



Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society Fall 2005 Newsletter

September 2005

President's Message

I hope that our Chapter has been successful in helping shape the 10-year plans for the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, and the Arkansas River Navigation Study. I have confidence that planners for the National Forests have genuinely considered our comments and that they will incorporate them, where possible, into their plans. Their willingness to meet with us at our last annual meeting was good evidence that they value the opinions of Arkansas' fisheries professionals.

Helping shape the Arkansas River Navigation Study (ARNS) will be a bit trickier, because a push to improve productivity of commercial navigation is driving the plan and because there are many competing interests involved. One thing we know for certain is that if those concerned about the biotic integrity and recreational uses of the river say nothing, that their concerns will be overlooked. The latest revision to the ARNS is better. It includes more funding for mitigation and long-term monitoring, and it also includes increased efforts to re-open and maintain (at least temporarily) more backwater areas. It apparently has also effectively addressed various concerns regarding freshwater mussels. However, a continued shortcoming of the plan is the lack of terrestrial disposal sites for dredge materials in Arkansas. All disposal sites in Oklahoma are terrestrial, and it would make sense that terrestrial sites be used in Arkansas in areas potentially sensitive to the negative effects of within-river spoil disposal.

We have until September 19 to provide further comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the ARNS. I intend for the EXCOM to follow up on our original comments.

Because the ARNS and accompanying EIS are lengthy and can be difficult to decipher, I welcome informed comments from all of you regarding the plan that might assist us in preparation of our response to the latest EIS. You can send them to me at joe.stoeckel@atu.edu.

Larry Rider has informed me of good news relevant to the resolution our Chapter passed at our 2004 annual meeting in support of the American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB). The membership in ALAB consists of approximately 32 organizations such as the American Fisheries Society, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Association of Sate Boating Law Administrators, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, and the American Sportfishing Association.

In late July and early August of 2005, the House of Representatives passed a massive transportation reauthorization bill 412 votes to 8 and the Senate passed this bill 94 to 4 on August 12th. The reauthorization of Wallop-Breaux (the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund – ARTF) was part of this bill. The most important part of the bill was that it achieved full recovery into the ARTF of 18.3 cents per gallon gasoline excise tax attributable to outboard motors and small engines. These appropriations were going to the general treasury to help pay off the national debt. The good news is this means an additional 110 million of permanent funds per year to the state and wildlife agencies for sportfish restoration, boating safety and access, and other ARTF programs.

Many thanks to Larry for supplying the above information. Moreover, because Larry was intricately involved with the negotiations, many KUDOS for a job well done! Hopefully our resolution played a part in getting this user tax back into the correct (the users) pot of money, so that it can be used for its intended purposes.

Joe Stoeckel, President

Arkansas Chapter Archives

The Arkansas Chapter of AFS is going to begin archiving materials with the University of Central Arkansas Library. Please send copies (electronic) or original AR AFS Chapter photos to Chris Davidson for addition to the archives. Any photos that pertain to Chapter events or activities are requested. If the subunits would like to archive their materials, please get in touch with Chris.

Chris Davidson, Past-President

2006 Annual Meeting Update

Mark your calendars for the 2006 Annual Chapter Meeting that will be held at DeGray Lake Resort State Park and Convention Center on February 1st-3rd. Rooms at the resort are available for the meeting at \$60.00/night single or double occupancy with an extra \$10.00/person charge for up to four people/room. Please make your reservations soon (800-737-8355 or 501 865-2851) as this rate will only be available until January 2. Check out the website <http://www.degray.com> for resort details.

We are planning an exciting meeting that will tentatively include two concurrent Wednesday afternoon workshops at no additional cost. The first will be a hands-on aquatic plants workshop conducted by Dr. Staria Vanderpool from Arkansas State University. She will cover identification of aquatic vascular plants/algae and invasive plant issues (recognition and eradication). This workshop will be limited to the first 50 people that contact John Jackson by email at john.jackson@atu.edu. Do not miss an opportunity to attend this workshop. The second workshop will take a close look at how FAST (Fisheries Analysis Simulation Tool) can be used

to evaluate commonly collected fisheries data helpful for answering management related questions. This workshop will be conducted by Steve Lochmann (UAPB) and John Jackson (ATU) only if there is enough interest by our members. Please contact John Jackson soon if you are interested in attending this workshop. We hope to see everyone at DeGray Lake Resort State Park.

1st CALL FOR PAPERS

For the

2006 Annual Meeting Of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

**FEBRUARY 1-3, 2006
DeGray Lake Resort State Park &
Convention Center**

**PLEASE SEND ABSTRACTS TO:
John Jackson
Fisheries and Wildlife Program
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR 72801
john.jackson@atu.edu**

Call for Officer Nominations

This is the first call for nominations for Chapter officers for 2006. Nominations are open for President-Elect and Secretary. President-Elect is primarily responsible for organizing the 2007 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). Secretary is primarily responsible for keeping the chapter meeting and excom minutes and serves on the Chapter Excom. The secretary 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)
joe.stoeckel@mail.atu.edu

Raffle Committee Report

The Raffle Committee wishes to remind you to gather items. If you have done this for the Chapter in the past, please ask your vendors/contacts again this year. Bring the items with you to the Chapter Meeting at Lake DeGray in February. You can give the items to Jimmy Barnett for set up.

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)
joe.stoeckel@mail.atu.edu

New Releases from AFS

Black Carp: Biological Synopsis and Risk Assessment of an Introduced Fish
Leo G. Nico, James D. Williams, and Howard L. Jelks
Special Publication 32
337 pages, hardcover, subject index

List price: \$60 AFS member price: \$42
Stock number: 510.32C

The Behavior and Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout

Thomas Quinn
328 pages, 64 in color
List price: \$35.00 Member price: \$28.00
Stock number: 637.07P

Monitoring Stream and Watershed Restoration
Philip Roni, editor.

350 pages, glossary, index
List price: \$65.00 Member price: \$45.00
Stock number: 550.47P

Propagated Fish in Resource Management
Mary Nickum, Patricia Mazik, John Nickum, and Don MacKinlay, editors.

Symposium 44
640 pages, hardcover
List price: \$75 AFS member price: \$53
Stock number: 540.44C

EXCOM Meeting Summary August 5, 2005

Attendees: Chris Davidson - Past President
Joe Stoeckel - President
John Jackson - President elect
Mike Eggelton - Treasurer
Darrell "Bowfin" Bowman - Secretary
Steve Lochmann - Newsletter editor and otherwise authority on all subjects
Jimmy Barnett – Raffle Committee Chair

The AFS Arkansas Chapter EXCOM met at Lake DeGray Resort State Park to discuss Chapter business and to plan the next annual meeting, which will be held at the same location. I arrived early and therefore was able to enjoy the breakfast buffet, which has always been one of my favorite things about the resort at Lake DeGray. I had a plate heaped with scrambled eggs (cooked just right – you know, just a little on the wet side and not dried out) and bacon. Since bread is now off limits to any sane, healthy person, I refrained from any toast, or biscuits. But, after that plateful, I decided that bread is good when smothered with sausage gravy, and had another heaping plate of biscuits and gravy

and a few sausage links. At that point, I was miserable and went out to take a nap in my truck, because I still had a few hours to kill.

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 10:00am, but the officers from Arkansas Tech (ATU) decided to take scenic Hwy 7 and arrived exactly 1 hour late (I could have napped much longer). So we began with a tour of the facilities at the resort to see meeting rooms and discuss price lists, etc. with the event manager.

The EXCOM then sat down for a “working” lunch. We all ordered tea or water except for one person who had a “Coke”. The group immediately began discussing the meeting to be held on February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The first order of business involved the program and what if any workshops would be offered. The group agreed that basically we would follow the traditional format of beginning mid-day on Wednesday, have workshop(s) that afternoon and a social that evening; technical session on Thursday until around 3 or 4 pm and then have the business meeting, and then another social; then technical session on Friday until around noon.

The EXCOM discussed at length the potential for two workshops: an aquatic vegetation workshop, and a FAST data workshop. The group agreed that both would be beneficial to the membership if properly applied. The group agreed that the FAST workshop should focus on what data is needed to go into the model as opposed to how the model works. Lochmann volunteered to conduct the workshop and show how to use existing, typical electrofishing or rotenone data to plug into FAST. It was decided that Lochmann would work with Colton Dennis to create the workshop. The group discussed other ideas about who would conduct the aquatic plant workshop, and other logistics of both workshops.

The EXCOM moved on to discuss the most important part of the annual meeting – the “social” and the “banquet”. The group discussed entertainment at the social and agreed that it would be much harder to pull off a band or

something like we had at the last annual meeting, and that instead would consist of drinking with the usual regression to card-games (Secretary’s note – this is really boring for those of us who do not enjoy “cards”). I suggest if the membership would again enjoy some music or any other form of entertainment, contact your president elect!). The group went on to discuss possibilities for the banquet and decided to give awards at the banquet instead of the business meeting for the purpose of saving time at the business meeting, and providing some feel good stuff at the banquet. The group also discussed the possibilities for a “speaker” at the banquet. Possibilities for speakers included Jimmy Barnett and Bill Shinn. John and Joe suggested that maybe we should have some sort of comical speaker, instead of some fisheries professional talking about more fisheries stuff. Jackson was charged with checking on a “comic”.

Then somehow the group instantly transitioned to a discussion about posters. The same debate erupted that the group had last year when posters were allowed. The group discussed where the posters could be set up, availability of easels, posters relating to “talks”, the philosophy of whether posters were fitting to a small, fairly informal meeting, etc.? All at once, Barnett suggested that we should not mess with posters this year. Bowman chimed in with a hearty “No posters!” and Jackson echoed, “... alright, no posters.” The group echoed general agreement. Then Lochmann suggested that this would provide a good experiment. If we don’t have posters like we did last year, and we get complaints, then in the future we should have posters. If no one complains we can forget about posters at the annual meetings. Then the group displayed very strange but typical group dynamics, and once again began discussing posters at the up-coming meeting and Barnett said, “...If they want posters, let ‘em bring posters.” And Jackson suggested that the bringer of the poster was responsible for everything needed to set-up the poster. More discussion continued and then Jackson said he would check to see if the resort has easels for posters. So then Stoeckel asked “...okay, maybe posters?” Jackson said no we would not even mention

posters in the newsletter unless the resort has everything we need to set them up, but he doubted that they would so then we won't. But if someone shows up with a poster and everything to set it up, even though we didn't invite it, they could set it up. (Secretary's note: if you have any idea if posters will be allowed at the next annual meeting, please inform the rest of us?)

At that point Lochmann (as you would figure) observed that we had four agenda items left and suggested that we order lunch (we were meeting in the restaurant). The group agreed but then immediately began discussing how long each talk should be during technical sessions (this group had more trouble staying on track on a given topic, than any group I can remember, unless your talking about any group that involves Mark Oliver). Lochmann suggested that we keep talks the same as Southern Division – 12 minutes, 3 minutes for questions. Stoeckel suggested 15 to 20 minutes usually works fine. Egelton observed that none of that matters if the moderators don't do their job.

At this time, thankfully the waitress showed-up, but since the group had been in an in-depth discussion about how long talks should be, Lochmann asked for another "...two minutes, please..." and so she left for five. Barnett demonstrated some desire to order immediately and stated that AGFC personnel do not have as much time to wait as "you people" referring to the academics, which included the first expletive recorded during the course of the EXCOM meeting. The waitress returned and Bowman immediately ordered the fried catfish. Barnett then inquired, "do you have blue-cheese?" which he continued to explain was a matter of importance to his order. The waitress said she'd have to check, which obviously would hold-up the ordering process more. This drew much negativity from Stoeckel saying, "...You must have all day". Then Lochmann said that AGFC people are "...rabble-rousers..." (Secretary's note: I don't know what a rabble-rouser is?). The waitress returned promptly with the good news that blue cheese was indeed available and therefore, Barnett ordered a chef-salad

(Secretary's note: good job Jimmy – keep watching your health!). Davidson and Jackson ordered fried catfish. Stoeckel ordered a patty-melt and asked if it was a "diet" patty-melt and then giggled at his own joke. Egelton ordered a Philly-cheese steak and asked for "...no lettuce or tomatoes, please," which Stoeckel said made it a New York cheese steak. I have no idea what Lochmann ordered.

Immediately, Jackson got the group back to business and began discussing the raffle and auction. He basically looked at Barnett and asked that he handle this again. Barnett agreed. Discussion ensued about when to have silent auction or raffle. Lochmann observed that it is best to conduct such activities after attendees have had access to "...a few beers." The group discussed donations and several expressed interest to give away houseboat trips on Bull Shoals Lake and stuff like that. The group agreed that Mark Oliver should make sure to procure some good trips again this year, since he dropped the ball last year. Barnett pointed out that key people around the state have that ability to get good stuff donated from some places that the average AFS member can't (actually this phrase included Jimmy's second expletive of the meeting and the group worried aloud about the Secretary's ability to "filter" the minutes). Barnett said that it is important for those key people with good connections to work to get us some good donations.

In another seemingly instantaneous switch of focus, the group began the annual attempt to estimate meeting costs for the purpose of figuring out how much to charge attendees. All costs were discussed while both Egelton and Stoeckel calculated figures using entirely different techniques. Again there was some argument about how much beer would be needed and what kind of food to have at breaks and at the banquet. Lochmann stated that we typically consume an average of 1-½ kegs of beer per night, and that consumption is lighter on the second night because people hit it too hard the first night. He stated, "...you will not consume four kegs!" (Come on folks; let's prove him wrong). Discussion continued while the waitress

began serving meals. The group discussed the necessity of coffee at breaks (as if we would consider not having it?), what other beverages to have, etc. All at once Barnett asked (using expletives again) why we were worrying about pinching pennies here and there and trying to charge enough to cover meeting costs when we have \$19,000 in the treasury that is not being used. Bowman had Barnett's back on this issue and reminded everyone that this was the same point that he (Bowman) had made last year – we have enough money in the bank that we don't have to charge so much from attendees to cover the costs of the meeting. Barnett and Bowman continued to argue the point. Barnett stated that every AFS (Chapter) meeting he's been to in 17 years, they have run out of food and then folks leave complaining. While continuing to use more expletives, he suggested, that with \$19K in the bank, let's just have plenty of good food and drink so that we don't run out and folks will be happy. Barnett continued to drive the point that he was not interested in driving up registration costs but instead drive up the quality and quantity of the food that we provide (again with another expletive) and made the point that we have never lost money at a meeting and we always make money with raffles, auctions, etc. The group continued arguing over costs and finally agreed to charge students \$30 and others \$45. Jackson said that he would continue to work with the resort to plan meals and breaks and to have plenty of good food (he said it folks – hold him to it!).

The group started to once again find ways to spend our money in the treasury. Stoeckel and Bowman pushed the point that we should have workshops on various fisheries topics away from the annual meeting at other times during the year. We could use our treasury money to pay experts to come in and conduct workshops.

The group then began to discuss what deadlines were involved with getting the meeting planned and getting information in the newsletter. (Secretary's note: at this point the group broke into about two-dozen different conversations amongst only seven men. Therefore, it is impossible to transcribe anything meaningful

from the tape recording of the meeting on this topic.)

Once the group dynamic eased into a one-conversation mode again, the group discussed what needed to be reported in the newsletter from the "Environmental Affairs Committee". Bowman pointed out that Stoeckel had covered all of the environmental affairs and had written all comments and letters and no one had really helped him, so Stoeckel could cover the information for the newsletter. Stoeckel agreed.

Lunch began being served and from this point it was obvious from the tape that some folks do not mind talking with food in their mouths. Barnett seemed especially happy with the chef salad with blue cheese! Interestingly, everyone was served a plate at this time except for Stoeckel. The waitress asked what he ordered and he reminded her that it was a patty-melt. He then sarcastically added that he did not require blue cheese on it. Barnett addressed Stoeckel with yet another expletive. (Secretary's note: although Barnett's position on the EXCOM is a mystery to the secretary anyway, perhaps we should rethink his attendance at EXCOM meetings due to his disruptive and unprofessional tendencies?).

The group continued some discussion about environmental issues that the Chapter is involved with, including; Ouachita water diversion, Arkansas River navigation project, Forest Service plans, etc. Barnett asked what was happening with the potential listing of American eel. Davidson gave the group a run-down of the timeline involved with listing. More discussion continued about the reasons behind the listing including problems with spawning area habitat and commercial over-fishing along the coasts. Davidson pointed out that, fish passage would be an issue in Arkansas if this species gets listed.

The group discussed the ASU subunit. Some discussion involved where we are in the process of establishing the unit.

Stoeckel discussed potential folks to nominate for upcoming officer elections. (At this point, Stoeckel finally was served his patty-melt. The

rest of us were finished with our meals). This discussion continued for what seemed an eternity. At a point, the group once again fell into two different, non-related discussions. One consisted of Barnett expounding on his expertise in hiring personnel with Eggelton or whoever would listen. The rest of the group continued to try to discuss potential officers. Then at least two to three different discussions broke out, while one group (two people) continued to throw names around for officers. When the discussion became one again, we continued to throw around more names. Many names were thrown around and one of them might have been yours! I'm serious. I think every single name of every single person in the state that is even remotely related to fisheries work, was brought up (Secretary's note: None of you are safe!). Once again, no clear theme existed to the conversation and nothing being discussed had anything to do with the Chapter.

The group started to close the meeting but then Lochmann started talking about newsletter electronic format. The group discussed the URL format verses the PDF format. With this topic and others to follow, the group got a little rowdy and restless which culminated in the purposeful exchange of expletives and choice phrases which included the comment, "... I don't care if the tape recorder is on..." on several occasions. Then Lochmann (say "Lochmann" like Seinfeld used to say, "Newman") brought up the fact that we had not discussed meeting T-Shirts. The group discussed the pros and cons of creating and selling special meeting T-shirts and decided to not even bother this year as a Chapter to have t-shirts because we always lose money on them. But the Chapter welcomes the sub-units to sell their t-shirts at the meeting. (Secretary's note: Although they lose money, I personally liked the old special t-shirts that were custom made for each meeting and involved artwork from a local. I'd like to see us do this again next year. Who's an artist that could pull this off?).

Then the tape ran out, and the Secretary stopped taking notes. So if there was any discussion of EXCOM business after this, it was considered meaningless by the Secretary.

Student Subunit Reports

Arkansas Tech University - Russellville

The Arkansas Tech student subunit finished last semester off with a smallmouth bass tournament on Big Piney Creek north of Russellville. Former vice-president Tommy Lane won the contest with a stringer of five fish and a weight of 6.5 lbs.

The start of the fall semester has brought a large freshmen class and many ambitious goals for the subunit. We will again be holding our annual Quackin' in the Valley duck calling contest during Valley Fest in November. The subunit is also in the process of producing new shirts and decals with the Tech Fisheries and Wildlife logos. Other tentative activities for the subunit include: a stream cleanup on Illinois Bayou, our annual Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, assisting with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Arkansas Bass Association with an Arkansas River cleanup, and volunteering with National Public Lands Day.

We would also like to wish Justin Homan and Sandy Clark good luck as they travel to Alaska in September to present their graduate research at the annual American Fisheries Society meeting.

Tate Wentz, Subunit President

University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff

Greetings from the UAPB sub-unit! We completed our annual spring camping trip to Lake Norfolk the weekend of April 23rd. Although we faced brutal temperatures (the low on Saturday night was 29 F), we enjoyed ourselves, and were even able to coax a few trout into our boats. The sub-unit was able to pay for the camping, food, travel costs, and even some boat rentals with money earned from food sales as well as our catfish cleaning activities.

The summer was relatively quiet with the undergraduates absent, and campus relatively quiet. We did assist with a fishing derby for a local church group in June. At this particular derby, we were able to assist around 200 children as they learned the ins and outs of catching catfish in a local pond stocked by AGFC.

We are looking forward to starting meetings back up shortly. We are holding four fish cleanings in the month of September in conjunction with the school's aquaculture club, which is our main source of income for the year. We are also working on t-shirt sales with a design created by club vice-president Tom Lang. Good luck and good fishing/hunting.

Benjamin Batten, Subunit President

Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

Last spring, the ASU Wildlife Society Club approved a joint society venture with an ASU sub-unit of the AR Chapter of AFS. We modeled our constitution after Arkansas Tech's joint Wildlife Society / AFS provided to us by Charlie Gagen and Joe Stoeckel. The faculty advisor for the sub-unit will be Alan Christian. We will elect new officers the first full week of September for the campus club and await official notification from national AFS in the near future. We will hold monthly meetings along with the Wildlife Society chapter and anticipate to participate in such activities such as Lake Frierson garbage clean up, adopt-a-highway clean-up, college against cancer functions, conclave and other club activities as well as develop AFS related activities as our sub-unit grows.

Al Christian, Faculty Advisor

2006 Southern Division Meeting

“Water Allocation for Fisheries”



San Antonio, TX

Crowne Plaza Hotel

San Antonio Riverwalk

8-12 February, 2006

Details at: www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006

Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society Officers

President: Joe Stoeckel

President Elect: John Jackson

Treasurer: Mike Eggleton

Secretary: Darrell Bowman



UAPB Student Sub-Unit, Editor
1200 North University Drive
Mail Slot 4912
Pine Bluff, AR 71601