Volume 22 (1) April 1996

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A MESSAGE FROM TCAFS PRESIDENT MARK WEBB

Are We Really in this Together?

Aquatic science is almost as diverse as the professionals that work in it. Like an intricate food web, each discipline has its specific niche, but the crossovers and interactions are nearly endless. Our area of expertise (endangered species, invertebrates, sportfish, limnology, etc.), our professional category (administrator, field scientist, educator, technician, etc.), and our employers (state, federal, private) all play a part in our role and our perspective in aquatic science. The one thing we all have in common is a concern for aquatic environments and a deep desire to conserve our natural resources. Yet more and more often it seems our differences are overshadowing our common goals. As we primarily interact with those whom we most closely identify, sometimes we begin to see our colleagues in other aquatic resource disciplines as adversaries. While it is very important for us to question our own ethics to maintain the integrity of our profession at the highest possible level, we’ve begun to concentrate largely on ‘in-house’ issues like species vs. ecosystems management and stocking of non-indigenous fish strains while activities like riparian destruction, inter-basin water transfer, exotic species stocking, and abuse of aquifers go almost unchecked. If we continue to separate into smaller professional factions, we’ll soon find ourselves as nothing more than a loosely connected group of fringe elements with only a fraction of the influence we carry as a whole.

Although many of us belong to one or more excellent organizations devoted to specific disciplines of aquatic science, the American Fisheries Society offers us the conduit we need to come together in a broad-based organization. By creating a place for everyone with interests from aquaculture to zebra mussels, AFS allows us to learn from each other and to present a united front to those who would abuse the aquatic resources we prize. So, if you have colleagues who are not AFS members, invite them to join us, and let’s make sure that as a reflection of the Parent Society, our chapter is a professional home for everyone. Then, using the strength of our diversity, we can show our constituents who have entrusted us with the stewardship of Texas’ aquatic resources that we really are in this together.
The 1996 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter AFS will be held in conjunction with the Oklahoma chapter’s meeting. The site for this joint meeting is Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro, Texas. The meeting dates are September 15, 16 & 17. Tanglewood Resort is located on the Texas side of Lake Texoma. We are going to use this opportunity to finalize plans for hosting the 1997 Southern Division AFS Mid-Year meeting in San Antonio.

Tanglewood offers us the leisure atmosphere and recreational opportunities of a resort and the first class meeting facilities of a metropolitan hotel. Accommodations range from fully equipped condominiums to standard hotel rooms. Guests can choose to pay a set fee for lodging and three meals of $80.00/day or pay just for lodging and visit some of the local restaurants, or the buffet at the Tanglewood dining room. Rates for lodging alone range from $42 - $55 depending upon the type of accommodations. It is least expensive to share a large two bedroom condo which will sleep 5 people. Reservations should be made as soon as possible to ensure the special rate for this meeting. Be sure to let the clerk know that you are with the Texas Chapter AFS meeting. The sales associate handling our account is Lauren Klug. Tanglewood can be reached at 1 (800) 833-6569.

We are planning to continue with the Career Development workshops for students. We will be asking students to work two hours during the meeting in exchange for free lodging and free dinner at the social. Mike Reed will be working with Gene Gilliland to put on an Aquatic Habitat Restoration panel discussion/workshop for Monday. In addition to these workshops there may be three other workshops available.

Bruce Hysmith, John Moczygemba, “Chiggger” Ballard and Lynn Sloan have agreed to act as local arrangement liaisons. They are working on putting together a great social/auction complete with live entertainment. I have asked Glen Alexander to handle arrangements for the annual golf tournament. Interested players should contact Glen at (817) 779-2301.
TANGLEWOOD - SITE OF 1996 TCAFS ANNUAL MEETING

TCAFS Report

Tanglewood Resort and Conference Center will offer TCAFS members with a high quality meeting facility and an opportunity to experience a variety of leisure activities. Activities available free of charge include swimming, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, softball, badminton, croquet, tennis, and board games. Tanglewood offers three cascading outdoor swimming pools and a Jacuzzi. An additional pool is located in the condo area. Two lighted hard surface tennis courts and a sand volleyball pit and full size basketball court are available.

The Tanglewood golf course was designed by Arnold Palmer and encompasses a combination of water, sand, and trees. The course plays 5,000 yards from the red tees and 7,000 from the gold tees. Green fees for 9 and 18 holes run $14 and $27 on weekdays and $19 and $38 on weekends respectively. Golf club rentals are available. Tee times are required.

Striper fishing with a professional guide, who provides the boat, tackle, and bait is available. The fee is $100 per person with a three person minimum. Prior day reservations are required. Dock fishing is also available. Equipment and bait are available at the boat house.

Ski boats can be rented for $75 per hour, $220 for 4 hours, and $400 for 8 hours. This price includes ski equipment and fuel. Wave runners are also available for $45 per hour or $120 for 3 hours.

The Double K Ranch at Tanglewood has acres and acres of trailed and untrailed land available for horseback riding, hayrides, and carriage rides. Horseback riding is $15 per hour.

In addition to all this, Tanglewood also offers child care and a certified massage therapist. If you can't find something to do at Tanglewood, check to see if you have a pulse. Tanglewood can be reached at (800) 833-6569.
INTERIM SECRETARY/TREASURER

TCAFS Report

Ronnie Pitman, Secretary Treasurer for the Texas Chapter since the annual meeting in September, has stepped down for medical reasons. Dave Terre has agreed to serve as interim Secretary/Treasurer until Ronnie can return to her position or, if Ronnie is not able to return to her office, until an election can be held at our next annual meeting. Our best wishes to Ronnie.

For More Information Contact:

Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744
Tel: 512-389-4655
FAX: 512-389-4405
Internet: fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us
1997 MID-YEAR MEETING

by Dick Luebke

It's not too early to mark your calendar. The Texas Chapter is co-hosting (with the Oklahoma Chapter) the 1997 mid-year meeting of the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society at the Sheraton-Gunther Hotel in San Antonio, February 13-16, 1997. Those of you who have not attended one of these mid-year meetings have missed a good opportunity to gather a wealth of fisheries information. Regular features of the meeting include extensive technical paper and poster sessions, a panel discussion on a current topic with questions/answers, continuing education courses, student-professional mixer, and numerous business meetings (division, sections, committees, etc.). Plan to attend the 1997 meeting and assure the Texas Chapter is well represented, while taking advantage of this golden opportunity for fisheries information exchange.

For More Information Contact:

Dick Luebke
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
HC07, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025
Tel: 830-866-3356
FAX: 830-866-3549
Internet: rwl@ktc.com
MID-YEAR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

by Dick Luebke

Hosting the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society annual mid-year meeting is no small undertaking. In fact, it's just like hosting the national meeting (remember 1991 in San Antonio?), only a little smaller. Attendance has been running about 300-400. We are going to need a large force of volunteers to assure every detail is adequately attended to. Anyone interested in helping should come forward as soon as possible. Especially needed are folks in and around the San Antonio area, as there will be many local arrangements needing attention. Remember, our reputation as a Chapter is on the line. We are coming off last year's winning of the Outstanding Chapter Award, so let's pull together to keep out in front of the pack. Those interested in volunteering should contact Dick Luebke at (210) 866-3356 or e-mail at rwl@ktc.com.

For More Information Contact:

Dick Luebke
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
HC07, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025
Tel: 830-866-3356
FAX: 830-866-3549
Internet: rwl@ktc.com
FIRST (LAST?) CALL FOR PAPERS

by Joe N. Fries

The 1996 Annual Meeting of the TCAFS will be held on 15-17 September. As a joint meeting with the Oklahoma Chapter of the AFS, the arrangements for this will be even more complex than usual, so we need to get busy! There will be more papers submitted than ever before - the first test of the presentation policy published in the December '95 TCAFS Newsletter, Volume 21 (4):3. Since there is a 91.3% probability that you have "lost" that particular issue, this page rehashes the pertinent policy parameters and crucial criteria clauses. The policy's primary purpose is to make the selection of Technical Session papers as objective as can be. The unprecedented early submittal deadline should help towards this goal, assuming we don't have a revolution of the masses and a subsequent coup.

For the 1996 Annual Meeting

The deadline for submission of abstracts of material to present this year is **17 June 1996**, much earlier than ever before in the history of the Chapter! Crazy? Yes, but we have in the area of 400 members (TX & OK) to consider. We need to get the abstracts early enough to send them to the Editorial Committee(s), consider which abstracts to accept, work up the program, and get it printed and distributed to all the members before we show up at the meeting.

The TCAFS Editorial Committee (with representation from the Oklahoma Chapter) will independently review and rank all abstracts if we get more than 24 abstracts for oral presentation (or more poster abstracts than can be physically handled) by the deadline. The average value for each abstract will be used to select the top 24 for presentation (or the posters that will be accepted).

Bottom Line

If you want to present something at the meeting, you still have about three months to get an abstract submitted and then 3 more months to get your presentation ready - a half-year countdown! So get busy, think, and send abstracts to:

Joe N. Fries  
500 East McCarty Lane  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
(512) 353-0011 (human)  
(512) 353-0856 (FAX)
Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Annual Meeting Technical Session Presentation Policy

**Oral Presentations:**
Abstracts for oral presentations should be submitted to the Chairperson of the Editorial Committee. Abstract format should match that in current American Fisheries Society journals. A maximum of 24 abstracts will be accepted for oral presentation at the Technical Session of the Annual Meeting. Each Presentation will be allotted 15 minutes.

**Posters:**
Poster abstracts must be submitted following the same procedures as oral presentation abstracts. The number will be limited by space available at the meeting facility.

**Deadline:**
Abstracts sent to the Chairperson of the Editorial Committee must be postmarked (or received by) a minimum of 90 days prior to the first day of the Annual Meeting.

**Editorial Committee Duties:**
The Editorial Committee will review, rank, and select abstracts, if maximums are exceeded, using the "Criteria for the Selection of Presentations". The Chairperson will consolidate the reviews and, after collaboration with the President-Elect, develop and distribute the Annual Meeting Program. The Chairperson will serve as the moderator for the Technical Session of the TCAFS Annual Meeting.

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**Criteria for Selection of Presentations**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td><strong>Scientific/Technical Merit (6 points max.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>method/design</td>
<td>0, 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>data analysis/interpretation</td>
<td>0, 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>conclusions/recommendations</td>
<td>0, 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject/Applicability/Interest (5 points max.)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level of general interest</td>
<td>0, 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>native aquatic species</td>
<td>0, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>non-native aquatic species</td>
<td>0, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Originality (3 points max.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>new technology/information/concepts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>not previously presented/published</td>
<td>0, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract Quality (2 points max.)</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>introduction/objective/justification</td>
<td>0, 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organization/flow</td>
<td>0, 1</td>
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</tbody>
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Ties will be broken by postmark (or by the time/date received if not mailed).

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4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744  
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The TCAFS recently received a memorandum from Paul Brouha, Executive Director of the AFS, urging our support for a bill introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives. This bill (H. R. 2939) would authorize the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement (MICRA). He suggests we send letters of support for the bill to our Representatives as well as to our Senators urging they also support a companion bill in the Senate.

We are currently drafting letters to our Texas Congressional delegates. The following is a summary of the Background Brief being sent to congressional leaders which describes MICRA and what it will accomplish.

Background

MICRA is an alliance formed in 1991 by 28 states located within the Mississippi River as a result of serious declines in fishery resources. Many of these states list numerous native riverine species as threatened, endangered, or nearly eliminated due in part to the inter-jurisdictional nature of the basin. Rivers providing habitat for these fish flow through several states, making effective, comprehensive management difficult.

The Mississippi River Drainage Basin is one of the world’s largest and most valuable ecosystems. It provides habitat critical to a multitude of wildlife species, including fish, birds, mammals, endangered species and animal communities of unique biological diversity.

These large interjurisdictional rivers and their fisheries are affected by a wide variety of developments, including navigation, power generation and water withdrawals. Such developments are increasingly degrading large river ecosystems nationwide.

In most cases, there is not a single entity which has complete responsibility for the fishery resources in the Mississippi River Drainage Basin. This absence of clear jurisdiction has allowed management of those resources to "fall through the cracks," as no one entity or agency has been willing or able to invest properly in their management. The implementation of MICRA has been a positive first step in addressing the problem by serving as a catalyst in bringing managing partners together and combining their economic and manpower resources.

Congressional recognition of the Agreement would provide further opportunity to address basin-wide fishery management issues by ensuring access to federal funding and encouraging greater support from member agencies. In addition, it will provide Congress an evaluation of how State, Tribal, and Federal agencies can cooperate in the management of aquatic resources in inter-jurisdictional...
What is MICRA?
MICRA was formed by Mississippi River Basin states in response to the rapid decline during the 1980’s of the paddlefish, a species which was once abundant in the drainage, providing robust commercial and recreational fishery opportunities. Mississippi River Basin states recognized the need to protect the species on a multi-state basis and joined forces to develop a common approach and share resources in protecting paddlefish.

MICRA has since evolved to address losses in all kinds of aquatic species. Its mission has become to “improve the conservation, development, management and utilization of interjurisdictional fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin through improved coordination and communication among the responsible management entities.”

To date, 28 of the Basin’s state fish and wildlife agencies, including Texas, have signed on to MICRA, making it one of the country’s largest resource partnering efforts. Other management entities which have signed on include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (which has the responsibility for administering the agreement), the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the National Biological Service, the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma and the Chippewa-Cree Tribe in Montana.

What will the MICRA Act do?
Representative Steve Gunderson has introduced a bill in the House (H.R.2939) which focuses on providing federal recognition for MICRA and establishing a pilot test for that agreement. The bill would require signatories to MICRA to do the following:

- Identify and describe river ecosystems in the Mississippi River Drainage Basin and their associated fishery resources.
- Identify impacts of agriculture and waterway development on fishery resources and provide possible mitigation techniques.
- Analyze existing resources and information regarding declining fish stocks and identify information gaps and technological needs.
- Develop plans and testing projects for the restoration and enhancement of depleted fish stocks.
- Evaluate the possibility of extending such a program to other interjurisdictional river basins in the U.S.

The MICRA bill does not authorize any appropriations but allows the Secretary of Interior to use U.S. Fish and Wildlife funds to carry out the objectives.
For copies of H.R. 2939 or the AFS MICRA Background Brief contact:

Mike Reed
TCAFS Issues Committee
P. O. Box 116
Mathis, TX 78368-0116
Tel: 512-547-9712
Internet: ifdist.1e@internetmci.com
Information about the Texas Chapter AFS Scholarships and Student Opportunities Awards was sent out to schools and student members in January. Applications for these awards will be reviewed and evaluated as they are submitted. The student opportunity award can be used for internships or special studies, and the scholarship is for studies at a college or university. If you have not yet seen these please ask a faculty or student AFS member at your school, or contact me for a copy of the guidelines and application.

This year our annual meeting will be held jointly with the Oklahoma Chapter. We are planning another workshop and socials focused within the interests of students. Oklahoma has formed a new student subunit, and we hope that other schools in Texas also will consider forming their own student subunits to organize and voice their opinions and needs.

In order to better serve the interests of our members, I am asking for your suggestions as to possible subjects for the student/professional workshop. Last year we focused on job application and interview skills. Perhaps this year we could focus on the skills and techniques used by persons working within and among professional groups (e.g., are you a specialist or a generalist? is your supervisor a leader or a networker? are you interested in broad ideas or in getting the details right?). We also might address how and where fisheries knowledge is transferred, for example through writing reports, publishing research articles, writing for popular magazines and newspapers, speaking at meetings with other professionals, and interviews or workshops with the public. How is participation in these activities viewed among the diversity of fisheries professions in regard to job evaluation and advancement? How and where is information transferred among local, state, and regional professional fisheries networks? This might include information about a successful management strategy, or location of new job opportunities and potential applicants for these jobs?

Help us plan a successful workshop for our meeting in mid-September. Please send your suggestions to:

Fran Gelwick
Student Outreach Committee Chairperson
Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Texas A & M University
College Station, TX 77843-2258
FAX: (409) 862-4172
e-mail: fgelwick@tamu.edu
NEW GUIDE HELPS THOSE INTERESTED IN FISHERIES CAREERS

TCAFS Report

The American Fisheries Society’s Student Subsection announces the release of An AFS Guide to Fisheries Employment, a 13-chapter handbook detailing what employers are looking for in employees, what types of fisheries jobs are available, what the basic employee qualifications are, and where to find more resources.

Edited by Tracy D. Hill and Robert M. Neumann, the 133-page guide also includes information on professional development topics such as developing early curricula, building an effective resume, finding a graduate program, and maintaining professionalism while employed in a fisheries career. Additional topics range from working for state, federal, provincial, and international agencies to finding jobs in aquaculture, private consulting companies, non-governmental organizations, and academia. "The need for such a reference source has been evident since formation of the Student Subsection," said Hill, noting that the project has taken three years.

The handbook costs $10 (including shipping). To order, contact Mike Cyterski, secretary-treasurer; Student Subsection, American Fisheries Society; 803 Claytor Square; Blacksburg, VA 24060; 540-961-3429; mikeyc@vt.edu. Checks should be made payable to the Student Subsection, AFS.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REVIEWS SHED LIGHT ON TECHNICAL WRITING

TCAFS Newsletter Staff Report

Dick Luebke is the current Research Program Director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division and the Associate Editor for Fisheries of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Because of his role as a program leader in research and as a technical editor, Dick has reviewed hundreds of fisheries papers. This has given him an in-depth understanding of why some papers shine and others go to "major revision land". In a 1995 presentation to TPWD Inland Fisheries Biologists, Dick laid out some of his suggestions for editing papers, with the suggestion that the material applied equally to writing of technical manuscripts. In a two part series we present a synopsis of Dicks' presentation that should be helpful to anyone writing technical manuscripts. In part one we focus on some general review techniques and suggestions. In part two each section of a manuscript will be broken down into its components from an editor's point of view. Our thanks to Dick for sharing his insight into the editing and writing of technical manuscripts with our members.

Why do reviews in the first place? It is your responsibility as a fisheries professional and is your chance to improve fisheries science through improved communication of technical information. Fifty years from now we will likely no longer be active in fisheries, but information we publish will last forever. We need to do whatever we can to make sure it is as good as it can be. Editing will make you a better writer because you will learn from what others have written. You will discover good things to use in your writing and see mistakes you'll want to avoid.

In general there are a few things you can do to make your review worthwhile. First, be quick about it. There seems to be a direct relationship between turnaround time and the quality of reviews. Those received on or after the deadline tend to be of poorer quality. Allow enough time to do a thorough review. Although it varies from paper to paper, a good rule of thumb is to allow one complete day. Stay with the review until you are finished. You will do a much better job if you finish the review in one sitting rather than coming back to it between interruptions.

Do an initial "quick" review first, reading through the entire paper quickly to get a feel for what it is about without worrying about marking on it. Make an extra copy of the paper so you can use it as a "scribble" copy. During the initial quick review make simple margin marks at places with obvious errors or awkward wording, anything causing you to stumble as you read. Come back later to get resolution on these margin marks. Determine what the objective is. Find it and highlight it. The objective should serve as the foundation upon which each individual section of the paper is built. The importance of the reviewer understanding the objective cannot be overemphasized. In general on the initial quick review focus on the big picture, getting a handle on the forest, not the trees. Worry about details later.
During detailed review play devil’s advocate. Challenge everything! If you find yourself thinking "Says who?" it's a dead giveaway a citation is needed to support a statement. It is not good enough to write so you can be understood; you must write well enough so you cannot be misunderstood. For instance the following sentence is from a manuscript submitted to a fisheries journal: "During winter and spring, 1992 and 1993, 125,000 fish were stocked." To the casual reader this sentence looks fine. However, to the critical reviewer the answer to the question of how many total fish were stocked could range from 125,000 to 500,000. Likewise, the answer to the question of how many stockings took place could range from one to four. Look for statements needing more qualification and those needing less.

Generally papers tend to be what they are throughout. If misspelled words are found, chances are numerous other "sloppy" errors will be present as well. If the authors paid attention to details they will have paid attention to everything else too. However, beware of good writing. Never assume there is nothing wrong with an extremely well written paper. Good writing tends to numb an otherwise critical reader. Don’t allow yourself to be fooled.

Part two of this series will appear in the summer edition of the TCAFS Newsletter.

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There are many new web sites added to the Internet each day. Among these new sites are many wildlife, natural resources and environmental agencies at both, state and federal levels of government. Numerous universities and professional organizations also have home pages. These include Southwest Texas State University, Texas A&M University and the American Fisheries Society. Whether you are searching for stream flow information, fish geographical distribution maps, climatic conditions, literature, employment, or bass fishing hot spots, there is a web site for you. The following is a list of some web sites that my colleagues and I have encountered in cyberspace. They should be beneficial to other Chapter members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>American Fisheries Society</strong></th>
<th><a href="http://www.fisheries.org">http://www.fisheries.org</a></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Window on State Government</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Colorado River Authority</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.lcra.org/">http://www.lcra.org/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/">http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</strong></td>
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<td><strong>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.noaa.gov/">http://www.noaa.gov/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Natural History Collection, University of Texas</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Southwest Texas State University</strong></td>
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<td><a href="http://wfscnet.tamu.edu/">http://wfscnet.tamu.edu/</a></td>
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World Wide Web (WWW) is the fastest growing segment of the Internet. It is a collection of thousands of informative, graphical, multimedia, hyperlinked sites. First launched by the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in 1989 as a way to send graphic documents around the world. It has exploded in popularity with the development of the Web software package, "Mosaic", in 1993. Corporations, educational institutions and many individuals are now publishing information on the WEB using hypertext markup language (HTML). Hundreds of new "home pages" containing everything from databases to on-line shopping to kids finger painting go on-line every day. At present, about 2,000 commercial sites and literally thousands of educational and government sites have home pages on the Web.

Mosaic (a popular web browser) can be found at ftp.ncsa.uicc.edu. Instructions are posted there for both Mac and DOS operating systems (the DOS version under Windows in 32-bit mode).

Archie is a search tool that maintains a database with the names of all publicly accessible files on Internet sites accessible through anonymous FTP. Searches can be made interactively or through electronic mail. Archie servers are located throughout the world.

Gopher is another search tool that is a menu-based system. It lets you select choices through arrow keys. Gopher servers also exist world-wide. The University of Minnesota has a publicly accessible gopher client and is probably the most widely used gopher service in the U.S. Besides searching for information gopher also supports FTP which allows the downloading of files once they are found.

WAIS or wide area information server is a tool used to search databases indexed with keywords. After doing a search, WAIS sorts the list of documents returned by using a "scoring system". The document it determines best fits the search request criteria is given a score of 1000, with other documents receiving lower scores. It more or less does a "ranking" of the likelihood of all documents it retrieves meeting the request criteria.
WHOIS is a program that allows users to query a database of people or other Internet entities such as domains, networks and hosts kept at the Network Information Center. NIC provides users with information about services provided on the Internet. This tool can be used to get addresses of individuals and information on domain names from companies and organizations, however searches may not be successful depending on whether the object of your search is registered in the database.

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Internet: fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us
A WORD ABOUT VIRUSES

When surfing the Internet, one will eventually be exposed to various unwanted electronic sub-programs hidden within downloaded information. Commonly referred to as viruses, these nasty programs can cause damage ranging from minor annoyances to major destruction of data. While the threat is real, following two precautions can keep a system virus free.

First, keep information from an outside source in isolation by downloading to a separate disk and never directly to the hard drive. Second, check the isolated information with virus detecting software. Among those available are Norton, which is a vendor virus detection program or f-prot. A public domain virus detection program accessible on FTP is located at: ftp://oak.oakland.edu, drawer:simtel/msdos/virus, filename: fprot217.zip, or fp217.2 where larger numbers such as 217.3 indicate more recent versions.

For More Information Contact:

Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744
Tel: 512-389-4655
FAX: 512-389-4405
Internet: fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us
50th SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Meeting Announcement and Last Call for Papers

The 50th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be October 5-9, 1996, at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Recognizing the Southeastern’s Golden Anniversary, this year’s conference theme is "Fifty Years of Learning and Understanding."

You are invited to submit papers for review and inclusion in the 1996 program. Papers and posters related to the conference theme are encouraged, although papers and posters on other topics are welcome.

Deadline for receiving manuscripts is May 1, 1996. Five manuscript copies and a 3 1/2" diskette with abstract in ASCII format must be submitted to: Dick Luebke, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Heart of Hills Research Center, HC07, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025 (830-866-3356).

For More Information Contact:

Dick Luebke
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
HC07, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025
Tel: 830-866-3356
FAX: 830-866-3549
Internet: rwl@ktc.com
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

EXCELLENCE in FISHERIES EDUCATION AWARD
The American Fisheries Society Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988 to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education.

The nomination deadline is June 1, 1996. Additional information can be obtained from Thomas G. Coon, (517) 353-3373, coontg@msu.edu.

SKINNER MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION
The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, Former Chapter and Western Division American Fisheries Society President. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. The 1996 meeting will be held in Dearborn, Michigan, August 25-29. Travel support not to exceed $500 per award will be made available to successful applicants. Applications and additional information can be obtained from:

Dr. Anita Kelly
Fisheries Research Laboratory, Mailcode 6511
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Carbondale, IL 62901-6511.

The deadline for receiving completed applications is May 15, 1996.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
The Meritorious Service Award is awarded to an individual AFS member for unswerving loyalty, dedication, and meritorious service to the Society over a long period of time; and for exceptional commitment to the program, ideals, objectives, and long term goals of AFS. Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from:

Carolyn A. Griswold
Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Narragansett Laboratory
28 Tarzwell Drive
Narragansett, RI 02882-1199.

The deadline for nominations is June 15, 1996.

MENTOR AWARD
The Equal Opportunities Section of the American Fisheries Society is sponsoring an award for Mentoring for Professional Diversity in Fisheries. The purpose of the Award is to recognize a member of AFS who has contributed to increasing the diversity of our profession by assisting the professional development of fisheries students or new fisheries professionals from underrepresented groups, including
women, ethnic groups, and people with disabilities. Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from:

MaryLouise Keefe  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
211 Inlow Hall, Eastern Oregon State College  
LaGrande, OR 97850  
(503) 962-3777.

The deadline for submissions is July 1, 1996.

For More Information Contact:

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4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744  
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An EXCOM meeting was held at 10:00 A.M. March 5, 1996 at the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery, San Marcos, TX.

Secretary/Treasurer - Ronnie Pitman
Treasurer reports assets over $28,000. We received approximately $1600 in chapter rebates that have been added to our account.

Newsletter Report - Steve Magnelia
Investigated Internet access. The cost in San Marcos is expensive. We need to explore our options, perhaps get an account in another city. Best software to create a homepage is Microsoft compatible and costs about $300. Need to design a homepage. We could hire someone and pay for design or find a member who is willing to do it. We may be able to hook up with AFS. Gene Wilde offered to design the home page while he is doing one for the reservoir committee. He would be willing to put it on a Texas Tech account. There would not be a problem. Bobby Whiteside made the same offer. Mark asked Steve and Fred to work with Gene. Mark would like it done by the annual meeting. Fred will make the contact with Gene. Need to determine what amount of work is needed to update it and keep it current. Mike reed proposed making Steve an Information Committee or person. Steve will look into putting a group together. We need to start thinking of what kind of information that we need to put on a homepage. We should probably use the parent society page as a guideline and not duplicate a lot of effort. Need to find out all the details on what we would need to link up with their page.

1996 Annual Meeting Update - Kathy Ramos
Much discussion on informal networking for women. The group decided to try and incorporate the topic into the Career Development seminars. We need to work on diversifying the way we reach and educate students. There is a need for better literature and brochures to get our message out to undergraduate as well as graduate students. Much discussion on how to accomplish this task. There will be an opportunity to expand on what we have started at the Midyear meeting in San Antonio.

Much discussion on the continuing education workshop (Aquatic Habitat restoration) and what is required in the proposal for Federal Aid funding. There are some areas that need to be cleared up.

SDAFS Midyear Meeting - Dick Luebke
The hosting chapters are responsible for program chairs and planning. The meeting dates are 13-16 February, 1997 in San Antonio. The Oklahoma people would like to come down to San Antonio to clear things up and do some heavy duty planning. Dick thinks we need to contact our committee counterparts in OK and work together. President-Elect of the Southern Division is responsible for the plenary session. We need to get more coastal people involved. There is a procedures
manual being drafted. We are lucky that we have experience in putting on meetings. The Southern Division carries the expense of advertising if the info comes out in the regular newsletter. If we do special mailings the cost will be around $600. Virginia Polytech does the newsletter. This meeting is geared toward information exchange and students. Heavy emphasis should be placed on student involvement. The usual attendance has been about 300 people, we may be able to increase this because of San Antonio. Mike Van De Navyle suggested that the social activities be sponsored whenever possible. Also go back to the original format for the meeting schedule with committee meetings first then technical sessions and workshops.

We need to start making assignments and looking into sponsors for some of the activities. We need to get the coastal people involved, especially those in Texas. Special symposia should be submitted by the Southern Division Technical Committees. There has been a request for time to have a Sand and Gravel Mining workshop. We are planning to meet with the Oklahomans in San Antonio some time in May. Dick will be the coordinator for local arrangements. He will set up the framework for assignments and deal with those who would like to volunteer to do the leg work.

We have a lot of freedom to set up blocks of presentations on particular topics. There should be generic calls for papers and some specific calls that would focus peoples’ attention. Usually the response to generic calls is light. Scott Van Horn is responsible for the point counterpoint discussion and should have cart blanche for topics. I am looking for input on topics. The group came up with a few coastal topics such as shark or billfish symposia. Dick will try to get info into the next TCAFS Newsletter. Decide to propose that OK handle trying to put together a trade show.

**Student Outreach - Fran Gelwick**

One official subunit chapter at SFA. There are a couple of schools that may want to start subunits. SFA has talked about trying to have a Technical meeting like A&M. What can we do to develop a more cohesive group and better student relations between the different schools. Maybe a student colloquium for students from Texas and bordering states. Similar to the one held in Tennessee that has been going on for quite a few years. The TCAFS would serve as a sponsor and it would be an opportunity to provide exposure to the national AFS and professionalism. It should be geared toward those that have not presented before or undergraduates that may not have a full blown research project.

We need to be careful not to get into planning another meeting. We can get it started and have the students make it work. Fran will check into interest and pros and cons of getting into this project and report at the next EXCOM meeting.

Information was sent out about scholarships and student opportunity awards. Several student membership applications have been returned in the last few weeks. Allan has received one application for scholarship to date.

**Fisheries Worker Directory - Lance Robinson**

Mark asked us to examine examples and forward them to Lance so that he can begin to gather the information. We need to consider who we want to mail this to, what groups, agencies, etc. It will require volunteers to contact any and every
potential fisheries worker. Possibly work in conjunction with the Data Directory that Fred is working on, being sure that there isn’t much overlap. Who will get a copy? How much will it cost? Will we provide it for free. Perhaps provide an electronic copy. Are there companies that will make the copies of electronic version for a reasonable price? Possibly put the application on the Internet home page for people to fill out. Fred has already made contact with Lance and they are working together. We need to better define the categories, those listed don’t seem to be applicable. Mark will send out a clean copy to all the EXCOM for comments.

FAN (Fisheries Action Network) - Mike Reed
Paul Brouha has asked that each chapter appoint one person to be a FAN coordinator that can work with the national group. This would provide for information transfer between FAN and the states. It would be a resource for searching for regional experts on specific topics. Mike will contact Richard Stevens of the parent society and find out exactly what this entails and what they need from us.

Urban Fishing - Ray Whitney
The document has been through most of the committee and the editorial changes have been made and should be ready to print soon. Ray feels that he can do the layout and get it done quickly.

Pond Management - Malcolm Johnson
The document has been combined and is ready for printing. Possibly get Texas A&M to print it in exchange for using the information. The groups that use the info should pay for printing this and the Urban Fishing document. If TPWD is using it or handing it out they should help with printing. What about format? Do we want to go to a three color format and class it up? Would this be cost prohibitive for the sponsoring agencies or groups. The group discussed having a standard format for each of our publications. Beverly volunteered to coordinate the standardization of these publications. She will work with Steve and Joe in accomplishing this goal.

Editorial - Joe Fries
He was going to check and see if proceedings were going out to some of the abstracting services or other outlets so that the papers published are out for citation. Dick Luebke suggested checking with AFS headquarters to see how they distribute abstracts for the Transactions and other publications.

OLD BUSINESS
Bylaws - Pat Hutson
When we initiated the changes to our bylaws we sent them to the constitutional committee for review. After many phone calls they said they got the impression that all members should be members of the national chapter. They have stated this needs to be reviewed again when we clarify this statement. Once this is cleared up they will put us on their agenda during the midyear EXCOM in March for another review. According to the parent society all elected officers and committee chairs should be members of the parent society. We are in violation of that section (re: officers and chairs) and have to comply. We have to resubmit the new changes. It does not need to be published but mentioned to the membership at large at the next meeting and hear their opinion. Pat will make the changes and resubmit.
Comptroller’s ID number - What is the status of getting one?

**Endowments Committee - Allen Forshage**
Steve asked the committee to come up with a letter that we could send to possible sponsors who want to donate money. Has this been accomplished? Wouldn’t our membership brochure serve this purpose? Brochures should be printed and given to Allen so that he can prepare a cover letter.

**NEW BUSINESS**
none

Meeting adjourned [3:45pm]

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For More Information Contact:

Kathy Ramos  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
11045 Spur 164, Tyler, TX 75709  
Tel: 903-592-7570  
Internet: [tylerhat@ballistic.com](mailto:tylerhat@ballistic.com)

Send mail to [fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us) with questions or comments