

Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2010 Business Meeting
29 January 2010
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building
Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its Annual Meeting in the Louisiana Room of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on 28-29 January 2010. The meeting theme was "Invasive Species. The meeting was organized by members of the Chapter's Excom Committee (MattiLynn Dantin, Allyse Ferrara, Quenton Fontenot, Dave Hickman, Jill Jenkins, and Tim Ruth). Additional help was provided by John Supan, coordinator of student awards, and Melissa Kaintz, abstract book editor.

The meeting was opened by Chapter President, Quenton Fontenot, on Thursday morning, 28 January. Keynote presentations on invasive species were made by Michael Massimi, the invasive species coordinator at the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) followed by Melissa Kaintz from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Thirty-seven oral presentations and 15 poster presentations were made during the two day meeting. The meeting social was held on Thursday evening at Boutin's Restaurant.

The 2010 LA AFS Business Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm, Friday, 29 January, by Quenton Fontenot.

QUORUM VERIFICATION

Quorum verification – 50 LA AFS Chapter members were needed for a quorum. More than 50 Chapter members attended the Business Meeting, therefore voting for new officers was held.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (Quenton Fontenot)

The Chapter thanks the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for support of the meeting and for use of meeting space.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT (Allyse Ferrara)

Motion to accept the minutes from the 2009 Business Meeting was made by Quenton Fontenot, and seconded by Donald Baltz. The 2009 minutes were accepted.

As of August 2008, prior to activity associated with the 2009 SDAFS meeting in New Orleans, the Chapter balance (checking and savings) was \$5,437.46.

As of early January 2010, prior to activity associated with the 2010 LA AFS annual meeting, the Chapter balance (checking and savings) was \$8,316.49.

Although all meeting expenses had not been incurred at the time of the business meeting, the new Chapter balance was expected to be approximately \$6,700. A total of 147 participants registered for the 2010 LA AFS meeting.

For the 2010 LA AFS meeting, the Excom committee voted to increase the value of student awards to \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place.

SDAFS UPDATE (Steve Lochmann, soon to be SDAFS President-Elect on behalf of SDAFS President Cecil Jennings)

On behalf of the SDAFS Executive Committee, Dr. Lochmann thanked the Chapter for hosting the 2009 SDAFS meeting in New Orleans. The current economic conditions were expected to negatively impact the 2010 SDAFS meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. Attendance at the 2010 SDAFS meeting was projected to be 200-300 registrants. The 2011 SDAFS meeting will be held in Tampa, Florida. The Tennessee Chapter hosted a very successful 2009 National AFS meeting in Nashville. To avoid charges associated with 2009 National AFS hotel room quota, the 2012 SDAFS meeting will be held in Nashville to fill the hotel room quota. SDAFS officers to be installed at the 2010 SDAFS meeting include Fred Jansen (President), Steve Lochmann (President Elect), Cecil Jennings (Past-President), and Brian Murphy (Vice President). Chris Bonvillain, runner-up for the John F. Dequine award for best student paper at the 2009 SEAFWA meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, was recognized and congratulated. According to SDAFS Treasurer Dave Coughlan, the Division is currently not losing money although special requests for SDAFS financial assistance may not be funded. SDAFS support of student travel and the student colloquium will not be cut.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports

-STUDENT ACTIVITIES (Will Sheftall, Aquaculture and Fisheries Club [AFC] at LSU)
Thanks were extended to all individuals and businesses that provided items for the student raffle and to everyone that purchased tickets. The student raffle was held on Thursday night at the social at Boutin's and resulted in a profit of approximately \$700 for AFC. In 2009, AFC held a spring crawfish boil, fall pig roast, and sponsored a trip to Fourchon. Money from this year's raffle will be used to support similar activities in 2010.

-HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT (Jill Jenkins)

The Chapter Past-President serves as Chair of the History Committee. Photos of past officers were collected and posted on the Chapter website. The list of past officers was updated and also posted on the Chapter website. The Chair recommended that the History Committee take over the collection of Chapter demographics. Chapter demographics are available through 2007. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were developed and should be maintained. The SOPs contain guidelines and timelines for holding annual meetings, Chapter reporting requirements, and draft business meeting agendas.

-WEBMASTER REPORT (Dave Hickman)

Website is now functional. Send items for posting or suggestions to the Webmaster.

-NEWSLETTER REPORT (MattiLynn Dantin)

Requested all members to update e-mail addresses, if needed, and assist with updating e-mail addresses of former students.

-EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT (MattiLynn Datin on behalf of Angela Capello)
See attached.

-MEETING ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (Tim Ruth)
2011 meeting should be more ecofriendly.

STUDENT AWARDS (John Supan)

Extended thanks to the nine volunteer judges. Thirty-one student abstracts were submitted for the competition.

ABSTRACT CATEGORY

1st Place – E Hu - Commercial-scale blue catfish sperm cryopreservation for hybrid catfish production

2nd Place – Rafael Cueves-Uribe - Sperm vitrification of marine fishes: effect on motility, membrane integrity, and fertilization ability

3rd Place – Shaunna Harris - Cryoprotectant and chill tolerance in *Artemia franciscana*

POSTER CATEGORY

1st Place – Victoria Ippolito - Triploid *Crassostrea virginica* (Gmelin) as a viable summertime crop in Louisiana

2nd Place – Bandana Shrestha - Effect of methylmercury on the carbohydrate production of *Achnanthes longipes* concomitant with sediment stabilization

3rd Place – Chris Bonvillain - Physiological biomarkers in red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkia*) during hypoxic stress

ORAL PRESENTATION CATEGORY

1st Place – Michael Coulon - Substrate preference, survival, and developmental ontogeny of Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*) eggs incubated in air

2nd Place – Melissa Fries - Introgression, condition, and health of Florida (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*), hybrid (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus x salmoides*), and northern largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) in Louisiana water bodies

3rd Place – Charles Brown - Larval development timing and metabolic costs from incubation of Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*) at varying environmental salinities

SERVICE AWARDS

Special Service Award – Dave Hickman as Webmaster

Special Service Award – David Nieland for long term support and assistance with 2009 SDAFS registration

Special Achievement Award – Terry Tiersch for support of student involvement

COVER ART CONTEST

Melissa Kaintz

ELECTIONS

President-Elect – Melissa Kaintz

Secretary/Treasurer – Brac Salyers

TRANSFER of PRESIDENCY

Quenton Fontenot transferred Presidency to Tim Ruth and gave a gift of appreciation to Jill Jenkins for her service as Past-President.

TRANSFER of SECRETARY/TREASURER

Allyse Ferrara transferred the office of Secretary/Treasurer to Brac Salyers.

NEW PRESIDENT REMARKS (Tim Ruth)

The President will guide the Chapter in a more eco-friendly/green direction and will place more emphasis on Chapter service projects.

NEW BUSINESS

-2011 LAAFS meeting may be held in Lafayette or as a joint meeting with a neighboring state. (Tim Ruth)

-For future meetings, book of abstracts will be made available only in electronic form. (Quenton Fontenot)

-Potential for shortening term of Chapter President from 6 years to possibly 4 years was discussed. (Jill Jenkins)

-Current system of 6 years was supported to provide continuity and experience for office. (Terry Tiersch and Steve Lochmann)

-Third annual Dawson Creek clean-up will be held this year on a Friday afternoon, close to Earth Day. Potential stewardship project. (Brac Salyers)

-Elmer's Island Trash Bash was held in conjunction with International Coastal Clean-up Day. More than 7,000 lbs. of trash were picked up during the 19 September 2009 event. Will hopefully become an annual event and may serve as a stewardship project. (Mandy Tumlin)

-Many thanks to LDWF for support and use of meeting space. (Tim Ruth)

MEETING RESOLUTION

Whereas the 31st Annual Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Meeting was held at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 28-29 January 2010 and, whereas we enjoyed 37 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations and, whereas the Chapter was informed of the current status of invasive species and, whereas abundant food and drink were enjoyed at the banquet at Boutin's, and finally the LA AFS Chapter has enjoyed another successful meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Submitted by:

Allyse Ferrara
1 February 2010

LA Chapter AFS
Education Committee Report
January 30, 2010
Baton Rouge

LDWF Sponsored Aquatic Events:

- In collaboration with other conservation-oriented agencies, LDWF is continuing with fishing opportunities and knowledge of fishing for our youth. Each year over 10,000 students throughout Louisiana participate in LDWF sponsored aquatic events. At this time new educational initiatives are being planned for students to be engaged in aquatic education throughout the school year. Also, parental and community involvement will be a factor in the success of this program.
- On Free Fishing Weekend (June 6), LDWF partnered with the Office of State Parks to host a "Day in the Park" to promote family fishing opportunities to the public at 6 State Park sites. Fishing related door prizes and goody-bags were distributed to the public. Fishing equipment and bait were loaned to participants without equipment.

Wetland Teacher Workshops: LDWF/BP (British Petroleum)/BTNEP Partnership:

- LDWF was funded by a grant from BP in partnership with the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program held WETSHOP 2009; a week long wetland

workshop in June which trained Louisiana teachers about coastal wetlands, issues and history.

Seventeen educators representing 12 different parishes attended. Approximately 40,000 Louisiana students are impacted by this program on an annual basis. **This year WETSHOP** is scheduled to take place June 13 - 18, 2010 at the LDWF Grand Isle Research Facility. LDWF has received a LaSip grant in addition to funding from the BTNEP foundation.

- Other agencies that provided classroom resources to WETSHOP participants are CWPPRA, DNR, Lafourche Port Authority, La Sea Grant College Program, LUMCON and NRCS Plant Materials Center.

NATIVE FISH IN THE CLASSROOM:

- This LDWF aquaculture stewardship project in partnership with LA Sea Grant College Program is in its 9th successful year. The project is in 20 schools and with over 8000 students (intermediate to high school) participating in the project.

Ocean Commotion: A Louisiana Sea Grant College Program Sponsored Event

- Many of you here today have participated in Ocean Commotion which usually occurs in November.
- Ocean Commotion is a one-day educational event celebrating Louisiana's coastal and marine resources.

- Since 1998, Ocean Commotion has reached over 29,419 K-8 students. This year the event drew 2,095 students, 148 teachers and 252 parent/chaperones from 24 different schools.
- **Currently, both the Native Fish in the Classroom Project and Ocean Commotion are piloting evaluations of these projects on student attitudes, student experiences with the environment and knowledge gained through participating in the programs.**

LUMCON:

- Is hosted a Water Quality Teacher Workshop on October 23 - 25, 2009 which is primarily funded through a BTNEP grant as well as a B WET (Bay Watershed Education & Training) grant. This workshop gives teachers an opportunity to work with scientists.
- LUMCON's Bayouside Classroom Stewardship Project is still ongoing. This is a watershed stewardship project involving students in surrounding southeastern parishes also funded by the B WET grant.

BTNEP: funded

Aliens in the Estuary: Invasive Species Workshop and Symposium

- June 30 - July 1, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Barataria Preserve at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, Marrero, LA
- Primarily to educate teachers about invasives in LA
- Great opportunity for scientists to work with educators statewide.

LDWF in partnership with BTNEP and Nichols State University participated in the International Coastal Cleanup Day (Sept. 19, 2009) by hosting the **Elmer's Island Trash Bash**:

- **170 volunteers collected more than 7,000 lbs. of trash over a 3 mile stretch of beach.**
- **Most of the debris was related to shoreline and recreational activities when compared to the international average.**
- **Other sponsors: E. Ascension Sportsman's League, LA Sea Grant College Program, LA Wildlife Foundation, LSU AgCenter.**
- **Grand Isle Community Dev. Team and Shaw Coastal provided lunch for volunteers.**
- **Grand Isle Port Commission and the Town of Grand Isle operated large tractors for trash removal.**

In addition to coordination of programs and events, educators/biologists from Audubon Nature Institute, BTNEP, DNR, UNO, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation,

LDWF, LA Sea Grant College Program are board members on:

Aquatic Resources Educators Association

BTNEP Action Planning Team

Environmental Education Commission

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Gulf of Mexico Ocean Observing Systems

Sea Grant Healthy Ecosystems Restoration

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

We also give presentations, poster presentations and workshops at national, regional and state conferences.