



Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society Fall 2006 Newsletter

September 2006

Steve Lochmann, Editor

Tom Lang, Associate Editor

President's Message

Greetings –

I hope everyone has had a productive summer and has found time for a vacation or weekend getaway. I was able to hit the beach with the family for a week and came back needing a rest, which is considered a successful vacation when you have kids.

The chapter EXCOM met in early August to work through some details for the next annual meeting and other assorted business. It looks as if we will be meeting at the Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View. The other big news at the meeting was our support, for \$1,000, to the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society 2007 Symposium to be held in Little Rock on March 13-15. With the donation, our chapter received two student registrations that we will give to student chapter members interested in attending/presenting at the symposium (details in this newsletter). We also discussed an important and continuing issue of student member inclusion into both professional and social aspects of our chapter. As a chapter, we have done an excellent job at promoting students to participate in presentations and workshops at the annual meeting. In fact, this past year student presentations, undergraduate and graduate, dominated the annual meeting. I had to seek out professionals to present their work. Attendance by students was also at an all time high. However, we need to do a much better job on the social end. We tend to eat, drink, and socialize with our direct coworkers and peers. I have found myself doing this on many occasions. Our student members are left sitting at tables or

gathering in groups with other students and often feel left out. This was expressed to me after our last annual meeting. I encourage our membership to take the initiative and welcome our student members. Sit with them, tell them about yourself, have them tell you about themselves, and listen to what they may have to say. I remember back when I was an undergraduate student how intimidating professional meetings seemed at the time. Let us not put the initial and often uncomfortable introductions on the students' shoulders. I always look forward to our annual meeting. With your help, we can make this a year of inclusion for all our chapter members. Let's give it our best.

John Jackson, President

1st CALL FOR PAPERS

For the

**2007 Annual Meeting
Of the
Arkansas Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society**

**JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2, 2007
Ozark Folk Center
Mountain View, AR**

**Please submit abstracts by
DECEMBER 1 to:**

Jim Wise
AR Dept. of Environmental Quality
8001 National Drive
Little Rock, AR 72219
wise@adeq.state.ar.us

Arkansas Chapter AFS Unit Financial Report

May 1, 2006 – August 3, 2006

INCOME

Balance brought forward (April 30, 2006)	18361.08
Interest (Simmons Bank)	29.95
AFS Membership Rebate	116.28
Total Income	146.23
SUBTOTAL	18507.31

DISBURSEMENTS

None since last statement	0.00
Total disbursements	0.00
Balance on hand 8/30/04	18507.31

The Arkansas Chapter ExCom serves as the chapter's auditing committee and regularly oversees the financial records as noted in the ExCom minutes.

Mike Eggleton, Treasurer

Chapter Donation Announcements

In August, the Chapter made two \$1000 donations to support very different causes. First, the Chapter donated \$1000 to co-sponsor the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Symposium to be held in Little Rock in March 2007. The theme of the symposium is "Directions in Freshwater Mollusk Conservation: Molecules to Ecosystems." A plenary session will open the meeting to provide a summary of current knowledge and directions for the future of freshwater mollusk conservation. The plenary session has been chosen to help set the tone for the next 5 to 10 years of research and conservation. In return, the symposium organizers have agreed to provide two free student registrations (valued at \$175 each) for Chapter student members involved with mollusks who desire to present their research.

Second, the Chapter donated \$1000 to the American Fisheries Society's Hurricane Relief Task Force - Disaster Response Program. The American Fisheries Society developed this program following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The program addresses immediate and long-term needs of disaster-impacted fisheries colleagues and their supporting agencies/institutions. The funds collected through this program will go to support impacted individuals and institutions to cover membership dues, online journal subscriptions, and meeting attendance. For more information go to the SDAFS Disaster Relief Distribution Center at <http://www.sdafs.org/relief/default.htm>.

Mike Eggleton, Treasurer

EXCOM Meeting Summary August 4, 2006

10:00 a.m., ADEQ Offices, Little Rock

Attendees: John Jackson (JJ), Mike Eggleton (ME), Jim Wise (JW), Rob Beadel (RB), Tom Lang (TL)

Clifton Jackson (secretary) and Steve Lochmann (newsletter editor) were absent.

Miscellaneous business

JJ: Betty Crump from USFS requested that the Chapter co-sponsor the Freshwater Mussel Conservation Symposium (FMCS) in Little Rock. They also wanted the Chapter to display their logo at the symposium. Sara Clem joined us for a few minutes to discuss the symposium further.

Discussion ensued – JJ suggested that if we donated \$1000 to the symposium, the symposium should give us two free student registrations for student members to present at the symposium. If this is agreeable with FMCS, the EXCOM approved the \$1000 sponsorship.

JJ: Note to Al Christian at ASU: Chapter website needs updating, esp. the info on student sub-units and their officers.

JJ: Briefly re-visited the Chapter's decision last winter to donate \$1000 for Katrina relief. ME will follow-up by getting appropriate form and will send check ASAP.

2007 Annual meeting discussion

Location:

Possible locations suggested – Mt Magazine State Park, Petit Jean State Park, Lake Hamilton (private), and Ozark Mountain Folk Center. Biggest consideration is whether these venues will allow us to bring our own beverages (i.e., beer) for the social and how they would host the dinner and provide snacks/coffee during breaks.

Mt Magazine is the newest but no one was sure of exactly what they could accommodate. JW believed the Petit Jean State Park conference center would be too small for our meeting. JJ mentioned we could just pick a city and find a hotel that could accommodate a meeting this large.

RB and JW will check on rates and accommodations, esp. conference accommodations, and will make final decision.

Excom discussed pros and cons of having the meeting before or after the SDAFS meeting. Also wanted to check with potential conflicts with other meetings, e.g., Catfish Farmers of Arkansas and WAS.

Excom discussed pros and cons of having a joint meeting with a neighboring Chapter. Excom decided against that for 2007.

JW: Should pursue asking FMCS to co-sponsor some of our meeting (e.g., one of the breaks).

Dates:

Much discussion and phone calls made to Steve Lochmann and Andy Goodwin to verify dates of other meetings. SDAFS 2/8-11/07, CFA 1/26-28/07.

After deliberation, Excom eventually agreed on Weds-Fri, Jan 31 -Feb 2, 2007 for meeting date.

Other details:

Be sure to remind individual subunits that they can bring items in for the silent auction to use as fundraisers.

JJ/ME: Wanted to be sure that good foods and drinks were served at social and banquet in light of criticisms from previous meetings (mentioned last summer by Jimmy Barnett) that the Chapter was skimping on these to save money. Was agreed that Chapter was not supposed to be trying to make money from meetings, but rather host a good meeting with good amenities. Also, having the whole conference with social and banquet at one location was more convenient than having to go off-site for social and/or banquet. Having a restaurant on-site is convenient too, esp. when the meeting location is remote.

JJ: In terms of food, beverages, etc., should plan for about 125 people (at most) to attend the conference.

Excom agreed not to select a meeting location today, but agreed to allow RB and JW to check rates at various locations and authorized them to make the final selection. (Note: On 8/9/06, ME provided RB and JW with cost and attendance information from 2006 meeting). Special emphasis will be placed on social and banquet accommodations.

Potential workshops to be given at conference:

Aquatic Plants – last year, the plant workshop evidently hit in the middle for a lot groups in that the AGFC folks wanted more plant management info while others wanted more intensive taxonomy.

JJ: Suggested we needed at least two different workshops to give members a choice.

ME: A mussel identification workshop would be useful. Mussel experts (Posey, Christian, Harris, others??) could be brought in.

TL: Suggested a non-game fish or darter identification workshop. Buchanan, Robison, Lochmann, others?? could serve as experts.

JW: Suggested including cyprinids as well.

JJ: Suggested that running two workshops simultaneously at consecutive times (e.g., 1-3 and 330-530) would stimulate interest and keep class sizes more manageable.

RB: Suggested freshwater macroinvertebrates. JW concurred.

JW: Suggested crayfish workshop.

JJ/ME: Mentioned private sponsorship of conference and/or workshops. Mentioned that Clay Crump, Allen Carter, and Keo Fish Farms have donated funds to Chapter in the past for hosting meeting.

Excom: Should we have special symposium on some topic at the 2007 meeting?

JW: Suggested maybe that the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance or some similar group give a group of talks.

ME: May try a “State of Arkansas’ Fisheries” with different folks focusing on different parts of the state.

JJ: Suggested we do not mess with a poster session because of low participation. Everyone agreed.

No final decision reached on this.

Items not related to the annual meeting:

JJ: Need to be prepared to submit Chapter report to Bob Curry (SD President) before SDAFS meeting. Chapter is required to submit five separate reports to AFS. This evidently has not been done in several years.

Evidently, somewhere back about 2001 or 2002, the Chapter President stopped preparing this report and getting it in to the SDAFS. Therefore, several years have gone by without a report. Student Sub-Units may also need to file at least

annual reports. This needs to change (the Chapter’s non-reporting) in the upcoming year and incoming Presidents in future years will know to do it.

ME and JJ: Discussed some things we need to do when reporting, e.g., updated financial statements.

JJ: Wanted to know where we stand on the ERW Resolution. JW commented that it has exploded into a nationwide thing involving numerous states and Washington lawyers. Said that the “...eyes of the nation are on Arkansas in this matter.”

JJ: Reminded everyone and will remind Steve Lochmann that we’ll need two newsletters this fall – September (first call for papers) and probably December (final call).

ME and JJ: Chit-chat about upcoming Chapter elections this winter.

ME: Will work with Chris Davidson on getting Chapter records archived at UCA in Conway.

JJ: Is the new UAPB fisheries library an option?

ME: Might be – will check. Also, I have gotten rid of a lot of extra stuff to trim down the files to be kept.

ME: Discussed the alleged situation where at least one minority undergraduate student from UAPB was made to feel ‘uncomfortable’ at last year’s meeting. However, the other students couldn’t really corroborate the one student’s story and none of the students showed up to speak to the UAPB Dept Head about the matter when asked.

Excom: Discussed that we needed a better forum to get professionals and students together. Suggested maybe a buddy system for one day at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Tom Lang, Temporary Recording Secretary

15th AFS Southern Division

Spring Meeting

“Diversity of Fish, Habitats, and People”



Memphis, TN

Marriot Hotel Downtown

8-11 February 2007

Details at:

www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007

Call for Officer Nominations

This is the first call for nominations for Chapter officers for 2007. Nominations are open for President-Elect and Treasurer. President-Elect is primarily responsible for organizing the 2008 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). Treasurer is primarily responsible for keeping the chapter books, meeting registration, and collecting member dues, and serves on the Chapter ExCom. The treasurer 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

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

Education Committee Report

Bill Shinn will have a list of the Arkansas Regional High School Science Fairs the dates, places, and schedules by the Chapter Meeting. Members, please keep this in mind, especially if you have not assisted with the fairs before. The Science Fair Awards are one of the major outreach/education activities for our Chapter.

Bill Shinn, Chair

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 the Ozark Mountain Folk Center on January 31. You can give the items to Jimmy Barnett for set up. Student subunits are reminded that any items they bring to the raffle will benefit their subunit.

Jimmy Barnett, Chair



**Attention Students:
Free Registration Opportunity**

The Chapter has two free student registrations for the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society 2007 Conference in Little Rock on March 15-17 worth \$175/ each. If you are interesting in attending the meeting and wish to be considered for one of the free registrations, please send a letter of interest and resume to John Jackson at john.jackson@atu.edu by November 1, 2006. Conference details can be found at <http://ellipse.inhs.uiuc.edu/FMCS/>. We encourage students interesting in attending to consider presenting at the conference.

**2006 AWAG Watershed Conference,
November 2-4, 2006,
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

The Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group (AWAG) is helping local governments and citizens take the initiative in safeguarding their land and water for future generations. The AWAG is a "working group" of representatives from more than 45 agencies, organizations, and citizens interested promoting the watershed approach in Arkansas. Key partners for this year's conference include AWAG, Boise State University, U S Environmental Protection Agency, and River Network. These agencies and organizations, along with representatives of AWAG, will provide workshops and

presentations, and lead discussions designed to promote a consistent and proactive strategy to promote stewardship of Arkansas' water resources.

This year's conference will be held at the U of A Continuing Education Center and Radisson Hotel in Fayetteville and will focus mainly on the Upper White River Basin, but the training offered at this conference will be useful to anyone living in Arkansas and surrounding states. The conference will address four components: Environmental Policy, Community and the Environment, Building Sustainable Environmental Organizations and Local Environmental Issues.

The watershed conference will provide an opportunity for stakeholders such as natural resource professionals and citizens – including community leaders, members of watershed groups, farmers, wastewater operators, students, educators, and others – to learn more about using the watershed approach to solve environmental problems. Approximately 300 attendees are expected, including educators; local community leaders; and federal, state, local and non-government personnel.

The conference registration fee is \$50 which includes three days of informative watershed training, resource materials and handouts, continental breakfast on Friday and Saturday, refreshment breaks Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and lunch on Thursday and Saturday along with a poster reception on Friday evening. The Fayetteville Radisson is offering a special room block for the rate of \$69 per night for conference attendees. Be sure to request the "Arkansas Watershed Conference block" when you make reservations.

Conference registration is available online at www.awag.org or you can download a registration form and register my mail. For more information, please contact Rob Beadel at (501) 682-0012 or by email at beadel@adeq.state.ar.us

Rob Beadel, Chapter Member

Student Subunit Reports

Arkansas Tech University - Russellville

We will begin this semester at Tech with a social, just to break the ice. We will soon be hard at work, however, with our annual rotenone samples on Lake Dardanelle with the AGFC. After that, we will focus our efforts on our Adopt-a-Highway mile in Pottsville. In September, we will go further in depth with our participation in the Arkansas Stream Team by taking monthly water quality samples, quarterly benthic macroinvertebrate samples, and yearly fish samples (in addition to picking up trash) along several sites on the Illinois Bayou. September 30th is National Public Lands Day, and our members will be cleaning up the Bona Dea nature trail and Prairie Creek, helping with fishing derbies at Old Post and Pleasant View Parks, participating in a cleanup on Lake Dardanelle, and cooking/serving chicken at Lake Dardanelle State Park. In October, we will host a duck-calling contest/chili cook-off at Russellville's annual Fall Festival. This will surely be a good time for all who participate. We are also tentatively planning on sending students to the annual AFS Student Colloquium at Auburn. All this activity will, of course, take place between several socials...

Brandon Peoples, Subunit President

University of Arkansas - Fayetteville

This fall, the UAF subunit of the American Fisheries Society sponsored a booth at the annual freshman orientation event, Razorbash, and has already seen increased undergraduate interest in the society at our first meeting of the semester, which was held on Wednesday, August 30th. At the meeting, we outlined our plans for the upcoming semester, which include participating with the UAF Wildlife Society in a trash clean-up day at a popular Beaver Lake swimming hole on September 9th. We will also have an instructional day in fisheries techniques for

interested undergraduates on September 23rd at Wilson Lake.

We are currently in the process of planning a canoe trip with the UAF Wildlife Society to take place this fall, and will host Dr. Stan Trauth of Arkansas State University to provide a seminar on his research with the Ozark hellbender on a date to be determined. If interested in any UAF subunit activities, please contact myself at elarson@uark.edu or past president Aaron Cushing at acushin@uark.edu.

Eric Larson, Subunit President

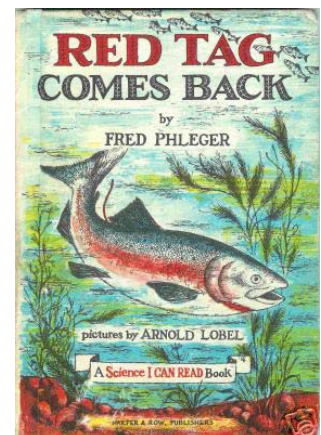
University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff

Thanks for stopping by to see what the UAPB student sub-unit has been up to. Our members were quite busy this summer. Graduate students mainly did what you would expect, conduct research and collect data. Most undergraduates had internships working for the Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or for our university or the University of Florida.

Although many of our members were away from campus this summer, we still managed to take advantage of some of the volunteer opportunities that were available at the AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center. A couple of our members kept up our commitment to don a wetsuit and help clean their aquarium.

One member was brave enough to face a group of kids and read them the children's book "Red Tag Comes Back," about a tagged salmon. Several members helped with the Youth

Conservation Camp by taking kids fishing or demonstrating electroshocking or seining. With events like "Boo on the Bayou" coming up, I am sure we will continue to stay involved there.



The upcoming year looks promising. We have several excellent speakers lined up, a couple of training opportunities, fundraising events, and even some fun things like joining in on the homecoming parade. Our first meeting went well, setting the tone for the year with an excellent presentation by our sub-unit's advisor Dr. Steve Lochmann. Dr. Lochmann gave a presentation entitled "What the American Fisheries Society Can Mean to Your Professional Development." The meeting had 41 individuals in attendance, of which 34 were students. We expect the very high levels of participation to continue throughout the year. The probable high member numbers should make our "T-shirt design" and "Most Active Undergraduate of the First Semester" contests very competitive (winners will receive free parent society memberships).

Several members are preparing to travel to meetings this semester. Members will be attending the AFS Annual in Lake Placid, the Aquatic Resources Education Association Biannual in Hot Springs, the SEAFWA meeting in Norfolk, the 6th Annual Student Colloquium at Auburn University, and even the Fifth International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health in San Francisco. Thanks for your interest in our subunit and we hope you have a safe and productive fall.

Tom Lang, Subunit President
tlang@uaex.edu


Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

Well, the summer has come to an end and we are slowly getting back in to our routine of classes and meetings. Thou many of us went our separate ways this summer, we are anxiously awaiting new beginnings, for many of us the Spring and Summer terms meant Graduation and moving on, for others they were just another stepping stone toward the future, but the one thing that we all still have in common is our love for nature.

As our first meeting approaches, we are brought to the realization that we must elect new officers, as many of them are no longer with us, and plan events for the upcoming year. Thus far we are planning to continue our roadside clean-up, put together another team for the Relay for Life, have a number of guest speakers and possibly even have a little back to school canoe trip.

For the last two years, I have had the pleasure of serving our subchapter as President; unfortunately, I must now say goodbye and turn the responsibilities over to someone new. I have enjoyed meeting all of you and learning a little about the research that each and everyone of you have been working on and I hope that I will have the pleasure of working with some of you in the future. I wish you all the best of luck.

Sara E. Seagraves, Subunit President



American Fisheries Society
Auburn University

The Sixth Annual AFS
Student Colloquium

Hosted by the American Fisheries Society
Auburn University Chapter

October 27-29, 2006

For information email
Harvey Pine, Subunit President
pinehar@auburn.edu

www.ag.auburn.edu/fish/amerfishsoc/

Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society Officers

President: John Jackson

President Elect: Jim Wise

Treasurer: Mike Eggleton

Secretary: Clifton Jackson



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