President’s message:
by Dave Terre

Outstanding news for an outstanding chapter!

We received some great news in July and I have been on cloud-nine, ever since! I am extremely proud to announce that the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has been named the “2005 Outstanding Chapter” by our parent society in Bethesda, Maryland. Wow!

I am very proud of the fact that we are now receiving NATIONAL RECOGNITION for the hard work we do in this chapter. The lists of accomplishments have been many and I want to thank you all for your personal dedication to our organization, its mission, and the fisheries of Texas. I also want to extend my personal thanks to Ray Matthews and Fran Gelwick who did an awesome job putting together our nomination document. In addition, I want to thank all the people who played leadership roles on the key projects that made us deserving of this recognition.

I implore you to take this message and spread the word! Be proud of this accomplishment, as it is no small achievement. Let your local media outlets know that the TCAFS is the BEST AFS chapter in the country. I have been asked to attend the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting and accept this award on your behalf on September 12th. I will be taking them up on that offer and I am very proud to do it! Again, kudos to each and every member of TCAFS!

I am also proud to announce that Craig Bonds has been appointed as our new Editorial Committee Chairperson. Craig will replace Tim Bonner in that position but Tim will remain active on the editorial committee. I want to thank Tim for his leadership and the outstanding job he has done for us over the years. Tim remains very active in our chapter and is also serving as co-chair of the Program Committee for the TCAFS/SDAFS Annual Meeting in San Antonio. At the same time, I would like to welcome John Tibbs to the leadership ranks of TCAFS! John will replace Craig Bonds as chairperson of the Pond Management Committee. Craig took the pond management committee to a new level of excellence with the recent completion of a revised pond management manual. John, as a committee member, assisted Craig in these efforts. John and I have worked together on a number of projects in years past and I am excited about the new opportunities that are ahead of us. This chapter cannot be effective without leaders like the people I have mentioned above. Please get more involved in your chapter by volunteering for a committee appointment! The TCAFS provides wonderful opportunities for professional growth and development. Make a name for yourself among the fisheries professionals of Texas. We want (and need) you! Members who are interested in this can call me at anytime (903-566-1615 ext 202). My door is always open!
The TCAFS is gearing up for its annual meeting to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Antonio, February 8-12. If you thought our Grapevine meeting last year was great, wait until you see this meeting! We will “co-convene” our annual meeting with the Southern Division AFS Spring meeting which will certainly be an added bonus for our membership. We will have professionals there from across the Southern United States. This is a great opportunity for you to mingle with other fisheries professionals, hear about the latest research studies, and communicate the results of your own research, or fisheries programs, to a “national” audience. If you are a student, this is also an excellent time to find out about job opportunities and to meet potential employers. As usual, we will have special rates, activities, and workshops for Texas students. You will hear more about this meeting in the pages below. Please plan to attend this year’s annual meeting! I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio in February!

I am excited to see that the goals I’ve set for the chapter at the beginning of this year are being met, thanks to your hard work and dedication. I am proud to say that we are: 1) increasing the visibility of TCAFS in the eyes of the public and in private industry; 2) increasing student involvement in TCAFS and funding for our student scholarship program; and 3) recognizing our members, both past and present, for outstanding achievements or contributions to Texas Fisheries. One look through this newsletter and you will see evidence of all these things happening at TCAFS. I am so proud of you and what our chapter has become. Let’s continue to move forward and continue to be proud of the work we do. You are making a difference!

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**Come to the Texas Chapter 2006 Annual Meeting!**

*by Dave Terre*

This will indeed be a special year for us as we will co-convene our annual meeting with the Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on February 8-12, 2006. The Crowne Plaza Hotel-Riverwalk will be the site of our meeting which is located on the famous Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio (http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hd/satps). The Texas Chapter will be the host for this joint meeting where over 400 students and professionals are expected to attend. This is looking to be one of the best meetings we’ve ever had and you don’t want to miss it!

The overall theme for our meeting will be “Water Allocation for Fisheries”. This is a very important topic and will be the subject of our meeting’s Plenary Session on Saturday February 11th. Dr. Larry McKinney, TPW Coastal Fisheries Director and resident expert on water allocation issues in the Southern U.S and in Texas will be our special session speaker. We are also planning several special workshops and symposia on both inland and coastal fisheries topics. You will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with fisheries professionals from across the entire Southern U.S. You will hear results of on-going research studies both in Texas and across the entire south. I encourage you all to submit a paper or poster. If you do, you will get national exposure and recognition for your work here in Texas. Students will have plenty of opportunity to network with fisheries professionals and students from 14 different states, meet potential employers, and learn about research/job opportunities. In typical TCAFS fashion, we will have great social(s), a student professional mixer, a TCAFS fund raising raffle, and an awesome banquet for all conference attendees. We will honor our outstanding fisheries workers and students in Texas and announce our student scholarship winners for 2006.

See below for a tentative schedule of meeting activities:

**Wednesday, February 8th**

Travel day for conference attendees  
SDAFS/TCAFS planning meetings  
Evening activities on the Riverwalk!
Thursday, February 9th

Southern Division AFS committee meetings
LMBV workshop (to be announced)
A “Welcome to San Antonio” evening reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the San Antonio Riverwalk!

Friday, February 10th

Workshops:

- Bass angler/biologist/fishing industry presentation/panel discussion on bass management topics and issues affecting the Southern US - Sponsored by B.A.S.S., TPWD, and TCAFS
- Native aquatic plant establishment for habitat enhancement (workshop and field trip) - Sponsored by U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and TPW
- A special student workshop (topic to be announced)
- A special leadership workshop (for students and professionals)

SDAFS Business Meeting
Poster Session
TCAFS Trade Show
Special Symposia (topics to be announced)
Student/Professional mixer/social (evening)

Saturday, February 11th

Plenary Session – “Water allocation for fisheries” – Speaker: Dr. Larry McKinney
Special Symposia (topics to be announced)
Contributed Paper Sessions
Poster Session
TCAFS Trade Show
Student/Professional Mentor Luncheon
Banquet (evening)

Sunday, February 12th

Special Symposia (to be announced)
Contributed Paper Sessions
Poster Session
TCAFS Trade Show
TCAFS Awards Presentations and Business Meeting
Adjourn

Early registration rates for the meeting will be only $85.00; a bargain for all the activities, workshops, socials, and banquets that will be made available to you. Meeting participants will also enjoy luxurious accommodations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at a discounted special rate of $139 per night (single or double; triple and quad rates only a few dollars more). All meeting activities will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located on San Antonio Riverwalk so access to shops, restaurants, and watering holes are only a short walking distance, or river taxi ride, away! Students will be offered lower room rates ($105 per night) and opportunities to work at the meeting in exchange for free lodging.

Here is a list of FAQ’s about the meeting:

- How do I submit a paper or poster or participate in a special symposium?
Go to the following link and submit an abstract “on-line”. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Luebke (830-866-3356) or Tim Bonner (512-245-3549). The deadline for submitting a paper is December 1, 2005. 
http://www.sdafs.org/abstracts/login06.asp

- How do I make my hotel reservations?

Call the San Antonio Crowne Plaza Hotel-Riverwalk at 1-210-354-2800 to make your reservation NOW! Important: tell the operator that you are with the “American Fisheries Society 2006 Southern Division” (room block code A32). They can hold your reservation with any major credit card.

Please make your reservations early!!!! Special room rates and room availability will expire in January 2006. Only a limited number of rooms (20) are available at the special “student” rate of $105. These rooms can be reserved by students only, on a first come-first served basis.

Within a couple of weeks you will be able to make your reservations “on-line” via a link on our meeting website. Fred Janssen will be working on that.

More information on our conference hotel can be found at the following link: 
http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/hotel.htm

- How do I register for this meeting?

The Texas Chapter will begin taking registrations for the meeting beginning in mid-September. All registration materials, early registration deadlines, and other information will be posted at the meeting website. Please keep checking this site for details of the meeting and turn in your registrations early to take advantage of the cheaper pre-registration rates.

http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/default.htm

Feel free to contact Paula Hawkins (512-389-4859) with any questions or problems with your registration.

I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio in February! We are going to have a great meeting.

**Southern Division AFS Committee Chairs**

General Chair – David Terre  
Program Chair(s) - Tim Bonner / Dick Luebke  
Abstracts / Posters – Craig Bonds  
Audio / Visual – Danny Lewis  
Communications – Fred Janssen  
Fund Raising / Exhibits – Brian VanZee / Charlie Munger  
Local Arrangements / Finance – Ken Kurzawski  
Registration – Paula Hawkins  
Student Activities - Fran Gelwick / Mark Webb  
Signs – Debbie Wade  
Workshops – John Taylor
President elect’s message:  
Volunteerism is critical to the success of your chapter - Get involved! 
by Deborah Wade

We recently had an excellent planning session for our joint meeting with the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. A lot of exciting ideas were brought up for the meeting. First, the meeting is in San Antonio on the Riverwalk! Wow, who could ask for a better location to have a meeting? With the topical theme of “Water Allocation for Fisheries”, people are coming from across the Southern U.S. to attend this meeting. The opportunity for students to interact with professionals from state and federal agencies will be incredible. I want to encourage as many students as possible to attend and present their research at this meeting.

I want to challenge every one of you to first encourage a friend, or co-worker, to join TCAFS and secondly to volunteer for a work assignment at this meeting. If everyone contributes just a little bit of their time, we will have an OUTSTANDING and SUCCESSFUL meeting. I strongly encourage students to work at this meeting and take advantage of some free lodging that will be offered to our student members. Students who are interested in this should contact me ASAP.

One area where we currently need volunteers is with Dave Peterson, our Awards Committee Chairperson, who is looking for nominations for our chapter awards. There are many people out there who deserve to be recognized and we would like to see them nominated for awards this year. So please take the time to look at the award criteria and nominate your co-workers for the good work they do. Dave is also looking for volunteers to serve on this committee. Activities would include the evaluation and judging of award nominations and helping with judging presentations at this year’s annual meeting. This is a great committee to be involved with and I want to personally encourage anyone that might be interested to get in touch with Dave Peterson, Dave Terre, or me.

To think all of this is coming on top of being recognized as 2005 Chapter of the Year by our parent society. Congratulations to you all!! This recognition is the result of the efforts of all of our members. Please come to San Antonio and show the Southern Division why we are the 2005 AFS Chapter of the Year!

I’ll see you all this February in San Antonio.

July Excom meeting notes
by Michael Brice, Secretary Treasurer

TCAFS EXCOM Business Meeting, TPWD Inland Fisheries Region 3 office, Tyler  
Tuesday, July 26th 1:00 – 4:00

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. In attendance were Dave Terre, Michael Brice, Craig Bonds, Debbie Wade, Kevin Storey, Dennis Smith, Bruce Hysmith, John Moczygemba, and Aaron Jubar.

Call to order and announcements – Dave Terre (President)
- A plan is needed for tracking operating money and endowment money separately
- An article of the history of the Pond Management Manual needs to be included in a future newsletter
- A co-chairman for the awards committee is needed to work along side Dave Peterson
- The Outstanding Chapter Award application has been completed by Fran Gelwick and Ray Matthews and submitted to AFS
• TCAFS and TPWD will offer a bid for hosting the 2009 AFS Meeting in San Antonio. TCAFS President Dave Terre will formally present this bid along with San Antonio representatives in September at the AFS Meeting in Anchorage.

**Treasurer’s report** – Michael Brice (Secretary/Treasurer)

- Portfolio Summary (July statement)
  - Total value: $30,987.07
  - Cash money accounts: $13,708.00
  - Mutual funds: $17,363.00

- Deposits since last EXCOM:
  - Endowment contributions: $750.00
  - Reimbursement of TCAFS chapter dues paid to AFS: $791.00
  - AFS membership rebates: $95.76

- Disbursements since last EXCOM
  - Postage reimbursement: $37.00

- New membership correspondence
  - William Floyd - Student Membership
  - Aaron Jubar - Regular Membership

**Committee Reports**

Editorial - Tim Bonner (not present)

- The 2004 proceedings are in the final editing phase
- Final copies will be distributed at the annual meeting in San Antonio
- Craig Bonds has agreed to be the new Editorial Committee Chairman

Pond Management - Craig Bonds

- John Tibbs has agreed to be the new Pond Management Committee Chairman

Membership – Dennis Smith

- Membership Count: 198
- An updated membership email list is needed
- We will continue to have AFS track our membership at a cost of $2.00/member

*Pictured at left are members who attended the July Excom meeting: (left to right) Aaron Jubar, Mike Brice, Kevin Storey, Dave Terre, Dennis Smith, Debbie Wade and Craig Bonds.*
The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation: A valued partner in the TCAFS Student Scholarship Program

by Dave Terre

As announced at our 2005 Grapevine Annual Meeting, The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation donated $5,000 toward the TCAFS student scholarship endowment program. This was a very significant and generous contribution. In fact, this is the largest single donation ever made to the chapter in support of this very important and highly-valued program. Of course, our chapter is very appreciative of this donation and to show our thanks, Jimmie Green (TCAFS Member) and I took the foundation’s board members out to lunch at Cace’s Seafood Restaurant in Longview. We had a great meeting with them. We discussed the importance of Texas fisheries and our chapter’s strong commitment to provide both educational and financial assistance to Texas Fisheries Students as they pursue their educational and career goals. What I found is that our two organizations share a common vision for the future of Texas fisheries. Both organizations are committed to excellence in education and know the future of our fisheries will depend on young people who will eventually be leading the charge to manage these important resources. We spoke of last year’s scholarship recipients and how impressed they were with their letters of thanks and their obvious enthusiasm for their chosen fields. I was flattered by these wonderful comments made about our student members and was very proud of that. I took this meeting as an opportunity to officially present the foundation with their “Special Recognition in Fisheries Work Award” that was announced at our Grapevine Annual Meeting. The foundation board members were all very appreciative of the award and pledged continued support of our endowment program.

Pictured at left: 2005 TCAFS Student Scholarship Award Recipients receive their awards (plaque and checks) at the 2005 annual meeting in Grapevine, TX. Thanks to the generous support by the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation, Texas BASS Federation, and others, we were able to award four student scholarships worth $1,250 each (total $5,000). Pictured (left to right) are Dave Terre, President TCAFS, Casey Williams and Megan Fencil (graduate student winners); Brian Bartram (undergraduate student winner), Fran Gelwick, TCAFS Past-President, and Perry Trial, TCAFS Endowments Committee Chairperson. Not pictured - John Putegnat (undergraduate winner).

Pictured at left: Texas Chapter President Dave Terre (far left) and TCAFS Member Jimmie Green (far right) present the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation Board Members with a “Special Recognition in Fisheries Work” Award for their generous financial contribution made to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program. The presentation was made at Cace’s Seafood Restaurant in Longview, Texas in July, 2005
Annual meeting awards

While we are in the mood to celebrate, let us keep it going by recognizing the hard workers who received awards at our annual meeting in Grapevine in January, 2005. Better late than never!

Professional
Gregory W. Stunz (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi), Jay Rooker (Texas A&M University-Galveston), Joan Holt, and Scott Holt (University of Texas-Austin)
Origins of red drum stocks: assessing the contribution of different nursery grounds using chemical signatures.

Student
Julie Hulbert (S), Timothy H. Bonner, David Pendagrass (Texas State University-San Marcos), and Joe Fries (National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center-San Marcos)
Morphology, meristic counts, and pigmentation of Diodon diaboli (Cyprinidae) during development.

Poster
Michael S. Baird (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
Effects of acclimation time and season on post-stocking mortality of red drum in freshwater.

Endowment Committee update
by Perry F. Trial

The Endowment Committee, which consists of five voting members and one non-voting member, remains unchanged from last year. The committee chair will mail scholarship announcements and applications to colleges and universities in September. The deadline for receiving completed applications will be Dec. 1, 2005. Applications received by the Dec. 1st deadline will be reviewed and ranked by voting committee members based on G.P.A., work experience, honors received, professional activities, career goals, and personal philosophy regarding natural resource conservation. Non-voting members may provide input and may assist in breaking a tie. Scholarships for graduate and undergraduate students will be awarded based on rankings. Last year four scholarships were awarded thanks to a generous donation from The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation.

TCAFS call for papers

The Texas Chapter will host the Southern Division Spring Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Antonio, 8-12 February 2006. This is a great opportunity to highlight our research activities within the state and to learn about freshwater and saltwater research projects outside of Texas. Send symposium and workshop suggestions to Dick Luebke (Dick.Luebke@tpwd.state.tx.us) by 1 August 2005. Abstracts are due 1 December 2005. Information about abstract submission, registration, and accommodations is available at www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/.
Awards news

by Dave Peterson Awards Chairman

Well, folks, its time again to think about recognizing those amongst us who have excelled in the areas of administration, fish culture, education, management, research, technical support, student accomplishment and special recognition. Annual awards time is quickly approaching and we need a good pool of nominees. We struggled last year to come up with nominees. It was mentioned that every member would be thrilled to be honored with one of these awards, yet so many are reluctant to nominate someone. If you have been so honored, please consider returning the favor to someone else. This program isn’t for the few and the lucky. It is for everyone and will not survive without a little input from you. Please make a difference – nominating is like giving. It is guaranteed to make you feel good. Please remember that nominees must be Chapter or parent society members for all but the special recognition awards. Please go to this link for forms and detailed descriptions of the categories.

www.sdafs.org/tcafs/awards/awarhtml

We also need help on the awards committee if you want to be involved. Thanks.

Texas Chapter AFS welcomes its youngest member

By Ray Mathews, Jr.
TCAFS Archivist/Historian

Heather Kuler, 15, from Tyler, Texas came to the TCAFS annual meeting in Grapevine, Texas last January. She was sponsored by Deborah Wade, TCAFS President-elect, and both had a grand time. Heather was so impressed that she joined the Chapter, making her the youngest member we have ever had. Not only was that new historical item a thrill for all of us, but Heather worked at the Registration Desk and the Raffle. Many of you may remember her handing you prizes you won or obtained through the auction. Heather is a volunteer at the Athens Fish Center, and Deborah has been mentoring her for a potential career in fisheries biology.

According to Deborah, Heather is a junior at John Tyler High School; her plans are to attend the local Junior College for a year then transfer to a major university to complete her degree. She is an active Girl Scout and an officer in BSA Venture Crew 543. She is currently working on her Girl Scout Gold Award which will be a fishing tournament for under privileged children in Smith County this fall.

History of the TCAFS Skeg and other memorable historical items

By Ray Mathews, Jr.
TCAFS Archivist/Historian

The history of the now famous Chapter Skeg began in 1990 when Bobby Farquhar, then TCAFS President, won it in a raffle at the annual meeting held next to Lake Texoma, and used it the next morning to bring the business meeting to order as a sort of gavel. From that moment on it was passed down from Chapter President to President at the business meeting; a tradition that has continued for 15 years. Gene McCarty was the recipient of the skeg from Bobby, and so on down the line of Presidents over the years. According to Bobby, back in those days the raffle was a “junk raffle,” and any little item, like the skeg or some fishing hooks, sinkers, box of earthworms, etc. were what you got. The Chapter has certainly come a long ways since then. We now have great raffle and auction items, and not surprisingly, we have a lot more funds for student scholarships these days. The first skeg was actually not from a boat, but rather from an old water ski. A skeg is the fin on the bottom of a boat.
many packages that were bought and sold several times. These inexpensive little items made a lot of money for the scholarship fund. Bob Edwards was requested to write a paper for the 1979 annual meeting’s Texas Chapter proceedings, which was turned down by the editorial committee because they said it was written at the 12th grade level, but was later accepted for publication in the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. Some really strange things have happened in the Texas Chapter, and I just wanted to pass some of them along to you. More stories to come based on you telling me what you experienced in the past. Let’s share them with the membership.

Randy Rushin – Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.; longest TCAFS exhibitor and sponsor

By Ray Mathews, Jr.
TCAFS Archivist/Historian

Randy Rushin, President of Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc. has been a TCAFS meeting exhibitor and sponsor since the 1998 annual meeting in Athens, Texas at the TFFC Facility. After almost a decade of experience with the Texas Chapter, he is still going strong, and now holds the record for our longest continuously active exhibitor and sponsor. Randy has been a great sponsor to the Chapter, having contributed funds to many of the projects —
including the traditional beer keg at the raffle. He is a good resource on any kind of water quality monitoring instruments, and many of our agencies have purchased equipment from him.

Randy said he used to travel about 50,000 miles a year to exhibit at meetings and visit clients all over Texas and the southwestern U.S. His company now only covers Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas – this has reduced his travel to around 35,000 miles per year. Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc. primarily deals with state and federal agencies and universities, which make up about 75% of the company’s business. Their clients include biologists, chemists, geologists, engineers, and professors at many universities. The monitoring devices he sells and services are primarily used to monitor our natural resources including surface and ground water quality and water quantity (flow). As many of you noticed at the meeting, Randy is now a happily married man, and his wife (Wendy) and mother (Rita) are now 51% owners of the business, so the company qualifies as a woman owned business and is certified as a HUB with the State of Texas. He also wanted us to know that Augustine De La Cruz joined the business in April and has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the company. Augie has been a long-time member of TCAFS and recently retired as an Aquatic Scientist from the TCEQ San Antonio Regional Office after 31 years of service. Augie will primarily be serving clients in Central and South Texas.

We thank Randy for over eight years of sponsorship to the Texas Chapter, and congratulate him on his marriage. We need to recognize all our exhibitors and sponsors, because they help make our annual meetings an interesting and educational experience.

If you need to contact Randy about his water monitoring instrumentation and services, his contact information is as follows: Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.; P.O. Box 1132; Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483; (903) 439-4741; randy@water-monitor.com; www.water-monitor.com

Randy Rushin (left) at his exhibit in Grapevine, Texas for the 2005 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter AFS. His wife, Wendy (right) assisted him with the exhibit at the 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/index.htm, or by contacting Dennis Smith, Dundee State Fish Hatchery, Rt. 1 Box 123A, Electra, TX 76360, (940) 586-1203, Dennis.Smith@tpwd.state.tx.us. If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the chapter newsletter.

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

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<td>PRESIDENT-ELECT......... Deborah Wade</td>
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<td>(includes Stocks-at-Risk &amp; Exotic Species Sub-committees)</td>
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