



OKLAHOMA CHAPTER of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

- - - *The Lateral Line* - - -

Volume 37(1)

December 2016

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President's Message:

A Newer Generation

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events towards the future.”

I would like to start by saying it is truly a privilege to be allowed to provide a message to everyone associated with American Fisheries Society and especially our Oklahoma members. The focus of my opening quote is to encourage and motivate every single member to strive for better tomorrow scientifically and personally, not to preach because I'm too young for an opinion. In a time of changing technologies and applications towards the work we do, I encourage young and old to learn something new in relation to our unique field of study; and yes, younger folks should take part in learning from our seasoned fish veterans. It is our younger generation of fisheries professionals (including myself) to carry the torch our predecessors have provided in making ground breaking discoveries from Oklahoma to around the world in association with ichthyology. Keep in focus the goals and expectations that agencies and individuals share to achieve the higher standard. I have noticed in recent years an increase in younger fisheries professionals leading the charge of a newer generation to the fishery world. So I call out to the newer generation to carry that torch while being innovative to farther strides in the field of fisheries science.

Continued...

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OK AFS Committee

Chairs:

Activities

Kevin Stubbs

US Fish and Wildlife Service
9014 East 21st St.
Tulsa, OK 74129
kevin_stubbs@fws.gov

Awards and Nominations

Josh Johnston

OK Dept. Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 1201
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jon.west@odwc.ok.gov

Fundraising

Bill Wentroth

OK Dept. Wildlife Conversation
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Student Concerns

Shannon Brewer

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skbrewer7@gmail.com

I have been associated with AFS since 2008 starting as a student member; the relationships, networking, and knowledge I have gained from being a member and actively participating in AFS has helped me out tremendously in developing my career in ways I could not have imagined. I highly encourage all students, younger fisheries personnel, and those seasoned veterans to attend and present at the Southern Division American Fisheries Society meeting hosted by our Oklahoma chapter in February 2017. Our upcoming Oklahoma Chapter meeting will be held in conjunction with the Southern Division meeting at the Cox Convention Center in Bricktown, Oklahoma City on February 2-5.

Attendance for this meeting will be in high numbers and will be a great opportunity to spread the knowledge we have acquired in our state while finding opportunities to glean new ideas from others.

In closing I will say stay motivated, stay focused and enjoy learning something new.

I hope to see everyone in February,

Clayton Porter



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Financial Update

I would like to thank those of us contacting potential sponsors in preparation for the Southern Division meeting coming up early next year. As of November 2016, donations total \$10,895.00. Please invite local businesses in your area to sponsor our meeting with cash and/or merchandise. As a reminder, OKAFS is a non-profit organization. This classification allows sponsors to deduct charitable giving from their taxable income. Contact any Officer for more information about sponsorship levels and associated recognition/benefits.

Sincerely,

Kyle James

OKAFS Secretary - Treasurer

JIMMIE PIGG STUDENT TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

STUDENTS!! STUDENTS!! STUDENTS!!

This is the final call for students who would like to go to a professional meeting on someone else's money. The Chapter will award the Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarship to a student or students who are involved in fisheries research studies and who are planning to present their findings at an upcoming AFS meeting. The Chapter awards a \$1000.00 scholarship to the lucky recipient.

This prestigious award is named in honor of the well-known, well-respected late aquatic biologist and educator Mr. Jimmie Pigg, who donated the initial Chapter funding to create the award. Jimmie will always be remembered as a dedicated professional and active fisheries conservationist who loved his work and his students.

Any student who is active in fisheries or a related aquatic discipline is eligible to apply. Recipients are selected by the Chapter Nominations and Awards Committee and are presented the award at the annual Chapter business meeting. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, contribution to fisheries and the applicant's demonstrated desire and need for the grant.

Awards are based on merit and are not necessarily given each year. Deadline for application submittal is December 31st, 2016. Interested students should contact the Awards Committee Chair, Josh Johnston at (918) 299-2334 or email Josh at josh.johnston@odwc.ok.gov for more information and to obtain the appropriate application forms.

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Continuing Education Committee:

The continuing education committee has focused primarily on helping the OK Chapter with the 2017 annual SDAFS meeting by lining up continuing education workshops for the meeting. A total of 11 workshops covering a wide range of topics have been scheduled. You can sign up for any of these workshops when you register for the meeting. Many will be offered for free. The complete list is as follows:

Title	Tentative Time	Cost
Use of Artificial Structures to Enhance Fisheries Habitat in Reservoirs	8am-noon and 1pm-5pm	50
Getting hired – what students need to know	2-5pm	Free
Leadership at All Levels in AFS	1-5pm	Free
Don't be a Statistic! - field safety	9am-noon	Free
An Introduction to Graphing and Modeling using R & R-studio	8am-noon and 1pm-5pm	\$50
Electrofishing principles and applications	8am-noon and 1pm-5pm	\$60
Accounting for variable detection in fisheries sampling data	8am-noon	\$20
Exploring physical habitat restoration and enhancement techniques in streams across the Southeast	8am-noon and 1pm-5pm	Free
Emerging Topics and New Approaches to Old Issues in Pond Management	8am-noon	Free
Fish Ageing Workshop	8am-noon and 1pm-5pm	\$50 professional; Free for students
Incorporating Human Dimensions Data into Fisheries Management Decisions	1-5pm	50

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Environmental Concerns Committee:

Fellow OK Chapter Members,

Hello from the Environmental Concerns Committee, I hope this finds you well. An area of concern we have been exploring has been hydraulic fracturing “fracking” and it’s potential impacts to our aquatic resources. During this time of research we discovered a draft policy statement by our parent society titled *Mining and Fossil Fuel Extraction*. The draft has since been accepted and placed on the AFS website as a policy statement. While broad in scope it is still very applicable to our state. Since this valuable resource is no longer just a draft version and is more comprehensive in addressing concerns related to exploration than our draft, I would like to place a hyperlink on our OKAFS website and adopt it as our stance. In the effort to make this more local in scale, I will attach the Appendix of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) potentially affected, created for our original document, along with a call to action for OKAFS members, fisheries professionals and all Oklahomans.

As always I ask you to contact me or the other members of this committee with any environmental concerns that you have. Local matters in which we can make a difference and make our voices heard are of the utmost importance and can have the greatest impacts. Thank you and see you in 2017.

Jon

<http://fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/AFS-Policy-13-Mining-revised-2016.pdf>

Appendix 1.

At Risk Species within Industry Impacted Watersheds

Cimarron River

- Arkansas Darter – federally listed as candidate
- Flathead Chub – SGCN Tier 2
- Plains Minnow – SGCN Tier 3

Canadian River

- Arkansas River Shiner – federally listed as threatened
- Flathead Chub – SGCN Tier 2
- Plains Minnow – SGCN Tier 3

Arkansas River

- Shovelnose Sturgeon – SGCN Tier 1
- Blue Sucker – SGCN Tier 2
- Plains Minnow – SGCN Tier 3
- Paddlefish – SGCN Tier 3

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Red River

- Prairie Speckled Chub – SGCN Tier 1
- Western Sand Darter – SGCN Tier 1
- Blue Sucker – SGCN Tier 2
- Alligator Gar – SGCN Tier 2
- Chub Shiner – SGCN Tier 2
- Plains Minnow – SGCN Tier 3
- Paddlefish – SGCN Tier 3

C. Needed Action

OKAFS understands Oklahoma's rich history in oil and gas production and supports its economic contribution to the state; however, with such a history comes the burden of legacy, which can make it hard to create regulations or adapt old policies to solve new problems. This chapter would like policies introduced to reduce the overall negative impacts of exploration and production efforts such as:

- Phasing out of wastewater pits which are prone to leaking, flooding and breaching
- Incentives to increase recycling of frac-fluid or promote new technologies that reduce water consumption
- Reduction of the reportable land spill threshold from 10 barrels to 5
- Required testing of surface and subsurface water quality before a well is placed
- Tighter water permitting restrictions and regulatory oversight
- Implementation of sediment control BMP's

In addition to changes in regulations OKAFS calls for fisheries professionals to identify and fill vital research gaps in how our native aquatic species are affected by fracking related exploration. As leaders in the oil and gas industry, Oklahoma should strive to be on the forefront of responsible exploration policies and environmental research related to its impacts, specifically to the surface water and groundwater resources on which our fisheries are based.

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OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AFS was chartered on September 8, 1968.

The **mission** of the chapter is:

- To promote conservation, development, and wise use of the aquatic and fishery resources of Oklahoma.
- To promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all aspects of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma.
- To gather and disseminate scientific, technical and other information about fisheries science and management to Chapter members and the general public through publications, meetings and other forms of communications.
- To encourage competent teaching of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma colleges and universities and promote the continuing education of Oklahoma fisheries workers.

OKLAHOMA AFS MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____
(Last) (First)

AFFILIATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
(Dept., Bldg., Office, Street, PO Box, etc.)

(City) (State) (Zip)

DAY PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: 1 Year (\$5)____ 2 Years (\$10)____ 3 Years (\$15)____ Life (\$50)____

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Professional____ Student____

COMMITTEES (please choose at least one): Activities____ Awards____ Continuing Ed.____
Environmental Concerns____ Fundraising____ Program____

Detach, make check payable to OKAFS, and send to: **Kyle James**, OKAFS Secretary-Treasurer, ODWC SE Region, 6733 SW Hwy 1 Wilburton, OK.
Phone: 918-686-3640. Email: kyle.james@odwc.ok.gov.

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Southern Division AFS Meeting

Please join us for the Southern Division American Fisheries Society Meeting February 2-5, 2017 at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The registration deadline is January 16, 2017. After this date, registration rates will increase.

The official hotel for the meeting is Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel.

The conference will have a Darter Dash 5K, several scholarship opportunities, student presentation and poster awards, and other various events.

More information is available at <http://sd.fisheries.org/2017-oklahoma-city-meeting/>



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SAVE THE DATE:



Please join us at the 2017 Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference February 22-24, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The OKNRC is hosted by the Oklahoma Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society for Range Management, Invasive Plant Council, Prescribed Fire Council, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The conference will have presentation topics on range, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and environmental sciences. One goal of this meeting is to increase awareness of what the different societies, agencies, and NGOs are doing as well as foster future partnerships.



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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Internship Opportunity at the Paddlefish Research Center

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has established an Internship Program to help students that are majoring in wildlife related fields to gain work experience. The Department has a limited number of internship positions available. Positions are seasonal and vary by location and duration.

Internships are primarily in the spring and summer, with occasional fall positions. Locations are state-wide. Work schedules will be determined by the supervisor. Positions will be limited to 2 terms not to exceed 975 hours per term. (a term is a 12-month period starting with the hire date). A 3rd term may be worked only if the Intern is continuing their education. Verification must be submitted, if rehired for a 3rd term. Lodging is not provided.

Intern applicants must be actively pursuing a degree, or have obtained a degree, in the following college majors:

- Wildlife Conservation Science
- Wildlife Ecology Education
- Biology Communications
- Zoology
- Other related wildlife degrees

Graduate degree candidates, seniors, juniors, and sophomores with majors in wildlife conservation and those with previous related work experience in fisheries or wildlife will receive preference.

To find the application or more information about other job requirements go to the ODWC's website at <http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/careers/internships.htm>. Also, the ODWC has created a promotional video about the Internship Program that can be found on their website. All applications are due by January 20, 2017.

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OKAFS LISTSERVE - eMailDodo



We had a brief snafu with our old listserv and had to migrate to a new address and way of doing business. If you would like to post something to the OKAFS listserv, send it to Kyle James (kyle.james@odwc.ok.gov) or me (longjim@okstate.edu) and we'll get it posted to our new listserv address Oklahoma@afsmembers.org. This listserv is still through emaildodo, but it's administered (and paid for) by AFS. Another example of your dues in action!

Happy messaging,

Jim Long



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STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

December 2016

Officers:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year has been extremely fun and productive for the Oklahoma State University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society (OSU AFS). Our meetings this year have been well attended by graduate and undergraduate students that encompass a diverse background of disciplines. Our main goals for the year were to expand our education in fisheries, perform outreach activities to educate the public about fisheries and aquatic ecology, and foster camaraderie within our group.

In order to expand our education in fisheries and learn about different career paths in our field, we hosted two great guest speakers this fall. Josh Johnston, ODWC Northeast Region Fisheries Supervisor, spoke to us about ongoing research and upcoming projects. Jason Schooley, Paddlefish Biologist, spoke to us about the Paddlefish Research Center and the successes that they are having there as well as upcoming opportunities to get involved.

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The subunit has continued its involvement in outreach activities over the past few years. Over the summer, we helped the Sierra Club Nature Camp host kids fishing events on Lake Sanborn. We have been able to use the display created by past officers to educate Oklahomans – kids and adults alike – on the wonderful diversity of fishes throughout our great state. Our members had a great time interacting with and educating the public at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and Conservation's Wildlife Expo.

Last but not least, OSU AFS also focused on giving back to the Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM) department, our host department, and our parent chapter, the Oklahoma Chapter of AFS (OK AFS). We represented NREM by winning second place in the annual Homecoming Window Decorating Contest held between all of the student organizations in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. This was our second year in a row to place in this contest. We also assisted in bringing back and hosting the NREM Fall Cookout this year.

Overall, OSU AFS and its members have had a wonderful year! We hope our members have left a positive impact on our community. We look forward to seeing what next year holds for our group, and we hope that everyone has a safe and productive field season this upcoming summer.

Tight Lines and Full Nets,

2016-2017 OSU AFS Subunit Officers

Danci Johnston – President

MaryKate Higginbotham – Vice President

Desiree Williams – Secretary/Treasurer



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Student Subunit Events

Following last year's success, OSU AFS placed second among all other student organizations in the annual Homecoming Window Decorating Contest for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University.



The final product for the OSU CASNR Homecoming Window Decorating Contest.



Frances Marshall bringing the front doors of Ag Hall to life.

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Student Subunit Events



Guest Lecturers – Left: Josh Johnston, ODWC Northeast Region Fisheries Supervisor, spoke to OSU AFS about ongoing research and opportunities to get involved. Right: Jason Schooley, ODWC Paddlefish Biologist, spoke to OSU AFS about the Paddlefish Research Center and internships.



Outreach Events – Members assisted with the collection and set-up of interactive fish displays for the ODWC's Wildlife Expo. We helped OSU NREM with a campus-wide undergraduate student recruiting event. At both events, we educated folks of all ages on the diversity of fishes that occur in their backyards.

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Student Subunit Member Activities



Jessica Hoops is focusing on the relationship between small mammal populations and the abundance of the endangered American burying beetle.



Colt Holley is assessing the distribution of the state-endangered Longnose Darter in the Poteau River system of Oklahoma through ecological niche model transferability.



Alexis Whiles assisted with research focusing on saugeye and crappie management in Oklahoma reservoirs.

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Student Subunit Member Activities



Andrew Taylor is currently writing his dissertation on influences of fragmentation on fluvial-specialist black basses. Photo: Smallmouth Bass collected in the Illinois River, OK.



Danci Johnston had an internship with Oklahoma Conservation Commission assisting with fish collections and water sampling throughout the state.

Student Subunit Publications

Stahr, K.J., and Shoup, D.E. 2016. The effects of macrophyte stem density and structural complexity on foraging return of invertivorous juvenile largemouth bass. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. 36:788-792.

Taylor, A.T., J.M. Long, M.R. Schwemm, M.D. Tringali, and S.K. Brewer. 2016. Identification of Neosho Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu velox*) stocks for possible introduction into Grand Lake, Oklahoma. Final Report, Environmental Department of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. USFWS Cooperator Science Series # 121-2016.

Student Subunit Presentations

Broderius, C.R., K.J. Stahr, and D.E. Shoup. 2015. Increasing juvenile largemouth bass recruitment with vegetation: effects on survival and foraging return. 24th Annual Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association Conference, Stillwater, OK. *Oral presentation.*

Holley, C.T., A.T. Taylor, and J.M. Long. 2016. “Resample, recapture, and re-analyze: using the 3 R’s to resurrect the scale method of estimating fish age.” Annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society held in Kansas City, MO. Managing Centrarchid Fisheries in Rivers and Streams Symposium.

Taylor, A.T., and J.M. Long. 2016. “The decline of a fluvial fish: species distribution models in a fragmented riverscape.” Annual meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society held in Wheeling, WV.

Taylor, A.T., and J.M. Long. 2016. “Using species distribution models to infer potential and restricted ranges of a fluvial-specialist black bass species.” Annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society held in Kansas City, MO. Managing Centrarchid Fisheries in Rivers and Streams Symposium.

Taylor, A.T., J.M. Long, M.D. Tringali, M.R. Schwemm, and S.K. Brewer. 2016. “Introgression and population structure of Neosho Smallmouth Bass.” Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference held in Oklahoma City, OK.

Student Subunit Completed Theses

Civiello, A. 2016. Evaluating the Effects of Shallow Water Habitat Implementation on Age-0 *Scaphirhynchus* sp. Prey Consumption. Master's Thesis, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

Farless, N. 2015. The Influence of Flow Alteration on Instream Habitat and Fish Assemblages. Master's Thesis, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

Student Subunit Awards

Andrew Taylor. 2016. SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award.

Danci Johnston. 2016. Outstanding Undergraduate Fisheries Award.

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THE LATERAL LINE

Oklahoma Chapter, American Fisheries Society
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