President’s Message from Eric Brinkman:  
“Leadership”

I have heard it said several times and in different ways that the best leaders are in fact, great servants. They understand that their ultimate responsibility (and desire) is to do what is best for the organization and each person in that organization. This requires forgetting their own will and agendas for a greater cause.

I have been surrounded by some great leaders in my life. Some have been recognized for their abilities and appointed to positions with titles like “President” or “Chairman”. Yet, that seems to be the exception and not the rule. Most leaders serve behind the scenes and at lower levels with complete and unambitious humility. I am proud to say that the Arkansas Chapter has many great leaders, and I am grateful for each one. I hope you will join me in thanking every leader in the Chapter. From the Newsletter Editor to the people cleaning up after the Wednesday night social, let’s take a second and let them know we noticed what they do. They probably won’t want the acknowledgement, but I bet it will make them smile. Better than saying “thank you”, let’s make their job easy by responding when they have a request, or even volunteering to help. In the end we will be a stronger, more cohesive organization in our efforts to promote the aquatic resources of Arkansas.

At this year’s Chapter Meeting, we will again be tasked with electing our future President and next secretary. I ask each member to take a moment think about who serves the Chapter year after year. Then, submit those names to Tate as potential candidates for these positions. If these kinds of people are willing to accept the nomination, we can’t help becoming a better organization.

Thank You! Mike, Jessie, Casey, Tate, J.J. Eli, Christy, Forrest, Ben T., Ben B., Rich, and all sub-unit presidents for serving the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in 2017.

The EXCOM would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday season. We look forward to seeing all the members at the Chapter meeting in January!! See pages 9-11 for Details!

Also in this Edition:

- Officer and Committee Reports (Pgs. 2-4)
- Student Subunit Reports and SDAFS student information (Pgs. 5-7)
- Miscellaneous Info (Page 8):
  - Upcoming Meetings and Workshops
  - Officer Contact Info
  - AFS Certification Reimbursement
- 2018 Chapter Meeting Information (Pgs. 9-11)
- 2018 Awards Nomination Form (Pg. 12)
Past-President’s Message from Tate Wentz

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our mid-year aquatic plant identification workshops. We had a great turnout with around 40 Chapter members attending the two workshops. I owe a huge thank you to Theo Witsell for teaching the workshop and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission for hosting us.

Our annual meeting is just around the corner and our President-Elect, Mike Eggleton, is working hard to organize another great meeting. With another year, comes another cycle of Chapter elections. We are currently soliciting officer nominations for President-Elect and Secretary. We are also requesting nominations for the Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement and the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement. The nomination form is included on page 12 and all nominations should be submitted by December 29, 2017. (See page 3 for more information…)

Raffle Committee

Hello to all my fellow ARAFS members. It is once again the time of year where we are making plans for our annual Chapter meeting. Again this year, I am looking forward to providing all of you with the opportunity to win great prizes, and to raise money for our chapter through our silent auction and raffle. But, I need help. As threatened in the Spring newsletter, I am now entering “Phase Two” and I will soon be contacting folks around the state to help with collecting donations. The more variety we can provide at the silent auction, the better the competition for bids, and the more money we can raise for our chapter. If you would like to volunteer to help, let me know. Thank you all, and happy holidays, vacation, deer hunting, etc…

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

2018 Science Fair Schedule- Save the Dates!!

- Central Arkansas – March 2nd, 2018, UALR Campus, Donaghey Student Center
- West Central Arkansas- Feb 22nd, 2018, AR Math and Science School
- Northeast Arkansas – March 1st, 2018, Location: Arkansas State University, Student Union,
- Southeast Arkansas – March 8th, 2018, U.A.M., Gibson University Center
- Northwest Arkansas – March 2nd, 2018, UA Campus, Arkansas Union Ballroom
- Southwest Arkansas - March 18th, 2018, SAU Campus Gym
- State Science Fair – March 30th, UCA Campus, Farris Center

Anyone interested in judging, contact me!

-JJ Gladden, Education Committee Chair
JJ.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov, (501)286-0017

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!
**Environmental Committee**

Dr. Rich Grippo recently stepped down as the Environmental Committee Chair and has been replaced by Dr. Forrest Payne, who recently retired from UALR. Active members on the committee include Jim Petersen, who will cover environmental issues in Central Arkansas, and Jessie Green, who will cover Northwest Arkansas. **The committee is in need of members who are willing to cover the northeast, Delta, and southwest regions of the state.** Anyone who wants to serve on the committee is welcome. Please contact Dr. Payne at fepayne@ualr.edu or fpayne@sbcglobal.net.

On behalf of the Chapter, the Environmental Committee recently submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expressing opposition to repeal and replacement of the 2015 Clean Water Rule (Waters of the United States Rule or WOTUS). Comments may be read at: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203-10216.

**Treasury Report**

Balance Brought Forward (May 8, 2017) $26,702.73

**INCOME**

Interest Deposits (Simmons Bank) $16.33

**DISBURSEMENTS**

AFS Certification Reimbursements (x2) $100.00
AFS Re-Certification Reimbursement $25.00
AFS Chapter Insurance $150.00
Plant ID Workshop Refreshments $575.99
ASU Outstanding Member $50.00
ASU Outstanding Member $50.00
Wild Apricot Subscription $756.00
Excom Meeting Lunch – Hideaway Pizza $150.09

Balance on Hand (October 25th, 2017) $24,861.98

Prepared by Casey Cox, Treasurer

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**Nominations/Awards Committee**

**Call for Officer Nominations** – This is the first call for 2018 Arkansas Chapter officer nominations. Nominations are open for President-Elect and Secretary. The President-Elect is primarily responsible for organizing the 2019 Chapter Meeting and serves on the Chapter’s Executive Committee (EXCOM). The President-Elect serves on the Chapter EXCOM for a total of three years (one as President-Elect, one as Chapter President, and one as immediate Past-President). The Secretary’s duties include handling notes, minutes, and correspondence for the Chapter. The Secretary serves a two-year term. Specific duties of the officers are documented in the Chapter Bylaws. Nominations are due to Tate Wentz by **December 29, 2017**.

**Call for Award Nominations** – This is the first and only call for nominations for the Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement and the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement. The Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement goes to an individual, agency, or organization that has provided leadership or outstanding assistance in helping to conserve fisheries resources. Recent award recipients include Arkansas Chapter Trout Unlimited, Illinois River Watershed Partnership, CADDIS Fly Fishing Club, Arkansas Bass Association, and the Arkansas Canoe Club.

The Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement goes to an individual who has provided leadership or long-term service to our Society, our fisheries resources, or our profession. Recent award recipients include Mark Oliver, Dr. Steve Lochmann, and Jim Petersen.

Nominations are due by **December 29, 2017**. An award nomination form is provided on Page 12 of this newsletter, and can be sent to following address or email: Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality c/o Tate Wentz, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR, 72118 or wentz@adeq.state.ar.us. **Tate Wentz, Nominations and Awards Committee Chair**
**SDAFS 2020 Meeting Update**

As Co-Chairs of SDAFS 2020, Tate Wentz and I have made some progress on meeting planning. Highlights of our planning activities include the following:

- Selected a first choice for meeting dates of February 20-23, 2020;
- Started setting up the Chair and Committee structure for the meeting;
- Visited the Marriott and Double Tree Hotels for tours;
- Made initial contact with Shawn Johnston of AFS in preparation for his assistance with contracting.

Ongoing initiatives include furthering setup of the Chair and Committee Structure, honing in on more accurate numbers, and needs for room spacing. We anticipate for things to pick up and for more folks to get involved after the 1st of the year. As always, if you are passionate about volunteering for a committee (besides Social, it’s full!), e-mail Tate or I.

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

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**New Habitat Management Manual!**

The Reservoir Fish Habitat Management manual was a project of the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP), and was supported by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ Multi-state Conservation Grant Program through a grant to RFHP.

The Reservoir Fish Habitat Management manual is organized into an introduction and 13 sections. Section 1 is based on a nationwide survey of reservoir habitats completed by the RFHP. The RFHP canvassed agency professionals about various aspects of reservoir fish habitat degradation, and identified 12 comprehensive factors that captured most degradation. The sections developed in this document parallel those 12 factors to identify management practices that address the perceived degradation. Most sections are organized similarly: background information about the degradation factor is followed by a listing of alternative management practices. Deciding on appropriate management action can be complex because there are often several options for addressing degradation problems. Different options may have different costs, effectiveness, and consequences. A simplified decision model to choose among management options is suggested in section 12. Habitat management often goes far beyond the manpower available to agencies involved in reservoir habitat management, so suggestions on working with stakeholders are included in section 13. Ballpark costs of reservoir fish habitat management practices are given in the Appendix.

To download the manual, please visit the following link: https://fms.fisheries.org/reservoir-fish-habitat-management-manual/.

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**CATFISH 2020**

The SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee and the NCDAFS Ictalurid Technical Committee would like to officially announce that planning is underway for Catfish 2020: The 3rd International Catfish Symposium. The two day Symposium will be held in conjunction with the 2020 Southern Division AFS Meeting in Little Rock, AR (February), and the proceedings will be published. There is still plenty of time for researchers and managers to initiate projects for inclusion. Potential session topics may include: management, human dimensions, non-game species conservation, international catfish issues, etc. For information and updates, please visit our website: http://catfish2020.weebly.com.
The Student Subunit Section

**U of A Subunit:**
The University of Arkansas subunit has been very busy this semester. We have started a seminar series on campus titled “Fish Friday Seminars” where we invite fisheries scientists to come and talk to the university community. We also held a social night to promote a close-knit community among members. Most of our member base is made up of graduate students studying a variety of aquatic species and systems, but we are currently trying to increase our undergraduate membership. Future plans for the subunit include a stream/lake cleanup and a stream sampling technique workshop.

-Jacob Martin, President, U of A Subunit

**UCA Subunit:**
The UCA Fisheries and Wildlife Society has had a productive year so far. Several of our members volunteered at the annual Joe Hogan Fishing Derby in June. Earlier this fall, we also participated in the first of two UCA Science Nights, where we inform young students and their parents on fish and wildlife, macroinvertebrates, and environmental issues. In October, we held our Invasive Species Fish Fry at the UCA Tailgating event, where we raised funds to help send our members to upcoming meetings. In fact, we sent ten of our members to the Southeastern Fishes Council at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga in November! We had another UCA Science Night at the end of November, where former member Lori Monday, from the AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center, attended with her animal ambassadors, which include snakes, turtles, an alligator, and an opossum! We would also like to congratulate Chris Robinson, Marci Pollett, and Michelle Furr on the defense of their theses!

-Jacob Waymack, President, UCA 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 another project to highlight in the Spring 2018 edition- first come first serve!

If you are interested, let me know!

Christy.Graham@agfc.ar.gov

Above: “Fish Friday Seminars” guest speakers, William J. Matthews and Edie Marsh-Matthews, with U of A subunit members.

Below: Past and present UAPB Subunit officers pose for a photo after assisting with the “Kids Free Fishing Derby” at the AGFC Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery.
**UAPB Subunit:**

Our subunit has been involved with the UAPB campus and beyond this 2017-18 term. The current subunit officers include Joseph Kaiser (president), Cody Salzmann (vice-president), Jeremiah Salinger (secretary), and Douglas Zentner (treasurer). We held three general meetings this fall. Annette Fields, a UAPB alumni, and Jeff Buckingham, fisheries biologist with AGFC, attended our September and November sub-unit meetings to share their work and professional experiences.

On campus, we were involved with the Fall Orientation Departmental/Informational Fair held at the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building. The event allowed us to meet new, incoming students, as well as showcase the merits of the club for their professional and social benefits as students. We were also involved in several catfish cleaning events in conjunction with fish sales at the UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Research Station. The cleaning events allowed us to raise money for other activities, and also benefited the station by increasing sales of catfish. We also assisted the station in seineing fish from ponds for sales on multiple occasions. A tailgate social was also held on campus during homecoming. Sub-unit members got together in the boat shed area and grilled out and socialized.

Our members also volunteered at several AGFC community events and at the Mike Huckabees Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Several members voluntarily SCUBA and snorkel cleaned the glass of the fish tanks at the nature center. Also, we volunteered both nights at the October attraction “Boo on the Bayou” with the nature center, which is a well-attended event the nature center hosts every year. We assisted with the casting booth, where kids learned to cast and reel in fish.

We also volunteered at the kids fishing derby held at the AGFC Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery this past summer. Our duties during the event included bait distribution, setting up signs for the different events, directing people where to go for events and weigh-in, and assisting in the clean-up afterwards. Also, AGFC held a community fishing event called “Get Youth Outdoors” at the MLK pond in Pine Bluff that we assisted with by running the archery and bb-gun ranges and setting up kids fishing poles.

In the near future, we plan to host several activities for members to learn how to use standard fisheries sampling techniques (i.e. Boat-mounted electrofishing, gillnets, trap nets, etc.). We are also planning to continue several events that traditionally occur in the spring semester, such as the annual UAPB White Bass Bonanza fish tournament and the continuation of an annual UAPB Asian Carp Cook-off. Please visit our Facebook Page and give us a Like (www.facebook.com/UAPBAFC/), or check out our website (http://farrisg5848.wixsite.com/uapbac).

-Joseph Kaiser, President, UAPB Subunit

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**ATTENTION SUBUNIT OFFICERS!** Remember to e-mail JJ (JJ.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov) ASAP with any changes to your list of current subunit officers.
Left: UAPB Subunit members run the ranges at the “Get Kids Outdoors” event held by AGFC in Pine Bluff this fall.

Below: UAPB members did a great job clearing the fish tanks of attached algae at the Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center. Some effective, yet unorthodox, methods were deployed while in the tanks...

Want Free Online Access to AFS Journals?

Now enjoy free online access to all five AFS journals, which will be included with your membership! If you subscribe to one journal, you will save $10 per year. Your savings can add up to more than $100 if you currently subscribe to multiple journals. Or, for the price of just a few à la carte article downloads, now you can have unlimited access to almost 150 years of scientific knowledge.

JOURNALS INCLUDED WITH AFS MEMBERSHIP:
- Transactions of the American Fisheries Society
- North American Journal of Aquaculture
- North American Journal of Fisheries Management
- Journal of Aquatic Animal Health
- Marine and Coastal Fisheries
- Fisheries Magazine (print & online)
- Reviews in Aquaculture (Wiley journal)

2018 AFS DUES:
- Regular - $95
- Student - $25
- Young Professional - $50
- Retired - $50

Please visit www.Fisheries.org for more information on this new offer!
Miscellaneous Information

2018 Meeting and Workshop Announcements

2018 Southern Division AFS Meeting
March 7th – 11th, 2018
Intercontinental Hotel
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2018 Mid-Continent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop
Feb 5th - 7th, 2018
The Lodge at Mount Magazine State Park
Paris, AR

2018 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter – American Fisheries Society
January 23rd – 25th, 2018
UAPB STEM Academy Conference Center
Pine Bluff, AR

Managing Rivers, Reservoirs, and Lakes in the Face of Drought
Practical Tools and Strategies for Sustaining and Protecting Ecological Values of Water
April 24 to 26, 2018; Hilton, Fort Collins, Colorado

Format and Content: Flow 2018 is a problem-solving workshop that will be held in Fort Collins, CO from April 24 to 26, 2018. Presentations will go beyond descriptions and projections of anticipated consequences and focus on proven practices for dealing with drought and extreme flow variability. Four, half-day sessions in plenary format featuring selected speakers will focus sharply on outcome-based elements that have been shown to work for dealing with drought-induced challenges to water management including 1) legal strategies (state, federal, and provincial), 2) institutional capacity (effective agency actions), 3) scientific principles (spanning hydrology, biology, geomorphology, connectivity, and water quality), and 4) incorporating public involvement. Facilitated discussions after each plenary session will explore additional insights, strategies, and tools offered by attendees. As with previous IFC conferences, the emphasis on interdisciplinary problem-solving will create networking opportunities that benefit aquatic resources and participants long after the end of the workshop.

For more info, visit: www.instreamflowcouncil.org.

Getting in Touch: Current Officers

President: Eric Brinkman;
Eric.Brinkman@agfc.ar.gov

President Elect: Mike Eggleton;
eggletonm@uapb.edu

Secretary: Jessie Green;
jessiejean7@gmail.com

Treasurer: Casey Cox;
caseycox224@gmail.com

Past President: Tate Wentz;
Wentz@adeq.state.ar.us

Reminder!! The Chapter will reimburse you half of your AFS Professional Certification fees if you have become certified in 2016 or 2017. In order to be reimbursed, you must present your certification notification and receipt to Casey Cox.
SAVE THE DATE!!!!

2018 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter – American Fisheries Society
January 23-25, 2018
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff – STEM Academy Conference Center
1530 L. A. Prexy Davis Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Note this year’s meeting is scheduled from Tuesday through Thursday!

Meeting Registration:

Online -
https://arkansasafs.wildapricot.org/events/
(Online payment options are through PayPal only. If online payments are not submitted, an invoice will be generated for payment purposes).

Paper -
Please complete the registration form on Page 11 and mail it with payment to Michael Eggleton (address on form).

Workshop Offering:
We are offering a FREE half-day workshop this year on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018 in the morning. The workshop is open to the first 25 participants who register for it. Please indicate your attendance on the registration form. There is no guarantee that the workshop will have space for walk-up registrants who want to attend.

Workshop Title: “Introduction to Identification of Arkansas Mussels”
Instructors: Kendall Moles, Bill Posey, and Ben Thesing, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Moles and Posey: 877-847-2690, kendall.moles@agfc.ar.gov and william.posey@agfc.ar.gov. Thesing: 501-697-6036, benthesing@gmail.com.

Lodging:
We have blocked 30 rooms at the Pines Mall Holiday Inn Express from Tuesday, January 23rd through Wednesday, January 25th. Please find a roommate if possible.

Rates: $85.00/night + 15.375% tax ($98/night), includes continental breakfast. Use group name “AFS” when registering to take advantage of the reduced rate.

All reservations for conference block rooms must be made before January 15, 2018 – call the hotel directly at 870-534-1810 to make your reservations.

Please bring at least one item for the silent auction! For details, contact Eli Powers at 877-425-7577 or justin.powers@agfc.ar.gov.
Tentative schedule

Tuesday, January 23
8:30 am – 12:00 pm – Mussel ID Workshop
11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Registration and Presentation Loading
1:00 pm – 1:10 pm – Welcome, President’s Address
1:10 pm – 5:00 pm – Contributed papers
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Poster Session
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm – Welcome Social at the Delta Rivers Nature Center

Wednesday, January 24
7:30 am – 2:00 pm – Registration and Presentation Loading
8:00 am – 11:40 am – Contributed papers
11:40 am – 1:20 pm – Lunch on your own
1:20 pm – 5:00 pm – Contributed papers
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Banquet at Harbor Oaks Restaurant at Regional Park,
   Awards Presentations, Silent Auction

Thursday, January 25
8:30 am – 10:30 am – Chapter Business Meeting
10:30 am – 12:00 pm – Technical Committee Meetings
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm – Past-Presidents’ luncheon at Harbor Oaks Restaurant

First Call for Abstracts!
We want to hear about your work! Abstracts should be 200 words or less and include: (1) title of the paper; (2) names of authors(s) with an asterisk (*) denoting the presenter’s name; and (3) affiliation of the authors(s) (e.g., agency, university, business, etc.). Abstracts will be accepted through the Arkansas Chapter AFS website (https://arkansasafs.wildapricot.org/), and can be submitted when you pre-register online. Just follow the template and provide the information requested. We will be judging for Best Paper awards – please let us know if you do not want to be considered for these awards. All questions or special requests concerning abstracts should be directed to Jessie Green at jessie@whiteriverwaterkeeper.org or 501-915-2746.

The deadline for abstract submittal is January 8, 2018.
2018 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter – American Fisheries Society
January 23-25, 2018
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff – STEM Academy Conference Center
1530 L. A. Prexy Davis Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Meeting Registrant:

Name: ____________________________________________

Name shown on badge (if different): __________________________

Is your contact information the same as last year? Yes ___

If not, or you did not attend last year’s meeting, please provide the following information:

Affiliation: ____________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Email: ___________________________ Phone: ________________

Meeting Registration:

Student Registration $35.00  ______

Early Registration (postmarked by Jan. 10th) $65.00  ______

Regular Registration (Jan 11th and later) $70.00  ______

Arkansas Chapter Regular Membership dues $10.00  ______

Arkansas Chapter Student Membership dues $5.00  ______

Mussel ID Workshop – Tuesday, Jan 23rd (first 25 registrants admitted)  ______ (please indicate your attendance)

Total Registration & Membership dues:  ______

Are you giving an oral or poster presentation this year?  ______

All checks and money orders should be made out to Arkansas Chapter AFS

Mail payment to:

2018 Arkansas Chapter AFS Meeting
c/o Michael Eggleton
UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries
1200 N. University Drive, Box 4912
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

For Treasurer Use only:

Date paid: _________

Check ___ Cash _____

Check number: _________

Paid by: _____________
AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominator Information
Name
Title and Organization
Phone
Email

Joe Hogan Individual Achievement Award
Nominee Information:
Name
Title and Organization
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

Please list the accomplishments of the nominee that you believe supports your nomination of the candidate in an attached letter.

Robert M. Jenkins Outstanding Conservation Achievement Award
Nominee Information:
Name
Title and Organization
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

Please list the accomplishments of the nominee that you believe supports your nomination of the candidate in an attached letter.

Please send or e-mail form by December 29th to:
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality c/o Tate Wentz
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR, 72118 or wentz@adeq.state.ar.us