

Under the Dock

September/October 2024



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Mark Your Calendar

- **September 15 - 19**
 - AFS Annual Meeting - Honolulu, HI
- **October 5**
 - GA DNR CRD CoastFest
 - Mary Ross Waterfront Park
- **October 12 - 16**
 - SEAFWA - Augusta, GA
- **December 17**
 - Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship deadline
 - Robert E. Reinert Travel Award deadline
- **December 30, 2024**
 - GAAFS FPY and FCY Nominations due
- **January 3, 2025**
 - 2025 Georgia AFS Abstracts Due
- **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

Teamwork

 In recent years, Georgia AFS faced a decline in nominations for the Fisheries Professional of the Year Award. Supervisors found it challenging to single out an individual for this recognition, as successful projects and management strategies often result from collaborative efforts. Recognizing this, the Georgia AFS Awards Committee introduced a new award last year, the Fisheries Professional Team of the Year, to honor the collective achievements of the diversity of fisheries professional teams in Georgia.

Teamwork is a crucial element for an organization's success. As workplaces become increasingly complex and interconnected, the ability to work effectively as a team can make the difference between an organization's triumph and its failure. Teamwork fosters innovation, enhances productivity, and improves employee satisfaction, creating a more cohesive and resilient workplace.



One of the key benefits of teamwork is the diversity of perspectives and ideas that it brings to the table. When individuals with different backgrounds, experiences, and skills come together, they can generate more creative and innovative solutions to problems.



Georgia AFS is a professional organization that is managed by a team of volunteers that contribute to the success of the chapter. These volunteers organize and manage the annual meeting, seek ways for members to build their professional network support, plan and facilitate professional development training workshops, collaborate on projects that support the chapter's mission, and much more.

American Fisheries Society Outstanding Small Chapter Award

Because of the outstanding work of our Georgia AFS volunteers, our chapter has been selected as the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding AFS Small Chapter Award. The award will be presented to one of our members at the 2024 AFS annual meeting in Honolulu, HI.

Congratulations!

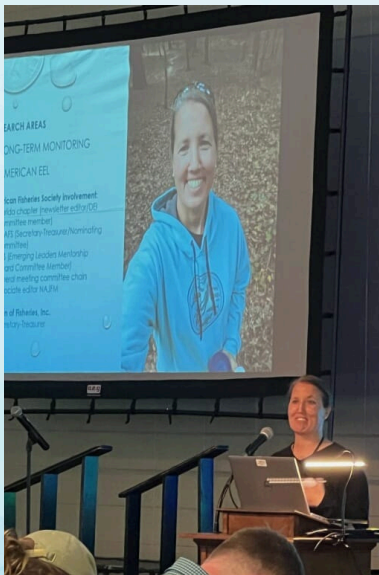
Georgia AFS

Recipient of the

2024

American Fisheries Society Outstanding Small Chapter Award

The award recognizes outstanding professionalism, active resource protection, and enhancement programs, as well as a strong commitment to the mission of the Society. The Georgia Chapter has been selected in recognition of their extensive activities and programs in many areas relating to the AFS Strategic Plan.



NEWS & UPDATES

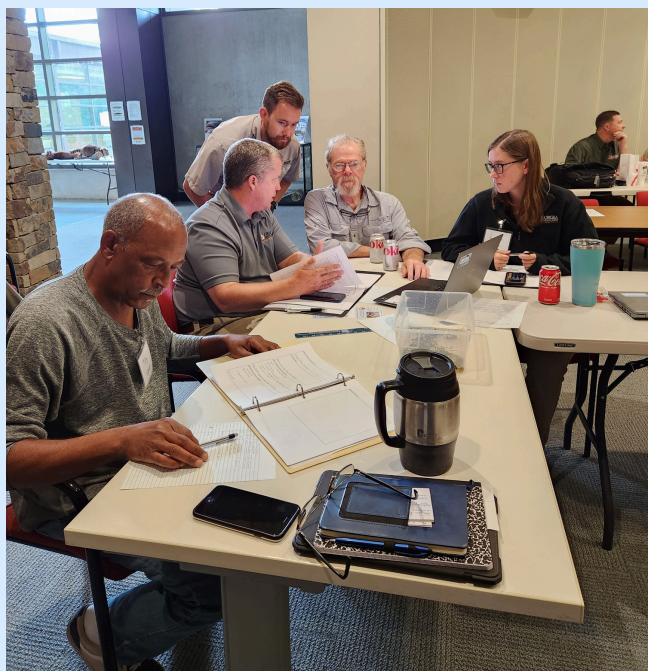
Successful Aquatic Plant Management Workshop

The 2024 Aquatic Plant Management Workshop held at Go Fish Education Center in July was a success. Workshop participants learned the basics for aquatic plant identification, management techniques for different aquatic plant species, safety precautions when using chemicals, how to implement a treatment plan, and best management practices when applying aquatic pesticides.

Workshop participants had an opportunity to examine 30 live aquatic plants collected throughout Georgia by Brandon Baker, Amory Cook, Jim Page, Chad Sexton, Hunter Roop, and Jonathon Pritchard.



With the Solstice app, we could simultaneously display on the screen the PowerPoint presentation and the document camera image of the aquatic plant.



A big thank you to our workshop facilitators from UGA Warnell...Dr. Jay Shelton and Wesley Gerrin. Jay's summer interns, Ryan Testino and Matt Graff were a huge help setting up the live plants for the Aquatic Plant ID test.



Georgia AFS 2025 Lightning Talks



At the 2024 annual meeting, our lightning talks were a huge success among both our presenters and audience members. We are thrilled to announce that this opportunity will be available again in 2025. However, we have only 10 slots available, so interested individuals should register early to avoid disappointment.

Lightning talks open to professionals ONLY

Presentation Parameters: Time limit is 5 minutes

Deadline to register your lightning talk: January 3, 2025



**2025 Lightning Talk
Registration**



What is a lightning talk?

Lightning talks are short presentations that focus on just a couple of key points. Done well, they are a great way to get your point across in a small amount of time. The time restriction forces speakers to edit their message to focus on the most important elements. Lightning talks can be used to introduce new topics, present a challenge or call to action, share knowledge and experience, or provide status updates.

Topic Ideas

- Tips for managing a particular aquatic nuisance species
- Effectiveness of artificial fish structures
- How to tell a story to connect with your audience
- How to read a room during a public meeting
- Grant writing tips
- Tips for R Programming
- Safety tips - field research, student fieldtrips, pesticide application, etc.
- New sampling method
- Update on policy change
- Introduce a new project



**Lightning Talk
Guidelines**



Georgia AFS 2024 Photo Contest

You request it...we try to make it happen.

We are excited to announce the first Georgia AFS Photo Contest. Our photo contest is a fun way to interact with our fisheries community and showcase the talent and creativity of our chapter members.

Judging will take place at the 2025 Georgia AFS annual meeting. Prizes will be awarded for each of the categories.



Your photograph should represent the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. We have three categories and participants may enter one photograph per category. All entries must abide by the contest rules.



Tools of the Trade



Beginnings



That's Funny

Contest Rules

- Only Georgia AFS Members can participate
- Photographs must be original work of Georgia AFS member
- Photographs must have been taken in 2024
- No digitally altered photos or watermarked photos
- No obscene or offensive photographs
- Photos should be submitted electronically by January 3, 2025 (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)
- A maximum of one photo per person per category
- By submitting a photo you are granting Georgia AFS the right to publish and use them

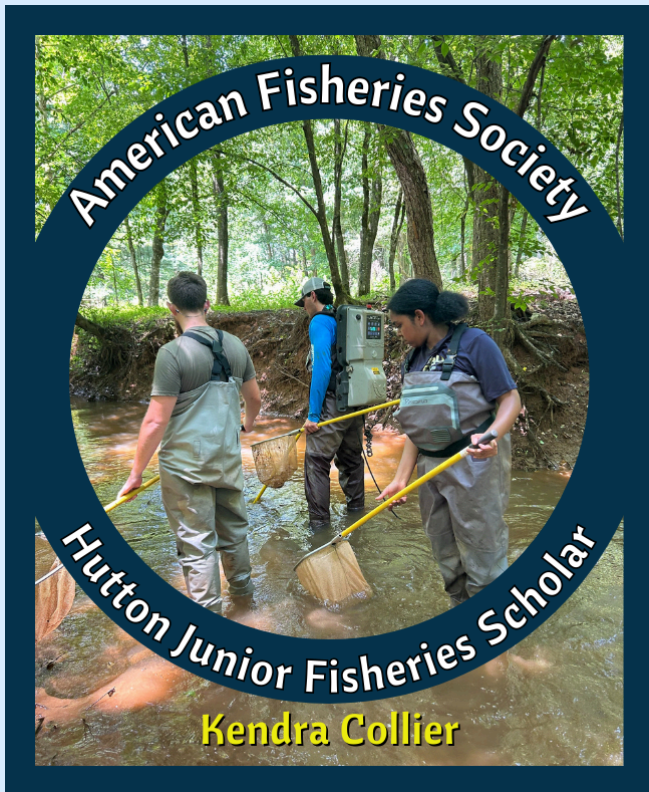
Visit Georgia AFS Photo Contest webpage for complete list of rules



Georgia AFS
Photo Contest



2024 AFS Hutton Scholars Summit at Charlie Elliott



The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is an eight-week, paid summer internship, and mentoring initiative for high school students, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Its primary purpose is to foster interest in fisheries and aquatic science among historically underrepresented communities within the profession. Selected students receive a \$3,000 stipend and an all-inclusive trip to the Hutton Scholars Summit. The 2024 Summit was hosted at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield, Georgia.

Kendra Collier, Loganville Christian Academy, had the opportunity to work and learn from some of the best at UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.



2024 Georgia DNR Career Academy

This year's Georgia DNR Career Academy was held July 21 - 27 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield and the Jekyll Island 4-H Center on Jekyll Island. High school students from around the state had the opportunity to explore future career options, receive training and education, and make connections with current DNR employees. Attendees worked alongside field professionals and receive hands-on training from game wardens, park managers, and wildlife, fisheries, and marine technicians while traveling across the state visiting wildlife management areas, state parks, fish hatcheries, historic sites, and Georgia's coast.



Career Academy, students learned about:

- Electrofishing and fish habitat creation
- Prescribed burns and land management
- Boating and firearms safety
- Trailblazing and state park management
- Saltwater fisheries surveys and methods



Georgia DNR
Career Academy



Chattahoochee Riverkeeper River Warriors

The Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Water Warriors program seeks to empower students as river advocates through educational and outreach opportunities, helping young people foster connections with their communities and the Chattahoochee River. College and high school students can become a Water Warrior during the school year and while on summer break.

Water Warriors make a positive impact by participating in fundraising campaigns, arranging outreach events, and engaging with the local community to raise awareness about preserving the Chattahoochee River Basin. This opportunity will help them develop valuable leadership, communication, and outreach skills.



The **application window** for this program opens on July 31st and **closes on September 20th**. Any applications received afterward will be considered on a case-by-case basis. CRK admits students in high school (including rising 9th) and college students (until graduating seniors).



CRK
Water Warriors



CAMPUS CORNER



Student Opportunities

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 17)

[Georgia AFS Robert E. Reinert Travel Award](#) (deadline December 17)

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

[Georgia AFS Travel Grant](#) (deadline dependent on the event)

Southern Division and AFS Awards

The deadlines vary for these awards. Typically due early Spring. Visit their websites for more details.

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

[John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award](#)

[J Frances Allen Scholarship](#)

[The Steven Berkeley Marine Conservation Fellowship](#)

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

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

Other Awards/Contest

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

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



Local Fishy Stuff

Click on title to access the article

Chattooga River: DNR says 13,946 fish were killed as result of the anhydrous ammonia spill



Calhoun Settles PFAS Water Pollution Case With CRBI



Chattahoochee Riverkeepers protect Columbus water for the long haul. Inside their process

UGA course connects students with Georgia's coastal seafood heritage



Brunswick residents join scientists to test water quality near Superfund sites

With mine permits on the horizon, feds fight for water rights at the Okefenokee Swamp



Plugged In

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



[Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program, Outreach, Early Detection and Response](#)

From the origins of the Invasive Species Awareness Program as a Zebra Mussel reporting hotline to removing over a million mystery snails they cover topics in the realm of AIS outreach, early detection, response, and some of the projects Brook Schryer is working on right now.



[Brown Trout](#)

Guy gets all gussied up in his best brown trout ensemble (again) for some banter with Katrina about how these fish made their way to the USA and how they are perceived. Maria Dosal joins from her Agdaagux homelands on the Alaska Peninsula to talk about fish regalia and respecting the whole fish.



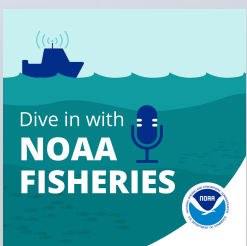
[Pond Management 101](#)

Learn about the best approaches for recreational fishing ponds from construction to stocking to fish management, and even adjusting water quality to maximum fish health and trophy production. We'll start with the three golden rules and build on them with examples from Wes's years of pond management Extension experience.



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

The conversation highlights a recent professional development retreat hosted by AFS. This retreat focused on identifying challenges faced by professionals across fisheries & wildlife careers and began discussions to help solve these challenges.



[Summer News Roundup](#)

A roundup of recent headlines from around the agency—hear about a new oyster hatchery, living shorelines in South Carolina, and more.



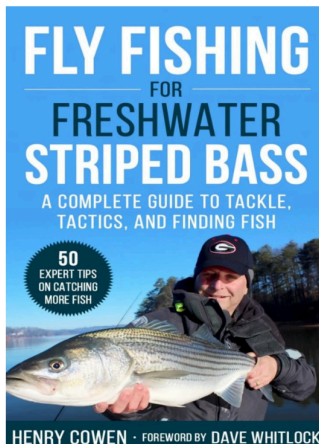
Donor Highlight

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



Henry has been pursuing striped bass on both fly and light tackle for over 40 years in both Saltwater and Freshwater. His reputation and knowledge precedes him as being a leader in the fly fishing and fly tying industry. Henry currently operates a guide business on both Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona for stripers and trophy spotted bass as well as carp fishing the Chattahoochee River. He is an accomplished fly tier and outdoor writer as well. As an Umpqua Feather Merchants fly designer his flies are available at many fly shops around the United States as well as in the Orvis and LL Bean catalogue.

www.henrycowenflyfishing.com





SFC 2024 Annual Meeting

Doubletree by Hilton
424 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72201

Early Registration Deadline
October 11, 2024

Abstract Deadline
October 4, 2024

Room reservations must be
made by 25 October to get
the special rate.

Visit their [website](#) for
registration and hotel
information



2024 Southeastern Fishes Council 50th Annual Meeting

**21-22 November 2024
Little Rock, AR**

The Southeastern Fishes Council is a nonprofit scientific organization dedicated to the study and conservation of freshwater and coastal fishes of the southeastern United States.

The meeting space will hold up to 250 people and we will have oral and lightning presentations on Thursday and Friday. The Thursday night poster session and social will take place at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center.

Registration Rates

- Member Early Registration – \$200 (Must be a dues paid member prior to registration, [renew online](#))
- Member Late Registration – \$250
- Non Member Early Registration – \$250 (If you would like to join and get the Regular Member Rate: <http://www.sefishescouncil.org>)
- Non Member Late Registration – \$300
- Student Member Early Registration – \$75 (Must be a dues paid member prior to registration, [renew online](#))
- Student Member Late Registration – \$100
- Student Non Member Early Registration – \$125 (If you would like to join and get the Regular Member Rate: <http://www.sefishescouncil.org>)
- Student Non Member Late Registration – \$175



HOW WE SELECT A VENUE FOR THE GEORGIA AFS ANNUAL MEETING

When selecting a venue for the Georgia AFS Annual Meeting, the Planning Committee is frequently asked about the rationale behind our choice. While we receive various venue suggestions, many fall short of fulfilling our requirements.

SELECTING DATES

Our timeframe for the annual meeting is between mid-January to mid-February. Before mid-January many students have not started their Spring Semester and after mid-February many of our other members are out doing fieldwork. We also need to work around the dates of the Southern Division AFS meeting as some of our members attend both meetings.

SELECTING THE CITY

The Planning Committee maintains a list of venues around Georgia that meet our needs for a successful annual meeting. We rotate cities to be more accessible to attendees from different regions. A contract is signed with the hotel or conference center that commits the Chapter to filling a specific number of room nights, reserving a ballroom, and organizing an awards banquet dinner. The Chapter could lose a significant amount of money if we do not fulfill our contract with the hotel. The Planning Committee avoids venues located in North Georgia as snow or ice on the roads can significantly reduce our attendance or force us to cancel our meeting.

SELECTING THE SPECIFIC VENUE

When selecting a venue the Planning Committee uses a checklist of what we must have and what would be nice to have.

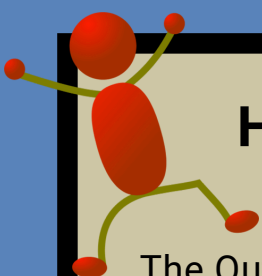
Must Have

- 4200 square feet or greater
 - Space for 150 (banquet seating)
 - Space for Fundraiser
 - Space for Posters (~ 20)
- Hotel has a minimum of 70 rooms
- Hotel room rates are affordable for participants (at or near gov't. rate)
- Excellent WiFi service (hybrid mtg.)
- Meeting space and hotel under the same roof or short walking distance
- Price of food & beverage fit our budget

Would be nice to have

- Separate room for command center
- A separate room to use for the Student-Mentor luncheon (~seat 60)
- Complimentary tables for fundraiser
- Ability to bring in an outside vendor
- Free use of their sound system, screen, projector, and WiFi
- Complimentary hospitality suite
- Restaurants nearby
- Free parking



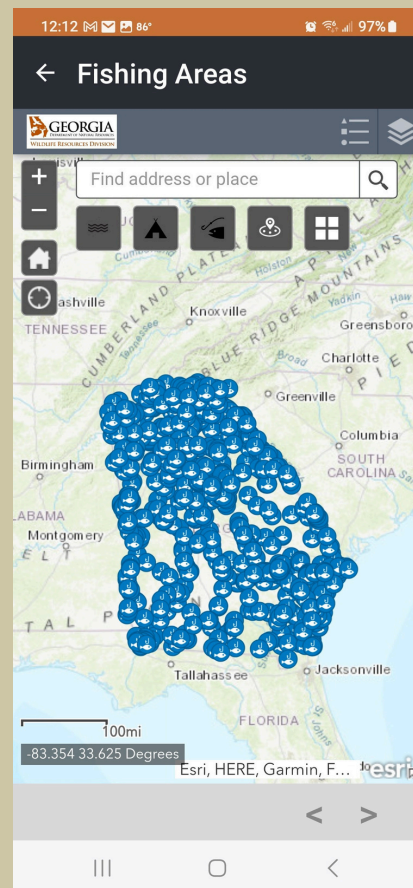
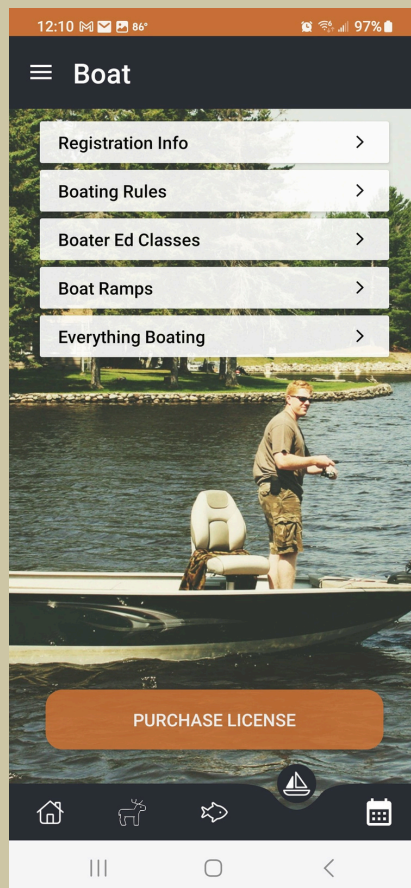
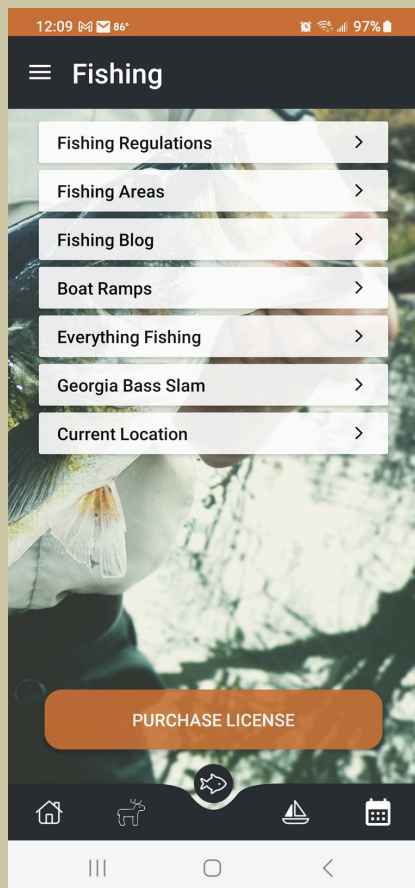
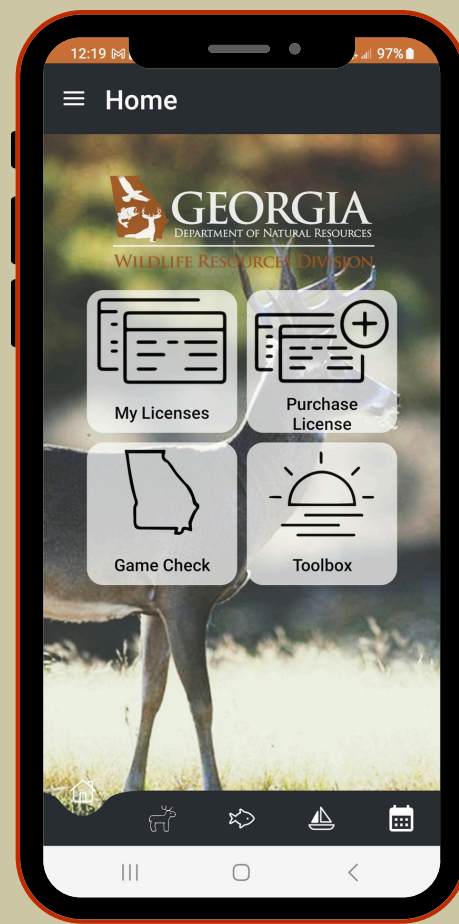


Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

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**





2025 Annual Meeting

Doubletree Hotel Augusta

January 28-30

Fishing for Insights: Unleashing the Power of Research to Sustain Our Aquatic Resources

Integrating research, technology, and management strategies is crucial for ensuring the sustainability and resilience of our fisheries resources. By leveraging these advancements, we can better understand and manage fish populations, habitats, and ecosystems, ultimately safeguarding the future of fisheries for generations to come.



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, 2024](#)
 - Nominations for the other awards are due January 17, 2025

**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, 2024

CAREER CONTRIBUTION AWARD

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

HIDDEN HERO AWARD

DUE January 17, 2025

GEORGIA AFS
AWARDS

[CLICK HERE](#)





2025 Annual Meeting

Call for Abstracts

Abstract Submission

Deadline: January 3, 2025

We invite submissions on a wide range of topics related to marine and coastal fisheries, including fisheries management, aquatic invasive species, fish health, aquaculture, endangered species, genetics, economics, and fisheries ecology in the urban interface. This is an excellent chance to share your expertise and research with professionals and students in the field.

Interested individuals are encouraged to email their abstracts to Carolyn Belcher (Carolyn.Belcher@dnr.ga.gov) by January 3, 2025. 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

Resources to assist professionals and students with designing their PowerPoint or poster presentations can be found on the Georgia AFS website. [Presentation Resources](#)

Check out the [Georgia AFS YouTube channel](#) for videos on PPT tips and public speaking.





GEORGIA CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 40TH ANNUAL MEETING 2025 SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



Platinum Sponsorship \$2000

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025 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 2025 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 2025 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 2025 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom



2025 Annual Meeting

Hotel Information

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Augusta



Room Rates

Room Rates: \$119 per night (2 Queen beds)

Group Code: AFS

**Make your reservations by
January 14**

Reservation Methods

By phone: 1-800-222-8733 or 706-855-8100 and asking for Reservations. Request the negotiated rate by providing the clerk with our group code (AFS).

Online: (www.augusta.doubletree.com) Enter the arrival and departure dates; select More Options; click Add Special Rate Codes; enter the 3-letter Group Code (AFS) and click Check Rooms & Rates; Select your Room Type Preference; and continue with your personal information.

After cut-off date (January 14) any additional reservations will be accepted at prevailing rates and based on availability only.

Directions

2651 Perimeter Parkway
Augusta, GA 30909

[Map](#)

Some Area Restaurants

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| • Logan's Roadhouse | • Waffle House |
| • Carolina Ale House | • Panera |
| • Twin Peaks | • Chick fil A |
| • Jim 'N Nicks Bar-B-Q | • Giuseppe's |



GA AFS 2025

Annual Fundraiser

Each year at our annual meeting our Chapter hosts a fundraiser to raise money 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 fishing gear, camping gear, gift certificates, event passes, guided fishing trips, kayak/whitewater rafting trips, artwork, framed photographs, 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 co-chair, Jackson Sibley, for more information: oceansibley@gmail.com






2025 Annual Meeting

Meeting Registration

MEETING REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration and complimentary registration (Professional, Retired and Student) 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 extra tickets for a social event or banquet if you select one-day registration OR you need tickets for your guest. Email Rebecca Brown if you plan to bring a guest (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com).

	Cost/Person Until Jan. 14, 2025		Cost/Person After Jan. 14, 2025	
	*AFS Member	Non-AFS Member	*AFS Member	Non-AFS Member
Professional	\$125	\$135	\$135	\$150
Retired	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$60
Student	\$50	\$60	\$65	\$80
One-day Professional	\$60	\$70	\$70	\$80
One-day Student	\$25	\$35	\$25	\$35
Extra Banquet Ticket			\$40/person	
Extra Social Ticket			\$20/person	
Georgia AFS membership dues			\$10 annually	
Quick Link to Pay GAAFS 2024 Membership Dues				



[Meeting
Registration
Form](#)

One
form per
person

*Membership to the Georgia Chapter is separate from being a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Visit gaafs.org/membership for information about Georgia AFS membership benefits. 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





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





Chapter Spotlight

Amory Cook

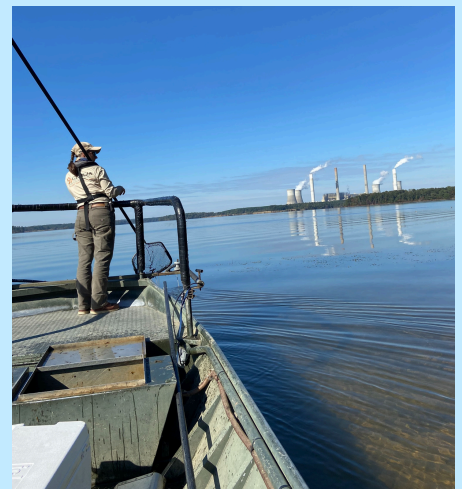
Amory, a Fisheries Technician III, works for the Wildlife Resources Division of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources. Her location varies depending on her daily schedule, either at the Fort Valley regional office or Flat Creek Public Fishing Area in Perry. Amory combines the roles of a district technician and a Public Fishing Area (PFA) technician. As a district technician, her responsibilities include performing standardized sampling procedures, maintaining boats and trailers, providing technical assistance to the public, transporting fish to stock public waters, and collaborating with stocking program partners to organize fishing events. In her capacity as a PFA technician, she handles maintenance tasks such as mowing, servicing equipment, maintaining roadways, and applying herbicide. Additionally, Amory records water quality data, interacts with anglers, and oversees the region's part-time creel clerk. Notably, she serves as the Angler R3 Liaison, supporting the region's efforts to attract, retain, and rekindle anglers, leading to increased license sales. To further promote fishing, Amory manages her region's two "Reels on Wheels" fishing trailers, which are available for use at events to introduce more people to the sport.

What inspired you to pursue a career in fisheries?

I have always had a fascination for nature and knew from a young age that I needed to find a career where I could be outside. Growing up, my uncle would take me saltwater fishing whenever I visited. I was introduced to many strange looking creatures during these adventures and when he presented the opportunity to work on a shrimp boat for a day I answered with a resounding "YES". Once I saw the nets, full of slimy and strange things, I knew that I had to find a job that would allow me to get my hands dirty and experience the mystery of what lies beneath the water.

Describe two things you love most about your job.

Choosing only two things that I love most about my job is incredibly difficult. I always tell people that my favorite part of my job is electrofishing. This fulfills both the desire to experience the mystery of what lies beneath the water and getting my hands dirty by working up the fish. I've had a really good day when my clothes and hands are slimy, and I smell like fish. I also love solving puzzles and thinking critically. Every day I am challenged to solve problems like fixing equipment and discovering more efficient ways to complete my work.



Chapter Spotlight Continued

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Currently, the most challenging aspect of my job is devoting proportionate amounts of time to the different responsibilities that I hold. For example, on the PFA late spring through late fall is the busiest part of the year. Maintaining the area is a constant battle and it can be a struggle to complete my regional duties.



What accomplishment are you most proud of in your career?

Overall, I am proud to be a woman in fisheries. I am very proud to have mounted a motor on one of our electrofishing boats with no assistance. Within a week of mounting the motor I was driving that boat at the DNR Career Academy for an electrofishing demonstration. I had two female students on the boat that told me the reason that they chose to be on my boat was because I am a woman. I was able to share that I mounted the motor on the boat we were using and show them that it is possible to be a woman in this field and be successful.



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

I enjoy assisting with various workshops and with the annual meeting. It fulfills me to be able to help and have an event go smoothly. I have met many interesting people at these events by being in a supporting role.

Chapter Spotlight Continued

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

I think I would be a Warmouth. They can be small but have a very large mouth. If you equate having a large mouth with being loud, then this would be me. I've been told that I can't help but to be loud. Next, Warmouth are a bit aggressive and anyone who has been around me for an extended amount of time knows that I am too. Lastly, I've heard people say not to put Warmouth in a pond because they eat too much. They would probably say the same about me because I am constantly eating throughout the day and still always hungry.



What is your favorite quote?

"Fish On!" -Uncle Tim



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

I enjoy camping and seeing new places. I like collecting dead bugs, rocks, and anything else that is a little strange. I enjoy exercising and hanging out with my friends, dogs, lizard, and chickens.

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

Noodling!



Share two truths and a lie

I am afraid of heights

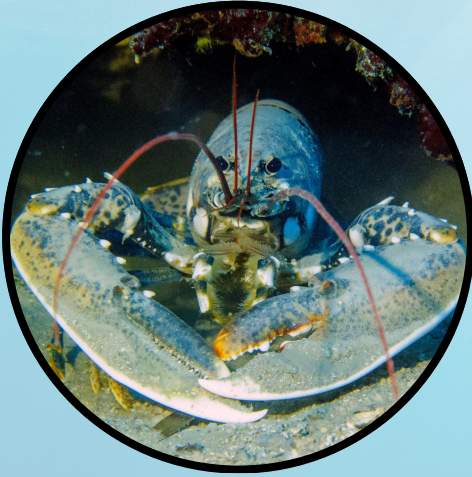
I love flying to new places

I like cutting grass



DID YOU KNOW?

Lobsters are fascinating creatures



Female lobsters seek out the most aggressive, dominant male in the area and show their interest by peeing repeatedly into his shelter.

The record weight for the American lobster is 45 pounds.

Lobster blood is colorless. When exposed to oxygen, it develops a bluish color.



Based on scientific knowledge of body size at age, the maximum age attained may approach 100 years. They can grow to be 3 feet or more in overall body length.

Tomalley is the lobster's liver. It turns green when cooked and is considered a delicacy.

"Red as a lobster" is just a tale. Lobsters come in just about every color but red.



Lobsters have the ability to regenerate some of their body parts; for example, the claws, walking legs, and antennae.

Lobsters have two stomachs. One is located in what we'd consider the lobster's head -- right behind its eyes. This stomach contains teeth-like features (called a gastric mill) that are used to crush the lobster's food.



Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title to access article

SOUND AND VISION: USING SONAR TO STUDY FISH

Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS) is based on Dual-frequency Imaging Sonar (DIDSON) technology, which was originally developed by [Sound Metrics](#) for military use but is now commonly utilized by fisheries biologists for a variety of purposes.

WARMING WATER TEMPERATURES AND INCREASED NUTRIENT LEVELS ARE PUTTING FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS AT SERIOUS RISK

Researchers found that food webs, the intricate networks of who eats who, are becoming less complex in warmer, nutrient-rich waters. This simplification means shorter food chains, and an ecosystem with a degraded functioning.

LARGEST PROTEIN YET DISCOVERED BUILDS ALGAL TOXINS

While seeking to unravel how marine algae create their chemically complex toxins, scientists at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography have discovered the largest protein yet identified in biology.



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY HELPS SCIENTISTS BETTER ESTIMATE AGES OF LONG-LIVED ROCKFISH

Scientists demonstrate that an innovative technology to scan fish otoliths (ear stones) coupled with trained computer models can determine rockfish ages as well as humans, and even more quickly.

CLIMATE CHANGE MAY LEAD TO SHIFTS IN VITAL PACIFIC ARCTIC FISHERIES

Commercially important marine fish and invertebrate species will likely shift northwards under a warmer climate, according to new research.

TWO SHARK SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN PUGET SOUND FOR FIRST TIME BY OREGON STATE RESEARCHERS

Oregon State University researchers have made the first scientific confirmation in Puget Sound of two distinct shark species, one of them critically endangered.





BUBBA'S VIDEO PICKS

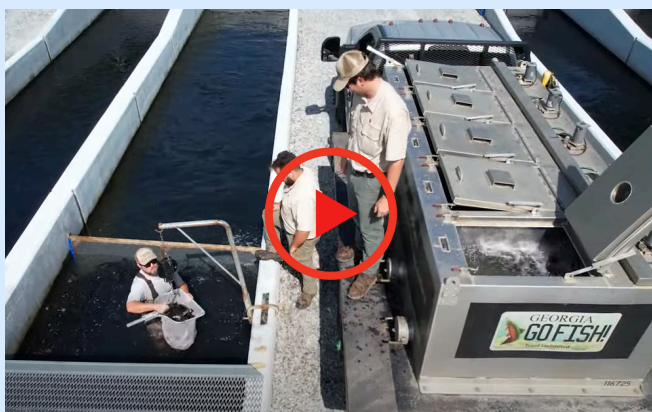
Body Language Expert Explains How to Show Confidence | WIRED



Former FBI agent and body language expert Joe Navarro explains how we can project confidence through our body language.



Behind the Scenes at Georgia's Lake Burton Trout Hatchery



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Summer has ended...school has started back...what do you need for this Fall?

Visit one of our fundraising sponsors

Click the logo to visit their website

When is the last time you checked the safety gear on your boat?



How many jigs did you lose this summer?

From everyday fixes to save-the-day moments, Leatherman equips you for your real life.



COAST flashlights allow you to see in the dark and CHUMS protect your eyewear during the day.



Are you looking for a place to sit back and relax after a busy summer?



BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Job Hazard Analysis

A job hazard analysis is a technique that focuses on job tasks as a way to identify hazards before they occur. It focuses on the relationship between the worker, the task, the tools, and the work environment. After you identify the hazards, you can take steps to eliminate or reduce them to an acceptable risk.

To perform a job hazard analysis, you would ask:

- What can go wrong?
- What are the consequences?
- How could it happen?
- What are other contributing factors?
- How likely is it that the hazard will occur?
- How can the hazard be controlled?



[OSHA Job Hazard Analysis Worksheet](#)

Bubba's Friends: American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

Beavers, known for their impressive dam-building abilities, have a significant impact on the aquatic ecosystems they inhabit, including playing a crucial role in supporting fish populations. Here's how beavers help fish:

- Create diverse habitats
- Improve water quality
- Provide cover and protection
- Increase food availability
- Stabilize water flows
- Enhance biodiversity
- Promote connectivity

[USFWS: Beavers Work to Improve Habitat](#)



Yes...they can be a nuisance sometimes.

Fin and Games

In honor of last month's summer olympics we used national flags instead of the name of the country.

- 1** Which country is credited for the development of the first fishing reel that culminated in the fishing reels we recognize today – one with a spool, frame, reel foot, and handle.



A



B



C



D

- 2** The Dorado Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) holds the record for the world's longest exclusively freshwater fish migration. Juvenile Dorado Catfish are carried downstream to an estuary located in what country?



A



B



C



D

- 3** One way to document details about a fish is gyotaku (pronounced gee yo TAH koo). Gyotaku is a relatively new art form that developed in which country?



A



B



C



D



PROPS



Bert Deener



Rodney Tumlin



Bryan Fluech



Chuck Coomer and Grandson



Dawn Franco



Don Harrison



Jamie Roberts



Jackson Sibley



Jay Shelton



Thank you for your Support!

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Georgia AFS 2024 Fundraising Donors

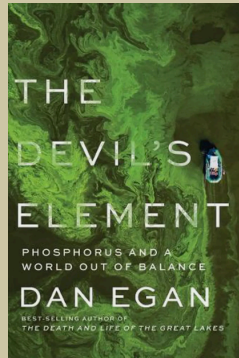


HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



THE BOOKSHELF

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance

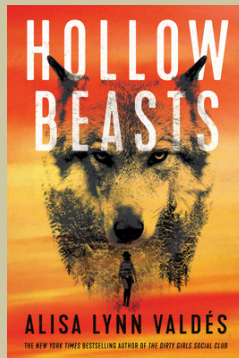
By Dan Egan

In this major work of explanatory science and environmental journalism, Pulitzer Prize finalist Dan Egan investigates the past, present, and future of what has been called "the oil of our time."

[Learn More Link](#)



ADULT FICTION SECTION



Hollow Beasts

By Alisa Valdés-Rodriguez

Looking for a new series to read? Book 1 introduces you to the main character. Jodi Luna, a former poetry professor turned game warden. Book 2 is titled *Blood Mountain*. Read more about this author and her books by following the link provided.

[Learn More Link](#)



YOUNG READER SECTION



The Wild Robot Protects

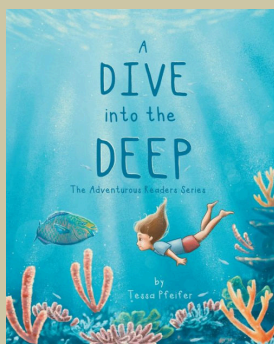
By Peter Brown

This thrilling third installment of the Wild Robot series takes readers on a new adventure through the ocean and to the frigid northern waters where Roz may have to make the ultimate sacrifice. Book 3 of 3 (*Chapter book*)

[Learn More Link](#)



EARLY READER SECTION



A Dive into the Deep: The Adventurous Readers Series

By Tessa Pfeifer

From flashy parrotfish to elusive octopi, the underwater world is full of surprises!

[Learn More Link](#)



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](#)

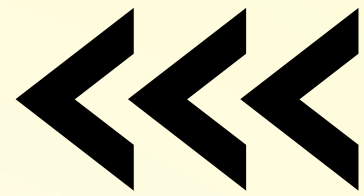
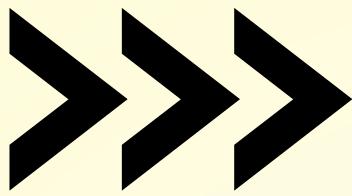
Program: [Carolyn Belcher](#)

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

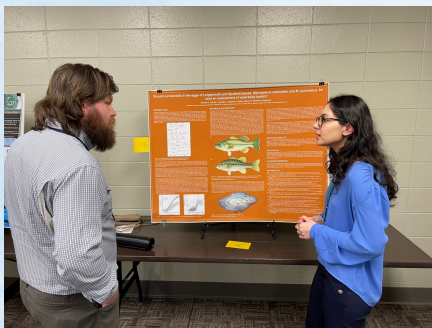
- Developing relationships with others who have similar interests
- Leadership opportunities to serve as an officer or chair a committee
- Reduced fees for training workshops
- Student scholarships
- Supporting fisheries and aquatic conservation efforts in Georgia
- Supporting aquatic education outreach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

- 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/

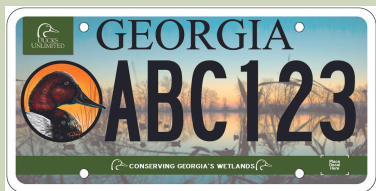
Future SDAFS Meetings

- 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](#)

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.

Stay Connected

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