



Business Meeting  
February 28, 2024  
Sylva, NC

1. Determination of Quorum, Casey Joubert, Secretary/Treasurer: 16:34
2. Call to Order, Kelsey Roberts, President: 16:34
3. Welcome and Introductions, Kelsey Roberts, President: 16:35
  - a. AFS Parent Society EXCOM and representatives in attendance: None
  - b. AFS Past President(s) in attendance: None
  - c. AFS Southern Division and Past-President(s) in attendance: Bobby Curry, Jessica Baumann
  - d. NC AFS Past-Presidents in attendance: Ryan Heise, Mike Gangloff, Kevin Dockendorf, Brena Jones, Ben Ricks, Corey Oakley, Andrea Leslie, and MORE
4. 2023 Business Meeting Minutes: 16:36
5. Student Subunit Reports: 16:37, Corey Dunn, new advisor to NCSU SFS- monthly meetings, Rocky Branch clean-up, and other plans.
6. Committee Reports (see detailed reports below minutes)
  - a. Program and Arrangements – Luke Etchison: 16:38
  - b. Awards Committee – Corey Oakley/Ryan Heise: 16:41
  - c. Communications Committee – Kyle Rachels: 16:43
  - d. Webmaster – Brena Jones: 16:45
  - e. Education and Outreach Committee – Seth Mycko: 16:47
  - f. Finance Committee – Casey Joubert: 16:53
  - g. Nominations Committee – Andrea Leslie: 17:03
    - i. Election Results: Michael Walter is the new Secretary/Treasurer and will take over the role completely after SDAFS 2025. Casey Joubert, past Secretary/Treasurer, will stay on until after SDAFS 2025. Tom Fox and Scott Smith were nominated for President-Elect, and Tom Fox won the election.
    - ii. Winner of AFS membership: Jim Borawa
  - h. Mentoring Committee – Kevin Dockendorf: 17:06



## **North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2024 Awards Committee Report**

The NCAFS Chapter established the Student Travel Award Program in 2005 for the specific purpose of encouraging professional growth of students and 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 reduce the cost of meeting travel, registration, and accommodations. The award was presented to Bethany Wager of N.C. State University (advised by Jeff Buckel) to attend the 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 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 reduce the cost of travel, registration, and accommodations. This year the chapter awarded \$300 travel awards to Matthew Maguire and Sean Sullivan both from North Carolina State University to attend the 2024 NC Chapter of AFS meeting in Sylva.

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 2024 meeting. There were eleven presentations by professionals. The professional papers were judged by Rachael Hoch, Ben Ricks, Nick Wahl, and Kevin Dockendorf. There were seven presentations by students. The student papers were judged by Ryan Heise, Danci Guiot, Corey Oakley, and Michael Perkins.

The 2024 Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award was awarded to Tyler Muller. The title of his talk was "A Taxonomic Revision of the Pirate Perches (*Aphredoderus*)". Clayton will receive a monetary award of \$600 from the Chapter's Ichthus fund for travel to present the paper at an upcoming scientific conference of his choosing.

The 2024 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Award was awarded to Casey Joubert. The title of her talk was "Untangling Anger Opinions: North Carolina Reservoir Striped Bass Fisheries".

The Awards Committee solicited nominations for the Chapter's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award and Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award through the chapter's

listserv. One nomination was received for the Fisheries Conservation Award, and two individuals were nominated for the Distinguished Service Award. The nominations were reviewed by both the Awards Committee and EXCOM.

The Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. The 2024 award was presented to Kevin Dockendorf. Kevin is currently a Fisheries Research Coordinator with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and has been an NCAFS Member since joining the Commission in 2003. Kevin has continually served NCAFS during this time, most notably serving as NCAFS President in 2010 and requesting the formation of and chairing the ad-hoc Mentoring Committee.

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 2024 award was presented to Sheryl Bryan. For three decades, Sheryl has devoted herself to the fisheries and wildlife resources of North Carolina during her career with the United States Forest Service. Among her many accomplishments include crafting each of the Forest Management Plans for National Forests in North Carolina (Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie, and Croatan) to provide direction of aquatic resources. After serving for six years on the NC AFS Chapter Awards Committee, Corey Oakley announced his resignation from the Committee. The Awards Committee will be led by Ryan Heise.

Respectfully submitted by Corey Oakley and Ryan Heise  
Awards Committee Co-Chairs  
March 12, 2024

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**2024 Communications Committee Report**  
**Submitted by Brena Jones**

The Chapter website (<https://nc.fisheries.org>) increased to around 8,300 page views in the past year. The most popular pages, after the Chapter meeting pages, were the newsletters, as well as the dynamic [calendar of fisheries and ecology conferences](#) across the US.

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 286 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](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 2023. Those newsletters were comprised of 21 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 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 729 Facebook page followers. Twenty-one items were published with a reach to 4,000 over the last 90 days. Our page health is rated as Excellent.

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)

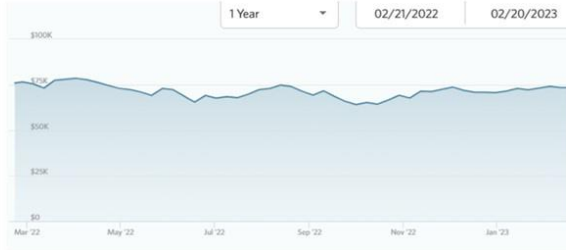
**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**2024 Education and Outreach Committee Report**  
**Submitted by Seth Mycko**

1. Successful 2024 workshop.
  - a. The getting hired workshop for students and early professional was a great success.
  - b. The E&O Committee teamed up with the Mentoring Committee to host 16 students who will soon be looking for Jobs in the field of Fisheries.
2. Changes to podcasting.
  - a. Due to file size constraints along with time and effort required to render .mp4 podcast files. All video files will remain in the Camtasia file formats and be stored on the new NCAFS external hard drive. Anyone requesting their .mp4 file will need to email the chair of the E&O Committee to request their files be send to them.
  - b. All podcast files are available in mp4 format through the 2020 meeting. The 2021-2024 meeting files are now located on the hard drive for future use.
  - c. If someone out there would like to manage the podcasting files and/or start a YouTube channel that idea has been endorsed by the chapter but needs someone to manage it.
3. New workshop ideas needed.
  - a. The E&O committee will soon be sending out a request for future workshop ideas and potential workshop leaders.
  - b. Anyone suggesting a workshop idea will be required to help plan the workshop that they recommend.
4. Call for new members
  - a. The E&O Committee is in need of 3-4 more members to run efficiently.
    - i. Please contact committee chair Seth Mycko at [seth.mycko@ncwildlife.org](mailto:seth.mycko@ncwildlife.org) to sign up to help the committee plan workshops and host events.

2023 Treasurer Report  
Submitted by Casey Joubert  
February 28, 2024

**Balances Prior to Meeting:**

NCAFS Checking	=	\$ 14,377.00
NCAFS PayPal	=	\$ 432.39
RRCC Savings	=	\$ 3,356.76
General Fund	=	\$ 72,974.25
Ichthus Fund	=	\$ 29,941.86



**General Fund 2023**  
Return: +\$1,062.18  
Rate of Return: +17.30%  
(\$12,000 withdrawn)



**Ichthus Fund 2023**  
Return: +\$456.11  
Rate of Return: +7.18%  
(\$1,600 withdrawn)

**NCAFS Checking Account:**

**Income:**

2023 Meeting	\$ 11,005.00
2023 NCAFS Only Membership	\$ ~500.00
2023 NCAFS and AFS Membership	\$ <u>2,589.00</u>
	<b>\$ 14,094.00</b>

**Expenses:**

2023 Meeting	\$ 9,907.00
Website Fees	\$ 60.00
Free AFS Membership	\$ 115.00
SDAFS Deposit	\$ 6,000.00
Camtasia Software	\$ 54.47
SDAFS Whova	\$ 1,599.00
<i>Donations Given</i>	
—TN AFS	\$ 1,000.00
—Thinlip Chub Research	\$ <u>999.99</u>
	<b>\$ 19,235.77</b>

**NET (Not including SDAFS Expenses): \$2,457.23**

**RRCC Saving Account:**

**Income:**

Interest	\$ <u>8.27</u>
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**Expenses:**

Meeting Expenses	\$ <u>3,779.40</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$3,356.76</b>

**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2024 Mentoring Committee Report  
Submitted by Kevin Dockendorf, Chair  
Members: Jessica Baumann, Casey Joubert, Kelsey Roberts,  
Neil Medlin, TD VanMiddlesworth, and Ben Ricks**

- **Goals for 2023**
  - Everyone can be, and is likely, a mentor! Thank you for sharing your perspectives!
  - Continue listserv with vacancy announcements and career advice.
  - Inquire with participants on focus of the listserv topics at mid-year and end of year.
  - Coordinate with Hutton Scholar program to support applicants from North Carolina as a cornerstone of our committee.
- **Progress meeting goals**
  - Sent conservation career e-mails to 120 conservation career-minded students and individuals. An additional 44 fisheries students after SDAFS Getting Hired workshop.
    - Total e-mails sent since 2021 is 205.
  - Completed two Google surveys to listserv participants, low response rates (<20%), yet cater to the requests of those survey respondents.
    - Total of 6 surveys since 2021, response rate similar (<20%) on each survey
  - Established a 5-year funding plan to Hutton program from NCAFS voting membership.
  - Eleven Hutton applicants from North Carolina in 2024.
    - Members advised via NCAFS listserv to submit mentor applications.
- **What goals were you unable to meet? Will they be carried over into 2024?**
  - We'll continue to build committee goals in 2024 with a mix of old and new goals.
  - Create a meeting schedule in 2024 for committee members.
  - We are working with AFS Hutton Scholar chair to be looped into any NC applicants to be available for supporting these high school students applying for fisheries scholarships.
- **What's new?**
  - Co-led Getting Hired workshop at 2024 SDAFS Chattanooga – 24 attendees.
  - AFS Hutton Scholar selection team in 2024 – 477 applicants for ~ 50 Hutton slots.
  - Coordinated NCAFS Getting Hired workshop at Sylva with NCAFS Education and Outreach committee – attended by 18 attendees from NC State, Appalachian State, Western Carolina, UNC-Asheville, Warren Wilson College, and Central Piedmont CC.
- **Are there any needs or issues your committee would like to bring attention to?**
  - Location of job announcements – survey conducted by North Central AFS Division, results pending, insights to job posting locations relative to fisheries students awareness of where to look for vacancies.



- Adequate housing for temporary positions in locations with high cost of living and limited short-term housing. Match-mismatch on hourly pay and monthly rent.
- Clear and transparent guidance in minimum education and experience qualifications.
- “How can students gain experience for temporary positions that require experience to qualify?” and “How can I stand out from the crowd?” remain common questions.
- Provide space for students to meet with professionals from various disciplines to ask questions and receive information on job opportunities from established professionals.
- Students interested in developing subunits to include students from more than one university where one subunit at each university is difficult to maintain with few fisheries students and where a joint membership with another society may be ineffective.

## **EXPLANATION FOR CHANGE**

**ACTION:** Add a line item to the NCAFS budget to fund officer travel to attend meetings sponsored or affiliated with the American Fisheries Society.

**JUSTIFICATION:** To broaden the scope and involvement of the NC Chapter in regional, national, and international meetings and incentivize Executive Committee participation.

**EXPLANATION:** Money for travel will be available annually for officers to attend an AFS-sponsored or affiliated meeting. This travel grant will cover travel (plane ticket or mileage), meals (government per diem rate), registration, and lodging. Officers must submit an application that includes an estimated overall cost for the meeting. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee (other than the member applying) and approved year-to-year.

History:

The original motion to “fund travel expenses for one officer to attend one meeting of choice per year” was amended to the current action. The amendments to the procedure manual additions included removing the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for applications, allowing more than one officer to receive funding, removing the \$2,500 maximum, and specifying that officers must attend an AFS-sponsored meeting to receive this funding. This motion was voted on and approved by Chapter members at the annual business meeting in 2024 and the following text shall be added to the Procedures Manual.

### **Procedures Manual Addition:**

#### *Officer Travel Awards*

Money for travel will be available annually for officers to attend an AFS-sponsored or affiliated meeting. This travel grant will cover travel (plane ticket or mileage), meals (government per diem rate), registration, and lodging. Officers must submit an application that includes an estimated overall cost for the meeting. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee (other than the member applying) and approved year-to-year.

The following terms apply:

- 1) The president will be given the first opportunity to submit a grant application, followed by the past president, president-elect, and the secretary/treasurer.
- 2) Officers may only receive one grant during their service on the Executive Committee.
- 3) Officers who receive a travel grant will submit an item to the newsletter summarizing their involvement in the meeting.
- 4) Money available for travel will be assessed annually during budget development and approved by the Executive Committee.