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Minutes - Business Meeting

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Minutes - Business Meeting

Swift, C.C. 1970. A review of the eastern North American cyprinid fishes of the *Notropis texanus* species group (subgenus *Alburnops*), with a definition of the subgenus *Hydrophlox*, and materials for a revision of the subgenus *Alburnops*. Unpubl. Ph.D. Diss., Fla. State Univ., Tallahassee, FL.

Swift, C.C., C.R. Gilbert, S.A. Bortone, G.H. Burgess and R.W. Yerger. 1986. Zoogeography of freshwater fishes of the southeastern United States: Savannah River to Lake Pontchartrain. pp 213-265, in: C.H. Hocutt and E.O. Wiley (eds.) The Zoogeography of North American Freshwater Fishes. Wiley, New York, 866pp.

MINUTES

Business Meeting 20th Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The Executive Committee of the Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC) met at noon on Thursday, 14 April 1994 at Ming Cort Restaurant on International Drive in Orlando, Florida. In attendance at this meeting were Chairman David Heins, immediate past Chairman Bruce Bauer, Chair-Elect Steve Walsh, and Secretary/Treasurer Hank Bart. Chairman Heins called the meeting to order at 12:30 local time. The first item of discussion was the Constitution and Bylaws. Chairman Heins stated that he wanted to simplify the structure of these documents, deleting committees that apparently were never formed and changing the structure of others to make them more effective. Heins suggested separating the Secretary/Treasurer into two separate positions, and giving the Secretary responsibility for local arrangements and publicity. Heins also wanted to explore ways of getting the Chair-Elect more involved in responsibilities of governing the Council. He suggested that regional reports be submitted early in the year and published in the issue of the *Proceedings* preceding the annual meeting. This way, issues raised in the reports can be discussed and appropriate actions taken, rather than dominating the business meeting with readings of the reports. The suggestion was also made that resolutions and other actions requiring approval of the Executive Committee and/or the membership be publicized prior to the meeting so that they can be discussed during the business meeting, and if approved, acted upon shortly after the meeting.

The second item of discussion was the nagging issue of tax exempt status. The Secretary/Treasurer presented a letter from a CPA in New Orleans who offered to file the necessary papers for federal tax exempt status for a fee of \$1,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses. The suggestion was made that the fee be fixed at a maximum of \$1,100, in effect limiting out-of-pocket expenses to \$100. The third and final item for discussion was a suggestion by Mel Warren that the SFC co-sponsor a symposium with the American Fisheries Society on imperiled freshwater fishes in the southeastern U.S. All agreed that this would be a very good activity for the SFC. Chairman Heins said that the symposium and the proposal concerning resolution of our tax-exempt status would be brought to the floor of the business meeting as Executive

Committee motions. The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. local time.

The business meeting was held in the afternoon on Thursday, 14 April 1994, in Salon 5 of the Clarion Plaza Hotel in Orlando, FL. Chairman Heins called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM local time. The minutes of the 1993 Business Meeting appeared in *Proceedings* Issue #29. They were approved without corrections. It was reported that the artwork for the 20th Annual Meeting button (featuring the imperiled and soon to be described Pearl darter) was produced by Pamela Caruso for Royal Suttikus, who graciously consented to allow us to use it. In response to a request for artwork for future buttons, Mark Sabaj of the Illinois Natural Survey provided copies of his drawings of the frecklebelly darter (*Percina stictogaster*) and the snail darter. The latter illustration, which was penned especially for the SFC, will be used for a special 20th Anniversary button in 1995.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved (see below). It was then reported that a letter had been received from a CPA in New Orleans who offered to file the necessary papers for tax exempt status for a fee of \$1,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses. Chairman Heins introduced an Executive Committee motion that the SFC pay the CPA a maximum of \$1,100 for settling the SFC's tax status with the IRS. The discussion that followed was focused mainly on the large size of the fee. It was pointed out that the CPA's normal fee was \$70.00 per hour, and considering the length of time the SFC has been in existence, the job of filing and responding to inquiries from the IRS could easily take 25 hours or more. The CPA had agreed to cap his fee at \$1,000. Stephen Ross felt that the expense was justified because it would settle an issue that has plagued the SFC far too long, and because of the fund-raising opportunities tax-exempt status would afford. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Continuing with Executive Committee business, David Heins mentioned Mel Warren's interest in organizing a joint SFC-AFS symposium on imperiled southeastern fishes for the AFS meeting in Tampa in 1995. An executive committee motion that the SFC co-sponsor the symposium passed. Chairman Heins also mentioned planned changes to the Constitution and Bylaws and requested input. Steve Walsh agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee for the election to be held in 1995. Dave Etnier, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, reported that resolutions opposing chip mills in the Tennessee River Valley and landfills on the Etowah and Conasauga rivers were forwarded in 1993, and that all three

were effective. Etnier read a new resolution opposing the Corps of Engineers plans to dredge the lower Pearl River for navigation purposes. The resolution was approved and has been acted upon by the Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer read a report on the *Proceedings* from co-editors Michael Stevenson and George Sedberry (see below). Steve Walsh read a report prepared by the Historian, Don Cloutman (also printed below). A number of the items mentioned in the report have since been located or addressed.

There was no other old business. Under new business, Jim Williams suggested that the SFC draft a letter or resolution of support for the Auburn University fish collection in the hopes that this might help convince the administration to hire a permanent curator. The Secretary/Treasurer agreed to do this. Williams also announced that the Corps of Engineers is planning to dredge the Sunflower River (Mississippi). He suggested that the SFC consider drafting a resolution against this project because the Sunflower is home to many fishes and supports an abundant mussel fauna. The last item of business was regional reports which were hastily read in an effort to conclude the business meeting by 6 p.m.. Fritz Rohde delivered his report on the northeast region. Noel Burkhead's report on the southeast region was read by the Secretary/Treasurer. Peggy Shute delivered hers and Dave Etnier's report on the north-central region. Chairman Heins read Bernie Kuhajda's report on the south-central region. Bruce Bauer read John Harris' report on the northwest region, and Steve Walsh read Bob Cashner's report on the southwest region. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. local time.

Respectfully submitted,
Hank Bart, Secretary/Treasurer

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

It was reported that the mailing list contained 29 institutions and 157 individuals as of the business meeting. In May of 1993 letters were sent to members whose dues were not current through the last business meeting (April 1993), the deadline for payment of annual dues. The letters requested that annual dues be paid by June 15th of 1994. Of 59 individual members notified, 29 responded with payments and are now current through the 1994 business meeting. In November of 1993, letters were sent to institutions notifying them of our new policy to charge institutions (including libraries) a subscription fee equal to the membership fee. Of the 29 institutions notified, nine responded with payment and are now current through 1994. Additional individuals and institutions would be delinquent as of the end of the 1994 business meeting. Following policy adopted at the 1993 business meeting, all of these members/subscribers will be notified by letter and asked to respond with payment of dues/subscription fees by June 15th 1994. Those not responding will be removed from the mailing list. Thus, the

mailing list will contain only paid members by the time of the next mailing of the *Proceedings*.

The 1993 Treasurer's Report which appeared in issue #28 of the *Proceedings* contained errors which are corrected as follows: dues and other contributions which appeared as \$1,070 through 4/2/92, should have read \$1,467 through 4/2/93. Expenses listed as through 4/2/92 should have read through 4/2/93. The amount shown as paid to the Postmaster, which appeared as \$30.95, should have read \$30.85.

Accounting through 4/11/94	
Checking Account Balance as of 4/7/93	\$2,296.20
Dues and Contributions 4/7/93 through 4/11/94	1,642.50
Dividends on Checking 4/7/93 through 4/11/94	46.05
Expenses	
Bank Charge	3.00
<i>Proceedings</i> #28	620.10
TN Dept. of State	20.00
Knox City Registrar	6.29
Cabelas	41.30
Postmaster	30.27
<i>Proceedings</i> #29	620.10
TN Secretary of State	270.00
	(1,611.06)
Checking Account Balance as of 4/11/94	2,373.69
Paine Webber Cash Fund 3/31/94	2,323.73
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,697.73

Editors' Report:

Co-editors Michael Stevenson and George Sedberry send regrets for their not being able to attend the business meeting. Steve and George also deeply regret printing Don Cloutman's name as David G. Cloutman (a clerical error) on the cover of issue 29 of the *Proceedings*. They wish to extend personal apologies to Don and report that they will do everything possible to avoid such errors in the future.

With the publication of issues 28 and 29, the co-editors feel that they have accomplished improvements to the quality of the *Proceedings* which were the spirit of recommendations contained in the survey report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the *Proceedings*. Comments and other suggestions of improvements are welcome.

Steve reports that there are presently four manuscripts in various stages of review for future issues of the *Proceedings*.

Historian's Report:

Materials were added to the archives as they became available, and an inventory of the archives was conducted.

There still seems to be some question about the sale of the original corporate charter. Handwritten minutes of the 12 April 1978 board meeting (Item 3) state that the SFC was then reincorporated under separate charter. No money exchanged hands between SFC and the restaurant involved. There is no copy of a new charter in the archives. The original copy of our original charter was never relinquished to the restaurant.

It is in our archives.

A copy of the amended constitution (19 June 1977: this is merely the original constitution with changes penciled in.) is in the archives. Does anyone remember if these changes were ever typed up? Also, two changes were recommended in a letter dated 2 September 1980 by Herb Boschung. Does anyone remember if these changes were ever voted on or ratified?

A copy (Form SS-4) of the Federal Tax Number is still lacking from the archives. Does anyone remember the origin of the Employer Identification Number (EIN) 62-1133894 referred to by IRS on our Paine Webber Account?

Receipts and bank statements for 1980-1986 are still missing from the archives. Does anyone know their whereabouts?

Minutes of the 1980-1986 annual board and membership meetings are still missing. Does anyone know of their whereabouts?

Member lists for 1975-77 and 87 are in the archives; 1978-1986 and 88-92 are missing.

No copies of resolutions are available in the archives.

A complete set of Proceedings is in the archives.

Fish buttons depicting the frecklebelly madtom, cypress darter, bluenose shiner, barrens topminnow, spring pygmy sunfish, Cape Fear shiner, and pygmy sculpin are in the archives. The Maryland darter and rustyside sucker are missing. Does anyone have a copy of these buttons they could donate to the archives.

The history of the Southeastern Fishes Council has been updated through 1993 and will soon be published.

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

REGION I - Northeast

Bob Jenkins at Roanoke College is working on redhorses, still. He organized an intensive sampling effort in May 1993 on the Pee Dee River around the NC/SC border searching for *Moxostoma robustum*. Electroshocking boats from Carolina Power and Light, North Carolina Division of Environmental Management, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and South Carolina Wildlife participated with assistance from REJ and FCR. No *robustum* were taken. Commercial fishermen working the area had not seen any either for a number of years. REJ, Bud Freeman, and two Roanoke College students canoed the river in the fall and seined at appropriate habitats for juveniles, but none were captured. REJ has been reviewing the extensive gray literature (primarily power company and environmental consulting firm reports) for the Pee Dee from Blewett Falls Dam down to Cheraw, SC. He's not sure that *robustum* lives anymore except in the Oconee River in Georgia. Several disturbing observations have resulted from the *robustum* searches. Large introduced catfishes, *Ictalurus furcatus* and

Pylodictis olivaris, have apparently decimated the native riverine *Ameiurus* populations. I have also seen this occurring in the lower Cape Fear River. *Pylodictis* was introduced into the Pee Dee in 1978 and is now flourishing. *Ictalurus furcatus* is also plentiful and is getting help from the SC hatchery in Cheraw. The state has released 123,772 in the Pee Dee River over 30 years, mostly in the last 15 years. Another downer was the capture of mostly introduced fishes in the upper Yadkin last May by REJ, BJB, and Don Cloutman. *Cyprinella lutrensis* could become or already is a weed there. Bob has applied for a grant to study the sicklefin redhorse, an undescribed species found in the Little Tennessee River, lower Tuckaseegee River, and Brasstown Creek in the southwestern NC and adjacent GA. This fish could be of hybrid origin. REJ with student Brian Kopia will conduct a status survey and reproductive behavior study on *Etheostoma osburni* in VA. It currently is known from only two streams and appears to be disappearing in VA and probably WV. It seems deserving of federal endangered status.

Paul Angermeier at VPI and Roy Smoger are developing recovery plans for Virginia state endangered fishes. The plan for *Phoxinus tennesseensis* is almost finished. Next will be *Enneacanthus chaetodon*, then *Etheostoma acuticeps* and *E. variatum*. The South Fork Holston River site for *E. acuticeps* was snorkeled but none were seen. Paul has two students working on logperches. One student is studying recolonization dynamics and habitat use in *Percina rex*. The second study on *P. burtoni* in the Holston and Clinch rivers is looking at associations with habitat configuration. Paul has finished a two-year study of the Clinch River above Norris Reservoir using IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity) to identify if a region is good or bad and where the problem areas are.

Sue Bruenderman of Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Nongame Section, is setting up long-term monitoring sites for rare fishes. Initial study was on Copper Creek. Virginia has put out a publication geared to land owners - "Copper Creek - a valuable resource" by J. Flynn, D.L. Weigmann, and S. Bruenderman. They canoed Copper Creek and identified threats to landuse patterns. After three years of sampling, they found a five mile reach where *Noturus flavipinnis*, dusky darter, and hellbender are hanging on. They resurveyed TVA's mussel sites and found them wiped out. On the positive side, Sue reports that the range of *Percina rex* has been extended up the North Fork Roanoke River by Mark Ferguson. She is moving to Missouri this summer where she will work with Bill Pflieger on a re-survey of Missouri fishes.

Eugene Maurakis has relocated at St. Pauls College in Lawrenceville, VA. He is continuing his work with Bill Woolcott on *Semotilus* and has several papers in review. St. Pauls College is starting up an aquaculture program with research, teaching, and grow-out facilities. Last summer, Gene taught three courses in Greece where he found time to collect fish. This led to new distribution records and range extensions.

John Alderman of North Carolina Wildlife, Nongame Section, is completing a survey of *Notropis mekistocholas*.