

MAY 2021 ISSUE

# UNDER THE DOCK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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AND MORE

Photo by Chalisa Fabillar

# DOCKSIDE

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY ROBERT BRINGOLF

2021 is a year of promise. Promise of vaccines, attending sporting events once again, mask-burning parties, restaurants returning to full capacity, and being able to sit closer than six feet apart in meetings and classrooms, among other things. In short, we have the promise of better days ahead. There is no getting around it, the past year has been difficult. We have all been affected directly or indirectly by the pandemic that none of us could have ever envisioned. But amidst all of the cancellations, closures, and other challenges, I was reminded of (or learned) some important things: 1) relationships and personal interactions are essential, 2) we can adapt quickly to rapidly changing circumstances, and 3) being outside is more important than ever. Although each of these has personal applications, I'd like to expand here on how each connects to our state AFS chapter.

The inability to participate in an in-person annual chapter meeting was disappointing but certainly understandable. Many of us 'seasoned' pros recognized long ago that relationships are not only one of the biggest aspects of our jobs, but also one of our favorite parts of working in this field. We look forward to catching up with colleagues and friends each year at the annual meeting to share old stories and create new ones. But, as in so many areas of personal and professional



life, Covid forced us to call an audible and pivot to an online environment. I simply can't say enough about the outstanding work by Jamie Roberts, Brent Hess, Rebecca Brown, Jackson Sibley, Dawn Franco, and Kevin Cavallaro to put together and facilitate our first ever (and highly successful!) virtual meeting. The meeting was educational, interactive, and entertaining (thanks Brett Albanese!). This was a shining example of making lemonade out of lemons. Although the virtual meeting experience was very effective for technical content delivery, I (and I suspect many of you) really missed getting together with friends and colleagues who share a passion for fish conservation and management and aquatic science in general. No doubt we're looking forward to the promise of returning to a face-to-face format this year where we can actually see if someone is attending the meeting in their pajamas... Stay tuned for more details soon about the 2022 annual meeting.

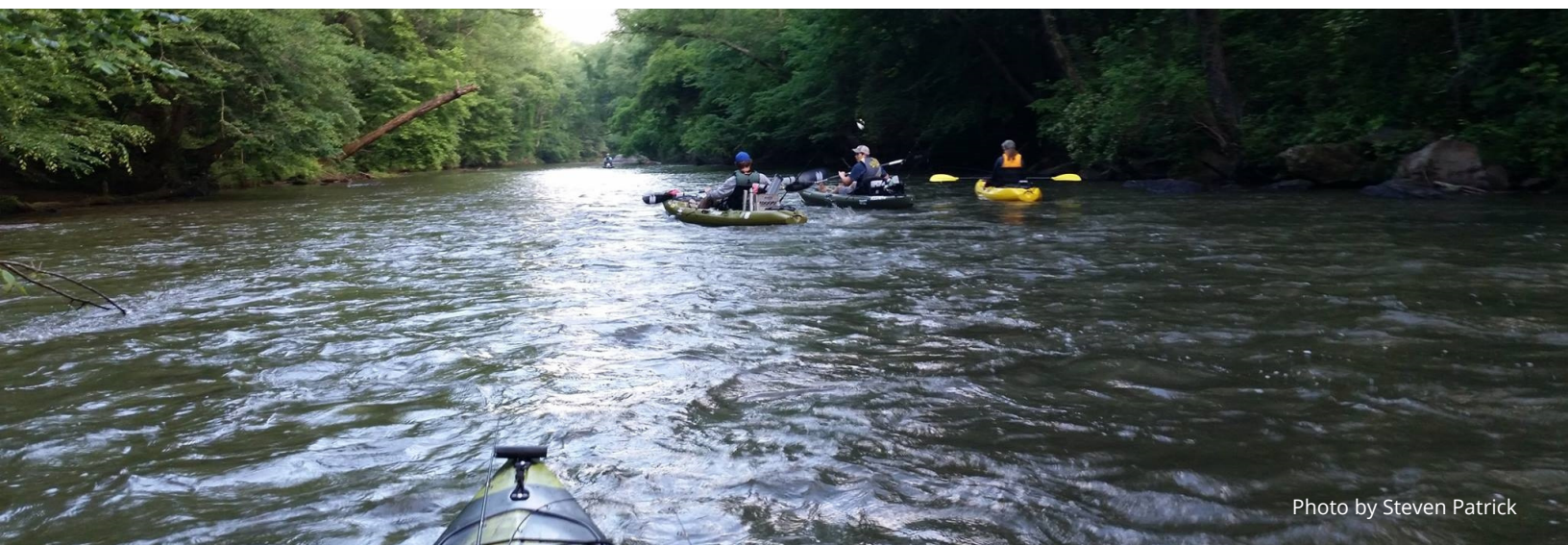
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The sticker reads “Fishing: the original Social Distancing”. Many of us have known this for years and have found great solace in the peace and tranquility of a day on the water. If fishing license sales are any indication, many others have realized this too. It’s apparent that many people used the pandemic as an opportunity to either reconnect with the outdoors or maybe even discover it for the first time. Either way, we have a great opportunity. More people than ever are asking questions about fish and fishing in our state and this is our big chance to help them learn about the special place that Georgia is, with outstanding fishing opportunities ranging from the mountains, through the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, and along the coast. We also have a golden opportunity to help them connect the dots...between license sales and things like fish stocking, boat ramp facilities, and public fishing areas. Or between human activities on the land and their downstream effects on fish and aquatic habitats. Or between invasive species and the risks they pose to our precious (and often rare) native species. Let’s not waste this pandemic and the opportunities it has afforded us.

Among my top priorities as chapter president for this year is building upon our excellent momentum in areas like workshops, student involvement, and professional development activities. We’re very blessed to have such a highly talented and dedicated membership and I’m looking forward to working with each of you to build upon our strengths. But there’s no denying we have some challenges and opportunities as well, particularly in areas like increasing our diversity, inclusiveness, and accessibility. I’m excited about working and growing in these areas and others that will help make us even stronger as a chapter and as individuals.

Better days are just around the corner. I’m thankful for this chapter and the opportunity to work alongside people that inspire me to be better each day as well. Let’s make the most of our opportunities together!





# Mark Your Calendars

## 2022 Annual Meeting

February 1 - 3

Villas by the Sea  
on  
Jekyll Island



# Committee Reports

## Fundraising Committee

Each year at our annual meeting our Chapter hosts a raffle and silent auction to raise funds to support the Chapter's mission. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser support our aquatic education outreach projects, student scholarships, habitat restoration projects, and continuing education workshops.

Our members can help our fundraising efforts by personally contributing an item or soliciting from a local business, organization, or person. Items may include guided fishing trips, handmade flies, custom-made fishing rods, fishing rod/reels, kayak/whitewater rafting trips, original artwork, prints, or other cool fish and wildlife-related items.

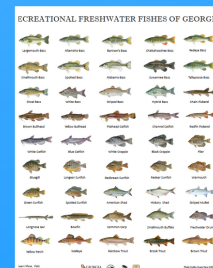
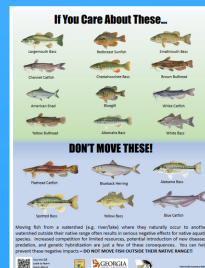
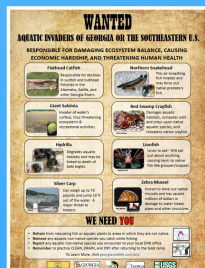
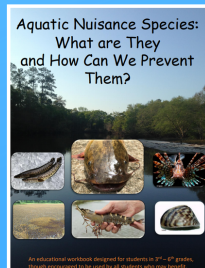
You can contact our fundraising chair, Jackson Sibley, for more information: oceansibley@gmail.com

## Continuing Education Committee

The committee leaders are currently planning for our next in-person training workshop. More information coming soon.

## Communications Committee

The aquatic education outreach team is continually adding new information to the Education Materials page on the website. This is a resource for anyone who is teaching students about the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. Let us know if you have a resource you want us to add to our list. Currently, we have been focussing on the creation of resources to teach about aquatic nuisance species in Georgia. Click on any of the pictures below to download.





# Georgia Chapter AFS

## 2021 - 2022

### Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

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#### Chapter Officers

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|                               |                 |                               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| President                     | Robert Bringolf | bringo@uga.edu                |
| President-Elect               | Marion Baker    | marion.baker@dnr.ga.gov       |
| Past-President                | Jamie Roberts   | jhroberts@georgiasouthern.edu |
| Recording Secretary-Treasurer | Dawn Franco     | dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov        |
| Executive Secretary-Treasurer | Rebecca Brown   | georgiaafs@gmail.com          |
| UGA Subunit President         | Michael Baker   | michael.baker2@uga.edu        |

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#### Committee Chairs

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|                               |                  |                             |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Membership /Student Affairs   | Lauren Carroll   | lauren.carroll25@uga.edu    |
| Ballot                        | Jim Page         | jim.page@dnr.ga.gov         |
| Fundraising                   | Jackson Sibley   | jackson.sibley@dnr.ga.gov   |
| Co-Chair Arrangements         | Kevin Cavallaro  | cavallaro@fultonschools.org |
| Co-Chair Arrangements         | Brent Hess       | brent.hess@dnr.ga.gov       |
| Hutton Junior Scholars        | Marion Baker     | marion.baker@dnr.ga.gov     |
| Nominating                    | Don Harrison     | don.harrison@dnr.ga.gov     |
| Program                       | Carolyn Belcher  | carolyn.belcher@dnr.ga.gov  |
| Chapter Awards                | Steve Sammons    | sammoss@auburn.edu          |
| Student Awards                | Chalisa Fabillar | chalisa.fabillar@dnr.ga.gov |
| Scholarship                   | Patrick O'Rouke  | pmorouke@southernco.com     |
| Webmaster                     | Nicole Rankin    | nicolemrankin@gmail.com     |
| Environmental Concerns        | Jordan Steele    | jordan.horvieth@uga.edu     |
| Audit                         | Clint Peacock    | clint.peacock@dnr.ga.gov    |
| Audit                         | Bill Davin       | bdavin@berry.edu            |
| Co-Chair Continuing Education | Hunter Roop      | hunter.roop@dnr.ga.gov      |
| Co-Chair Continuing Education | Pete Sakaris     | psakaris@ggc.edu            |
| AFS/SDAFS Liason              | Cecil Jennings   | jennings@uga.edu            |



# NEWS & UPDATES

## New Assistant Fisheries Chief



Chris Harper (past Chapter President and one of our Chapter FCC leaders) has a new position...GA DNR Assistant Fisheries Chief. Chris began his career with DNR in 1999 as a Fisheries Technician at the Richmond Hill Hatchery where he later became Hatchery Manager. In 2009, he graduated from Clemson University with a Masters Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and was promoted to Biologist three years later. As a Biologist, Chris was responsible for Georgia's striped bass production program, developed an American shad spawning program, and helped refine our largemouth bass and black crappie spawning programs. More recently, he has taken on the role of warmwater hatchery coordinator working with state, federal, and regional hatcheries to ensure the state's stocking needs are met. His work has also included fisheries management of coastal rivers, aquatic education, habitat conservation, and project oversight of numerous construction projects.

## Georgia Fish Art Contest

Georgia AFS members recently served as judges for the 2021 Georgia Fish Art Contest. This annual contest is open to students in K-12th grade in Georgia, including homeschoolers and those enrolled in remote learning. A free lesson plan titled, "Fish On" is available from Wildlife Forever to introduce students to various fish species, their habitat, and conservation. Students can choose any fish on the official fish list. Entries are judged based upon grade category. There are many specialty awards to compete for, such as the Go Fish Georgia Award and the Guy Harvey Award. The deadline to enter each year is March 31st. If you're interested in serving as a future judge, please contact Marion Baker at [Marion.Baker@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Marion.Baker@dnr.ga.gov).



**Be sure you visit the Go Fish Education Center Website for more information about their different programs and the facilities**





## Professional Spotlight

Carolyn Belcher

Carolyn Belcher is the Chief of Marine Fisheries for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division (GADNR CRD). She has worked for the state of Georgia for 25 years; 6 years with the University of Georgia Marine Extension and 19 years with CRD. Carolyn has been an active member of the Georgia Chapter AFS for many years. She has served as a Chapter President and has been the Program Chair for the past four years. Some people might be surprised to find out Carolyn enjoys performing dissections and identifying fish.



### What got you first interested in fisheries science?

*I was hired with CRD for my statistics background, but fieldwork was also part of the position. I enjoyed the fieldwork as much, if not more than my computer projects. I quickly understood the importance of understanding the biology of the species when developing models for them.*



### Where did you go to school and what did you study?

*I attended the University of Rhode Island where I earned my undergraduate (1992) and Master's (1994) degrees in Statistical Science. Part of our curriculum required us to take classes in an applied field; I pursued Biology/Ecology. I held a Research Assistantship with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Apex Predator Program during my Master's program where I was responsible for evaluating sampling approaches used during longline survey cruises for sharks. While working for Marine Extension, I began working on my Ph.D. through UGA's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. I studied shark nurseries in coastal Georgia waters. I finished my degree in 2008.*

### What do you most enjoy about your current position and what do you find most challenging?

*I enjoy my role as a civil servant and working to support the public trust. The biggest challenge is managing people's expectations. This applies both in the workplace and when interacting with the public and stakeholders.*

*"Carolyn is the consummate professional; she is tenacious, resourceful, and resilient! She is well-respected for her steadfast commitment and contributions to fisheries management in Georgia and beyond. I've observed with admiration and pride as she has excelled with increasingly challenging agency and professional society leadership roles. I have very much enjoyed our past research collaborations and professional collegiality. I also am very grateful for her continued friendship."*

~ Cecil Jennings, Adjunct Professor Emeritus and Former Leader of the GA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia





## Professional Spotlight Continued



### Describe the most rewarding experience you have had during your career.

*I was the Chair of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for six years. During that time, The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (MSA) was reauthorized. The regional SSC's roles were strengthened under the MSA and the SSC was tasked with developing Allowable Biological Catch Control Rules which were used to determine fishing levels that would prevent overfishing for managed species. This experience increased my self-confidence and provided me with an amazing opportunity to collaborate with some of the best stock assessment and fisheries management professionals in the US.*

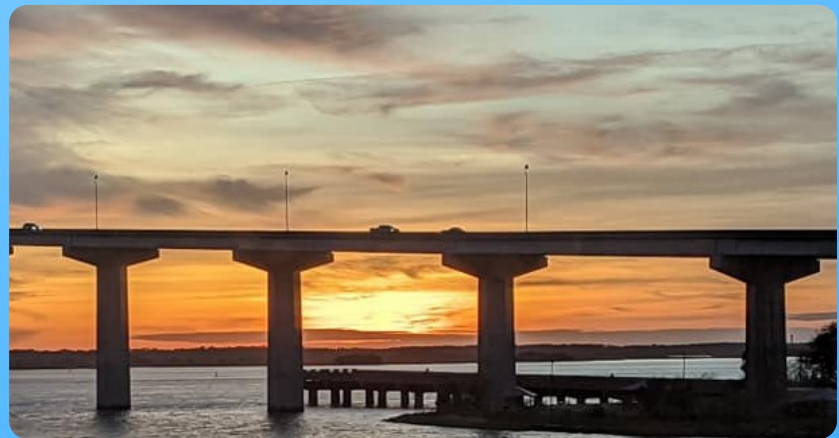
### Describe one or two projects you are currently working on as part of your current position.

*Most of my current job duties are administrative. The Marine Fisheries Section (MFS) is responsible for managing commercial and recreation species of fish and invertebrates in state waters. The MFS has approx. 35 full-time and part-time employees and four units: Research and Surveys, Fisheries Statistics, Habitat and Boating Access, and Vessel Support.*

*Additionally, I am one of three representatives for Georgia on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The council's role is to develop fishery management plans which are used to manage fishery resources in federal waters. State waters are managed out to three miles, whereas federal waters extend offshore from 3 to 200 miles.*

### What advice would you give to someone pursuing a profession in fisheries science?

*Never turn down an opportunity, no matter how small. Some of my best opportunities came from lower-paying, short-term positions. I gained experiences and contacts I would not have had access to otherwise. Explore every avenue you can when you are not in class including developing skills related to boating and gear deployment as well as database management and analysis.*



### What is your favorite quote?

*"In wildness is the preservation of the world"  
- Henry David Thoreau*

### What is something about yourself that others may be surprised to know about you?

*I discovered running in my late 40s and I am fairly competitive in my age group. My best time is 26:39 for a 5K distance.*





# Student Spotlight

Victoria Davis

Victoria Davis recently graduated with honors from Georgia Gwinnett College, earning a B.S. degree in Environmental Science. Victoria presented at the 2020 Georgia Chapter AFS annual meeting in Augusta and earned third place for Best Student oral presentation.



## Now that you have graduated, what is your next step?

*My next step is to pursue a master's degree in fisheries science. Until then, I'm planning on finishing up a few projects and hopefully get some publications under my belt.*

## What attracted you to learn about fisheries science?

*I've always been drawn to learning about the environment and how different organisms interact with it and each other. My experience scuba diving in Thailand ignited my passion for learning more about aquatic ecosystems. It took being immersed into a whole new world, the ocean, that inspired me tremendously. Upon returning from that trip, I started gaining field and lab experience in freshwater stream fishes as well as invasive fish species in Georgia. It made me realize how much more is going on in the streams, rivers, and lakes around me and it became a goal of mine to explore that curiosity.*

## Describe some projects you have worked on that are fisheries-related.

*My first big project that was fisheries-related was to analyze the diets of the blue catfish, which is invasive to rivers in Georgia. I realized during this project how impactful and beneficial diet analyses could be to current fisheries management practices. It was gruesome at times, but it was incredibly insightful to know what they ate and what type of influence they have on native fish populations.*

*I had the unique opportunity to intern with the GA DNR last summer. My primary goal was to assist with the Flathead Removal Program. This experience allowed me to get familiar with boating operations and electroshock fishing techniques. Spending all day every day on the river wasn't a bad gig either!*

*A current project of mine is assessing the effect of urban land use on the dynamics of green sunfish and redbreast sunfish in a small tributary off of the Yellow River, Ga.*



*"Victoria was one of the best students and undergraduate researchers I've had in my 15+ years as full-time faculty. Victoria is very smart, thinks critically and creatively, and shows great follow-through on project assignments. She has an extremely bright future and will surely make a positive impact in fisheries conservation and management."*

*~ Dr. Peter Sakaris, Professor Georgia Gwinnett College*



## Student Spotlight Continued

### What is your favorite memory from being at Georgia Gwinnett College?

*When I reflect on my time at GGC, I think about all the people I met. It was an invigorating experience to be surrounded by like-minded individuals that share similar interests in the sciences. GGC is very much a place where you can build up a network of peers where everyone grows and learns together.*

*My favorite experience was a month-long study trip around Georgia where a class of about 10 of us learned about the biological communities in Georgia. It was on this trip that I found a passion for fieldwork and a motivation to learn more about the beautiful state that I grew up in.*



### What advice would you give other students?

*Take your time and enjoy the process. It can be challenging but if you believe in yourself and what you're doing, the end result is worth it. Take as many opportunities as you can, whether that's getting involved in clubs, volunteering, or getting different certifications—all of those things will help boost your resume and make you stand out to future employers. Most importantly, do your best and have fun with it!*



### In 10 years, what would you like to have accomplished?

*I would love to be settled into a career related to fisheries, potentially with a state or federal agency. I hope to be in a position where I have an opportunity to inspire young scientists. In 10 years, I hope to be just as curious about the environment as I am now and to still have a passion for adventure.*

### What are some of your favorite extracurricular activities?

*I enjoy most outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, and camping. I recently became interested in gardening/landscaping and I have a succulent collection that I haven't managed to kill... yet! I love spending time with my family, especially my nieces and nephews. When they get a little older, I would love to take them on adventures and teach them everything I know!*

### What is your favorite quote?

*"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."*

*-Wayne Gretzky*

### What is something about yourself that others may be surprised to know about you?

*I am a first-generation college graduate with no student loans! It took me 8 total years to finish my bachelor's degree. In between semesters, I was living life, working many jobs, and saving up money for tuition. I think this is important to share, because although it took me longer than the "traditional" amount of time, I am still in a position now with many achievements and a bright future ahead of me. I hope that sharing this about me will inspire someone to pursue their education, especially if it's later in life or if it takes longer than expected.*





# HOW TO PLAN FOR A SUCCESSFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Sometime during your career, you might be called upon to facilitate a training workshop or teach a group of students about a fisheries-related subject. No matter your audience, you should consider these 10 steps to a successful learning experience for your participants.

1. Identify your learning goals/objectives
2. Learn about your audience
3. Create a game plan
4. Have a timeline
5. Organize how you will set the tone
6. Plan the introductions
7. Review the agenda and rules
8. Implement the lesson/activities
9. Execute a closure activity
10. Follow-up for feedback





# Guidelines for A Successful Learning Experience

## Planning and Preparation

### 1. Learning Goal and Learning Objectives

*Learning goals reflect what you want your participants to know and understand by the end of the training workshop. Learning goals are broad and not measurable unlike learning objectives. Learning objectives are measurable and observable and indicate a specific learning outcome that supports the learning goal.*

- What is the overall desired outcome for your attendees (learning goal)?
  - Learn a new concept, technique, or method
  - Develop a new habit
  - Enhance their current knowledge
  - Certification
  - What are your learning objectives to guide your training?
  - The number of learning objectives should be appropriate for the length of the training workshop



### 2. Know Your Audience

- What is their current level of knowledge or experience?
- Is your audience there by choice or are they required to attend?
- What do they expect from you?

### 3. Game Plan

- How will the room be set up?
  - Can seating be arranged so that participants are facing one another and there is plenty of space for participants to move around?
  - Do you need extra empty space for activities?
- What materials will you need? What do the attendees need to bring with them on a training day?
  - Provide attendees a list of what they need to bring when they register for your training workshop
  - Send a reminder email/text to attendees the day before the training workshop
  - Print copies of PPT, agenda, and other pertinent handouts for all attendees prior to the workshop
  - Provide name tags for participants
- Is there anything attendees can do prior to attending the training workshop?
  - Watch a video, read an article, research a concept/topic
  - Complete a pre-assessment (this can let you know what your attendees know and do not know to help you plan your training workshop)
- How much time is available?



- Plan your breaks appropriately for the restroom and refreshments. Your breaks should be at least every 60 - 90 minutes.
- Is lunch provided or do attendees need to go out for lunch? How much time will they need to travel and eat comfortably?
- Be flexible because sometimes equipment malfunctions, you might want to extend the time for an activity that is going well, or participants finish an activity faster than you expected.
- Provide time for participants to socialize and get to know each other. Workshops are a valuable tool to create a community of learners.
- How will you address all learning styles – visual, auditory, kinesthetic?
  - Each lecture/instructor-centered session should be between 20 and 30 minutes and then followed up with practice, reflection, questions, etc.
  - When able to include both group and individual activities
  - Include various kinds of audio-visual material
  - Provide opportunities for practice of a particular technique or method that is being presented
- How will you generate interest and keep participants engaged?
  - Activities/hands-on practice
    - Practice any activity which you are doing for the first time. Do not be that person which says “I don’t know...this is the first time I have done this activity.”
    - Allow plenty of time for participants to practice.
    - Provide time for participants to reflect on their own and with others after they all complete the activity. (Reflection is the key to learning)
  - Thought-provoking questions which can encourage critical thinking and stimulate discussions can be used prior to a lesson to motivate participants
  - Role-playing/case studies to provide practice
- How will you evaluate the learning?
  - Observe the participant performing a task
  - Ask questions at the end of each activity
  - Written summative assessment if needed for certification purposes
- How will you have the participants introduce themselves to each other at the start of the training workshop? (Remember you have a diversity of participants and some people are not as outgoing as others)
  - Icebreaker

#### 4. Create Your Timeline

- 5 – 10 minutes to introduce yourself and the purpose of the training workshop
- 10 – 20 minutes for participants to get to know one another
- 10 – 15 minutes to review agenda and house rules





- Training (a good tip is 20/25 minutes of instruction, 30/40 minutes of practice, and 10/15 minutes of review/reflection)
- 10 – 15-minute restroom/snack breaks every 60 or 90 minutes
- 15 – 20 minutes for closure at the end of the training workshop

### **Implementation/Facilitation**

*It is important to keep track of time – slight deviation is ok, but be cognizant of breaks and lunch and provide time for closure at the end.*

#### **5. Set the Tone**

- Introduce yourself to participants as they arrive
- Provide handouts to participants to pick up before they entering the room
- Ensure seating is comfortable and participants can easily move about

#### **6. Introductions**

- Introduce yourself and the workshop
- Icebreaker for participants to get to know each other

#### **7. Review agenda and rules**

- Include your name and email on the agenda
- Review house rules
  - Location of restrooms and break area
  - No food or drink in lab areas
  - How to ask questions

#### **8. Lesson/Activities**

- Watch your time and try to stay on schedule – but be flexible
- Reflection after each activity



### **Feedback/Reflection**

#### **9. Closure**

*(A great way for participants to summarize, review, and demonstrate their understanding of the content. Depending on your time and situation you might consider asking participants to think about what they learned and ask a few participants to share.)*

1. First, have each participant write down three things they learned – give them 3 minutes
2. Next group the participants into teams of 3 or 4 and give each group 5 minutes to generate a list of at least 5 things they learned (can be more)
3. Conclude with each team sharing one thing they learned and it has to be different from what the other teams shared

#### **10. Follow-up/Workshop Evaluation**

- Send an email to participants instead of asking to complete a form at the end of the workshop (people tend to hurry through onsite evaluations)
  - Include any resources/links shared or discussed during training
  - Google form survey - should take participants no more than 10 minutes



We greatly appreciate all of our sponsors and donors who help make our annual meeting a success and help support our Chapter's mission.

**THE 2021 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER NET PROCEEDS \$3,137.00**

**Individual Contributors**

- Captain Bert Deener
- Steven Patrick
- Camm Swift
- Carolyn Belcher
- Kady Lyons
- Chris Harper
- Richard Schulte
- Lauren Carroll
- Dan Marotta
- Rebecca Brown

*Thank you all who donated and/or participated in our annual fundraiser*

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# DID YOU KNOW

## Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center hosts Fish-n-Learn Programs



*GA Department of Natural Resources  
WRD Fisheries Chief Scott Robinson  
mentoring a young angler*

The Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center hosts a series of programs focusing on the development of fishing skills and conservation knowledge. The Fish-n-Learn programs are open to children ages 8 - 15. Classes include equipment and casting techniques, regulations, biology and habitat, and more.

More information about the Fish-n-Learn programs can be found on their website. [georgiawildlife.com/FishAndLearn](http://georgiawildlife.com/FishAndLearn)



## National Fishing and Boating Week is June 5 - 13, 2021

National Fishing and Boating Week were initiated by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Take Me Fishing. During that week Georgia has 2 FREE fishing days - June 5th and June 12th. There will be many Kids Fishing Events around the state during that week. This is a great opportunity to mentor or teach someone new to fish.



It is also a great time for fisheries professionals and students to review boating safety. (GADNR Boating Education: [gadnrle.org/boating-education](http://gadnrle.org/boating-education))

Let's not forget Cecil Jennings lunch discussion during our January virtual meeting: " You, your boat, and its trailer...Murphy was an optimist." A lot of great advice was shared by Cecil and several of our members.





# Props!

**Oakley Baker (Age 3)**



**Brandon Baker**



**Garrett  
Page**



**Jay Shelton**



**Will Lancett**



**Hunter Roop**



Do you have a picture of a fish you recently caught and want to share? Send your pics to Rebecca Brown at [georgiaafs@gmail.com](mailto:georgiaafs@gmail.com)



## Safety Tip

The potential for personal injury and disease from handling fish is one of the greatest, and most underestimated, hazards for fisheries biologists. Hazards include contacting numerous disease-causing organisms; punctures, cuts, or abrasion injuries from fish spines, gill rakers, teeth, or opercula; and secondary infections.

Biologists should not take lightly wounds sustained from handling fish. As soon as possible the wound should be disinfected and bandaged.

The wound can be disinfected with alcohol, bacitracin, Neosporin, or any other topical antibiotic ointment. Pain from wounds can be alleviated with acetaminophen or ibuprofen. In addition to first aid kits, sampling crews can prepare their own specialized fish handling kit including betadine, alcohol, towelettes, and a small scrub brush to wash and disinfect hands after handling fish. Similar kits should be standard equipment for all fish sampling crews.

Source: <https://fisheries.org/policy-media/science-guidelines/fisheries-safety-handbook/>

## Fin and Games

- Is a fish species
- No teeth and no stomach so they need to feed constantly
- Each eye moves independently
- Some species mate for life
- Males bear the young

### The Seahorse



Photo by Anne DuPont

**What is a group of seahorses called?**

(answer on next page)

## Fishing Tips and Tricks

When fishing for bass make sure your bait matches the prey the bass are hunting. As the water warms in the Spring a buzz bait is a good choice to pull from your tackle box. And if shad are present in the pond, it is suggested you use a walking bait that closely resembles the injured shad that bass like to feed upon.

## Fish of the Month

### Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Bluegill are one of the most popular sportfish in the United States. Many of us probably recall our childhood fishing for bluegills while sitting on the bank of a pond. Spawning takes place between April and September and females can spawn up to five times a year. They nest in colonies where the male constructs a circular nest that is part of a network of nesting sites that look similar to a "honeycomb." These spawning beds can be found in 2 - 4 feet of water or if the water is clear they might be as deep as 10 - 15 feet. The Georgia state record for bluegill is 3 lbs. 5 oz.



Photo by Melissa Bacile



# Things to Remember

Have you renewed your 2021 Georgia Chapter Membership?

Your membership helps support aquatic education outreach projects in Georgia.

Visit our website for more information.  
<https://gaafs.org/>

You can pay for your membership online  
[GA AFS STORE](#)

Or you can send a \$10 check made out to Georgia AFS  
to  
Rebecca Brown  
241 Apple Ridge 2  
Dawsonville, GA 30534



As you may know, AFS moved its Annual Meeting dates to November 6-10, 2021. In an effort to address travel questions and other uncertainties, the abstract submission deadline for the 2021 AFS Baltimore Annual Meeting has been extended to August 16, 2021.

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**



# SUGGESTIONS? LET MINNOW!

**You can contribute. We need your input. Help keep the GA AFS members connected.**

Are you working on an interesting project you'd like to share with other Georgia AFS members? Do you have news to share with colleagues? Please make note of upcoming events, projects, personnel changes, issues, or anything else of interest to other Georgia AFS members, and pass them on to us for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Do you have any pictures you want to share with us to use on our website or newsletter? We are always looking for fish pictures, pictures of you working, aquatic scenic pictures, etc.

Do you have someone you want to nominate for the professional or student spotlight?

Have you caught a fish recently you want to submit for our "Props?" page? We also welcome immediate family member pictures of fish they recently caught.

You can send your nominations, requests, pictures, suggestions, and comments to Rebecca Brown at [georgiaafs@gmail.com](mailto:georgiaafs@gmail.com).

## Stay Connected

### GAAFS Website

[gaafs.org](http://gaafs.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/groups/georgiaafs.org](https://facebook.com/groups/georgiaafs.org)

### Twitter

[@GeorgiaAfs](https://twitter.com/GeorgiaAfs)

### Instagram

[@georgiaafs](https://www.instagram.com/georgiaafs)

This newsletter is the result of a team effort. Several people have contributed content, a suggestion, a comment, a picture, an edit, etc. Thank you all who helped create this newsletter.