



## Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

### Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 10:00-11:15 am  
Magee Marsh Visitor Center, Oak Harbor, OH

Coffee and donuts generously provided by OCAFS.

- 1) Call to Order
  - a. Determination of quorum: Yes, 8+ members
  - b. Meeting called to order at: 10:03 AM
  - c. Attendance – see Appendix 1.
  
- 2) Welcome by Steven Gratz, OCAFS President
  - Thanks to those attending in-person
  - Thanks to Eugene and Zak for providing equipment
  - Introductions
  
- 3) NCD Report (Steven Gratz on behalf of Sara Thomas, NCD President)
  - Dan Isermann taking over President duties at Honolulu meeting
  - Will be looking for president-elect candidates - let Sara know if interested.
  - Trying to develop better communication plan. The newsletter is great, possibly not well read, but trying to look for new streams of connection which could be linking with states with active social media.
  - AFS – Publisher has been selected, reviewed every 7 years (unsure which publisher
  - Executive Director candidate applications under review – hopeful to have new ED by Honolulu meeting
  - Office building is still for sale and working on all options. Hiccup navigating HOA.
  - Program review is still ongoing – 3-year process
  - Membership updates – Action plan being made from membership survey. The biggest thing to navigate is affiliate members that are only members of state chapter and not parent Society. Western Division is all or nothing. Goal is to encourage and grow the Society. Sara will be looking into getting membership results sent to chapters for review. Self-funded option for cheaper registrations for people that pay their own memberships without reimbursement from employers.
  
- 4) Officer Reports
  - a. President (Steven Gratz)
    - Will continue “weekly” e-mails, open to suggestions

- Always accepting suggestions for locations for future meetings – will need grant for Stone Lab meeting
- Upcoming awards
  - Joan Duffy solicited in November
  - Meritorious Service solicited mid-October
  - Fisheries Excellence solicited mid-October
    - Shift to early Oct? NCD is looking at mid-Oct and we want to do it before then
  - Meritorious Service and Fisheries Excellence award winners will have their nomination packets submitted to the NCD awards of the same name. Those winners are typically submitted to AFS Parent Society for recognition.
- b. President-Elect (Taylor Hunkins) – no updates
- c. Past President (Jeremy Pritt)
  - Not much to report
- d. Secretary/Treasurer (Zak Slagle)
  - Membership Report
    - 74 current OCAFS members
      - 41 parent society
      - 28 students, 46 non-students
  - Financial Report – see attached
- e. Student Subunits
  - UT Rockets (Dillon Weik, President)
    - Liz Anderson new president, Ashlyn – sec, Kayla – treasurer
    - Looking for Chat with Biologist candidate
  - BGSU – no report
  - OSU (Gratz, on behalf of Dylan Wilson)
    - Excited to get funds, used for Ohio Wildlife Center field trip

## 5) Standing Committee Reports

- a. Ohio Fisheries Leadership/Webmaster (Nick Radabaugh)
  - Started with OCAFS in 2008; governing board since then. Recently moved up to supervisor and wishes to step down.
  - **Seeking new candidate.** Will help with website. Duties include:

### OHIO FISHERIES LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee seeks to develop, maintain, and distribute current fisheries and aquatic resource information to facilitate networking and collaborations among natural resource professionals, educators, students, and other conservationists. Specifically, Objectives include collaboration, distributing information, and student outreach. The OCAFS webmaster serves as chairperson with the Past-President serving as vice-chair. Important activities of this committee include (but are not limited to):

- (a) Maintaining collaborations with other Division Chapters or state-wide organizations;
- (b) Maintaining the chapter website; and,
- (c) Serving as the awards committee for the Chapter.

- Pritt – consider splitting these duties? Radabaugh – certainly possible, it was originally lumped together for convenience.
- Gratz – may be interested in awards/collab side, not the web side
- b. Education/Continuing Education (Eugene Braig)

- Milt Austin Aquatic Sciences Award
  - Judged by Eugene Braig, Krystal Pockock, and Steven Gratz
  - Decided to give six \$50 honorable mention awards to all middle school students in lieu of typical disbursement of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place to high school students and two honorable mentions to middle school students. High school student project was irrelevant to aquatics.
  - Honorable mention recipients:
    - Jo Zulia-Davis – The Effect of Minerals on Acid Mine Drainage Remediation
    - Ana Sofia Benavides Orta – The Power of Plants
    - Ellie Blazier – Artemias Response to Different Foods
    - Eleanore Stowe – Kratky vs Deep Water Culture, Which Ones Better?
    - Gabe Davala – Evaporating Chlorine
    - Lilliania Neal – Luminescent Algae and the Effects of Supplements
  - Eugene met with Alyson Gruber (Ohio Academy of Science) to discuss more participation in the State Science Fair and awards since there was a post-COVID fall-off. She is going to put Eugene directly in touch with teachers to garner interest
- Fish Sampling Techniques Workshop
  - Co-taught w/ ODW and OEPA
  - OCAFS has previously offered up to two scholarships to this workshop, \$350 is the cost per student
  - **Motion** (Gratz, Slagle seconded): support scholarships for up to two students to the workshop. All in favor, **motion passes**.
  - Oldfield – how is this advertised? May be missing students at smaller colleges. Braig – Stone Lab has some ads, but Eugene supplements by spreading via an email list. Admittedly imperfect. If folks have resources, please send to Eugene.
- c. Value of Member/Social Media (Kylee Wilson)
  - Starting to get more people and pages to follow us.
  - Wants to start ‘Member Monday’ to highlight the different members. Created Qualtrics survey to start getting submissions for members to send in info and pics to help highlight *who* we are.

## 6) North Central Division Technical Committee Reports

### a. Centrarchid (Zak Slagle)

- CTC created travel grant (\$250) for student conducting centrarchid research to go to Midwest meeting; deadline Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Manuscript in review with *Fisheries Management and Ecology*
- Findings
  - Recruitment trends dependent on spatiotemporal scale
  - Age-0 or age-1 black bass catch per unit effort (CPUE) in reservoirs in Kansas and Illinois was positively correlated with local short-term environmental variables.
  - The relationship between age-0 or age-1 black bass CPUE and long-term environmental variables (i.e., mean annual precipitation) was variable in these reservoirs.
  - In contrast, age-0 or age-1 black bass CPUE was generally negatively correlated with long-term environmental variables and river regulation

metrics (i.e., reservoir elevation) in the Mississippi and Missouri River river-reservoirs.

- Discussion with Southern Division AFS RE: help with 2025 Black Bass Symposium at parent society meeting in San Antonio (2025)
- b. Esocid (Curt Wagner)
  - Used as a communication pathway, recently for musky stocking and assessments across states.
  - Joint Technical Committee meeting – could be better advertised, if folks want to go in the future.
- c. Ictalurid (Jacob Bentley)
  - Met at Midwest, committee gave out grant. Quiet since Jan.
- d. Reservoirs (Gratz, *submitted by Joe Conroy [absent]*)
  - Two symposia submitted to 2025 Midwest Conference:
    - Charting a Path Forward – Fisheries and Aquatic Plant Management Now and in the Future will focus on the interaction of fisheries management and habitat management organized by Jeff Kopaska (1/2 – ¾ day)
    - Lake and Reservoir Management which will focus on current approaches to management and is collaboration between the NCD and Southern Division Reservoir Committees (open to all submissions)
  - Looking for new Chair
- e. Rivers and Streams (Taylor Hunkins)
  - Held meeting March 20-21, 2024 at Rock Island Conservation Club in Milan, Illinois – minutes not yet sent out, no other updates
- f. Salmonid Technical Committee (Gratz, *submitted by Paul Pira; see Appendix 3*)
- g. Student and Early Career Professionals Affairs Committee (SECPAC; Gratz)
  - Planning student conclave at the Midwest F&W Conference in St. Louis prior to meeting at August Bush Conservation Area – includes continuing education, fish ID competition, quiz bowl
- h. Urban & Community Fishing (Tory Gabriel)
  - Pretty quiet and relatively new. Did submit the first report from Ohio this past year. Considering asking chapter for scholarship to Fishing Workshop, but not prepared for motion yet.
- i. Walleye (Jeremy Pritt)
  - No movement yet. Hopefully something at Midwest Meeting (St. Louis). Would like to revive tech committee report (this winter). How do we best do this, since there's not a standardized way to do that?
  - Ludsin – symposium at Midwest meeting RE: Walleye. Abstracts due in late Sept.
- j. Nongame and Native Species (not currently active, in revival mode)
  - Levi from MN and Soloman David to revive and create a nongame and native fish TC. If interested contact Kamden Glade ([Kamden.glade@state.mn.us](mailto:Kamden.glade@state.mn.us)) for more information.

## 7) Additional Business

- a. OCAFS President current term extension
  - i. Voted at OCAFS 2024 Winter Meeting to extend presidency of Gratz to July 1
  - ii. Discussion to extend to 2025 Winter Meeting at which time Taylor Hunkins will take over Presidency
  - iii. **Motion** (Pritt, Bentley seconds) – extend current roles of President, Pres elect,

and past president until January 2025. All in favor, **motion passes.**

- b. A Guide to Ohio Streams book revision (John Navarro)
  - Is chapter interested in renewing this book? “Newest” edition is 24 years old. Received grant to revise and print.
  - Grant awarded to chapter? Could take admin fee.
  - Have \$100K grant. Contract with Randy Sanders and MBI. Much easier to go through chapter than the state.
  - Gratz – vision for revision? Navarro – text need some editing, but biggest need is removing Tomerlelli’s images (copyright issues)
  - Wagner – who got sued previously? Navarro – Division of Wildlife, not chapter. Ludsin – contact parent society/publishing side to understand our liability.
  - Oldfield – Emily Dunstruck (sp?), fish artist in Kitchener, ON (?) has done work for Michigan Sea Grant
  - Pritt – timeline? Navarro – needs to talk to Steve Grey (ODW).
  - Braig/Pritt – photos from Ohio Biological Survey? Need to discuss.
- c. Joint 2024 OH-PA-WV AFS Winter Meeting
  - Tentatively late February or early March with a 2-3.5 day meeting at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV
  - Gratz in talks with West Virginia (Ross Andrew, President; Nate Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer) and Pennsylvania (Aaron Henning, incoming President) AFS chapters to discuss meeting
  - Best student presentation (oral and poster) suggested as result of 2024 OCAFS Winter Meeting
- d. Upcoming meetings
  - September 15-19, 2024, American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI
  - January 19-22, 2025, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, St. Louis, MO
    - MAFWA student travel awards will be given again this year

8) Wrap up

- a. Meeting adjourned at: 11:22AM after belligerent objection from Pritt

Tour of the ODNR Magee Marsh Visitor Center following the meeting.

Lunch at Wild Wings Restaurant and Lounge.

Guided tram tour of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge after lunch.

## Appendix 1 – Attendance

Name	Affiliation	Notes
Addie Almeda	Ohio State	
Andrew Foley	Ohio State	
Ashlynn Benedict	U Toledo	
Brian Alford	OSU Stone Lab	Virtual
Curt Wagner	ODNR-DOW	
Dillon Weik	U Toledo	
Drew Grassiey	U Toledo	
Elizabeth Anderson	U Toledo	
Eugene Braig	OSU Extension	
Gus McAnally	U Cincinnati	
J. Rhoades		Virtual
Jacob Bentley	Ohio State	
Jeremy Pritt	ODNR-DOW	
John Navarro	ODNR-DOW	
Kylee Wilson	Ohio State	
Nick Radabaugh	ODNR-DOW	
Ron Oldfield	Case Western Reserve University	
Steve Gratz	Ohio State	
Stu Ludsin	Ohio State	
Taylor Hunkins	ODNR-DOW	
Tessa	U Toledo	
Tory Gabriel	Ohio Sea Grant	
Zach Amidon	U Toledo	Virtual
Zak Slagle	ODNR-DOW	

## Appendix 2 - Secretary-Treasurer Report

<b>Transaction Category</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<i>Beginning Account Balance*</i>	<b>\$11,160.94</b>
Awards	-\$300.00
Awards ( <i>outstanding</i> )	-\$200.00
Registration for Midwest - President	-\$450.00
Disbursement to OSU subunit	-\$419.00
Dues Reimbursements	\$641.00
Awards to chapter (Midwest)	\$30.00
<b>Account Balances</b>	
OSU Student Subunit Funds (in Huntington Acct)	\$0.00
Paypal Balance	?
Current Huntington Account Balance	\$7,850.36
<b>OCAFS Available Funds*</b>	<b>\$7,650.36</b>

### Notes:

- **Awards** represent 2 Milt Austin awards for the State Science Fair and the Joan Duffy Scholarship
- **Awards (outstanding)** – four Milt Austin Award checks haven't been cashed (\$200 total)
- **OSU Student Subunit Funds** were finally paid to the OSU subunit
- **OCAFS Available Funds** represents closing balance in Huntington account and the outstanding donation checks. Paypal not reported as I have lost access.

Submitted 8/9/24

Zak Slagle

OCAFS Secretary/Treasurer

## Appendix 3 – Salmonid Technical Committee Report

**Ohio AFS -Salmonid Tech. Committee Updates** – 8/6/2024- Compiled by: Paul Pira

**ODOW stocking updates** (so for this year): provided by Chris French (ODOW)

- Steelhead: All locations stocked in April. This is the first year that the Cuyahoga River was stocked. Total Stocked = 466,152, fish averaged ~7” at stocking.
  - Vermillion River 50,024
  - Rocky River 81,051
  - Chagrin River 80,530
  - Grand River 79,999
  - Ashtabula River 50,957
  - Conneaut Creek 63,506
  - Cuyahoga River 60,085
  
- Catchable Rainbow Trout:
  - stocked 71,978 into 99 inland locations throughout the state.
  - stocked 750 fish into both Clear Fork of the Mohican and Clear Creek. An additional stocking will occur this fall
  
- Brown Trout: Stocking of yearlings is set for sometime in October, numbers are *planned*
  - Mad River 11,500
  - Macochee Creek (Great Miami River) 500
  - Clear Fork of the Mohican River 7,500
  
- Lake Trout: 94,648 stocked at Fairport Harbor in April, raised at Allegheny National Fish Hatchery.

**Native Ohio Brook Trout updates:** Paul Pira (Geauga Park District)

- **Brook Trout Plan:** Paul Pira (Geauga Park District) and Curtis Wagner (ODOW) authored a new document entitled: “Conservation Strategies for Protection and Restoration of Native Ohio Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*): 2025-2034”.
  - Draft plan is currently out for review to selected organizations and individuals
  - This plan will be outlined and discussed at ODO’s upcoming “Trout and Steelhead Summit” on August 23<sup>rd</sup>
  
- **Brook Trout Habitat Creation & Restoration Projects:** Geauga Park District is leading an innovative project (funded by OEPA) which will feature approximately 1,800 linear feet of new coldwater stream creation. The goal is to introduce native Ohio brook trout into this system located in NE Ohio (Geauga County).
  
- ODO’s annual brook trout surveys will be conducted this August on two self-sustaining streams.

**Upcoming Meetings/Conferences:** The NCD Salmonid Tech Committee is currently working on hosting a salmonid-focused symposium at this year’s Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in St. Louis. The STC will co-organize the session along with the Missouri Trout Working Group.

Submitted 8/9/24

Paul Pira

OCAFS STC Representative