



American Fisheries Society

Arkansas Chapter

AGENDA

2021 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society February 11, 2021 Meeting Held Virtually

Welcome and Introduction of Officers – Justin Homan

Past President: Matt Schroeder, President: Justin Homan, President-Elect: J.J. Gladden,
Secretary: Brie Olsen, Treasurer: Matt Horton
Recognition of AFS Officers and Past-Presidents

Justin Homan thanked all who participated in the virtual meeting and for all the students who gave pre-recorded talks. Justin also recognized past presidents who were in attendance including but not limited to Charlie Gagen, Ginny Adams, Ben Batten, Steve Lochmann, and Tate Wentz and apologized for not being able to host a past president's luncheon.

Determination of Quorum – Brie Olsen

We had approximately 130 registered members in attendance, which met requirements for determination of quorum (i.e. 1/3rd of registered chapter members, determined to be 34)

Review and Approval of 2020 Annual Business Meeting Minutes – Brie Olsen

2020 meeting minutes were made available on May 28th 2020 at <https://arkansasafs.wildapricot.org/Minutes>. No revisions were made. Motion to approve – JJ Gladden, motion seconded – Charlie Gagen. Motion Approved

SDAFS Report- Jason Olive

Jason indicated that the Southern Division President, Tom Kwak and the other Southern Division Officers sent their regards and are appreciative of the Chapter holding last year's regional meeting. The Southern Division was able to put on two back to back meetings with profitable results, which is especially important given that this year's meeting will be virtual and limited in its profitability. The 2021 meeting is being held on April 6th – 9th and is hosted by the Virginia Chapter. Registration is \$25.00 and the deadline to submit an abstract is February 16th. Future meeting locations have been determined as Charleston, SC in 2022, Virginia to host in person in 2023 (location TBD) followed by Tennessee and North Carolina.

The Parent Society Meeting has been rescheduled for November 2021 in hopes for an in-person meeting and will take place in Baltimore, MD. Anyone interested in involvement with the newly formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee should contact Tom Kwak before April. The Parent Society is

considering splitting the Best Chapter Award into 2 awards. Southern Division opted to continue with a nominee at both levels, but the Best Student Subunit award will remain as a single award.

Catfish 2020 proceedings is to be published in a special issue of North American Journal of Fisheries Management. Everyone who attended will receive a printed copy. Online copy will be open access.

Jason mentioned that students and early career professionals have reduced rates for membership and to remind members that AFS certification lapses with membership, so ensure that you are renewing your membership annually.

Finally, Southern Division Officers invite its members to reach out about events, changes or other topics of interest especially during a time of unprecedented isolation.

President's Report – Justin Homan

Justin regretted that this meeting couldn't be done in person, but recognizes the risk that the pandemic still poses. However, the meeting was able to be run through Zoom at no cost thanks to JJ Gladden's work.

EXCOM was able to award four \$500.00 donations to the Jimmie Pigg Award, the Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Virginia Chapter of AFS, and the Central Arkansas Master Naturalists.

There have been some Procedural Manual updates regarding the Chapter's Standing Committees. EXCOM proposes that Standing Committee members be in place for 2 years with a rolling vice-chair serving during the 2nd year of the Committee Chair. The purpose of this change is to ensure adequate exchange of information and an advisory mechanism for incoming Committee chairs. The other suggested change to the Procedural Manual was to limit any ad hoc committees to 7 members.

Treasurer's Report – Matt Horton

Since the creation of the treasurer's report, \$723.76 was spent on award plaques and 3 EXCOM were reimbursed for their national AFS dues at a total of \$300.00.

ARAFS – 2021 EXCOM Treasurer’s Report*
Covering 5/26/2020 – 01/25/2021

Balance Brought Forward (5/26/2020):	\$35,328.43
INCOME	
Interest (Simmons Bank), May – December 2020	\$23.51
ARAFS Membership Dues (Wild Apricot)	\$680.00
ARAFS Membership Dues (Transferred from PayPal)	\$186.95
2019 AFS 3% Dues Reimbursement of AR Chapter Members	\$159.60
2020 SDAFS Registration Money (Final Compensation for Hosting Meeting)	\$420.00
Total Income	\$1,470.06
SUBTOTAL	\$36,798.49
DISBURSEMENTS	
AffiniPay Transaction Fees (2.9%/transaction)	\$6.46
2021 Chapter Award Plaques and Frames	\$53.48
Wild Apricot 1 Year Subscription	\$540.00
Donation (Virginia Chapter AFS)	\$500.00
Donation (Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society)	\$500.00
Donation (Central Arkansas Master Naturalists)	\$500.00
Member AFS Professional Recertification Reimbursement (50% of Total Fee)	\$25.00
Total Disbursements	\$2,124.94
Balance as of January 26, 2021:*	\$34,673.55

Prepared by Matt Horton

**This balance is \$1,050.00 less than the Chapter’s Simmons Bank account, due to two outstanding \$500 checks that were issued on 1/25/2021 (#999 and #998) and one outstanding \$50 check that was issued on 2/18/2020 (#984).*

Motion to approve – Micah Tindall – seconded by Justin Homan. Motion approved.

Appointed Officer Reports

Newsletter – Jessica Feltz

Jessica is always looking for content for the newsletter and requested that students, especially, submit content to the newsletter. Jessica also asked that anyone who submits content also submit related pictures.

Webmaster – Dylan Hann

The website has been updated a bit, but we would like to see more information regarding student subunits. Otherwise, everything is up-to-date.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Awards Committee – Matt Schroeder, Chair

The Jenkins Award goes to the Greers Ferry Army Corps of Engineers Project Office for received the following nomination:

“The Greers Ferry Project office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages one of the most heavily used multi-purpose reservoirs in the State. An impoundment of the Little Red River located in Cleburne and Van Buren Counties, Greers Ferry was initially constructed for flood control and hydropower generation but has become a premiere destination for recreational boating and fishing. In the past fifteen years there has been an increased

emphasis put on natural resource management. Resource management has included timber management, controlled burns, propagation of native warm season grasses, planting of water tolerant mast tree seedlings for shoreline stabilization and wildlife forage, herbicide spraying for invasive vegetation and last but not least, fish habitat projects. All of the funds derived from timber sales goes directly back to the Greers Ferry Project for natural resource management. This has greatly benefited the Corps involvement in fish habitat projects.

Since 2005 they have participated in numerous fish habitat projects either cooperatively with the AGFC or of their own initiative. During that time period they have been involved in the development of 245 fish habitat sites and replenishment of existing sites. They have provided employees and volunteers, materials and equipment for our cooperative habitat projects. They were heavily involved with the AGFC's first, Statewide large-scale habitat project in Choctaw Bay in 2016 providing 336 man-hours of labor, a dump-bed barge, a skid steer loader and a backhoe. They provided over 300 large Eastern Red Cedar trees for the project as part of an effort to thin the invasive from Choctaw Recreation Area. Without their approval and assistance this project would never have happened.

Most recently, in a complete reversal from previous management, they identified areas around the lake where trees may be cut from the shoreline for future projects. This resulted in an additional 60 habitat sites that were constructed of larger woody material requiring less time, personnel and funding. The current management recognizes the importance of fish habitat to the lake, to the fisheries resources and to recreational fishing. The USACE Greers Ferry Project Office sets a great example for other project offices in reference to fishery habitat projects and it is for this reason why we believe they should be recognized with the 2021 Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement."

No one was present from the organization to accept the award.

The Joe Hogan Award goes to Reed Green for the following nomination:

"I would like to nominate Reed Green for the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement. Reed is an asset to the state and to Little Rock. Some of his more recent achievements include Presiding over the Central Arkansas Master Naturalists, creating a virtual space for water quality information flow (Arkansas Healthy Lakes and Watersheds Facebook page), and active involvement with protecting Fourche Creek, the country's largest urban wetland. Reed has organized multiple clean-ups on Fourche creek, has helped install and maintained a trash baffle, and has acquired resources like a boat and a motor, which he then donated to the Master Naturalists for use on Fourche Creek. Reed has implemented monthly clean-ups on the creek and has brought the protection efforts to the attention of several organizations including the City of Little Rock, Keep Little Rock Beautiful, and Central Arkansas Water. In addition to the work on Fourche Creek, Reed has partnered with ADEQ to coordinate a volunteer lake monitoring program, which he has presented as a project for the Master Naturalists. We're very lucky to have someone so involved in the protection of our waters and, by nominating Reed for this award, hope to convey my appreciation for his work."

Reed addressed the Chapter and discussed the work on Fourche Creek as well as the challenges associated with maintain a healthy watershed that's highly urbanized. Reed thanked that chapter for the donation to the Central Arkansas Master Naturalists, the organization with which he works, and mentioned that they were able to use those funds toward purchasing a boat and trailer for use during clean-ups. Reed also mentioned that the next scheduled Clean-up is March 14th.

Matt Schroeder also thanked the Southern Division – Little Rock 2020 Meeting Chairs and Organizing Committee. Thanked Tate Wentz, Ben Batten, Daryl Bowman, Steve Lochman, JJ Gladden, and Mike Eggleton. Jason Olive and Justin Homan were acknowledged and thanked for their work with the Catfish 2020 Symposium.

Special recognition was given to both Christy Graham who had served as the Newsletter Editor for as well as Eli Powers who had served on the Activities and Raffles committee. Both members carried out these duties for several years.

Outstanding subunit member awards:

UCA - Tori Herber

ATU – Dawson Hicks

The judging for the student presentations during the 2021 virtual Chapter Meeting was very close. Judges included Jacob Martin, Joe Kaiser and Chris Middaugh. The Best Student Presentation Award went to Maxwell Hartman from UAPB.

Activities and Raffle Committee – Jordan Lindaman, Chair

Jordan Lindaman was not present, but didn't have much to report given the limitations presented by the ability to organize an in-person meeting amidst a pandemic.

Environmental Affairs Committee – Jessie Green, Chair

Jessie Green was not present.

Education Liaison Committee – Chelsea Tucker, Chair

Chelsea Tucker was not present, but communicated her update to JJ Gladden. Communication with the subunit presidents has been a challenge. She has been in discussions with Ginny Adams regarding science fairs. The EXCOM decided to focus only on the State Science Fair this year given that the question of fairs being held amidst the pandemic. Ginny offered to check in n the State Science Fair as it's usually held by UCA. Last year, the fair was held virtually and no AFS award was presented.

Subunit Reports

UCA

Grace Davenport – Vice President reported one in person meeting in 2020 and their 2020 elections, but the rest were virtual. The subunit was able to host a couple socially distanced in-person events including graduate student Q&As. The subunit has also hosted a stream clean-up in partnership with the Allies in STEM as well as secure funding through the Student Government Association for a native fish tank and informational signage. Eight members presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies where several students won awards. Six members presented at the current meeting. The subunit has future plans to purchase an outdoor projector to increase their socially distanced in person meeting capabilities. Their officer elections are to be held in April.

UAPB

Representative not present.

U of A

Representative not present.

ATU

Dawson Hicks – President reported that many of the events ended up getting cancelled, but they were able to have a volunteer opportunity at Petit Jean in January. The subunit would like to conduct their bimonthly meetings differently with more guest speakers. He encouraged professionals to reach out to Alyssa Mostrom at amostrom@atu.edu if they were able to present virtually.

ASU

Representative not present.

Old Business

2013 Profit Update – Workshops, AFS Certification Reimbursement – Justin Homan

After the 2013 National Meeting, there was a committee formed to determine how best to spend surplus funds. Justin wanted to remind members that they will be reimbursed ½ the cost of professional certification. EXCOM also plans to fund a Human Dimensions Workshop and can likely fund other workshops as opportunities arise.

2021 Arkansas AFS Procedure Manual Update – Justin Homan

See President's report.

Election of Officers – Matt Schroeder

Matt Schroeder reported that 48 members voted in elections. There had been two candidates for president but one withdrew. Christy Graham is the new president elect. There were two candidates for Treasurer. Micah Tindall is the new Treasurer.

Introduction of New President – Justin Homan

Justin welcomed JJ Gladden as the new president by mentioning his extensive involvement with AFS and EXCOM. JJ served several years as the Educational Liaison Committee Chair and knows he will make a great president.

New Business

Ad Hoc committee for 2020 SDAFS Profit

JJ asked that members form an ad hoc profits committee to discuss best ways to spend profits from the 2020 Southern Division Meeting. Brie proposed determining an amount we were comfortable with spending and sending out a request for proposals to universities, non-profit organizations or other applicable organizations. No members volunteered to form the committee, so JJ requested people reach out.

Motion to adjourn – Steve Lochman. Seconded – Brie Olsen. Motion passed.