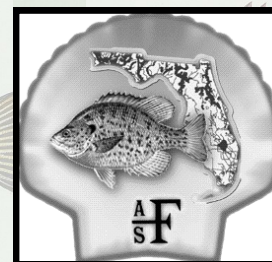


The Shellcracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



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

Winter 2022

Cheers to 2022!

Welcome to 2022 Florida Chapter AFS! First and foremost, I want to commend you all for being so resilient through another tough year. Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our Chapter. I wish you all the best in the year to come.

As this is my last message to you all as the President of the Chapter, I am excited for the direction that we are headed. Through the past few years, we have all seen changes in how we live our lives and as time goes on, we see those changes in how we function as a Chapter as well. Although we've dealt with changes in travel and have now gone through a virtual annual meeting, I still see AFS in the same light. Our Chapter gives our members a chance to break away from our normal routine and allows us to forget some of the craziness that we have now realized as "normal." The Florida Chapter continues to provide opportunities to meet your next supervisor, to continue learning in the ever-changing landscape that is fisheries science, and to have those meaningful conversations around a bon fire (even if it is a virtual one). AFS is a backbone that I have leaned on many times when looking for someone to discuss a new research idea, to have a laugh when it is needed and is just a group of great individuals to know that we are all a part of.

I have also found that like every other job or task, AFS is what you make it. I challenge you all to take another step in AFS. If you have never presented, submit an abstract, if you have never invited a colleague, get someone on board, if you've never been on a committee, join a committee. AFS is an amazing organization because of all those that have shared their knowledge and commitment. If you're unsure of how you can make a difference, please reach out to myself or anyone that you know is highly involved in AFS. We all share the same passion to make our Chapter so successful.

With so many unknowns still on the horizon, AFS can provide opportunities that we may have never known were available. I hope that we can all include this challenge in our New Year's resolutions. I look forward to seeing you all in April.

Daniel Nelson
Florida Chapter AFS
President



Getting in Touch

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Upcoming Events

February 18, 2022: FL AFS Abstract Deadline

April 5-7, 2022: FL AFS Annual Meeting Haines City, FL

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 April 15th, 2022, so start fishing...

Promotional Efforts to Combat “*Dead Lake*” Stigma at Lake Apopka, FL

By: Scott Bisping and Brandon Thompson

Lake Apopka is the fourth largest lake in Florida (30,000 acres) and was once one of the top bass fishing lakes around the world in the 1930s and 40s. Numerous factors contributed to the degradation of the lake and resulted in a collapse of the fishery (sportfish populations and angling effort) and had been designated one of the states most polluted lakes. The state of Florida has focused attention on restoring Lake Apopka through multiple agencies and legislative actions (i.e., 1985 Lake Apopka Restoration Act, 1987 Surface Water Improvement and Management Act and 1996 Lake Apopka Improvement and Management Act). The most

significant action was the \$190 million dollar purchase of the farms (former marsh land) around the north shore that were adding to the pollution of the lake. Many additional restoration projects have aimed to improve the water quality and habitat totaling tens of millions of dollars. While restoration has been a slow process and the lake is far from its glory days of the 1930s; sportfish populations are continuing to improve. Some areas of the lake remain poor habitat for sportfish, however, approximately 40% of the lake shoreline supports quality habitat resulting in high electrofishing catch rates for bass, comparable to other Harris Chain of Lakes.

In 2012, biologists began tracking total angling effort during the peak fishing season (Nov–April) using motion activated cameras for all public access sites at Lake Apopka. From 2012 through 2020, angling effort has remained relatively static, ranging from 5,000 to 8,000 angling hours. For comparison, Lake Harris (also on the Harris Chain) is approximately half the size of Apopka and receives near 100,000 angling hours in the same peak season each year. Although no angler opinion survey has been conducted, it is believed that there is a stigma associated with the lake that it is dead, polluted, and has no sportfish. Multiple agencies have attempted to attract anglers back to the lake by providing information about restoration and fisheries management (e.g., stocking, fish attractors). However, angling effort has not improved and there is a need to explore new techniques for getting anglers to the lake to experience an underutilized fishery for trophy bass, crappie and bluegill. Local and state agencies along with conservation groups have discussed innovative strategies that could be more effective at overcoming the “*dead lake*” stigma.



Figure 1. Angler with his Lake Apopka catch from 1922.
Source: Orange County water atlas

Highlight Article

To increase fishing effort at Lake Apopka, FWC partnered with the Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) to utilize a reward-based fishing contest called the “*Lake Apopka Fish Tag Challenge*” where anglers would be rewarded for catching tagged fish. The goal of the challenge was to incentivize anglers to fish Apopka and utilize the challenge to promote all of the fisheries restoration work, management activities, and sampling data; all in the hopes that anglers would continue to fish Lake Apopka years after the fishing challenge.

The *Lake Apopka Fish Tag Challenge* ran from January 15th to May 31st, 2021. FWC tagged 500 sportfish including largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegill. Each tag had a unique ID and a phone number to a local FWC biologist to report the tag. One trophy largemouth bass (~12lbs, Figure 2) was tagged with a unique tag and dubbed “Jim Thomas” after the late legendary Winter Garden environmentalist who founded FOLA in 1991. If caught during the contest, the angler would be awarded a \$2,500 prize from FOLA and, if submitted and approved in the TrophyCatch program, an additional \$2,500 would be awarded, bringing the total prize to \$5,000. The total contest had over \$10,000 worth of prizes from various sponsors (fundraising done by FOLA). Also, the largest bass caught (non-tagged bass) in Lake Apopka and approved into the TrophyCatch program won an additional \$500 prize.

To promote the contest, a large-scale outreach campaign preceded the challenge start date to build excitement with as many anglers as possible throughout Florida. The FWC utilized various strategies such as news releases, email list serves (including all license holders and TrophyCatch registrants), TrophyCatch website, social media platforms (both FWC and Non-FWC), newspapers, magazine articles, radio interview, along with signage at boat ramps and tackle shops around the Harris Chain. FOLA and other partnering agencies, helped promote the contest utilizing similar strategies.



Figure 3. Tagged Bluegill part of the Lake Apopka Fish Tag Challenge.



Figure 2. The Jim Thomas bass, 12lb bass tag as part of the Lake Apopka Fish Tag Challenge

Through many of these outreach efforts, we not only sought opportunities to highlight the fishing challenge, but also promote the great fishing at Lake Apopka, health consumption information, data from FWC’s monitoring program, plant mapping information, management and restoration activities that have occurred, and the TrophyCatch program. Along with a large media push during the start of the challenge, we attempted to promote the contest and FWC management throughout the duration of the contest to help stimulate the excitement around Lake Apopka.

Highlight Article

Out of the 500 tagged sportfish, 27 were caught and reported during the contest with 25 (92%) being largemouth bass and the other two tags being black crappie. No Bluegill were caught/reported during the contest. During a Major League Fishing bass tournament in March 2021, one angler caught the prized Jim Thomas bass. The bass was approved into the TrophyCatch Program and the angler was awarded \$5,000. During the contest, 7 TrophyCatch 8lb+ bass were caught, submitted, and approved into the program with this biggest weighing 11lb 13 oz.

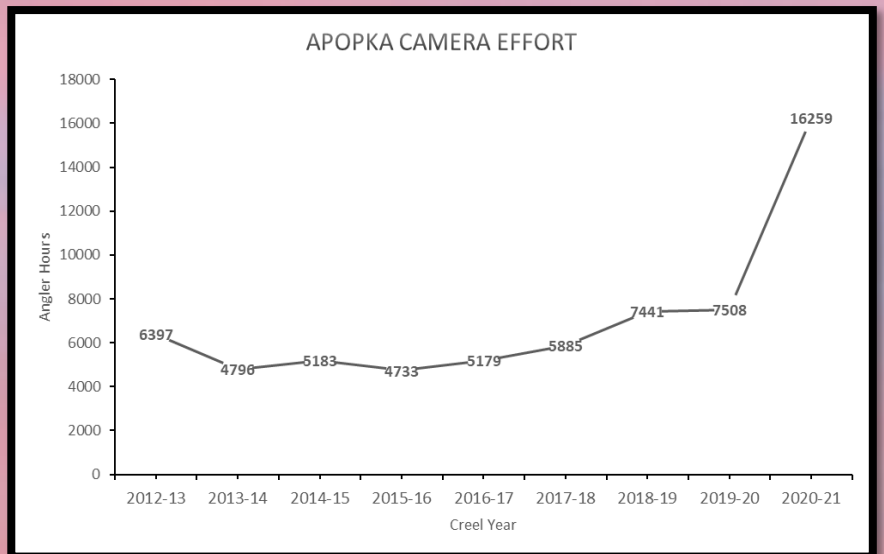


Figure 4. The Jim Thomas bass, 12lb bass tag as part of the Lake Apopka Fish Tag Challenge

The 2020-21 peak season angling effort was estimated at 16,259 hours, resulting in more than double the effort from last year's estimate (7,508 hours; Figure 4). To evaluate the effort, we interviewed anglers on-the-water and through tag returns. A high majority



Figure 5. Jim Thomas bass caught during the MLF bass tournament in March 2021.

(92%; 58 out of 63) of anglers interviewed (not including tag returns or repeat anglers) were aware of the contest. We attribute the high awareness to the large-scale outreach effort by FWC staff and FOLA members. Although awareness was high, only 13% (n=12) specifically indicated that they were influenced to fish Lake Apopka that day because of the contest; with 28% (n=25 out of 88) saying they would fish (or have fished) more due to the contest. However, during interviews, biologists noted during specific surveys where anglers said "no" to the influenced question, but may have not answered accurately (e.g., stating they wanted to catch Jim Thomas). Further, when asked why anglers decided to fish Apopka, a common answer was that they were hearing a lot about the lake recently along with good reports; most of which, were at least indirectly a result of the promotional fishing challenge. Therefore, we believe the overall excitement and promotion of the fishing challenge played a large role in the observed effort spike and this survey may not have been able to fully capture anglers motivation for fishing Apopka more.

Highlight Article

To meet the goals of this fishing challenge, we believe having a “big” high profile tagged fish (i.e., \$5,000 Jim Thomas) was invaluable regarding the marketability and promotional gain of the contest. Anecdotally, FWC staff noted when talking with anglers (i.e., at boat ramps, tackle shops or on the water) they would be asking about the Jim Thomas bass. Additionally, most central Florida bass fishing forums and social media sites had numerous posts regarding the fishing challenge at Apopka, with excitement surrounding the Jim Thomas bass.

A confounding factor for this study is the timely and rapid expansion of hydrilla at Lake Apopka (Figure 6). However, there was substantial levels of hydrilla (over 2,000 acres) in the previous year and effort did not improve (Figure 4). We also have not observed an increase in the adult bass population yet and therefore, wouldn't expect angler catch rates to be higher from previous years that would influence effort. In addition, the fishing challenge timing was largely during the bass spawn when most anglers were targeting fish in the emergent vegetated areas and biologists on the water observed very few anglers targeting and catching bass in the offshore hydrilla. Although we don't attribute the increased effort to the initial expansion of hydrilla, we do speculate that if hydrilla coverages remain at current or higher levels for 3 or more consecutive years, large year-classes may result in a dramatic increase to adult bass population in the future and could drive angler effort to a much higher level than observed through this fishing challenge.

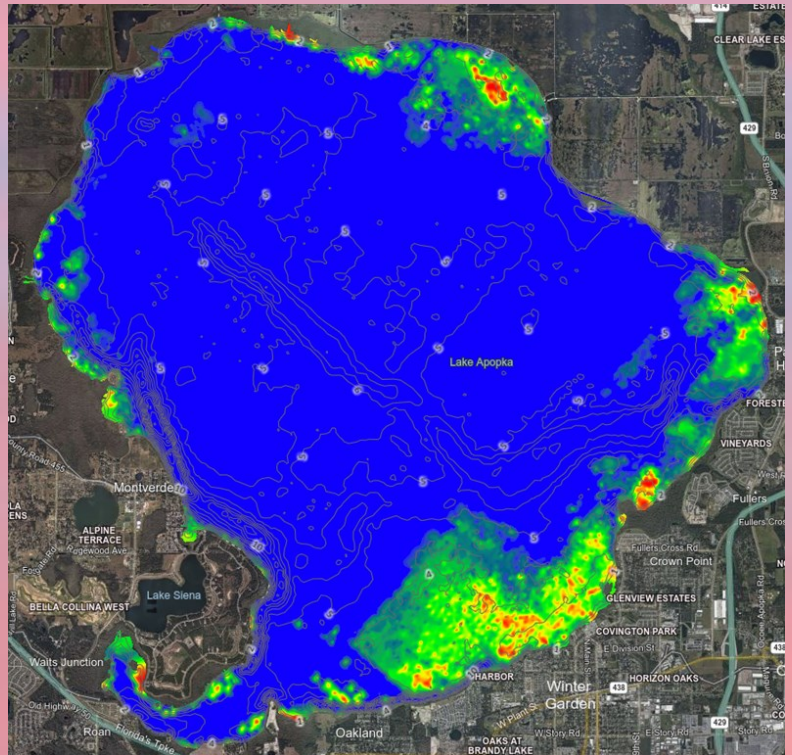


Figure 6. A heat map of the submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) produced with down imaging sonar by FWC biologists in Summer 2020. Darker green indicates higher density SAV and red indicates areas where SAV is growing to the surface.

42nd Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society

April 5-7, 2022
Florida FFA Leadership Training Center

We invite you to submit abstracts for the 42nd annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will take place April 5-7, 2022 at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center, located in Haines City, on the shore of Lake Pierce. We hope you can join us!

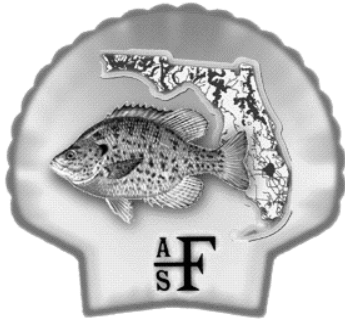
Thank you to everyone who participated in our symposium topics survey and to those who contributed topic ideas! Survey results are in, and it looks like our 2022 symposium will be: **“Fisheries in a Changing Climate”**.

This symposium invites submissions on all topics related to climate change and fisheries. Climate change impacts fisheries in a diversity of ways, and submissions could include topics centered on fish species, habitats, communities, economies, or more. Submissions focused in Florida are encouraged, though other submissions are also welcome.

We encourage submissions for the symposium but also welcome and accept submissions outside the scope of the symposium topic. With this in mind please specify in your abstract submission if you would like your presentation to be part of this symposium.

Deadline for abstract submission and early registration:

Friday, February 18, 2022.



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY FLORIDA CHAPTER

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION **APRIL 5–7, 2022** **HAINES CITY, FLORIDA**

Meeting Information

Meeting Details

The 2022 meeting will be held at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center, 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City. Maps and directions will be available in the next issue of the Shellcracker or can be found on the Florida FFA Leadership Training Website at www.flaltc.org.

The meeting's schedule of events will be similar to past meetings. We will begin in the morning on Tuesday, April 5th with the continuing education workshop. The poster session will take place following dinner on Wednesday evening. The **'Fisheries in Climate Change'** symposium will start on Wednesday morning. The business meeting and raffle will follow dinner on Wednesday night. We will hear more contributed papers on Thursday morning, followed by lunch and the presentation of awards immediately following lunch.

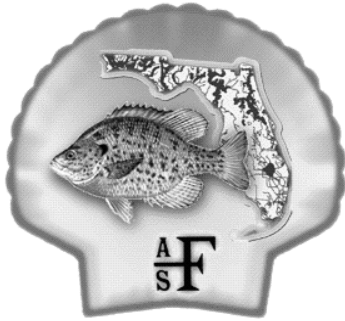
Registration, Lodging, Meals, and Chapter Dues

Early registration deadline is **Friday, February 18, 2022**. The cost for early full registration is \$70.00. The cost for full registration after Friday, February 19, 2021 is \$90.00. **If you are staying at the FFA Leadership Training Center for this year's meeting, the cost for full meals and lodging in a Villa Room lodging is \$302.00. The cost for full meals and lodging in a Lodge Room is \$352.00 (Please see page 13 for more details).** Please Note: there are 11 Lodge Rooms available and they will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Linens will be provided including pillows, towels, and sheets. **We ask that everyone has a roommate. Everyone must pay for lodging each night regardless of whether they have a roommate. Rooms and roommates will be chosen at the meeting's registration desk.**

For your convenience, **all registrations will be made online, to register please visit here**

This link to the registration website will also be made available on our chapter's website at <https://units.fisheries.org/fl/home/2022-annual-meeting/>. **There will be no mail-in registration forms this year, however, you can still mail a check for your meeting costs.**

If you can't attend the meeting, we have a link on the chapter's website (<https://units.fisheries.org/fl/chapter-dues/>) where you can pay your \$10 annual dues electronically, or you can still mail a check for \$10 to the Secretary/Treasurer made payable to Florida Chapter AFS.



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY FLORIDA CHAPTER

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION **APRIL 5–7, 2022** **HAINES CITY, FLORIDA**

Meeting Information

COVID Protocols

- We encourage members to follow the most current CDC recommendations for masking.
- We will not be able to accommodate single rooms at FFA due to the size of the facility and number of attendees. If you would like to join the meeting, but are uncomfortable staying with another person, we suggest you request approval to stay in Haines City, FL or Lake Wales, FL (25-30 min from FFA).
- We will provide hand sanitizer stations in all indoor public areas.
- We will attempt to provide adequate social distancing in the conference room and cafeteria. This will be done to the best of our ability based on the amount of space provided.

***New* Abstract Submission Process**

New for 2022, presenters are encouraged to submit your abstract online [here](#).

Presentation details

Speakers will be given 20 minutes for talks (15 minutes for presentations and 5 minutes for questions and/or discussion). We will have PowerPoint on a laptop capable of accepting your presentation on a flash drive or other device.

Important note: Please use **widescreen PowerPoint slide format** for all presentations.

All posters will be presented on Tuesday evening, April 6, and can be left up for the entire meeting. Posters should be no larger than 150 X 100 cm (60" X 40"), but they can be set up either as portrait or landscape format on an easel.

Opportunities for student support

As in previous years, student travel awards will be available for the annual meeting. Master's and doctoral students are also eligible for the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship, for which the recipient(s) will be announced at the annual meeting. More information and the application materials are available on the chapter's website at <https://units.fisheries.org/fl/awards-and-scholarships/>.

2022 Student Raffle

We need your help to make this meeting's raffle a great one. If you are interested in helping or donating items, please email Amanda Croteau (amanda.croteau@gmail.com) or Chelsey Crandall (Chelsey.crandall@myfwc.com). Remember all proceeds fund our student travel grants for the following year's meeting. Please contact us to get involved!

We look forward to seeing everyone in Haines City for our 2022 annual meeting!

Thanks,

Chelsey Crandall

2nd Call for Oral & Poster Presentations!

Abstract Submission

New Abstract Submission Process New for 2022, presenters are encouraged to submit your abstract online [here](#).

If you still prefer to email your abstract, please submit your abstract as a MS Word document to [Chelsey Crandall](#). Please follow these instructions for submission:

In the email subject line, please enter FLAFS 2022: followed by the author names in your abstract (e.g., FLAFS2022 SmithTaylorRosen)

Use the same name for the abstract file, e.g., FLAFS2022 SmithTaylorRosen.doc

Please include the associated information requested above with the abstract

NEW: Please submit 1-3 “action shots”/pictures (jpg format <500 KB in size) associated with your research for the FL Chapter website with your abstract. Non-presenters may also submit photos to [Steve Beck](#) or [Chelsey Crandall](#) if they would like to contribute.

Abstract format

Abstract *word limit is 300 words* and should include the following information:

Presenter: Williams, Brian

Email: BrianWilliams@FloridaFish.net

Author(s): Williams, B.¹, K. Rowley¹, and P. George²

¹Affiliation with address.

²Affiliation with address.

Title: Recommendations for New Limits on Some of Florida’s Most Targeted Fish Species

Abstract: 300 word maximum

Student Presentation: No or Yes (work presented was completed while a student)

Presentation type: Oral or Poster

Would you like to be considered for the symposium? Yes or No

Are you willing to be a moderator? Yes or No

Are you willing to be a judge? Yes or No If so, oral presentation or poster?

Presentation details

Speakers will be given 20 minutes for talks (15 minutes for presentations and 5 minutes for questions and/or discussion). We will have PowerPoint on a laptop capable of accepting your presentation on a flash drive or other device.

Important note: Please use **widescreen PowerPoint slide format** for all presentations.

All posters will be presented on Wednesday evening, April 6th, and can be left up for the entire meeting. Posters should be no larger than 150 X 100 cm (60” X 40”), but they can be set up either as portrait or landscape format on an easel.

If you require other options for projection or poster formats, please contact the annual meeting’s Program Chair, Chelsey Crandall, Chelsey.Crandall@myfwc.com.

DRAFT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

42nd Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

April 5-7, 2022

FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida

Tuesday, April 5th

9:00am – 12:00pm Continuing Education Workshop: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving in Fisheries
11:00am – 5:00pm Registration
1:00pm – 5:00pm Contributed Papers
5:00pm – 7:00pm Poster Setup
6:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner
7:00pm – 8:00pm Formal Poster Session...Followed by Bonfire Social

Wednesday, April 6th

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast
7:30am – 6:00pm Registration
8:30am – 11:30am Symposium: “**Fisheries in a Changing Climate**”
11:30am – 1:30pm Lunch
1:30pm – 5:00pm Symposium: “**Fisheries in a Changing Climate**”.
5:00pm – 6:00pm Student Subunit Meeting
6:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner
7:00pm – 8:00pm Chapter Business Meeting and Award Presentations Student Awards: Travel and Roger Rottman Scholarship Professional Awards: Rich Cailteux Award Followed by the Raffle, Auction, and Bonfire Social

Thursday, April 7th

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast
7:30am – 9:00am Registration
8:30am – 8:40am Announcements
8:40am – 12:00pm Contributed Papers
12:00pm – 1-00pm Lunch and Awards Presentation Best Papers/Best Posters Power Tie Lampshade Award



FLAFS Spring 2022 Continuing Education Workshop

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Date: April, 5 2022

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Format: In-person

Location: Meeting room, FFA Leadership Training Center

Cost: Free with 2022 meeting registration, RSVP while registering

Description:

A recent survey by the American Fisheries Society identified critical thinking as one of the most important skills that employers seek from young professionals. However, critical thinking is an important skill across all levels of our profession. But what is critical thinking and how do we sharpen our own thinking? This workshop will help define critical thinking, identify barriers, and describe attributes of individuals who think critically.

Natural resource professionals often deal with complex ecological and social issues. How can we apply critical thinking skills to make better decisions and solve complex problems? What are the basics of solving problems? How can we utilize collaborative problem solving skills at work? Finally, we will apply a blend of critical and creative thinking to work through a fisheries case study to develop effective strategies and solve a complex management issue.

Instructor:

Vic DiCenzo, Ph.D.

Black Bass Program Coordinator

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Have ideas for future FLAFS workshops? Want to get involved with planning future events? Reach out to the FLAFS Continuing Education Committee Chair: Allison Durland Donahou (adurland@flsouthern.edu)



Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

2022 Annual Meeting Registration Information

**Florida FFA Leadership Training Center
April 5–7, 2022**

All registrations will be made online:

<https://FLAFS.regfox.com/florida-chapter-of-the-american-fisheries-society-2022-annual-meeting>

Payments for registration, meals, lodging, and chapter dues prior to the meeting will be made online via credit card or by mailing a check to the address listed on the registration website.

EARLY-REGISTRATION: registration paid online or check postmarked by **Friday, February 18, 2022**

\$60.00 One-day Registration \$70.00 Full Registration

LATE-REGISTRATION: registration paid online or check postmarked after **Friday, February 18, 2022**

\$70.00 One-day Registration \$90.00 Full Registration

Meals and Lodging

(lodging price based on double occupancy Villa Rooms, Lodge rooms are \$140.00 per night)

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

**No Lunch This Year*

\$19.00 Dinner

\$115.00 Lodging

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

\$6.00 Breakfast

\$11.00 Lunch

\$19.00 Dinner

\$115.00 Lodging

Thursday April 7, 2022

\$6.00 Breakfast

\$11.00 Lunch

Full Meals and Lodging (Villa Rooms)

\$302.00

Linens (provided)

****Full Meals and Lodging (Lodge Rooms)**

\$352.00

Linens (provided)

**Registrations will still be accepted at the meeting, but with a late registration fee.
We can accept VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX, DISCOVER, cash, or check at the meeting**.**

Note: This is a buffet-style service and food must be ordered two weeks in advance.
Since meals are pre-paid, **please** submit your registration online as soon as possible.

****We ask that everyone has a roommate. Everyone must pay for lodging each night regardless of whether they have a roommate. Rooms and roommates will be chosen at the meeting's registration desk. There will be 7 total lodge rooms available (\$15 extra per night) and they will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.**

*****FWC employees may only use a state-issued P-Card to pay for the cost of registration and lodging. However, it is recommended to pay for all meeting costs with personal funds and seek reimbursement.**

Driving Directions to the FFA Leadership Training Center 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City, FL 33844



From the North:

Take I-4 to Highway 27 South. Travel south approximately 12 miles to Highway 544, turn left (east). Continue east to Route 17 (1st stop light), turn right (south), go 3 miles. Turn left (east) on Highway 542 - Lake Hatchineha Rd. (look for a green "FFA Training Center" sign) go 8 miles. Watch for the next green sign on the right on Highway 542 - Lake Hatchineha Rd., turn right on Firetower Rd. Travel 4.5 miles to FFA Leadership Training Center.

From the Northwest:

Travel south on I-75 to the Florida Turnpike. Exit turnpike at US Highway 27, go south. Travel south approximately 35 miles to Highway 544, turn left (east). Continue east to Route 17 (1st stop light), turn right (south), go 3 miles. Turn left (east) on Highway 542 - Lake Hatchineha Rd. then go 8 miles. After green "FFA Training Center" sign on right on Highway 542 - Lake Hatchineha Rd., go 8 miles and turn right on Firetower Rd. Travel 4.5 miles to FFA Leadership Training Center.

From the Southeast:

Take the Turnpike or I-95 to State Road 60. Travel west on Highway 60 to U.S. Highway 27, turn right (north). Travel north on U.S. Highway 27 to Dundee (Approx. 9 miles). Turn right at the stop light in Dundee onto Highway 542. Travel east to the first stop light, turn left on Route 17. Travel north for 1.25 miles to Lake Hatchineha Rd. (Highway 542), turn right. After green "FFA Training Center" sign on right on Highway 542 - Lake Hatchineha Rd., go 8 miles and turn right on Firetower Rd. Travel 4.5 miles to FFA Leadership Training Center.

From the Southwest:

Take I-75 to State Road 60 East to U.S. Highway 27. Travel east on Highway 60 to U.S. Highway 27, turn left (north). Travel north on U.S. Highway 27 to Dundee (Approx. 9 miles). Turn right at the stop light in Dundee onto Highway 542. Travel east to the first stop light, turn left on Route 17. Travel north for 1.25 miles to Lake Hatchineha Rd. (Highway 542), turn right. After green "FFA Training Center" sign on right on Highway 542 - Lake Hatchineha Rd., go 8 miles and turn right on Firetower Rd. Travel 4.5 miles to FFA Leadership Training Center.



Award Nominations

The Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Achievement and Rich Cailteux Awards. Our membership is full of dedicated professionals, and it's time to recognize their efforts. Please review the award criteria below and send nominations to Eric Nagid (eric.nagid@myfwc.com) by **March 1st, 2022**. Applications should be limited to one page, but descriptive enough to convey why the individual is deserving of the award.

Outstanding Achievement Award

The purpose of the Outstanding Achievement Award is to recognize individuals for singular accomplishments and contributions to fisheries, aquatic sciences, and the Florida Chapter. The award aims to honor individuals for distinct contributions to the fisheries profession and enhancing the visibility of the Chapter. The Outstanding Achievement Award is the highest honor Florida AFS may bestow upon an individual member or collaborating group.

Candidates will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Original techniques or research methodology
- Original ideas, viewpoints, or data which contributed to fisheries management or our understanding of aquatic resources
- Important ecological discoveries
- An original fishery research or management program of statewide importance
- Activities in public education and outreach that have statewide impacts

Rich Cailteux Award

The purpose of the Rich Cailteux Award is to recognize individuals who have maintained a long-term commitment to research, management, and/or conservation of Florida fisheries and aquatic resources. This award aims to honor individuals for their career contributions to the fisheries profession and enhancing the visibility of the Florida Chapter.

Candidates will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- A minimum of 20 years spent in a fisheries related field in Florida
- Substantial career contributions to Florida aquatic resources and the fisheries profession
- An imaginative and successful program in fisheries and aquatic sciences education
- A history of mentoring young fisheries professionals, and involvement and leadership with the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Student Subunit Update

By: Casey Murray

The FL AFS student subunit has been busy brainstorming ideas to increase student involvement and interaction. We have over 80 student members from 13 institutions across the state of Florida, and the distance (in addition to a pandemic) makes it difficult to plan in-person events to meet and interact with fellow members. We are currently planning a student symposium for early 2022 to showcase student research, allow for students to get practice presenting, and create opportunities to socialize and collaborate! Our symposium will consist of oral presentations, poster presentations, and social hours. See below if you want to be involved!

Get Involved

Our new and ~shiny~ FL AFS stickers have arrived! To grab one, just submit a blog and/or social media post to our [email](#) and we will send you one as a thank-you for your participation! We love to see what our members are up to in the lab and in the field.

Want to help plan the upcoming student symposium? We could use 1-2 student volunteers to help schedule, organize, and prepare for our student symposium planned for early 2022. Shoot us an [email](#) if you are interested in joining the planning committee, it looks great on a



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).

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!

