President's Message
Fran Gelwick

The TCAFS Executive Committee had a productive meeting in Grapevine to discuss plans for our Annual Chapter meeting. Not to steal Dave’s thunder (see more in report from VP Dave Terre), but it also looks to be a very family-friendly meeting. I also want to acknowledge Dave’s efforts in recruiting our new Co-chairs for the Publicity and Exhibits committee, and to welcome Michael Baird and John Findeisen, who will be serving TCAFS in those positions. In addition, I welcome the service of Dave Peterson who accepted the Chairmanship of the Awards Committee. I anticipate that all TCAFS members will cooperate enthusiastically when called upon to help these committees as they carry out their charges. Finally, I encourage each of you to consider sharing the results of your hard work by presenting or co-authoring a paper or poster at the annual meeting and publishing in our Annual Proceedings!

TCAFS Annual Meeting Update
Dave Terre

This year’s annual meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World in Grapevine, Texas on January 21-23, 2005. Our theme, “Bass Management in Texas” will be the topic of a special contributed paper session. We hope to show how today’s managers (public and private) are addressing problems or issues related to bass management and how some have found innovative ways to work with constituency groups to accomplish management goals. If you are interested in participating in this special session, please contact Dave Terre as soon as possible. As always, we warmly welcome contributed papers and poster presentations from all areas of aquatic research and management. We also strongly encourage student participation/involvement with this meeting. Authors should refer to the “Call for Papers” article to learn how to submit their work for presentation at this meeting.

Other highlights of our meeting will include a Continuing Education Workshop on Friday afternoon and a Student/Professional Mixer on Friday evening. Our Annual Banquet and Live Auction will be held on Saturday night at the hotel. There will be Contributed Paper Sessions all day Saturday and on Sunday morning. Poster Presentations and Business Vendor Exhibits will be available to you during the entire meeting. Our meeting will conclude by noon on Sunday.

This year’s meeting will be held over a weekend (Friday-Sunday), so please bring your family and take advantage of the many attractions available in the Grapevine area. Whether it’s fishing, golf, shopping or sight-seeing that you’re interested in, Grapevine has it all! For more information, please visit the Grapevine Convention and Visitor Bureau website at http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com/. Our conference hotel, the Embassy Suites Outdoor World, offers first class accommodations, including great rooms, an indoor heated swimming pool, and a fully-equipped exercise room. For more information, please visit their web site at http://www.embassysuitesoutdoorworld.com/. Also, during your stay, you will be offered a discount on all items purchased from Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World. Bass Pro
Shops provides one-stop shopping for all your outdoor recreation and clothing needs and is interconnected, via a short indoor walkway, to the Embassy Suites Hotel. For more information, please visit the Bass Pro Shops website at http://www.basspro.com/servlet/catalog.CFPage?appID=94&storeID=18

The Embassy Suites Hotel and TCAFS have negotiated very special room rates for our conference (only $109.00 for a single or double and $129.00 for a triple or quad). These rates include a full cook-to-order breakfast each morning and a two-hour happy hour each evening for each guest! We will also offer a special room rates for students ($80.00 per night) but the number of rooms at his rate are limited.

Please call 972-724-2600 and make your room reservations today! Be sure to tell them that you are with the “Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society”. Room availability at these special rates can only be guaranteed until December 22nd. Act now!

TCAFS ExCom Meeting
Paula Hawkins

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Fran Gelwick. In attendance were Fran Gelwick, Paula Hawkins, Dave Terre, John Moczygamba, Bruce Hysmith, Larry Hysmith, Debbie Wade, Michael Baird, Tom Hungerford, and Rafe Brock.

Editorial – 2003 Proceedings are posted on webpage; copies will be made and distributed in September for University libraries. The 2004 Proceedings will be ready in December, 2004. First call for papers will be announced. Deadline will be December 10, 2004. Dave Terre would like to designate some part of the annual meeting to Largemouth Bass. Dave will be gathering ideas from the Annual American Fisheries Society meeting in August for agenda items as well as speakers to invite.

Education – A student workshop will be held on Friday, of the annual meeting 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm; then the CEU class (graphics workshop) will be 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Pond Management – The committee has completed revisions for several new and existing sections of the pond management manual and is finalizing revisions for a couple other sections. These sections will be incorporated into the manual within the next few months. The References sections has received a major face lift with the addition of a wealth of new citations for publications and a sub-section containing relevant website links. Revision of pond management will be out by the end of December. Manual should be available on the TCAFS, TPWD and TAMU COOP Extension websites by the end of 2004.

Secretary/Treasurer – Set up of the annual meeting (January 21 – 23, 2005) is underway and the contract for Embassy Suites in Grapevine (adjacent to Bass Pro Shop) has been signed. We are working out details of cost and looking for sponsorship to offset some cost to the chapter. We will have two undergraduate and two graduate scholarships presented at the annual meeting. It was decided to have awards and scholarships announced at the end of the technical session on Saturday. There will be a reception Friday evening (professional/student mixer) set up near the poster presentation area.

It was suggested to have poster authors available from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm on Saturday to speak with attendees and judges. A box lunch will be provided.

Endowment – Still looking for a committee chair.

Pond Management Committee
Craig Bonds

Here is a synopsis of the TCAFS Pond Management Committee's efforts to date:

1) We have completed revisions for several new and existing sections of the pond management manual and are finalizing revisions for a couple other sections.
2) These sections will be incorporated into the manual within the next few months.
3) The References sections has received a major face lift with the addition of a wealth of new citations for publications and a sub-section containing relevant website links.
4) We are in the process of editing the entire document to make needed clarifications, additions, and deletions.
5) We are on track and looking forward to posting this revised edition of this very popular pond manual on our TCAFS, TPWD, and TAMU COOP Extension websites by the end of 2004.
6) Thanks to committee members Bob Lusk, Dr. Fran Gelwick, Dr. John Taylor, Dr. Michael Masser, Dr. Ya-Sheng Juan, John Tibbs, Greg Conley, Fred Janssen, Charlie Munger, and Peter Schaefer for their hard work.
Nominating Committee
John Moczygemba

It is Election Time Again, but with a New Twist

This year we will be electing a new President-elect and a new Secretary/Treasurer. Just in case you do not know what these officers are supposed to do, here are the major duties of each office:

President-elect:
1. Assumes the duties of President if the current president is unable to complete the term.
2. Works closely with the President so that Chapter activities will continue smoothly in the next year.
3. Serves as a voting member of the Chapter's Executive Committee (EXCOM).
4. After consultation with other members of the EXCOM and interested sponsors, selects time and place and develops the theme for annual meeting approximately one year in advance. Develops and distributes call for papers and promotional materials for the Annual Chapter meeting well in advance.
5. Extends an invitation to Southern Division and Society Presidents, and the Executive Director, to attend annual Chapter meeting at least three months before the meeting.
6. Coordinates the printing of the program for the meeting.
7. Runs technical sessions of annual meeting or delegates this responsibility.
8. Prepares write-ups for Fisheries concerning Chapter activities and programs. These should include a meeting announcement within three months prior to the annual Chapter meeting and a meeting report within one month following the annual Chapter meeting.

The most important duty is planning the annual meeting; especially since the 2006 meeting will be held in conjunction with the Southern Division, AFS Meeting in San Antonio. This meeting will be in February 2006. The President-elect will be working closely with Dave Terre, the incoming President, to not only organize the Texas Chapter business meeting, but to get the Southern Division Meeting put together.

Secretary/Treasurer:
1. Prepares and distributes minutes of all Chapter and Executive Committee meetings to the Chapter Executive Committee and Newsletter editor. Sends minutes of annual Chapter meeting to the AFS Executive Director within 30 days after the annual Chapter meeting. Minutes and newsletters should also be sent to the Southern Division President.
2. Prepares correspondence as requested by officers of the Chapter.
3. Serves as a voting member of the Chapter Executive Committee.
4. Informs the Executive Director, the Division President, and AFS parent society staff of changes in officers, dates and locations of meetings, and other necessary information. Notifies Executive Director of change in officers within 30 days of annual Chapter meetings.
5. Distributes copies of resolutions to the Chapter President, the Executive Director, the AFS parent society officers, the Division President, and appropriate individuals or agencies, as instructed in the resolution.
6. Is responsible for pre-registration and registration for the annual Chapter meeting and other planned activities.
7. Ascertains if a quorum (see Bylaws) is present at the annual Chapter meeting for official actions.
8. Maintains letterhead and other supplies necessary for Chapter functions.
9. Orders a Past-President's plaque at least eight weeks prior to the annual Chapter meeting.
10. Maintains historical records of the activities, minutes, members, and other aspects of the Chapter, and forwards these records to the incoming Secretary and to the AFS headquarters, as requested.
11. Keeps a copy of Chapter Bylaws on hand and is familiar with their content for consultation at Chapter meetings. Forwards any proposed Bylaw changes to the Executive Director for review by the AFS Constitutional Consultant prior to presentation of changes to the Society's Executive Committee for approval.
12. Receives, holds, and disburses funds as needed for Chapter functions as approved by AFS Parent Society rules and the Chapter's Executive Committee.

13. Maintains financial records and is responsible for the Texas Chapter's bank account.

14. Prepares financial records for presentation at the annual Chapter business meeting.

We will prepare an election slate that we hope can fulfill those duties. The Nominating Committee is soliciting suggestions from the membership for these offices. If you have someone you think can accomplish the duties of President-elect, send me a name and why you think that individual can do the job. (mail: Lake Texoma Fisheries Station, P.O. Box 1446, Pottsboro, Texas 75076 or email: john.moczygemba@tpwd.state.tx.us) Remember the President-elect and the Secretary/Treasurer must be members of the American Fisheries Society. The Nominating Committee and EXCOM will be narrowing the list of candidates down to two per office. Now the new twist comes into play. The Committee has been working with Fred Janssen, our Internet Guru, to set up online voting. Fred has already done some preliminary work and says everything looks like it will be ready. Voting will require a pin, so make sure your Chapter dues are paid up. Your pin will be the unique membership number the AFS will assign you as a paid up Texas Chapter member. You should contact Dennis Smith, Membership Committee Chairman, at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery to see if you are on the list (phone: 940-586-1203 or email: dennis.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us). As always for those who register at the meeting will be eligible to vote at that time. For those who come to meeting and did not vote online can vote at that time also. All who vote on line will be eligible for a great prize at a drawing during the business meeting. We will get another great prize again this year, so vote online.

Gene and Bart have prepared a provocative and informative presentation on graphics for scientific/technical presentations. Not only insure that your data are understood, prepare your graphics so that your data are not misunderstood. If you recall, we did an abbreviated version of this class at TC/AFS 2000 in San Marcos. The presentation was prepared by graphics personnel in Austin and was very informative. However, Gene and Bart are not only savvy about preparing graphics, they actually conduct the research and write the scientific paper as well, so their perception of good graphics incorporates all facets of research and publication/presentation. They don't just offer advice, the employ the same methods they will be presenting. This year we have only the one class and it will begin at 1:00 pm and conclude at 3:00 pm, with a short break in the middle.

So, join us on Friday, January 21, 2005 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and be provoked by that provocative duo from the Texas panhandle center for higher learning, Texas Tech University's own Gene Wilde and Bart Durham.

**Last Call for Papers**

All aquatic resources professionals, educators, students, and industry personnel are invited to submit abstracts for the technical and poster sessions of the 2004 TCAFS meeting in Grapevine, Texas. The deadline for abstract submission is December 1, 2004.

Please send abstracts by email attachments in MS Word format to Tim Bonner (Email: TBonner@txstate.edu). If submitting for “Special Session: Bass Management in Texas”, contact Dave Terre (Dave.Terre@tpwd.state.tx.us) for session purpose and scope before submitting abstract to T. Bonner.

Oral presentations will be 15 minutes (12-minute presentation and 3 minutes for questions. Projector and PC for PowerPoint Presentations will be provided. Slide projects will NOT be available.

Abstracts must follow the format:
Title and Authors: List all authors and contact information. Underline speaker’s name. Put (S) following the name of a student speaker.

Example:
**Temperature Effects on Gonadal and Somatic Growth of Channel Catfish**

MICHAEL TODD BYERLY (S) (405 #1 Kline Avenue, Lubbock, Texas 79416, mtbyerly@es.com)

REYNALDO PATIÑO (Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-2120, reynaldo.patino@ttu.edu)

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**Continuing Education**

Bruce Hysmith

Continuing Education for TC/AFS 2005 annual meeting will be:

"Presentation Graphics Workshop" by Gene Wilde and Bart Durham of Texas Tech University.
Abstract: Informative yet not more than 200 words and double-spaced.

Presentation: Indicate Oral (Computer Presentations only), Preferably Oral (but will accept poster presentation), or Poster Presentation.

Submitting for Special Session: Bass Management in Texas: Yes or No

Awards
Dave Peterson

Attention members - we encourage you to nominate candidates for awards in the areas of administration, culture, education, management, research, technical support, student and special recognition. We know there are professionals and students who excel in these areas every year, but we need Your help in verbalizing what may otherwise go unnoticed. There are those who go beyond the daily grind to help somebody out, to solve a problem, to answer a question...to make a difference. Please don't let it go unnoticed. It encourages excellence and nothing feels better than the appreciation of your peers. Help us out and submit a nominee today.

To nominate a deserving person for an award please check the TcAFS webpage for both criteria and to make the nomination http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/awards/awarmain.htm

Editor
Deborah Wade

TcAFS is our organization; we all make it what it is. Please take the time to consider contributing articles to the newsletter, participating on committees, attending the Annual meeting and participate in the meeting by making presentations.
TCAFS Registration Form
Grapevine, Texas
January 21 – 23, 2005

Registration includes access to all technical sessions, the continuing education workshops, the Student/Professional Mixer, and the banquet that will be held at the Hilton Hotel. The deadline for early registration is **January 07, 2005.**

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

Would like to be a Mentor at the Professional/Student Mixer __________

**WORKSHOPS AND CONTINUING ED:**

**Friday, January 21, 2005**

“Presentation Graphics Workshop” by Wilde and Durham of Texas Tech (1:00pm – 3:00pm)

“Student Workshop on Professionalism” by L. Hysmith (3:00pm – 5:00 pm)

Committees: Please indicate which 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:**

**Paula Hawkins, TX Chapter AFS Treasurer**

**15800 FM 1826**

**Austin, Texas 78737**

**Please make checks payable to TCAFS**
JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER

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

Next Newsletter submission deadline:
July 25, 2004 ………….Summer Issue

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

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PAST-PRESIDENT....................................... Gary Garrett
SECRETARY-TREASURER............................ Paula Hawkins

TX TECH STUDENT CHAPTER
PRESIDENT..................................................

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POND MANAGEMENT  Craig Bonds
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TCAFS WEB/HOME PAGE  Fred Janssen

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