

**History of The Tennessee Chapter
of The American Fisheries Society**

**First Edition
1997**

(Revised 2009)

Prepared by The Tennessee Chapter History Committee

Preface

This first edition of the History of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a product of the Chapter History Committee. The committee has relied upon meeting minutes, newsletters, and similar chapter records in compiling this history. Future plans call for the addition of an appendix section to include documentation such as charters, by-laws, early correspondence, and photographs. It is the intent of the committee that this document be periodically updated, and the committee welcomes suggestions for future revisions. The committee is especially appreciative of the assistance of Phyllis Smith (TTU) in the preparation of this document.

History Committee: Frank Bulow (Chairman 1997-2000), Chuck Coutant, Don Estes, Ben Jaco, Ron Pasch, Doug Peterson (Chairman 2000- 2006), Richard Strange, Tom Swor, and Larry Wilson.

Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

The Chapter was originally chartered in 1977 as the East Tennessee Chapter. Early activities included Fall, Winter, and Spring meetings. Although most of these meetings were held at the University of Tennessee, other meeting sites included Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Eagle Bend Hatchery, and "The Cross-eyed Cricket" near Lenoir City. In addition to business matters, these evening meetings usually included a fisheries presentation, discussion of environmental issues, and a tour of the site facilities.

The Chapter had expanded its boundaries to include Tennessee Technological University by 1978, and the Spring 1980 and 1981 meetings were overnight sessions at Tech Aqua Biological Station. The 1981 meeting included paper presentations on both Friday and Saturday. In 1982, the Chapter joined the National Resource Conservation Societies (NRCS) of Tennessee and met with them in the Fall for a number of years. As interest and participation grew, the Chapter continued to expand its boundaries and changed its name to the Tennessee Chapter in 1983.

Although the three meetings per year format continued for several years, the spring meeting was designated as the "Annual Meeting" beginning in 1984. During the Winter 1985 meeting, a motion was passed that the annual meeting include scientific presentations and be held at various locations throughout the state to maximize participation. These meetings have actually been held in February or March each year, and have grown to be meetings spanning three days.

During the Fall 1988 meeting, the Chapter voted to form "sub-units" or

"Student Fisheries Associations" at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and at Tennessee Technological University. The Chapter also issued its first newsletter in 1988.

Joint annual meetings were held with the Kentucky Chapter in 1992 and the Georgia Chapter in 1993. The 1993 meeting, held in Chattanooga, also co-hosted the first annual Southern Division Mid-year Technical Meeting. The NRCS had dissolved by 1994 and, at its 1994 annual meeting, the chapter voted to affiliate with the Tennessee Conservation League. In 1996, a joint meeting was held with the Mississippi Chapter at Pickwick Landing State Park.

From its inception, the Chapter has been a vehicle of information exchange, interagency cooperation, environmental action, and professionalism. The Chapter currently presents annual awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Fisheries Scientist, Outstanding Fisheries Student, and Best Presentation Award. The Chapter has also presented special service awards and Friends of Fisheries Awards.

In addition to the officers listed below, numerous individuals have contributed to the growth and vitality of the chapter over the years. The History Committee is especially grateful for the meticulous records kept by secretary-treasurers over the years.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENTS

Larry Wilson (UT)	1977 - 1978
Clyde Voigtlander (TVA)	1978 - 1979
Frank Bulow (TTU)	1979 - 1980
Richard Strange (UT)	1980 - 1981
Lynn Starnesv (TVA)	1981 - 1982
Tommy Sheddan (TVA)	1982 - 1983

Doug Peterson (TWRA)	1983 - 1984
Tom Hill (UT)	1984 - 1985
Don Estes (TTU)	1985 - 1986
Chuck Coutant (ORNL)	1986 - 1987
Bill Seawell (TVA)	1987 - 1988
Wayne Pollock (TWRA)	1988 - 1989
Joe Cathey (COE)	1989 - 1990
Phil Bettoli (TTU)	1990 - 1991
Ron Pasch (TVA)	1991 - 1992
Steve Moore (NPS)	1992 - 1993
Mark Bevelheimer (ORNL)	1993 - 1994
Bobby Wilson (TWRA)	1994 - 1995
Chris O'Bara (TTU)	1995 - 1996
Tom Swor (COE)	1996 - 1997
Bob Wallus (TVA)	1997 - 1998
Robert Todd (TWRA)	1998 - 1999
Brad Cook (TTU)	1999 - 2000
Fred Heitman (Am. Aq.)	2000 - 2001
Dave Rizzuto (TWRA)	2001 - 2002
Gary Hickman (TVA)	2002 - 2003
Tim Churchill (TWRA)	2003 - 2004
Ed Scott (TVA)	2004 - 2005
Jim Layzer (TTU)	2005 - 2006
Todd St. John (TWRA)	2006 - 2007
Don Hubbs (TWRA)	2007 - 2008

SECRETARY-TREASURERS

Jack Griffith (ORNL)	1977
Chuck Coutant (ORNL)	1977 - 1985
Chris O'Bara (TTU)	1985 - 1987
Phil Bettoli (TTU)	1987 - 1989
Tom Swor (COE)	1989 - 1995
Dave Rizzuto (TWRA)	1995 - 2000
Amy Wales (TVA)	2000 - present

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Strange (UT) 1988 - present

AWARD RECIPIENTS

OUTSTANDING FISHERIES SCIENTIST

- 1983 - Ben Jaco (TVA)
- 1984 - Chuck Coutant (ORNL)
- 1985 - No Recipient
- 1986 - Dave Bishop (TWRA)
- 1987 - Larry Wilson (UT)
- 1988 - Price Wilkins (TWRA)
- 1989 - No Recipient
- 1990 - Kerry Hevel (TVA)
- 1991 - No Recipient
- 1992 - Bob Wallus (TVA)
- 1993 - Bart Carter (NPS)
- 1994 - John Conder (TWRA)
- 1995 - Charlie Saylor (TVA)
- 1996 - Anders Myhr (TWRA)
- 1997 - Phil Bettoli (TTU)
Frank Bulow (TTU)
- 1998 - John Riddle (TWRA)
- 1999 - No Recipient
- 2000 - Mike Smith (TWRA)
- 2001 - Lance Rider (TWRA)
- 2003 - Chris Coco (Tennessee Aquarium)
- 2004 - Mike Bramlett (TWRA)
- 2005 - Amy Wales (TVA)
- 2006 - Mark Fagg (TWRA)
Jim Negus (TWRA)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- 1995 - R. Don Estes (Retired TTU)
B.L. Ridley (Retired TTU)
- 1996 - Gordon Hall (Retired TVA)
Ben Jaco (Retired TVA)
Wayne Pollock (TWRA)
- 1997 - Tom Hill (UTK)
Price Wilkins (TWRA)
- 1998 - David Bishop (TWRA)
- 1999 - Bob Wallus (TVA)
Ron Pasch (TVA)
Doug Pelren (TWRA)
- 2001 - Frank Bulow (TTU)
- 2002 - Dave Etiner (UTK)
- 2003 - Fred Heitman (American Aquatics, Inc.)

- 2004 - Richard Strange (UTK)
- 2005 - Steve Ahlstedt (USGS)
Dan Sherry (TWRA)
- 2006 - Chuck Coutant (ORNL)
Anders Myhr (TWRA)

OUTSTANDING FISHERIES STUDENT

- 1993 - Vic DiCenzo (TTU)
- 1994 - Matt Kulp (TTU)
- 1995 - Kay Knott (TTU)
- 1996 - Keith Patrick (UTK)
- 1997 - Scott Loftis (TTU)
- 1998 - Jason Khym (TTU)
Charlotte McCracken (TTU)

SERVICE AWARD

- 1984 - Chuck Coutant (ORNL)
- 1996 - Tom Swor (COE)
- 2000 - Dave Rizzuto (TWRA)

BEST PRESENTATION

(An award presented for the best presentation at the previous year's annual meeting).

- 1991 - Steve Alstedt (TVA)
- 1992 - Randall Shultz and Phil Bettoli (TTU)
- 1993 - No Recipient
- 1994 - No Recipient
- 1995 - Richard Tippit (COE)
- 1996 - Martha Wells, Kay Knott, and Chris O'Bara (TTU)
- 2001 - Mike Edwards (TTU)
- 2002 - Jeffery Williams (TTU)
- 2002 - Stacy Surgenor (TTU)
- 2003 - George Scholten and Kevin Hoffman (TTU)
- 2004 - George Scholten (TTU)
- 2005 - Samrat Saha (TTU)
- 2006 - Janice Kerns (TTU)

FRIENDS OF FISHERIES AWARD

- 1996 - Bill Hatfield
Bill Herbert
Ernie Paquette**
- 1997 - Judy Butler
Harold Sharp**
- 1998 - Dan Speer
Vernon Summerlin**
- 1999 - John Tanner
H. E. Bittle**
- 2000 - Jim Range**
- 2001 - Allen Franklin**
- 2003 - Jimmy Holt**
- 2004 - Margo Farnsworth**
- 2005 - The Claussen Family**
- 2006 - Larry Rea
- Percy Priest Hybrid and Striper Club, Ed Hance Accepted**

MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND HIGHLIGHTS

1977 **Ellington Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville**
(UT Campus) -- January 20, 1977

Organizational meeting of the East Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Membership to be composed of AFS members in good standing residing within a 50-mile radius of Knoxville. Records indicate that this "founding group" was led by Larry Wilson, Jack Griffith, Clyde Voightlander, and Chuck Coutant.

UT Campus -- May 17, 1977

Program was a panel discussion of Cherokee Reservoir.

Business Highlights: Membership petition for chapter recognition has been sent to Executive Director.

Crosseyed Cricket, Lenoir City, -- November 30, 1977

Program included a tour of facilities, followed by dinner.

Business Highlights: Display of Charter by President Wilson. Chapter is officially established.

1978 **UT Campus** -- February 20, 1978

Meeting immediately preceded a TVA Larval Fish Workshop in Knoxville.

Program was a presentation on artificial reefs.

Business Highlights: Discussions of environmental concerns, jobs.
Attendance -- 19.

Eagle Bend Hatchery, Clinton, TN -- May 10, 1978

A tour of facilities was followed by a business meeting with election of officers as the main business item. Attendance -- 40.

UT Campus -- November 14, 1978

This meeting featured a special presentation by AFS President Henry Regier.
Attendance -- 22.

**1979 Oak Ridge National Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division, X-10 (ORNL) -
October 3, 1979**

Program was a tour of indoor and outdoor research facilities.

Business Highlights: Out-going president Voightlander discussed the AFS organizational system; first discussion of establishment of an Environmental Concerns Committee -decision not to form committee because of difficulty in representing the multitude of viewpoints in the chapter. Attendance -- 25.

1980 UT Campus -- February 5, 1980

Program was a jobs forum with presentations by representatives of NPS, TWRA, UT, TVA, and USFWS.

Business Highlights: Plans for a spring meeting at Tech Aqua.

**Tech Aqua Biological Station at Center Hill Reservoir (Tech Aqua) May 9 - 10,
1980.**

First overnight meeting.

Program included a tour of facilities and presentations concerning instructional and research programs at Tech Aqua, fisheries studies on Center Hill, and research by the Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Unit.

Business Highlights: Call for support of the Dingell-Johnson Expansion Bill.
Attendance -- 25.

UT Campus -- December 9, 1980

Program was a presentation on TVA's new aeration system for tailwaters.

Business Highlights: Recap of The Society and Division meetings; report on environmental concerns.
Attendance -- 21.

1981 **UT Campus** -- February 17, 1980

Program on ecological problems related to energy

Business Highlights: Continued support of D-J Expansion Bill; plans for spring meeting. Attendance -- 25.

Tech Aqua Biological Station -- May 15 - 16, 1981
"Second Annual Spring Fling Outing"

Program included six paper presentations; social activities featured a steak cook-out. Attendance -- 18.

UT Campus -- October 13, 1981

Program consisted of presentations on utilization of non-game aquatic organisms as food. Attendance -- 25.

1982 **UT Campus** -- February 16, 1982

Program consisted of descriptions of research programs of TWRA and TVA.

Business Highlights: Discussion of invitation to join Natural Resources Conservation Societies of Tennessee (NRCS) -- no action. Environmental Concerns Committee -- decision to draft resolution; support of AFS building fund; support of D-J Expansion and general federal funding. Attendance -- 38.

Crosseyed Cricket -- April 26, 1982

Program included a tour of the fish culture and fee-fishing facilities; catfish dinner; presentations of research in progress at ORNL, TWRA, UT, and TTU.

Business Highlights: Consideration of affiliation with NRCS -- no action.
Attendance -- 48.

ORNL - October 28, 1982

Program included two presentations, one on NRCS activities and one on the Saugeye program in Tennessee.

Business Highlights: Report on The Society meeting; decision to affiliate with NRCS. Attendance -- 22.

1983 **Clyde York 4-H Training Center, Crossville** -- February 15, 1983

Program: Film "American Wetlands" followed by a presentation on ecological problems in Woods Reservoir.

Business Highlights: Letters of support of D-J Expansion Bill; proposed changes in by-laws including name change from East Tennessee Chapter to Tennessee Chapter; decision to sell raffle tickets for Permanent Home Fund drive. Attendance -- 20.

Eagle Bend Hatchery -- May 31, 1983

Program: Tour of facilities; presentation on Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning; dinner at Western Sizzler.

Business Highlights: Donation of prints and sale of raffle tickets for AFS Permanent Home Fund; letters of support for D-J Bill and Flat Rock Watershed protection from strip mining. Attendance -- 16.

UT Campus -- October 1983

Program: Presentation on trout streams of the Southern Appalachians.

Business Highlights: Submitted name change to parent society to become Tennessee Chapter; first Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Award to Ben Jaco; formation of committees -- membership, awards, program. Attendance --14.

1984 **UT Campus** -- February 7, 1984

Program by Tom Hill -- China Travelogue

Business Highlights: reports on membership drive to involve entire state; program -- plans for spring meeting at Tech Aqua; Chapter Bylaws revisions approved by The Society; letters of support of D-J Expansion Bill; Doug Peterson, Tom Hill, and Don Estes selected as representatives to the Board of Directors of NRCS; Support of NRCS resolution to keep the Shelby State Forest under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Division of Forestry.

Tech Aqua Biological Station -- May 4 - 5, 1984

(First official meeting since East Tennessee Chapter expanded to become Tennessee Chapter)

Program by Wayne Pollock -- TWRA 5-year plan.

Business Highlights: Parent society requires that one meeting each year be designated the official "Annual Meeting" -- spring meeting was so designated, with elections at that time and installation of officers to be at next fall meeting.

Other committee reports -- awards, by-laws, membership; support of Coop Fishery Unit Program - letter to congress; D-J Bill; NRCS fall meeting to have Clean Water as theme; fisheries salaries report - Tennessee dropped from 10th to 29th in last 10 years; next meeting to be in conjunction with NRCS. Attendance -- 27.

Cook Recreation Area on Percy Priest Reservoir -- October 5, 1984 (Meeting with NRCS - sponsored by Jack Daniels Distillery)

Program on Water Quality.

AFS Business Highlights: First recorded treasurers report - \$73.00 balance from print raffle, etc. and \$87.50 for Permanent Home Fund Contribution - second half of last year's raffle; committee appointed to consider initiation of chapter dues; discussion of joint meeting with other states and organizations. Attendance -- 15.

1985 **Corps of Engineers Resource Manager's Office at Center Hill Dam** -- February 19, 1985

Program: Barbeque followed by three presentations -- Corps Cumberland River Study, Center Hill Water Level Fluctuation Effects; Angler Surveys.

Business Highlights: Treasurer's report -- \$63.00; reports on status of Southern Division, budgets of DJ, TVA, SCS; decisions -- against joint meetings with other states at this time, for an annual meeting of scientific paper presentations to be held at various locations throughout the state. Attendance -- 48.

Tremont Environmental Center, Great Smoky Mountains National Park - April 19 -20, 1985

Program was a workshop on Brook Trout Management in the Smokies -- a series of seven presentations. A business meeting, dinner, and entertainment followed.

Business Highlights: Approved Chapter dues of \$1.00 for students and \$2.00 for others; continued support of Wallup-Breaux. Attendance -- 45.

1986 **Henry Horton State Park, Chapel Hill, TN** -- February 13 - 14, 1986

Meeting included 12 presentations on Friday, followed by a business meeting; 9 presentations on Saturday.

Business Highlights: Discussion of The Society, Division, and Chapter meeting structure; letter recognizing efforts of TWRA Executive Director Gary Myers in getting Wallup-Breaux passed. Attendance -- 65.

Crosseyed Cricket, Lenoir City -- April 24, 1986

Business Highlights: Plans for future meetings; development of a newsletter; treasury \$136.00. Attendance -- 23.

Tech Aqua -- October 3, 1986

Joint meeting with Natural Resources Conservation Societies of Tennessee. Hospitality sponsored by Jack Daniels Distillery. Meeting and Dinner.

Resolutions: Support the establishment of a National Natural Assets Trust; support of the "Take Pride in America" program; support of continued funding for reclamation of coal mines in Tennessee; support the retention of the U.S. Forest Service Silviculture Laboratory in Sewanee, TN; encourage better management of wetlands; discourage the use of Private Acts for wildlife.

1987 **Corps of Engineers Resource Manager's Office at Center Hill Dam** -- November 12, 1987

Program included dinner and a presentation on in-stream flow studies in the Caney Fork River.

Business Highlights: Plans for the annual winter meeting. Richard Strange was named as Editor of the Chapter Newsletter. Attendance -- 39.

1988 **Henry Horton State Park** -- Annual Meeting, February 18 - 19, 1988

Program: The meeting began at 1:00 PM Thursday and concluded at noon Friday. Thursday included nine paper presentations, dinner, and a business meeting; seven additional papers were presented on Friday.

Business Highlights: Decision to continue affiliation with NRCS; discussion of chapter goals; call for newsletter items; Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Award to Price Wilkins; Savings Account \$410.00. Attendance -- 60.

Mariner's Point, Thunder Hollow, Crossville -- October 14, 1988

Program: Meeting in conjunction with NRCS.

AFS Business Highlights: Decision to form "sub-units" at TTU, UT-K, and possibly other universities in the future. These sub-units to be called "Student Fisheries Associations of the Tennessee Chapter of the AFS".

1989 **Mariner's Point, Thunder Hollow, Crossville** -- Annual Meeting, February 23 - 24, 1989

Program: Fifteen paper presentations. First meeting to include TWRA regional reports.

Business Highlights: Letter to governor supporting his stand on the Champion Mill/Pigeon River controversy; resolution endorsing formation of an Instream Flow Group at Auburn; registration fee for meeting was imposed for the first time -- \$5.00 for "professionals" and \$2.00 for students; treasurer's report - balance at \$410.14; raffle and auction of Wildlife prints raised \$254.00. (After expenses, etc., the treasurer balance stood at \$177.64). Attendance -- 55.

Saturn Corporation Plant, Spring Hill -- September 29, 1989

Program: Meeting in conjunction with NRCS, including tours of the plant, social, dinner, and a speaker. No significant AFS business transpired.

1990 **Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Johnson City** -- Annual Meeting, March 8 - 9, 1990

Program: Meeting ran concurrently with annual meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The two groups joined for a social and dinner Thursday night. The meetings of these two chapters was followed by a meeting of the Tennessee Conservation League Friday - Sunday. AFS meeting included 15 paper presentations and four TWRA regional reports.

Business Highlights: Remarks by Southern Division President Rich Noble; Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Award to Kerry Hevel of TVA; Student Fisheries Association (SFA) reports by TTU and UT; decision to require abstracts for presentations at annual meetings -- to begin in 1991; Committee formed to study student travel awards; chapter dues raised to \$5.00 for professionals and \$2.00 for students; one person from each organization in the state to be responsible for sending news items to chapter newsletter editor Richard Strange; new charter to be requested (for Tennessee Chapter); decision to explore joint meeting with newly formed Kentucky chapter; Treasury balance \$641.82. Attendance -- approximately 60.

University of the South, Sewanee -- October 19, 1990

Program: Meeting in conjunction with NRCS. Sewage treatment facility tour, social, dinner, awards, and speaker. No significant AFS business conducted.

Center Hill Lake Transient Quarters -- December 11, 1990

Program: Videotape on mussels followed by presentation concerning mussel population restoration efforts.

Business Highlights: Amendment to by-laws to include sub-unit (SFA) representation on the Chapter Executive Committee (EXCOM); donation of \$100.00 to the Student Fisheries Colloquium and \$150.00 to assist UT publication expenses for upcoming Fishes of Tennessee book; panel of judges to be used for selection of "Best Paper" at Annual Meeting.

1991 Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel, Nashville -- Annual Meeting, February 28 - March 1, 1991

Program: Sixteen paper presentations and four TWRA regional reports; joint social with The Wildlife Society.

Business Highlights: Remarks from Southern Division President Larry Olmstead; SFA reports; EXCOM to include elected officers, the immediate past president, and one officer from each sub-unit of the Chapter -- all EXCOM members must be members of the Parent Society; EXCOM authorized to act for the chapter between annual meetings and perform appropriate duties; chapter donation of \$250.00 to the Parent Society Permanent Home Fund. (Treasury balance on April 18, 1991 was \$572.72 with all bills paid). Attendance -- approximately 70.

1992 Best Western Traveler's Inn, Paris, Tennessee -- Annual Meeting, February 19 - 20, 1992

Program Highlights: Joint meeting with the Kentucky Chapter (first joint meeting with another state chapter). Twenty-two paper presentations.

Business Highlights: Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Award to Bob Wallus and Best Paper Award to Steve Ahlstedt; donation of \$100.00 to the Student Fisheries Colloquium; discussion of Tech Aqua and resolution to support its continuation; resolution to support the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement (MICRA). Attendance -- Approximately 80.

1993 Comfort Hotel River Plaza, Chattanooga -- Annual Meeting plus First Annual Mid-year Technical Session and EXCOM Meeting of the Southern Division of AFS; jointly hosted by the Tennessee and Georgia Chapters, February 24 - 28, 1993. (Treasury balance on February 19, 1993 was \$6,382.01, including deposits for the Southern Division Meeting registration).

Program Highlights: Southern Division Committee meetings on Wednesday and Saturday; special symposium and plenary session Thursday morning; two concurrent sessions Thursday afternoon and three concurrent sessions Friday; Southern Division EXCOM and Chapter Meetings; total of 97 presentations; book of abstracts; dinner and tour of Tennessee Aquarium; Brook Trout Continuing Education workshop Saturday afternoon. Total attendance over 300.

Chapter Business Highlights: Addresses by chapter President Moore, Southern Division President Olmstead, and Parent Society representative Fetterolf; SFA reports; awards committee report -- Outstanding Fisheries Student Award initiated, \$100.00 award plus plaque cost was sponsored by Fish and Wildlife Associates; membership survey called for more chapter involvement in environmental education; Tech Aqua status report; appreciation to Ron Pasch for meeting arrangements; chapter elections; Environmental Education Committee formed; donation of \$100.00 to Student Fisheries Colloquium -- EXCOM authorized to continue this support in future; EXCOM authorized to select a representative to AFS legislative process workshop in Washington (Chris O'Bara later chosen).

1994 **Garden Plaza Hotel, Murphreesboro** -- Annual Meeting, January 27 - 28, 1994

Program Highlights: Ten paper presentations; TWRA reports; panel discussion on advocacy and how to become more involved -- six guest speakers included Paul Brouha, AFS Executive Director.

Business Highlights: Recognition of Southern Division President Larry Wilson; State of the Chapter Address by President Bevelheimer -- chapter exploring role in advocacy for natural resources and education of the public; Environmental Education Committee report -- survey of all Southern Division States showed much activity among both fisheries agencies and state chapters; Legislative Committee report -- chapter to become more active concerning state and federal legislation, especially by providing technical information and expertise; TTU-SFA report -- ran a kids fishing day, assisted an elderly fishing derby, sold T-shirts at Division and Chapter meetings, involved in Adopt-A-Highway program, and organized the Student Fisheries Colloquium again this year; UT-SFA report -- holding bi-weekly meetings with 40 - 50 usually attending -- Paul Brouha was a special guest this year; Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Award to John Conder, and Outstanding Fisheries Student Award to Matt Kulp -- Fish and Wildlife Associates continues to sponsor these awards; chapter voted to affiliate with the Tennessee Conservation League; announcement that NRCS had dissolved; reports on Tech Aqua, and TWRA and COE habitat improvement projects; chapter elections; treasury balance \$2,739.76. Attendance -- approximately 100.

1995 **Fairfield Glade, Crossville** -- Annual Meeting, January 23 - 25, 1995

Program Highlights: Twenty-eight paper presentations, social, and dinner; usual annual meeting snow storm.

Business Highlights: Initiation of Lifetime Achievement Award -- first recipients Bromfield Ridley and Don Estes; Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Charlie Saylor; Outstanding Fisheries Student Kay Knott; Best 1994 Paper Richard Tippit; Committee reports -- Aquatic Education (formerly Environmental Education), Membership, Legislative, History, Environmental Concerns, Student Chapter, Treasurer - balance at \$3,954.05; Chapter elections; Fishery action Network report; chapter donation of \$500.00 to Naturelinks and call for more member involvement; letter to state legislative committee dealing with Norris Reservoir Bill; proclamation to TCL in support of Beverage Container Bill; chapter to sponsor social at the Wildhorse Saloon in Nashville this fall in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Attendance -- approximately 110.

1996 **Pickwick Landing State Park, Pickwick Dam, TN** -- Annual Meeting, January 31 - February 2, 1996

Program Highlights: Joint meeting with the Mississippi Chapter. Seventy-four paper presentations scheduled; meeting shortened by snow and ice storm.

Business Highlights: Committee and sub-unit reports; dues increased to \$10.00; \$50.00 donation to AFS 2000; Lifetime Achievement Award to Gordon Hall, Ben Jaco, and Wayne Pollock; Outstanding Fisheries Scientist Award to Anders Myhr III;; Outstanding Fisheries Student Award to Keith Patrick; Best Paper of 1995 Award to Martha Wells, Kay Knott, and Chris O'Bara; Friends of Fisheries

Awards to Ernie Pacquet, Bill Hatfield, and Bill Herbert; announced that Dave Bishop was inducted into the AFS Aquaculture Hall of Fame; election of officers. Attendance -- approximately 150.

1997 **Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer, Tennessee** — Annual Meeting, March 19 - 21, 1997

Program Highlights: Thirty-nine paper presentations, panel discussion of the future of fisheries in the state, committee meetings, two socials, and a banquet.

Business Highlights: Environmental Education Committee selling T-shirts at meeting with profits to be used for an education project. Membership Committee working on an e-mail address directory. History Committee

presented the first edition of Chapter History. Environmental Concerns Committee discussed selling of Cumberland River reservoirs and announced that a watercress farm is in production in Marion Co. Tennessee Tech subunit reported that they organized the 1996 student fisheries colloquium which was attended by students from 5 states, they ran their annual kid's fishing day which drew 100 kids, and they helped out at an environmental awareness camp. University of Tennessee subunit reported that they have merged with the Wildlife Society subunit, they are building fish attractors on Douglas Lake, and they plan to sponsor a bass tournament with profits to benefit the Foothills Conservancy. Southern Division past president, Mike Van Den Ayle, reported on SD activities, and announced that Tennessee will host the mid-year meeting Feb. 25 - 28, 1999. Rob Todd was elected president-elect and Dave Rizzuto secretary-treasurer. Chris O'Bara will explore the idea of a joint meeting with the Mid South Aquatic Plant Society. Rob Todd, Bob Wallus, and

Chris O'Bara will represent the Chapter at the May 16 - 17, 1997 TCL Meeting. Motion passed to spend up to \$100 to purchase a raffle prize to send the Nevada-California Chapter in support of their efforts to host the AFS national meeting.

Awards Banquet: For the first time, the chapter presented its awards at the banquet. Gordon Hall was the guest speaker, and spoke about the importance of communication in our work. Awards were given as follows: Outstanding Fisheries Scientist - Phil Bettoli and Frank Bulow; Lifetime Achievement Award - Tom Hill and Price Wilkins; Outstanding Fisheries Student - Scott Loftis; Outgoing President - Tom Swor; "Friends of Fisheries" - Judy Butler and Harold Sharp. Attendance at 1997 meeting — approximately 85.

1998 **Henry Horton State Park** — Annual Meeting, March 25 - 27, 1998

Program Highlights: The meeting included 28 oral presentations and one poster presentation during the technical session, two socials, and an awards banquet.

Business Highlights: The Chapter voted unanimously to support the Missouri Chapter's resolution to express appreciation for the work of the American Fisheries Society, elected Brad Cook to be President-Elect, re-elected David Rizzuto as Secretary/Treasurer, and recognized John Boaze for his generous donation in support of outstanding fisheries students. Robert Todd was installed as President for 1998-99. Bob Wallus (Past-President) was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter for his faithful service during the past year. The Chapter treasury balance as of early March was \$4,941.00.

Awards Banquet: Several awards were presented to deserving individuals after the banquet. Jason R. Khym and Charlotte McCracken, both from Tennessee Technological University, were presented awards as Outstanding

Fisheries Students. Dan Speer, Mayor of Pulaski, TN, and outdoor writer Vernon Summerlin, were presented with Friends of Fisheries Awards for their efforts in promotion of fisheries resources in the state. John Riddle was presented with the Fisheries Scientist of the Year Award for his outstanding efforts in the development, fishery assessment, management implementation, and resource promotion of Williamsport Lakes. David Bishop received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chapter for his dedication to the improvement and wise utilization of Tennessee's fishery resources, especially striped bass. The Tennessee Chapter was especially pleased to have Marty Hale from the Southern Division EXCOM to present the Chapter with an update on the Division's activities. Attendance at the 1998 meeting — approximately 65.

1999 **Marriott Hotel, Chattanooga, TN** - Annual Meeting plus Seventh Annual Mid-Year Technical Session and Excom Meeting of the Southern Division of AFS, February 25 - 28, 1999

Program Highlights: The meeting included Southern Division Committee meetings; a Student Workshop, Human Dimensions Workshop, Internet uses in Fisheries Workshop, Developing Effective Creel Workshop, and Sampling Large Rivers Workshop; 11 contributing sessions including 110 paper presentations plus 10 poster presentations; a student-professional social; and a buffet and tour at the Tennessee Aquarium. Attendance — approximately 423.

Chapter Business Highlights: Chapter members had a box lunch provided by the chapter via the Marriott Hotel. Special guests included AFS President, Bob Carline, Southern Division President Reggie Harrell, Southern Division President-elect Marty Hale, Jeff Fleming - Press Secretary to U.S. Representative John Tanner and H.E. Bittle, State Representative. Both John Tanner and H.E. Bittle received the Friend of Fisheries Award. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Bob Wallus, Ron Pasch, and Doug Pelren. Out-going President Rob Todd delivered a farewell address and President Brad Cook spoke concerning goals for 1999 - 2000. Larry Wilson gave an update on AFS 2000, Frank Bulow announced that updated chapter histories were available, and Ed Scott announced that he was selling T-shirts for the Education Committee. He is also developing color fish photo sheets for teaching tools. Fred Heitman was elected President-elect and Dave Rizzuto was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer. Attendance at Chapter meeting — about 95.

2000 **Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer, Tennessee** - Annual Meeting, March 29-31, 2000

Program Highlights: The meeting included 35 oral presentations and one poster presentation during the technical session, two socials, and an awards

banquet.

Chapter Business Highlights: Marty Hale, Southern Division President, gave an update on the parent society and the Southern Division. New business included the following: Fred Heitman talked about setting up an exploratory committee to explore the chapter hosting the 2007 National AFS meeting. Members of the committee to be: Fred Heitman, Dave Rizzuto, Brad Cook, Amy Wales, Bobby Wilson, and Wayne Poppe. A motion was made and **approved** to put together a proposal.

The following awards were presented: Outstanding Fisheries Scientist - Mike Smith (TWRA); Service Award - Dave Rizzuto (TWRA); Friends of Fisheries - Jim Range. President-elect- Dave Rizzuto (TWRA) elected by acclamation. Secretary/Treasurer- Amy Wales (TVA) elected by acclamation. Brad Cook gave his outgoing Presidents speech and told of the accomplishments of the past year.

1. University membership drive.
2. Tennessee chapter representation at all AFS meetings.
3. TCL representation.
4. Annual meeting planning.

Fred Heitman presented Brad Cook with his Presidents certificate. Fred then spoke about what a great job Brad did the past year, then gave an overview of things he wants to accomplish this year. Attendance at the Chapter meeting - about 85.

2001 **Paris Landing State Park, Buchanan, Tennessee** - Annual Meeting, March 28-30, 2001

Program Highlights: The meeting included 28 oral presentations and one poster presentation during the technical session, two socials, and an awards banquet.

Chapter Business Highlights: Larry Wilson, past Southern Division President, gave an update on AFS 2000 and made a final request for TNAFS member participation. Steve Filipek, Stream Team Coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish, and Vice President of SDAFS gave an update on the SDAFS and announced meeting dates.

The following awards were presented: Outstanding Fisheries Scientist - Lance Rider (TWRA); Lifetime Achievement - Frank Bulow (TTU); Friends of Fisheries - Allen Franklin; Best Presentation - Mike Edwards (TTU).

Brad Cooke nominated Gary Hickman for President-Elect and Amy Wales for Secretary-Treasurer. Fred once again encouraged the Chapter to pursue Fisheries Certification. He also highlighted the Chapter's movement into the electronic age, with communication mediums being expanded to include electronic mail and the internet. With the help of Fred's son, the TNAFS website got off to a great start this year. John Taylor will be the new TNAFS website administrator. Dave Rizzuto, incoming President, thanked all the former executive committee members for their help and support (Chris

O'Bara, Bob Wallus, Brad Cook, Bobby Wilson, and Fred Heitman) then outlined his goals for the coming year. Dave announced his desire to support the AFS membership drive to add 6-8 new members from this chapter to the parent society. He discussed highlights of the auction, noting that eleven people donated items to be auctioned off. He asked that requests for funds to support fishing rodeos be submitted to him no later than May 1. Dave also told the Chapter that he wanted a set of the bylaws to review and subsequently make available to everyone online. Dave encouraged the Chapter to put together a top-rate poster for the 50th anniversary of AFS, perhaps even one worthy of Best in Show. Attendance at the Chapter meeting - about 90.

2002 **Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer, Tennessee** - Annual Meeting, March 6-7
2002

Program Highlights: The meeting included 22 oral technical presentations and an awards banquet and social.

Chapter Business Highlights: Guests from the parent society and the Southern Division were Carl Burger, AFS Past President and Jeff Boxrucker, SDAFS President.

Carl Burger, who was unable to attend the 2001 meeting, was presented with a plaque the chapter awarded him last year. He then gave an update on the Parent Societies' activities, which included the upcoming 2004 Worldwide AFS meeting to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia; a trip he took to Washington DC to discuss AFS and its capabilities with several politicians; and the Hutton Junior Biology Program, formed to attract high school students to the fisheries profession, especially underprivileged students. Jeff Boxrucker updated the chapter on new SDAFS projects, starting with the Leadership Training Curricula, designed to address mid-level management retirement (currently between 40%-50%), which is creating voids in these government positions. The curricula cover what it takes to be a good leader and how to work with a commission. Jeff also emphasized that the SDAFS is a student focused division, and offers a mentoring workshop at meetings. He then stressed the importance of meeting attendance, which has both tangible and intangible benefits.

Executive Committee--Dave Rizzuto gave the executive committee update. Seven new members were added to the books, exceeding the goal of six that we set last year. Dave reported TNAFS poster for the SDAFS 50th anniversary was first class, the most unique and best poster at the meeting, and he recognized John Taylor, Doug Peterson, and Larry Wilson for doing such an outstanding job. He also acknowledged Gary Hickman, who, despite facing difficult circumstances, set up a terrific meeting for the Chapter. Last, he noted that the executive committee each quarter last year, including a meeting at Little Rock.

Education Committee—Ed Scott gave an update on the annual TNAFS tee-shirt, featuring a silver redhorse, in honor of the TNAFS 25th silver anniversary. Ideas for next year's tee-shirts were solicited, and someone suggested possibly the Alligator Gar. Ed also asked for suggestions on how to spend funds generated by the tee shirt sales.

The 2003 Annual Chapter Meeting was proposed to be a joint meeting in early March with the Arkansas chapter in the West TN area. A 3-day meeting was suggested so that we could all see each other's presentations, eliminating the need for joint sessions. Fred Heitman moved to hold a joint meeting, and Tony Brady seconded.

The possibility of hosting the 2007 SDAFS Spring Meeting was raised, so Larry Wilson made a motion to research it and Fred Heitman seconded. Dave reported that we were in good financial shape and suggested that if we could do a division meeting and make a few thousand dollars, we might be able to establish scholarships, develop educational tools, etc.

Tim Churchill was nominated for Chapter President and elected by acclamation.

Amy Wales was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer and elected by acclamation.

The following awards were presented: Jeffery Williams, Best Student Paper, and David Etnier received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Attendance at the Chapter meeting - about 95.

2003 **Garden Plaza Hotel, Jackson, Tennessee** - Annual Meeting, March 4-6, 2003

Chapter Business Highlights:

Committee Reports

Executive Committee--Gary Hickman gave the report for the executive committee, which met 4 times last year. Highlights of the executive committee activities included parceling \$2,000 (generated from the 1st annual auction) to 10 rodeos, which serviced 924 children.

Gary also announced that the Chapter still has a lot of Warmwater Video copies to distribute to interested parties.

The TN chapter poster was displayed at the national meeting in Baltimore. It will be set up from now on at our annual business meetings.

Gary announced that the executive committee submitted a resolution of support for banning black carp in US waters to the USFWS.

The decision to leave the position of secretary/treasurer as one position on the executive committee was announced.

Education Committee—Ed Scott went over the highlights of the education

committee's agenda, which include designing and selling new tee-shirts yearly to increase awareness of Tennessee's native fishes. Half the profit goes to the artist, Murray Grazer, and the other half has gone back to the education committee. In the past, that portion has been spent on making picture fish sheets for various watersheds in Tennessee. There are still several tee shirts available featuring the warpaint shiner (2001 edition), the silver redhorse (2002 edition), and the alligator gar (2003 edition). Dave Rizzuto suggested advertising tee-shirt sales on the TNAFS website.

History Committee—Doug Peterson reported that the history committee intended to put the Chapter history on our website, as well as pictures from this and other meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Scott was nominated for president, and Larry Wilson made a motion to accept, followed by a second by Rob Todd. A show of approval was made by meeting attendees.

Amy Wales was nominated for secretary/treasurer by acclamation. No other nominations were submitted by the floor, so Larry Wilson made a motion to approve Amy, and Rob Todd seconded the motion.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Hickman expressed his enjoyment of service as President of the TNAFS chapter, even though often pressed for time, as so many are when involved with organizations such as this. Gary related that it was an honor to work with such a fine group of students and professionals.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tim Churchill, incoming president, presented Gary Hickman with a plaque for his service as president. He said that one of his goals will be to continue the effort to encourage membership into the parent society. Tim thanked Dave Rizzuto for putting together such a terrific meeting once again. Although the location has not been decided, Tim presented the Chapter with a few ideas for format, such as going back to having a 2 day meeting, perhaps with a workshop on the first day, which would be optional. This workshop could be led by someone outside TNAFS and cover an as yet undecided timely topic.

2004 **Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer, Tennessee** - Annual Meeting, March 2-4, 2004

Chapter Business Highlights:

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee—Reported that several letters of support were written throughout the year including: 1) Sign-on letter supporting TCL's position on EPA's proposed sewage blending policy; 2) Letter of support to the TN General Assembly allowing TWRA to set license fees with approval of the State Legislature; 3) Letter supporting TCL stance on the Ocoee Bypass; and 4) letter of support for CARA to Washington. The excomm also reported that last year's auction proceeds were distributed to several kids fishing rodeos across the state, with monies usually spent on prizes and refreshments. The executive committee thanked Richard Strange for pulling together a terrific newsletter again as he has for the last several years.

Education Committee—This year's tee-shirt features a smallmouth bass, oyster mussel, and surgeon crayfish. The artist Murrie Grazer has been paid and the remainder of the proceeds from tee-shirt sales are set aside for education/outreach projects like the laminated fish identification sheets put together in the past.

History Committee—Doug Peterson reported that the History of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has been updated through 2002 and is posted on the TNAFS website.

TTU SFA—The SFA gave an update of their activities, including 2 presentations at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and 7 presentations at the SDAFS meeting. They also gave presentations to local high schools and girls scout troops, and sponsored a kids fishing rodeo.

Review of AFS Strategic Plan

Vic DiCenzo, Secretary/Treasurer for SDAFS, provided a review of American Fisheries Societies' Strategic Plan. He talked about the upcoming SEAFWA meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina, which will feature various training sessions, workshops, and opportunities to exchange technical information. He mentioned the changes made to the Proceedings for the Guide for Authors, which resulted in improved turnaround time, so that papers will be available at the meeting in Hilton Head, SC. Regarding the recently completed SDAFS spring meeting in Oklahoma City, 106 presentations were given, 41 of them by students. He announced that Virginia Beach, Virginia will be hosting the SDAFS spring meeting next year. Currently, the SDAFS has several active technical committees. Two new adhoc committees have been formed, Marine and Estuarine, and Ictalurids, and are off to a great start. An adhoc fish disease committee may be formed soon. On a national note, Young Professional Membership extends membership benefits for 3 years after graduation to give students time to settle into their profession and establish a career before having to pay full annual fees.

Student Travel Grant

In the fall, students may apply for a single \$500 travel grant to the spring SDAFS mid-year meeting. Larry Wilson and Phil Bettoli will firm up this process and oversee recipient selection.

58th meeting of SEAFWA

It was announced that the 58th meeting of SEAFWA will be held at Westin Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC on October 30 through November 3, 2004.

*NEW BUSINESS

Nominations and Elections

The executive committee moved to nominate Jim Layzer to serve as President Elect, and Amy Wales to continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Both nominations were approved and seconded by the Chapter.

Proposed Resolution—NEP Designation for TN River Sites

Ed Scott proposed supporting a resolution to the Fish and Wildlife Service to support reintroduction of federally listed multiple fish, mussel, and snail species to 3 state waters (French Broad River below Cherokee Dam, the Holston River, and Shoal Creek) , designating them as nonessential populations, which would not overburden current landowners that may be affected. It has been stalled in regional office due to more pressing issues. A motion was made to support the proposed resolution, and the motion was seconded and approved.

2007 Spring SDAFS Meeting

Dave Rizzuto announced that we will be hosting the upcoming 2007 Spring SDAFS Meeting. It will be held in Memphis TN at the Marriot, February 8-11.

2009 AFS Annual Meeting

Laura Amond, with the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau, talked with the Chapter about hosting the 2009 AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville. TWRA leadership had already committed to the event and will have a major role in the event. Laura pointed out that the national AFS would play a major role as well, so the TN Chapter would not be overly burdened. Even so, the TN Chapter stands to gain an estimated \$10,000 from the meeting. Other benefits included that the Convention Center rental would be paid for. A Convention Services Manager would be assigned to support the conference.

Laura asked the Chapter to submit a letter of support to AFS, and said she also needed a similar letter from TWRA Director Meyers. If a good bid proposal is submitted for 2009, Laura indicated that the possibility exists that it may be selected for a meeting in 2008; however, this is unlikely since a Northeastern state will probably get it.

Chuck Coutant warned against how difficult and time consuming hosting a conference can be for the Chapter, even if the host city helps out. The Chapter would need to put together the program, handle registration, committee meetings, etc.

Tom Swor made a motion to form a committee to take this into consideration and forward a recommendation to the ex-comm. Tom proposed that the ex-comm be empowered to make appropriate decisions as to what the chapter is specifically committed to doing for the meeting. This motion was approved and passed.

Presidential Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (not on agenda)

Mark Fagg challenged the Chapter to match donations from the Wildlife Society, Ornithological Society, and Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (each donated \$250) to support the publication of a Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) book focusing on aquatic habitat and aquatic animals. A motion was made and passed to support this publication with a \$250 donation. We will be listed as a partner.

*OTHER

Tim Churchill gave the outgoing president's message, stating he enjoyed his tenure as President. Ed Scott, incoming President, thanked the meeting presenters for their hard work and contribution to a good meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm CST.

2005 Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer, Tennessee - Annual Meeting, March 8-10, 2005

Chapter Business Highlights:

1. Ed Scott called the meeting to order.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The minutes from the 2004 Business Meeting were approved.
4. Amy Wales presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved. As of 2/28/05 the checking account balance was: \$3,743.35. As of 12/31/04 the

Fidelity Investment balance was \$8,570.28.

5. Fred Heitman provided the SDAFS update. Students were encouraged to attend meetings, and to consider applying for various scholarships available to cover travel experiences.

Fred announced that the upcoming 2006 and 2006 Spring meetings would be held in San Antonio, TX and Memphis, TN, respectively. Also, the June 2007 Reservoir Symposium will convene in Atlanta, GA.

Chapter members were reminded that the Hutton Scholarship is available for high school students who wish to work in the summer in the fisheries field, with the opportunity of earning up to \$3,000.

Fred commented on the popularity and success of recent Student Colloquium, and suggested that criterion may need to be developed to determine which student chapter hosts it.

6. Ed Scott recognized Larry Wilson and Chuck Coutant, who formerly served as officers for the SDAFS. Chuck was also recognized for his stint as President of the Parent Society.

7. Old Business

a. Committee Reports

i. Executive Committee—The ex-comm conducted 4 business meetings during the last year. They reported that last year funding was up for each region and the SFA for fishing rodeo events. The ex-comm also wrote a letter of support for Bill 4383.

ii. Education Committee—This year's tee-shirts feature the snail darter, a species the USFWS hopes can be delisted soon. Funds from tee-shirt sales are earmarked for educational outreach projects.

iii. History Committee—Nothing reported.

b. Student Fisheries Association—Cory Goldsworthy provided the TTUSFA update in place of Eric Brittle. He reported that last year's fishing derby was one of the biggest yet. Other activities they participated in were the 1st Annual Naturefest in Cookeville; a flyfishing clinic; an invertebrate identification workshop; assisted in a tournament weigh-in for a local fishing club on Percy Priest, with proceeds going to charity; and a project on a local farm with 4-H on stream life. At the spring meeting, five of the eight TTU attendees gave presentations. A change in procedure resulted in TTU SFA officers being elected in spring instead of fall.

c. Dave Rizzuto, gave a report on the upcoming 2007 spring meeting in Memphis. The spring meeting was revived by the Chapter in 1999, hosting an outstanding meeting in Chattanooga. Dave volunteered to spearhead the coordination and planning for the meeting and has already selected a terrific venue.

d. Tim Churchill discussed preparations for the Chapter's bid for the 2009 Parent Society meeting, which will be made to the AFS Time and Place Committee at the Anchorage Alaska meeting, September 11-15, 2005. The Nashville Convention and Visitor's Bureau are assisting with the preparations. Tim said the next step was assembling a video highlighting Nashville and the TN chapter, which will be presented by Ed and Tim in Anchorage. We are planning to schedule the meeting in September but may have to hold it in August.

e. The upcoming Reservoir Symposium, typically held every 10 to 15 years, will be held in Atlanta at the Airport Hilton Hotel (the last one was held 12 years ago in Chattanooga). Registration will be reasonably priced at approximately \$200. Most presentations will be by invitation (~75%). The focus of the meeting will be watershed issues across the United States.

f. It was announced that the AFS Parent Society annual meeting will be held September 11-15, 2005.

g. It was announced that the 59th meeting of SEAFWA would be held at the Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, October 16-19, 2005.

8. New Business

a. Nominations and Elections

i) Todd St. John was nominated to serve as President –elect. Todd accepted and the Chapter approved his nomination.

ii) Amy Wales was voted Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

b) 2006 TNAFS Meeting—The Chapter has been approached by the Ryan Oster, Kentucky Chapter President, to hold a joint meeting next year.

c) Tennessee Wildlife Foundation (Formerly Tennessee Conservation League) — The Chapter is maintaining its membership for \$50/year. Fred Heitman will soon resign as our Chapter's representative, and his replacement was discussed. Fred gave an overview of his duties as Chapter representative including: representing conservation interests; serve as a lobbyist for sportsmen and conservationists for issues such as oil and gas drilling, water quality, and Mercury levels in fish. Fred stressed the need for a fisheries professional to serve with the TWF, as it is heavily weighted to

wildlife.

d) The Chapter discussed steps necessary to apply for the Outstanding Chapter Award, which would include putting together a package highlighting activities and accomplishments. State Chapters must first win their division before being candidate for an award from the Parent Society.

e) It was decided to post the resolution concerning Lower Mississippi River Monitoring to the TNAFS website.

f) The Chapter discussed the resolution on the Comprehensive Safety Training

Program for Fisheries Professionals.

g) The Chapter was asked to support American Rivers' Citizens Agenda for Rivers, in response to recent attempts to lessen the Clean Water Act rules.

h) Brac Sayers proposed to form a new student fisheries association at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Although UT currently has a wildlife and fisheries association, it is essentially focused primarily on wildlife. A separate fisheries association would eliminate this conflict. The UT students would maintain involvement with the UT's current SWFS, while participating in a fisheries focused group .but Chuck Coutant pointed out that the student association would be considered a 'subunit' of the TN Chapter and as such would have the Parent Society's approval. The Chapter fully support the formation of a fisheries subunit at UT.

8) Ed Scott made his Outgoing President's message.

9) Incoming President Jim Layzer welcomed UT's new student fisheries association, and encouraged them to coordinate with the already established TTUSFA. At that point, Larry Wilson asked for contact information for someone involved with TTUSFA.

Jim stressed the importance of recruiting new members and attendance at Chapter meetings, and said he was looking forward to the upcoming year.

2006 **Paris Landing State Park, Buchanan Tennessee** - Annual Meeting March 7-8, 2006

Meeting Highlights:

Business Highlights:

1. President Jim Layzer called the meeting to order.

2. The agenda, made previously available, was approved.
3. Secretary's Report – Minutes of 2005 Business Meeting (Amy Wales). The minutes were made previously available, and were approved.
4. Treasurer's Report (Amy Wales)—The report was given as follows, and approved:
Checking Account as of 2/28/05: \$3,743.35
Fidelity Investments as of 12/31/04: \$8,570.28
5. Recognition of guests.
6. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

- i. Executive—the executive committee met 4 times during the past year. Much time was spent in preparation for the bid to host the national and SDAFS meetings. Two members of the excomm attended the meeting in Alaska. The membership was reminded to fill out the questionnaire about award nominations. Formation of an awards committee was discussed, that would examine issues and make recommendations. Some potential awards committee participants include Bobby Wilson and Mark Bevelheimer. The excomm also suggested review and possible revisions to the Chapter bylaws. One issue identified that needs to be addressed was requiring Chapter members to be members of the parent society. Bob Curry suggested developing procedural guidelines to address things like this. It was determined that proposed changes must be approved by a 2/3 majority of members then voted on. Then the changes will have to be passed to the SDAFS then the AFS. This process could take up to 2 years. Another item the excomm shared with the membership was the decision not to hold a TN Chapter technical session meeting next year. However, we will have a business meeting. Also discussed paying travel for the president and president elect to SDAFS and AFS meetings. Announced intention to send electronic versions of quarterly minutes to all members, instead of just to the excomm, which may stop the loss of institutional knowledge. A recommendation was made to the excomm by Bob Curry to form an audit committee to cover the treasury report. Last, Jim announced that Dave Rizzuto was planning the 2007 meeting, and a second checking account will be created for expenses. The Chapter will seed this account \$1,000.
- ii. Education—Ed reiterated the Education Committee's mission was to increase awareness of Tennessee's native aquatic fauna. He also reminded the Chapter that tee-shirt sale proceeds are divided in half between the artist and the Education Committee's outreach efforts. So far the money has been used to create color pictures of fish in various watersheds. They hope to do

fishes of the Big South Fork next. This year's tee-shirt featured a flier and a pond-mussel, both inhabitants of West Tennessee. They are available now as well as some shirts from previous years. Ed asked the Chapter to be thinking of what species to feature on next year's shirt. He also mentioned that he is the sole member of the Education Committee, and requested that others consider participating in it. Upon Ed's conclusion, Tim Churchill thanked him for his service. Steve Ahlstedt suggested fish magnets to complement tee-shirt sales, and indicated that Casper Cox, a graphic artist and also a member of North American Native Fish Society (NANFA) might be willing to help get us started. Other discussion regarding the Education committee included an inquiry about setting up a credit card account for expenditures; however, Fred Heitman submitted that since TNAFS does not have a credit profile, it would be hard to get an account. The treasurer was asked to check on getting a debit card through our Bank, Union Planters.

iii. Awards & History—Doug Peterson reported that the TNAFS history is updated and current through 2005. He also announced that he was stepping aside from his position on the History Committee and said that his replacement will be Pat Black. Doug was thanked for 5 years of service as the TNAFS historian.

B. Student Fisheries Associations

i. TTU—Janice Kerns reported that their SFA now has their information in a newsletter. She said that they had a great turnout at their annual fishing derby. Other activities the TTUSFA were involved with include attending a wildlife conclave at Fall Creek Falls, student colloquium; and a fisheries and wildlife presentation at a Girl Scout training event. Regarding the student colloquium, it was mentioned that the Parent Society encourages its members to be involved, and perhaps consider having SDAFS and AFS representatives at their colloquiums. As usual, the TTU subunit has tee-shirts for sale at the meeting (\$15 apiece). This year's shirts were designed by student Nevin Welte. Lastly, Janice offered her email address as the primary contact for the TTUSFA.

ii. UT-- Joe Zimmerman reported on a good first year for the UT subunit. The participated in 2 creek cleanups; had a Halloween Social with the forestry unit; collaborated with the wildlife society for a Game and Fish dinner, which raised approximately \$3,300; a Kids in the Creek in North Carolina; and assisted with setting trot lines for lake sturgeon. The juniors of the UTSFA will be hosting a bass tournament on Ft. Loudon for the upcoming year and looks forward to a successful event. Jim Layzer led applause for the efforts of both the UT and TTU subunits.

C. Meeting Announcements and Updates

136th AFS Annual, September 10-14, 2006, Lake Placid, NY
60th SEAFWA, November 5-8, 2006, Norfolk, VA

2007 SD AFS Meeting, Memphis
2007 SD AFS Reservoir Symposium, Atlanta
2009 AFS Annual Meeting, Nashville

Dave Rizzuto announced the spring meeting in Memphis will be held from February 8-11, and said that pertinent information would soon be available on the web. Room reservations can be made starting April 1, 2006, and a state rate will be available if affiliation with SDAFS is mentioned. Dave and other committee chairmen had already met to discuss roles, responsibilities, and deadlines. He asked the membership at large to meet to discuss roles, responsibilities, and deadlines. The SDAFS meeting has gotten huge since we last hosted it, so Dave asked the membership at large to be ready to provide assistance to committee chairs if asked. In 1999, it cost us \$15,000. This year, the meeting alone will cost approximately \$46,000, and the Chapter and Southern Division could potentially make \$15,000 each. Registration fees will be set to break even. Workshops and other side events will be our opportunity to make a profit. Workshop topics may include Safety; 'Bass 101' for young biologists, hosted by the Small Impoundments Committee (because of frequently expressed interest in pond management); and perhaps a workshop involving anglers, biologists, and industry representatives. This type of workshop, which engenders information sharing and Q & A opportunities, has seen recent success at other venues. Upon Mark Bevelheimer's inquiry, Dave provided the names of committee chairmen who had agreed to serve. Dave also said that they are still looking for sponsors to fund student travel to attend the meeting and workshops.

Following Dave's announcements, Jim recognized Dave for his hard work on the upcoming meeting, as well as his faithful years of service to the Chapter. Jim also stated that the Chapter now has about \$11,000 in our accounts, and following the Southern Division meeting, could potentially have \$40,000. He recommended that the Executive committee discuss how to best allocate these funds at a future business meeting(s).

2007 SD AFS Reservoir Symposium, Atlanta—The 4th North American Reservoir Symposium, chaired by Fred Heitman, will be held in Atlanta. Historically, the symposium books have been very popular. Ten poster presentations will be chosen, and each will have a Chapter in the book. Students and professional TNAFS chapter members were encouraged to participate.

2009 AFS Annual Meeting, Nashville—Bobby Wilson announced that the Chapter got the bid. He showed a DVD clip, narrated by Bill Dance and featuring Don King, that was shown to the Time and Place Committee at the Alaska meeting. The clip highlighted the scenic beauty of the state as well as the many tourism opportunities to be found here. Tennessee beat out the competition, Texas, for the bid.

D. Resolutions on Safety and Lower Mississippi River—Found out what procedures were required to present a resolution to be voted on by the membership. The requirement states that a resolution must be available for 30 days in advance of a vote. Both resolutions were posted to the TNAFS website, and eventually passed unanimously.

E. Tennessee Wildlife Federation—It was announced that Jeff Slipke had been appointed to serve as the TWF representative.

7. New Business

A. Nominations and Elections. Don Hubbs was nominated to serve as President, and voted in by the membership. For Secretary/Treasurer, Amy Wales was voted in by acclamation.

B. Resolution Supporting Bottle Bill. The 'Bottle Bill' would require a 5 cent deposit on all beverages except wine, liquor, and milk. The official website is TNBottleBill.org. (NOTE: TNBottleBill.com is a website OPPOSING the bottle bill). The membership was asked to write their senators voicing support. The Chapter approved the resolution, and Fred promised to inform TWF representative Randy McNally that the bottle bill had our support.

8. Outgoing President's Message—Jim Layzer said goodbye and thanked the members of the executive committee for making his job easier.

9. Incoming President's Message—Todd St John thanked Jim Layzer for his hard worked, recognized Ed Scott for his 3 years of service, and congratulated Don Hubbs as incoming president. He promised to continue working on our ongoing projects, specifically the 2007 and 2009 meetings, to help ensure their success. Todd recognized the newly formed awards committee (Bobby Wilson, Brad Cook, and Mark Bevelheimer). He thanked Dave Rizzuto for his auction work, and pointed out that last year alone, there were 60 rodeos with approximately 15,000 kids in attendance. He mentioned that this year's free fishing day would be June 10th. Todd also voiced his support of the Bottle Bill, which would support recycling efforts and litter control. He thanked the student subunits for their hard work and participation in TNAFS, SDAFS, and Parent Society endorsed events, like the Student Colloquiums. Todd closed with an invitation to all members to send calls and emails to him regarding any questions or issues that arise.

The meeting was adjourned.

2007 **Memphis Marriott Downtown, Memphis, TN** - Hosted Southern Division AFS Midyear Meeting, February 8-11, 2007

Meeting Highlights:

The Tennessee Chapter AFS hosted the 2007 AFS Southern Division Midyear Meeting. No separate chapter meeting was held in 2007.

Business Highlights:

1. President Todd St John called the meeting to order.
2. The agenda was approved with changes.
3. Amy Wales, secretary/treasurer, submitted minutes from the previous annual business meeting, and they were reviewed and approved.
4. The treasurer's report was given as follows:
 - Investment fund: \$9840.03
 - Checking account: \$2,333.888
5. SDAFS President Fred Heitman was on hand to congratulate the TNAFS for hosting a successful mid-year meeting and winning the AFS Best Small Chapter. He shared the following information about meeting locations and dates: Southern Division Reservoir Symposium, June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta GA; 137th Annual AFS Meeting, San Francisco CA, September 2-6, 2007; and the 61st Meeting of the SEAFWA, After announcing upcoming meeting dates and locations, Fred recognized guests Steve McMillin, SDAFS President-elect; Bob Curry, SDAFS Past President; and AFS President Jennifer Wilson. Fred encouraged investing in high school students through support of the Hutton Scholar program. He asked the chapter to continue supporting the Hurricane disaster relief efforts still underway.

Jennifer Wilson also spoke about the hurricane, thanking Don Jackson, AFS 2nd Vice-President (present), for playing an instrumental role helping her institutionalize disaster relief protocols for quick and effective response, particularly when it affected the AFS membership. Don conveyed thanks for all contributions to the disaster relief fund.

6. Old Business.

A. Committee reports.

- i. Executive committee—Todd reported that the executive committee started the year by establishing an objective list of priorities, which were addressed during quarterly meetings held at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville TN. Activities highlighted include approval to donate \$2,500 to support 60 fishing rodeo events serving approximately 15,000 children, in spite of not holding an auction. The chapter's finances were strong enough to seed the 2009 AFS meeting

fund in the amount of \$1,000. Don Hubbs, TNAFS Past-President, wrote the new TNAFS Procedure Manual, which contains the bylaws and guidelines by which executive committee members conduct business. Todd noted that we submitted an application to AFS for the best small chapter award, which was successful.

ii. Education committee—Ed Scott continued the campaign to increase public awareness of Tennessee native fish species. The shirt featured a cartoon of “Beale Street Blues” in honor of the blue catfish, a locally important commercial species. The shirt also featured a winged mapleleaf, a native mussel that uses blue catfish for a host. The 2010 International Catfish Symposium, to be held in Nashville TN, has already expressed interest in using the “Beale Street Blues” catfish cartoon design.

Other outreach projects developed include completion of fish identification fact sheets for the Little River the Little Pigeon River. Plans are underway to compile a list of fishes of the Big South Fork.

iii. Awards—Brad Cook

Lifetime Achievement--
Outstanding Fisheries Scientist--
Friend of Fisheries--

iv. History—No report.

B. Student Fisheries Associations

i. TTU (Eric for Malissa Mengel)

ii. UT (Josh Landrum)

C. Meeting Announcements and updates

2007 SDAFS Meeting---SDAFS Past President Bob Curry applauded Dave Rizzuto for his hard work on the Southern Division meeting this year, and TNAFS President Todd St John presented him a service award from the Tennessee Chapter.

2009 AFS Annual Meeting (Bobby Wilson), Nashville TN

Southern Division Reservoir Symposium, June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta GA
(Fred Heitman)

137th Annual AFS Meeting, San Francisco, September 2-6, 2007

61st Annual Meeting of the SEAFWA, Marriot Norfolk Waterside Hotel

D. 2006 Outstanding AFS Small Chapter Award—TN Chapter AFS. The Chapter was given a plaque to honor the achievement.

E. Annual contribution to Tennessee kids fishing rodeos—In absence of an auction fundraiser, the executive committee voted to contribute \$2,500 to rodeos this year from Chapter savings.

F. TN Chapter AFS Procedure Manual including Awards Criteria—Don Hubbs worked on this task, updating the Chapter Procedure manual. This is considered a working document, created to smooth the executive committee transition process, by ensuring each executive committee member knows what their job duties are. It has been posted on the TN AFS website and comments are welcomed.

G. Status of By-Law Change Regarding Membership—Discussed at the 2006 Business Meeting, the executive committee has been seeking clarification about the status of those who pay annual Tennessee Chapter dues but are not members and do not pay annual Parent Society dues. AFS policy states that only those who pay parent society dues may vote or hold office. AFS President Jennifer Wilson said that other Chapters addressed this by designating those who don't pay

Parent Society dues but do pay State Chapter dues as "Affiliate Members". The proposed Chapter By-law changes will be submitted to AFS, and Gus Rassam will inform us if the changes will be approved as submitted.

7. New Business

A. Nominations and Elections

i. Frank Fiss was voted President-elect.

ii. Amy Wales was voted Secretary-Treasurer by acclamation.

B. Additional By-Law Updates—Gwen White, AFS Constitutional Consultant, reviewed the Chapter's proposed by-law changes and passed them back out to the membership with her comments and suggestions. Valuable feedback was provided regarding obtaining official recognition for the UT subunit.

C. Disaster Relief Fund—The executive committee suggested donating \$500 to the AFS Disaster Relief Fund.

8. Outgoing President's Message—Todd St. John recognized Jim Layzer for serving on the executive committee for 3 years, and voiced his support for Don Hubbs and Frank Fiss, also executive committee members.

9. Incoming President's Message—Don Hubbs, TWRA malacologist and TNAFS incoming President, expressed his desire to focus attention on our subunits, and encouraged students to interact more with professionals. Don is a professional malacologist with a fisheries background and provides a valuable link between fish and shellfish.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.