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President's Message

As you know, NCAFS is an impressive collective of champions for aquatic resource conservation. The Chapter's excellence was on full display at our 30th annual meeting in Winston-Salem, where we were treated to over 30 presentations (oral and poster combined), an informative workshop, and numerous conversations about our State's aquatic resources. Thank you once more to everyone that participated!

At the business meeting, a motion to express our interest in hosting the next available SDAFS Spring Meeting was presented and passed by unanimous vote. Subsequently, I shared that interest with the SDAFS Executive Committee, and I am happy to announce that we were awarded the 2024 Spring Meeting. In thinking that it is never too early to start planning, the NCAFS Executive Committee established an ad-hoc Planning Committee for SDAFS 2024 under the leadership of Jessica Baumann and Dr. Tom Kwak. I truly appreciate their willingness to assume these roles and get the planning process initiated, and I have no doubt that their guidance will result in an amazing meeting. The ad-hoc's membership can be fluid as we advance towards the actual meeting, but please feel free to reach out if you have interest in helping.

The Chapter is already off to a productive and exciting 2019. I look forward to working with you to keep that momentum going throughout the year.

Jake

Submitted by Jake Rash, NCAFS President

NCAFS 2019 Annual Meeting – Program and Business Meeting Report

February 19th – 21st, 2019 at the Historic Brookstown Inn, Winston-Salem, NC

[Program, Continuing Education Workshop and Abstracts](#) (Podcasts coming soon)

[2019 Business Meeting Minutes](#)



The NCAFS Executive Committee from left to right - Corey Oakley (Past President), Jake Rash (President Elect), Tyler Black (President), and Kelsey Lincoln (Secretary / Treasurer)

NCAFS 2019 Continuing Education Workshop – Aquatic Nuisance Species in NC

February 20th, 2019
The Historic Brookstown Inn - Winston-Salem

This year's workshop involved a wide-ranging discussion about aquatic nuisance species. In case you missed it, all the workshop talks are available on the NCAFS website. To view them, visit the [Continuing Education Courses section of our website](#).

Thanks again to the presenters - Chris Goudreau, Bryn Tracy, TR Russ, Luke Etchison, Dylan Owensby, Erika Haug, and Jessica Baumann.



NCAFS Spring 2019 Treasurer's Report (as of 3/26/2019)

NCAFS Wells Fargo Checking Account: \$10,967.61

NCAFS PayPal Account: \$205.70

RRCC Wells Fargo Saving Account: \$10,101.19

Edward Jones Ichthus (Student) Fund: \$28,830.74

Edward Jones General Fund: \$52,050.89

2018 was a very active and successful year for NCAFS! For a detailed summary of the Chapter's income (including income from membership dues and the 2019 meeting), expenses, and performance reports for the investment funds, please see the full Treasurer's Report included in [the meeting minutes](#) for the 2019 annual meeting.

As of March 2019, the Chapter has a total of 73 NCAFS only members and 61 NCAFS and AFS members for a total of 134 active members. Of our total membership, 21 are students, 97 are professional members, and 16 are lifetime members. The Chapter brought in an estimated \$1,973 (after PayPal fees, does not include rebate from AFS) from annual dues. Income received from membership dues will be held in the Chapter's Checking Account until the AFS rebate / reimbursement money has been received. Once NCAFS has received this money, a portion of the membership dues will remain in the Checking Account and the remaining portion will be allocated to the General and Ichthus Funds. Thank you to everyone who paid their dues!

Our annual meeting was held February 19-21 in Winston-Salem at the Historic Brookstown Inn. There was a total of 88 meeting attendees (14 students, 6 retirees, 68 professionals) and 55 workshop attendees (2 students, 2 retirees, 47 professionals, and 4 non-members). The total cost for the meeting was \$6,192.91 and the total revenue (including meeting registration and workshop fees and donations) was estimated to be \$10,675. Thus, the Chapter gained approximately \$4,266.77 in revenue from the meeting! Thank you, again, to all our sponsors. Thank you to all the members for making this another successful and fun meeting!

The Executive Committee has been working hard to update the Procedures Manual. At the business meeting the Chapter voted to update our bylaws, however, upon further inspection, it was determined that only the Procedures Manual needed to be updated. This can be accomplished by the Executive Committee and does not require a vote to accept the changes. Some of the changes being addressed include updating the responsibilities for committees, adding information about the undergraduate award, and updating our donation request procedures. I anticipate these changes will be done by the next newsletter and we look forward to sharing the updates with the membership at that time.

Since the meeting, NCAFS awarded Cara Kowalchuk \$600 from the Ichthus Fund (reflected in the current balance of the Ichthus Fund). The Executive Committee also

voted to donate \$1,000 to the 2019 Jordan Lake Family Fishing Fiesta (reflected in the current balance of the Checking Account). For any questions regarding meeting minutes, finances, or procedures, please contact Kelsey Lincoln at kelsey.lincoln@ncwildlife.org.

Submitted by Kelsey Lincoln, NCAFS Secretary/Treasurer

Communications Committee Report

The Chapter website (<https://nc.fisheries.org>) saw 7,503 page views in the past year, from 1,975 users. This included 100 views of the page hosting podcasts from the 2018 annual meeting. This does not include views of individual podcasts, so thanks to our podcast coordinators Chris Wood and Jessica Baumann, for making these available, because they are being used. The dynamic [calendar of fisheries and ecology conferences](#) across the US remains another popular resource.

We hosted both annual meeting registration and officer voting online, and membership registration is available on the website. The listserv distributed newsletters, job announcements, news items, and calls for information to 305 participants. Many thanks to the Parent Society of AFS, who hosts our website and content at no charge to NCAFS. Your Chapter webmaster, Brena Jones, is continually working to improve utility and efficiency on the website; if you have events, news, or resources/suggestions to share, you may email brena.jones@ncwildlife.org. Thanks to all our members who have provided material to post!

As an annual reminder, anyone with a Facebook account can post photos or news directly to the [Chapter Facebook page](#). For newer members, if you are not a Facebook user, you can view a live feed of our Facebook page embedded directly [on our website](#). We have 310 Facebook page followers and our material has reached approximately 1700 people on that platform in the past year.

Finally, a special thanks goes out to all that submitted articles for our quarterly newsletter, and to our 2018 newsletter review team - comprised of Brena Jones, Bryn Tracy, Dave Coughlan, and Ben Ricks. For 2019, Ben Ricks will be leaving the review team so he can concentrate on his newly appointed position as NCAFS President Elect. Luckily, Morgan Raley has agreed to join the review team.

The newsletter staff put out 4 quarterly newsletters during 2018, containing 62 pages and over 45 articles. Current and archived newsletters can be found within the [Publications section of the NCAFS website](#). Please consider submitting information to your Chapter's newsletter, whether it be a summary of a recent fisheries related field excursion or outreach event (a photo and as little as a few sentences is fine), spotlighting a NCAFS member (student, professional, or "old-timer"), or letting others

know about recent publications you have been involved with (“Good work” section). Collectively, we all see some pretty cool stuff, so please consider sharing a unique fisheries experience or finding with your fellow Chapter members!

If you would like to be involved with any of the NCAFS communication channels, any Chapter member may contact Communications Committee Team Leaders:

Facebook Page - Jennifer Archambault jennifer.m.archambault@gmail.com

Website - Brena Jones brena.jones@ncwildlife.org

Newsletter - Kevin Hining kevin.hining@ncwildlife.org

Submitted by Brena Jones and Kevin Hining, NCAFS Communications Committee

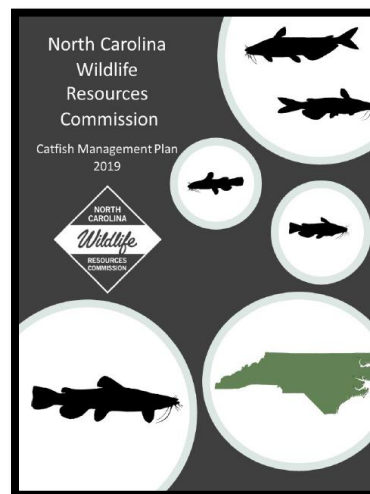
Environmental Concerns Committee Update

Lend your Voice! Participate in the Public Comment Process

The Environmental Concerns Committee recently gave a comprehensive update of current issues at the NCAFS Chapter Meeting in Winston-Salem, NC. There are currently two opportunities for you to lend your professional expertise to fisheries and aquatic resources management.

Draft Catfish Management Plan

NCAFS submitted a [comment letter](#) to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission during the public review period. The ECC expressed support for the stated goals of using sound science to protect and enhance native catfishes, as well as investigating effectiveness of trophy regulations on invasive exotics such as Blue Catfish. A recommendation was made to remove harvest restrictions on Blue and Flathead Catfish, to support NCWRC Conservation Plans for rare aquatic species and to protect resources and recreational opportunities.



Clean Water Act

Did you know? The primary objective of the Federal Pollution Control Act, aka the Clean Water Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” And did you know? It is “the national goal...of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water....” It was a goal to attain by 1983. Thirty-six years

later, we still have water quality issues that threaten fish, shellfish, and wildlife, as well as recreational uses of water resources.

The EPA is seeking [public comment](#) on the Revised Definition of “Waters of the US,” a key term in the Clean Water Act, including how regulatory jurisdiction is determined. The proposed revision ignores the current state of the science on physical, chemical, and biological connections of wetlands and small streams to navigable, regulated waters. The revision will weaken the Clean Water Act’s ability to attain the primary stated objective.

To learn more about the proposed changes to Waters of the US, and how to comment, visit the [American Fisheries Society policy website](#). You can also view a recording of the recent [webinar](#) AFS hosted on the topic. [Submit your comments](#) to the EPA via the web by the April 15 deadline.



If you would like to share your views and expertise on these environmental issues with the ECC in helping to form a position for the NCAFS, please contact Jennifer Archambault (jennifer.m.archambault@gmail.com; (919) 306-5107). Recently submitted comment letters from the ECC have been added to [the committee’s page](#) on the Chapter website.

Submitted by Jennifer Archambault, NCAFS Environmental Concerns Committee Chair

Awards Committee Report

The NCAFS Chapter established the Student Travel Award Program in 2005 for the specific purpose of encouraging professional growth of students and facilitating participation of undergraduate and graduate students at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Monetary support is provided to qualifying students via a travel award of \$200 to \$400 to help defer the cost of meeting travel, registration, and accommodations. The 2018 awards were presented to six students for the 148th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society held August 19-23 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The 2018 award recipients were Emilee Briggs, Bobby Cope, and April Lamb from N.C. State University (Emilee Briggs and April Lamb are advised by Dr. Jesse Fischer and Bobby Cope was advised by Dr. Tom Kwak), Chantelle Rondel and Vincent Santini from Appalachian State University (both advised by Dr. Mike Gangloff), and Chris Thaxton from East Carolina University (advised by Dr. Rebecca Asch). They each received a cash award of \$400 from the Chapter’s Ichthus Fund account, which was established

specifically to foster student involvement. Interested individuals should see the Awards Committee web site at <https://nc.fisheries.org/awards/forms-applications/> for more details.

In 2018, the NCAFS Chapter established an Undergraduate Student Travel Award Program for the specific purpose of encouraging participation of undergraduate students in the annual meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Support is provided via an award of \$300 to help defer the cost of travel, registration, and accommodations. A maximum of three awards will be given each year. Awards will be made directly to the students prior to the annual meeting. Any undergraduate student enrolled as a full-time student at any college or university within the state of North Carolina is eligible. Specifically, each applicant must (1) be a registered full-time student at an in-state institution; (2) Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of the application; and (3) obtain a written endorsement from a faculty adviser. Despite solicitations in the December 2018 Chapter newsletter and multiple listserv announcements, no applications were received from undergraduates to participate in the 2019 NCAFS Chapter meeting. Perhaps greater awareness among academic institutions is warranted.

The Committee recruited judges and conducted the judging for the Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award and the W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award at the 2019 meeting. There were four presentations by students and 11 presentations by professionals. Student presentations were judged by Kevin Dockendorf, Lawrence Dorsey, Tom Kwak, and Ryan Heise. The professional presentations were judged by Greg Cope, Clint Morgeson, Sarah McRae, and Jennifer Archambault.

The Awards Committee solicited nominations for the Chapter's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award and Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award in the December 2018 Chapter newsletter and listserv announcements. One nomination was received for the Fisheries Conservation Award, and one individual was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award. These nominations were reviewed and endorsed by the Awards Committee and forwarded to the EXCOM for approval. These awards were presented to these well-deserving nominees at the Chapter annual business meeting held in Winston-Salem, NC, on February 21, 2019.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. In 2015, a recommendation was made to the Awards Committee and unanimously passed by Chapter EXCOM and Membership to rename the Award to the Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award. Jerry, who passed away due to cancer during 2013, epitomized selfless dedicated service to the NCAFS Chapter and the Southern Division of AFS. The Chapter will remain forever indebted for his volunteer service.

The 2019 Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Wilson Laney for his dedicated service to the Chapter (as President in 1994); he has also been a strong contributor to the AFS at the division, and society level and to the field of fisheries science and conservation for nearly 50 years, since his tenure as a graduate student in 1970 at NC State University. He has been a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee since 1981, but his service and accomplishments are



Dr. Wilson Laney receiving the Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award from NCAFS President Tyler Black. Photo Credit: Dr. Tom Kwak

unique and diverse, spanning multiple areas of fisheries science, marine and freshwater taxa, and conservation and education organizations. His long experience, deep expertise, and vast knowledge are not limited by traditional boundaries in our field, and as such, he is among the most effective professionals to bridge contemporary science and historical knowledge with critical and timely conservation issues. Inarguably, Wilson's service to conserving our fishery resources occurs at a high volume, with outstanding quality, and he is extremely effective in supporting positive outcomes for our public resources.

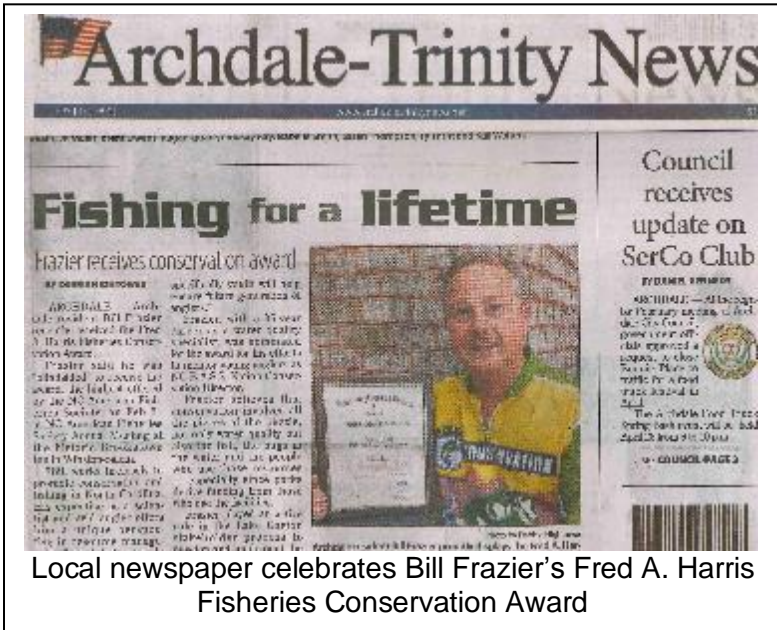
The Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or to the fisheries resources of North Carolina. The 2019 award was presented to Mr. William (Bill) Frazier.

Bill has worked with water quality and reservoir management for most of his career. He is the laboratory manager at the City of High Point's Water Filtration Plant. As a water quality specialist, he was one of the first to successfully treat *Lyngbya*, a cyanobacteria, in the state. As the NC B.A.S.S. National Conservation Director, Bill is dedicated to the preservation of the sport's natural resources and mentoring young anglers to become skilled fisherman. Bill doesn't shy away from potentially controversial projects and

encourages anglers not to stock or plant aquatic nuisance species like Spotted Bass and *Hydrilla* in NC reservoirs. He participated in the Lake Gaston stakeholder process to develop and implement the vegetation management plan. The plan's goal was to control *Hydrilla* while maintaining enough native vegetation for sport fish habitat. Through projects like this, Bill tries to bridge the relationship gap between the angler community and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission). More recently, Bill was instrumental in developing and implementing the Commission's Educational Fishing Trails in North Carolina. There are currently four Fishing Trails in the state, with plans to build another in 2019. The Fishing Trail's goal is to develop unique fishing opportunities in small reservoirs that teach anglers about the seasonal patterns of Largemouth Bass and other sport fish by enhancing existing features in the reservoir with fish attractors. The basic principles learned by anglers can be used on other reservoirs and promote the necessary skills to enjoy fishing for a lifetime. Each fishing trail was built in partnership with a youth leadership group, like Boy Scouts. Bill took the kids on his boat to help map each reservoir's habitat features, guided them in selecting areas to enhance habitat, helped them raise funds for artificial structure materials and ultimately helped build and install all the habitat structures. Angler feedback from the existing Fishing Trails has been very positive and there are plans to build another one in 2019.



Bill Frazier receiving the Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award from NCAFS President Tyler Black. Photo Credit: Dr. Tom Kwak



Local newspaper celebrates Bill Frazier's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award

Bill was instrumental in getting NC B.A.S.S. National to partner with the Commission to improve habitat on Harris Lake. Triploid Grass Carp are being stocked to control *Hydrilla* and the Commission is creating cover habitat by installing 30 acres of fish attractors and restoring one acre of native vegetation. This partnership includes assisting with grant writing, helping develop a habitat enhancement plan, and most importantly rounding up anglers and other volunteers to help plant native vegetation and install artificial structures. Bill works tirelessly to promote conservation and fishing in North Carolina. His expertise as a scientist and avid angler offers him a unique perspective in resource management. His dedication to educating the public and specifically youth will help ensure future generations of anglers.

The 2019 Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award was awarded to Cara K. Kowalchuk of North Carolina State University for her presentation entitled “Variability of Striped Bass Egg Characteristics in North Carolina Coastal Rivers”. Her co-authors on the presentation were Jesse R. Fischer and Benjamin J. Reading of North Carolina State University. Cara will receive a monetary award of \$600 from the Chapter’s Ichthus fund for travel to present the paper at a future scientific conference.

The 2019 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award was awarded to Heather K. Evans of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences for her presentation entitled “The Effect of Long-term Stocking Programs on Genetic Diversity”. Her co-authors on the presentation were Kara B. Carlson of the NC Museum of



Cara K. Kowalchuk receiving her Best Student Presentation Award from Dr. Richard L. Noble, for whom the award is named. Photo Credit: Dr. Tom Kwak



Dr. Heather K. Evans receiving her W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Presentation Award from Dr. Greg Cope, Chair of the NCAFS Awards Committee. Photo Credit: Dr. Tom Kwak

Natural Sciences and Kathryn M. Potoka and Jeremy W. McCargo of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Submitted by Greg Cope and Corey Oakley Awards Committee Co-Chairs

Education and Outreach Committee Report

At the 2017 NCAFS business meeting in New Bern, NC, the Education and Outreach Committee conducted a poll of the membership to determine the most desired continuing education workshop topics. The top 5 topics were:

- 1- Climate change
- 2- Invasive species
- 3- Fish statistics (tied for 3rd)
- 4- Genetic tools (tied for 3rd)
- 5- Fish identification

At the 2018 annual meeting Dr. Ryan Boyles, Acting Director, DOI/USGS Southeast Climate Science Center, conducted a wonderful workshop on climate change issues. In 2019, [Chapter members Chris Goudreau, Bryn Tracy, TR Russ, Luke Etchison, Dylan Owensby, Erika Haug, and Jessica Baumann participated in a wide-ranging discussion about aquatic nuisance species](#). The NCAFS Education and Outreach Committee will continue to work with researchers and Chapter members to identify and conduct high quality workshops. If anyone has an idea not identified in the list above, feel free to contact Chris Wood (Chris.Wood@ncwildlife.org). We are always open to suggestions.

The NCAFS Education and Outreach Committee also recorded the 2018 and 2019 presentations with Camstasia software provided by the Southern Division of AFS. The [2018 podcasts](#) are posted on the NCAFS website and the 2019 files should be uploaded soon.

Submitted by Chris Wood, NCAFS Education and Outreach Committee Chair

College Students Get a Look at Stream Biological Sampling Methods

On February 28th, 2019, NCWRC Aquatic Wildlife Diversity biologists met with college students in a Global Water Issues class for a hands-on demonstration of in-stream biological sampling gear and methods. Biologists Andrew Glen and Katharine DeVilbiss coordinated with Daniel Elias, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount to rendezvous at nearby Maple Creek, a tributary of the Tar River, on a surprisingly rain-free afternoon this winter.



The 12 students and teacher stepped out of their school van already geared up in forest-green waders and eager to seize the stream. They learned about environmental work focused on rare, threatened, and endangered aquatic species, and recent projects carried out by the non-game conservation biologists before hopping into the water for the super exciting stuff: catching critters and trying not to flood their waders! The use of view buckets, backpack electroshocker, dip nets, and seines were demonstrated and utilized to find a variety of fauna including sunfish, darters, shiners, native crayfish, salamanders, and dragonfly nymphs. The students especially got a kick out of the speedy and super flexible young American Eel. Judging by the number of student questions fielded to Andrew and Katharine, smiles on faces, and shrieks of excitement over new finds, the outreach event was quite the success.



Submitted by Katharine DeVilbiss, NCWRC Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Biologist

Good Work! – Recent Publications by NCAFS Members

Fisk, J. M., Morgeson, C. W. and M. E. Polera. 2019. Evaluation of recreational hand-crank electrofishing on introduced catfish species in southeastern North Carolina. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 39:150-165.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/nafm.10255>

Perkin, M. A., Bronwyn, W. W., and W. T. Russ. 2019. *Cambarus franklini*, a new crayfish (Decapoda: Cambaridae) from the Catawba River Basin in western North Carolina, USA. *Zootaxa*. 4568(3):520-532.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4568.3.6>

Rash, J. M., Goodfred, D. W., E. M. Jones Jr. 2018. Evaluation of coded wire tag retention in Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* fingerlings tagged at three anatomical locations. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. 33:503-509.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02705060.2018.1513382>

News from NCWRC

[Wildlife Diversity Program Quarterly Reports](#)

NCWRC's quarterly wildlife diversity reports contain updates on a wide variety of nongame research projects and survey results. This issue includes an update on aquatic species monitoring in Lake Waccamaw, along with Spotfin Chub, freshwater mussel, and Lake Sturgeon survey information.



Wavy-rayed lampmussel displaying lure

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

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](#).
