

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



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It's true, time really does fly! It's difficult to believe that almost one year ago we were at the beautiful Mississippi Museum of Natural Science for our annual meeting. I hope 2001 was a rewarding, productive year for everyone. It was a great experience for me last year to have the opportunity to observe and participate in activities that make our Chapter work. Our membership is involved with many important and exciting fish and fisheries related research, teaching, conservation and management activities throughout the State of Mississippi.

It's been especially rewarding for me to be able to work with our Chapter's officers (and Executive Committee members) Todd Slack, Don Jackson and Chet Rakocinski. As usual, the Mississippi State University Student Subunit and its President, Rocky Smiley, were very active, and I've enjoyed my communications and interactions with them. The Subunit web site can be accessed at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/studentorgs/fisheriesclub/msuafshome.html> The contributions of Kersten Wheeler, Student Caucus representative on the MS-AFS Chapter Executive Committee, are greatly appreciated. Kersten and Rocky provided invaluable help during the planning of the upcoming Annual Meeting. Thank you all.

Electronic 'First'

Unless I'm mistaken, this is the first Mississippi Chapter AFS Newsletter posted on the web for "immediate consumption" (our web site does provide access to previous Chapter newsletters which were originally provided to membership in hard copy format). During last year's business meeting, we discussed the attributes of an electronic newsletter format, so...here's the first one, and a short one at that. This Newsletter provides information on just a few of the numerous activities that involve our membership. Chapter members without Internet access will receive a hard copy of the Newsletter.

Web Masters

Jim Bartlett and Craig Walker, our Chapter's web masters, have developed an excellent web site which provides a great deal of information of interest to Chapter members...and it sports a "terrific look". The site allows the Chapter to post news about upcoming meetings, special events, research activities, etc. So, please consider contributing news-worthy items to be posted on the site. Also, mega thanks to Jim and Craig for creating a Newsletter page, as well as for posting valuable and timely information about the upcoming Annual Meeting in Biloxi.

And now, an update on Jim Bartlett! Until recently, Jim was with the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at the College of Marine Sciences, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs. Jim has accepted a position with the University of Tennessee and will begin his new job in oceanographic research in mid-January 2002. Jim will be missed by his GCRL colleagues and friends. As "Co-Webmaster" for our Chapter's web site, Jim's contributions were numerous and, importantly, voluntary. His work to help bring our Chapter into the "Internet Age" is greatly appreciated. We wish Jim the very best in his new job. Thank you Jim!

Annual Chapter Meeting

As you know by now, our Chapter's next Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Louisiana AFS Chapter. The meeting will be held February 6-8, 2002 in Biloxi, MS at the Palace Casino Resort Hotel. The Annual Meeting is your Chapter's primary event of the year, and it serves as a valuable opportunity to share information on freshwater, coastal and marine fishes and fisheries. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in this meeting. The Chapter's Executive Committee (EXCOM) met at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory on September 28, 2001 to discuss the upcoming meeting and to continue to develop plans for this important event. The specifics of the meeting are currently posted on the Chapter's web site, and we plan to provide periodic updates of meeting activities on the site. We look forward to meeting with our Louisiana friends and colleagues. The meeting is shaping up to be a great one!

We are extremely fortunate and very happy that Dr. Ghassan (Gus) Rassam, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society, has accepted our invitation to attend the meeting. Many thanks go to Dr. Don Jackson, who on behalf of the Chapter's Executive Committee, invited Dr. Rassam to the meeting. Dr. Glenn Parsons, University of Mississippi, is the speaker during the Wednesday night banquet. The MS Chapter will conduct its annual business meeting during the annual meeting, and it is important that all members attend the business meeting. Also, a Student Caucus will be convened, and all student members of the MS chapter should plan to attend.

Schramm Receives Best Paper Award; Recognized For Contributions To Public Outreach

Congratulations are extended to Hal Schramm!! Hal, USGS, Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and co-authors Joseph Kraai and Charles Munger, both of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, received the first John F. "Jack" Dequine best fishery paper award at the 2001 Annual Southern Division AFS meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. The title of their paper was "Intensive Stocking of Striped Bass to Restructure a Gizzard Shad Population in a Eutrophic Texas Reservoir". The paper is published in volume 53 of the Proceedings of the Annual Conference of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

More kudos to Hal who was recognized during the recent 2001 Annual AFS meeting in Phoenix, Arizona for his accomplishments in public outreach. Hal received the American Fisheries Society

Excellence in Public Outreach Award for his numerous contributions of fisheries biology and management published in popular angler magazines, including *North American Fisherman*, *In-Fisherman*, and *B.A.S.S. Times*.

Short Notes

During 2001, the President of the MS Chapter responded to periodic requests from the AFS Parent Society and the Southern Division AFS for information pertaining to our Chapters' activities.

The Southern Division AFS Mid-Year Meeting (2002) will be hosted by the Arkansas Chapter and held 20-24 February in Little Rock. This year represents the 50th anniversary of the Southern Division. The North Carolina Chapter will host the 2003 Mid-Year in Wilmington.

Chapter Annual Dues: This is a reminder about your annual dues (\$10 regular, \$5 student). Make checks payable to the Mississippi Chapter AFS. If you wish, you can pay your chapter dues at the registration desk during the chapter's Annual Meeting in Biloxi, February 6-8, 2002.

The activities that occur at the Chapter level cannot be completed without the leadership and participation from the membership-at-large. Appreciation is extended to those Chapter members (regular and student) who participated in standing and ad hoc committees and who offered their services and provided valuable assistance and advice throughout the past year. It's been a great year, and I look forward to the remainder of my term. Thank you.

Jim S. Franks, MS-AFS Chapter President

We wish you all a very happy and productive 2002!

MS-AFS Chapter Officers

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