

Under the Dock

May/June 2023



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Mark Your Calendar

- **May 15-18**
 - 1st Latin American & Caribbean Fisheries Congress, Cancun, Mexico
- **May 21**
 - World Fish Migration Day
- **May 23**
 - Georgia AFS Virtual Business Meeting
 - 3pm (Microsoft Teams)
- **June 3 - 11**
 - National Boating & Fishing Week
- **July 11-14**
 - ICAST 2023, Orlando
- **August 20 - 24**
 - AFS 153rd annual meeting, Michigan
- **January 31 - February 4**
 - SDAFS annual meeting - Chattanooga, TN

The newsletter is interactive - if the font is blue you can click on it for more information. Click on a laptop image for a video



We are looking for high-quality photos to use for the newsletter cover page. We are in need of pictures showing fisheries professionals and students working (lab, fieldwork, etc.).



Do you have an idea for an article?

We welcome a broad range of submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Articles range from 250 to 1200 words.

Contact us at GeorigaAFS@gmail.com if you have questions. We also welcome suggestions for an aquatic species to highlight, safety tips, and ideas for the sections *Did You Know* and *The Bookshelf*.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the American Fisheries Society and the Georgia Chapter is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

You can help support our mission by becoming a member of Georgia AFS, joining the American Fisheries Society, becoming a Georgia AFS Sponsor, donating to our annual fundraiser, or participating in our annual meeting. Visit our website for more info.

<https://gaafs.org/>

ON THE CALENDAR

May 19 Endangered Species Day

Every year on the third Friday in May, thousands of people around the world participate in Endangered Species Day by learning about and taking action to protect threatened and endangered species.



Atlantic sturgeon



Conasauga blue burrower



Altamaha spiny mussel



Conasauga logperch



Etowah darter



Shinyrayed pocketbook

Along with the 18th annual Endangered Species Day, 2023 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a landmark piece of legislation that institutionalized our national commitment to the conservation of fish, plants and wildlife and the places they call home.

June is National Rivers Month

The United States is home to about 2.9 million miles of river. Take a moment this month to think about your favorite waterway and how it relates to ecosystems, drinking water, recreation, and energy.

- In the United States, one in every three people gets their drinking water from a river or stream
- Rivers are good for our economy: people spend about \$97 billion each year on river-related recreation and tourism
- Fish and wildlife depend on rivers, especially during breeding and migration
- In the forty-eight contiguous states, there are only forty-two free-flowing rivers greater than 125 miles in length, and Georgia contains five such rivers: the Flint, Ogeechee, Satilla, St. Marys, and Suwannee

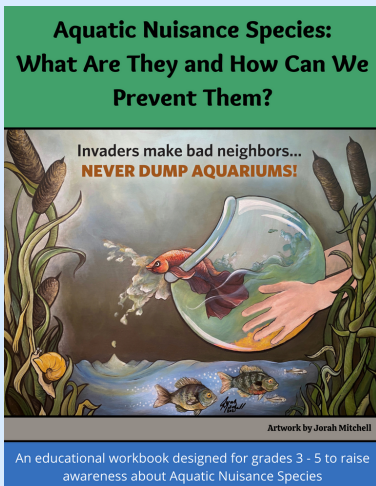


NEWS & UPDATES

Georgia AFS at Etowah Wildlife Expo

A few of our Georgia AFS members volunteered to join Georgia DNR WRD Fisheries at the 2nd annual Etowah Wildlife Expo held in Canton March 25th and 26th. This two-day event was a celebration of Georgia fish and wildlife through live entertainment, expert demonstrations, and local wildlife/nature artists and vendors.

Georgia AFS volunteers answered questions about aquatic invasive species and handed out more than 200 aquatic nuisance species workbooks.



Both workbooks can be downloaded for free from the [Georgia AFS website](#). An interactive pdf for both workbooks is also available. The interactive copy includes links to videos and websites that provide additional learning resources.

Printables (black and white pages) for each workbook are available to download for anyone who needs to print multiple copies.

Georgia AFS 2023 Virtual Business Meeting

The 2023 Georgia AFS virtual business meeting will be held May 23rd at 3pm. All Georgia AFS members will receive an email that includes the information needed to join the Microsoft Teams virtual meeting along with an agenda. Last year's [business meeting minutes](#) are available on the Chapter website for everyone to read prior to May 23rd. Remember, if you want to vote on Chapter business you must also be a member of the Parent Society (AFS).

AFS Membership



GAAFS
Membership



Georgia AFS Spends Earth Day at CoastFest

Georgia AFS celebrated Earth Day at [CoastFest](#), the largest outreach event hosted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division. This was a FREE event held at Mary Ross Waterfront Park in Brunswick, Georgia. The event included educational programs, touch tanks, wildlife viewing opportunities, and exhibitors from other partner agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Jim Page brought the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division Aquatic Nuisance Species trailer to the event. He was joined by Rebecca Brown and the two of them talked to visitors about how aquatic invasive species impact Georgia's aquatic environments as well as people.



Review of Georgia AFS Bylaws

It is recommended that organizations review their bylaws every two years. The Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee Chair ask Georgia Chapter members to review the [Georgia Chapter bylaws](#) for necessary amendments. Suggested amendments should be sent to Dawn Franco (Dawn.Franco@dnr.ga.gov) by June 8, 2023. The EXCOM and Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee Chair will review suggested amendments during the review of the Chapter bylaws later this summer. Per [AFS Constitution and Rules](#)...

Amendments of unit bylaws must be reviewed by the Management Committee for conformity with the Society's Constitution, Rules, and Procedures, and do not take effect until the Executive Director has sent written notice of their approval by the Management Committee.

Are you interested in volunteering with Georgia AFS or AFS?

Often times during the annual meeting or other events we have members approach an EXCOM member or a committee chair and say they would like to volunteer their services. Once the event is over and we all go back to our jobs and homes we often forget the names of those who want to volunteer to help because so much was going on at the time. Please understand if a member of the EXCOM or a committee chair forgot to contact you it was not because your services were not wanted. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering to serve on a committee, facilitate a workshop, or help during the annual meeting.

Georgia AFS EXCOM Contact Information

President: Ani Escobar (anakela.escobar@dnr.ga.gov)

President-Elect: Chad Kaiser (chad.kaiser@dnr.ga.gov)

Recording Secretary-Treasurer: Dawn Franco (dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov)

Executive Secretary-Treasurer: Rebecca Brown (GeorgiAFS@gmail.com)

Immediate Past-President: Marion Baker (marion.baker@dnr.ga.gov)

Visit the Chapter
website for more details
about each of the
committees

gaafs.org/committees

Georgia Committee Chair Contact Information

Membership and Student Affairs: (OPEN)

Fundraising: Jackson Sibley (oceansibley@gmail.com)

Arrangements: Annual Meeting Setup: Kevin Cavallaro (cavallaro@fultonschools.org)

Annual Meeting Registration Table: Brent Hess (brent.hess@dnr.ga.gov)

Continuing Education Committee: Peter Sakaris (psakaris@ggc.edu)

Hunter Roop (hunter.roop@dnr.ga.gov)

Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions: Dawn Franco (dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov)

Student Presentations Awards: Chalisa Fabillar (chalisa.fabillar@dnr.ga.gov)

Professional Awards: Steve Sammons (sammoss@auburn.edu)

Georgia Chapter Scholarships: Donna McDowell (donna.mcdowell@dnr.ga.gov)

Communications: Rebecca Brown (GeorgiAFS@gmail.com)

Program: Carolyn Belcher (carolyn.belcher@dnr.ga.gov)

Audit: Clint Peacock (clint.peacock@dnr.ga.gov) and **(OPEN)**

Environmental Concerns: Jordan Steele (jordan.h.steele@gmail.com)

AFS has several different committees in which professional and student members can volunteer their time and expertise.

American Fisheries Society Committees

Georgia AFS Needs New Chair for Membership and Student Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Lauren Carroll-Everett is graduating and will be stepping down as the leader of this very important committee. Lauren will continue to serve on the committee and will assist the new chair. Contact President Ani Escobar (anakela.escobar@dnr.ga.gov) if you are interested in leading this committee.

The Membership and Student Affairs Committee shall consist of at least one fisheries professional and one fisheries student. The Chair of the committee can be either a professional or a student in good standing with the Society. Members of this committee should be able to explain to our members and potential members the benefits of being a member of Georgia AFS as well as being a member of the Parent Society.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Recruit membership and participation in Georgia AFS and the Parent Society
- Collaborate with the Chapter President to organize the Student-Mentor Luncheon held during the Chapter annual meeting



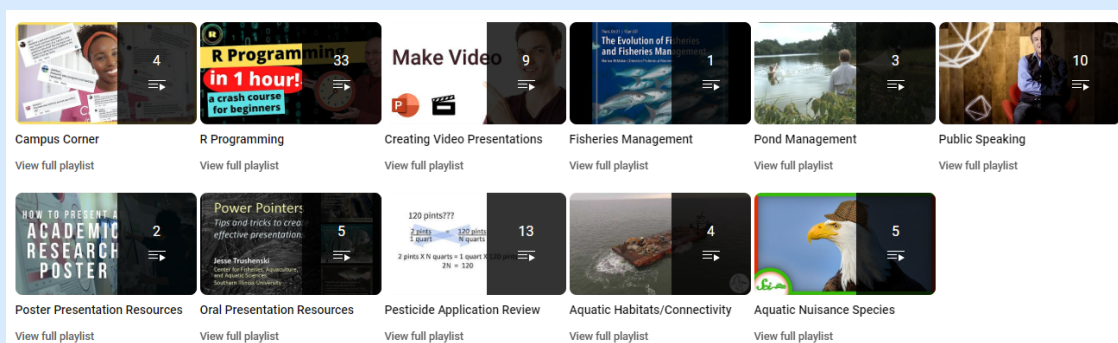
Two Requests from Communications Chair

Do you want to write an article for the Chapter newsletter?

The Chapter newsletter welcomes a broad range of article submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Articles range from 250 to 1200 words. Contact Rebecca Brown (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com) for more details.

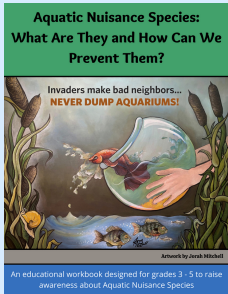
Do you have a suggestion for the Georgia AFS YouTube Channel?

The Chapter has a YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@GeorgiaAFS) that includes a playlist of helpful videos for our members. You can email your suggestions to GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com.



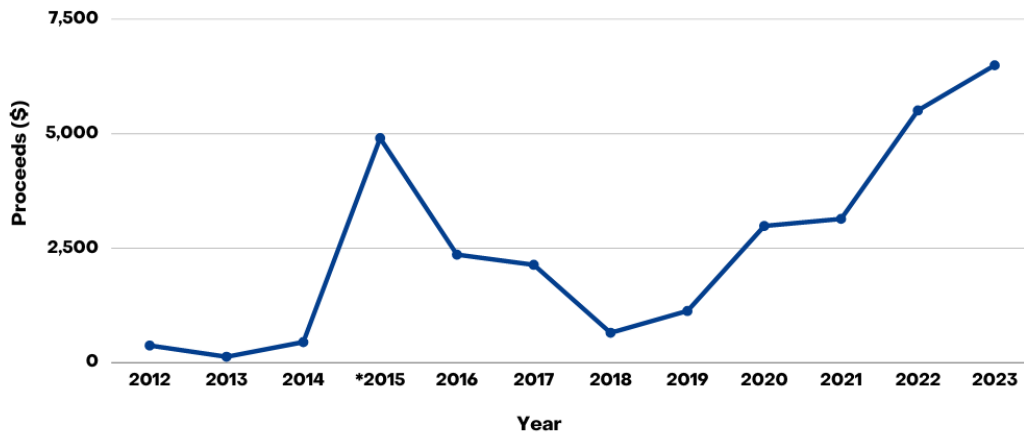
Georgia AFS Annual Fundraiser

Thanks to our fundraising committee and our fundraising donors the Chapter has increased the amount of money it raises each year to support aquatic education outreach projects, aquatic habitat restoration projects, fisheries continuing education workshops, and student travel awards. Let Jackson Sibley (oceansibley@gmail.com) know if you have something you want to donate for the 2024 fundraiser or if you want to join the fundraising committee.



GAAFS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PROCEEDS

*2015 was the year the Georgia Chapter hosted the Southern Division American Fisheries Society annual meeting. That meeting was attended by 700 people and we increased raffle tickets from \$1 each to \$2 each.



Upcoming Events for the Family



Great Outdoors Day on the Atlanta BeltLine: (Sat. May 6, 10 am – 1 pm): will feature interactive exhibitions from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, including live wildlife, archery, Gateway to **Fishing casting lessons**, and numerous other family-friendly activities highlighting outdoor activity and local wildlife. Between demonstrations, stop by booths for information on fun summer activities. Atlanta conservation organizations, such as Trees Atlanta, The Nature Conservancy, and Greening Youth Foundation, will also be in attendance to share the work local groups are doing to protect our air, water, land, and wildlife.

Location: Activity field next to Historic Fourth Ward Skatepark, adjacent to Atlanta BeltLine Eastside Trail, 830 Willoughby Way NE, Atlanta 30312



Keeping Georgia Wild Family Festival: (Sat. May 20, 2023, 9 am – 2 pm): Free admission includes an array of activities that focus on Georgia wildlife, conservation, and outdoor recreational opportunities. Kids can try archery, **fishing**, shooting sports, and solar viewing with the Charlie Elliott Astronomy club. There will be outdoor exhibitors, live animal presentations, arts and crafts, prizes and more. Attendees will also get to enjoy a free hot dog lunch (while supplies last).

National Fishing & Boating Week

June 3 - 11

National Fishing and Boating Week is a great time to review boating safety, plan a fishing trip with the family, or teach a friend how to fish. Fishing and boating allow you to release stress, relax, and enjoy the outdoors. In Georgia, there are two FREE fishing days held during National Fishing and Boating Week: June 3 & June 10, 2023.

THINGS YOU CAN DO DURING THIS WEEK

- Introduce a friend or family member to the sport of fishing. It might help to take them somewhere they have a better chance of catching a fish if you want to "hook" them into the sport. Try one of Georgia's [Public Fishing Areas](#) or one of our [Georgia State Parks](#).
- Volunteer to help with one of the Kids Fishing Events near you. Check the [Georgia DNR Events Calendar](#) for a listing of KFEs in Georgia. Click on the name of the event to find the contact information.
- Visit the [Go Fish Education Center Aquarium and Hatchery](#). Learn about Georgia's native fish species and take your kids fishing at the casting pond.
- Arrange a fishing trip for you and a friend. Visit one of our fundraising donors and book a fishing adventure.
- Review [boating safety](#) with family and friends. Did you know all persons born on or after January 1, 1998, must complete a [boat education course](#) before operating a boat on state waters?
- Rent a boat if you don't have one of your own. You can visit the website of [Classic City Marinas](#) (one of our fundraising donors) or other marinas in your area about their boat rentals.



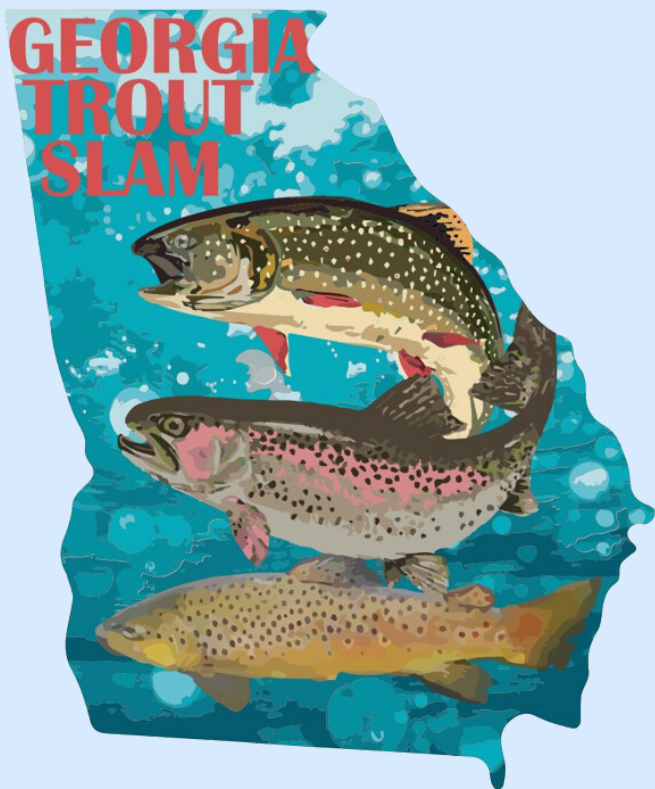
Reagan Patrick caught this whopper while fishing with her granddad. Photo Credit: Steven Patrick

BOOK A FISHING TRIP WITH ONE OF OUR FUNDRAISING DONORS

(Click on logo to visit their website)



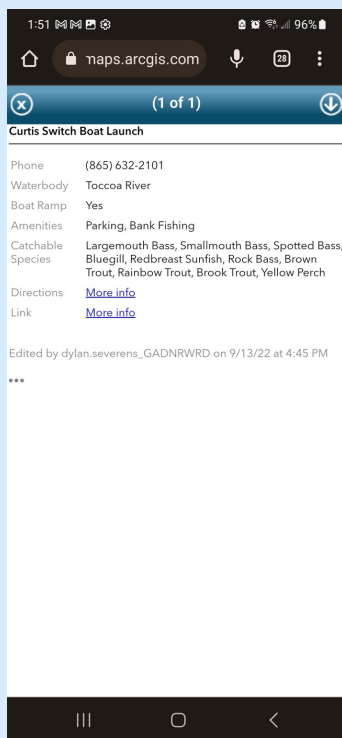
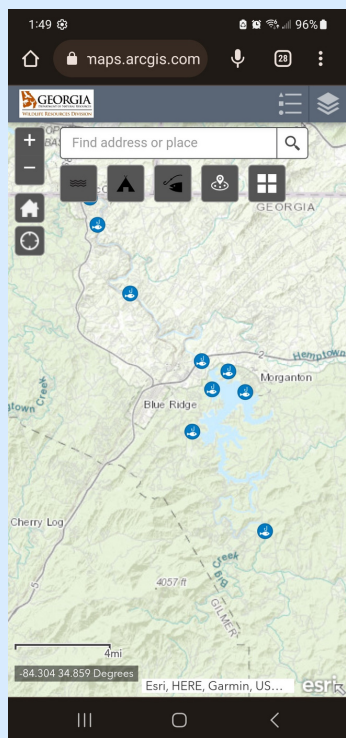
Georgia Trout Slam



Georgia Department of Natural Resources WRD Fisheries has developed a new angler recognition program called the Georgia Trout Slam. Anyone who catches all three different species of trout (Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brown Trout) in Georgia within the same year are eligible to apply. Anglers who complete the Georgia Trout Slam may submit an application to earn prizes like the customized sticker pictured on the left.

Visit the [Georgia DNR Trout Slam](#) website for the additional details, the application form, and helpful tips for trout fishing in Georgia.

Do you need help finding places to catch trout in Georgia? Download the [Go Outdoors Georgia](#) app. Tap on Fishing Areas to view the interactive map.



UGA Fisheries Society Year in Review

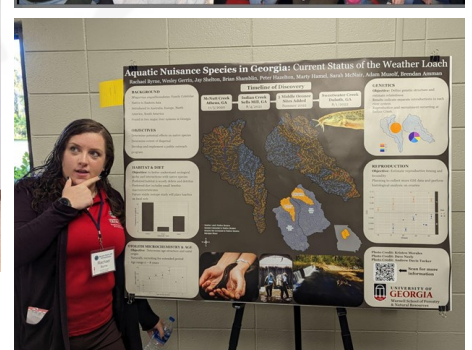
The University of Georgia Student Fisheries Society had a very productive year. A very big thanks to all of the students who volunteered their time and experience.

EVENTS

- Assisting Bob Ratajczak with the aquaponics greenhouse - harvesting tilapia, cleaning tanks, and upgrading the aquaponics greenhouse
- Boy Scouts Outreach - an annual event in which students help members of the Boy Scouts earn their fishing merit badge
- Fish Fry - this annual event made a return after several years of not being able to plan big group events due to COVID
- Kids Trout Fishing Event - student volunteers helped organizers of this event at the Steve Harvey Legacy Ranch
- Bubba Bass Memorial GA AFS Scholarship paid for one undergrad to attend the GAAFS 2023 annual meeting
- Several students attended the Georgia AFS annual meeting and many of them presented their research as either a poster or oral presentation
- Co-hosted the screening of "Sacred Waters: The Okefenokee in Peril" with the UGA 5 Rivers Club
- Tennessee Aquarium Field trip - students participated in a behind the scenes tour of the aquarium

SPEAKERS

- **Bernie Kuhajda** - Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute
- **Kady Lyons** - Georgia Aquarium
- **Shawna Fix** - Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- **Caroline Cox** - Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Local Fishy Stuff

**Alumni spotlight: Jimmy Harris
(BSFR '71, MED '76)**



**Kennesaw State paper sheds
light on biodiversity amid
climate change**



**A fishy mystery: Student's
discovery unravels hunt for
source of an invasive fish**



**Jimmy Carter,
Protector of
Rivers**

**Meet Research Fishery Biologist,
Dionne Hoskins-Brown**



**Proud to be a Farmer:
Sapelo Sea Farms**



**A bipartisan bill would ban future
mining around Georgia's
Okefenokee Swamp**



Sponsor Highlight

Our sponsors are critical to the success of our annual meeting and our efforts to promote the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in Georgia.



Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited is part of a national network of grassroots volunteers dedicated to trout and salmon conservation. Georgia TU is devoted to conserving, protecting, and restoring Georgia's trout fisheries. All anglers and those interested in protecting our waters are welcome.

Conducted in conjunction with their partners and other alliances, Georgia TU works to secure fish-friendly legislation in addition to reaching out to other individuals and organizations interested in protecting, or enhancing our coldwater fisheries. Specific projects to protect or enhance Georgia's trout streams and their watersheds are undertaken with heavy chapter involvement by their grassroots volunteers and chapter leaders.



Visit their website for more information

<https://georgiatu.org/>



Casting for Recovery's program combines counseling, medical information, and fly fishing to build a focus on wellness instead of illness. The organization offers a fly-fishing retreat for 14 selected Georgia women in all stages of breast cancer. Participants are instructed in how to engage in the wonderful sport of fly fishing and are given the opportunity to share stories in a safe and supportive environment.



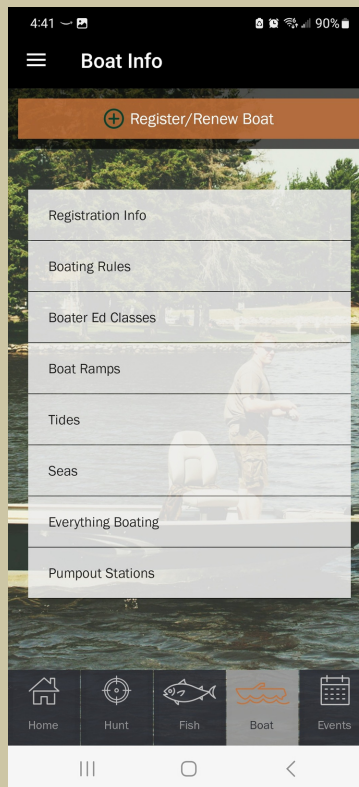
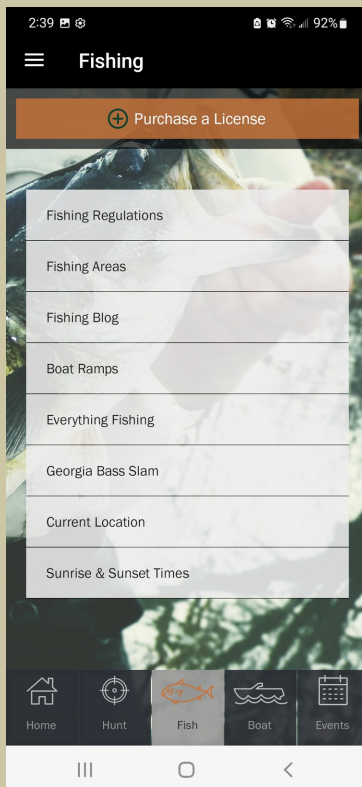
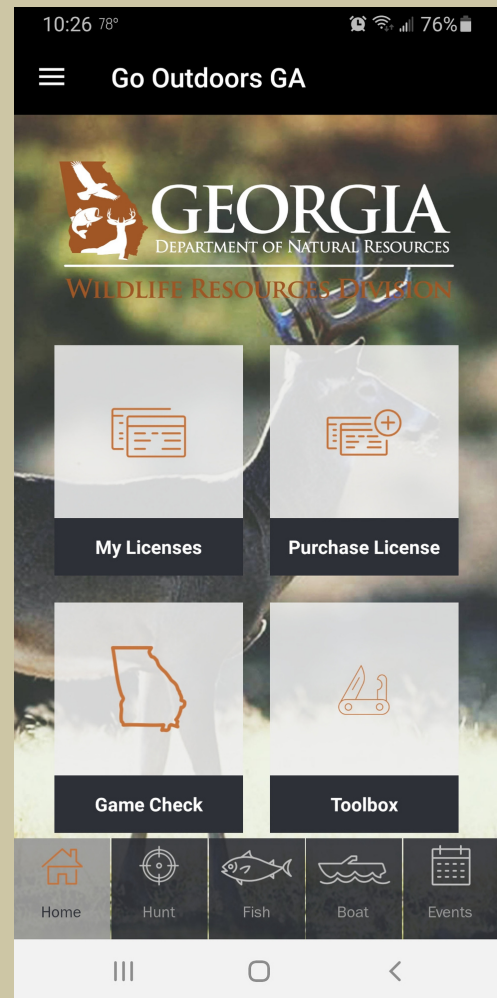
Since 2004, the Rabun Chapter TU has taken a lead role in the Georgia TU Council's summer **Trout Camp** for boys and girls ages thirteen to fifteen. The streamside, hands-on experiences offered at Trout Camp provide more than just casting and fishing lessons; they strive to fully educate youth about the complex issues behind the restoration and protection of our streams and rivers.

Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

The Outdoors GA app, free in [Google Play](#) or [Apple store](#), has multiple uses.

- Fishing regulations - some rules change each year
- Boating rules - know before you go
- Fishing locations
- Boat ramps - plan your next kayaking adventure
- Tide information
- Purchase your fishing license (don't forget your SIP)
- Store your fishing license - avoid awkward moments
- Event calendar - find a KFE near you
- [Georgia DNR Fisheries Blog](#)
- And it has hunting stuff too

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY AND PLAN YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE





Q and A

with

Jennie Wiggins

Jennie works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Lodi, CA office. She is presently a Fish Biologist but was initially a Biological Science Technician. As a Fish Biologist within the Data Management and Special Studies Unit, her responsibilities encompass summarizing, analyzing, and publishing previously collected fisheries data, and applying for funding for future studies she will design, implement, and lead.

As a Biological Science Technician, her primary responsibilities were data collection and data entry for two of the major fishery programs within her office—the [Delta Juvenile Fish Monitoring Program](#) and the [Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring Program](#). The Delta Juvenile Fish Monitoring Program tracks the abundance, distribution and survival of juvenile salmonids and other fishes within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring Program aims to provide real-time data including weekly abundance and spatial distribution estimates on the critically endangered Delta Smelt- found only in the San Francisco estuary.

What inspired you to pursue a career in fisheries science?

During my junior year of college, I volunteered on an ecological monitoring project of the Satilla River Estuary. Manmade cuts to the system that were no longer maintained were causing increased sedimentation and altered tidal flow. That project would be my first introduction to fishery-related techniques, but it certainly wouldn't be my last. Deployment and retrieval of the gill net and otter trawl from the boat by hand were shockingly labor intensive at first, but what a rush it was to wonder what neat critters I might encounter. The peace I received from the surrounding salt marsh landscape coupled with my excitement made it easy to ignore my shaky arms. Even with the

long hot days of being covered up to my calves in muck and the twinge of that rotten egg smell from the sulfur of the salt marsh, I felt an unwavering calmness like never before. It was the first time that I felt solidly sure about where I was supposed to be and the path I should take. That semester I changed my major from Biology (Pre-Vet Track) to Ecology and never looked back.



Continued on next page

Where did you go to college?

I attended Augusta University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Ecology in 2016. In 2020, I earned a Master of Science in Marine Sciences from Savannah State University under the advisement of Dr. Mary Carla Curran. My thesis was entitled "An assessment of the benthic fish and macroinvertebrate assemblage of a small tidal creek in Georgia and the effect of tidal stage and time of day on burial of the Fringed Flounder *Etropus crossotus* in the laboratory."



Striped Bass collected while electrofishing

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

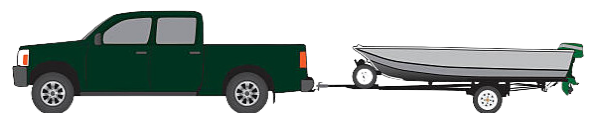
The most rewarding part about my job is having the opportunity to participate in groundbreaking fisheries science that in some cases could be the difference between a world with those natural resources and a world without. I am doing something that makes a difference and it feels good to contribute and be a part of something bigger than myself.



Jennie measuring a loach that was collected

What skills are needed for your job? How did you acquire these skills?

Fish identification, data summation, and data analysis are skills I use every day as a biologist. I acquired these skills through undergraduate and graduate courses and research opportunities. On the job, I have needed to become proficient in boating and trailering. Learning to trailer and operate watercraft were intimidating skills initially, but the more I practiced, the better I got and the more natural it became. I don't have to call upon these two skills now as often as I did as a technician, but it's nice to know that I have them in my toolbox and can dust them off when needed.





Leopard Shark collected in a seine net

Briefly describe one of your successful projects.

I am lucky to be a part of several ongoing long-term studies, so we gather more data each sampling year, and these are all little pieces of continued success. It's hard to choose one thing when there is still work to be done, but knowing that the research is happening and that I'm a part of that is really rewarding.

What adjectives do your coworkers use to describe you? Why?

My colleagues have said that I am hardworking, helpful, charismatic, and diligent. They have shared that they admire my dedication, and the way I go out of my way to finish tasks and help others even when I have things to do. Although I am introverted, they recognize my efforts to maintain positive relationships with them that transcend the workplace and demonstrate leadership through direction and example.

What characteristics/attributes do you value most in a coworker?

Positivity and integrity are characteristics I value in all my interactions. For colleagues, these are essential for productivity, group morale, and building trust. We must be able to depend on each other to get the job done.

What is your advice to students thinking about pursuing a career in fisheries science?

If this is the field you want to work in, stay focused. Don't be discouraged if your path is not what some might view as traditional or characteristic of a student in fisheries science. There can be multiple routes to the same destination, and neither is more worthy than the other. Don't spend energy comparing yourself to an ideal, just focus on consistently growing and getting better. Be open to acquiring as much experience as possible and diversifying your skillset early on, even if those opportunities are unpaid, and you can manage them. Employers are often looking for education as well as experience.



Jennie tagging a delta smelt with a VIE tag

If money was no object, what is one project you would like to work on?

If money was no object, one project that I would like to continue to work on at work is the Loach eDNA Study. We are currently using **eDNA** as a guide to target and remove invasive loaches within the California Central Valley. It would be interesting to conduct additional sampling to determine just how established the Loach population has become within the Central Valley. I would also like to explore the potential ecological impacts of loaches on the food web dynamics of the naïve species.



Setting a loach trap at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge

If you were a fish, what fish would you be?

Hmm, this is a tough one. I can't say that I have ever actually thought about this, but since I'm put on the spot now—I think I will go with a Salmon because, like them, I spent most of my life in one place before migrating to an entirely new place or habitat, if you will. Home will always be home, though, and I'll always travel back (cue sparkly red slippers).



If you could hang out with any cartoon character, who would you choose?

Scoobert Doo, better known as Scooby-Doo because we are alike in that we both enjoy a tasty snack or meal no matter the place or time of day.

What is your favorite quote?

"You can't always expect to be the smartest person in the room, but you can promise to be the hardest working" - Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

This quote resonates with me the most because growing up it was instilled in me that being smart was great, but a good work ethic would set me apart.

What is your favorite children's book?

Jenny's Journey by Sheila White Samton was the first book I read as a kid where the main character not only had the same name as me (although spelled differently) but also looked like me in the illustrations. As a little Black girl, that representation was so important in helping form how I saw myself and felt seen. I am on my own journey now, and I get to be a visible reminder to other Black girls that we belong in these spaces.



Pacific Lamprey

Stay Safe - Avoid Heat Stress

People need to take precautions to maintain their body temperatures during hot weather. It's important to understand heat safety tips because they can help you prevent instances of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and other types of heat-related illnesses.

HEAT SAFETY TIPS

- Wear light-colored clothing and light-weighted clothing
- Drink plenty of **WATER** before and during work (Don't wait until you are thirsty)
- Shorten work times with frequent breaks (adjust work schedule when possible)
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to prevent direct sun exposure
- Use a cooling cloth on the back of your neck
- Use a buddy system - check on each other
- Understand the signs of heat-related illnesses

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

WHAT TO DO

HEAT STROKE

- High body temperature (103 F or higher)
- Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Passing out

- Call 911 immediately (medical emergency)
- Move the person to a cooler place
- Help lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath
- **DO NOT GIVE** the person anything to drink

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, and clammy skin
- Fast, weak pulse
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Tiredness or weakness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Passing out

- Move to a cool place
- Loosen your clothes
- Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath
- Sip water

GET MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY IF

- You are throwing up
- Your symptoms get worse
- Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour



Chapter Spotlight

Laura Wenk

Laura is a Fisheries Technician 2 for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (GADNR, WRD). She has been working now with DNR for 1 year and 7 months. Her responsibilities are field equipment and boat maintenance, helping fish hatchery and Public Fishing Area staff, and assisting the fisheries biologists with field sampling of our reservoirs, lab work, and data entry. Laura is the coordinator in her region for the Kid's Fishing Events and R3 efforts to increase fishing within the state.



What inspired you to pursue a career as a marine biologist?

I am a little bit out of the norm, transitioning from the marine science field working with a non-profit protecting nesting sea turtles to freshwater fisheries management for the state. My switch was to broaden my horizons and gain new experiences that would benefit my career, with the bonus of living closer to family in the state I grew up in. However, this transition hasn't stopped me from my general herp spotting, as the Georgia lakes and rivers are filled with many cool herpetology species. Now I get to find species I haven't interacted with before and spread the knowledge by educating my coworkers about them.

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

I attended Jacksonville University, FL where I completed my undergraduate in Marine Science in 2015. With encouragement from my undergraduate professors I traveled to Queensland, Australia to complete my Master's in Marine Biology and Ecology from James Cook University (2017). Not only was it great to experience another country, but it broadened my viewpoints as other countries teach and manage things in different ways. There were many other international students which allowed me to create worldwide connections, as I am still in contact with them today.

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

I really enjoy the field work aspect of the job. Electrofishing is fun and exciting as you get to see all the fish and what habitats they are using, also in the hot summer months I get to dive in the springs along the Flint to monitor striped bass populations. One of the most challenging aspects of my job is troubleshooting and fixing outboards, as I had very little experience with mechanical and electrical maintenance of them prior to working with DNR.



Chapter Spotlight Continued

Describe a project you are currently working on as part of your current position.

Currently, I am assisting the fisheries biologists in my region to conduct a 2-year exploitation study comparing a Public Fishing Area and a county reservoir. Part of this study is to help determine if the county reservoir is warranted to have increased creel limits, as they want to increase the size of fish allowed to be taken from the lake. I am also conducting a project, with the fisheries biologist, looking into possible detrimental impacts to channel catfish from blue catfish in the Chattahoochee River/Walter F George and what it will mean for the rest of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) drainage system.



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

The most rewarding experience thus far in my career is repairing an Evinrude E-tech outboard motor that kept losing power from high speeds and would die back to idle without touching the stick. It was on one of our boats used for gillnetting that needed to be functioning within the next few weeks and the local mechanic wasn't going to be able to get to it in time. Since I had no prior experience working on outboards and fixing mechanical problems I used my problem-solving skills and began troubleshooting and replacing one thing at a time, eventually leading to me replacing nearly the entire fuel supply system to the motor. When I took it out on the water to see if it would run properly, it did! I was quite proud of myself and the accomplishment of gaining that mechanical knowledge.



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

My advice would be that it is never too late to switch over from one field to another if that is what you want to do. There are more similar aspects between the jobs or fields than people think. But also having a different background can be incredibly helpful, as you have a different perspective that might solve problems or questions the other people in the field are struggling with. If you do switch to a new field, never be afraid to ask questions and get experience doing a variety of new things as it will benefit you in the long run.

Chapter Spotlight Continued



How has being a member of Georgia AFS benefitted you?

I have got to meet some really great folks around the state at the conferences. Presenting at them to has helped me practice the not-so-fun part of the job, aka public speaking. I also enjoy learning about all the different studies that are going on around the state.

What is your favorite fish and why?

I am one of those people that it is hard for me to pick one favorite. Since now I work with fresh water, my favorite freshwater fish is a Black Crappie. They are just really pretty to me with that blue-green coloration and polka dot pattern, I also love using the pun of "just another Crappie day" when we catch them, plus they taste good too.



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

I have trained my cat, Binx, to sit and walk on a leash. We go on walks daily, as he really likes exploring my backyard and swamp. Binx also has ties to GADNR. Binx, approximately 9 weeks old at the time, was rescued by me from the middle of a busy highway shortly after I started with DNR.

What is your favorite quote?

"An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfilment."

~ David Attenborough

What is one thing on your bucket list?

One thing on my bucket list would be to travel and see the Galapagos Islands. I would like to see all the animals where Darwin discovered natural selection. It would also be cool to scuba dive with the marine iguanas.





PLUGGED IN

Podcasts can be listened to while you are driving to or from work, exercising, cleaning your house, etc. They can be both educational and entertaining. To listen to one of the podcasts described below click on the podcast logo.



Spiny Dogfish & "Grinding Nemo": Sustainable Shark Fisheries

Reid sits down with Dr. Chuck Bangley to discuss all things spiny dogfish. Listen in to hear about the potential for sustainable shark fisheries, the intersections of social and natural science, the importance of local knowledge and perspective in fisheries research and management, and the impetus for equity, diversity, and inclusion in research.



Jimmy Harris, Owner of Unicoi Outfitters in Helen, GA

On this episode of Southeastern Fly - The Angler's Influence we travel back to Helen, GA. and we have a conversation with Jimmy Harris, the owner of Unicoi Outfitters, about the people who have influenced his fly fishing.



Monster Striped Bass with Dr. Steve Sammons (Auburn University)

Guest Dr. Steve Sammons to talk about his research on Striped Bass in Alabama for a part 2 episode! Topics include: Monster striped bass eating rainbow trout? Targeting big stripers in the deep south? Can Striped Bass spawn in lakes? Fishing with 2lbs-3lbs live bait for huge striped bass And Much MORE!



Introducing Thousands of Ladies to Fishing: Meet Betty Bauman From Ladies, Let's Go Fishing

Betty Bauman has been educating lady anglers through an organization she started called Ladies, Let's Go Fishing. She saw a need for a safe and welcoming environment for ladies to learn from the basics of fishing to more advanced techniques and species-specific seminars.



Roanoke Logperch; interview with Jamie Roberts (Georgia Southern University)

In this podcast, Guy Eroh and Katrina Liebich interview Jamie Roberts about his knowledge of the Roanoke Logperch.

DID YOU KNOW?

2023 - El Niño Returns

La Niña officially ended in March and we now prepare for what El Niño will bring later this year. Together El Niño and La Niña along with the transition period between the two create what NOAA calls the **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**. ENSO is one of the most important climate phenomena on Earth due to its ability to change the global atmospheric circulation, which in turn, influences temperature and precipitation across the globe.

By examining seasonal climate conditions in previous El Niño years, scientists have identified a set of typical impacts associated with the phenomenon. In general, these impacts across the United States occur during the cold half of the year (October through March).



Understanding El Niño

Typical Impacts Associated with El Niño

- Increased precipitation across California and the southern states, and decreased precipitation in the Pacific Northwest and in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys
- A milder-than-normal winter across the northern states is common
- Eastern U.S. can expect more coastal storms
- During the warm season (June - October) we may see more hurricanes in the eastern Pacific and fewer Atlantic hurricanes

How can El Niño impact Pacific coastal fisheries?



Animation of El Niño

El Niño affects ocean water temperatures and the amount of nutrients in the euphotic zone along the Pacific Coast. In the northern hemisphere, El Niño events typically result in observations of tropical, warm water species moving north (thereby extending their range). Cold water species move north or into deeper water (thereby restricting their range). Surface-oriented, schooling fish often disperse and move into deeper waters. Fishes that remain in an affected region experience reduced growth, reproduction, and survival.

(Source: [NOAA Fisheries](#))

Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title of article

SEASONAL AND DIEL HABITAT USE OF BLUE MARLIN *MAKAIRA NIGRICANS* IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

Knowledge of blue marlin, *Makaira nigricans*, and movement patterns across a range of spatiotemporal scales is important for understanding the ecology of this epipelagic fish, informing responsible management strategies, and understanding the potential impacts of a changing ocean climate to the species.

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS GLOBAL FISHERIES

Researchers from the University of Queensland, University of Tasmania, University of NSW and CSIRO used a global marine ecosystem model to look at the impact of climate change on the major zooplankton groups, from single-cell zooplankton, to krill, and all the way up to jellyfish.

A FRESHWATER GIANT IS A BOON TO BOLIVIAN FISHERS, BUT AN UNKNOWN FOR NATIVE SPECIES

Paiche or arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*) was introduced in Bolivia in 1976 by accident from Peru, and though initially rejected as an exotic species, is today prized by local fishers as a boon to the economy.

WARMING ARCTIC DRAWS MARINE PREDATORS NORTHWARDS

An international team of researchers led by Dr. Irene D. Alabia at the Arctic Research Center at Hokkaido University has examined Arctic-wide and regional changes in species richness, composition, and potential species associations.

NEW RESEARCH REVEALS 12 WAYS AQUACULTURE CAN BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT

The University of Melbourne researchers have identified 12 potential ecological benefits of aquaculture. These include species recovery, habitat restoration, rehabilitation and protection, and removal of overabundant species.

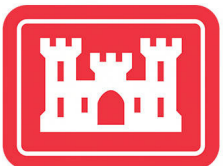
FAO, GOVERNMENT LAUNCH LAKE KARIBA INSHORE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Fisheries Management Plan was developed through an extensive consultative process with fish industry captains, community members and leaders, civil society, private sector and the fishermen in all fishing zones of Lake Kariba and the Zambezi River.

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns

PleaseWearIt.com

It takes an average of 60
seconds for an adult to drown,
and just 20 seconds for a child.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



*Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and
Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.*





BUBBA'S SHORT VIDEO PICKS

Want to learn better? Start mind mapping | Hazel Wagner | TEDxNaperville



*Another mind mapping Resource
How to Mind Map*

May 10 is National Shrimp Day

*Shrimp and Grits Recipe
Smokin' & Grillin with AB*



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Consider one of our fundraising sponsors when shopping for something you need or when looking for a gift idea.

Click on image to visit website



A Crescent Kayak makes for a nice graduation gift.

Unicoi Outfitters can help you with your fly fishing needs.



Duckett fishing rods are high quality and built to last.

Seaguar has the fishing line you need for freshwater or saltwater fishing.



Vera Bradley

When in Dawsonville be sure to stop by the Vera Bradley outlet store on Hwy. 400. Great prices and excellent customer service.

BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Signs of Bad Weather Approaching

Most of us have a weather app on our phones to check the weather prior to and while working out in the field. Sometimes, weather is unpredictable and it is nice to know what signs to look for if bad weather is suddenly approaching your location.

- Large, puffy cumulus clouds
- Darkening sky and clouds
- Abrupt changes in wind direction
- Sudden drop in temperature
- Sound of thunder



Additional signs if you are out at sea

- Flat clouds getting lower and thicker
- Puffy, vertically rising clouds getting higher
- Dark, threatening clouds, especially to the west/sw
- Seas becoming heavy

Bubba's Friends

Conasauga Logperch (*Percina jenkinsi*)

The Conasauga logperch is one of the rarest darters in North America. This little fish is named after the river it calls home-- the Conasauga River in Tennessee and Georgia. For a darter, they are quite large, reaching up to 5.25 inches in length, but they have an elegant body pattern that helps them blend into their environment.



*Conasauga
logperch flipping
rocks*



INTERESTING FACTS

- Federally listed endangered species
- Inhabits fast-flowing chutes and pools over clean substrates of gravel or cobbles
- Use their pig-like snout to flip over small cobblestones to search for aquatic insect larvae
- The threat to this species is acute due to its extremely limited range – only 45 kilometers of river within the entire upper Coosa River basin
- Population is declining due to habitat degradation associated with agriculture, urbanization, and past timber harvest

Fin and Games

Have you heard of a murder of crows, a parliament of owls, or a wake of vultures? The origin of animal group naming dates back to the 14th century when a woman named Juliana Berners wrote a book that included a long list of cleverly named groups of animals.

Match the animals with their collective group name.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. ____ Barracuda | A. Shoal |
| 2. ____ Shark | B. Parcel |
| 3. ____ Herring | C. Consortium |
| 4. ____ Trout | D. Sleuth |
| 5. ____ Stingray | E. Audience |
| 6. ____ Bass | F. Squadron |
| 7. ____ Crabs | G. Gulp |
| 8. ____ Pelicans | H. Fever |
| 9. ____ Squid | I. Battery |
| 10. ____ Deer | J. Army |
| 11. ____ Cormorants | K. Shiver |
| 12. ____ Bears | L. Hover |

Answers on back page



Reagan Patrick



**Robert
Bringolf**



**Justin
Bythwood**



**Bryan
Fluech**

PROPS!



**Jackson
Sibley**



**Anna
Edmondson**

Thank you for your Support!

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Thank you for your Support!

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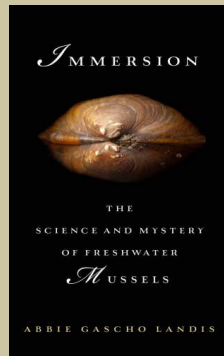


HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



THE BOOKSHELF

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



Immersion: The Science and Mystery of Freshwater Mussels

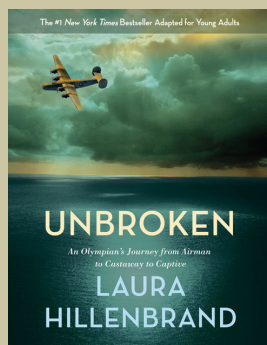
By Abbie Gascho Landis

In Immersion, Landis brings readers to a hotbed of mussel diversity, the American Southeast, to seek mussels where they eat, procreate, and, too often, perish.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



Unbroken (Young Adult Adaptation)

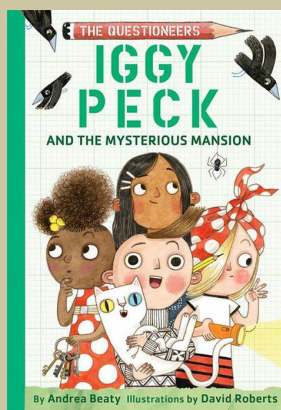
By Laura Hillenbrand

In this captivating and lavishly illustrated young adult edition of her award-winning #1 New York Times bestseller, Laura Hillenbrand tells the story of a former Olympian's courage, cunning, and fortitude following his plane crash in enemy territory. This adaptation of Unbroken introduces a new generation to one of history's most thrilling survival epics.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG READER SECTION



Iggy Peck and the Mysterious Mansion

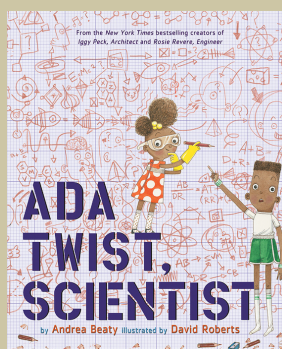
By Andrea Beaty (Author) and David Roberts (Illustrator)

In this chapter book, Iggy Peck is an architect at his very core: When he's not making houses out of food, his head is up in the clouds, dreaming of design. So he's totally blown away when Ada Twist's Aunt Bernice inherits an old house from ice-cream mogul Herbert Sherbert that is filled with countless rooms from all his favorite architectural periods.

[Learn More Link](#)



BEGINNING READER SECTION



Ada Twist, Scientist

By Andrea Beaty (Author) and
David Roberts (Illustrator)



Ada Twist, Scientist is the follow-up to the bestselling Iggy Peck, Architect and Rosie Revere, Engineer. With the same spirit of curiosity and perseverance as her classmates, Ada is sure to inspire young readers to pursue their own passions

[Learn More Link](#)



Membership Information



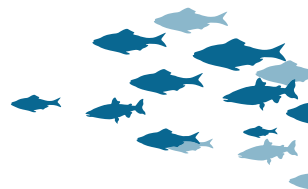
Are you a member of the American Fisheries Society?



American Fisheries Society

Please visit the AFS membership website to learn more about being part of the largest professional society of fisheries scientists in the world.

fisheries.org/membership/types-of-membership/



Some benefits for becoming a member of AFS:

- Free online and mobile app access to AFS publications
- Discounts on books in the AFS bookstore
- Discounted registration fees
- Opportunities for AFS travel grants
- Attend continuing education courses at reduced registration rates
- Access to online webinars
- Able to vote on Society and Chapter business



Learn more about AFS: <https://fisheries.org/about/>



Are you a member of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society?

Membership to the Georgia Chapter is separate from being a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Membership in the Georgia Chapter is open to anyone interested in the progress of fisheries science and education in Georgia and the conservation and management of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Chapter annual membership dues are \$10.



Georgia AFS Membership: gaafs.org/membership/

Georgia AFS membership dues support fisheries and aquatic conservation projects as well as aquatic education outreach programs in Georgia.



AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS



American Fisheries Society

Future AFS Annual Meetings

- 2023 Grand Rapids, MI: August 20–24, 2023
- 2024 Honolulu, HI: September 15–19, 2024

2023 Annual Meeting

Adaptive Approaches to Understand and Manage Changes in Fisheries

afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/

List of Sessions



The Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society

sd.fisheries.org/

**The next SDAFS meeting will be in
Chattanooga, Tennessee**

January 31 - February 4, 2024

Information

Support for Fisheries Conservation and Sustainability

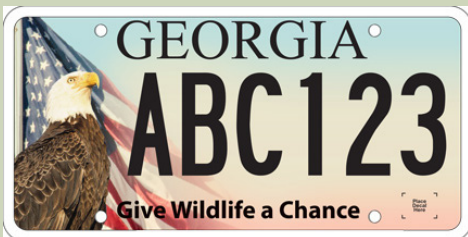


Do you have a specialty license plate that supports the conservation of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems?



More information:
<https://gadnr.org/license-plates>

Click on the license plate for more information



80 percent of that \$25 fee goes directly to wildlife programs (\$19 the first year, \$20 with every renewal). Only \$5 goes to the State of Georgia General Fund.



Certified Fisheries Professional

There are many reasons for seeking professional certification. For some it represents achievement of a career goal while for others it represents a credential necessary to perform their job.

[Frequently Asked Questions about certification](#)

[AFS Application Process and due dates](#)

Pesticide Applicator License

If you wish to purchase or use a restricted use pesticide (RUP), you or your supervisor must have a pesticide applicator's license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

[Georgia Dept. Agriculture Pesticide License Information](#)

[UGA Extension Pesticide Safety Education](#)

[Pesticide License Exam Study Videos](#)

Job Hunting

AFS maintains an excellent Career Center page on its website. AFS provides several resources to help you find that fisheries job you want.

[AFS Career Center](#)

Do you want to improve your chances of getting that dream fisheries job?

[Georgia AFS Fisheries Career Tips](#)

Internships

Internships are a great way to gain valuable work experience employers look for in potential new hires.

Georgia AFS maintains a list of internships for fisheries students on its webpage.

[GAAFS Internship listing page](#)

Help us spread the word about interesting and insightful information about the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems.

The Chapter newsletter is designed to spread the word about the exciting work being done by fisheries professionals and students, deliver information about upcoming meetings and events, and provide other useful information for fisheries professionals and students. We welcome a broad range of submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Submissions can range from a paragraph to 3 pages. Let us know if you have an idea for an article but are not sure if it is suitable for the newsletter. Topics for the newsletter can include any of the ideas listed below.

- Fisheries science research updates or innovative ideas
- Articles with advice for students and young professionals
- Accomplishments such as recently publishing a research paper, giving a talk at a community event, being interviewed for a podcast series, and anything in the realm of communications and outreach
- Environmental concerns related to fisheries and aquatic ecosystems
- Safety tips for fisheries professionals and students

Send your submissions to Rebecca Brown at georgiaafs@gmail.com.

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Jamie Roberts

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Kevin Cavallaro

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Brent Hess

Dawn Franco

Fin and Games Answer

1. I
2. K
3. J
4. L
5. H
6. A
7. C
8. F
9. E
10. B
11. G
12. D