers/nominations for the position. None were received, therefore he stated that the ex-com would address the issue and find someone quickly. Dr. Stoeckel acknowledged Ron Moore and Rich Standage for helping him with nomination selections.

Asian Carp – Mark Oliver

There was some discussion of creating an ad hoc committee to deal with Asian carp. Discussion to attempt to market these fish in Arkansas for consumption was revisited. Steve Filipek suggested including a recipe for them in the proposed fund raiser cookbook. It was mentioned that we sent a letter to policy makers last year, but it was bad timing due to election season putting Asian carp on the back burner. Billy Justus stated that there were a lot of initiatives for assistance programs which could apply to these fish (catching them, canning them, etc.).

2012 Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting

Colton stated that representatives from Texas AFS had approached him about holding a joint meeting in 2012, and suggested we meet in Texarkana, so that both chapters could stay at hotels in their respective states. Mark Oliver motioned that we should propose this to President-Elect Lindsey Lewis. Jimmy Barnett provided a second, and the motion passed unanimously with no discussion. Darrell Bowman suggested that we make sure that the bulk of the profits from raffles, etc. go to the AR chapter to help towards the fund raising of the national meeting in AR in 2013.

Internships

Colton mentioned that AGFC has 10 internships for the summer to make the membership aware, and to encourage qualified applicants to apply.

Various

Dr. Steve Lochmann stated that the 2012 Southern Division meeting would be held in Biloxi, MS, the last full week of January.

Dr. Mike Eggleton reminded the membership that UAPB houses several years of materials for the state chapter treasurer. From the beginning of the chapter to 2004 are housed at UAPB, and that the current treasurer Jimmy Barnett was in possession of more recent materials. It was brought up that perhaps we could have all of the older records

digitized. At one point, discussions had taken place where UCA had thought about accomplishing these tasks.

Jimmy Barnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Filipek seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.