



The Newsletter of The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 32 (3)

Fall Issue

September 2006

President's message:

by Debbie Wade

Recent months have made me very aware of how fragile life and good health are and that we need to look at our friends and family and enjoy the time we have with them. It seems that each month we hear that one of our friends within the Texas Chapter has a family member who is in need of our thoughts and prayers. Most recently, Gordon Linam and his family have come to our attention with the injury to his daughter, Abby. You will find a notice about a fund being setup for Abby later in the newsletter. Please take the time to read that notice and to act in accordance with what your heart tells you.

Due to a date conflict with the Southern Division mid-year meeting we have moved our annual meeting to the first weekend of March. There is a registration form on the last page of this newsletter. The weather will be warming up and for some it may be the first weekend of spring break which could allow you to bring your families to Lake Jackson to enjoy early spring on the Gulf Coast. Art has done a great job finding a venue which allows us to showcase one of the State's fisheries centers at the Student Professional mixer. I am looking forward to learning about the long-term effects of last year's hurricanes on our marine fisheries and wetlands. The continuing education classes are shaping up well with Bruce doing his best to develop an interesting and informative program.

With the continued growth of our Organization and increase in funds it is time once again to look at modifying our by-laws. Our investments are growing and outside supporters are aware of our educational goals. The Executive Committee has come to the conclusion that it is time for the Endowments Committee to be split into two parts one to manage the Endowment funds to maximize their potential growth and one to distribute the money to deserving students in the form of scholarships. A proposed change in the By-laws can be found later in the newsletter (page 4) and will be voted on by our membership at the annual meeting. If you have any questions or comments on the topic please send them to me so that I can relay the concerns to the ExCom.

Debbie

President-elect's message:

by Art Morris

As you probably all know, while we continue to make plans for the 32nd meeting of the organization, it is difficult to think of celebrating when one of our own is in a battle of a lifetime. We all hope and pray that past president Gordon Linam's daughter Abby pulls through her current plight and everything works out for the best for her and her family. I would like to think the Texas Chapter of AFS as a family and families stick together when we most need help. And to that end I would like for you consider donating whatever you and your friends can afford to lend a hand to the Linam family with expenses associated with their current battle.



We are still in the process of organizing the annual meeting that is coming together with high expectations. And as will all new challenges, there are always obstacles to overcome and this experience is no different. Due to an oversight on my part, I managed to book the February 9-11 dates over the top of the Southern Division AFS meeting. So to allow everyone the opportunity to attend both events, I am going to move the meeting dates to March 2-4, 2007. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Nevertheless, Bruce is working on some new and exciting continuing education classes that should be accredited by the parent society. A special session on wetland management is scheduled with hopefully some folks from Louisiana presenting. A very special Friday night mixer is planned for within the aquaria of SeaCenter Texas. And the annual Saturday night banquet and auction should hold loads of entertainment from the sonic muscles of Bruce Hysmitheri.

Working committees could use all the assistance they can get, so be sure to seek out the chairs of the committees you would like to volunteer to assist. Having served on the Publicity and Exhibits committee, seeking donations for the scholarship auction can be time consuming and difficult. Be thinking of TCAFS as you make your rounds and ask for donations when and where ever you happen across a possible donation.

Student outreach activities planned for 2007 Texas Chapter meeting

by Mandy Scott

Students at all levels of their college career shouldn't miss the spring Texas Chapter AFS meeting in Lake Jackson. Activities being planned for the meeting by the Student Outreach committee will not only help fisheries students start their all-important networking skills, but also help them prepare to find that perfect job after graduation.

Starting on Friday afternoon, students will have the opportunity to attend a resume workshop. A presentation will be made outlining the general points of a good resume, and then students will be able to have their own resumes critiqued by a fisheries professional. This will also be a good opportunity to learn what hiring supervisors are looking for in a resume and in a job interview.

Friday evening there will be a student-professional mixer where those networking skills can be developed. Remember, a lot of your future success can depend on who you know!

Saturday during the lunch break meeting attendees can participate in the student-mentor lunch. Students who register for this will be paired with fisheries professionals who will meet up with them at the meeting and take them out to lunch on Saturday. Students, you can learn a LOT about the fisheries career field in just an hour of conversation with someone who's been there.

Finally, during the meeting there will be a Jobs Board posted with current job openings in the academic, government, and private fisheries fields, including graduate assistantship positions.

If you have questions about the student activities at the 2007 meeting, or other Student Outreach questions or suggestions, call Mandy Scott at (325) 651-5556, or e-mail her at mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us.



TCAFS History Committee Report

By Ray Mathews, Jr., Chair

The archives of the TCAFS are as up to date as I seem to be able to get them. The old members have apparently sent me all the pictures and documents that I will get after several years of gathering such information and putting it into the Chapter's archives. Much of it is in digital format now, so future members can access that information for whatever use they may have.

I am now concentrating more on documenting the business of the Chapter, which becomes history at some point afterwards. It is important in my opinion to make an attempt to preserve what happens at each Chapter meeting, committee achievements, student scholarships, award recognitions, and how we progress the field of fisheries biology.

In that light, I would like to report that the EXCOM had their last meeting at the TPWD field office in Waco on September 20, 2006.



The pre-meeting lunch at Buzzard Billy's in Waco was attended by several of our real old buzzards, plus some of the up and coming EXCOM members. The TPWD field office sign has been the prop for many years of pictures that fill our Chapter archives.



The EXCOM preparing for the next Annual Meeting on February 9-11, 2007 at the Cherotel in Lake Jackson, Texas. And get this, we have the whole hotel to ourselves. I am expecting to document a whole lot of new history there, because that will be a first – TCAFS has entire hotel for the 2007 Annual Meeting. That is another event that will make new history for us.

Editorial Committee report

by Craig Bonds, Committee chair, Editorial Committee

- Completed edits to the 2003 and 2004 Proceedings
- Uploaded 2003 and 2004 Proceedings to the TCAFS website
<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/proceed/index.htm>
- Printed 2003 and 2004 Proceedings and working on distributing hardcopies to libraries
- Continued edits to 2005 Proceedings
- 1st call for papers has been issued for the 2007 TCAFS annual meeting
<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/07meet/Call for Papers 2007.pdf>

Linam family expense fund

Please make donations in form of check or money order payable to Deborah Wade and in the comments write: "Linam Family Fund".

Mail to: Deborah Wade
TCAFS Linam Fund
5550 FM 2495
Athens, TX 75751

After all donations have been made, a check will be made out to the Linam family on behalf of TCAFS approximately two weeks after publication of this newsletter. Questions can be addressed to Deborah Wade (903) 670-2234 or Art Morris (361) 825-3356

You can get updates on Abby's condition at the following website:
<http://www.abbylinam.blogspot.com/>



Proposed Change to the Bylaws of TCAFS

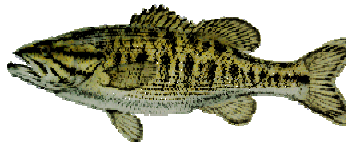
Section 7

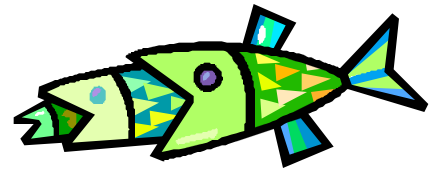
Currently reads:

...Standing Committees are permanent committees established through the Bylaws of the Chapter. The standing Committees shall be Awards, Editorial, Endowments, Issue, Nominating, Membership, Pond Management, Publicity/Exhibits and Student Outreach. ...

Change will read:

...Standing Committees are permanent committees established through the Bylaws of the Chapter. The standing Committees shall be Awards, Editorial, Endowments, *Scholarship*, Issue, Nominating, Membership, Pond Management, Publicity/Exhibits and Student Outreach. ...





➤ Genetic testing to help anglers and fish

As part of a pilot program funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board commercial salmon trollers are clipping a piece of pectoral fin from each salmon they catch and sending it to the Hatfield Marine Science Center for DNA testing that shows within 48 hours what river basin the fish came from. Anglers record the latitude and longitude of each fish using a Global Positioning System receiver. They also log their names, the date, the water temperature and the depth into a computer. Then they tie a metal tag carrying a barcode onto each fish, which can be used in the future to access that information from a Web site. Using 13 different genetic markers (microsatellites) on the salmon genome, researchers can identify the native river basin of an individual fish with 95 percent certainty. Scientists and fishermen hope the genetic testing and unprecedented detail on where salmon swim will help fisheries managers keep the commercial salmon fleet fishing while protecting struggling runs like the Klamath's wild chinook. For the past four years, boats from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have gone out the week before the season opens to check fish DNA. If too many fish from weak stocks show up, fishermen wait or go somewhere else. During the season, fish landed on shore are checked to make sure not too many weak stocks are being taken. Canada already uses overnight genetic testing to increase the salmon harvest off the coast of British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands while protecting weak stocks on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Gil Sylvia, superintendent of the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station, hopes the genetic testing and barcodes will boost marketing opportunities for fishermen and guard against farm-raised salmon being sold as wild-caught salmon.

➤ Test-tube coral babies may mend reefs

Marine scientists hope "test-tube coral babies" will take root to help restore a tract of reef 5,000 square feet in area destroyed by a 1984 ship grounding in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A team of University of Miami marine science researchers collected coral eggs and sperm in mid-August 2006 during an annual reproductive ritual, dubbed coral spawning. Researchers led by Margaret Miller, an ecologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, gathered spawn in cone-shaped, tent collectors anchored over portions of the coral reef off Key Largo. The spawn is blended in jars and the portion that fertilizes was transported to a temporary field laboratory. There the embryos were tended until they became free-swimming larvae. These larvae were released under tents stationed above the freighter *M/V Wellwood* which ran aground in 1984 at Molasses Reef near Key Largo. Hopefully larvae will settle and metamorphose into juvenile corals. Researchers will return after 6 months to see if the corals have survived. Coral maturation is extremely slow, and ranges from a third of an inch to less than four inches each year. This year they will also try to establish juvenile corals on ceramic structures called "ecoreefs" and they will also attempt to settle larvae on dead coral rubble in the lab. <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

➤ Sushi's popularity threatens tuna population

About 10 years ago, hundreds of sushi bars popped up in New York, Paris, London and other large Western cities. Once reserved as a Japanese culinary tradition, the habit of eating raw fish has spread to the Western world, and not always for the best, experts say. Westerners' appetite for sushi, maki and sashimi has threatened the survival of bluefin tuna, one of the finest species for the Japanese specialty. These fish are caught in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean. According to the World Wildlife Fund, which defends threatened species, catches around Spain's Balearic Islands have declined by 15%, and only around 2,300 tons of bluefin tuna have been caught this year by the French and Spanish fleets, compared with 14,700 tons in 1995. According to Sergi Tudela, head of fisheries at the World Wildlife Fund's Mediterranean program bluefin tuna species in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic are near collapse.

➤ Fish used to detect terror attacks

San Francisco, New York, Washington and other big cities are using bluegills in the fight against terrorism. These modern day “canaries in a coal mine” are being used to safeguard their drinking water. Small numbers of the fish are kept in tanks constantly replenished with water from municipal supplies, and sensors in each tank work around the clock to register changes in the breathing, heartbeat and swimming patterns of the bluegills that occur in the presence of toxins. "Nature's given us pretty much the most powerful and reliable early warning center out there," said Bill Lawler, co-founder of Intelligent Automation Corporation, a Southern California company that makes and sells the bluegill monitoring system. "There's no known manmade sensor that can do the same job as the bluegill." Since Sept. 11, the government has taken very seriously the threat of attacks on the U.S. water supply. Federal law requires nearly all community water systems to assess their vulnerability to terrorism.

Big cities employ a range of safeguards against chemical and biological agents, constantly monitoring, testing and treating the water. But electronic protection systems can trace only the toxins they are programmed to detect, Lawler said. Bluegill are highly attuned to chemical disturbances in their environment, and when exposed to toxins, they experience the fish version of coughing, flexing their gills to expel unwanted particles. New York City has been testing its system since 2002 and is seeking to expand it. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection reported at least one instance in which the system caught a toxin before it made it into the water supply: The fish noticed a diesel spill two hours earlier than any of the agency's other detection devices!

➤ Iceland to resume whaling

Iceland has announced it is to resume commercial hunting of whales. Icelandic ships will take 9 fin whales, an endangered species, and 30 minke whales each year. In a statement, the fisheries ministry said the nation was dependent on living marine resources, and would keep catches within “sustainable limits”. Norway is the only other country to hunt commercially; most are bound by a 20-year moratorium. Currently Iceland hunts minkes for "scientific research". The scientific plan will conclude at the end of the 2007 season, the government said. Iceland maintains local stocks are high enough to permit some hunting, despite the endangered status of the fin. Species are allocated to different categories of threat by IUCN, the World Conservation Union, in its Red List; but Iceland disputes the endangered rating for the fin.

Iceland gave up commercial hunts when the global moratorium was introduced in 1986, and stopped all whaling in 1989. Having left the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1992, it rejoined in 2002 stating a "reservation" to the moratorium; and the circumstances surrounding its rejoining may leave its decision to resume commercial hunting open to legal challenge. Countries stating a reservation at the moratorium's inception are allowed to hunt commercially, though Norway is the only one that does. The resumption will be greeted with dismay by conservation groups, alarmed by the passing of the first pro-hunting resolution in 20 years at this year's IWC meeting.

The Icelandic fisheries ministry suggested the meat may be exported, which could prove a contentious suggestion as the trade is heavily restricted under international law. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) regulations do not prevent Iceland from exporting whale meat because it has a formal exemption under the treaty, but virtually every country is banned from importing it. Icelandic and Norwegian whalers would like in the long run to export to Japan, the world's biggest market for whale meat.



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, www.sdafs.org/tcafs/index.htm, or by contacting Dennis Smith, Dundee State Fish Hatchery, Rt. 1 Box 123A, Electra, TX 76360, (940) 586-1203, Dennis.Smith@tpwd.state.tx.us.

If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive chapter updates and notifications of the posting of newsletters.

Members are encouraged to make submissions to the Newsletter Editor by mail or e-mail to one of the addresses listed below.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT..... Deborah Wade
PRESIDENT-ELECT..... Art Morris
PAST-PRESIDENT..... Dave Terre
SECRETARY-TREASURER Michael Brice

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS..... Greg Conley
CONTINUING EDUCATION Bruce Hysmith
EDITORIAL Craig Bonds
ENDOWMENTS..... Perry F. Trial
HISTORY..... Ray Mathews
INTERNET..... John Taylor
ISSUES Bob Edwards
(includes Stocks-at-Risk & Exotic Species Sub-committees)
MEMBERSHIP Dennis Smith
NOMINATING John Moczygemba
POND MANAGEMENT..... John Tibbs
PUBLICITY / EXHIBITS..... Juan Martinez and Yvonne Lalla
STUDENT OUTREACH..... Mandy Scott

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TCAFS Registration Form

Lake Jackson, Texas
March 2-4, 2007



Registration includes access to all technical sessions, the continuing education workshops, the Student/Professional Mixer (Shrimp boil at SeaCenter Texas), and the banquet that will be held at the Cherotel-Brazosport Hotel and Conference Center. The deadline for early registration is February 16, 2007.

Name _____		Date _____	
Street Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Work Phone _____	Email Address _____		

_____ Yes, I am a Student and will work for free lodging (first come, first served).

MEETING REGISTRATION:	<i>Cost/Person</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Regular Member Registration – Received by 2-16-07	\$50.00	
Received after 2-16-07	\$60.00	
Student*/Spouse Registration – Received by 2-16-07	\$25.00	
Received after 2-16-07	\$35.00	
Chapter Dues – Professional/Student (<i>Please note student registration & membership is for full-time, currently registered students only.</i>)	\$12/\$5	
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST (<i>make checks payable to TCAFS</i>)		\$ _____

_____ Yes, I would like to be a Mentor at the Professional/Student Mixer.

WORKSHOPS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION:

<i>Friday, March 2, 2007</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Attending?</i>		
Watershed Modeling with GIS	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Yes		No
Wetlands Conflict Resolution	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Yes		No
Student Resume Workshop	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Yes		No

STUDENT-MENTOR LUNCH:

<i>Saturday, March 3, 2007</i>	<i>Current / Desired career field</i>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Academia	<input type="checkbox"/> State Gov't	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Gov't	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Private industry

COMMITTEES: – Please indicate which committee(s) you are willing to serve on.

Awards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nominating	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editorial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pond Management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publicity/Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stocks at Risk*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continuing Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exotic Species*	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

*Subcommittees of the Issues Committee

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION (<i>1 form per person</i>) AND PAYMENT TO: (<i>please make checks payable to TCAFS</i>)	Mr. Michael Brice TX Chapter AFS Treasurer 3802 East End Blvd. South Marshall, TX 75672
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