



The Lateral Line

Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Fall-Winter 2023 Newsletter

A message from the President

Hello Arkansas AFS,

It's been a pleasure serving as the Chapter President over the past several months. I've been fortunate to be able to work with our current Executive Committee (ExCom) members and the appointed committee chairs. Dylan, Allison, and Sean have been critical in keeping track of goals and deadlines, and our committee chairs, Josh, Jacob, Will, Chelsea, and Tyler continue to provide crucial support and ideas regarding opportunities for Chapter members. We are truly lucky to have the dedication and passion for Chapter goals that our ExCom and appointed officers exhibit. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we were in need of a Newsletter Editor, and I'm pleased to announce that Katie Schrag has accepted the role. I want to thank Jessica Feltz for her service as Newsletter Editor for the past three years – although she made it look easy, it requires quite a bit of work and tracking down content.

First and foremost, we have an upcoming deadline for the Natural State Fisheries Scholarship on November 20 th. This year, we are able to offer one \$250.00 scholarship to an undergraduate student and one \$500.00 scholarship to a graduate student. We've been hard at work to continue providing opportunities for Chapter members to stay involved and for students to prosper in the fisheries field. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we were able to sponsor an Aquatic Plant ID workshop free to Chapter members. Another ongoing activity that was initiated at the beginning of November by our Activity Committee Chair, Jacob Martin, is the Virtual Facebook Fishing Challenge! Four members have the chance of winning raffle tickets and other fun prizes at the Chapter Meeting for submitting pictures of fish caught with a rod and reel! See the website or our Arkansas Chapter AFS Facebook page for more details.

Speaking of the Chapter Meeting, Dylan has been working hard on planning a fun, safe, and educational meeting at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Texarkana on Feb. 21 st – 23 rd! As promised, we will be offering an intermediate R workshop focusing on fisheries data with the help of Chapter member and AGFC Fisheries Biologist Ryan Gary. We are excited to be back in Texarkana after 7 years. The Holiday Inn Convention Center is a great space to put on a meeting and Dylan has been working to provide several fun opportunities including local food trucks for lunch and a performance by the Pam Setser Band featuring our very own Kent Coffey! Expect to see a Call for Abstracts in your inbox soon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in February. Happy Holidays!

Brie Lusk (Olsen)

Brie.Lusk@adeq.state.ar.us



CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET'S BRAG 'BOUT IT

Did you get a catch of a lifetime? Did you mark another fish off your bucket list? Do you just want to share a cool experience? Share it with your fellow AR AFS Fish heads on the new BRAG BOARD! Browse pics or share yours now! [CLICK HERE](#)

VIRTUAL FISHING CHALLENGE

The chapter recently created a new Facebook page and is hosting a virtual fishing challenge. Find the page (Arkansas Chapter AFS) to see details on how you could win raffle tickets at the annual meeting.

MEMBERS MATTER

If you are interested in joining the Arkansas Chapter, renewing your membership (or updating your member contact info), or would like to be reimbursed 50% the cost of certification, please contact Chapter Treasurer, Sean Lusk.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Please consider contributing your stories, research or project highlights to feature in the Lateral Line! Please email any material ([and photos](#)) to katie.schrag@agfc.ar.gov.

HASHTAG IT

The Arkansas Chapter is now on Social Media! Follow us to stay up to date on chapter activities!



@Arkansas Chapter AFS



@Arkansas_AFS



@Arkansas_afs

CURRENT OFFICERS

President — Brie Lusk
brie.lusk@adeq.state.ar.us

President-Elect — Dylan Hann
dylan.hann@agfc.ar.gov

Secretary — Allison Asher
allison.asher@agfc.ar.gov

Treasurer — Sean Lusk
sean.lusk@agfc.ar.gov

Past-President — Christy Graham
christy.graham@agfc.ar.gov

COMMITTEES

Nominating & Awards -

Christy Graham

christy.graham@agfc.ar.gov

Education Liaison - Chelsea Gilliland

chelsea.gilliland@agfc.ar.gov

Activities - Jacob Martin

jacob.martin@agfc.ar.gov

Raffle - Josh Melton

josh.melton@agfc.ar.gov

Webmaster - Tyler Thomsen

tyler.thomsen@agfc.ar.gov

Newsletter Editor - Katie Schrag

katie.schrag@agfc.ar.gov

Environmental Affairs - vacant

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting: The 2024 annual meeting of SDAFS will be January 31st— February 4, 2024 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Early Registration is now open. [CLICK HERE](#)

World Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference: The 4th edition of the World Aquaculture and Fisheries Division will be June 24—26, 2024. This will be a hybrid event. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society: The 154th meeting of AFS will be in Honolulu, Hawaii September 15—19, 2024. The theme is “Conserving Fishes and Fishing Traditions Through Knowledge Co-Production “.



2024 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society

February 21 – 23, 2024
Texarkana, Arkansas

Join Arkansas AFS members for 3 days of fun & fisheries in the state line city! The meeting will include student and professional presentations, lightning talks, and posters, plus evening socials and the annual raffle!

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION

<https://arkansasafs.wildapricot.org/events>



Holiday Inn Convention Center

5200 Convention Plaza Dr, Texarkana, AR

Room Block at the State Rate of \$98.00 + tax:

To book, call and mention "Arkansas Fisheries" or [CLICK HERE](#)

DEADLINE TO RESERVE A ROOM IS JANUARY 19, 2024

