

Under the Dock

June 2022



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

WHAT'S INSIDE

Click on title to go directly to page

- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Dockside: The Path](#)
- [News and Updates](#)
- [Southeastern Fishes Council Annual Meeting](#)
- [Inspiring the Next Generation](#)
- [Beware of Ticks](#)
- [Sponsor Highlight](#)
- [Chapter Spotlight](#)
- [Did You Know](#)
- [Bubba's Place](#)
- [The Book Shelf](#)
- [Fishy News from Around the World](#)
- [AFS and SDAFS Annual Meeting information](#)

Mark Your Calendar

- **June 4 - 12**
 - National Fishing and Boating Week
- **June 25**
 - National Catfish Day
- **August 15-16**
 - R Workshop, UGA Campus
- **August 21 - 25**
 - AFS National Meeting in Spokane, WA
- **October 1**
 - GA DNR CRD CoastFest, Brunswick
- **November 16-18**
 - Southeastern Fishes Council (Athens, GA)
- **February 1-5, 2023**
 - 2023 SDAFS Annual Meeting (VA)
- **February 14-17, 2023 (Tues-Fri)**
 - GAAFS Annual Meeting

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/>

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



Send us your fish photos for the Props! bulletin board



While fishing in the Bahamas, John Damer caught this barracuda with a whopper plover.

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. Submissions are due on the 21st of each month unless told otherwise.

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

DOCKSIDE

THE PATH

By An Angler

The other day I was fishing in a small tributary of the Etowah River. Though I was equipped for both micofishing and pursuing larger prey, my mind was not locked in on targeting any particular species. On that day, my goal was for it to be more about the experience: the opportunity to enjoy the blue skies, warm weather, and the chance to simply enjoy a walk in the woods, regardless of how cooperative the fish may or may not be.

I had only visited this area a few times and always walked downstream because it was easier. On this day I chose the more difficult path and went upstream. I quickly learned that this path would not be easy. Slippery rocks to maneuver and fallen trees to traverse would make for a challenging experience. But I just knew something great would be just around the corner. After traveling upstream hundreds of steps and making countless casts in search of anything that would be fooled by my tiny spinner bait, I finally came to a simple conclusion that all anglers have faced at some point in their fishing excursions: I should have brought some bread for backup. Whether as a kid or adult, we've all experienced the magical results produced by a small piece of fresh bread rolled between a thumb and forefinger and carefully pressed onto a hook. As a kid I



caught plenty of shiners using this deadly combo, but the absence of bread meant that what I packed in my sling pack will have to do. I pressed on, determined to find success despite the challenges, focusing on the fact that every twist and turn of the stream provided a new opportunity to catch a fish. But, despite my best efforts, the fish were not to be fooled that day by my choice of lures, so I chose a different path to find success and flipped a few rocks. My treasure...a crayfish, a water penny, and several stoneflies. I have flipped rocks in hundreds of streams, and this is the only one I have ever found a water penny. So, though I found a dead-end path in my fishing effort, I found the path to success in choosing to flip rocks.

As I faced the challenges presented by the fish and stream, it made me reflect on similar

Continued on next page

challenging paths I've experienced in life. Looking back over the paths I've journeyed in my life, I cannot help but question some of the choices I made when walking those paths. Regardless of which path I chose, I learned that some paths led to new adventures and experiences while some paths were dark and dreary. Yet, regardless of their outcome, I cannot regret any of the paths I chose, for even the most difficult ones taught me a lesson. It's during those difficult paths that I'm reminded of a famous quote by country music legend Johnny Cash:

You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space.

Life is full of choices and the consequences of those choices, good or bad. Each day we choose what paths we will take. As an angler, will I take the easy path and simply release my unused bait, regardless of what impacts it could have on other species in the area, or will I take the more challenging path of taking the time to properly dispose of it in the trash? As a fisheries professional, will I take the easy path of returning from field sampling and quickly store my boat and gear so I can get home early, or will I choose a more time-costly path of thoroughly washing down my gear, boat, motor, and trailer so as to prevent accidentally introducing plants and animals into the next waterbody I visit? As a conservationist, will I take the easy path of hoarding the knowledge I have learned and gained over the many paths I



have journeyed, or will I take the more patience-challenging path of sharing with others, young and old, to educate them on the joys, challenges, and life lessons learned from managing and pursuing my finned friends? Reflecting on such choices, I cannot help but remember the words of the famous poet Robert Frost in his poem "The Road Not Taken":

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Returning to the stream, I see potential ahead of me. Just around the bend I see the rays of the sun peeking through the river birch that grow along this stream like city skyscrapers. I am certain there will be some fish for me to deceive. The day has grown long, and I must turn back soon. As I approached, I heard a trickling of water...ahh...I must be approaching a little waterfall. How exciting! There will certainly be something to find. Just a few feet more and what do I see. But another stream unloading its

contents into my creek. Another path to take. Another adventure. Should I stay on my current path, or should I choose this new one and see where it takes me?

The paths we choose have many bends and obstacles that lead us to select other pathways. Often, we choose the path of least resistance. Maybe we choose the easier path because we are afraid of failure; maybe it's because we want to avoid uncomfortable situations; or maybe it's because it's just easier to go with the flow. But, like the anadromous fish that ascend our rivers, sometimes maybe we should focus on the potential grand rewards that await those who are willing to face the current, face the challenges, and pursue whatever path is before us, regardless of how difficult it may be. So, what path will you take?



Have you paid your 2022 Georgia Chapter dues?

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 and the conservation and management of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

Your membership dues help support fisheries conservation in Georgia.

Annual dues are \$10 and can be paid using our online store.



Learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of GAAFS

<https://gaafs.org/membership/>

Are you a member of the American Fisheries Society?

Membership in the American Fisheries Society yields many benefits whether you are a student or professional, early or late in your career.

<https://fisheries.org/membership/>

ON THE CALENDAR

June 4-12 is National Fishing and Boating Week

Time spent fishing and boating is a great opportunity to talk, laugh, relax, reconnect and create good memories with friends and family.

There are dozens of kids' fishing events held during the week of June 4-12.

Find an event near you: [Events Calendar](#)



Check your boat to make sure it is ready for a fun day out on the water.

<https://gadnrle.org/required-equipment>

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR FLOAT PLAN



June 25 - National Catfish Day



National Catfish Day is a national observance of the United States celebrating "the value of farm-raised catfish." The day was designated as June 25, 1987, by President Ronald Reagan, who issued the Presidential Proclamation after the U.S. Congress called for the day to be established in House Joint Resolution 178.



This year the Cordele and McDuffie fish hatcheries plan to produce around one million catfish fry. The goal is to raise 80,000 fingerlings, 330,000 intermediate size, and 35,000 catchable catfish. Many of the catchable catfish will be used for Kids' Fishing Events throughout Georgia.

NEWS & UPDATES

Invasives Species Prevention Training



Several fisheries professionals, marina owners, fishing guides, and others attended the Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training (WIT) workshop the first week of May at Red Top Mountain State Park. Lead instructors Dee Davis (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission) and Colleen Allen (National Park Service Aquatic Nuisance

Species Coordinator) shared their vast knowledge of aquatic invasive species and how to prevent them from entering our state. Participants learned how to thoroughly inspect trailers, motors, and watercraft, from stern to bow, for zebra and quagga mussels and other aquatic nuisance species. Proper decontamination procedures were demonstrated onsite and participants had an opportunity to practice what they had learned.

Hazard Analysis and Critical Point (HACCP) training was also held at Red Top Mountain State Park that same week. HACCP examines our day-to-day activities (i.e. fish sampling, raising and/or stocking fish, habitat restoration projects, etc.) to determine if and when invasive species might be unintentionally moved. HACCP helps to identify the most effective opportunities during these



activities to reduce the risk and the specific control measures that are needed. After learning the steps of HACCP the participants separated into individual teams to design a HACCP plan for an activity of their choice. The lead instructors, Cindy Williams (US Fish and Wildlife Service) and Colleen Allen (National Park Service), provided effective feedback to each team as they presented their plans.



R Workshop this August in Athens



The Intro to R workshop will be held on August 15 - 16, 2022 at the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources in room 419 located in building 4.

- August 15: 10am - 5pm
- August 16: 8am - 2pm

During this two-day workshop participants will have opportunities to practice skills and ask questions. This workshop is intended for students and professionals. We will be using the computer lab at Warnell.

Because parking on campus is \$10 per day we reduced the cost of the workshop to \$20 for GAAFS members and \$30 for non-Chapter members. We will be able to accommodate up to 40 participants so be sure to register and pay early to secure a seat.

Registration form:

<https://forms.gle/t8Jht7RfDM1UzHHu8>



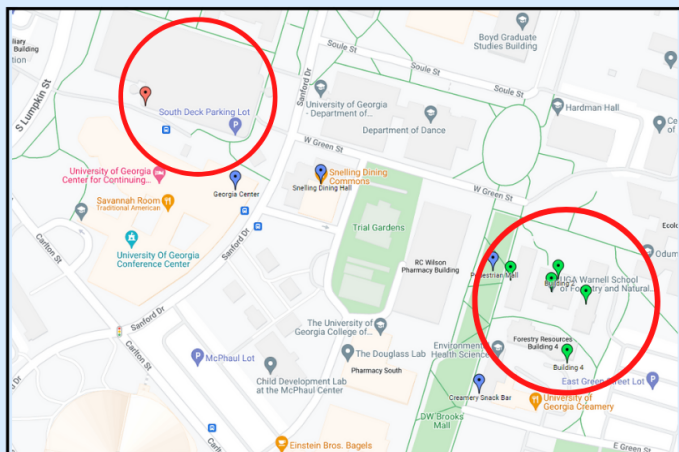
UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

<https://www.warnell.uga.edu/about/directions-maps>

Visit our website for more information about registration and hotel selections.

<https://gaafs.org/r-workshop-august-15-16-2022/>

This is the same week students move into the dorms so do not hesitate to make your hotel reservations.



The easiest parking location will be in the South Parking Deck Lot off of S. Lumpkin Street. It is \$10 a day to park.

Directions and Maps

<https://www.warnell.uga.edu/about/directions-maps>

Georgia DNR CRD relaunches "Coastlines Georgia"

The Coastal Resources Division (CRD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources relaunched a magazine aimed at informing the public about the division's activities, mission, and staff.

"Coastlines Georgia" will be published quarterly in a digital format, including an e-reader edition that allows readers to turn the pages and read articles on computers, tablets, and mobile phones, said Tyler Jones, CRD's public information officer and editor of Coastlines Georgia.

"The online format will enable Georgians from the mountains to the coast to access Coastlines Georgia whenever and wherever it's convenient," he said.



Coastlines Georgia was originally published in 1978 shortly after CRD was created. At its height, it had a circulation of more than 5,000 and highlighted not only CRD's activities but other DNR divisions working across Georgia's 105-mile coast.

The inaugural re-issue released today highlights the importance of tarpon conservation and also features updates from the Georgia Coastal Management Program, new saltwater game fish records, artificial reef deployments, and various other activities at CRD.

To read Coastline Georgia, and to see historic editions published in the 1970s and 80s, visit CoastalGaDNR.org/Coastlines.

To subscribe, visit CoastalGaDNR.org and navigate to the bottom right corner of the home page. Select "[Sign up to receive news and information](#)." Be sure to select "News Releases" as a subscription topic.

Source: [CRD News Release 5/13/22](#)

Is it true? World Record Redbreast Sunfish Caught in the Satilla River



You have surely heard by now about Lester Roberts and his state record redbreast sunfish he recently caught on the Satilla River. Not only did he break the state record, but his redbreast sunfish may qualify as a tie for the world record through IGFA.

Lester was fishing for bass when this stocky redbreast attached his crankbait. The fish was officially weighed at the GA DNR office in Waycross. **1-lb, 12-oz**

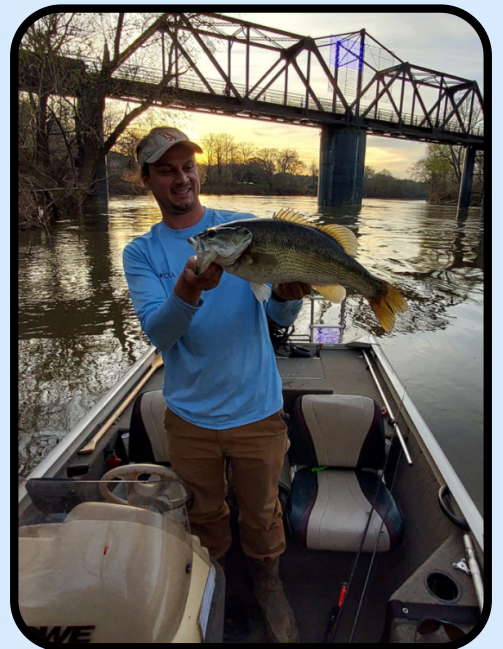
Will Steed held the Satilla River redbreast record for a few weeks. He caught his redbreast on April 26 and it weighed 1-lb, 5.9-oz.



So Many Lake and River Records in 2022

It looks like last year's rainfall provided prime forage for many of our freshwater fish in Georgia. We are seeing several new state records as well as many new lake and river records this year. Our very own GAAFS Fundraising Chair Jackson Sibley caught a 4-lb, 0.5-oz spotted bass that qualified as the new Etowah River record.

Georgia Outdoor News (GON) started publishing lake records for 18 public reservoirs in 1990. They now keep records on 51 different lakes and rivers in Georgia. They are using GA DNR WRD's Georgia Angler Award Program to set their benchmarks.



GON Georgia Lake and River Records: <https://gon.com/fishing/georgia-lake-river-records>

GA DNR WRD State Fish Records: <https://www.eregulations.com/georgia/fishing/freshwater-fish-records>

STEM-Day for 7th Graders



On May 16th seventh graders from South Habersham Middle School participated in the first career-focused STEM field trip. Steven Patrick and Jay Shelton organized a very impressive team of experts to teach the students about different STEM-related areas of study and career opportunities associated with the conservation and management of natural resources.

Students had an opportunity to learn about the best management strategies used by Mark Alley on his farm that is on the Soque River. Sunrise Farm uses environmentally-friendly farming practices to ensure his farm does not contribute any pollution to the Soque River.

North Georgia Technical College (NGTC) was the site for the other learning stations visited by the students. Duncan Hughes, Environmental Technology instructor at NGTC, took the students on a tour of the Aquaponics and Hydroponics labs and he had the students test the water quality of the water used in the fish tanks. Steven Patrick and Rebecca Brown talked about STEM careers related to fisheries science in addition to teaching the students about maintaining a healthy pond.

Jay Shelton was joined by Wesley Gerrin (UGA Outreach Professional) and UGA fisheries students Rachel Byrne and Sarah McNair. They provided hands-on learning regarding the aquatic biodiversity of the rivers and streams in Habersham County. Jay led a discussion on wetland ecology and their importance in protecting watersheds.

The event made quite an impact on students. Based on a survey of over 100 students who attended, 60% of them responded that they would be "very or somewhat interested" in careers that focused on the fields of study they participated in, and students' comments reveal the positive effect the presentations had on them. Overall a very successful field trip.



Trout Fishing With Mom!

By Sarah Baker

This year, Region 2 Fisheries coordinated a family-friendly event that provided the opportunity for moms to learn how to fish for trout. Recruiting females is important to growing the sport of trout fishing as only 20% of Georgia trout license holders are female. We used data from the 2017 Georgia Trout Angler Survey collected by researchers Hailey Yondo and Bynum Boley from the University of Georgia to help us understand the barriers and motivations of current female trout anglers to better learn how our agency can help grow the sport of trout fishing. For example, the number one barrier to females' ability to trout fish as much as they would like to is lack of time due to work obligations. The number one motivation to why females go trout fishing is to be outdoors.



Families help to stock trout



Successful angler



Mother and daughter



Teaching a new angler

The event was held at Unicoi State Park, located just an hour and a half from downtown Atlanta. Children and adults alike enjoyed watching John Lee Thomson haul trout from the stocking truck into a bucket for them to release into Smith Creek. Of the twenty attendees, half had never fished for trout before. All were eager to grab a fishing pole and container of different lures and bait. The rooster tails were the winning lure of the day. Everyone was able to catch a trout and smiles were all around! A demonstration showed participants how to prepare and cook trout for dinner. Lunch was provided by Georgia AFS, and many prizes were donated from Academy Sports & Outdoors. Big thanks to Keith Weaver with The Gateway to Fishing Program for supporting the event and supplying equipment.

UGA 5 Rivers Club Earns Trout Unlimited Silver Trout Award



The UGA 5 Rivers Club is the recipient of this year's Trout Unlimited Silver Trout Award. As one of the highest awards for chapters, it recognizes the chapter that over the last year took innovative and thoughtful approaches to building community and advancing the mission of Trout Unlimited. The UGA 5 Rivers Club will be recognized at the Trout Unlimited Annual Award celebration on Friday, July 22 in Portland, Maine.

The UGA 5 Rivers Club has been a staple in the Trout Unlimited college community for several years – always representing the key values of the UGA 5 Rivers program: education, conservation, community, engagement, and leadership. The UGA club created several opportunities for UGA's student body to learn about fly fishing, conservation, and Georgia's natural resources. By inviting unique guest speakers, working with community partners, and hosting events in and around the Athens campus community, the UGA 5 Rivers Club has built a welcoming community for UGA students seeking to give back to Georgia's natural resources and build meaningful connections with other anglers.

Perhaps the most notable testament to the innovation, teamwork, and synergy of the UGA 5 Rivers Club was their contribution to the 2021 Clean My Water Sweepstakes held during TU's inaugural Trout Week. With the help of faculty advisor Dr. Jay Shelton, UGA 5 Rivers alumni, and Upper Chattahoochee Chapter leaders, students successfully



developed and launched a national clean-up initiative, inspiring people across the country to take care of their local waterways and "pick the dang stuff up." These sweepstakes provided an accessible opportunity for anyone to participate in the Trout Week festivities from their own backyard.



Another admirable accomplishment of the UGA 5 Rivers Club is their work on the Crayfish Creek restoration project -- developed and designed by UGA students and faculty! This project would not be possible without the talents of several students, including 5 Rivers Club officer, Emily Rogers.

The UGA 5 Rivers Club is an inspiring example of what students can accomplish when they combine passion with action.

Southeastern Fishes Council

48th Annual Meeting

Fish Diversity Connections

November 16 - 18, 2022

Athens, GA

We are dedicating this year's first round of talks to fish diversity connections. We ask speakers to think broadly about the role of southeastern fishes in ecosystems and human culture. We provide the following guiding questions but will consider any talk addressing the broader conference theme.

What is the ecological significance of upstream fish migrations to headwater streams?

How do fishes influence the survival and reproduction of other taxonomic groups, such as freshwater mussels?

How are southeastern fishes connected to human culture through art, media, subsistence, and recreation?

What conservation actions are needed to restore fish diversity connections?

The meeting will also include oral and poster presentations addressing the ecology, conservation, and taxonomy of southeastern fishes.

Please share this meeting announcement widely and consider including colleagues and students that might add more diversity to SFC.

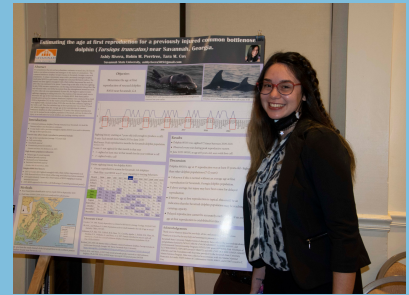
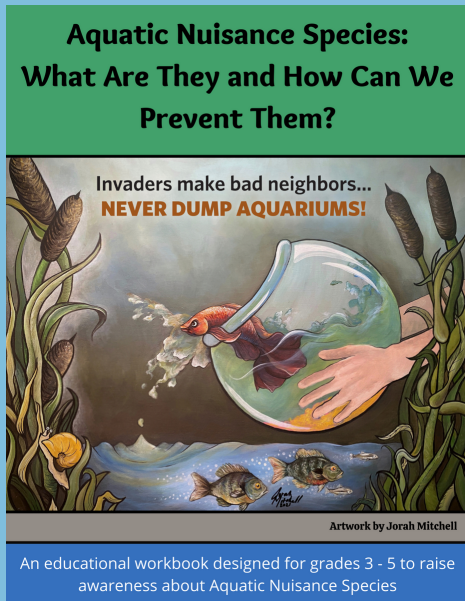
If you have any questions contact Brett Albanese (Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov) or Duncan Elkins (delkins@uga.edu).

GA AFS 2023

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 aquatic education outreach projects, aquatic habitat restoration projects, fisheries continuing education workshops, and student scholarships.

FUNDRAISING DOLLARS SUPPORT



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 backpacks, gift certificates, coolers, tackle bags, event passes, guided fishing trips, angling tackle and equipment, fishing rod/reels, kayak/whitewater rafting trips, camping equipment, original artwork, prints, or other fish and wildlife-related items.

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

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

Inspiring the Next Generation of Conservationists

It would be absolutely useless for any of us to work to save wildlife without working to educate the next generation of conservationists."

~Jane Goodall

Fisheries professionals all around the state of Georgia share their passion and knowledge of fisheries with others.



How do you inspire the next generation of conservationists?



**LATIN AMERICA
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¡Aparta la Fecha!

Save The Date!

CONGRESO **LATINOAMERICANO Y DEL CARIBE** **DE PESQUERIAS**

May/Mayo 15-18, 2023

Cancun Convention Center, Cancun, Mexico
cancuncenter.com

Vinculando la conservación y las ciencias pesqueras en América y el Caribe

Convocamos a los interesados en la ciencia, gestión y conservación de pesquerías en América Latina y el Caribe para que participen en este importante evento. Se abordarán los sistemas marinos y dulceacuícolas, e incluirán presentaciones orales y en cartel, cursos de capacitación, eventos para estudiantes y mucho más

Bridging Fish, Fisheries Science, and Conservation Across the Americas

We welcome all people interested in fisheries science, management and conservation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to join us for this important event. The Congress will address freshwater and marine systems and include traditional science presentations, training opportunities, student events and much more.

lacfc.fisheries.org



Beware of Ticks

Have you heard of Alpha-gal?

Many of us have heard of Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. But have you heard about Alpha-gal syndrome that can be caused by the bite of a lone star tick? Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) (also called alpha-gal allergy, red meat allergy, or tick bite meat allergy) is a serious, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. AGS is not caused by an infection. AGS symptoms occur after people eat red meat or are exposed to other products containing alpha-gal. ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov))

AGS reactions can range from mild to severe or even life-threatening. Symptoms include a drop in blood pressure, swelling of the lips, tongue, eyelids, and throat, severe stomach pain, hives, and difficulty breathing.



Lyme Disease



Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected black-legged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, the infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated

successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. (Source: CDC) These ticks can attach to any part your body. But they are often found in hard-to-see areas such as your groin, armpits, and scalp.

How to Prevent Tick Bites

- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
- Tuck shirts into pants and pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where ticks can get in.
- Check the entire body for ticks; promptly remove attached ticks without squeezing them.
- Repellents containing the active ingredient N,N-diethyl-mtoluamide or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide—both better known as DEET—are effective

Are you interested in serving on one of our GA AFS committees?

One way you can support the Chapter and its mission is by serving on one of our standing committees. A brief description of the committees seeking additional members is provided along with the committee chair's contact information. Visit our website if you want to see the list of all members of a particular committee. <https://gaafs.org/committees/>

Membership and Student Affairs Committee shall recruit new members for the Chapter and the Society; ensure continued membership of current members; promote student involvement; and identify concerns of members and students related to Society structure, function, and activities.

Committee Chair: Lauren Carroll (lmc80753@uga.edu)

The Fundraising/Raffle Committee shall solicit donations and contributions for various Chapter and/or Society events, including the annual Chapter meeting.

Committee Chair: Jackson Sibley (oceansibley@gmail.com)

Arrangements Committee shall assist in organizing and carrying out various duties associated with the annual Chapter meeting or other assigned events.

Breaks and Poster Social Committee Chairs: Kevin Cavallaro (cavallaro@fultonschools.org)

Registration and Awards Banquet Committee Chair: Brent Hess (Brent.Hess@dnr.ga.gov)

Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee shall review current bylaws and policies and develop resolutions, proposed changes/updates, or other items prudent for consideration by the Chapter membership.

Committee Chair: Dawn Franco (Dawn.Franco@dnr.ga.gov)

Awards Committee shall be responsible for reviewing nominations for the Chapter's professional awards and judging student presentations at the annual Chapter meeting. The Awards Committee is divided into Professional Awards and Student Awards.

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

Student Awards Committee Chair: Chalisa Fabillar (Chalisa.Fabillar@dnr.ga.gov)

Communications Committee shall seek to disperse information pertaining to the GA Chapter members via multiple outlets, including the GA Chapter website, Facebook, newsletters, AFS Fisheries Magazine, or other appropriate forms of media.

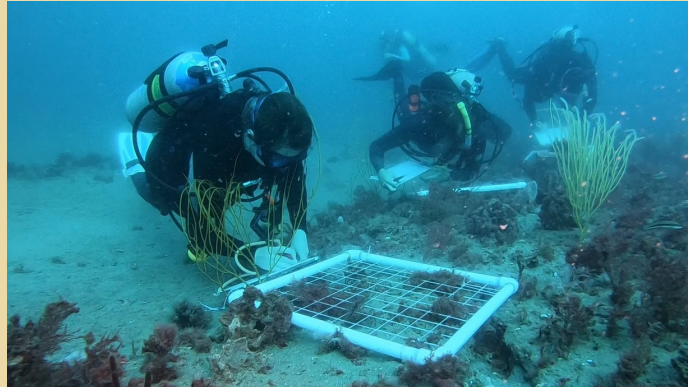
Committee Chair: Rebecca Brown (georgiaafs@gmail.com)

Environmental Concerns Committee shall seek to identify issues pertaining to the conservation and responsible management of aquatic species and their habitats; provide a forum by which ideas and information may be exchanged; and consider a position when deemed appropriate.

Committee Chair: Jordan Steele (jordan.h.steele@gmail.com)

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.



The Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University is the largest center for biology research and education in southern Georgia. You'll learn relevant skills both in the classroom and via hands-on research with faculty mentors who consistently receive awards for their teaching, research, and service.

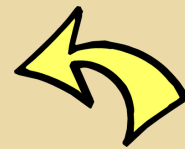
Whether it is restoring dunes to protect Georgia's beaches, developing plans to prevent the spread of invasive species, protecting the calving grounds of the Right Whale, fighting human diseases, or protecting diamond-back terrapins, getting a degree in biology will help you help the world around you.

Visit their website for more information



[Biology Department](#)

[Masters of Science in Biology](#)



Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2022 Sponsors

Click on image to visit website

Platinum



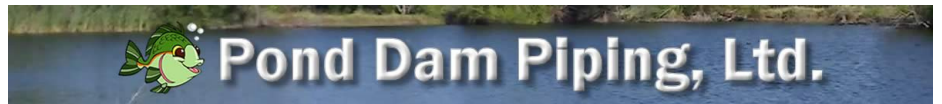
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**In-Kind
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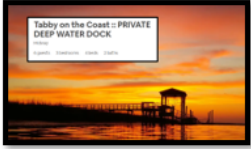



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GAAFS 2022 Fundraising Donors

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HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA





Chapter Spotlight

Jason Howard

Jason is the Manager of the Georgia DNR Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery. He has worked with GA DNR for nearly 23 years. Some of Jason's responsibilities include developing stocking plans at the hatchery, feeding, fertilizing, harvest plans, customer service, and hosting various events. The Richmond Hill Hatchery includes 31 fish rearing ponds where they produce largemouth bass, striped bass, hybrid bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish.

Jason is a long-time supporter and member of the Georgia Chapter and is always willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed.



What inspired you to choose a career in fisheries science?

My love for the outdoors and the challenge of raising fish from fertilization, pond-rearing, and ultimately to their final destination at any number of Georgia's waterways.

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

I graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia. My degree is in Wildlife Biology.

What do you most enjoy about your current position?

I enjoy the staff I work with day-to-day. We get along well and constantly bounce ideas off of one another. The most challenging aspect is raising hybrid striped bass from egg to 1" fingerling.

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

If I could pick one thing that stands out, it would be when I got word that I was chosen to be the assistant manager in July 2004.



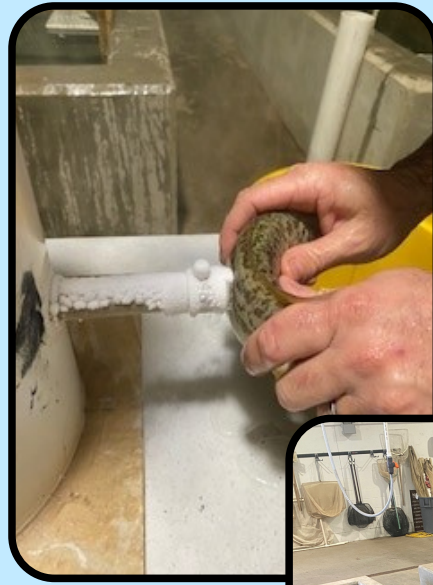
Chapter Spotlight Continued

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

Aside from the degree, experience, experience, experience. Never hesitate to knock on someone's door and ask for opportunities to gain experience which could be the determining factor in a competitive interview.

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

We will attempt to tank raise channel catfish fry for a few weeks before stocking them in our ponds, this is something we've never tried before.



What is your favorite fish and why?

Lately, I've come to enjoy spawning black crappie. They acclimate well to inside culture and do extremely well when raised in hatchery ponds. They're also my favorite fish to catch.

What is your favorite quote?

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

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

During a baseball game when I was a sophomore in high school, I was involved in a terrible collision at third base. As a result, I ruptured my spleen and it had to be removed along with my appendix.



How We Unintentionally Introduce Invasive Species

Pathways are the means and routes by which invasive species are introduced into new environments. Pathways can generally be classified as either natural or man-made.



Fish Transportation



SCUBA Gear



Fish Sampling Gear



Waders/Buckets



Water Trapped on Boat



Boat Trailers



Maintenance Equipment



Footwear



Aquatic Construction Projects

DID YOU KNOW

Sharks Don't Have Otoliths!

The most common way to age bony fishes is by using their otoliths. But sharks are cartilaginous and do not have an otolith.

Instead, scientists use the vertebrae or backbone of the shark. Similar to otoliths, the vertebrae have rings that can be counted to determine the relative age of the shark. But this method is not reliable for all sharks, especially older sharks. As growth rate decreases with age, band pair deposition decreases, leading to age underestimation based on band pair counts.



Radiocarbon dating has been used to age older sharks like the Greenland shark which is considered one of the oldest living animals on the planet. This process uses proteins, found in the sharks' eyes, that are formed before birth and do not degrade with age.



Testing of nuclear weapons during the early 1960s and late 1950s increased the concentration of carbon-14 in the atmosphere. The result was that every living matter at that time was labeled with an enhanced C14 isotope value. This timestamp allows all biological material to be chronologically backdated. Carbon dating can only provide estimates, not a definitive age. A 5-meter female Greenland shark caught in a fisherman's net was estimated between 272 and 512 years old.

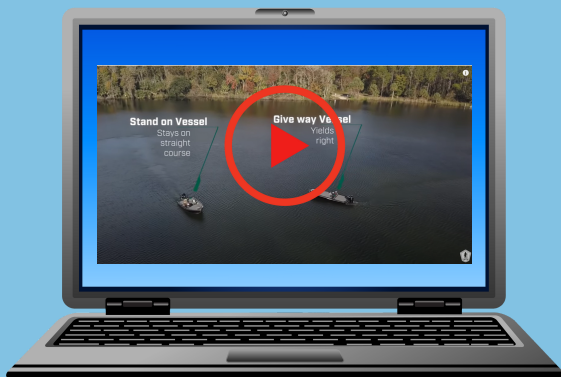




COFFEE BREAK

There are three common situations you may find yourself in when navigating around other boats.

Boating safety tips from Mystery Tackle Box



BUBBA'S VIDEO PICK

How to Add Weight to Frogs for Bass Fishing in Wind
(Wired2Fish)



BUBBA'S PLACE

BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Are you looking for a Father's Day gift or maybe you want to buy something for yourself? Shop with one of our 2022 annual fundraiser contributors. **Click** on the image to visit their website.

What about a weekend getaway at one of Georgia's State Parks?



Lots of fun things to do at Jekyll Island



A guided fishing trip with pro angler Clayton Batts on Walter F. George (Lake Eufaula)

According to AARP disc golf is gaining popularity among the 50+ crowd. It is inexpensive and easy on the joints and muscles.











Safety Tip

from Bubba Bass

Stay safe on the water...whether you are boating for work/research or you are boating for fun, you need to know Georgia's boating laws.

How well do you know boating laws? Test your knowledge. Is the statement true or false? Click on  for help.



1. All boats are required to slow to idle speed when they are within 100 feet of docks, piers, bridges, shorelines, or people in the water. 
2. When meeting another vessel, boat operators should pass on the right side. 
3. All boaters (motorized, canoes, kayaks, etc.) are required to file a float plan. 
4. As you head toward open water you should keep the green buoy on your left side. 
5. When you are boating at night and you see a red, green, and white light you should maintain your course and current speed? 

(Answer on last page)

Bubba's Friends

Greenland Shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*)

The shark is typically found in the Northern Atlantic and Arctic regions.

In 1988, a UAV spotted a 6-meter-long male Greenland shark at a depth of 7,218 feet (2,200 m) at the wreck of the SS Central America, which sank off the coast of Savannah, Georgia in 1857.

In 2013 a 3.6-meter-long Greenland shark was caught in the Gulf of Mexico from 6,000 feet below the surface.

Interesting facts

- Greenland sharks grow at just 1cm a year and reach sexual maturity at about the age of 150.
- The Greenland shark is an ovoviviparous species.
- Lifespan: Some believe they can live to 400 years old or more.
- Diet: They are mostly scavengers of the sea
- The Greenland shark's flesh is poisonous when fresh, but can be eaten once it's been dried.



Fin and Games

It is time again for "Bubba's Contest That Pays." Our last winner, Ryan Harrell, won a \$25 Amazon gift card. This time we have a \$50 Bass Pro Shops gift card donated by one of our members to give away. **ONLY 2022 GEORGIA CHAPTER AFS MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.** (<https://gaafs.org/membership/>)

This time we are using a cryptogram. Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter. Try to decode the message. Once you solve the phrase make sure you enter your information on the contest form for your chance to win the gift card. We will randomly choose one winner from all the correct entries. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm on June 29, 2022. Contest Form: <https://forms.gle/z7BosvSAzgp48da68>

**QV QUNN DV AFSQF BSXVWVX
DP YLV YXMIAE QV NVMWV.**

HINT: Q is W

**Bryan
Fluech**



**Jay
Shelton**



**Dietrich Thompson
(Age 6)**



Bert Deener



**Elan
Norris**



**Don
Harrison**



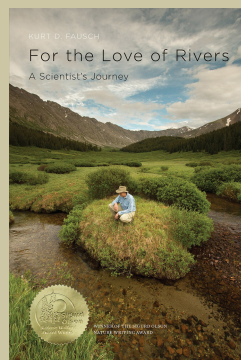
**Steven
Patrick**



PROPS!

The Book Shelf

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



For the Love of Rivers: A Scientist's Journey

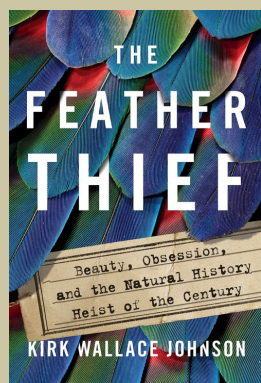
By Kurt Fausch

In *For the Love of Rivers*, Kurt Fausch draws readers into an international collaboration among stream ecologists to discover the strong hidden connections between rivers and their surrounding forests.

[Learn More Link](#)



ADULT TRUE CRIME SECTION



The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century

By Kirk Wallace Johnson

In 2009, rare and scientifically significant bird skins from the Natural History Museum at Tring, in Hertfordshire, England were stolen and the feathers plucked. The feathers were sold to men who were obsessed with the Victorian art of salmon-fly tying.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG ADULT SECTION



Fins

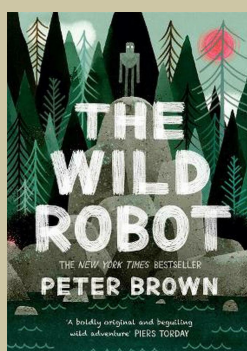
By Randy Wayne White

Marine biologist Doc Ford needs some assistance protecting the sharks and enlists the help of three kids—Luke, Maribel, and Sabina. It's going to take some convincing for them to work as a team and to recognize in themselves the courage, wisdom, and tenacity that Doc sees in them.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG READER SECTION



The Wild Robot

By Peter Brown

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive.

[Learn More Link](#)



FISHY NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

University of York (UK)

SCIENTISTS ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVER "SCALLOP DISCOS" AS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FISHING METHOD

Scientists working in partnership with fishermen have stumbled upon a new way of catching scallops using underwater "disco" lights, a breakthrough that could maximize catches while reducing damage to the marine environment.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PUPFISH ON THE RISE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OFFICIAL MONITORING EFFORT

For more than 50 years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and their partners have used scuba and surface monitoring for Devils Hole pupfish and it appears conservation and recovery efforts are paying off.

The Fish Site

US UNIVERSITY LEADS \$14 MILLION OYSTER RESEARCH EFFORT

The University of Louisiana in Lafayette is taking the lead on a three-year, \$14 million research initiative that will develop oyster broodstock that are more resilient in low-salinity environments.

University of Colorado Boulder

TOWARD MORE SUSTAINABLE WINE: SCIENTISTS CAN NOW TRACK SULFUR FROM GRAPES TO STREAMS

New research from the University of Colorado Boulder is the first to show that agricultural sulfur has a unique fingerprint that can be traced from application to endpoint. Published recently in Environmental Research Letters, the study paves the way to protect waterways downstream from unintended impacts of anthropogenic sulfur application.

Bar-Ilan University (Israel)

REFORMING CORAL REEFS USING 3D PRINTING

Their innovation is based on the natural structure of coral reefs off the southern coastal Israeli city of Eilat, but their model is adaptable to other marine environments, and may help curb reef devastation plaguing coral ecosystems around the world.

Korea Maritime and Ocean University

GO HARD OR GO HOME: SCIENTISTS SHOW REDUCED HEAVY METAL TOXICITY IN GOLDFISH USING HARD WATER

Researchers find that increasing the calcium ion concentration in water contaminated with zinc can result in reduced zinc accumulation, toxicity, and stress in the bodies of goldfish exposed to the heavy metal.

AFS INFORMATION



What Do Fish Mean to Us?

Perspectives Above and Below the Water

The American Fisheries Society, President Leanne Roulson, the AFS Western Division, and the Washington – British Columbia Chapter are excited to host the 152nd AFS Annual Meeting, August 21-25, 2022, in the second-largest city in Washington State, Spokane.

We will bring together professionals from across North America and countries around the world under the theme of “What Do Fish Mean to Us?”.

<https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>



SOUTHERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY MEETING

FEBRUARY 1 - 5, 2023

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA



The Virginia Chapter cordially invites you to attend the 2023 Southern Division AFS meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. The meeting will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

https://units.fisheries.org/va/annual_meeting/2023-sdafs/

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 about fish/fisheries/ and science. 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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Newsletter Editorial Board

Rebecca Brown

Jamie Roberts

Marion Baker

Kevin Cavallaro

Jim Page

Brent Hess

Answer to Safety Tip
1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False