A message from the President: Justin Homan

Hello everyone! It’s hard to believe the changes that have taken place since our meeting during the 2020 Southern Division Meeting in February. I believe we hosted an excellent meeting, and although not the primary purpose of hosting the meeting, we are in good financial shape because of it. I really appreciate everyone’s hard work on the meeting and want to congratulate everyone on a job well done.

Some folks may be interested to know what EXCOM has been up to in the past months (besides social distancing). Our main focus has been working on plans for next year’s annual meeting and the status of our chapter website. After much discussion and research, we have decided to stick with the Wild Apricot platform as our website host for the next year. We thought we could move to a platform using the parent Society web page as a host for free and a few other programs to handle accounting, emails, payments, and other features; however, after comparing costs, we decided to stick with Wild Apricot since it was an all-in-one package. For the 2021 annual meeting, we are planning to host one in-person as of now, but we plan to have a virtual meeting as a back-up. We will do our best to keep the Chapter informed on our plans for the 2021 meeting.

Chapter business aside, I’ve thought a lot about what to say in this letter since our world has changed so much since February. There’s a lot of negative and a lot of fear and worry out there right now. Our work and family lives have been impacted like we never would have imagined. We are still taking care of most of our field work like usual at AGFC, but I’m sure other colleagues have been tremendously impacted, particularly the universities. What changed the most, I think, is our sense of knowing what the future would be like. We thought we knew how things would go over the next year and then all of the sudden it became hard to tell what tomorrow would bring. The truth is, tomorrow has always been somewhat of an unknown so I find it best to focus on what I can do today. One thing I would encourage you to do is to take advantage of technology and check in on your colleagues. We’re all impacted and sometimes it’s nice just to know that you’re not the only one struggling with things. To me, what makes AFS a great organization is the people and the relationships we’ve formed over the years. I went to grad school in Arkansas and then worked out of state for about seven years. When I came back in 2013 and saw everyone at the annual meeting that year, it was like a family reunion to me. We’re blessed with a great group of folks to work with and I encourage you to reach out and check on each other during this time.

Finally, I’d say to everyone to try to look at the positives from this. One thing that has stuck out to me is how much time we now have on our hands. In preparing for this letter, I read back through Matt Schroeder’s letter to the Chapter last spring. In it, he lamented about how busy we are and how we don’t get to fish as much as we would like.

Continued on page 2...
President’s message continued...

Now this spring, everyone has all kinds of time to go fishing and get outside because all of the things we put in our lives to busy ourselves have been cancelled. I think that’s definitely a positive that we get to spend more time with our families and hopefully you’ve taken the time to get out and fish a little bit more than usual. Maybe in the future, the next generation of conservationists can look back on this spring and see that this was the turning point when they discovered the outdoors and decided upon a career in the outdoors. I hope you and your families are well and have taken some time to get outdoors. If you need anything from me, I’m only a phone call or text away.

Best,
Justin Homan

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

LATERAL LINE UPDATE
Because of university and office closures due the Covid-19 Virus, this edition of the Lateral Line will not include individual student-subunit reports or committee reports. If you have any updates, please submit those to committee chairs for inclusion in the Fall Lateral Line.

MEMBERS MATTER
If you are interested in joining the Arkansas Chapter, renewing your membership (or updating your member contact info), or would like to be reimbursed 50% the cost of certification, please contact Matt Horton (Matt.horton@agfc.ar.gov).

ATTENTION STUDENTS
Please remember to email Chelsea Tucker, new Education Committee chair (Chelsea.Tucker@agfc.ar.gov), with changes to your list of current subunit officers!!

CURRENT OFFICERS

President — Justin Homan
Justin.Homan@agfc.ar.gov

President-Elect — JJ Gladden
JJ.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov

Secretary — Brie Olsen
olsen@adeq.state.ar.us

Treasurer — Matt Horton
Matthew.Horton@agfc.ar.gov

Past-President — Matt Schroeder
Matthew.Schroeder@agfc.ar.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & HAPPENINGS

2020 Annual AFS Meeting: The AFS Governing Board announced there will be no physical AFS Conference in Columbus, originally scheduled for August 30-September 3, 2020. Plans are being arranged for a Virtual Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 14-25, 2020. Abstracts for symposium and for oral presentations and posters must be submitted by June 15, 2020!

2020 SEAFWA Conference: The 74th Annual SEAFWA Conference is still scheduled for October 25—28, 2020 in Springfield, Missouri. Abstract submissions for oral and poster presentations are now open!

2021 Annual SDAFS Meeting: Southern Division AFS is heading to Arlington, Virginia! Dates & details are TBD.

2021 Arkansas Chapter AFS Meeting: Tentative dates are February 10-12, 2021 with location TBD.
## TREASURY REPORT

**Balance Brought Forward (2/14/2020):** $14,386.66

### INCOME

- Utility (Simmons Bank), Apr - May 2020: $4.31
- ARAFS Membership Dues: $120.00
- Growler Sales at 2020 SDAFS Meeting: $90.00
- Reimbursement for 2020 SDAFS Hospitality Room Supplies: $249.54
- 2020 SDAFS T-Shirt Sales Cash: $1,077.00
- 2020 SDAFS Silent Auction & Raffle Cash: $1,095.00
- SDAFS Reimbursement (Affinipay, Chapter Dues, $500 for Hosting SDAFS 2020, T-shirt sales, $5,000 SDAFS Meeting Seed Money, 2020 Meeting Expenses, Raffle and Silent Auction Profit): $9,971.00
- 2020 SDAFS Profit Share: $12,379.05
- 2020 Catfish & SDAFS Meeting (Registration, Workshops, T-shirts, etc.): $24,744.59

**Total Income** $49,730.49

### SUBTOTAL

$64,117.15

### DISBURSEMENTS

- AffiniPay Transaction Fees (2.9%/transaction): $797.74
- 2020 SDAFS Meeting Income (Transferred to SDAFS Acct.): $24,690.00
- 2020 Chapter Award Plaques and Frames: $394.36
- 2019 Chapter Tax Filing Fee: $75.00
- 2020 SDAFS Meeting Hospitality Room Supplies: $918.91
- 2020 SDAFS Raffle Item (Kayak): $583.00
- Food for 2020 Chapter Meeting: $149.39
- Past President’s Lunch: $330.32
- Sub-unit Member Awards: $250.00
- Jimmie Pigg Scholarship Donation: $500.00
- Member AFS Professional Recertification Reimbursement (50%): $100.00

**Total Disbursements** $28,788.72

**Balance of May 26, 2020**: $35,328.43

*This balance is $50 less than the Chapter’s Simmons Bank account due to an outstanding $50 check (#984) awarded at the 2020 meeting that has not been cashed.

Prepared by Matt Horton

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## COMMITTEES

**Nominating and Awards Committee**  
Mike Eggleton  
eggletonm@uapb.edu.

**Education Committee**  
Chelsea Tucker  
Chelsea.Tucker@agfc.ar.gov

**Environmental Affairs Committee**  
Jessie Green  
jessie@whiteriverwaterkeeper.org

**Activities and Raffle Committee**  
Jordan Lindaman  
Jordan.Lindaman@agfc.ar.gov

**Webmaster**  
Dylan Hann  
Dylan.Hann@agfc.ar.gov

**Newsletter Editor**  
Jessica Feltz  
Jessica.Feltz@agfc.ar.gov

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## INFORMATION REQUEST

Did you recently complete a project? Did you do something fun during your quarantine time? Do you have ideas for the next Lateral Line? All chapter and subunit members are encouraged to contribute their stories, research or project highlights, or member updates to feature in the Lateral Line!

Please submit any material (pictures are encouraged) to me at: Jessica.Feltz@agfc.ar.gov.

- Jessica Feltz,  
Newsletter Editor
MEET THE NEW FACES OF THE CHAPTER

Justin Homan, Chapter President

Hometown: Manassas, Virginia
Education: Virginia Tech (B.S.) & Arkansas Technical University (M.S.)
Current Job: District 4 Fisheries Supervisor for AR Game and Fish Commission

What is your first fishing memory?
My first fishing memory is from fishing a friend’s pond and catching a lot of sunfish.

How has AFS impacted your academics/career?
My activity in AFS has given me the chance to meet a lot of people throughout the south east that are also active in the field. Going to regional meetings and state meetings now is like a big family reunion and I think that’s why folks enjoy the meetings so much.

Brie Olsen, Chapter Secretary

Hometown: LeRoy, New York
Education: State University of NY at Oneonta (B.S.) & Auburn University (M.S.)
Current Job: Ecologist Coordinator, AR Dept. of Environmental Quality

If you weren’t doing aquatic sciences/fisheries, what do you think you would be doing?
I would definitely still be in the natural sciences. Maybe something like forestry or invasive plant management.

What is your favorite fish/fishing-related memory?
Fishing was the main activity during “daddy-daughter” days with my dad. We did one at least once a summer; it was just me and him, and my Donald Duck fishing pole. It was the best!

JJ Gladden, Chapter President-Elect

Hometown: Caddo Gap, Arkansas
Education: University of Central Arkansas
Current Job: Aquatic Resources Education Program Coordinator (AGFC)

If you weren’t doing aquatic sciences/fisheries, what do you think you would be doing?
Clearly the hospitality industry!!!! Brewing, distilling, customer services...

What do you think is the coolest fish you’ve caught OR would like to catch?
Hard to say, is it a 165 lb alligator gar on the White River or a World Record (for smallest fish) Mahi Mahi (see photo!)
MEET THE FACES OF THE CHAPTER

Matt Horton, Chapter Treasurer

**Hometown:** Pangburn, Arkansas  
**Education:** ASU Heber Springs & Arkansas Tech University  
**Current Job:** Fisheries District 10 Habitat Biologist (AGFC)  
**What is the coolest fish you’ve caught?**  
A 90-lb. Wels Catfish. I caught this in the Rhone River in South-Central France. We used heavy action spinning tackle and live chub for bait; we tight lined along the river channel in an 18 ft. aluminum boat. This was my first trip to Europe, and I’ve always wanted to catch one!

Dylan Hann, Webmaster

**Hometown:** Stevensville, Michigan  
**Education:** Virginia Tech & Mississippi State University  
**Current Job:** Fisheries District 7 Management Biologist  
**If you weren’t doing aquatic sciences/fisheries, what do you think you would be doing?**  
I worked in construction for quite a few years before getting into fisheries, so I guess I would get back to that. Well, maybe, I’d start a singing career. I could be the next Jimmie Rodgers. Only time will tell....

Chelsea Tucker, Education Committee

**Hometown:** Hermitage, Pennsylvania  
**Education:** California University of Pennsylvania & Mississippi State University  
**Current Job:** Arkansas River Biologist for AGFC  
**What is your favorite fishing memory?**  
I grew up fishing with my dad and brother, but it wasn’t until my college Sophomore Ichthyology Class, doing stream backpack electrofishing, that solidified my career in fisheries. Seeing all the darters, Smallmouth Bass, and sucker species was truly life changing, and led to where I am today.
Awards were presented during the annual chapter business meeting, held in February during the 2020 SDAFS Meeting in Little Rock. Congratulations to all nominees and recipients!

**Outstanding Student Member**

Winners not pictured:
- Derek Owens
  *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*
- Alyssa Mostrum
  *Arkansas Tech University*
- River Watson
  *Arkansas State University*

Calvin Rezac
*University of Central Arkansas*

Adrienne Ingram
*University of Arkansas*

**Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement**

White River Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Award accepted by Tim Burnley

**Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement**

Tom Bly
*Arkansas Game and Fish Commission*