



American Fisheries Society

Arkansas Chapter

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

March 17, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn, Conway

The Chapter President, Christy Graham, welcomed everyone to the business meeting, introduced officers, acknowledged past presidents in attendance, and introduced the AFS Southern Division (SD AFS) Past-President Jason Olive.

Officers: Past-President: JJ Gladden
 President: Christy Graham
 President-Elect: Brie Olsen
 Secretary: Allison Asher
 Treasurer: Micah Tindall

Determination of Quorum – Quorum was met with 58 members in attendance.

Review and Approval of 2022 Annual Business Meeting Minutes – Prior to this meeting, the 2022 Arkansas AFS annual business meeting minutes were placed online for members to read. No additional edits or comments were provided from members, so Jeff Quinn motioned to approve the minutes and Jimmy Barnett seconded the motion.

SDAFS Report – Jason Olive provided a report from SDAFS. He talked about the impact that COVID-19 pandemic had on membership and encouraged everyone to become a member of the parent society of AFS. Jason also shared a message from new SDAFS President, who encouraged involvement in AFS technical committees and encouraged members to nominate peers for awards. Jason echoed the need for participation in technical committees.

President's Report – Christy Graham expressed that the Chapter meeting was a great success. Attendance and participation was excellent, with 92 professionals and 37 students in attendance. There were 43 oral presentations and 19 were from students. There were also 14 poster presentations. Christy thanked Dr. Ginny Adams for stepping in last minute to deliver the keynote address, thanked the moderators of the sessions, and thanked those who organized the workshops. The first workshop was Critical Thinking and Problem Solving taught by Dr. Vic DiCenzo and Sean Lusk. The second was a student workshop organized by Chelsea Gilliland and Will Lancett where students networked with professional mentors. Christy also provided highlights from the crayfish workshop hosted in May 2022. Lastly, Christy provided an update on the AR AFS investment fund, which earned enough dividends in 2022 to create the first two Natural State Fisheries Scholarships. Congratulations to Derek Owens and Ben Johnson, who were the recipients of those scholarships.

Treasurer's Report – Micah Tindall reported that the Conway Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,000 to the meeting. The remaining balance for the Chapter's account was \$16,405.21. Micah thanked Sean and Vic, who donated the registration fees from their workshop to the scholarship fund. Brian Wagner motioned to approve the treasurer report and Jacob Martin seconded the motion.

ARAFS – 2023 EXCOM Treasurer's Report

Covering 1/10/23 – 3/17/23 Balance Brought Forward (1/10/2023):	\$18,132.19
INCOME	
AFS Dues/Registration	\$10,375.65
Interest	\$10.00
Scholarship Money Transfer from Investment Account	\$500.00
Silent Auction	\$2,693.00
Raffle	\$1,573.00
Total Income	\$15,151.65
SUBTOTAL	\$33,283.84
DISBURSEMENTS	
Award Plaques	\$641.97
Student Awards	\$300.00
Raffle Purchase	\$755.57
Meeting Supplies	\$455.62
Meeting Facilities	\$12,291.54
Food	\$601.25
Reimbursement for AFS Dues	\$522.00
EXCOM Meeting	\$200.00
Scholarship Payments	\$750.00
Fees	\$360.68
Total Disbursements	\$16,878.63
Balance as of March 17, 2023	\$16,405.21
Investment Account Balance as of March 17, 2023	\$9,399.52

Appointed Officer Reports

Newsletter – Jessica Feltz asked for content for the newsletters. Jessica also announced it will be her last year to make the newsletter and encouraged anyone interested in the position to contact EXCOM. Dr. Kyler Hecke had been helping Jessica with social media posts and will continue that role.

Webmaster – Dylan Hann asked that anyone wanting to add content to the website to please contact him.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Awards Committee – JJ Gladden reviewed the awards presented at the banquet, which were:

Outstanding Subunit Member Awards

- University of Arkansas - Kearstin Findley
- Arkansas State University - Noah Carter
- University of Central Arkansas - Jessica Rath
- Arkansas Tech University - Anthony Zenga
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff - Glen Jackson

Best Poster

- Clayton Brewer from the University of Central Arkansas - Environmental Gradients Influence Co-Occurrence of *Lepomis marginatus* and *Lepomis megalotis*

Best Undergraduate Presentation

- Sahara Morgan from the University of Central Arkansas - Diet of the Endemic Darter *Etheostoma fragi* in the presence of *Etheostoma caeruleum* in the Strawberry River, Arkansas

Best Graduate Presentation

- Derek Owens from the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff - Differentiating between Spawning and Non-spawning habitat for Brown Trout using Side-scan Sonar from the Greer's Ferry Tailwater, Arkansas

The Robert M. Jenkins Conservation Achievement Award

- Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers

Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement

- Brian Wagner

Outstanding Subunit

- Arkansas Tech University

Due to the record number of presentations, professional presentations extended into an extra technical session on Friday morning, prior to the business meeting. Due to this, the award for the best professional presentation was announced at the business meeting instead of the banquet. That award went to Dr. Kendall Moles for his talk, "Injecting a Little Technology into Mussel Conservation: Evaluating the Effects of Internally Placed PIT Tags in Freshwater Mussels". JJ thanked those who made nominations for awards and encouraged others to nominate their peers. Lastly, JJ also recognized Matt Schroeder for participating in the virtual fishing event held in the fall of 2022.

Activities and Raffle Committee – Micah Tindall provided the report for Jordan Lindaman, Activities and Raffle Committee Chair. Jordan expressed gratitude for those who donated items for the raffle and silent auction, which raised \$1,573 and \$2,693, respectfully.

Environmental Affairs Committee – Brie Olsen provided the report from Dr. Sue Colvin, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair. In the previous year Arkansas AFS and the environmental chair committed ample efforts to two primary issues: Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and the new Waters of the United States Rule (WOTUS rule). RAWA has bipartisan support in the senate and may come up for a vote as early as March. Fisheries and wildlife organizations will again be asked to engage in pushing the bill forward and our own membership will be highly influential in these efforts as Arkansas congressman Bruce Westerman chairs the Natural Resource Committee. A new funding mechanism for our state would be a tremendous benefit for state biodiversity and natural resources, and there is still

strong optimism it will come up for a vote in this 118th US Congress. Arkansas AFS has actively engaged with membership and as well congressional leaders to support the bill. Also which dictates which U.S. waters have federal protection, was released by the EPA. This version gives greater wetland and headwater protection than the former rule. AFS has organized a group of members, of which Sue is included, who are working on a response paper to the new rule. Sue also provided input on AFS' response to the new rule which was presented by Drue Banta Winters on behalf of AFS to a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The fact sheet lists Puppy Creek, a tributary in NW Arkansas and a part of one of our most important COA's, as an example of a protected tributary. Recognition of an Arkansas stream in WOTUS documentation is a strong signal that Arkansas waters are highly valued. Sue encouraged members to reach out to her to provide additional input on these or any other local or regional environmental concerns.

Education Liaison Committee – Chelsea Gilliland, Chair, reported that Will Lancett will be taking over the science fair portion of the committee. Chelsea has connected with each subunit and sent out emails with job opportunities, scholarships, travel grants, and other pertinent information. The Education Liaison Committee hosted a student workshop again this year, which had an open panel discussion with the group, then the students rotated around in small groups to meet with all the panelists. A total of 32 students attended, with lots of undergraduate participation in the workshop.

Subunit Reports

University of Central Arkansas – Jessica Rath – (March 2022 - Current) In March 2022, the subunit hosted an aquatic macroinvertebrate identification workshop, led by graduate student and subunit member Molly Wozniak. Elections were held in early April to establish officers for the 2022-2023 school year. Also in April, 10 subunit members presented posters on their original research at the UCA College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics poster symposium and 12 subunit members volunteered for UCA's Girl Power in STEM event. That event brought eighth grade girls from all over Arkansas to UCA to create awareness of careers in STEM and gave girls the opportunity to meet various STEM professional women. Volunteers helped out as team leaders or assisted speakers in break-out sessions. In July, two subunit members gave oral presentations and four members presented posters at the Joint Meeting for Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Spokane, Washington. In August, the subunit participated in Conway Daze to recruit new student members. In September, the subunit held a discussion about research involvement and had graduate students present the different research opportunities available on campus. In October, the subunit hosted a grant writing workshop and attended the "Herps and Hiking" at Bell Slough. A Resume/CV Workshop was held in November, where members discussed Resume/CV building, how to search for jobs and graduate positions, and interview tips. Also in November, seven subunit members attended Southeastern Fishes Council, where one member gave a talk and six members presented posters. Four members received presentation awards. In the March subunit meeting, a call was made for officer nominations and members prepped for AR AFS Chapter meeting. The subunit attended this meeting, with two posters and six talks. In April, the subunit will announce results of officer elections, host a guest speaker (Vic DiCenzo), and host another macroinvertebrate workshop with Molly Wozniak.

University Arkansas Pine Bluff – Derek Owens – The subunit meetings have all included guest speakers from aquaculture and other fisheries sciences. Members of the subunit participated in weekly events locally, like trivia nights. Also, all subunit members have been involved in research projects or field work. A high school student shadowed subunit members for an electrofishing survey and surgical implantation of transmitters. Many members attended the Southern Division AFS meeting and prior to that meeting, the subunit hosted a student workshop to practice their presentations. Lastly, members

judged the high school science fairs in Little Rock and Monticello. Future activities for the year include: hosting a white bass tournament, holding a fish sale as a spring fundraiser, and hosting a clean-up event in town.

University of Arkansas - Kearstin Findley – Chelsea Gilliland provided the report for the University of Arkansas Subunit. The AFS subunit members served as science fair judges last year.

Arkansas Tech University – Seth Drake – In March, subunit members participated in the Prairie Creek Pumping Station Cleanup at Bona Dea Nature Preserve hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers. Also, in March, some members volunteered with AGFC for the Annual Walleye Spawning Project at Andrew Hulseley Fish Hatchery. In April, the subunit hosted the 7th annual Beast Feast, which raised \$4,000 for student activities and Conclave expenses. Also in April, members volunteered with a Brown Trout freeze branding workday with AGFC at the Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery. To end the spring semester, the subunit hosted a graduate school/internship/resume workshop for undergraduates. In the fall 2022 semester, members volunteered at Bow Jam by assisting at an archery range hosted by Friends of Holla Bend NWR. In September, members planted seeds, painted gates, and picked up trash at the Piney Creek Habitat Improvement Project. Also in September, the subunit hosted a fly-tying class. In October, the subunit hosted a backpack electrofishing workshop taught by faculty adviser Dr. Kyler Hecke. In November, some members attended the Southeastern Fishes Council annual meeting in Athens, GA to present research. New officers were elected in November and started their terms in January. In early February, some members attended the SDAFS annual meeting in Norfolk, VA and some presented research. In late February, the subunit hosted the 8th annual Beast Feast and raised a record \$6,000. In March, members volunteered at AGFC's Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery for the Walleye Spawning Project on the Kings River. Members also attended either conclave or this Chapter AFS meeting.

Arkansas State University – Dr. Brook Fluker – The subunit is small right now and the subunit is trying to reform its prior connection with the Wildlife Society subunit. The club volunteered at outreach events at community fairs, where members offered casting competitions and handed out fishing lures. The subunit also judged the local science fair. The subunit hopes to increase membership this fall at its annual Bioblitz event.

Old Business – Micah Tindall gave an overview of the scholarship process. Since the scholarship investment account has been created, the ad hoc committee has been dissolved. Micah thanked Sean Lusk for his leadership on that committee. Moving forward, the Treasurer, along with the President elected at the same meeting as the treasurer, will be the signees for the investment account. The scholarship committee will consist of the Chapter Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Education Liaison Committee. The responsibilities of each committee member are listed in the updated Chapter bylaws. The scholarships are funded from growth of the investment account beyond the initial \$10,000 investment. The goal will be to award \$250 to an undergraduate student and \$500 to a graduate student annually. John Jackson suggested EXCOM consider a line item in the AR AFS budget so that scholarships are always available. JJ added that AFS EXCOM has authority to use up to \$2,000 for donations and sponsorships. If the investment account doesn't accumulate enough growth in any given year to fund the scholarships, EXCOM may elect to use part of that \$2,000 to fund the scholarship. The Scholarship applications will be released in the fall semester and checks will be awarded to recipients by the spring semester.

Officer Election Results – JJ Gladden reported that in the future, EXCOM will still have virtual voting via an online form, but voting will end the first day of the annual Chapter meeting to hopefully increase participation in the officer elections. Seventy Chapter members voted this year. The candidates for

treasurer were Sean Lusk and Jacob Martin. Sean Lusk was elected as treasurer. Candidate for president were Dylan Hann and Dr. Kyler Hecke. Dylan Hann was elected as president.

Introduction of New President and Recognition of Outgoing Officers – Brie Olsen was introduced as the Chapter President. Christy Graham and Micah Tindall received plaques and were recognized for their service as President and Treasurer, respectfully.

New Business

Brie updated members about changes to the procedural manual, which incorporated the new responsibilities for each officer regarding the scholarship committee. Additional revisions included updated committee chair and officer duties, clarified conditions for student members to get reimbursed for travel to the AR AFS Chapter meetings, and clarified stipulations for the Chapter to fund Hutton Program scholar travel expenses to Chapter meetings.

JJ provided an update on the Hutton Program. There were 57 applicants this year from Arkansas! The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will host four scholars throughout the state.

The Chapter has vacancies for various volunteer positions. Jordan Lindaman did a wonderful job as activities chair, but is vacating that volunteer position. Josh Melton agreed to take over silent auction and raffle, but the Chapter still needs an activities chair. Anyone interested was directed to contact Brie Olsen for the expectations of the role. Since Dylan Hann was elected president, a new webmaster was also needed. Tyler Thomsen was nominated for that role. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the Chapter also needs a newsletter editor.

The Chapter sent out emails soliciting input for future workshops and based on that survey, the Chapter will be hosting an Aquatic Invasive Plant workshop and a workshop on Program R.

Dr. Ginny Adams updated the Chapter on the upcoming Southeastern Fishes Council meeting in 2024, which will be hosted in Arkansas.

Dr. Kyler Hecke suggested the Chapter change the AFS portion of the AR AFS logo to the updated AFS logo. Kyler also asked that the Chapter consider the Wildlife Society's annual Southeastern Wildlife Conclave when scheduling the Chapter meeting. Many students could not attend the Chapter meeting because of that conflict.

Dr. Dustin Lynch, with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, will be hosting another crayfish workshop April 15. This workshop is also open to the public and attendance is capped at 40 participants.

Tim Burnley informed the Chapter about the Lake Harrison dam removal and Crooked Creek restoration project. He asked for Chapter support for the project. Dr. Steve Lochmann suggested that Tim write a resolution and submit the resolution to the environmental affairs committee, who can then send it out to the Chapter for a formal vote of support.

Tim Burnley motioned to adjourn the meeting and Chelsea Gilliland seconded the motion.