As I approach the end of my year as TCAFS president, I want to thank all those who somehow continue to find time in their busy schedules to assist the Chapter. During this year, I’ve been involved with one of the most time-consuming projects of my career here at TPWD. While carving out some time to work on Chapter business was all the more difficult, that time has been a welcome break. I always felt recharged to know of all the hard work our members are doing to keep the Chapter moving forward.

We all will encounter “challenges” in our careers and many of those center around being trained as a biologist and working in a bureaucratic, political system. We can all spend hours complaining about that, but to be successful, we need to find a way to navigate that morass while adhering to our core principles (and maintaining our sanity!)

One person that I look to for inspiration on this is Jim Martin. For those of you that don’t know him, Jim is a former Oregon fisheries chief who now does conservation work for a fishing company. Jim’s the type of person I, and maybe all biologists, need to talk to ever so often. If Jim can’t get you fired up, nobody can! Jim’s passionate about lots issues, to say the least, but one of his greatest passions is inspiring biologists to be engaged and to use their knowledge to fight that biology is considered in governmental decisions. Jim likes to tell the story of how after he retired as Oregon fish chief, he went to work for the governor of Oregon. He heard the talk from biologists that he’d get sullied by working with politicians or that they’d never listen to him. Jim had his doubts, but he took a chance, made his arguments, and was fortunate to find someone who would consider those arguments. Did he get everything he wanted? No, but Jim believes having the opportunity to influence conservation decisions made during that time was the highlight of his career.

We’d all like to have jobs where the biology would be all the matters. When you interject people into the equation, it gets messy! However, we can’t forget that to do our work we need the public’s support, both financially and politically. Earning and keeping that support will be all the more important if we are to address the conservation challenges that face us in the coming years.

I’m looking forward to the outstanding program Craig Bonds has planned for our 2011 Annual Meeting in San Marcos. We’ll see you there!
ken.kurzawski@tpwd.state.tx.us; 512-389-4591
TCAFS Annual Meeting Update – February 10-12, 2011
by Craig Bonds

The Texas Chapter AFS annual meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in San Marcos on February 10-12, 2011. The theme of the Plenary Session is “Fish Habitat: Contemporary Approaches for Assessment, Conservation, Enhancement, and Restoration.” The meeting will consist of one continuing education course, an evening social on Thursday, plenary and contributed sessions, our banquet/auction on Friday evening, and the TCAFS business meeting on Saturday. See information below on program overview, registration, and lodging to help plan your trip. Meeting information and updates can be accessed on the TCAFS web page (http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/11meet/2011meethome.html).

Program Overview

► Continuing Education Workshop (Thursday, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 5:30 PM)
  Application of Side-Scan Imaging Sonar and GIS Software for Mapping Aquatic Fish Habitat – Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts (Georgia DNR). Lunch will be on your own. To sign up for the workshop, check the appropriate spot on the meeting registration form or contact Craig Bonds (craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us; 903-566-1615 x 202).

► Student/Professional Mixer (Thursday, 5:30 – 7:30 PM)
  Light snacks and beverages will be provided (for both hotel and non-hotel guests) in the hotel lobby atrium as part of the nightly manager’s reception. Hotel guests need only to show a room card to be served. Non-hotel guests will be provided drink tickets. There will be plenty of fun, networking opportunities for students.

► Plenary Session (Friday, beginning at 8:00 AM, ending time 10:40 AM)
  Fish Habitat: Contemporary Approaches for Assessment, Conservation, Enhancement, and Restoration. Presentations and speakers are listed below (in no particular order).

  Aquatic Plants for Fish Habitat: a National Perspective
  Dr. Michael Smart (USACE - Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility)

  Low-Cost Sonar Habitat Mapping: a New Tool for Research and Management of Fish Habitat across Aquatic Landscapes
  Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts (Georgia DNR)

  The Big Picture for Fish Habitat Conservation: Moving the Needle in Texas through Collaboration at Regional and National Scales
  Tim Birdsong (TPWD-Inland Fisheries)

  A Classification and Threat Condition Assessment of the Rivers and Streams of Texas
  Ryan Smith (The Nature Conservancy)

  Estuarine Habitat Restoration Efforts on the Texas Coast: Leveraging Resources to Maximize Restoration Opportunities in our Multi-use Estuaries
  Jamie Schubert (TPWD-Coastal Fisheries)

► Lunch (Friday, time period TBD)
  Friday’s lunch will be on your own, including the Student-Mentor Lunch. On-site dining is available for a fee inside the hotel’s Rocky River Grille. To sign up for the student-mentor lunch, check the appropriate spot on the meeting registration form or contact Mandy Scott (mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us; 325-651-5556).

► Contributed Papers and Presentations (Friday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Saturday, 8:00 – 10:00 AM)
Evening Pre-Banquet Social (Friday, 5:30 – 6:30 PM)
Light snacks and beverages will be provided (for both hotel and non-hotel guests) in the hotel lobby atrium as part of the nightly manager’s reception. Free beverage service will be provided similar to the Thursday Student/Professional Mixer.

Banquet and Auction (Friday, 6:30 – 10:00 PM)
Supper and beverages will be provided as part of the registration price along with the famously entertaining TCAFS auction and raffle.

TCAFS Business Meeting (Saturday, 10:20 AM – 12:00 PM)

Registration
Early registration fee will be $85 and $45 for professionals and students, respectively, and includes access to continuing education workshop, Thursday night Student/Professional Mixer, all plenary and technical sessions, and Friday night banquet. Important - The deadline for early registration is January 21, 2011. Late registration will increase by $10 for both professionals and students. The registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter or it can be downloaded from our website at: http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/11meet/TCAFS_Registration_Form_2011.pdf.

Hotel Information
The Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center is located on the IH 35 corridor (exit McCarty Lane; hotel is on east side of interstate) and immediately NE of the outlet mall complex. Room rates are $85 for single king and $152 for double queen rooms. Please identify yourselves as being with the “Texas Chapter, American Fisheries Society” in order to secure the group rate. I encourage all those needing commercial lodging to stay at the conference hotel to ensure we meet our room block obligations. The number to call to make your reservation is 512-392-6450. Important – the cutoff date for making your reservation is January 17, 2011. Access the hotel’s website at http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/SNMESES-Embassy-Suites-San-Marcos-Hotel-Spa-Conference-Center-Texas/index.do.
Nominations for Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards
by Matt Chumchal, Awards Committee Chair

It’s time again to submit nominations for annual TCAFS Awards. The awards will be presented at the Annual meeting to be held in San Marcos at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. The meeting is scheduled for February 10-12, 2011.

The award categories are as follows:

OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD in:

- Fisheries Administration
- Fish Culture
- Fisheries Education
- Fisheries Management
- Fisheries Research
- Fisheries Student
- Technical Support
- Special Recognition in Fisheries Work

Criteria for each category and the nomination form can be found on the TCAFS website: http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/awards/index.htm. After you download and fill out the PDF nomination form you can submit it by simply clicking the “Submit by email” button on the top right hand corner of the form. Nominations are due December 21st.

Please take a moment to nominate your colleagues today!

Student Outreach
by Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson

Hey students--while you are enjoying the Texas Chapter meeting this February, make sure and drop by the Students’ Corner to visit with TPWD Recruiter, Joe Beach. Joe is a new addition to the Texas Chapter meeting, and he has lots of tips and guidance to share with fisheries students like you, who will soon be looking for that “foot in the door” first job. Check out Joe’s article, below, for some things to consider while you are still in school.

FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER:
Tips for Landing a Job or Internship
Joe Beach, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

“Did you land an internship or summer job?” “Where will you be working after graduation?” Odds are you will have four or five jobs or internships in the first ten years after graduation. Not all of these jobs may be with the same employer, or in the same state. Life is what happens while you’re making other plans so the following are some ways you can manage your career no matter what life throws at you.

Network. As a member of American Fisheries Society (AFS) and a student, you have four built-in networks: AFS members statewide and nationwide; your professors; Career Services at your college, and fellow graduate/undergraduate students. You will be interacting with fellow AFS members, professors and alumni/ae the rest of your life. Treat them the way you want to be treated. Attend State, Divisional and National meetings of AFS and other professional societies and social organizations you belong to such as Federation of Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, Coastal Conservation Association or Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. Ask for
business cards and e-mail individual thank-you notes to folks who give you their cards, help you out, and so forth. Whenever you get a chance to pair up with a professional for a Student-Mentor lunch or other networking event, do it. Have a professional e-mail address and voice mail. Resist peer pressure to go drinking or whatnot instead of school work, society meetings or volunteering.

Once you graduate, you acquire another network: the alumni/ae of your alma mater. Joining list-servs of Societies, fellow alumni/ae and professors multiplies your potential contacts in more networks. Gaining real-world experience raises your potential worth to employers who belong to, or look for job candidates on, those networks.

**Experience.** You may have some real-world experience from growing-up - such as working on a farm or ranch, assisting a fishing or backpacking guide, being a Youth Hunter, in FFA, Texas Brigades, Scouts or as a youth member of a Wildlife Conservation group. You may have been part of a wildlife census or habitat restoration effort on Federal or State Lands or elsewhere. List these experiences, as well as your society memberships, on your application for a Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) Internship and/or application for a Summer/Seasonal job at TPWD’s State Parks. These groups, and others, can give you a variety of experiences that could help your chances of securing a paying job. Paid Summer Student Internships and Summer/Seasonal jobs are great ways to get involved with TPWD and others. Note that Seasonal jobs may be in Winter, Spring or Fall – they may not be Summer only.

**Volunteer.** Another valuable way to gain real-world experience is to volunteer. For example, I volunteered doing trail maintenance freshman fall at the college I attended on the Appalachian Trail. It was one of the main reasons I landed a job at Yellowstone that summer. TPWD and other Natural Resource Management/Conservation agencies seek applicants who have experience, passion and interest in doing what we do. Volunteer to do this if you have not grown up doing it. Find out if your campus is close to a TPWD State Park; -> [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/friends_groups/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/friends_groups/) lists all the Friends of State Parks groups and how you may contact them in order to volunteer with them. If your campus is not close to a TPWD State Park, look up City, County, privately-owned Parks/Preserves and other agencies where you can start. Another way you can get started is through the TPWD + AgriLife Extension Service Texas Master Naturalist program. There are Master Naturalist chapters having new classes all across Texas: [http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/](http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/) . You can also apply to be an adult leader at one or more of the excellent Texas Brigades youth camps that are held across Texas every summer; check out [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org) for more information. All of these groups give you additional networks of folks to keep in touch with as your career progresses.

**Competition.** For internships and for full-time TPWD positions, you compete with candidates from across the US, and with folks who have experience and/or advanced degrees. This is another reason why you want to describe relevant work and volunteer experiences on job applications or résumés. It is why it is crucial to gain new skills or abilities (by volunteering, for instance) and describe them professionally. A variety of experiences shows your flexibility and willingness to learn – two traits all employers seek. Being bilingual in Spanish and English is valuable – Texas Game Wardens receive additional compensation for being fluently bilingual.

Speaking of job applications and résumés, many government agencies and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private employers require a completed job application (and sometimes other forms, too) instead of a résumé. Know your employer’s hiring process so you may compete as best you can.

**Social Media.** Who has a Facebook, Twitter, MySpace or YouTube account? More and more employers look you up on these Sites before deciding to interview or hire you. Talking trash, showing yourself drunk or using expletives reflects negatively on you and could cost you a job or a job interview. And, for your personal safety, BE CAREFUL what you do/say, and what your friends do/say, on these sites. As important as texting can be, using proper grammar and diction (plus knowing how to write professionally and to proofread what you write) may help you land your ideal job more than texting prowess will.

Now a bit about TPWD Jobs nomenclature:

- Read Job Descriptions – if it says “Preferred Education: Master’s Degree...” means you may have a tough go of it if you only have a BA/BS and no other relevant experience from growing up.
• Read the “Knowledge, Skills and Abilities” (KSA’s) and see how many of these you meet/exceed. This may help you determine if/how to apply for this job.
• Sometimes, we hire candidates with BA/BS for our entry-level NRS positions but you may be competing with MA/MS candidates for those jobs. Generally speaking, our “Technician” openings may be good to apply for if you have BA/BS and relevant KSA’s. Some of our Biologists and Park Specialists started as part-time employees and applied for other positions as they came open.
• Read carefully, thoroughly and follow all instructions.
• Questions? Contact joe.beach@tpwd.state.tx.us.

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**Student Scholarship Awards**
by Mike Morgan, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

The Scholarship Committee of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is seeking deserving students enrolled in fisheries-related curricula who are interested in applying for scholarships.

Up to six scholarships in the amount of $1,500 each will be awarded to a minimum of two undergraduate students, one Master’s student, and one Ph.D. student. Students are eligible to receive one award in each degree category during their scholastic career. No nomination is necessary, and more than one student from the same university may apply in each category. Scholarships will be awarded at the annual meeting February 10-12, 2011 in San Marcos, Texas. Scholarship winners are strongly encouraged to attend the annual meeting to receive their award.

Each applicant must be a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society or pay their membership dues when the scholarship application is submitted. The Scholarship Committee will select the scholarship recipients based on academic excellence, professional activities, promise of future professional involvement, and significant contribution to the field of fisheries science.

Applications must be received by January 7, 2011. A copy of the application may be obtained from the TCAFS website at [http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs](http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs). Applications may be submitted by email (preferred) or U.S. Mail.

Applications and questions should be directed to:

Mike Morgan - Scholarship Committee Chairperson
3030 Sugar Wood Dr.
League City, TX 77573
(281) 974-9964
mike.morgan@tpwd.state.tx.us

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**History Section**
by Michele Nations, Historian

I’ve been working on a database that I hope will help me get an idea of the different affiliations represented in our membership. I’ve tried to break the affiliations down to different types. Here’s an example of what is on the list so far:

- Environmental research companies (Bio-West, Inc., Hach, Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Eureka Environmental, and SWCA Environmental)
- Pond and lake management services (Magnolia Fisheries and Total Lake Management)
- Non-profit organizations (Galveston Bay Foundation, PAL Services, Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas, Welder Wildlife Foundation, and Sportsmen’s Club of Texas)
- Texas universities (SFASU, SHSU, TAMU, TCU, TSU, TTU, UH, UNT, UTA, UTMSI, UTPA, UTSA, UTT, and WTAMU)
- Out-of-state universities (MSU, OSU, USU, and UTN)
- Non-USA university (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)
- Various government agencies (city, county, state, and federal)
- Vendors (Danbury Fish Farm, Exxon Mobil Production Co., Jungle Labs, and Water Monitoring Solutions).

As historian, I want to find out more about you, so I’m putting together a biographical sheet that I’ll be passing out at our annual meeting in February. This sheet will help me pull together pieces of the TCAFS history puzzle. Maybe you can provide me with some pictures to go along with the info.

First use of an artificial lure:

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting!

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**TCAFS EXCOM and Committees Meeting Agenda**

**October 27, 2010, TPWD Regional Office – Waco**

*by Greg Conley, Secretary Treasurer*

**Introductions** – members present were Brian Van Zee, Ken Kurzawski, Craig Bonds, Greg Conley, Dan Bennett, Michele Nations, and Mike Morgan. Dave Terre and John Taylor were connected remotely.

**Approval of Minutes from last meeting** – Motion to approve by Brian Van Zee and second by Michele Nations. Minutes approved.

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report** – (Greg Conley) As of this Ex-Com meeting, the Chapter’s account balance was $11,956.82. Registration for the upcoming meeting to be held at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos on February 10-12, 2011 has already begun.

**Update on planning for 2011 Annual Meeting** – (Craig Bonds) - Since the departure of Aaron Jubal, our Continuing Ed Committee Chair, from TPWD and the TCAFS, Craig Bonds has been made the contact for the next meeting’s continuing education course. The theme of the Plenary Session is “Fish Habitat: Contemporary Approaches for Assessment, Conservation, Enhancement, and Restoration.” The meeting will consist of one continuing education course, an evening social on Thursday, plenary and contributed sessions, our banquet/auction on Friday evening, and the TCAFS business meeting on Saturday. Planning for the Plenary Session is underway and some speakers have been contacted and lined up for the session. Companies such as United Phosphorous, Hummingbird, Mustang Survival, ESRI, SEPRO, LAERF, Hydrolab, and SJRA have been approached about sponsoring the meeting. See the Chapter’s website for more specifics regarding the meeting location and times.

**Committee Reports:**

**Awards** – (Matt Chumchal) – Matt is currently soliciting nominations for all award categories for Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards, which include; Administration, Culture, Education, Management, Research, Student, Technical Support, and Special Recognition,
Continuing Ed – (Aaron Jubar) – Since Aaron’s recent departure, TCAFS is looking for a new committee Chair. The Continuing Ed class for the 2011 meeting is; “Application of Side-Scan Imaging Sonar and GIS Software for Mapping Aquatic Fish Habitat”. See the TCAFS website for more details on time and names of instructors.

Editorial – (Dan Daugherty) – the Chapter received approval from AFS to go forth with making the proceedings in electronic format as discussed in previous meetings.

Endowments – (Dave Terre) - Endowment balance is $118,740.64 as of September 30th. Previously, we voted to change our account type with Merrill Lynch still being our provider. Consequently, the money in our account is all cash right now but will be reinvested in equities and bonds in short order. If there are enough qualified applicants, a total of 6 scholarships will be awarded. TCAFS will sponsor 4 scholarships and the Sportsmen’s club of Fort Worth will sponsor 2. The Sportsmen’s Club will be contacted soon to see if they would like to attend the meeting and award their 2 scholarships or have the Chapter issue them on their behalf. It is expected that they will pay for their scholarship plaques. I also will be contacting Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation soon to inquire about a donation to the Chapter.

History – (Michele Nations) – Michele is still working on getting photos together from the last meeting to make a history poster and is still planning to develop the member database she discussed in previous meetings.

Internet – (John Taylor) – John has made some of the necessary changes to some of the Chapter’s web page. He is going to try to make the meeting registration form a fillable form online. It was discussed using Dim Dim or Skype as tools that can be used to connect remotely to the meetings for those for Ex-Com members that can not make it to the meeting location. John will continue to repair minor website issues.

Issues – (Chris Moret) – no report.

Membership – (Dennis Smith) – no report.

Newsletter – (Kevin Storey) – The deadline for getting committee reports in for the next newsletter is November 5th, which will come out in late November or early December, 2010.

Nominating – (John Clayton) – John is currently soliciting for nominations for Chapter positions.

Pond Management – (John Tibbs) – no report.

Publicity/Exhibits – (Dan Bennett) – Dan has been contacting various companies for donations of items for the next meeting. Items collected or promised thus far are: Sam Caldwell print, guided fishing trips on OH Ivie and Cooper Lake, Costa Del Mar sunglasses, custom rods, Bass Pro Shop, Timberland, Direct Tools. Both Tim Cook and “Reel Girls Fish” have signed up for exhibit booths.

Scholarship – (Mike Morgan) - Scholarship announcements has been sent out to the Universities.

Student Outreach – (Mandy Scott) – TPWD recruiter, Joe Beach, will be at the meeting to assist Mandy with a job board and also to help put some type of student event together.

Old Business – (Ken Kurzawski)
The Chapter’s Bylaws/Handbook is still scheduled to be updated and placed on the Chapter’s website.

New Business
None.
Coral bleaching likely in the Caribbean this year

The NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) satellite coral bleaching monitoring shows sea surface temperatures continue to remain above-average throughout the wider Caribbean region. With temperatures above-average all year, NOAA's models show a strong potential for bleaching in the southern and southeastern Caribbean through November that could be as severe as in 2005 when over 80 percent of corals bleached and over 40 percent died at many sites across the Caribbean.

Large areas of the southern and eastern Caribbean Sea have experienced thermal stress this year capable of causing coral bleaching. The stress has ended in the Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas, and northwestern Caribbean, and is much reduced in the northern Caribbean, and is lessening along the southern Caribbean. The CRW Coral Bleaching Thermal Stress Outlook indicates that high stress would continue to develop in the southern and southeast Caribbean through November. Prolonged coral bleaching, can lead to coral death and the subsequent loss of coral reef habitats for a range of marine life. "High temperatures cause corals to force out the symbiotic algae that provide them with food. This makes the corals appear white or 'bleached' and can increase outbreaks of infectious disease," said Mark Eakin, Ph.D., coordinator of NOAA's Coral Reef Watch. "Temperatures are high in the Caribbean, and we expect this to continue. This season has the potential to be one of the worst bleaching seasons for some reefs."

The decline and loss of coral reefs has significant social, cultural, economic and ecological impacts on people and communities in the Caribbean, the United States, Australia and throughout the world.

As the "rainforests of the sea," coral reefs provide services estimated to be worth as much as $375 billion globally each year.

Recent hurricanes and tropical storms that passed near the U.S. Virgin Islands have cooled the waters there. NOAA researchers have shown that tropical weather systems can cool the high temperatures that cause bleaching, and NOAA forecasts that this Atlantic hurricane season will probably be more active than usual.

http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/index.html

New deep-sea springs discovered in the Atlantic

A group of 30 marine scientists from the MARUM Center for Marine Environmental Sciences and the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany have been studying deep-sea hydrothermal vents in the Atlantic Ocean on the German research vessel “Meteor” since September 6th, 2010. By using the latest-generation multibeam echosounder they were able to discover a new hydrothermal vent in an area which has been intensively studied during previous research cruises. The vent is located in 1,000 metres (0.6 mi) of water in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, 310 miles (500 km) south-west of the Azores. The vent has chimneys as high as one meter and expels fluids with temperatures up to 300° C (572° F).

The scientists observed a plume of gas bubbles in the water column at a site about 3 miles away from the known large vent field Menez Gwen that they were working on. A dive with the remote-controlled submarine MARUM-QUEST revealed the new hydrothermal site with smokers and animals typically found at vents on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Since that discovery, they have already found at least five other sites with gas plumes. Some even lie outside the volcanically active spreading zone in areas where hydrothermal activity was previously not assumed to occur.
"Our results indicate that many more of these small active sites exist along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge than previously assumed," said Dr. Nicole Dubilier, the chief scientist of the expedition. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Census of Marine Life Vents and Seeps project ChEss (Chemosynthetic Ecosystem Science). "This could change our understanding of the contribution of hydrothermal activity to the thermal budget of the oceans. Our discovery is also exciting because it could provide the answer to a long standing mystery: We do not know how animals travel between the large hydrothermal vents, which are often separated by hundreds to thousands of kilometres from each other. They may be using these smaller sites as stepping stones for their dispersal."

Researchers are interested to know why the hydrothermal sources in the area emit so much methane – a very potent greenhouse gas. Another important focus of the research on the deep-sea mussels that live at these hydrothermal vents. They host symbiotic bacteria in their gills and obtain nutrition from this association.

Amazon tributary at record low levels
The Rio Negro, a major tributary of the Amazon River, is at its lowest elevation since officials began keeping records in 1902. The Amazon and Solimoes rivers are at their lowest level in decades and in neighboring Peru the Amazon River is at its lowest level in 40 years in the north-eastern part of the country. The Brazilian Government has announced $13.5 million in emergency aid for Amazon regions hit by this drought. It has impacted fishing, cattle, agriculture, and other businesses and the government has declared a state of emergency in more than half the 62 municipalities in the Brazilian Amazon. Amazonas state officials said more than 60,000 families have been affected by the drought. The Rio Negro is at its deepest in Manaus in northern Brazil where it merges with the Amazon River. In late October the water depth was measured at 44.7 feet. Daniel Oliveira, an engineer and hydrology expert with the geological service told The Associated Press that as the rainy season usually begins in November, rains in remote parts of the Amazon will begin raising river levels, but it will take time for that water to reach Manaus. "The water is expected to start rising again in about three to four weeks,".

Cycles of flood and drought have been common in the world’s largest remaining tropical wilderness but recently they have been more extreme. Shifts from record floods to record droughts are taking place in relatively short periods of time. In June 2009, the Rio Negro reached a record height of 97.5 feet near Manaus following months of heavy rains. At that time flooding across the Amazon basin left more than 400,000 homeless and caused the loss of 50 lives.

A 2009 report from Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research which tracks weather patterns, stated that its weather models forecast “rising global temperatures because of ongoing greenhouse gas emissions” and “project a decrease in rainfall across much of Brazil due to warmer waters in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans causing changes in wind patterns across South America". These projected changes could affect Brazil’s energy secton since more than 70% of the nation’s energy comes from hydroelectric sources which could be hurt by reduced rainfall. The Amazon is the world’s second-longest river, after the Nile, but discharges far more water from its mouth and drains more territory.

Increased inflow of water into world oceans
Freshwater discharge into the world ocean is a key component of the Earth’s global hydrological and biogeochemical cycles. A recent article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
(Vol. 107, no. 42, pp. 17916–17921) provides evidence that the evaporation and precipitation cycle may be accelerating dangerously. Researchers from the University of California, Irvine analyzed 13 years (1994–2006) of satellite precipitation, evaporation, and sea level data in an ocean mass balance to estimate freshwater discharge into the global ocean. They found an increase of 18% in annual freshwater flow into the world's oceans from rivers and melting polar ice sheets in 2006 as compared with 1994, with an average annual rise of 1.5 percent.

The study found that the 13-year increase in freshwater discharge of 540 cubic kilometers was mostly due to rapid evaporation from the oceans, which led to more rainfall on land. Only 10% of the increase in discharge could be attributed to melting ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic, although those sources are expected to be a growing proportion as earth's temperatures rise. Global freshwater discharge averaged 36,055 km³/y for the study period while exhibiting significant inter-annual variability driven primarily by El Niño Southern Oscillation cycles.

“Until now, we have had no continuous record of global-scale river discharge,” said Jay Famiglietti, an Associate Professor of Earth System Science and of Civil and Environmental Engineering at U.C. Irvine. He noted that the time period of the study was short, but added, "If these trends persist, they will be a smoking gun that the water cycle intensification, predicted by climate scientists, is already upon us."

"In general, more water is good," Famiglietti said. "But here's the problem: Not everybody is getting more rainfall, and those who are may not need it. What we're seeing is exactly what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted – that precipitation is increasing in the tropics and the Arctic Circle with heavier, more punishing storms. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of people live in semiarid regions, and those are drying up."

"Hotter weather above the oceans causes freshwater to evaporate faster, which leads to thicker clouds unleashing more powerful storms over land," the statement said. "The rainfall then travels via rivers to the sea in ever-larger amounts, and the cycle begins again."

http://www.pnas.org/content/107/42/17916.full.pdf+html?sid=6c93498b-0284-4fb9-b719-8fb8cdfaabb

Freebies for the busy fisheries professional!

• Using R for fisheries analysis — A Website

R ([http://www.r-project.org/](http://www.r-project.org/)) is an open-source software for statistical computing and graphics that compiles and runs on a wide variety of UNIX platforms, Windows, and MacOS. It is becoming increasingly popular with statisticians in a variety of fields. Derek H. Ogle, a Professor of Mathematical Sciences and Natural Resources at Northland College in Ashland, WI, has developed the fishR website to maintain resources related to using R for fisheries analyses. The website contains recreations of analyses from several fisheries texts including eleven chapters worth of “boxed examples” found in the Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data (Guy and Brown 2007) published by AFS. [http://www.ncfaculty.net/dogle/fishR/index.html](http://www.ncfaculty.net/dogle/fishR/index.html)

• Lost in Office 2010?


• SugarSync

It may sound like a line of diabetic supplies, but it’s a cloud-based data-syncing and -storage service. What’s different is that it offers a generous free 5 GB account. SugarSync syncs selected files and folders with the Web, your other PCs, and/or your smartphone similar to ZumoDrive, but with a more generous allocation. I picked up an additional
Free PhotoShop alternative that runs in your browser
Need powerful drawing and graphics editing tools and don’t want to install an application or pay for PhotoShop? Try Sumo Paint a free online image editor that’s built on the Adobe AIR platform and runs in your browser. It functions in Windows, Macintosh, and Linux operating systems. There is also a Pro (19 €) version for installation onto your computer. [http://www.sumopaint.com/home/](http://www.sumopaint.com/home/)

Hate to remember passwords?
LastPass is a password manager that makes web browsing easier and more secure. It works in Windows, Mac, and Linux and supports Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and Safari browsers. When you log into a website, LastPass will prompt you to save the information. Next time you visit that site, you can get the username and password autofilled, that is after you supply the master password. How good is that? [https://lastpass.com/](https://lastpass.com/)

Free Wi-Fi for holiday travellers
All domestic flights on AirTran Airways, Delta and Virgin America will offer free Gogo Inflight Wi-Fi from November 20, 2010 through January 2, 2011. This promotion is courtesy of Google Chrome teaming up with these selected carriers. [http://www.freeholidaywifi.com/](http://www.freeholidaywifi.com/)

Animate PowerPoint charts with a free plug-in
Animating charts and graphs in PowerPoint can be very effective but it can also be a painful process. Install the free oomfo download and it will insert an entry in the Insert tab of Office 2007 or 2010 or in the Insert menu of Office 2003. Your audience will think you put way more time into your presentation than you really did. [http://oomfo.com/](http://oomfo.com/)

Refer to your notes while giving a PowerPoint presentation

Off the Izu Peninsula in Japan, a yellow goby peers through the window of its corroded soda-can home, evidence of the 127 million people just above the water’s surface. (© Brian Skerry/National Geographic)
CALL FOR PAPERS

2011 Annual Meeting
Texas Chapter
American Fisheries Society
February 10 – 12, 2011

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are requested for the 2011 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will be held Thursday through Saturday, February 10 – 12, 2011 at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas. To submit an abstract to be considered for the technical program, please provide the following information:

Author name(s) (presenting author should be noted with an *)
Presentation type (oral or poster … please indicate whether you are willing to present the data in the alternative format if requested)
Contact information (affiliation, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, and email address)
Presentation title
Abstract (Single paragraph, 300-word maximum length)

In addition, please indicate your intentions for the presentation in the 2011 TCAFS Proceedings (abstract-only or manuscript), and indicate whether the presenter is a STUDENT or PROFESSIONAL. To be considered a student presenter, you must be enrolled at the time the abstract is submitted. PROFESSIONAL PRESENTERS … please indicate your willingness to judge student presentations.

Oral presentations should be prepared as a 15-minute presentation (with 5-minutes for open discussion) using MS PowerPoint®. Poster presentations should be formatted to include a title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion/conclusion, and literature cited. Posters must not exceed 48” in any dimension.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 1st, 2010.

Please submit your presentation abstract ELECTRONICALLY (preferably in MS Word®) to: Dan.Daugherty@tpwd.state.tx.us

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!
Registration includes access to all technical sessions, the continuing education workshop, Thursday night Student/Professional Mixer, and Friday night banquet. The deadline for early registration is January 21, 2011.

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<tr>
<th>Name________________________</th>
<th>Date________________________</th>
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<td>Street Address _______________________________________________________</td>
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<td>City________________________</td>
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<td>Work Phone___________________</td>
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**MEETING REGISTRATION:**

<table>
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<th>Cost/Person</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Member Registration – Received by 1-21-11</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received after 1-21-11</td>
<td>$95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student*/Spouse Registration – Received by 1-21-11</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received after 1-21-11</td>
<td>$55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Dues – Professional/Student (Please note student registration &amp; membership is for full-time, currently registered students only.)</td>
<td>$12/$5</td>
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Participating in the Thursday (11am–5:30pm) Continuing Education Workshop (Application of Side-Scan Imaging Sonar and GIS Software for Mapping Aquatic Fish Habitat)? Free, but pre-registration is required. Yes ☐ No ☐ (contact Craig Bonds to register: 903-566-1615 ext. 202; craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us)

Would you like to donate to the TCAFS Scholarship Endowment Fund? Yes ☐ No ☐ (please indicate amount in far right column)

**TOTAL REGISTRATION COST (make checks payable to TCAFS)** $__________

Yes, I would like to participate in the Friday Student/Mentor Lunch. If yes, please pair me with someone with interest in or experience with: Government Agency ________ Academia ________ Private Consulting ________

**COMMITTEES:** – Please indicate which committee(s) you are willing to serve on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Internet</th>
<th>Nominating</th>
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<td>Editorial</td>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>Pond Management</td>
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<td>Issues</td>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Publicity/Exhibits</td>
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<td>Stocks at Risk*</td>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>Student Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exotic Species*</td>
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*Subcommittees of the Issues Committee

**MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION (1 form per person) AND PAYMENT TO:** (please make checks payable to TCAFS).

Greg Conley
TX Chapter AFS Treasurer
11942 FM 848
Tyler, TX 75707
Phone: 903-566-2518
greg.conley@tpwd.state.tx.us

To pay by Credit Card (PayPal), check here and email completed registration form to Greg Conley.
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, 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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STUDENT OUTREACH ............. Mandy Scott

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