President’s Message
by Charlie Munger

You and Your Chapter

I will start by thanking everyone who has served this chapter over the years and the current slate of officers and committee members and chairs. Together we have accomplished a lot and the chapter has grown significantly both in size and quality since its initial formation in 1975. As we head into our 25th year, I think we also owe many thanks to those initial members who had the vision to form this Chapter. I hope they look on the current Texas Chapter with pride knowing it would not have been possible without their willingness to volunteer and serve, for it has been service that has gotten the Chapter this far.

What has the chapter accomplished in the past 25 years? We have hosted both a national AFS meeting and a Southeastern meeting. We have published and updated Texas Farm Ponds: Stocking, Assessment, and Management Recommendations and have pioneered using the internet to disseminate information and distribute publications. We have published a Guide to Urban Fishing that has been a very popular download at the website. We have sponsored college scholarships, special speakers, and have developed our proceedings into peer reviewed literature. We have conducted continuing education sessions that help educate our members about new developments in fisheries or that refresh information learned years ago. We are continuing work to establish student sub-units at Texas Tech and Stephen F. Austin University. Our meetings create the opportunity to network with our peers in our own departments and with other professionals in other departments – state, federal, and private.

That brings me to my next point – have you taken the opportunity to serve your Chapter since you joined and if not, what is preventing you? Do you perceive that the workload that may come from committee membership may be more than you can handle with your current work or that you feel you are not qualified for the position? Is it that you see active participation as a waste of time, that nothing will be accomplished anyway except for meetings? Or maybe you have signed up for a committee in the past and nobody ever contacted you to help so you say why bother. I would suggest that you don’t sit back and let opportunity pass you by. If the committee isn’t as active as you would like, volunteer to chair, if the committee has too much going on, recruit new members. The Chapter is only as good as its members.

Everything we have done could not have been accomplished without active participation by members. I encourage you to evaluate your participation in the Chapter and ask yourself “Could I do more?” It doesn’t take a commitment of large amounts of time to serve on any committee and you don’t have to be an “expert” to serve. Most of the committees and offices only require an hour or two a month or less. As the old adage goes “many hands make light work.” The more...
people we have participating in committees, the easier the work will be and the more we will be able to do. Active participation gives you the opportunity to learn and experience new things and to make new connections. It is all part of professional development. Next time you have the opportunity to sign up or the nominating committee contacts you, ask yourself if your profession and your personal development are worth the small amount of time requested of you. I think if you honestly evaluate the benefits, your answer will be yes. See you at the annual meeting.

“The more you fish the more you start seeing these things the way a farmer does: it doesn’t have to be great, just please don’t let it be awful.” John Gierach

November EXCOM Minutes
by Debbie Wade

Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society
Date November 28, 2000
Present: Bobby Miller, John Prentice, John Moczygemba, Fred Janssen, Aaron Barkoh, Gordon Linam, Bruce Hysmith, Ken Kurzawski, Charlie Munger

Charlie Munger called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Treasurer’s Report: The current combined assets of the TCAFS are $42,452.78 with $33,835.28 in our investments and $8,617.50 in checking. This is a slight drop from the third quarter due to a downward trend in the Stock Market which as stabilized, with our assets still greater than they were at this time last year. Expenses for this quarter total $330.30 for postage and stationary for the mailout ballots and invitations to founding members of TCAFS. Income was $1322.00 and included our annual scholarship check from W.H.A.T. dues and early meeting registrations.

Newsletter: Brian Van Zee: $0.92 a copy. Mailed out 140 copies and emailed 150 newsletters out to individuals. Robert Mauk is taking over as the Newsletter editor after the December issue.

Awards: John Prentice: has received nominations for fisheries awards. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2000

Editorial: Aaron Barkoh: Proceedings have been sent to Parent Society AFS and should have them printed and ready to go by the January meeting. 45 abstracts and 1 paper. This year’s meeting had 8 abstracts on the original deadline, an appeal for abstracts has been sent out resulting in an additional 3. Tom Dorzab and Spencer Dumont may withdraw their submissions. Many of the papers are student papers. Several University professors were suggested for abstract submissions.

Endowments: Mike Brice: WHAT has sent us $1000.00. A guided trip was designated to be sent to WHAT as our donation to their annual fundraiser.

Issues: No Report

Membership: No Report

Continuing Education: Bruce Hysmith: T.O Smith – Human Dimensions social, financial and religious, Shirley Thompson – Creative Services - Audio Visual aids has prepared the necessary media and sent it to Bruce, may require TCAFS member do the presentation, and Steve Pritchett – Environmental Crime unit (Law Enforcement). The time slot will be on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Nominating: John Moczygemba: President elect: Bob Edwards and Gene Wilde, Secretary/Treasurers: Kevin Pope and Deborah Wade. Ballots will go out in early December deadline to return will be January 16. Will need a prize for the mail-out ballots.

Pond Management: Ken Kurzawski: Trying to make organized publications on pond/plant/animal management available to people who are seeking information. A great deal of confusion as to the roles of private and public sector in aiding pond owners in their efforts to manage their ponds. 963 copies of the Pond Management Book have been downloaded from the website as of 11/25/00. We need to send a royalty check for the pictures. The possibility of having private consultants and managers listed on the Webpage was discussed at length with ExCom agreeing to investigate the possibility of working with The Texas Aquaculture Association to put their (Vendor/membership) list on our webpage.

Publicity/Exhibits: Bobby Miller: Two organizations have paid for Booth rental for the 2001 meeting. He is still seeking auction and raffle items if you have anything or know of anyone who may wish to donate.

Student Outreach: No Report

Internet: Fred Janssen: List of hits to the webpage, and updates from Aaron. Will start posting meeting information as he gets it. The Pond Management Book has been downloaded 963 times since it was posted on the website in June as a result a royalty check will need to be sent to Joe Tomelleri for his artwork.
2001 meeting: Dave Peterson should have the artwork complete this week. The original print will be placed in the auction/raffle and it will be the basis for the meeting T-Shirt. Comfort Inn has been designated the Meeting Motel; $45.00 for every 20 room one complementary room will be received (512) 396-5665. Presentations: Aaron will order and arrange for Moderator:

Panel Discussion: Values of the Aquatic Environment - Rev. Terry Morgan – Religious Aspects of the Environment, Duty to be a good steward of the Environment; Economy Professor From A&M economic value, Frank Shockley from SFA – Social Aspects of the environment, Mayor of San Marcos will bring the value of the San Marcos River to the City

Electronic equipment will be available from several TPWD offices in the area. An update of expenses and Itenerary was presented to the ExCom

Mike Meador from the Southern Division may be present. The ExCom agreed to cover the cost of his room and to ask him to speak at the business meeting on Tuesday morning if possible.

SDAFS is requesting a plaque commemorating the development of the Chapters within the Southern Division for an upcoming anniversary meeting.

Old Business: TTU probably will be student subunit following January meeting. And SFA has been contacted regarding membership and student subunits.

New Business: There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

During our efforts to include both Texas Tech University and Stephen F. Austin University Student Chapters as Subunits of the Texas Chapter, our bylaws came under review by the Constitutional Consultant of the American Fisheries Society, Joe Margraf. He has suggested that we amend our bylaws to more accurately reflect the current bylaws of the Parent Society and to allow inclusion of the student subunits. The following is the full text of each Section that had changes proposed. Additions to the bylaws are indicated by underline and deletions by strikeout text. Please review these changes as we will be voting on the changes at our annual meeting in San Marcos in January.

Section 4

Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, President-Elect and a Secretary/Treasurer. Elected officers must be members in good standing of the Chapter and the American Fisheries Society.

Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer holds office for a period of two years, but the term of the other officers shall be until the next annual meeting. In case of a vacated position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement to fill an unexpired term. The President-Elect shall automatically ascend to the office of President, at the annual meeting or if the position of President is vacated.

In the event of a cancellation of an annual meeting, the officers and the members of any committees shall continue to serve until the next scheduled meeting.

Section 6

Executive Committee

The executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, and the Immediate Past President, and President(s) of Student Subunit(s) operating under the auspices of the Chapter. The committee is authorized to act for the Chapter between meetings and to perform appropriate duties and functions. Elected officers must be members in good standing of the Chapter and the American Fisheries Society.

Section 9

Voting and Quorum

Decisions at meetings of the Chapter shall be by simple majority, except where a larger majority is in order based on the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised and for changes to the bylaws as set forth in Section 11. A quorum at any annual meeting for the transaction of official business shall be 20 members.

Section 11

Amendments of the Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Chapter may be amended and approved in accordance with Article VI and VII of the Constitution of the American Fisheries Society. Proposed amendments shall be provided in writing to the membership at least 30 days prior to the vote, and their adoption shall require approval of a 2/3 majority of those present and voting and by Section 9 of these Bylaws.
TX Chapter Annual Meeting
by Gordon Linam

Plans for the Texas Chapter's Silver Anniversary scheduled to be held in San Marcos from Sunday, January 21 through Tuesday, January 23, 2001 are progressing well. Motel rooms have been blocked at the Comfort Inn located at 1611 IH 35 North. Their telephone number is (512) 396-5665. Room rates are $45.00 plus tax for single and double rooms. Be sure to mention you are attending the AFS meeting in order to get this rate.

The meeting will begin on Sunday afternoon (January 21) at the Aquarena Center (Aquarena Springs Drive) with three continuing education workshops to choose from including: Environmental Crimes Investigation; Human Dimensions; and Audio Visual Preparation. Following the workshops, those wishing to may tour Aquarena Springs on a glass bottom boat ride. In addition, during this time period immediately following the continuing education workshops but prior to the mixer, students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with fisheries professionals who regularly review applications and resumes in order to get tips on filling out applications and putting a resume together. One or more of the rooms at the Aquarena Center will be set aside for this. Feel free to bring a resume and even an application you may be working on for their review.

The meeting picks up on Monday morning at the San Marcos Activity Center (501 E. Hopkins). As reported in the last newsletter, the theme of this year's conference is “Values and the Aquatic Environment”. The panel members lined up to address this issue during Monday morning’s panel discussion include: Mayor David Chui, City of San Marcos; Dr. Richard Woodward, Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University; Rev. Terri Morgan, Christian Life Commission; and Mr. Frank Shockley, College of Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University. Technical sessions will follow. A fair number of exhibitors have already reserved space at the meeting as well (be sure to stop by their booths during breaks and as time allows).

On Monday night we will recognize the charter members of our Chapter as part of the 25th Anniversary celebration which will include a very large cake. The keynote address will be co-presented by Ed Bonn (our first Chapter president and retired Texas Parks and Wildlife fisheries biologist) and Richard Luebke (also a past Chapter president, charter member, and manager of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Heart of the Hills Research Station). Bar-B-Que brisket (prepared by Kip Portis) and all the trimmings will be served. The Publicity/Exhibits Committee has been performing their usual great job of gathering raffle items and things for the auction. Anyone wishing to contribute to the list of raffle items should contact Bobby Miller at (281) 474-2811.

The meeting will conclude on Tuesday with a business meeting; however, Hydrolab Corporation has offered to put on a free maintenance workshop on Tuesday afternoon in the A.E. Wood Hatchery Conference Room (507 Staples Road). Anyone interested in attending this workshop should sign up at the Hydrolab exhibitors booth.

Have a blessed Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in January.

A Warm Christmas Wish

LAST CALL - DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS DECEMBER 15, 2000

INFORMATION IS IN THIS NEWSLETTER OR CONTACT: John Prentice, Heart of the Hills Research Station, HC7, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025, Phone 830-866-3356, Fax 830-866-3549, e-mail jprentic@ktc.com
**TCAFS Registration Form**
San Marcos, Texas, January 21-23, 2001

Registration includes access to all technical sessions, the continuing education workshops, the Student/Professional Mixer, and the Banquet. Early registrants will receive a commemorative T-shirt especially designed for the meeting. Please circle shirt size: L, XL, XXL. The deadline for early registration is January 3, 2001. Please fill out one form per person.

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| Student - will work for free lodging (first come basis) |

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*Student registration and membership is for full-time, currently registered students only.*

Continuing Education: Please check the box(es) indicating the time(s) and course(s) you wish to attend. This will facilitate planning for seating and handouts.

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Committees: Please check the box(es) for the committee(s) you are willing to serve on.

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*Subcommittees of the Issues Committee.

Mail completed registration (1 form per person) and payment to:

Debbie Wade, TX Chapter AFS Treasurer, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX  75751
FISHERIES AWARDS

Last Call for Nominations

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding work in Fisheries? The Texas Chapter AFS awards committee would like to hear about this individual or group. Nominations based on the following criteria should be sent to John Prentice by December 15, 2000 at:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Heart of the Hills Research Station
HC7, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025
Phone (830) 866-3356, Fax (830) 866-3549
E-mail = jprentic@ktc.com

Each year nominations are solicited for Special Recognition and Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in seven (7) categories: Administration, Culture, Education, Management, Research, Technical Support, and Fisheries Student.

AWARD CRITERIA

Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year

- Nominations can be made only by members in good standing.
- The recipient must be a member in good standing.
- The award is based on fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas and can span more than one year.
- The worker may not be on the Awards Committee.

Administration

1) Development of innovative management programs, research activities, or facilities that significantly affect fisheries management and conservation on a regional or statewide level.
2) Leadership in implementation of regulations or management programs that address regional or statewide fisheries issues.
3) Development of new sources of funding for fisheries programs.
4) Leadership in the development of public outreach or recognition/award programs.
5) Significant and effective promotion of fisheries management and conservation activities on a regional or statewide level.

Culture

1) Development of techniques that produce fish more safely, more efficiently, or more economically.
2) Development of methods that produce species not formerly cultured.
3) Development of procedures that produce more fish.
4) Participation in the development of equipment that benefited fish culture.
5) Promotion of fish culture.
6) Participation in the production of a record number of fish (may be station- or species-specific).

Education

1) Development of an innovative approach to fisheries education as illustrated through development of a new or revised course or curriculum.
2) Publication of a journal article, extension publication, book, or book chapter that contributed significantly to fisheries education.
3) Contribution of notable service in public education programs.
4) Development of educational media (software, videotape, slide-tape, etc.) that contributed significantly to fisheries education.
5) Outstanding contributions to the profession through service as an officer or other leader of an educational organization (e.g., the Education Section of the American Fisheries Society).

Management

1) Development of management plans or strategies or implementation of management practices (reservoir or pond management plans, pre-impoundment work, habitat work, development of urban fisheries). This would include private water work.
2) Education of the public in areas of fishing or fisheries management (conducting fishing clinics, educational programs, contact with various media, development of brochures, newsletters, bulletin boards, fliers, popular articles, etc.).
3) Coordination with different agencies (cities, counties, or federal government) or reservoir controlling authorities to develop or implement management strategies.
4) Participation in professional scientific organizations in the fisheries field to include offices held, committees served on, or other activities accomplished for the organization.
Research
1) Research contribution should add to the understanding of a biological problem or to solving a resource problem.
2) Research contribution can be basic, applied, or a combination.
3) Research contribution should have been disseminated, in order of importance, in a peer-reviewed journal, non-peer reviewed publication, or an oral presentation.
4) Participation in professional and public organizations in the fisheries research field that comment on, advise, or review research activities.
5) In order of importance, the nominee's role in a research project should be directing the project or program, establishing the project or program, analyzing data, or conceiving the project or program.

Technical Support
1) Development of new or improved design and/or construction of equipment used in field sampling, culture, lab analyses, etc.
2) Participation in some outstanding or unique management, research or culture activities which aided the fisheries profession.
3) Participation in education programs for fisheries workers or the public.
4) Accomplishments resulting in new or improved techniques or efficiency.

Fisheries Student
1) Only Texas Chapter AFS members in good standing can make nominations. All members who have knowledge of student performance or activities are encouraged to make nominations for this award.
2) The nominee must be a member in good standing and must be enrolled in, or recently graduated from, a Texas College or University since the last Texas Chapter AFS annual meeting.
3) Students can be nominated at any time during their tenure for work spanning single or multiple years, but no later than 12 months after graduation.
4) Notable accomplishments by the nominee should include one or more of the following:
   a. Student research which adds to the understanding, or solution, of a fisheries-related problem. Research can be basic or applied in nature, can involve nongame or game species, and need not be conducted in the State of Texas.
   b. Dissemination of research results in, in order of importance, a peer-reviewed publication, thesis or dissertation, non-refereed publication, or an oral presentation.
   c. Involvement in professional organizations, including participation in committees, organizing or moderating a technical session at a professional meeting, or serving in a peer-elected office.
   d. Academic excellence.
   e. Merit-based scholarships or grants.
5) Honorable mention may be awarded, for recent graduates only (those who have graduated within 12 months after the last Texas Chapter AFS annual meeting), if more than one nominee is considered Outstanding by the Awards Committee members.
6) The award will not be made in any year for which no appropriate candidates are nominated.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work
- Nominations can be made only by members in good standing.
- The recipient may or may not be a member.
- The recipient may be an individual or an organization.
- Recognition should be based on fisheries-related work done in the State of Texas, but can span more than one year.
- Work may, but does not have to, fit into the 7 categories listed above.

Remember – Everything about this award and recognition program starts with YOU nominating someone!

CONTINUING EDUCATION
by Bruce Hysmith

As in the past, continuing education will include multiple classes taught concurrently. Human Dimensions will be taught by T.O. Smith - T.O. is going to give a brief synopsis of his job and then tantalize our brain cells with a provocative presentation on “Valuation of the Aquatic Environment”. Shirley Thompson of Creative Services, Austin HQ, is putting together a presentation on “Audio/visual planning and preparation”. She will cover popular specifics on “how to make a presentable figure from a table full of data”, “how to present statistics in a simple manner” (little fishes work for me here), “choosing appropriate backgrounds”, and finally
“how to add pictures without breaking the data storage bank”. I don’t know how many of you TPWDers have used creative services, but Shirly does an exemplary job. You won’t want to miss this one. Last, but far from least, Captain Steve Pritchett of TPWD Law Enforcement Division who head up the recently created Enviromental Crime Unit (ECU) will present a class on what the ECU is and a little history about this group and how they operate. He will also cover criteria for making an environmental crime and follow-up action. Steve will also entertain questions. We probably all come across incidents that could classify as environmental crimes, but may not know how to report them or to whom. This class is designed to bring us up to snuff so our observations don’t go unacted upon. Continuing education will begin at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 21 and conclude at 4:00 pm. Each of the three classes will be presented twice, allowing you to attend your choice of two classes. Classes will be held in the Aquarena Center (Spring Lake Complex). Immediately following continuing education and in the same general area will be tours of Aquarena Springs in the glass-bottom-boat. And after the glass-bottom-boat comes mixer time.....all in the same area.....education, tour, and fellowship.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS
by John Moczynska

First I would like to thank committee members, Paul Hammerschmidt (TPWD, Austin) and Joe Kraai (TPWD, San Angelo) for their help. Paul was responsible for printing the ballots and getting them mailed.

This year we will elect a President-elect, which is done every year, and a Secretary/Treasurer, which is done every other year. The candidates for President-elect are Bob Edwards (Biology Department, University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg) and Gene Wilde (Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock). The candidates for Secretary/Treasurer are Kevin Pope (Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock) and Deborah Wade (TPWD, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens).

The procedures will be the same as last year. Paul has mailed the ballots out and you may already have it. The mail-out will include each nominee’s resume and their vision for the Texas Chapter in the future. The ballot will have a stamp on it and it is already addressed, mail it in by Tuesday, January 16, 2001, especially if you do not plan to make the meeting. Everyone who mails in his or her ballot will be eligible to win a GREAT prize, which will be drawn at the annual meeting. However, you do not have to be present to win. If you come to the meeting and have not voted yet, there will be voting table at the registration desk. Just pick up a ballot, fill it out, and put it in the ballot box before 10:30 am Monday, January 22. The results will be announced at the business meeting on Tuesday, January 23. To be an eligible voter you must be a registered member, so make sure your dues are paid up.

ELECTRONIC DATA SOLUTIONS

HYDROLAB USER SEMINAR

Randy Glover, of Electronic Data Solutions, will be giving a workshop following the Texas Chapter AFS Annual meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2001, at 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. He will be covering such topics as maintenance and calibration, data logging and data transfer, deployment examples and tips, as well as answering any questions you may have. The workshop is free but the attendance is limited to 20 people. To register, contact Electronic Data Solutions at (208) 324-8006 or email them at elecdata@elecdata.com and tell them you’re interested in attending the workshop and give them your name, address, phone number, and email address.
March 16-17 Texas A&M University Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences/Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will co-host the first ever STATEWIDE program entitled Bass 101-Managing Ponds and Lakes for Better Bass Fishing. This program targets private pond owners with complete management information on how to manage their ponds, lakes, and reservoirs for better bass fishing. The program will include speakers recognized regionally for the expertise in fish pond management. The program will begin with pond construction and renovation techniques mid-afternoon on Friday the 16th at the Cain Center in Athens. That first day will end at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center with a tour, social, and panel discussions on improving fishing in ponds and marketing fishing opportunities on private land. Saturday, March 17th will be a full day devoted to presentations by experts on all aspects of managing Texas private waters for better fishing. Included in the topics on Saturday will be water quality, stocking and management strategies, improving existing ponds, aquatic vegetation management, troubleshooting problems, and an ask the experts panel. Pre-registration by March 1, 2001 is $50 per person and $75 after March 1 and at the door. Along with the program will be a Trade Show. Exhibitors will also be invited to setup booths in the trade show at a cost of $200 per booth. Each participant will receive a program proceedings full of pond management information. For further information contact Dr. Michael Masser-TAMU at 979-845-7473 or mmasser@wfscgate.tamu.edu.

The Texas Chapter has an excellent web page (www.sdafs.org/tcafs) maintained by Fred Janssen where you can find past newsletters, annual meeting updates, Chapter publications, interesting links, and the like. Be sure to check it out around the first part of January for a detailed agenda for our Silver Anniversary meeting.

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 Dr. Kevin Pope, Box 42125, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2125, (806) 742-2843, k pope@ttu.edu or the newsletter editor to obtain application information.

Next Newsletter submission deadline: March 2, 2001 ………….Spring Issue

Submissions are encouraged. Submit a hard copy or a .TXT file by mail or email to the editor at tpwdif2f@wf.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
409 Chester Ave.
Wichita Falls, TX  76301