



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

*"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back" – Author Unknown*

It seems like yesterday I was walking the halls of Life Sciences West (OSU) drafting my graduate research proposal, yet 17 years later I sit at my office desk writing this OKAFS update. Time Flies By! While as a younger man the future seemed so far away, the past seems so recent now. Finding time to accomplish our personal and professional goals may seem difficult to grasp. 2018 has certainly been the year where I have found myself wanting to slow down the clock. As this year fades away and we look towards the New Year, many turn their minds to resolutions or attempts to better themselves. Perhaps you, like me, aim to check off some of those unfinished tasks and maximize the time that is ahead of you.

When I took the OKAFS Presidency last February, I stated two goals. The first was to focus on our website development in an attempt to make it a go-to site for our chapter members. Secondly, I wanted the Chapter to focus more on student engagement. While I think strides have been made in each of these areas, the future is still ripe with opportunities. Lastly, I challenged everyone to do at least something for our OKAFS Chapter.

I would like to thank Nate Copeland for his efforts in creating and maintaining our website. If you haven't looked at it recently, spend some time looking over what he has put together (<https://units.fisheries.org/okafs/>). If you have ideas towards content, please discuss with Nate or with the EXCOM.

It is a great time for student opportunities and I challenge students to take advantage of these. Scholarship opportunities from our Chapter (Jimmie Pigg Travel Scholarship) and SDAFS Technical Committees (Warm Water Streams, Reservoir, and Catfish Committees) should be attractive and available to you. Reimbursement opinions for students without research funding is also available to offset attendance at the upcoming Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference (ONRC). I have also challenged the membership, specifically EXCOM members, to visit a university in their part of the state to promote Chapter involvement and energize the student base.

Time is required to make our goals a reality. One way to be more efficient with time is to recruit help. I continue to challenge each member individually for your personal investment into AFS. Aspire to leadership positions. Find a committee to become involved with. Expand your networking connections and strive to become more involved with the Southern Division and the Parent Society opportunities. I look forward to our upcoming Chapter meeting (ONRC) where



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we can reconnect and discuss the future of our Chapter. I'm proud of the efforts we support and wish to discuss additional opportunities with each of you.

Matt Mauck



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

It's been another good financial year for our state chapter and we've worked to spread the wealth. Through strong OKAFS attendance to the OKNRC meeting and loose wallets at the auction our gross meeting income totaled \$10,709. The numbers reflected in Table 1 are account holdings even after donating almost \$4,500 this past year towards scholarships, publications, meeting assistance and sub-unit support. Needless to say we're looking for ways to further support fisheries in Oklahoma. On another note, if you are not receiving the OKAFS group emails please email me at [jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov) with your current information and we can get you into the email chain so you won't be left out and we can update our records.

Thanks,

Jon

**Table 1**

<b>2018 OKAFS Accounts Summary*</b>	
Money Market	\$25,115.55
Franklin Income A1	\$16,918.00
Franklin Total Return A	\$2,980.52
Mutual Fund Total	\$19,898.52
Cash	\$144.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,158.07</b>

\*As of 10-26-18

\*Values current as of 10-26-18





## JIMMIE PIGG TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

STUDENTS! STUDENTS! STUDENTS!

This is the final call for students who would like to go to a professional meeting on someone else's money. The Chapter will award the Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarship to a student or students who are involved in fisheries research studies and who are planning to present their findings at an upcoming AFS meeting. The Chapter awards a \$1000.00 dollar scholarship to the lucky recipient.

This prestigious award is named in honor of the well-known, well-respected late aquatic biologist and educator Mr. Jimmie Pigg, who donated the initial Chapter funding to create the award. Jimmie will always be remembered as a dedicated professional and active fisheries conservationist who loved his work and his students.

Any student who is active in fisheries or a related aquatic discipline is eligible to apply. Recipients are selected by the Chapter Nominations and Awards Committee and are presented the award at the annual Chapter business meeting. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, contribution to fisheries and the applicant's demonstrated desire and need for the grant.

Awards are based on merit and are not necessarily given each year. Deadline for application submittal is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Interested students should contact the Awards Committee Chair, Josh Johnston at (918) 299-2334 or email Josh at [josh.johnston@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:josh.johnston@odwc.ok.gov) for more information. The application form can be found on the Oklahoma Chapter AFS website <https://units.fisheries.org/okafs/>.

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Josh Johnston

Northeast Region Fisheries Supervisor

Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

(918) 299-2334



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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **OK AFS Continuing Education Committee update November 2018**

The OK AFS Continuing Education Committee conducted a workshop entitled “communication in the sciences” focusing on oral speaking, PowerPoint presentations, and writing with clear, engaging communication as the goal. The workshop was well attended.

The committee is currently working on assisting Steven Smith with finding speakers for a workshop at the 2019 OKNRC meeting. The workshop will include a series of speakers addressing disease and animal health issues in the natural resources.



## STUDENT CONCERNS

### Student Concerns Committee Update:

#### Student Travel Reimbursement for Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (OKAFS) is reimbursing student OKAFS members who wish to attend the 2019 OKNRC meeting February 20-22 at the Tulsa Hyatt Regency. This offer is extended to students who aren't supported by a grant that would otherwise pay the way for attendance at the meeting. Eligible students need to register by the early registration deadline of February 11, 2019 at <http://www.oknrc.com/home/registration-open/> to be eligible for reimbursement. Hotel reimbursement is also available for students (while rooms last) with the expectation of double occupancy where practical. For reimbursement, please present proof of early registration and a hotel receipt (if applicable) to the secretary-treasurer Jon West at the registration booth during the meeting. Interested students must either be members of the OSU AFS subunit or members of the OKAFS state chapter. OKAFS dues (\$5.00 per year) can be paid to the secretary-treasurer at the meeting.

Questions regarding reimbursement should be directed to the Student Concerns Chair:

Trevor Starks

918-683-1031

[trevor.starks@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:trevor.starks@odwc.ok.gov)

For more information about OKNRC visit [www.oknrc.com](http://www.oknrc.com)



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

### OK Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

#### Environmental Concerns Committee 2017 - 2018 Update

#### Prepared by Curtis Tackett (ODWC) – Committee Chair

During 2017 the Environmental Concerns Committee worked with the Oklahoma Kill Response Management Team (OKRMT) and Conley Environmental Consulting to host two Advanced Fish Kill Training Workshops. The OKRMT is an inter-agency and inter-governmental task force, whose mission is to facilitate communication and collaborations between government entities regarding fish kills in Oklahoma, and to provide a framework for coordinated, consistent, and effective fish kill response. The Advanced Fish Kill Training Workshops provided a classroom component which consisted of several modules including how to conduct a successful on scene investigation, physiochemical water sampling and contaminant sampling, and a thorough fish kill assessment exercise. The classroom portion was mostly focused around the AFS Special Publication #30, *Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills*, which is a nationally accepted guideline document for fish kill investigations. The workshop also involved a field exercise that required teams to conduct a complete “mock” fish kill investigation at a nearby lake. Teams compiled data the next day and described their methodologies in PowerPoint presentations to the group. The two workshops successfully trained over 60 natural resource professionals from various state and federal government agencies, tribes, and municipalities on how to conduct a proper and complete fish kill investigation. The OK Chapter provided financial assistance for the payment of the classroom space and various agencies provided technical support such as boats and equipment.

**2018** – The Committee is not currently working on a particular project but members of the committee have coordinated on various projects that are considered environmental issues. Members have coordinated on various fish kill and pollution events that have occurred throughout the year with the assistance of OKRMT, the Oklahoma Kill and Response Management Team. These include natural fish kill events in reservoirs due to cold water temps, lack of dissolved oxygen, as well as diseases and parasites but there have also been fish kills due to pollution events such as wastewater discharges into streams. Members of the committee have also conducted population monitoring for two rare federally listed aquatic species, the Arkansas River Shiner in the South Canadian River and the Leopard Darter in the streams of the Ouachita Mountains region as well as an ongoing population augmentation project for the Rabbitsfoot mussel in the Verdigris River. Committee members are working on reviewing the impacts of a large sand and gravel processing operation that was proposed on the South Canadian River near



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Thomas, OK. This operation could impact the natural flow regime of the river as well as possibly have impacts to the native fish assemblage.

**Upcoming Events** – The Pollution Committee of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society is offering a Fish Kill Investigation: Methodology Workshop on fish and freshwater mussel kill investigation and valuation at the Annual Meeting in Galveston, TX in January 2019. The workshop will provide both classroom and field training on the fish and mussel kill methodology described in the recently released AFS special publication #35 titled, Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mollusk Kills.

The Environmental Concerns Committee is seeking new members who are interested in working with the committee to achieve goals each year. If you are interested in being a committee member and in helping steer the committee objectives please contact Curtis Tackett at [curtis.tackett@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:curtis.tackett@odwc.ok.gov).

Current Committee Members: Daniel Fenner (USFWS), David Martinez (USFWS), Brian Maggot (ODEQ) and Curtis Tackett – Chair (ODWC).



## FUNDRAISING

### Fundraising Committee Update:

Everyone is encouraged to collect items for the annual OKAFS Fundraising Auction which will be held during the upcoming Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference (ONRC). Any and all items are appreciated including (but not limited to) guided trips, hunting and fishing gear, outdoor artwork, and hand-made items. Proceeds go towards supporting Student Subunit endeavors, student scholarships, and other worthy causes. Items should be brought to the ONRC and delivered to Barry Bolton or another member of the OKAFS Fundraising Committee. Contact Barry Bolton with any questions ([barry.bolton@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:barry.bolton@odwc.ok.gov)).



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## OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AFS

was chartered on September 8, 1968.

The mission of the chapter is:

- To promote conservation, development, and wise use of the aquatic and fishery resources of Oklahoma.
- To promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all aspects of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma.
- To gather and disseminate scientific, technical and other information about fisheries science and management to Chapter members and the general public through publications, meetings and other forms of communications.
- To encourage competent teaching of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma colleges and universities and promote the continuing education of Oklahoma fisheries workers.

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### OKLAHOMA AFS MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_(Last) \_\_\_\_\_(First)

AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_(Dept., Bldg., Office, Street, PO Box, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_(City) \_\_\_\_\_(State) \_\_\_\_\_(Zip)

DAY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: 1 Year (\$5)\_\_\_\_\_ 2 Years (\$10)\_\_\_\_\_ 3 Years (\$15)\_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$50)\_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Professional\_\_\_\_\_ Student\_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEES (please choose at least one): Activities\_\_\_\_\_ Awards\_\_\_\_\_ Continuing Ed.\_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Concerns\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising\_\_\_\_\_ Program\_\_\_\_\_

Detach, make check payable to OKAFS, and send to: Jon West, OKAFS Secretary/Treasurer, ODWC Porter Office, 9097 N. 34<sup>th</sup> St. W., Porter, OK 74454-2743. Phone: 918-351-5143. Email: [jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov)





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## SAVE THE DATE



Please join us at the 2019 Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference February 20-22, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The OKNRC is hosted by the Oklahoma Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society for Range Management, Invasive Plant Council, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Prescribed Fire Council, Oklahoma Division Society of American Foresters, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The conference will have presentation topics on range, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and environmental sciences. One goal of this meeting is to increase awareness of what the different societies, agencies, and NGOs are doing as well as foster future partnerships. Registration can be found at: <http://www.oknrc.com/>



## ODWC Internship Opportunities

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has established an Internship Program to help students that are majoring in wildlife related fields to gain work experience. The Department has a limited number of internship positions available. Positions are seasonal and vary by location and duration.

Internships are primarily in the spring and summer, with occasional fall positions. Locations are state-wide. Work schedules will be determined by the supervisor. Positions will be limited to 2 terms not to exceed 975 hours per term. (a term is a 12month period starting with the hire date). A 3rd term may be worked only if the Intern is continuing their education. Verification must be submitted, if rehired for a 3rd term. Lodging is not provided.

Intern applicants must be actively pursuing a degree, or have obtained a degree, in the following college majors:

- Wildlife Conservation Science
- Wildlife Ecology Education
- Biology
- Zoology
- Communications
- Other related wildlife degrees

Graduate degree candidates, seniors, juniors, and sophomores with majors in wildlife conservation and those with previous related work experience in fisheries or wildlife will receive preference. To find the application or more information about other job requirements go to the ODWC's website at <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/odwc-careers>. Also, the ODWC has created a promotional video about the Internship Program that can be found on their website.



## STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

This year has been different from most years for the OSU Subunit. We had lowest membership I've ever seen in the spring due to waxing and waning cycles of membership in the Subunit, and I am extremely happy to have the pleasure of witnessing the beginning of a waxing cycle.

Our goal was grand: we wanted to make the Oklahoma State University Student Subunit the absolute best AFS Student Subunit in the entire society. While noble, many wise professionals presented to us a fitting challenge for this goal, asking how we intended to quantify such a thing. While we still haven't a clear answer, I can say we've found a starting place with improving the future.

I began with targeting underclassmen (freshmen and sophomores) for membership advertisements. From my personal experience being the brand new member as sophomore, up to now, being not just a senior but also the Subunit President compiling this newsletter, I've found that students who get involved have more success in the field than those who don't. A future of being the best AFS Student Subunit begins with the bright future of membership, and getting the young guns involved early should increase their chances of success, putting them in contact with professionals in the field, thus gaining field experience (If you see a sign at OKNRC that says "Free Labor!," come to our table and wrangle up some voluntol—err, I mean, volunteers!).

This leads me to the next step in our goal: getting field experience for students. While graduate students have good intentions and desires to help, their schedules may not be conducive to techniques demonstrations; however, they do need many sets of hands in the field to assist with their projects, as well as many other governmental agencies. For one example, two of our members assisted with paddlefish netting on Grand Lake, proving to be very helpful to ODWC Paddlefish Biologists Jason Schooley and Adam Geik.

So far this year, we've not achieved much due to hitting the low point of membership. We've assisted with teaching the fisheries portion of a class that teaches field techniques, and we demonstrated stream erosion at the annual ODWC Wildlife Expo. In 2019, we hope to accomplish much more by having displays at various public outreach events that will be discussed in next year's edition of the Lateral Line. We will continue with efforts to put students in contact with professionals in the field, and are planning to have techniques demonstrations in the spring. We plan to achieve a lot during the school year, and hope that y'all are able to help us as we try to help you!

May your lines be tight and your nets full,  
M. Garrett Kula, *OSU AFS President*  
[garrett.kula@okstate.edu](mailto:garrett.kula@okstate.edu)  
918-991-8748



## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people without whom this newsletter may not have been possible. I would first like to acknowledge the OKAFS Executive Committee:

Matt Mauck, *President*  
Ashley Nealis, *President Elect*  
Ken Cunningham, *Past President*  
Jon West, *Secretary/Treasurer*

I would also like to thank the various Committee Chairs:

Josh Johnston, *Awards Committee*  
Trevor Starks, *Student Concerns Committee*  
Curtis Tackett, *Environmental Concerns Committee*  
Dr. Dan Shoup, *Continuing Education Committee*  
Clayton Porter, *Activities Committee*  
Barry Bolton, *Fundraising Committee (interim chair)*

And finally, the Student Subunit officers:

Garrett Kula, *President*  
Sam Moss, *Vice President*  
Clement Wasicek, *Secretary (graduated)*  
Cale Corley, *Secretary (elected)*  
Dillon Bowers, *Student Council Representative*

Without the assistance and support of all these people, this newsletter may never have been completed. I would also like to thank both Dr. Jim Long and Matt Mauck for their assistance with revisions, as that has saved a lot of time on this project.

Thanks everybody,

Garrett