

A HISTORY OF THE
GEORGIA
CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN
FISHERIES
SOCIETY

By
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Abstract.—Informal meetings of the group that would eventually become the *Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society* (GA-AFS) began in 1968 under the guidance of Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA-DNR) biologist Wayne Thomaston. The first organizational meeting, with an arranged program and formal technical presentations, was held at the University of Georgia (UGA), February 9-10, 1970. It was organized by Dr. Al Fox (UGA). At an additional organizational meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 28, 1970, Bylaws and the name Georgia Fisheries Workers Association (GFWA) were approved. The objective of GFWA was “...to provide a means of communication concerning fisheries and other related aquatic resources in Georgia.” The Bylaws directed the Chairman to appoint an Executive Committee with representatives from at least five fisheries related groups. The Executive Committee has been the driving force of the organization. A major responsibility of the Executive Committee was planning and conducting an Annual Meeting. The First GFWA Annual Meeting was held January 25-26, 1971, at UGA.

During the 1970's and 1980's, GFWA rejected affiliation with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) because “...it would entail the loss of members, raising of fees, loss of identity, loss of informality, and expansion of the program to other states.” There also was concern that many GA-DNR employees, especially technicians, who were not AFS members, could not be considered for elected offices. On February 6, 1985, Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert (UGA) obtained 20 signatures of AFS members interested in forming a Georgia Chapter. Dr. Gilbert was elected the first President of GA-AFS at the 1986 Business Meeting. The Georgia Chapter was officially recognized by AFS in 1990. Georgia Fisheries Workers Association and GA-AFS voted to consolidate on February 11, 1992, and Spud Woodward (GA-DNR) was elected President of the expanded GA-AFS.

Since consolidation, GA-AFS has co-hosted the 1993 and 2000 Mid-year Technical Meetings of the Southern Division and supported formation of the UGA Student Chapter Subunit. The success enjoyed by GFWA and GA-AFS has been due to the hard work of their leaderships. The following members have been recognized for outstanding service during the first 32 years: Beverly Clement, E.H. Armor, Sue Anthony, Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert, Dr. Mike Van Den Avyle, Dr. Bob Reinert, Mike Spencer, Dr. Bruce Saul, Matt Thomas, and Tom Reinert. View complete text of GA-AFS History at www.uga.edu/ugafish/ga-afs

Informal meetings of the group that would eventually evolve into GA-AFS began in 1968 under the guidance of Wayne Thomaston (GA-DNR). The first organizational meeting that included an arranged program and formal technical oral presentations took place February 9-10, 1970, at the UGA School of Forest Resources, Athens, Georgia. Dr. Al Fox, Leader of the UGA Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, organized the meeting. Officers were elected, an Executive Committee was formed, membership dues were established, and general objectives of the organization were discussed. The following officers were elected: Dr. Al Fox, Chairman, Wayne Thomaston Vice-Chairman, and Beverly Clement (GA-DNR) Secretary/Treasurer. The group voted to hold its first annual meeting in early February 1971 at the UGA Center for Continuing Education. It was decided the newly formed group would not seek affiliation with AFS. Twenty-four fisheries professionals attended an additional organizational meeting on September 28, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia. To promote maximum participation, this meeting was scheduled as part of the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners. Proposed Bylaws and the name GFWA were approved at the September 28th meeting. The objective of GFWA was "...to provide a means of communication concerning fisheries and other related aquatic resources in Georgia." The Bylaws also stated that the Chairman would appoint an Executive Committee including representatives of a least five different fisheries organizations. From the beginning, the Executive Committee was the driving force of the group. A major responsibility of the Executive Committee was arranging and conducting an annual meeting. Annual Meeting sites were selected throughout the state, to maximize attendance and reduce travel costs for members in various locations (Figure 1.)

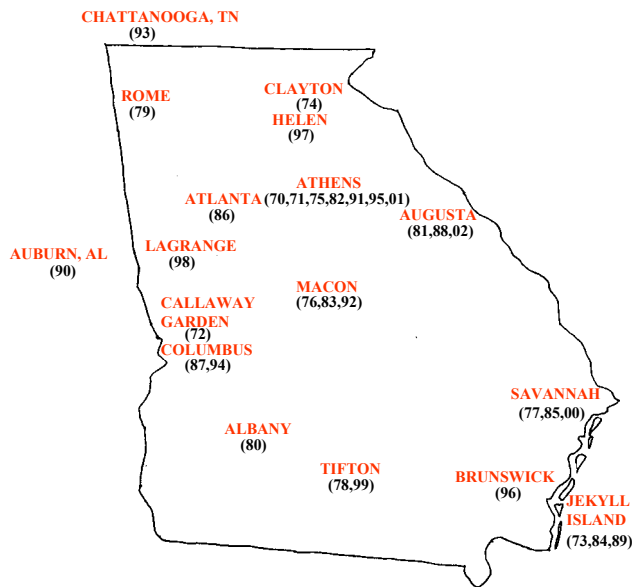


Figure 1. Annual Meeting Sites of GFWA /GA-AFS, 1970-2002. (Numbers in parenthesis refer to years.)

The First GFWA Annual Meeting was held January 25-26, 1971, at the UGA Center for Continuing Education, Athens, Georgia. The format was a Business Meeting followed by oral technical presentations and a social gathering with dinner, with a second morning of presentations followed by a field trip to local fisheries attractions. Registration cost \$3.00 and dues were \$1.00. After the first Annual Meeting, GFWA had total assets of \$114.18. The following officers were elected: Daniel Holder (GA-DNR) Chairman; E. H. Armor (private catfish farmer) Vice-Chairman; and Dr. Jim Byford (UGA Cooperative Extension Service) Secretary/Treasurer. The first year, GFWA had 67 dues-paying members. During 1971, a mail ballot was used to elect officers and select next year's meeting site. This procedure proved cumbersome, and the Bylaws stated that officers would be elected at the Annual Meeting; subsequently, officers were chosen at the Annual Meeting and the Executive Committee chose meeting sites.

The Second GFWA Annual Meeting was held at Callaway Gardens, near Pine Mountain, Georgia, January 28-30, 1972. Expanding the annual meeting to three days allowed one half day for travel, a day and a half for the business meeting and oral technical presentations, an evening banquet, one half day for a field trip, and an afternoon for travel home. The 1972 field trip included visits to the Federal Hatchery and Fish Control Laboratory in nearby Warm Springs, Georgia. Members were pleased with this schedule and the early winter meeting time. Annual Meetings followed this general format and time schedule for the next thirty years, except in 1974, when a May meeting time was tried. Monte Seehorn (U.S. Forest Service) was elected Chairman. The first GFWA sponsored continuing education shortcourse was conducted in 1972. Dr. Wilbur Duncan of the UGA Botany Department conducted two three-day Aquatic Botany Workshops in June and July. The workshops were held at the UGA Biology Building and covered plant identification, habitat associations, and weed control.

The 1973 Annual Meeting was held at Jekyll Island, Georgia, January 17-19. In a continuing show of independence, a motion proposing affiliation with the Georgia Oystermens Association was defeated during the Business Meeting. Beverly Clement (GA-DNR) was elected Chairman to serve with Ray Sheppard (Callaway Gardens) Vice Chairman and Eugene Braschler (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) Secretary/Treasurer. The logo shown in Figure 2 was adopted.

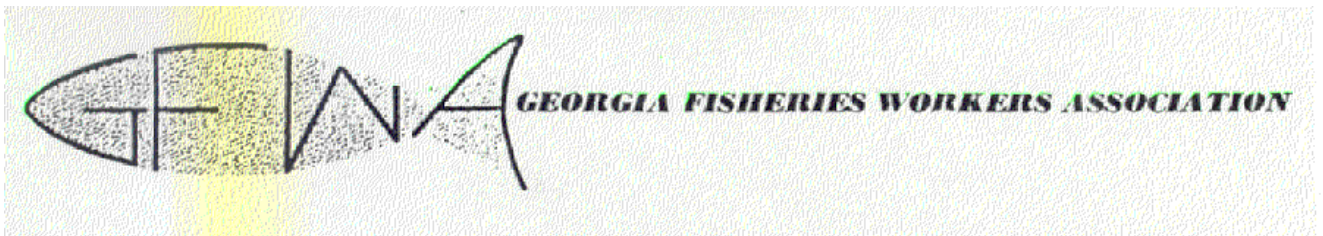


Figure 2. Logo adopted by GFWA at the 1973 Annual Meeting.

In July of 1973 GFWA published its first newsletter, prepared by Secretary/Treasurer Gene Braschler. In September, GFWA sponsored a Trout Management Workshop in Clayton, Georgia. By June 1973, membership had grown to 84 and assets had increased to \$211.30. After only three years, GFWA was the accepted professional organization of fisheries workers in Georgia.

In 1974 it was decided to move the Annual Meeting to early summer and the north Georgia mountains. The Annual Meeting was held at Unicoi State Park, May 1-3. Eugene Braschler was elected Chairman. Members were not pleased with the early summer meeting time. All subsequent Annual Meetings have been scheduled for late January or early February. A Marine Sportfishing Workshop was held on March 28 at Skidaway Island. Two newsletters were published. Dr. Al Fox was appointed the first Door Prize Chairman and reported “not much luck” in obtaining worthy bounty for what would become a very enjoyable aspect of future annual meetings.

In 1975 GFWA returned to its hometown and traditional meeting time of late January. The meeting was held at the Athens Holiday Inn, January 29-31. A GFWA-sponsored Hatchery Management Shortcourse at Macon Junior College attracted 54 participants on August 19. Beverly Clement received the first GFWA award. She was given a down jacket, purchased with contributions from the membership, in recognition of her efforts in establishing and leading the organization. A down jacket was deemed more appropriate than a plaque since she had recently married and moved to Michigan. The Executive Committee made a concerted effort to diversify the membership and topics of invited speakers at the Annual Meeting. A special effort was made to invite private consultants, fish farmers, law enforcement officers, and sports writers to participate. Dr. Mac Rawson (UGA Cooperative Extension Service) was elected Chairman, Larry McSwain (GA-DNR) Vice Chairman, and Russ England (GA-DNR) Secretary/Treasurer. The Bylaws were amended to include an additional officer. The office of Secretary/Treasurer was replaced with Recording Secretary, responsible for records and reports, and a Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer, responsible for financial matters and official correspondence. The composition of the Executive Committee was altered to include representatives from at least eight different organizations.

The 1976 annual meeting was held in Macon, Georgia, January 21-23. Affiliation with AFS was a major topic of discussion at the Business Meeting. The membership voted not to affiliate with AFS because “...it would entail loss of members, raising of fees, loss of identity, loss of informality and expansion of the program to other states.” It was also noted that “...since the organization is fairly closely knitted and is growing, interrelationships should be held to invitations to speak, the exchange of ideas, etc. and not to membership.” Robert Rees (GA-DNR) was elected Chairman, Edward T. Hall (Georgia Water Quality Control Board) Vice-Chairman, Clifford J Knowlton Recording Secretary, and Kim Primmer (GA-DNR) Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer. The GFWA took

its first stand on a political issue when it officially opposed changes in the Georgia State Merit System of Personnel Administration that would lower requirements and standards for biologist and technician positions in State government. In 1976 the membership decreased to 58 and assets decreased to \$195.29. A primary cause for the drop in membership was that dues could only be paid at the Annual Meeting. There was no procedure for paying dues if a member could not attend the Annual Meeting.

The GFWA was very active in 1977. The year started with the Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, January 19-21. A very unusual snow-covered city greeted members as they arrived on the Georgia coast. Topics of the 1977 program included: Reservoir Investigations, Mans Effects on Natural Environments, Coastal and Marine Investigations, and a field trip to the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. The following officers were elected: Russ England (GA-DNR) Chairman, Kim Primmer (GA-DNR) Vice-Chairman, Dr. Bob Reinert (UGA) Recording Secretary, and John Adams (Georgia Power) Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer. A highlight of the meeting was a wealth of fabulous door prizes secured by the newly appointed Door Prize Chairman, Dr. Bob Reinert. Georgia Fisheries Workers Association sponsored an Electrofishing Workshop on August 4 at UGA's Whitehall Forest that attracted 44 attendees from throughout the eastern United States. A sponsored tour of Georgia Power's Plant Hatch Nuclear Facility attracted 16 participants on July 15. An Aquatic Invertebrate Workshop was conducted at Georgia Power's Environmental Laboratory on February 16-17. By the end of 1977 membership had gone back up to 84 and assets had rebounded to \$222.74.

The 1978 annual meeting was held at the Rural Development Center at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, February 1-3. The program included the following session headings: Water Quality, Exotics, and TVA Reservoirs. John Adams was elected Chairman, Tom Schulte (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,) Vice Chairman, Dr. Ronnie Gilbert (UGA) Recording Secretary, and Herb Wyatt (Private Consultant) Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Bob Reinert was unofficially chosen "Door Prize Chairman for Life" for the great job he did in 1977.

The final meeting of the 1970's was held at the Roman Inn in Rome, Georgia, January 23-25, 1979. Don Johnson (GA-DNR) was Chairman. The first decade had been very good for GFWA members and the fisheries profession in Georgia. From humble beginnings in Athens, GFWA had spread throughout the state, and grown to encompass all the diverse aspects of Georgia's aquatic resources, from the mountains to the coast. It had met and surpassed the initial objective of "...providing a means of communication concerning fisheries and other related aquatic resources in Georgia."

The 1980 Annual Meeting was held in Albany, Georgia, January 22-24. In 1981, GFWA held its first meeting with an adjoining state group. A Joint Annual

Meeting of the Georgia and South Carolina Fisheries Workers Associations was held in Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert was elected Chairman.

In 1982 the annual meeting was again held in Athens, Georgia, January 18-20. Tim Hess (GA-DNR) was Chairmen. In 1983 the annual meeting was held in Macon, Georgia on January 9-11. Chuck Coomer (GA-DNR) was Chairman. There were continuing discussions of affiliation with AFS. Many of the original GFWA members were opposed to it. A potential problem that was often cited, especially by GA-DNR personnel, was that officers of an AFS chapter had to be members in good standing of AFS. Many GA-DNR personnel, especially technicians, were not AFS members and would be eliminated from consideration for elected offices. A committee consisting of Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert, Dr. George Lewis and Mark Hudy was formed to investigate procedures for establishing an AFS Chapter.

The 1984 annual meeting was held at Jekyll Island, Georgia, on January 17-19. Susan Shipman (Coastal Resources, GA-DNR) was elected Chairman, Dr. Mike Van Den Avyle (UGA) Vice Chairman, Chris Martin (GA-DNR) Recording Secretary and Joe Hightower (UGA) Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer. In February, 1984, Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert presented an invited paper at the Alabama Statewide Fisheries Forum at Auburn University on GFWA and the problems and procedures involved in organizing a state professional fisheries association. In 1985 a Joint Annual Meeting of the Georgia and South Carolina Fisheries Workers Associations was held in Savannah, Georgia, February 6-8. There were many noteworthy technical presentations; however, the one event that everyone remembered was that an unidentified member fell through a very large plate glass window in the hospitality suite. On February 6, 1985, twenty members of AFS signed a petition requesting permission to establish a Georgia AFS Chapter. It was decided that since there was still considerable opposition to changing GFWA to a chapter of AFS, that the new organization would be a separate entity and simply hold a Business Meeting at the GFWA Annual Meeting. The objectives of the two groups were very similar and the same individuals often held elected offices in both organizations. The Georgia Chapter continued to hold separate business meetings and elect separate officers until consolidation of the two organizations in 1992.

In 1986, GFWA held a joint meeting with the newly formed Georgia Aquaculture Association and GA-AFS at the Holiday Inn in Atlanta, Georgia, February 4-6. Inclusion of GA-AFS as co-sponsor on the program marks the first public recognition of the new group among State fisheries workers. Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert agreed to serve as the first President of the Georgia Chapter. The following session topics were included in the program: Water Quality and Toxicity, Reservoir and Pond Management, Aquatic Weeds, Trout Biology and Management, and Aquaculture. By 1986 the annual meeting had grown to 41 presentations and the field trip had been replaced by a panel discussion. To

promote continuity in leadership positions, Chairman-Elect replaced the Vice-Chairman office.

The 1987 Annual Meeting was held in Columbus, Georgia, and January 27-29. Presentation Session Headings included the following: Environmental Quality, Coastal Rivers, Marine Fisheries, Freshwater Fisheries and Fish Biology, Fish Management Issues and Programs, Chattahoochee River Basin, and Aquaculture. Jerry German (GA-DNR) was Chairman, Vicki Blazer (UGA) Chairman-Elect, Dennis Schmidt (GA-DNR), Recording Secretary, and Dr. Harold Wahlquist (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer.

The 1988 Annual Meeting was held in Augusta, Georgia, February 2-4. Dr Vicki Blazer served as Chairman. Chairman-Elect was Doug Powell (Tennessee Valley Authority). Hal Chestnut (GA-DNR) was Recording Secretary, and Amy McCollum (GA-DNR) Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer. The program included nine presentations concerning the Savannah River and a hydroacoustic demonstration at Clarks Hill Reservoir. Membership had increased to 116.

The 1989 GFWA/GA-AFS Annual Meeting was held at Jekyll Island, Georgia, January 31-February 2. There were 34 presentations concerning Water Quality, Legal Issues, Fish Behavior, Aquaculture, and Fisheries Management. The membership voted to increase dues from \$1.00 to \$3.00 as the treasury had reached perilous lows and revenues were barely covering costs. Doug Powell was Chairman, Amy McCollum Chairman-Elect, Anthony Rabern (GA-DNR) Recording Secretary, and Dr. Bob Reinert Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1990 GFWA/GA-AFS held a Joint Annual Meeting with the newly organized Alabama Fisheries Association in Auburn, Alabama, February 14-16. The Alabama group had expressed interest in a joint meeting since its formation in the late 1980's. The Georgia Chapter was formally recognized by AFS in 1990. The following GFWA officers were elected: Chairman Dr. Bob Reinert; Chairman-Elect Ruthellen Klinger (UGA); and Secretary/Treasurer Spud Woodward (Coastal Resources, GA-DNR). At the 1991 GFWA Business Meeting, Spud Woodward (Coastal Resources GA-DNR) proposed combining GFWA and GAAFS.

At a joint Business Meeting on February 11, 1992, GFWA and GA-AFS voted to merge and continue as GA-AFS. The two groups agreed that the objectives, leadership, and membership of the separate groups were so similar that everyone would be better served by a single organization. Officers of the combined group, now GA-AFS, were Spud Woodward, President; Mike Spencer (GA-DNR) President-Elect, Karen Pritchard (UGA) Secretary/Treasurer, and Chris Martin (GA-DNR), GA-AFS Past-President. The Georgia Fisheries Workers Association had been a very successful organization. It was used as a

model for state fisheries organizations in Alabama and South Carolina. Hopefully, GA-AFS will fulfill the visions and objectives of GFWA founders.

The first annual meeting of the expanded GA-AFS was held in conjunction with the First Mid-year AFS Southern Division Technical Meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, February 24-27, 1993. This multi-state meeting was co-hosted by GA-AFS, the Tennessee Chapter and the AFS Southern Division. This was obviously a big undertaking for such a young organization. The Technical Meeting was a success, and the recently hatched GA-AFS was off to a spectacular start. There was discussion of changing the name of the organization to The Georgia Fisheries Workers Chapter of AFS. The name change was approved by a simple majority at the meeting. Final acceptance would require approval by a two-thirds majority at the next Annual Meeting.

The GA-AFS met February 15-17, 1994, at the Columbus Hilton, Columbus, Georgia. Out-going President, Michael Spencer, noted GAAFS had taken a more proactive stance in political matters during 1993. Georgia Chapter AFS paid for Russ England (GA-DNR) to represent it at legislative meetings in Washington, D.C., and Russ moderated a session and panel discussion concerning advocacy at the Annual Meeting. Thirty-one papers, in seven sessions, were presented. The required two-thirds majority did not approve the name change approved in 1993 and the original GA-AFS name was retained. The logo shown in Figure 3 was adopted from a single submission in a 1992 contest.



Figure 3. Logo adopted by GA-AFS in 1994.

Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert was recognized for “outstanding service” to GA-AFS and presented a plaque and \$100.00. During 1994 Henry Mealing (Normandeau Associates) served as President and John McCollum (GA-DNR) was Secretary/Treasurer. The only elected office to be filled was President-Elect because the Secretary/Treasurers’ term had been extended to 2 years. Mike Alexander (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) was elected President-Elect.

The 1995 Annual Meeting was held in Athens, January 24-26. The following officers served GA-AFS in 1995: President Mike Alexander, President-Elect Lee Keefer (GA-DNR), and Secretary/Treasurer David Higginbotham (UGA). The National AFS Office listed 77 dues-paying members in GA-AFS; however, the Newsletter mailing list compiled from the past few years meeting registrations included 275-300 names. The annual meetings were apparently attracting a lot of non-dues-paying participants, which was what the membership originally intended.

In 1996 GA-AFS went back to the coast for its Annual Meeting. The meeting was held in Brunswick, Georgia, January 23-25. The program included 30 presentations in seven sessions with topics ranging from protecting instream flows to protecting endangered sea turtles. By 1996 meeting registration costs had increased to \$20.00, which included a delicious low-country boil at the banquet. Nominations for President-Elect were Cecil Jennings (UGA) and Bubba Mauldin (GA-DNR). Cecil Jennings was selected.

The 1997 Annual Meeting was held at Unicoi State Park, Helen, Georgia, January 28-30. There were 32 presentations in seven sessions. A major topic of discussion at the business meeting was the proposed wilderness designation of the Rock Gorge section of the Chattooga River, and the potential impacts of this action on sport fisheries. There were 76 dues-paying members listed by the AFS National Office in March 1997. Dr. Cecil Jennings, President, reported that Bubba Mauldin was elected President-Elect and Scott Hendricks (Georgia Power) was selected as Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1998 GA-AFS held a joint meeting with the Georgia Lake Management Society in LaGrange, Georgia, February 11-13. There were 29 presentations in seven sessions. The banquet featured a slide show by nature photographers, artists, and writers, Joe and Monica Cook Share. By December 1998, GA-AFS had become considerably richer with a current balance of \$1528.93 in the bank. The chapter had generously donated \$300.00 to the AFS-2000 fund. The Executive committee agreed to co-host, with the South Carolina Chapter, the AFS Southern Division Mid-year Technical Meeting to be held February 3-6, 2000, in Savannah, Georgia. Matt Thomas (GA-DNR) was selected as President-Elect. Bubba Mauldin was President.

In 1999, the Annual Meeting was held at the Best Western/Howard Johnson in Tifton, Georgia, January 26-28. Erik Dilts (UGA) was recognized for Best Student Paper Award. Jimmy Evans was selected Georgia Fisheries Worker of the Year, and Dr. Bruce Saul was presented a Distinguished Service Award. The Executive Committee also created a new Career Contributions to Fisheries in Georgia award to be presented as appropriate, by nomination only. Matt Thomas was President and Scott Hendricks was President-Elect. Dan Holder was the first recipient of the Career Contribution to Fisheries in Georgia award.

The Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society started the new millennium by co-hosting, with the South Carolina Chapter, the AFS Southern Division Mid-year Technical Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, February 3-6, 2000. The Chapter held its Business Meeting February 4. Arrangements for the Southern Division Meeting had occupied most of the time and energies of GA-AFS during the preceding year. The Southern Division Mid-year Technical Meeting had grown to a major professional gathering since the first one co-hosted by GA-AFS and the Tennessee Chapter in 1993. It included meetings of all the technical committees of the Division, five workshops, over 130 oral presentations, 13 poster presentations, and social mixers. Scott Hendricks served as President and Rob Weller (GA-DNR) was elected President-Elect. Dr. Bob Reinert received the Career Contributions in Fisheries award.

The Governing Board of AFS officially recognized the chapter's first subunit by approving the Bylaws of the University of Georgia Student Subunit on March 18, 2000. This subunit had been active since the mid 80's when Drs. Reinert and Gilbert decided that the UGA undergraduate fisheries student population had reached a critical mass sufficient to support a student chapter. Steven Patrick, Tom Reinert, and Troy Baker, UGA graduate students, gathered most of the original material needed to establish a Student Subunit and John Ruiz was President of the group when the UGA Student Subunit Bylaws were approved by AFS. The Student Subunit maintains GA-AFS and Student Subunit websites (www.uga.edu/ugafish). The websites were developed and are maintained by UGA graduate student Tom Reinert.

In 2001 GA-AFS returned to its favorite Annual Meeting site, Athens, Georgia. The January 30-February 1 program included 37 oral presentations in seven sessions. Dr. Bob Reinert (Figure 4) came out of retirement for a final fling as Door Prize Chairman, much to the delight of all those attending the banquet at Charlie Williams Pinecrest Lodge. Dr. Reinert had gained quite a reputation for flinging prizes across the banquet hall. Bob Rees (GA-DNR) was recognized for his striped bass work with the Career Contributions to Fisheries in Georgia award.



Figure 4. Dr. Bob Reinert enjoys a final fling as Door Prize Chairman, while Dr. Cecil Jennings tries to pilfer goodies prior to legal distribution.

The 2002 Annual Meeting was held in Augusta, Georgia, January 29-31. The eight technical sessions included 40 oral presentations. The first poster session included six presentations. A history of GFWA by Dr. Ronnie J. Gilbert and Tom Reinert, prepared for the 2002 AFS Southern Division Mid-year Technical Meeting, was introduced. Anthony Rabern (GA-DNR) was elected President-Elect and Dr. Bill Davin (Berry College) served his second term as Secretary/Treasurer. Rob Weller (GA-DNR) was President. Tom Reinert was presented the Distinguished Service Award for his work with the UGA Student Chapter and the websites.

The Georgia Chapter of AFS and its predecessor, GFWA, enjoyed success and growth because of the dedicated efforts of their leaders (Table 1.) Individuals recognized for exceptional service during the first thirty-two years included: Beverly Clement, E.H. Armor, Sue Anthony, Dr. Ronnie Gilbert, Dr. Mike Van Den Avyle, Dr. Bob Reinert, Mike Spencer, Dr. Bruce Saul, Matt Thomas, and Tom Reinert. Other members who recently have made significant contributions, but have not yet been recognized, include Spud Woodward for bringing GFWA and GA-AFS together, and Amy McCollum for establishing and leading the Awards Program.



Figure 5. Some Past-Presidents and Chairmen include (l to r): Lee Keefer, Bubba Mauldin, Jerry German, Dr. Mac Rawson, Scott Hendricks, Dr. Bob Reinert, Dan Holder, Dr. Ronnie Gilbert, Spud Woodward, Rob Weller, and 2002 President David Higginbotham.

Table 1. Chairmen of GFWA/Presidents of GA-AFS, 1970-2003.

GFWA Chairman/GA-AFS President	EMPLOYER	YEAR
DR. AL FOX	UGA	1970
DANIEL HOLDER	GA-DNR	1971
MONTE SEEHORN	U.S. FOREST SERVICE	1972
BEVERLY CLEMENT	GA-DNR	1973
EUGENE BRASCHLER	U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE	1974
DR. MAC RAWSON	UGA	1975
ROBERT REES	GA-DNR	1976
RUSS ENGLAND	GA-DNR	1977
JOHN ADAMS	GEORGIA POWER	1978
DON JOHNSON	GA-DNR	1979
JERRY GERMAN	GA-DNR	1980
DR. RONNIE GILBERT	UGA	1981
TIM HESS	GA-DNR	1982
CHUCK COOMER	GA-DNR	1983
SUSAN SHIPMAN	GA-DNR	1984
FRANK RICHARDSON	USFWS	1985
DR. RONNIE GILBERT	UGA	1986
JERRY GERMAN / DR. GEORGE LEWIS	GA-DNR / UGA	1987
DR. VICKI BLAZER	UGA	1988
DOUG POWELL / AMY McCOLLUM	TVA / GA-DNR	1989
DR. BOB REINERT / SPUD WOODWARD	UGA / GA-DNR	1990
AMY McCOLLUM/CHRIS MARTIN	GA-DNR / GA-DNR	1991
SPUD WOODWARD	GA-DNR	1992
MICHAEL SPENCER	GA-DNR	1993
HENRY MEALING	NORMANDEAU ASSOC.	1994
MIKE ALEXANDER	U.S. ARMY COE	1995
LEE KEEFER	GA-DNR	1996
DR. CECIL JENNINGS	UGA	1997
BUBBA MAULDIN	GA-DNR	1998
SCOTT HENDRICKS	GEORGIA POWER	1999
MATT THOMAS	GA-DNR	2000
ROB WELLER	GA-DNR	2001
DAVID HIGGINBOTHAM	UGA	2002
ANTHONY RABERN	GA-DNR	2003