President’s message:
by Dave Terre

Texas Chapter to host the Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting

On February 9th, 2006, we will have approximately 400 fisheries professionals and students from the Southern U.S. knocking at our doors as we host the 2006 Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting in San Antonio. Are you ready? Have you registered for the meeting and do you have your hotel reservations confirmed? Have you volunteered to help with this meeting? If you answered “no” to any of these questions, you need to get going because deadlines are quickly approaching and your chapter needs your help more than ever.

We have lined up a quality program for you; including, over 200 abstracts for oral and poster presentations, seven featured fisheries-related symposia (salt and freshwater), six informative workshops, numerous opportunities for student/professional interaction, a great Plenary Session, great socials and banquets, and many other activities too numerous to mention. Please check out our meeting home page at http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/default.htm to get all the details. Call me, (903) 566-1615 ext. 202, if you are interested in helping us with the meeting. If you are a student, you may be able to defer some of your lodging costs in exchange for work done at this meeting.

The early registration deadline is January 9th, 2006. If you want to stay at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, I would suggest that you make your reservations now! Our special room rates will expire on January 18th, but I am certain the hotel will be full by then. We are looking into other hotels to handle the overflow from the Crowne Plaza Hotel, if needed. Please stay tuned to the meeting home page for up-to-date information.

On September 12th, 2005, I attended the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska and accepted the “Outstanding Chapter Award” that was bestowed on us, the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, by the Parent Society. I was extremely honored to accept this award on behalf of our membership. This award would not have been possible without your unending dedication to Texas fisheries and your volunteerism in support of our chapter. Thank you for everything!
you do. I don’t mind saying that it was a very proud moment to be able to stand in front of hundreds of AFS members from across the world and hear them brag about us here in Texas. All I can say is Wow!

I also have some great news regarding our Student Scholarship Endowment Program. At our Executive Committee meeting on December 13th, I announced to Texas Chapter leadership that we had secured a $10,000 donation to our Student Scholarship Endowment Program. This very generous donation comes to us from The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation. If you will remember, they contributed $5,000 in 2005, enabling us to award scholarships of $1,250.00 each to four Texas fisheries students (graduate and undergraduates). TCAFS member Jimmie Green and I have worked hard to secure this donation for the Texas Chapter. We met with the foundation last summer and asked them for their continued support. They have been very impressed with our professionalism, our dedication to fisheries, and our commitment to Texas fisheries students and their professional growth. They were also impressed with the quality of last year’s award recipients who took the time to thank them in writing. My thanks go to the Endowments Committee chairperson Perry Trial and the rest that committee for their hard work in selecting excellent candidates for these scholarship awards. The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation is a highly-valued partner of TCAFS. Their contributions to the Chapter give us real opportunity for financial growth in our Endowment Program. After my Presidency, I plan to continue what we’ve started here by cultivating partnerships/relationships (both new and old) to ensure continued growth in our endowment program. I know this will provide lasting benefits to the Texas Chapter and great opportunities for fisheries students across our state.

This will be my last “President’s message” and in February 2006 I will turn the reigns of the Texas Chapter over to Debbie Wade. I know that Debbie will do an outstanding job as your new President. Our nominating committee, led by John Moczygemba, has also selected two outstanding candidates for President-elect (Ray Mathews and Art Morris). One of these two fine individuals will work with Debbie and help move your chapter forward in 2006. Please make sure you cast your vote for one of these two candidates before our annual business meeting on Sunday morning, February 12th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Antonio. At this meeting we will recognize our Outstanding Fisheries Workers, our 2006 Student Scholarship Recipients, and in-coming TCAFS Officers. You will also hear about the progress we’ve made in the past year. Please take time out of your busy schedules to attend. We need you there!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. We have accomplished a great amount over the past year and I hope to see you all in San Antonio! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and prosperous New Year!

Don’t procrastinate any longer!
Registration and hotel reservation deadlines are fast approaching

The early registration deadline for the 2006 Southern Division AFS Meeting is January 9, 2006.
The hotel reservation deadline is January 18, 2006.
GET THIS DONE BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS!

For registration information please contact Paula Hawkins @ (512) 389-4859 or Paula.Hawkins@tpwd.state.tx.us

Please go to our website at http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2006/ for abstract submission and for details about available symposia / workshops. Plus, make your hotel reservations on-line.
President-elect’s message:
by Deborah Wade

I know that everyone is looking forward to a safe and happy holiday season. With that in mind let’s also look to the future and a new year and our annual meeting in February in San Antonio. This is an opportunity for our Chapter to really shine. We will be hosting people from across the Southern U.S. and they are coming to see what we have to offer. We, on the other hand, get to hear and learn about the work going on in other states and regions. The deadline for early registration is January 9, 2006.

The end of 2005 is fast approaching and with that end we will be saying good-bye to Fred Janssen as our Chapter webmaster. He has done a great job with that task over the years and his input is invaluable to the Chapter. He will be continuing his work with AFS on a regional and national level. Dave and I are looking for someone to fill his shoes even as I write this. Please let me know if you are interested helping to fill this position or know of someone who with a little encouragement would be interested in taking on the job.

We were named Outstanding Chapter of the Year by the Parent Society this year which is a great honor, but we need to keep focused and continue to make the Texas Chapter a shining star within the American Fisheries Society which requires your interest and involvement.

As always, John has come up with two excellent candidates for the position of President-elect as well as getting the electronic balloting set up. Please take the time to review the biographies of both Ray and Art and cast your ballot.

See you all in February.

December Excom meeting notes
by Michael Brice, Secretary Treasurer

TCAFS EXCOM Business Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Antonio, Tuesday, December 13th 8:00 – 12:30

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. In attendance were Michael Baird, Craig Bonds, Tim Bonner, Michael Brice, Monty Brown, Todd Driscoll, John Findeisen, Fran Gelwick, Bruce Hysmith, Ken Kurzawski, Danny Lewis, Dick Luebke, John Moczygemba, Randy Myers, Lance Robinson, Dennis Smith, John Taylor, Dave Terre, John Tibbs, Brian Van Zee, and Mark Webb.

Call to order and announcements – Dave Terre (President)
• Recognition of guests: Tim Cook (B.A.S.S.) and Bob Curry (SDAFS)
• Special recognition award was given to Fran Gelwick

Treasurer’s report – Michael Brice (Secretary/Treasurer)
• Portfolio Summary (December statement)
  Total value: $42,907.73
  Cash money accounts: $24,227.41
  Mutual funds: $18,680.32

• Deposits since last EXCOM:
  Endowment fund donation $10,000.00
  Garrett Hysmith Memorial contribution: $150.00
  TCAFS dues: $72.00
TCAFS dues paid to AFS – 1/05 – 8/05: $791.00
State of Texas (meeting booth): $65.09

- Disbursements since last EXCOM $201.44
  Scholarship donor lunch: $51.44
  Scott & White Hospital (Garrett Hysmith Memorial): $150.00

- New membership correspondence
  Liz Singhurst - Regular Membership
  Greg Southard - Regular Membership
  Billy Teels - Regular Membership

- Other business
  Merrill Lynch has been contacted about restructuring our investment portfolio

Committee Reports

Nominating – John Moczygemba (present)
- On-line voting will be used again
- Nominations are set for president-elect; Art Morris and Ray Matthews

Editorial - Craig Bonds (present)
- The 2004 proceedings are done and need to be sent to AFS
- The 2005 proceedings will be available in January or February

Membership – Dennis Smith
- Membership Count: 215
- Current membership information has been sent to AFS

Pond Management – John Tibbs (present)
- Exploring different means of distributing Pond Management booklet
- There will be a historical review of the committee

Continuing Education – Bruce Hysmith (present)
- Application will be completed for accreditation from the AFS for individuals attending courses offered at the 2006 SDAFS

Publicity / Exhibits – Michael Baird / John Findeisen (present)
- 4 of 5 exhibit booths for 206 meeting have been sold @ $200 each
- 215 solicitation letters were mailed

Endowments – Perry Trail (not present)
- Two student scholarship applications have been received

In memory of Garrett Hysmith

TCAFS members generously donated $150.00 to Scott and White Hospital, Temple, in memory of Garrett Hysmith. Garrett’s father, Larry, has been a loyal member of TCAFS for many years. Thirteen-year-old Garrett recently lost his 10-year long battle with brain tumors. While receiving treatment at Scott and White, Garrett enjoyed attending Camp Dreamcatcher. The memorial has been donated specifically to help continue this program.
It is time to vote online, again!

by John Moczygemba, Nominating Committee

First I would like to thank Fred Janssen (TPWD, Austin) for getting the online voting up and going last year. He did a great job. We are going to continue online voting and try to increase the membership involvement over last year which was about 50%. To be an eligible voter you must be a registered member, so make sure your dues are paid up. This year we will vote on President-elect. If you want to know what the President and President-elect do, go to www.sdafs.org/tcafs/manuals/procman.pdf, and read their job duties. The main job of the President-elect is to plan the Texas Chapter Annual Meeting. The candidates for President-elect are Ray Mathews (Texas Water Development Board, Austin) and Art Morris (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Corpus Christi). The voting booth can be found at http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/votingbooth/. You will need a PIN, which will be e-mailed or mailed to you in the next few weeks, to get into the voting web page. The e-mail address we will use is the one you submitted when you paid your current dues. If it is wrong, send me your correct e-mail address or advise me to mail you a PIN. Once in the voting web page, you will find a link to the candidates’ biographies. After you have reviewed the candidates’ qualifications and ideas for the Chapter, go to the voting area and make your choice. There will be a box next to each candidate. Click your choice for President-elect. Then you are through. Those who do not have access to the internet and want to vote early can contact me for a ballot. There will be a voting area at the mid-year Southern Division AFS/Texas Chapter Annual Meeting in San Antonio for those who did not get to vote early. It will be at the Texas Chapter booth. Early voters will be eligible for the early voting prize to be drawn for at the business meeting, Sunday, February 12, 2006. You do not have to be present to win. We will announce the newly elected officers at the business meeting, also.

So go to the voting page, review the candidates’ qualifications and make your decision. It is that easy, so vote early, but ONLY ONCE.

My contact information is:

John Moczygemba
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Inland Fisheries Division, District 2A
Lake Texoma Fisheries Station
P.O. Box 1446
Pottsboro, Texas 75076
(903) 786-2389
John.Moczygemba@tpwd.state.tx.us

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Endowment Committee update

by Perry F. Trial

Attention Students: The deadline for submitting an application for student scholarships was erroneously listed as December 23, 2004 in this year’s scholarship announcement. Due to the confusion that this error created, the deadline for submitting scholarship applications has been changed from December 1, 2005 to December 23, 2005. Applications may be submitted online at the Texas Chapter website, e-mailed to Perry.Trial@tpwd.state.tx.us, or mailed directly to:

Perry F. Trial
Endowment Committee Chairman
N.R.C. Suite 2500
6300 Ocean Drive Unit 5845
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5845.
Editorial Committee report  
by Craig Bonds

The proceedings from the 2004 TCAFS meeting are complete and we are waiting for approval from the parent society. The 2005 meeting proceedings should be available for viewing online by February 2006. We have received a few requests for hardcopies of the 2003 proceedings, and we will send those out when the 2004 copies are available. The committee would like to thank outgoing chair Tim Bonner for his dedication and leadership while administering this duty. I am stepping in as the new committee chair.

Continuing Education  
by Bruce Hysmith

Before you know it February 9 will be upon us and it will be mid-year conference time for the SDAFS and the annual meeting of the TCAFS at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Riverwalk in San Antonio. You have probably already received the agenda for mid-year 2006 and know about what is offered for continuing education. Let me just sum up the three offerings. First, from 1 pm to 5 pm on Thursday, February 9 will the LMB Virus Workgroup organized by Loraine Fries. Second and third, you will have to make a choice; from 8 am to 5 pm on Friday, February 10 there are workshops running concurrently; Bass Angler/Biologist Interaction Workshop organized by Todd Driscoll and Aquatic Plant Establishment Workshop organized by Mark Webb. These workshops are being submitted for certification with the AFS which will offer attendees the opportunity to earn Professional Development Quality Points (PDQPs) toward maintaining professional certification. Be sure and mark your registration form as to which workshop(s) you plan to attend.

Membership Committee report  
by Dennis Smith

We will soon be closing the books on the 2005 membership year in good shape. We will end the year with 215 paid members of the Texas Chapter, which is about 40 more than we had in 2004. As a reminder, your membership is valid through the end of the calendar year in which you paid your dues. At this year’s meeting in San Antonio, membership dues are not included on the meeting registration form. There will be a booth set up in the Crowne Plaza for you to renew your Texas Chapter membership or you can renew online at any time. Please remember to renew and provide a valid e-mail address.

The membership roster is provided to the newsletter editor and the nominations chair. The newsletter editor uses the e-mail addresses from the roster to notify members when a new newsletter has been posted on the chapter web page. The nominations chair uses the roster to set up and conduct online voting for elected chapter representatives. Not only is the online voting convenient for chapter members, it also saves the chapter money in postage fees. If you are not receiving a newsletter or online voting notifications via e-mail, you are either not on the membership roster or we don’t have a valid e-mail address for you.

Some of the benefits of joining the Texas Chapter:

- Members of the chapter get to vote in Chapter elections
- Members of the chapter get to serve on Chapter committees
- Student members are eligible for scholarships
- Members in good standing are eligible for Chapter awards, including best presentation and best poster presentation
- You receive e-mail notification when newsletters are posted
- You are a member of an outstanding group of professionals! (We’ve got awards to prove it.)
While reviewing the Chapter roster, I have noticed the absence of some names. There are people one would expect to be members of the Chapter but their names aren't on the roster. Do you get the chapter e-mails? What about your co-workers and colleagues? Ask around. Maybe we don’t have a valid e-mail address. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, feel free to e-mail Dennis.Smith@tpwd.state.tx.us or call me at (940) 586-1203. Don’t forget to renew your membership for 2006! See you in San Antonio.

Contributions in memory of Garrett Hysmith

The Hysmith family would like to express our appreciation for the generous contribution from the TCAFS to Scott and White Hospital, Pediatric Oncology in memory of Garrett Hysmith son of Larry Hysmith and grandson of Bruce Hysmith. Garrett succumbed to a 10-year bout with brain cancer in September. He was just past his 13th birthday. The staff at Scott and White, Pediatric Oncology honored the family on Friday, December 9 by planting a tree in memory of Garrett there on the grounds of the clinic in Temple. The tree selected by Larry, was a Texas mountain laurel. The native Texas tree grows wild, produces a good shade upon maturity, and offers a sweet fragrance in the spring. It was Garrett’s favorite tree. Thanks again, you are indeed good friends.

Bruce Hysmith, Fisheries Biologist
Lake Texoma Fisheries Station
(903) 786-2389
Bruce.Hysmith@tpwd.state.tx.us

Omega-3 fatty acids

The good news about omega-3s, the fatty acids in oily fish such as salmon, sardines and mackerel, continues to accumulate.

- Eating fish can shave years off your mental age, say Rush University researchers, who studied mental function in 3,718 adults 65 and older. Those who ate fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids once a week, slowed their rate of cognitive decline by 10%. That’s equivalent to being three years younger and sharper! *(Sora Song, Time Magazine, December 26, 2005)*

- Another report suggested that 2g of fish-oil supplements taken every day could help protect against heart attacks in the elderly and improve overall heart health in the rest of us in as little as 3 weeks. *(Coco Masters, Alice Park & Sora Song, Time Magazine, December 5, 2005)*

- But …. another study found that heart patients with implantable defibrillators, risk increased heart-rhythm abnormalities if they take too much omega-3.
Here are some photos of paintings, fishing rods, and tackle that were donated for the raffle and auction to raise funds for the Chapter’s student scholarships at our Grapevine meeting in 2005. **Maybe this will whet your appetite for the raffle in San Antonio!**

Bruce Hysmith (right) auctioning off items provided by sponsors to the TCAFS. Bruce has been auctioning items for the Chapter since the 1987 Kerrville annual meeting (18 years ago), and deserves much appreciation for his efforts. His work has brought a lot of joy and laughter to members at the annual meetings, and made a lot of money for student scholarships. In addition, John Findeisen (co-chair), Michael Baird (co-chair), Jessica Beck, Jacqueline Fields make up the Publicity/Exhibits Committee, which has worked so hard on our behalf to seek out sponsors of these fine items for the Chapter raffle and auction.

Heather Kuler, the Chapter’s youngest member, and Debbie Wade enjoying their work at the Grapevine 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](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](mailto: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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