

**Minutes of the 29th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society
Business Meeting
February 18, 2009
4-H Camp Ocala, Altoona, Florida**

The Florida Chapter Business meeting commenced at 7:10pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at the Ocala 4H Camp in Altoona, FL.

Will Patterson (President) began the meeting by introducing the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SD AFS) past-president Steve McMullin (Virginal Tech, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Services). Steve provided a brief description of the 2009 SD AFS Spring Meeting that was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 15-18, 2009. The meeting was a great success and had over 400 participants. Steve's primary concerns during his tenure as the President of the SD AFS were financial matters such as the Southern Division Disaster Relief Program that was initiated in 2006 and setting aside monies to assist in 'rainy day' expenses. The SD AFS income is collected through two means (1) rebate monies from national AFS membership and (2) annual spring meetings. Southern Division AFS has begun a membership challenge for all chapters that consists of a traveling plaque that is awarded to the chapter with the highest number of chapter members that are also members of the parent society. The chapter that receives this award also receives a donation from SD AFS to a charity of the chapter's choice. Southern Division AFS also maintains a huge commitment to students and annually spends ~\$5,500 of the SD AFS budget to support student travel expenses to the annual Spring SD AFS meeting, annual Student Colloquium, and to the annual Fall meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Steve reminded us that selected presentations (including business meeting) from the spring 2009 meeting will be available via podcast through the SD AFS website (<http://www.sdafs.org/>). Finally, the SD AFS has had another successful electronic election (Vice President – Steve Lochmann, Secretary/Treasurer – Dave Coughlan, and SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee – Mark Oliver).

The SD AFS is hosting the 2009 AFS parent society meeting in Nashville, TN (Aug 30 – Sept 3) and the 2010 Southern Division Spring meeting will be held in Ashville, NC.

Steve then thanked the FL chapter for inviting him to our meeting and was fortunate that other business brought him to central Florida. Will continued the meeting by acknowledging the current Executive Committee of FL AFS (President-Elect- Debra Murie and Secretary/Treasurer- Linda Lombardi), Past Presidents of the American Fisheries Society Southern Division: John 'Jack' Dequine, Marty Hale, Larry Connor, Past Presidents of the Florida Chapter: 1986-87 Marty Hale, 1988-89 Wes Porak, 1992-93 Ron Taylor, 1995-1996 Steve Miller, 1997-98 Larry Connor, 2005-06 Rich McBride, 2006-07 Chuck Cichra, 2007-08 Eric Nagid and past Presidents of American Fisheries Society Sections: Marine Fisheries Debra Murie and Introduced Fish Jeff Hill that were present during the 29th Annual Meeting of Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The 2008 Business Meeting Minutes were printing in the 2008 April issue of the FL AFS newsletter and were approved by all attending FL chapter members.

Linda Lombardi (Secretary/Treasurer) presented the 2009 Treasurer Report (appearing in this newsletter) and was approved by all attending FL chapter members.

Andy Strickland, Raffle Coordinator, provided an update on raffle sells, silent auction items, and acknowledged those present that assisted in gathering merchandise for the raffle: Nick Trippel (\$350 guided bass trip), Kathy Guidon (Diane Pebbles print and frame), and Alan Collins (numerous items from tackle, marinas, and department stores). Andy requested anyone that brought items for the raffle to provide the names of businesses to him so that the FL Chapter could appropriately express our gratitude to those individuals.

Chuck Cichra presented this year's Student Travel Grants and Rottmann Scholarship awards.

The FL Chapter was able to provide student travel grants, from 2008 raffle profits, to 18 recipients (nine students from the University of Florida – Christian Barrientos, Edward Camp, Stuart Carlton, Felipe Carvacho, John Hargrove, Matt Lauretta, Patrick O'Rouke, Geoffrey Smith, Jake Tetzlaff, eight students from NOVA Southeastern University – Bryan Armstrong, Shannon Bayse, Kerri Bolow, Cheryl Cross, Heidi DaSilva, Ethan MacHemer, Mae Taylor Gabriela Wisniewski and one undergraduate student from Eckerd College – Caroline Storer). Chuck provided a historical perspective of the Rottman Scholarship and presented certificates and monetary awards (\$500 each) to this year's recipients: Doctor of Philosophy Stuart Carlton (UF, SNRE) and Master of Science Patrick O'Rouke (UF, FAS).

Larry Connor provided a summary of current balance in the Rottmann Scholarship (as of December 2007: \$27,468 and as of December 2008: \$17, 828). Larry discussed either increasing the number of Rottmann Scholarships awarded each year and/or increasing the value of the award, but due to the huge loss of this fund in 2008 this subject was dismissed with no opposition from attending FL chapter members. Larry also provided an update to our membership and as of December 2008, the Florida Chapter of American Fisheries Society has a total of 229 members including 44 students and, of which, 145 (63%) are members of the parent society. This is an overall increase in membership by 6.5% and a 46.7% increase in student memberships from 2007.

Stuart Carlton (Student Sub-unit 2008 Vice President/Treasurer) provided the Student Sub-unit meeting summary and expressed his appreciation to both the chapter and to the Southern Division AFS for their commitment to students. The Student Sub-unit held elections and 2009 officers were elected: Alicia Adamson (UF/ FAS) President, Karrie Bolow (NOVA) Vice President, and Heidi DaSilva (NOVA) Treasurer.

Eric Nagid revisited past business relating to the Florida chapter's hosting of the 2011 Southern Division Spring Meeting. Last year after the 2008 FL AFS annual meeting an ad-hoc committee was organized (Eric Nagid- FWC, Kevin Johnson- FWC, and David Kersetter- NOVA). The committee has used information provided by the SD AFS to start planning this meeting. The chapter's main responsibility is to find an appropriate location given such criteria as location (some where sunny and warm in February), night life, cost, and distance to and from a major airport. The feasibility of the chapter being able to fulfill this task was put to vote (1st by Larry Connor and 2nd by C. Bradshaw) and was approved by all attending FL chapter members.

2009 FL chapter elections were presented by Eric Nagid. The nominations were President-Elect: Linda Lombardi (NOAA Fisheries) and Dennis Renfro (FWC) and Secretary/Treasurer Travis Tuten (FWC). Nominations were opened to the floor but no new candidates were presented therefore, nominations were closed by Larry Connor and seconded by Will Patterson. Florida chapter members nominated Linda Lombardi as the 2009 President-Elect and Travis Tuten as the 2009 Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Committee for 2009 will be Debra Murie (President), Linda Lombardi-Carlson (President-Elect), Will Patterson (Past-President), and Travis Tuten (Secretary-Treasurer).

The meeting was then handed over to the 2009 President, Debra Murie.

New business

Deb Murie presented plaques to Will Patterson (2008 President) and to Aaron Bunch (2008 Student Sub-Unit President).

Eric Nagid provided an update regarding the two new awards were approved by members in 2008: Outstanding Achievement Award and Career Excellence Award. The descriptions of both of these awards were presented in the 2008 January issue of the FL chapter newsletter and continued efforts by the Ex-Com have edited the descriptions to the present language. The Career Excellence Award has been renamed as the Rich Cailteux Award and it was suggested to add 'mentorship' to the description (suggested by A. Strickland, approved by all members). A small committee (including Chuck Cichra and two other FL AFS members) will be formed to review future nominations to these awards.

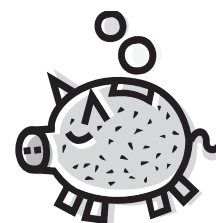
This year's meeting had record attendance at 93 participants including 28 students from all degrees of education (undergraduate, masters and PhD). Students also accounted for 11 of the 40 symposium presentations and 8 of the 12 poster presentations.

The 2009 Florida Chapter Business meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm (1st by Larry Connor and 2nd by S. Carlton).

2008 Treasurer's Report Florida Chapter AFS

1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

| | Checking | Mutual Funds | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| January 1, 2008 | \$ 5,411.90 | \$ 11,520.48 | \$16,932.38 |
| December 31, 2008 | <u>\$10,593.95</u> | <u>\$ 7,365.37</u> | <u>\$17,959.32</u> |
| Difference: | \$ 5,182.05 | \$ (4,155.11) | \$ 1,026.94 |
| Credits: | | | |
| Deposits | | \$ 19,990.08 | |
| Dividends & Interest | | \$ 483.10 | |
| Other credits: capital gain | | <u>\$ 180.43</u> | |
| Total: | | \$ 20,653.61 | |



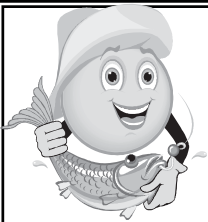
Debits:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Annual Meeting vender & supplies | \$ (12,216.43) |
| Rottmann Scholarship | \$ (1000.00) |
| Newsletters & mailing | \$ (839.73) |
| Raffle costs | \$ (583.64) |
| Funds to Purchase Securities | \$ (416.75) |
| Annual bank fees | \$ (330.00) |
| AFS Liability Insurance | \$ (150.00) |
| Total: | \$ (15,536.55) |

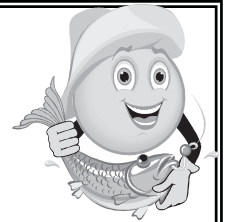
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| 2008 Balance | \$ 5,117.06 |
|---------------------|--------------------|

Major Expense Categories:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Annual Meeting, including Raffle | 82% |
| Student scholarships | 6.5% |
| Newsletters | 5.5% |
| Securities purchased | 3% |
| Other: banking fees, insurance etc. | 3% |



2009 Annual Meeting Presentation Awards

**Student Paper**

Best: Matt Catalano (PhD Candidate, University of Florida). Bonvechio, K., M. Catalano, R. E. Sawyers, and S. Crawford. Determining Electofishing Sample Size for Monitoring Fish Communities in Three Florida Lakes.

Honorable Mention(s): Caroline Storer (Undergraduate, Eckerd College). Storer, C.G., R.C. Harbeitner, A. Rickli-Rahman, N.W. Van Bibber, and W.A. Szelistowski. Molecular population structure and biogeography of the Gulf Pipefish, *Syngnathus scovelli*, in Florida waters.

Jake Tetzlaff (PhD, University of Florida). Tetzlaff, J.C, W.E. Pine,III, and T.K. Frazer. Movement and Habitat Use of Three Florida Riverine Fish Species.

Professional Paper

Best: Angela Collins (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, St. Petersburg). Goliath Grouper in the Gulf: A Goliath survey of reefs and wrecks off Florida's central west coast.

Honorable Mention: Jessica Carroll (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, St. Petersburg). Carroll, J., and S. Lowerre-Barbieri. Assessing Sex Specific Growth and Mortality in Spotted Seatrout, *Cynoscion nebulosus*, in Tampa Bay, Florida.

Student Poster

Best: John Hargrove (MS, University of Florida). Hargrove, J., D. Parkyn, D. Murie, and J. Austin. Use of polymerase chain reaction to aid in visual analysis of stomach contents of French grunts.

Honorable Mention: Heidi Da Silva (MS, Nova Southeastern University). Da Silva, Heidi, Cheryl Cross, and David W. Kerstetter. Combined stomach content and stable isotope analyses of three mesopelagic teleost fishes.

Professional Poster

Best: Derek Tremain (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Melbourne). Mercury levels in ichthyotrophic resources in the eastern Gulf of Mexico – a preliminary overview.

2009 Meeting Survey Results

I appreciate the feedback that I received from the 2009 Annual Meeting Survey. I received 71 (from 93 participants) surveys. The facilities and food were rated good/fair and the symposium/presentations were given an excellent mark. I received many helpful suggestions to assist in making next year an even better experience. I will attempt to resolve any issues brought to my attention with the 4H Camp Ocala event coordinator. If there are any other issues or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks again,

Linda Lombardi-Carlson
 FL AFS President-Elect
 Email: linda.lombardi@noaa.gov

| FACILITIES | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not applicable |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------|------|----------------|
| BEDROOM | 19% | 36% | 13% | 3% | 29% |
| BATHROOM | 17% | 34% | 31% | 6% | 13% |
| CAFETERIA | 16% | 54% | 28% | 1% | 1% |
| POSTER AREA | 7 % | 62% | 27% | 4% | 0% |
| GROUNDS | 40% | 57% | 3% | 0% | 0% |

Comments/Suggestions: see website for complete results

| FOOD | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not applicable |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------|----------------|
| BREAKFAST | 6% | 22% | 30% | 15% | 27% |
| LUNCH | 4% | 25% | 38% | 17% | 15% |
| DINNER | 10% | 36% | 22% | 13% | 18% |
| SNACKS | 22% | 48% | 14% | 5% | 12% |

Were there enough beverages provided throughout the meeting? 100% YES, 0% NO

Comments/Suggestions: see website for complete results

| SYMPOSIUM | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not applicable |
|-------------|------------|------------|------|------|----------------|
| RELEVANCE | 70% | 28% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| ARRANGEMENT | 42% | 47% | 7% | 0% | 4% |
| TIMELINESS | 55% | 38% | 3% | 0% | 4% |

Comments/Suggestions: see website for complete results

Would you be interested in having vendors (i.e. consulates, equipment) present during our annual meetings?
 51% YES, 49% NO