



The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



Volume 30 (1)

Summer Issue

May-June, 2004

President's Message

Fran Gelwick

I hope all who attended the annual meeting had a good time in College Station. We had about 150 registrants and 43 of those were students. A big thank you for our student participation goes to Larry Hysmith Chair of the Student Outreach Committee, and Michael Brice Chair of the Endowments Committee for their work to encourage participation, and to identify and reward outstanding scholarship by our Texas fisheries students. Michael will be stepping down as Chair and I am contacting members who might consider service to TCAFS in that position. Most of the students and many of our general membership attended the terrifically informative workshop arranged by Bruce Hysmith and his Continuing Education Committee: Identification of Texas Freshwater Fishes presented by Dr. Bobby Whiteside.

Following the tradition set by Gary Garrett last year, I have re-appointed the Ad-hoc Committee to help President-Elect Dave Terre to plan our 2005 meeting. This committee helped me a great deal, pitching in with their time, muscle, and creative suggestions. Debbie Wade kept us all on task with reminders of newsletter deadlines and skillfully wove them into a comprehensive and informative publication. President Garrett provided me insight into delegation of authority, and encouraged me to think further ahead than I usually do. Tim Bonner collected abstracts, arranged (and re-arranged) the program to accommodate our needs. Paula Hawkins saved room in her overstuffed schedule to help me coordinate meeting arrangements and shared with me her wealth of experience in the art of business negotiations. This year, we

joined Texas River and Reservoir Management Society (TRRMS) to hold a Discussion Forum on Instream Flows in Texas. It was coordinated by Cynthia Gorham-Test (Bio-West and President of TRRMS), along with Richard Kiesling (USGS), Doyle Mosier (TCEQ), and Kevin Mays (TPWD).

Brian Van Zee and David DeLeon are stepping down as highly successful Co-Chairs of the Publicity and Exhibits Committee, and I personally thank them for their capable and whole-hearted service. They helped us to get the word out about our activities and creatively secured donations for our fundraisers year after year. I am contacting our membership to find two new Co-Chairs. The legacy that Brian and David have left will provide our new Co-Chairs a wealth of readily accessible information on file that will smooth their path to another successful year. I thank Bart Durham for his service as Chair of the Awards Committee; he too will be stepping down. Bart and his committee encouraged us to nominate our outstanding members, to recognize their service to TCAFS, and to reward our members and students for their outstanding oral and poster presentations at our annual meeting.

Finally, I thank the many of you who signed up in College Station to serve on one or more TCAFS committees. Committee Chairs were e-mailed copies of your information and they will be contacting their new members and updating information for previous ones. It's not too late to contact a committee chair to sign up (thanks to Fred Janssen you can view contacts and committee information in our Procedures Manual on the TCAFS web site). I anticipate your enthusiastic positive response to requests for your service.



TCAFS ExCom Meeting

Paula Hawkins

In attendance were Gary Garrett, Paula Hawkins, Fran Gelwick, Tim Bonner, and Ray Mathews. President Fran Gelwick called the meeting to order on April 20, 2004 at 1:00 pm in Austin, Texas.

The committee chairs were discussed and the following were confirmed:

Archives – Ray Mathews
Editorial – Tim Bonner
Nominating – John Moczygomba
Newsletter – Debbie Wade
Pond Management – Craig Bonds
Membership – Dennis Smith
Internet – Fred Janssen

Editorial – Tim has requested 100 copies of the 2003 Proceedings be available for libraries and any other requests.

Archives/History – It was suggested that on occasion a biography be done on fishery biologists in the TCAFS newsletter. Also, 'New History made by TCAFS Members' will be added to the archives.

Pond Management – Revision continues and is progressing very well. There is a possibility having the documents on the Internet by December 2004. Craig would like to thank everyone who assisted with compiling and reviewing the information.

Secretary/Treasurer – It was discussed and agreed that \$3000 would be transferred from the checking account to the mutual account.

Hub Award – Gary Powell will be contacted to head up fundraising for award/scholarship.

The possible venue for the TCAFS annual meeting will be Grapevine, Texas. Bass Pro Shop will be contacted as a possible sponsor of a break or social. It was discussed and agreed the scholarship and awards will be presented at the banquet.

Propagated Fisheries in Resource Management workshop is scheduled for June 29th and 30th. There will be 4 – 5 students participating as facilitators at this workshop.

Pond Management Committee

Craig Bonds

The TCAFS Pond Management Committee has been diligently working on revisions for the pond management manual. New sections for the manual have been drafted and submitted for review, covering topics such as aeration, aquatic vegetation, clearing muddy water, fertilization, alkalinity, and water fluctuation. The reference list for the manual has been updated. Pond habitat and pond design sections are currently being drafted. Our next challenge will be to incorporate these new and revised sections into the old manual while continuing to review old text, tables, and figures and make necessary improvements as needed. This process should be complete by December 2004.

NEW HISTORY MADE BY TCAFS MEMBERS

YOUNGEST EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR.

Ray Mathews

History is an important part of who we are and what we stand for, as well as what we accomplish. This was a banner year for several of our members in making new history with their accomplishments. Dr. Tim Bonner, Texas State University, received the Educator of the Year Award at the 2004 Annual Meeting. What made this award unusual was that Dr. Bonner has only been a professor for two years, making him the recipient of this award for the least amount of time serving as an educator, and also making him the youngest recipient to ever receive this award. If this is a measure of his teaching and student research direction capabilities, he is destined to have a very distinguished career. He does follow in the footsteps of another highly recognized educator, Dr. Bobby Whiteside, who recently retired; his faculty position being filled by Dr. Bonner.



Picture of Kirk Winemiller and his graduate student, Hernán López-Fernández, at Texas A&M University, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

Dr. Tim Bonner with Educator of the Year Award he received at the 2004 Annual meeting of the Texas Chapter, American Fisheries Society in College Station, Texas



Dr. Kirk Winemiller with Hernán López-Fernández, the student who described the new cichlid fish species. Hernán is a Venezuelan PhD student studying under Kirk's direction at Texas A&M University at College Station. The photograph is seining in the Venezuelan Llanos with Hernán López-Fernández. Stuart Willis, a former TAMU fisheries undergraduate student, now a graduate student at University of Manitoba was also involved in the fish sampling in Venezuela.

NEW FISH SPECIES DISCOVERED IN VENEZUELA.

Ray Mathews

Two TCAFS members had newly described fish species named after them: Drs. Kirk Winemiller and Clark Hubbs. Two of Dr. Winemiller's students described three new species of *Geophagus* during their exciting research in the Orinoco and Casiquiare drainages of Venezuela. One of them was named *G. winemilleri* in honor of their distinguished professor at Texas A&M University, and published it in *Zootaxa* 439: 1-23 (2004). The publication is also available at www.mapress.com/zootaxa/.



Dr. Clark Hubbs, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin, sampling fish on the Rio Grande during an electrofishing survey of the river.

Dr. Kirk Winemiller with peacock bass he caught in Venezuela, which weighed over 25 pounds – probably a world record at the time (February 1993), which he released to grow some more.



Clark Hubbs with his wife, Cathy, at the 2003 annual meeting of the TCAFS. Clark received a plaque recognizing his contributions to the Chapter and creation of the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award.

NEW SPECIES OF FISH DISCOVERED IN TEXAS!

Ray Mathews

A new species of fish was discovered in West Texas, making it the first new vertebrate to have been discovered in our state in the past three decades. This fish, which is officially known as the San Felipe gambusia (also known as the San Felipe mosquito fish for its common name), was actually found about seven years ago by University of Texas-Pan American biologist Dr. Robert Edwards and state biologist Dr. Gary Garrett, but it wasn't until their discovery was published last month in the international journal *Copeia* that it received proper scientific approval. "There are not very many more fish to be found in the United States, other than the oceanic depths. Finding a new species is kind of special, regardless of where you find it," said Dr. Clark Hubbs, a professor emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin who was the inspiration for the species' Latin name, *Gambusia clarkhubbsi*.

BIOGRAPHY OF A FISHERY BIOLOGIST EMERITUS DR. BOBBY WHITESIDE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY Ray Mathews

Dr. Bobby Gene Whiteside is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Texas State University, formerly Southwest Texas State University, in San Marcos, Texas. He received his A.S. degree in Wildlife Conservation from Eastern Oklahoma A&M College in 1960, B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from Oklahoma State University in 1962, M.S. in Zoology and

Fisheries Biology also from Oklahoma State University in 1964, and Ph.D. in Zoology and Fisheries Biology from Oklahoma State University. His M.S. thesis title was Biology of white crappie, *Pomoxis annularis*, in Lake Texoma, Oklahoma; and his Ph.D. dissertation title was Population dynamics of fishes in farm ponds in Payne County Oklahoma.

Bobby is a past-president of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and he was awarded the Outstanding Texas Fisheries Worker Award in the area of Education 1981-82 by the Texas Chapter AFS. He was also awarded the Fellow Award in 1978 by the Texas Academy of Science. He served as a member of the Warmwater Streams Committee for the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society from 1992-2000, and was a member of the Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board (1991-97), Endangered Resources Technical Advisors Committee (1991-93), and San Marcos River Advisory Committee (1992-93) for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. He continues to be a cooperator with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the San Marcos, Comal, and Edwards Aquifer Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Contingency Plan (1989-present), as well as a member of the San Marcos and Comal Springs and Associated Aquatic Ecosystems Recovery Plan (1984-present). He has authored twenty-six journal articles and the chapter of one book, as well as many reports.

Most recently we were honored by Dr. Whiteside's informative Continuing Education class on "IDENTIFICATION OF SMALL FISHES FROM TEXAS RIVERS AND STREAMS" at the 2004 TCAFS annual conference. The course covered the little guys and gals like minnows, topminnows, and darters. Bobby also included some information on sunfishes, such as bluegill, orangespotted, and longear sunfishes as well. It was very educational training and useful in our line of work. Most of us know Bobby as a very friendly, down to earth, high-energy professor and researcher, enthusiastic student motivator and mentor, skilled fisheries taxonomist and biologist, dedicated family man, as well as an avid fisherman. The pictures below, provided by Dr. Tim Bonner, Texas State University, depict some of Bobby's activities from long ago to the present.

This is the first of a series of occasional biographies of fishery biologists that have contributed significantly to the field. If you have a recommendation for someone that you believe deserves special recognition in this manner, please provide me with information and digital images with descriptive captions.

Sky Lewey

Since 1989, the Environmental Law Institute and the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) have co-sponsored the National Wetlands Awards Program. Since the 1998 Awards program, co-sponsorship has expanded to include the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [National Marine Fisheries Service](#), and the [USDA Forest Service](#), and beginning in 2004, the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#).* The Awards program recognizes individuals from across the country who have demonstrated extraordinary effort, innovation, and excellence at the regional, state, or local level. This year's winners include [Sky Lewey](#) (Nueces River Authority) in Education and Outreach for her work on effects of off-road vehicles in the Nueces River stream system. This year's National Wetlands Awards will be presented on **May 20, 2004** from **6:00 to 8:00 pm** in the **Senate Caucus Room** in the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. National Wetlands Awardees show how individuals can and do make a difference. Their efforts to educate the public and surrounding communities about the value of wetlands, the programs that are available to protect and restore wetlands, and the value of cooperation among grassroots organizations, educational organizations, private landowners, and federal, state, and local government agencies to protect wetland resources.

Link to the nomination letter below:

<http://www.eli.org/nwa/nwa2004.htm#lewey>



Education and Outreach



Sky Lewey
Nueces River Authority
Uvalde, Texas

When Sky Lewey became the resource protection and public education associate for the Nueces River Authority in 2001, her task was daunting. The river authority's enormous area includes 23 watersheds across 17,000 square miles of south Texas. Booming popularity of off-road vehicle recreation was devastating rivers in the basin and this destruction was occurring in remote wetlands out of the public eye. Ms. Lewey drew on her diverse background and experiences to bring this abuse of the rivers to statewide attention.

Born on the banks of the Nueces, Ms. Lewey is a fifth-generation rancher who has an intimate knowledge of the resource and its people. Prior to joining the authority, she worked in environmental engineering and hazardous waste management, community development, historic preservation, and international marketing, and taught school. Ms. Lewey credits all of those experiences as preparation for her current job.

Her approach to public education is straightforward: Let the river speak for itself through photographs, lectures, and tours that contrast the delicate, natural beauty of the river system with the thoughtless human activities that threaten its integrity. Making the river her classroom, she takes children and adults to see first-hand the life that depends on it. In the traditional classroom, she has introduced more than 5,000 students to watershed protection.

In 2003, she raised awareness in the Texas state capitol about damage to state-owned riverbeds caused by off-road recreation vehicles. Her efforts contributed to passage of legislation banning motor vehicles from Texas rivers. The bill received strong support in the state house and senate and from resource protection organizations across the state.

Ms. Lewey hopes her award will add credence to her river protection campaign and attract funding to facilitate expansion of her work.

—*Susan Allen Lynch, Friends of the Frio and American Rivers, Rio Frio, Texas*

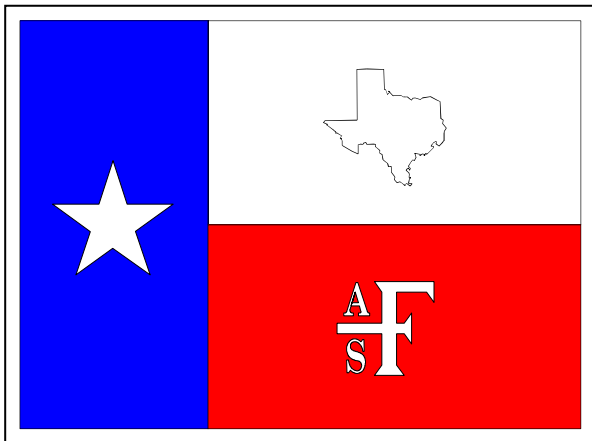


JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site <http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/default.htm> or contact **Dennis Smith, Rt. 1 Box 123A, Electra, TX 76360-95025, (940) 586-1203**, dennis.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us or the newsletter editor to obtain application information.

**Next Newsletter submission deadline:
July 25, 2004Summer Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Submit a hard copy or a .TXT file by mail or email to the editor at deborah.wade@tpwd.state.tx.us



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Dave Terre
PRESIDENT-ELECT Fran Gelwick
PAST-PRESIDENT Gary Garrett
SECRETARY-TREASURER Paula Hawkins
TX TECH STUDENT CHAPTER
PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHIVES Ray Matthews
AWARDS

EDITORIAL Tim Bonner
ENDOWMENTS Michael Brice
ISSUES Robert Edwards

Sub-committees:
Stocks-at-Risk Robert Edwards
Exotic Species Joedy Gray

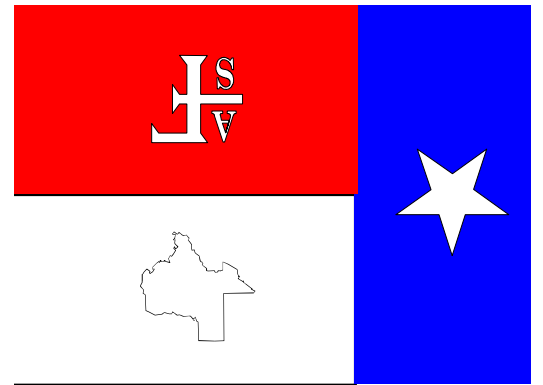
MEMBERSHIP Dennis Smith
CONTINUING EDUCATION Bruce Hysmith
NOMINATING John Moczygemba
POND MANAGEMENT Craig Bonds
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS

STUDENT OUTREACH Larry Hysmith
TCAFS WEB/HOME PAGE Fred Janssen

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Deborah Wade
5550 FM 2495
Athens, TX 75751-6381
903-676-2234 FAX 903-676-3474
E-mail deborah.wade@tpwd.state.tx.us

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
OF THE
TEXAS CHAPTER
OF THE
THE NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER EDITOR
409 Chester Ave.
Wichita Falls, TX 76301-5304

