

**2001 Minutes of the Florida Chapter AFS Meeting
Friday Feb. 23rd in Jacksonville, FL
Hosts of the AFS Southern Division Mid-Year Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 5:20pm.

Quorum was established.

Robert's Rules were waived to expedite the meeting due to impending social.

Introduction of guests:

Doug pointed out how impressive it was that all of the following people were present at our meeting at the same time.

Gus Rassam, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society was recognized for being present at the meeting and gave a thank you speech to the chapter for hosting the meeting. He spoke of membership concerns in the society such as dues being too high for students and young professionals and mentioned that these dues might be lowered. He also noted that paying charges for journals is not required for AFS membership and emphasized the importance of membership for a career in fisheries.

Carl Burger, President of the parent society, was recognized and thanked the chapter for hosting the meeting. He also thanked the students for being there. He introduced the national officers. He gave an overview of the national gathering in St. Louis 2001: A Fisheries Odyssey that promoted the multidisciplinary nature of our society and how it is necessary to solve fisheries problems of today. The meeting focused on promoting AFS as a resource and as a way to inform the public of our visibility and to promote the relevance of the society. He mentioned that some of the future publications of the parent society might be geared toward the lay audience.

Mike Meador, president of the Southern Division was recognized for being present at our meeting.

Past presidents Larry Connor and Bill Seaman were also recognized.

President Doug Haymans thanked the following people for their participation in making this Southern Division Mid-year meeting a success:

Rich McBride Awards Committee

Student awards and Southern Division award winners will be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Bob Wattendorf Website IT and designer of sold out t-shirts!

Tom Maher and Ron Taylor Raffle Committee

Tom Glancy and Jeff Hill Student Volunteer/Grants Committee

• Approximately 45 students applied to work at the meeting (registration, AV equipment, raffle etc.) in order to receive a waived registration fee. We needed about 25.

Student volunteers were thanked for helping and all but one showed up to their appointed shift. ♦ **Follow up** - We ended up using 27 students to run the meeting. ♦♦

- Doug Haymans mentioned that some students applied for aid through the Southern Division Travel Grants but were too late, therefore, he proposed that we might reduce the registration fee for those students who did not get to work at the meeting in order to cover minimal costs. Minimal costs were set at \$50 rather than \$65. ♦ The Florida Chapter will write a check to cover the difference (\$15) to any Southern Division students that applied for aid but were unable for some reason to receive aid. The only students that do not qualify are those that did not apply for aid in any form. ♦ Bill Ensign had estimated that about 30-40 students applied. At \$15/each, it would be at most a \$500 expense to the chapter. ♦ We need to get the list of student names that didn't get to work for the waived registration fee from Tom Glancy.

- A motion was made by Tom Maher to reduce the registration fee to \$50 for all students, not just Florida Students, who applied to work at the meeting for a waived registration fee but didn't get their applications in soon enough.

Seconded by Mike Cower.

Motion passed. ♦

Follow up - Only six students were granted the \$15 reduced registration fee. ♦ The 12 students from Augusta State said not to worry about it.

Kathy Guindon-Tisdell ♦ Registration Chair

Update on registration - she reported that ~366 people registered so far, about 40 of whom were for workshops only. ♦ There were 71 walk-ins from Thursday and Friday. Approximately 19 out of 150 t-shirts were left unsold after the first two days of the meeting.

Follow up:

Normal Registration	261
Late Registration	141
Complimentary Registrations	18
(Sponsors, Carl Burger, Gus Rassam, Carl Martin, etc.)	
Workshop Only	46

♦

Total 466

T-shirts sold out!

Mike Allen and Deb Murie ♦ Program Committee

They were presented with certificates for their help with the meeting. Bill Tate was thanked for his assistance with the abstracts.

Larry Connor ♦ Program Chair

He reported that all was going smoothly. ♦ He encouraged chapter member to pitch in if they saw something was going wrong or if someone needed help during a session. ♦ He too was presented with a certificate for his work on the meeting.

Reports:

(an interjection by Doug that he finally found the 1999 meeting minutes and read aloud the chapter's stance on the selling of our membership list. See 99 minutes for more details they will be posted on the web.)

Treasurer report (at the time of the meeting) Kathy Guindon-Tisdell

Over the last year, the chapter went from ~\$12,112.35 in mutual funds to about \$10,814.27. Chapter funds were ~\$4,666.04 at the time of the meeting. No definite numbers were given due to the current exchange of funds related to the meeting.

The chapter made the following donations:

Black Bass Symposium	\$1,000.00
Raffle frames, prints, mailing etc.	\$456.72
Display Board	\$730.00
SE Federal Aid	\$250.00
Coordinator Meeting	
Donation AFS Dam	\$241.00
Removal Symposium	
AFS SD Mtg. T-shirts	\$912.40

Southern Division Meeting expenses:

Deposits from sponsors totaled \$7,050.00.

Registrations received to date were \$32,424.95

Accounts receivable \$2,500.00

Totaling \$41,974.95

Debts: Mailing fees, printing fees, signs, name badges, and general meeting supplies:

\$30,282.39

Final payments: The first \$1,000.00 profit will go to the chapter. After that, proceeds will be split 50:50 between the chapter and the Southern Division.

Follow up I'm sure everyone wants to get to the bottom line. The net income from the meeting was \$10,780.82. This means that the Florida Chapter's share of the profit is \$5,890.41 and the Southern Division's share is \$4,890.41. However, the AFS Leadership Training workshop had an A/V expenses of \$181.64 charged to the Southern Division. Note that the A/V charge is not in the final budget since the AFS Leadership Training was strictly a Southern Division project done at no cost to the meeting. Mike Meador, Dick Luebke, and Larry Connor agreed that the Division would pay the charge out of their share of the profit. So the final figure for the Southern Division is \$4,708.77. Kathy Tisdell sent a check for that amount to Dick Luebke. A final copy of the budget

Student Travel Awards Chuck Cichra reported that we had 8 applicants for complimentary rooms at the conference which was down from years past where we have had an average of 14 apply. Of these 8 students, 6 already had free rooms, so we paid the other two students' room fees and opted to give a \$21/day meal stipend for all 8 students. Of the same 8 students, 5 also had their registration fee waived by volunteering to work at the meeting.

Follow up - \$369 from the Florida Chapter went toward student meals using the state's per diem rates.

Roger Rottman Scholarship:

Chuck Cichra reported that we had 8 applicants - 4 Ph.D. and 4 Master students. In the past, the average has been 8-16. ❖ Announcements were sent out to 23 universities and one was posted on the web. ❖

Masters Level:

Recipient:

Kim Tugend

University of Florida

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Mike Allen

Thesis: Changes in the plant and fish communities in enhanced littoral areas of Lake Kissimmee, Florida following a major habitat enhancement

Honorable Mention:

Powell Wheeler

University of Florida

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Mike Allen

Thesis: Resource partitioning among largemouth bass and shoal bass in the upper Chipola River, Florida

Doctoral Level:

Recipient:

Steve Huskey

Florida Institute of Technology

Department of Biological Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Ralph Turingan

Thesis: Ecomorphology as a management tool: Intraspecific variation between temperate and subtropical largemouth bass feeding mechanisms

Honorable Mention:

Juli-Anne Royes

University of Florida

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Ruth Francis-Floyd

Thesis: Nutritional pathology in ornamental African cichlids

Each recipient received a \$250 check and certificate.

It was pointed out that the Rottman family was unaware of the scholarship. ♦ The family has been notified of the award and will be asked if they want to contribute, by Chuck Cichra.

Nominating Committee and election: run by the immediate past president

Bob Wattendorf identified the members of the committee for this year. ♦ On the ballot was Kathy Guindon-Tisdell for president-elect and Wayne Bennett and Dennis Renfro for Secretary-Treasurer. ♦ The floor was opened for nominations and hearing none, write-ins were allowed for both positions. ♦ The election was held and ballots collected for counting.

Display Board: Tom Maher reported on the purchase of a display for the chapter. ♦ It is to be used to support our chapter at other business meetings or scientific conferences. ♦ It is meant to be portable, non-manned, and has a back-lit title board. ♦ We need photos from chapter meetings for the board that will help support our chapter's mission and work.

Website: Bob Wattendorf

There was talk of changing our website to a different service (other than the NE Data Center), but the .COM we were considering is going through some restructuring so Bob was hesitant to make the switch. ♦ He is also waiting to hear from national AFS and/or the Southern Division about the possibility of having our website hosted on their servers for a reasonable cost, without giving up independent management of the site.

End old business.

Doug's farewell speech! ♦ He will miss Brooksville and bon-fires. ♦ He has been with the Florida chapter since 1991 and served as sec.-treas., Pres. Elect, president, and raffle chair. ♦ He is proud to have been here at the Southern Division Meeting and part of the 1995 National AFS meeting in Tampa. ♦ As an outgoing president, he would normally serve on next year's EXCOM as past president. ♦ Because of his new residence in Georgia, he proposed that Bob Wattendorf serve in his place, since Bob would have been the past president before him. All agreed.

Election results: ♦

Kathy Guindon-Tisdell ♦ president elect

Wayne Bennett ♦ Secretary-Treasurer

Peter Hood new president

New Business:

- Peter Hood presented Doug Haymans with a past president of the Florida chapter plaque and a certificate. ♦ The certificate contained a Georgia Bulldog buster and was to a Traitor scum!

- A membership letter came from the AFS Membership Committee ♦ chapter membership numbers are down from over 353 members. ♦ They suggest putting together a membership campaign ♦ action from within the chapter to bolster people into joining AFS. A free membership to the parent society paid by the chapter a raffle prize at next year's meeting was

suggested as an incentive. ♦ They would like a 2-year effort. ♦ Tom Maher volunteered to chair this new membership campaign. ♦ Note we lost several members as a direct result of the salary survey that was published in Fisheries. ♦ The parent society appointed a committee and promised to follow-up on the survey, but no progress has been made to date.

- Virginia Tech Silent Auction

Fund raising for Tim Copeland, a past president of the Virginia Tech chapter who has Leukemia. ♦ This chapter is raising money to help cover medical expenses. Doug Haymans made a motion that the FL Chapter donates \$250 to the VA Tech student sub-unit for his medical expenses. ♦ Larry Connor seconded the motion. ♦ Motion passed.

Their goal was to raise \$55K and so far they have raised \$28K. ♦

Follow-up - The donation was sent to the National Foundation for Transplants, c/o Tim Copeland and Amanda Rosenberger, from the VA Tech Chapter, thanked our chapter for the donation and reported that they raised approximately \$2,000.00 in Jacksonville between the silent auction, t-shirt sales, and chapter donations.

- Meeting venue: we may not be able to go to Brooksville next year. ♦

The Withlacoochee Training Center is making a transition toward becoming a full time training center. ♦ They will not know their schedule until June 1st. ♦ Chances are good that we will not get in as they are trying to phase out all outside meetings. The following locations were mentioned as potential alternate meeting sites:

Corbit Youth Camps ♦ West Palm Beach ~10 cabins

Ocala National Forest ♦ may not be big enough

Extension Service Camps or the 4H Camp in Ocala National Forest ♦ Chuck Cichra looking into this one

Keystone Heights ♦ Jean Lockwood looking in to this one and the next one.

Camp Krystal

Live Oak

Meeting Student Poster Awards:

The winner for best student poster is Bonnie Whitlock, of the University of West Florida, for the poster:

The relationship between size differences and bioenergetics of largemouth bass populations from brackish and freshwater habitats in the Escambia River and marsh, co-authored by B.P.

Whitlock, R.A. Krause, and W.A. Bennett

There were two honorable mentions, also for students from the University of West Florida:

The role of temperature on behavior and movement of Atlantic stingray, *Dasyatis sabina* from St. Joseph's Bay, Florida, by N.A. Fangué and W.A. Bennett,

and Reproductive behavior and resource partitioning between gulf toadfish, *Opsanus beta* and Florida blenny, *Chasmodes saburrae*, by K.J. Fitchett and W. A. Bennett.

Our raffle (door prize) was held. Each person received a ticket when coming into the room. The grand prize was a framed, signed, and numbered Diane Peebles print. Second prize was a weekend trip to a Miami resort.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jean Lockwood, was seconded, and approved.

Meeting ended at 6:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Guindon-Tisdell
Secretary-Treasurer