

JUNE 2021 ISSUE

# UNDER THE DOCK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## WHAT'S INSIDE

EXCOM Meeting Notes

News & Updates

Marine Debris Outreach  
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AND MORE

PHOTO BY STEVE SAMMONS



# DOCKSIDE

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

BY REBECCA BROWN

Wow! It is June 2021! I first began volunteering for the Chapter when Ted Will asked me to be the membership committee chair back in 2004. I have been an active chapter member for 17 years, but some have been doing this a lot longer than I have -these folks are critical to the success of the Chapter. When I read through the list of our Chapter officers and committee chairs (page 6) I am pleased to also see young people taking an active role in supporting the mission of the American Fisheries Society and the Georgia Chapter. Our students and young professionals are the future of the Chapter.

The Georgia AFS EXCOM recently had a Zoom meeting on June 2nd that was attended by the Chapter officers and committee chairs. President Robert Bringolf began the meeting congratulating Past-President Jamie and the committee chairs for being recognized as the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) Small Chapter of the Year. Vince Lombardi said it best, "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." It does not matter how small of a job you do for the Chapter it helps us to achieve our mission. For example, I was telling Kevin Cavallaro the other day that we need one person to be responsible for taking pictures of our award winners at the awards banquet. That person's only responsibility will be to make sure pictures are taken of each of our award winners and then send those pictures to me. A small job, but a big responsibility.

One of our goals this year is to create a new operations manual for the Chapter. The new

## Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Small Chapter of the Year



manual will provide guidance and detail protocols for the operations of the Chapter. The operations manual will be more detailed than the Chapter bylaws we updated in 2019. It will include approximate dates and guidelines for EXCOM meetings, how to select locations for our annual meeting, responsibilities at the annual meeting, guidelines for the chapter business meeting, key dates to send out information about the annual meeting, due dates for annual reports to AFS and SDAFS, more detailed guidelines for committee chairs, and more. The goals are to be more centralized and help with the transition in and out and year to year.

There was a discussion about when we should commit to hosting the Southern Division (SDAFS) meeting. Currently, 2027 and 2028 are options depending on which date the Mississippi Chapter chooses. The GA Chapter last hosted the annual SDAFS meeting in 2015 in Savannah. It was a very successful meeting and we set an attendance record with 701 participants. A lot of work is involved with organizing and managing a large meeting of this size and we will need a sizeable

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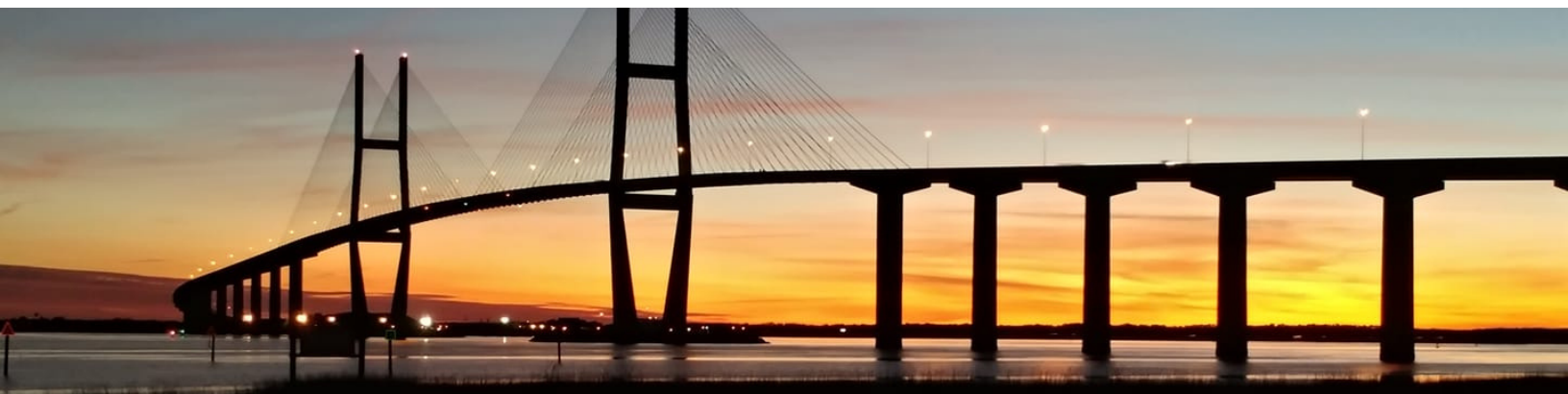
team of dedicated volunteers to organize and run the meeting. There are also questions about what would an SDAFS meeting (or any scientific meeting) will “look like” in the future, compared to what happened before COVID. Be prepared for a discussion during the 2022 business meeting about us hosting a future SDAFS meeting.

At least 19 colleges and technical schools in Georgia offer some type of fisheries experience for students (<https://gaafs.org/fisheries-education/>) and at least 10 of these have had students attend and/or present at our annual meeting. This list keeps growing - at our 2021 virtual meeting the first Georgia Tech student gave a presentation. You can read more about this student, Piper Rackley, in the Student Spotlight section of the June newsletter. The Membership and Student Affairs Committee is looking for more ways to encourage more student participation in our Chapter events and the profession in general, especially for students at smaller colleges and universities. Unlike UGA, which houses a fisheries degree program and an AFS student sub-unit, most fish- and aquatic-oriented students at other Georgia schools are gaining their experiences through biology or environmental science programs, without access to an AFS student sub-unit. Some ideas discussed include the creation of a state sub-unit comprising multiple colleges, similar to what Florida AFS has. Virtual sub-unit meetings could make this work, but will need to poll students to gauge interest and gather more ideas. Another suggestion was a state-level student colloquium. This is something we can consider pursuing informally and ask the UGA Sub-unit to advertise this great opportunity for students to gather and present their research.

As you know the fundraising committee is one of our most active committees, working throughout the year soliciting donations for our raffle and silent auction fundraisers and searching for additional sponsors. As a non-profit, we are thankful for our sponsors because the money raised allows us to subsidize annual meeting expenses for students and professionals. These funds also help us fully or partially fund annual meeting attendance for more than 30 students per year helping us meet our mission of exposing more Georgia students to the fisheries profession. This year we can offer some additional benefits for our sponsors because we have expanded our social media presence and we have our newsletter in which we can offer free advertising space for sponsors. Be sure to check out our 2022 Sponsorship Package on page 19 of this newsletter for more information. We are still working on the details of what kind of extra benefits we can offer our raffle and silent auction donors.

All in all, it was a very productive EXCOM meeting. You can read through the Committee Reports on page 5 for updates from some of the other committees. Expect information from the Awards, Program, Scholarship, and Nominating committees as we approach releasing more details about the annual meeting in the coming months. The Continuing Education Committee is currently working out the details for some of our future workshops and will provide updates later.

I will close with my favorite Vince Lombardi quote: “The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.”





# Mark Your Calendars

## Georgia Chapter AFS 2022 Annual Meeting

February 1 - 3

Villas by the Sea  
on  
Jekyll Island

Call to make your reservation  
(912) 635 - 2521

Mention GA AFS for group rate



# Committee Reports

## Arrangements Committee

The Arrangements Committee has already begun the planning for the GAAFS 2022 Annual Meeting. The Chapter is allowed to do our own catering and we will need some members to help with setting up the breaks we plan in-between sessions. This includes setting out food and beverages for each break, restocking food and beverages as needed, and cleaning up at the end of the breaks.

Additional volunteers needed are an official photographer to take pictures during the meeting, someone to coordinate the setting up of student posters, and someone to be our student volunteer coordinator to assign students to help with our audio-visual needs, setting up breaks and/or social, and cleaning up the hospitality suite at the end of the meeting. You can contact either Kevin Cavallaro (cavallaro@fultonschools.org) or Brent Hess (Brent.Hess@dnr.ga.gov) if you are interested in joining this committee.

## Ballot Committee

The ballot committee needs two members to join the team to assist with handing out and counting election ballots during the annual meeting. The members of the ballot committee are also responsible for ensuring that those who vote are both Georgia Chapter members and Parent Society (AFS) members. Contact the Ballot Committee Chair, Jim Page (Jim.Page@dnr.ga.gov), if you are interested in joining this committee.

## Environmental Concerns Committee

We encourage all members of Georgia AFS to engage in the environmental concerns within our state. If you have an issue you would like to submit for consideration by the committee, please contact the committee chair at [jordan.h.steele@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.h.steele@gmail.com).

### Current Environmental Concerns:

Recovering America's Wildlife Act, HR 2773 has been introduced and if passed will provide \$1.3 billion annually for state fish and wildlife agencies, as well as \$97.5 million annually to tribal nations to further monitor and protect the most at-risk species. It is estimated that the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division will receive roughly \$27 million per year to fund the State Wildlife Action Plan.

For more information: <https://fisheries.org/policy-media/recovering-americas-wildlife-act/>



# Georgia Chapter AFS

## 2021 - 2022

### Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

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#### Chapter Officers

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

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#### Committee Chairs

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



# NEWS & UPDATES



## MONITORING WATER TEMPERATURE OF GEORGIA'S TROUT STREAMS

By Sarah Baker

Leon Brotherton has been deploying temperature data-loggers into headwater trout streams throughout north Georgia since 2013. These loggers measure hourly water temperatures during the summer and fall months. Because Georgia is the southernmost range for trout in North America, this temperature monitoring program provides useful insight into trends that could impact our trout fisheries. Salmonid populations in streams located in lower elevation, developed areas, are likely to be more strongly

affected by increased stream temperatures given that those streams are already an average of 2°C warmer than streams in higher elevation undeveloped areas. Riparian vegetation along the stream helps to keep water temperatures cool. Maintaining this “stream buffer” is a simple and important way to help preserve Georgia’s trout streams.

## WOOD IS GOOD!

By Sarah Baker

Large-scale, industrial logging operations removed vast tracts of timber throughout north Georgia’s forests in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The absence of old-growth trees prevented the streams from quickly recovering from logging operations and contributed to the reduction of complex stream habitats such as pools, riffles, and runs. Georgia’s native Brook Trout, however, require these habitats; pools & runs for feeding and hiding, and riffles for spawning. In addition to helping create stream complexity, woody debris provides in-stream cover from predators and increases aquatic invertebrate production.



WRD Fisheries staff partner with other agencies and organizations to add wood to trout streams. If you’re fishing in a trout stream, be on the lookout for these woody structures! They create excellent pools that are especially important to trout populations during drought years, and they are also fun to fish! In recent years, we have changed tactics from more engineered projects to Chop-N-Drop, a less structured (and less expensive) approach to establishing wood in the streams. These tree felling projects have been conducted in streams throughout Rabun County. Adding large woody debris in the stream channel is one way we are helping to conserve and maintain strong Brook Trout populations.





## GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOST VIRTUAL WORLD OCEAN DAY EVENT

Join the Gwinnett County Public Library Dacula Branch online for their World Ocean Day celebration on June 8th from 10 am to 4 pm.

They will have live guest speakers who will share their knowledge and answer your questions. Marine-themed activities throughout the day! Attendees have a chance to win great prizes!

### Presenters

Marion Baker: Go Fish Education Center (10am)

Jim Page: Georgia DNR (11am)

Peggy Whitlow: Center for Hard to Recycle Materials

Dr. M. Alber: UGA

Hannah Bonvechio: Trash for Turtles (3pm)

**Via zoom: <http://bit.ly/GCPLOceanDay>**

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FAMILY? GO FISH EDUCATION CENTER SUMMER HOURS

The Go Fish Education Center will be offering extended hours this Summer. During the months of June through August, the center will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm and on Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm. Visitors can experience over 200,000 gallons of freshwater aquariums representing aquatic life in Georgia. Galleries are filled with interactive exhibits, state record fish mounts, as well as fishing and hunting simulators. We especially encourage people to go fishing at our casting pond while here. Fishing equipment and bait are provided at no additional charge and staff are available to assist. Souvenirs and gifts may be purchased in our gift shop before you leave.



The center is conveniently located off I-75 at exit 134 in Perry, Georgia. Most visitors can comfortably experience the center within 2 to 2.5 hours. Regular admission rates apply. Groups interested in scheduling self-guided tours are encouraged to do so during the months of July and August. We request that groups contact us in advance at [info@gofisheducationcenter.com](mailto:info@gofisheducationcenter.com).



## SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Georgia Department of Natural Resources WRD staff in the Waycross office visited St. Francis Xavier School in Brunswick. Staff spoke to pre-K through 8th grade and presented information on native and aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in Georgia, while also showing kids an electrofishing boat and explaining how it works. Such outreach events continue to be a vitally important effort to educate our next generation of anglers and resource users about fishing, native species, and how they can help prevent ANS in Georgia.



Artwork by Jorah Mitchell

### **Educational Resources**

<https://georgiawildlife.com/ans#Education>

<https://gaafs.org/education-materials/>



Fisheries Tech Brentz McGhin shows off various native fish species to curious students



Brent Hess and Collin George collecting genetic samples

## OPEN WIDE...SWABBING FOR DNA

Region staff collected genetic data from West Point Lake largemouth bass this week. A simple swab of the tongue is all that is needed before the fish is released. DNA from the swabs will be tested as part of an ongoing assessment of the West Point Lake largemouth bass stocking program. The DNA data will help identify previously stocked fish. The percentage of stocked fish to wild fish will provide valuable evidence as to the success of the ongoing stocking program.

Do you have some news about your current research of fish-related events you want to share?

Contact us:

[Georgiiaafs@gmail.com](mailto:Georgiiaafs@gmail.com)



## CHECKING THE CHESTATEE

By Steven Patrick

Our work on the Upper Chattahoochee Shoal Bass project continues this summer on the Chestatee River. We need volunteers to help secure 500 fin clips during routine floats trips this summer. We will be coordinating floats beginning in June, and running through October.

We'd also appreciate anyone willing to sample the upper Chattahoochee to log recapture data on the 1000 fishes we have tagged there. Recapture data such as length, weight, and location can be submitted to Hunter Roop in the Gainesville DNR Fisheries Office or through the Facebook page below.

Comparing introgression rates in these two systems will hopefully provide insight as to what triggers the AL bass to become so successful in certain systems.

For now, we feel the upper Chattahoochee is safe unless you happen to be a Chattahoochee bass. Whether or not that happens on the Chestatee remains to be seen. As our watersheds develop, it's only a matter of time before more pressure is placed on this valuable resource.

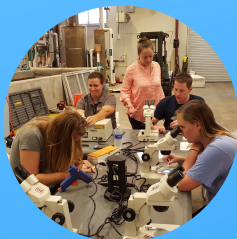
For more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperChattahoocheeShoalBass/>



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE GEORGIA CHAPTER AFS?

Join a committee! We have the Fundraising Committee, which helps ensure we have plenty of donations to raise funds to support the Chapter's mission, the Student Awards Committee that judges student presentations, the Continuing Education Committee that organizes training workshops to meet the needs of our fisheries professionals as well as fisheries students, and the Arrangements Committee, which helps with the planning of the annual meeting. These committees can use your help. Whether you work for a state or federal agency, university, or consulting company, joining a committee is a great way to get more involved with the Chapter. Have questions about a certain committee or not sure which committee is the right fit for you? Contact Rebecca Brown ([georgiaafs@gmail.com](mailto:georgiaafs@gmail.com)) to learn more.



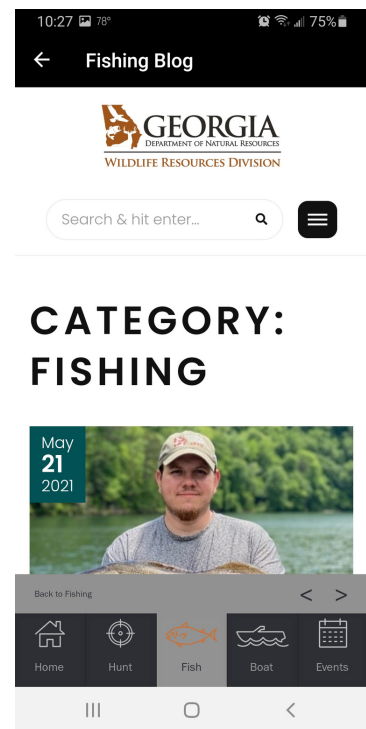
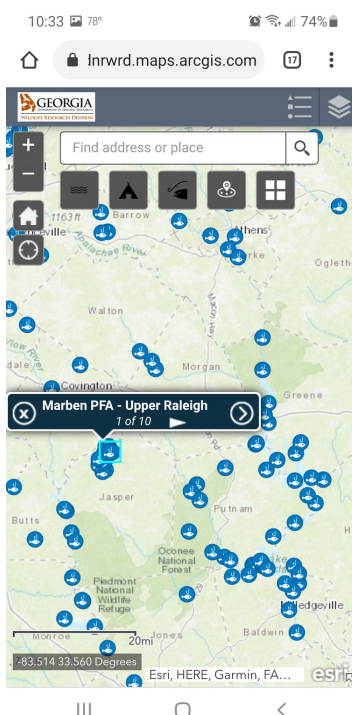
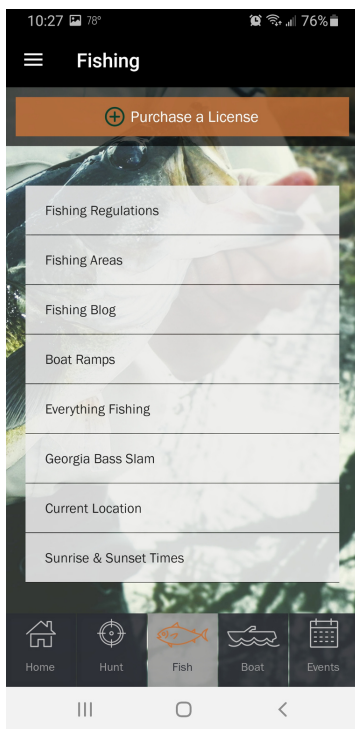
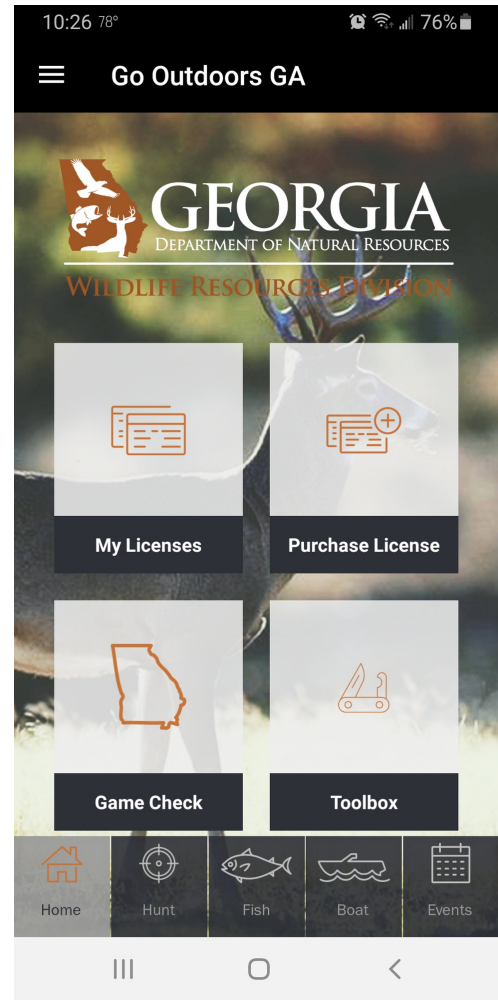
- Our Chapter's mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

For more information about each of the GAAFS standing committees: <https://gaafs.org/committees/>



# Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

The Outdoors GA app, free in [Google Play](#) or [Apple store](#), has multiple uses, including purchasing and storing fishing licenses, finding fishing areas, the weekly [GA DNR WRD Fishing blog](#), and help to locate boat ramps. (and it has hunting info too)





# COVID-RESPONSE GRANT HELPS SUPPORT NEW MARINE DEBRIS OUTREACH PROGRAM INVOLVING SHRIMPERS

BY BRYAN FLUECH

UGA MARINE EXTENSION  
AND GEORGIA SEA GRANT



The COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia, as with much of the nation, has had unprecedented economic impacts on local communities and businesses. This holds true for many commercial shrimpers who were affected by disruptions in the seafood supply chain.

Fortunately, the state's fishing industries have received several million dollars in CARES Act funding to help supplement these losses, but not all have been eligible to receive this support. Using funds from a National Sea Grant COVID-19 Response Grant, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant is helping to further support shrimpers by utilizing their net sewing skills for a pilot marine debris outreach project.

The new initiative called Trawl2Trash pays shrimpers \$20 for each 20-inch by 24-inch marine debris bag they sew from old shrimp nets that are no longer being used. In turn, marine extension agents and educators will distribute the recycled bags to boaters,





kayakers, beachgoers and anglers to help promote the collection of debris they encounter while in the environment. While the project's bag distribution phase is just beginning, eight shrimpers to date have earned a total of \$12,000 helping Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant sew 600 bags. One of the shrimpers, who is also the instructor for McIntosh County Academy's new commercial fishing pathway class, has involved his students in sewing bags as well to help them improve their net sewing skills. Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant plans to distribute the bags to users through clean up events and outreach programs over the next several months. Recipients who use the bags are encouraged to promote their uses on social media with the #trawl2trash. If you are interested in receiving a free bag, email Associate Marine Extension Director Bryan Fluech at [fluech@uga.edu](mailto:fluech@uga.edu)



Students from McIntosh County Academy's Commercial Fishing Pathway Course learned how to construct debris bag from old shrimp nets to improve their net mending skills. Captain Truck Mciver (pictured on the right) who is a Marine Resources Specialist with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant along with the class's instructor who is also a commercial shrimper assisted students make the bags.



The personalized marine debris bags (right) constructed by commercial shrimpers (left) are being given out to recreational users to help collect and store debris they encounter while on the water.







# Professional Spotlight

Kady Lyons

Kady Lyons is a Research Scientist at the Georgia Aquarium and her research focuses on learning more about elasmobranch biology so we can make better informed decisions for the conservation of these species. Since Kady has joined the Chapter in 2020 she has given two presentations, volunteered to be part of our elite team of student presentation judges, and provided items for our annual fundraiser. Two of her students, one from Georgia Tech and one from Kennesaw State University, presented their research projects at our 2021 virtual meeting. We are looking forward to more presentations from Kady and her students at future meetings.



## What is your current position? How many years have you worked for this organization?

*I am a Research Scientist at the Georgia Aquarium. I have been with the organization since early 2019 and started after a short postdoc on White Sharks in southern California at Cal State Long Beach. As you can imagine, my first year in the job (2019) and my second year in the job (2020) were essentially polar opposites.*



## What got you first interested in fisheries science?

*I have always been interested in marine science and some of my earliest memories are when my father would take me and my sister fishing at the local pier in southern California. Early in my academic career, I had the chance to work with and interact with fisheries scientists at organizations like CA Fish and Wildlife as well as NOAA to participate in fieldwork and learn the various aspects of their jobs that produce data important towards fisheries management. I have learned that "fisheries science" can be a very broad topic and interpreted in different ways. When I first learned about it, I assumed that it was a bunch of scientists modeling numbers and doing stock assessments on computers all day. But fisheries science is much more than that since so many aspects of biology, oceanography and many other fields intersect and are needed to completely understand fisheries research.*

*"Working with Dr. Lyons has been an amazing experience! She has taught me valuable research skills and allowed me to have hands-on experiences in both the lab and with scientific writing. Being able to participate in research at the Georgia Aquarium with Dr. Lyons has been one of my favorite parts of my time as a student!"*

~ Piper Rackley, Student, Georgia Institute of Technology

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

*I most enjoy that much of my position is focused on research with little distractions from other aspects that one would find with careers in academia or government. However, a challenge of living in land-locked Atlanta does make conducting field work logistically harder.*



## Professional Spotlight Continued

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

*I completed my Bachelor's in Marine Biology at the University of California Santa Cruz after which I pursued a Master's in Biology at Cal State Long Beach in Dr. Chris Lowe's Shark Lab where I was interested in studying human pollution accumulation in sharks and rays. Upon finishing, I had more questions than answers, so I moved to the great white north (a.k.a. Canada) where I completed my dissertation at the University of Calgary studying the physiological impacts of human-made contaminants using a model elasmobranch species, the Round Stingray.*



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

*Currently, I work on a number of projects as a scientist at the Georgia Aquarium some that take up more of my time than others; however, I am excited to start a collaborative project examining the health of Georgia's estuaries by using juvenile sharks as sentinels of community health. This will be part of Allyson Stiles' Master's project and we are excited to get back to a "normal-looking" summer (i.e. fishing). Another project that I am largely involved with is a zebra shark re-introduction project. Specifically, I am interested in helping to understand reproductive cycles and other aspects of zebra shark physiology. Although the project is not focused on the GA coast, we hope this will be important for repatriating species in areas where they have been previously extirpated.*



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

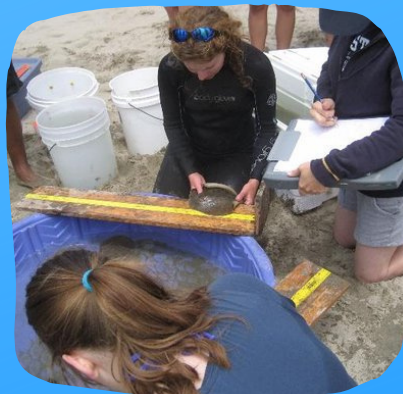
*Recently, a paper I am the lead author on was picked up by NPR's Science Friday. I am an avid listener of NPR so it was super rewarding to have literally years of work recognized nationally by being on the show, which is a first for me.*

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

*My advice would be to try any and all opportunities that come across your path. The best thing for students starting out is to "try a little of everything" to really find out what you like and, more importantly, what you don't like. Personally, I am a person who likes a balance between bench work (i.e. being in the laboratory) and field work. Others only like being on one or the other end of the spectrum. Finding what you like and can see yourself doing as a long-term career is important for when you are thinking about your next steps in school or applying for jobs.*

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

*Despite my short stature, I love playing basketball. In High School, the average height of our team was probably no more than 5'5"...we were small but quick!*



### What is your favorite quote?

*"A Wizard is never late, nor is he early. He arrives precisely when he means to." - Gandalf (nerd alert)*





# Student Spotlight

## Piper Rackley

Piper Rackley is currently a student at Georgia Tech and is enrolled in a dual BS/MS program. She graduated this past May with her bachelor's degree and will complete her master's degree in May 2022.

This summer she will be working with scientists from NOAA to study juvenile grouping behaviors in smalltooth sawfish in the Everglades! Piper won the 2021 Georgia AFS "Best Poster Presentation Award" for her poster "Organic contaminants in two species of thresher sharks."



### What attracted you to study sharks?

*When I was younger, I went on a trip to the Bahamas with my family where we met scientists from NOAA and FSU working on shark and smalltooth sawfish population surveys. They taught me how to tag sharks, take their measurements, and the importance of shark research, and ever since then, I have wanted to study sharks. One of my favorite memories of shark tagging was when we tagged and released a 12-foot tiger shark!*

### Describe your current research project.

*I am currently interning at the Georgia Aquarium with Dr. Kady Lyons and we are working on analyzing differences in stable isotope and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) composition between Common Thresher Sharks and Bigeye Threshers from liver tissue samples. These species occupy different ecological niches and spatial regions, so it will be interesting to see how their tissue samples compare. We are also looking within species to determine differences between sexes, maturity levels, and size.*

### What is one of your favorite memories as a Georgia Tech student?

*One of my favorite memories at Georgia Tech was when I was able to do a behavioral study on the African elephants at Zoo Atlanta as part of my vertebrate biology class. It was so interesting to watch the elephants engage with one another, their habitat, and the patrons and I learned a lot regarding ethograms and conducting my own individual study.*

*"Piper has been a delight to work with and it has been rewarding mentoring a young woman in fisheries science. I am sure between Piper's work with the Aquarium and her Master's work with NOAA she will have some interesting results to present at upcoming AFS meetings".*

*~ Dr. Kady Lyons, Research Scientist, Georgia Aquarium*



## Student Spotlight Continued



### What advice would you give other students?

*My biggest piece of advice is to always seek opportunities! I have learned to step outside my comfort zone by emailing and reaching out to professors, scientists, etc., and to take initiative when pursuing potential research opportunities or even just asking questions.*

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

*In 10 years, I hope to have earned my master's degree (potentially even a Ph.D.) and have traveled the world studying and learning more about sharks! I also hope to have seen a hammerhead and whale shark in the wild because that is something I have not seen before.*

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

*I am a member of Zeta Tau Alpha at Georgia Tech where I served as a new member assistant. I also love exploring Atlanta with my friends on the weekend and trying new restaurants.*



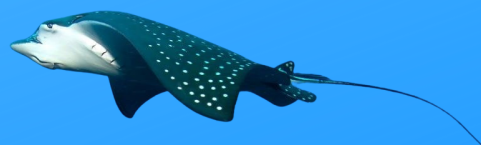
### What is your favorite quote?

*"In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous" - Aristotle*



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

*Last spring, I studied abroad in New Zealand and Australia! My favorite thing I did was snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef and I saw two eagle rays! We had to travel home at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, which was definitely an interesting experience.*





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.

**Individual Contributors**

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

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

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

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

**2021 Georgia Chapter AFS Sponsors**

**Platinum Sponsor**



**Silver Sponsor**



**Bronze Sponsor**



**2021 Georgia Chapter AFS Fundraising Donors**





## 2022 GEORGIA CHAPTER AFS ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

**Platinum Sponsorship: \$1000 or more**

**Gold Sponsorship: \$500 - \$999**

**Silver Sponsorship: \$250 - \$499**

**Bronze Sponsorship: \$150 - \$249**

	Bronze Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Gold Sponsor	Platinum Sponsor
Recognition in the 2022 conference program and throughout the year in our website, social media sites, and monthly newsletter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free advertisement for your organization (or other fisheries-related content) throughout the year in our monthly chapter newsletter	1/4 Page	1/4 Page	1/2 Page	Full Page
Complimentary registrations	No	1	2	3
Conference table space	No	One 6 ft table	One 6 ft table	Two 6 ft tables
Conference presentation time (10 minutes) for your organization	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

### **Friends of GA AFS (\$50)**

Recognition in the 2022 conference program and throughout the year in our website and monthly newsletter

Fundraising Chair: Jackson Sibley (oceansibly@gmail.com)

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

GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN FISHERIES  
SOCIETY

241 Apple Ridge 2  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
georgiaafs@gmail.com





## **GEORGIA POWER FOUNDATION, INC. WATERS FOR GEORGIA PROGRAM**

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is inviting proposals for the Waters for Georgia Program. Through this funding program, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. seeks to invest in water quality improvement projects that result in measurable benefits to environments and communities across the state of Georgia.

The Georgia Power Foundation will grant awards of \$25,000 and up, with a total anticipated investment of \$1 million for projects that will be implemented and begin delivering benefits by December 31, 2023. The Foundation will consider smaller investments for projects that promise exceptional water stewardship benefits to the community.

To ensure that funding is directed where it is most needed, proposed projects must be focused on waters of Georgia that are currently listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Further, successful projects should focus on reducing the source(s) of impairment and include actions that will contribute to the de-listing or down-listing of the impaired waters. All projects must have a clear link to watershed and ecosystem health. Additional consideration will be given to projects benefitting majority Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and underserved communities.

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. will consider proposals from governmental agencies or organizations that have an active 501(c)3 tax designation and described in Section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code except for any organization described in Code Section 509(a)(3)(B)(iii) that is not “functionally integrated” with its supported organization.

For more information, visit <https://www.georgiapower.com/community/apply-grant/environmental-water-grant.html>.



Waters for Georgia



# Fishing for trout in the summer

By Sarah Baker  
Georgia DNR WRD  
Fisheries Biologist



Photo by Gary Grossman

Retired DNR Regional Supervisor Jeff Durniak is well-known for his trout whispering skills. His extensive time spent fishing for trout is evident in his exceptionally detailed recommendations- and they work! His “secrets” can be found on [North Georgia Trout Online](#) (as Dredger), [Unicoi Outfitter’s Blog](#), or [Rabun Trout Unlimited’s website](#). Check out his [Summer Fly Flinging Tips](#) article.

Jeff recommends fishing for trout in north Georgia headwater streams (aka bluelining) and tailwaters during the heat. Anglers should key in on water temperatures, stream flows, and shade. If you’re just learning how to fly fish, check out his article in [Coastal Angler Magazine Atlanta Edition](#) (Page 4) for the fly patterns you’ll want to start with. During your next lunch break, I recommend scrolling through some of the excellent resources that he has available.

My top recommendations for places to go fishing for trout during the early part of the summer (late May to early June) are: 1. West Fork Chattooga River (Rabun County) 2. Amicalola Creek (Dawson County) and 3. Cooper Creek (Union). For late summer (July to early August), check out 1. Tallulah River (in Towns County) 2. Rock Creek (Fannin County) and 3. Chattahoochee River (White County).

You can locate places to fish along these streams by visiting our [Trout Stream Interactive Map](#). Zoom into an area and pan until you locate a highlighted section of the stream. Keep in mind, the mountains are busy in the summer, so expect crowded parking. If you have the ability to hike in a few miles and access the headwater streams, you can catch little, wild trout all summer long! Check out my article in the DNR Fishing Blog [Blue-lining for trout](#) for tips on how to “blueline”. I also recommend checking out Jimmy Jacob’s book, [Fly Fishing for Peach State Trout](#). You can catch Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, and Brook Trout in Georgia. If you’re not a fly-flinger, try Panther Martins (black & white or yellow & red) or white rooster tails. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [sarah.baker@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:sarah.baker@dnr.ga.gov).

P.S. - Thank you for buying your [fishing licenses](#), tackle, and [TU Brook Trout car tags](#)!



Photo by Gary Grossman



# DID YOU KNOW

## GEORGIA ANGLERS SPEND MORE THAN 8.7 MILLION DAYS ON THE WATER



According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division 2019 Fact Sheet

- 1 million + resident anglers fish in Georgia
- Anglers in Georgia generate \$1.3 billion in retail sales, with a \$2.1 billion ripple effect each year
- Fishing in Georgia is responsible for 15,644 jobs, \$622 million salaries/wages/earnings, \$109 million in state and local tax revenues, and \$147 million in federal tax revenues



## THE FISH PASSAGE CONFERENCE 2021 IS FREE



This year's annual Fish Passage Conference will be an international webinar on fish passage engineering, fishway research and telemetry studies, river restoration measures like dam removal, mapping migratory routes of fish, legislation and much more. The webinar will showcase cutting edge research, celebrate successful projects, discuss challenges and promote networking and knowledge exchange between various sectors.

**Dates: June 21 - 24**

**Register: <https://fishpassage.fisheries.org/>**





# Props!



**Jackson Sibley**



**Marion Baker**



**Brentz McGhin**



**Amory Baker**



**Riley Hess**



**Bryan Fluech**

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



## Safety Tips

from Bubba Bass



Vessel operation is an important part of fisheries research and teaching. A few tips for safe boating.

Check the weather forecast

Complete a float plan and leave it with someone who is responsible



Check your vessel prior to departure - look over all safety gear, communication devices, and check to make sure vessel is ready for trip

Make sure everyone has the proper PFD and it is worn when on the water (USCG Type III PFD is best for most situations)



Conduct a safety briefing so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency

Protect yourself from skin cancer - hat, sunscreen or SPF protective clothing



## Fin and Games

- *Swordfish* is also a name for a John Travolta movie
- Lose their teeth and scales when they reach adulthood
- Special organ next to eye to keep their brain and eye warm

### **Swordfish**



**Swordfish are one of the fastest fish in the ocean, what fish is the fastest?**

(answer on last page)

## Fishing Tips and Tricks

When kayak fishing on the river remember **BITES**

- Be sure to always wear your PFD
- Inform others about your float plan
- Take the necessary precautions if the water levels start to rise
- Ensure you have proper safety equipment
- Seek shelter during thunderstorms

## Fish of the Month

### **Northern Hog Sucker (*Hypentelium nigricans*)**

The northern hog sucker is a bottom-dwelling fish that prefers clear, fast-flowing water which is why it is a biological indicator of stream health.

Like many other sucker species, the northern hog sucker has small, wart-like bumps called "papillae" on its lips, which it uses to help find food. Northern hog suckers flip stones on the substrate to feed on aquatic insect larvae and small snails, an activity that frequently attracts minnows which forage on the smaller organisms that are also uncovered. Local legend says kissing a hog sucker brings good luck.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUY EROH

The northern hog sucker has many names: hog molly, hognose sucker, hog mullet, black sucker, stoneroller, stonetoter, stonelugger, hammerhead, boxhead, riffle sucker.



# 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](mailto:georgiaafs@gmail.com).

## Stay Connected

### GAAFS Website

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

### Facebook

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

### Twitter

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

### Instagram

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

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



# Things to Remember

## NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR

### Professional Spotlight

<https://forms.gle/33grwoHmPCXDPEQQ6>

### Student Spotlight

<https://forms.gle/gNMTFsTRjQzwmH2o8>



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

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**