

Southern Division News

July 2003



Alabama North Carolina
Arkansas Oklahoma
Florida South Carolina
Georgia Tennessee
Kentucky Texas
Louisiana Virginia
Maryland Washington D.C.
Mississippi West Indian Islands
West Virginia

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Executive Committee

- Steve Filipek, President
- Larry Connor, President-Elect
- Pat Mazik, Vice-President
- Vic DiCenzo, Secretary-Treasurer

President's Address

DIVERSITY IN OUR FISHERIES WORLD

Diversity is a good thing, according to many Southern Division biologists when they talk about macroinvertebrates (Hilsenhoff index, EPT index) and fish (Shannon-Weaver index, one metric in Index of Biotic Integrity). The more diverse your fish population and/or the food base they rely on, the more stable the system is, being able to weather biotic and abiotic spikes to it. The same is true about diversity in our workplace according to our Human Resources compadres (read that Personnel Division). In the last 10-15 years and longer, we have all seen an increase in the number of women and people of color that work in the fisheries field and most would vouch that this broadening of the workforce has given us all a different and more enlightened perspective into the fisheries resources that we manage and into human nature as well.

So what's the photo next to this column got to do with any of this? Good question! First, according to the editor and most everyone else asked (how's that for the scientific process), this is the first time a Southern Division President's column has ever had a photo associated with it. So.....? Well, I could try to lay a line on you and say, let those Texas biologists brag all they want to on their Lone Star Lunker Bass program, they've never seen a crayfish like the Arkansas species I'm holding. Even though I'd like to see the faces of Texas Parks and Wildlife's Phil Durocher and Dick Luebke when they take a gander at this Arkie mudbug, I really have to admit that while the crayfish in the photo is the correct size, it is not from Arkansas, it's from Tasmania where they call it a lobster. Technically, it's a crayfish and it brings us to the point of the photo in the first place. Which is...Diversity! Yes, diversity, in this case, diversity in funding.

So what's the problem here? I



would say, none. Recently, there has been a push to get some funding set aside for species that haven't received much via the incredibly successful Wal-lup-Breaux and Pittman-Robertson Acts that give us so much to work with relative to fisheries and wildlife populations. Most of the funding from those two programs goes towards work with bass, trout, deer, turkey and other sport populations of wildlife. And that's entirely correct since the funding comes from sportsmen and women paying an extra tax on their favorite fishing rods and reels or hunting arms. Amongst some of the best management and research work ever done on wildlife species due to the Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) and PR funding, we, especially us in the Southeast where aquatic diversity is unmatched, have been losing the battle when it comes to mussels,

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President's Address, continued

crayfish, darters, madtoms and the like. Those mainly nongame and mostly at-risk aquatic species are in a negative spiral and need some significant help, kinda like our fisheries and wildlife populations needed decades ago when the needed federal funding gave all of our agencies and indirectly our schools and consulting companies a big boost. The boat appears to be coming in for our nongame aquatics and at-risk species as well in the form of a pre-CARA package. Termed State Wildlife Grants (SWG) and Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP), it looks like we're finally gonna get some needed federal aid specifically for our "needy" aquatic species (and terrestrial ones too). Ok, so again, what's the problem? Both SWG and WCRP require a match, just like SFR, and it can be 75/25 just like SFR for some type projects and 50/50 federal/state match for others. Some fisheries professionals are concerned that these new programs will siphon off money meant for matching sport fish restoration type programs – and it's possible it could. However, there are two things to think about when considering this topic; one is that many biologists are finding the 25% match for SWG

and WCRP projects from cooperative universities and other entities (TNC, NWF, Audubon, etc.). The second is that we're all in this together and work done on paddlefish, mussels, crayfish, darters, hellbenders and so on often helps us understand the basic aquatic system that we are also trying to manage for smallmouth bass, brook trout, or even Lonestar Lunkers. In fact, I would contend that we have it a little easier than our terrestrial brethren in this case cause we have been managing systems rather than singular species for some time now, realizing that it's all the same medium to our resource, whether it be largemouth bass or longnose darters. In a word, diversity, in this case in funding, can help us in many ways if we'll just give it an opportunity.

Well, I guess my soapbox time just expired, and while it may look like I could go on and on about this, I need to end this now and give you a chance to read the rest of a superb newsletter. I just wanted to get you athinkin' anyway.

Steve Filipek

Special Session: A Safety Perspective for Biologists

Cosponsored By
The Southern Division American Fisheries Society
&
The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

57th SEAFWA Conference
11 – 15 October 2003

Safety is an important issue for fisheries biologists since much of our work involves some risk. Given that we want to avoid accidents and injuries, what makes a good safety program? Where do we start to develop safety consciousness? Once we have a program, where to we go from here? This session is intended to address safety and safety programs for fisheries biologists and their field sampling activities.

Larry Olmsted, Past President of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society, will lend his unique perspective with a keynote address. Dr. Olmsted dealt with safety issues on a professional basis during his career at Duke Energy and he can also speak from personal experience. We also plan to look at the current status of safety programs in the Southeast from a state agency and private industry standpoint. The session will address starting at the beginning and what role universities have in developing safety consciousness. Finally we will examine what makes a good agency safety program and where we need to go from here for better safety.

You should plan on attending and sharing you thoughts on this important subject with your colleagues from around the Southeast.

Chapter Reports

Arkansas Chapter

<http://www.sdafs.org/arkafs/arafs.htm>

The members of the Arkansas Chapter extend our thanks to the Tennessee Chapter for a wonderful joint meeting held in Jackson, TN last March. We try to hold a joint meeting with one or more states or the Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society every other annual meeting. The presentations and the after hours discussions are always informative. At the meeting, the chapter judges awarded the best undergraduate paper to Carrie Cavanaugh (Arkansas State University), the best graduate student presentation to Chris Green (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) and the best professional presentation to Jeff Williams (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission).

The highlight of the business meeting is listening to the student chapter reports. The University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Arkansas Tech University (Russellville) all have student sub-units. It is amazing how energetic these groups are in community service and service to the chapter. They are no slouches in the recreation and fund raising departments either. Among the student sub-units' most significant projects are participating as a major part of the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance – the state's most active Stream Team, adopting Wilson's Spring (location of one of only 3 known populations of the declining Arkansas darter in its namesake state), and recently taking over publication of the chapter newsletter. All three sub-units plus many other chapter members participated in a multi-backpack electrofishing sample on the Little Red River. Over 100 volunteers, students, and agency personnel conducted the sample to evaluate trout population's response to a habitat improvement.

Of course the rest of the chapter has its projects too. For example, the chapter provides judges to all the regional and state final science fairs. The chapter awards special awards for the best aquatic projects in both junior high and senior high divisions at each science fair. The chapter was one of many plaintiffs in a successful law suit to require the U.S. Corps of Engineers to obtain approval from the National Park Service before issuing a permit to dam Bear Creek (the Buffalo River's largest tributary). The corps had issued a permit over the objection of the Buffalo National River. The chapter has been active in monitoring the progress of, and commenting on the various navigation and irrigation proposals on, the Lower White River.

Ken Shirley, President

Auburn University Chapter

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/faa/amerfishsoc/>

The Auburn University Chapter has been active on many fronts since our last communication and is proud of our membership's participation in recent education and outreach events. Several members of our chapter recently held educational activities at Smith Station Elementary School in observance of Earth Day. Members taught second and third grade students the basics about the fishes of Alabama as well as participated in fun activities with the students, such as fish painting and holding aquarium demonstrations with live fish. This is our third Earth Day activity with Smith Station and we hope to continue this partnership in the future. We are planning similar outreach activities with children, including a "Kids Fishing Day," in collaboration with the Auburn City Parks and Recreation's Day Camps June 12-13 and July 18.

Recently, the AU-AFS was awarded support from both the Education and History sections of the parent society to serve as their pilot program for a proposed educational and historical project. The goal of the project is to produce short video-interviews between students and professionals in aquatic sciences, focusing on their philosophies and experiences as students. The interviews will serve as an educational and historical tool and encourage interactions between fisheries students and aquatic science professionals. In conjunction, our chapter is producing similar video-interviews with professionals to honor the legacy of the late Dr. Homer S. Swingle. We have completed nine videotaped interviews with both active and retired aquatic scientists, such as former parent AFS president I. B. "Buck" Byrd, gaining their perspectives on Dr. Swingle and on being aquatic science professionals. The AU-AFS is currently editing these interviews and will produce an hour-long video focusing on Dr. Swingle, with several shorter pieces emphasizing student-professional interactions. The video will be completed by late summer/early fall 2003. We will be presenting the results of this project at the Education and History section meetings in Québec City, Canada at the annual AFS conference.

In other news, the AU-AFS was recently awarded an internal grant from Auburn University for the purchase of several computers and office furniture in support of our primarily student membership base. These resources are housed by the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures in Swingle Hall and are available to all students for use. In March, we participated in the clean-up of Saugahatchee Creek as part of our "Adopt-A-Stream" activities on this waterway. We were joined by more than sixty citizens from Auburn and adjoining cities to remove trash from all road crossings of this creek. This activity was a terrific success and we

Chapter Reports, continued

would like to thank all those who participated. We are planning similar clean-up activities on a local highway as part of our "Adopt-A-Mile" involvement this summer. Lastly, the AU-AFS is preparing for its annual shrimp sale in the late summer/early fall (as featured in the February 2003 issue of *Fisheries*). Proceeds from this fundraiser support travel of our members to scientific meetings throughout the world. We raised over \$6,000 in 2002 and hope to have similar success this year.

Steven J. Herrington, President

East Carolina University Student Subunit <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/>

Greetings from the East Carolina University Student Subunit (ECU-AFS)! Even though our members were challenged throughout the semester to balance school with AFS we had great attendance and participation in all events.

Six ECU-AFS members attended the Tidewater Annual Chapter meeting in January, where three ECU students presented research. First place for the "Best Student Poster" award went to ECU student David Gloeckner. Four ECU-AFS members attended the February Southern Division meeting in Wilmington, NC. Three presentations by Charlton Godwin, Beth Egbert, and Jennifer Cudney discussed current research at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County, NC. Look for strong representation of the sub-unit at the Quebec City meeting. At least five students plan on attending, and two students will be presenting (Wes Patrick and Jennifer Cudney). Dr Roger Rulifson will present two papers on striped bass research. Dr. Joseph Luczkovich will chair a symposium on passive acoustics.

All students were partially funded by the subunit to attend these meetings, prompting the need for more fundraising! A raffle and hot dog sale held at the ECU spring carnival "Barefoot on the Mall" earned almost \$500 for ECU-AFS. The money will be used this summer to offset registration costs at the annual meeting.

ECU-AFS provided several opportunities for members to interact with professionals closer to home. At our March business meeting guest speakers Joseph Grist (NCDMF), Ann Macel-Hatton (NCDMF), and Richie Clark (NCWRC) talked with students about employment success in state agencies. In April, Jess Hawkins came to East Carolina University to speak about his position as the liaison between the director of the Division of Marine Fisheries and the NC Marine Fisheries Commission. He also informed students of current fisheries issues. We are constantly looking for new people to bring to ECU, so if you are interested in expanding (or warping) our fragile little minds please contact us (jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu).

Subunit members, Department of Biology graduate students, and Coastal Resource Management Ph.D students participated in two workshops this semester taught by Dr. Anthony Overton in the use of Sigma Plot software and gut-content analysis. This summer we hope to have two more workshops: web page design and a follow-up to "GutShop '03".

To finish, I would like to introduce the new officers for the 2003-2004 school year. They are: Jennifer Cudney (President), Chad Coggins (Vice-President), Ana Nelson (Secretary), Heidi Alderman (Treasurer), Cameron Pritchard and Chad Smith (co-Historians). We are all looking forward to a fun and productive year!

Jennifer L. Cudney, President

Florida Chapter <http://www.sdafs.org/flafs/>

The 23RD Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was held at the Withlacoochee Training Center in Brooksville, Florida. The topic for this year's symposium was "When the river meets the sea: the importance of freshwater flow on Florida's marine and freshwater fisheries". The meeting was a huge success with over 120 members attending the three-day event.

As has been our tradition, professional and student speakers stepped up to deliver a series of truly outstanding contributed professional poster and platform presentations. Student attendance was at an all time high. The Chapter fully funded eight and partially funded two students to attend the meeting. In addition to presentations, Chapter members contributed over \$1500 (before expenses) in raffle proceeds that will go a long way toward funding more students at next year's meeting.

We hope to have the proceedings of the symposium published and available for members during next year's meeting. Details from the 2003 meeting and preparations for the 2004 meeting can be viewed at our website.

Wayne Bennett, President



Chapter Reports, continued

North Carolina Chapter

<http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/>

The North Carolina Chapter AFS (NCAFS) held its 2003 Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Southern Division Spring Meeting in Wilmington, NC, Feb 12 -16. Numerous NCAFS Chapter members have worked diligently on various committees to make the Division meeting a success. While the planning and implementation of a large regional meeting can be quite engaging, the NCAFS has been busy on several other fronts.

The Student Subunit at NC State University (NCSU) has had an active meeting and lecture schedule throughout its existence and plans for the future are just as aggressive. New Subunit President Alesia Read reports that several undergrads were able to attend the Spring Meeting thanks to free lodging from the NCAFS. NCSU students presented eight papers at the meeting, sponsored a very successful raffle, sold t-shirts, and sponsored a workshop on Tagging Models: Estimating Population Size and Mortality. The workshop was organized by Bill Pine (past NCSU Subunit President), Ken Pollock, and Joe Hightower. Additionally, the students have been involved in an outreach program to NC middle and high school students.

The NCAFS Environmental Concerns Committee developed a resolution on the introduction of non-native aquatic species that was approved at the Chapter's Business Meeting. The resolution was precipitated by the supposed finding of snakeheads in a NC reservoir and the discovery of Spring Viremia of Carp Virus (SVCV) at a NC ornamental fish hatchery. Additionally, the Environmental Concerns Committee sponsored a symposium at the Spring Meeting on Sediment in Streams that was well attended. A previous NCAFS resolution was one of many voices opposing, for environmental reasons, the construction of a dual-jetty system at Oregon Inlet on the NC coast, and federal agencies have since reached a decision not to proceed with the project.

In response to the diagnosis of SVCV in the state, the Chapter newsletter featured a summary article on the impacts of SVCV and signs of the disease. Chapter members and other professionals were urged to be vigilant for signs of SVCV and provided with a central contact should they see potentially affected fish.

The NCAFS recognized Dave Hewitt, NCSU student, for winning both the Chapter's Best Paper Awards. Larry Olmsted, formerly of Duke Power Company, was awarded the Chapter's Distinguished Service Award by AFS President Fred Harris. Retiring NCSU professor Rich Noble was roasted by many colleagues at a special ceremony during the Spring Meeting. Incoming NCAFS President Tom Kwak presented outgoing President Shari Bryant with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of her hard work and dedication to the Chapter during

the past year.

Shari Bryant, Past-President

NC State's Student Subunit

http://www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/sfs/

Greetings from NCSU Student Subunit! Our membership has participated in numerous activities so far this spring and early summer. During January and February, we were actively preparing for the Southern Division's Spring Meeting in Wilmington. We had a large NCSU contingent attend (19 students, 8 of which presented, and 8 faculty). Thanks to the chapter, we were able to provide free lodging for several of our undergraduate members. This meeting was a huge success and three members of our student subunit received special awards. Congratulations, Bill Pine who received the John F. Dequine Scholarship from SDAFS, Jessica Thompson who received the Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship from the Reservoir Technical Committee of SDAFS, and Dave Hewitt who received the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award given by the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee of SDAFS!

We raised over \$2000 from our raffle and t-shirt sales! Thanks to the chapter, we will use the proceeds to invite and accommodate the guest speakers that we have planned for upcoming subunit meetings. We raised an additional \$1800 by providing a workshop option for students and professionals. This workshop, entitled Tagging Models: Estimating Population Size and Mortality, was planned and organized by Bill Pine, Ken Pollock and Joe Hightower. The workshop provided useful and practical information on how to design, implement, and analyze mark recapture data. Overall, the spring meeting was a tremendously great time!

Our subunit was heavily involved in writing the Aquatics section of the Envirothon Test. The Envirothon is a quiz bowl with an environmental twist for middle and high school students from all over North Carolina. It was our privilege to assist in such a worthwhile endeavor. The Envirothon helps young students express their knowledge on hot environmental issues and then gain recognition for it!

As for the rest of the semester, we have had several special guest speakers come and share their research with us. Dr. Derek Aday, Assistant Professor of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State University spoke to the group in late March about the life history variation and stunting phenomenon in bluegill populations. Dr. David Eggleston, Associate Professor in our Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department at NC State joined us in April and shared his current blue crab research on the North Carolina coast. Then in May, Doug Besler who is the Coldwater Re-

Chapter Reports, continued

search Coordinator for North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission spoke about his adventures in stocking and regulating brown trout in the Bridgewater Tailrace in the mountains of North Carolina.

Due to our lucrative t-shirt and raffle sales, we were able to award a \$300 scholarship to Nick Jeffers to attend summer camp. NC State has a unique Fisheries and Wildlife Program that requires a six-week summer camp experience for undergraduates. This course offers a period of intense study and practical application in fisheries and wildlife sciences. We looked over our budget and decided that it would be a great investment to donate funds to a qualified individual interested in fisheries. Congratulations Nick!

We also want to congratulate our many recent fish graduates! Congratulations to Corey Oakley, Dave Hewitt, Mandy Howard, Rob Aguilar, Jason Robinson, Ben Ricks and Drew Dutterer. Good luck in all of your future endeavors!

Several NCSU students will be attending and presenting in Québec for the National meeting. Our subunit made a small donation to the student group planning one of the socials. We realize and appreciate all of the hard work that goes into planning such events!

Check out our website for the most current updates and see you in Québec!

Alesia Read, President

Tidewater Chapter

<http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/>
[Abutment Dam Fishway Completed](#)

A Denil fishway is now completed at the Abutment Dam on the Appomattox River near Petersburg, VA. High water has eliminated any opportunity to monitor the fishway since it went into operation on April 23. An additional 1.3 miles of the Appomattox River are now reopened to migratory and resident fishes. This action will lead to the completion of the fish elevator on Brasfield Dam (FERC; currently 90% complete) within two years.

Total mileage reopened on the Appomattox above the Abutment Dam will be 121.4. There is a Denil fishway at Harvell Dam, the first dam on the Appomattox, in Petersburg. Harvell is a FERC operation that built and operates the fishway. Other dams on the Appomattox between Harvell and Abutment are either significantly breached or mostly non-existent. Diadromous fish species that are expected to benefit from this project are American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring, alewife and American eels. This project was funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia (VDGIF), the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, the USFWS and NOAA/NMFS.

Record CPUE for American Shad at Boshers Dam

American shad electrofishing CPUE in the James River below Boshers Dam hit a record high this year. On May 7, 2003 we collected 96 American shad on three routine runs at Boshers Dam for a CPUE of 2.5 shad/minute that far exceeds any other maximum CPUE at this location. Shad were generally plentiful, compared to other years, from mid April through mid May at Boshers. Recent flooding has prevented sampling during the latter half of May. It is anticipated that the overall seasonal shad CPUE at Boshers will be higher this year than in previous sampling years. Boshers vertical slot fishway video data has not yet been reviewed, but decent shad passage rates are anticipated based on the "availability" of shad in the vicinity of the dam.

For more information regarding these projects, contact Alan Weaver (VDGIF) at (804) 752-5504.

Alan Weaver, Past-President

Tennessee Chapter <http://www.tn-afs.org/>

The chapter provided \$2,000 for 5 fishing rodeos and purchase of rods and reels for kids, with members assisting with all rodeos. A total of 924 kids were reached with all of these activities. The Chapter purchased and distributed 140 copies of the SDAFS Warmwater Steams Video to Tennessee schools. The Tennessee Chapter poster prepared by the history committee was set up at the 2002 Chapter meeting, Southern Division meeting, and National AFS meeting Baltimore.

The 2003 Tennessee Chapter meeting was held in Jackson, Tennessee from March 4 to 6. We had a joint meeting with the Arkansas Chapter which was extremely productive for both groups. AFS President Fred Harris and Southern Division President Steve Filipek were in attendance. The Chapter's fund raising raffle proceeds will be used to fund kids fishing rodeos in 2003. The Tennessee Tech Subchapter sponsored a two-day joint student colloquium (including students from AL, FL, VA, AR, VA, TN) that was held November 8-10, 2002.

A chapter newsletter was prepared that included status reports from various state, federal, and university groups regarding ongoing research, habitat enhancement, and management activities; annual meeting announcement and call for abstracts; and President's message. We also greatly improved the Tennessee Chapter AFS website to get timely information out to our membership. An updated roster of member addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses was provided to the membership.

Over the past year, the Tennessee Chapter sent a resolution to the Fish and Wildlife Service supporting the

Chapter Reports, continued

ban on the import of black carp into U. S. waters. The Chapter also wrote a letter of support along with a \$50 contribution to the Tennessee Conservation League, which was undergoing financial problems.

Tim Churchill, President

Virginia Chapter

<http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/>

On March 20th and 21st, the Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters co-hosted an annual meeting in Blacksburg, VA. One hundred participants including AFS president, Fred Harris, attended the meeting. Twenty-six presentations were made, seventeen by students. Other activities included: a raffle with proceeds going to the Virginia Chapter's scholarship program, a "striking" social and poster session at the Christiansburg Super-Bowl, and a Virginia Chapter business meeting.

At the business meeting, the election results were announced. The new officers are Steve Reeser—President-Elect, Mike Odom—Treasurer, and Shelly Miller—Secretary. Mark Hudy officially began his term as president, taking over for past president, Price Smith. Matt Fisher and Dan Gibson were awarded the graduate and undergraduate student scholarships, respectively. Other Chapter awards were presented, including the Professional Fisheries Biologist Award given to Scott Smith, (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries), and the Natural Resources Citizen Conservation Award presented to the Clinch River Headwaters Association.

The Outreach Committee made a couple of announcements including the development of a slide show for Chapter members to use in presentations to school groups. The slide show presents examples of the type of work fisheries' biologists perform and is intended to peak the interest of young people. Work is also underway developing a Chapter brochure, intended for use in recruiting new members and elevating the Chapter's image. Another outreach project will be a Chapter fish fry in conjunction with the Shenandoah River Sojourn. The Sojourn is a 5-day canoe trip down the South Fork Shenandoah River, intended to raise awareness of the biological, commercial, and historic importance of this famous waterway. Participants will include students, farmers, politicians, industry reps, teachers, and government officials. The committee also discussed other events including the recent Virginia BioBlitz.

The BioBlitz is an event organized to increase awareness of biodiversity issues and increase our understanding of the status of biodiversity in an area. The BioBlitz is comprised of an one-day intensive survey for all taxonomic groups and scheduled and impromptu public outreach. This year's event was held at Douthat

State Park in Bath County, Virginia. Four Virginia chapter members took part in this year's survey and collected 22 species of fish, 1 snake, and 2 salamanders.

Shelly Miller and Paul Bugas

Virginia Tech Chapter

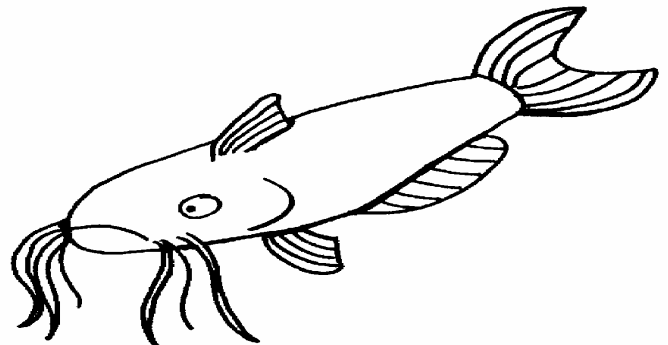
<http://filebox.vt.edu/org/vtafs/index.htm>

This was a busy spring for the Virginia Tech AFS chapter. Our Streams Committee held a stream cleanup on Stroubles Creek, removing 20 bags of trash from a two-mile stretch of stream. The Education Committee hosted a freshwater mussel ID and propagation workshop. The Outreach Committee hosted the annual 4-H Biodiversity Day and ran an informational booth for undergraduates about AFS and the fisheries profession on the Virginia Tech campus. The annual Mudbass Tournament was a great success. The many sponsors ensured that prizes were available for all the youth participants and all participants were well fed. Our annual AFS picnic was held in May, resulting in everyone eating too much, followed by rousing games of horseshoes, basketball, and I'm ashamed to say...kickball.

Thanks to our spring AFS speakers, including Steve Vinson, a Virginia Conservation Officer, Gary Martel from VDGI, and Scott Van Horn from the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission. The chapter was awarded the Chapter of the Year from the Southern Division, so a special thanks to the officers, committee chairs, and members from 2001-2002.

Virginia Tech was host to a two-day joint AFS meeting with the VT and Virginia Chapters. Despite budget and travel restrictions, we were fortunate to have a large meeting; over 50 biologists and students from around the state attended, many of which presented. Tim Copeland was awarded the best student paper at the meeting. Elections were held, and the new AFS officers are: Whitney Grogan (President), Than Hitt (Vice President), Olivia Frederick (Secretary), and Dan Dutton (Treasurer). Special thanks to last years committee chairs, officers, and members for a memorable year!

John Kilpatrick, Past-President



Committee Reports & Announcements

Nongame Aquatics Committee

The committee had a productive meeting in Wilmington, in spite of being slightly short of a quorum for voting purposes. The Committee's web page is now up and running on the SDAFS Home Page, thanks to the efforts of Outreach Liaison Officer Jamie Roberts. If you have a chance, check it out and send Jamie any feedback you might have. We also have some projects in the works. First, we are trying to organize a Freshwater Mussel Workshop for the SDAFS meeting in Oklahoma City in February 2004. Also in the works is a resolution of support for the Southeastern Imperiled Fishes Initiative.

Brian Wagner, Chair

Small Impoundments Committee

The Small Impoundments Committee conducted a Symposium, "Status of Urban Fishing and Community Fishing Programs in the Southeast," at the Division's 11th Annual Spring Meeting, Wilmington, N.C. Representatives of thirteen agencies summarized educational fishing programs throughout the Southeast. For further in-

formation regarding these presentations, please contact Committee Chair Jack Turner at (334) 242-3471, or jturner@dcnr.state.al.us. Dave Rizzuto, Tennessee Department of Natural Resources, was elected Chair-Elect of the Committee.

Jack Turner, Chair

Trout Committee

The SDAFS Trout Committee held its annual spring committee meeting on April 6-8, 2003 at Unicoi St. Park in the mountains of north Georgia. We put the final touches on our Southern Appalachian Brook Trout position paper (which we hope to publish in Fisheries), had our annual "roundtable" discussion of salmonid management and research and listened to presentations on brook trout genetics, trout conservation advocacy, and state trout program planning efforts.

The new Trout Committee Chairman is Steve Reeser, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Mike Kruse, Past-Chair

Warmwater Streams Symposium First Call for Papers

The SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee is soliciting presentations for a Warmwater Streams Symposium to be held in conjunction with the 2004 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Presentations are sought for three sessions related to warmwater streams: warmwater stream fisheries management, species restoration and recovery successes, and stream habitat improvement.

Potential presenters should submit an abbreviated abstract consisting of a 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results, and conclusions. **These abstracts should be sent to the respective session chair listed below by August 29, 2003.** Questions regarding the objectives of these sessions should be directed to the respective session chair. Session information and contacts are as follows:

- (1). Warmwater Stream Fisheries Management:** Focus on regulation and stocking evaluations, angler surveys, and other related topics. Potential presenters may submit research or case histories of stream fisheries management. *Session Chair: Frank Fiss*, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Fisheries Management Section, phone: (615) 781-6519, email: Frank.Fiss@state.tn.us.
- (2). Species Restoration and Recovery Successes:** Water quality improvements following thirty years of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and increasing public concern for water quality issues underlie recent species restoration efforts. Presentations are sought that focus on the success of these efforts. *Session Chair: Chris Thomason*, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, phone: (803) 259-5474, email: Cthomason@scdnr.state.sc.us.
- (3). Stream Habitat Improvement:** Focus on efforts to improve habitat in warmwater streams and rivers. Possible topics include instream habitat enhancement, riparian improvement, and streambank erosion control, as well as studies documenting fish community responses to these types of projects. *Session Chair: Paul Balkenbush*, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, phone: (580) 924-4087, email: ser@texomaonline.com.

Selected presenters will be notified by October 1, 2003. Presenters will be required to prepare an extended abstract for an Internet published symposium proceedings and participate in a panel discussion at the end of their ½ day session. Extended abstracts should follow the Guidelines for Extended Abstracts prepared by the Editorial Office of the American Fisheries Society (copy supplied upon request). **Publishing an extended abstract in our symposium proceedings will not preclude subsequent journal publication.** The deadline for submitting extended abstracts for the symposium will be November 15, 2003. Media for presentations may include 35-mm slides or Microsoft PowerPoint; oral presentations are limited to 20 minutes.

Spring Business Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2003, Wilmington, North Carolina

Call to Order: President Jeff Boxrucker called the Business Meeting to order at 0815. Secretary/Treasurer Dick Luebke determined there was a quorum present. President Boxrucker recognized previous Southern Division Presidents who were in attendance: Jack Dequine, Mike Van Den Avyle, Fred Harris, Bill Fisher, Larry Wilson, Larry Olmsted, Barry Smith, Rich Noble, and Scott Van Horn.

AFS Executive Director's Remarks: Dr. Gus Rassam indicated he was impressed with the quality of the Southern Division's Spring meeting. Because of the economic situation, Dr. Rassam indicated that it was important for AFS to remain solvent. He also indicated that AFS services have been improved and new services have been added. Dr. Rassam spoke more on AFS activities at the plenary session.

AFS President's Remarks: Fred Harris reported that the AFS Governing Board would meet in Bethesda, Maryland from March 6-8 and that members were certainly invited and would be pleased with the leadership and direction of AFS. During the meeting, officers would be going to Capital Hill to meet with key congressional leaders involved in natural resource issues. The purpose of the trip to Washington is to let national leaders know that AFS is a valuable source of information and ideas for Congress. Mr. Harris also said that AFS continues to focus on membership diversity. So far this year, membership has increased 3.5%.

President's Remarks: President Boxrucker said that his experiences as a member of the Governing Board have been remarkable and that the AFS is on solid ground. He reminded students to take advantage of the opportunities that are available because it will advance professional development. The only way to benefit as a member of AFS is to become active. Jeff concluded by thanking the members for allowing him to be president.

President Elect's Remarks: President-Elect Steve Filipek summarized the tremendous work done by Southern Division Chapters and Sub-Units. Steve also presented plaques to Kent Nelson (Meeting Chair), Tom Kwak (Program), and Keith Ashley (Local Arrangements) of the North Carolina Chapter for their efforts in coordinating the Spring Meeting.

Vice President's Remarks: As vice president, Larry Connor attended many chapter meetings across the Division to discuss Division activities and accomplishments. As vice president, Larry also served as chair of the Division Membership Committee. A revised Procedures Manual should be available online by this fall.

Finally, Larry encouraged members to become more involved in Chapter and Division activities.

Secretary-Treasurer's Remarks: Secretary-Treasurer Dick Luebke stated that the Division's account balance as of December 31, 2002 was \$19487.50 and details of the income and expenses were discussed at the EX-COM meeting. Dick then thanked the members for the opportunity to serve the Division and encouraged individuals to participate.

President Boxrucker then stated that minutes from two business meetings needed to be approved. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the fall of 2001 by Dick Luebke and seconded by John Odenkirk. The motion carried without discussion. A quorum was not achieved at the fall 2002 business; therefore the minutes from the spring 2002 meeting could not be approved. A motion was then made to approve the minutes from the spring 2002 business meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion carried without discussion.

Award Presentations: Gene Gilliland presented the Division's Outstanding Achievement Awards to Barry Smith (American Sportfish) and Gene Wilde (Texas Tech University). The Outstanding Chapter Award went to Virginia Tech. Representing the Reservoir Committee, Gene Gilliland presented two Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarships, each for \$1,000, to Jessica Thompson of North Carolina State University and Hoffman of Tennessee Tech University.

Stuart Welsh, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee presented the Outstanding Student Subunit Award to the University of Georgia. The Best Student Paper Award from the 2002 spring meeting went to Rebecca Blanton (Tulane). Second place awards were awarded to Jason Schaffler (Clemson University) and Heather Connelly (State University of West Georgia). The Best Student Poster from the 2002 meeting was awarded to John Kilpatrick (Virginia Tech).

Mike Van Den Avyle awarded the Lifetime Service Award to Jack Dequine, the first President of the Southern Division, for his timely and untiring work over the 51 years since his presidency. President Boxrucker awarded Bill Pine (North Carolina State University) the Jack Dequine Scholarship.

Chris O'Bara, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to David Hewitt of North Carolina State University.

2003 Spring Meeting Minutes, continued

President Boxrucker welcomed AFS staff member Christine Fletcher who provided a comprehensive overview of the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program including insight from past Hutton recipients.

President Boxrucker introduced the new officers: Steve Filipek (President), Larry Connor (President-Elect), Pat Mazik (Vice President), and Vic DiCenzo (Secretary-Treasurer).

Incoming President's Remarks: Newly installed President Steve Filipek thanked the North Carolina Chapter for their hard work in hosting the meeting. President Filipek also thanked Christine Fletcher for attending and discussing the Hutton Program and outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Dick Luebke for his work the past two and a half years.

President Filipek outlined his plan of work for his presidency that focused on aquatic stewardship, information transfer and outreach, and membership services. President Filipek would like to help organize a symposium at a Southern Division Spring meeting or AFS annual meeting on fisheries stream stewardship. He would also like to see the Division continue to assist the Farm Bill committee and perhaps have the Division offer a

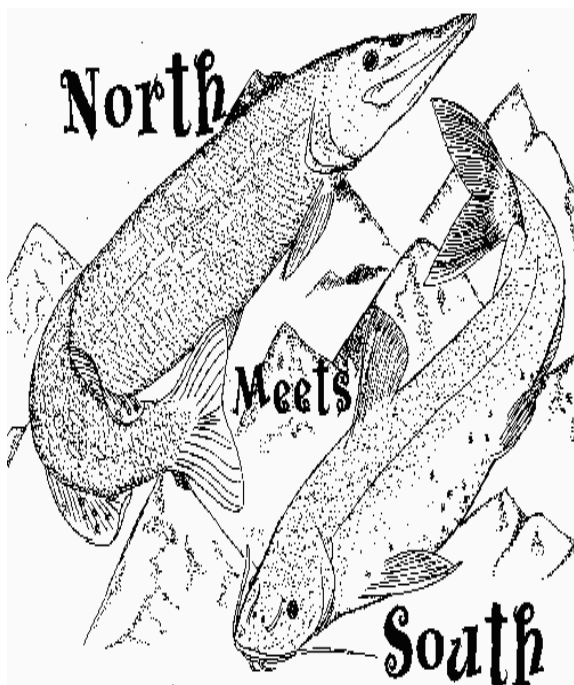
small stewardship grant.

President Filipek would like to know the feasibility of developing a Southern Division list serve. He would also like to write an article for the Southern Division newsletter explaining the Farm Bill and encourage readers to become involved in the Farm Bill process. President Filipek is also going to encourage a member to write an article in laymen's terms, describing a successful fisheries management project for both the newsletter and a popular fishing magazine. Finally, the Division will continue sponsoring leadership workshops.

President Filipek would like the individuals paired in the student-mentor luncheons to maintain communication beyond the spring meeting to give students a little more professional input. President Filipek would also like to diversify the Southern Division in marine science and also by getting scientists from Mexico. An ad hoc committee may be formed to gauge the interest level in a marine committee.

A motion was made by Fred Heitman and seconded by Rich Noble to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and President Filipek adjourned the meeting at 0930.

3rd Annual Future Fisheries Professional Student Colloquium



The **West Virginia University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society** would like to announce the 3rd Annual Future Fisheries Professionals Student Colloquium. The meeting will be held **November 7-9, 2003** in Morgantown, WV. The theme of the meeting is "North Meets South" and universities from the Southern and Northeastern Divisions of the AFS are invited to attend. The meeting offers an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to present their research to other students in an informal setting and receive feedback from their peers. Students are encouraged to present research that is completed, as well as that which is still in the planning process. We hope the meeting will broaden students' knowledge of fisheries issues as well as help to develop and improve current student research.

If your university is interested in attending, please contact Jen Titus at jtitus2@mix.wvu.edu

For more information and updates, please visit: www.forestry.caf.wvu.edu/wvuafs/

2004 Southern Division Spring Meeting

1st Call for Papers



The Oklahoma Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Bricktown, Oklahoma City, OK at the Westin Hotel for the 2004 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 26-29 February 2004.

Schedule of Events:

- ◆ **Thursday, 26 February**-Technical Committee Meetings
- ◆ **Friday, 27 February**-Southern Division EXCOM Meeting; Southern Division Business Meeting; Continuing Education Workshops, LMBV Workshop, Student Social at "Rocky's" in Bricktown
- ◆ **Saturday, 28 February**-Plenary Session, Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session, Social at the "Bricktown Brewery"
- ◆ **Sunday, 29 February (ending at noon)**-Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session

Symposia and Workshop Proposals

Proposals for symposia must include a topic, statement of objectives, list of presenters, and tentative titles. Workshop proposals must include title, topics to be covered, description of target audience, expected attendance, name of instructor, anticipated cost (registration fee).

Deadline for submission is 1 October 2003. Submit proposals to:

Jeff Boxrucker

Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory

500 E. Constellation, Norman, OK 73072

jboxrucker@aol.com

Submission Procedures for Presentations and Posters

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-min. presentation and 5 min. for questions), which will be strictly enforced. Media for presentations may include 35-mm slides or Microsoft PowerPoint. Abstracts should be a 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. All abstracts must be submitted on-line at www.sdafs.org. Abstracts for symposia and contributed presentations, as well as posters are due by **1 December 2003**.

Check out the meeting website, accessible from the www.sdafs.org site. This site will be updated as more information becomes available.

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2003, Wilmington, North Carolina

Call to Order: President Jeff Boxrucker called the EXCOM Meeting to order at 0802. Secretary/Treasurer Dick Luebke determined there was a quorum present. Dave Rizzuto (TN) was an official proxy for Gary Hickman. President Boxrucker recognized Past Presidents Rich Noble, Fred Harris and Mike Van Den Avyle as well as AFS executive director Gus Rassam. Fred Harris was also noted as current AFS president.

AFS Executive Director's Remarks: Dr. Rassam remarked that he and Fred Harris have met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding implementation of their strategic plan. He also mentioned that federal agencies are having fiscal problems and AFS has had some difficulty in getting funding that had been allocated for some programs. The Aquatic Protected Areas Symposium in Quebec in 2004 is generating a lot of enthusiasm. The AFS book program is really doing well. Additionally, AFS is archiving all journals electronically. Finally, Dr. Rassam mentioned that Christine Fletcher would be in attendance throughout the weekend to discuss the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, which is designed to match high school juniors and seniors with mentors during the summer.

President Boxrucker introduced the other Southern Division officers: Larry Connor, Vice President, Steve Filipek, President-Elect, and Dick Luebke, Secretary/Treasurer.

AFS President's Remarks: Mr. Fred Harris applauded AFS Bethesda staff for being so helpful to him during his tenure as an AFS officer. He has noticed that science has advanced enough that we can now approach fisheries on a watershed basis and that we could combine efforts with other disciplines. Professional societies may be able to collaborate through symposia and workshops to share ideas on watershed management. Mr. Harris encouraged members to attend the national meeting in Quebec and the World Fisheries Conference in 2004. Finally, to have a more successful membership, membership must be diversified. The Chapters are still the best place for active recruitment.

President's Report: The majority of Jeff Boxrucker's time has been spent on the leadership development programs. The EXCOM met with SEAFWA directors regarding program changes to revitalize the conference. Technical needs for fisheries are being met at the Spring meeting but the SAFWA offers a unique opportunity to have workshops that are beneficial to fisheries, wildlife, and law enforcement. Some changes can be expected. Most Division business have been moved to the Spring Meeting instead of the SEAFWA. The busi-

ness meeting at the SEAFWA should be discontinued and better use that time. Voter turn-out was a little better last year (11-12%)

President-Elect's Report: Steve Filipek indicated his report would stand as printed in the Briefing Book.

Vice President's Report: Larry Connor indicated his report would stand as printed in the Briefing Book. He added that the updated Procedures Manual would be completed in a few weeks and it would be posted on the Division's web site as well as e-mailed (PDF) to Division leadership.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Dick Luebke indicated his report would stand as printed in the Briefing Book. Larry Connor then moved and it was seconded by Elise Irwin to approve the EXCOM minutes from the October 2002. The motion carried. Also included in the Briefing Book is the 2003 budget which was approved by EXCOM in October 2002. The following amendments to the budget were made.

- Adding \$1,000 to donate to the Hutton Program. The motion was made by Larry Connor and seconded by Dave Rizzuto. The motion passed.
- Adding \$1,000 to donate to the Western Division to assist in the formation of a Mexican Chapter and assist in travel to San Diego. The motion was made by Steve Filipek and seconded by Dave Rizzuto. The motion passed.
- Increase the amount allocated toward Leadership Training from \$1,500 to \$1,750. The motion was made by Dave Rizzuto and seconded by Pat Mazik. The motion passed. Dennis Reicke suggested that the Secretary-Treasurer maintain records of money spent on developing Leadership Program. In February, 2001, Duke Power donated \$5,000 toward this effort.
- Increasing the amount given to help fund the Student Colloquium from \$600 to \$1,000, (thereby changing the amount given to the Student Affairs Committee to \$5,000). The motion was made by Larry Connor and seconded by Vic DiCenzo. The motion passed.
- The \$1,000 Jack Dequine scholarship is actually part of a Duke Power donation.

Chapter Reports:

Alabama – Elise Irwin reported their chapter is meeting soon and will have slate of officers.

Arkansas – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes, continued

Auburn University – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Florida – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Larry Connor reported that the Chapter added \$500 to the donation reported in report.

Georgia – None given.

Kentucky – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book..

Louisiana – None given.

Mississippi – None given.

North Carolina – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Jeff thanked Shari Bryant for the job well done in hosting this meeting.

Oklahoma – None given. Jeff reported that they recently held their meeting and had another workshop on pond management as an outreach to the public and they will be hosting the 2004 spring meeting in Oklahoma City.

Potomac – None given.

South Carolina – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. A representative added that their newsletter has been resurrected and the website has been updated.

Tennessee – Dave Rizzuto mentioned several corrections to the report in the Briefing Book. A live auction raised \$2,000 to assist in perform 10 fishing rodeos reaching more than 2,000 kids. The 2007 spring meeting will be in Memphis.

Texas – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Fred Janssen mentioned that the recent annual meeting had record attendance thanks in part to marine scientists.

Texas A&M – None given.

Tidewater – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Virginia – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Week long float trip will be done on Shenandoah River as outreach event to learn about watershed. Also, the Outreach committee is working on membership initiatives such as brochures and powerpoint presentations.

Virginia Tech – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Jeff commended John Kilpatrick for his handling of the newsletter.

West Virginia – Pat Mazik added that a new student subunit was formed and they are hosting the 2003 Colloquium. Pat and Stuart put on a workshop for the WV DNR on using PowerPoint.

Student Subchapters – None given.

Standing Committees:

Audit Committee Report – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Awards - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Mail Ballot - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Jeff added that mail ballot went out later than planned but the election went well anyway. Mail ballot should continue to be sent out in June.

Membership – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Nominating – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Dave added his thanks to those willing to serve.

Program – Report stands as added to the Briefing Book. Steve thanked the many folks from North Carolina for a job well done. Sites for the Spring meeting have been determined through 2007. John Galvez agreed to be SEAFWA Associate Editor again but because of a job change, Pat Mazik has agreed to help out.

Resolutions – Elise Irwin reported no resolutions were submitted this past year. The Auburn Chapter passed a resolution at their recent meeting.

Student Affairs - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Stuart recognized his committee. Twenty rooms were provided for eighty students and 62 students involved in the student-mentor luncheon. This fall, the Student Colloquium will be in West Virginia.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Anniversary – Rich Noble reported that his plenary session presentation in Baltimore was received well. Mike Van Den Avyle noted that the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Scholarship Award arose out of the Anniversary Committee. Jeff noted that there were 42 applicants for the Scholarship. As of this meeting, the Anniversary Committee's mission was completed and the committee will be dissolved.

Leadership Development - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Technical Committees:

Aquaculture – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Instream Flow - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Nongame Aquatics - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Pollution – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Reservoir - Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Small Impoundments – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Striped Bass – None Given.

Trout – The report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes, continued

Warmwater Streams – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. John Copeland recognized the Education Section, Fisheries Administrators Section and the Fish Management Section for money donated to help distribute the Warmwater Streams video. The Committee is thinking about purchasing a canoe for a raffle item at the Oklahoma meeting and the money would then go to the Jimmie Pigg Scholarship.

Appointed and Elected Positions:

AFS Nominating Committee Representative – Bill Fisher served in this capacity. Fred Harris informed everyone that the two candidates for 2nd Vice President were Jennifer Neilsen and reggie Harrell.

Newsletter Editor – None Given.

SEAFWA Proceedings, Fisheries Editor – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book.

SEAFWA Director's Liaison – Report stands as presented in the Briefing Book. Mike Van Den Avyle added Alabama was given the ability to run the meeting as they wish so it would be best to support this meeting and focus on issues and topics that pertain to agency staff and professionals. For example, joining with the Wildlife Society to have a workshop on watershed management would be most appropriate for the Southeastern. Additionally, a meeting in Alabama could have a pond management workshop. Jeff and Pat Mazik dis-

cussed changes in the guide for authors for the Proceedings and also in getting the Proceedings out by the next meeting.

Watson Award Committee Representative – None given.

New Business:

Formation of an Ad Hoc Ictalurid Technical Committee – President Boxrucker stated that the North Central Division is garnering support to form a sister committee in their division and would like to interact with catfish researchers in the Southern Division. Some of the need for this is from the introduction of blue and flathead catfish in the southeast. Plans are underway to have a catfish symposia at the Oklahoma City Spring meeting in 2004 to bring the two Divisions together to share ideas and work. Elise mentioned that the focus of the committee would not be restricted to sportfish but would include nongame catfish and madtoms. Once committee becomes established, start-up money from the Division can be discussed at the Fall EXCOM meeting in Alabama. The formation of the ad hoc committee is at the pleasure of the President.

Larry Connor moved and Fred Janssen seconded to adjourn the EXCOM meeting and the motion carried. President Boxrucker adjourned the meeting at 1014.



Editor's Note

Due to the page limit of the printed newsletter, only the 2003 Spring Business Meeting Minutes are included. The EXCOM meeting minutes are in the unabridged newsletter, available online at www.sdafs.org.

The fall edition will be mailed out early December 2003; the summer edition will be back on schedule and mailed out in June 2004.

Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairs, please send your updated contact information to Fred Janssen, fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us, to keep the SDAFS webpage chapter/committee contact list current.

In order to provide you with a better quality newsletter, this edition was created using Microsoft Publisher software. Please send any comments and suggestions regarding the new look of Southern Division News to sdnews@vt.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully,
Adrienne Averett

Newsletter Staff & Information

Adrienne Averett, Editor

Marcy Anderson, Than Hitt, Jamie Roberts,
Reviewers

Items for submission will be accepted anytime.
Please send submissions by email using MS
Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format.

Contact Information:

Southern Division Newsletter Editors
100 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321
Email: sdnews@vt.edu

**AFS Southern Division Newsletter
100 Cheatham Hall
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321**

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