



Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 21st, 2023

10:00-11:30am

Castalia Trout Club, Castalia, OH

Coffee and donuts generously provided by the Castalia Trout Club.

1) Call to Order

- Determination of quorum: Yes – 8+ members
- Meeting called to order at: 10:15 AM (*meeting slightly late due to issues locating venue*)
- Attendance – Steven Gratz, Jeremy Pritt, Taylor Hunkins, Zak Slagle, Eugene Braig, Brian Alford, Nick Radabaugh, Chris Aman, Zach Amidon, Jacob Bentley, Dustyn Douglas, Tory Gabriel, Roger Knight, Ron Oldfield, Perry Orndorff, Nicole Wright (in-person); Bryan Kinter, Wayne Rossiter (virtual)

2) Welcome by Steven Gratz, OCAFS President

- Thanks to those attending in-person and virtually
- Thanks to Eugene for providing equipment
- Thanks to Castalia Trout Club for hosting the meeting and food/beverage
- Introductions
- If you have questions, please raise hand or interrupt – I want this to be open discussion
- **Action item:** Slagle will send thank you letters to CTC and Hal Hawk

3) NCD Report - Gratz (on behalf of Brian Nerbonne, NCD President)

- NCD bylaw changes were approved
- Lower membership since 2020 Covid year
- AFS reestablishing Development Committee to focus on fundraising to address financial issues
- AFS looking for potential sale or leasing of offices in Bethesda with proceeds going towards short- and long-term support of programs

- Multiple tech. committees wrapped up joint meeting in northern Wisconsin with speakers and fishing
- Reviving Salmonid Technical Committee (Contact: Mike Siepker)
- AFS sent out survey to members and non-members to see why people are and aren't members. 800 results for non-members with 30% not members of any society which are toughest group to market towards. Other societies are more important to some respondents. Considering partnering with to offer possible discount if holding multiple memberships (e.g., CASS – Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies). Results to be shared with AFS Governing Board at Annual Meeting and shared with broader audience afterwards.
- RAWA being reinvigorated after not getting through Congress last session and looking for state support. Sherrod Brown is already supporting and letter to be sent to J.D. Vance.
 - Pritt – has a letter template from previous RAWA attempt
 - Gratz – AFS also supplied one, appreciates the offer

4) Officer Reports

- President (Steven Gratz)
 - Contributed \$400 to the AFS EOS to support travel grants/Alphabet Social for historically underrepresented minorities (same support as 2022).
 - New OCASF logo (see header) created to follow AFS required guidelines using new parent society logo.
 - Just heard back from Drew Holloway on NCD apparel. \$2-\$3/ shirt sale. Transparent background logo completed. Looking for design ideas – see Gratz with ideas.
 - Pritt – open to subunits? Gratz – yes.
 - Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program (Hutton Scholars) is an 8-week summer internship program for high school students
 - Application process to become a mentor should start before January
 - 30 Hutton Scholars in 2022 (22 Students at Bozeman, MT for summit)
 - 44 Hutton Scholars in 2023 (534 applicants – new record!)
 - AFS needs more mentors and reviewers
 - Contact: aberniche@fisheries.org
 - Alford – Stone Lab attempted to apply as host; host app deadline was ~3/1 but student deadline is Dec; mismatch means mentors need to apply quite a bit earlier to get student. Also, AFS wants mentors to recruit students so more of a burden
 - Pritt/Radabaugh – Scott Hale (ODW Fish Chief)/ODNR Director Mertz expressed interest in hosting but hasn't gone anywhere. May be momentum for next year.
 - General discussion – no financial commitment, can have multiple mentors within state. AFS trying to raise money for this.
 - AFS Calendar [available online for conferences and meetings](#)
 - Committee Volunteers
 - Development Committee (new) for sponsorships, helping AFS

programs with their development, and new award establishment (contact: Jenna Hanks jhanks@fisheries.org)

- Lauren Maza (lmaza@fisheries.org) looking for webinar ideas or for people to share their webinars with them
- Milt Austin Award
 - Judging completed by Eugene Braig, Zak Slagle, and Steven Gratz
 - 1st (\$150) – Culham: Tensile Strength of Fishing Line (11th grade)
 - 2nd (\$100) – Cooper: Comparative Mercury Levels in Farm-raised and Wild-caught Fish (10th grade)
 - 3rd (\$50) – Sedique: The Effects of Aeration Induced Stress on Zebrafish Learning, Memory, Aggression, and Anxiety (11th grade)
 - Honorable Mention (\$25) – Morales: Acid Devastation: Effects of Acid Rain (8th grade)
 - Honorable Mention (\$25) – Large and Smith: Fish Tank Filters (7th Grade)
 - Braig – let students know to apply for Milt Austin if they are submitting an aquatic project
 - Knight – do we inform students about Milt Austin’s history? Slagle – no, but we should.
 - **Action item:** Slagle will get in touch with Roger to update award letter at least
- President-Elect (Taylor Hunkins) – no report
- Past President (Jeremy Pritt) – no report, appreciates Gratz’s work towards meetings
- Secretary/Treasurer (Zak Slagle) – report attached
 - General discussion - Paypal may not be working now. OCAFS needs to get better at renewing membership.
 - Knight – should spend money, don’t just sit on it.
 - Travel award? Tough to recruit apps for
 - Does OCAFS send president to Midwest F&W meeting? Not recently but has happened. Midwest features NCD business meeting
 - **Motion** (Braig) – use OCAFS funds as necessary to send president (or designee) to Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, dependent on OCAFS financial resources. Slagle seconds.
 - Discussion: may make president more attractive. How much should we provide? \$1000 or \$1500? Reimbursement most likely. Many recent presidents have been ODW staff (ODW covers travel usually). Anticipating another windfall in 2026 (national meeting in OH). What should “minimal balance” be? Does this change based on anticipated windfall? Travel and conference costs going up every year. *Our* meetings are getting expensive, too – that is another important use of OCAFS funds. What does the chapter get more out of – sending president to expensive meeting or hosting a good chapter meeting?
 - Knight motions to table discussion, Braig seconds – **motion passes, discussion is tabled.**
- Knight - undertake a fiscal analysis and create a plan to govern future spending, discuss at Winter Meeting

- **Action item** – Slagle will work on this analysis and plan. Considerations: minimum balance, annual cash flow, etc.
- Student Subunits
 - UT Rockets (Zach Amidon)
 - Hosted Joe Conroy virtually this spring to talk with us about getting hired in the state of Ohio, how system works
 - Hosted 3 fishing events
 - spring walleye in the Maumee River
 - spring white bass run in the Portage
 - summer walleye in Lake Erie
 - Part of planning for national AFS student-professional mixer (trivia); previously hosted at JASM meeting
 - Planning perch fishing trip on Oct
 - Could have used a (potential) student travel award this year
 - Amidon is leaving in Sept – Dillion Weik or Evelyn Pantelopoulos (current co-VPs) may step in but both are MS students so temporary fix
 - Dr. Chris Mayer is permanent contact
 - BGSU (Harley Dunlap)
 - Subchapter activities past and future possibilities
 - Fishing pond trip and trash cleanups
 - Mike Wilkerson and D2 staff offered to have students come out in the field with them (trap nets, surveys)
 - Brian Zimmerman conducted stream fish identification workshop on Sandusky River last fall
 - Looking for more field experiences and to connect with UT subunit
 - Minor – Appreciative of Wilkerson’s flexibility. Students able to pull gillnets in evening after class.
 - OSU Fish and Wildlife Society (Gratz on behalf of Dylan Wilson)
 - Meet biweekly – combination of AFS and TWS
 - Steven Gratz is new fisheries advisor for group
 - Trying to get more involvement after dissolving during Covid
 - Eugene Braig talked to group about his career and projects he’s been a part of and agency work with the EPA.
 - Had talk about how chemicals used to fight invasive lamprey larvae affect mudpuppy population.
 - Potential new student subunits
 - Hocking College – Dr. Grant Scholten (scholteng@hocking.edu) was contacted and thought only 4-year institutions could have student subunits but this is not the case. Setting up time to meet.
 - University of Rio Grande – Dr. Wayne Rossiter (wrossiter@rio.edu) and Dr. Altoff (dalhoff@rio.edu) were contacted and trying to set up a time to meet. Rossiter – nothing to add at this time.
 - Wright State University – Dr. Stephen Jacquemin (Stephen.jacquemin@wright.edu) was contacted but has limited

number of students.

5) Standing Committee Reports

- Ohio Fisheries Leadership/Webmaster (Nick Radabaugh)
 - Student travel – have been offering travel award in conjunction with Joan Duffy Award (NCD) – will match \$200 for Midwest meeting; recently haven't gotten applications. Advertise more/earlier?
 - Website – please let Radabaugh know if folks have issues; would like to fix.
- Education/Continuing Education (Eugene Braig)
 - Stone Lab workshop – 2 d, open to undergrads, get their hands on gears. OCAFS historically offers scholarships – up to 2 scholarships (\$300 each), but declines to make motion
 - **Motion** – support up to two \$300 scholarships Radabaugh, Gratz seconds
 - All in favor (Braig abstaining). **Motion passes**
- Value of Member/Social Media (Brian Alford)
 - Engagement up ~40%
 - Job announcements very clickable
 - Follow on social media if not following
 - Needs content which can be done by tagging AFS in personal posts – job announcements and posts with lots of pictures
 - Start an OCAFS Threads account? Motion needed? Probably not.
 - Facebook: @Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
 - Twitter: @OhioChapter
 - Roseman – Larval Fish Workshop at Stone Lab next weekend.

6) North Central Division Technical Committee Reports

- Centrarchid (Steve Tyszko; not present) – no report
- Esocid (Curt Wagner; not present) – no report
- Ictalurid (Ethan Simmons; not present) – no report
- Reservoirs (Gratz on behalf of Joe Conroy)
 - Current Chair, Andrew Bueltmann, IN-DNR is looking to step down
 - Little action by the committee since Rebecca Krogman, IA-DNR, and Joe Conroy, OH-DNR, transitioned from co-chairship
 - Historically, committee sponsored special symposia at Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference and American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Symposia focused on standard methods and habitat. Kansas and Ohio led on standard methods issues. Nebraska and Iowa led on habitat issues.
 - The committee compiles state and province reports annually.
 - Not many other required duties.
- Rivers and Streams (Jeremy Pritt)
 - Annual meeting March 28-29; 14 presentations. Always in IL and tough to make it to. Easier to participate when it was online. Brett Roeberg was chair, new leadership now.
- Salmonid Technical Committee (vacant – recently revived)

- Student and Early Career Professionals Affairs Committee (SECPAC; vacant – recently revived)
 - Formerly Student Affairs Committee
 - Subcommittees of continuing education, Midwest F&W Conference planning, membership, and communication
 - SECPAC sends list of weekly job/grad postings, scholarship announcements, meeting invites, etc. E-mail Kayla Reed (kaylamreed2020@gmail.com) to be added to mailing list. Encourage meeting lurkers as well to watch the process.
- Urban & Community Fishing (vacant – new)
- Walleye (Tim Parker)
 - WTC special publication has finally been paid for. The \$15,500.00 raised for the publication did not cover the amount so the NCD was still on the hook for up to \$5,000.00. After our donation the WTC still had to pay \$3,230.00

7) New Business

- Winter 2023 OCAFS meeting
 - In-person, 2-day meeting tentatively February 22-23
 - Location TBD
 - Seeking meeting committee and chairs
 - Program
 - Plenary
 - Workshop
 - Social
- Upcoming meetings
 - August 20-24, 2023, American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI
 - January 28-31, 2024, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - Symposia currently open, call for general presentations and poster abstracts going out mid-August
- NCD Technical Committee Ohio Representative voting
 - Purpose: facilitate communications between the technical committees and OCAFS members/Governing Board
 - Fish family-specific Committee general goal (denoted by *): To encourage and coordinate research leading to the development of functional management strategies toward the wise use of respective stocks, to advance the knowledge of committee-specific ecology, and to provide a forum in which pertinent data and technologies can be exchanged within the scientific community and among user groups.
 - Attend meetings or at least read minutes
 - Centrarchid* (open to change - Steve Tyszko)
 - Slagle is interested, will contact
 - Esocid* (open to change - Curt Wagner)
 - Ictalurid* (vacant)

- Bentley interested
- Walleye* (vacant) - includes Walleye, Sauger and their hybrids, and of Yellow Perch
- Salmonid* (vacant)
- Reservoirs (open to change - Joe Conroy) - promotes communication through discussion, informal presentations, symposia, and workshops to enhance the understanding of reservoir systems by fisheries professionals and to advocate wise use and protection of reservoir fisheries resources
 - Hunkins interested
- Rivers and Streams (open to change - Jeremy Pritt) - facilitate the proper management of Midwest cool, warm, and coldwater streams. This committee will organize and disseminate information and promote useful and timely research for the development of sound lotic management techniques that address aquatic populations and their environment
 - Hunkins interested
- Student and Early Career Professionals Affairs Committee (SECPAC; vacant) - facilitate communications between the state and SECPAC – so might include attending SECPAC meetings if they can (or at least read minutes) and reporting back to students/ECPs in their state and also sharing ideas or what students/ECPs in their state would like to see SECPAC doing
- Urban & Community Fishing (vacant) - foster the information exchange among state, federal, university, private, and municipal entities; and to promote the uses of education, marketing, and fisheries management of publicly accessible fisheries located within city limits to promote the advancement of the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of anglers.
 - Gabriel is interested, may reach out to Mike Durkalec
- Pritt – each committee is only as active as the chair(s). Probably easy to become chair.
- OCAFS Awards voting
 - Recipients will be submitted and supported by OCAFS for NCD level awards and Parent Society level and Section awards when applicable
 - NCD Fisheries Excellence Award - member who has made an outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession. This contribution may be a single activity or a collection of achievements over the individual's career.
 - Similar to Fisheries Management Section (FMS) Hall of Excellence Award – fish management related
 - NCD Meritorious Service Award - recognize extraordinary service to the AFS by an NCD member. Nominations may be based on a single outstanding achievement or a variety of service activities, and may include the Chapter, Division, Section or Parent Society level. This is the Division's highest award and may not be given every year. (i.e., Distinguished Service Award)
 - AFS level award as well
 - NCD award may not be given every year
 - FMS Conservation Achievement Award - recognizes any significant action, program, or initiative by a nonmember individual, non-governmental organization, or state (provincial), tribal, local, or federal agency that

contributes substantially to fishery conservation or fishery science.

- Same as Iowa Chapter's Aquatic Conservation Achievement Award
- Fish Habitat Section Rising Star Award - Student and early-professional nominees must be a graduate student (MS or PhD) or an early-career professional who completed their terminal degree within 10 years of nomination. This award recognizes the achievements and contributions of emerging leaders to the field of aquatic research, education, conservation, and management. Reflects ongoing and exceptional growth to include leadership and mentorship.
- Discussion – four new awards seems ambitious, but they each do sound good.
 - Ohio Lake Mgt Society has 3 awards – president's award, lifetime achievement (or substantive achievement), innovations award. NCD awards are easiest to tackle since they're established. Rising Start easy? May not have applicants but Gratz would like to keep due to student involvement. Go with three, both NCD and Rising Star?
 - Discussion (unofficially) tabled for details to be ironed out, with meeting already behind schedule.

8) Wrap up

- Meeting adjourned at: 12:02 PM

Dave Schuller introduced the Castalia Trout Club: Founded 1879. Origin springs feeding Cold Creek were important. 52-54F water, 5.3 miles of stream on CTC property. Club has responsibility to maintain quality of stream. Algae blooms have been an issue, tough to control (measures have been temporary). Braig tipped them onto Oxbow group that have helped to develop plan for mgt of Cold Creek. Algalcides haven't worked, draining muck temporary. Now have Master Plan with new trees, increasing flow rate, utilizing wetlands to improve water quality for all water users. Precious resource that club members feel responsible for maintaining. Now have foundation to keep Cold Creek water quality good. ODNR have also helped – proposal to improve Castalia Pond to improve water quality (issues from goose droppings). Have submitted to H2Ohio this year, cautiously optimistic. Unique fishery with a small club (60 members from CLE, CBUS, national NY, CA, MI). Looking for input and advice if OCAFS members have it. Have water quality monitoring and hatchery.

Tour of the Castalia Trout Club Facility by Jim Schott and David Schuller conducted following the meeting.

Catered BBQ lunch was graciously provided by CTC member Hal Hawk from Opie's BBQ in Port Clinton.

Tour of the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife Castalia State Fish Hatchery at approximately 2 pm.

OCAFS Secretary/Treasurer Report

OCAFS Budget Summary (January 2023-July 2023)	
Transaction Category	Total Expenses
<i>Beginning Account Balance*</i>	<i>\$9,216.14</i>
Awards (outstanding)	(-\$350.00)
Donations (outstanding)	(-\$400.00)
Chapter dues (AFS reimbursement)	\$1,168.00
Amazon Smile	\$10.62
Chapter dues (Paypal)	\$9.70
Account Balances	
OSU Student Subunit Funds (in Huntington Acct)	\$419.00
Paypal Balance	\$9.70
Current Huntington Account Balance	\$10,394.76
OCAFS Available Funds	\$9,235.46

Notes:

- **Chapter dues** include money received from the AFS parent society.
- **Awards** represent six Milt Austin Awards (\$12.50-\$150); as of July 20, none of these checks have been cashed.
- **Donation** represents a donation to the Equal Opportunity Section of the AFS (check not yet cashed).
- **OSU Student Subunit Funds** represent money raised in Silent Auction at the 2019 Midwest Meeting.
- **OCAFS Available Funds** represents closing balance in Huntington account plus the Paypal balance and minus the OSU Student Subunit Funds *and* the outstanding Milt Austin Award checks
- **There was a discrepancy of -\$211.94 between the account balance reported in January 2023 (\$9,492.00) and this report; this discrepancy can be attributed to one Winter Meeting registration refund and a difference in expected versus actual costs from the Quest Center rental.*

Membership:

- 125 current members
 - 54 parent society members, 71 non-members
 - 83 students, 42 non-students

Submitted July 21, 2023

Zak Slagle

OCAFS Secretary/Treasurer