



# *American Fisheries Society*

## **Arkansas Chapter**

### **ARAFS 2019 Business Meeting Minutes**

**2019 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

**February 22, 2019**

**The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa – Hot Springs, Arkansas**

**Executive Committee:** Mike Eggleton (President), Matt Schroeder (President-Elect), Eric Brinkman (Past President), Casey Cox (Treasurer), Dustin Lynch (Secretary)

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS - Mike Eggleton**

- Welcome
- Recognition of Past Presidents
- Recognition of Executive Committee

#### **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM - Dustin Lynch**

- We had 55 registered members in attendance, which met the requirements for determination of a quorum (i.e. 1/3rd of registered chapter members)

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2018 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES - Dustin Lynch**

- 2018 business meeting minutes were sent out to the membership. No revisions were made.
- Motion to approve - Steve Filipek; Second - Brian Wagner
  - No comments; motion passed.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mike Eggleton**

- Next Workshop
  - Human Dimensions is currently polling in the lead as the next workshop topic.
- We have proposed verbiage an amendment to the chapter by-laws to cap donations at \$2,000.00 per calendar year and \$500.00 per request.

#### **SDAFS REPORT - Wes Neal**

- The Southern Division Executive Committee is currently trying to visit the meetings of as many state chapters as possible, but this has been complicated by seven chapters having their meetings on the same dates (Feb 20th-22nd).

- The Galveston SDAFS meeting was a success, despite many federal employees being unable to attend due to the government shutdown earlier this year.
- Future Meetings
  - There is currently a movement away from the normal rotation of cities in future meeting planning and towards less expensive, somewhat smaller cities.
  - Future SDAFS meeting venues:
    - The 2020 SDAFS meeting will be in Little Rock, AR
    - The 2021 SDAFS meeting will be in Virginia
    - The 2022 SDAFS meeting will be in South Carolina
  - Future AFS National Meeting venues:
    - The 2019 National AFS meeting will be in Reno, NV
      - This will be the first ever joint meeting of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society
    - The 2020 National AFS meeting will be in Columbus, OH
      - This will be the historic 150th Anniversary of the Society
    - The 2021 National AFS meeting will be in Baltimore, MD
      - This meeting will be co-hosted by the Southern and Northeastern Divisions
    - The 2022 National AFS meeting will be in Spokane, WA
    - The 2023 National AFS meeting will be in Grand Rapids, MI
    - The 2024 National AFS meeting will be (possibly) held in Hawaii
      - This meeting would host the Yangtze River Symposium and the venue in Hawaii would be an attractive location for the Chinese contingency
- The SFDAS listserv is an invaluable resource for both student and professional members of the Society - 1600 members use this listserv and post information, job announcements, etc.
- Reminder – state membership is not the same as membership in the parent society; student membership in AFS is only \$25.00.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT - Mike Eggleton (on behalf of Casey Cox)**

- Review of Arkansas AFS Budget Report (attached)
- \$25.00 was unaccounted for
- Mike found uncashed checks from the 2016 and 2017 meetings - eight checks totaling \$1,005.00 that should have been deposited on behalf of the chapter; most had a 90 day limit so cannot be deposited now. This is being reported as a matter of transparency.
  - Darrell Bowman suggested standardizing the Treasurer protocol to prevent these issues in the future. Checks are received in a variety of ways and past Treasurers have handled them in a variety of inconsistent ways.
  - Tate Wentz pointed out that Wild Apricot allows you to easily double-check payments online

- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report - Steve Filipek; Second - Brian Wagner; motion passed

### **APPOINTED OFFICER REPORTS**

- **Newsletter - Christy Graham**
  - Christy was not in attendance, Mike presented an update on her behalf - no major news on Lateral Line.
- **Webmaster - Ben Thesing**
  - Wild Apricot is expensive and we should discuss potential replacements
    - Payment for the service is due in June and will go up to \$1200.00
    - John Jackson suggested that the parent society website might be an option, but Steve Lochmann pointed out that it is not free, that the cost of that service has gone up from \$200.00 after the Little Rock meeting in 2013 to \$1000.00 this year without any real expansion in service
    - Jessie Green suggested Donor Perfect Fundraising software
    - It was agreed that our own listserv would ultimately be the most effective and least expensive solution

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Program Committee - Matt Schroeder**
  - Matt thanked Mike for all his help planning the meeting, Eric for his guidance as past President, and Dustin for hosting the workshop
- **Nominating and Awards Committee - Eric Brinkman**
  - Outstanding student subunit members
    - University of Central Arkansas - Jennifer Main
    - Arkansas State University - Emma Martin
    - University of Arkansas - Kayleigh Smith
    - Arkansas Tech University - Brandon Plunkett
    - University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff - Nathan Egnew
- **Activities and Raffle Committee – Eli Powers**
  - Thanks to everyone who collected items and anyone who provided items for the silent auction.
  - We raised \$2700.00 from the raffle and the auction combined, minus \$850.00 for the cost of the kayak.
- **Environmental Affairs Committee – Jessie Green**
  - Congressman Bruce Westerman agreed to sponsor Recovering America's Wildlife Act; we are now waiting for Senator John Boozman to co-sponsor the bill
  - The committee is reviewing the 303(d) list and the status of the Buffalo River
    - The chapter will submit comments
    - AFS is having a webinar on this matter on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at noon
  - Mike Eggleton was approached by the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee calling for a Water Resources Development Act.

- Three letters were sent – a longer letter to John Bozeman and shorter, less Arkansas-centric letters to Senators John Barasso and Bill Schuster
- **Education Liaison Committee – JJ Gladden**
  - Science Fair
    - Our membership was invited to judge the West Regional Science Fair at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences behind held from 1-3PM today (February 22nd).
    - There were some great projects, judging took place this morning
    - Science fair plaques are on the table in the hall
    - March 4th is the Northwest Regional Science Fair at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville - we are again invited to judge.
  - Transition to a new Education Liaison
    - JJ Gladden is stepping down
    - Chelsey Sherwood is going to be the new Education Liaison
    - JJ will ensure a smooth transition
- **Arkansas Stream Heritage Partnership Committee – Tate Wentz**
  - Darrell Bowman presented last year's inaugural meeting at the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
    - The January 2018 meeting featured a two-day workshop hosted by ANHC, and the Arkansas AFS chapter co-sponsored lunch
  - The Beaver Watershed Alliance hosted a two-day workshop in September 2018 at the Greenland Community Center.
  - There are 14 active barrier removal projects currently ongoing in the state
  - The Steering Committee meeting soon to discuss next steps with the Southeast Aquatic Resources partnership (SARP)
  - A website for the ASHP may be set up soon to facilitate all this information
  - Jessie Green pointed out that Boone County already has a GIS database set up with all their stream crossings but has no idea how typical that is of other counties.
- **State Fish Ad Hoc Committee - Justin Homan**
  - A letter was sent on behalf of the chapter in support of Henry Foster (the Alligator Gar kid)'s proposal for Alligator Gar to be the official state fish of Arkansas and the committee was dissolved once its mission had been fulfilled (after the letter was sent).
- **2020 SDAFS Meeting Committee – Ben Batten**
  - The meeting will be held Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Little Rock, the same venue as the 2013 National Meeting
  - Catfish 2020, the Third International Catfish Symposium will be held at the same venue over the three days prior to the SDAFS meeting and may draw in additional attendees to the meeting that we wouldn't otherwise get.
  - We are aiming for an attendance somewhere around 400 people.
  - Ben Batten will be the General Chair, Steve Lochmann Program Chair, Mike Eggleton Budget/Finance Chair, Tate Wentz in charge of AV and Raffles, Darrell

Bowman Communications and Registration and JJ Gladden Social Breaks and Hospitality.

- Details will be coming soon, we will develop a registration form and schedule but the SDAFS Executive Committee are the ones in charge of this.
- Fundraising can be very expensive, so Ben encouraged any members who have a business or local connection or someone willing to sponsor to let us know.

## **STUDENT SUBUNIT REPORTS**

- **ASU** - No student members were present for the business meeting so Mike Eggleton presented their report
  - The subunit did several events including Earth Day festivities, an interactive fishing game event, an electrofishing demo, a Halloween fishing tournament.
  - They created Instagram and Snapchat accounts.
  - They did a workshop on trailer towing and boating, boating safety, and habitat creation.
- **UAPB** – Joseph Kaiser reported on behalf of Alex Kaiser
  - The subunit developed an international relationship with Columbian students, spearheaded by Nathan Agnew
    - Columbian students worked at UAPB and students from UAPB went to Columbia as part of an exchange program.
  - Guest speakers from ADEQ presented to the subunit,
  - At the national meeting students presented over a decade of the subunit's history.
  - The subunit also sponsored events such as a catfish dinner for whole department, and are planning an Asian carp cook-off and white bass fishing bonanza
- **UCA** – Chelsey Sherwood reported on behalf of Jennifer Main
  - 30 members were involved in fishing derbies with Carl Stewart Middle School, in conjunction with the UCA bass fishing club
  - The subunit sponsored a, Girl Power in STEM (GPS) event at UCA with 8<sup>th</sup> grad girls
  - The subunit fund-raised with “make ecosystems great again” koozies and raised 200 dollars
- **U of A** - Kayleigh Smith
  - The subunit has only 6 certified members which is the thresh-hold allowing them to be a Registered Student Organization - none of the 6 current active members are actually from Arkansas.
  - Events included a stream snorkeling outing with Dustin Lynch from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
  - They are planning a canoeing and camping trip and workshops with local elementary school students
  - The subunit Vice President will now manage social media accounts.
- **ATU** – Brandon Plunkett
  - New officer elections were held this semester (at Tech the subunit is a combination of AFS and The Wildlife Society)

- Cleanup at Bearcat Hollow WMA and Petit Jean State Park
- Partnerships with the Yell County Wildlife Federation, the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Keep Arkansas Beautiful
- At the annual Beast Feast, the subunit raised \$2900.00
- The subunit sent nine students to the TWS Wildlife Conclave
- They did several field techniques events including a backpack electrofishing demo.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **▪ President**

- The nominees were Justin Homan and John Stein.
- Justin Homan spoke about being happy to be back in Arkansas and humbled to have the opportunity to run for President. He encouraged everyone to push student participation in AFS as much as possible and what a great opportunity AFS interaction is for students to form connections and help their careers.
- John Stein spoke about working in several different states and having been part of several different AFS chapters but that this one was the best he's been a part of.
- **The new President is Justin Homan.**

### **▪ Treasurer**

- The nominees were Matt Horton and Sean Lusk.
- Matt Horton joked that if we voted for him, he would make sure all checks were accounted for.
- Sean Lusk was not present.
- **The new Treasurer is Matt Horton.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Now that all meetings are out of the way, we can start fundraising for the 2020 SDAFS meeting.
  - Nobody has donated in a while, so this may be a good window of opportunity for donations (we did not want to make requests for the Little Rock meeting before the Galveston meeting took place).
- We are continuing to reimburse people who get AFS certification

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT**

- Matt Schroeder was introduced as the incoming President and his first order of business was to thank the outgoing President, Mike Eggleton.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Jason Olive is co-chairing Catfish 2020
  - This is the third meeting of the symposium, which is held every ten years - the inaugural meeting was in 2000 and the second in 2010

- Anyone who has enquiries about the meeting should ask Jason Olive or Justin Homan
- Jason asked if the Executive Committee would entertain a motion for additional donations (the chapter gave 500 for this last year, but chapter will recoup more than that because it will bring in additional people not in the Southern Division).
- The \$1000.00 donation cap starts over at the beginning of each meeting, so we could donate \$1000.00 after this meeting.
- JJ Gladden spoke on behalf of the inactive UALR subunit
  - UALR has been a subunit since 2012 but after Forrest Payne's retirement, the chapter became inactive and has had no attendees at state chapter meetings in two years.
  - We therefore debated whether the subunit should be dissolved
    - Justin Stroman, who helped found this subunit pointed out that, due to the direction taken by the university's biology program, the subunit is unlikely to ever become active again.
      - Justin put forth a motion to dissolve the unit.
  - John Jackson asked if the option for that degree been removed from their curriculum entirely.
  - Maxwell Hartman (a recent UALR graduate) said that the ecology and organismal biology programs are non-existent.
  - Steve Lochmann, reasoned that it is not difficult to allow a subunit to languish and there is no penalty for it.
    - He pointed out the analogy of the SDAFS allowing the Alabama chapter to languish, but when the AL chapter wanted to reconstitute itself, the mechanisms to do so were in place.
    - He asked what would be the consequences of taking no action on the matter.
  - Eric Brinkman made the comment that it is not worth keeping an inactive chapter on the books.
  - Wes Neal argued that the very fact it takes a lot of work to reconstitute might actually be an argument for dissolving the unit; it is so much work to reconstitute that they would only ever do so if they were truly serious about it.
  - John Jackson questioned if we even should vote on it as a group or just contact UALR.
  - Justin Stroman withdrew his motion to dissolve and suggested instead we follow up with UALR and John Jackson suggested maybe even leaving it up to the Executive Committee
  - Chelsey Sherwood (the new Education Liaison) will contact UALR about this matter.
- A reminder that the Past President Luncheon would be taking place immediately following the business meeting at Superior Bathhouse Brewery.
- Finally, at the request of the parent society, we watched a short video containing a message about the national meeting and the benefits of membership in the parent society.

- Motion to adjourn - Steve Filipek; Second - JJ Gladden - motion passed.