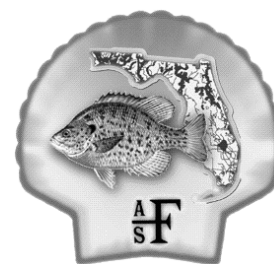


the Shellcracker



FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

<http://www.sdafs.org/flafs>

April 2019

President's Message:

Hello Florida,

I hope the transition from our “long winter” into a short spring and imminent summer is going well for all of our members.

We had yet another successful meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting was attended by 94 attendees, who gave 41 oral presentations and 22 poster presentations. I want to thank all those that worked so hard putting this meeting together. I wanted to specifically thank a few people. Thanks to Bob Heagey and Nick Trippel for putting on such a successful 39th meeting of our chapter. I know there are plenty of people behind the scenes that helped out, but it takes dedicated time to coordinate everything that goes on at our meetings. I also would like to extend thanks to Kevin Johnson who has been taking care of the chapter's finances and planning stages. Kevin has had to make some decisions to keep the chapter in the black with our accounts and did a great job with those changes. I also wanted to recognize Amanda Croteau and Chelsey Crandall who did a fantastic job of taking over the raffle for the first year. Finally, I'd like to thank those that switched out of the symposium and out of oral presentations to poster presentations. We had another year of excellent project submission that we had to find spots to hear all of the relevant research that is going on all over the state. As Bob stated at the beginning of the meeting, the technology that we are now presented with can be exciting and daunting, but we have to be able to embrace it to keep up with the fisheries world around us. I think we did an awesome job at capturing all aspects of the how we are learning about and utilizing the technology to advance fisheries science.

I would like to congratulate our new officers. Kevin has resigned his post at secretary and Chris Anderson will be taking over his position. Kevin did a great job keeping track of everything for the chapter and we look forward to Chris taking over and continuing along that track. I won't congratulate myself, but I want to thank everyone for the support through voting as I was elected president-elect. I look forward to meeting new people and working with those I have worked with in the past to plan next year's meeting. Bob Heagey is now our current president and Nick Trippel has moved onto past president. Again, both Bob and Nick have done a fantastic job in their duties and I only hope to do as well as they did to keep the Florida Chapter relevant in AFS. There were also two new committees formed during the business meeting. If you have interest in either our newly formed “Continuing Education” committee or “Marketing Committee” please contact Kerry Flaherty-Walia at Kerry.Flaherty-Walia@MyFWC.com.

Every year we give out multiple awards and I would like to take the time to congratulate the recipients of those awards as well. The Rich Cailteux award was awarded to Dr. Richard “Ed” Matheson Jr. The Jack Dequine Student paper award was awarded to Kailee Schulz and runner-up was Taylor Lipscomb. Best Professional paper was awarded to Hunter Hatcher and honorable mention was Stephen Jones. Best Student Poster was awarded to Michael Espriella and honorable mention was Julie Vecchio. Best Professional Poster was awarded to Natasha Viadero and Kara Wall, while Chris Anderson was honorable mention. The Power Tie Award went to Cheree Steward. Finally, the Rottman Scholarships were awarded to Justin Lewis (PhD) and Marina Schwartz (M.S.). Also, for the second year in a row, all students that applied for travel grant were awarded the grant to attend this year's meeting. Again, congratulations to all those who were the recipient of an award and thanks to all those who judged and submitted.

Next year's meeting will again be held at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center. The meeting dates will be April 1-3, 2020. I am still working on the perfect symposium idea at this moment, but I would really like to highlight long-term datasets that have been collected and then in-turn informed us towards some management implications. We look forward to seeing everyone there next year and hope that we can increase our attendance. Florida Chapter is an important meeting where networking is just as important as learning of the research that is going on statewide.

Sincerely,
Daniel Nelson
Florida Chapter President-Elect



Getting in Touch

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Vice President

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Secretary/Treasurer

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University Liaison

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Upcoming Events

Sept 29-Oct 3, 2019: 149th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society – Joint meeting with The Wildlife Society

*Check out our Parent Society's calendar at
<http://www.fisheries.org/Calendar.shtml>
for other events not listed here!*

Interested in contributing something to the Shellcracker?
Email: Scott Bisping at Scott.Bisping@myfwc.com with any articles or information that you would like to be included in the next issue. The deadline for the next issue is September 1st, 2018, so start fishing...

Preserving a Potential State Record Fish

By: Hunter Hatcher Andy Strickland , Scott Bisping and Ryan Henry



Landing a record fish is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement for any angler. The state record certification process requires that a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologist certify the catch. Biologists are often unable to immediately respond, resulting in a delay before the catch can be certified. Over time, fish can lose weight in several ways including regurgitation, defecation, and water loss. As an agency, FWC recommends that anglers holding trophy fish for certification keep the fish alive or in an ice water bath. FWC also advises against freezing the fish to avoid weight loss. The objective of this study

was to identify fish handling methods which minimized the change in weight of a fish over time with respect to weight at capture.

We evaluated fish weight loss based on preservation method for several species, including: Bluegill *Lepomis macrochirus*, Black Crappie *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*, Largemouth Bass *Micropterus salmoides*, and Flathead Catfish *Pylodictis olivaris*. Weight loss was compared between fish 1) preserved in a live well with aeration, 2) in a cooler on ice, 3) in a cooler with ice bath, and 4) frozen in a deep freezer. Weights of individual fish were recorded immediately after catch and at specified time intervals up to 48 hours post catch. Values were converted to represent percent change in weight relative to initial weight. We then conducted analysis of variance and repeated measures analysis of variance to test for significant variation between preservation methods with respect to percent change in weight.



Feature Article

To date, weight loss based on preservation methods has only been evaluated for three of the four species, Flathead Catfish, Black Crappie, and Largemouth Bass. All species tested exhibited significantly different weight loss with respect to preservation method. Flathead Catfish preserved in an ice bath gained 5% of their body weight on average, while fish preserved alive lost 6% of their body weight on average. Black Crappie preserved in an ice bath gained 7% of their body weight on average. Largemouth Bass preserved in an ice bath gained 5% of their body weight on average, while fish preserved alive lost 3% of their body weight on average. Variations in change in weight between preservation methods were statistically significant for all species as early as 6 hours after capture.



Preservation method has a significant impact on the change in weight of potential state record fish over time. For example, the current state record Flathead Catfish weighed in at 63.8 lbs. Based on observed averages from our study, a flathead catfish weighing 65.0 lbs at time of capture may weigh only 61.8 lbs after 48 hours kept alive. In comparison, this same fish would weigh 68.9 lbs if kept in an ice bath over the same 48-hour period. This represents a 7.1 lb (11%)



shift in body weight simply by changing the preservation method used. Results of this study should be used to alter current FWC recommended handling methods. Based on our results, the handling methods which promote minimal change in weight over time are placing the fish in ice (keeping the water drained) or freezing the fish.

For more information on this project please email/call:
Hunter Hatcher
Email: hunter.hatcher@myfwc.com
Phone: 850-717-8733

Minutes of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society
Business Meeting
April 4, 2018
FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida

President Nick Trippel called the meeting to order at 1915 hours and Kevin Johnson established a quorum.

Current officers, past-presidents, and committee chairs of the Florida Chapter were read and those in attendance were acknowledged: Nick Trippel, Bob Heagey, Kevin Johnson, Jeff Hill, Allison Durland Donahou, Beth Bowers, Lauren Kircher, Amanda Croteau, Chelsey Crandall, Eric Nagid, Chuck Cichra, Wes Porak, Mike Murphy, Kerry Flaherty, Travis Tuten, and Chris Bradshaw.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda for the 39th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society Business Meeting, and Nick Trippel asked for and received approval of the agenda.

Wes Porak gave an update on AFS and Southern Division AFS business and talked about that if you are a member of AFS (parent society) then you are automatically a member of your division, in our case the Southern Division. Wes talked about how successful the 2019 Southern Division meeting in Galveston, Texas was, and that attendance exceeded 550 people which is a very big meeting for the division. Wes highlighted the number of women in ExCom positions within AFS and the women's fisheries group started at the Tampa meeting, and that women's involvement and promoting diversity in AFS and in AFS leadership positions is a current priority for the society. Wes then mentioned the Southern Division listserv and how to get on that listserv. Wes stated the 2020 Southern Division meeting will be in Little Rock, Arkansas and that the Third International Catfish Symposium (Catfish 2020), will overlap with the Southern Division's annual meeting. Wes also stated that the Southern Division is partnering with AFS headquarters to host the 2021 AFS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Wes then stated that the 2019 AFS Annual Meeting will be in Reno, NV and will be a joint meeting with the Wildlife Society. Wes then mentioned the priorities for the current AFS president, which includes gaps in professional development, improving upon AFS' already great publications, and promoting diversity within AFS and the fisheries profession. Wes then finished up by mentioning the benefits of becoming an AFS member, and then a video from AFS headquarters was played to elaborate on these benefits and other highlights of what AFS does and provides to its members.

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Johnson asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 38th (2018) Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society as they appeared in the July 2018 Shellcracker newsletter, the motion was then seconded and passed.

Kevin Johnson then presented the 2018 Treasurer's Report. The chapter ended the year with \$83,727 in total assets, a \$45,934 gain from the beginning of the year. Income from hosting the Tampa meeting accounted for most of this gain. Kevin also gave an update on the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship Fund via an email from Larry Connor. The Fund had assets of \$29,507 as of 31 December 2018, representing a \$2,984 decrease from the 31 December 2017 assets of \$32,491.

Past-President Jeff Hill then facilitated elections for chapter President-Elect. Candidates Dan Nelson and Quenton Tuckett each gave a bio about themselves and their vision as chapter president, and then ballots were cast.

Committee Reports

Membership – Kevin Johnson gave an update on membership via an email from Larry Connor. The Florida Chapter ended the year with 214 members. This represented an increase of 2 members from 2017. Of the 2018 members, a total of 58 members paid their dues at the annual meeting, 147 through the society, 3 direct payments, 5 through PayPal on the chapter website, and 1 complementary membership. Larry did not include any comparisons to the 2017 membership since the Chapter hosted the American Fisheries Society's annual meeting in Tampa. Since the Chapter did not hold its regular spring annual meeting, the ExCom directed Larry to carry over all 2016 members for 2017. This changed the 2017 membership statistics and invalidated any comparisons with 2018. The Chapter's membership included 57 student members. Approximately 82% of the chapter members, 176, were also Society members. And, there were 84 paid attendees at the Chapter's 2018 annual meeting.

Newsletter – Kevin Johnson said that Scott Bisping, the Shellcracker newsletter editor, who was not able to attend the business meeting, is doing a great job and will stay on as editor for the next year.

Website – Kevin Johnson stated that Eric Sawyers, who was not able to attend the business meeting, is doing a great job maintaining the chapter's website and will continue to maintain the website into the foreseeable future.

Raffle – Amanda Croteau started by thanking the 34 business that donated items to the raffle and that all the items in the raffle/silent auction had a value of greater than three thousand dollars. Amanda then thanked everyone who helped gather and solicit items for the raffle including: Chelsey, Jeff, Beth, Lauren, Natalie, Allison, Kathy, Andy, Alan, and Chuck. Amanda then urged everyone to buy raffle tickets and bid on auction item to raise money for student travel to next year's chapter meeting.

Student Scholarships and Awards – Chuck Cichra reminded everyone that proceeds from the previous year's raffle funds student travel grants for this year's chapter meeting and urged everyone to buy raffle tickets. Chuck then said that fifteen student travel grants were awarded this year. Chuck then stated that the ExCom may need to consider changes to how student travel grants are awarded in the future, because funding all students every year may not be sustainable since the costs of meals and lodging at our new venue are higher. Chuck then thanked the ExCom for using general chapter revenue to make up the difference to fund all 15 travel grants this year. Students who received travel grant awards were then acknowledged, and represented Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida, and the University of Florida. Chuck then gave the history of the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship and summarized the recipient applications. Marina Schwartz, of the University of Florida, received the M.S. Rottmann award, and Justin Lewis, of the University of Florida, received the PhD Rottmann award. Each was presented with a certificate and a \$1,000 check.

Florida Chapter Awards – Eric Nagid gave a brief summary of the career of Rich Cailteux and the history of the Rich Cailteux Award, which is meant to recognize individuals for their career contributions to the fisheries profession and the Florida Chapter. Dr. Richard "Ed" Matheson Jr. was then named the 8th recipient of the Rich Cailteux Award and he received a standing ovation. Eric then presented Ed with the award and read his nomination letter.

Student Subunit Report

Allison Durland Donahou announced the incoming Subunit officers: Allison Durland Donahou (UF) – President, Beth Bowers (FAU) – Vice President, Lauren Kircher (FAU) – Secretary/Treasurer, and Grace Sowaske (UF) – University Liaison. Allison then talked about the travel grants that the subunit and the chapter awarded to students in 2018, which included one subunit travel grant and two chapter travel grants to the Atlantic City AFS annual meeting. Allison then reminded the chapter to support subunit fundraising efforts which include signing up for the 3rd annual Sheepshead Shuffle and the subunit's Amazon Smile account, and buying FLAFS buffs and hats, and that proceeds from these efforts are used to fund student travel to Southern Division and Annual Meetings. Allison reminded students to apply for subunit travel grants, and that no students applied for subunit travel grants to the 2019 Southern Division meeting. Allison also talked about students writing for the Subunit blog and Facebook account, and that students or professional can write blogs.

Old Business

Nick Trippel acknowledged members of the Project/Service Ad Hoc Committee and that the committee came up with the idea of having statewide aquatic/waterbody cleanup events, and that several of these events were planned and already took place with great success even though these events were planned last-minute. Nick then showed pictures from the events that already took place. Nick then stated that this committee recommended making these cleanups annual events and that the committee recommended aligning these cleanups with International Coastal Cleanup Day which takes place on the third Saturday in September. Nick then asked the chapter for a motion to continue with these cleanup events in the future and to align them with International Coastal Cleanup Day, Wes Porak then raised the idea of having a competition for the event that picks up the most trash, the motion was then seconded and passed.

Eric Nagid then gave a report for the AFS 2017 Funds Ad Hoc Committee, which was formed to explore uses of the profit earned by the Florida Chapter AFS from hosting the 147th Annual Meeting in Tampa, profit estimated to be about \$33,000 and therefore available for FL Chapter projects, activities, or donations. Eric stated that many ideas for the use of these funds were discussed by the committee, but that for the sake of time, he reported on the top three recommendations, which included: (1) increase the amount of money in Rottmann scholarship fund by \$15,000 to maximize the gains generated by the fund and be more capable of withstanding the annual scholarship withdrawals totaling \$2,000, (2) send the winner of the FL Chapter AFS Best Student Paper to the AFS meeting of their choice and support all travel expenses with the stipulation of this support is that they are required to then compete at the AFS Best Student Presentation Symposium and acknowledge the FL Chapter for their travel support in hopes that other states may offer the same incentive and opportunity, and (3) a one-time donation in the amount of \$8,000 to be split evenly between each of the 3 youth conservations centers (FYCCN) in Florida and the University of Florida's Fishing for Success program and that donated funds may be used for any of the program's needs (e.g. supplies, field trip transportation, etc.), with the recommendation that each program acknowledge the Florida Chapter by displaying the Chapter's logo at regular events. Discussion ensued, and the question was asked if there was enough money to fund all three idea. That question was answered by Eric with a "Yes", which led Alexis Trotter to make a motion that all three ideas be funded, this motion was then seconded and passed.

Installation of New Officers

Nick Trippel announced Dan Nelson as the new President-Elect and that Chris Anderson will become the next Secretary/Treasurer. Nick then turned the meeting over to Bob Heagey as the new Chapter President. Bob then gave Nick a plaque and thanked him for his service as the outgoing Chapter President, and though not in attendance, Natalie Simon was acknowledged with a plaque for her service as the outgoing Subunit President.

New business

Kerry Flaherty-Walia went over the idea that had been raised by the ExCom and other members of the chapter about the potential formation of a Marketing & Membership Initiative Ad Hoc Committee. The goals of this committee would be to make sure website stays up to date and fresh, summarize symposia that have taken at prior chapter meetings, invest time in social media outlets and other forms of advertising to raise awareness of FLAFS and the fisheries profession, and lastly promote the FL Chapter AFS to universities, agencies, and private sector to increase membership, participation in our annual meeting, and sponsorship opportunities. Kerry then commented on the issues of having a continuing education workshop over lunch on the second day of the meeting, and that a workshop on the first half-day of our annual meeting may be a better idea. Allison Durland Donahou commented that the student subunit still wants to help and be a part of continuing education workshops. Eric Nagid commented that there needs to be more chapter involvement in marketing and membership initiatives and made a motion that Kerry chair a newly created Marketing & Membership Initiative Ad Hoc Committee and create and chair a Continuing Education Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion ensued, and Bob Heagey said there should be signup sheets for anyone willing to chair these committees or for anyone wanting to be a part of these committees. Wes Porak agreed there should be signup sheets for these committees and a motion was made to form both ad hoc committees and their signup sheets, this motion was then seconded and passed.

A solicitation for a \$5,000 Florida Chapter sponsorship, from AFS headquarters, for the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program was tabled until next year given the money the chapter already earmarked earlier in the business meeting for the top three recommendations from the AFS 2017 Funds Ad Hoc Committee.

Kevin Johnson then stated that the 2020 FL Chapter Annual Meeting will again take place in April, here at the FFA Center and that 2020 meeting costs will likely be similar to this year's meeting for conference travel planning purposes. Kevin also commented on why registration and lodging costs increased for this year's meeting.

Bob Heagey then motioned to adjourn the business meeting. The motion was seconded and passed at 2040 hours.



Treasurer's Report Florida Chapter AFS (Continued)

Kevin Johnson

1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

	Cash (MS, WF, PP)	Mutual Fund (Morgan Stanley)	Total
January 1, 2018	\$ 16,054.00	\$ 21,740.00	\$ 37,793.00
December 31, 2018	<u>\$ 62,612.00</u>	<u>\$ 21,116.00</u>	<u>\$ 83,727.00</u>
Difference:	\$ +46,558.00	\$ -624.00	\$ +45,934.00

Credits:

2017 Tampa Meeting Income	\$ 55,308
2018 Chapter Meeting Income (including dues)	\$ 13,141
2018 Chapter Meeting Raffle/Silent Auction Income	\$ 2,318
Subunit Income (Sheepshead Shuffle, Buffs, Amazon ☺)	\$ 853
Rottmann Scholarship Fund Rebate	\$ 1,000
2017 AFS HQ FL Chapter Dues Refund Check	\$ 1,990
2017 AFS HQ Membership Rebate Check	<u>\$ 388</u>
Total:	\$ 74,998

Debits:

2018 Chapter Meeting Expenses (including travel grants)	\$ (17,023)
2018 Chapter Meeting Raffle/Silent Auction Expenses	\$ (1,128)
FFA 2019 Chapter Meeting Deposit	\$ (1,600)
Subunit Expenses (Sheepshead Shuffle, Buffs)	\$ (509)
Subunit 2018 Travel Grant	\$ (200)
Atlantic City AFS 2018 Meeting Travel Grants	\$ (1,000)
Southern Division AFS 2019 Meeting Travel Grants	\$ (1,000)
Rottmann Scholarships	\$ (2,000)
Catfish 2020 AFS Meeting Sponsorship	\$ (500)
Atlantic City AFS 2018 Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$ (500)
AFS Web Hosting	\$ (360)
AFS Liability Insurance	<u>\$ (150)</u>
Total:	\$ (25,970)



2019 Annual Meeting Presentation Awards



Jack Dequine Student Paper Award

Best: Kailee Schulz (University of Florida), P. Stevens, J. Hill, A. Trotter, J. Ritch, J. Patterson, and Q. Tuckett. Exploring Fisheries Aspects of Large-Scale Habitat Restoration in Tampa Bay.

Honorable Mention: Taylor Lipscomb (University of Florida), A. Wood, S. Ramee, M. DiMaggio. Characterization of Larval Digestive System Ontogeny in *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*: Progress Toward Feeding Optimization.

Professional Paper

Best: Hatcher, H. (FWC), A. Strickland, and S. Bisping. Preserving a Potential State Record Fish

Honorable Mention: Jones, S. (FWC), B. Thompson, and D. Nelson. Estimating the population change from vegetation expansion at Lake Griffin, FL

Student Poster

Best: Michael Espriella (University of Florida) and V. Lecours. Using Geographic Object-Based Image Analysis to Characterize Oyster Reefs: A feasibility Study.

Honorable Mention: Julie Vecchio (University of South Florida), C. D. Stallings, J. S. Curtis, A. A. Wallace, and E. B. Peebles. The $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ in teleost muscle and liver tissue varies predictably and can be used as an indicator of site fidelity.

Professional Poster

Best: Natasha Viadero (Florida International University), J. A. Massie, R. O. Santos, and J. S. Rehage. Bass in the Coast: Patterns of Seasonal Habitat Use by Florida Largemouth Bass in the Upper Shark River, Everglades National Park.

Best: Kara Wall (FWC), S. Lowerre-Barbieri, J. Bickford, H. Menendez, and S. Walters-Burnsed. Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) and Red Grouper (*Epinephelus morio*) movement in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Honorable Mention: Anderson, C., T. Lange, D. Richard, G. DelPizzo, B. Fontaine, A. Bernhardt, T. Tuten and J. O'Connor. Satellites, Sondes, and Shallow Water Fishes: A Habitat Restoration Evaluation



Power Tie Award:

Cheree Steward (FWC)
Creating an Effective Poster



Lamp Shade Award:

Taylor Lipscomb (UF student)
for his cartwheel abilities at the bon-fire

Rich Cailteux Award

Dr. Richard “Ed” Matheson Jr.

Ed received his Masters of Arts from College of William & Mary, Biology Department and his PhD from Texas A&M University in the Wildlife and Fisheries Department. This background provided a solid basis for a career focused on the systematics and ecology of fishes across multiple habitats ranging from freshwater streams to the deep sea. Ed has been a research scientist at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) since 1987. Over the years, his research interests have included seagrass-associated fishes, fishes of tidal-river estuaries and more recently, fishes of the West Florida Shelf. Between 1987-



1991 Ed designed and coordinated the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) study which assessed the effects of minimum flows on the fish communities of the Little Manatee River. The success and scientific results of this CZM program led to over three dozen additional collaborative efforts, and over \$3 million in grants between the SW Florida water management district and FWRI. Since the early 1990's, he has also been involved in various projects documenting differences in fish community structure in Florida Bay in relation to freshwater flow, seagrass die-offs, and Everglades restoration. He has served as the chief ichthyologist for the Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) subsection where his knowledge of Florida's fishes guides young and seasoned scientists across the state and ensures the quality of these data used to manage key species. Ed's accurate identification of collected specimens aid in evaluating changes in native fish distribution within Florida's waters, document occurrence of introduced or exotic species within freshwater or estuarine systems and has become increasingly important as range shifts occur in concert with climate change. Ed consistently provides critical insight and constructive support for many studies within his agency as well as with groups from other agencies or academia. His depth of knowledge of fish biology, taxonomy, systematics, community structure along with habitat complexities and how fish fit into differing ecosystems (including those beyond Florida) is unmatched within the agency. Ed provides 'big-picture' thinking to how FWRI approaches our fisheries research objectives and how best to apply the discoveries we find in our data.

Ed has authored or coauthored over 30 peer reviewed papers. He has served as an adjunct faculty member and graduate committee member at the University of South Florida, Marine Science Department as well as a graduate committee member for the University of Central Florida. He is a member of the American Fisheries Society and joined the Florida Chapter in 1987. During his career Ed has presented at over 50 scientific meetings, including the FL Chapter AFS. He has also served as a FL AFS judge (talks/posters) upon numerous occasions. Ed has served as a reviewer for many regional, national and international scientific journals including Bulletin of Marine Science, Estuaries, Southwestern Naturalist, and Fishery Bulletin.

Rich Cailteux Award (continued)

Dr. Richard “Ed” Matheson Jr.

...On a personal level, Ed is one of the most approachable scientists at FWRI. He routinely takes time out of his day to mentor young scientists in fish identification, literature review, manuscript preparation, and just in life as a fisheries biologist. His sense of humor, pleasant demeanor, and professional expertise have led to many cooperative research efforts and made him an invaluable asset to FWC over his career. Not only does Ed exemplify dedication and service to the protection and preservation of Florida's fish species, he has been instrumental in identifying them accurately for research and outreach purposes and to train younger staff to uphold these scientific pursuits. One colleague wrote, “He is truly a Tennessee gentleman, one whose mild mannerism yet decisiveness in matters of science make him a delight to work with.” Florida Chapter “Royalty” and past president, Ron Taylor reflects first meeting Ed at the FL AFS meeting in 1987 on Big Pine Key. Ron said that since that day, Ed has contributed an unsurpassed store of knowledge not only on YOY fishes but biological processes in general. On a side note, Ed was the inspiration the inaugural Lampshade “Get Small” Award”!!

Rottmann Scholarship Recipients



PhD Recipient:

Justin Lewis
University of Florida

PhD research: Structural and functional properties of reef food webs: Implications for food web stability.

Masters Recipient:

Marina Schwartz
University of Florida

Master's research: Effects of nutrient reduction on the water quality and Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) population in Lake Alice, Gainesville, Florida.



2019 Student Raffle & Silent Auction



This year we netted a profit of \$2300 from the raffle and silent auction!

This success would not have been possible without the help we received from our raffle committee (Geoff Smith, Allison Durland Donahou, Natalie Simon, Beth Bowers, and Lauren Kircher) and dedicated volunteers.

A special thank you also goes to each of you who purchased raffle tickets and bid on silent auction items. Without your generosity, the raffle would not be able to support student attendance to our annual meeting.

Our next raffle and silent auction will take place on April 2nd 2020 at the annual FLAFS meeting in Haines City. If you are interested in helping, please contact Amanda (amanda.croteau@gmail.com) or Chelsey (kicksea@ufl.edu).

Thank you!

Amanda Croteau and Chelsey Crandall

Location	Donor
Brandon, FL	The Aquarium & Fish Store
Cedar Key, FL	UF Nature Coast Biological Station
Coral Gables, FL	Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
Crystal River, FL	Crystal River Kayak Company and Diver Center GTF Rods Geoff & Kathy Smith Plantation Inn on Crystal River
Fort Lauderdale, FL	Guy Harvey Research Institute
Fort Pierce, FL	Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program Maverick Boat Group Shelly Polvere
Gainesville, FL	UF Aquatic Research Graduation Organization Gary's Tackle Box FLAFS Student Subunit Swamp Head Brewery Chuck Cichra First Magnitude Brewing Company Lakewatch Debra Murie Best Western Gateway Grand Northwest Grille Dolce Vita Bakery Café One Love Café Florida Museum of Natural History Northwest Seafood Fresh Market Wild Birds Unlimited
High Springs, FL	Outdoor Life for Guys and Girls Great Outdoors Restaurant Rum 238 Canoe Outpost
Homosassa, FL	Riversport Kayaks Pepper Creek Pottery Captain Rick Spratt

Location	Donor
Lake Talquin, FL	Ingram's Marina and Campground Captain David Boyd
Ocala, FL	The Corkscrew
Orlando, FL	Bass Pro
Port Canaveral, FL	Canaveral Cruise 1 Port Canaveral Exploration Tower Fishlips Waterfront Bar & Grill Rusty's Seafood & Oyster Bar
Port Charlotte, FL	Kelly Reark Borza
Ruskin, FL	Roy Yanong UF Tropical Aquaculture Lab Sunset Grill
St. Augustine, FL	Oldest City Bait and Tackle Mangrove Surf Shop Island Life Courtyard by Marriott St. Augustine Paddle Sports Genuing's Fish Camp Sea Hunt Scuba Old City Trolley St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoo
St. Petersburg, FL	Canoe Country Outfitters Diane Rom e Peebles Gator Jim's Tackle Sweetwater Kayaks
Tampa, FL	Barrymore Hotel Florida Aquarium Datz Restaurant Group Green Lemon Florida Fishing Products
Georgia	Alan Collins
Bethesda, MD	American Fisheries Society
Traverse City, MI	Derek & Janell DeYoung

Student Subunit Update

By: Allison Durland Donahou

New Officers

A new year brings us changes in our officers. Please help us welcome our newest recruit, Grace Sowaske as University Liaison. Allison Durland Donahou moved to President, Beth Bowers moved to Vice President, and Lauren Kircher moved to Secretary. We welcome participation from all students and hope there will be many new recruits this year! Make sure to check out our blog (<https://flafsstudentsubunit.wordpress.com>) to see what the students are up to. Every student who received a travel award submitted a blog and we are excited to share them with our FL AFS community!

Sheepshead Shuffle



Our main fundraiser is just around the corner and we hope you will join us for the 3rd Annual Sheepshead Shuffle Virtual 5k! This year it will be open from June 2nd-8th ending on World Oceans Day. You can complete the 5K distance all at once or a little each day. Race at your pace outside or on the treadmill. Register at <https://sheepsheadshuffle.eventbrite.com>. Help us raise funds for the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Student Subunit to fund two travel awards for students to attend the 149th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Reno, Nevada. When you're done send us your best Sheepshead selfie with your total time. Additional prizes will be awarded for: Silliest Sheepshead Selfie, Fastest shuffler (fastest total time), and Most interesting location. #SheepsheadSelfie. Winners from last year include:

The fastest shuffler: Sharon Anderson

The slowest shuffler: Chelsey Crandall

Most interesting place: Shirley Coleman Baker (3 states, a desert, & Joshua Tree)

The marathon shuffler: Travis Tuten (22 miles in 4 days, Chicago)

Fastest team & team that raised the most money: Geoffrey Smith and Amanda Croteau

Get Involved



Are you a student interested in promoting your research or developing your science communication skills? Become a contributor to our blog Reefs to Rivers (<https://flafsstudentsubunit.wordpress.com>) or send us pictures and have your research featured on our Instagram (www.instagram.com/flafsstudent).



Contact us at flafsstudent@gmail.com for information on how you can get involved. Don't forget to follow our blog, Instagram, and Facebook (www.Facebook.com/AmericanFisheriesSocietyFLStudentChapter)



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