



American Fisheries Society

Arkansas Chapter

2022 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society February 25, 2022 Graduate Fayetteville

Welcome and Introduction of Officers – JJ Gladden

Past President: Justin Homan
President: JJ Gladden
President-Elect: Christy Graham
Secretary: Brie Olsen
Treasurer: Micah Tindall
Recognition Past-Presidents

Determination of Quorum – Brie Olsen

Requirements for quorum were met.

Review and Approval of 2021 Annual Business Meeting Minutes – Brie Olsen

The 2021 business meeting minutes were made available online (<https://arkansasafs.wildapricot.org/Minutes>) prior to the 2022 business meeting. No revisions were made. Micah Tindall motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Tim Burnley. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

SDAFS Report – Jason Olive

Jason Olive acknowledged Steve Lochmann as the past president of the Southern Division of AFS.

Jason encouraged members to recognize individuals and groups for their hard work by nominating those for the numerous AFS awards available. Jason also mentioned that the best chapter award is divided between large and small chapter (large chapters = 100 members of parent AFS), that the number of submissions is typically low, and encouraged chapters to apply for the award. Jason highlighted the value of technical committees and as president of the Southern Division of AFS, he aims to increase participation in technical meetings by asking fisheries administrators to promote and support involvement in technical committees. Jason has interacted with other AFS chapters and

divisions and plans to hold more meetings throughout the year with chapter presidents to understand the needs of each chapter.

Jason also had announcements from the Southern Division of AFS.

- SDAFS will provide free rooms to students who are willing to assist at Southern Division meetings. The Southern Division will provide more incentives for student workers in order to increase participation and retention of student volunteers.
- Anyone interested in participating in the SDAFS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee should contact Jess Baumann.
- Jason reminded members of the AFS Code of Conduct.
- The Southern Division listserv will be updated to include only paid SDAFS members, thus membership to SDAFS needs to be up to date to remain on the listserv.
- AFS Certification lapses with membership, so ensure that membership to AFS is renewed to maintain certification.
- AFS has created a gray literature database with case studies and state reports. The link is on the AFS website (<https://graylitreports.fisheries.org/>).
- American Fisheries Society parent meeting for 2022 will be in Spokane, Washington.
- The 2023 Southern Division AFS meeting will be in Virginia.

President's Report – JJ Gladden

JJ Gladden acknowledged the commitment of the AFS Chapter members to attend the meeting given the winter weather conditions. He also reiterated Jason Olive's message about nominating people for awards. JJ acknowledged the loss of connectivity due to the lack of face to face meetings and reiterated his message of connectivity from the fall newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Micah Tindall

The treasury report was made available on the website prior to the business meeting. Steve Lochman motioned and Jacob Martin seconded to approve the treasury report. All were in favor.

ARAFS – 2022 EXCOM Treasurer’s Report
Covering 12/12/21 – 2/25/22

Balance Brought Forward (12/12/2022):	\$32,555.99
INCOME	
Interest (Simmons Bank)	\$5.84
AFS Dues	\$1,125.00
Meeting Registration	\$10,800.00
Donation-Water Monitoring Solutions	\$500.00
Raffle	\$1605.00
Silent Auctions	\$1646.00
Shirt/Glass/Dry Bag	\$493.00
Total Income	\$16,174.84
SUBTOTAL	\$48,730.83
DISBURSEMENTS	
AffiniPay Fees	\$310.21
EXCOM Meetings	\$634.31
EXCOM AFS Due reimbursements	\$400.00
Award Frames	\$631.59
Meeting Supplies	\$165.68
Workshop Food	\$137.28
The Graduate Fayetteville-Meeting*	\$16,935.60
Raffle Purchases	\$791.63
Subunit/Presentation Awards**	\$400.00
Cash Withdraw	\$200.00
Square Fees	\$60.37
<i>*Still awaiting final invoices **Awards just issued and have not cleared, balance is \$400.00</i>	
Total Disbursements	\$20,666.67
Balance as of February 25, 2021:	\$28,064.16

Appointed Officer Reports

Newsletter – Jessica Feltz

Chelsea Gilliland provided an update for Jessica Feltz. The Chapter is trying to increase its social media presence, so members were asked to please check out these social media pages (https://www.instagram.com/arkansas_afs/ ; https://twitter.com/Arkansas_AFS). Future social media communications will highlight more job and internship opportunities.

Webmaster – Dylan Hann

Dylan Hann encouraged everyone to check out the bragging board. Dylan has tracked use of the website and generated reports regularly. He asked that anyone with suggestions or ideas for the website reach out to him. JJ added that they have been doing their best to drive traffic to

the website and will continue to keep information related to job openings or other events up to date. Dylan reminded everyone that there are links to social media accounts on the website.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Awards Committee – Justin Homan, Chair

Justin Homan encouraged members to make nominations for the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement and the Robert M. Jenkins Award for Conservation Achievement. Justin also noted that the chapter gives an award for the best undergraduate presentation and encouraged professors to invite undergraduate students to present their research.

The Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement was awarded to Dr. Charles Gagen. The Robert M. Jenkins for Outstanding Conservation Achievement was awarded to the Twin Lakes Walleye Club.

The outstanding subunit member awards were as follows: UAPB - Jeffery Stevens, ATU - Ben Johnson, U of A - Kearstin Findley, UCA - Grace Davenport

The award for the best undergraduate student poster presentation went to Ellie Green of Arkansas Tech University. The winner of best graduate student poster presentation was Seth Drake of Arkansas Tech University. The award for the best graduate student presentation went to Derek Owens from University of Arkansas Pine Bluff. The winner of the best professional presentation was Sean Lusk of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Election of Officers – Justin reported that 52 members voted for officers and 49 voted on the bragging board award. There were two candidates for president. Brie Olsen is the president elect. There were two candidates for secretary. Allison Asher is the new secretary. Colton Dennis received the most votes for his bragging board post.

Activities and Raffle Committee – Jordan Lindaman, Chair

Jordan Lindaman thanked everyone who participated in the silent auction and raffle. The raffle and silent auction each netted over \$1600 (see treasury report).

Environmental Affairs Committee – Dr. Sue Colvin, Chair

Sue Colvin was asked by AFS to give a talk on WOTUS policy and thus may solicit opinions from chapter members for the presentation. JJ expressed great appreciation to Sue for stepping into the role of chair of the environmental affairs committee. This committee provides the chapter with the ability to provide comments on policy changes.

Education Liaison Committee – Chelsea Gilliland, Chair

Chelsea Gilliland reported that this meeting has lived up to the theme, “We are all Students”. Eighteen students and five panelists attended the student luncheon/workshop. Chelsea expressed appreciation for those who were able to fill in for others who couldn’t attend the meeting due to weather. Chelsea received good feedback and wants to continue the workshop at future meetings. She reminded everyone that student subunit reports from last quarter are in the fall newsletter.

Subunit Reports

University of Central Arkansas – A representative could not attend and submitted a report via email.

Since the Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting in February 2021, our subunit has held several events in person and on Zoom. Last April, we screened an episode of Planet Earth on our outdoor projector in celebration of Earth Day. We also held officer elections to select seven new members of our executive committee. We have continued to maintain the native freshwater fish tank that was started in 2019 in our science center with funds from the Student Government Association.

Last semester, our monthly meetings were on Zoom, including a graduate student Q&A session for the benefit of undergraduate students. We also held several outdoor events in person. We collaborated with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff subunit to host a cleanup of local city parks in both Conway and Pine Bluff. After the cleanups, both subunits hopped on Zoom to compare our litter collection and get to know one another. We hosted hikes at Cove Creek Natural Area and Pinnacle Mountain State Park. We worked with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to become a part of their tackle loaner program; we now have eight rods and reels that any student can check out for free with a valid fishing license. Finally, our last meeting of the semester featured guest speaker Dustin Lynch from Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. This semester, our monthly meetings will be in person (yay). We will host a CV/resume workshop in March. In April, Morgan Gantt from AGFC is presenting a Fishing 101 Seminar, and we are working on putting together a bigger event to celebrate Earth Day. We also look forward to working with the UAPB and Arkansas State University subunits on events in the future such as a kayak/canoe float and a BioBlitz.

Last November, eight members of the UCA AFS subunit presented their research at the Southeastern Fishes Council annual meeting in Columbus, GA. Two of these members won awards for outstanding undergraduate poster and oral presentations. At this year's Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting, six of our members had posters displaying their research, and two of our members presented oral presentations.

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff – Derek Owens

The subunit held a joint virtual social event with the UCA subunit, where both subunits cleaned up an area in their community and held a social after. As a fundraiser, students cleaned and sold catfish raised at UAPB. The subunit held a tailgating event and assisted the AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center with a Halloween event. Students participated in a UAPB current student and alumni float. Club meetings hosted a different speaker each month. The subunit also held a resume workshop and a presentation workshop where student presenters practiced their presentations given at this AFS meeting. The subunit will again host the annual White Bass Bonanza tournament and is always looking to be involved with more events.

Arkansas Tech University – Autumn Henry

The subunit was involved with a quail banquet, highway cleanups, and trivia nights. The subunit elected seven new officers in November. Members attended the Big Buck Classic and fly-tying clinics. The subunit is coordinating with USACE and plans to hold cleanup events on Lake Dardanelle. The subunit will hold a Beast Feast dinner as a fundraiser. The subunit will be holding a raffle at the Beast Feast and is accepting donations for the Beast Feast and raffle.

University of Arkansas – No report received.
Arkansas State University – No report received.

Chelsea Gilliland emphasized strengthening the chapter's connection to students. She encouraged professionals to introduce themselves to students and interact with students at chapter events. Darrell Bowman encouraged involvement from all registered subunits and JJ specified that he would like to reengage those subunits who couldn't attend this meeting. JJ also mentioned that the lack of in person meetings the last few years has unfortunately led to a lack of engagement and he reiterated that everyone needs to encourage student involvement.

Old Business

Recognition of SDAFS 2020 Planning Committee – JJ Gladden

JJ Gladden expressed thank to the many people who helped with 2020 SDAFS. The following were acknowledged at the banquet for their assistance on the planning committee for 2020 SDAFS: Ben Batten, Mike Eggleton, Darrell Bowman, Steve Lochmann, and Tate Wentz.

Ad Hoc Committee for 2020 SDAFS Profit- Sean Lusk

Sean Lusk asked the chapter for permission to invest \$10,000 to create a student scholarship fund. The account will need to be monitored and Micah Tindall volunteered to serve two additional years after his term as treasurer as a liaison to help the new treasurer with the additional responsibilities for the investment account. Darrell Bowman started a discussion about the work load of the investment account and if the liaison was necessary. Jason Olive indicated that any changes or extensions of the treasurer's responsibilities would likely require a change to the chapter by-laws. Ben Batten asked, after investment, how much will money remain in the account. Micah reported approximately \$15,000. Darrell made a motion that the chapter invest \$10,000. Steve Lochman seconded the motion and all approved.

Introduction of New President – JJ Gladden

Christy Graham expressed her enthusiasm to serve as the chapter president and she was very happy for the turnout at the meeting, given the winter weather. She thanked everyone who attended and those who helped plan the meeting. She also thanked the 31 participants who gave oral presentations and 12 who presented posters.

Recognition of Secretary and Past-President – JJ Gladden

Justin Homan and Brie Olsen were recognized for their service to the Chapter as past- president and secretary, respectively.

New Business

Kyler Hecke recommended a joint meeting with the Arkansas Wildlife Society. Darrell Bowman expressed support for meeting with another adjacent AFS chapter. Members agreed we are due for another joint meeting but no decision was made for a joint meeting.

Mike Eggleton asked if the option for video presentations will continue for future meetings, but Christy Graham expressed that this was a last minute accommodation due to the poor weather conditions preventing some from attending and there are no plans for video presentations in the future.

Dustin Lynch stated that he plans to lead the crayfish workshop, which was offered at this meeting, again in the spring, along with a field trip.

Tate Wentz asked if Theo Witsell would be willing to host an aquatic plant workshop again and Dustin indicated he would discuss the matter with Theo.

Jimmy Barnett made a motion to adjourn. Mike Eggleton seconded and all others were in favor.