

the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



<http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/>

OCTOBER, 2001

Message From the President

I will try to be upbeat, but I am writing this about a week and half after the terrorist attack on our country. I think like everyone else, I am somewhat subdued and very thoughtful. I know that as I commute to and from work, the idiots and maniacs on the road have to do a lot more to get me excited. But I am getting excited about our upcoming meeting that will occur at Brooksville this year from February 12 to 15, 2002. I think we are going to have an exciting program that will have something for everyone - maybe even a valentine.

We are focusing on two themes for our directed topics session. One will be habitat enhancement in freshwater systems. Various methodologies will be evaluated to determine what is working. The other theme will be marine protected areas (MPA) as a fisheries management tool. We plan to have speakers, both scientific and from public interest groups who will be speaking in favor of MPAs, tell cautionary tales of MPAs, or will argue that MPAs are a bad idea.

We will also be having our usual general sessions at this meeting. I encourage you to present the results of your projects. We always get great submissions and I am looking forward to seeing them this year. We also encourage poster submissions and will have our typical poster session in the evening. There is nothing quite like standing around a poster pontificating about the scientific merits of a study while sipping on a beer.

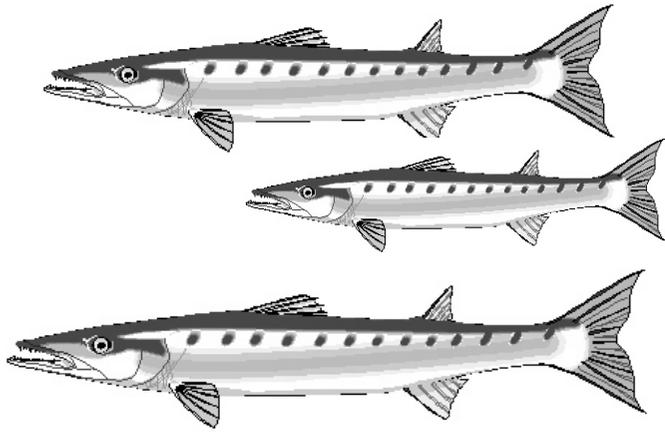
One important note about this upcoming meeting is that it will likely be our last at Brooksville. When I reserved the training center this year, I was told that this will be the last year we can use it. Over the past few years, the need for forestry folks to be trained to deal with such things as fires has been increasing and they are developing a more formal training program. Because this facility will not be available, we will need to think about alternative locations. Please think about places you have attended a meetings, workshops, or retreats at to help us plan where to hold the 2003 meeting.

Finally, and most importantly, start thinking raffle, raffle, raffle, raffle, raffle. As you are out and about (raffle), frequenting businesses (raffle), visiting your local bait-and-tackle shop (raffle), going out with a guide or on a headboat (raffle), or doing some shopping (raffle), don't be bashful (raffle) to ask if there is some type of item (raffle) that a vendor might be able to donate (raffle). If they need a letter (raffle) to keep for their file (raffle), please contact me (raffle) and we'll get one to them (raffle).

Looking forward to seeing you all there -

Peter Hood
President
Florida Chapter - AFS

¹ According to George Carlin - idiots are those people driving slower than you and maniacs are those people driving faster than you. Isn't it amazing how many idiots and maniacs are on the road?



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Upcoming Meetings

OCTOBER 2001

13-17, 55th SEAFWA, Louisville, KY
16-18, FL Aquatic Plant Mgmt. Soc., Daytona Bch.

NOVEMBER 2001

7-9, N. Am. Lake Mgmt Soc. 21st Ann. Symposium, Madison, WI.
12-17, 54th Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Inst., Turks & Caicos Isl.

DECEMBER 2001

JANUARY 2002

27-30, Aquaculture America, 2002, San Diego, CA

FEBRUARY 2002

11-15, FL AFS Annual Mtg, Brooksville, FL
20-24, S. Div. AFS Midyear Meeting, Little Rock, AR

23-27, Watershed 2002, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

MAY 2002

20-22, Seventh International Conference on Remote Sensing for Marine and Coastal Environments, Miami.

For current meeting listings see AFS website:

<http://www.fisheries.org/Calendar.shtml>

Financial Support for the 9th Southern Division American Fisheries Society Midyear Meeting

Silver Sponsors \$2,500

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- St. Johns River Water Management District
- USDA Forest Service
- Georgia Power

Bronze Sponsors \$1,000

- Duke Power
- West Palm Beach Fishing Club (Histology and Reproductive Biology Workshop)

Sponsors \$500

American Aquatics

Associate Sponsors < \$500

- Westvaco
- American Sportfish Hatchery

9th Southern Division AFS Midyear Meeting - A Wrap-up

Larry Connor

Well, the 9th Southern Division Midyear Meeting has come and gone. I know that many of you had doubts when the Chapter voted to host the meeting at our 1999 annual meeting. Folks, we done good!! Before I get into the nitty-gritty, I'd like to express my thanks to many of you who made the meeting possible. I'd like to thank Past President Bob Wattendorf for having the confidence in me to appoint me general chair of the meeting. Kathy Tisdell did a great job tracking the money, registrations, and putting up with me. Mike Allen and Deb Murie put together an outstanding technical program. Tom Glancy ran the student volunteer program that helped keep the A/V equipment running, the registration desk working, and the raffle booth selling tickets. Jeff Hill organized a student workshop that was filled to overflowing, and Tom Maher showed that he fully learned the art of the raffle from the raffle master, Doug Haymans. Betty Crump from Arkansas worked the registration desk throughout the meeting, and Bob Curry and several others from North Carolina also helped. Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate Wayne Bennett and several of his students from West Florida. We had a potential disaster rearing its head at the poster session. Wayne and his students stepped up and took charge of the poster session without having to be asked. Thanks guys, you saved us.

Those of you who couldn't attend the meeting missed a good one. Things started off on Thursday with committee meetings, a BASS sponsored largemouth bass viral disease workshop at the Radisson, and a socioeconomic workshop sponsored by NMFS. Friday saw six workshops and an AFS leadership training session. Saturday morning began with a combined Southern Division business meeting and general session on mentoring highlighted by a presentation by Jim Martin of Pure Fishing. We had a program with over 100 technical presentations and posters the remainder of Saturday and Sunday.

To say the meeting was well attended would be an understatement. My stress level when I saw the lines at the Saturday night social can attest to that. We had 466 people register for at least a portion of the meeting and 420 attend the entire meeting. This makes the 9th one of the biggest Southern Division Midyear Meetings ever. The staff at the Hilton was great to work with and certainly helped us succeed despite being filled to capacity and a little beyond.

What was the bottom line for the meeting? I promised the Chapter that it took no financial risk and stood to turn a tidy profit from the meeting. I think that everyone involved, the Chapter, the Southern Division, and the committees that sponsored the workshops, should be pleased. Each of the committees received some income from the workshops to help them further their activities. The Chapter and the Southern Division shared a \$10,781 profit with the Chapter adding \$5,890 to its coffers.



2002 Mid-Year Meeting in Little Rock

<http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/02sdafs/2002home.htm>

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society extends an invitation to join us in Little Rock, Arkansas, **February 21-24, 2002**, for the Southern Division American Fisheries Society's 10th Midyear Meeting. We are convening the Midyear Meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Little Rock on the banks of the Arkansas River.

Meeting highlights include technical committee meetings on Thursday, workshops for both students and professionals on Friday, and technical sessions for symposia and contributed papers Saturday and Sunday. There will be socials Friday and Saturday nights where you can renew acquaintances with old colleges and meet new ones

Rottman Scholarships - 2001

The Roger Rottman Scholarship winners for the year 2001. Each recipient received a \$250 check and certificate. The Chapter awards went to:

Masters Level:

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:

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.

Congratulations to our current and past winners. The application process for the 2002 competition should begin soon. The form should be on the FL AFS website <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/>, or contact Dr. Chuck Cichra, U of FL Dept. of Fisheries, at 352/392-9617 ext 249, or e-mail: FISH@GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU.

A Note from a recipient

I would like to thank you for the honor of Rottmann Recipient for 2001. I will certainly do my best to uphold the work ethic and dedication Mr. Rottmann believed in. The scholarship money will be used to further my understanding of the ecomorphology of largemouth bass between Michigan and Florida populations.

Thank you again for the honor.

Sincerely, Steve Huskey
Florida Institute of Technology, Biological Sciences Department
150 West University Boulevard
Melbourne, FL 32901
321-674-7222 (lab)
Lmbassphd@aol.com



Best Student Poster Awards - 2001

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. Fanguie 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.

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting - 2001

Florida Chapter AFS Meeting. Friday Feb. 23rd in Jacksonville, FL

Meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM. 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.

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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 Coordinator Meeting	\$250.00
Donation AFS Dam Removal Symposium	\$241.00
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.

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. **SEE PAGE 4.**

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

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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 and Live Oak

Follow-up: We will be at Brooksville one more time, Feb 11-15, 2001.

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 6:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Guindon-Tisdell, Secretary-Treasurer

Best Student Paper Award FL Chapter AFS, 2001

I am pleased to announce the winner and runner-up for the Best Student Paper of the 2001 AFS Florida Chapter meeting held with the 2001 AFS Southern Division mid-year meeting. There were seven Florida students competing for this annual award, and as has come to be expected based on past performances, the quality of presentations was very high.

Richard McBride, PhD, FMRI, St. Petersburg

Winner

Plant and Fish Communities in Enhanced Littoral Areas of Lake Kissimmee, Florida Following a Major Habitat Enhancement.

Kimberly I. Tugend and Micheal S. Allen, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, The University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

In 1995-96, a habitat enhancement project was conducted on Lake Kissimmee, Florida which included a major drawdown and organic sediment removal from about half of the lake's shoreline. In this study, we sampled fish and plant communities in two enhanced (scraped) areas of the lake during the summers of 1998 - 2000. The objectives of this study were to (1) assess how aquatic plant communities (i.e., abundance, biomass, diversity) in enhanced areas of Lake Kissimmee change over time and (2) evaluate how fish communities vary with aquatic plant communities in these areas. Plant diversity, macrophyte biomass, and macrophyte abundance were analyzed using repeated measures analysis. All variables differed significantly among years ($P < 0.05$). Stepwise multiple regression models assessed relationships between selected fish variables (diversity, biomass, percent composition of sportfish) and habitat variables (e.g., water depth, macrophyte diversity, macrophyte biomass) within each sampling year and site. In general, percent area coverage of aquatic macrophytes (PAC), macrophyte biomass, macrophyte diversity, and water depth were positively related to fish variables.

Runner-up

Adverse Effects of Introduced Fishes in South Florida: What do the Data Show?

Jeffrey E. Hill, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

South Florida has been described as a "biological cesspool" of introduced organisms. Indeed, Florida is now home to more exotic fish species than any other state. Ecological harm is a common assumption when studying introduced fishes and there are well-documented examples of such harm in the United States and elsewhere. However, the existence of widespread documentation of large adverse effects caused by introduced fishes in the south Florida canal and Everglades systems is a common misconception of many citizens, politicians, resource managers, and biologists. An examination of the literature revealed that there are few or no data regarding adverse effects for most introduced fishes in south Florida. For many species, the best information available is that due to high numbers they must cause harm. Herein I briefly review the data for peacock cichlid *Cichla ocellaris*, walking catfish *Clarias batrachus*, pike killifish *Belonesox belizanus*, and Orinoco sailfin pleco *Pterygoplichthys multiradiatus*. The purpose of this review is not to assert that introduced fishes cause no harm, it is, however, to bring about awareness of the lack of data in this unique system, spur research to address this need, and remind us that we must carefully evaluate the data and clearly delineate speculation.

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