

## *Minutes of the 2006 Business Meeting Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society*

The 2006 annual business meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was held January 24, 2006, in Gainesville, GA. President Steven Patrick called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. Thirty-seven (37) members were present, constituting a quorum.

Steven Patrick handed out copies of the 2005 Business Meeting Minutes to everyone in attendance. Steven handled this responsibility due to the fact that Secretary/Treasurer Don Harrison had to leave the meeting for a family emergency. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Steven Patrick gave an update of the GA Chapter's 2005 activities. He recognized the various activities of the UGA student sub-chapter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The GA Chapter also donated \$300 to the UGA student sub-chapter in 2005 to help defer costs for hosting the January 24, 2006 student / professional mixer held at this meeting. The event allows students and professionals in the fisheries field to interact in a relaxed social environment. North Georgia Technical College has organized a fisheries club and asked for recognition as a student sub-unit. A motion was made and seconded to establish an official student sub-unit. The motion passed.

Steven Patrick passed out the treasures report to everyone in attendance. He reviewed the books from last years meeting and gave an update on the current meeting cost and funds raised. Steven thanked all the presenters participating in this years meeting. The meeting organizers were appreciative of the prompt and abundant response to the call-for-papers they had this year.

Pat Mazik, Southern Division President, presented an update on Southern Division and parent chapter activities. Noted that student memberships now include subscriptions to the online journals and databases. Mentioned the upcoming meeting in San Antonio, TX. Encouraged attendance for next years SEAFWA meeting in Virginia. She noted the availability of student travel grants for these meetings. Noted incoming officers of Southern Division and encouraged participation at the division level. Discussed the fact that the division is now in the black and will be looking for way to use the additional funds. SD has helped fund state chapters that were affected by hurricane Katrina and is encouraging other chapters to make donations to those affected.

Steven noted a request from the Texas chapter to donate a \$100 for a student scholarship fund to be used to help Texas students attend the Southern Division meeting in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Cecil Jennings noted that he would rather fund GA students. Discussed if there was a current funding assistance need for a Georgia student attending the SDAFS meeting and no apparent need for funding was noted at this time. Decided not to fund Texas students. Ted Will made a suggestion that the individual who wins the best student paper award at the GA chapter meeting would receive travel funds from the chapter to attend the SDAFS meeting. It was decided to move this issue to the awards committee for further discussion.

**Secretary/Treasurers Report:** Steven Patrick presented the GA Chapter's FY 2005 account activities report prepared by Don Harrison. The opening balance for FY 2005 (1/1/05) was \$7831.95 and the closing balance for FY 2005 (12/31/05) was \$8,334.20. The 2004 annual meeting in Ft. Gaines, GA, had a net income of \$342.99. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

**Awards:** Awards were presented at the meeting banquet later this evening. Tommy Marshal was the recipient of the 2005 Fishery Worker of the Year Award. Tommy is a Fisheries Technician IV with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The award recognized Tommy's exemplary achievements in the field over the past year.

Mike Geihlsler was the recipient of the 2005 Career Achievement Award. Mike is a Senior Fisheries Biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This award recognized Mike's contributions and achievements over his 30+ years with GADNR.

Best student presentation awards were also presented at the meeting banquet: 1<sup>st</sup> place Justin Bezold, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jeffery Ziegeweid, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Tim Grabowski. Best undergraduate presentation was awarded to Lauren Moss.

**Financial Audit Committee Report:** No report necessary at this time. Will be done next year when a new treasure comes into office.

**Newsletter:** David Higginbotham reported on the 2005 GA Chapter newsletter. The newsletter was posted on the Chapter's website and e-mail notifications sent out to approximately 400 members and associates. David noted the need to get addresses for new members from Don Harrison to keep the records up to date. It was noted that a counter would be beneficial for the GA AFS website.

**Nominations Committee:** Ted Will reported the nominations for the office of President-Elect were Scott Robinson (SARP) and Gabe Gaddis (GADNR-CRD).

**Membership/student affairs:** Bruce Saul was not able to make the meeting. In his absence, Steven Patrick reported the Chapter would pay for two student rooms for two nights at this years meeting.

**Resolution/Environmental Concerns:** No Report

**Old Business:** Ronnie Gilbert reported the manual on policies and procedures was complete. Steven again thanked Ronnie for all his efforts devoted to producing the manual.

Discussed the possibility of a professional paper award. Possibly using students to judge. No money attached just an award. A nomination was made to present a "Best Paper Award." The motion was seconded. Discussion on who should judge led to the fact that experienced presenters should be recruited to judge. Also a better job needed to be done prior to meeting in obtaining judges for both this new award as well as the "Best Student Paper" award. Decided to move these issue to the Awards Committee.

Idea of hosting 2009 National AFS meeting was put off due to the state hosting the SEAFWA meeting that same year. May readdress and try to host the 2012 meeting.

**New Business:** Steven presented the idea of future past-presidents award including a custom rod or fishing reel costing no more than \$125 along with the plaque. This would help encourage individuals to participate in the leadership of the chapter. Concerns were raised about increasing cost due to rising inflation over time and the possibility of having a lame duck president that didn't deserve an award. One suggestion was that the chapter should obtain a rod as a donation and the individual donating the item using the cost a tax deduction. Decided to move to Awards Committee for further discussion.

Ted Will discussed the possible locations and plans for the 2007 annual Chapter meeting. Mentioned the need for regions to be more involved in presenting what we are doing (our labor) and what this means for the folks we serve (anglers). He mentioned he would like more sportfish management talks at next years meeting. He is looking into the possibility of a joint meeting with either Florida or South Carolina, but this doesn't look promising at this point due to out of state travel concerns. Ted noted that Doug Haymans has volunteered to chair the Program Committee and this committee is extremely important to what we currently do each year and should always

have an active chair. If the Program Committee is helping make local arrangements for the yearly meetings this frees up the Executive Committee to focus on other chapter activities.

**Election Results:** Scott Robinson was elected President-Elect.

**Student Subunit:** Jeff Ziegeweid presented their activities. Noted that their annual fund raising activity a fish fry had the largest attendance to date, with approximately 1500 people attending, and this has put them in good financial shape. They also provided volunteer help at one of GADNR's "Outdoor Adventure Day" events, had several guest speakers give presentations to the student subunit, helped a private pond owners with harvesting catfish from his pond.

**Announcements:** Steven Patrick, introduced Ted Will (GADNR) as the new president of the GA Chapter for 2006. Ted thanked Steven, the meeting organizers, and presenters for their efforts put forth in making this meeting happen.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Harrison, Secretary/Treasurer