

# Under the Dock

October 2022



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the  
American Fisheries Society

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

- **October 22**
  - UGA Fisheries Society Annual Fish Fry
- **November 17-18**
  - Southeastern Fishes Council Mtg. (Athens, GA)
- **December 5**
  - GAAFS President-elect nominations due
- **December 13**
  - RJG Scholarship application due
  - Undergraduate Travel Stipend application due
- **December 30**
  - GAAFS Award Nominations due (FPY and FCY)
- **January 13, 2023**
  - GAAFS2023 abstracts due
- **January 20, 2023**
  - Nominations due for GAAFS Awards (COA, DSA, Career Contribution, Unsung Hero)
- **February 1-5, 2023**
  - SDAFS (Norfolk, VA)
- **February 14-17, 2023 (Tues-Fri)**
  - GAAFS Annual Meeting (Cordele, GA)

## **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***



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



### **Do you have an idea for an article?**

We welcome a broad range of submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. 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 sections *Did You Know* and *The Bookshelf*.

# ON THE CALENDAR

## October is Emotional Wellness Month



How you feel can affect your ability to carry out everyday activities, your relationships, and your overall mental health. How you react to your experiences and feelings can change over time. Emotional wellness is the ability to successfully handle life's stresses and adapt to change and difficult times.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has 6 strategies for improving your emotional health. One of those strategies is to de-stress. Doing an activity you enjoy can help with the stress. Fishing offers an opportunity to get outdoors and escape from the daily grind.

CLICK ON IMAGES FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## October 12 National Farmers Day

Agriculture is one of the world's oldest and most vital professions. Farmers have remained one of the highest contributors to economic growth while consistently feeding the people who rely on their goods. Originally referred to as Old Farmer's Day, National Farmers Day was created to celebrate the hard work farmers put into growing their crops.

Aquaculture is agriculture. Besides food production, aquaculture is used for the restoration of threatened and endangered species populations, enhancement of wild stock fish populations, culturing of fish and invertebrates, and habitat restoration.



*October is National Apple Month  
Visit a Georgia apple orchard if you are on a fishing trip  
to the north Georgia mountains.*





# NEWS & UPDATES

## Nominations for Georgia AFS Awards

Georgia AFS values its members and all those who work to improve the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. One way our Chapter shows its gratitude is by recognizing outstanding individuals or organizations for their achievements and excellence in support of the Chapter's mission and objectives. One way you can express your appreciation to those who have gone above and beyond normal expectations is to nominate them for one of the Georgia AFS awards.

**Career Contribution Award**

**Distinguished Service Award**

**Fisheries Professional of the Year**

**Certificate of Appreciation**

**Fisheries Conservationist of the Year**

**Unsung Hero Award**

Click on the name of the award for more information about the nomination process for that particular award. The Fisheries Professional of the Year (FPY) award has two categories: FPY in Fisheries Management and FPY in Science and Research.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who is eligible for a Georgia AFS award?**
  - It depends on the award. Some awards do not require Chapter membership to be considered for the award. Detailed descriptions are available on the website.
- **Who can nominate someone for a Georgia AFS award?**
  - Anyone can submit a nomination. Some awards like the FPY and FCY do not require the nominee to include their name.
- **Is a nomination letter required for all Georgia AFS awards?**
  - A nomination letter is not required for the FPY and FCY awards. A short summary explaining why the nominee should be considered is required on the nomination form. All other awards require a nomination letter.
- **Do nominees need to exemplify in all of the standards for the FPY and FCY awards?**
  - Nominees are not expected to score exemplary in all 6 standards for the FPY and FCY awards.
- **When is the deadline to submit nominations?**
  - **Nominations for Georgia AFS FPY and FCY awards are due Dec. 30, 2022**
  - Nominations for the other awards are due January 20, 2023

## Aquatic Nuisance Species Workbook Updated



Georgia AFS collaborated with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to revise the original aquatic nuisance species workbook created in 2020. It was decided we needed to create two workbooks, one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-12. The purpose of the workbooks is to raise awareness about aquatic nuisance species and how they threaten our fishery resources in Georgia and throughout the United States.



Printed copies will be distributed to GA DNR environmental education centers, Georgia State Parks, and to other aquatic outreach educators. The workbooks are available on the Chapter's website to view as an interactive flipbook or download as a pdf. ([gaafs.org/aquatic-nuisance-species/](https://gaafs.org/aquatic-nuisance-species/)) Anyone with an iPad or touchscreen laptop can write on the pdf they download and save their answers. Printed copies of each of the workbooks will be available in the future.

## UGA Fisheries Society Annual Fish Fry

The University of Georgia Fisheries Society will be hosting its annual fish fry on October 22nd at Flinchum's Phoenix from 6 - 9 pm. Chapter members are invited to participate in this event. Proceeds from the event for future club outreach events, travel awards for undergraduates, supporting the education of future fisheries professionals, etc.

**\$8 for UGA sub-unit and Georgia AFS Members**

**\$10 for non-members (advanced pricing)**

**\$12 at the door**

*The QR code on the flier (right) will allow people to reserve a ticket at the door with the advanced price.*

Get directions to Flinchum's Phoenix

[warnell.uga.edu/directions-maps](https://warnell.uga.edu/directions-maps)

**American Fisheries Society at UGA Presents:**

# **- Fall 2022 Fish Fry -**

When?  
**October 22nd**  
**from 6pm-9pm**

Where?  
**Flinchum's Phoenix at**  
**Whitehall Forest**

Join us for:  
**-Raffles and Door Prizes!**  
**-Dessert Competition!**  
**-Fishy Fun!**



Scan to sign up for an at-the-door ticket!  
Questions? Email Taylor ([taylor.bell2@uga.edu](mailto:taylor.bell2@uga.edu))

Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA





### Training Workshop Planned for February 2023

We had a very successful R workshop in August and we now have a ggplot workshop planned for February 14, 2023, at Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele. This is a half-day workshop that will take place the morning of the 14th prior to the start of the 2023 Georgia AFS annual meeting.



#### Next Month

Additional information about the workshop and how to register will be in the November issue of the newsletter.

#### Workshop Registration Fees

- FREE for folks who pay the registration for the 2023 Georgia AFS annual meeting
- \$30 for GA AFS members\*
- \$40 for non-GA AFS members\*
- *Payment will cover Tuesday's annual meeting afternoon events as well*

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### 2023 Boater Education Workshop

As many of you know, all persons born on or after January 1, 1998, that operate any motorized vessel on the waters of Georgia must have completed a boating education course approved by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources prior to such operation.

The Georgia AFS Continuing Education Committee is coordinating with Georgia DNR WRD, Georgia DNR Law Enforcement, and UGA Warnell to provide a boater education course this Spring. Participants will have the opportunity to earn their boater education card. This will be a 2-day workshop with one day in the classroom at UGA and one day on the water practicing boating safety.

We need your help. Complete our survey form to provide us with the information we need to best plan this workshop. Even if you are not certain you can participate please complete the form.



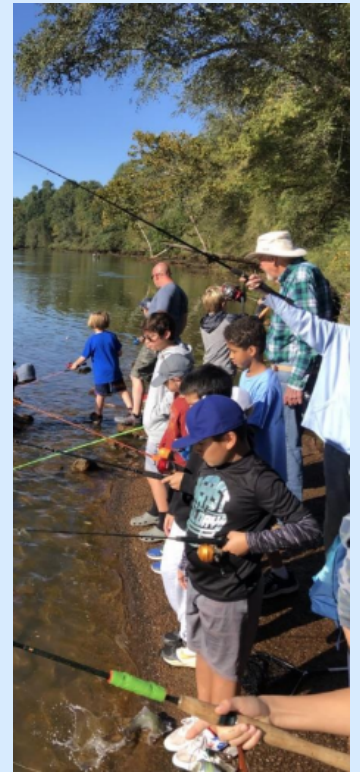
#### Survey Link

[bit.ly/3Sta4R7](https://bit.ly/3Sta4R7)

Georgia DNR Boating Education  
[gadnrle.org/boating-education](https://gadnrle.org/boating-education)

### How do you educate the general public about the stewardship of fish and aquatic resources?

Last month was National Hunting and Fishing Day (September 24th) and all around Georgia fisheries professionals, environmental educators, and volunteers provided opportunities for the general public to learn about the value of our fisheries resources. Several public fishing areas hosted a kids' fishing event or an outdoor adventure day (Paradise PFA and McDuffie PFA) that was a combination of fishing and hunting. Thank you to all of you who raised the fish that were stocked, delivered the fish that were caught, organized the events that were attended, or facilitated a learning experience.



*Thank You*





# **48th Annual Meeting**

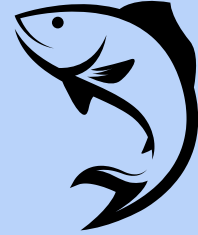
## **Fish Diversity Connections**



**November 17 - 18, 2022**

**Athens, GA**

**[sfc8.wildapricot.org/](https://sfc8.wildapricot.org/)**



**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](mailto:Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov)) or Duncan Elkins ([delkins@uga.edu](mailto:delkins@uga.edu)).**

# Georgia AFS Student Scholarships

It is not easy for students to take time from their academic schedules to attend a professional conference. We are grateful to the faculty who work with their students to allow them to reschedule exams or make up a missed lab so they can attend the Georgia AFS annual meeting. Students who attend professional meetings have opportunities to not only present their research, but they can develop the professional relationships and practices that will make them successful throughout their careers.

## Undergraduate Travel Stipend

The Georgia Chapter is pleased to offer an Undergraduate Travel Stipend for students who are members in good standing with the Chapter to attend Georgia Chapter annual meetings. The undergraduate travel stipend will provide lodging and meeting registration. Registration includes the social events as well as the awards banquet. The Chapter is able to award 8 travel stipends for undergraduate students for the 2023 annual meeting. Recipients of the travel stipend will be expected to assist with various duties at the annual meeting.

## Academic Scholarship

The Georgia Chapter is proud to offer an annual scholarship program open to both undergraduate and graduate students. The Ronnie J. Gilbert Student Scholarship provides \$500 to one outstanding student who is a member of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society at the time of their application. College students in Georgia who are currently pursuing an education that will allow them to seek careers that help improve, manage, and protect our aquatic natural resources are encouraged to apply. However, students are only eligible to win a scholarship once per degree track (e.g. a student could win once as an undergraduate and once as a master's candidate but not twice as an undergraduate). The winner will be expected to serve a one-year term on the scholarship and undergraduate travel stipend awards selection committee.

# DEADLINE

DECEMBER  
13th

Scholarship  
Applications

CLICK HERE





# 2023 Annual Meeting

*Building Strong Alliances that Spawn Success*

LAKE BLACKSHEAR RESORT FEBRUARY 14 - 17

Our goal for the Georgia AFS 2023 annual meeting is to emphasize the effectiveness of building strong alliances that support and enhance fisheries science and conservation. These relationships include establishing effective partnerships between fisheries professionals and other stakeholders, strengthening the way we interact with other fisheries professionals, and developing opportunities for future fisheries professionals to acquire the necessary skills to achieve their goals.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

**DUE JANUARY 13, 2023**

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 13, 2023**. 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 (Minimum poster size of 24" x 36" and maximum poster size of 48" x 36" - check with your advisor as to what they require)
- Please also indicate if you are a student presenter

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

## TIPS FOR DESIGNING ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Chapter has included in its website resources to help professionals and students as they create their presentations for a meeting. Students can find the judging forms on the same page. Monetary awards are presented to the top 3 student oral presenters and top 3 student poster presenters. [gaafs.org/presentation-resources/](https://gaafs.org/presentation-resources/)





# Georgia AFS 2023 Annual Meeting Draft of Schedule

The draft of the 2023 Georgia AFS annual meeting schedule is being provided for planning purposes only. Starting times for each day may change depending on how many abstracts are submitted. Visit our website for additional information.

Time	Event
	<b>February 14</b>
8:30AM - 11:30AM	ggplot Workshop
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Keynote Speaker
2:30PM - 3:30PM	Technical Presentations
4:00PM - 5:00PM	Panel Discussion
7:00PM - 9:00PM	Trivia Social (Group Shelter)
	<b>February 15</b>
7:45AM - 8:30AM	Fellowship Christian Conservationists
8:45AM - 9:00AM	State of the State - Wildlife Conservation
9:00AM - 11:30AM	Presentations
1:00PM - 3:00PM	Professional Development (outside depending on weather)
3:30PM - 5:00PM	Presentations
5:30PM - 7:00PM	Student Only Pizza Social (Group Shelter)
7:00PM - 10:00PM	Poster Social (Group Shelter)
	<b>February 16</b>
8:45AM - 9:00AM	State of the State - Marine Fisheries
9:00AM - 11:30AM	Presentations
1:00PM - 2:00PM	GA AFS Business Meeting
2:00PM - 3:00PM	Presentations
3:00PM - 5:00PM	Breakout sessions, exhibits, networking (indoors and outdoors)
6:00PM - 1000PM	Awards Banquet
	<b>February 17</b>
9:00AM - 9:15AM	State of the State - Freshwater Fisheries
9:15AM - 11:30AM	Presentations
11:30AM - 11:45AM	Closing remarks, adjourn



# GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## 2023 GEORGIA CHAPTER AFS ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

**Platinum Sponsorship: \$1500 or more**

**Gold Sponsorship: \$750 - \$1499**

**Silver Sponsorship: \$500 - \$749**

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

	Bronze Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Gold Sponsor	Platinum Sponsor
Recognition in the 2023 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 2023 conference program and throughout the year in our website and monthly newsletter

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

Executive Treasurer: Rebecca Brown (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)



# Georgia AFS 2023 Annual Meeting Registration

Join us February 14-17 for an annual meeting that will be like no other Georgia Chapter meeting you have attended in the past. In addition to the traditional activities from past meetings, we plan to include professional development opportunities, team-building activities, special interest group discussions, a field trip, a student-mentor luncheon, and more.

*We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Rebecca Brown at [GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)*

Registration for the GAAFS annual meeting includes annual Chapter membership (\$10)		
	Cost/Person Before Feb. 1, 2023	Cost/Person After Feb. 1, 2023
Professional	\$125	\$140
Retired	\$65	\$65
Student	\$70	\$85
One-day Professional	\$70	\$70
One-day Student	\$35	\$35
Registration and complimentary registration (e.g. student travel stipend) include all break sessions, social events, and the Awards Banquet. One-day registration does NOT include social events or the Awards Banquet. There is an option to purchase tickets for a social event or banquet if you select one-day registration or you need extra tickets for your guest.		

**Visit the Georgia AFS website for registration forms  
and additional information**

**[gaafs.org/2023-annual-meeting/](https://gaafs.org/2023-annual-meeting/)**





# **Georgia AFS 2023 Annual Meeting Hotel Information**

***The 2023 annual meeting will be at the Lake Blackshear Resort  
located inside Georgia Veterans State Park in Cordele.***



There is a \$16/night resort fee added to each room which is non-negotiable. But we were able to negotiate a room rate of \$119/night. State employees need to make sure they bring with them their state hotel tax form and present it when they register at the hotel front desk.

Lake Blackshear Resort also offered us a discounted rate on their lakeside cabins. Cabins are \$159/night. The cabins have two large bedrooms with two queen beds in each bedroom, a comfortable family room with its own fireplace, a large bath, and a fully equipped kitchen.

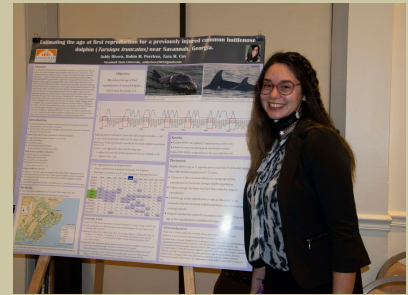
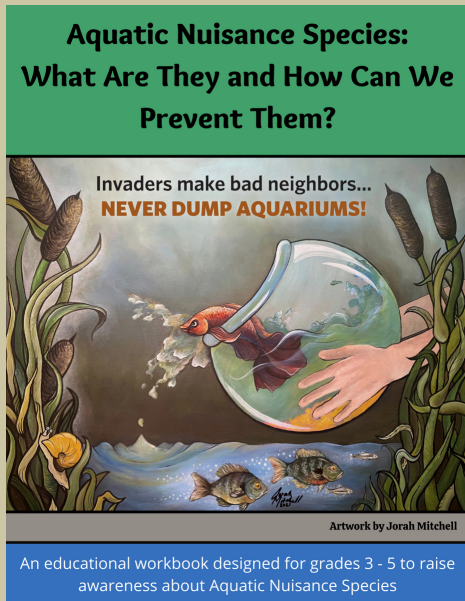
The cut-off date for registration discounts is January 20, 2023.  
Call 1-800-459-1230 to make your hotel reservation. The Georgia Chapter  
AFS group rate number is #408633.

*More Info*  
**CLICK HERE**

# 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 travel awards.

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





# Q and A

with

## Sara Gottlieb

Sara Gottlieb is the Director of Freshwater Science and Strategy for the Georgia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. She grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where her passion for the aquatic environment began. Sara studied Environmental Science as an undergrad at The College of William and Mary in Virginia with a semester of study at the Duke University Marine Lab, and earned her Master's of Science in Marine-Estuarine Environmental Science at the University of Maryland at College Park. Her thesis title was "The Ecological Role of Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) in Chesapeake Bay and Implications for Management of the Fishery."

### What led you to have an interest in the outdoors and aquatic conservation?

My parents are both scientists (mom is a botanist and dad was a physicist), and all of our vacations were camping trips in National Parks. My mom was constantly pointing out the plant life, and my dad was also an amateur birder. To be honest, all of this sort of bored or annoyed me, but the one thing I always enjoyed was being near, on, or in the water. It didn't matter if it was a pool, a creek, a pond, or the ocean. I just loved the water and knew I wanted to spend my life near it. Later, I became very interested in marine mammal behavior and I planned to become the next Jacques-Yves Cousteau!

### Describe a few of your job responsibilities with the Nature Conservancy.

I lead or contribute to all our freshwater work statewide and sometimes across boundaries in the southeastern United States. Many people know me through my role co-leading the



Sara Gottlieb hiking at TNC's Marshall Forest Preserve

Georgia Aquatic Connectivity Team, which has me coordinating work to promote the practice of barrier removals (dams and poorly designed culverts) to improve aquatic habitat, enable fish passage, and increase resilience in communities. I also lead a project in the Lower Flint River Basin to pilot an incentive program for farmers to reduce or cease irrigation water withdrawals during times of severe drought. If this program can be enacted through state policy, it could prevent drying events in critical stream reaches, avoiding the extirpation of endangered mussel species.

Continued on next page





## What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I enjoy being involved in work that has a direct impact on the habitats, species, and communities where that work is most important. There's nothing like being able to walk around at the site of a project that you contributed to and seeing the improvement you helped enable. Prior to this job, I was part of a team that conducted long-term monitoring of endangered desert fishes - it was incredibly important work, but after a while, I wanted to take action to help turn around the declining trends of our aquatic biodiversity.

## Describe one of your successful projects.

Several years ago, I discovered to my surprise that there were several small, earthen dams on land The Nature Conservancy owns near Fort Benning. They were all failing, and were causing a lot of sedimentation downstream while continuing to block aquatic connectivity with unknown impacts on the aquatic species - this geography does not have a well-documented aquatic fauna. I wrote a successful proposal to fund the partial removal of the dams, stabilizing the streambanks and restoring the channels, and reconnecting habitats up- and downstream. I funded two

professors at Columbus State University to study the impact of the project on the aquatic system, using crayfish as a study subject, and water quality and hydrologic metrics. Several master's students and undergraduate classes have used the project as outdoor laboratories to study stream restoration, extending the learning to the next generation of aquatic scientists and practitioners.



*Unlocking Barriers of  
Georgia's Fish Populations*  
A Columbus State University  
and The Nature Conservancy  
Project



Surveying streambank  
erosion

## What characteristics/attributes do you value most in an employee? Why?

Curiosity is an attribute I look for in people we hire. No matter how long you work in any field, you never know all the answers, and if you think you do, you are sure to miss something important. It's also very important to follow through on work you have agreed to do, or if you can't, to let your team know so it can be done by someone else. Teamwork is like a



Surveying for fish with TNC and GA DNR colleagues in Mill Creek in  
Chattahoochee National Forest



puzzle and the picture will be impossible to complete if you take your piece and leave the table. And finally, I like working with people who are innovative in how to approach a problem or use a new tool to get work done faster or better. Early in my career, I had a lot more time to learn new tools, which enabled me to pick up useful skills and enhanced the work.



*Surveying a failing culvert in the Holly Creek watershed*

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

A really big dam removal on a mainstem river that will enable anadromous fish to access historic upstream habitats.

### **What is your favorite fish? Why?**

I don't really have one and when I try to think of one I just keep thinking of others I love for different reasons. I'll mention one, the Devil's Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*) which has a population (at most recent count) of 175 individuals that live in only one water-filled cavern in Death Valley. They are so critically endangered and yet they persist, in conditions that are seemingly incomprehensible. We have a lot to learn from species like this.



*Sara hiking with her husband Wade at a Nature Conservancy Preserve in Rhode Island*

### **What is your idea of an amazing day?**

This is a total fantasy that involves some sort of space-time continuum shifts that break the laws of physics but here goes! I would be able to sleep late, but still be up early enough to get outside to tend my garden for several hours without getting overheated and exhausted. Then, I would ride my bike to a beautiful location on a free-flowing river, where my kayak would be ready for me and my husband to paddle for 10 miles or so. Along the way, we'd stop at an interesting stream-side historic site where we would enjoy a picnic lunch, and at the end of the paddle, our boats would be loaded onto a vehicle conveniently placed at the take-out to drive us home. We would then spend the afternoon catching up on the news, reading, organizing our photos, making phone calls and checking in with friends before getting dinner at our favorite restaurant that is walking distance to home.



*Hiking in north Georgia with the family*



# Chapter Spotlight

## Bryan Fluech

Bryan is the Associate Marine Extension Director for the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant program and has been in the position for almost seven years. He is responsible for providing leadership and coordinating applied research, outreach, and extension activities among a team of 14 marine extension faculty and staff at their facility in Brunswick and across the state. His own extension programming centers around marine fisheries with a focus on human dimensions and conservation practices. Examples include conducting oral history interviews with commercial fishers about their perspectives on the state and fate of their industry, developing outreach materials on responsible recreational crabbing practices, and field testing ropeless fishing gear with commercial black seabass pots.



### What inspired you to choose a career in fisheries science?

*I was not formally trained as a fisheries scientist but came into the field during my time as a Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent with the University of Florida. I was based in Naples, FL, and spent a lot of time doing collaborative field work with charter captains and recreational anglers testing fish descending gear and venting devices on reef fish. I also worked a lot with the area's commercial stone crab industry on on-board handling practices, seafood processing, and marketing efforts. Finally, I was fortunate to dive regularly as part of my job and participated in several artificial reef deployments and reef fish assessments. Working with different stakeholders (especially those who don't have the same views as you about science and management) and sharing these experiences with others made me realize how important outreach and education are to the field of fisheries science.*



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

*I did my undergraduate work at the University of Tennessee and graduated with a B.S. in Biology. I earned my Master's degree in Secondary Science Education from the University of Florida.*



## Chapter Spotlight Continued

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

*Over the past year and half, I've been collaborating with UGA Warnell and the Marine Institute, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve and College of Coastal Georgia (CCGA) on an Estuarine Fish Monitoring Cooperative project. The long-term goal of the collaboration is to better understand the responses of estuarine biota to changes in climate, sea level, and associated surface water conditions that are critical to fishery management, and ultimately to managing adaptive capacity and resilience in coastal communities. The project entails monthly juvenile fish trawls at 33 locations in the Sapelo and Doboy Sounds and Altamaha River. Besides participating in sampling with my own team, I've been working with our partners to train CCGA undergraduate students to assist us with data collection efforts. I currently have two students working with me to help with field work and associated outreach efforts.*



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

*I am the co-founder of the Great Goliath Grouper Count, an annual fishery independent survey conducted by citizen scientists in Florida during the first two weeks of June. The GGGG is in its 12th year and intended to provide managers an annual snapshot of Goliath grouper distribution and abundance in the state. I developed the program with a colleague from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2010 to engage stakeholders in helping managers collect data that was largely absent since the harvest of Goliath had been prohibited in 1990. The Count entails trained volunteer drivers performing underwater surveys at designated reefs. The program began in southwest Florida but has expanded to sites around the state. While I'm no longer involved with the project, I'm proud of the dozens of divers we trained and more importantly that fishery managers continue to utilize the data to inform their management actions.*



**What is your favorite quote?**

*"I have never let schooling interfere with my education."*

*-Mark Twain*



## Chapter Spotlight Continued



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

*Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty!! This is very much a hands-on field so until you actually get the chance to experience something, it's hard to know whether or not it will be the right fit for you. At some point in our careers, we have all been the "new person." It's okay to make mistakes but learn from them. That is the only way you'll grow. The other piece of advice I'd give is don't burn bridges! The professional world of natural resources, especially fisheries is a small one. Chances are that someone at your next job will know somebody from your previous one. You don't have to like all your experiences, but if you don't, be professional about it.*



### What do you enjoy most about being a member of Georgia AFS?

*I love learning about all the different work happening around our state, and that we have a group of professionals who truly seem to care about sustaining and protecting our fisheries. I have found that our members are always willing to help one another when needed. I also appreciate that there is so much support for up-and-coming fisheries professionals in this state through various trainings, awards and networking.*

### What is your favorite fish and why?

*I'd have to say the goliath grouper. Between their dependence on mangroves during their juvenile stage, their historical exploitation and current rebuilding status and their sheer size (up to 800 pounds), I have always found this fish fascinating. It's also quite an experience when you hook into one! We commonly encountered them during our artificial reef dive work, and it wasn't unusual for them to come within several feet of us. The bigger ones would also "boom" us with their swim bladders and you could feel the sound wave hit your chest.*



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


*As a child one of my career dreams was to drive the Oscar Myer Weinermobile!!*






# Bits & Pieces

## Aquatic Connectivity

 [The Georgia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy](#)


 [The Georgia Aquatic Connectivity Team](#)

Have you downloaded your copy of the *Georgia Stream Crossing Handbook*?

[ga-act.org/georgia-stream-crossing-handbook/](http://ga-act.org/georgia-stream-crossing-handbook/)



Some of you know Professor Donald Orth. Don teaches at Virginia Tech and has lots of great advice for students and professionals. He is very involved with AFS and active on social media sharing his knowledge and passion for fisheries science. Recently Don posted the following on Facebook...

 [A Message to Students: Is Your Future in Fish, Fisheries, or Conservation?](#)

Did you know decades ago Georgia's oyster industry collapsed?

 [The Pearl on the Georgia Coast](#)

Read about how UGA researchers and other stakeholders collaborated to restore the oyster fishery.







# PLUGGED IN

## PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT RESOURCES

*(Click on Image to view source)*



This channel provides teaching videos on data analysis and statistical analysis using R programming. The teaching videos include subjects like data cleaning, data manipulation, data visualization, statistical analysis, machine learning, and AI.



The Georgia AFS YouTube Channel is a resource for fisheries professionals and students. The channel includes resources for creating oral and poster presentations, public speaking, pond management, and more. Help the Chapter...Hit SUBSCRIBE.

How to Organize Your YouTube Subscriptions: [youtube.com/watch?v=VSwVNdnITNw](https://youtube.com/watch?v=VSwVNdnITNw)

Have you been asked to speak to a group of elementary students about fisheries science and you need to learn how to "kid-speak" science? Or maybe you have some young kids of your own and you are searching for a good set of educational videos to add to their learning experiences. Click on the logo to visit website.



SciShow Kids is ideal for early-elementary learners, Grades 1-3, and many episodes are structured around the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum.

Example of one of their videos: The blobfish  
[youtube.com/watch?v=A7LU5Wxc\\_0Y](https://youtube.com/watch?v=A7LU5Wxc_0Y)



Some of you may already know this one. Children between the ages of 2 to 7 have become great friends with Blippi, thanks to his goofy mannerisms and friendly demeanor. Blippi has taught millions of kids how to count, colors, letters, and much more!

Example  
[youtube.com/watch?v=6atH0gEHpjE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=6atH0gEHpjE)





# October



## National Seafood Month

National Seafood Month gives us a chance to spread awareness about sustainability and the health benefits associated with eating seafood, as well as acknowledge those who are already making a difference in the industry.

The United States is a recognized global leader in sustainable seafood. Marine fisheries in the U.S. are conducted under science-based fishery management plans developed by regional fishery management councils through an open, public process, and using the best scientific information available. Marine wild-capture fisheries in the United States are scientifically monitored, regionally managed, and enforced under ten national standards of sustainability through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—exceeding the international standards for the ecolabeling of seafood.



## National Pescatarian Month



Inaugurated in October 2020, National Pescatarian Month is an officially designated, annual event that is held in conjunction with National Seafood Month, which also occurs in October. The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) sponsors National Pescatarian Month as a way to 1) raise awareness about the benefits of a pescatarian diet, 2) spread some fun tips on how to adopt a pescatarian lifestyle (for a few days, weeks, months, or even longer), and 3) highlight all of the amazing ways seafood can be an integral part of any diet or way of life.

Pescatarians follow a diet of seafood plus veggies, fruit, grains, legumes, nuts and seeds and, for some, dairy and/or eggs.










Dish on Fish: [dishonfish.com/go-pescatarian/](https://dishonfish.com/go-pescatarian/)

# DID YOU KNOW?

## We All Have Biases

Biases can be either conscious or unconscious and can motivate people to act favorably or unfavorably towards groups of people. While bias is a normal part of human brain function, it can often reinforce stereotypes. People develop ideas about many characteristics, including race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, accent, weight, sexual orientation, physical abilities, gender identity, socioeconomic background, and disability based on past experiences, geographical location, popular culture, etc. Our unconscious biases are often unintentional, but they can impact employee/student morale.

### Examples of Unconscious Biases

-  A manager assigns more technical jobs to the younger employees because they assume older people are not tech-savvy
-  Walking into a meeting and assuming the older, taller male is the supervisor
-  A woman's suggestion is ignored, yet accepted when repeated by a man
-  A supervisor assigns a male employee to operate all heavy equipment around the pond and a female employee to give all of the school field trip tours
-  An undergraduate wants to be assigned to a different lab class because she perceives her TA as lacking intelligence because he speaks with a deep southern accent
-  A statistics instructor fails to notice or call on females or members of other underrepresented groups during class
-  The readings and multimedia materials that are chosen for any given lesson do not represent or reflect the diversity of the classroom
-  Complimenting a Latino co-worker for speaking English so well assuming that English would not be their first language
-  Kids on a field trip to a science education center assume the male volunteer is the scientist

Together we can commit to pursuing deliberate efforts to ensure that the fisheries profession is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respectfully heard and where every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion.

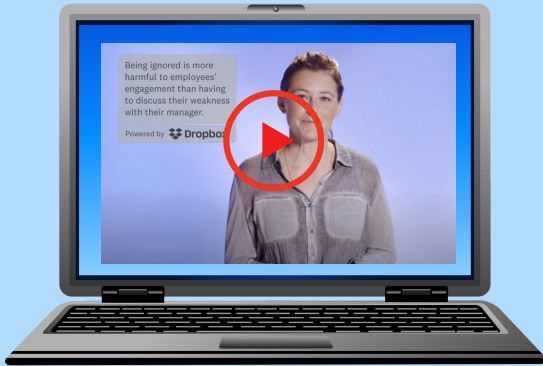




## BUBBA'S SHORT VIDEO PICKS

### ***The Secret to Giving Great Feedback***

Cognitive psychologist LeeAnn Renniger shares a method for giving effective feedback.



No matter your role at work or school, this is a good video for you.



### ***How to Back Up Your Boat*** **Boating Tips from Chantel**



## BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Are you wanting to learn how to catch trout or maybe learn to fly fish? Maybe you need to work on your bass fishing skills. Plan a fishing trip with one of our Chapter supporters.

Click on image to visit website



*The team at Unicoi Outfitters prides itself on educating new fly anglers.*

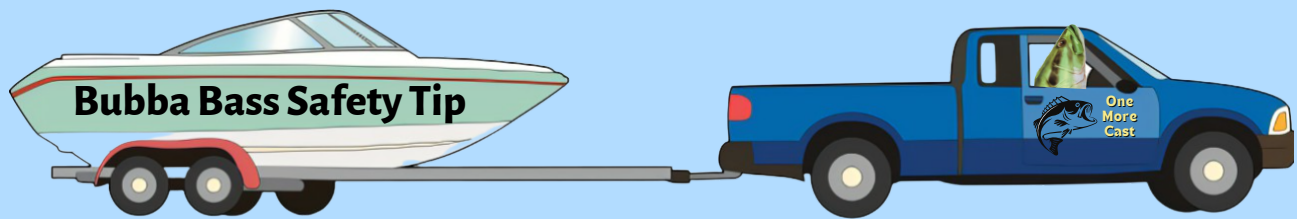
Contact Chris Scalley about chasing some big browns on the Hooch.



*Not only will you catch some big bass with Clayton Batts, but he will help you strengthen your bass fishing skills.*



*Captain Mack Farr can teach you how to catch striped bass on Lake Lanier.*

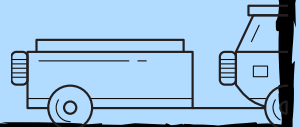


## KNOW BEFORE YOU TOW

### Driving Tips for Towing Safely

- Be sure to go through your pre-departure checklist prior to leaving
- Turn on the tow/haul switch in your vehicle, if applicable
- Create longer following distances between you and the vehicle in front of you
- Provide plenty of space and time for stopping
- When turning, swing the tow vehicle wider, giving yourself ample room for curbs, corners, or any other obstacles on the inside corner
- Your larger vehicle combination has a larger impact on airflow and will cause both your vehicle and the vehicle being passed to sway or move more than usual, plan accordingly, ensuring enough roadway space for both vehicles.
- DO NOT attempt to control sway by turning the steering wheel as it will only make the issue worse.
  - Gas off, brake off, steer straight and wait.

**Safe and proper driving is a critical piece of trailer safety. Drivers should be focused and limit or eradicate distractions.**



## Bubba's Friends

### Fanfin Angler (*Caulophryne jordani*)

Most people do not know that the deep-sea angler fish you see with the bioluminescent, lure-like appendage is a female. The male is much smaller than the female and will bite the female and eventually fuse to her tissue. Males are considered parasitic since they get their nutrients from the female once they are fused together.

#### Interesting facts

- Primarily found in the bathyal zone
- Found worldwide
- Has several elongated whiskerlike structures that surround the body of the fish
- They have an enormous, toothy mouth and expandable stomach that enable them to capture and devour prey larger than themselves in a single instantaneous gulp
- Males do not have a "lure" but do have well-developed eyes and huge nostrils to help them find a mate



*First footage of deep-sea angler fish pair  
(Source: Science Magazine)*



## Fin and Games

Often times fisheries professionals come across various symbols/signs. Decide whether the description is True or False. Click on the image to reveal the answer.



### Endangered Species Area

This area has been designated as critical habitat for an endangered species.



### Ice Fishing Warning

Beware of unmarked ice fishing holes in the ice.



### Road Ends at River

Warning drivers there are no barriers in place at end of road.



### Hydra Warning

DANGER! Giant hydras found in the lake. Stinging cells cause fish to jump out of the water.



### Road Ends Ahead

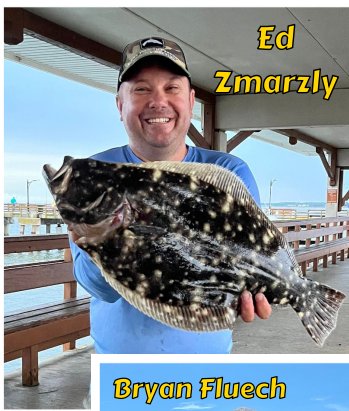
A very good chance you are not turning that boat trailer around.



### Backpack Electro-fisher

Approach with caution. Often times seen searching for fish around streams and rivers.

## PROPS!



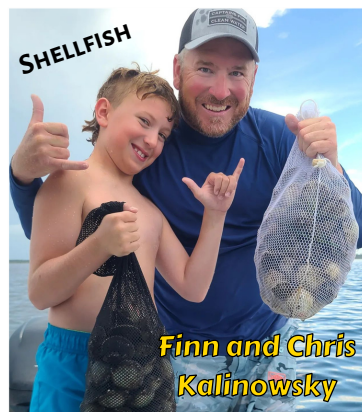
Bryan Fluech



Finn Kalinowsky

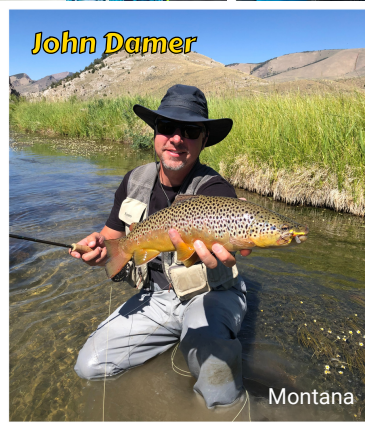


SHELLFISH



Finn and Chris Kalinowsky

John Damer



Montana

Not fish, but caught with a fishing pole



Timothy Deener

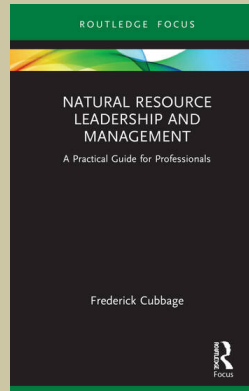
Chuck Coomer





# The Book Shelf

## PROFESSIONAL SECTION



### Natural Resource Leadership and Management A Practical Guide for Professionals

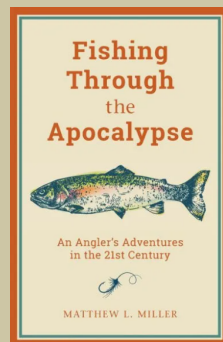
By Frederick Cubbage

This book examines leadership and management in natural resources, drawing on literature, principles, and the author's own experiences as a leader and activist.

[Learn More Link](#)



## ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



### Fishing Through the Apocalypse

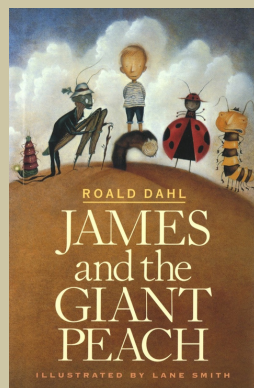
By Matthew Miller

Matthew Miller (Director of science communications for The Nature Conservancy) explores fishing that might be considered dystopian: joining anglers as they stick their lines into trash-filled urban canals, or visiting farm ponds where you can catch giant, endangered fish for a fee.

[Learn More Link](#)



## YOUNG READER SECTION



### James and the Giant Peach

By Roald Dahl and Illustrated by Lane Smith

Another classic. One of our newsletter readers recommended anything by Roald Dahl. Join James and his insect friends on their adventures aboard a luscious peach as large as a house that takes them across the Atlantic Ocean, through waters infested with peach-eating sharks and skies inhabited by malevolent Cloudmen, to a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

[Learn More Link](#)



## EARLY READER SECTION



### The Fishing Queen

By Marci Peschke (Author) and  
Tuesday Mourning (Illustrator)

Kylie Jean decides to enter a local fishing contest. She enlists the help of her grandfather to help her find the legendary Blue Catfish called Whiskers.

[Learn More Link](#)





# Membership Information



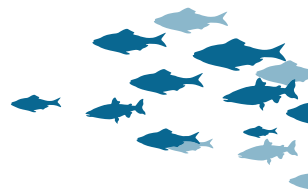
## Are you a member of the American Fisheries Society?



American Fisheries Society

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

[fisheries.org/membership/types-of-membership/](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/>



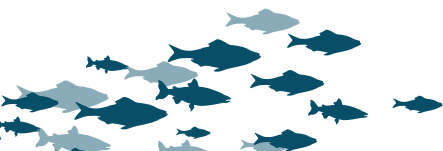
## Are you a member of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society?

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



Georgia AFS Membership: [gaafs.org/membership/](https://gaafs.org/membership/)

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



# Thank you for your Support!

## GAAFS 2022 Sponsors

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### Platinum

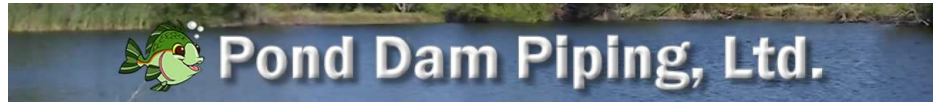


Georgia  
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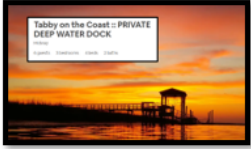
Northeast Georgia Health System, Inc.™



# Thank you for your Support!

## GAAFS 2022 Fundraising Donors

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# FISHY NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

Click on the title of the article

## University of Miami

POPULAR SPORT FISH ARE BEHAVIORALLY IMPAIRED FROM EXPOSURE TO CRUDE OIL, STUDY FINDS

New research has confirmed that a popular sport fish exposed to sublethal levels of crude oil and released back into the wild exhibits altered behavior, decreased survival, and reduced spawning.

## University of Eastern Finland

NANOPLASTICS CAN MOVE UP THE FOOD CHAIN FROM PLANTS TO INSECTS AND FROM INSECTS TO FISH

A new study shows that lettuce can take up nanoplastics from the soil and transfer them into the food chain.

## Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

HOW MARINE PREDATORS FIND FOOD HOT SPOTS IN OPEN OCEAN 'DESERTS'

"Harvesting the food that our food eats, is something we need to understand in order to ensure the methods are sustainable for both the prey and the predators that rely on them."

## University of Sydney

THE IMPACT OF MEGAFIRES ON ESTUARIES FROM AUSTRALIA'S 'BLACK SUMMER'

Fires can increase the load of fire-derived pollutants with potentially profound environmental effects. The researchers found that the material from the Black Summer fires contained traces of metals including copper and zinc, and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus that sunk onto estuarine sediments.

## University of Arkansas

CLIMATE CHANGE IS INCREASING FREQUENCY OF FISH MASS DIE-OFFS

Using data collected from more than 500 previous fish die-offs from lakes across Wisconsin and Michigan, researchers use modeling to predict increasing frequency of mass die-offs as a result of climate change.

## University of South Australia

CHEMICAL FINGERPRINTS COULD LAND THE BIGGEST CATCH: SEAFOOD FRAUDSTERS

Universal chemical fingerprints that can trace the geographic origins of many marine species have been developed by Australian scientists to help combat seafood fraud and stop illegal and unsustainable fishing.

## University of Copenhagen

NEW REVELATIONS ABOUT AN ANCIENT FISH: THE SECRET TO SWIMMING UPSIDE DOWN

New research has shed light on a mysterious and ancient fish, one that remains one of the world's rarest – the Coelacanth. Researchers have removed Denmark's only specimen of this primordial fish from its jar of alcohol and gained new insight into how it functions. The new knowledge could contribute to saving this critically endangered deep sea dweller.



# AFS/SDAFS INFORMATION



## 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.

**Abstracts are due by November 15, 2022**

[units.fisheries.org/va/annual\\_meeting/2023-sdafs/](https://units.fisheries.org/va/annual_meeting/2023-sdafs/)



American Fisheries Society

## Future AFS Annual Meetings

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

### 2023 Annual Meeting

***Adaptive Approaches to Understand and  
Manage Changes in Fisheries***

[afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/](https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/)



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

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

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

*Send your submissions to Rebecca Brown at [georgiaafs@gmail.com](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

### Instagram

@georgiaafs

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