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### President's Message

On my way to work the past week, I have been held up by peanut wagons and cottonbalers – so it's officially Fall in Metter, GA. I hope all of you had a productive year and had a chance to get outside and enjoy Georgia's fisheries. As president of GA AFS, I felt obligated to participate in as many fisheries resources around the state – as my time and supervisor would allow. I must say that it is true a pleasure to be a servant to and member of Outdoor Georgians and it has been a pleasure serving as president of the GA AFS Chapter. Following is a brief synopsis of summer activities and future plans for 2007.



*Jackson Will is happy with his first triple tail*

The chapter committee members met in August to discuss the upcoming 2007 joint meeting with the South Carolina AFS Chapter and the South Carolina Fisheries Workers Association. The meeting will be held in Tybee Island, GA and you should already have received the first call for papers. We are excited about the meeting and both states should have a good mix of inland and coastal papers. On a meeting side note, I am still looking for pictures of 1) GA AFS members and families enjoying Georgia's fisheries, 2) a good picture of an angler enjoying a fishery resources and a brief "how, where, and when", 3) miscellaneous aquatic outdoor recreational pictures (e.g., scenic pictures taken on a canoe trip in Georgia), and 4) pictures of GA AFS members working in the field with a brief description of what they are doing and why they are doing it. So please keep those cameras rolling.

Following our August committee meeting, we had a chance to meet with Bruce Henderson (general manager of the Bass Pro Shops in Macon, GA) and tour the Bass Pro

Distribution Center. Committee members enjoyed the visit and thought that it would be beneficial in the future to look for different avenues to bring anglers, biologist and fishing-related industries together.

I have discussed with a few members the idea of publishing a detailed newsletter or possibly a magazine publication. Basic concept is that we have an abundance of diverse programs/projects/research going on around the state and should have some great pictures of GA AFS members working in the field. Not many jobs offer such interesting (I personally think marketable) photography opportunities with great story lines to follow. At the very least it would be a great avenue for information transfer and outreach to the general public. Without fishery professionals in leadership positions approving or buying in to this idea, "very little meat would come from this meal." Therefore, we would like to identify a smaller group of GA Fishery Leaders that we could offer advice on accomplishing meaningful aquatic stewardship, outreach, and membership services such as this or any other project. More discussion of this topic will be brought forth at the annual business meeting in 2007.

Scott Robinson will be taking over the helm next year and has been working with the Georgia Wildlife Federation, Georgia Bass Federation, and Georgia Power on an advanced bass fishing camp for youth. This camp would host about 20 students for a four-day period. Students will have a one on one opportunity to learn about advanced fishing tactics, fish biology, and fish management techniques. I think this would be a great outreach project for the GA AFS Chapter members and we can discuss potential involvement and funding at the annual meeting.

I think I have hit the high spots as it relates to current and upcoming activities. If you have any questions about chapter activities or would like to get involved on a committee or project, please let me know.

We are still looking for a volunteer to update and re-

configure the GA AFS website. If you are interested in helping with this or have any ideas please contact David Higginbotham at [HIGGINBD@warnell.uga.edu](mailto:HIGGINBD@warnell.uga.edu).

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in January and I hope to see many of you on the water between now and then.



*Father and son enjoying a day on GA's Coast*

*Ted Will*

## UGA Student Subunit Report

**Aquatic Stewardship:** The UGA Fisheries Society made a \$100 donation to the GA River Network and participated in a River's Alive cleanup of the Oconee River.

**Information Transfer and Outreach:** The UGA Fisheries Society hosted the Williams/United Way Crappie Fishing Tournament in March 2006 and the United Way Kids Fishing Day on April 2006. Additionally they provided assistance with an outdoor activity day at McDuffie Public Fishing Area, and helped out the Boy Scouts of America Advance-A-Rama in Athens.

The famous "Fall Fish Fry" was just held at the Whitehall Research Facility in Athens, GA. The event draws over 400 students, faculty, and staff with the Warnell School of Forest Resources.



**Member Services:** The UGA Fisheries Society web page was streamlined and updated [www.uga.edu/ugafish](http://www.uga.edu/ugafish). They also set up online banking, designed new t-shirts and polo shirts, and maintained electronic listserv with 141 members.

Guest speaker Tim Grabowski talk to the UGA subunit about the movements and ecology of robust redhorse in the Savannah River.

We have two speakers lined up for November, Bud Freeman of the Georgia Natural History Museum, and a representative from Conservation Fisheries International.

**Special Announcements:** Kid's fishing day at Whitehall has been postponed till the spring.

*Submitted by Paul Schueller, UGA Student Subunit, President*

## Awards Committee

***Call for Chapter 2007 Award Nominations*** – The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership. If you are aware of a deserving individual or organization, please nominate them! Nomination letters should be no more than two pages long and provide specific information on the accomplishments of the candidates and why they qualify for the award. Chapter awards are listed below.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** - This award may be presented to chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession.

Qualifications should extend beyond simply doing an outstanding job on regular chapter duties and be based primarily on extraordinary efforts or new initiatives.

**FISHERY WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD** - This award may be presented to an individual in recognition of recent, exceptional accomplishment(s) in fisheries science and/or management.

**CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS TO FISHERIES IN GEORGIA AWARD** - This award may be presented to an individual in recognition of significant, long-term, professional contributions to fisheries science and/or management in the State of Georgia.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** - Certificates of appreciation may be presented to individuals, organizations, or companies to recognize outstanding accomplishments, service, conservation, or educational efforts that benefit fisheries and other aquatic resources.

Please email your nominations to Stephen Patrick at [stepvp@uga.edu](mailto:stepvp@uga.edu). **Nominations will be accepted until December 15, 2007.** Any questions, call Stephen at 706 754-2318.

## General News

*News from Bob Curry, SDAFS President* –

### ***Hurricane Relief Action Plan***

The Southern Division AFS (SDAFS) extends our gratitude to the individuals, chapters, Divisions, and Parent Society for their outpouring of support, continuous encouragement, and tremendous sensitivity to the horrendous impacts Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had on AFS members professionally and personally in the storm impacted regions along the Gulf Coast. Although the water receded long ago, damage assessments are still being made and needs are only now beginning to be realized. Many agencies and institutions are not yet fully operational nor are they able to fully conduct research and sampling activities. Financial contributions are very helpful and material donations such as journals, books, equipment, and supplies (please see <http://www.sdafs.org/relief/default.htm>) are greatly appreciated.

The AFS Disaster Relief Program, administered primarily through the SDAFS, assumed full responsibility for hurricane relief in June 2006. Emphasis has focused on outreach to members and their agencies or institutions in Louisiana and Mississippi. Additional relief efforts were extended to Alabama, Florida and Texas; however, no requests for assistance were received. Members of the former AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force are now integrated into the SDAFS Disaster Relief Program through their respective chapters. Additionally, the Disaster Relief Distribution Center is staffed and operational.

The Parent Society has allocated *up to* a maximum of \$30,000 to the SDAFS to address disaster relief operations during the period 15 March – 31 December 2006. We partitioned these funds into three broad categories: 1. Complementary, temporary, AFS memberships and electronic journal subscriptions to AFS members identified by their respective chapters as impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; 2. Scholarships to attend AFS meetings for AFS members identified by their respective chapters as impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; 3. Staffing the Disaster Relief Distribution Center. Danielle Pender is the Director of the Distribution Center and she primarily handles the coordination, delivery, cataloging, tracking and ultimate distribution of materials donations (library materials, equipment, supplies, etc) received at the Distribution Center.

Don Jackson volunteered to transition over to the SDAFS Disaster Relief Team as the primary liaison with the chapters to coordinate membership and journal scholarships and travel assistance. Don works with the Chapter Presidents to collate their requests and recommends actions to the SDAFS President.

Complementary memberships, electronic access to *Fisheries Infobase* and electronic access to one AFS journal of choice will be provided to AFS members from Louisiana and Mississippi. Recipients are in the final stage of review and recommendations will soon be forwarded to the Southern Division for action. The Louisiana and Mississippi chapters are developing criteria for travel awards to AFS meetings for AFS members who were impacted by the storms.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is providing a central processing facility at their Turcotte Laboratory in Jackson, Mississippi, to receive and distribute donated materials. John Skains (Mississippi Chapter) is the principal contact.

Financial donors may contribute through the Parent Society AFS Website at <http://www.fisheries.org/html/disasterform.shtml> .

Visit the SDAFS Disaster Relief Web Page at <http://www.sdafs.org/relief/default.htm> for more information and to review needs requests of affected

members. Your assistance with financial and material contributions is greatly appreciated.

## Meetings of Interest

*Southern Division AFS 2007 Spring Meeting* – Feb. 7-11, 2007, Memphis, TN. <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>

*Fourth North American Reservoir Symposium* – June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Balancing fisheries management and water uses for impounded river systems. <http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/symposium> .

*137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society* – Sept. 2-6, 2007, San Francisco, CA. <http://www.fisheries.org/html/index.shtml> .

## Links

The American Fisheries Society Home Page offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishery endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, public outreach, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found at <http://www.fisheries.org/>

Please visit and newly updated UGA Fisheries Society web page at <http://www.uga.edu/ugafish>

Additional links can be found courtesy of Dr. Mike Allen and the Southern Division, AFS. <http://www.sdafs.org/links/msallen1.htm>

## **2006 GA AFS Chapter Committees**

### **Executive Committee**

President	Ted Will	912/685-6424
President-elect	Scott Robinson	770/918-6418
Past President	Steven Patrick	706/754-2318
Secretary/Treasurer	Don Harrison	912/285-6094
UGA Student Subunit President	Paul Scheuller	706/542-1159
Advisor	Dr. Cecil Jennings	706/542-4837
At-large	David Higginbotham	706/542-0025

### **Standing Committees**

Student Affairs	Don Harrison	912/285-6094
Nominating	Scott Robinson	770/918-6418
Program	Doug Haymens	912/264-7218
Awards	Stephen Patrick	706/754-2318
Membership	Rebecca Brown	
Audit	Ted Hendrinkx	770/918-6418

\*Please contact the chairperson if you would like to serve on a committee.