



The Lateral Line

Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Summer 2022 Newsletter

A message from the President

Greetings Chapter Members! First of all, I'd like to express my appreciation for the opportunity I have to serve as Chapter President this year. I have been involved in the American Fisheries Society throughout my career. I've been a member of several different chapters (AR, TN, KS) and I've served our Chapter as both Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. However, being elected as President is a new challenge and I look forward to working with our dedicated members in this role.

I'd also like to thank everyone who attended the Chapter meeting in Fayetteville in February. I feel confident in saying that we were all excited to have an in-person meeting for the first time in a couple of years. The weather definitely threw us a curve ball, but we adapted to the conditions and made it work. I would also like to give special thanks to the other members of the EXCOM and the committee members who helped plan and run the meeting. It would not have been possible without the efforts of everybody.

At the Chapter meeting, we placed special emphasis on increasing connectivity between the members. For most of us, the meeting is the only opportunity we have to interact with Chapter members who are not part of our individual organizations. The meetings are also a great opportunity for students to meet and interact with Professionals. With that in mind, EXCOM is looking to provide additional networking and training opportunities for the Chapter members this year. In May, Dustin Lynch hosted a second crayfish identification workshop in Little Rock. He was able to do a portion of the workshop at Chapter meeting, but the weather cancelled the field-work portion. We are also discussing other possible activities, including quarterly seminars by Chapter members and invited guests, additional workshops that credit towards maintaining Professional Certification through the Parent Society, and regional stream clean-ups. Regardless of the activity, we hope to facilitate additional networking opportunities for Chapter members across the state. In the near future, I'll be seeking an "activities coordinator" to fulfill that role on the Activities and Raffle Committee.



I hope everyone enjoys their Spring and Summer and I hope to see you all at a Chapter activity soon!

Christy Graham

Arkansas Chapter President
Christy.Graham@agfc.ar.gov

The Latest News

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Recovering America's Wildlife Act, or RAWA, is a bipartisan bill that is making its way through Washington. The bill, which was approved by the House in June, would, if passed, secure additional funding for fish and wildlife conservation. The legislation proposes to redirect \$1.3 Billion annually in existing revenues to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement their state wildlife action plans. It would also allocate \$97.5 million to tribal wildlife managers to conserve species on tribal lands and waters. To learn more about the bill, [DOWNLOAD](#) this fact sheet.

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

Annual Meeting of American Fisheries Society: The 2022 annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be August 21-25, 2022 in Spokane, Washington. Let us know if you are attending and don't forget to tag us on social media!

SEAFWA: The 76th annual meeting of the South Eastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be October 23-26, 2022 in Charleston, West Virginia.

North American Lake Management Society Meeting: The NALMS meeting will be November 14-17, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. For more information, visit: nalms.org/naslms2022/

CURRENT OFFICERS

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PAST PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



I want to begin by thanking each and every one of you for your commitment to this fine chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Without all of you, the hard work of EXCOM and the planning committee would have been pointless. Because of you, we were able to assemble a quality meeting full of great presentations and posters, workshops, and of course connections. It has been a true honor to serve you these past 2 years and work with an incredible group of hard-working people. Christy along with everyone involved in planning, and executing this meeting showed perseverance and an ability to pivot as situations arose. I have zero doubt about the future of the chapter as I work with our leaders both on and of EXCOM.

As past president, I am responsible for soliciting nominations for officers and awards prior to our annual meeting in 2023. At this time, I'd like to receive any early nominations for the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement and the Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement. If you

would like to nominate anyone in the chapter for the Hogan award or know of a person or group worthy of the Jenkins award, please email jj.gladden@agfc.ar.gov to submit your nominations. I will be soliciting nominations for President-Elect and Treasurer this summer. Please take this opportunity to honor hard work and dedication to all things aquatic by nominating your peers and mentors. Once again, thank you all for everything you do for this state and beyond.

ARAFS – 2021 EXCOM Treasurer's Report Covering 2/25/22 – 5/12/22

<u>Balance Brought Forward (2/25/2022):</u>	\$28,846.99
INCOME	
AFS Dues	\$50.00
AFS Parent Society Rebate	\$123.75
Interest	\$4.73
Graduate Fayetteville Credit	\$7.54
Total Income	\$186.99
SUBTOTAL	\$29,033.01
DISBURSEMENTS	
Postage	\$11.60
EXCOM/Past Presidents Lunch	\$237.24
Fees	\$7.98
Chapter Tax Prep	\$75.00
Subunit Reimbursements/Awards	\$874.63
Overcharge Fix	\$40.00
Scholarship Funding	\$10,000.00
Total Disbursements	\$11,246.45
Balance as of May 12, 2022:	\$17,786.56

2022 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter - American Fisheries Society

February 23 - 25, 2022 | Fayetteville, Arkansas

After a two year hiatus of in-person meetings, the Arkansas Chapter of AFS welcomed about 80 members to the in-person 2022 meeting of the Arkansas Chapter AFS hosted at the Graduate Hotel in Fayetteville, Arkansas! Though winter weather conditions posed unexpected hurdles, the meeting consisted of a chapter sponsored student lunch workshop, the silent auction fundraiser, 30 oral presentations and 12 posters, and part one of a two-part Crayfish Identification workshop, taught by member Dustin Lynch, The Executive Committee looks forward to gathering with chapter members in 2023! Stay tuned for meeting updates in the near future.

AWARDS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Special Recognition of the planning committee for the 2020 Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Meeting, hosted by the Arkansas Chapter in Little Rock.

Pictured: (front) Darrell Bowman, Ben Batten, Tate Wentz; (back) JJ Glad-den, Dr. Steve Lochmann, Dr. Michael Eggleton



Robert M. Jenkins Award

Awarded to

Twin Lakes Walleye Club

Accepted by Jeremy Risley



2022 Joe Hogan Award

Awarded to

Dr. Charlie Gagen

Accepted by Tate Wentz



Best Professional Paper

Sean Lusk

CRAYFISH IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Like mentioned on the previous page, Dustin Lynch (*Arkansas Department of Heritage*) hosted a two-part Crayfish identification workshop. Part one was hosted in conjunction with 2022 Arkansas Chapter Annual Meeting in February; however, the field portion of the course was delayed due to winter weather conditions. A few months later, a small group of members reconvened in Little Rock for a field portion and team crayfish boil! Check out some cool photos below!



SAY HELLO TO ARKANSAS AFS NEWEST SECRETARY



Allison Asher is Arkansas Chapter AFS's newest EXCOM member! Allison grew up in Lawrence County, Arkansas where she loved fishing at Lake Charles, going to the Black River to help run hoop nets, and trout fishing on the Spring River. That childhood enthusiasm for all things aquatic inspired her to earn a BS in Zoology and MS in Environmental Sciences from Arkansas State University and a PhD in Zoology from Southern Illinois University. Allison is a fisheries management biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. In her free time, she enjoys fishing, hunting, and gardening.



THE STUDENT STREAMLINE



Congratulations to all of the 2022 graduates!

STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Best Graduate Student Paper
Derek Owens (UAPB)**



**Best Undergraduate Student Poster
Ellie Green (ATU)**



**Outstanding Member 2022
UAPB Student Subunit
Jeffery Stevens**



**Best Graduate Student Poster
Seth Drake (ATU)**



EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

At our annual chapter meeting this past February, the ExCom and Education Liaison hosted a Student Development Workshop to supplement our meeting's theme "We Are All Students". The workshop consisted of a two-part panel discussion along with a catered lunch, and incorporated student feedback from a virtual meeting hosted the previous fall.

The panel consisted of six natural resource professionals, with an equal representation of males and females. Panelists' were selected based on their professional background: state-agency fisheries management biologist, fish culture, academia/graduate advisor, water quality and water resources, and education and professional development.

The workshop began with an open-ended ice-breaker question to the panelists: "what inspired you to pursue a career in conservation management." From there, students were able to ask the panel questions while they enjoyed their catered lunch. This portion ended up being very productive and engaging for all!

The next portion of the workshop was a "flip-the-script" style panel discussion where all five panelists were stationed at a separate round tables with student attendees. Each panelist was provided with a list of questions to ask the students to further break the ice. This was done in an attempt to take the pressure off of students to do the engaging. Panelists would then rotate tables every six minutes for the remainder of the allotted time. During this portion, there were tons of simultaneous conversations happening in a semi-organized manner. The benefits of this design were two-fold. First, this allowed students one-on-one face time with professional that could potentially become their future employer. Secondly, it allowed professionals that same opportunity to gauge potential interest in positions or "best-fits" for their respective programs.

Despite the dicey weather conditions during our chapter meeting, our workshop was still extremely well attended. In total, there were 24 student participants, 6 professional panelists, and a number of professionals and administrators that sat in for the workshop. This workshop was extremely well-received and was given glowing remarks by members of the Executive Committee, AGFC upper administration, and various Arkansas AFS chapter members and students. Interest has been expressed in hosting similar opportunities at future meetings, but with a longer time block for even deeper conversations. I am very proud to have been a part of this event and thankful for the students and professionals that attended!

GET CONNECTED

The Student & Early Career Professionals Subsection of the Education Section of AFS is the go-to resource for all current students and recent graduates! The website features guides to resume development, job searching, scholarships and awards, plus other critical information to help you succeed in the fisheries and aquatics field! Visit students.fisheries.org to learn more!

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!

- 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](#)



ARKANSAS CHAPTER VIRTUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

September 1– October 31, 2022

Let's finish the summer on a big note, or should we say, BIG CATCH!

The Arkansas Chapter AFS is hosting a *virtual fishing derby* starting September 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. The derby will be hosted on the [ARAFS Bragging Board](#) located on the AFS webpage.

FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES:

- The 5 fish eligible for the contest are catfish, black bass, trout, bream, and crappie (*you are not required to catch all 5 fish to enter or even win the grand prize*).
- Posted photos must include fish on a measuring board. Total length for the 5 fish will determine the winner.
- Fish must be legally caught via hook and line in Arkansas waters and **NO FISHING AT HATCHERIES!**
- Make sure your name and catch date are uploaded in the file name to the Bragging Board by October 31, 2022 for consideration.

Contact JJ Gladden (JJ.Gladden@agfc.ar.gov) with questions!