



The Newsletter of
the Texas Chapter of
the American
Fisheries Society



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Ramos

Greetings from the sauna of East Texas. The Texas Chapter is moving forward toward the next century with plans and strategies that will keep our members on the cutting edge of our profession. It is difficult sometimes to keep up with our changing world. There are so many "cool" tools and gadgets that can make our lives so easy. If I could only find or make time to learn how to use them correctly I would only have to work half a day. Right! Convenience is a double edged sword. In theory these advances should allow us to store, tabulate and analyze our data more quickly so that we have the time to do the fun parts of our jobs, the stuff that we enjoyed doing in the beginning of our careers. The stuff that you couldn't believe you were getting paid to do. It seems that the more we depend on technology, the more we are enslaved by it. As those who have seen me banging away on my keyboard can attest, there is a point when just enough knowledge can be dangerous. My only saving grace is that I am able to admit that operator error is the cause of most of the problems. In the most recent issue of *Fisheries*, President Coutant writes about fighting the "stupidity complex" and voices many of the same concerns. I agree that everyone should take advantage of any opportunity to learn and pass that knowledge on to the next person. The Chapter will provide four different opportunities for continuing education at our next annual meeting. I challenge you all to take advantage of these opportunities. If these aren't the workshops that you need, feel free to contact the ExCom with ideas for the future. I know that we have some of the best fisheries scientists in the country within our Chapter so I am asking for you to also consider offering to teach a workshop in your area of expertise. The only way "knowledge=power" is if you share it with someone to make their jobs easier and better.

The Fish Culture Section will be hosting a special symposium entitled, "A Century of Fish Culture" at the annual meeting in Monterey, California. Nineteen speakers will discuss the changes in culture techniques for different species from 1896 to the present. Texas Chapter members Joe Warren and Todd Engeling will be covering striped bass and black basses respectively. Pat Hutson who is President-Elect of the section was one of the organizers of the symposium. There will be a repeat performance at the upcoming Aquaculture '98 meeting scheduled for February 15-19, 1998 in Las Vegas, Nevada. I encourage everyone who is interested in getting a global view of aquaculture techniques and philosophies to attend this meeting. The only way for us to stay at the cutting edge is to bite the bullet and interact with others in our field and share ideas and innovations.



JULY EXCOM MINUTES

by Dave Terre

Minutes of the Texas Chapter AFS EXCOM meeting - 7/2/97

Call to Order and Minutes Approval - President Kathy Ramos called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved from the January EXCOM meeting. Kathy Ramos, John Prentice, Dave Terre, Bruce Hysmith, John Moczygemba, Steve Poarch and Gary Valentine attended the meeting.

Treasurers report - Dave Terre reported that the total assets of the Texas chapter were \$32,552.43 as of 5-30-97. The balance in our checking account (as of 7-1-97) was \$6,683.53. Major expenditures during the months of April, May, and June included our newsletters (\$396.00) and web site software (\$210.00). Sources of income during those same months included: Profits from Southern Division Meeting in San Antonio (\$1,752.05); new/renewed memberships (\$278.00); and interest and dividends (\$40.05).

1998 Annual Meeting Up-date - We are certain to have a great meeting this year as John Prentice and his committee members have worked very hard thus far. John detailed the planned events which include; advertisement of the web, professional/student presentations and awards, kid-fishing tournament, golf tournament, possible fishing tournament, Shreveport LA trip, huge continuing education workshop, panel discussion, auction/raffle and much more. Everything is basically on schedule but John could use some member input on the subject of this years panel discussion.

Newsletter - The EXCOM decided that we may need to review the "complimentary mail-out" list to insure that the complimentary issues of our newsletter are being sent to the appropriate people/organizations. Newsletter mail-outs via E-mail have resulted in significant savings to the chapter..

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publicity/exhibits - Steve Poarch reported that three exhibitors have been locked-in for our annual meeting so far. Over 200 letters (40 to new potential exhibitors) were to be mailed out next week. Steve reported that our supply of T-shirts and hats is practically down to nothing. Steve will contact the City of Athens for potential sponsorship for T-shirts for our annual meeting.

Nominating - John Moczygemba reported that no nominations have been received for President-Elect. He announced that members should start submitting their nominations now.

Membership - Kathy Ramos reporting for Debbie Wade indicated the chapter now has 225 members.

Continuing Education - Bruce Hysmith gave an overview of our continuing education workshop to be held at our Athens meeting. Subjects will include; Introduction to Genetics, Fish Management Computer Software Packages, Computer Use Basics, and Aquatic Plant Identification. Potential speakers/presenters were discussed. Cost estimates will be presented at the next EXCOM.

Issues - No Report

Endowments - No Report

Student Outreach - No Report

Exotic Species - No Report

Fisheries Worker Directory - No Report

Stocks at Risk - No Report

Pond Management- No Report

Awards- No Report

Editorial - No Report

TCAFS Web Page - No Report



OLD BUSINESS

SDAFS Funds - The EXCOM discussed potential uses of income obtained from the midyear meeting. Options discussed included investments for purposes of continuing education and additional scholarships. It was agreed to bring in our financial consultant, Pam Whitney of Merrill Lynch, to discuss investment opportunities. It was also agreed to consult with our scholarship sponsors before any changes were made to our scholarship program.

Pond Management Publication - Gary Valentine provided the EXCOM with a draft of the Fisheries Management Consultants List which is expected to be a companion publication to the Chapter's Pond Management Guide. He has sent letters out to current Texas Fisheries Management Consultants and received feedback from 15 persons who were interested in having their names listed in this publication. It is expected that all consultants listed be members of the TCAFS. The EXCOM gave Gary Valentine the authority to move forward with this project.

Teaming with Wildlife Initiative - Kathy Ramos reported that we received responses from Congressmen Ralph Hall, Henry B. Gonzalez, and Pete Sessions on our position statement for "Teaming with Wildlife".

NEW BUSINESS

TCAFS Web Page - Our home site really belongs to Fred Janssen since we are using his server at his place of residence. Kathy Ramos indicated that new software was recently purchased for the TCAFS web site that will make our page more attractive. It appears that a lot of our "hits" are originating from the TPWD home page. The EXCOM indicated that we need cost estimates before we go commercial with our web page.

PUBLISH YOUR WORK IN THE TEXAS CHAPTER ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS

The Editorial Committee has already received two manuscripts for inclusion in the January 1998 annual meeting. Papers published in the proceedings are peer reviewed publications - not gray literature. The deadline for submission of Abstracts/Papers for the January 1998 Annual Meeting is 24 October 1997. This will be the last published call for papers before the deadline. There will be a 24-presentation limit for the meeting. All submissions should follow AFS format guidelines and presentations are limited to 20 minutes.

TRIVIA QUIZ

What is it that can challenge your mind, stimulate your sense of fun, and give you the opportunity to show off in front of your peers? How about a Fishery Trivia Bowl. This year at the Annual meeting we will be having a trivia bowl competition in order to encourage interaction between students and professionals. Debbie Wade is organizing this event and needs your help. She is searching for challenging questions, and the correct answers, for the event. Please take the time to send a question or two to Debbie at 11045 Spur 164, Tyler, TX 75709 or tylerhat@ballistic.com.



