

**MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE 30TH ANNUAL MEETING  
TAN-TAR-A RESORT, LAKE OF THE OZARKS, JANUARY 30, 1992**

**OPENING:** President Gary Novinger called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. after making several announcements. Secretary Mike Kruse confirmed the presence of a quorum (the attendance sheet later showed a total of 125).

**RECOGNITIONS:** President Novinger recognized the presence of 2nd Vice President of the American Fisheries Society, Lee Redmond, who will be president of the American Fisheries Society in 1994-1995. John "Slim" Funk, Past President of the AFS and first President of the Missouri Chapter, Joe Dillard, Past President of the AFS, and 8 Past Presidents of the Missouri Chapter were also in attendance. Also present was Pam McClelland of the AFS. George Kromrey was recognized for an award to be presented to him on January 31, 1992 by the Missouri Conservation Commission for saving the life of a drowning victim. Spencer Turner was recognized for his Professional Conservationist of the Year award from the Federation of Fly Fishers.

**REPORTS:** Minutes of the 1991 Annual Meeting were approved and Treasurer, Jane Bush, reported a balance of approximately \$900 of which \$300 is devoted to the disabled angler fund. Jane anticipated an approximate \$2000 increase in our balance as a result of on-going fund-raising efforts at the conference.

**PAM McCLELLAND:** Pam McClelland, of the national AFS office, updated the Chapter on recent events and activities. Pam has been hired on a one-year grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and two other organizations, supported by federal matching monies. She is trying to determine how fisheries concerns can compete better for dollars and regulatory and legislative initiatives. She is working on the Fisheries Action Network and would like ideas on how it should function. Currently, she is reviewing the budgets of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. She is also reviewing a pre-draft of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Wildlife Assessment. Unknown to many, this project is 5-years old and Congress acts on it very specifically for natural resource legislation and budgeting. Pam also cited a recent questionnaire in which 92 percent of AFS members said they wanted to be more active in public policy. She suggested that we can most effectively influence policy at the federal level through the budget process. The 1993 budgets of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management are currently under review and Pam will compile a database describing federal fisheries-related programs in each state. Our Chapter will receive a copy of this database in March. Pam wanted ideas on how to expand the Fisheries Action Network to include legislation and other parts of the federal decision-making process. Another project, started by the Fisheries Administrators Section and all state, federal, and tribal fisheries leaders, led to a vision document with short-term goals, long-term goals and a vision statement for AFS. John Harvell, Head of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, has done an analysis of the document that will be going to all fish chiefs for response. Other AFS developments include a Continuing Education Program and registry to recognize and record continuing education work done by any fisheries professional. Also, John Fritz has been hired as a development director and has been pursuing fund-raising options including the World Fisheries Congress. Pam also thanked the chapter for comments received on the paddlefish CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) listing. Finally, she requested input on ideas for any of the current AFS activities

**LEE REDMOND:** Lee presented the Best Chapter Newsletter Award for the North Central Division to Mike Roell, the second consecutive year that the Missouri Chapter has won this award. Lee reported that there was not really a full-fledged Officer's meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference because the President and First Vice President were unable to attend. Lee was therefore short on news of recent AFS activities. He did comment on Richard Gregory's recent comments in Fisheries regarding our poor representation in groups other than white males. The equal opportunities section and student subunit of the education section may be opportunities to diversify our membership. Lee also pointed out that activism will become increasingly important in Fisheries and that the F.I.S.H. effort may become important nationally, but that Missouri's Stream Teams and Conservation Federation may serve a similar function here. Lee pointed out that disagreement exists among AFS members regarding the level of our involvement in politics or as activists, pointing out that some would have us remain strictly a professional organization that disseminates accurate scientific information. However, drastic declines in fisheries habitat have caused many to suggest that we should work to get the scientific information to groups that can be activists for fish. Lee reported that a Large Rivers Research Effort has been re-written and combined with a funding initiative for MICRA (Mississippi River Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement, a signed agreement among 29 states and other agencies dealing with river resources in the Mississippi River Basin). At the Des Moines meeting a resolution was passed supporting this concept. Lee suggested that the Chapter continue to support the effort through letters to the Missouri legislators.

**ELECTION RESULTS:** Past President and Nominating chairman, Steve Weithman was unable to attend the business meeting and asked Secretary Mike Kruse to announce the election results. Ballots were sent out in the December, 1991 newsletter for the offices of President-Elect and Secretary. Our new President-Elect will be David Galat and the new Treasurer will be Donna Menown.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Several committees had no action items for the business meeting and therefore did not need to make an oral report, although written reports on all committees will be printed in the next newsletter. Committees not reporting at the meeting included Arrangements (Cindy Borgwordt), Membership (Phil Pitts), Nominating (Steve Weithman), Rivers and Streams (Gordon Farabee), Disabled Angler (Steve Eder) and Environmental and Legislative Concerns (Al Buchanan).

Awards (Spencer Turner, Chairman): Gary Novinger presented a letter of recognition to Randy Nickels, president of the Roubidoux Fly Fishers Association, for his group's work as the state's first stream team and efforts to improve aquatic habitat on Roubidoux Creek. They have cooperated with the Missouri Department of Conservation to develop the stream into a Trophy Trout Area, and with Trout Unlimited on the Spring Creek habitat improvement project. They were also recognized for aquatic education efforts and efforts to increase public awareness of aquatic resources. Letters of recognition were also presented to Bill Kohne and Jerry Eddy for their extra efforts to curb the illegal harvest of freshwater mussels from Missouri streams. Their efforts have resulted in the arrest of poachers with several thousand dollars worth of shells. President Novinger later displayed the new plaque we've purchased for the Chapter's Award of Excellence. The plaque will be displayed, at least initially, at the Fish and Wildlife Research Center.

Steering Committee for Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference (Ron Dent): Ron reported that next year's conference will be hosted by the Society of American Foresters and will again be at Tan-Tar-A. Final revisions to the operational manual for the tri-society conference will be completed in April, 1992.

Program Committee (Dr. David Galat): Dave reported that in two years the American Fisheries Society will be the lead organization for the conference and he requested ideas for a conference theme.

Fundraising (Norm Stucky): Norm reported that the silent auction and raffles being conducted at the meeting were proceeding very well with a projected income of over \$2,000 for the Chapter.

FFA (Phil Jeffries): The Chapter exhibited for the 26th time at the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Trade Show in Kansas City which had an attendance of over 25,000. The new Chapter exhibit and MDC's stream table were displayed and manned by Ken Perry, Kevin Sullivan and Phil Rockers during the Show.

Chapter Historian (Joe and Lisa Dillard): This committee has evaluated methods of archiving Chapter records and proposed that we enter our records into the Western Historical Manuscript collection at the University of Missouri. This would provide very secure long-term storage of our records, but would require transferring ownership to the Western Historical Manuscript collection. We would still have access to all the records and so would other individuals whose historical research might benefit from such access. The Missouri Society of American Foresters, Missouri Academy of Sciences, and League of Women Voters all have records there. The committee is currently producing a written history of the Missouri Chapter which will be a comprehensive overview of past activities, officers, meetings, membership and awards. Joe closed his report by making a motion that we transfer our records by a deed of gift to the Western Historical Manuscript collection and that we archive new records with them every three years henceforth. Bill Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Student Support Committee (Dr. Doug Noltie): Before Dr. Noltie's presentation, President Novinger requested that students attending the meeting be recognized by standing. Approximately ten students were present. Dr. Noltie suggested several ways to facilitate student involvement including: 1.) Assisting students with the costs of attending conferences. 2.) Assisting with membership dues. 3.) Best paper awards at major conferences. 4.) Enhanced student-chapter communication, including options like a careers night, an "Adopt-A-Student" program for current fisheries professionals, professional development seminars or making student volunteers available to MDC professionals. 5.) Best thesis or project awards that could be given at the Bachelor's, Master's or PhD level. Doug suggested a charter for the committee might be appropriate and his survey of fisheries professionals at institutions of higher learning throughout Missouri should identify other persons who could help him draft such a charter. Doug invited anyone with an interest in this committee to contact him.

Continuing Education (Pam Haverland): Pam has surveyed all chapters in the North Central Division to determine how many have a continuing education committee. Most chapters have no such committee, however, a few states do have continuing education programs and Pam has received several useful documents. After summarizing information from the survey, the national AFS office and her committee, Pam hopes to present a stronger proposal for a continuing education program next year.

Resolutions (Kathy McGrath): Two resolutions were presented at the meeting, both of which were written by Kathy McGrath.

1. Wetland Protection - When re-authorizing the Clean Water Act in 1991, Congress redefined the term "wetland" because of pressure by oil, gas and farming lobbyists. Congress created the 1991

proposed revisions to the 1989 manual which defined wetlands and gave them federal protection. The 1991 revisions contain a more conservative definition, effectively reducing the number of wetlands. Joe Dillard seconded the committee's motion for approval of the resolution, discussion ensued regarding specific wording (by Jim Czarnezki, Rich Wehnes, Spencer Turner, Bill Dieffenbach, John Belshe, Jim Fry, Jake Allman), and the revised resolution was eventually passed by voice vote. A copy of the revised resolution is attached.

2. Protection of Rivers in the 1995 Farm Bill: The North Central Division of the AFS has encouraged us to work for altering the 1995 Farm Bill to include protection of riparian areas, similar to the protection granted to riparian areas in the 1992 Farm Bill. Also, the Rivers and Streams Committee of the Missouri Chapter has supported such an alteration. Gordon Farabee seconded the committee's motion for approval of the resolution, discussion ensued regarding specific wording (by Jim Fairchild, Jim Czarnezki, Jake Allman, Doug Noltie, Dave Neuswanger, Dave Galat, Rich Wehnes, Slim Funk), and the revised resolution was eventually passed by voice vote. A copy of the revised resolution is attached. Finally, past President Slim Funk pointed out that other natural resource professionals do not always recognize the importance of water as we do and Mr. Funk further emphasized our professional responsibility to protect water resources for the benefit of fish and our society.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None was raised.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Steve Eder supported efforts to keep committee reports concise but recommended that at future business meetings, committee chairs be allowed to recognize people who were particularly helpful on the committee over the past year.

President Gary Novinger lead a discussion of whether the Missouri Chapter should become a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Several points were raised: 1.) the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society is not a member of the Conservation Federation, 2.) cost for a Chapter membership would be in the range of \$200/year, and 3.) we might not always agree with positions held by the Federation. The discussion ended when Dave Neuswanger suggested that all of us can join the Federation as individuals, but it would not be appropriate to include a professional organization like the Missouri Chapter in the Federation, which is a collection of citizen's groups.

President Gary Novinger ended his term by passing the "gavel" (a coffee mug in this case) to President-Elect Norm Stucky.

In his first action as Chapter President, Norm Stucky presented the Past President's certificate to Gary Novinger who thanked all other Chapter officers and committee members who helped him during his term as President.

President Stucky then made three requests of the membership: 1.) to volunteer for one of the various chapter committees, 2.) to notify him of any local or regional resource topics that the Chapter could comment on, and 3.) to support President Elect Dave Galat in his fundraising efforts. Norm also mentioned that he would be sending out a description of a potential fund-raising effort--a Chapter-sponsored Missouri River catfish angling tournament--for comment by the membership.

President Stucky adjourned the 30th annual meeting of the Missouri Chapter, American Fisheries Society at 5:35 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 14, 1992 BY MIKE KRUSE

RECIPIENTS OF MINUTES: Paul Brouha, Richard Gregory, Pam McClelland, Dave Willis, Joe Dillard, Lee Redmond, Gary Novinger, Norm Stucky, David Galat, Jane Bush, Mike Roell, Walt Duffy, and selected Missouri Chapter Committee Chairs