

Under the Dock

January 2022



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Important Dates

Don't Miss An Opportunity!

- **January 6**
 - Abstracts due for GAAFS 2022
- **January 15**
 - Hotel Reservations for the GAAFS 2022 annual meeting are due
 - Nominations for GAAFS Career Contribution, Unsung Hero, Distinguished Service, and Certificate of Appreciation are due
- **January 21**
 - Pre-registration for the 2022 GAAFS annual meeting is due



<https://gaafs.org/2022-annual-meeting/>

The newsletter is interactive - click on anything underlined or highlighted for more information and click on a laptop image for a video



Don't forget to nominate someone for the Chapter Spotlight

Professional Spotlight Nomination Form
<https://forms.gle/T4cwW4A1zxkmzs7X6>

Student Spotlight Nomination Form
<https://forms.gle/Xger4SyZozZx8fUg7>

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 Chapter 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/>

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 are due on the 23rd of each month unless told otherwise.

Contact Rebecca Brown (georgiaaafs@gmail.com) if you have questions about content and suitability. We also welcome suggestions for an aquatic species to highlight, safety tips, and ideas for the section *Did You Know*.

DOCKSIDE

WHAT'S A VISION BOARD?

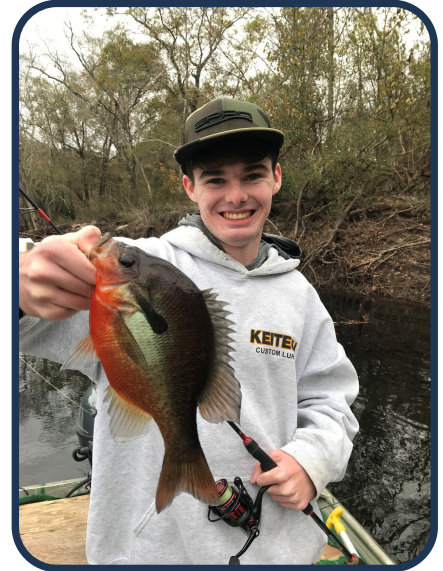
By Rebecca Brown



New Year's resolutions. How many of us at the beginning of each year think about things we want to change or do? Properly designed goals motivate us and provide direction. Achieving goals can build confidence. A post on Bert's Jigs and Things Facebook page last month was the motivation for this article. Timothy Deener set a goal to catch 10 Georgia Youth Angler Awards before his 16th birthday a goal he achieved last month.

What if this year we set a goal (a New Year's Resolution) that we do not abandon by St. Patrick's Day?

I recently finished reading an essay from a former student who is a writer among many other things, and he suggested that one can set unrealistic goals, but they should keep realistic expectations. In other words, to avoid frustration and disappointment one should create mini-goals to help reach your mega goal. If my goal is to capture all 10 black bass species in Georgia before the end of the year then I need to work backward from December 31, 2022 and set realistic expectations as to what species do I plan to have caught by a particular date. I need mini-goals that are attainable to work my way to reaching my final goal. And if I only catch 9 out of 10 that is ok. Because I would have at least attained the Georgia Bass Slam.



Timothy Deener with one of his Junior Angler Award Catches, Redbreast Sunfish

My friend, Marion Baker, achieved her goal of completing the Georgia Bass Slam a few years ago. It was close, but she caught her 5th different black bass species, a Suwanee bass, just before the year came to an end. And to make it interesting, she challenged herself even more by attempting to capture all the bass using the same exact plastic lure and catch them all from the bank without the aid of a boat.

The other day I was watching a rerun of the Late Late Show with James Corden. He was interviewing Mindy Kaling and Yvonne Orji, two people I had not heard of before. They started talking about vision boards and Mindy expressed her frustrations with her vision board and Yvonne loves vision boards so much that she makes them for friends. Vision boards are a visual representation of your goals. They are

Continued on next page

typically a collection of images and text that represent something that you are trying to accomplish. Some vision boards might focus on a singular goal while others might look at the bigger picture of what you might want your future to look like. I can understand why some people become frustrated with vision boards if it is a collection of big houses, fancy cars, high-paying jobs, and a huge collection of fishing gear that fills your garage. I would prefer a vision board that is a little more realistic. And do we need to call it a vision board? Can we name it something else that fits our personality? I call my vision board the "Target Board." When I aim for the bullseye, I typically hit it.

What does my 2022 target board look like? It contains my personal goals for this year. And thanks to technology I was able to create it using Canva. I will chase the goal of capturing all 10 black bass species, I will read the books that I have been postponed over and over, reconnect with old friends, learn how to fly fish and tie flies, complete the revision of the aquatic nuisance species workbook, continue to publish the Chapter newsletter, complete my quest to fish at all 11 of Georgia's Public Fishing Areas, learn how to use a baitcasting reel, and be like the hummingbird and do the best that I can. Some of these goals are very attainable and will be completed by the time you read this. I like to give myself a little bit of a head start.

While you are thinking about your own goals and visions for 2022, take a minute to visualize a target board for our Georgia AFS Chapter. What should we aim for this year? What do you see as our mini-goals? How about our mega goal.

Please send your suggestions to georgiaafs@gmail.com



Rebecca's 2022 Target Board created using Canva.com



What should we aim for this year?

Are you a member of the Georgia Chapter AFS?

Membership in the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is open to anyone interested in the progress of fisheries science and education in Georgia in addition to the conservation and management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems in Georgia. Our members come from throughout the Southeast, ranging from natural resource managers, aquaculturists, researchers, conservationists, and numerous biological disciplines; and representing state and federal government, academia, private consulting, industry, and recreational fishing interests.

Membership dues are \$10 per year

What are the benefits of becoming a Georgia Chapter member?

- Reduced Annual Meeting registration fees
- Leadership opportunities
- Reduced fees for training workshops
- Student scholarships and travel stipends
- Developing relationships with others who have similar interests
- Supporting fish conservation efforts in Georgia
- Supporting aquatic education outreach programs in Georgia

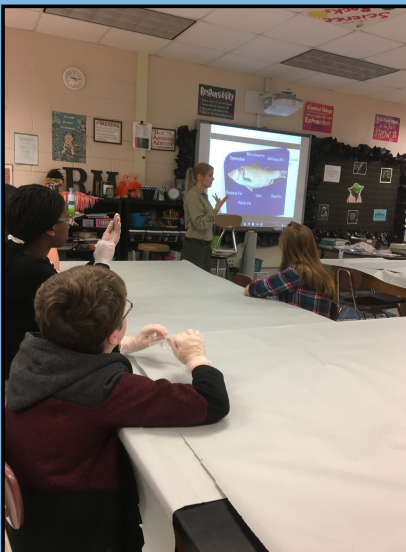
Click Here
For more information
about GAAFS
membership



Click Here
To pay you GAAFS
membership dues
online



What do your membership dues help support?

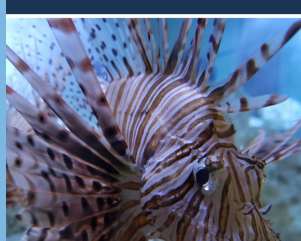


Aquatic Nuisance Species: What Are They and How Can We Prevent Them?



An educational workbook designed for young people to raise awareness about Aquatic Nuisance Species

Aquatic Nuisance Species: What Are They and How Can We Prevent Them?



An educational workbook designed for young adults to raise awareness about Aquatic Nuisance Species

**Go Fish Education Center classroom,
aquatic nuisance species educational
material, GAAFS workshops, and more**



NEWS & UPDATES

GAAAF 2022 Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

We are thrilled to announce our 2022 keynote speaker is Susan Shipman. Susan worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, for 30 years, during which she served as its Chief of Marine Fisheries for 17 years and Division Director from 2002 through 2009. As Division Director, she directed Georgia's Coastal Management Program, habitat protection, and permitting as well as marine fisheries management. She was the State agency appointee to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Now retired, Susan spends the majority of her time as a hobbyist beekeeper and community volunteer. She Chairs the Stewardship Committee for the Land Trust as well as the Cannon's Point Preserve Advisory Committee and Conservation Task Force. Susan is an advisor to Georgia SeaGrant, represents apiarists on the Glynn County Farm Bureau Board, serves on the One Hundred Miles Board, and several other community boards and foundations.



McDuffie Environmental Education Center Gets a New Curator



We would like to extend a warm welcome to Kimberly Clements. Kimberly is the new curator at the McDuffie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) at McDuffie PFA. She has a variety of educational experiences from working as a tour guide and curator for the Robert Toombs House Historic Site, substitute teaching for Wilkes County, and teaching private in-home students. She is very active locally and has served as an assistant scoutmaster and NRA-certified range safety officer with Boy Scouts of America, a committee member with the Wildlife Action Group, and an active volunteer with Wilkes

County 4H. She is an avid outdoorswoman who likes to bow-hunt, fish, scuba-dive, etc. When not at work, she's likely to be found rescuing skunks and kittens alike, paddling, camping, and generally spending as much time outside as possible. We are excited to work with Kimberly as she plans engaging fisheries activities at the MEEC.

2022 Annual Meeting Panel Discussion

A Case Study in Interstate Fisheries Management – South Atlantic Red Drum

Historically, Red Drum are one of the most targeted recreational species in the south Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Prior to 1990, fishing pressure had been high enough to result in severe overfishing of the stock. The first fishery management plan for Red Drum was implemented in 1984 and was amended in 1991 and 2002 to address continued overfishing concerns. The most recent (2017) regional stock assessment determined overfishing is not occurring, however, the status of the spawning stock is unknown. Regional assessments are conducted on data contributed by all states included in the stock's range and for Red Drum



Captain Bert Deener

assessments are generally done every 5 years. States work together through the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission to develop similar fishery management approaches to protect fish stocks among states, however, states do not have to mirror one another exactly which allows for flexibility when addressing state level fishery concerns. The panel discussion will include a synthesis of information on Red Drum management including history, the interstate management process, current management and direction of Florida and South Carolina's fisheries, and Georgia's current approach to management which includes stakeholder input as well as biological assessment.

We Need Volunteers for the Annual Meeting

There are plenty of ways to be involved with the Chapter. One way is to help with the annual meeting. We need volunteers for the following:

Registration table

Moderator

Setting up a break session

Selling raffle tickets

Audio/Visual

Judging student presentations

You can email Rebecca Brown if you are interested in volunteering.
georgiaaafs@gmail.com

Knauss Fellowship Deadline February 18

The John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program offers a unique educational experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, and in national policies that affect those resources. Successful applicants are matched with hosts in the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government for a one-year paid fellowship in the Washington D.C. area. The program is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program.



To be eligible for the 2023 fellowship,

- A student must be enrolled towards a degree in a graduate program at any point between the onset of the 2021 Fall Term (quarter, trimester, semester, etc.) and February 18, 2022;
- The student's graduate degree program must be through an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or U.S. Territories;
- Students are eligible regardless of nationality; domestic and international students at accredited U.S. institutions may apply; and
- Applicants must have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.

The deadline to submit all application materials for the 2023 program is Feb. 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted to Georgia Sea Grant by 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 18, 2022, via its online submission system, eSeaGrant, that can be accessed by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser <http://eseagrants.gsu.edu/index.php>

Instructions for applying using eSeaGrant are available [here](#).

Potential applicants are also encouraged to contact Mona Behl, associate director of Georgia Sea Grant, at 706-542-6621 or mbehl@uga.edu to discuss application content and submission.

<https://gacost.uga.edu/education/college-students/knauss-fellowship/>

Shrimp Industry Scholarship



The Southern Shrimp Alliance Scholarship program is intended to reduce education costs for students with ties to the commercial fishing industry. Under this program, \$2,000 will be allocated for funding scholarships in each of the eight states in which the southeastern shrimp industry operates (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina). Individual Scholarships will be capped at \$1,000, with two scholarships awarded per state. Funding is not tied to a specific area of study and is available for any post-secondary institution.

Application Due Date March 1, 2022

<https://www.shrimpalliance.com/issues/industry-enhancement-efforts/scholarship/>

Program Guidelines and Objectives

- Eligibility for the scholarship will be conditioned upon ties to the commercial shrimping industry with preference given to applicants with direct ties to SSA
- While funding is not tied to a specific area of study or institution, students must attend a post-secondary educational institution, which may include trade and vocational schools
- Scholarship funds will be contingent upon a post-secondary program's acceptance letter and will be paid directly to the student during the month of August 2022 by check
- Applications will be released in December 2021 and are due to SSA no later than March 1, 2022
- Scholarships will be awarded through evaluation by a Selection Committee composed of members of SSA's Board of Directors and will be announced in May 2022
- Award will include a complementary SSA membership for one year

CRD proposes allowing billfish landings in Georgia for first time in 20 years



The Coastal Resources Division (CRD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources today announced a proposed rule change to saltwater fishing regulations that would allow for the landing of billfish in Georgia for the first time in 20 years.

The three billfish species that would be impacted by the rule change are Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White Marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), and Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*). These billfishes are bluewater species found predominantly in open ocean habitats east of the Gulf Stream.

Billfishes are fast-growing, mature at young ages, and have life spans that range between 8 and 30 years. Billfishes have been identified as overfished since the late 1980s and overfishing continues to occur for both marlin species.

CRD staff presented its recommended rule change to the Georgia Board of Natural Resources. Following a public comment period running until Jan. 11, 2022, the Board will consider a final draft of the rule for approval at its Jan. 28, 2022, meeting on St. Simons Island. If approved, the rule would be effective March 1, 2022.

For more information, visit www.CoastalGaDNR.org/BillfishRule or contact CRD's Tyler Jones 912-264-7218 or tyler.jones@dnr.ga.gov.



jasm2022.aquaticsocieties.org

Save The Date!

JASM 2022

Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 16–20

Rapid Changes ~ Collaborative Solutions

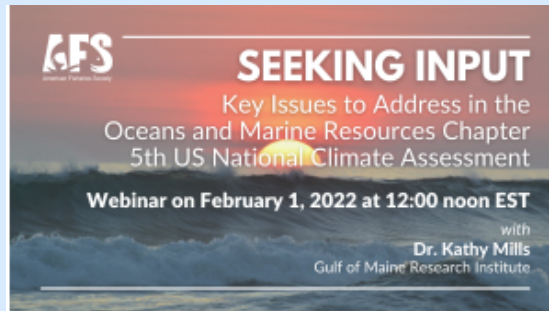
Mark your calendar! This must-attend event of nine aquatic science societies will be a celebration of scientific solutions, creative collaboration, and innovative conservation. This unique assembly of aquatic scientists, students, managers, and technicians will be a once in a decade occasion to participate in the full spectrum of aquatic sciences in one meeting.



<https://jasm2022.aquaticsocieties.org/>

Upcoming AFS Webinars

Registration is
Complimentary for AFS members
\$25 for non-members of AFS



OCEANS & MARINE RESOURCES CHAPTER OF THE 5TH US NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

Seeking Input: Key Issues to Address in the Oceans & Marine Resources Chapter of the 5th US National Climate Assessment

Tuesday, February 1, 2022
12:00 pm Eastern Time



NATIVE FISH RESTORATION IN LAKES

AFS revisits a symposium that was presented during the Baltimore Annual Meeting during this session, with the presentation of 2 talks.

Klamath Lakesuckers: Past, Present, and Future
Presented by:
Megan Skinner
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Yellowstone Lake Ecosystem Restoration: A Case Study for Invasive Fish Management
Presented by:
Nathan Thomas
National Park Service

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
1:00 pm Eastern Time

Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2022 Sponsors

Click on image to visit website



Georgia Power

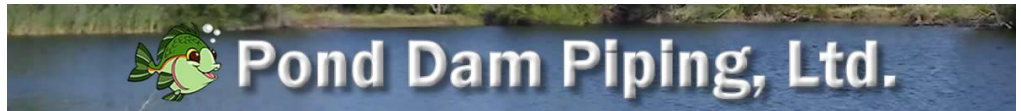
The University of Georgia



SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES



GEORGIA
AQUARIUM



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



GA AFS 2022 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



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.

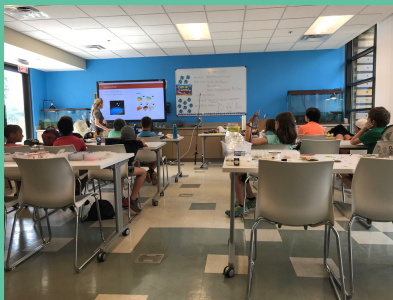
WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

Since we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, all donations are tax-deductible.

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

FUNDRAISING DOLLARS SUPPORT

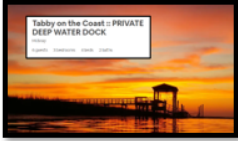



Restoring the
Chattahoochee River
One Tributary
at a Time

Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2022 Fundraising Donors

Click on image to visit website





Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2022 Annual Meeting February 1 - 3

Exchanging Ideas, Removing Barriers, and Forging Partnerships for Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems

**Join us as we share research and ideas relevant
to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish
and their respective fisheries and environments**

**CALL the Villas by the Sea Resort on Jekyll Island to make reservations
(912) 635-2521 Room rate # 514539**

**Visit our website for more information
gaafs.org/2022-annual-meeting/**

2022 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting

gaafs.org/2022-annual-meeting/

Join us February 1 – 3 at the Villas by the Sea Resort on Jekyll Island as we share research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Our annual fundraising raffle and silent auction will take place at the same time. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser support our aquatic education outreach projects, student scholarships, habitat restoration projects, and continuing education workshops.

REGISTRATION

Each individual attending the meeting needs to complete the [electronic registration form](#).

A word document registration form is available on our website for those who need a copy.

Payment can be made by check or credit card using our online store.

Details about the 2022 annual meeting can be found on the website.

Member Type	Before January 21, 2022	After January 21, 2022
PROFESSIONAL		
AFS and GAAFS Member	\$75	\$75
GAAFS Member Only	\$80	\$100
Not Member of GAAFS	\$90	\$110
STUDENT		
AFS and GAAFS Member	\$30	\$30
GAAFS Member Only	\$35	\$50
Not Member of GAAFS	\$45	\$60
RETIRED		
AFS and GAAFS Member	\$45	\$45
GAAFS Member Only	\$50	\$50
Not Member of GAAFS	\$60	\$60
ONE-DAY REGISTRATION		
Professional GAAFS Member	\$50	\$50
Professional Non-member GAAFS	\$60	\$60
Student GAAFS Member	\$20	\$20
Student Non-member GAAFS	\$30	\$30

* Non-member rates include Georgia Chapter AFS membership dues

HOTEL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY JANUARY 15

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please visit our website for up-to-date information as you make plans for attending the 2022 annual meeting. **You must call the front desk of Villas by the Sea at (912) 635-2521 to make your hotel reservations.** Let them know you are with GA AFS and **provide them with our room block number 514539.** Do not try to make reservations online.

We suggest you check our website for more information about the different room types so you can plan accordingly.



Room Type	Island-side Room Rate	Oceanside Room Rate
Mini Villa/Studio	\$89	---
One Bedroom Villa	\$109	\$129
Two Bedroom Villa	\$149	\$169
Three Bedroom Villa	\$179	\$199

gaafs.org/villas-by-the-sea-information/

2022 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting

gaafs.org/2022-annual-meeting/

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

We welcome topics including, but not limited to, fisheries management, aquatic invasive species, fish health, aquaculture, endangered species, genetics, economics, fisheries ecology in the urban interface, and all topics relevant to marine and coastal fisheries. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your knowledge and research with various professionals and students.

Interested individuals are encouraged to email their abstracts to Carolyn Belcher (Carolyn.Belcher@dnr.ga.gov) by **January 6, 2022**. Abstracts (300 words max) should be submitted as an attachment in a Word document and include the following information:

- Presentation Title
- Presenting Author (with contact information; work address and email)
- Co-authors (with contact information)
- Abstract (300 words max)
- Presentation type: Oral or Poster (Posters should be 48" x 36")
- Please also indicate if you are a student presenter

Oral presentations are 15 minutes (10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A)

Poster presentations will take place during the Tuesday Night Social



Beginning in 2022 the Chapter will be offering monetary awards for Best Student Oral Presentation and Best Student Poster Presentation. Graduate and Undergraduate students are eligible for both awards.

Visit our website for more information about the judging process and resources to help you create an award-winning presentation.

<https://gaafs.org/presentation-resources/>

A minimum of 4 entries per category is required for awards to be presented to the top 3 student oral and poster presentations. Only first place will be awarded if less than 4 entries for that category.

In addition to an award certificate:

First Place: \$150

Second Place: \$100

Third Place: \$50



Don't Forget...

Georgia Chapter AFS Award Nominations

Do you want to nominate someone for one of the following Georgia Chapter AFS Awards: Career Contribution, Unsung Hero, Distinguished Service, or Certificate of Appreciation?

Submit a nomination letter describing the qualifications of the nominee and how the nominee meets the criteria for the award. Your letter should be 500 words or less and please include a picture of your nominee (working, fishing, etc.). Guidelines are available to assist you with the nomination process. All nominations for these awards need to be submitted to Steve Sammons at sammoss@auburn.edu.

**THE DEADLINE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR ONE OF THESE AWARDS IS
JANUARY 15, 2022**

Career Contribution

Honors individuals who have made numerous and significant contributions towards the advancement of fisheries research and/or management in Georgia over the course of their career(s).

Unsung Hero

This award recognizes the contributions of a person who may not be directly employed as a typical fishery professional (e.g. biologist, technician, etc.), but provides exceptional work that is essential to the mission of promoting the conservation, development, and wise use utilization of fisheries resources. This award is designed to celebrate the contributions of people often completing responsibilities "behind the scenes."

Distinguished Service

Recognizes the outstanding contributions of time and energy for special projects or activities by Chapter members.

Certificate of Appreciation

Exhibits the Chapter's gratitude to an individual or organization for a specific contribution or event that supports the Chapter or its mission.



Georgia Chapter AFS Elections

Chapter elections this year include President-elect and Recording Secretary-Treasurer. Dawn Franco, our current Recording Secretary-Treasurer agreed to run again for a 2-year term and is currently running unopposed. Our President-elect nominee is Ani Escobar. Ani is an aquatic biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Conservation Division. You can read Ani's biography on the next page. Ani is running unopposed.

Electronic voting for Chapter officers will begin on January 17, 2022. Write-in candidates will be an option. Anyone planning to vote needs to have their AFS membership number. Remember membership to the Georgia Chapter is separate from being a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). You can also vote onsite at the annual meeting. In addition to electronic voting, election ballots will be provided when you pick up your registration materials.

Additionally, this year Chapter members will be voting upon a new Georgia Chapter AFS logo. A team of volunteers worked over the past several months with an artist to design different ideas that would highlight our fisheries diversity as well as a logo that is easily read on letterhead and can be conveniently embroidered on a shirt. When AFS announced they changed their logo that added an additional challenge the team was not expecting. The following designs were chosen for the Chapter members to vote for their favorite. ALL Georgia Chapter members will be allowed to vote on the logo. Voting will begin electronically on January 17, 2022, and end on February 2, 2022. Ballots will also be available at the annual meeting registration table. The winning logo will be announced at the end of the annual meeting on February 3rd.





Georgia Chapter AFS President-Elect Nominee

Ani Escobar

Like so many folks who end up in this field, I grew up spending a lot of time outdoors: playing in the backyard, hiking, camping, canoeing, and a little bit of fishing. One of my favorite outdoor memories comes from a family canoe trip. My brother and I had a pole and a snorkel mask—one of us would put our face in the water and point out all the ‘big’ sunfish, the other would direct a lure towards the uninterested *Lepomis*...capture rates were pretty low, but we had a good time! In school, that interest in the outdoors expanded as I began to learn more about biology, ecology, and how the world works; and I ended up majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Georgia. After graduation, I was fortunate enough to land a gig as a technician with what is now GADNR’s Freshwater Biodiversity Program. After a year of chasing minnows, grubbing for mussels, and exploring Georgia’s most beautiful streams, I was hooked. An opportunity to attend graduate school arose, and I went to NC State to earn an MS.

My research focused on the sensitivity of juvenile mussels to contaminants, specifically comparing the sensitivities of in-vitro cultured mussels and mussels that were transformed on a host fish (turns out, the petri dish mussels are typically more sensitive, but within the normal variation that we see testing traditionally propagated mussels). After graduating I worked for the North Carolina WRC as an aquatic diversity biologist, working with a variety of fish and mussel species, including the Robust Redhorse and Brook Floater. When the opportunity arose to come home and work for GADNR in the Aquatic Diversity Program again, I took it. As the aquatic diversity biologist for the Coosa Basin, my role now involves chasing minnows, grubbing for mussels, and exploring Georgia’s most beautiful streams. In addition to managing rare aquatic critters, I coordinate with other agencies and NGO partners on research and habitat restoration projects in the Coosa Basin. As we all know, collaboration and cooperation are key for successful management and conservation. I’m thankful to have such wonderful colleagues through Georgia AFS, and would happily and humbly serve the organization if elected.



Chapter Spotlight

Steven Patrick

Steven is the County Extension Coordinator and Agriculture & Natural Resources agent for the University of Georgia Extension. He provides technical assistance, on-farm research, and educational programs in a variety of areas including watershed protection, horticulture, viticulture, production agriculture, aquaculture, and pond management. Steven has served as our Chapter President, Awards Committee Chair, and other various duties within the Chapter.



What got you first interested in fisheries science?

As a child I always enjoyed fishing with my grandmother and exploring the neighborhood creeks with friends. Most intriguing to me were the chub mounds with swarms of fishes on them each year in Snapping Shoals Creek.

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

I began my studies at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia for two years. I later transferred to UGA and received my Bachelors of Forest Resources and Master of Science in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture. My masters thesis involved sampling water quality on small ponds at the Cohutta Fisheries Research Center in Cohutta, GA.

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

Currently, I am collecting black bass on the Chestatee River to assess the fishery in regard to genetic introgression due to Alabama bass. I am also working with North Georgia Technical College to get their aquaculture, aquaponics, and hydroponics facilities going in Clarkesville, GA. We've got 5,000 gallons of indoor recirculating systems that are also tied to an aquaponics and hydroponics greenhouse on campus where we'll grow vegetables, bluegill, hybrid striped bass, walleye, and shrimp.



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

Explore your passion. If you're truly passionate about a topic your energy and resolve will show. People gravitate towards focused passion. You can't truly become a leader in an industry you don't love. If you see a data gap, as I did with the NBBI, find a way to fill it to advance the science forward for everyone.

What is your favorite quote?

I got 99 problems and fishing solves all of them - Earl Dibbles, Jr

Chapter Spotlight Continued

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

Changing the mentality in the Soque River basin in regard to watershed restoration and protection. Through our work, we implemented \$2.5M in watershed restoration projects on farms, while sampling tributaries to document species diversity, and fin clipping over 1000 bass for the NBBI.

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

The most enjoyable part is also the most challenging part. In my position, I deal with a wide variety of clients whom all look to me to provide the latest information from the University of Georgia on just about any topic. It is important to realize the level of information desired, and the receptiveness the client has for the information presented. Our office opens the door to all that UGA has to offer.



What is your favorite fish and why?

My favorite fish has to be the 22.5" shoal bass that crushed my waking Fatback Herring with Otis Budd in the front of the Big Tuna or the big Spanish that lost its lunch on Richard Carter off of Little Bank. As a species, I'd have to say chubs for the impact their role has on the stream community and for the interest, they sparked in me as a child.

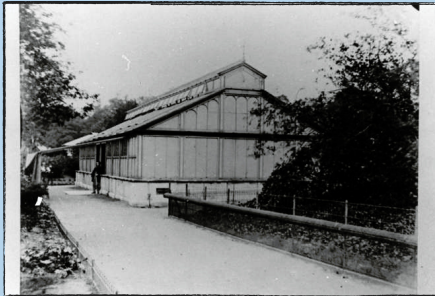
What is something about yourself that others may be surprised to know about you?

Maybe it's because of the repetition in my job trying to help people save time and money, but my biggest soapbox is trying to get folks to understand how to plant the right plant, in the right place, at the proper depth. Things in life tend to flourish in life when a good foundation is set.



DID YOU KNOW

The world's first public fish aquarium



The Fish House, London Zoo



Inside the Fish House, London Zoo



2019 the London Zoo Aquarium closed its doors for the last time

Humans have been keeping fish as “pets” for more than a millennia. During the early Ming Dynasty goldfish were kept in porcelain bowls and some say fish were kept in marble boxes by the Ancient Romans as early as 37 B.C. The first glass aquarium was invented by Jeanne Villepreux-Power and Philip Gosse invented the word aquarium from “aquatic vivarium.” The understanding of the connection between plants, oxygen, and fish led to the world’s first public aquarium, The Fish House, at the London Zoo in 1853. It was followed by aquariums in Berlin, Naples, and Paris. P.T. Barnum opened the first display aquarium at the American Museum in New York City in 1856. Today, the Georgia Aquarium is the largest aquarium in the United States and the fourth largest aquarium in the world.

The world's first oceanarium



Marine Studios, 1938

The world’s first oceanarium was Marineland of Florida that opened in 1938. It was originally called Marine Studios because it was built as an underwater studio for filming marine life. After several hurricanes and natural wear and tear Marineland underwent some major renovations and reopened in 2006 as Marineland Dolphin Conservation Center. In 2011, Marineland’s Dolphin Conservation Center was acquired by Georgia Aquarium and renamed Marineland Dolphin Adventure. It now offers several dolphins encounters, educational programs, and conducts research to help care for marine life in human care and in the wild.



WHERE'S BUBBA?

Bubba sampled with a group from Paulding high school to collect fish tissues of common species for an eDNA project. The students plan to collect samples in tributaries to the lower Etowah to see if there are differences in distribution between urban and less impacted streams.



BUBBA'S VIDEO PICK

**WOW!!! Check out the
Goliath grouper!**

F2S fishing trip to Chokoloskee Florida

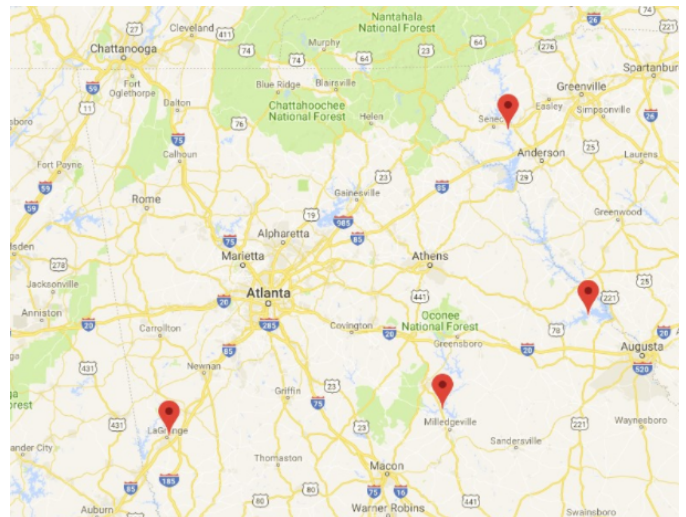


BUBBA RECOMMENDS

Are you looking for a new boat? Does your boat need some repairs or servicing?



They have 4 locations
LaGrange, Milledgeville, Appling, and Seneca (SC)



Click on logo above to visit their website

Safety Tip

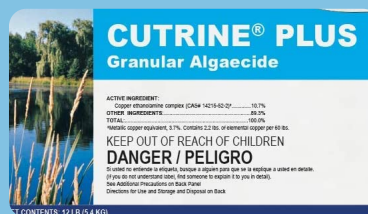
from Bubba Bass



Know Your Chemicals!

At some point in their career, most fisheries management and fish hatchery workers will be using chemicals to control aquatic plants, treat fish diseases, eradicate fish populations, or sample fish populations. It is important to always read the label and MSDS for the chemicals you handle. The label is the legal document under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) that provides information on the use, storage, and disposal of the pesticide.

All pesticides are toxic substances and may be hazardous. On the label, you most likely will find one of the following signal words:



Danger: The pesticide is highly toxic. 5mL of the undiluted product ingested can kill an average size adult.

Warning: The pesticide is moderately toxic. 5 - 15 mL of the undiluted product taken ingested can kill an average size adult.

Caution: The pesticide is slightly toxic. 30 mL or more of the undiluted product ingested can kill an average size adult.

Fin and Games

Unscramble the words that are names of Georgia fish species. Use the red underlined letters to solve the mystery phrase. Enter the phrase along with your information on the form <https://forms.gle/5gf2LATYLR1enyaZ6> for your chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

rrpsawniniahet

____ _

mubckrdla

____ _

lmlmasbtussaoh

____ _

fshgunrsiene

____ _

reelhapkincic

____ _

ebagtejararcerm

____ _

Solve the phrase

____ _

Bubba's Friends

Piedmont Blue Burrower (*Cambarus harti*)



The Piedmont Blue Burrower is listed as an endangered species in Georgia and reaches a maximum total body length of about 75 mm (3 inches). The Piedmont Blue Burrower is found in creek systems that drain into the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers in Coweta, Fayette, Meriwether, Pike, and Troup counties in west-central Georgia. It was discovered in a tributary to South Creek (DeKalb County, Ocmulgee River system) in 2005 and has subsequently been found in Henry, Monroe, and Newton counties in that system. All locations are in the Piedmont physiographic province.

Burrowing crayfishes inhabit a system of tunnels that may be very complex with several openings to the surface. Openings to the tunnels are often marked by piles of dirt or mud pellets (chimneys). Depending on the soil type and moisture content, these chimneys can reach heights of 6 inches or more.



Many crayfishes have extremely limited geographic distributions which help explain why crayfishes rank second only to mussels for the percentage of imperiled species in the United States.

Ellie Deener



John Biagi



Bryan Fluech



Jackson Fluech



Robert Bringolf



Tyler Bringolf



Bob Bringolf

Props!

FISHY NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

The Fish Site

RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY MULTIPLE INDICATORS OF WASTEWATER CONTAMINATION IN US SHELLFISH FARMS

Researchers in Southern Alabama have monitored multiple water quality indicators – from viral loads to artificial sweeteners – and found that shellfish farms could be at risk of wastewater contamination.

The Fish Site

BREEDING MORE RESILIENCE INTO AQUACULTURE: A NEW FRONTIER IN SELECTION

Genomic selection is an effective means of improving aquatic animal health, with recent studies suggesting it can be used for a range of conditions including whitespot resistance in shrimp, herpesvirus resistance in Pacific oysters and Vibrio resistance in sole.

Institute of Marine Research, Matre Aquaculture Research Station, Norway

OPERCULUM PIT TAGGING: A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO AVOID HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN PROCESSED SALMON

Norwegian researchers have successfully tested an alternative method for inserting PIT tags in salmon, which would enable them to be used for research in commercial salmon farms.

University of Helsinki

ECOLOGICAL DEPENDENCIES MAKE REMOTE REEF FISH COMMUNITIES MOST VULNERABLE TO CORAL LOSS

An international research team led by Associate Professor Giovanni Strona from the University of Helsinki has identified a general macroecological mechanism that calls for a reconsideration of global conservation strategies.

EurekAlert (AAAS) University of Adelaide

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND WARMING DISRUPTS FISH SHOALS

Researchers from the University of Adelaide have found that the way fish interact in groups is being upset by ocean acidification and global warming.

University of Western Australia

ROBOTS USE FEAR TO FIGHT INVASIVE FISH

In a study published December 16 in the journal iScience, researchers engineered a robot to scare mosquitofish away, revealing how fear alters its behavior, physiology, fertility—and may help turn the tide against invasive species.

phys.org

NONNATIVE FISH RELEASED INTO LAKES AND RIVERS THRIVE IN FLORIDA, ALTER ECOSYSTEM

Because of the potential peril nonnative fish pose to aquatic habitats, UF/IFAS researchers studied fish behavioral traits that increase their chances of survival in Florida's fresh waters. Among the scientists' findings: If the fish are good parents, they'll likely establish in Florida's peninsula.

AFS INFORMATION



What Do Fish Mean to Us? Perspectives Above and Below the Water Preliminary Call for Proposals – Symposia, Workshops, and Innovative Sessions

Our theme, “What do fish mean to us?” seeks to examine the ways that people value fish and fisheries from a variety of perspectives. We expect to develop a program that includes symposia that cover topics of marine, estuarine, and freshwater fisheries management; commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing; cultural and historical roles of fish and fisheries; impacts on water and fish populations from energy, resource extraction, and land use; native and nonnative fisheries; the intersection of traditional cultural knowledge and western research practices; and the role of the many publics who rely on or enjoy aquatic resources. Spokane’s location in the intermountain west is uniquely positioned to offer a program that tackles all these issues.

The Spokane Program Committee invites proposals for symposia, pre-conference workshops and continuing education courses, and innovative sessions that support the theme and look to advance the fisheries profession.

Are you a member of the American Fisheries Society?

- Membership to the Georgia Chapter is separate from being a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Please visit the AFS membership website to learn more about being part of the largest professional society of fisheries scientists in the world.



<https://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/>

Click on the laptop to watch a video

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 members pictures of fish they recently caught.

You can send your nominations, requests, pictures, suggestions, and comments to Rebecca Brown at georgiaafs@gmail.com.

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