



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[President's Message](#)

[NCAFS 2018 Annual
Business Meeting
Minutes and Treasurer's
Report](#)

[Update from the
Environmental Concerns
Committee](#)

[NC State University
Student Fisheries Society
Spring 2018 Update](#)

[2018 NCAFS Awards
Committee Report](#)

[NCAFS Member Spotlight](#)

[Good Work!](#)

[Call to Action!](#)

[Valuable Links](#)

President's Message

The arrival of spring has been announced by the thunderous gobble of wild turkeys, blossoming redbuds, and anglers flocking to their favorite waterways. However, recent cold weather indicates that winter is trying to retain its grasp on us, so we will have to remain patient while we wait for spring to fully arrive. For some of us, this delay is an unwanted delay that prevents us from escaping the confines of the office and for others it is a welcomed opportunity to finalize upcoming work plans. Regardless of which bin you find yourself in, this time of year is a reminder to enjoy the spring and stay safe while working on our waterways.

Every year after the NC Chapter Meeting, I find that it is a great time to reflect on the collaborative projects of days past and new project ideas that were spawned at the chapter meeting. The meeting provides us with the opportunity to rekindle long established work networks, forge new connections, and plan the future of fisheries resources in North Carolina. Personally, the annual meeting is a reminder of the quality fisheries research that is conducted throughout North Carolina and how our research guides the management of aquatic resources. This was especially true for our 2018 meeting in Morganton, which was paired with the Southeast Atlantic Slope Mollusk (SEASM) Working Group Meeting. The combination of these meetings provided attendees with a forum to present taxonomically diverse research and foster in-depth discussions on fish and mollusk management.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for making the annual chapter meeting a success. The climate change workshop generated considerable discussion and member presentations were outstanding! Congratulations to the award winners and a special thank you to everyone that helped organize the meeting! Our annual meeting is truly a culmination of collective efforts to improve aquatic resources throughout North Carolina. Keep up the great work!

See you under the water!

Tyler Black

Submitted by Tyler Black, NCAFS President

NCAFS 2018 Annual Business Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report



Follow the link to read the minutes, including reports from all Chapter committees: <https://nc.fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018-NC-AFS-Bus-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

Submitted by Kelsey Lincoln, NCAFS Secretary/Treasurer

Update from the Environmental Concerns Committee

The ECC provided a comprehensive update of activities over the last year during the 2018 Chapter Business Meeting. We wanted to update you on a couple of developments since then.



The [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(US House Bill 4647\)](#) is an important new piece of legislation that could provide an additional \$1.3 billion annually to State Wildlife Action Plan programs. Garnering support for RAWA is also a top priority of the American Fisheries Society this year, with the goal of attaining 125 co-sponsors to the bill. I'm happy to report

that the co-sponsor count since our meeting has increased from 7 to 34, and includes two NC representatives – David Rouser (NC district 7) and Richard Hudson (NC District 8). However, there are still many NC representatives that have not joined in this effort. Our NC Wildlife Federation liaison, Fred Harris, contacted the ECC and EXCOM about signing on to a letter in support of the RAWA that will be delivered to all members of the

NC Congressional Delegation. I suggested it was important and appropriate for NCAFS to do so, especially given the support for this legislation at the parent society level. The EXCOM agreed, and NCAFS will join several organizations on the sign-on letter. We thank the NCWF for heading up this effort. If you are personally in support of this legislation, I would encourage you to thank those representatives who have already sponsored the bill, and reach out to your representative if s/he hasn't. Most are available through email, telephone, and several social media channels. As our Chapter's social media manager, I plan to thank representatives on behalf of the Chapter as well.

We mentioned the issue of offshore drilling during the business meeting and made members aware of a February public meeting with federal authorities in Raleigh. The status of the Chapter's response to this issue at the time was to investigate what efforts and guidance was available from AFS. AFS did not have specific policy documents related to the recent Trump Administration call for Atlantic off-shore drilling available on their Policy website. In the absence of online information, I contacted AFS Policy Director Drue Winters by email, and we talked by phone. Drue indicated that AFS is not planning to take up this issue at the national level at present. She also followed up with AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, and their suggestion was that if we want to develop a statement from the Chapter on offshore drilling, we should coordinate closely with AFS.

ECC thoughts on moving forward with action regarding offshore drilling include: addressing fisheries related issues specific to NC; that a statement of concern would be most appropriate (rather than opposition/approval); and that we must identify an appropriate audience in order to move forward effectively (e.g., NC Governor, NC General Assembly, and NC Congressional Representatives). It appears that the Trump Administration has directed the Dept. of Interior to reconsider the current drilling rules. Without AFS action, reaching nationally is beyond the scope of NCAFS. Please share any thoughts and expertise you have regarding this issue with the ECC and EXCOM ([click here for contact information](#)).

Finally, I want to mention the three major initiatives that Director Winters said AFS is really pushing this year and encouraged units to support as well. The first, of course, is the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 4647). The second is the reauthorization of the [Magnuson-Stevens Act \(HR 200\)](#). The third major issue is [Waters of the US](#); AFS has drafted multiple letters on WOTUS, available on their Policy Letters page under [Wetlands](#).

As always, Chapter members are encouraged to contact me with issues that may benefit from the voice of NCAFS – and we may call on you for expertise in response to issues when needed! If you are interested in participating on the Environmental Concerns Committee, please contact me at jennifer.m.archambault@gmail.com.

Submitted by Jennifer Archambault, ECC Chair

NC State University Student Fisheries Society Spring 2018 Update

The NCSU Student Subunit has rung in the new year with a bang! We kicked off the new semester with our monthly meetings, featuring Danielle Pender and Art Bogan from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences as our February and March guest speakers. We also had a very successful trip to the North Carolina Chapter meeting in Morganton this February. Six current student members presented their research at the meeting and our own current Secretary Jennifer Archambault won the Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award for her presentation on ecosystem services of native freshwater mussels! The subunit also successfully raised ~\$1,900 from our raffle at the meeting and we can't thank you all enough for the support and donations to help raise funds for our fisheries projects.

In March, the subunit had a successful trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the Southern Division AFS meeting. Four current student members presented their research, including our Undergraduate Travel Award winner, Kenneth Erickson. Past President Bobby Cope won the Southern Division Best Student Presentation Award for his work on Carolina Madtoms! The subunit also won the Southern Division Best Student Subunit Award – this win makes the 10th in the past 14 years! Such longevity in success is due in part to the NC Chapter's dedication to students – thank you. Finally, our members joined other SDAFS Chapter members and nearly 100 local volunteers in a beach restoration project to help restore natural sand dunes and dune vegetation that had been damaged by Hurricane Maria.

The subunit is ramping up spring activities and we have many exciting outreach and education events planned. March through May, we are continuing our collaboration with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to participate in Shad in the Classroom, a massive education outreach program to lead elementary, middle, and high school students in fish education and fun dissections. In April, we will be completing our bi-annual cleanup of Rocky Branch Creek on the NCSU campus and we will once again be assisting in the Family Fishing Fiesta day at Jordan Lake to help promote fisheries knowledge to people of all ages. We also have upcoming outreach events in May, participating in an electrofishing demonstration with Dragonfly Ponds Works from Apex, NC and Lee County Cooperative Extension agents. Finally, we plan on wrapping up the school year with an End-of-Semester party to relax and unwind after a semester full of hard work. Be sure to catch us in the Summer newsletter as we update on all the exciting events we have planned this semester!



Jennifer Archambault, pictured with Drs. Rich Noble (left) and Greg Cope, receiving the NCAFS Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award. Photo credit: Tom Kwak



Bobby Cope (center) celebrating the announcement of the Southern Division Best Student Presentation Award with Current SFS President Stephen Parker and Past President Emilee Wooster. Photo Credit: Tom Kwak



NCSU Student Fisheries Society officers, President Stephen Parker (center) and Past Presidents Bobby Cope and Emilee Wooster, accepting the Best Student Subunit Award, along with Southern Division Past President David Coughlan (right) and Current President Wes Porak (left). Photo Credit: Tom Kwak



NCSU SFS members with the Puerto Rican flag during the beach dune restoration day of service. (From left to right) Bobby Cope, Dr. Gus Engman, Emilee Wooster, Stephen Parker, and Dr. Tom Kwak



Current SFS President Stephen Parker (left) with Past Presidents Bobby Cope and Emilee Wooster helping restore beach dune habitat in Puerto Rico. Photo Credit: Tom Kwak

2018 NCAFS Awards Committee Report

Awards presentations are one of the highlights of our annual Chapter meeting. Several awards were presented during the recent annual NC AFS meeting held February 20-22, 2018 in Morganton. Thanks to Dr. Tyler Black for hosting a very successful meeting! Awards were presented to chapter and non-chapter members for their contributions to the chapter and fisheries and environmental conservation in North Carolina.

Student papers were judged for the **Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award** and the professional papers were judged for the **W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award**. There were 7 presentations by students and 13 presentations by professionals. Additionally, we had 13 lightning talks presented at the meeting. The quality of all the paper presentations was outstanding. Thanks to all who presented papers and the judging panel!

The **2018 Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award** was awarded to **Jennifer M. Archambault**, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University. Jennifer's presentation entitled "[Is Contaminant Removal by Native Freshwater Mussels an Ecosystem Service?](#)" was co-authored by W. Gregory Cope, Teresa J. Newton, and Heidi L. Dunn. In addition to a Chapter award plaque, Jennifer will receive a monetary award of \$600 from the Chapter's Ichthus fund for travel to present the paper at the 2018 parent society meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey or another professional scientific society meeting of her choosing.



Ms. Jennifer Archambault, recipient of the 2018 Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation, receiving her award from Mr. Corey Oakley, NC AFS Chapter President.



Ms. Jennifer Archambault being congratulated by Dr. Rich Noble (left), for whom the Best Student Presentation Award is named, and Dr. Greg Cope (right), her Ph.D. Adviser at NC State University.

Mr. Powell Wheeler was awarded the **2018 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award** for his presentation entitled “[Lake Bathymetry Mapping using a Raspberry Pi and Open-Source Software](#)”.



Mr. Powell Wheeler was unavailable to receive his award in-person at the Chapter Business Meeting, but shared this photograph of himself with another fine “trophy”.

The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. At the 2015 meeting, Chapter membership unanimously approved to rename the Award as the **Jerry R. Finke Memorial Distinguished Service Award** in honor of the late Jerry Finke (watch the video of the renaming of the Award at <http://youtu.be/wU51lI979j4>). Jerry, who passed away due to cancer during 2013, epitomized selfless dedicated service to the NC AFS Chapter and the Southern Division of AFS. Jerry provided invaluable IT support to the Chapter and Southern Division on developing and maintaining websites to publicize fisheries efforts in North Carolina and the Southeast. He was responsible for ensuring presentations at Chapter meeting went off without a hitch. Jerry also developed the Chapter’s online dues and meeting registration system. The Chapter will remain forever indebted for his volunteer service.

The **2018 Jerry R. Finke Memorial Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **Ms. Kim Sparks** for her dedicated service to the Chapter and to the AFS Southern Division. Two very special and notable points about Kim receiving this award are that she was the NC AFS Chapter President the year that the award was renamed in memory of Jerry Finke and the fact that she had worked so closely with Jerry over the years on Chapter and other professional activities. Also poignant is the fact that Kim is

the first female recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the Chapter's history! Kim was recognized for her service as a past NC AFS President, Chapter Treasurer (2 terms), and Finance Chair for the 2003 Southern Division Meeting in Wilmington. She has been a member of the Chapter for over 20 years. During this period, she has distinguished herself through her tireless efforts in supporting Chapter leadership and ongoing operations, most notably her service and dedication in ushering the Chapter into the internet age of business and visibility. Kim always was willing to help and volunteered numerous times to assist on audiovisual and local arrangements committees as well as moderating technical sessions over the years.



Ms. Kim Sparks, the 2018 Jerry R. Finke Memorial Distinguished Service Award Recipient receiving her award from Mr. Corey Oakley, NC AFS Chapter President, with Mr. John Crutchfield, Awards Committee Chair looking on with pride.

The 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. In recognition of his long-time commitment and service to the fisheries profession, the NC AFS Chapter renamed the Fisheries Conservation Award in honor of Fred Harris at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Fred served as Executive Director of the NC WRC and is a Past President of the AFS and was instrumental in forming the NC AFS Chapter. Fred has, and continues to make many significant contributions to fishery conservation in North Carolina and across the nation.

The **2018 Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award** was presented to **Ms. Erin McCombs**. Erin is the Associate Conservation Director of Southeast Conservation at American Rivers. She works largely in the Carolinas and Tennessee, to provide

program development, technical assistance, project management and general guidance in the planning, development and implementation of projects like dam removals and Blue Trails for the River Restoration and Riverside Land Protection programs. Erin has proven to be a valued and effective leader for American Rivers' conservation goals since she was hired in November 2013 to build and expand the effectiveness of their River Restoration Program in NC and the Southeast. Since that time, she has become a recognized expert on dam removal and grown the capacity of the River Restoration Program by rebuilding the NC Aquatic Connectivity Team (ACT) and advancing dam removal, one of the most efficient and effective ways to restore damaged rivers. While with American Rivers, she has helped raise more than \$425,000 for dam removals and related river conservation initiatives. In 2016, Erin helped lead NC to a record-breaking season for conservation-driven dam removals with 7 dams removed. Erin directly led the removal of four dams while providing technical assistance to partners on the other three. Recently, Erin expanded her role by leading American Rivers' Tuckasegee River Blue Trail initiative with a goal of better connecting local communities to their hometown river and conserving critical riverside lands to protect the river's clean water and biodiversity for future generations.



Erin McCombs was unable to attend and accept her award, but it was proudly accepted on her behalf by Dr. Mike Gangloff (center), immediate Past-President of the NC AFS Chapter and Erin's former M.S. Adviser at Appalachian State University. Presenting the award to Dr. Gangloff are Mr. Fred A. Harris (left) for whom the award is named, and Mr. Corey Oakley, NC AFS Chapter President.

The Chapter recognized outgoing president, **Mr. Corey Oakley** for his hard work, dedicated efforts, and outstanding leadership to the Chapter with his **Chapter Past**

President Service Award. A big thanks to Corey for his outstanding leadership to the Chapter during 2017!



Incoming NC AFS Chapter President, Dr. Tyler Black, presenting the Past President Service Award to Outgoing Chapter President, Mr. Corey Oakley.

Finally, the Chapter recognized **Mr. John Crutchfield** for his hard work, dedicated service, and outstanding leadership to the **Chapter's Award Committee**.



Mr. John Crutchfield, NC AFS Awards Committee Chair for the past 11 years, conducting his final awards ceremony at the 2018 Chapter.

John has admirably served as Chair of the Awards Committee for the past 11 years and he announced his resignation from the Committee at the meeting. A huge debt of gratitude and sincere appreciation was extended to John by the Chapter Members at the meeting! Dr. Greg Cope and Mr. Corey Oakley have agreed to serve as Award Committee Co-Chairs for the coming year. We also thank **Dr. Tom Kwak** for providing the photographs of all awardees at the 2018 meeting!

Submitted by Greg Cope, NCAFS Awards Committee Chair

NCAFS Member Spotlight



Spotlight on Courtney Buckley - Recently there has been a shuffling within the Coastal and Piedmont regions of the North Carolina Wildlife Recourses Commission. This resulted in an opening in District II and the hiring of Courtney Buckley. Courtney is originally from Dix Hills, NY. She completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Courtney went on to earn a Master's degree from the University of South Alabama at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Her thesis was titled, "Estimates of post release mortality and site fidelity of hatchery-raised Red Drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) using acoustic telemetry." Courtney has diverse field experiences that are not only limited to the aquatic realm, as she also has worked with Piping Plovers, Southern Pine Beetles, White-tailed Deer, and Flying Squirrels, just to name a few.

Luckily North Carolina and NCWRC were just what Courtney was looking for after graduation. She has been working in District 2 as the assistant biologist since February 2018. Since her employment Courtney has hit the ground running and is enjoying the frantic pace of anadromous fish sampling the Neuse River. In Courtney's free time she enjoys traveling, photography, hiking, and is considering taking up kayaking. She has already begun to explore some of North Carolina's State Parks.

At her first outreach event Courtney received a standing ovation just for being from New York. The members of Fairfield Harbor Fishing Club are a welcoming bunch consisting of mostly retired New Yorkers. I had to let her know that cheers for being from New York might be an isolated event here in North Carolina. I am sure she will be getting cheers for her quality fisheries work in short order though.

Submitted by Ben Ricks, NCWRC District II Fisheries Biologist

Good Work! – Recent Publications by NCAFS Members

Buttermore, E.N., W.G. Cope, T.J. Kwak, P.B. Cooney, D. Shea, and P.R. Lazaro. 2018. Contaminants in tropical island streams and their biota. *Environmental Research* 161: 615-623.

Dorsey, L. G. and M. A. Abney. 2016. Changes in Black Bass population characteristics after the introduction of Alabama Bass in Lake Norman, North Carolina. *Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* 3:161–166.

Favrot, S.D. and T.J. Kwak. 2018. Behavior and reproductive ecology of the Sicklefins Redhorse: an imperiled southern Appalachian Mountain fish. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 147: 204-222.

Tracy, B. H. 2018. The distributional status of seven nonindigenous species in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River drainage in North Carolina. *American Currents*. 43:5-13.

Call to Action!

If you want to contribute, have a story idea or would like us to include something in next quarter's newsletter, e-mail Kevin Hining kevin.hining@ncwildlife.org or give him a call at 336-213-9692. Also, if you want to become more involved with one of the many great NCAFS committees then please check the link below for information about each one, contacts, etc., <https://nc.fisheries.org/who-we-are/committees/>

Valuable Links

[Click to view dates & deadlines](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS
In Fisheries & Ecology

The [American Fisheries Society Home Page](#) offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishy endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found there.

This and [archived NCAFS newsletters](#), along with links, [chapter information](#), and [upcoming meetings](#), can be found on the [NCAFS website](#).
