



American Fisheries Society

Arkansas Chapter

ARAFS 2020 Business Meeting Minutes

**2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society
February 21, 2020
Little Rock Marriott – Little Rock, Arkansas**

Executive Committee: Matt Schroeder (President), Justin Homan (President-Elect), Mike Eggleton (Past President), Matt Horton (Treasurer), Dustin Lynch (Secretary)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS – Matt Schroeder

- Welcome
- Recognition of Executive Committee
- Note that this business meeting will be somewhat expedited due to time constraints (many attendees were attending afternoon workshops)

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Dustin Lynch

- We had 71 registered members in attendance, which met the requirements for determination of a quorum (i.e. 1/3rd of registered chapter members, determined to be 43)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2018 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES – Dustin Lynch

- 2019 business meeting minutes were sent out to the membership on February 3rd, 2020. No revisions were made.
- Motion to approve – JJ Gladden, motion seconded – Brett Timmons. Motion approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Matt Schroeder

- Report expedited in the interest of brevity.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Matt Horton

- Balance is \$14,346.66
 - This is \$50 less than what the Simmons Bank account shows, due to an outstanding \$50 dollar check
- There is still a \$5,893 pending transfer to the Southern Division.

- Some chapter memberships got transferred to the SDAFS account.
- Matt Horton will work with Mike Eggleton after the SDAFS meeting to recover all Chapter funds related to the SDAFS meeting. Matt will send out an updated budget report to all members at that point.
- Motion to approve – Brett Timmons, motion seconded – JJ Gladden. Motion approved.

APPOINTED OFFICER REPORTS

- **Newsletter – Christy Graham**
 - Christy was not in attendance, but reminded the chapter she has served as newsletter editor for 5 years and would like to step down.
 - Jessica Feltz will replace Christy as the chapter's new Newsletter Editor.
- **Webmaster – Ben Thesing**
 - Ben would also like to step down after serving as webmaster for several years.
 - Dylan Hann will replace Ben as the chapter's new Webmaster.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Nominating and Awards Committee – Mike Eggleton**
 - Outstanding Student Subunit Members
 - University of Central Arkansas – Calvin Rezac
 - University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff – Derek Owens
 - Arkansas Tech University – Alyssa Mostrum
 - Arkansas State University – River Watson
 - University of Arkansas – Adrienne Ingram
 - Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement
 - Executive Committee plus a few extra voters decided from three nominations.
 - 2020 Jenkins Award winner is the White River Chapter of Trout Unlimited #698
 - Tim Burnley accepted on their behalf and read an acceptance letter. Highlights included:
 - Angler access and habitat restoration projects on Dry Run Creek, including youth and mobility-impaired fisheries opportunities.
 - Plantings of Bonneville cutthroat trout egg boxes in the North Fork and White Rivers.
 - Establishment of the Dry Run Creek Fund in which non-profit groups pool money used for improvement and maintenance on the creek.
 - Creation of a new parking area at Roundhouse Shoals on the White River, including a \$10,000 contribution by the chapter and other non-profits, negotiating with the railroad regarding easements, convincing a landowner to donate a

4,000' strip of land to AGFC for the construction of a trail, and raising \$30,690 for the construction of that trail.

- Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement
 - The 2020 Joe Hogan Award winner is Tom Bly.
 - Tom gave an acceptance speech:
 - “A lifetime of individual achievement is not what I’d call this award. I’ve never done anything in my career at Game and Fish as an individual. Everything I’ve ever accomplished in my career has been done with tons and tons of folks helping. There might have been instances where I was on my own planning or starting trouble or whatever it was, but I always had a lot of help achieving the final goal. That’s what’s always impressed me about AGFC people, fisheries people specifically – whenever there was a call for help, whenever something happened, there was always plenty of help. There were always people to step up and do what needed to be done. Young people coming in have been an inspiration to me. I’ve had 33 years in next week. I’ll be 64 next month, so I am the old head. Sometimes it’s hard to keep that fire going. Hard to keep that inspiration. You get tired, or broadsided by so many things anymore. Seems like so little we do anymore is fish management. Early in my career it was wide open. We did a lot of stuff and we didn’t answer to many people. Now we answer to anyone that has a smart phone or a computer. To be honest with you, I’m tired. I’m really tired. I didn’t want to do what some of my predecessors have done. I wanted to work until my last day if at all physically possible. This award means more to me than anything I’ve ever gotten. I appreciate y’all’s confidence. More than anything. I know I’m not the easiest to get along with. I’m stuck in a lot of old ways. I will cherish this.”
- Activities and Raffle Committee – Eli Powers
 - Eli is also stepping down from this committee. He has served since 2014 and helped with the national meeting in Little Rock the year before that.
 - Eli encouraged someone to step forward and fill this role.
- Environmental Affairs Committee – Jessie Green
 - Jessie asked if anyone would like to join the committee. She would love to have more people working on more issues. There are only so many they can get to.
 - The committee will be adding a page to the website.
- Education Liaison Committee – Chelsey Sherwood
 - Chelsey was not in attendance and did not send a report.
 - Chelsea Tucker will replace Chelsey Sherwood as the Education Liaison.
 - Anyone judging an upcoming science fair should contact either Chelsea Tucker or JJ Gladden.
- 2020 SDAFS Meeting Committee – Ben Batten

- We had around 600 conservation professionals in Little Rock this week, sharing a lot of great information and having a good time.
- This is only possible because of the help of everyone in this room in some way or another. Particular thanks to Steve Lochmann, Tate Wentz, and JJ Gladden.
- There were 426 registered attendees and vendors, 165 scientific presentations, 51 posters, and 8 symposia.
- JJ Gladden motioned to approve the committee reports, and Brett Timmons seconded. Motion approved.

STUDENT SUBUNIT REPORTS

- University of Central Arkansas – Calvin Rezac
 - There are about 20 students attending meetings.
 - Activities have included a mix of professional development, talks about how to gain research experience, and so forth. Several students have also given presentations.
 - The chapter has done demos on hoop-netting and seining.
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff – Jeremiah Salinger
 - They had a workshop to develop students' competence in R programming.
 - They are slowly rebuilding undergraduate participation in the subunit. A lot of previously active members have graduated and moved on.
 - Last fall they sponsored a cleanup around MLK pond.
 - They will be judging a science fair in Monticello next month.
 - They are sponsoring the annual white bass bonanza tournament as well as holding their third annual Asian carp cook-off in April.
- University of Arkansas – Adrienne Ingram
 - Membership in the subunit has increased significantly. They currently have 27 members on the roster and greatly increased undergraduate student engagement.
 - Last June they participated in a fisheries-oriented outreach event targeting the Martialese community.
 - Adrienne Ingram and Dan Magoulick presented at the national meeting in Reno last year.
 - Adrienne has attended unit and subunit leadership workshops.
 - They have invited a guest speaker from Freshwaters Illustrated to give a seminar and film screening.
 - They had a table at the student fair and are planning to judge at the next science fair, as well as workshopping fundraising ideas including possibly calendars or t-shirts.
- Arkansas Tech University – Arkansas Tech Sub-unit Representative
 - The subunit attended the national Conclave.
 - They did local clean-up events.
 - They worked with an elk restoration project at Bearcat Hollow.
 - Their big upcoming event is the annual Beast Feast, which is their main source of fund-raising. They've sold a lot of tickets this year.

- Arkansas State University – Brittany McCall
 - They are down to 10 members, after many of their undergraduates graduated and moved on. Recruiting has been a challenge.
 - They merged with The Wildlife Society this past year.
 - They taught techniques workshops including driving trucks and trailers, and fish, mussel and macroinvertebrate ID.
 - They've planned catfish and trout fishing tournaments with AGFC to increase their fundraising efforts.
 - They are collaborating with White River Waterkeeper and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission in the near future to do a snorkeling field-trip.
- Motion to accept – JJ Gladden, Motion seconded – Jeff Quinn. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Matt Schroeder

- We have continued to provide workshop opportunities including a human dimensions workshop with Jessica Feltz.
- We are still reimbursing certifications. Members can get half of their certification or re-certification reimbursed. Contact Matt Horton.
- We updated miscellaneous guidelines on donations and sponsorships in the 2020 Procedure Manual and added language to the sections on chapter subunit assistance. These changes were approved by the Executive Committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Mike Eggleton

- We used online voting for officers at the suggestion of Justin Homan. It is convenient and allows us to move more quickly through the business meeting without having to count votes.
- We had two candidates for President – JJ Gladden and Maurice Jackson, and two candidates for Secretary – Brie Olsen and Jessica Feltz.
- The online survey ran for 8 days and over a quorum of the chapter did vote.
- The new Secretary of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is **Brie Olsen**.
- The new President-Elect of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is **JJ Gladden**.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT – Matt Schroeder

- Matt introduced the new chapter President, Justin Homan.
- Justin thanked Matt for his service as President.

NEW BUSINESS

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission internships are online now. If anyone knows someone who qualifies, applications will close next week on the website, so let them know.

- Jessica Feltz urged people to contact Maurice Jackson if they would like to be involved in the Community Fishing Program. She pointed out that it is a great way to connect with local anglers. She encouraged others to fill the vacant positions on the appointed committees and volunteered herself to serve as the new Newsletter Editor.
- Jeff Quinn asked if the chapter could donate \$500 to the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee to go towards the Jimmie Pigg Award for Outstanding Student Achievement, but it was decided that this might be an Executive Committee vote rather than a Chapter vote.

Motion to adjourn Business Meeting – Jessica Feltz, motion seconded – JJ Gladden. Meeting adjourned.