



The Lateral Line

Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Fall-Winter 2022 Newsletter

A message from the President

First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chapter President this year. I have enjoyed working with the other officers of the Executive Committee (Excom) and the committee chairs to implement and carry out Chapter duties. JJ, Brie, Micah, and Allison have been excellent to work with. The Committee Chairs, Chelsea, Dylan, Jessica, Jordan, and Sue, also continue to impress me with their dedication to the Chapter. Other Chapter members have also stepped up to fill in some important gaps in Chapter needs. We are getting much closer to securing an official chair of “activities” for the Activities/Raffle Committee and Kyler Hecke has taken over some of the Chapter’s social media duties. Will Lancett has also joined the Education Committee and will be assisting with science fair duties moving forward. We are happy and appreciative to have them all as members of the Excom team.

I spoke in the spring about looking for ways to improve connectivity between the members and providing additional opportunities for Chapter members. I’m happy to say, we’ve done that in several ways this year. First, Dustin Lynch hosted a second crayfish identification workshop on May 26th in Little Rock. Over thirty Chapter members participated in the workshop and a crayfish boil that followed the class and field portions. JJ also designed and hosted a virtual fishing tournament for Chapter members this fall. Unfortunately, fishing opportunities for Chapter members must have been limited this fall because the turnout was extremely low. However, we will continue to come up with ideas for those types of activities and look for better ways to communicate them in the future. I’m also proud to announce that Sean Lusk and Micah Tindall are in the final steps of preparing information and an application for the first-ever “Natural State Fisheries Scholarship” (see details on Page 3. This is a very important way the Chapter will contribute to the futures of fisheries professionals in Arkansas. The scholarship was made possible by investing money from the 2013 National meeting and letting the account accrue interest. This is a very exciting new opportunity for our students that I hope continues for many years.



Finally, Excom is working very hard again to provide a fun, safe, and in-person chapter meeting in 2023. President-Elect Brie Olsen has secured the meeting location and has come up with a lot of great ideas for the meeting. The meeting will be slightly later this year (March 15-17, 2023) and will be held in Conway (see details on Pages 4-5). We’re happy to be going back to central Arkansas and the hotel is very happy to be accommodating our meeting needs. The meeting will feature a workshop hosted by Dr. Vic DiCenzo and Sean Lusk titled “Critical Thinking and Problem Solving”. The workshop will be open to the first 30 registrants and will be free to students. It is just one more great opportunity we are happy to provide to the Chapter.

We look forward to seeing you all in March and I hope everyone has a great Holiday season!

Christy Graham

Christy.Graham@agfc.ar.gov



TIME TO NOMINATE YOUR COLLEAGUES

As you think about the hard work of your colleagues, friends, and mentors, turn your kind thoughts into action by nominating them for an annual SDAFS Award! Each year, the Southern Division awards 4 major awards: **Outstanding Chapter**, **Best Student Subunit**, **Outstanding Achievement Award**, and the **Tom Kwak Distinguished Service Award**.

Nomination criteria can be found [HERE](#). The deadline to submit nominations is January 1, 2023 and can be sent to Alice Best (Alice.Best@tpwd.texas.gov).

CHAPTER ANNOUCEMENTS

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](#)

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, Micah Tindall.

INFORMATION REQUEST

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

HASHTAG IT

The Arkansas Chapter is now on Social Media! Follow us on Instagram and Twitter [@arkansas_afs](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting: The 2023 annual meeting of SDAFS will be February 1-5, 2023 in Norfolk, Virginia. Early Registration is now open. [CLICK HERE](#)

World Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference: The 3rd edition of the World Aquaculture and Fisheries Division will be May 24-25, 2023. This will be a hybrid event. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society: The 153rd meeting of AFS will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan August 20-24, 2023. The theme is "Adaptive Approaches to Understand and Manage Change in Fisheries "

CURRENT OFFICERS

President — Christy Graham
Christy.graham@agfc.ar.gov

President-Elect — Brie Olsen
olsen@adeq.state.ar.us

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

Treasurer — Micah Tindall
Micah.Tindall@agfc.ar.gov

Past-President — JJ Gladden
Jj.gladden@agfc.ar.gov

COMMITTEES

Nominating & Awards - JJ Gladden
Jj.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov

Education Liaison - Chelsea Gilliland
Chelsea.Gilliland@agfc.ar.gov

Environmental Affairs - Dr. Sue Colvin
scolvin4@atu.edu

Activities and Raffle - Jordan Lindaman
Jordan.Lindaman@agfc.ar.gov

Webmaster - Dylan Hann
Dylan.Hann@agfc.ar.gov

Newsletter Editor - Jessica Feltz
Jessica.Feltz@agfc.ar.gov



ARKANSAS CHAPTER

American Fisheries Society

Natural State Fisheries Scholarship

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ARAFS) is seeking deserving students enrolled in fisheries-related curricula at an accredited Arkansas University as applicants for the first ever “Natural State Fisheries Scholarship Application”.

A \$250 scholarship will be awarded to one undergraduate student and a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to one graduate student.

To be eligible: applicants must be paid members of ARAFS and enrolled at an accredited university at the time of scholarship award (March 2023). A nomination is not required and more than one student from the same university may apply. Recipients will be notified by January 25, 2023 with scholarship awards being presented during the 2023 Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting to be held March 15 - 17, 2023. Although not mandatory, scholarship recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting.

A recipient of each scholarship will be selected by a committee of 3-5 people based upon their responses to applicable questions. These questions provide the opportunity for students to describe their academic excellence, professional activities, and promise of future professional involvement. The committee will score each student and come to a consensus on the best possible applicants.

Application packets must be received by Sunday, January 15, 2023, 11:59PM CST

The PDF application form may be obtained from the [Arkansas AFS website](#). Application and unofficial transcript should be submitted by email to Sean.Lusk@agfc.ar.gov. Please direct applications or any questions to: Sean Lusk (501) 802-1112 or Sean.Lusk@agfc.ar.gov.

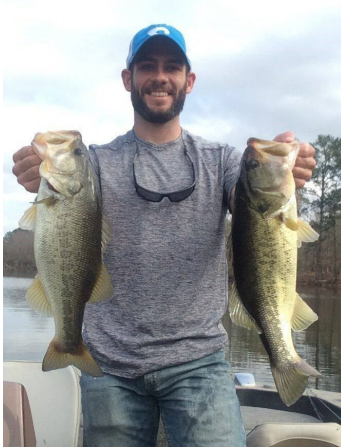


Voting now open for Arkansas Chapter AFS officer candidates!

To read candidate bios and to cast your vote: [CLICK HERE](#)

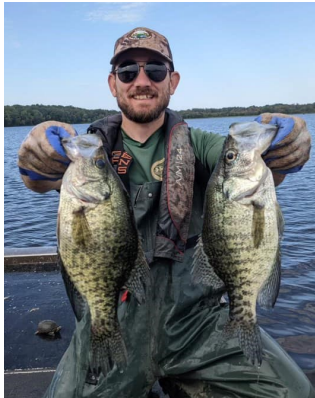
Deadline to vote: February 1, 2023

Treasurer Candidates



Sean Lusk

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Jacob Martin

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Dylan Hann

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Kyler Hecke

Arkansas Technical University

President– Elect Candidates

ARAFS – 2022 EXCOM Treasurer’s Report Covering 5/12/2022—9/7/2022

<u>Balance Brought Forward (5/12/2022):</u>	\$17,786.56
INCOME	
AFS Dues	\$15.00
Interest	\$6.94
Total Income	\$21.94
SUBTOTAL	\$17,808.50
DISBURSEMENTS	
Crawfish Workshop	\$268.07
EXCOM Meeting	\$66.31
Fees	\$1.04
WildApricot	\$667.44
Hotel Issue Reimbursement	\$96.00
VA Chapter AFS Donation	\$500.00
Total Disbursements	\$1,598.86
Balance as of September 7, 2022:	\$16,209.64



2023 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter American Fisheries Society

March 15 - 17, 2023

Conway, Arkansas



Join Arkansas AFS members for 2 days of fun & fisheries in City of Colleges! 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>

Hilton Garden Inn

805 Amity Road, Conway, 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 FEBRUARY 17, 2023



2023 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter

Tentative Schedule

(Unless noted all events will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn)

Wednesday, March 15th

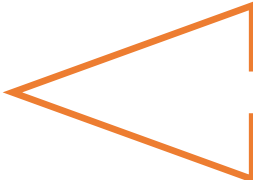
- 8:30 am – 12:00 pm – Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Workshop
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Registration and Presentation Loading
- 1:00 pm – 1:10 pm – Welcome, President's Address
- 1:10 pm – 5:00 pm – Contributed Papers
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Poster Session
- 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm – Welcome Social (Location TBD)

Thursday, March 16th

- 7:30 am - 2:00 pm – Registration and Presentation Loading
- 8:00 am – 11:40 am – Contributed Papers
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Student Lunch Panel
- 1:20 pm – 5:00 pm – Contributed Papers
- 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Awards Banquet

Friday, March 17th

- 8:30 am – 10:30 am – Chapter Business Meeting
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm – Technical Committee Meetings (if needed)
- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm – Past-President's Luncheon (Location TBD)



**NOW ACCEPTING
ABSTRACTS!**
**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
FEBRUARY 15, 2023**
Visit the [website](#) for
submission details.

SIGN-UP FOR THE WORKSHOP

Creative and Critical Thinking Leads to Better Problem Solving

Instructors: Vic DiCenzo, Ph.D., & Sean Lusk, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

A recent survey by the American Fisheries Society identified critical thinking as one of the most important skills that employers seek from young professionals. However, critical thinking is an important skill across all levels of our profession. What exactly is higher-level thinking and how can we learn to think in more creative and critical ways? This workshop will help define creative and critical thinking, identify barriers to higher-level thinking, and describe attributes of individuals who think critically.

Fisheries professionals often deal with complex ecological and social issues. How can we apply creative and critical thinking skills to make better decisions and solve complex problems? What are the basics of solving problems? How can we utilize collaborative problem solving skills at work? We will apply a blend of critical and creative thinking to work through a fisheries case study to develop effective strategies and solve a complex management issue.

Registration: \$25.00 (free for student attendees) - SPACE IS LIMITED

All registration proceeds will go to the Natural State Fisheries Scholarship Fund.



THE STUDENT STREAMLINE

WELCOME!

Welcome Will Lancett to the Education Committee!



I'm happy to join the Education Committee alongside Chelsea Gilliland! To introduce myself I'll talk about some of my fisheries work history as well as some of my hobbies. I earned my B.S. from Arkansas Tech University in 2019. During my senior year I worked as a Part time Fisheries Technician for AGFC in the Russellville Office where I often worked with Chelsea! After graduation I took a full time job in Georgia managing a Trophy Bass Lake for Georgia Department of Natural Resources. After doing that for a little over a year I moved back to Arkansas with my now Fiancé to be closer to family. I took a Hatchery Technician job with AGFC at the Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery in Lonoke. After working there for about 9 months I then moved into my current role with AGFC this March as a Fisheries Habitat Biologist out of the Mayflower Office. When I'm not working I enjoy watching sports, fishing bass tournaments, and exploring with my dog, "Fish"!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit the AFS [Awards & Scholarship page](#) for society wide annual awards and scholarship opportunities.

The Alligator Gar Technical Committee Travel Scholarship—\$500 award to a student who is conducting Gar Species research to attend the 2023 SDAFS Meeting. [MORE INFORMATION](#) Deadline: December 31, 2022

Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship—\$1,000 award to a student conducting research toward any aspect of reservoir ecosystem management. [MORE INFORMATION](#) Deadline: January 2, 2023

Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarship— A \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a female graduate student who shows a passion for fisheries science and conservation. [MORE INFORMATION](#) Deadline: May 2023



EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Since my last report, I have received updated subunit officer contact information from every subunit, which is a major success in my book! I want to take a moment to thank everyone for engaging with me. This tells me that given the struggles caused by the pandemic, groups are really starting to re-activate and engage with their membership!! This is great news!

I have also been trying to be more diligent in my communication with subunits. I have sent out a number of job opportunities, travel awards, scholarships, and resources provided by SDAFS and the parent-society as well as all updates regarding the RA-WA legislation. A few officers have even reached out to indicate their contributions towards supporting RAWA.

It was great to see subunit representation at our most recent in-person ExCom meeting (Conway, September 8th). I am thankful for those officers and advisors that took the time out of their busy academic lives to have lunch with us and discuss the fantastic things their groups are doing, as well as provide ideas for how the ExCom can better serve our students.

Recently, I sent out a Doodle Poll to the subunits leadership and the Education Committee to host a virtual get-together titled *"Coffee & Convos: An AFS subunit Leadership Discussion"* during a common hour. This meeting will function similarly to last year's November meeting where we discussed pertinent ExCom agenda items relative to subunits and ultimately guided the direction for the Student Development Workshop at the 2022 Annual Chapter Meeting. My goal is to solicit input for how the ExCom can continue to better serve its students at the chapter meeting and beyond. I hope the ExCom will be able to offer a student-orientated workshop in the spring, and have some exciting ideas brewing for our upcoming meeting in Conway!

In other equally exciting news, the Education Committee is now welcoming a new member to the mix: Will Lancett! Will is now handling all details related to science fairs so for questions or comments, you can reach him at: Tristan.Lancett@agfc.ar.gov. I'm looking forward to working alongside Will in this capacity and know he will provide many valuable contributions to our group.



Last but not least, the ExCom continues to show its support for student development and now has the capacity to offer a student scholarship! Details are still being finalized but in lieu of these changes, a Scholarship Sub-Committee has now been added under the Education Committee. This committee will consist of myself, Secretary Allison Asher, Treasurer Micah Tindall, and post-hoc committee member Sean Lusk. The goal of this scholarship at this time is to provide financial assistance to one student annually, who will be recognized at the chapter meeting. Details for applying are coming soon!!

Chelsea Gilliland
ARAFS Education Committee

THE SEARCH IS ON

Are you graduating or looking for more professional experience? Maybe you are interested in a graduate program. Check out these job boards for current job and internship opportunities! Don't forget to visit the AFS student and Early Career professional page for more resources: www.students.fisheries.org

- American Fisheries Society [Job Board](#)
- Conservation [Job Board](#)
- Society for Conservation Biology [Job Board](#)
- Texas A&M Fisheries and Wildlife [Job Board](#)
- Ecological Society of American [Job Board](#)

The future of fisheries is students!

Check out these opportunities to get more students connected to natural resource management:

SEAFWA INTERSHIP PROGRAM

SEAFWA's Minorities in Natural Resource Conservation (MINRC) Committee is accepting applications from agencies to host a 10-week internship for the inaugural 2023 **SEAFWA Internship Program**. DEADLINE FOR AGENCY PROPOSALS IS DECEMBER 31, 2022.

The **SEAFWA Internship Program** aims to increase hands-on opportunities for talented female and minority graduate and undergraduate students by exposing them to a wide variety of conservation careers, including fish and wildlife management, GIS, law enforcement, R3, human dimensions, and communications. Please refer to the attached Request For Proposals (RFP) and Internship Guidance documents for details on the internship process. **SEAFWA's Internship Program** is fully funded by Region 4 of the USFWS. Please contact the MINRC Internship Committee (seafwa.minrc@gmail.com) with any questions.

HUTTON JR FISHERIES BIOLOGIST PROGRAM

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is an 8-week, paid, full time summer internship and mentoring program for high school students sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Selected students, known as **Hutton Scholars**, are matched and mentored by a fisheries and aquatic science professional in their local area to enjoy a hands-on fisheries science experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting. Hutton Scholars receive a stipend over the course of their internship as well as valuable work experience in an exciting and rewarding field. Each student must complete biweekly time sheets, a mid-summer report and a final report in order to successfully complete the program.



Arkansas had two Hutton Scholars in 2022, both of which have committed to continuing their education in the field of Fisheries Science. Laken Bunn (*left image*) worked alongside Dylan Hann (Regional Fisheries Supervisor) in SW Arkansas and Asa Chism (*right image*) worked alongside Dr. Kendall Moles (Malacologist) in central Arkansas.

If you are interested or know of a student interested, visit the [WEBSITE](#) for more details!