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President's Message

It absolutely seems like yesterday that we were busy planning our 2019 Annual Meeting, and here we are, the fourth President's Message and our 2020 Annual Meeting ([link](#)) in sight. As hard as it is for me to believe, those two items signal that my time as Chapter President is winding down. Now, many of you might be thrilled as that means you will no longer have to skip over this portion of the newsletter, but for me, it is bittersweet to approach the end of my term. I'm excited about the years ahead for the Chapter, but I'll miss this view from behind the curtain.

There is no doubt that we have one of the most talented, committed, and vibrant AFS chapters, which is a reflection upon our membership. Our members work tirelessly for aquatic conservation, conduct cutting-edge research, provide meaningful angling opportunities, improve quality of life, and numerous additional efforts associated with the aquatic resources of the State. All of those amazing things are happening concurrently, but the Chapter provides a means for them to coalesce. I had always sensed that notion, but it was really during my time as President, where that concept was confirmed. I won't go into detail here, but in short, this position facilitates more direct interaction with individuals and efforts that you may not get otherwise through your daily routine.

I feel fortunate for having this opportunity and would like to leave you with a final question. Is there a way for you to get more out of the Chapter?

Continued on page 2...

In the end, the Chapter will continue to be a reflection of its members, so we'll get out of it what we put in (individually and collectively). Please think about this as we move into a new year full of opportunities.

Take care, everybody.

Jake

Submitted by Jake Rash, NCAFS President

2020 President-Elect Ballot

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present the 2019 NCAFS ballot for President-Elect. Chapter members running for President-Elect are Ryan Heise and Anne Burroughs. Please take a moment to evaluate the candidate sketches and cast your vote on the [electronic ballot here](#). Remember, you must be an NCAFS member in good standing in order for your vote to count. In addition, all valid voters will be entered in a drawing to win a year of AFS membership (\$95 value)!

Poll closes at midnight, February 1st, 2020 and results will be announced at the 2020 NCAFS Business Meeting in New Bern, NC on February 6th.

Good luck to each candidate!



Ryan Heise
Senior Environmental Scientist
Duke Energy

Ryan Heise is a Senior Environmental Scientist with Duke Energy in Huntersville, NC where he has worked since August 2016. Previously, he worked for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for 13 years as a Research Coordinator in the Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Program. He is also an adjunct assistant professor at North Carolina State University in the Department of Applied Ecology and serves on student committees. Ryan received his B.S. in marine biology from Texas A & M University, M.S. in biology from the University of West Florida, and Ph.D. in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has focused much of

his work in North Carolina on the inventory, life history, and population status of freshwater mussels and non-game fish, especially rare and endangered species, so that informed management actions can be made.

Ryan has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1999, has participated in several Southern Division committees, and has served as a presentation judge and moderator at multiple chapter meetings. He spends his free time with his family, enjoying the outdoors, and working on home improvement projects.



Anne Burroughs
Senior Environmental Scientist
Dewberry Engineers

Anne Burroughs has been a Senior Environmental Scientist at Dewberry Engineers Inc. since 2014. She grew up hiking ravines and paddling creeks in western New York State. She obtained a B.S. in biological sciences from North Carolina State University and fell in love with this great state. A member of the Leopold Wildlife Club, she loved the Wood Duck box checks and weekly retreats to the pond. Later, she helped form the Student Environmental Action Coalition to celebrate Earth Day 1990. She worked for the Biological Control Laboratory for the NC Department of Agriculture before joining NC Department of Transportation's

(NCDOT) Biological Survey Group. There she began to learn the importance of our imperiled freshwater mussels and our beautiful freshwater fish. She became concerned with vanishing habitat connectivity and its implications. After her third son's birth she joined a private engineering firm. Currently, she is embedded with the Biological Survey Group and helps NCDOT manage and track all freshwater aquatic surveys. Anne is an avid Ultimate Frisbee player and enjoys horseback riding for fun.

Submitted by Tyler Black, NCAFS Nominations Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Funds

NCAFS checking – \$20,461.09

NCAFS Edward Jones General Fund – \$48,876.94
NCAFS Edward Jones Ichthus Fund (Student Fund) – \$27,504.87
Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee – \$4,421.06

In November 2019, the Executive Committee voted to donate \$750 to the Catfish 2020 Meeting, \$750 to the 2020 Family Fishing Fiesta, and \$600 to Bryn Tracy and Fred Rohde for the publication costs for their manuscript ("Ghost Sightings" made by Ichthyologists Past: Longear Sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis*, in North Carolina) submitted to Southeastern Naturalist. These donations are funded from meeting revenue and revenue from annual dues. We look forward to reviewing more applications for donations during the next deadline of April 1, 2020.

Chapter members have the opportunity to review a proposal submitted by Kelsey Roberts on the NCAFS website ([view proposal](#)). This proposal will allow the Treasurer and Executive Committee greater flexibility when making financial decisions and will be discussed prior to a vote at the 2020 NCAFS Business Meeting on Feb 6th in New Bern, NC.

Just a reminder, if you have not already paid your membership fee of \$15, you can do so in the following ways:

1. Online with your registration for the meeting,
2. Online through our website anytime ([online membership form here](#)),
3. Through AFS when you renew your AFS membership,
4. Via mail by sending the membership form and a check or cash (preferably check) – mailing information provided on the [membership form, or](#)
5. In person at the meeting via cash or check

Please be sure to make any checks payable to the American Fisheries Society North Carolina Chapter. If you renewed your membership before September 1, 2019, those dues were counted for the 2019 calendar year and you will still owe dues for 2020. If you have any questions about the renewal process or whether you have already renewed for the 2020 membership year, please don't hesitate to contact me (kelsey.roberts@ncwildlife.org or 336-290-0052). Hope to see you all at the meeting!

Submitted by Kelsey Roberts, NCAFS Secretary/Treasurer

2020 NCAFS Annual Meeting



New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
February 4–6, 2020

Join us at the [2020 Meeting of the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society](#) in February. Our host will be the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, located at 203 S Front St., New Bern, NC, 28560. Email NCAFS President-Elect Ben Ricks (ben.ricks@ncwildlife.org) if you have questions or if you are interested in assisting with meeting execution. The deadline for submitting an [abstract](#) for an oral, lightning, or poster presentation is **Friday, January 10, 2020**.

Submitted by Ben Ricks, NCAFS President-Elect

2020 Professional Award Nominations

The Chapter presents two awards on an as-warranted basis to recognize outstanding contributions by both Chapter members and others. The Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the AFS, or the fisheries profession. The Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or the fisheries and aquatic resources of North Carolina. Please refer to <https://nc.fisheries.org/awards/> for further descriptions and details of past winners.

The awards committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for both of these awards for 2020. If you are aware of a deserving individual or organization, please

nominate them! Nomination letters should be no more than two pages long and provide specific information on the accomplishments of the candidates and why they qualify the candidate for the award. Qualifications for the Distinguished Service Award should extend beyond simply doing an outstanding job on regular chapter duties (e.g., officer or committee member responsibilities) and be based primarily on extraordinary efforts or new initiatives.

Please submit nominations to Greg Cope at gcope@ncsu.edu. Nominations will be accepted until **Friday, January 17, 2020**. If you have any questions, please call Greg at 919-515-5296.

The chosen recipients will receive the awards at the annual meeting to be held in New Bern, NC on February 4–6, 2020.

Submitted by Greg Cope and Corey Oakley, NCAFS Awards Committee

2020 Student Travel Awards

CALLING ALL FISHERY AND AQUATIC SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

To facilitate your participation in the Annual Meeting of the NC Chapter American Fisheries Society to be held February 4–6, 2020 in New Bern, NC, travel awards are being offered by the NC Chapter.

Support is provided via an award of \$300 to help defer the costs of travel, registration, dues, and accommodations. A maximum of three travel awards will be made for the 2020 Annual Meeting. A complete application package must be submitted to Dr. W. Gregory Cope, NCAFS Awards Committee, Department of Applied Ecology, NC State University, Box 7617, Raleigh, NC 27695 on or before **Friday, January 17, 2020**.

See the Awards Committee web site at <http://nc.fisheries.org/awards/forms-applications/> for more details. Contact Dr. Greg Cope at greg_cope@ncsu.edu or at 919-515-5296, for additional information.

Submitted by Greg Cope, NCAFS Awards Committee Chair

North Carolina State University Center for Marine Sciences and Technology (CMAST) Paid Undergraduate Internship

Please see the link below for the 2020 application to CMAST's Summer Fellows Program. This is a paid internship program with quite a bit of hands-on marine sciences research. The internship takes place at [CMAST](#), NC State's marine lab in Morehead City, NC. Application deadline is **January 31, 2020**. For additional information, contact Jeff Buckel (jabuckel@ncsu.edu) or David Eggleston (eggleston@ncsu.edu).

<https://cmast.ncsu.edu/programs-cmast/summer-fellows-program/>

Submitted by Kevin Dockendorf

News from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Public Comment on Proposed Rule Changes

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has opened the public comment period for proposed changes to agency regulations related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2020–2021 seasons. The comment period will be open until Friday, January 31, 2020.

Comments may be submitted [online](#), emailed to regulations@ncwildlife.org (must include name, phone number and mailing address in e-mail) or mailed to: Rule-Making Coordinator, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1700. The public can also provide comments at 1 of 9 public hearings the Commission will conduct across the state in January. For more information, including the [schedule for the upcoming public hearings](#), visit ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations.

Nominations for Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking nominations for the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to, and leadership in, promoting the conservation of nongame species and sustaining nongame diversity in North Carolina. Nongame species are animals that have no open hunting, fishing or trapping season.

The Commission will accept nominations through January 31, 2020. Nominators must [submit a completed nomination form](#) and a detailed essay describing the nominee's contributions to nongame wildlife conservation in North Carolina. Submissions that fail to follow length guidelines will be disqualified and returned to the nominator. In addition to this year's nominations, nominations submitted in 2019 and 2018 will be considered. Nominations submitted before 2018 will be considered upon request.

The Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee will recommend nominees for consideration by the Commissioners at their April 2020 meeting. The winner will be announced at the Commissioners' meeting in summer 2020.

The award is named for the late Thomas Quay, who was a retired Professor of Zoology at NC State University and self-described "full-time volunteer and unpaid environmental activist." The 2020 Quay Award will mark the 15th time the Wildlife Commission has recognized a leader in conservation of nongame wildlife with this award. For more information on the nomination process, contact Melinda Huebner at 919-707-0224.

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Biologist of the Year

Todd Ewing was awarded [Fisheries Biologist of the Year](#) by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) at its 2019 annual meeting in Hilton Head, SC. The award is presented each year to a biologist in one of the 15 member states who has made an outstanding contribution to fisheries conservation. Todd began his career with the Commission in 1996 and has supervised the Commission's Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Program since 2008.



Todd Ewing (left)

Congratulations Todd!

Submitted by the NCAFS Newsletter Review Team

North Carolina State University Student Fisheries Society

Executive Committee

The Student Fisheries Society recently installed the 2020 NCSU SFS Executive Committee. Taking over for Jennifer Archambault and April Lamb as President will be Ph.D. student, Linnea Andersen. Linnea served as Treasurer in 2019 and has repeatedly demonstrated both her leadership ability and dedication to SFS. Succeeding Connor Neagle as undergraduate Vice President will be Sasha Pereira, a rising Senior in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Finally, Ph.D. student Brendan Runde will be stepping in for Mike Walter to fulfill both the Treasurer and Secretary roles.

Fall Meetings

Monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of every month from September through December. As usual, meetings were held on NC State's campus and featured free food and drinks for members, a club update from one of the presidents, and a featured presentation from an invited speaker. As initiated earlier this year, we also made each meeting available remotely via video conference for those who wished to join us from afar. We kicked off September with a hands-on demonstration led by Melissa Dowland from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences titled "Exploring Your Backyard: Becoming a North Carolina Naturalist". In October, we were joined by Dr. Lynn Wike, formally a principle scientist at the Savannah River National Laboratory, who shared his journey through science titled "A Long Strange Trip: Making of a Mad Scientist". Finally, Dr. Charles Bangley from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center joined us in November to shed light on some of North Carolina's marine migratory species in his presentation "Heading Home to Carolina: Connections to the North Carolina Coast in shark and ray migrations". The end-of-year celebration was held in the lobby of David Clark Labs and included a potluck, the installment of the 2020 executive committee, and a presentation of club service and professional development awards. The event was well attended and featured many tasty homemade dishes. Truly a great way to end the year!

Outreach Events

This year we hosted a booth at Packapalooza for the first time ever, which turned out to be a huge success and generated significant undergraduate interest! For those who don't know, Packapalooza is NC State's largest annual event, a block party of 70,000+ attendees and kicks off the start of the academic year. Our booth was manned by treasurer Linnea Andersen, former president Riley Gallagher, and Sasha Pereira, who hosted games and handed out over 150 pamphlets of club information, meeting dates, etc. We also received a large variety of donated items from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the AFS parent society, and the NC State Center for Marine Sciences (CMAST), which were enjoyed by visitors and largely contributed to the booth's success! After such a well-received first year, we plan to continue hosting a booth at Packapalooza in years to come.



SFS members with the haul from the November 2019 stream cleanup.

The SFS conducts a stream cleanup event every semester at Rocky Branch Creek, which runs through the center of NC State's main campus. Unfortunately, poor weather and scheduling conflicts prevented us from holding a spring 2019 cleanup. Thankfully fall was more forgiving, and we were able to carry out the cleanup as intended in November. The subunit provided bagels and coffee for volunteers, in addition to cleanup materials.

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission installed a floating fish feeder on Lake Raleigh this year to increase catch rates

following suggestions made by the Small Impoundments class at NCSU. Several subunit members were in that class, and SFS has stepped up to take on the role of filling the fish feeder each month. The feeder was filled by Zach Clark and Gus Engman in September, by Tom Kwak and a guest in October, and by Annika Preheim and Sasha Pereira in November. The fish feeder has been very well received by visitors and anglers have reported increased catch rates around the feeder.

Conferences

Several SFS members attended the joint meeting of AFS and The Wildlife Society in Reno, Nevada. Among the attendees were Brendan Runde, Stephen Parker, Emilee Briggs, Cara Kowalchyk, Linnea Andersen, and Riley Gallagher, who presented their graduate research. In addition, SFS contributed to the sponsorship of a Friends of NCSU reception at the meeting. Over 120 people were in attendance and we plan on holding a similar event at future annual meetings.



Students, alumni, faculty, and friends of NCSU at the AFS-TWS Joint Meeting in Reno, NV.

Scholarships and Awards

Subunit fundraising efforts, such as the NCAFS raffle, support the annual distribution of three \$300 awards. Each award is given to deserving a club member who contributes significantly to SFS. Previously, these awards were collectively referred to as SFS



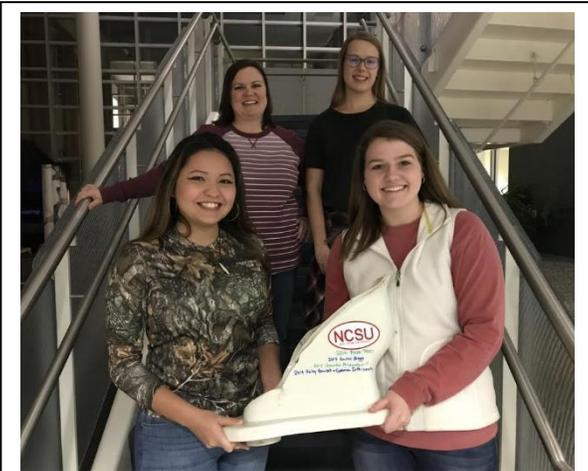
Back row - SFS Co-Presidents Jennifer Archambault (left) and April Lamb (right) with SFS Professional Development Award Winners Cara Kowalchyk (left) and Linnea Andersen (right).

Travel Awards. However, ambiguity in the award descriptions and application process led to the unanimous vote to rework and rename them. These awards are now the SFS Professional Development Awards and are established with the goal of providing financial support to active SFS members for a range of professional development activities, such as registration/travel to a professional meeting or workshop, materials/travel for outreach or research activities, or other use appropriate for furthering the professional development of members. The Professional Development Awards consist of an award for graduate students (the James A. Rice Award), an award for undergraduates, and the

Inclusive Diversity Award (formerly the Equal Opportunity Award), which is open to both graduate and undergraduate students who demonstrate how they contribute to the diversity and inclusiveness of SFS and the fisheries profession. This year, the James A. Rice Award was bestowed to Linnea Andersen, the Undergraduate Award was awarded to Sasha Pereira, and the Inclusive Diversity Award was awarded to Cara Kowalchyk.

In addition to the Professional Development Awards, we also presented our annual club Service Award at the December meeting. This year, the Service Award was awarded to undergraduate SFS members Haley Gambill and Sabrina Inthisarath. Collectively, Haley and Sabrina led Shad in the Classroom demonstrations at six schools across North Carolina and collectively instructed approximately 570 students!

Club members also won awards from other AFS units. Brendan Runde and Emilee Briggs won the Skinner Memorial Award, which assisted with travel to the AFS-TWS meeting in Reno, NV, and Stephen Parker was an Honorable Mention. Bonnie Myers, Riley Gallagher, and Brendan



Back row - SFS Co-Presidents Jennifer Archambault (left) and April Lamb (right) with Service Award winners Haley Gambill (right) and Sabrina Inthisarath (left).

Runde were awarded the NCAFS Travel Award and Dr. Gus Engman was awarded the Early Career Professional Travel Award to assist with travel to the same meeting. Finally, Dr. Derek Aday was named an AFS Fellow.

Congratulations to all well-deserved awardees!

Member Graduations

Several SFS members graduated this fall. In October, former president Emilee Briggs defended her master's thesis titled "The Impacts of Urbanization on Stream Fishes in the Southeastern United States". Also in October, fellow former president Stephen Parker defended his master's thesis titled "Linking Reservoir Characteristics to Striped Bass Population Dynamics". Both Stephen and Emilee were advised by Dr. Jesse Fischer.

Submitted by April Lamb, NC State SFS Past-President

Good Work! – Recent Publications by NCAFS Members

[Binion-Rock, S. M., J. A. Buckel, J. E. Rock, K. West, and L. M. Paramore. 2019.](#)

Importance of sample gear in the identification of trophic guilds and forage species in a large lagoonal estuary. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries: Dynamics, Management, and Ecosystem Science* 11:393-413.

Submitted by the NCAFS Newsletter Review Team

Stories of Interest

[Do you have 'right to float in any river' in NC? Muddy access rules lead to disputes](#)

NCAFS President Jake Rash is among those providing insight into public trust waters

[Wildlife Commission seeks angler input on fish attractor locations in Lake Norman](#)

NCAFS member Casey Grieshaber on a fish habitat program in the Catawba system

[Report sheds light on decade of budget cuts for NC environmental regulators](#)

WRAL reports on budget and staffing cuts at NCDEQ

[DMF hears from the public on Southern Flounder in heated scoping meeting](#)

Insight into marine fisheries manager-stakeholder dynamics at a recent public meeting

[Wilmington spill sends 2.4 million gallons of sewage into Smith Creek, second-largest in CFPWA history](#)

Aging infrastructure contributes to 40+ hour sewage spill in Wilmington

[Regulators take action to stem Striped Bass decline](#)

An outside-of-NC look at the recent decline of Atlantic Striped Bass

Call to Action!

If you want to contribute, have a story idea or would like us to include something in next quarter's newsletter, e-mail Kyle Rachels kyle.rachels@ncwildlife.org or give him a call at 252-548-4938. Also, if you want to become more involved with one of the many great NCAFS committees then please check the link below for information about each one, contacts, etc., <http://nc.fisheries.org/who-we-are/committees/>.

Valuable Links

The [American Fisheries Society Home Page](#) offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishy endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found there.

This and [archived NCAFS newsletters](#), along with links, [chapter information](#), and [upcoming meetings](#), can be found on the [NCAFS website](#).

[Click to view dates & deadlines](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS
In Fisheries & Ecology