



North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
Business Meeting  
February 22, 2023

1. Determination of Quorum, Casey Joubert, Secretary/Treasurer: 5:20 pm
2. Call to Order, Andrea Leslie, President: 5:20 pm
3. Welcome and Introductions, Andrea Leslie, President
  - a. AFS Parent Society EXCOM and representatives in attendance: 5:22 pm
    - No current excom in attendance
    - Jenna Hanks, Development Committee of the Parent Society, from Greensboro: Become a member! Overview of Events coming up- Cancun, Grand Rapids, Seattle. 533 Hutton applicants, 18 from NC; 1870 society, Sustainable Society Partnership, Grants, etc.
  - b. AFS Past President(s) in attendance: 5:26 pm
    - Fred Harris, Greg Cope
  - c. AFS Southern Division and Past-President(s) in attendance: 5:27pm
    - Jessica Baumann, Harris, others.
    - SDAFS- updates from VP Baumann, past president Olive: lots of chapter zoom meetings, new focus on student representation-lots of turnover, increase subunit involvement; \$500 open for AFS grants (no requests for the last 3 years so please apply!); committees with \$\$ as well to help students; Chattanooga TN 2024; NC hosts in 2025!; new Diversity, Equity, Inclusion committee working; state chapters also developing DEI committees so consider developing one in NC;
  - d. NC AFS Past-Presidents in attendance
    - Laney, Dockendorf, Rice, Cope, Wood, Laney, Jones, others
4. June 2022 Business Meeting Minutes: 5:32 pm
  - No comments, motion to approve: Jess Baumann, second: Greg Cope. Passed!
5. Student Subunits: 5:32 pm
  - Bethany Wager, NCSU SFS president- 1<sup>st</sup> in-person meeting recently; more undergrad participation; stream clean up; Shad in the Classroom; fish trivia night; raffle tonight; looking for speakers;
6. Committee Reports
  - a. Program and Arrangements – Kelsey Roberts: 5:35 pm

- i. 2023: 35 presentations; new “Bagels with Bryn” breakfast seminar; 18 attended workshop; 87 registered; 4 student posters;
- b. Awards Committee – Corey Oakley/Ryan Heise: 5:36 pm
  - i. Thomas J. Kwak Student Travel Award- looking forward to 2023 applicants, none in 2022; Judging papers during meeting: 14 professional papers; 7 student presentations;
- c. Communications Committee – Kyle Rachels/Brena Jones: 5:41 pm
  - i. 4 quarterly newsletters; 17 articles; Facebook- 591 followers; 47 posts since July 1, 2022; Sandhills Chub FB post by Phelps; excellent health FB page;
- d. Webmaster – Brena Jones: 5:45 pm
  - i. >10,000 views; 4,000 users; newsletters most viewed; voting and meeting registration online; new listserv program; 285 email addresses;
- e. Education and Outreach Committee – Seth Mycko: 5:47 pm
  - i. Workshop- Social Science 2022; Media Training 2023; looking for future instructors!; Meeting talks recorded and uploaded to YouTube channel; website cant handle talks; new committee members in 2023: Walters and Pope;
- f. Finance Committee – Casey Joubert: 5:50 pm
  - i. Market fluctuations but overall the chapter is doing well financially.
  - ii. AFS now able to direct deposit our account with membership reimbursements.
  - iii. Become a member if you aren’t already! Membership numbers are NOT increasing.
  - iv. See attached report for more details.
- g. Nominations Committee – Ryan Heise: 6:00 pm
  - i. Encourage leadership, volunteering to run; announce Seth Mycko and Luke Etchison as individuals running for President in 2023; Please Vote!
- h. Mentoring Committee – Kevin Dockendorf: 6:02 pm
  - i. Now a full committee; Hutton program; become a mentor!; AFS Hutton scholar Judge-Dockendorf; 35 college/universities with natural resources; 1,249 degrees in conservation and natural resources;
- 7. Awards Presentation, Corey Oakley/Ryan Heise, Awards Committee: 6:08 pm
  - a. Two Undergraduate Travel Award winners (Dunn, McCarson)
  - b. Other awards will be announced at conclusion of the meeting. See below report for full details of winners.
- 8. Winner of AFS membership (from voting members): 6:09 pm
  - a. Winner Keith Gibbs
- 9. Old business: 6:10 pm
  - a. 2025 SDAFS meeting
  - b. Hard time finding location. Renaissance Asheville likely location. Please volunteer for committees!

10. New Business: 6:15 pm

a. Funding proposals:

- i. Curation of Ichthyology Collection Internship – Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences; Gabriela Hogue- host an intern for Summer 2023- nature center collection (Menhinick) donated to NCMNS; bring in student; training; digitize data; caring for specimens; outreach opportunities; \$8,000; undergraduate- 10 weeks; Rice 1<sup>st</sup>; Laney 2<sup>nd</sup>; APPROVED!
- ii. Conservation and Preservation of the Magnificent Ramshorn Snail – Coastal Plain Conservation Group Greg Cope; \$4,000; Andy Wood; no wild since 2004; buy new tanks; 1<sup>st</sup> Baumann; 2<sup>nd</sup> Laney; APPROVED!

b. New NCAFS logo: 6:35 pm

11. Installation of Newly Elected Officers: 6:37 pm

- a. Luke Etchison announced as President-Elect
- b. Andrea Leslie, Past-President
- c. Kelsey Roberts- President
- d. Casey Joubert- Secretary/Treasurer

12. Remarks by Incoming President: 6:38 pm

- a. Kelsey Roberts- thanks for a great meeting so far, looking forward to the coming year!

13. Adjourn: 6:39 pm

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**2022 Awards Committee Report**  
**Submitted by Ryan Heise and Corey Oakley**

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. It was renamed the Thomas J. Kwak Student Travel Award in honor of Tom's selfless dedicated service to the NCAFS Chapter, the Southern Division of AFS, AFS, and to his students. 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. There were no applicants for the 2022 awards. We are looking forward to receiving applicants this year for 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society held August 20-24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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. This year the chapter awarded two \$300 travel awards to Jennifer Dunn and Garrett McCarson both from Western Carolina University to attend the 2023 NC Chapter of AFS meeting in Durham.

The Awards Committee recruited judges and conducted the judging for the W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Paper Award and the Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award at the 2023 meeting. There were 14 presentations by professionals. The professional papers were judged by April Boggs, Greg Cope, Vann Stancil, and Danci Johnston. There were 7 presentations by students. The student papers were judged by Ryan Heise, Jake Rash, Sierra Benfield, and Luke Etchison.

The Awards Committee solicited nominations for the Chapter's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award and Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award in the December 2021 Chapter newsletter. One nomination was received for the Fisheries Conservation Award, and no one was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award. The Fisheries Conservation Award nomination was reviewed by both the Awards Committee and EXCOM. The nomination was deemed insufficient to win the award at this time, but would be considered for future approval.

The 2023 Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award was awarded to Clayton Lynch. The title of his talk was "Assessing the Acute Toxicity of Manganese to Freshwater Mussels". Clayton will receive a monetary award of \$600 from the Chapter's Ichthus fund.

The 2023 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Award was awarded to Jacob Rash. The title of his talk was "An Overview of Selected Brook Trout Conservation Efforts in North Carolina".

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2023 Communications Committee Report  
Submitted by Brena Jones**

The Chapter website (<https://nc.fisheries.org>) saw increased traffic, with 10,182 page views in the past year, from 4,206 users. The most popular pages, after the Chapter meeting pages, were the summer and fall newsletters.

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 285 participants. This number is lower than the previous year because inactive/bounced email addresses were culled when we transitioned to the new listserv software. 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](mailto:brena.jones@ncwildlife.org). Thanks to all our members who have provided material to post!

Four quarterly newsletters were distributed to the Chapter in 2022. Those newsletters were comprised of 17 contributed articles (not including the President's message, good work, etc.). These newsletters would not have been possible without the contribution of the many chapter members who contributed material, as well as the newsletter committee (Brena Jones, Morgan Raley, and Bryn Tracy).

As an annual reminder, anyone with a Facebook account can post photos or news directly to the [Chapter Facebook page](#). We have 591 Facebook page followers, an increase of 35 from last report. There were 47 Facebook posts since July 1, 2022. Our collaborative post with NCWRC and Coastal Carolina University "The Brook Trout of the Sandhills" had the greatest "reach" and most likes (n = 94) of the reporting periods. Our "Page Health" is listed as Excellent compared to similar pages with high engagement.

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** – Kevin Dockendorf [kevin.dockendorf@ncwildlife.org](mailto:kevin.dockendorf@ncwildlife.org)

**Website** - Brena Jones [brena.jones@ncwildlife.org](mailto:brena.jones@ncwildlife.org)

**Newsletter** – Kyle Rachels [kyle.rachels@ncwildlife.org](mailto:kyle.rachels@ncwildlife.org)

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**2023 Education and Outreach Committee Report**  
**Submitted by Seth Mycko**

1. Initiation of new YouTube Channel for all 2021+ NCAFS Podcasts.

Server space limitation have led the committee to find a new way to store the recordings of professional and student presentations. Beginning in summer of 2023, the E&O Committee will start a YouTube channel as a place to store the presentation recordings of the annual meetings. For future meetings, we ask that anyone who does not desire to have their presentations placed on YouTube let us know at the time that they upload their presentation before the presentation session(s). Due to file size limitations, we will not be able to share video files via email so YouTube will be the committee's only outlet to share rendered recordings. 2021-2022 videos are available and past presenters will be contacted before those recordings are placed on the channel. All older podcast will remain on the NCAFS Website.

2. Workshops/Instructors

The 2023 workshop on Media Communication and Content Creation was a success. Currently, annual workshops are conducted in conjunction with each annual NCAFS meeting. However, the committee needs willing instructors to host future workshops. If you know a willing workshop leader with an applicable topic let us know so that we can coordinate with them to schedule future workshops.

3. Outreach Events

If you have a school class or other group who would be like fisheries professionals to speak with them let the committee know and we will coordinate volunteers from NCAFS membership.

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**2023 Mentoring Committee Report**  
**Submitted by Kevin Dockendorf, Chair**  
**Members: Jessica Baumann, Casey Joubert, Kelsey Roberts,**  
**Neil Medlin, TD VanMiddlesworth, and Ben Ricks**

- **Goals for 2022**
  - Continue listserv with vacancy announcements and career advice
  - Inquire with participants on focus of the listserv topics after every 25 emails.
  - Establish list of participants and conservation career goals.
  - Coordinate with Hutton Scholar program to support applicants from NC as a cornerstone of our committee.
- **Progress meeting goals**
  - Sent 72 conservation career e-mails to 80 conservation career-minded students and individuals. An additional 44 fisheries students after SDAFS Getting Hired workshop.
    - Total e-mails sent since 2021 is 149.
  - Completed two Google surveys to listserv participants, low response rates (<20%), yet cater to the requests of those survey respondents.
    - Total of 5 surveys since 2021, response rate similar (<20%) on each survey
  - Established a 5-year funding plan to Hutton program from NCAFS voting membership
- **What goals were you unable to meet? Will they be carried over into 2023?**
  - We met majority of our goals for 2022. We'll continue to build committee goals in 2023 with a mix of old and new goals.
  - We are working with Hutton Scholar chair to be looped into any NC applicants prior to selection so that NC fisheries professionals can be aware ahead of time.
- **What's new?**
  - 2023 NCAFS meeting – provided a single day registration for students, build on for 2024.
  - Co-led Getting Hired workshop at SDAFS – insights for future work with students
  - Meeting with ECU, NCSU, UNC-W students to share perspectives.
  - AFS Hutton Scholar selection team in 2023
  - Everyone can be, and is likely, a mentor! Thank you for sharing your perspectives!
- **Are there any developing concerns or issues your committee would like to bring attention to?**
  - Review Jensen et al. (2021, attached) “Attracting Diverse Students to Field Experiences Requires Adequate Pay, Flexibility, and Inclusion” in BioScience. Note that the study population is based on “Where to Get Your Degree” schools compiled by The Wildlife Society [The Wildlife Society - Where to get your degree?](#)
  - Rate of increase in conservation degrees may not be reflective in available positions – competitive is an understatement
    - Academia, Profession, Organizations need to communicate on this situation
    - [National Center for Education Statistics - CIP = 03 in North Carolina](#) –
    - 1,249 degrees (658 females, 591 males) in Conservation and Natural Resources from 35 North Carolina institutions in 2020-21.
    - Based on Jensen et al. 2021, about 6% in the study were fisheries related undergraduate degrees – 75 jobs available in NC fisheries to place these students?

2022 Treasurer Report  
Submitted by Casey Joubert  
February 22, 2023

**Balances Prior to Meeting:**

NCAFS Checking	=	\$ 10,773.33
NCAFS PayPal	=	\$ 1,225.75
RRCC Savings	=	\$ 7,127.07
General Fund	=	\$ 73,433.49
Ichthus Fund	=	\$ 29,788.17

**NCAFS Checking Account:**

**Income:**

2022 Meeting	\$ 10,380.87
2022 NCAFS Only Membership	\$ ~675.00
2022 NCAFS and AFS Membership	\$ 1,275.00
	<b>\$12,330.87</b>

**Expenses:**

2022 Meeting	\$ 8,242.38
Website Fee	\$ 30.00
Free AFS Membership	\$ 50.00
Stamps	\$ 25.20

**Donations Given**

—Mainspring	\$ 1,000.00
—NCMNS	\$ 981.00
—Vector Learning (Damiano NCSU)	\$ 1,000.00
—Hutton (2023)	\$ 500.00
—LACFC	\$ 250.00
	<b>\$12,078.58</b>

**NET: +\$252.29**



**General Fund 2022**

Return: -\$12,957.17  
Rate of Return: -15.60%



**Ichthus Fund 2022**

Return: -2,906.17  
Rate of Return: -8.87%  
(\$600 withdrawn)

**RRCC Saving Account:**

**Income:**

Interest (year-to-date) \$ 0.91  
**\$7,127.07**