

Under the Dock

November 2022



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Mark Your Calendar

- **November 15**
 - SDAFS Abstracts due
- **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 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 - if the font is blue you can click on it for more information. Click on a laptop image for a video



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



Do you have an idea for an article?

We welcome a broad range of submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Submissions are due on the 21st of each month unless told otherwise.

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

ON THE CALENDAR

November 13 World Kindness Day

Send a coworker or friend a happy or inspirational message

World Kindness Day is celebrated on November 13 every year. It was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a coalition of international NGOs to highlight the good deeds in the community and focusing on the power positivity.

Bring a treat to the office for everyone to enjoy

Share a compliment with a co-worker or friend

Even the smallest acts of kindness can have ripple effects throughout communities. Take a few moments and reach out to friends and loved ones. Or try doing something nice for a stranger. Even a quick "thank you" can go a long way in brightening someone's day.

Organize or join a community cleanup of a local beach, lake, or river

Donate to the local food pantry or homeless shelter

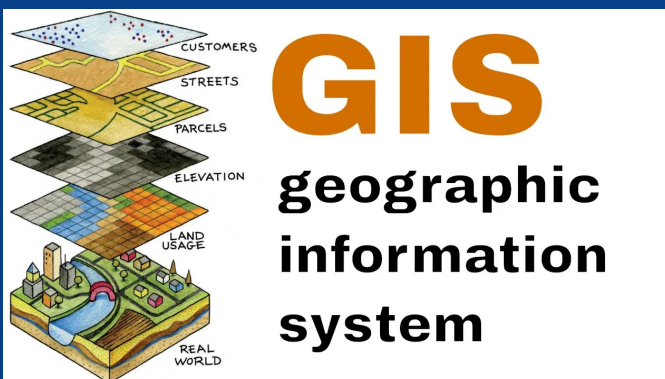
Treat someone to a cup of coffee

Donate blood to a local blood bank

Hold the door open for someone

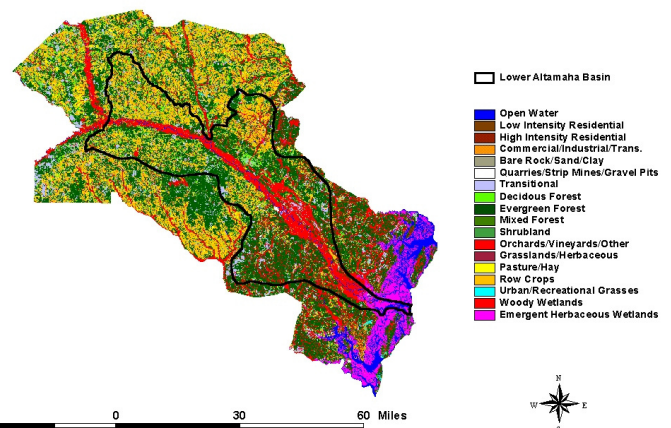
November 16 National GIS Day

Participate in the international celebration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. GIS is a scientific framework for gathering, analyzing, and visualizing geographic data to help us make better resource management decisions. On GIS Day, help others learn about geography and the real-world applications of GIS that are making a difference in our society.



www.gisday.com/en-us/overview

LAND USE/COVER IN LOWER ALTAMAHA BASIN



NEWS & UPDATES

Georgia AFS 2023 Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker Dr. Mike Allen

Dr. Mike Allen is the Director of the Nature Coast Biological Station and a professor of Fisheries and Aquatic Science in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. His research has focused on population dynamics and ecology of fishes. He has published over 120 articles in peer-reviewed journals and co-edited three books.

Dr. Allen uses field studies and computer models to explore population dynamics of fishes that support important recreational fisheries. He has evaluated habitat requirements for fish populations, and identified fisheries management strategies for recreational fisheries in lakes, reservoirs, and marine environments. As a field station director, he is working to build research, outreach, and teaching programs to improve conservation and management of natural resources in this region.



Training Workshop Planned for February 2023



Brian Irwin (Assistant Unit Leader, Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit) will be leading the ggplot for data visualization 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.

This course will provide opportunities to construct publication-quality graphics using ggplot in R and RStudio. It is intended for students and professionals interested in visualizing data and implementing analyses in a freely available, flexible coding platform. We will describe the associated code in detail; however, having a working knowledge of R and basic fisheries concepts would be beneficial (but not required). Do you need to review R programming? [youtube.com/@GeorgiaAFS](https://www.youtube.com/@GeorgiaAFS)

For more information about the workshop and how to register visit our website: gaafs.org/workshops/

Workshop Registration Fees

- FREE for those registered for the 2023 Georgia AFS annual meeting
- \$25 for GA AFS members
- \$35 for non-GA AFS members

Bonus: participants who pay workshop fees are invited to attend Tuesday's annual meeting afternoon events as well

Don't Forget These Important Due Dates

As we enter into the holiday season it is very easy to forget some important due dates.

November 30: Georgia AFS President-elect nominations due: [GA AFS Officer Nomination Form](#)

December 13: [Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship](#) application due

December 13: [Georgia AFS Travel Award](#) application due

**DON'T
FORGET**

December 30: Nominations for GA AFS Fisheries Professional of the Year are due

[Fisheries Professional of the Year in Fisheries Management](#)

[Fisheries Professional of the Year in Science and Research](#)

December 30: Nominations for [GA AFS Fisheries Conservationist of the Year](#) are due



January 13, 2023: [Georgia AFS Annual Meeting](#) ABSTRACTS are due



University of Georgia Fisheries Subunit Annual Fish Fry



This year the UGA Fisheries subunit marked the return of the annual fish fry after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. The event was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Do you need to renew your pesticide certification?

Professionals who currently have a pesticide applicator license can earn 5 hours of credit toward renewing their pesticide applicator license by attending the 2023 Georgia AFS annual meeting. Anyone needing credit can email Rebecca Brown (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com) and she can provide you with the information needed to get credit.



Do you need to take the pesticide applicator exam?

Video review for the General Pesticide Examination is available on the [Georgia AFS YouTube Channel](#). You can order a copy of the [Aquatic Pest Control Manual from UGA Extension](#).

Georgia AFS at Gwinnett Stripers Halloween Event



When the Gwinnett Stripers asked the Georgia Chapter to participate in their Flick or Treat event Hunter Roop and his wife volunteered to help. Hunter and his wife handed out candy to hundreds of kids and Hunter brought along his preserved snakehead fish that got a lot of questions. This opened the door for Hunter to talk about aquatic nuisance species with the kids and their parents.



Do you include YouTube videos as part of your resource library?

It is very easy to get lost in the diversity of YouTube videos that are available with just a "click" of your mouse or with a tap of the tip of your finger. YouTube has quite a few videos that are resourceful for folks who prefer visual learning. Do you need to learn how to create an Excel pivot table or need suggestions as to what to do when your outboard motor will not crank? Or maybe you need to refresh your memory on how to use R programming. Create a YouTube library to organize your "how-to" videos and favorite YouTube channels.



How to Manage YouTube Subscriptions w/ PocketTube

PROPOSED FISHING REGULATION CHANGE

Relative to the use of blueback herring as bait



Anglers and other interested citizens, your input on a fishing regulation amendment change proposed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division is welcome and requested.

You can review the documents in their entirety at [**Proposed Fishing Regulation.**](#)

The purpose of fishing regulations is to manage Georgia's fishery resources according to sound principles of fish management and to meet public objectives for use of these renewable resources. Changes to the existing rule are reflective of the biological status of blueback herring in Lake Allatoona and responsive to customer desires.

The proposed change would be to add Lake Allatoona to the list of waterbodies where possession and use of blueback herring as bait is allowed. Currently, the use and possession of blueback herring as bait is prohibited on Lake Allatoona. Georgia DNR WRD surveys of Lake Allatoona's blueback herring population indicate the species has become established in Lake Allatoona.

How to Provide Input

- **Email:** You can provide comments by e-mail (fm.comments@dnr.ga.gov).
- **Mail-in:** You can mail your comments to GA DNR Wildlife Resources Division/Fisheries Management Section/2067 US Hwy. 278, SE/Social Circle, GA 30025.
- **Phone:** You can provide comments by phone at 706-557-3305.

Comments Deadline

- All comments/statements must be received by close of business (4:30 pm EST) on November 30, 2022.



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.

Undergraduate Travel Stipend

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.

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 stipend awards 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.

DEADLINE

DECEMBER

13th

**Scholarship
Applications**

CLICK HERE





48th Annual Meeting

Fish Diversity Connections



November 17 - 18, 2022

Athens, GA

sfc8.wildapricot.org/



The Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC) is a nonprofit scientific organization dedicated to the study and conservation of freshwater and coastal fishes of the southeastern United States. The southeastern region includes the greatest global biodiversity of temperate freshwater fishes, and has well over one-half of all species found in North America. The SFC was formed in 1975 by a group of scientists concerned with increasing environmental threats to rivers of the Southeast, and long-term protection of the southeastern fish fauna. The SFC publishes peer-reviewed scientific papers, regional reports, announcements, and other news in a biannual Proceedings that is distributed to dues-paying members.

The 2022 annual meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council will be held at the Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library, 300 South Hull Street, Athens, GA 30605, which is located on the University of Georgia Campus. The meeting will be held on 17-18 November 2022, with optional activities taking place during the evening of 16 November.

We have obtained a block of rooms at the SpringHill Suites (220 S. Hull Street, Athens, GA, 30605) at a discount rate of \$157.60 per night (includes taxes, fees, and parking) for the nights of 16 and 17 November. There are a limited number of rooms available, so book now! The hotel is a block from the meeting venue. You can call them (706-850-2072, mention meeting code SEF) or use the following link to receive the block rate before 17 October 2022.

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



Q and A

with

Dawn Franco

Dawn Franco is a Marine Biologist II with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division. She is responsible for managing the surveys that provide data for marine recreational fishing in Georgia. Dawn went to Old Dominion University for her bachelor's degree and Savannah State University for her master's degree. Her thesis title was *Determining life history characteristics of Atlantic Croaker, Micropogonias undulatus, within coastal Georgia waters.*

Dawn is currently serving her second term as the Georgia AFS Recording Secretary-Treasurer.

What inspired you to pursue a career in fisheries science?

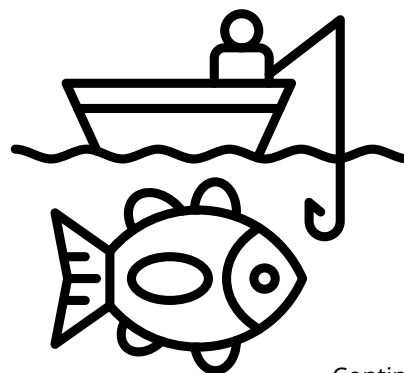
I grew up on Lake Mahopac in NY and, while that was a lot of fun and I would not trade it for anything, there was always something drawing me to the ocean. My favorite trips as a kid were going to the coast, or day trips to Jones Beach, or going to an aquarium. There is so much diversity and mystery in the oceans. When I was old enough to realize being a mermaid wasn't an option, figured marine biologist was the next best thing. Then my work with Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology after graduation from ODU introduced me to the world of fisheries science and the rest is history.

Describe one of your successful projects.

Until presented with this question, I never really thought about any of the projects I work on as successes or failures. I think that is because they are all ongoing projects and the job is



never done. It's more learning from ups and downs that average each other out than a conclusion. Every year that we go out and do the best job that we can to provide an accurate picture of marine recreational fishing in Georgia is a win in my book.



Continued on next page



What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Data collection is usually considered a thankless job so anytime someone thanks me or my team for what we do is a really great feeling.

What adjectives do your coworkers use to describe you and why?

Observant: Some people call me eagle eye. I can usually spot an error on a page or an outlier in data quickly. My eyes are not as good as they used to be though, so not sure how long that one will stick.

Determined: When I set my mind on something, I get it done with maximum effort. I sometimes find it difficult to let things go, especially if I believe I am right, which earned me the nickname Bulldog. Unlike the first, this adjective is not likely to diminish over time. Depending on whom you ask, they may say it's getting stronger every year.

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

Curiosity. I really enjoy working with people that are looking for ways to improve their understanding and put themselves out there to learn new things. I do not like to assign busy work, it's no fun for me or the person I give work to. It's very refreshing to see someone interested in learning about all our projects here and diversifying their experience.



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

So many things but I'll pick one relevant to the projects I currently work with. I would put a kiosk at every public access point we survey, that is connected to the internet, with a PTZ camera, speaker/microphone, and measuring board that could also record weight. We could monitor real-time activity at each site and when anglers are done fishing, they could hit a button to initiate a survey. This could be interaction with either a live person or an app that takes them through the questions. We could use this to supplement the current method of sending interviewers into the field to cover more ground. We would of course have to devise a way to deal with self-selection and

randomization to produce unbiased estimates but, with money being no object, I'm sure we could hire someone to solve that problem for us.



What is your favorite fish? Why?

My favorite fish are parrotfish. They keep our reefs healthy, have beautiful coloration, and make me giggle because their beaks make them look like they are smiling all the time.

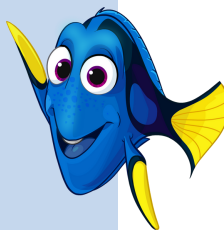


If you could hang out with any cartoon character, who would you choose and why?

I would hang out with Dory. We would have fun adventures and she speaks whale.

What would be the title of your autobiography?

"She came, she saw, she took a nap"



What is your idea of an amazing day?

An amazing day would absolutely require being on the water whether it was for work or play. It would be sunny, comfortable temperature (50-70°F), low humidity, with a light breeze, and no pollen. The boat would already be in the water ready to go and loaded with really good food and beverages. No strenuous work, just cruising with some light fishing or diving in nice clear water. To top it off, come home to a clean house, no chores to do, and dinner already cooked and ready to eat. A girl can dream right?



N O M I N A T E

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. Nominators do not need to provide their information.

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.

Career Contribution Award

Distinguished Service Award

Fisheries Professional of the Year

Certificate of Appreciation

Fisheries Conservationist of the Year

Unsung Hero Award

Frequently Asked Questions

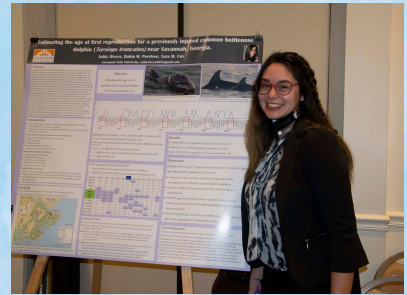
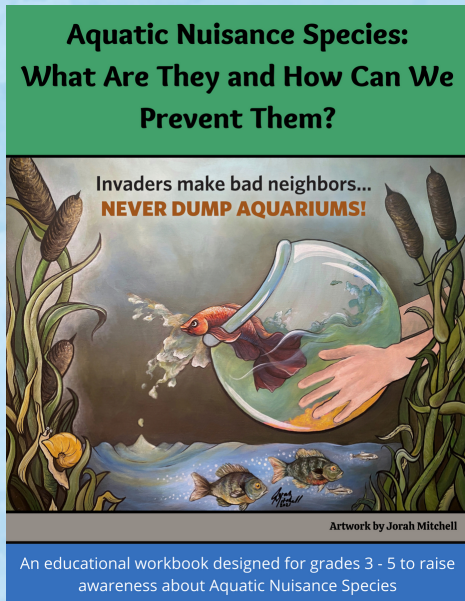
- **Who is eligible for a Georgia AFS award?**
 - It depends on the award. Some awards do not require Chapter membership to be considered for the award. Detailed descriptions are available on the website.
- **Who can nominate someone for a Georgia AFS award?**
 - Anyone can submit a nomination. Some awards like the FPY and FCY do not require the nominator 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

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.

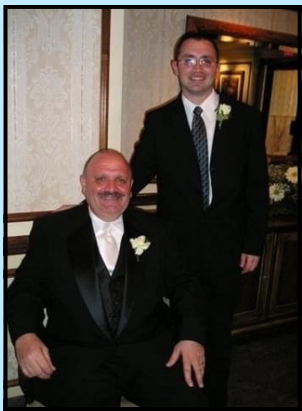
You can contact our fundraising chair, Jackson Sibley, for more information: oceansibley@gmail.com



Chapter Spotlight

Pete Sakaris

Pete has been a Professor of Biology at Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) in Lawrenceville, GA since 2014. Georgia Gwinnett College is a four-year college that offers B.S. degree programs including Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science (which includes an Ecology focus). According to U.S. News and World Report magazine, GGC is the most ethnically diverse southern regional college, public or private. Pete's instruction at GGC also serves their Environmental Science program. Before coming to GGC, he worked at Southern Polytechnic State University (now Kennesaw State University) for eight years. As a professor at GGC, his primary focus is teaching courses including Ecology, Ichthyology, Zoology, and Principles of Biology, but Pete's position also requires service to the college, community, and profession, student engagement (for example, mentoring students in research), and creative activities and scholarship.



What inspired you to choose a career in fisheries science?

Like most fish biologists I know, it all started when I was a child. I grew up on Long Island, NY, so I was always close to the water and my family would take frequent trips to the beach. I was always fascinated by wave action, oceanic currents, and other physical processes of the ocean. My interest in fisheries began with my father. My father worked seven days a week to keep the lights on, but, on occasion, he would take me fishing off a dock or pier, or off the surf (surf-casting). If I was lucky enough, we would get on his friend's boat and catch a mix of flounder ("fluke"), black sea bass, porgy, bluefish, and an occasional striper. My interest in fisheries science as a potential career wasn't fully crystallized until I took a course in marine science as a senior in high school.

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

I attended Stony Brook University (SUNY) in Stony Brook, NY, where I earned a B.S. degree in Biology. I took several courses in oceanography, including intro to oceanography, coastal oceanography, intro to ocean chemistry, and marine ecology, and seriously considered pursuing physical oceanography in graduate school. My interests shifted after conducting a senior thesis project in Dr. David Conover's marine fish ecology laboratory. After graduation, I attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) where I earned my M.S. degree through the Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (MEES program; fisheries science). I then attended Auburn University where I earned my Ph.D. in fisheries through the Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. My education progressively took me from marine coastal ecosystems (undergrad), to a tidal river (M.S., see pic!), to tailwaters below large main stem dams in Alabama (Ph.D.). I enjoy my work in freshwater ecosystems, but I'd like to get back to the ocean one of these days.



Chapter Spotlight Continued

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

At GGC, my projects have varied and my research interests have diversified over time. We have a well-established STEC Undergraduate Research Program at GGC that supports our research with students. If my students and I develop a new research question, typically we can address it. Currently, my biggest project is to lead the preparation of a full proposal to be submitted to National Science Foundation's CREST program, which funds the establishment of Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology ("CREST") at minority-serving institutions. The goal of CREST is to increase the representation of students from minority groups in STEM graduate programs and future STEM careers. At GGC, we are proposing a CREST Center for Research in Urban and Industrial Sustainability in the Environment (CRUISE) which will have three research thrusts: environmental chemistry, microbial ecology, and biodiversity and ecosystem function.



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

It is tough to narrow this down to one experience. It is most rewarding when my undergraduate researchers successfully move on to graduate programs and pursue careers in fisheries. This brings me the most joy and beats out any recent publication, funded grant, or personal accomplishment. Three of my former undergraduate researchers are currently in M.S. programs, one in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at UGA, one in the Odum School of Ecology at UGA, and one in the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences at Auburn University (which makes me particularly happy!). I won't embarrass them here, but they know who they are! Many of my previous researchers have advanced to careers in the sciences.

What would be your walk-up song?

Without a doubt, it's the "Eye of the Tiger."



Chapter Spotlight Continued



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

Work hard, be persistent, and be kind to people. Always make a good impression; that person you just met might be a future employer. If you plan to pursue a graduate program, conduct research, present your research at conferences, maximize your networking opportunities, and develop marketable skills as an undergraduate student. Try to be flexible in order to take advantage of golden opportunities. If you are offered a competitive graduate research assistantship half-way across the country, take it!

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

The annual meeting of GA AFS, in particular, allows me to meet with old friends, establish new relationships, and develop new project ideas with my collaborators. Many of my projects are spawned through brainstorming with my GA DNR colleagues at GA AFS. I have active research projects with Tim Bonvechio, Hunter Roop, and Brandon Baker as a result. Georgia AFS also has an excellent continuing education program, providing professional growth opportunities to all of our members and non-members.



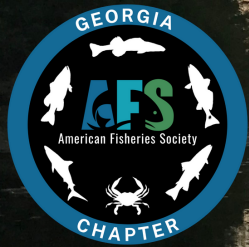
What is your favorite fish and why?

My students ask me this all the time, and I do not have a straight answer. I have a lot of favorite fishes for many different reasons. If you twisted my arm, I would say the Alligator Gar. This impressive species has survived many years. It's an apex predator (my favorite type of fish) and is the fastest-growing freshwater fish species (some growing to 700-800 mm in their first six months!). My first publication was on the Alligator Gar, and I've had few publications on this species since. Unfortunately, I do not have a picture with an Alligator Gar, so a Blue Catfish will have to suffice!

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

A couple things. Although I study fish, I can't stand the thought of eating sushi or caviar. While I was at Auburn, I won the Lee County Wild Game Cook-off with my venison lasagna (my mom's recipe).





2023 Annual Meeting

Building Strong Alliances that Spawn Success

LAKE BLACKSHEAR RESORT FEBRUARY 14 - 17

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

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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- R Programming ggplot mini-workshop
- Clean, Drain, Dry
- Essential Boat and Trailer Maintenance Tips
- Trailering Skills Training
- Georgia DNR Hatchery Tour

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

- Aquatic Barrier Assessment Using SARP Protocol
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Interviewing for a Job or Internship
- UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Student Opportunities

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Let us know if you are interested in volunteering for one or more of the following:

- Judges for student oral presentations/poster presentations (Chalisa.Fabillar@dnr.ga.gov)
- Professional award judges (Rebecca Brown: GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)
- Registration table (Brent.Hess@dnr.ga.gov)
- Professional Mentors (Anakela.Escobar@dnr.ga.gov)
- Moderators (Rebecca Brown: GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)
- Set up for social events (Kevin Cavallaro: cavallaro@fultonschools.org)
- Set up for professional development and break-out sessions (Zack.Brock@dnr.ga.gov)



Georgia AFS 2023 Annual Meeting Registration

**The Georgia AFS EXCOM wants to invite you to join us
February 14 - 17 at Lake Blackshear Resort for an
eventful annual meeting.**

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

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/



Call for Abstracts

Georgia AFS 2023

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 on its website a list of 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/



Georgia AFS 2023 Annual Meeting Draft of Schedule

The tentative 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
	February 14
8:30AM - 11:30AM	ggplot Workshop
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Keynote Speaker (Dr. Mike Allen)
2:30PM - 3:30PM	Technical Presentations
4:00PM - 5:00PM	Panel Discussion
7:00PM - 9:00PM	Trivia Social (Group Shelter)
	February 15
7:45AM - 8:30AM	Fellowship Christian Conservationists
8:45AM - 9:00AM	State of the State - Wildlife Conservation
9:00AM - 11:30AM	Presentations
1:00PM - 4:30PM	Professional Development (outside depending on weather)
4:00PM - 5:00PM	Student Poster Judging
5:30PM - 7:00PM	Student Only Pizza Social (Group Shelter)
7:00PM - 10:00PM	Poster Social (Group Shelter)
	February 16
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
	February 17
9:00AM - 9:15AM	State of the State - Freshwater Fisheries
9:15AM - 11:30AM	Presentations
11:30AM - 11:45AM	Closing remarks, adjourn



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 AFS
group rate number is #408633.

MORE INFO
CLICK HERE

GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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

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)

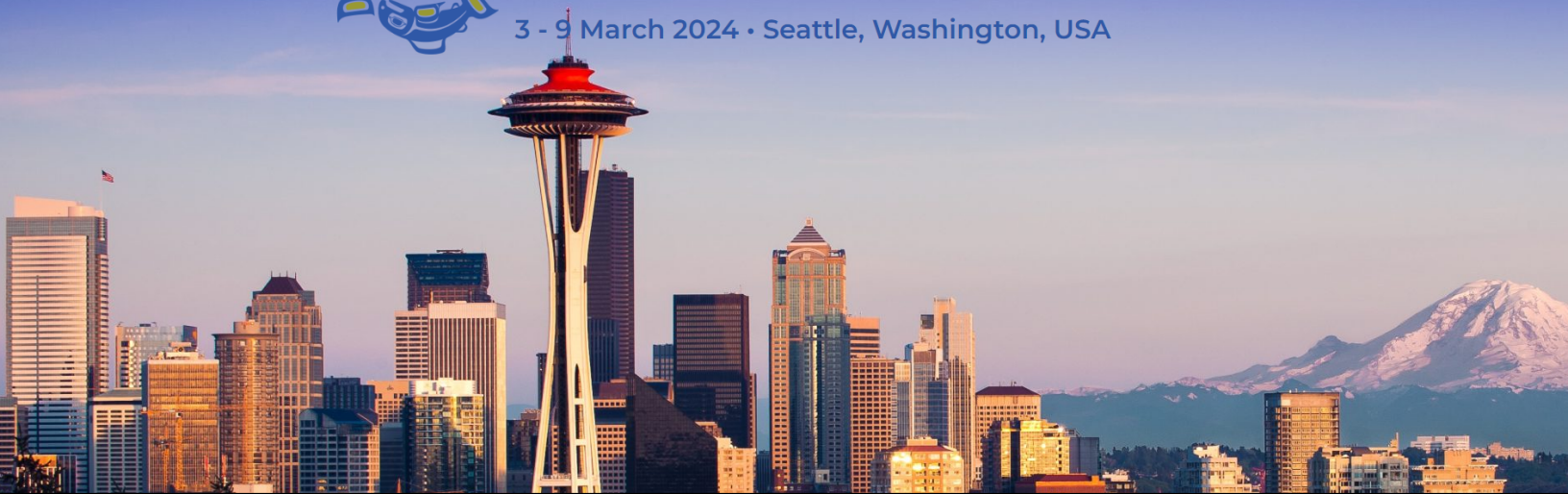
Recognition in the 2023 conference program and throughout the year in our website and monthly newsletter

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



9th WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS

3 - 9 March 2024 • Seattle, Washington, USA



Fish and Fisheries at the Water–Energy–Food Nexus

Call for Sessions

The International Program Committee is pleased to invite proposals for sessions for the 9th World Fisheries Congress, March 3-9, 2024 in Seattle, Washington, USA. We encourage session proposals related to the meeting's theme, *Fish and Fisheries at the Water–Energy–Food Nexus*, as well as any other timely and coherent subjects of broad interest to fisheries professionals. We encourage session proposals that help support the World Fisheries Congress's commitment to diverse representation across multiple elements of inclusivity (e.g., age, culture, discipline, geography, gender).

Session types include symposia, workshops, and other non-traditional formats intended to exchange information related to the meeting themes.

Deadline: Friday, December 2, 2022

Proposal submission requirements visit

wfc2024.fisheries.org/call-for-sessions/





Ani Escobar

Rocks with Guts

By Denise Shepherd and Ani Escobar

Georgia DNR WRD

Who knew rocks with guts sitting on the bottom of our rivers were so important?

The Coosa River Basin is home to a unique aquatic community. In Georgia, the system is made up of the Conasauga, Coosawattee, Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers. Because this system runs through three ecoregions and was never glaciated, it is home to freshwater fish and mussel species that aren't found anywhere else in the world.

Historically, the Coosa was home to 42 mussel species, but today approximately 36 species can be found. Of those, 8 species are federally protected, including the Fine lined pocketbook, Coosa moccasinshell, Rayed kidneyshell and Georgia pigtoe. This decline is due to poorly managed agricultural, industrial and residential practices.

Freshwater mussels are often called the 'livers of the rivers' as they're integral to clean water. Mussels also stabilize river bottoms, provide oxygenated water, habitat and even a vital food source for some mammals and aquatic insects. Even though they aren't moving around much, they are moving lots of important debris out of our watersheds and keeping ecosystem food chains in check.

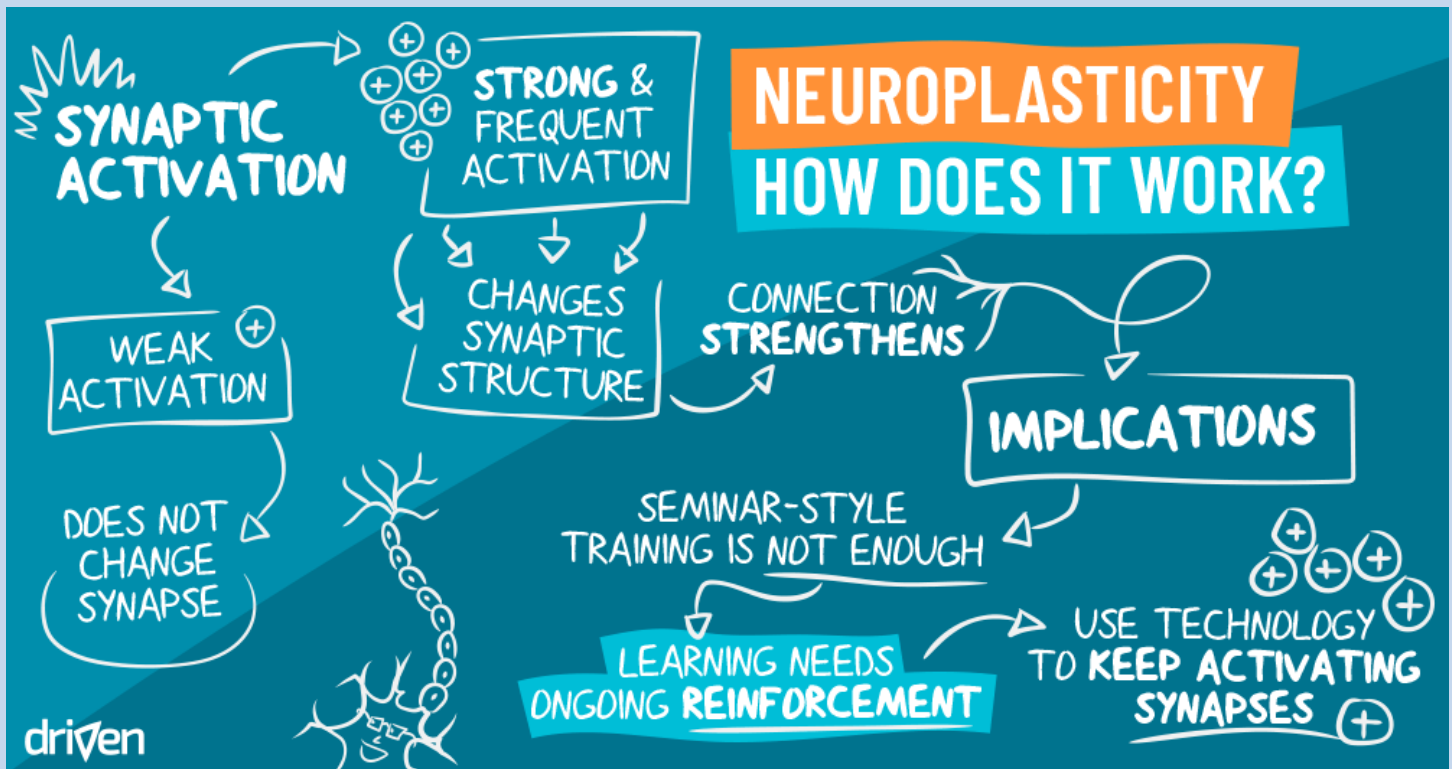


Conserving the Fascinating Freshwater Mussels of the Coosa River Basin

DID YOU KNOW?

Intelligence is Not Fixed...Brains Change Daily

Neuroplasticity: Training Your Brain To Become Smarter



Real change takes effort

Sustainable, lasting change comes from trying new behaviors

There is no one size fits all approach to learning

We need to challenge our brains for growth

How we respond to an obstacle is the critical point for creating new pathways for personal growth

After watching this, your brain will not be the same |
Lara Boyd | TEDxVancouver



American Fisheries Society

153rd Annual Meeting

August 20-24, 2023

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Preliminary Call for Proposals – Symposia and Workshops

Formal Symposium Submission Opens: 19 December 2022

Proposal Deadline: 27 January 2023

The American Fisheries Society, President April Croxton, and the Michigan Chapter are excited to host the 153rd AFS Annual Meeting, August 20-24, 2023. Home to the iconic Blue Bridge and Grand River, AFS is thrilled to return to the city of Grand Rapids following a successful Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting held earlier this year. As we continue to address the various stressors impacting fisheries and their ecosystems, we hope that this year's theme, "Adaptive approaches to understand and manage changes in fisheries," will stimulate a wide range of sessions as we bring together professionals from across North America and countries throughout the world.

The Grand Rapids Program Committee invites proposals for symposia, pre-conference workshops and continuing education courses, and innovative sessions that support the theme and look to advance the fisheries profession. We are expecting that scientific sessions will take place in-person in Grand Rapids. We anticipate there will be options for self-funded hybrid sessions, but do not anticipate hosting virtual 'only sessions'.

More Information

afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/call-for-sessions/





BUBBA'S SHORT VIDEO PICKS

How to Overcome Public Speaking Anxiety



For more public speaking tips
bit.ly/3ereYzk



How to Fish Shallow-Diving Crankbaits for Fall Bass WIRED2Fish



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Are you looking for an amazing gift for that special someone in your life? Be sure to visit one of our supporters because they might just have that unique gift you are looking for.

Click on image to visit website



Eric has some awesome prints and canvases. The brook trout is one of our favorites.

Jody has an amazing collection of both marine and freshwater species.

JODY RANKIN

Marine Wildlife Artist



Bert has an impressive collection of handmade fishing lures for both saltwater and freshwater fishing.

Vera Bradley has a diversity of products that are stylish and practical. Be sure to visit their outlet store in Dawsonville if you are in the neighborhood.



Vera Bradley

Maybe a vacation is what your special someone needs.



Beaches, food, hiking, fishing...what more do you need.

**Sandhill Crane Sunset
Kayak Tour...**



Chattanooga Guided Adventures
Outdoor Adventures for Everyone

BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

CREATE YOUR PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT FOR THE FIELD

Are you prepared if you get injured by a fish, sprain your ankle, or have an unfortunate incident with a swarm of bees? Below are a few examples of what can be in your first aid kit in addition to gauze pads, a triangular bandage, medical tape, scissors, tweezers, and safety pins.

**Antiseptic wipes
to clean and
disinfect wounds**



**Antibiotic ointment
for cuts, scrapes, and
puncture wounds**



**Hydrocortisone
relieves itching from
insect bites**



**Antihistamine for
allergic reactions**



**Waterproof
bandages to keep
wounds clean**



**Instant ice packs
for bruises,
sprains, insect
stings, heat
exhaustion**



**Aspirin may be life-
saving in an adult
with chest pain.**



Not for children

**Burn gel for first
degree burns**



**Tourniquet - you hope you never
need one**



Do you have specific medical needs?



Bubba's Friends

Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*)

Blue crabs live up and down the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico and are caught by both commercial and recreational fishermen. Blue crab populations naturally are highly variable from year to year. In managing blue crab fisheries, resource managers look at overall trends rather than just the number of blue crabs in any given year. Unless otherwise designated, the saltwaters of Georgia are open year-round for recreational crabbing at any time of the day. Check current Georgia regulations for harvesting blue crabs.



- Georgia blue crabs are commercially harvested in March, April, and May
- Know the blue crab lingo: Sallies or she-crab (immature female), Sooks (mature female), Jimmies (mature male), Sponge crab (egg-bearing and unlawful to harvest), and Peelers (crabs that show signs of molting)
- Harmful toxins called PCBs are stored in the hepatopancreas ("the green gland" also known as the mustard, tomalley, or liver) found in the body section of blue crabs

Fin and Games

It is time again for Bubba's Contest that Pays.

We have TWO \$50 gift cards that have been donated by one of our members for this contest so we can have two winners. The winners will be randomly selected using a random number generator. Winners will choose their gift card from Amazon (except for a VISA or Mastercard gift card) to be sent either by mail or via email.

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter. Try to decode the message. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST on November 30, 2022. Winners will be notified on December 7, 2022. Submit your entries using our form. One entry per person.

Entry form: <https://forms.gle/JYW6RsxwhLZdQcJj9>

Tips for solving cryptograms: [youtube.com/watch?v=5y9THLG94SU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y9THLG94SU)

GDIIXGG BG AZQ U RDAIQBZA ZR QLX
GBCX ZR OZDT QBQKX MDQ QLX TBILAXGG
ZR OZDT IZAQTBMDQBZA.

Hint: G is S; T is R; and Q is T

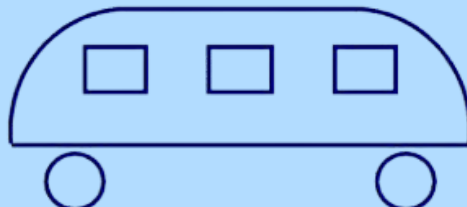
[Download the worksheet](#)

(Clue: the cryptogram is a quote that can be found on the Chapter website.)

Bonus Brainteaser

Is the bus pictured below traveling left or right if you are looking at it driving by while you are standing on the sidewalk?

Left



Right

Answer on back page



The **Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program** is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school juniors and seniors, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). This program is for students interested in pursuing the disciplines of **fisheries science and management** and/or **natural resources related fields**. Over the past 22 years (2001-2022), AFS has offered internship opportunities to 727 students with the help of almost 800 Mentors in over 150 host and financially sponsoring institutions.

Selected students known as Hutton Scholars, are matched and mentored by a fisheries professional to enjoy an 8-week hands-on fisheries science summer experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting.

Who Applies?:

- High school rising juniors, seniors, and graduated seniors
- We accept applicants from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico
- A diverse range of students with a passion for fisheries, biology, and environmental science

Program Details:

- Students receive a \$3,000 stipend, provided by AFS
- Flexible internship start and end dates
- Students typically work 40 hours a week
- Student liability is covered by AFS

Questions? Email Ashley Berniche, Education Program Coordinator, at aberniche@fisheries.org
301-897-8616, Ext 204

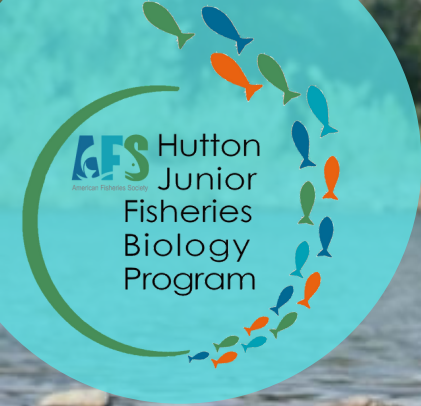


Apply Online for Summer 2023 at <http://hutton.fisheries.org>
Application Deadline: March 1st, 2023

Do you want to **inspire** young high school students?
Do you desire to share your **passion** for fisheries?
Do you want to participate in promoting **diversity** and **inclusion** in fisheries?

APPLY TO BE A HUTTON MENTOR TODAY!





The **Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program** is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school students in the classes of 2023-2025, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Our mission is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among diverse communities traditionally underrepresented in the fisheries professions today.

Selected students, known as Hutton Scholars, are matched and mentored by a fisheries professional for an **8-week paid internship**. Students can expect a hands-on fisheries science experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting conducting research both in a laboratory and field setting.

Hutton Scholars:

- Learn about the importance of healthy aquatic systems
- Participate in resource conservation and management projects
- Gain hands-on work experience
- Learn about career opportunities in the field and receive resources on course study

Questions? Email Ashley Berniche, Education Program Coordinator, at aberniche@fisheries.org



Check out our website at <http://hutton.fisheries.org>
Online applications for the 2023 Hutton Program are open
December 12th- February 14th

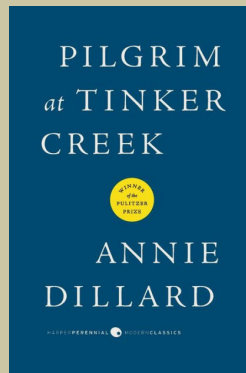
Do you love being outdoors?
Are you interested in science?
Especially fisheries or aquatic science?
Want a paid summer adventure?

APPLY TO BE A HUTTON SCHOLAR TODAY!



The Book Shelf

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



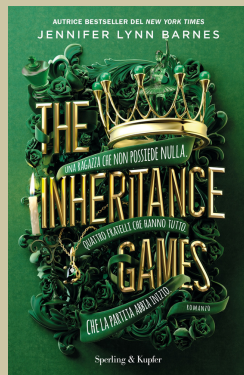
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek By Annie Dillard

The book records the narrator's thoughts on solitude, writing, and religion, as well as scientific observations on the flora and fauna she encounters. Touching upon themes of faith, nature, and awareness. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG ADULT READER SECTION



The Inheritance Games By Jennifer Lynn Barnes

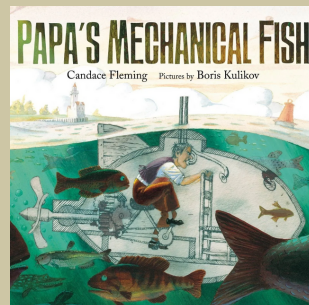
It is hard to find fun books for teenagers to read. This book will grab you in the first few pages and not let go until the end. Twists and turns, mysterious happenings, family dynamics, and a touching story. A New York Times best-selling novel and the first book of the #1 best-selling series.

[Learn More Link](#)



...there is a brook in this book

EARLY READER SECTION



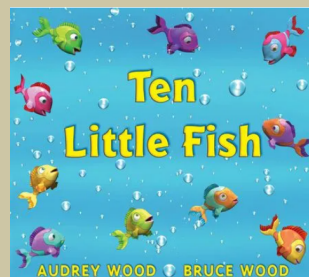
Papa's Mechanical Fish By Candace Fleming (Author) and Boris Kulikov (Illustrator)

With a lot of persistence and a little bit of help, Papa creates a submarine that can take his family on a trip to the bottom of Lake Michigan. This story teaches kids a bit about trial and error and how to deal with setbacks.

[Learn More Link](#)



BEGINNING READER SECTION



Ten Little Fish By Audrey (Author) and Bruce Wood (Illustrator)

Follow ten little fish as they swim along a beautiful ocean reef, one by one departing from the school for different reasons, eventually leaving one fellow all alone. What will he do? Along comes another, and that makes two!

[Learn More Link](#)



Membership Information



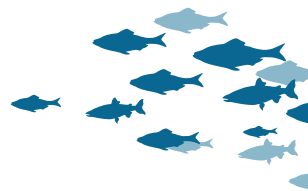
Are you a member of the American Fisheries Society?



American Fisheries Society

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

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



Some benefits for becoming a member of AFS:

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



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



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

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



Georgia AFS Membership: gaafs.org/membership/

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



Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2022 Sponsors

Click on image to visit website

Platinum

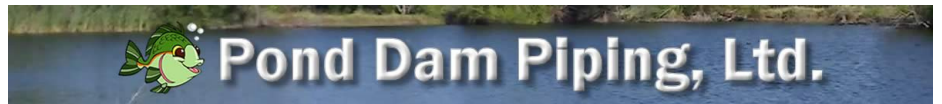


Georgia
Power

Gold



Silver



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Bronze



In-Kind
Donation

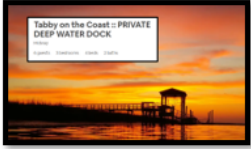


Northeast Georgia Health System, Inc.™

Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2022 Fundraising Donors

Click on image to visit website



FISHY NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

Click on the title of the article

University of Oxford

DISCOVERY OF NEW ECOSYSTEM - 'THE TRAPPING ZONE' - CREATING OASIS OF LIFE IN THE MALDIVES

The Nekton Maldives Mission, involving researchers from the University of Oxford, has found evidence of a previously undescribed ecosystem - 'The Trapping Zone' - that is creating an oasis of life 500 metres down in the depths of the Indian Ocean. The discovery has been hailed as highly significant by the Maldives Government. video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EiJ5ZXjDhY>

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

'AHI RECOVERY UP, MORE FISH CAUGHT THANKS TO NO-FISHING ZONES

It is well known that no-fishing zones can benefit sedentary marine life, such as corals or lobster. However, until now, it was assumed that no marine protected area could be big enough to protect species that travel long distances, such as tunas.

University of British Columbia

FOOD QUALITY MIGHT BE KEY FOR JUVENILE SOCKEYE SALMON GROWTH AND SURVIVAL

The quality of food sockeye salmon eat along their migration routes is more important to their growth and condition than quantity, a new study has found, highlighting concerns about the effects of climate change on ocean conditions and salmon.

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (Germany)

ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RESTORES WESTERN BALTIC FISH STOCKS

The first ecosystem model that covers the complete food web of the western Baltic Sea predicts how marine life in the region would react to different fisheries scenarios and additional human-induced stressors. The model simulations reveal that ecosystem-based fisheries management would restore stocks of commercially relevant fish species and the endangered harbor porpoise population. Marine life would become more resilient, and options for additional carbon sequestration would open up.

Oregon State University

WARMER STREAM TEMPERATURES IN BURNED-OVER OREGON WATERSHED DIDN'T RESULT IN FEWER TROUT

The number of trout in a southern Oregon stream system showed no decline one year after a fire burned almost the entire watershed, including riparian zone trees that had helped maintain optimal stream temperatures for the cold-water fish.

Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin, Germany

FISH COMMUNITY COMPOSITION IN SMALL LAKES: THE IMPACT OF LAKE GENESIS AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

We compared fish communities from small and isolated gravel pit and natural lakes in northern Germany, each with and without recent fisheries management.

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/



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/



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.

Stay Connected

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Newsletter Editorial Board

Rebecca Brown
Jamie Roberts
Marion Baker
Kevin Cavallaro
Jim Page
Brent Hess

Fin and Games Answer
The bus is going left...you
cannot see the door of the bus.