

2020 Business Meeting
Southeastern Fishes Council 46th Annual Meeting
From your House (Virtual Meeting)
Friday 20 November 2020
Chair: Brian Alford
Secretary: Bernie Kuhajda
Treasurer: Sarah Sweat

I. Call to Order – Chair, B. Alford

Brian stated that we need 20 SFC members to have a quorum. With 93 SFC members attending the virtual meeting, we can do business.

II. Approval of 2019 Business Meeting Minutes – B. Alford

The 2019 meeting minutes were sent out via email in January 2020 to be reviewed by the membership. Minor edits were made and resent to members the Tuesday before the 2020 SFC Meeting (17 November). Brian asked if there were any edits to the 2019 business meeting minutes. Hearing no response, he moved to a vote to accept the minutes. Brian asked for any no votes, and seeing or hearing none, the minutes were approved. The minutes were subsequently uploaded to the SFC website.

III. Report of the Secretary – B. Kuhajda

We had 139 registrants for the SFC annual meeting, 91 Professionals and 48 Students. Everyone did a great job organizing, hosting, and presenting in this virtual meeting.

IV. Report of the Treasurer – S. Sweat

a. 2019 Income:

Item	Member	Total
Regular Memberships	86 x \$30	\$2,580
Student Memberships	78 x \$15	\$1,170
Family Memberships	4 x \$40	\$160
Conference Registrations	164 (80 Student and 84 Regular)	\$15,650
Donations		\$409.68
Auction + Posters		\$2,517.50
TOTAL		\$22,487.18

b. 2019 Expenses:

Item	Cost
Hickory Knob 2018 Invoice	\$1,228.50
Wild Apricot Web Fees/Design Fees	\$835.00
Wild Apricot Processing Fees	\$640.94
New Logo Design	\$500.00
2019 Meeting T-shirts	\$2,441.74
2019 Meeting Social	\$1,353.68
2019 Meeting Venue	\$26,362.22
Student Awards	\$2,875.00
TOTAL	\$36,457.08

c. Income and expenses of past five SFC meetings:

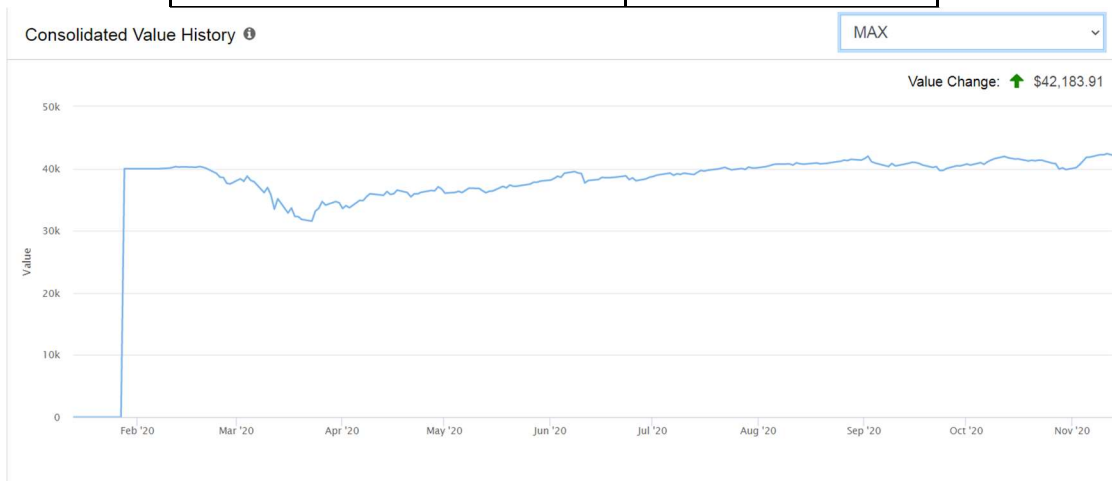
	Knoxville	Hickory Knob, SC	Chattanooga	Jackson	Gainesville
Year	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Early Registration Fee Student Member	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Early Registration Fee Regular Member	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Room Rate+tax/night	\$97.00	\$53.96	\$151.25	\$94.00	\$91.02
# reg registrants	84	79	101	61	84
# student registrants	80	79	91	43	47
Total Paid Registrants	164	158	192	104	131
Total \$\$ from meeting registration/workshop fees/t-shirt sales	\$16,020.00	\$17,085.00	\$19,680.00	\$10,650.00	\$14,275.00
Meeting Room/Break, Social, and Reception Food	\$26,362.22	\$5650.20	\$6,788.00	\$6,607.00	\$10,068.45
Workshop	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Poster Display	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	N/A	\$300.00
Aquarium Rental/Food	\$1,353.68	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	N/A	N/A
Supplies	\$0.00	\$246.44	\$200.00	\$25.00	\$165.78
Labor Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00		N/A
Misc. Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Meeting t-shirts	\$2,441.74	\$1,862.85	\$1,500.00	\$2,394.00	\$2,600.00
Meeting Artwork	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Awards	\$2,875.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Total Meeting Costs	\$33,532.64	\$10,859.49	\$17,038.00	\$11,126.00	\$14,734.23
Net	-\$17,512.64	\$6,225.51	\$2,642.00	-\$476.00	-\$459.23

d. 2019 Ledger

Account	2019
January 1, 2019	\$85,968.67
Income	\$22,487.18
Expense	\$36,457.08
Balance as of 31 December 2019	\$71,998.77
Change	\$13,969.90

e. 2020 investment update

Account	2020
Investment 28 Jan 2020	\$40,000.00
Investment as of 12 Nov2020	\$42,183.91
Change	\$2,183.91 (+ 5.45%)



Cindy Williams expressed concern over Google as an investment. Sarah clarified that Google is only a small part of our investment package, and our advisors adjust our investments as needed.

f. Investment Advisory fee change

Our annual advisory fee dropped from 1.75% to 1.25%, which is good news!

V. Report of the Committees

a. Constitution Committee – ExCom, B. Alford

Brian checked our bylaws to make sure they are up to date. He did notice that the word “proceedings” is used throughout our governance documents in reference to our SFC publication. Brian was wondering if we needed to change the name of our publication and any references to it in governance documents from “proceedings” to “journal.” Brian asked Ben Keck, Editor in Chief of the Proceedings, what his opinion was on this suggested word change. Ben had no

preference, and the discussion on the topic was tabled until the next ExCom meeting.

b. Program Committee – J. Armbruster/D. Werneke

Jon presented information on the 2021 SFC Annual Meetings. It will be held at the same venue which was planned for 2020, the Columbus GA Convention Center, 17-19 November 2021. The Convention Center was converted from the historic iron works and is located on the Fall Line on the Chattahoochee River. Near the Convention Center there is a nice river walk, world class rapids, and zip line that takes you across the river to Alabama. Lodging will be at the Marriott, and if you prefer there are other several cheaper hotels in the area. Columbus has improved dramatically in the last 20 years, with a performing arts center and a main strip with many restaurants and bars. The no-host social will likely be held at Smoke BBQ, where SFC can rent out the roof top.

Cindy Williams told of possible economic hardships for Southern Division AFS related to their meeting being cancelled but still financially obligated to a hotel contract. Brian Alford and Sarah Sweat let membership know that the Columbus GA Marriott worked with SFC and we have no financial loss from canceling in 2020 by agreeing to push the contract to 2021.

c. Resolutions Committee – A. George

Anna was not present to discuss any report from the Resolutions Committee, so nothing to report.

d. Membership Committee – M. Hayes

Malorie was not present to discuss any report from the Membership Committee. Bernie reported that we currently have 186 members, with 6 family memberships, 106 regular memberships, and 58 student memberships.

e. Proceedings Committee – B. Keck, B. Fluker, S. Powers

Ben reports that since the Proceedings have gone online there has been 14, 500 articles downloaded, 55% of those from education, 23% government, 17% commercial, and 2% military. Most are from the U.S., but there have been downloads world-wide. The current issue is the Annotated Atlas of the Freshwater Fishes of North Carolina. The next issue should be published soon (December) and contains a checklist of Louisiana fishes as well as a couple of papers.

Brook reminded membership to keep the Proceedings in mind for publications. It is totally free (no page charges), no length limit (Georgia Fish Atlas almost 200 pages), and can include lots of color figures. Ben chimed in that shorter contributions such as life history notes or observations are also welcomed. SFC is lucky to be subsidized by UT libraries for the nice online system we now have. Steve added that Ben has “done the heavy lifting” on making the format for the Proceeding good and easy to work with. Steve reminded membership that all submissions are double blind peer reviewed as part of the rigorous review process. Steve’s last two manuscripts he was editor on were massive (200 and 80 pages), so he welcomes shorter contributions!!

Brian Alford asked about the SFC Twitter account. He asked if Malorie Hayes was in charge of it, and Sarah Sweat confirmed that she was. Sarah will talk with Malorie about some strategies to promote the Proceedings through social media.

f. State Reporters – S. Powers

Steve raised the question of discontinuing annual State Reports. Last year less than half of the states within the SFC boundaries made a report. Many state reporters query membership for information but get no response. Steve is fine with continuing the annual State Reports, but electronic communication has connected us better than was ever imagined decades ago. Additionally, the three SFC editors are much busier than years ago, and there is less time to coordinate the gathering and editing of State Reports.

Brian Alford had this topic listed as new business. To do away with the State Reports would require approval by two-thirds of the membership because producing these State Reports annually is in the SFC Constitution. Brian suggested to bring this up in new business or to table until next year.

g. Meeting Site Committee – B. Kuhajda, T. Darden, M. Wagner

Brian Alford asked where SFC is scheduled to go after Columbus GA in 2021. Bernie informed membership that the plan is to go to the University of Georgia in Athens. Bernie believes that Brett Albanese and Duncan Elkins are the lead hosts. Brian asked if there were any volunteers to host the SFC meeting in 2023. Bernie volunteered Chattanooga as an option. Matt Wagner used Chat to suggest that the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences is cheap, but we should consider Arkansas as there is always a large contingency at annual meeting from the state every year. Several others supported the idea of Arkansas hosting in 2023 and had general ideas of venues.

h. Investment Development Committee – B. Keck, D. Heins, J. Schaefer

Brian Alford noted that SFC is already invested in an account, as outlined by Sarah Sweat earlier in her Treasurer's Report. Ben mentioned that he really does not have anything to discuss. SFC does not micro-manage the account and we have farmed the management of it out to an investment firm.

i. Website Committee - J. Schaefer

Jake was not present to discuss any report from the Website Committee. Bernie reported that he and Sarah are mostly staying on top of managing the website content, correcting any mistakes and uploading pdfs such as the program for the 2020 SFC meeting. Jake's platform for submitting abstracts and lightning talks worked quite well for this meeting.

Brian asked Bernie to update membership on the table of fish taxa (described and undescribed) for all drainages within the SFC boundaries. The current list has 812 taxa. For each taxon there are data on common name, family name, authority, source, status based on Warren et al. 2000, Jelks et al. 2008, or status suggested in a new description, every state it is found in within SFC boundary,

and whether it is native or introduced. Jim Williams suggested to include drainages that a taxon is found in based on the 51 drainages in Warren et al. 2000, and he is working on those. Sarah Sweat may make the list interactive, click on a taxon and a map shows the drainages it occupies. This should be finished this winter. It will be a living document with updates regularly.

j. Awards Committee – M. Cashner, S. Walsh, J. O’Connor, G. Adams
Boschung Student Travel Awards 2020:

Brian Alford noted that Mollie Cashner will likely step down from the Awards Committee as she has been doing the work mostly by herself over the last several years, but three other members who have agreed to serve on this committee (Steve Walsh, Jason O’Conner, and Ginny Adams). Ginny called for membership to step up and volunteer as a judge on student presentations. More judges makes the process easier for everyone, including giving student presenters anonymous feedback. Mollie is working on a procedure document for the Awards Committee, which includes improving communication between this Committee and ExCom so there is more time to organize and get the appropriate number of judges. Ginny appreciates everyone that did volunteer and would love to see more members participate in judging. Bernie suggested that the quest for more judges could perhaps start with the first call for meeting abstracts. Brian agreed that waiting until registrations ends to assemble a groups of judges is problematic.

Because our meeting was virtual this year and no travel occurred, there were no Boschung Student Travel Awards given.

A big thanks to the following SFC members for serving as student presentation judges: Mollie Cashner, Steve Walsh, Jason O’Conner, Ginny Adams, Reid Adams. Brook Fluker, Pat Rakes, Ani Escobar, Duncan Elkins, Malorie Hayes, and Austin Hannah.

The judges unanimously agreed that this year represented one of the best rounds of student talks we have seen. The scores were all VERY close! Someone stated that after listening to the students they had no doubt our future is in great hands!!

There were 20 student presentations considered for awards, and the award committee and volunteer judges assessed 12 student oral presentations (11 graduate, 1 undergraduate) and 8 student lightning talk presentations (4 graduate, 4 undergraduate). Because this year’s meeting was virtual, the Suttkus Best Student Poster Presentation award was replaced by the Suttkus Best Student Lightning Talk award. The winners are:

Etnier Best Student Oral Presentation 2020:

1st (\$300) Scott Meyer (Georgia Southern University)

2nd (\$200) Loren Stearman (University of Southern Mississippi)

Tie for 3rd (\$100)

Aaron Coons (TN Tech University)

Nastasia Disotell (Austin Peay State University)

Suttkus Best Student Lightning Talk 2020:

1st (\$200) Calvin Rezac (University of Central Arkansas)

2nd (\$150) Jessica Rath (Undergraduate) (University of Central Arkansas)

Tie for 3rd (\$75)

Grace Davenport (Undergraduate) (University of Central Arkansas)

Reagan Spinelli (Undergraduate) (University of Central Arkansas)

Cashner Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation 2020:

Oral (\$100) Willow Newman (University of Central Arkansas)

k. Nominating Committee – R. Johansen, P. Rakes, M. Thomas

Rebecca suggested that rather than relying on the three Nominating Committee members trying to generate names to run for SFC offices, maybe SFC could put a call out to membership for volunteers to run. The committee members would continue to generate names but also vet volunteers to make sure they have the appropriate experience for the office they are wanting to run for. This would allow for all members to have the ability to be on the ballot for an office.

VI. Old Business – B. Alford

a. Internal financial audit form

Last year Tanya Darden and Mike Sandel worked on an Internal Audit form, which is required under the SFC Constitution to be performed annually by the Secretary and Chair. Therefore Sarah and Brian need to fill out the form for 2020 finances by 31 December 2020.

b. SFC logo

We have 500 stickers with the SFC logo designed by Casper Cox. Those were to be handed out to all meeting registrants at this year's meeting, we will do that in 2021 in Columbus GA.

c. *Hidden Rivers* Snorkel Guide

Brian gave an overview of the SFC donation of \$2,500 to Freshwaters Illustrated, which paid for the production of 250 copies of the *Hidden Rivers* snorkeling guide made by Casper Cox. Bernie will pick those up from Casper. How do we distribute these? An ad hoc committee? Bernie mentioned that the guide is regional, covering fishes in the Conasauga River in Tennessee and Georgia. Jon Armbruster thought some could be distributed via outreach programs. Tanya Darden commented that she thought (and later confirmed) SFC got 25 copies, and SFC members would get a discount if they wanted to purchase additional copies. In the Chat Fritz Rohde typed that NANFA (North American Native Fish Association) donated a similar amount to this project and got 25 copies. Brian noted that when Casper emailed him he indicated that there were 250 copies to be picked up. Brian will check on this. Cindy Williams wondered if copies could be made available at state or federal park visitor centers with strong outreach programs, and maybe pair that with looping *Hidden Rivers* on screens in these centers. Tanya agreed that an ad hoc committee is a good idea, and Brian will form this committee. Bernie will find out from Jeremy Monroe (Freshwaters Illustrated) and Casper details on number of copies SFC gets for our donation and how many we could purchase for a discount.

VII. New Business – B. Alford

a. State Reports status

Brian revisited the State Reports issue of a low response by members to state reporters' requests for information, therefore potentially eliminating State Reports. He again mentioned that it would require a two-thirds majority vote Brian asked for a motion and a discussion. Brett Albanese (via Chat) called for a motion to eliminate the State Reports, Cindy Williams seconded the motion, and Stephanie Brandt "thirded" the motion.

A long discussion ensued. Stephanie relayed how hard it is to get any member to respond. Steve Powers agreed, and based on how connected we all are compared to decades ago, it is ok to eliminate State Reports. Rebecca Johansen agreed, noting how connected we all are through social media. Mark Cantrell countered these points, conveying that the State Reports have archival value for activities at the state level. Brian asked Mark if he would want to move to make an official amendment to the motion and keep the archived State Reports, but no longer accept new reports. Mark replied that he would still like to see state information collected and reported somewhere in the Proceedings. Bernie countered with the argument that if very few people are responding to requests for information, then it is not much of an archive. Mark indicated that state reporters could try harder to get information, but agreed that may not produce any more responses. There was a discussion of making a motion to keep the archival information, but Ben Keck noted that it is already available through the online Proceedings. Pat Rakes asked if someone like Ben could oversee the collection of State Report information and encourage members to submit. Ben replied that Steve was brought on as an Associate Editor of the Proceedings to, in part, help appoint State Reporters and work with them to increase responses. Other than knocking on doors and sitting down with members to get information, feedback is not going to improve. Steve agreed with Ben; state reporters send out emails with deadlines and reminder emails with new deadlines and nothing comes back, so there is nothing to archive. Talk abstracts and poster titles from past meetings are posted on the SFC website, and papers are published in the Proceedings, and these resources archive the activities of membership pretty well. Mark conceded that if members are using other platforms to find common interests and to collaborate, then maybe State Reports are not needed. Bernie reiterated that no one is turning in information to archive, they are using social media. Fritz Rohde (via Chat) wrote that Bryn Tracy does a good job of prodding North Carolina members to turn in information, and he finds that State Report useful. Caleb Aldridge suggested publishing meeting abstracts in the Proceedings, but Tom Near warned that this leads to "ghost" citations. Sarah reiterated that current and past meeting abstracts are already available, posted on the SFC website. Brook Fluker added that the program and abstracts for meetings back to 2007 are posted on the SFC website, and Bernie added that that information is more through than any State Report. Brian referred us back to the motion on the floor to get rid of State

Reports all together, and asked if there was a proposed amendment to the motion. Hearing none, Brian moved to close discussion, and David Heins seconded the motion. Whew!!!

Brian then called for a vote on the amendment to no longer publish State Reports in the Proceedings. After some discussion on the best way to vote on Zoom, a poll was setup for members attending the business meeting to vote on the SFC constitutional amendment. Bernie noted that we started the virtual Zoom business meeting with 94 participants and we were currently at 84, and wondered if we needed two-thirds of total membership to pass a constitutional amendment. Brian countered with noting that only 20 members need to be present for a quorum, and the amendment would pass with two-thirds of members in attendance, even if it was 20 members. The vote total was 7 against (9%) and 61 for (91%) the amendment, so the SFC constitutional amendment passed to no longer publish State Reports in the Proceedings.

b. Ten-Tom Waterway and Invasive Carp

Brian asked Jim Williams to discuss his request to have SFC write a resolution supporting the closure of the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway in northeast Mississippi to non-commercial traffic (recreational boaters). This closure would help prevent the movement of invasive Silver and Bighead Carp into the Mobile Basin from the Tennessee River drainage. Jim discussed the presence of Silver Carp in the Bay Springs Embayment just upstream of the Bay Springs Lock and Dam. The U.S. Corp of Engineers and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force are currently doing nothing (planning or implementing) to prevent the movement of Silver Carp through Bay Springs Lock and Dam into the Mobile Basin. In addition to decreasing activity in the lock, Jim indicated that there needs to be barriers (sound, lights, and CO₂ bubbles) immediately placed in the lock, followed in time by a fixed electrical field. These actions would also greatly decrease the threat of other invasive species in the Mississippi River Basin (Snakeheads, Round Gobies, Black Carp) entering the Mobile Basin through this lock. Jim is planning on sending an email to the Corps outlining all of the above concerns and mitigating activities that can be taken to diminish these concerns. Jim is “copying the world” on this email and would like SFC to reply with a letter of support via a resolution.

Brian indicated that following the SFC Constitution, membership would have to vote to approve moving forward with the resolution, once written by the Resolution Committee it would be presented to ExCom, and once approved there the resolution goes back to membership for a final vote (by email to expedite the resolution). David Heins made a motion to move ahead with sending Jim’s proposal to the Resolutions Committee. Rebecca Johansen seconded the motion.

A long discussion followed. Cindy Williams gave an overview of the \$15 million dollars that the USFWS Southeast Regional Aquatic Invasive Species program just

invested in projects to mitigate the spread of Silver Carp. Right now none of these funds are being used to address the threat of Silver Carp entering the Mobile Basin via the Tenn-Tom waterway. Jim clarified that his proposal does not shut down recreational use of the Tenn-Tom Waterway, it just stops recreational boat from going through Bay Springs Lock and Dam, and possibly the next lock five miles downstream, Lock E. Jim added that about 50% of boat traffic through these locks is recreational. Mark Cantrell added that the primary purpose that Congress set forth in the construction and operation of the Tenn-Tom waterway was for commercial traffic, so this proposal does not interfere with that purpose. He also suggested that lock operators could look for Silver Carp jumping in the lock, and the carp could be removed before operations continued. Jim reiterated that Silver Carp are in Bay Springs Embayment just upstream of the lock and dam, making this a high risk situation with regards to this invasive species entering the Mobile Basin. Caleb Aldridge, who works on Silver and Bighead Carp at Mississippi State, confirmed that two Silver Carp and one Bighead Carp have been collected in the Bay Springs Embayment this year. There is grey literature that suggests these invasive carp are already in the lower Mobile Basin, and Mark Cantrell added that one record is from the Intracoastal Waterway near Mobile Bay. Jim believes these isolated records are escapees from fish farms and there are no established populations. Caleb questioned whether Jim's concerns will be heard because there is currently no reproducing population in Bay Springs Embayment and no evidence of Silver or Bighead Carp locking through into the Mobile Basin. Jim replied that he does not expect the Corps to drop everything they are doing and address his concerns immediately, but it is just a matter of time until those "benchmarks" mentioned above are attained. Bernie called for ending discussion and moving ahead on a vote. Whew again!!

Brian called for a vote on the motion to send Jim's request to the Resolutions Committee and for the committee to write a letter/resolution supporting Jim's invasive carp concerns and suggested actions. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Other business

Brett Albanese wanted members to be aware of the Southeast Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need website (<https://georgiabiodiversity.org/natels/sersgcn>) hosted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This was an effort to take data from southeastern State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) and combine them into one list/spreadsheets for all taxonomic groups, then whittle the list down to taxa appropriate for regionally-based conservation efforts; currently this list contains 960 species. Brett will post a link to this list on the SFC website. He hopes that if members are proposing to study a species in this list, citing it may help you get the proposal funded. It will likely not be updated until 2025, even if new species descriptions come out beforehand.

Cindy Williams asked for members who are regional experts on invasive aquatic species threats to participate in a conference call to discuss potential future threats. This call will be hosted by USFWS. Contact Cindy if you are interested.

VIII. Adjourn – B. Alford

Brian entertained a motion to adjourn. Beck Keck motioned to adjourn, Rebecca Johansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.