

Under the Dock

November/December 2023



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

Photo by Tyler Jones

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Mark Your Calendar

- **November 16 - 17**
 - Southeastern Fishes Council Meeting
 - Chattanooga, TN
- **November 30**
 - GA AFS Officer Nominations Due
- **December 15**
 - Deadline for GAAFS student scholarship and travel award applications
- **December 30**
 - GAAFS Professional Award Nominations due (Professional of the Year awards and Fisheries Conservationist of the Year)
- **January 16, 2024**
 - GAAFS 2024 Abstracts Due
- **January 29, 2024**
 - GAAFS 2024 hotel reservation deadline
- **January 31 - February 4, 2024**
 - SDAFS annual meeting - Chattanooga, TN
- **February 13 - 15, 2024**
 - Georgia AFS annual meeting - LaGrange

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 or underlined you can click on it for more information. Click on laptop images 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. Articles range from 250 to 1200 words.

Contact us at 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 - 17 Geography Awareness Week

The aim of Geography Awareness Week is to raise awareness about the significance of geography to everyone's lives and encourage people to consider their relationship with the environment.

Geography Awareness Week was created by "National Geographic" and became established by a presidential proclamation in 1987.

Geography is the study of places and how people relate to their environments. It is a field that touches other disciplines, including geology, botany, economics, sociology, and demography.



December 11 International Mountain Day

Mountains cover around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Mountains are the world's "water towers," providing 60-80% of all freshwater resources for our planet. At least half of the world's population depends on mountain ecosystem services to survive – including not only water, but food and clean energy as well.



Mountains are suffering from the impacts of climate change and unsustainable development, escalating risks for people and the planet. Climate change threatens the flow of water, and fast-rising temperatures are forcing mountain species and the people who depend on these ecosystems to adapt or migrate. Steep slopes mean the clearing of forest for farming, settlements, or infrastructure can cause soil erosion and the loss of habitat. Erosion and harmful runoff impact the quality of water flowing downstream.

Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



2024 Annual Meeting

February 13 - 15

Great Wolf Lodge, LaGrange

Putting Stock in Biodiversity; Resiliency in Numbers

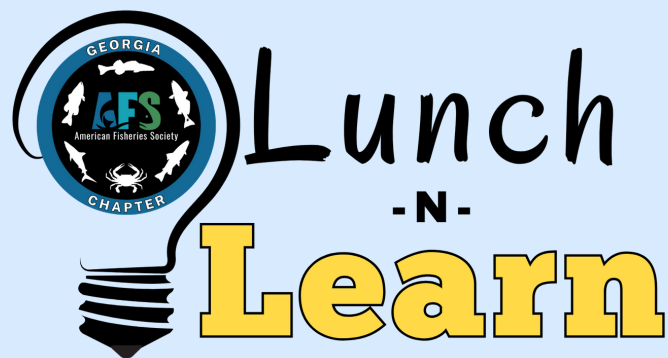
**Join us as we share research and ideas relevant to
marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their
respective fisheries and environments**

GAAFS.ORG

NEWS & UPDATES

Lunch-n-Learn Virtual Sessions

The Georgia AFS Continuing Education Committee is excited to introduce virtual Lunch-n-Learn mini-workshops. The purpose of these mini-workshops is to provide an opportunity to learn from each other about various topics related to the fisheries profession. All of the Lunch-n-Learn sessions will be recorded and posted to the [Georgia AFS YouTube Channel](#).



The first Lunch-n-Learn scheduled for October had to be rescheduled. We will send out a notification when the new date and time is determined.

Let us know if you have an idea for a Lunch-n-Learn mini-workshop. You can either email [Hunter Roop](mailto:Hunter.Roop@ga.dnr.gov) (Hunter.Roop@ga.dnr.gov) or [Pete Sakaris](mailto:psakaris@ggc.edu) (psakaris@ggc.edu).

Future Lunch-n-Learn Mini-Workshops

Preparing Informative and Effective Abstracts

The Do's and Don'ts When Creating Slideshow Presentations

Publishing Your Research

Visit the [Georgia AFS Workshops](#) website for additional information

How to Earn Credit 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 2024 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.



Georgia AFS Officer Nominations Due November 30



NOMINATIONS

The Georgia Chapter is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Georgia AFS President-Elect and Recording Secretary-Treasurer. Refer to our Chapter bylaws for the responsibilities of elected officers. gaafs.org/bylaws/

You may nominate a colleague or yourself. Nominees will be notified to confirm they want to be considered for the position they have been nominated.


All nominees who choose to run for Georgia AFS President-Elect must be a 2024 member of the Georgia Chapter and a 2024 member of the American Fisheries Society. Nominees are required to write a brief biography essay to provide to our voting members. The biography should be 500 words or less and include why the nominee chose fisheries as a career, the nominee's educational background, the nominee's involvement with the Georgia Chapter or AFS, and how the nominee will help Georgia AFS achieve its mission.

Note: Dawn Franco, current Recording Secretary-Treasurer, does plan to run for re-election.

**DUE
November
30**

**2024 Georgia AFS
Officer Nomination Form**

CLICK HERE



Applications for the Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship and the Robert E. Reinert Undergraduate Travel Awards Due December 15, 2023

Students need to make sure they follow directions for submitting their applications:

1. Complete the application form and email to Donna McDowell and Rebecca Brown by midnight on December 15, 2023.
2. Student advisor must complete the student nomination form and email it to Donna McDowell and Rebecca Brown by midnight December 15, 2023.
3. Students must [be members of Georgia AFS](#)



Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship



Robert E. Reinert Travel Award



Georgia AFS and Georgia TWS Gear Swap



It is the pleasure of GA State Chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society to offer up a new listserv for our members to participate in a field gear swap list-serv. This idea stems from our knowledge that many of us have gently used gear that we no longer want or need for some reason or another and this would serve as a good way to distribute that to other folks. So, in an effort to provide cheap and perhaps free field gear to students and young professionals in our professions, we have created this listserv.

To receive information or to sell/give away gear, you will need to first need to do the following:

1. Sign up for the Google group. You can find our group called "**gafw-gear-swap@googlegroups.com**" and sign up by following these [directions](#).
2. PLEASE BE AWARE - we will not be moderating signups for this group, so please only pass on this group information to individuals that you feel is warranted.
3. If you want to list items for sale/free (or to view current listings), you can list them on this Google sheet: [GA Wildlife/Fisheries Gear Swap List](#)
4. Once you have listed an item on the Google sheet, please send a message to the "gafw-gear-swap" listserv. You may also include photos in the email if beneficial.
5. You do have an option to unsubscribe after you have completed a swap (follow the unsubscribe directions)

You can email us if you have any questions: GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com

We plan to provide a table/booth for gear swaps at the annual meeting as well!



Do Not Forget About These Resources

Besides the Chapter newsletter these are your other sources for Georgia AFS information.

Website

- Chapter Calendar
- Meeting Info
- Awards
- Job postings
- Career info
- and more

Facebook Group

- Jop postings
- Current research
- Society updates
- Shout-outs
- Announcements
- Reminders

YouTube Channel

- R Programming
- Presentations tips
- Public speaking
- Academic life
- Fisheries Mgmt.
- Pesticide application

Instagram

- Jop postings
- Announcements
- Reminders

Nominations for Georgia AFS Professional Awards Due December 30, 2023

Do you know of a person, a team, or an organization that has gone out of their way to support the sustainability and conservation of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems?

FISHERIES PROFESSIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

[CLICK HERE](#)

This award is open to all professional fishery teams working in Georgia whose job entails the management of marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Teams considered for this award have worked together to develop and/or implement a new or improved idea germane to fisheries management and/or conservation, participated in aquatic outreach programs, or shared their knowledge and skills with other professionals.

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

[CLICK HERE](#)

This award is open to all fisheries professionals working in Georgia whose job entails the management of marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Fisheries professionals considered for this award have participated in outstanding or unique management or fish culture activities that contributed significantly to fisheries management and/or conservation.

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IN FISHERIES SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

[CLICK HERE](#)

This award is open to all fisheries professionals working in Georgia whose job entails the conservation and research of marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Professionals considered for this award led or participated in a research project or program that promotes the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic systems.

FISHERIES CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

[CLICK HERE](#)

This award is open to an individual or group for their outstanding contributions or service to fisheries conservation in Georgia. Fisheries conservation addresses the study, conservation, and sustainable use of marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their aquatic habitats, including streams, wetlands, estuaries, and oceans. Accomplishments can include political, legal, educational, scientific, and managerial successes. Their accomplishments should go beyond their regular work responsibility.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn about our judging process for these awards

Georgia AFS Committees

Our committees are essential to the success of the Chapter!

Often times during the annual meeting or other events we have members approach an EXCOM member or a committee chair and say they would like to volunteer their services. Once the event is over and we all go back to our jobs and homes we often forget the names of those who want to volunteer to help because so much was going on at the time. Please understand if a member of the EXCOM or a committee chair forgot to contact you it was not because your services were not wanted. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering to serve on a committee, facilitate a workshop, or help during the annual meeting.

Georgia AFS EXCOM Contact Information

President: Ani Escobar (anakela.escobar@dnr.ga.gov)

President-Elect: Chad Kaiser (chad.kaiser@dnr.ga.gov)

Recording Secretary-Treasurer: Dawn Franco (dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov)

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

Immediate Past-President: Marion Baker (marion.baker@dnr.ga.gov)

Georgia Committee Chair Contact Information

Membership and Student Affairs: Adam Fox (agfox@uga.edu)

Fundraising: Jackson Sibley (oceansibley@gmail.com)

Arrangements: Annual Meeting Setup: Kevin Cavallaro (cavallaro@fultonschools.org)

Annual Meeting Registration Table: Brent Hess (brent.hess@dnr.ga.gov)

Continuing Education Committee: Peter Sakaris (psakaris@ggc.edu)

Hunter Roop (hunter.roop@dnr.ga.gov)

Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions: Dawn Franco (dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov)

Student Presentations Awards: Chalisa Fabillar (chalisa.fabillar@dnr.ga.gov)

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

Georgia Chapter Scholarships: Donna McDowell (donna.mcdowell@dnr.ga.gov)

Communications: Rebecca Brown (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)

Program: Carolyn Belcher (carolyn.belcher@dnr.ga.gov)

Audit: Clint Peacock (clint.peacock@dnr.ga.gov) and **(OPEN)**

Environmental Concerns: Jordan Steele (jordan.h.steele@gmail.com)

**Visit the Chapter
website for more details
about each of the
committees**

gaafs.org/committees

AFS has several different committees in which professional and student members can volunteer their time and expertise.

American Fisheries Society Committees

AWARD NOMINATIONS

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](#).

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.
- **Is a nomination letter required for all Georgia AFS awards?**
 - A nomination letter is not required for an *FPY or FCY award. A short summary explaining why the nominee should be considered is required on the nomination form. All other awards require a nomination letter. Visit the website for more details.
- **Do nominees need to score exemplary for all of the standards for an FPY or FCY award?**
 - Nominees are not expected to score exemplary in all standards.
- **When is the deadline to submit nominations?**
 - **Nominations for Georgia AFS FPY and FCY awards are due Dec. 30, 2023**
 - Nominations for the other awards are due January 20, 2024

**FPY includes Fisheries Professional of the Year in Science and Research, Professional of the Year in Fisheries Management, and Fisheries Professional Team of the Year. FCY is Fisheries Conservationist of the Year.*

FISHERIES PROFESSIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IN FISHERIES SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

FISHERIES CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

DUE December 30, 2023

CAREER CONTRIBUTION AWARD

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

HIDDEN HERO AWARD

DUE January 20, 2024

**GEORGIA AFS
AWARDS**

CLICK HERE



Volunteering



There are many ways to give back to your community and one of them is volunteering your time. Georgia has several organizations that provide an opportunity for its members to volunteer to help protect Georgia's aquatic ecosystems.

On October 28th over 60 volunteers planted 40+ native trees and 120+ native plants and bushes along the Chattahoochee River at Hardman Farm in Helen. The goal is to mitigate soil erosion along the river. The plants were purchased by [Georgia Trout Unlimited](#) and local TU Chapters. Partners for this project included. Rabun TU, Gold Rush TU, UGA 5 Rivers, UNG 5 Rivers, GA Tech 5 Rivers, Master Gardener, Boy Scouts, Project Healing Waters, Riverkeeper, 4H, and UGA Extension Habersham and White counties.



Tixie Fowler, founder of [Gardens for Growing Community](#) and a Georgia AFS Fisheries Conservationist of the Year, participated in a Rivers Alive event to help clean up around Sweetwater Creek State Park.

[Rivers Alive](#) is Georgia's volunteer waterway cleanup program that aims to keep all watersheds within state lines trash free. They encourage volunteers to target streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands, however, all cleanups help to protect our waterways. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources. Rivers Alive functions year-round and is a program of the [Georgia Environmental Protection Division Outreach Program](#).

Locate a [Cleanup](#) near you.

Student Presentation Awards

Each year at the annual meeting students who present a poster or oral presentation are evaluated by a team of fisheries professionals. The top students are awarded a certificate and a monetary prize.

Awards are presented to the top 3 student oral presenters and the top 3 poster presenters.

Oral presentations at Georgia AFS annual meetings are 15 minutes (10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A). Poster presentations are 15 - 20 minutes and presenters should prepare an 3 - 5 minute presentation of their poster and expect 10 - 15 minutes of questions from judges.



First Place: \$150
Second Place: \$100
Third Place: \$50

Poster Presenters

- Minimum poster size of 24" x 36" and maximum poster size of 48" x 36" – check with your advisor as to what they require.
- Poster judging will take place Tuesday evening, February 13, 2023
- Poster presenters are asked to provide a pdf copy of their poster one week prior to the meeting (send pdf to Rebecca Brown at GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)

The Chapter provides a list of resources on its website to help with creating PowerPoints and posters. Additionally, the judging forms used to evaluate student presenters is available on the website for students to evaluate themselves as they prepare for their presentations.

Click Here

Students Mark Your Calendars

Give yourself plenty of time to apply for scholarships, fellowships, travel awards, etc. Get out your phone right now and add these dates to your calendar with at least a 2-week reminder notification.

Georgia AFS Awards

[Georgia AFS Ronnie J Gilbert Scholarship](#) (deadline December 15)

[Georgia AFS Robert E. Reinert Travel Award](#) (undergraduate award - deadline December 15)

~~[Georgia AFS Gift of Membership Award](#) (students -- deadline first Friday of Oct.)~~

[Georgia AFS Travel Grant](#) (graduate students and professionals - deadline dependent on the event)

Southern Division and AFS Awards

[Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarship for Females in Fisheries](#) (deadline December 15)

[John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award](#) (usually due April 1)

[J Frances Allen Scholarship](#) (for a female doctoral fisheries student - plan for April 1 due date)

[The Steven Berkeley Marine Conservation Fellowship](#) (deadline February 1)

[Equal Opportunities Section \(EOS\) Student Travel Award](#) (deadline May 1)

[William R. Mote Fisheries Fellowship Award](#) (deadline April 1)

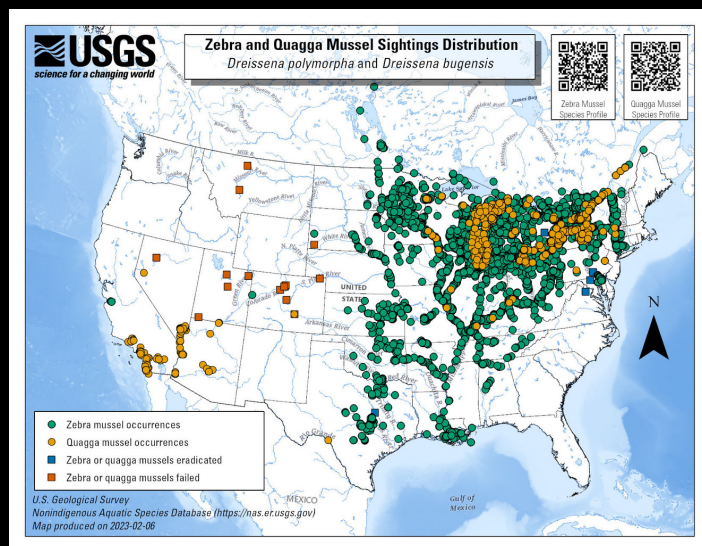
Other Awards/Contest

[AFS Student Writing Contest](#) (deadline April 1)

[UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Student Opportunities](#) (deadlines vary - visit website)

ZEBRA MUSSELS AND QUAGGA MUSSELS

Environmental textbooks teach about the devastating effects of the invasive zebra mussels, but they fail to mention the invasive quagga mussels and the ecological and financial problems this species has caused around the United States.



Both species are native to Europe. Zebra mussels were first discovered in Lake St. Clair in 1988 and quagga mussels were discovered in the Erie Canal and Lake Ontario in 1989.

Zebra and quagga mussels most likely made their trek to the Western parts of the U.S. “hitching” a ride on recreational watercraft. Both of these mussels attach to hard surfaces and can survive out of water for up to 30 days, depending on conditions.

Microscopic larvae can be inadvertently transported in bilges, live wells, boat motors, and boat trailers.

Adult zebra and quagga mussels can attach to most hard and semi-soft surfaces via tiny threads called byssal threads. Our native mussel species do not have byssal threads. These byssal threads are one of three main invasive characteristics that give zebra and quagga mussels an advantage over natives, along with rapid reproduction and their ability to filter feed at amazing rates.

Zebra and quagga mussels can kill native freshwater mussels by attaching to the shells of native species preventing them from feeding, and outcompeting native mussels for plankton. Because they are very efficient filter feeders, these invasive mussels alter freshwater aquatic food webs by outcompeting other filter feeding invertebrates for food.

BE A CHAMPION FOR OUR AQUATIC RESOURCES

- Help spread the word about the damages created by the invasive zebra and quagga mussels
- Promote CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY



Dead native mussel covered in zebra mussels



This demonstration shows how quickly quagga mussels can increase in numbers



GEORGIA AFS 2024 TRASH TO ART CONTEST



The Georgia AFS EXCOM wants to invite you to the first Georgia AFS Trash to Art Contest. This is an opportunity for you to take some of that trash you collect and repurpose it to create an art piece that represents Georgia's Aquatic Ecosystems.

Participation

- Open only to 2024 Georgia AFS members
- Art displayed at the 2024 Georgia AFS annual meeting (by 1pm on 2/14/24)
- A colleague can enter your art if you are unable to attend the meeting
- Judging will take place at the annual meeting

Rules

- Only one entry per participant
- All projects must be safe to handle (no hazards, etc.) and socially and culturally appropriate (See DQ list on website)
- Art must only be created by using litter collected along waterways
- For the base, the artist may use wood, canvas, cardboard, or any other solid structure to hold the litter in place. It can be purchased or something you want to repurpose.
- Collected litter should be cleaned and sterilized prior to using. A 10% bleach and water solution is suggested.
- Fastening materials may include tape, glue, staples, nails, and/or string
- Art may be on a flat surface, a sculpture, or a functional piece of art. Creativity is key.
- Maximum size of art - should fit in a 1 meter x 1 meter space and not be any taller than 0.5 meters.
- Participants are encouraged to take pictures of them collecting litter and send the pictures to GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com to be used on Georgia AFS social media platforms
- All entries agree to have photos of their artwork posted to Georgia AFS Facebook and Instagram and in the Chapter newsletter
- All entries must be removed from the conference center by 9am, Thursday, 2/15/24

Prizes

Annual meeting participants will be given one ticket they can use to vote for their favorite art piece. At the end of the contest the artists can exchange these tickets for raffle tickets.

Visit our [Website](#) for
Additional Information



OYSTER REEF RESTORATION



Staff of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division and volunteer students from Georgia Southern University place bagged oyster shells on wooden pallets onto a riverbank of the North Newport River on Monday, Sept. 25, 2023, as part of an oyster restoration project.
DNR photos by Tyler Jones.



Georgia oyster reef photo by Bryan Fluech

On September 25, 2023, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (CRD) launched its latest oyster restoration project in Liberty County west of St. Catherine Island. Along with volunteers from Georgia Southern University (GSU), the crew placed approximately 10 tons of bagged oyster shells at two locations on the North Newport River to encourage the growth of native Eastern oysters.

This restoration project is a collaboration between CRD, GSU, and Yamaha Rightwaters. The financial support provided by Yamaha Rightwaters will be used by GSU to collect data to determine the carbon sequestration potential of oyster reefs in Georgia.

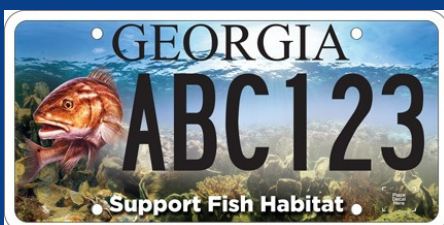
Similar to coral reefs, oysters are a keystone species. These ecosystem engineers provide numerous ecosystem services.

- Create habitat for juvenile fish, crustaceans, invertebrates, and other mollusks of commercial and recreational importance.
- Provide food for people and shorebirds.
- Improve water quality by removing suspended sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants from the water via filtration.
- Filtration by oysters improves water clarity and the penetration of light into the water column, which increases the growth of seagrasses and other aquatic plants.
- Oyster reefs protect shorelines from erosion and therefore protect critical estuarine habitats such as salt marshes.
- They support the fishing industry and provide jobs for people.

Over the past two centuries overharvesting, pollution, habitat destruction, and disease have caused 85% of oyster reef habitat all over the world to be lost.

CRD has oyster restoration efforts underway across Georgia's 105-mile coast to help bring back oyster populations. Six oyster restoration projects have been completed by CRD since 2018.

Georgia drivers can also show their support for inshore and offshore artificial reef creation by purchasing CRD's "Support Marine Habitat" license plate at their county tag office. Of the additional \$25 it costs to have this unique coastal car tag, \$21 goes directly to CRD for habitat creation coastwide. Learn more at GADNR.org/LicensePlates.



Local Fishy Stuff

Click on title of article



**Lawsuit Seeks
Endangered Species
Protection for Rare Fish
in Georgia, Tennessee**



**PHOTOS: Georgia Gwinnett
College students study changes
in local fish community**



**Helping land help you:
The role carbon plays in
ecosystem services**



**Sally Sierer
Bethea: Keeping
the Chattahoochee**



**Guest column: Saving our
riverfront for years to come**



**Georgia lawmakers
to tackle fishing
rights issue**

**Student researchers
launch innovative
projects to address
coastal issues**



**Okefenokee on track to World
Heritage Site status**





2024 Annual Meeting

GREAT WOLF LODGE • FEBRUARY 13 - 15

Putting Stock in Biodiversity; Resiliency in Numbers Abstract Submission

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

Interested individuals are encouraged to email their abstracts to Carolyn Belcher (Carolyn.Belcher@dnr.ga.gov) by January 16, 2024. 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 presentation resources for professionals and students. <https://gaafs.org/presentation-resources/> Students can find the judging forms on the same page. Awards are presented to the top 3 student oral presenters and top 3 student poster presenters.

Additional videos on Chapter YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@GeorgiaAFS/playlists



GEORGIA CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 39TH ANNUAL MEETING 2024 SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



Platinum Sponsorship \$2000

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2024 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom
- Opportunity to leave materials and handouts at the registration table
- 10 minutes of conference presentation time to address all attendees
- 2 exhibitor tables
- 3 complimentary registrations

Gold Sponsorship \$1000

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2024 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom
- Opportunity to leave materials and handouts at the registration table
- 10 minutes of conference presentation time to address all attendees
- 1 exhibitor table
- 2 complimentary registrations

Silver Sponsorship \$500

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2024 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom
- 1 exhibitor table
- 1 complimentary registration

Bronze Sponsorship \$250

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2024 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom



2024 Annual Meeting

GREAT WOLF LODGE • FEBRUARY 13 - 15

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Chapter has a block of rooms reserved for our meeting participants. Guests can make their reservations by either calling the Great Wolf Customer Contact Center 1-866-751-9653 or visiting their website www.greatwolf.com/georgia.

Room Rate: \$98/night

Reference Block Code: 2402GAFS

Reservations must be made prior to Jan. 29, 2024



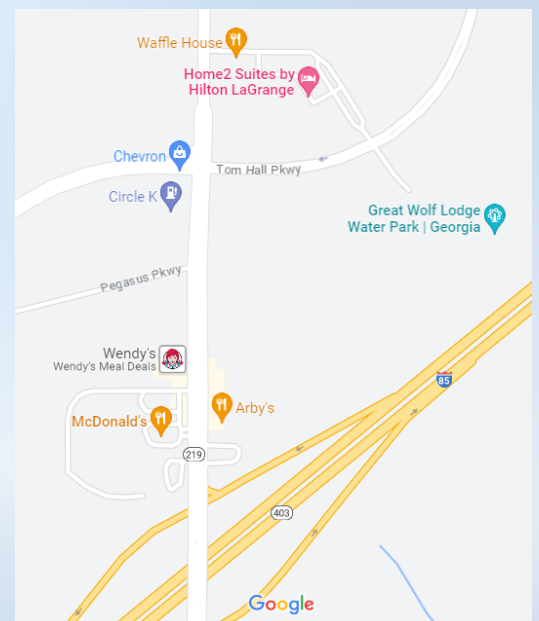
Great Wolf Lodge offers a diversity of **dining options** or you might choose to travel 10 minutes down the road to LaGrange to select from one of its many restaurants.



Coming Soon

Schedule of Events

150 Tom Hall Parkway
LaGrange GA 30240, USA



GA AFS 2024

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.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

You can help our fundraising efforts by 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



2024 Annual Meeting

GREAT WOLF LODGE • FEBRUARY 13 - 15

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration and complimentary registration 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. Email Rebecca Brown if you plan to bring a guest (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com).

	Cost/Person Before Feb. 1, 2024		Cost/Person After Feb. 1, 2024	
	GAAFS Member	Non-GAAFS Member	GAAFS Member	Non-GAAFS Member
Professional	\$135	\$150	\$150	\$165
Retired	\$60	\$75	\$60	\$75
Student	\$65	\$80	\$75	\$90
One-day Professional	\$60	\$75	\$60	\$75
One-day Student	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$50
Extra Banquet Ticket			\$40/person	
Extra Social Ticket			\$25/person	
**Georgia AFS membership dues			\$10	
Quick Link to Pay GAAFS 2024 Membership Dues				

CLICK HERE

Google Registration Form



Google
Registration
Form

** Membership to the Georgia Chapter is separate from being a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Visit gaafs.org/membership for instructions on how to pay Georgia AFS dues online. Visit fisheries.org/membership to join AFS.

Payment Options

- Check should be **made payable to Georgia Chapter AFS** and mailed to Rebecca Brown. One registration form per person.
- Credit card payments use our online store.

Rebecca Brown
241 Apple Ridge 2
Dawsonville, GA 30534

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



49TH ANNUAL MEETING
16-18 NOVEMBER 2023
CHATTANOOGA, TN

Chattanooga Hotel
1201 Broad Street



Thursday Night Poster Social
Tennessee Aquarium
River Journey

Late Registration ends on 14 November

CLICK HERE

for more details

Questions? Contact Bernie Kuhajda (brk@tnaqua.org or Anna George (alg@tnaqua.org)

FISH DISEASE SPOTLIGHT

VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA (VHS)

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a deadly fish virus that was first identified in the United States in 2003 in the Great Lakes Region. It's not a threat to people who handle infected fish or want to eat their catch, but it is a threat to more than 50 fish species.

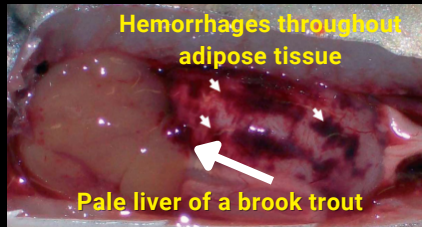
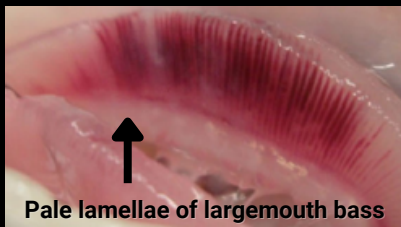
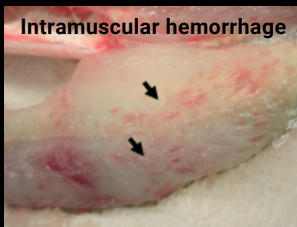
DESCRIPTION/SYMPTOMS

VHS is a single-stranded RNA virus and a member of Rhabdoviridae and has an incubation period of 7 to 15 days depending upon water temperatures. Fish mortality from VHS can reach 80-90% and is most successful at temperatures of 37 - 54°F.

Fish infected with VHS shed the virus through their urine and reproductive fluids. The virus can survive in water for at least 14 days.

Fish will display widespread hemorrhages throughout the body surface and within the internal organs. The gills and liver may appear pale in color. Bulging eyes and bloated abdomens may be observed. Infected fish may appear listless, swim in circles, or stay near the surface of the water.

A diagnosis cannot be made by observation alone. Samples should be sent to a lab to confirm VHS infection.



Hemorrhaging around the eyes, mouth, and fins



Hemorrhaging around the base of the fins



THREAT

VHS is currently not found in Georgia. It is found in the Great Lakes region and has been documented in the state of Washington.

The disease can be spread to other waterways through live baitfish, fresh fish eggs, live fish, bilge, bait bucket water and un-cleaned fishing gear or boats. Although fish may appear healthy, they can still carry and spread VHS.

There is no treatment of VHS. Using biosecurity control measures and best management practices is the key to helping mitigate the spread of VHS.

BIOSECURITY

MITIGATING THE TRANSFER OF DISEASES AND OTHER ANS

There will always be risks of unintentionally transferring diseases and other aquatic nuisance species (ANS), but we can use effective biosecurity control measures to lower the risks. To determine effective control measures it is important to understand how diseases and other ANS spread.

How do diseases and other aquatic nuisance species (ANS) spread:

- Introduction of new fish
- Movement of people and machinery between and within fisheries
- Contact with other fish from the wild
- Movement of animals onto the fishery (e.g. predators and wild birds)
- Shared equipment
- Transfer of contaminated water
- Escapees from other waters during flood events
- Transfer of plant matter and mud on angler's equipment and clothing



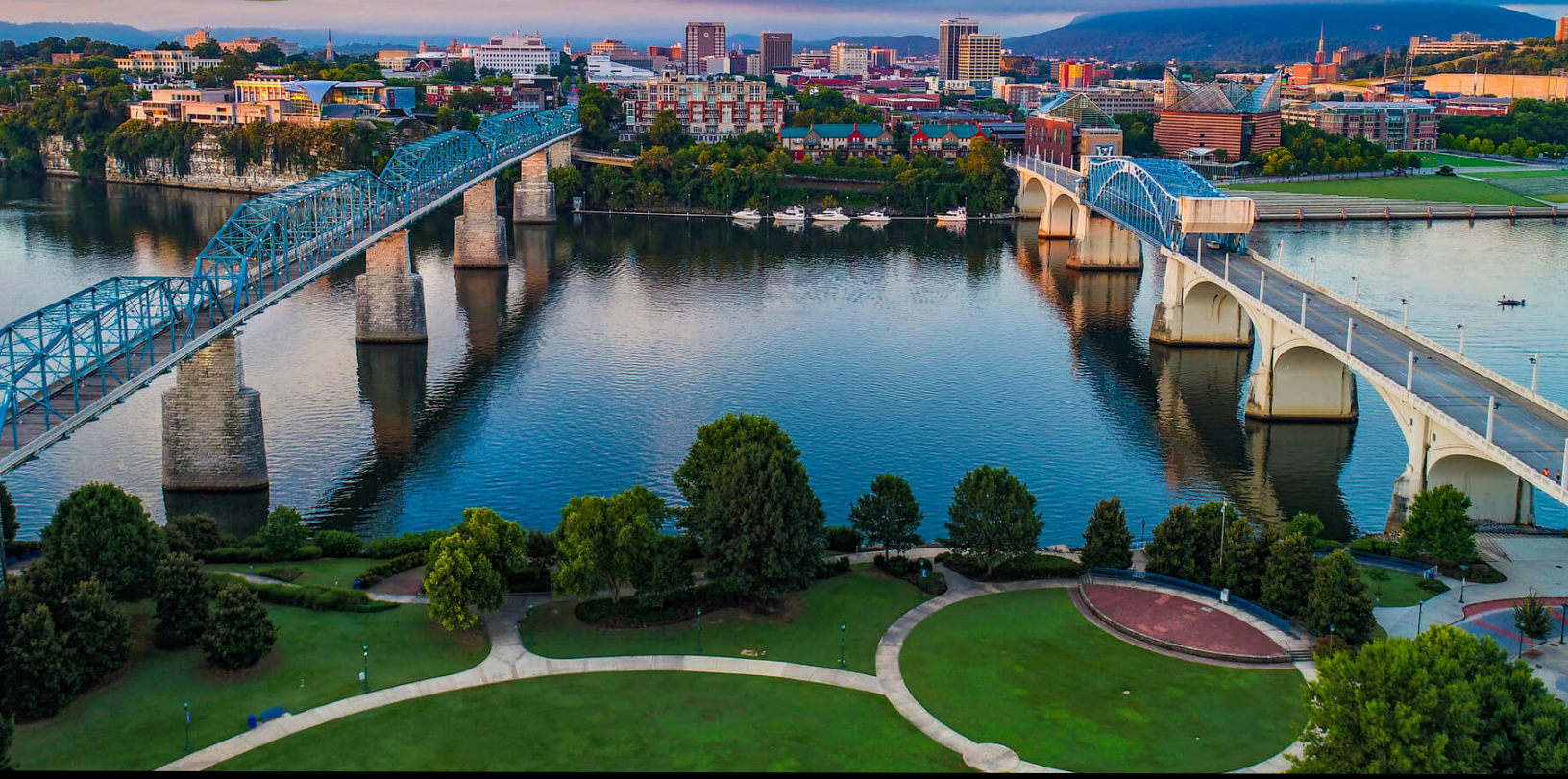
It is important that we do not transmit aquatic diseases or other ANS while carrying out our responsibilities. We can use best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the spread of aquatic disease and ANS.

- Chemical disinfection of equipment, hauling tanks, vehicles, boats
- Pressure washing - some control measures require the use of hot water when cleaning equipment, vehicles, and tanks (depending on what you are trying to control)
- Drying - for example allowing nets to dry 3 - 5 days after cleaning
- Manual removal - visually inspecting equipment and manually removing plant material and mud from equipment, clothing, vehicles, etc.
- Dedicated equipment to only be used for certain buildings, tanks, etc. - label the equipment
- Medical treatment of fish
- Quarantine wild or new fish brought to a hatchery
- Testing for known or suspected pathogens in an area
- Washing hands and using sanitizing foot mats/dips for staff and visitors
- Effective use of signage for personnel and visitors - do not overuse warning or directional signs





Southern Division American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting January 31 - February 4, 2024



The Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society kindly invites you to the **2024 Southern Division AFS meeting** in Chattanooga, TN at the Chattanooga Convention Center.



**Early Registration ends
December 15, 2023**

 **Meeting Information**



American Fisheries Society

September 15-19, 2024
Honolulu



Conserving Fishes and Fishing Traditions through Knowledge Co-Production

The American Fisheries Society (AFS), President Cecil Jennings, the AFS Western Division, and AFS Pacific Islands Chapter are excited to host the 154th AFS Annual Meeting, September 15-19, 2024 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The theme "Conserving Fishes and Fishing Traditions through Knowledge Co-Production" will stimulate a wide range of sessions focusing on the past, present, and future of fisheries conservation and management as we bring together professionals from across North America, the Pacific Islands, and countries throughout the world. The Honolulu Program Committee invites proposals for symposia, workshop/continuing education courses, and innovative sessions that support the theme and look to advance the fisheries profession.

American Fisheries Society 154th ANNUAL MEETING

[Call for Sessions](#)

**Session proposal submission will open in
December 2023**



Chapter Spotlight

Brian Irwin

Brian is a Research Fish Biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, Unit Leader for the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (GA CRU), and Adjunct Associate Professor for the University of Georgia. He just started serving as Unit Leader during January 2023, but he has been with the GA CRU since 2012. Brian's job responsibilities closely connect to the 3-part mission of the CRU program: graduate education, research, and technical assistance. Much of that involves projects or people connected to AFS. He lives with his family in Athens, GA.



What inspired you to pursue a career in fisheries?

I grew up fishing some small farm ponds and reservoirs but wasn't very aware of the possible careers in fisheries. The real inspiration for me actually was through an AFS event during college. The student subunit at my undergrad institution hosted a speaker who was a fisheries biologist (wish I could remember who it was) from Alaska. After the talk (I do remember there was pizza!), a graduate student asked me "what did you think?", which very fortunately for me became a conversation that included learning about her graduate research and lab. I later

joined that lab as an undergraduate worker and then also did an internship and worked in another fish lab as well. I just sort of kept going from there. As a socially awkward and decidedly introverted individual, I'm really glad someone took the time to do outreach to promote that event and also check in with the newcomers! (BTW, that former PhD student is a full professor/chairperson now.) Earlier this year, I received my 25th-anniversary pin from AFS!

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

I completed my undergraduate at the University of Illinois (Biology), a MS at Auburn University (Fisheries), a PhD at Cornell University (Natural Resources), and a post-doctoral position at Michigan State University with the Quantitative Fisheries Center in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. So, Georgia (Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources) is university number 5 for me. Each move presented new opportunities and some challenges, but I consider myself very fortunate to have had those experiences and the exposure to different ideas and systems.



Chapter Spotlight Continued



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

We actually have multiple ongoing projects that I'm excited about but I'll highlight two. First, we're working with GA DNR and the Sickelfin Redhorse Conservation Committee to examine possible population dynamics of Sickelfin Redhorse. This project is cool because of the invested partners and because we're trying to use multiple data sets together. Second, the GA CRU is also working with GA DNR to fit estimation models and run simulations based

on their long-term reservoir monitoring program. This is a cool project because it spans multiple years, locations, and species. It's worth mentioning that both of these ongoing projects are building from previously successful graduate-student projects – thanks Angela and Jacob!

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

Probably having students reach their graduation goals is the most consistently rewarding experience for me. I'm also thankful for attending several good AFS meetings, including in Alaska, the Adirondacks, and the Southern Division meeting in Puerto Rico.



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

Always plot your data.



Chapter Spotlight Continued

How has being a member of Georgia AFS benefitted you?

Well, in addition to essentially most of my career, I'd say that networking within the fisheries profession has been really rewarding. Coincidentally, within the last week, I was able to visit with my first UGA graduate student (and her new baby!) and one of my own PhD advisors. It really is a lot more than just a job.

What is your favorite quote?

This varies a lot for me over time, but currently I'm liking "Work hard & be kind".

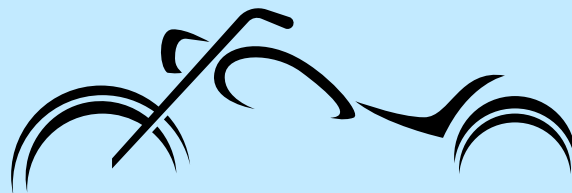


What is your favorite fish and why?

Whichever one I get to watch my kids catch or see. Why? I guess I feel like I've seen more than my fair share at this point, but I still really enjoy seeing when someone learns something new about fishes.

What is one thing on your bucket list?

Getting my motorcycle running again.



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

My family is currently hosting a high-school foreign exchange student for the first time.



DID YOU KNOW?

Some Fish are Extremophiles

Often when you hear the word “extremophile” you think bacteria, not teleost. Extremophiles are organisms with the ability to thrive in extreme environments, such as extreme temperature, acidity, alkalinity, or chemical concentration.

The Atlantic molly (*Poecilia mexicana*) is an extremophile fish that lives in toxic water full of hydrogen sulfide from natural oil deposits and volcanic activity environments. Thanks to their genetics these fish are able to efficiently detoxify hydrogen sulfide that enters their body.



Desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) are considered living fossils, offering evidence of a historic interconnection among lakes and survival through natural selection to adapt to shrinking and heating bodies of water, including desert pools, springs, marshy patches, and streams. These fish can survive in temperatures exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit and tolerate water more than twice as salty as the ocean.

The Antarctic blackfin icefish (*Chaenocephalus aceratus*) is unique because it is the only vertebrate that does not have any functioning red blood cells. Icefishes evolved mechanisms that appear to compensate for loss of these oxygen-binding proteins, including enormous hearts with increased stroke volume relative to body size, enhanced vascular systems, and changes in mitochondrial density and morphology.



Similar to other teleosts that live in the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans, they can survive in below-freezing temperatures because they produce antifreeze glycoproteins that modify and prevent the growth of ice crystals.

Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title of article

ENVIRONMENTAL DNA REVEALS THE GENETIC DIVERSITY AND POPULATION STRUCTURE OF AN INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE LAURENTIAN GREAT LAKES

Ecologists have demonstrated that the genetic material that species shed into their environments can reveal not only the presence of the species but also a broad range of information about the genetics of whole populations.

FISHERY CATCH IS AFFECTED BY GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION, FISHING DOWN FOOD WEBS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND

In a paper published in the journal PeerJ, an international team of researchers shows that, despite ocean water temperature around the island country modestly increasing by 0.04°C per decade from 1950–2019, the presence of warmer-climate species is a clear indicator of the impacts of climate change on marine life.

RIVERS RAPIDLY WARMING, LOSING OXYGEN; AQUATIC LIFE MAY BE AT RISK, STUDY FINDS

Rivers are warming and losing oxygen faster than oceans, according to a new article. The study shows that of nearly 800 rivers, warming occurred in 87% and oxygen loss occurred in 70%.

BIG TEETH, BIGGER DATA

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Natural Resources and Environment are assessing the efficacy of shark sanctuaries by developing a modeling system that utilizes publicly accessible fishing data to determine shark catch and mortality rates. Published in the journal *Science Advances*, their findings represent an important step in utilizing data science to tackle oceanic conservation challenges.

EXPLOSION IN FISH BIODIVERSITY DUE TO GENETIC RECYCLING

Scientists show the extraordinary diversity of cichlid fish in Africa's Lake Victoria was made possible by 'genetic recycling' -- repeated cycles of new species appearing and rapidly adapting to different roles in the ecosystem. In an evolutionary case study that has fascinated researchers for decades, the research sheds light on how 500 species of fish were able to emerge and thrive in just 16,000 years.

ON BEING THE WRONG SIZE, OR THE ROLE OF BODY MASS IN FISH KILLS AND HYPOXIA EXPOSURE

In a paper published in *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, researchers from Leiden University, Sportvisserij Zuidwest Nederland and the Sea Around Us initiative at the University of British Columbia compared evidence from drought-induced fish kills in the Netherlands, fisheries management literature and multiple physiological studies.



PLUGGED IN

Listening to podcasts can help individuals escape from daily stressors and find moments of relaxation and enjoyment, thus offering a positive impact on their mental well-being while offering great background noise for life. To listen to one of the podcasts described below click on the podcast logo.



234 - Dinosaur fish and the power of cold emails with Joey Nolan

This week, Elise chats with her good friend Joey Nolan, a Master's student at the University of Georgia Athens. They cover all things sturgeon, the challenges of doing research during COVID, and the power of pivoting as they discuss Joey's less-than-linear road to graduate school.



EP. 308 From Personal Journey to Changing Lives: Stay Outdoors Longer with Tighten Your Tinkler

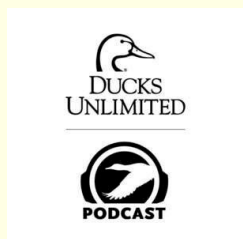
In this episode, we dive into a topic that directly relates to women in the outdoors - peeing! Yes, you heard that right. We discuss the challenges women face when it comes to peeing while engaging in outdoor activities.

(The Woman Angler & Adventurer was selected as the "Outdoor Podcast of the Year" at the 2023 Outdoor Media Summit)



How to practice your fly casting, with Pete Kutzer

The better your casting, the more fun you'll have and the more relaxed you'll be on the water. Pete Kutzer [46:13] is one of the finest casting instructors in the world, and not only that he's one of the finest anglers you meet, which means he teaches casting as a means to have more enjoyable fishing so he's pragmatic and flexible.



Ep. 365 – Ducks Unlimited Welcomes Bill Dance (1 of 2)

Hosts Dr. Mike Brasher and Chris Jennings welcome legendary fisherman and outdoor personality Bill Dance to the DU Podcast. Dance shares some personal stories about his path to becoming a professional fisherman and beyond. The trio discuss conservation and how fish and fishermen can benefit from Ducks Unlimited's wetlands conservation efforts. [\[Part 2\]](#)



Breaking up with perfectionism

Perfectionism is on the rise -- and not just in job interviews when people claim it's their greatest weakness. But the desire to be flawless is not always productive or healthy. As a recovering perfectionist, organizational psychologist Adam Grant dives into how he managed to abandon the quest for 10s while holding onto his drive for excellence.



9TH WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS

March 3–9, 2024 • Seattle, Washington, USA



Fish and Fisheries at the Food-Water-Energy Nexus

We look forward to welcoming you to Seattle, Washington for the 9th World Fisheries Congress from 3-9 March 2024.

Organized through the [World Council of Fisheries Societies](#), every four years delegates from around the world meet to exchange ideas and perspectives about new research, emerging issues, scientific breakthroughs, and governance related to fisheries science, industry, conservation, and management.

Join us in 2024 as we explore the congress theme of Fish and Fisheries at the Food-Water-Energy Nexus. We are preparing a program composed of an opening plenary, general sessions, education workshops, and planned symposia related to sustainability, fish and aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and society, and innovations in fisheries.

As host city, Seattle is an ideal location for an international fish and fisheries conference, with an international airport, a light rail system, and public transportation. Home to several academic, governmental and industry leaders in fish and fisheries sciences, Seattle has a vibrant downtown surrounded by verdant forests, snowcapped mountains, lakes and rivers, Puget Sound, and several National Parks.

MORE INFO





BUBBA'S VIDEO PICKS

Scribe - Easily Generate Step-by-Step Guides Fast!



VISIT [GA AFS YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) FOR MORE
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TIPS



***The importance of isolation, drift,
and genetics for conservation of
native Brook Trout***

David Kazyak and Shannon White



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

**Shopping for gifts...consider one of
our local fundraising donors**

Full list of our donors are just a few pages away

Click the logo to visit their website

***Great fishing
kayaks...check
out their
selections***



***Bert's handmade lures are
catching fish here, there,
and everywhere!***

***A Georgia State
Parks Pass is a
great gift!***



***Give a gift of a fishing trip
with Clayton Batts. Clayton
will share his knowledge to
help his customers improve
their fishing skills.***

***Create great memories
with a family kayak tour
of Georgia's coastal
marshes.***



BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

What should you do prior to leaving the office/school for the field?

1. Do a safety evaluation of the project or trip to the field - what are the risks?
2. Prepare for hazards/risks that can be encountered on this trip
 - a. inclement weather
 - b. medical emergency
 - c. vehicle/boat/equipment problems (Do you know how to change a flat tire?)
3. Complete your field safety plan and/or float plan
4. Make sure your cell phone or satellite phone is fully charged
5. Have a personal first aid kit - include personal medications and other personal needs
6. Wear appropriate field clothing
7. Perform safety check of vehicle/boat/equipment



EXAMPLES Field Safety Plans

[USC Field Research Safety Plan](#)

[UT Field Safety Guidelines](#)

Bubba's Friends

Longnose Gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*)



Gar are known as living fossils. Their remains have been found dating back to the Cretaceous period.

Their long cylindrical body is covered with large, overlapping diamond-shaped scales, which distinguish them from all their freshwater relatives. These scales interlock to produce a virtual suit of armor leaving the gars with few natural predators.

INTERESTING FACTS





- Longnose gar are able to use their long, bony rostrums like chopsticks to pick up small food items off the bottom of their habitat.
- The longnose gar has an adapted swim bladder which allows it to gulp air in oxygen-poor waters.
- They can grow to 6 feet (1.8 m) in length and weigh up to 50 lbs. (23 kg).
- Found in sluggish pools, backwaters and oxbows of medium to large rivers and lakes.
- Adults make long migrations to spawning sites in streams that have clear water and a relatively steep gradient.
- Gar eggs are highly toxic to humans.
- Longnose gar are reported to live 20 to 30 years.



Fin and Games





Time for a few rebus puzzles. These are all fish.

1  +  4  + ( + )

2  +  5  + ( - )

3  +  6  +  + 

7  +  + 

8 ( - ) + ( - LL) + 

Answers on back cover page

PROPS



Lulah Roop
Dick's Creek



Jim Page
Cumberland Island



Brentz McGhin
Cumberland Island



Jay Shelton
Costa Rica



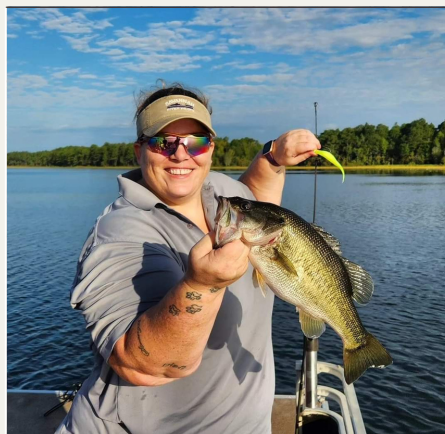
Ed Zmarzly
St. Simon's Pier



Rob Weller
Lake Erie



Don Harrison
Lake Erie



Amanda Hurst
Savannah River Site



Justin Bythwood
Secret Fishing Spot

Thank you for your Support!

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Silver



Bronze



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**In-Kind
Donation**



Accent Lighting
provided by:
Johnny Clark
&
Craig Franco

Thank you for your Support!

Georgia AFS 2023 Fundraising Donors

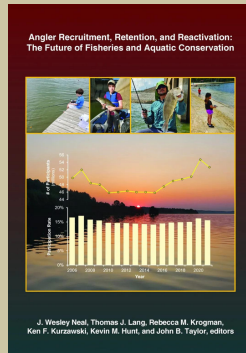


HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



THE BOOKSHELF

PROFESSIONAL SECTION



Angler Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation: The Future of Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation

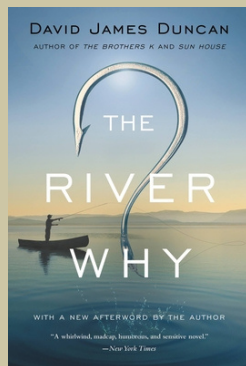
Editors J.W. Neal, T.J. Lang, R.M. Krogman, K. Kurzawski, K.M. Hunt, and J. Taylor

This book represents a comprehensive evaluation of how fisheries conservation is conducted and funded within the context of the current paradigm. Further, it explores potential for expanding or even replacing that paradigm with a more inclusive model.

[Learn More Link](#)



ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



The River Why By David James Duncan

Since its publication in 1983, *The River Why* has become a classic. David James Duncan's sweeping novel is a coming-of-age comedy about love, nature, and the quest for self-discovery, written in a voice as distinct and powerful as any in American letters.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG READER SECTION



The Proto Project By Bryan R. Johnson

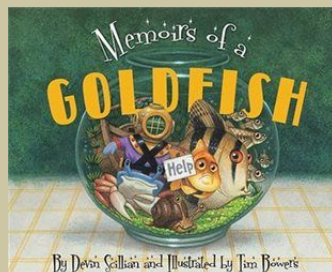
This book has received numerous awards.

When Jason meets his mom's billion-dollar invention, an artificial intelligence device named Proto, he accidentally gets caught up in a mysterious adventure.

[Learn More Link](#)



BEGINNING READER SECTION



Memoirs of a Goldfish

By Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers (Illustrator)

With his bowl to himself and his simple routine, Goldfish loves his life..until one day... When assorted intruders including a hyperactive bubbler, a grime-eating snail, a pair of amorous guppies, and a really crabby crab invade his personal space and bowl, Goldfish is put out, to say the least.

[Learn More Link](#)



Membership Information



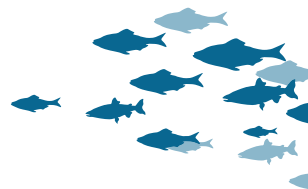
Are you a member of the American Fisheries Society?



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/>



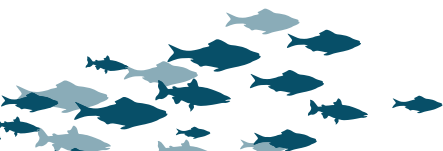
Are you a member of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society?

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.



AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS

Future AFS Annual Meetings



American Fisheries Society

- 2024 Honolulu, HI: September 15-19
- 2025 San Antonio, TX: August 10-14
- 2026 Columbus, OH: August 30 - September 3

Volunteer to Serve on an AFS Committee

Any active member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is welcome to serve on AFS Committees.

MORE INFO



The Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society

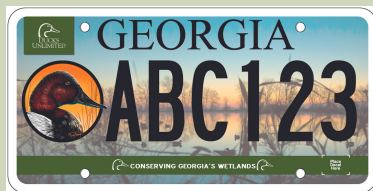
sd.fisheries.org/

Future SDAFS Meetings

- 2024 Chattanooga, TN (Jan. 31 - Feb. 4)
- 2025 North Carolina (Location and date TBD)
- 2026 New Orleans, LA (Date TBD)
- 2027 Alabama (Location and date TBD)
- 2028 Mississippi (Location and date TBD)

Information

Support for Fisheries Conservation and Sustainability



Do you have a specialty license plate that supports the conservation of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems?

More information:
<https://gadnr.org/license-plates>

Click on the license plate for more information

80 percent of that \$25 fee goes directly to wildlife programs (\$19 the first year, \$20 with every renewal). Only \$5 goes to the State of Georgia General Fund.



Certified Fisheries Professional

There are many reasons for seeking professional certification. For some it represents achievement of a career goal while for others it represents a credential necessary to perform their job.

[Frequently Asked Questions about certification](#)

[AFS Application Process and due dates](#)

Job Hunting

AFS maintains an excellent Career Center page on its website. AFS provides several resources to help you find that fisheries job you want.

[AFS Career Center](#)

Do you want to improve your chances of getting that dream fisheries job?

[Georgia AFS Fisheries Career Tips](#)

Pesticide Applicator License

If you wish to purchase or use a restricted use pesticide (RUP), you or your supervisor must have a pesticide applicator's license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

[Georgia Dept. Agriculture Pesticide License Information](#)

[UGA Extension Pesticide Safety Education](#)

[Pesticide License Exam Study Videos](#)

Internships

Internships are a great way to gain valuable work experience employers look for in potential new hires.

Georgia AFS maintains a list of internships for fisheries students on its webpage.

[GAAFS Internship listing page](#)

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.

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