

Under the Dock

July/August 2024



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Mark Your Calendar

- **July 10 - 14**
 - American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting
 - Pittsburgh, PA
- **July 22 - 23**
 - Aquatic Plant Management Workshop
 - Go Fish Education Center, Perry
- **September 15 - 19**
 - AFS Annual Meeting - Honolulu, HI
- **October 5**
 - GA DNR CRD CoastFest
 - Mary Ross Waterfront Park
- **October 12 - 16**
 - SEAFWA - Augusta, GA
- **January 28 - 30, 2025**
 - Georgia AFS Annual Meeting
 - Doubletree Hotel, Augusta, GA
- **February 17 - 21, 2025**
 - SDAFS Annual Meeting - Asheville, NC

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 images with a play button 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.).



Bubba Bass

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*.

DOCKSIDE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CHAD KAISER



As we immerse ourselves in the busy summer field season, whether as biologists, technicians, or graduate students, it's common to create meticulous checklists of tasks to tackle. Maintenance consistently finds its place on these lists. However, amidst all the trailer bearings, nets, or holey waders, I try not to forget the other important aspects of life that require maintenance as well.

I hope we can all find time to:

Sign up for continuing ed/Attend a workshop

The concept of maintenance should extend to encompass lifelong learning and personal growth. As stewards of the environment, it's vital to stay updated on the latest research, techniques, and regulations to support the sustainability of our fisheries. Continuing education not only enriches our knowledge but also hones our professional skills.



Nature connections

Equally significant is tending to our relationships - with our colleagues, partners, and the communities we engage with. By fostering open communication, mutual respect, and collaboration, we can cultivate a network of support to guide us through both smooth sailing and challenging times.

Go for a run

Similar to how we meticulously care for our equipment to navigate effortlessly through the field season, focusing on the maintenance of our physical and mental well-being is equally crucial. We only get one body to explore the underwater wonders Georgia has to offer, and investing in our health ensures our ability to pursue our passions for years to come.

Warm regards,
Chad

STAY SAFE - AVOID HEAT STRESS

People need to take precautions to maintain their body temperatures during hot weather. It's important to understand heat safety tips because they can help you prevent instances of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and other types of heat-related illnesses.

HEAT SAFETY TIPS

- Wear light-colored clothing and light-weighted clothing
- Drink plenty of **WATER** before and during work (Don't wait until you are thirsty)
- Shorten work times with frequent breaks (adjust work schedule when possible)
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to prevent direct sun exposure
- Use a cooling cloth on the back of your neck
- Use a buddy system - check on each other
- Understand the signs of heat-related illnesses

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

WHAT TO DO

HEAT STROKE

- High body temperature (103 F or higher)
- Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Passing out

- Call 911 immediately (medical emergency)
- Move the person to a cooler place
- Help lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath
- **DO NOT GIVE** the person anything to drink

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, and clammy skin
- Fast, weak pulse
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Tiredness or weakness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Passing out

- Move to a cool place
- Loosen your clothes
- Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath
- Sip water

GET MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY IF

- You are throwing up
- Your symptoms get worse
- Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour

NEWS & UPDATES

2025 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars and plan to join us in 2025 for the Georgia AFS annual meeting January 28 - 30.

After searching hotel and conference centers in both Athens and Augusta, the Doubletree in Augusta best met our needs for 2025. Some of you may remember we were at Doubletree in 2019.



During the last annual meeting the GA AFS Technology Team tested livestreaming the oral presentations with a few of our chapter members. The test went well and the team is currently discussing the idea of a hybrid meeting for 2025. Expect more details in the September/October newsletter.



Navigating Your Fisheries Career Path

The May 30th virtual Lunch-n-Learn, *Navigating Your Fisheries Career Path*, received a lot of great feedback. Hunter Roop and our guest panelists (Jamie Roberts, Kady Lyons, Chris Harper, and Nicole Rankin) shared tips for applying and interviewing for fisheries jobs and different paths for a successful career in fisheries.

The video of the virtual mini-workshop is added to the [Georgia AFS YouTube Channel](#).



Video Link: [Navigating Your Fisheries Career Path](#)

Additional Information for interviewees and interviewers on the website: [Interviewing Tips](#)



Changes to the Georgia AFS Trash2Art Contest

We made a few changes to the Trash2Art Contest rules to make it easier for participants to gather the materials they need to create their artwork. Going forward, the rules will no longer require that your artwork be exclusively made from waste collected during cleanup initiatives. The 2025 rules state artwork must contain a minimum of 50% recycled or other trash materials found by cleanup initiative along waterways, roadsides, parks, schools, or other public places. No soiled trash, food waste, or hazardous materials may be used. Participants are allowed to use general art supplies including, but not limited to glue, tape, wire, twine, rope, paint, markers, crayons, pencils, etc.

The other change to the rules is the maximum size of your artwork must fit within a 50 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm space.



We had some awesome entries in our first Georgia AFS Trash2Art Contest at the 2024 annual meeting.

A complete set of rules is on [page 22](#) of this newsletter. Additional information can be found on our [website](#).

Did You Remember to Renew your AFS and Georgia AFS Annual Memberships?

We are often asked if being a member of [Georgia AFS](#) means you are automatically a member of the [American Fisheries Society](#). The answer is no. Individuals who are members of only their local Chapter are not considered to be full Society members. And being a member of the Society does not automatically make you a member of Georgia AFS.

As a member of the Society your benefits range from access to the latest fisheries research to meeting new colleagues to development of soft skills for your resume.

Georgia AFS membership dues not only support fisheries and conservation efforts in Georgia, but also supports aquatic outreach programs in Georgia.



Additional information about membership for both AFS and Georgia AFS are found on [pages 40 and 41](#) of this newsletter.



AFS Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program 2024 Summer Summit at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

The [Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program](#) is an eight-week paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school students sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The goal of the program is to stimulate interest in fisheries and aquatic science among underrepresented groups in the profession today. Participating students receive a \$3,000 stipend and an all-expense paid trip to the Hutton Scholars Summit. The 2024 Hutton Summit is this month and will be at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center located at Marben PFA in Mansfield, GA.



Georgia AFS members are invited to attend the student presentations on the afternoon of July 17th. Let Rebecca Brown know if you are interested in attending and she will provide you with additional information.
(GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)

Podcast:

[Introduction to the AFS Hutton Program](#)

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

[543 Elliott Trail, Mansfield, GA 30055](#)

[Website](#)



AFS Podcast: Beneath the Surface

Did you know AFS has a podcast? They do...and it is called [AFS Beneath the Surface](#).

The podcast is an extension of the bi-weekly newsletter. The podcast will allow AFS members to learn more about current AFS programs and upcoming events.

The first podcast was January 5, 2024, [Welcome to AFS Beneath the Surface!](#)

A sample of this year's podcasts:

[Fisheries Professional Development -
Planning for the Future](#)

[Meet AFS President - Cecil Jennings](#)

[Climate Ambassadors Program Group
Interview](#)

[Introduction to the AFS Membership
Committee](#)

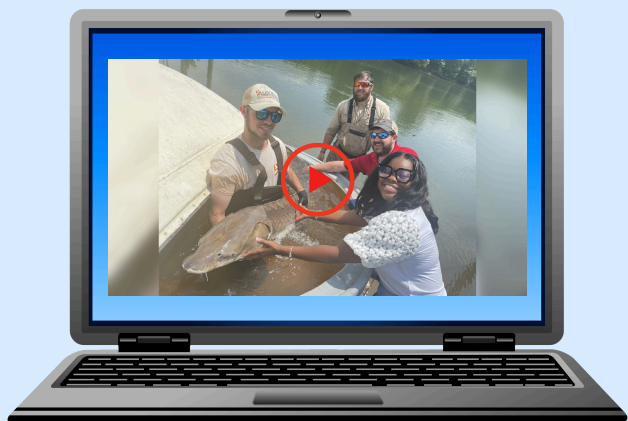


Georgia DNR and UGA Researchers Rescue a Sturgeon Stranded in Spirit Creek, Augusta, GA

On May 23rd, Aaron Gray, Georgia DNR WRD Fisheries Biologist, received a call that afternoon regarding a 6-foot Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) stranded in a small pool in Spirit Creek. Aaron quickly jumped into action to organize relocation efforts for the sturgeon. Well over 40 phone calls and several coordinating emails later, the combined UGA and DNR team successfully captured, tagged, and relocated this fish back to the Savannah River the next day.

One theory on how the sturgeon became trapped in Spirit Creek is that it made a wrong turn when the creek flooded and did not make it's way out before the waters receded. Dr. Fox (UGA Warnell) believes the sturgeon is over 20 years old and was a post-spawn female. He collected samples for a genetic analysis hat will confirm the sex of the fish.

Read the full story on the [Georgia DNR Wildlife Blog](#).



Atlantic Sturgeon are an anadromous fish and listed as an endangered species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Sturgeon species are known as living fossils because their anatomy has not changed in over 100 million years.

Spawning runs of Atlantic Sturgeon are still not completely understood. The Savannah River is one of the rivers in Georgia that are key spawning habitats for the Atlantic Sturgeon.



Georgia's Sicklefin Redhorse

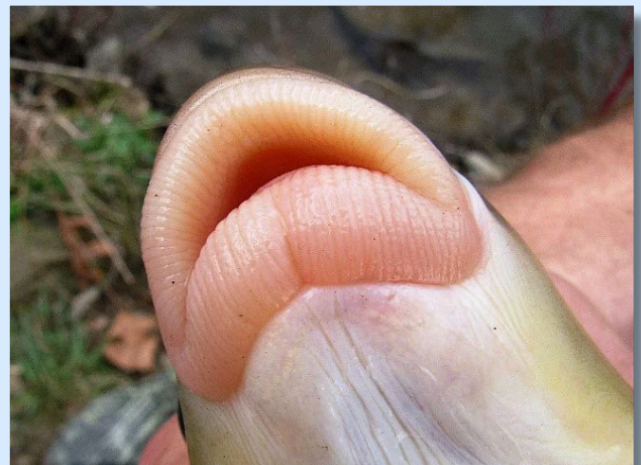
Annual monitoring of Sicklefin Redhorse in Brasstown Creek was carried out by Freshwater Biodiversity staff and volunteers. A total of 59 adult Sicklefin were captured using fyke nets and seining over five days of sampling. Thirty-two fish were recaptures from previous years. All fish were weighed, measured, assessed for health and spawning condition, and tagged with an internal microchip that gives each individual a unique ID. This year, staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Warm Springs Fish Hatchery attended the sampling efforts to collect and fertilize eggs to grow out at the hatchery for future stocking efforts. This was the first time broodstock was used from Brasstown Creek.



Within the upper Tennessee River drainage of North Carolina and Georgia, the Hiwassee and Little Tennessee River basins are home to the Sicklefin Redhorse, a medium-sized protected sucker species native to these basins. Notably, the Sicklefin Redhorse has a limited distribution in Georgia, found exclusively in Brasstown Creek within Towns County.



For more information: [Georgia Biodiversity Portal](#)



CRD, Georgia Power Partner for Ongoing Reef Restoration in Liberty County

Source: Georgia DNR CRD News Release by Tyler Jones

As part of an ongoing initiative, DNR's Coastal Resources Division (CRD) on May 6-7 deployed 200 innovative oyster tables along the riverbank of the North Newport River. Since September, CRD has deployed 336 oyster tables to about 750 feet of the river's shoreline to facilitate the recruitment and growth of new oysters.



What sets these oyster tables apart is their unique composition. Made from cement-infused, plant-based cloths, these substrates offer both ecological and logistical benefits. The rough texture and porous nature of the tables provide an ideal surface for oyster larvae to attach and grow, while their durable construction ensures long-term stability in the marine environment.

The success of the North Newport River oyster reef restoration project has been made possible through collaboration and support from various partners. Georgia Power has provided approximately half of the cost of the oyster tables, demonstrating a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.

Read the full story: [Georgia DNR CRD News](#)



Graysby Added to Saltwater Records Program

Source: Georgia DNR CRD News Release by Tyler Jones

Georgia DNR CRD Marine Technician and Georgia AFS member Justin Bythwood set a new state record for saltwater fishing. Justin caught a 2-pound, 2.24-ounce Graysby (*Cephalopholis cruentata*) on May 12, 2024 while fishing near Navy Tower R5. The Graysby is a species of grouper

This catch marks the first-ever entry of a graysby grouper in the Georgia Saltwater Game Fish Records Program.

Justin is often seen on our newsletter's *Props* section for the big bass he often catches while fishing in south Georgia. Congratulations, Justin on having your name added to the record books.

Read the full story: [Georgia DNR CRD News](#)



Justin Bythwood with his new state record Graysby



Georgia's Official State Crustacean - White Shrimp

House Bill 1341 declares the white shrimp Georgia's official crustacean. White shrimp account for 70% of the state's annual shrimp harvest.

Georgia shrimp are succulent and nutritious. The white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) is popular with chefs because of its mild taste and delicate texture. Georgia's other shrimp, the brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*), are smaller and sweeter; locals call them "brownies."



Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Gateway to Fishing - Atlanta's Top Fishing Holes Map

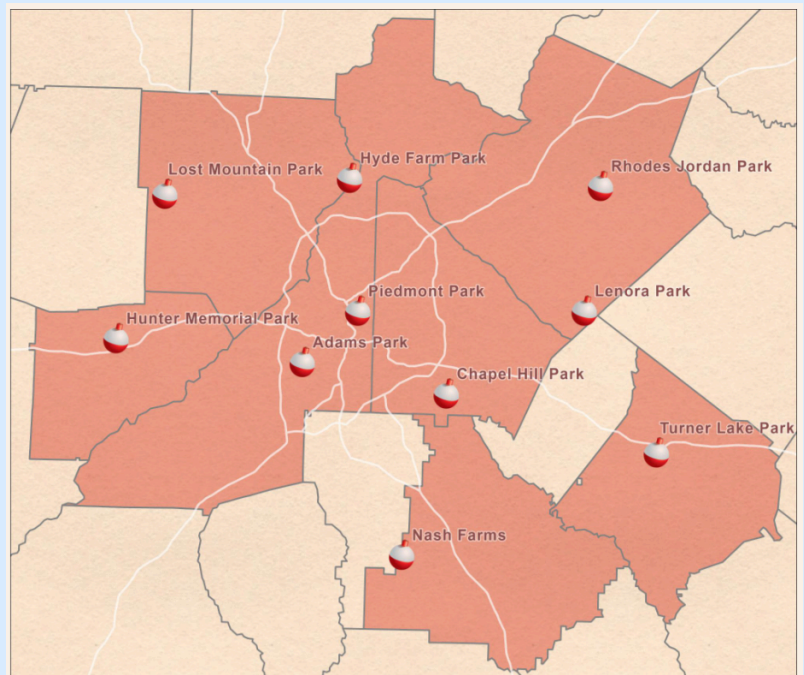
The Gateway to Fishing Program is dedicated to enhancing fishing in easily accessible and close-to-home public waters, like metro and suburban park lakes, and educating the public about "why, where, and how to fish."



To accomplish these goals, the Gateway to Fishing Program:

- Partners with local communities and Georgia State Parks to identify and promote optimal locations.
- Advises community partners and volunteers on hosting Kids Fishing Events, fishing classes, and how to improve access.
- Works with partners to promote upcoming fishing events and opportunities.
- Provides fish for stocking and technical assistance.
- Provides free use of the Mobile Catch Center to community partners, an enclosed trailer that contains fishing equipment and supplies needed to host a fishing event or class.

How often are you asked about places to go fishing in the Atlanta area? Check out the [Gateway to Fishing Atlanta's Top Fishing Holes](#). You will find information about 10 lakes in and around Atlanta.



Information about each of the ten lakes include directions, park hours, what species of fish are in the lake, what bait to use, and other things you can do with the family.



Invasive Mystery Snails Found in Lake Lanier

A viable population of invasive mystery snails was recently discovered in Lake Lanier. Although the snails have been found elsewhere in Georgia, this is the first time they have been confirmed in Lake Lanier in north Georgia.

The mystery snail is originally from southeast Asia to Japan and eastern Russia. It can grow up to 2.5 inches and easily outcompetes the smaller native snails for food, adversely affecting the entire aquatic food web. Its larger size and sturdy shell make it less appealing to predators.



They can reach sexual maturity in less than a year and will reproduce numerous times from June to October. They give birth to fully formed and shelled offspring. Each brood is 25 - 35 offspring with 3-5 mm shell diameters.

Description:

- Chinese and Japanese mystery snail shells are strong and smooth.
- They are uniform in color without stripes or banding.
- Shells vary between light and dark olive-green and can have 6 to 8 dextral (to the right) whorls.
- Whorls are strongly convex and each suture is highly indented.
- The outer lip is round or oval and black in color.
- Mystery snails have an operculum, more commonly known as a “trap door,” which the snail can close, providing additional protection to reduce the risk of desiccation and predation. They can survive out of water for up to 4 weeks.



In addition to outcompeting native species for algae and plankton, the mystery snail alters nutrient cycling by excreting large amounts of fecal matter. This influx of organic matter alters the nitrogen and phosphorus cycling within aquatic ecosystems and can cause impacts on bacterial, algal, and zooplankton communities.

Mystery snails also have the potential to be a vector for parasites and diseases and have been reported to clog water intake pipes. Their empty large decaying shells can also wash up on shore, discouraging recreational activities, and could create hazards if stepped on.

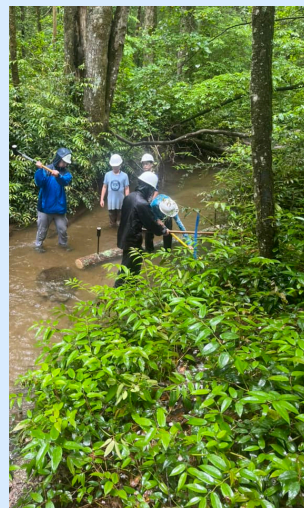


Georgia Trout Unlimited - 2024 Trout Camp

Since 2004, the Georgia TU Council, with the help of all 12 TU Chapters in GA, has organized and hosted a summer Trout Camp for boys and girls ages thirteen to fifteen. The streamside, hands-on experiences offered at Trout Camp provide more than just casting and fishing lessons; they strive to fully educate youth about the complex issues behind the restoration and protection of our streams and rivers.



For more than 20 years they have prepared and, hopefully, motivated many young folks to carry on the work of Trout Unlimited and to enjoy the sport we all love. Every year, 12 young anglers become better trained and better equipped than most folks you'll meet on our trout streams. They eagerly soak up all that is offered to them by volunteer mentors and instructors from Trout Unlimited, Georgia DNR, and the US Forest Service.



Camp participants visited the Georgia DNR Burton Trout Hatchery, learned about Georgia's trout stocking program, assisted with a stream restoration project, and learned about the fundamentals of trout fishing.



Steve and Marjorie Harvey Girls' and Boys' Camps

The [Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation](#) (SMHF) provides youth outreach services that help cultivate the next generation of responsible leaders by providing mentoring, educational enrichment, mental wellness support, life transformation skills, and global service initiatives. The Foundation strives to be a change-agent by fostering excellence in the areas of education, health, and social well-being in urban and diverse communities, ensuring that the needs of the whole child are met.

Two of their outreach services are the [Girls Who Rule the World Mentoring Camp](#) and the [Steve Harvey Mentoring Program for Young Men](#). These camps included an afternoon of events organized by Georgia AFS, UGA Warnell, Georgia DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center. These events included environmental education programs, careers in natural resources, and fishing in a pond stocked with Largemouth Bass, hybrid bass, and Bluegill. These events would not have been possible without all of the volunteers we had help us on June 8th and June 15th at Legacy Ranch in The Rock, GA.



Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation

2024 Girls Who Rule the World Mentoring Camp



Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation

2024 Steve Harvey Mentoring Program for Young Men

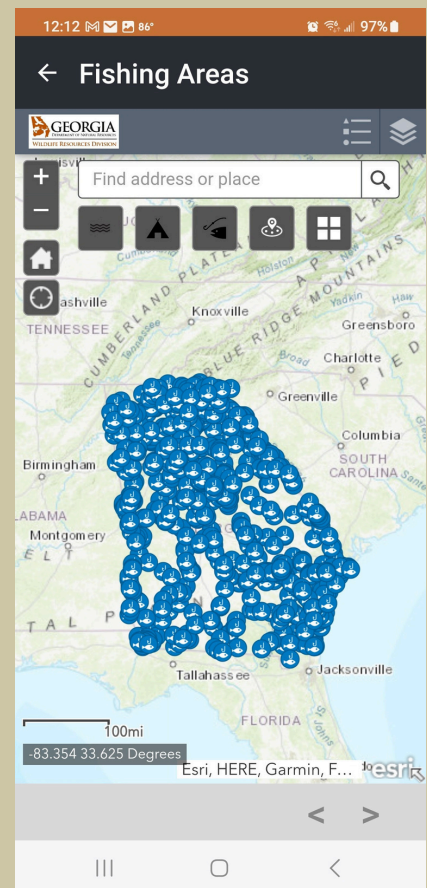
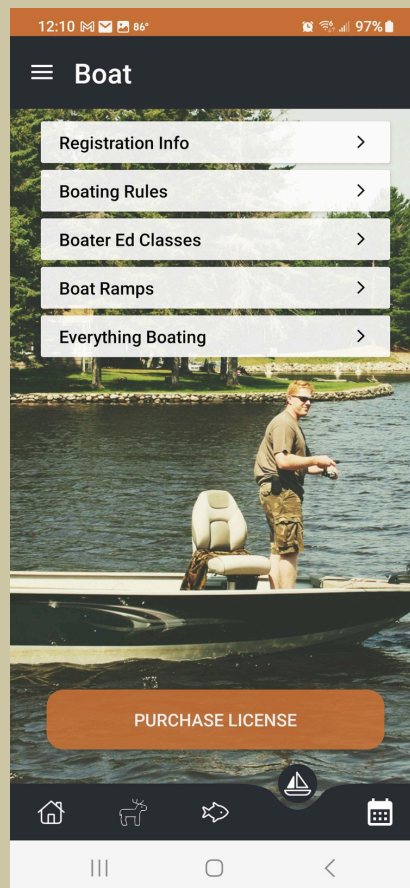
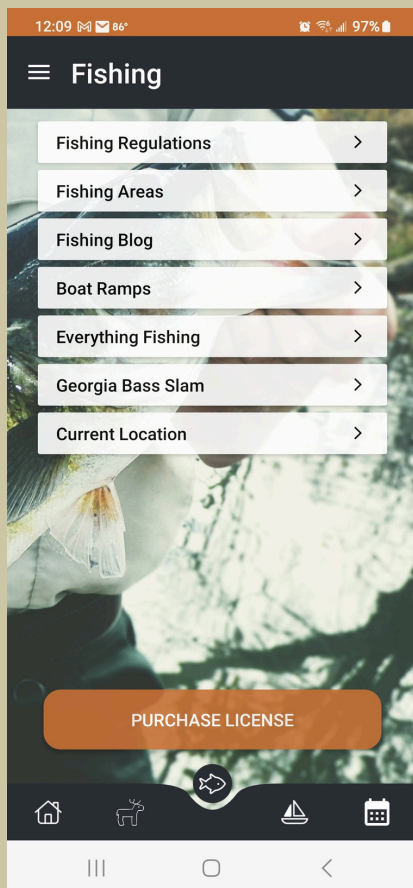
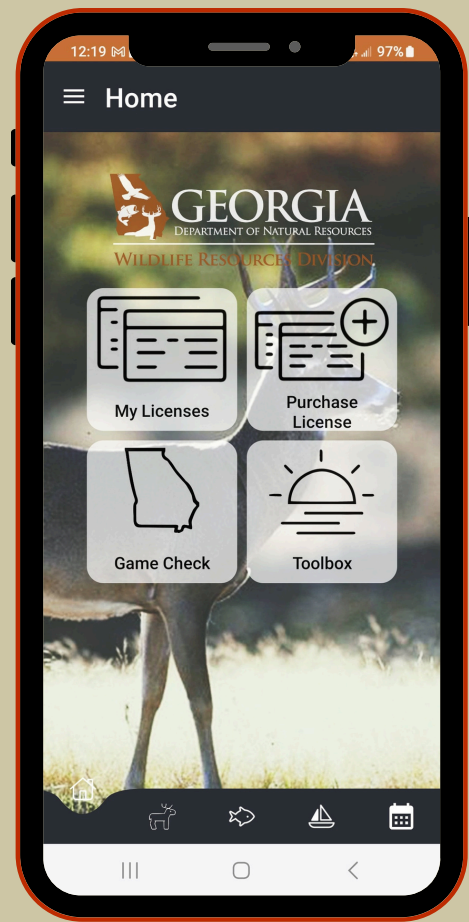


Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

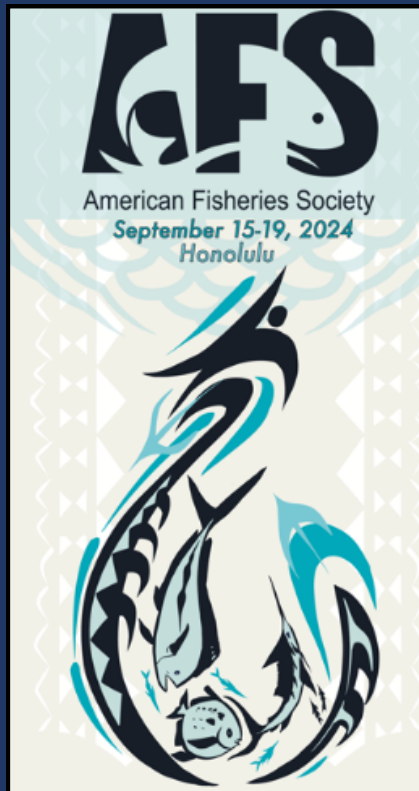
The Outdoors GA app, free in [Google Play](#) or [Apple store](#), has multiple uses.

- Fishing regulations - some rules change each year
- Boating rules - know before you go
- Fishing locations
- Boat ramps - plan your next kayaking adventure
- Tide information
- Purchase your fishing license (don't forget your SIP)
- Store your fishing license - avoid awkward moments
- Event calendar - find a KFE near you
- [Georgia DNR Fisheries Blog](#)
- And it has hunting stuff too

**DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY AND PLAN
YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**



CAMPUS CORNER



If you have questions,
please contact your 2024
BSP co-chairs:

[Rebecca Krogman](#)

[Vaskar Nepal](#)

[Dan Shoup](#)

[Kyle Hartman](#)

AFS Best Student Paper/Poster Awards

The Best Student Paper & Poster (BSP) competition is a Society-level award sponsored by the Education Section of the AFS. A panel of judges evaluates pre-recorded talks before the AFS Annual Meeting so that winners can be announced at that time, during the Business Meeting.

Who Can Apply?

Undergraduate, graduate, and recently graduated students (<1 year post-graduation) that would like to present at the annual AFS meeting about projects at or nearing completion are eligible to apply.

How Do You Apply?

Students must first submit an abstract through the meeting website, to present at the AFS Annual Meeting by the official deadline. To participate in the Best Student Paper/Poster (BSP) competition, applicants then choose to submit either a paper (oral) or poster presentation. For paper participants, an extended abstract is required. Poster participants need only submit the standard abstract. Both paper and poster presenters must have support of their major advisor indicating that the study is at a stage appropriate for this award (at, nearing, or recently [<1 year] completed).

When is the Deadline to Apply?

Applications must be submitted through the online application form by July 13, 2024.

For additional information and application form:
[Education Section of AFS](#)



Local Fishy Stuff

Click on title to access the article

**Georgia Sees the 7th
Most Rapid Growth in
Fishing Popularity in the
U.S.**



**Invasive Mystery
Snail Found in Lake
Lanier: We Need
Your Help!**



**Hamel brings creative
solutions to fish research**



**To Save a
Sturgeon**



**Science Saturday
Returns**



**Nearly 300
environmental
advocates paddle
down 107 miles of
Georgia rivers to raise
awareness for rivers**



**New Queen Triggerfish
record set for second
time in two months**



**Why does Okefenokee
deserve World Heritage
status? No place on earth
quite like the swamp**



**St. Marys woman
breaks 43-year
Creville Jack record**





Georgia AFS

2025 Trash2Art Contest



The Georgia AFS EXCOM wants to invite you to participate in our 2nd annual Georgia AFS Trash2Art Contest. This is an unique opportunity for you to showcase your creativity and talent and create an art piece made from trash that represents Georgia's Aquatic Ecosystems.

Participation

- Open only to 2025 Georgia AFS members
- Art displayed at the 2025 Georgia AFS annual meeting
- A colleague can enter your art if you are unable to attend the meeting
- Judging will take place at the annual meeting

***Change in Rules**

Rules

- Only one entry per participant
- *Art must contain a minimum of 50% recycled or other trash materials found by cleanup initiatives along waterways, roadsides, parks, schools, or other public places (not from your household or office waste). No compost or hazardous materials, such as batteries or e-waste.
- *Participants may use general art supplies including, but not limited to glue, tape, wire, twine, rope, paint, markers, pencils, crayons, etc.
- For the base, the artist may use wood, canvas, cardboard, or any other solid structure to hold the trash in place. It can be purchased or something you want to repurpose.
- Trash should be cleaned and sterilized before using. A 10% bleach and water solution is suggested.
- Artwork may be any art medium: sculptures, collages, murals, etc. Creativity is key.
- *Maximum size of art - should fit in a 50cm x 50cm x 50cm space. Artwork must be able to stand alone.
- All projects must be safe to handle (no hazards, etc.) and socially and culturally appropriate (See DQ list on website)
- 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 the end of the annual meeting

Prizes

Prizes to be awarded.

Visit our [Website](#) for
Additional Information



Plugged In

Take a mental break and listen to your favorite podcast or try one of the podcasts listed below.



[Joe Cermele discusses popular fishing media](#)

This week Nick hops back in the hosting saddle to chat with Joe Cermele. Joe has been in the popular fishing media world for twenty years. In this episode we cover how that landscape has changed and what advice he may offer to fisheries professionals in trying to communicate their work.



[The Migratory Trispot Darter](#)

The Trispot Darter has a fascinating story of rediscovery, migration, and conservation teamwork. Three guests join the conversation: Fisheries Biologist Cal Johnson (Alabama Department of Environmental Management), Independent Researcher and author Pat O'Neil (formerly with the Geological Survey of Alabama); and biologist Lee Holt with our Alabama Ecological Services Office.



[Lake Deanna – Pushing the Envelope](#)

In Western Missouri there is a lake that doesn't follow the standard private pond formula. Lake Deanna is a larger private lake with unique habitat, unusual depth, and an experimental fish community. The deep lake has been stocked with Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, and sunfish.



[Collaborative efforts lead to MN's Native Fish Bill with Dr. Shannon Fisher and Tyler Winter](#)

This week Kadie chats with returning guest, Tyler Winter and new guest, Dr. Shannon Fisher about how Minnesota's recent Native Fish Bill came about via collaborative efforts between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and various conservation groups.



[Invasive Carp](#)

In this episode of Fish University, Wes talks to the leading expert on the invasive carps from Asia, Mr. Duane Chapman. We talk the history, biology, movement, control, and even a recipe or two.



Sponsor Highlight

Our sponsors are critical to the success of our annual meeting and our efforts to promote the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in Georgia.

Kleinschmidt

For over 55 years, Kleinschmidt has provided engineering, regulatory, and environmental consulting services to energy companies and government agencies across North America. Their mission is to help balance engineering, regulatory, and science-based technical expertise with practical experience to solve our client's challenging renewable energy, water, and natural environment projects.



Visit their website
for more information



[Kleinschmidt Group](https://www.kleinschmidtgroup.com)





Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has been the national leader in providing watercraft inspection and decontamination (WID) training to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) on recreational watercraft since 2006. They offer four levels of training, from inspection to advanced decontamination, including a trainer certification.

Register today for virtual WID classes this Fall! There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Click on the dates below to sign up. Once registered, more information will be sent to you via email.

Level 1 or 2 (Inspection and Decontamination) Classes:

[September 10 - 12](#)

[October 8 - 10](#)

[November 12 - 14](#)

[December 10 - 12](#)

Level 3 WID Trainer Training:

[September 17 - 19](#)

[December 17 - 19](#)

For more information, please visit the [WID Training Website](#).

Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Brown at elizabeth@widtraining.com





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.

ALOHA!

American Fisheries Society 154th ANNUAL MEETING

REGISTRATION OPEN



[DETAILS](#)



Chapter Spotlight

Wesley Gerrin

Wesley is a research and outreach professional at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and has been working in aquatic sciences at Warnell for 7 years. On the research side of his job, he coordinates several water quality monitoring projects, biological monitoring projects, and efforts to monitor and investigate exotic Weather Loach populations in Georgia. On the outreach side, he works with the University of Georgia Extension to develop aquatic science resources and training for agriculture and natural resources agents to assist with public interactions. He also regularly works with students developing capstone senior thesis projects and serves as an instructor for the Maymester *Georgia Fishes* field course.



What inspired you to become a member of Georgia AFS?

I have always had a passion for the outdoors and wanted to pursue a career where I could work outside, but I didn't know about opportunities in natural resources until a friend told me he was going to school for fisheries. I instantly knew this was a career I wanted and decided to go to the University of Georgia.

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

My favorite current project is a collaborative effort to investigate and monitor exotic fishes in Georgia, and I am particularly passionate about the Weather Loach research we are working on at Warnell. It truly is amazing when we can bring together the expertise and skills of so many different folks to put the pieces of a complex puzzle together and tell the story of an exotic species.

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

Being a member of AFS has helped me connect with other professionals in the field and identify collaborators who may be working on similar projects.



Chapter Spotlight Continued

What are two things you love most about your job and what do you find most challenging?

Two things I love most about my job are helping students start and advance their careers and getting to be in streams looking for fish. The most challenging part of my job is keeping up with everything that needs to be done.



What is your favorite quote?

Favorite quote at the moment: "Upon poisoning the eels, they looked at us with disdain and simply crawled out of the water."

What is something you've always wanted to try or learn?

I have always wanted to learn how to fly fish.



What kind of hobbies or interests do you have outside of work?

Outside of work, I enjoy camping, hiking, Brook Trout fishing, going in caves, and snorkeling to photograph fish.

If you were a fish, what fish would you be?

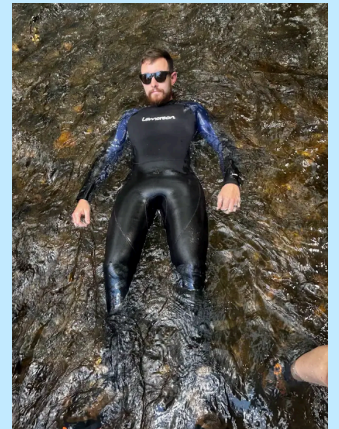
If I were a fish, I would be a Brook Trout because they are resilient and prefer the mountains.

Share two truths and a lie...mix them up.

My team calls me "Rat King"

I own a pink amphibious vehicle

I found an airplane in a stream



CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

CLEAN



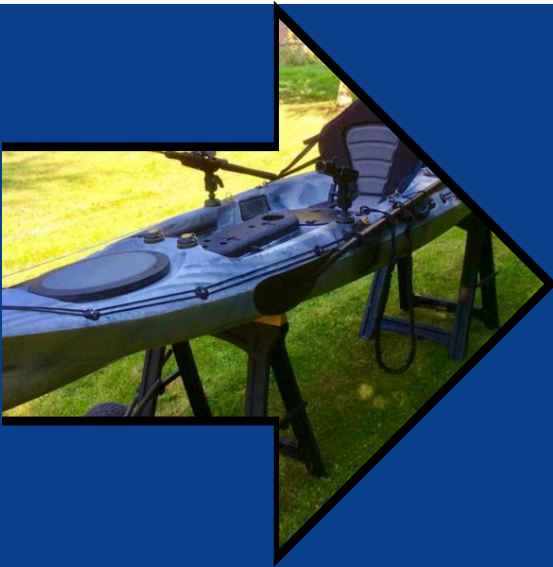
- Clean boats, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds and mud
- Flush the motor (read manual)
- Use high pressure water; use hot water when possible

DRAIN



- Drain water from boat, motor, bilge, and live well before leaving
- Remove the drain plug
- Properly dispose of any unused live fishing bait

DRY

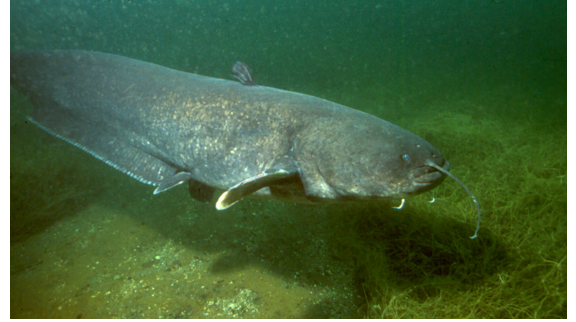


- Allow to dry at least 5 days before going to other waters
- (or) hand dry with towels

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ebro River in Spain is known as the “Catfish Capital of Europe”

The Ebro River is known for its massive catfish that can exceed 200 pounds and grow nearly 9 feet long. But this spotlight comes with a price. The catfish that contribute to the title of “Catfish Capital of Europe” is the Wels Catfish (*Silurus glanis*) and they are not native to the Ebro River basin.



The Wels Catfish has colonized most of the main basins of the Iberian Peninsula. This expansion has been made possible due to anglers transporting it from one place to another illegally and without taking into account the environmental consequences.



The Wels Catfish were first introduced into the Ebro basin in 1974 when German biologist, Roland Lorkowsky released some juveniles into the Segre River. Since then the Wels Catfish has spread throughout the basin wreaking havoc on the aquatic ecosystem.

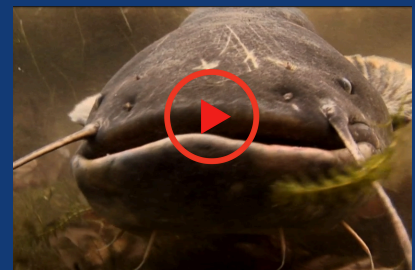


Mark Steward-Brown of Norfolk, England caught this 234-pound Wels in the Ebro River (just over 8 feet long)

Want to Know More?



Jeremy Wade with a Wels Catfish in the Ebro River



Dr. Zeb Hogan travels to Spain in search of the invasive Wels Catfish (Nat Geo - Monster Fish S2E5)



Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title to access article

NILE PERCH INVASION TRIGGERED GENETIC BOTTLENECKS IN LAKE VICTORIA'S ENDEMIC CICHLIDS

The introduction of the Nile Perch to Africa's largest lake impacted the genomic structure of multiple local species. Through large-scale comparative genomic analyses, the researchers found concrete proof in the collective genome of multiple species that this artificially introduced perch decimated many local fish populations, causing a 'bottleneck effect.'

RAPID OYSTER REEF RESTORATION GIVES HOPE FOR REPAIRING THE SEA

Research by University of Adelaide marine scientists has revealed that the astonishing ecological recovery occurred within two and a half years of the reef being constructed, providing hope for the future of marine ecosystems around the world.

BAFFLING PROBLEM, BAFFLING SOLUTION

Thanks to the proximity of State Highway 6 (New Zealand), high rainfall, and an abundance of streams and culverts, West Coast sites are serving as "laboratories" to test how well baffles and floating ramps improve fish passage.

Podcast: [In a Glaxiid far, far away](#)



EARLY SUMMER FISHING CAN HAVE AN EVOLUTIONARY IMPACT, RESULTING IN SMALLER SALMON

A new genetic study found that heavy fishing in the early part of the fishing season may result in younger and smaller Atlantic Salmon. This information can help to conserve large fish essential for the diversity and viability of salmon populations.

DOES INCORPORATING COMPLEXITY INTO COASTAL ENGINEERING INCREASE FISH DIVERSITY ALONG URBAN SHORELINES?

Authors of a [recently published research article](#) explain how, to enhance fish diversity, it is important to provide three-dimensional habitat architecture that incorporates a wide range of microhabitat sizes and types.

PREVIOUSLY UNCHARACTERIZED PARASITE UNCOVERED IN FISH WORLDWIDE

Using genome reconstruction, scientists unveiled a once "invisible" fish parasite present in many marine fish world-wide that belongs to the apicomplexans. The parasite is geographically and taxonomically widespread in fish species around the planet, with implications for commercial fishing and oceanic food webs.





BUBBA'S VIDEO PICKS

5 minute Office Stretch

Preview

- Side Steps
- Lateral Arm Swings
- Dynamic Side Bends
- Shoulder Stretch
- Head Tilt

Modify the movements and stretches based on your individual needs and fitness level.

Incorporate movement and stretch breaks into your workday



The Biggest Carp Ever Caught in the World (Top 6)



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Summer in Georgia are hot and muggy - plan an indoor adventure with the family

Visit one of our fundraising sponsors

Click the logo to visit their website

There is lots to explore at the Georgia Aquarium



Before visiting the Tennessee Aquarium read their [Visitor FAQs](#)

Special exhibits and more at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville



After visiting the Tellus Museum you can drive a short distance and visit the Booth Museum

THE BOOTH MUSEUM
WESTERN ART

The Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast. You will be not be disappointed.

HIGH

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

If you are looking for an indoor activity in the Atlanta area you need to plan a trip to the High Museum of Art.



BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Big equipment can kill. It is important that all persons operating or working around big equipment follow established safety protocols.

A few common safety rules for operators of big equipment to consider:

- Good communication - Review safety protocols with all workers before beginning the job
- Inspect equipment before use - check fluid levels, tires, loose items, leaks, or other possible issues
- Maintain a three-point contact when climbing aboard or off of machines
- Wear proper PPE and seatbelt (if the equipment has one)
- Watch for blindspots - watch for people entering your work area; ensure adequate clearance around objects and other vehicles; create a safety zone in busy areas; HAVE A SPOTTER when necessary
- Know your equipment - use equipment and attachments only for the purpose it was intended



Bubba's Friends: Angel Sharks (Squatinaidae)

Angel sharks are flat-bodied sharks which can grow up to 2.4m in length and are normally found submerged in sandy habitats in coastal waters. Angel sharks rank as the second most threatened family of elasmobranchs in the world.

There are several reasons for the substantial decreases in angel shark populations including, but not limited to, recreational fishing, bycatch in commercial fishing nets and habitat degradation. Of the 23 described species, 13 are listed in a threat category on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (8 critically endangered, 4 endangered, and 1 vulnerable). The Atlantic Angel Shark (*Squatina dumeril*), found from southern New England to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico is listed as *Least Concern* by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Kady Lyons holding a small Atlantic Angel Shark



- They are ambush predators - they suck in their prey (small fish and invertebrates) and swallow them whole
- They have extensible jaws that can rapidly snap upwards to capture prey and have long, needle-like teeth
- They have muscles that pump water over their gills and through spiracles (holes) in their heads. *This allows bottom-dwelling sharks to snooze quietly on the bottom or wait in ambush for prey without moving.*

Fin and Games

Fishy Trivia

- 1 Which of the following is an example of a catadromous fish? There can be more than one answer.



A



B



C

- 2 Which of the following is considered beneficial for your lake? There can be more than one answer.



A



B



C

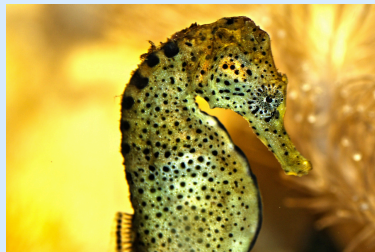


D

- 3 Which of the following is NOT a fish? There can be more than one answer.



A



B



C



D



PROPS



Bryan Fluech



Cecil Jennings



Don Harrison



Mark Risse



Faye Payne



Bryant Bowen



Pat Snellings



John Biagi



Tonja and Jamie Roberts



Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2024 Sponsors

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& Natural Resources
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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In-Kind
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Thank you for your Support!

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Vera Bradley



Alliance Theatre



COAST

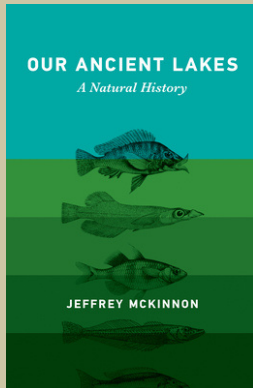


HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



THE BOOKSHELF

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



Our Ancient Lakes: A Natural History

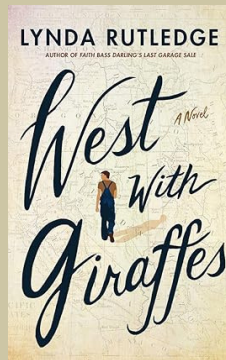
By Jeffrey McKinnon

The author introduces the remarkable living diversity of these aquatic bodies to the general reader and explains the surprising, often controversial, findings that the study of their faunas is yielding about the formation and persistence of species.

[Learn More Link](#)



ADULT FICTION SECTION



West With Giraffes

By Lynda Rutledge

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG READER SECTION



Hello, Universe

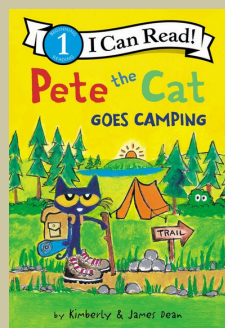
By Erin Entrada Kelly (author) and Isabel Roxas (illustrator)

Winner of the Newbery Medal. Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner bayani (hero).

[Learn More Link](#)



EARLY READER SECTION



Pete the Cat Goes Camping

By James and Kimberly Dean

Pete can't wait to go hiking, fishing, and eat s'mores by the campfire. But when he hears about the mysterious creature named Bigfoot, Pete can't help but wonder: Is Bigfoot real?

[Learn More Link](#)



Have you seen Pete the Cat in Athens?



Georgia AFS Leadership



Georgia AFS 2024-25 EXCOM and Committee Chairs

Executive Committee

Chapter President: [Chad Kaiser](#)

President-Elect: [Jackson Sibley](#)

Recording Secretary-Treasurer: [Dawn Franco](#)

Executive Secretary-Treasurer: [Rebecca Brown](#)

Past-President: [Ani Escobar](#)

UGA Subunit President:

Committee Chairs

Membership and Student Affairs: [Adam Fox](#) and [Laura Wenk](#)

Fundraising: [Zack Brock](#) and [Jackson Sibley](#)

Annual Meeting Arrangements: [Kevin Cavallaro](#) and [Brent Hess](#)

Continuing Education Committee: [Peter Sakaris](#) and [Hunter Roop](#)

Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions: [Dawn Franco](#)

Student Presentation Awards: [Chalisa Fabillar](#) and [Kimberly Clements](#)

Professional Awards: [Jim Page](#) and [Aaron Gray](#)

Chapter Scholarships & Travel Awards: [Donna McDowell](#) and [Justin Bythwood](#)

Ballot: [Chad Sexton](#) and [Kevin Cavallaro](#)

Nominations: [Don Harrison](#) and [Tim Bonvechio](#)

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program: [Marion Baker](#) and [Caroline Cox](#)

Communications: [Rebecca Brown](#) and [Dawn Franco](#)

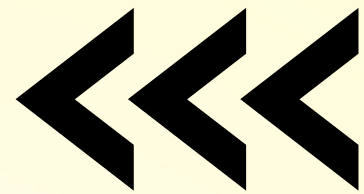
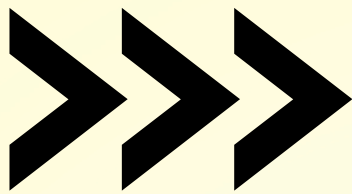
Program: [Carolyn Belcher](#)

Audit: [Clint Peacock](#) and [Kyndale West](#)

Environmental Concerns: [Jordan Steele](#)

SDAFS/AFS Liason: [Cecil Jennings](#)





The benefits of being a member of the American Fisheries Society:

- **Build your professional network support:** you have access to more contacts, more resources, and more information; chances are, someone in AFS has “been there/done that”; you can participate in one of the AFS Sections to connect with others who are likeminded and/or working in the same niche you are
- **Demonstrate your professionalism:** your membership demonstrates a commitment and dedication to your profession; you serve as a role model for those entering the field as well as have an opportunity to share your own insights and expertise with peers and colleagues
- **Build your own skills:** AFS has opportunities for you to take on a leadership role that might not yet be available at work; participate in AFS workshops and webinars; present at conferences; write a newsletter article; become a mentor
- **Have a voice:** one of the important roles AFS is advocacy - that is, helping decision makers understand what members do in the workplace and why it is important; a larger group has a louder voice
- **Give yourself an advantage:** build your professional reputation and boost your credibility; build your resume; connect with more experienced professionals



MORE ABOUT AFS



**AFS PUBLISHES
JOURNALS**



**AFS ADVISES
POLICY**



**AFS HAS A VARIETY
OF SECTIONS YOU
CAN JOIN
DEPENDING ON
YOUR INTERESTS**



**AFS SUPPORTS THE
HUTTON JUNIOR
FISHERIES BIOLOGY
PROGRAM**

Learn More



Georgia AFS Membership



Our Chapter's mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Your paid membership helps us to support that mission.

Membership in the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is open to anyone interested in the progress of fisheries science and education in Georgia and the conservation and management of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

Benefits of being a member of Georgia AFS

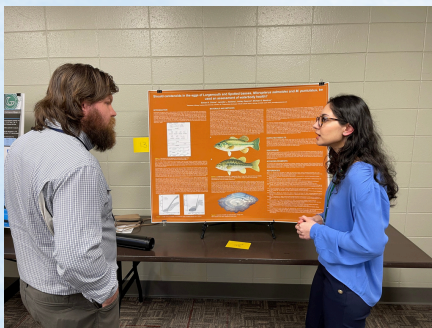
- Developing relationships with others who have similar interests
- Leadership opportunities to serve as an officer or chair a committee
- Reduced fees for training workshops
- Student scholarships
- Supporting fisheries and aquatic conservation efforts in Georgia
- Supporting aquatic education outreach programs in Georgia

Visit
our online store
to pay your dues



Membership Dues:
\$10 annually

Georgia AFS Membership dollars help support ...



Membership in an AFS Chapter does not automatically make someone a member of the American Fisheries Society. To serve as an officer of Georgia AFS you need to be a member of AFS.



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/

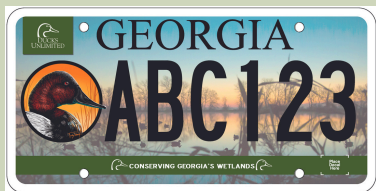
Future SDAFS Meetings

- 2025 Asheville, North Carolina: February 17-21
- 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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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.

Stay Connected

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2. A and C
3. A and C

Answers to Fin & Games

