



North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2019 Business Meeting
Historic Brookstown Inn
Winston Salem, NC
February 21, 2019

1. Call to Order, Tyler Black, President (13:09)
2. Determination of Quorum, Kelsey Lincoln, Secretary/Treasurer (13:09)
 - i. A quorum, defined as 20 or more paid chapter members was present
3. Welcome and Introductions, Tyler Black, President (13:09)
 - a. AFS Parent Society EXCOM in attendance
 - i. None in attendance
 - b. AFS Past President(s) in attendance
 - i. None in attendance
 - c. AFS Southern Division and Past-President(s) in attendance
 - i. Dave Coughlan
 - d. NC AFS Past-Presidents in attendance
 - i. Many in attendance
4. February 2018 Business Meeting Minutes, Tyler Black, President (13:10)
 - i. Vote – unanimous in favor of accepting the minutes as written
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Program and Arrangements, Jacob Rash, President-Elect and Chair (13:10)
 - i. 88 persons attended the meeting, 55 persons attended the climate change workshop
 - ii. There were 28 oral presentations (6 students, 22 professionals)
 - iii. There were 6 poster presentations (5 students, 1 professional)
 - b. Education and Outreach, Chris Wood, Chair (13:12)
 - i. Completed by Jessica Baumann in absence of Chris Wood
 - ii. See attached Education and Outreach Committee report
 - c. Nominations, Corey Oakley, Chair and Past-President (13:13)

- i. Ben Ricks and Tom Fox were nominated for president
 - ii. Ben Ricks won (46 active members voted)
 - d. Newsletter, Kevin Hining, Chair (13:14)
 - i. See attached Communications Committee report
 - e. Environmental Concerns, Jennifer Archambault, Chair (13:14)
 - i. Talked about species conservation plans, Waters of America, and an upcoming AFS webinar
 - ii. See attached Environmental Concerns Committee report
 - f. Webmaster/Communications, Brena Jones
 - i. See attached Communications Committee Report
 - g. Awards, Greg Cope, Chair (13:29)
 - i. 2018 Student Travel Awards
 - ii. Best paper awards
 - 1. 4 participating students
 - 2. 11 participating professionals
 - 3. Thank you to judges
 - iii. See attached Awards Committee Report
- 6. Secretary Treasurer and Finance Committee Report, Kelsey Lincoln, Secretary/Treasurer (13:30)
 - i. See attached Secretary/Treasurer Report
- 7. NCSU Student Fisheries Subunit, Jennifer Archambault and April Lamb, Co-Presidents (13:55)
 - i. Estimated raffle income was \$12,162
 - ii. Discussed outreach events such as Shad in the Classroom and Rocky Stream Clean-Up, updated website, and the SFS Listserv
- 8. Catfish 2020 Update, Thomas Kwak (14:01)
 - i. Meeting will be in Little Rock Arkansas in conjunction with the SDAFS Meeting
 - ii. SDAFS will lower registration costs for the meeting for members who attend both meetings
 - iii. Will be requesting funding from NCAFS
 - iv. Will be publishing a special issue through NAFM Journal, instead of publishing a proceedings book
- 9. SDAFS Update, Thomas Kwak, SDAFS President-Elect (14:08)
 - i. Discussed Puerto Rico meeting and the service project at that meeting
 - ii. Galveston, TX meeting had 550 in attendance
 - iii. Announced Jessica Baumann as the new SDAFS Secretary/Treasurer
 - iv. Jessica Baumann – Women in Fisheries update
 - 1. Newly formed women’s leadership group for SDAFS members

2. First meeting was held in Galveston, TX
 3. Contact Jess or join the Listserv at fisheriesWLG@gmail.com
 - v. Reminded members of the online journal subscription benefit as an AFS member
 - vi. Announced the next AFS meetings
 - vii. Announced the next SDAFS meetings
 1. Discussion on NCAFS hosting a SDAFS meeting (14:25; Lawrence Dorsey)
 2. Discussion on the process of signing up to host a SDAFS meeting (14:27; Dave Coughlan)
 3. Motion to host a SDAFS meeting and to write a letter to SDAFS confirming our interest to host a meeting (14:29; Wilson Laney)
 - a. 1st-Lawrence Dorsey, 2nd- Jessica Baumann
 - b. Unanimous vote to sign up to host SDAFS
10. Awards Presentation, Greg Cope, Chair and Corey Oakley, Co-Chair, Awards Committee
- a. Richard L. Nobel Best Student Paper Award (14:31)
 - i. 2018 Winner – Cara Kowalchyk
 - b. W. Don Baker Best Professional Paper Award (14:33)
 - i. 2018 Winner – Heather Evans
 - c. Jerry Finke Distinguished Service Award (14:35)
 - i. 2018 Winner – Wilson Laney
 - d. Fred A. Harris Conservation Award (14:43)
 - i. 2018 Winner – Bill Frazier, B.A.S.S.
 - e. Free AFS Membership (14:30)
 - i. 2018 Winner – Corey Oakley
 - ii. This award was ultimately given to Kevin Dockendorf at the request of original winner to re-draw
11. Installation of Newly-Elected Officers, Tyler Black, President (14:52)
- i. Corey Oakley presented Tyler Black with Service Award (14:55)
12. Remarks by Incoming President, Jacob Rash (14:55)
- i. Motion to amend language in bylaws to reflect changes in the newly created undergraduate awards and changes in the donation funding process and to include these changes in the newsletter to be voted on, via some online process
 1. Motion approved (see Treasurer’s Report for more information)

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2019 Education and Outreach Committee Report
Submitted by Chis Woods**

Members: Chris Wood, Jessica Baumann, Kevin Hining, Jacob Rash

At the 2017 NCAFS business meeting in New Bern, NC, the Education and Outreach Committee conducted a poll of the membership to determine the most desired continuing education workshop topics. The top five were:

- 1- Climate change
- 2- Invasive species
- 3- Fish statistics and genetic tools (tied for 3rd)
- 4- Fish identification
- 5- Human dimensions

At the 2018 annual meeting Dr. Ryan Boyles, Acting Director, DOI/USGS Southeast Climate Science Center, conducted a wonderful workshop on climate change issues. In 2019, Chapter members Chris Goudreau, Bryn Tracy, TR Russ, Luke Etchison, Dylan Owensby, Erika Haug, and Jessica Baumann participated in a wide-ranging discussion about aquatic nuisance species. The NCAFS Education and Outreach Committee will continue to work with researchers and Chapter members to identify and conduct high quality workshops. If anyone has an idea not identified in the list above, feel free to contact Chris Wood (Chris.Wood@ncwildlife.org). We are always open to suggestions.

The NCAFS Education and Outreach Committee also recorded the 2018 and 2019 presentations with Camstasia software provided by SDAFS. The 2018 podcasts are posted on the NCAFS website and the 2019 files should be uploaded within the next few months.

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2019 Secretary/Treasurer Report
Submitted by Kelsey Lincoln**

2018 was a very active and successful year for NCAFS! Included below is an itemized list of all expenses and income for NCAFS and RRCC in 2018 (Table 1). Also included, is the performance reports for the two investment accounts at Edward Jones, the Ichthus or Student Fund and the General Fund (Table 2).

As of March 2019, the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has a total of 73 NC AFS only members and 61 NC AFS and AFS members for a total of 134 active members (subject to change). Of our total membership, 21 are students, 97 are professional members, and 16 are retirees or lifetime members. The chapter brought in an estimated \$1,973 (after PayPal fees, does not include rebate from AFS) from annual dues. Income received from membership dues will be held in the NCAFS checking account until the AFS rebate/reimbursement money has been received. Once NCAFS has received this money, a portion of the membership dues will remain in the checking account and the remaining portion will be allocated to the General and Ichthus Funds. Thank you to everyone who paid their dues!

Our annual meeting was held February 19-21 in Winston-Salem at the Historic Brookstown Inn. There was a total of 88 meeting attendees (14 students, 6 retirees, 68 professionals) and 55 workshop attendees (2 students, 2 retirees, 47 professionals, and 4 non-members). The total cost for the meeting was \$6,192.91 and the total revenue (including meeting registration and workshop fees and donations) was estimated to be \$10,675. Thus, the chapter gained approximately \$4,266.77 in revenue from the meeting! Thank you, again, to all our sponsors. Thank you to all the members for making this another successful and fun meeting!

The Executive Committee has been working hard to update the Procedures Manual. At the business meeting the Chapter voted to update our bylaws, however, upon further inspection, it was determined that only the Procedures Manual needed to be updated. This can be accomplished by the Executive Committee and does not require a vote to accept the changes. Some of the changes we are working on include updating the responsibilities for EXOM and committees, adding information about the undergraduate award, and updating our donation request procedures. I anticipate these changes will be done by the next newsletter and we look forward to sharing the updates with the membership then.

Table 1: Income and expenses for NCAFS and RRCC in 2018.

NCAFS Checking Account		RRCC Saving Account:	
Expenses:		Expenses:	
Donations Given		2018 Meeting	\$3,738
Family Fishing Fiesta 2018	\$1,000		\$3,738
Foothills Conservancy of NC	\$700		
Ashe county Friends of the Library	\$500		
	\$2,200	Income (donations received):	
		Georgia Power Company	\$3,000
		Duke energy	\$1,000
		SCANA	\$1,000
			\$5,000
Other Expenses			
2018 Meeting	\$4,940		
AFS Plaques for 2018 Meeting	\$135		
AFS General Liability Insurance	\$150		
Free AFS membership award	\$95		
	\$5,320		
Income:			
2018 Meeting	\$9,104		
Including donations from:			
Duke (\$1,000),			
RK&K (\$1,000),			
Three Oaks Engineering (\$250)			
2018 NCAFS Only Membership	~\$1,169		
2018 NCAFS & AFS Membership	\$1,153		
	\$11,426		

Table 2: Performance reports for the two investment accounts at Edward Jones, the Ichthus or Student Fund and the General Fund.

Ichthus Fund (as of 2/13/2019)				
	2016	2017	2018	Overall
Beginning Balance	\$30,310	\$30,794	\$31,683	-----
Assets Withdrawn	\$1,800	\$1,400	\$3,000	-----
Return (\$)	\$2,284	\$2,288	-\$1,184	\$10,173
Rate of Return (%)	7.80%	7.65%	-3.94%	4.49%
Ending Balance	\$30,794	\$31,682	\$27,499	\$28,858

General Fund as of 2/13/2019				
	2016	2017	2018	Overall
Beginning Balance	\$40,933	\$41,465	\$49,016	-----
Assets Withdrawn	\$3,218	\$0	\$0	-----
Return (\$)	\$3,749	\$7,549	-\$2,113	\$26,971
Rate of Return (%)	9.70%	18.21%	-4.31%	9.74%
Ending Balance	\$41,465	\$49,015	\$46,903	\$50,929

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2019 Communications Committee Report
Submitted by Brena Jones and Kevin Hining**

The Chapter website (<https://nc.fisheries.org>) saw 7,503 page views in the past year, from 1,975 users. This included 100 views of the page linking podcasts from the 2018 annual meeting. This does not include views of individual podcasts, so thanks to our podcast coordinators Chris Wood and Jessica Baumann, for making these available, because they are being used. The dynamic [calendar of fisheries and ecology conferences](#) across the US remains another popular resource.

We again successfully hosted both annual meeting registration and officer voting online, as well as having membership registration continually available. The listserv distributed newsletters, job announcements, news items, and calls for information to 305 participants. Many thanks to the Parent Society of AFS, who hosts our website and content at no charge to NCAFS. Your Chapter webmaster, Brena Jones, is continually working to improve utility and efficiency on the website; if you have events, news, or resources/suggestions to share, you may email brena.jones@ncwildlife.org. Thanks to all our members who have provided material to post!

As an annual reminder, anyone with a Facebook account can post photos or news directly to the [Chapter Facebook page](#). For newer members, if you are not a Facebook user, you can view a live feed of our Facebook page embedded directly [on our website here](#). We have 310 Facebook page followers and our material has reached approximately 1700 people on that platform in the past year.

Finally, a special thanks goes out to all that submitted articles for our quarterly newsletter, and to our 2018 newsletter review team - comprised of Brena Jones, Bryn Tracy, Dave Coughlan, and Ben Ricks. For 2019, Ben Ricks will be leaving the review team so he can concentrate on his newly appointed position as NCAFS President Elect. Luckily, Morgan Raley has agreed to join the review team.

The newsletter staff put out 4 quarterly newsletters during 2018, containing 62 pages and over 45 articles. Current and archived newsletters can be found within the [Publications section of the NCAFS website](#). Please consider submitting information to your Chapter's newsletter, whether it be a summary of a recent fisheries related field excursion or outreach event (a photo and as little as a few sentences is fine), spotlighting a NCAFS member (student, professional, or "oldtimer"), or letting others know about recent publications you have been involved with ("Good work" section). Collectively, we all see some pretty cool stuff, so if something sticks out to you as a unique fisheries experience or finding, please consider sharing it with your fellow Chapter members!

If you would like to be involved with any of the NCAFS communication channels, any Chapter member may contact Communications Committee Team Leaders:

Facebook Page - Jennifer Archambault jennifer.m.archambault@gmail.com

Website - Brena Jones brena.jones@ncwildlife.org

Newsletter - Kevin Hining kevin.hining@ncwildlife.org

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2019 Environmental Concerns Committee Update
Submitted by Jennifer Archambault, Chair**

Mission

To promote the conservation and responsible management of aquatic species and their habitat, to identify actions that may harm or benefit an aquatic resource, to consider a position when deemed necessary, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and concerns through committee meetings, the NCAFS newsletter, and other correspondence.

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The current members of the Environmental Concerns Committee are: Marla Chambers, Reid Garrett, Kyle Rachels, and Ben Ricks. In the year since our last business meeting, we have considered issues brought to our attention by Chapter members or the EXCOM, including NC Wildlife Resources Commission's draft species conservation plans the proposed 2019-2020 fishing regulations. We encouraged members to participate in public comment process for both of these issues. For the regulations, we asked for input from the membership to help us in drafting a letter from the Chapter. I heard from a few members, primarily on proposed rules that related to fisheries management in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin. Thanks to the members that reached out. We are planning for ECC to review and comment on the proposed regulations annually from this point forward as one way to ensure we are providing professional support for managing North Carolina's fisheries, and we would be grateful to hear the professional opinion of more members next year, either in support or concern of proposed rules (e.g., this year, input or comments about several proposed trout rules would have been helpful in forming a position).

I also want to share some updates on national policy issues that would affect fisheries management in North Carolina. I spoke with the AFS policy director, Drue Winters, last week in preparation for this update. The 'big three' policy issues AFS is working on for 2019 remain the same as last year: Waters of the US (WOTUS), reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA).

[RAWA](#) (115<sup>th</sup> Congress H.R. 4647) is a bill would provide an additional \$1.3 billion to funding efforts to support the goals of State Wildlife Action Plans. This bill did not pass in the last congressional session and will need to be reintroduced. In the last session, it ended with 116 co-sponsors, including 3 representatives from NC: David Rouzer (US House District 7), Richard Hudson (District 8) and Ted Budd (District 13), and a companion Senate bill (S.3223) was introduced 7/17/18, having 6 cosponsors by the end of the legislative session; none were NC Senators Richard Burr or Thom Tillis). Drue said a new bill may be introduced in the House by the end of February, so stay tuned. AFS will again encourage engaging our legislators to support the bill. Watch for an AFS webinar announcement on March 13 for strategies in fostering support of the bill.

[Magnuson-Stevens Act](#): For some of our new/younger members or those that have been landlocked for sometime, this is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in US federal waters. Of course, diadromous species managed under the MSA should be of concern for inland fisheries managers as well. Congress did not reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act. They instead passed a bill called the Modern Fish Act; however, this act is not comprehensive and largely addresses interests from recreational fisheries. AFS plans to move forward by building on last year's work and continuing the message of support for a broader reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that

would also allow flexibility to deal with rapidly changing ocean conditions – particularly on climate-related factors.

Finally, [Waters of the US](#): a new proposed WOTUS rule was released last week (February 14, 2019). The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are proposing to significantly narrow the scope of protections for our nation’s waters. The proposal would replace the science-based 2015 rule that includes protections for headwaters, intermittent and ephemeral streams, and wetlands. The new proposal (Replacement Rule) would *substantially weaken the Clean Water Act*. *The current deadline to submit public comments is April 15. The first recommendation from AFS is to submit comments right away to request a longer comment period of at least 200 days instead of 60.* This issue will consume much of AFS policy efforts over the next 2 months, including a congressional briefing in March, and potentially an oversight hearing later on with a congressional committee. AFS is asking chapters to look at impacts of the proposed rule on their state & provide state-specific comments as to how the new rule would affect fisheries and aquatic ecosystem services. As you all know, we have a wealth of headwater streams in North Carolina that would probably be left without federal protection under the new WOTUS rule. Another point mentioned was that EPA is suggesting that states will take over what EPA doesn’t regulate – often states will not convey greater protections than those required at the federal level, and we can presume this would be the case in North Carolina. We can submit a letter to the federal government as a chapter just as we have to state agencies, and I encourage all of you to contact me with your professional expertise and concerns, even if it’s a sentence or two. I also strongly encourage you to submit your own comments. First, ask for a longer comment period; then follow up by addressing the rule.

Mark your calendar for an informative [AFS webinar](#) coming up on February 27: “ Waters of the US (WOTUS): what you need to know about the rule and how to take action.” You can register on the AFS website and plan to tune in on Feb 27 at 1 PM. I encourage you to join in, and I will be certain to join in on behalf of our Chapter’s ECC. For more information, including a fact sheet and new paper out on WOTUS about loss of protection for headwater streams and wetlands, visit the [AFS Policy webpage](#). A couple of smaller, but important, endeavors AFS is working on this year include support for the USGS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units and the introduced legislation for the National Fish Habitat Partnership. This legislation will codify the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, a national program to protect, restore and enhance fish habitat across the country for the benefit of recreational fishing. For both, AFS wants to hear about success stories and how they work well in NC. These stories will help AFS in creating a convincing argument for their funding. Drue Winters’ email address is [dwinters@afs.org](mailto:dwinters@afs.org), and you can find all her contact information on the AFS website, or contact me.

I hope to help our Chapter continue striving to follow our Parent Society’s leadership example in actively advocating for Policy decisions that address fisheries issues in North Carolina. I encourage Chapter members to continue contacting me or the EXCOM with environmental issues they feel NCAFS should address. In doing so, consider whether the voice of NCAFS would be effective in addressing the issue. Please send me your thoughts on the WOTUS rule, and tune in to the RAWA and WOTUS webinars if you can. In closing, please let me know if you’re interested in joining the committee. Contact: [jennifer.m.archambault@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.m.archambault@gmail.com); (919) 306-5107.

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2019 Awards Committee Report  
Submitted by Dr. Greg Cope**

The NCAFS Chapter established the Student Travel Award Program in 2005 for the specific purpose of encouraging professional growth of students and maximal participation of undergraduate and graduate students at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Monetary support is provided to qualifying students via a travel award of \$200 to \$400 to help defer the cost of meeting travel, registration, and accommodations. The 2018 awards were presented to six students for the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society held August 19-23 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The 2018 award recipients were Emilee Briggs, Bobby Cope, and April Lamb from N.C. State University (Emilee Briggs and April Lamb are advised by Dr. Jesse Fischer and Bobby Cope is advised by Dr. Tom Kwak), Chantelle Rondel and Vincent Santini from Appalachian State University (both advised by Dr. Mike Gangloff), and Chris Thaxton from East Carolina University (advised by Dr. Rebecca Asch). They each received a cash award of \$400 from the Chapter's Ichthus Fund account, which was established specifically to foster student involvement. Interested individuals should see the Awards Committee web site at <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/Awards.htm> for more details.

In 2018, the NCAFS Chapter established an Undergraduate Student Travel Award Program for the specific purpose of encouraging maximal participation of undergraduate students in the annual meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Support is provided via an award of \$300 to help defer the cost of travel, registration, and accommodations. A maximum of 3 awards will be given each year. Awards will be made directly to the students prior to the annual meeting. Any undergraduate student enrolled as a full-time student at any college or university within the State of North Carolina is eligible. Specifically, each applicant must (1) be a registered full-time student at an in-state institution; (2) Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of the application; and (3) obtain a written endorsement from a faculty adviser. Despite solicitations in the December 2018 Chapter newsletter and multiple listserv announcements, no applications were received from undergraduates to participate in the 2019 NCAFS Chapter meeting. Perhaps greater awareness among academic institutions is warranted.

The Committee recruited judges and conducted the judging for the Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award and the W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award at the 2019 meeting. There were 4 presentations by students and 11 presentations by professionals. Student presentations were judged by Kevin Dockendorf, Lawrence Dorsey, Tom Kwak, and Ryan Heise. The professional presentations were judged by Greg Cope, Clint Morgeson, Sarah McRae, and Jennifer Archambault.

The Award Committee solicited nominations for the Chapter's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award and Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award in the December 2018 Chapter newsletter and listserv announcements. One nomination was received for the Fisheries Conservation Award, and one individual was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award. These nominations were reviewed and endorsed by the Awards Committee and forwarded to the EXCOM for approval. Both nominees received the awards. These awards were presented to these well-deserving nominees at the Chapter annual business meeting held in Winston-Salem, NC, on February 21, 2019.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. In 2015, a recommendation was made to the Awards Committee and unanimously passed by Chapter EXCOM and Membership to rename the Award to the Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award. Jerry, who passed away due to cancer during 2013, epitomized selfless dedicated service to the NC AFS Chapter and the Southern Division of AFS. The Chapter will remain forever indebted for his volunteer service.

The 2019 Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Wilson Laney for his dedicated service to the Chapter (as President in 1994), and has also been a strong contributor to the AFS at the division, and society level and to the field of fisheries science and conservation for nearly 50 years, since his tenure as a graduate student in 1970 at NC State University. He has been a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee since 1981, but his service and accomplishments are unique and diverse, spanning multiple areas of fisheries science, marine and freshwater taxa, and conservation and education organizations. His long experience, deep expertise, and vast knowledge are not limited by traditional boundaries in our field, and as such, he is among the most effective professionals to bridge contemporary science and historical knowledge with critical and timely conservation issues. Inarguably, Wilson's service to conserving our fishery resources is among the highest volume, outstanding quality, and extremely effective in supporting positive outcomes for our public resources.

The Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or to the fisheries resources of North Carolina. The 2019 award was presented to the Mr. William (Bill) Frazier. Bill has worked with water quality and reservoir management for most of his career. He is the laboratory manager at the City of High Point's Water Filtration Plant. As a water quality specialist, he was one of the first to successfully treat Lyngbya, a cyanobacteria, in the state. As the NC B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation Director, Bill is dedication to the preservation of the sport's natural resources and mentoring young anglers to become skilled fisherman. Bill doesn't shy away from potentially controversial projects and encourages anglers not to stock or plant aquatic nuisance species like spotted bass and Hydrilla in North Carolina reservoirs. He participated in the Lake Gaston stakeholder process to develop and implement the vegetation management plan. The plan's goal was to control Hydrilla while maintaining enough native vegetation for sport fish habitat. Through projects like this, Bill tries bridge the relationship gap between the angler community and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission). More recently, Bill was instrumental in developing and implementing the Commission's Educational Fishing Trails in North Carolina. There are currently four Fishing Trails in the state. The Fishing Trail's goal is to develop unique fishing opportunities in small reservoirs that teaches anglers about the seasonal patterns of Largemouth bass and other sport fish by enhancing existing features used seasonally in the reservoir with fish attractors. The basic principles learned by anglers can be used on other reservoirs and provides the necessary skills to enjoy fishing for a lifetime. There are currently four Fishing Trails in the state with the plan to build another in 2019. Each fishing trail was built in partnership with a youth leadership group, like Boy Scouts. Bill took the kids on his boat to help map each reservoir's habitat features, guided them in selecting areas to enhance habitat, helped them raise funds for artificial structure materials and ultimately helped build and install all the habitat structures. Angler feedback from the existing Fishing Trails has been very positive and there are plans to build another one in 2019.

Bill was instrumental in getting NC B.A.S.S. Nation to partner with the Commission to improve habitat on Harris Lake. Triploid grass carp are being stocked to control Hydrilla and the Commission is trying to mitigate any loss of habitat by installing 30 acres of fish attractors and establishing 1 acre for

native vegetation. This partnership includes assisting with grant writing, helping develop a habitat enhancement plan, and most importantly rounding up anglers and other volunteers to help plant native vegetation and install artificial structures. Bill works tirelessly to promote conservation and fishing in North Carolina. His expertise as a scientist and avid angler offers him a unique perspective in resource management. His dedication to educating the public and specifically youth will help ensure future generation of anglers.

The 2019 Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award was awarded to Cara K. Kowalchuk of North Carolina State University for her presentation entitled “Variability of Striped Bass Egg Characteristics in North Carolina Coastal Rivers”. Her co-authors on the presentation were Jesse R. Fischer and Benjamin J. Reading of North Carolina State University. Cara will receive a monetary award of \$600 from the Chapter’s Ichthus fund for travel to present the paper at a future scientific conference.

The 2019 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award was awarded to Heather K. Evans of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences for her presentation entitled “The Effect of Long-term Stocking Programs on Genetic Diversity”. Her co-authors on the presentation were Kara B. Carlson of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and Kathryn M. Potoka and Jeremy W. McCargo of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Cope and Corey Oakley  
Awards Committee Co-Chairs  
February 21, 2019