President's Message from Eric Brinkman:
“Staying Connected”

It seems everyone I talk to lately is "busy". Busy at work, busy running their kids around, busy with social events, or busy with household projects. In our spare minutes, we’re checking social media to make sure we know just how busy our friends and family are too. I’m afraid we’re busying ourselves to a state of misery. Even when we take off from work we feel the need to go on some extravagant vacation in some distant location that leaves us feeling more exhausted than when we left. In a way I’m afraid society has equated a busy life with importance and success. If we’re not busy, then perhaps were just a little less valuable, a little less interesting, and a little less connected.

Technological advances like iPhones that provide instantaneous access to information and a global market are supposed to make our lives more simple and convenient. Yet with every advancement or convenience added, it seems life just speeds up, and we’re expected to accomplish a week’s work in a single day. When we get caught up in the day to day expectations of meeting this faster paced lifestyle, it can be easy to forget how we started down this path of aquatic resource research and management. After all, who didn't spend their childhood nights and weekends writing reports and learning the latest analysis software? No! We went camping, fishing, hunting, and exploring with our friends and family.

Each year that my children get older I have to look back with regret at the weekends we should have gone camping, the missed chances to catch bedding crappie, or the realization that I haven’t floated a single stream all year. I’ll catch myself saying “next year”. “Next year, I’m going to fish more”, or “Next year, I won’t have all these chores to do”, or “Next year, the kids will be a little older and easier to take along”. But, my favorite excuse to myself is “When I retire, I’ll have time to do all the things I want”. Sadly, we’re not guaranteed another year, or even another day, and I guess that’s what goaded me to provide this word of caution. Over the past year many of us have lost close friends, or even closer family members, that helped mold our love for the outdoors. I don’t think one of us wouldn’t jump at the chance to spend more time outdoors with those people.

I hope in the coming weeks and years you will step away from your "busy" schedule to relax, remember, and recharge in the outdoors. Get away from the business of your life and know the peace of a gurgling stream, reflect on the memories that made you chose your career, and create some new memories to keep you on that path. As you do so, please take time to help mold the next generation of anglers, paddlers, and aquatic biologists. Help foster this same love for the aquatic resources in your children, nephews and nieces, and the neighborhood kids that made you choose your career.
Past-President’s Message- Tate Wentz

Greetings all! I just want applaud the Chapter and current president, Eric Brinkmen, for another great annual meeting. From research presentations, in-depth scientific discussions, and even a little kind razzing of the lucky raffle winners, the annual meeting is always an energizing event (except when you have to host one). My sincere appreciation to all those who have and will continue to step up to provide the Chapter with great meetings year after year.

Moving on to Past-President duties and slated tasks for this year, I will solicit officer and award nominations in our fall newsletter. However, if anyone has early nominations for the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement or Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement, please email me at wentz@adeq.state.ar.us. Lastly, I am pleased to announce two free aquatic plant workshops that are funded by revenue from the 143rd Annual Meeting and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Chapter members voted to utilize funds from the meeting to provide free continuing education opportunities. I look forward to working with EXCOM to develop additional continuing education opportunities for our members later this year.

Chapter Website

Please take time to check out the website for updates and news as we are making changes routinely. Also, please remember that this is your website and the content and information on it is provided by the EXCOM and our membership. Recommendations and contributions in the form of notices, job announcements, retirement announcements, thesis completions, photos, etcetera, are welcome. Just send Lindsey an email and he’ll get on it as quickly as possible.

E-mail: Lindsey.Lewis@fws.gov

Treasurer’s Report

Balance Brought Forward: $26,282.73
(January 26, 2017)

INCOME
Interest from Simmons Bank $13.02
Paypal transfer of funds from 2017 ARAFS meeting $5,137.44
Sam’s Club returns $104.64
Cash and check deposit from 2017 ARAFS meeting $1,539.00
Square deposit of funds from 2017 ARAFS meeting $2,193.08
Total Income $8,987.18

Subtotal $35,269.91

DISBURSEMENTS
Donation for Florida AFS Meeting $1,000.00
Check Purchase from Simmons Bank $23.95
2016 Income Taxes $75.00
2017 Meeting Expenses:
Past President’s lunch $312.93
Holiday Inn Texarkana $4,767.99
Best Western Texarkana $165.53
Student Travel Reimbursement, Arkansas State University $206.62
Best Student Awards $600.00
Jeff Quinn reimbursement $86.88
Student Subunit Room $102.58
Mooyah Burgers $1,225.70
Total Disbursements $8,567.18

Balance on Hand (May 15, 2017) $26,702.73
Prepared by Casey Cox 5/15/2017
**Education Committee**

THANK YOU to the judges of our science fairs! Without all of your time and expertise there is no way that we would be able to provide positive feedback for the great work these students are doing in fisheries and aquatics. Once again, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

I am still maintaining my quest of seamless communications between the chapter and the subunits and things are improving. I feel this mission not only serves our chapter but the students as well. As always, any ideas from the subunits or the Chapter on things they want to see come out of the Education Committee, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

-JJ Gladden, Education Committee Chair
JJ.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov

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**Raffle Committee**

Starting off, I would like to again thank everyone who attended our last Chapter meeting in Texarkana, and all of those that participated in the raffle/silent auction. Again, we were successful at raising money for the Chapter with the support of our loyal members.

Now is the part where we get to see who actually reads these newsletters... I would like to try to bring in some help from other Chapter members, students or professionals, to help obtain donations from local and regional vendors. Most of the items collected for the raffle/silent auction, in the past few years, have been obtained in the North-Central part of the state. With this being a statewide event, it is not fair for one region of the state to donate items for a meeting that is being held in other parts of the state. I would like to see items from vendors from all across the state instead of just one region. I am not able to travel all across the state and collect items from vendors in all four corners of the state, nor would I be as successful as a local individual that has a relationship established with these vendors already.

I mentioned at the Chapter business meeting that I am interested in obtaining help, now comes the fun part of seeing who may want to volunteer. I am looking for individuals from each region of the state who would be willing to spend a little bit of their time going to local or regional businesses asking for donations. This should add a little diversity to our raffle and silent auction table, and would benefit more businesses throughout the state. I will start out with a call for volunteers, and see where that leads me. If I do not receive any response within a few months, I will then move to “Phase Two”, and start asking folks in person. Believe me, you can run, but you cannot hide! No one will be safe then! Please think it over, our Chapter needs you! If you would like to sign up, please contact me via any means necessary.

-Eli Powers, Raffle Committee Chair
Justin.Powers@agfc.ar.gov

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**SDAFS 2020 Meeting Update**

Between now and August, the following tasks should be completed for the meeting:

- Select dates for the meeting;
- Set organizational structure for meeting coordination and fill all major positions;
- Map out major tasks;
- Coordinate with Little Rock Convention and Visitor’s Bureau;
- Begin hotel shopping and engage AFS staff for contract negotiation.

If any members are passionate about a topic feel free to contact me to volunteer. Thanks in advance to all, as I know the Chapter will rise up and put on another great meeting.

-Ben Batten, General Meeting Chair
Ben.Batten@agfc.ar.gov

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Check out the Arkansas Chapter AFS Facebook page!
The Student Subunit Section

**UAPB Subunit:**

Our subunit enjoyed an eventful 2016-17. The current subunit officers include Greyson Farris (president), Cody Salzmann (vice-president), Kyler Hecke (secretary), and Joe Kaiser (treasurer). The Club held three general meetings, which occurred in February, March, and April. Tate Wentz of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and Billy Justis of the United States Geological Survey attended our February and April sub-unit meetings to share their work and professional experiences.

Kyler and Greyson attended the 2017 Southeast Arkansas Science Fair in March, which was held at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Plaques for the “Best Aquatic Sciences Award” were presented to one junior high individual and one senior high individual (see results on Page 8).

The annual UAPB White Bass Bonanza fish tournament was held on March 29, 2017. Three trophies were awarded to anglers, including biggest White Bass (Greyson Farris), most White Bass (Steve Lochmann), and biggest “other” species (Derek Owens). Several members also attended a White Bass fish fry that occurred after the fishing tournament.

Our first annual UAPB Asian Carp Cook-off was a great success. Graduate students Cody and Joseph provided Silver Carp, Grass Carp, and Common Carp that were distributed to subunit members to create the tastiest Asian Carp dishes. Cody Salzmann took home the trophy for best dish, with smoked Common Carp. In all, seven dishes were entered in the competition.

We recently elected officers for the 2017-18 school year. The new officers are President: Joseph Kaiser, Vice-President: Cody Salzmann, Secretary: Jeremiah Salinger, and Treasurer: Douglas Zentner.

Please visit our Facebook Page and give us a Like (https://www.facebook.com/UAPBAFC/) or check out our website (http://farrisg5848.wixsite.com/uapbafc)!

-Greyson Farris, President, UAPB Subunit

**ATTENTION SUBUNIT OFFICERS!**

Remember to e-mail JJ (JJ.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov) ASAP with any changes to your list of current subunit officers. Please remember to take pictures at subunit events so we can include them in the LL!

Above, the UAPB student subunit 2017 White Bass Bonanza prize winners (left to right): Greyson Farris (biggest White Bass), Derek Owens (biggest “other” species), and Steve Lochmann (most White Bass).
**UCA Subunit:**

We have had a productive start to the new year. We were represented well at the 31st Annual Arkansas Chapter AFS Meeting; Aaron Burgad, Michelle Furr, Geoffrey Spooner and Chelsey Sherwood, all presented their research through posters and oral presentations. In April, we hosted the 101st Annual Arkansas Academy of Sciences Meeting. Three members received top honors, with Chris Robinson receiving 1st place for Best Oral Presentation, and Geoffrey Spooner and Stephanie Stoughton tied for 2nd place.

Several of our members participated in UCA’s Big Event, a volunteer event in which we helped clean up a local stream, Tucker Creek, which runs near the UCA campus. Members also volunteered at Girl Power in STEM, an outreach program to spark the interests of young women into the sciences. Our chapter welcomed several guest speakers this semester, including former student and member Clint Johnson, who presented his work with wildlife management and restoration. Kendall Moles, the AGFC Malacologist, presented his work with various Arkansas mussel species. Former member Lori Monday, with AGFC’s Delta Rivers Nature Center, aided us at UCA’s Earth Day event, where she brought an alligator, snake, opossum and an owl. We also participated at the UCA Science Day, as well as the Science Night in Vilonia, where we informed young students about fish and wildlife with preserved fish, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and animal furs.

We held officer elections for our subunit in April. The new officers are President - Jacob Waymack; Vice-President - Aaron Burgad; Secretary - Chance Garrett; Treasurer - Savannah Riddle; and Communications Master - Abigail Topham. Our subunit will be volunteering at the annual Joe Hogan Fishing Derby this summer, and will also be hosting an invasive species fish fry tailgating party on October 14 at UCA - all are welcome! We would like to thank all of our guests for their time, and Lori for her aid at several of these events and her continued involvement with our chapter. We would also like to congratulate Lori on her thesis defense this April, as well as our current outstanding members and their continued success!

-Jacob Waymack, President, UCA Subunit

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**ATU Subunit:**

Conservation is an enormous task often requiring massive input from volunteers and user groups to improve fish and wildlife resources. Our subunit has done its part on several occasions by volunteering over 500 hours with habitat restorations, and trash cleanups at Bearcat Hollow Wildlife Management Area, Bona-Dea Wildlife Sanctuary, and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Lake Front Drive. We also assisted with the Arkansas River Valley Chapter of the Forever Quail Initiative, helping with their shooting events and fundraisers. We have several members that volunteer with the Yell County Wildlife Federation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S.D.A Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Keep Arkansas Beautiful.

The Arkansas Tech subunit has been proactive in education of the public by volunteering at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge’s annual “Bowjam”. At the event, we taught bow safety to all age classes of children. We also held an educational field day this past fall where graduate students taught over 40 undergraduate students how to sample fish assemblages using seine nets and backpack electrofishing, and identification. Four graduate students attended the National meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Seven members attended the Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting with Tyler Savage receiving the outstanding sub-unit member and Zach Moran winning best poster presentation. (continued on next page...)

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Several members of the subunit have been actively involved in both graduate and undergraduate research. Nearly half of our subunit has been involved with research on Paddlefish and Catfish movements, efficiency of chase boats for sampling Blue Catfish, predation on White and Black Crappie by piscivorous predators, Smallmouth Bass spawning movements, genetically describing Eastern Fence Lizards, and Endangered Least Terns. Several of our members have received internships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Graduate student Bennet Grooms earned 1st place for his research presentation on citizen science at the Arkansas Academy of Science this past spring. With multiple incoming freshmen applying for technician jobs, we hope to continue our subunit involvement with professional research of fisheries and wildlife. To raise money for our subunit members to attend the Southeaster Wildlife Conclave, we designed and sold t-shirts and hosted our annual wild-game banquet (with a silent auction). We have also been involved with several outreach/educational opportunities including boat electrofishing demonstrations on Lake Atkins and habitat improvement projects where we sank cedar trees and artificial spawning habitat in the Illinois Bayou. We hope to build bird houses and squirrel boxes in the coming fall semester.

-Tyler Savage, President, ATU Subunit

Hey Students! Do you want to share your research in future editions of the Lateral Line? Your project doesn’t have to be complete to share with others- if you are excited about your project, others will be too. I’ll be looking for a project to highlight in the Fall 2017 edition- first come first serve!

If you are interested, let me know! Christy.Graham@agfc.ar.gov

Don’t Forget! At last year’s Business meeting the Chapter voted to approve a $50 reimbursement for any professional receiving new or renewing AFS Associate Fisheries Professional or Certified Fisheries Professional in 2016 or 2017. So please fill out your applications and get your receipts and proof of certification to Casey Cox!

Would you like to join the Arkansas Chapter AFS??

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, please visit the Chapter web site, or contact Casey Cox at caseycox224@gmail.com. If your e-mail address has changed recently, please let us know!

Ideas for next Lateral Line?

Thanks to everyone who provided information for this edition of the LL. As always, I encourage you, Chapter members, to give me ideas and share your suggestions for future editions. This fall, I’d like to get more information on subunit activities (especially pictures!) and information to do featured articles again. Chapter members are doing a lot of good work- Let’s share it! Thanks!

-Christy Graham, Newsletter Editor

To view EXCOM meeting minutes from May 2017, please visit the Chapter website:
http://sdafs.org/arkafs/AFS/
New Non-Profit: White River Waterkeeper

Greetings, Chapter!

As many of you already know, I left my post at ADEQ in February and have embarked on a new and exciting adventure! Although I still have a lot of work to do to get a fully functioning organization up and running, I have founded a new non-profit – White River Waterkeeper. As a member of Waterkeeper Alliance, I thankfully have a few hundred Waterkeepers throughout the globe to look to for support and guidance in carrying out the fundamental goals of achieving fishable, swimmable, drinkable waters everywhere. You know, basically the whole intent of the Clean Water Act. That’s obviously much easier said than done.

White River Waterkeeper’s mission is to protect the public health and natural resources of the White River watershed through advocacy, education, and research. By filling a unique niche and assisting entities in accomplishing common goals, White River Waterkeeper will serve the watershed by organizing efforts, providing an accessible and knowledgeable response to environmental concerns, advocating for water quality, educating decision makers and the general public in water-related concerns, and conducting research to better characterize and assess the quality of our waterbodies. While most of White River Waterkeeper’s primary objectives have statewide implications, such as supporting research and advocating for better water quality standards that are both scientifically defensible and protective of swimmable, drinkable and fishable uses, many objectives necessitate waterbody and regional approaches specific to localized threats. I look forward to keeping you all abreast of work we’re doing and issues that should be on your radar as natural resource managers.

Leaving ADEQ was one of the toughest decisions I have made, but I look forward to my new role in pursuing water quality protection in Arkansas. Please check out our Facebook Page or website!

-Jessie Green, White River Waterkeeper
jessie@whiteriverwaterkeeper.org
Website: www.whiteriverwaterkeeper.org

Thanks, Dr. Grippo!

The EXCOM would like to give a big THANKS to Dr. Rich Grippo (ASU) who has resigned his post as Chair of the Environmental Sub-committee after nearly a decade of service to the Chapter. Dr. Grippo explained his time as Chair as a “wild and wonderful ride”.

In the upcoming months, the EXCOM will be looking for a replacement for Dr. Grippo. If you are interested in filling this role, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Eric Brinkman (Eric.Brinkman@agfc.ar.gov).
Once Again...Chapter members helped with SCIENCE FAIRS!

Chapter members always devote a lot of time to judging science fair projects at State and Regional fairs in the spring. Here are some of the results:

The North-West Arkansas Regional Science Fair was held at The U of A in Fayetteville. The winner of the Junior Division was Jazz Pope. The winner of the Senior Division was Samantha Henson.

The Southeast Regional Science Fair was held in Monticello. The winners were: Junior Division- Zoie Autrey for the project “H₂OMG” (bottom picture); Senior Division- Havana Santis for the project “Do Gold Fish Like Gold Rays?” (top picture).

Once again, thanks to all the judges, including Jim Peterson, Andy Yung, Katy Harmon, and members of the UAPB, UCA, U of A, and UALR Subunits!

The Lateral Line

The Central Arkansas Regional Science Fair was held at UALR in Little Rock. The winners were: Junior Division- Sreelakshmi Raghav for the project “The Effect of Silver Nanoparticles in the Aquatic Ecosystem”; Senior Division- Alekhya Pidugu for the project “Dye Degradation in Water Using Nanocomposites”.

The West Central Arkansas Regional Science Fair was held in February at the AR Math and Science School in Hot Springs. The winner of the Senior Division was Chole Long for the project “Nitrate and Phosphate levels before and after rainfall”.

The South-West Regional Science Fair was held at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. The winners were: Junior Division- Rayne Cranford of Taylor Jr. High School for the project “Effect of Soil on the Acidity of Runoff Water”; Senior Division- Emilee Watson of Emerson High School for the project “Aquaponics II”.

The 63rd Annual Southwestern Arkansas Science and Engineering Fair was held in Conway on The University of Central Arkansas Campus. High School students (grades 9-12) who were winners from regional fairs were invited to exhibit projects on their research in the State Science Fair, which is affiliated with the Society for Science & the Public, Washington, D.C. Recognition for excellence is made in eighteen categories. Teams of professional scientists serve as judges and choose category winners, recipients of special awards, and overall state winners. The winner of the fair was Jason Ly from ASMSA for the project “Analyzing the Atrazine concentration in Arkansas Raw and Finished Water”. An honorable mention was awarded to Samantha Henson of Fayetteville High School West.
The EXCOM would like to congratulate the following Chapter Members on their awards:

**Individual Achievement**
Jim Petersen, 2017 Joe Hogan Award

**Outstanding Conservation Achievement**
Arkansas Canoe Club (Debbie Doss and Cowper Chadbourn): 2017 Robert M. Jenkins Award

2016 Outstanding Sub-unit Member Awards:
Arkansas State University: Dustin Thomas
Arkansas Tech University: Tyler Savage
University of Arkansas: Chris Middaugh
University of Arkansas at Little Rock: Elizabeth Haralson
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff: Greyson Farris
University of Central Arkansas: Chelsey Sherwood

**Best Presentations at 2017 Meeting:**
Undergraduate Poster: Dustin Thomas (ASU)
Graduate Poster: Brittany McCall (ASU)
Graduate Presentation: Zack Moran (ATU)
Professional Presentation: Jason Throneberry (ANHC)

To view Business Meeting minutes from the January 2017 Chapter Meeting, please visit the Chapter website: [http://sdafs.org/arkafs/AFS/](http://sdafs.org/arkafs/AFS/).

Above, Chapter President Tate Wentz presented Jim Petersen with the 2017 Joe Hogan individual achievement award. Below, Tate presented Arkansas Canoe Club representatives, Debbie Doss and Cowper Chadbourn, with the 2017 Robert M. Jenkins Award Conservation Achievement Award.

← Left, member Katy Harmon poses with her award for winning the 1st ever Chapter Scavenger Hunt; Right, members Mark Oliver and Betty Crump enjoy catching up at the Chapter banquet.