

Under the Dock

March/April 2025



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Throughout the newsletter you can click on the fish to return to this page

Mark Your Calendar

- **March 21**
 - Deadline for [SWAP Public Comments](#)
- **March 22**
 - CoastFest (Brunswick, GA)
- **April 1**
 - AFS Award Nominations Deadline
- **April 18**
 - Georgia Aquaculture Conference
 - Athens, GA
- **August 10 - 14**
 - AFS 155th Annual Meeting
 - San Antonio, TX
- **February 3 - 5, 2026**
 - Georgia AFS 2026 Annual Meeting
 - Villas by the Sea, Jekyll Island
- **March 5 - 8, 2026**
 - SDAFS New Orleans, LA
- **August 30 - September 3, 2026**
 - AFS Annual Meeting (Columbus, OH)

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*.

NEWS & UPDATES

2025 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting

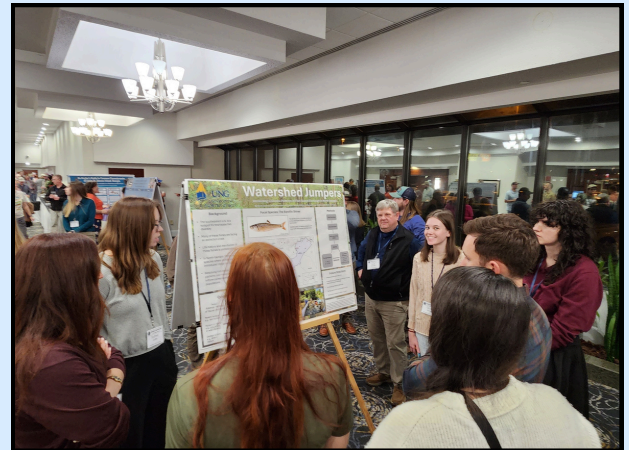
A huge thank you to the following Georgia AFS members who went above and beyond their duties and responsibilities to make the 2025 annual meeting a success.

- Brent Hess
- Kevin Cavallaro
- Dawn Franco
- Jackson Sibley
- Zack Brock

A huge shoutout to our committee leaders and volunteers for their incredible efforts! They set up the meeting, organized the Student-Mentor Luncheon, facilitated the icebreaker, orchestrated the awards ceremony, coordinated student judging for poster and oral presentations, deliberated on the scholarship winner, sought out president-elect nominees, arranged abstracts for the meeting program, and secured donations for our annual fundraiser.

A big thank you to all who brought/made items for our annual fundraiser. Our [annual fundraiser](#) plays a crucial role in advancing our chapter's mission and enabling us to make a positive impact in our community.

We had 141 people participate in the 2025 annual meeting. The meeting program included 34 oral presentations and 8 poster presentations.



Georgia AFS 2025 Student Presentation Award Winners

Student Oral Presentation Winners

First Place: Andrew Lyons (UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources): *Evidence of primary nursery usage of the lemon shark on Georgia barrier islands*



Second Place: Michael Baker (UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources): *Quantifying the bias associated with spatial vs. temporal replication in single season occupancy models: an application for rare freshwater mussels*

Third Place: Matthew Graff (UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources): *Generating spatial suitability models to optimize sampling efficiency for the invasive Red Shiner*

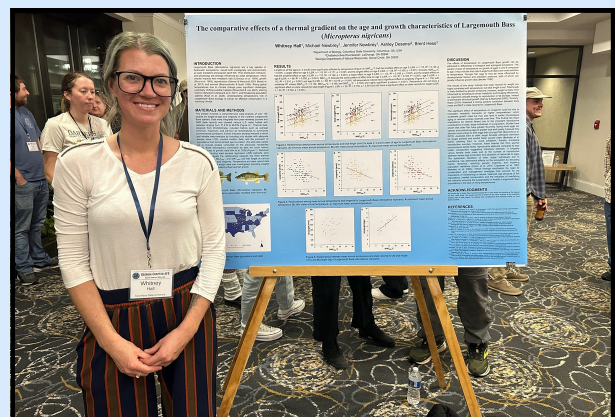
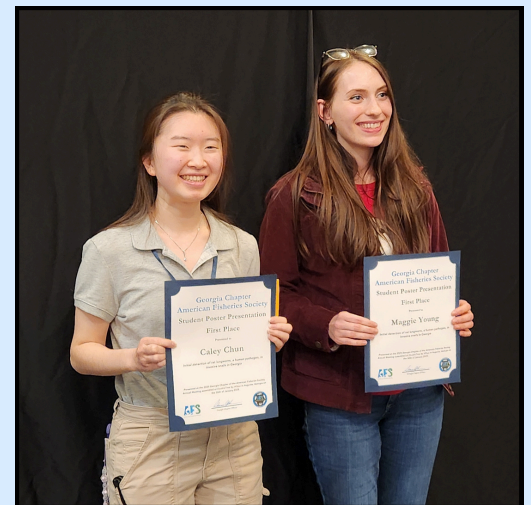


Student Poster Presentation Winners

First Place: Caley Chun and Maggie Young (Middle Georgia State University): *Initial detection of rat lungworm, a human pathogen, in invasive snails in Georgia*

Second Place: Rachael Byrne (UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources): *An angler's guide to common elasmobranchs of Little St. Simons Island*

Third Place: Whitney Hall (Columbus State University): *The comparative effects of a thermal gradient on the age and growth characteristics of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus nigricans*)*



Georgia AFS 2025 Career Contribution

Bob Ratajczak: served as a research coordinator for three faculty members at UGA's Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources since 1989

Tim Barrett: began his Georgia Department of Natural Resources career in 1997 as a Region 6 Fisheries Biologist

Maxie Gray: 44 years working in fisheries with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Steve Schleiger: began his career in 1985 as a Fisheries Biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Carletha Bryant: 41 years with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as the then Region 6 and now Region 4 Fisheries Management AOC

Scott Robinson: 30 years of commitment to improving and advancing fisheries in Georgia and throughout the southeast (currently serving as the Chief of Fisheries for Georgia Department of Natural Resources WRD)



Georgia AFS 2025 Awards

Professional of the Year in Fisheries Science and Research

Wesley Gerrin: Research and Outreach Coordinator, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources



Professional of the Year in Fisheries Management

Angela Spinks: Cordele Fish Hatchery Manager, Georgia Department of Natural Resources WRD



Fisheries Team of the Year

Richmond Hill Hatchery (Georgia Department of Natural Resources WRD): Jason Howard, Frank Buchanan, Evan Kelley, Caleb Mills, Steve Mincey, Richard Schulte, Ben Ballard



Runner-up Fisheries Team of the Year

McDuffie/Thomson Team (Georgia Department of Natural Resources WRD): Aaron Gray, Greg Abercrombie, Chalisa Fabillar, Chris James, Kimberly Clements, Nick Brewer, Jade Higgins, Krystavia Hannah, Jeanie Carnell



Georgia AFS 2025 Hidden Hero Awards

Steve Gay (Georgia DNR Go Fish Education Center)

In recognition of your quiet dedication, unwavering passion, and invaluable contributions to the field of fisheries science. Your efforts, often behind the scenes, have made a significant impact on the success of the Go Fish Education Center's mission. Your commitment to advancing the sustainable management of aquatic resources has not gone unnoticed. This award honors your hard work and the positive influence you continue to have in the fisheries community. We are grateful for your silent yet powerful contributions and look forward to the continued impact of your work.



Michael Sellers (Georgia DNR Gateway to Fishing)

In recognition of your outstanding accomplishments and unwavering dedication to the Gateway to Fishing Program. Your quiet leadership, hard work, and strong desire to promote Georgia fisheries have consistently resulted in excellent outcomes. The creativity and commitment you put into every project will ensure that future generations of anglers will benefit from your efforts for decades to come. This Hidden Hero Award honors your quiet yet monumental contributions and the lasting legacy you are creating for the future of outdoor recreation and natural resource stewardship.



Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship

Sarah Weaver (UGA Warnell)

In recognition of your academic excellence, passion for the field of fisheries science, and dedication to advancing sustainable management of aquatic resources. This award supports your educational journey, and we look forward to seeing the great things you will accomplish in your career.



Georgia AFS 2025 Distinguished Service Awards

Amory Cook (Georgia DNR WRD)

In recognition of your outstanding gift of time and energy supporting and contributing to the success of our chapter's aquatic outreach and continuing education programs. This award honors your distinguished service, professionalism, and the positive influence you have had on the chapter and its members.



Hunter Roop (Georgia DNR WRD)

In recognition of your outstanding leadership, dedication, and exceptional service as the Committee Co-Chair of the Georgia AFS Continuing Education Committee. This award honors your distinguished service, professionalism, and lasting contributions to the chapter and its members.



Don Harrison (Georgia DNR WRD)

In recognition of your outstanding leadership, dedication, and exceptional service as the Committee Chair of the Georgia AFS Nominations Committee. This award honors your distinguished service, professionalism, and lasting contributions to the chapter and its members.



Richard Childers (Georgia DNR WRD)

In recognition of your many years of outstanding efforts and invaluable support in setting up the Georgia AFS annual fundraising event. Your dedication and hard work has been instrumental in ensuring the event continues to be a success. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to making a meaningful difference and helping us achieve our fundraising goals.

Georgia AFS President's Award

Jackson Sibley

In recognition of your exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering support for the success of our chapter. Your contributions have significantly advanced our mission and helped foster a collaborative and positive environment for all members.



Georgia AFS 2025 Awards

Certificate of Appreciation

Go Fish Education Center

In sincere appreciation for your generous support in providing a venue for the July 2024 “Aquatic Plant Management” training workshop. We deeply appreciate your partnership and invaluable support of our chapter and its mission.

Jay Shelton and Wesley Gerrin

In recognition of your outstanding contribution as a facilitator for the “Aquatic Plant Management” training workshop held July 22-23, 2024 at the Go Fish Education Center. Your expertise, dedication, and engaging teaching made a lasting impact on participants and greatly contributed to the success of the workshop. We sincerely appreciate your time, effort, and commitment to sharing your knowledge and skills.

Ryan Testino and Matthew Graff

In recognition of your valuable assistance and support during the “Aquatic Plant Management” training workshop held July 22-23, 2024 at the Go Fish Education Center. We are deeply grateful for your efforts and enthusiasm in making the event a positive and enriching experience for all involved.

Garrett Cooke, James Roberts, and Hayley Blische

In recognition of your outstanding efforts and invaluable support in setting up the Georgia AFS annual meeting. Your dedication and hard work has been instrumental in ensuring the event continues to be a success.

Brian Jones

In recognition of your continued support of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and its mission.



Lyndsey for GFEC



Garrett



Hayley



James



Georgia AFS 2025 Contest Winners

Trash2Art Contest



Laura Wenk
Flint Trash Cat



Rebecca Brown
First Fish



Amanda Hurst
Balloons Blow

Photo Contest - First Place Winners

Tools of the Trade



Amory Cook

Beginnings



Caroline Cox

That's Funny



Tim Bonvechio

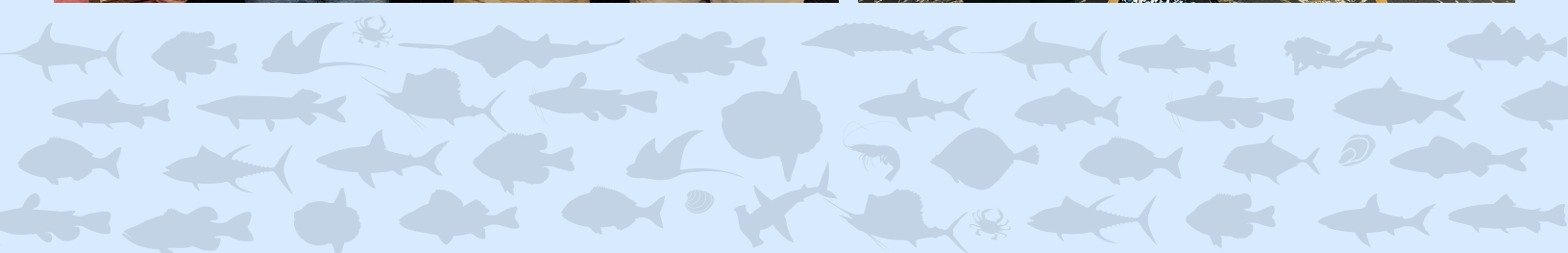
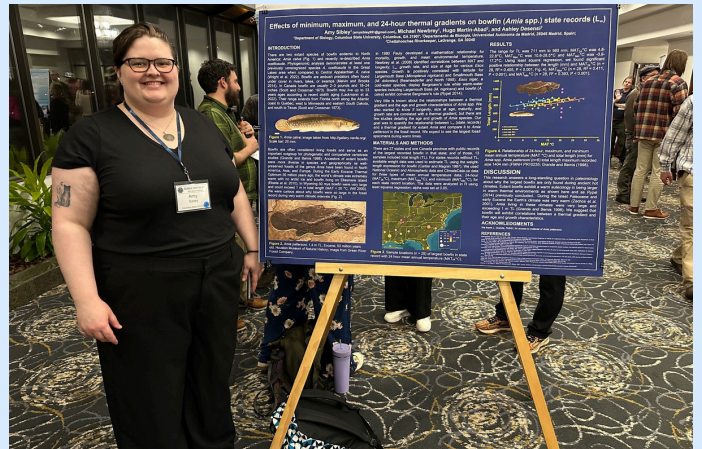
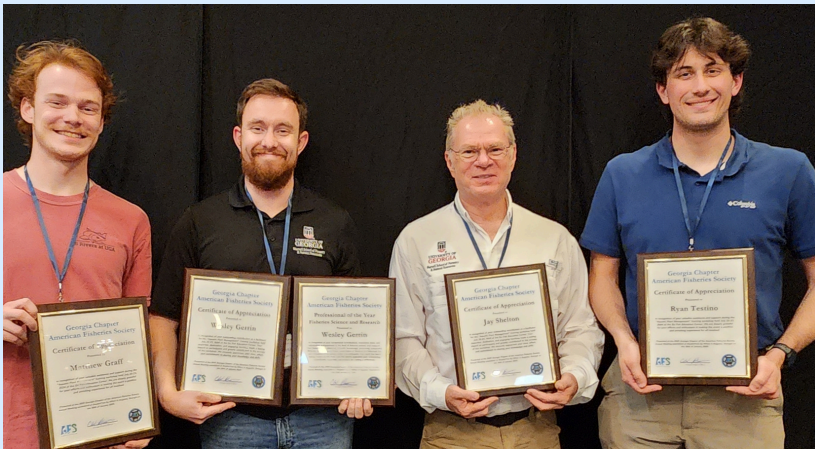
Visit the web page to see the other winners and all entries

2025
Photo Contest
Entries

Additional Photos of Georgia AFS 2025



2025 GEORGIA AFS



Congratulations

Georgia AFS and a few of its members earned awards at the 2025 Southern Division AFS annual meeting that was recently held in Asheville, North Carolina.

The Georgia Chapter was recognized the Outstanding Large Chapter Award at the 2025 SDAFS Annual Meeting this week. This is the sixth time the chapter has received this honor. Georgia AFS received this award because of our focuses on aquatic education, resource development, professional training, student support, research dissemination, networking, and community engagement to promote fisheries conservation and collaboration.



Tim Bonvechio, Georgia AFS Nominations Committee Co-Chair, was honored with the Tom Kwak Distinguished Service Award at the 2025 Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting. He received this award for his years of service to the AFS and SDAFS, and his dedication to supporting and mentoring early career professionals in the Southern Division. Tim is a strong advocate for young professionals, providing mentorship, networking opportunities, and career growth support.

Picture: Tim Bonvechio (L) and SDAFS President Anthony Overton (R)

Melissa Berry-Shelton earned the SDAFS 2025 Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award. Melissa is an undergraduate student at Georgia Gwinnett College and Dr. Pete Sakaris is her advisor. This is the first time a GGC student has won a presentation award at a SDAFS annual meeting. Her project: *Population Assessment of the Invasive Weather Loach in the Sweetwater Creek Watershed at Club Drive Park, Gwinnett County, Georgia*



AFS Professional Awards List

AFS (and AFS Sections) offers awards to its members and partners for unique contributions that directly or indirectly impact fisheries science. Applications are due April 1st unless noted otherwise.

Award of Excellence

Emmeline Moore Prize

Excellence in Fisheries Education

Early Career Excellence in Fisheries Education

Excellence in Public Outreach

Distinguished Service Award

Fisheries Conservation Award

Stanley A. Moberly Award for Outstanding Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation

Marine Fisheries Section Oscar E. Sette Award for Outstanding Marine Fishery Biologist: May 31st



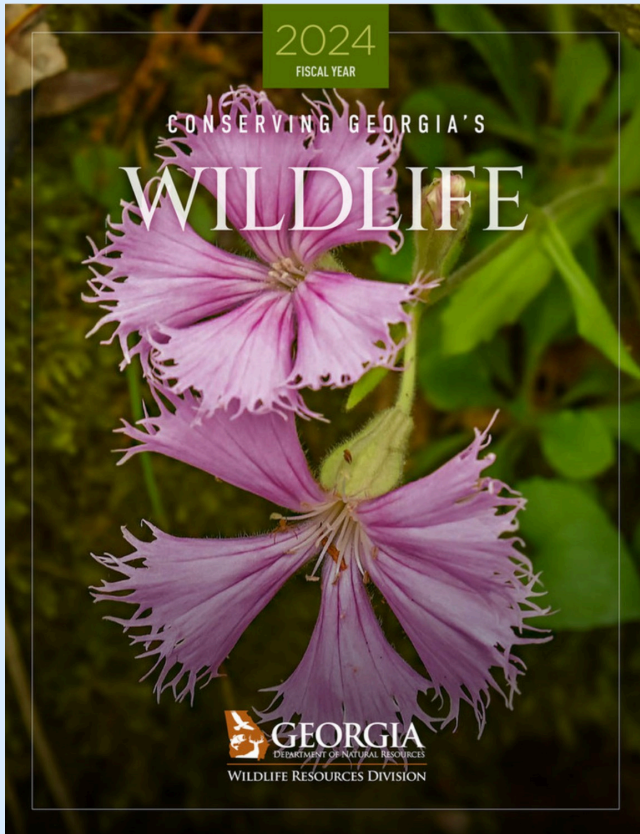
Podcast: Black Bass 2025 Symposium



Black Bass 2025 will be held in August in San Antonio, in conjunction with the 2025 AFS Annual Meeting. This podcast episode features Dave Philipp, one of the conference chairs, who stopped by recently to share a preview of this summer's conference.



State Wildlife Action Plan 2025 Open for Public Comments

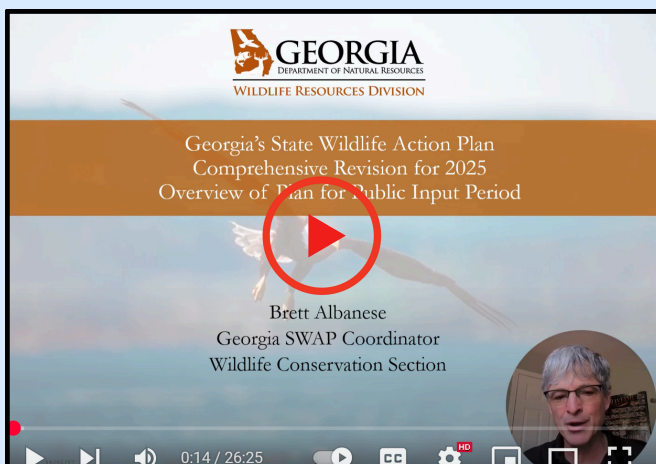


As part of DNR's Wildlife Resources Division, the Wildlife Conservation Section works to conserve the more than 95 percent of native species in Georgia not fished for or hunted, plus rare plants and natural habitats. Here's a look at that effort in fiscal year 2024.

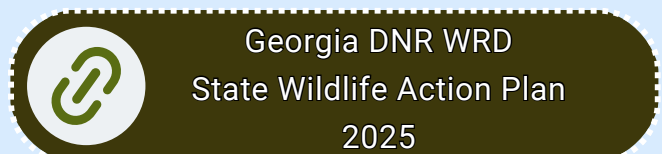


Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is being revised. For most of DNR's Wildlife Conservation Section, 2024 has been the Year of the SWAP. This plan is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and lays out all of Georgia's conservation needs and goals.

The purpose of this statewide strategy is to guide conservation efforts for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and their habitats during the next 10 years (2025-2035), before these animals and plants become rarer and more costly to conserve and restore. Please visit the The Georgia DNR WRD State Wildlife Action Plan 2025 website to learn more about the draft 2025 SWAP and provide feedback to help Georgia DNR improve the plan before it is submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval. Comments must be provided between **February 19 and March 21, 2025**, either through the survey (link below) or via email to WCScomments@dnr.ga.gov.



It is recommended you watch the video before completing the survey.



Georgia AFS Survey

Georgia AFS is conducting a survey of members and non-members to better understand the factors influencing membership decisions. Your feedback will help us develop targeted strategies to make membership more accessible, appealing, and beneficial to a wider audience and is invaluable in shaping the future of our chapter and ensuring we meet the needs of our members.

The anonymous survey takes approximately 5 minutes, and the data collected will be shared on the Georgia AFS website.



Congratulations Kimberly Clements

Kimberly Clements, Georgia AFS Co-Chair Student Presentations Awards Subcommittee and a Georgia DNR McDuffie Environmental Education Center staff member, was recognized for completing Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG). The ATEEG certification program is an Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia initiative to advance and professionalize the field and practice of environmental education. A significant amount of time and effort is required to complete the ATEEG program of study. Briefly, this includes: attend and complete all assessments for the three core courses (20 contact hours each), document 30 hours of specialization (e.g., educator training in two of the following: Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, or Project WET; attend conference presentations, etc.), and complete an independent study project.



Are You Hunting for a Job or an Internship?

AFS Resources

[AFS Career Center](#)

Featured Job Postings

Career Resources

Find the Job

Get the Job

On the Job

**The AFS Career Center has
additional resources for members**

Create a Career Center Account

Set up your profile

Upload your Resume(s)/Cover Letters

Add References

Sign-up for Job Alerts

Georgia AFS Resources

[Careers in Fisheries](#)

List of Careers

Improve Your Resume

[GA AFS Jobs/Internships](#)

List of websites for job postings

Current Job Postings

Summer/Seasonal Jobs

Internships

[Interviewing Tips](#)

Resources for Interviewees

Mock Interview Materials

Resources for Interviewers

Georgia AFS and Social Media

The Communications Committee posts information on the following social media platforms.

Facebook: This is a private group. Posts include job announcements, meeting announcements, updates from Georgia AFS or AFS, and other pertinent information that might be beneficial to our members. The committee monitors other AFS chapter websites for job postings to share on our group page. Our FB administrators approve all member requests within 48 hours. And yes, we do a more extensive check of folks we do not know who request to join our group.

Instagram: Posts include job announcements, chapter updates, and safety tips.

LinkedIn: Posts include job announcements and chapter updates.

BlueSky: We are new to this social media platform. Posts are minimal at the moment until we see more people using this platform.



Georgia TU 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.

Each Georgia TU Chapter sponsors 1 or 2 camp participants. The deadline to apply for Georgia Trout Camp is set by each Georgia TU Chapter. Rabun Chapter TU has a deadline of March 15th. In addition to learning trout fishing fundamentals and cold water conservation, campers depart with their own fishing equipment.



Georgia Trout Camp video

Georgia TU supports Georgia AFS through sponsorship and other programs. We can help them by spreading the word about the Georgia TU Trout Camp and their annual sweepstakes. Proceeds from the [Georgia TU Sweepstakes](#) supports TU Cold Water Conservation, Georgia Trout Camp, and other Georgia TU Council supported activities. The deadline to purchase your sweepstakes entry is March 16th.



Sweep the Hooch - March 22nd

Sweep the Hooch is one of Georgia's biggest river cleanup events. It is an annual watershed-wide trash cleanup that brings together hundreds of volunteers each year at dozens of parks, tributaries, and access points along the Chattahoochee River. Last year during Sweep the Hooch, 32.5 tones of trash was removed from the river and of that, 2.25 tons were recycled.

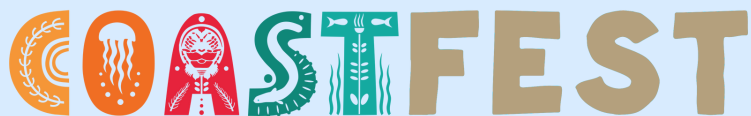
You must register if you want to volunteer to be part of this event.



Visit the [CRK Sweep the Hooch](#) website for additional information, a list of cleanup sites by region, and the link for the volunteer registration form. Volunteers can chose to be walkers/waders or paddlers.

Check with your local community for cleanup events in your area.

Georgia DNR CRD CoastFest is March 22nd



[CoastFest](#) is an exciting annual event hosted by the Coastal Resources Division, dedicated to celebrating and educating the public about the rich coastal heritage and natural resources of our region. The festival brings together a wide range of activities, exhibits, and live entertainment, offering a fun and educational experience for visitors of all ages.

CoastFest is held at the scenic and historic Mary Ross Waterfront Park, 10 F Street, Brunswick, Ga. The park's beautiful waterfront views provide the perfect backdrop for this vibrant event.

Marsh Madness - Keep Golden Isles Beautiful

Georgia is home to roughly one-third of all remaining salt marsh along the Eastern Seaboard. Georgia's fishery resources depend on healthy salt marshes, which provide essential habitat for many fish and shellfish species.

Each March during MARSH MADNESS, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful (KGIB) volunteers concentrate litter removal efforts in 40 habitually littered Golden Isles salt marsh and marsh adjacent locations. Pulled from this resource are television sets, furniture, appliances, toilets, tires and all kinds of litter.

KGIB staff, community groups and individuals lead the cleanups. People of all ages and abilities are invited to volunteer and lend a hand and all cleanup supplies are provided.

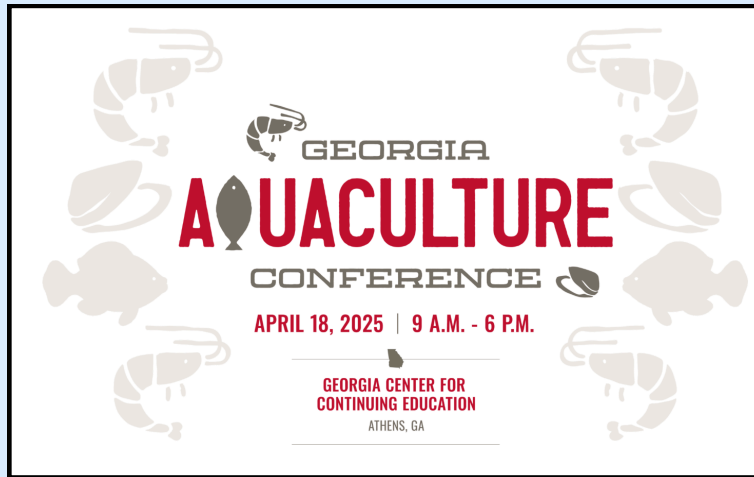
Held at various days and times, cleanups can be in the marsh or along marsh adjacent public areas such bordering high ground, under bridges, at boat ramps, fishing areas and ravines.

A MARSH MADNESS calendar of cleanups can be found at KGIB.ORG.

MARSH MADNESS is sponsored by Georgia-Pacific Brunswick Cellulose Mill and is the local kickoff to the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup.



Georgia Aquaculture Conference is April 18th



Driving innovation, sustainability, and growth in Georgia's aquaculture industry

The [Georgia Aquaculture Conference](#) will take place in Athens, Georgia, on April 18, 2025. The event will bring together industry leaders, researchers, and stakeholders to discuss advancements and opportunities in sustainable aquaculture across the state.

Organized by UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, the conference provides a platform to share best practices, foster innovation, and build connections that support growth in Georgia's aquaculture industry.



From Farm to Reef: Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (May 8th)

Learn about oyster aquaculture and habitat restoration efforts in Georgia. This program will begin on land with a guided tour of the UGA Shellfish Research Lab, where you will witness the bustling process of spawning and growing oyster seed for local farmers. Next, guests will travel by boat with researchers from the Shellfish Lab and marine educators from the UGA Aquarium to learn about oyster farms in the Bull River mariculture zone as well as see oyster reef restoration sites in the area. Along the way, experts will share insights into the vital role oyster reefs play in improving water quality, providing habitat, and mitigating coastal erosion.



Location: UGA Marine Education Center
and Aquarium, Skidaway Island

Cost: \$30 ([Purchase Tickets](#))

Membership Dues

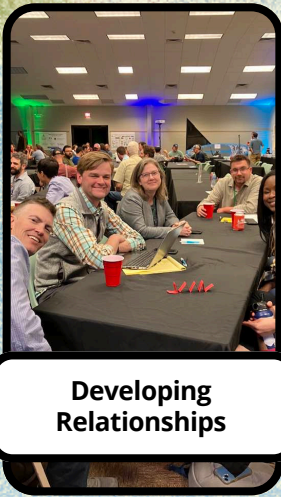
The Georgia AFS mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Your paid membership helps us achieve that mission.

Georgia AFS
Annual Membership Dues

\$ 10

JOIN NOW

What are some benefits of becoming a member of Georgia AFS?



**Developing
Relationships**



**Leadership
Opportunities**



**Supporting Aquatic
Conservation**



**Enhancing Your
Resume**



To vote on Chapter business/elections you must be a member of AFS.

AFS Membership Information

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.

Consider joining the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the world's largest professional organization for fisheries scientists.



Volunteers Needed

Steve and Marjorie Harvey 2025 Mentoring Camps

We need anglers and conservation outreach specialists



Marjorie Harvey's
Girls Who Rule the World



Legacy Ranch
The Rock, GA
(Upson County)



Steve Harvey's Mentoring
Program for Young Men



Volunteer
Registration Form



bit.ly/4ilm9EE

Have questions? Email Rebecca Brown, GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com

Special thanks to the following organizations for their support



Warnell School of Forestry
& Natural Resources
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA AFS 2025-26 OFFICERS/EXCOM



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President-Elect

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Recording Secretary- Treasurer

Dawn Franco
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Executive Secretary- Treasurer

Rebecca Brown
Retired Educator

GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com



Past - President

Chad Kaiser
Fisheries Biologist
Georgia DNR

chad.kaiser@dnr.ga.gov

CAMPUS CORNER



FYI

Student Awards

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

[Georgia Sea Grant State Fellowship](#) (March 10)

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

[AFS Marine Fisheries Section Student Travel Award](#) (June 1)

[J. Frances Allen Scholarship](#) for female PhD students (April 1)

Creating and Giving Presentations

The Georgia AFS website includes a page of resources to assist you with taking your oral and poster presentations to the next level. Do you have concerns about public speaking? Several video resources available to help you practice your public speaking skills.

The Key to Making Great Presentations

Are you looking for a job or internship?

Georgia AFS maintains a Job Postings and Internships web page that includes current job postings and a list of websites that include job postings for fisheries/aquatic professionals.

Job Postings and Internships

The interviewing tips web page is the work of several fisheries professionals who interview potential candidates.

Interviewing Tips



SAN • ANTONIO

2025

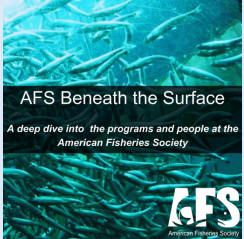


155th Annual Meeting
August 10-14, 2025

[Meeting Information](#)

Plugged In

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



AFS Policy - the whos, whats, and...

What is AFS's role in policy? And honestly, what is policy anyway? To answer these questions, we're going back to the beginning of the AFS policy program and chatting with the first (but now retired!) AFS Policy Director, Tom Bigford.



Smallmouth Bass, Big Complexity!

How well do you really know Smallmouth Bass? There's still a ton to learn, even about super popular fish! We dig into the fascinating diversity of Smallmouth Bass with guest Andrew Taylor from the University of North Georgia. Learn the latest science, the places these fish call home, and pro tips about how to complete the Smallmouth Slam!



Talking Bass Fishing and Management with the Pros: Part 1

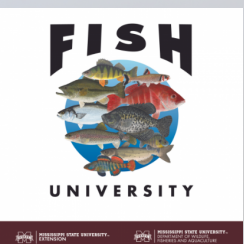
Talking Bass Fishing and Management with the Pros: Part 2

In this two-part podcast series, Corey and Ben sit down with professional bass anglers Matt Arey and Bryan Thrift, two of the most respected names in the bass fishing community. Matt and Bryan share their expert insights on key topics such as bass fishing techniques, bass conservation efforts, stocking programs, and the NCWRC's native aquatic plant initiative.



Messages for current fisheries managers with Dr. Hal Schramm

Preston sits down with retired USGS Mississippi Cooperative Research Unit leader Dr. Hal Schramm. They discuss Hal's path to get to Mississippi State University, and a handful of the many research projects he worked on during his time there. They also spend time chatting about two of Hal's special interest topics: declining catchability of bass and other species, and the importance of biologists sharing their work both with colleagues and the angling community.



The Slab Lab

Sarah "The Closer" Parvin joins Wes to tell a story about a trophy bass pond that suddenly died off and rose from the ashes like a phoenix, reborn into one of the best bream ponds in the world. Called "The Slab Lab" for obvious reasons, Sarah and her father are consistently growing coppernose bluegill in the 1-2-pound range, with 2-3 pounders becoming more frequent.



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.



In 1981, Paul Williams and his business partner, the late Ed Owen, started producing channel catfish fingerlings for local growers. Over the years, the business expanded, becoming the only producer of triploid grass carp in Georgia. Today, under the leadership of CEO Brian Simmons, Owen and Williams Fish Farm specializes in supplying fish for stocking lakes and ponds.

Owen & Williams has two locations with their main office located in Hawkinsville, Georgia and their grow out ponds located in Newton, Georgia. They have approximately 300 acres of water, with 80 ponds. Owen & Williams sells commercial catfish fingerlings and recreational fingerlings as well as several other varieties of fish. They also offer consulting services to help you determine how to get the most out of your pond or lake..

VISIT THEIR WEBSITE

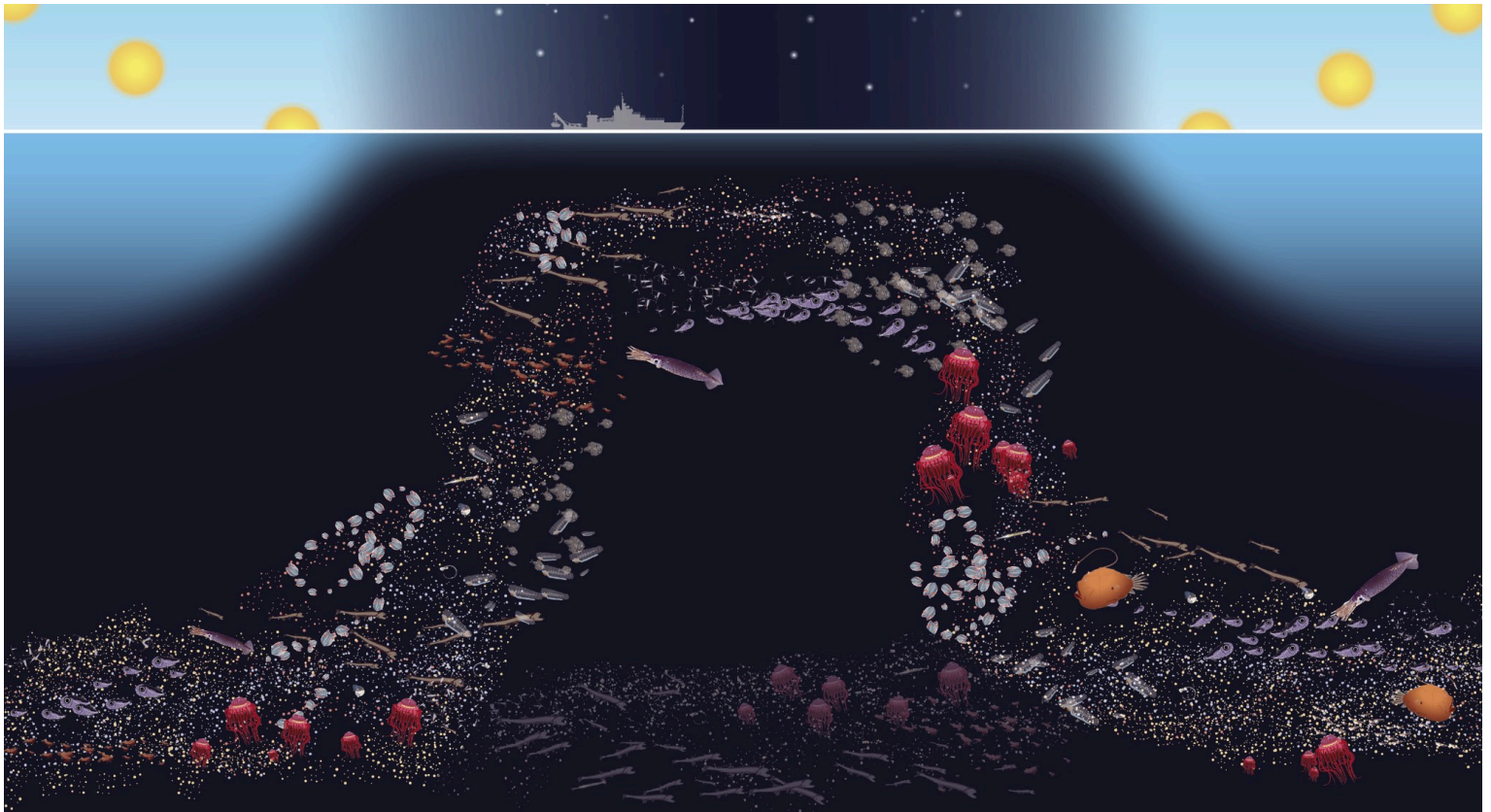
Owen & Williams



DID YOU KNOW?

This DYK is brought to you from a Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) social media post

Every day, billions of ocean twilight zone animals— fish, zooplankton, crustaceans, and more—embark on the planet's greatest animal migration. As the sun sets, they rise to the surface to feast on carbon-rich plankton, then retreat to deep, dark waters at dawn.



This daily commute, called diel vertical migration, doesn't just sustain the ocean food web—it also helps fast-track carbon to the deep sea, influencing Earth's climate. Scientists are just beginning to unlock its secrets.

Find out how scientists study this migration and how it impacts the global carbon cycle:
go.whoi.edu/DVM



Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title to access article

STUDY TAKES A 'BITE' OUT OF SHARK DEPREDAATION USING CITIZEN SCIENCE

Shark depredation is a rising issue in recreational fishing, especially in Florida, where sharks steal fish straight off anglers' lines. Researchers harnessed citizen science -- social media, angler surveys, charters -- and genetic analysis, to investigate the problem.

MARINE RESERVES CONTRIBUTE HALF OF THE LARVAL SUPPLY TO A CORAL REEF FISHERY

Australia's Great Barrier Reef (GBR) contains an extensive network of marine reserves. By combining GBR-wide fish surveys, larval dispersal models, and commercial fishery catch data, we calculate the system-wide ecological and economic contributions of these reserves for coral groupers (*Plectropomus* spp.), the region's most important line fishery.

DISTINCT RESOURCE UTILIZATION BY INTRODUCED MAN-MADE GROUPER HYBRID: AN OVERLOOKED ANTHROPOGENIC IMPACT FROM A LONGSTANDING RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

Ecologists have identified significant ecological risks associated with the release of hybrid groupers into Hong Kong's coastal waters, a practice often linked to religious 'mercy release' rituals.

PIKE USE MARINE CORRIDORS TO COLONIZE NEW ALASKA TERRITORY

Northern pike are moving through salt water to invade freshwater habitats in Southcentral Alaska, according to a new study. It's the first known documentation that northern pike are traveling through estuaries, where fresh water from rivers mixes with the ocean, to colonize new territory in North America.

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES ESSENTIAL TO GLOBAL NUTRITION, LIVELIHOODS

The study rigorously quantified how marine and inland small-scale fisheries contribute to aquatic harvests and nutritional and socioeconomic security on a global scale.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS OVERHAULING MARINE NUTRIENT CYCLES, UC IRVINE SCIENTISTS SAY

Computer models reveal how human-driven climate change will dramatically overhaul critical nutrient cycles in the ocean. Researchers report evidence that marine nutrient cycles are changing in unexpected ways as the planet continues to warm.





BUBBA'S VIDEO PICKS

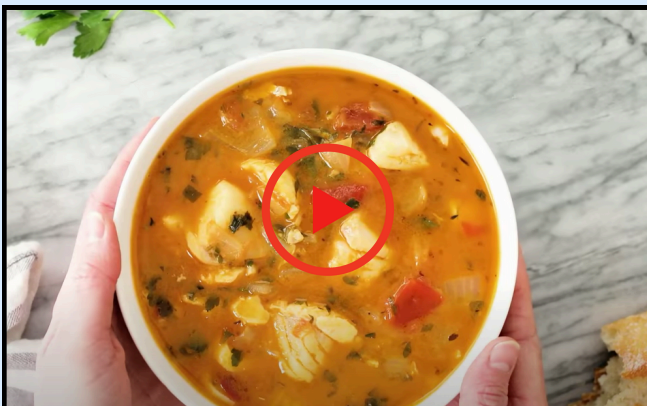
Get the river systems right and the fish will do the rest. | Mary Trudeau | TEDxCorktown



We have the power to influence nature, but we are not in control of nature



Quick and Easy Fish Stew



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

Are you shopping around for some new fishing equipment?

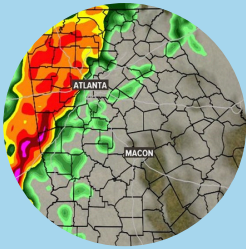
Click the logo to visit their website



BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Vessel operation is an important part of fisheries research and teaching. Before launching...

Check the weather
forecast



File a float plan with
someone you trust



Check your vessel's
safety gear



Make sure your vessel
is ready for operation



Conduct a safety briefing
for all participants



PFDs only work if they
are worn



Bubba's Friends: Orange Spotted Tuskfish (*Choerodon anchorago*)

Also known as the Orange Dotted Tuskfish and Anchor Tuskfish, it is a species of wrasse native to the Indian Ocean from Sri Lanka eastward to French Polynesia in the western Pacific. This species can reach a length of 50 cm (20 in). It is commercially important, and can be found in the aquarium trade.

What is so unique about this fish? They are one of a few species of fish that use a "tool" to get food. While filming Blue Planet II (BBC), an Orange Spotted Tuskfish was filmed repeatedly breaking open clams by striking them against a specific group of hard coral. Other wrasse species have been observed exhibiting similar behavior.

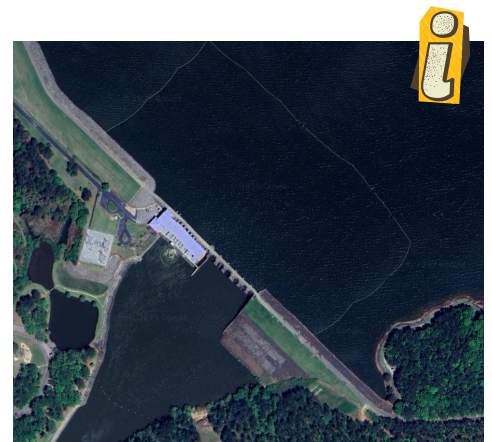
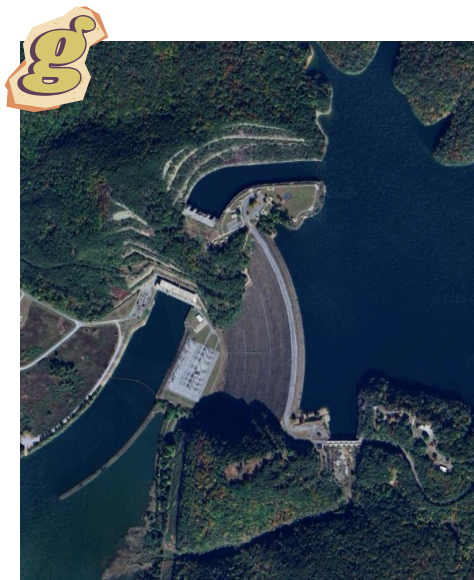
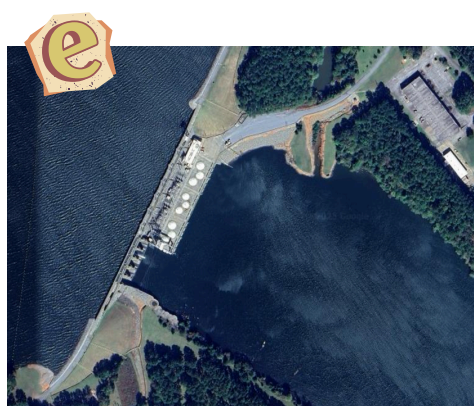
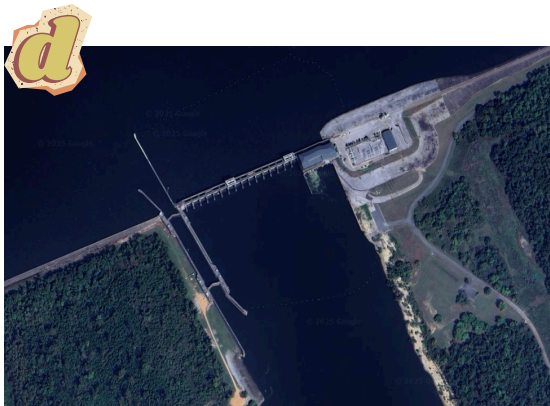
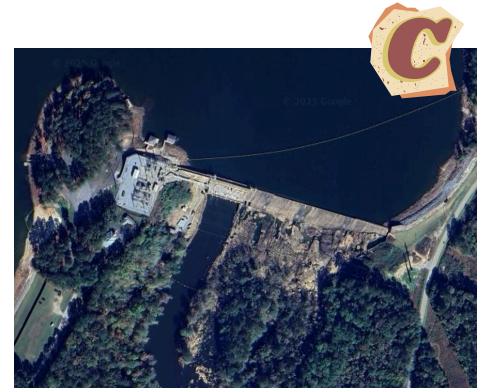


Very cute and hardworking Tuskfish

Fin and Games

How well do you know Georgia's reservoirs? Match the name of the reservoir with the Google Earth image of its dam. Can you correctly name 3?

Carters Lake, Allatoona Lake, Lake Lanier, West Point Lake, Jackson Lake, Lake Oconee, Clarks Hill Lake, Walter F. George Lake, Lake Seminole



Answers on back cover page



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Vera Bradley



Alliance Theatre



HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



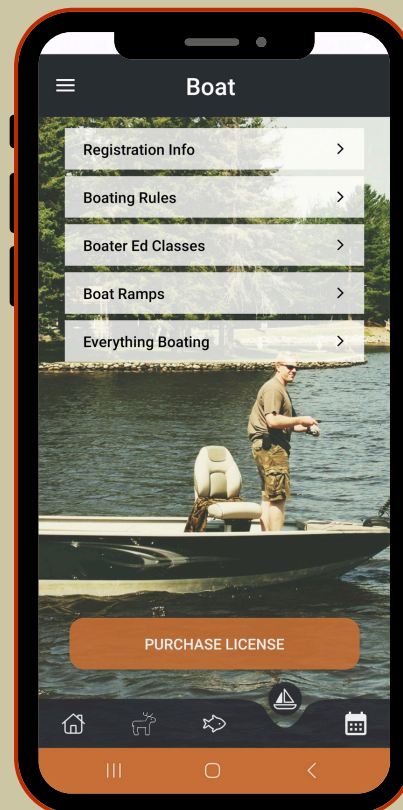
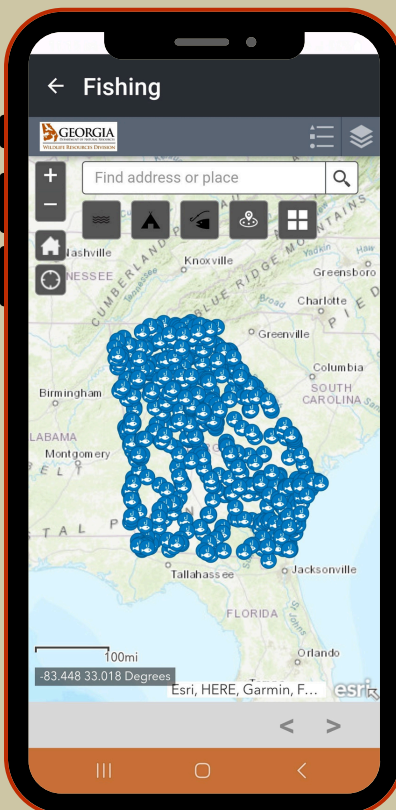
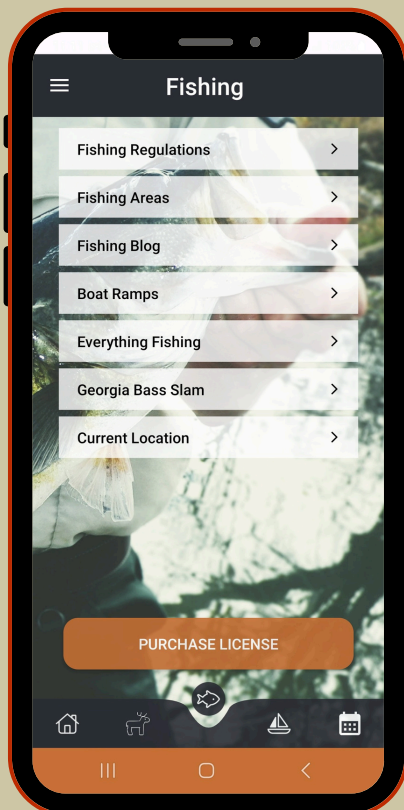
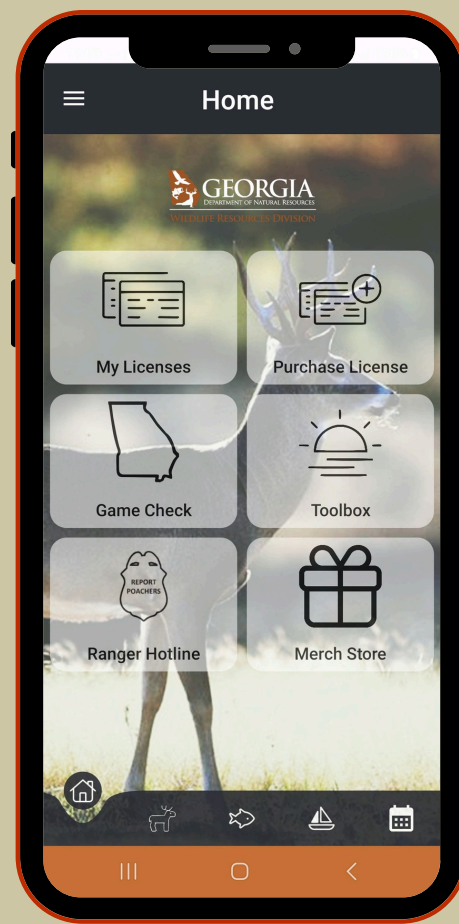


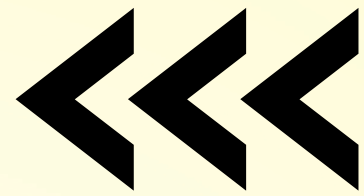
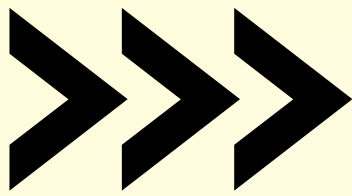
Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

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**





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



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JOURNALS**



**AFS ADVISES
POLICY**



**AFS HAS A VARIETY
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CAN JOIN
DEPENDING ON
YOUR INTERESTS**



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

Learn More



AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS

Future AFS Annual Meetings



American Fisheries Society

- 2025 San Antonio, TX: August 10 – 14
- 2026 Columbus, OH: August 30 – September 3
- 2027 Pittsburgh, PA: September 26 – 30

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/

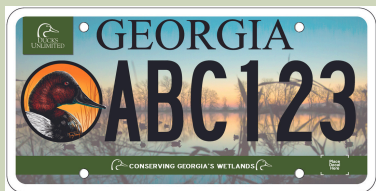
Future SDAFS Meetings

- 2026 New Orleans, LA: March 4-7, 2026
- 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.

[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 Interviewing 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.

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c. Jackson Lake h. Clarks Hill Lake
d. Lake Seminole i. West Point Lake
e. Lake Oconee

