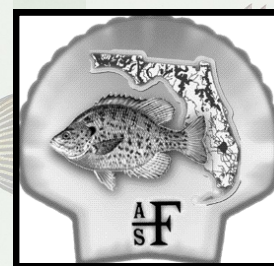


# The Shellcracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



<https://units.fisheries.org/fl/>

**July 2020**

## *President's Message:*

High C's Ye Mateys,

Contagion, Catastrophe, Conspiracy, Corona

Ah, remember February 29. Just another extra day right? Thinking about Bracketology for March Madness. Wait! Sports!? Huh, what's that? Oh, just something really big that we really depended on and was necessarily taken for granted.

Well, we braced and bunkered for months. But this first wave is still building. Here we are four months into it and no end in sight. Numbers are now way way up and so is traffic again. In April you could run down the middle of formerly busy roads dreaming about slowing time. Now even running the seawall is getting crowded.

If you're bored just turn on the news. Better yet, skip the news. Get outside, distance yourself or wear a mask. Make sure you check the latest regulations, Federal, State, and local. Just like going fishing, only much riskier.

While out running, I opted to jump in to retrieve a guy's castnet from the rocks. Had to use a Bob's barricade to get back up on that seawall. He was surprised but grateful; I was just happy to break up the monotony at least for a day.

Boating is red hot. So is fishing. Fisheries sampling? Well, that depends on who you ask. Some groups are business as usual. Some already hung it up for the season. Others are waiting to make a move. My group is tentatively testing the waters. One big toe leads to a big foot which leads to a big boat.

My few days out were spectacular. Saw snook 12 miles out at 50 ft depths. Hot as blazes, but we were out there. Oh yeah, and so was everybody else.

Yes, it's getting spicy out there. Maybe a self-fulfilling prophecy. I can't, therefore I won't, or conversely, I can, therefore I will. How about some sugar to counter the bad news? Have you heard about the magical gift of Swedish Fish? Hopefully, it catches on bigger than just getting data from your hard drive. Maybe these magical fish will be the best part of this extended Halloween mask thing. Just throw a pack and say "I appreciate you and what you're doing".

The goal is still to stay the course safely thru these epoch times for 366 long days in 2020. Things are going swimmingly; great time for a leap year.

Really looking forward to and making plans for that September big trash clean up. Hope its not virtual like a virus scan.

Stay thirsty my friends,

Bob Heagey  
*Florida Chapter President*



# Getting in Touch

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## Upcoming Events

**August 25, 2020:** Introduction to Fisheries Analysis in Program R – FL AFS Continuing Education Workshop.

**September 14–25, 2020:** AFS National Virtual Annual Meeting

**February 18–21, 2021:** Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting Arlington, VA (see page 13)

### **Interested in contributing something to the Shellcracker?**

Email: Scott Bisping at [Scott.Bisping@myfwc.com](mailto: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 June 15th, 2020, so start fishing...

## Effects of Domestication on Life History Traits in the Trinidadian Guppy *Poecilia reticulata*

Allison Durland Donahou<sup>1,2</sup>, Quenton Tuckett<sup>2</sup>, Joseph Laich<sup>2</sup>, Jeffrey E. Hill<sup>1,2</sup>

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Florida is a hotspot for non-native species invasions; however, not all non-natives that are introduced become established. Many introduced fish species come from aquaculture where the production environment and selective breeding lead to domestication. This process can alter life history traits due to changes in selection pressures, such as decreased predation and controlled feeding, potentially altering an organism's ability to survive in the wild (Thorpe 2004). While many factors affect establishment success, traits that increase propagule pressure and success following introduction, such as earlier age at maturity and higher reproductive output, are characteristic of potential invaders (Kolar and Lodge 2002; Vila-Gispert et al. 2005).

Using a popular ornamental fish that has undergone decades of domestication, the Guppy *Poecilia reticulata*, we analyzed differences between domesticated and wild populations in life history traits that may affect invasiveness. Reproductive output and age and growth were assessed using eight unique populations of guppies (four wild and four domesticated). The eight populations used have undergone different selection pressures which may have altered their life history characteristics in different ways (Thorpe 2004). The wild populations were collected from four medium predation sites in Trinidad (Figure 1A). The Feeder population was stocked at high densities in a pond and harvested with minimal

selection for size and no selection for color or fins (Figure 1B). The Assorted population is a combination of several fancy Guppy strains that were stocked into a high-density pond (Figure 1C). This population still has some slight selection for size and color in the males, but not nearly as intense as the other two fancy Guppy populations. The two fancy Guppy populations, Blue and Gold, are selectively bred for large fins and bright coloration and laboriously culled (Figure 1D and 1E respectively). While there are apparent morphological differences between these populations, the effects of domestication on the life history traits is unknown.

Guppies were placed in pairs into 1-L tanks for breeding. Once a brood was produced, the neonates were enumerated, weighed, and measured for standard length (SL). Interbrood interval was measured as the time between two broods for an individual female. The neonates from these broods were grown to maturation, at which point age was recorded and SL measured. Growth rate was calculated for these fish from SL measurements at birth and six weeks.



Figure 1. Examples of males and females from Wild (A), Feeder (B), Assorted with three different males (C), Blue (D), and Gold (E) Guppy populations.

Overall, there were some differences in reproductive life history traits and growth between wild and domesticated guppies. These differences conform to theory that domestication may result in later age and larger size at maturity, more offspring per brood, and slower neonate growth (Figure 2; Reznick et al. 2001; Weber and Fausch 2003; Thorpe 2004). However, there were no significant differences in the other tested traits, though some of the other traits differed between populations. Based on theory, we predict that the effect of domestication on these traits would result in reduced invasiveness of domesticated guppies (Garcia-Berthou 2007).

Measured life history traits indicate that the eight populations varied in degree of domestication and potential invasiveness (Figure 2). Wild populations maintained traits that should facilitate success under field conditions and were predicted to have the highest potential invasiveness. The Feeder population, which was most similar in morphology to the wild populations, also was more similar in life history traits to the wild populations than to the other domesticated populations (Figure 2). The Assorted population was somewhat intermediate in traits, whereas the two fancy Guppy populations had lower reproductive output and slower growth. The fancy populations were predicted to have the lowest potential invasiveness (Figure 2). Lower degrees of domestication, in particular the lack of selective breeding, should affect the invasiveness of Guppy varieties and may partially explain the differential success of Guppies introduced outside their native range.

Variation in predation vulnerability, both for adults and neonates, has been identified as a mechanism explaining Guppy invasion success. Reproduction and growth traits influence predation dynamics for individuals and populations. Future research will analyze the effects of other traits that could alter survival, such as behavior, and test for patterns of failed or successful recruitment in the presence of a native predator, in order to determine the potential success of these populations in a Florida environment.

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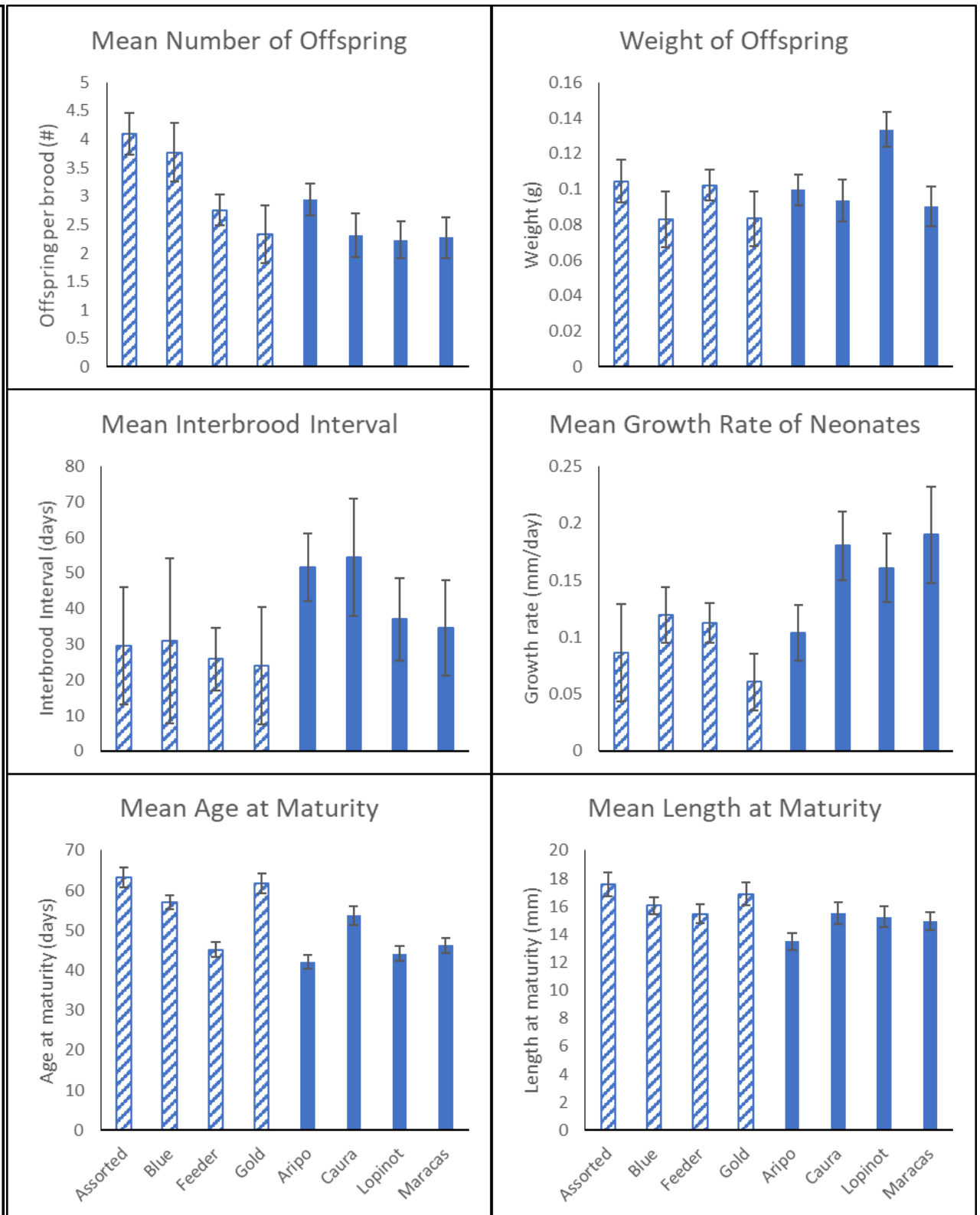
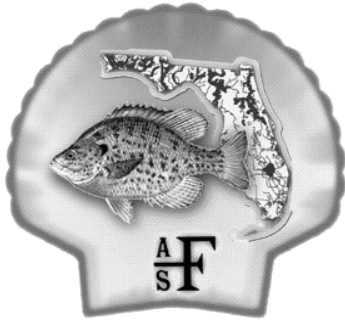


Figure 2. Mean reproductive life history traits and growth for eight Guppy populations differing by degree of domestication—domesticated (hashed) and wild (filled). Different letters indicate significant differences between populations, whereas bars indicate significant differences between domesticated and wild populations.



## **AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY FLORIDA CHAPTER**

### **VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

***WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2020***

## **Meeting Minutes**

President Bob Heagey called the meeting to order at 1407 hours and Chris Anderson established a quorum.

Current officers, past-presidents, and committee chairs of the Florida Chapter were read and most of those in attendance were acknowledged: Bob Heagey, Dan Nelson, Nick Trippel, Chris Anderson, Allison Durland Donahou, Beth Bowers, Lauren Kircher, Grace Sowaske, Amanda Croteau, Chelsey Crandall, Scott Bisping, Eric Sawyers, Eric Nagid, Chuck Cichra, Kevin Johnson, Wes Porak, Kathy Guindon, Kerry Flaherty-Walia, Travis Tuten, and Chris Bradshaw.

One revision was made to the agenda for the 40th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society Business Meeting: an announcement from National AFS was added to New Business.

Past-president Nick Trippel then asked for and received approval of the agenda.

Kerry-Flaherty Walia gave an update on the National AFS Membership Committee. She is now co-chair of National AFS Membership Committee and shared some of their new initiatives including revamping the AFS job board and increasing organizational membership. For example, she said entire agencies like FWC can now join as a member at different levels. Since the 2020 National Meeting is going virtual due to Covid-19, they are incentivizing current members to recruit new members to national AFS with prizes TBD. She also encouraged members to renew their national memberships and contact her with any membership related questions.

Bob Heagey announced that FL AFS won the Southern Division AFS Outstanding Chapter of the Year for 2019.

Wes Porak provided his comments on why he believed FL AFS won the SD AFS Outstanding Chapter award. He highlighted chapter leadership, the diversity of work our members accomplish, and our work to include and support students of all levels via scholarships and donations. He also talked about how successful the 2020 Southern Division meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas was and highlighted the Third International Catfish Symposium (Catfish 2020) that took place at that meeting. Wes spoke about 2020 AFS Virtual Spring Conference and how it raised \$15,000 for the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. He also stated that the 2021 Southern Division AFS meeting will be in Virginia and that the Southern Division is partnering with AFS headquarters to host the 2021 AFS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

President-elect Dan Nelson then shared the image of FL AFS' 2019 SD AFS Outstanding Chapter Award. Chris Anderson commented on how the active involvement of our Student Sub-unit also likely contributed to us winning the award.

# Meeting Minutes

Kathy Guindon announced that she is now the co-chair for AFS' Hutton Committee. She also said that only 11 of the 24 Hutton Scholars were able to complete their mentorship programs due to covid-19.

Secretary/Treasurer Chris Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> (2019) Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society as they appeared in the July 2019 Shellcracker newsletter. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

Chris Anderson then presented the 2019 Treasurer's Report. The chapter ended the year with \$71,073 in total assets, a \$12,654 loss from the beginning of the year. Rottman Scholarship endowment, meeting sponsorships, youth organization donations, and sending the 2019 FL AFS Best Student Paper winner, Kailee Schulz, to the parent society meeting in Reno accounted for most of the loss. Chris also gave an update on the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship Fund via an email from Larry Connor. The Fund had assets of \$48,936 as of 31 December 2019, representing a \$16,445 increase from the 31 December 2018 assets of \$32,491.

Bob Heagey announced that the officers of the Executive Committee will carry over due to the cancellation of the annual meeting from covid-19. However, the Student Subunit Executive is holding Virtual Elections later this month.

## Committee Reports

**Membership** – Chris Anderson gave an update on membership via an email from Larry Connor. The Florida Chapter ended the year with 223 members. This represents an increase of 9 members from 2018. A total of 63 members paid their dues at the annual meeting in 2019. The number of members paying their dues through the Society was 150 in 2019. The Chapter received nine renewals sent directly to the Secretary/Treasurer in 2019. The Chapter's membership included 68 student members. Approximately 80% of the chapter members, 178, were also Society members. The breakdown of student and society member should be used with caution. This information is readily available for the 150 chapter members who paid their dues through the Society. However, it is more difficult to track this information for members who join at the annual meeting and requires due diligence by the registration desk personnel at the annual meeting to ensure that the information is collected at that time.

**Newsletter** – Chris Anderson forgot to mention that Scott Bisping, the Shellcracker newsletter editor, is doing a great job and will stay on as editor for the next year.

**Website** –Eric Sawyers, who maintains the Chapter's website, discussed updates to the FL AFS website including updating the list of previous symposia, linking it to the Chapters' Facebook page, and adding a brief highlight about the Chapter winning the 2019 SD AFS Outstanding Chapter Award. He also requested photos from members that highlight their work for the website. Eric will be remaining in his role for the next year.

**Raffle/Online Silent Auction** – Amanda Croteau started by thanking everyone (who helped gather and solicit items for the raffle, and the ~30 companies that combined to donate over \$1,900 worth of items. She mentioned all items will carry over to the 2021 raffle, so it will be loaded with items. She mentioned Allison Durland Donahou, Geoffrey Smith, Kathy Guindon, Alan Collins, and Bob Heagey all helped acquire raffle items.

She then spoke about the 2020 silent auction donations exceeding \$3,700. Since the in-person meeting was cancelled, they decided to take the silent auction virtual with bidding starting today (June 3<sup>rd</sup>) and closing June 17<sup>th</sup>.

# Meeting Minutes

She relayed that they confirmed with business that all packages/trips are still open/valid and cautioned that winners should check new policies related to social distancing prior to making reservations. She also said that a lot of the packages do not expire for years. She remarked that all money raised supports student travel grants and that there is an option of donate if members would like to contribute without bidding.

**Student Scholarships and Awards** – Chuck Cichra began his comments by mentioning that this is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year the Rottmann Scholarship has been awarded. He also highlighted the increased student involvement over the years and how important it is for our Chapter.

Chuck then gave the history of the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship and summarized the recipient applications before announcing that Grace Sowaske, of the University of Florida, received the M.S. Rottmann award, and Allison Durland Donahou, of the University of Florida, received the PhD Rottmann award. He went on to comment about how impressive students resumes and applications are these days.

He also spoke about the student travel grants and that 19 students from 5 different universities (UF, FAU, FIU, USF, Nova Southeastern) ranging from undergrad researchers to PhD candidates applied. He lamented that the awards couldn't be given this year due to the cancellation of the meeting. He also announced that writing a blog post to the Reefs to Rivers blog as part of the travel grant application is required from now on.

**Florida Chapter Awards** – Chuck Cichra 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. He announced that no Chapter awards would be awarded this year due to the cancellation of the annual meeting.

## **Student Subunit Report**

Student Subunit President Allison Durland Donahou began by announcing that Carissa Gervasi won the 2019 AFS writing contest and commenting on the new blog post requirement for student travel grant awards. She then promoted student research by discussing the Reefs to Rivers blog, Shellcracker student highlight articles, and the Subunit's Facebook and Instagram pages. Allison then reminded the chapter to support subunit fundraising efforts which include signing up for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Sheepshead Shuffle. She provided an overview of the Sheepshead Shuffle fundraising since 2017 and the 2019 winners. She also announced that the Sheepshead Shuffle was expanded this year to include any AFS members that wanted to support a Chapter whose meeting was cancelled in 2020 due to covid-19 and advertised during AFS' Virtual Spring Conference. She also mentioned that buying FLAFS buffs and hats, and signing up on Amazon Smile to donate to FL AFS are other ways to contribute to student travel grants to Southern Division and Annual Meetings.

## **Old Business**

Nick Trippel acknowledged members of the FL AFS Aquatic Cleanup Project Committee: Angela Collins, Amy Brownfield, Beth Bowers, Lauren Kircher, Allison Durland Donahou, Andy Strickland, Kathy Guindon and himself. He went through the aquatic clean up projects FL AFS has been involved in, highlighted who led those efforts and the amount of trash removed during each event. Nick then showed pictures from the events that already took place. He then stated that the committee plans to continue events in the future and they will likely continue to take place on International Coastal Cleanup Day, which is usually the third Saturday in September. He mentioned that cleanup events can be organized at any time and encouraged members to contact him if they want to host an event and/or attend events held by other groups.

# Meeting Minutes

Eric Nagid then gave a report for the AFS 2017 Funds Ad Hoc Committee, which was formed in 2018 to explore uses of the profit earned by the Florida Chapter AFS from hosting the 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Tampa. The estimated profit was about \$33,000 and therefore available for FL Chapter projects, activities, or donations. He acknowledged that past president Jeff Hill appointed Chuck Cichra and himself co-chairs and that they were joined on the committee by Kevin Johnson, Kerry Flaherty-Walia, and Travis Tuten.

Eric reported on the progress towards 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.

He commented that all three recommendations were completed in 2019/2020 with a couple caveats. Eric mentioned that our best student paper winner, Kailee Schulz, was unable to compete in the Best Student Paper contest at the 2019 AFS conference in Reno. He noted that the committee had not met further and requested guidance from President Bob Heagey on whether to dissolve the committee. Chris Anderson then brought up the idea of donating some of the remaining profits to the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded by the Warmwater Streams Committee of Southern Division AFS. He went on to discuss the award and its application requirements/deadlines. Bob Heagey announced that he would like the committee to stay together to evaluate other uses for those profits. Eric Nagid then commented on the Jimmie Pigg and how it may better to donate towards a scholarship that is not as narrowly focused (i.e., freshwater streams only). Eric then confirmed with Bob that he will remain as chair for the committee and continue evaluating how to spend the remaining profits. Kerry Flaherty-Walia then commented on banking the additional profits to fund FL AFS Best Student Paper travel to national AFS meetings. Chris Anderson replied by informing the group how much sending Kailee to Reno cost (\$1,800) and that we could only afford 3-4 national meeting travel grants at that rate. Cheree Steward agreed we should continue to explore spending avenues, but cautioned that we may want to hang on to the money due to past and potentially future economic impacts from covid-19. Chris then commented about performance of the Rottman Memorial Fund in 2020 and financial implications moving forward. Chuck Cichra then asked as to why the FYCCN donations did not appear on the 2019 Treasurer's Report. Chris informed the group that the check was not cashed until 2020 so it was left off the 2019 report. Bob then commented about why the check got delayed and how our FYCCN photo op at MarineQuest got cancelled due to weather.

## **New business**

Kerry Flaherty-Walia discussed what the Marketing & Membership Initiative Ad Hoc Committee did in 2019. She said Allison Durland Donahou and Amanda Croteau created of a Chapter Facebook page and encouraged members to share information on their research/events so it can be posted. The Committee is also working with Eric Sawyers to help update/enhance the Chapter's website (i.e., adding list of previous symposia).

## New business (continue)

She then introduced Chelsey Crandall, who presented some of the results from the 2019 FL AFS Membership Survey conducted by herself, Nick Trippel and Stephen Jones. Chelsey mentioned that full results can be found in their report, which was distributed via email prior to this meeting, and encouraged members to contact her if they have any questions. She also announced that Emily Milton was the winner of the random participant drawing.

Dan Nelson then announced that the 2021 FL Chapter Annual Meeting will take place at the FFA Center in Haines City from April 6-8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He noted that those dates are Tuesday-Thursday instead of Wednesday-Friday like the last few meetings. He mentioned that the symposium will likely stay the same as 2020 but details are still being finalized. Chris Anderson then commented about how FFA handled the cancellation of our 2020 meeting and how they transferred our deposit to 2021. He mentioned that lodging costs for lodge rooms will be increasing from \$100/person/night to \$140/person/night in 2021 due to renovations by FFA, but villa rooms will remain at \$100/person/night. Chris said that attendees will now choose their rooms during early registration due to the differences in costs between rooms and that other changes will likely occur to the early registration process. He also commented on the results of the membership survey and reached out to members to gauge interest in forming a venue search committee to find alternate venues in different areas of Florida. He informed interested members to reach out to Bob Heagey or anyone in the Executive Committee if they would like to be on the search committee. Bob then commented on how meeting venues have changed over time, the difficulty in finding venues that meet all our meeting needs, and the cons of having meetings in hotels/more urban settings.

Allison Durland Donahou provided an update regarding the work of the Continuing Education Committee. The Introduction to Fisheries Statistics in R workshop hosted by Paul Schueller (FWC) is still in the works. It will be virtual and likely take place in late August. She also discussed adding more workshops throughout the year in addition to a workshop at the annual meeting.

Dan Nelson then discussed the process of getting our workshops approved by national AFS so that individuals could earn continuing education credits (aka professional development qualifying points). He said these points are used for obtaining associate/professional certification through national AFS. He mentioned that, if approved, credits would likely cost \$7-10 per course. Dan then requested attendees to fill out a poll regarding their interest in obtaining continuing education credits and ~50% of attendees said they were interested in the credits. Lauren Kircher asked if workshop attendees could audit the workshop (i.e., take the workshop but not pay for the credits) and Dan was unsure of AFS' policy on that. Kevin Johnson then asked if the chapter would be willing to reimburse attendees for their credits and Dan said the committee would take that under consideration.

Dan Nelson shared the statement from National AFS regarding recent victims of racial inequality and injustice in the US, and how AFS strives for the advancement of equality and inclusion in the fisheries profession.

Bob Heagey announced that Cecil Jennings, a former FL AFS member, won the election for AFS Second Vice President earlier this year.

Bob Heagey then asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Chris Anderson made the motion, and it was seconded by Dan Nelson and passed at 1607 hours.

# VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION

We raised \$1244 for student travel awards! \$1194 from bids and \$50 in donations.

Thank you to all the bidders who made this event a success!

## WINNING BIDDERS

BACKYARD BIRDING -  
NATALIE SIMON

WRONG TURN PRINT - COURTNEY  
SAARI

KALEIDOSCOPE PRINT -  
AMANDA CROTEAU

SPACE COAST DAY TRIP -  
ANN KLEIMAN

CRYSTAL RIVER GETAWAY -  
TYLER COLEMAM

GAINESVILLE GETAWAY -  
ALAN COLLINS

REDINGTON BEACH GETAWAY -  
WILLIAM JOHNSON

ST. AGUSTINE GETAWAY -  
CHRIS ANDERSON

TAMPA BAY GETAWAY -  
MELISSA MORENO

DONATION -  
ANGELA COLLINS

Thank you to our awesome raffle volunteers: Allison Durland Donahou & Geoff Smith!

None of this would've been possible without our silent auction donors! All together they donated over \$3700!

- Amanda & Chelsey

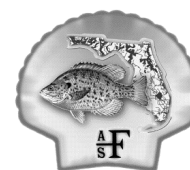
Donor	Auction Package
Kelly Reark	Art Prints
Wild Birds Unlimited (Gainesville)	Backyard Birders
Best Western Gateway Grand	Gainesville Getaway
Santa Fe River Canoe Outpost	Gainesville Getaway
Rum 138	Gainesville Getaway
43 <sup>rd</sup> St. Deli and Breakfast House	Gainesville Getaway
Northwest Grille	Gainesville Getaway
Bev's Burger Cafe	Gainesville Getaway
Northwest Seafood	Gainesville Getaway
Plantation on Crystal River	Crystal River Getaway
Captain Rick Spratt	Crystal River Getaway
Bird's Underwater Dive Center	Crystal River Getaway
Explorinda Adventure Center	Crystal River Getaway
Bob Heagey	Redington Beach Getaway
Kennedy Space Center	Space Coast Day Trip
Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral	Space Coast Day Trip
Fairfield Inn & Suites	St. Augustine Getaway
St. Augustine Alligator Farm	St. Augustine Getaway
St. Augustine Paddle Sports	St. Augustine Getaway
Genung's Fish Camp	St. Augustine Getaway
Sea Hunt Scuba	St. Augustine Getaway
Old Town Trolley Tours	St. Augustine Getaway
Barrymore Hotel	Tampa Bay Getaway
ZooTampa at Lowry Park	Tampa Bay Getaway
Florida Aquarium	Tampa Bay Getaway
Sweetwater Kayaks	Tampa Bay Getaway
Green Lemon	Tampa Bay Getaway

Interested in volunteering? Contact us [flafsraffle@gmail.com](mailto:flafsraffle@gmail.com)

# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## FLORIDA CHAPTER

### 2020 ROGER ROTTMANN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



In 1998, the Florida Chapter AFS established a memorial scholarship in memory of Roger Rottmann, one of the first fisheries biologists ever hired by the State of Florida University System. This scholarship was established to recognize outstanding students enrolled in Florida universities and colleges. Any student working toward a graduate degree related to the freshwater or marine fisheries sciences, is encouraged to apply. Scholarships were awarded this year: one at the Masters level *and* one at the PhD level. Below are the winners of the 2020 Scholarships.

Masters Level:

**Grace Sowaske**

University of Florida

School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program

PhD Level:

**Allison Durland Donahou**

University of Florida

School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program.



### 2020 STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

As a result of our annual face-to-face Chapter meeting/conference being cancelled, no travel grants were awarded to students to attend our meeting. We had a lot of interest in our travel grant program, with 19 students applying from 5 universities (9 from UF, 5 from FIU, 3 from FAU, 1 from Nova Southeastern, and 1 from USF). We had an almost equal number of PhD (n=9) and MS (n=8) students apply, along with 2 undergraduates. Funds from the 2019 Chapter meeting raffle and the 2020 on-line Chapter auction will be used to fund the 2021 FAFS student travel grants. As in the past, we look forward to helping students attend and participate in our upcoming FAFS meeting.

# **Student Subunit Update**

By: Lauren Kircher

## **Updates**

It was great to see some of you at the virtual business meeting! Hope everyone is able to stay productive during these difficult times. We decided not to extend the terms for the Executive Committee of the Subunit because three of our officers are graduating and moving on to other opportunities. We held a virtual Student Subunit meeting in June and elected some great new officers!

A new buff design is being ordered and we are working on setting up an online store to distribute merchandise since we did not have our usual chance at the chapter meeting. We still plan on offering a "travel" grant to the national AFS virtual meeting to alleviate registration costs (details to follow). Make sure to keep an eye on our website or Facebook page to see some of the great blogs on student research that we have lined up.



Although we were social distancing, everyone was shuffling! We raised over \$950 during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheepshead Shuffle. We took advantage of cancelled chapter meetings to recruit participants from other chapters with a portion of proceeds from those participants going to their own student subunits (over \$150). Not only did we raise money to fund our annual travel funds to the AFS National and Southern Division meetings, but also helped students in other chapters.

Thank you to our participants and donors. Prize winners will be decided soon and notified via email. Watch out for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheepshead Shuffle next year!

## **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](http://www.instagram.com/flafsstudent))

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

Do you use Amazon? By shopping with our Amazon Smile account, <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1208319>, Amazon donates to FLAFS. Funds go to support student travel awards. Sign up today!





**AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**  
***SOUTHERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING***

***FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>-21<sup>ST</sup>, 2021***  
***ARLINGTON, VA***

Florida Chapter members are putting together two symposia for the upcoming Southern Division Meeting.

**Black Crappie:**

- o New sampling techniques
- o Tournaments
- o New angling technology
- o Angler recruitment
- o Who has a management plan?

**Angler Recognition Programs:**

- o User of programs for R3
- o Principle drivers for program participation
- o Involving citizen science in management
- o Effective changes in a technological
- o Program promotion

Black Crappie symposium contacts: Ryan Hamm ([Ryan.Hamm@MyFWC.com](mailto:Ryan.Hamm@MyFWC.com)) and Allen Martin ([Allen.Martin@MyFWC.com](mailto:Allen.Martin@MyFWC.com))

Angler Recognition symposium contacts: Daniel Nelson ([Daniel.Nelson@MyFWC.com](mailto:Daniel.Nelson@MyFWC.com)) and Allen Martin

