

# The Lateral Line

Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
*Spring-Summer 2023 Newsletter*

## A message from the President

I'd like to say how grateful I am for this opportunity to serve as the Chapter President this year. Arkansas AFS has been such a welcoming environment for fisheries and aquatic resource professionals across the state. The Society is one of the major reasons I've been able to connect with others to further the stewardship of our natural resources. I'd like to continue to foster the work of predecessors in improving connectivity among members.

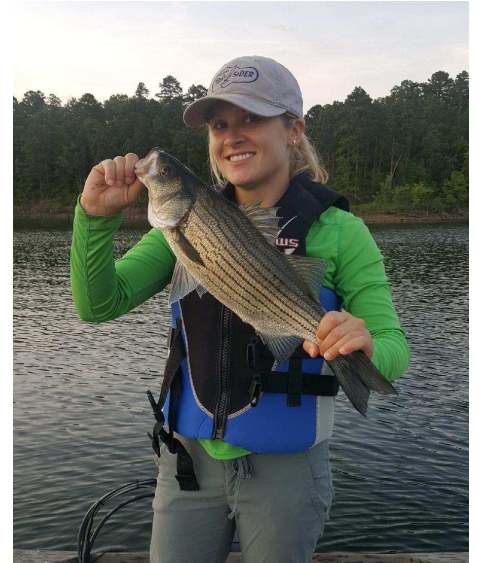
Our 2023 Chapter Meeting was a great success! Thank you to all of the speakers, attendees, the Executive Committee (EXCOM), workshop leaders, and others who helped with organizing the Annual Meeting in Conway this March. We had 132 registrants, 43 speakers, and 14 poster presentations. Because of the outstanding participation, we had to reduce speaker slots

from 20 to 15 minutes and add a Friday morning session! We also awarded our first-ever **Natural State Fisheries Scholarship** to graduate student Derek Owens and undergraduate student Ben Johnson, as well as the first "Subunit of the Year" Award, which went to Arkansas Tech. It's encouraging to see such high quality work being conducted across the Natural State and I hope to continue to see our Chapter grow.

We're looking forward to a productive and opportunity-filled year for our members. Our chapter EXCOM worked alongside AGFC Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Coordinator to host an Invasive Aquatic Plan ID workshop taught by Dr. Turnage, Mississippi State University and Benjamin Sperry, University of Florida. We are also in the early stages of developing a series of "Data Analysis through R" workshops, a useful skillset in our increasingly data-dominated profession. Any other members who have ideas for professional workshops are always encouraged to submit those to the EXCOM. I'd like to introduce Jacob Martin, AGFC Fisheries Biologist, as our new "Activities Coordinator" who will help coordinate these workshops and seek out opportunities for events that the Chapter can support. Additionally, we will soon be in need of an Environmental Affairs Committee Chair to keep an eye on upcoming legislation that may affect our ability to promote the wise management, conservation, and use of the fishery and aquatic resources of Arkansas.

Brie Olsen

*Arkansas Chapter President*



## NEW LOGO, SAME FISH



Earlier this year, chapter members voted on a new chapter logo design. The new design would better coordinate with the national AFS logo, which was redesigned in 2021. However, the focal point of the Arkansas Chapter logo, the “Arkansas Eco-Region Fish” still remains. But where did that design originate?

The “eco-region fish” was an original design by Ed Kluender, who submitted it for consideration as the logo for the 143rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, hosted by the AR Chapter in 2013. The fish represents each of the 4 ecoregions in the state, with the dorsal area and fins for the Ozark Mountains; the ventral area markings and fins for the Ouachita Mountains and Gulf Coastal Plain, the lateral line represented the Arkansas River Valley, to the Southeastern peduncle representing the Arkansas Delta.

## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Arkansas Chapter currently has two committee Chair vacancies. If you are interested in serving as the committee chair for the **Environmental Affairs** or serving as the **Newsletter Editor**, contact Chapter President, Brie Olsen for details.

### **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.

### **HASHTAG IT**

AR AFS is now on Social Media! Follow us on Instagram and Twitter @arkansas\_afs. To submit content, please send to Kyler Hecke at khecke@atu.edu.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Meeting of American Fisheries Society:** The 2023 annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be August 20-24, 2023 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**North American Lake Management Society Meeting:** The NALMS meeting will be October 22—26, 2023 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

**Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting:** The annual Meeting of the SDAFS will be hosted by The Tennessee Chapter. Join SDAFS in Chattanooga, TN January 31—February 2, 2024.

**Aquaculture American 2024:** The annual Aquaculture American meeting will be February 18-21, 2024 in San Antonio, TX.

**Arkansas AFS Meeting 2024:** The annual Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting will be February 21-23, 2024 in Texarkana, AR.

## CURRENT OFFICERS

**President** — Brie Olsen  
*olsen@adeq.state.ar.us*

**President-Elect** — Dylan Hann  
*Dylan.Hann@agfc.ar.us*

**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 and Raffle -** Jacob Martin  
*Jacob.Martin@agfc.ar.gov*

**Webmaster -** Tyler Thomsen  
*Tyler.Thomsen@agfc.ar.gov*

**Environmental Affairs -** VACANT

**Newsletter Editor -** VACANT

# PAST PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



I would like to start by expressing my appreciation to Chapter members for the opportunity to serve as Chapter President for the past year. It was an honor to serve in that capacity and work to provide new opportunities for Chapter members. The past two meetings, Fayetteville and Conway, have been a great way to reconnect with fellow members post-COVID, and share all the great research going on in the state. It has also been great working with my fellow EXCOM officers and Committee chairs to plan and execute those meetings. I look forward to continued opportunities to serve the Chapter and have complete trust in the new leadership moving forward. Brie and Dylan will undoubtedly put together a great meeting in 2024.

As past president, I am responsible for soliciting nominations for officers and awards prior to the 2024 annual meeting. At this time, I am open to receiving 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 me to submit your nominations. I will be soliciting nominations for President-Elect and Secretary later this summer. Please take this opportunity to honor the hard work and dedication to all things aquatic by nominating your peers and mentors. Once again, thank you all for everything you do!

## ARAFS – 20213 EXCOM Treasurer’s Report Covering January 10 - March 17, 2023

<b>Balance Brought Forward (1/10/2023):</b>	<b>\$ 18,132.19</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
AFS Dues/Registration	\$ 10,375.65
Interest	\$ 10.00
Scholarship Money Transfer from Investment Account	\$ 500.00
Silent Auction	\$ 2,693.00
Raffle	\$ 1,573.00
	<b>Total Income \$ 15,151.65</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL \$ 33,283.84</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Award Plaques	\$ 641.97
Student Awards	\$ 300.00
Raffle Purchase	\$ 755.57
Meeting Supplies	\$ 455.62
Meting Facilities	\$ 12,291.54
Food	\$ 601.25
Reimbursement for AFS Dues	\$ 522.00
EXCOM MEETINGS	\$ 200.00
Scholarship Payments	\$ 750.00
Fees	\$ 360.68
	<b>Total Disbursements \$ 16,878.63</b>
	<b>Balance as of March 17, 2023 \$16,405.21</b>
<b>Investment Account Balance as of March 17, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 9,399.52</b>

# 2023 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter - American Fisheries Society

March 15 –17, 2023 | Conway, Arkansas

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter was a huge success! Nearly 130 professional and students convened in Conway, Arkansas to share 43 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations. The meeting kicked off with a workshop hosted by Vic DiCenzo and Sean Lusk (AGFC) on Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and ended with the Welcome Social at Conway Family Bowling Center. Additional highlights include a student-professional roundtable lunch, a keynote address by Dr. Ginny Adams from the University of Central Arkansas, and we awarded the first ever recipients of the Natural State Fisheries Scholarships. The recipients include Derek Owens and Ben Johnson. Congratulations to them and to all award recipients!



# 2023 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter - American Fisheries Society

March 15 –17, 2023 | Conway, Arkansas

## Business Meeting Minutes | March 17, 2023

The Chapter President, Christy Graham, welcomed everyone to the business meeting, introduced officers, acknowledged past presidents in attendance, and introduced the AFS Southern Division (SD AFS) Past-President Jason Olive.

### Officers:

Past-President: JJ Gladden

President-Elect: Brie Olsen

Treasurer: Micah Tindall

President: Christy Graham

Secretary: Allison Asher

Determination of Quorum – Quorum was met with 58 members in attendance.

- **Review and Approval of 2022 Annual Business Meeting Minutes** – Prior to this meeting, the 2022 Arkansas AFS annual business meeting minutes were placed online for members to read.; Jeff Quinn motioned to approve the minutes and Jimmy Barnett seconded the motion.
- **SDAFS Report** – Jason Olive provided a report from SDAFS. He talked about the impact that COVID-19 pandemic had on membership and encouraged everyone to become a member of the parent society of AFS. Jason also shared a message from new SDAFS President, who encouraged involvement in AFS technical committees and encouraged members to nominate peers for awards. Jason echoed the need for participation in technical committees.
- **President's Report** – Christy Graham expressed that the Chapter meeting was a great success. Attendance and participation was excellent, with 92 professionals and 37 students in attendance. There were 43 oral presentations and 19 were from students. There were also 14 poster presentations. Christy thanked Dr. Ginny Adams for stepping in last minute to deliver the keynote address, thanked the moderators of the sessions, and thanked those who organized the workshops. The first workshop was Critical Thinking and Problem Solving taught by Dr. Vic DiCenzo and Sean Lusk. The second was a student workshop organized by Chelsea Gilliland and Will Lancett where students networked with professional mentors. Christy also provided highlights from the crayfish workshop hosted in May 2022. Lastly, Christy provided an update on the AR AFS investment fund, which earned enough dividends in 2022 to create the first two Natural State Fisheries Scholarships. Congratulations to Derek Owens and Ben Johnson, who were the recipients of those scholarships.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Micah Tindall reported that the Conway Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,000 to the meeting. The remaining balance for the Chapter's account was \$16,405.21. Micah thanked Sean and Vic, who donated the registration fees from their workshop to the scholarship fund. Brian Wagner motioned to approve the treasurer report and Jacob Martin seconded the motion.
- **Appointed Officer Reports:** Newsletter (Jessica Feltz) asked for content for the newsletters. Jessica also announced it will be her last year to make the newsletter and encouraged anyone interested in the position to contact EXCOM. Dr. Kyler Hecke had been helping Jessica with social media posts and will continue that role. Webmaster (Dylan Hann) Hann asked that anyone wanting to add content to the website to please contact him.
- **Activities and Raffle Committee** – Micah Tindall provided the report for Jordan Lindaman, Activities and Raffle Committee Chair. Jordan expressed gratitude for those who donated items for the raffle and silent auction, which raised \$1,573 and \$2,693, respectfully.

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# 2023 Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter - American Fisheries Society

March 15 –17, 2023 | Conway, Arkansas

- **Environmental Affairs Committee** – Brie Olsen provided the report from Dr. Sue Colvin, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair. In the previous year Arkansas AFS and the environmental chair committed ample efforts to two primary issues: Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and the new Waters of the United States Rule (WOTUS rule). RAWA has bipartisan support in the senate and may come up for a vote as early as March. Fisheries and wildlife organizations will again be asked to engage in pushing the bill forward and our own membership will be highly influential in these efforts as Arkansas congressman Bruce Westerman chairs the Natural Resource Committee. A new funding mechanism for our state would be a tremendous benefit for state biodiversity and natural resources, and there is still strong optimism it will come up for a vote in this 118th US Congress. Arkansas AFS has actively engaged with membership and as well congressional leaders to support the bill. Also which dictates which U.S. waters have federal protection, was released by the EPA. This version gives greater wetland and headwater protection than the former rule. AFS has organized a group of members, of which Sue is included, who are working on a response paper to the new rule. Sue also provided input on AFS' response to the new rule which was presented by Drue Banta Winters on behalf of AFS to a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The fact sheet lists Puppy Creek, a tributary in NW Arkansas and a part of one of our most important COA's, as an example of a protected tributary. Recognition of an Arkansas stream in WOTUS documentation is a strong signal that Arkansas waters are highly valued. Sue encouraged members to reach out to her to provide additional input on these or any other local or regional environmental concerns.
- **Old Business** – Micah Tindall gave an overview of the scholarship process. Since the scholarship investment account has been created, the ad hoc committee has been dissolved. Micah thanked Sean Lusk for his leadership on that committee. Moving forward, the Treasurer, along with the President elected at the same meeting as the treasurer, will be the signees for the investment account. The scholarship committee will consist of the Chapter Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Education Liaison Committee. The responsibilities of each committee member are listed in the updated Chapter bylaws. The scholarships are funded from growth of the investment account beyond the initial \$10,000 investment. The goal will be to award \$250 to an undergraduate student and \$500 to a graduate student annually. John Jackson suggested EXCOM consider a line item in the AR AFS budget so that scholarships are always available. JJ added that AFS EXCOM has authority to use up to \$2,000 for donations and sponsorships. If the investment account doesn't accumulate enough growth in any given year to fund the scholarships, EXCOM may elect to use part of that \$2,000 to fund the scholarship. The Scholarship applications will be released in the fall semester and checks will be awarded to recipients by the spring semester.
- **Officer Election Results** – JJ Gladden reported that in the future, EXCOM will still have virtual voting via an online form, but voting will end the first day of the annual Chapter meeting. Seventy Chapter members voted this year; Sean Lusk was elected as treasurer and Dylan Hann was elected as president.
- **New Business**
  - \* Brie updated members about changes to the procedural manual, which incorporated the new responsibilities for each officer regarding the scholarship committee.
  - \* JJ provided an update on the Hutton Program. There were 57 applicants this year from Arkansas! The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will host four scholars throughout the state.
  - \* The Chapter has vacancies for various volunteer positions. Jordan Lindaman did a wonderful job as activities chair, but is vacating that volunteer position. Josh Melton agreed to take over silent auction and raffle. Since Dylan Hann was elected president, a new webmaster was also needed. Tyler Thomsen was nominated for that role. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the Chapter also needs a newsletter editor.
  - \* Ginny Adams updated the Chapter on the upcoming Southeastern Fishes Council meeting in 2024, which will be hosted in Arkansas.
  - \* Dr. Kyler Hecke suggested the Chapter change the AFS portion of the AR AFS logo to the updated AFS logo. Kyler also asked that the Chapter consider the Wildlife Society's annual Southeastern Wildlife Conclave when scheduling the Chapter meeting. Many students could not attend the Chapter meeting because of that conflict.
  - \* Tim Burnley motioned to adjourn the meeting and Chelsea Gilliland seconded the motion.

## ANNUAL CHAPTER AWARDS

### Robert M. Jenkins Conservation Achievement Award

Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers

### Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement

Brian Wagner (AGFC, Ret.)

### Outstanding Subunit

Arkansas Technical University

### Outstand Subunit Member Awards

Arkansas State University

Noah Carter

University of Central Arkansas

Jessica Rath

Arkansas Technical University

Anthony Zenga

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

Glen Jackson

University of Arkansas

Kearstin Findley

## ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

### Best Poster

Clayton Brewer, University of Central Arkansas - *Environmental Gradients Influence Co-Occurrence of Lepomis marginatus and Lepomis megalotis*

### Best Undergraduate Presentation

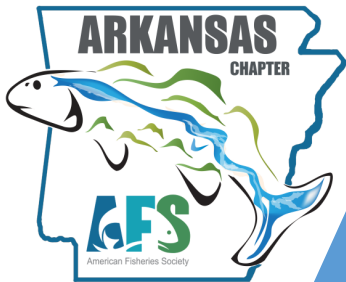
Sahara Morgan, University of Central Arkansas - *Diet of the Endemic Darter Etheostoma fragi in the presence of Etheostoma caeruleum in the Strawberry River, Arkansas*

### Best Graduate Presentation

Derek Owens, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff - *Differentiating between Spawning and Non-spawning habitat for Brown Trout using Side-scan Sonar from the Greer's Ferry Tailwater, Arkansas*

### Best Professional Presentation

Kendal Moles, Ph.D., Arkansas Game and Fish Commission - *Injecting a little technology into Mussel Conservation: Evaluation the effects of internally placed PIT Tags in Freshwater mussels*



## 2023 Natural State Tomorrow Scholarship Recipients

Ben Johnson, Arkansas Technical University  
Derek Owens, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff



# THE STUDENT STREAMLINE

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education Committee had a busy winter and spring preparing for the Arkansas AFS Chapter meeting in March! I hosted the second annual Student Professional Development Workshop during the Thursday afternoon lunch period. This was a two-phase panel discussion: phase one began with an open-floor panel discussion for all professionals and students, and moved into small-group discussions where individual panelists would rotate around to each round table. This allowed each student to have focused and personal conversations with each professional representing their respective conservation disciplines! We had a FANTASTIC turn-out and I was thrilled the ExCom chose to offer this event again! We approximated there were about 35 combined undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate student attendees in addition to our rock-star panelists!

This year, we were able to host five diverse professionals, with myself as a moderator. panelists included Jessica Feltz (AGFC Conservation Social Science Lead), Dylan Hann (AGFC District 7 Fisheries Supervisor), Maxwell Hartman (AGFC Crayfish Conservation Ecologist), Tyler Savage (AGFC Jim Hinkle Spring River State Fish Hatchery Biologist), and Ben Huggins & Travis Thorne (AGFC Wildlife Enforcement Officers). A notable takeaway from the workshop last year was that some students were considering careers in wildlife enforcement, so we greatly appreciate Ben and Travis taking time of out of their busy schedules to speak with us!

When I had the opportunity to sneak into some conversations, I noticed students from all universities asking targeted questions about how to diversify or organize their CVs, how to stand out among the crowds, and how to get hired. My advice has been and will always be that having a personal connection with a student goes a long way (at least for me) so attending AFS workshops like this, volunteering with external agency or professional opportunities, and/or reaching out to a professional personally is one of the best ways to get yourself recognized. Step out of your comfort zone and friend groups, be bold, and have confidence about what you have to offer the future of fisheries and conservation!

For the students—looking towards the future in my role as the Education Liaison, I want to offer more than just a workshop at the chapter meeting, and spam your inboxes with job opportunities and conferences; I want to *HELP*, I want to *ENGAGE*, and I want to be someone you are comfortable coming to (I promise, I'm just a chicken-obsessed normal-ish person). I'd like to take another stab at meeting with your groups to discuss what the ExCom can do to maximize our time together. Following the spring ExCom meeting, I intend to reach out again so come prepared with creative ideas and maybe a fun-theme?

-Chelsea Gilliland

## 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!

### 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](#)





## STUDENT SUBUNIT REPORTS



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CENTRAL**  
**ARKANSAS**

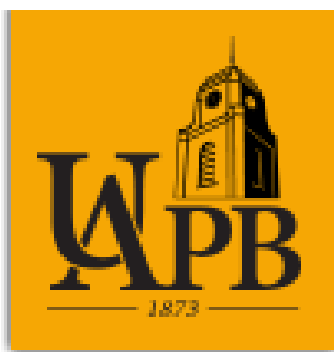
UCA's Fisheries and Wildlife Society Spring semester started with attending the annual AR chapter meeting in Conway. Additionally, new officers were elected in April, with Jessica Rath announced as society President!

Additionally, seven subunit members presented their research at UCA's annual College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics poster symposium. Subunit members collected fish for their sponsored native fish tank that is housed in the Lewis Science Center and took a study break before finals with a subunit hike! In April, the subunit hosted "Macros with Molly", which an aquatic macroinvertebrate ID workshop hosted by former subunit officer Molly Wozniak!

Spring Semester was a busy semester for the ATU Fisheries & Wildlife Society. In February, members attended the annual SDAFS meeting in Norfolk, VA and the chapter hosted their annual Beast Feast. This year's event raised a record breaking \$6,000!

In March, members volunteered at the AGFC Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery to assist with a walleye spawning project on the Kings River. Additionally, members attended Conclave and the AR Chapter AFS meeting.

The spring efforts continued with a stream cleanup on Teagle Creek and a trash cleanup at Delaware Bay on Lake Dardanelle. In April, members assisted with Brown Trout fin-clipping at the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery and closed out the semester with a subunit cookout!.



The UAPB student subunit has been active in keeping students involved in fisheries and preparing for the next step in their fisheries careers. Our subunit hosted workshops encouraging students to work on their resumes and interview skills and had members travel to SDAFS and the AR Chapter AFS annual meetings. In addition to professional conferences, students in the subunit have gotten real world experience in small impoundment assessment and management while working alongside Scott Jones, who is UAPB's small impoundments extension specialist.

Our subunit also hosted an event for undergraduate students to showcase the many aspects of fisheries management. Attendees learned about mini fyke nets, boat electrofishing, and radio telemetry that is being used on multiple graduate projects. Our subunit continues to promote outreach and collaboration among the members!

# THE STUDENT STREAMLINE

Thank you to all of the students that attended and presented during the 2023 Arkansas Chapter Annual Meeting! Also, congratulations to the award recipients!

## ARKANSAS AFS ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Best Graduate Student Presentation**  
Derek Owens  
*University of Arkansas Pine Bluff*



**Best Poster**  
Clayton Brewer  
*University of Central Arkansas*



**Best Undergraduate Student Presentation**  
Sahara Morgan  
*University of Central Arkansas*

## Outstanding Subunit Members



ATU: Anthony Zenga (pictured right); UCA: Jessica Rath (Pictured middle); UAPB: Glen Jackson (picoted bottom right)  
Not Pictured: UA: Kearstin Findley ; ASU: Noah Carter