

VIRGINIA CHAPTER HISTORY

1990-91

The origin of the Virginia Chapter began in November, 1989, when a questionnaire was circulated among many fisheries professionals across the state, asking whether they would be interested in participating in a statewide AFS chapter. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of forming a new chapter to accommodate the needs of fisheries professionals that were not active at the subunit level. A petition to form the Virginia Chapter was signed by 40 individuals and sent to the Executive Director in spring, 1990.

Concerns that existing AFS chapters (Tidewater, Virginia Tech, and Potomac) within Virginia would be detrimentally affected by a statewide chapter were allayed during the first several months of 1990, as input from the existing instate chapters was solicited and incorporated into the bylaws of the Virginia Chapter. The bylaws were submitted in time for the annual AFS business meeting in Pittsburgh, and approved on August 28, 1990. The chapter was officially chartered on September 10, 1990.

The Chapter went right to work and sent out its first newsletter in January, 1991, and began working with the Potomac Chapter for its first annual meeting. This successful joint meeting, that included 90+ registrants, was held at Big Meadows Lodge, Shenandoah National Park on April 5-6, 1991. The chapter also held a joint summer meeting with the Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society on September 5-6, 1991 at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center near Roanoke.

Chapter Officers:

President - Paul Bugas
President-Elect - Bob Graham
Secretary - Scott Smith
Treasurer - Joe Stoeckel

1992

The Second Annual Meeting was also a joint venture, this time with the Virginia Tech Chapter. The meeting emphasized student papers, and a \$100.00 award for the best student talk was presented to Brian Bosworth of Virginia Tech. The meeting was held during blizzard conditions on March 27-28, 1992 at Mountain Lake Resort near Blacksburg.

A Chapter business meeting was held at the Holiday Inn at Afton, Virginia on November 2, 1992. Eighteen members were in attendance.

Chapter Officers:

President - Bob Graham
President-Elect - Mike Odom
Past President - Paul Bugas
Secretary - Scott Smith
Treasurer - Joe Stoeckel/Don Orth

1993

The Third Annual Meeting was held jointly with the Tidewater Chapter at the Clarion Resort & Conference Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia from January 15-16, 1993. The meeting included an Anadromous Alosa Symposium sponsored by the Tidewater Chapter as well as a technical session sponsored by the Virginia Chapter. Thirty-two members attended the business meeting. The meeting included a tour of the Virginia Marine Science Museum in Virginia Beach.

Chapter Officers:

President - Mike Odom
President-Elect - Andy Dolloff
Past President - Bob Graham
Secretary - Becky Wajda
Treasurer - John Odenkirk

1994

The Fourth Annual Meeting was held jointly with the Potomac Chapter at the Ramada Inn in Luray, Virginia from April 22-23, 1994. The theme of the meeting was: " Change in Aquatic Communities" and the Best Student Paper Award (\$100) was presented to Mr. Bill Ensign of Virginia Tech.

The Chapter began selling the book, "Fishes of Virginia" authored by Jenkins and Burkhead.

Chapter Officers:

President - Andy Dolloff
President-Elect - Larry Mohn
Past President - Mike Odom
Secretary - Becky Wajda
Treasurer - John Odenkirk

1995

The Fifth Annual Business Meeting was held in conjunction with the Southern Division AFS Mid-Year Technical Meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia on February 24, 1995. Mr. George Devlin of Virginia Tech was the recipient of the Chapter's first Undergraduate Scholarship Award (\$250). The scholarship fund was set up with proceeds from the sale of the "Fishes of Virginia" book.

The Chapter held a summer meeting at the Cedar Crest Conference Center in Twins Lakes State Park near Farmville, Virginia from July 27-28, 1995. The Chapter hosted an interagency biologists meeting for the purpose of discussing the latest research and management tools in use in the Commonwealth. A staff meeting of the Fisheries Division of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries followed the Chapter meeting.

Chapter Officers:

President - Larry Mohn
President-Elect - Werner Wieland
Past President - Andy Dolloff
Secretary - Bret Preston/Becky Wajda
Treasurer - Mike Duval

1996

The Sixth Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Tidewater Chapter in the Holiday Inn/Holidome in Williamsburg, Virginia from February 8-10, 1996. The theme of the meeting was "Bridging the Gap: Tributaries to Ocean". The Chapter presented its first Professional Fisheries Biologist Award to Paul Bugas of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The first Citizen Conservation Award was given to Mr. Garland C. Hudgins, co-founder of the Friends of the North Fork Shenandoah River. The 1996 Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Eric McDuffie of Virginia Commonwealth University and a \$100 check was presented for the Best Student Paper Award.

The Chapter held a summer workshop and business meeting in conjunction with the Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society at Cedar Crest Conference Center in Twin Lakes State Park near Farmville, Virginia from July 24-25, 1996. The theme of the workshop was "Riparian and Instream Restoration Efforts in Virginia." A staff meeting for DGIF biologists followed the Chapter meeting.

Chapter Officers:

President - Werner Wieland
President-Elect - Bud LaRoche
Past President - Larry Mohn
Secretary - John Copeland
Treasurer - Mike Duval

1997

The Seventh Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Tri-State Fisheries Conference at the Howard Johnson Motel in Lexington, Virginia from March 5-6, 1997. Approximately 100 biologists from Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio attended the meeting Technical Session. The Best Student Paper Award (\$100) was given to Stuart Welsh of West Virginia University for his presentation titled "Use of Small Quadrats for Estimating Substrate Composition in Streams". The Professional Fisheries Biologist Award was given to John Odenkirk of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Citizen Conservation Award was given to Jay Gilliam of the Izaak Walton League. No applications were received for the Chapter's Undergraduate Scholarship.

In 1997, the Chapter held its first stand-alone continuing education workshop. The workshop was organized by Bud LaRoche and titled "An Introduction to Biostatistics & Sample Design" and was co-sponsored by the USFWS Division of Federal Aid. The workshop was held at the Holiday Inn in Winchester, Virginia from July 15-16, 1997 and was attended by 26 biologists from 5 states. The workshop was taught by Steve Malvestuto and Tom Steeger of Fishery Information Management Systems (FIMS) and received very high evaluations from the

attendees. Workshop attendees had the option of signing up for 1.5 ceu's through the American Fisheries Society.

The summer meeting was held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Virginia on September 30, 1997. President-Elect Tom Wilcox was the program chair and organized an excellent meeting entitled "Water Withdrawal Workshop". Approximately 95 biologists, students and members of the public attended the workshop. The DGIF held a staff meeting for biologists in conjunction with the workshop.

Chapter Officers:

President - Bud LaRoche
President-Elect - Tom Wilcox
Past President - Werner Wieland
Secretary - John Copeland
Treasurer - Dawn Kirk

1998

The Eighth Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Virginia Tech Chapter at the Best Western/Red Lion Inn in Blacksburg, Virginia from March 27-28, 1998. There was no central theme to the meeting, however, it consisted of two workshops, a technical session and business meeting. Dr. Steve McMullin of Virginia Tech presented a human dimension workshop entitled "Public & Professional Values in Balancing Fisheries Management". The workshop was accredited by the American Fisheries Society and attendees had the option of signing up for 0.3 ceu's. Kristen Merriman-Clarke, Editor of Fisheries Magazine also presented a workshop entitled "Media Strategies for Cheapskates". The Professional Fisheries Biologist Award was given to Ed Steinkoenig of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Citizen Conservation Award was expanded to include natural resource professionals in 1997. John Myers, Environmental Specialist for the NRCS was chosen as the first recipient of the Natural Resource Conservation Award. Paul Bielema of Virginia Tech was awarded the Undergraduate Scholarship (\$500). The Best Student Paper Award (\$100) was presented to Christopher Clarke of Virginia Commonwealth University for his paper entitled " Long-term Changes (1948-1996) in the Taxonomic and Trophic Structure of Fish Assemblages in the Anacostia River Basin, Maryland".

Chapter Officers:

President - Tom Wilcox
President-Elect - Steve McMullin
Past President - Bud LaRoche
Secretary - John Copeland
Treasurer - Dawn Kirk

1999

The Virginia Chapter held its ninth annual meeting on January 26-28, 1999 in Danville, Virginia as a joint meeting of the Virginia and North Carolina Chapters. Approximately 120 professionals and students attended the meeting providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas and updates on work and research being conducted throughout both North Carolina and Virginia. In addition to individual presentations, workshops were presented by Dr. Steve McMullin, Virginia Tech, *Balancing Public and Professional Values in Fisheries Management Part II*, and Dr. John Rawlings, North Carolina State University, *Basic Statistical Methods*. The workshops were accredited by the American Fisheries Society and participants also had the option to acquire 0.3 CEU.

The annual business meeting was held on the afternoon of January 27. The Professional Fisheries Biologist Award was given to Mr. David Whitehurst, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Natural Resource Conservation Award was given to Mr. Wayne Zitzke, founder of Lake Brittle Fishing Extravaganza, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mr. Kenneth C. Cabarle, a fisheries science student at Virginia Tech, was given the undergraduate scholarship award (\$500). The Best Student Paper Award (\$100, AFS membership and journal) was presented to Mr. George Palmer, Virginia Tech, for the paper entitled *Genetic Characterization and Intermixing of Walleye Stocks in Claytor Lake and the Upper New River, Virginia*. The Honorable Mention Award (\$50) was awarded to Mr. Travis O. Brendon, Virginia Tech, for his presentation entitled *Competitive Interactions between Age-0 Largemouth Bass and Juvenile Bluegill*.

In October, Dr. Charles Gowan of Randolph Macon College presented *Methods to Estimate Animal Abundance*, a workshop attended by 44 professionals from around Virginia. Also during 1999, the Virginia Chapter actively supported the legislative action introduced in the U. S. Congress for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). The two similar bills in Congress provide coastal impact assistance to state and local governments. The Chapter also presented the Danville Library with a copy of the *Fishes of Virginia*.

Chapter Officers:

President – Steve McMullin
President-Elect – Chas Gowan
Past President – Tom Wilcox
Secretary – Pat Flebbe
Treasurer – Bill Kittrell

2000

For its tenth annual meeting, the Virginia Chapter co-hosted the 46th Annual Tri-state Fisheries Conference at the Howard Johnson's Hotel in Lexington, Virginia, on March 8-9. Chapters for West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio met jointly during the conference, which was hosted by the Virginia Chapter and the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries.

Over 100 professionals and students attended the meeting providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas and updates on work and research being conducted throughout Virginia and a multi-state area. At the Virginia Chapter annual business meeting awards were presented for Professional Fisheries Biologist to Mr. Gary Swihart, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Natural Resource Conservation Award went to Joseph S. Tanner, and the Undergraduate Student Scholarship was awarded to David Hewitt of Virginia Tech.

The Virginia Chapter Excom decided to begin offering a Graduate Student Scholarship of equal value to the undergraduate scholarship. The new scholarship would be awarded at the 2001 annual meeting. Also, the Chapter sent a letter to the parent society urging a relaxation of the policy that student memberships can last no longer than six years. This placed a burden on students who join as undergraduates and remain in school through their Ph.D. The parent society agreed and the rule was relaxed.

Both the Advocacy and the Continuing Education Committees were active throughout the year. The Advocacy Committee produced a position letter on the release of black carp in the Mississippi River, which was submitted to Jamie Rappaport-Clark, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Committee also advised that the Chapter not take a position on the Virginia Constitutional Amendment that was on the Virginia November 2000 ballot (ensuring the right to hunt and fish). The Chapter concurred and did not take a position on the amendment. Also during 2000, the Continuing Education Committee hosted a two-day *Sampling Design and Advanced Statistics* Workshop in September that was attended by 40 people from seven states, and Don Orth presented a one-day workshop *on Yield per Recruit Modeling for Fish Management* in March.

Chapter Officers:

President – Chas Gowan
President-Elect – Becky Wajda
Past President – Steve McMullin
Secretary – Pat Flebbe
Treasurer – Bill Kittrell

2001

The Virginia Chapter held its eleventh annual meeting on February 7-9, 2001 in Luray, Virginia as a joint meeting of the Virginia and Potomac Chapters. This was the 2nd joint meeting of the two Chapters. Mike Meador, Southern Division President, attended and addressed the business meeting.

Over 35 professionals and students attended the meeting providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas and updates on work and research being conducted throughout Virginia. Awards were presented to Price Smith (Professional Fisheries Biologist), as well as Mr. Rob Paulette and Lt. Tom Murphy of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Detachment Yorktown (Natural Resource Conservation Award). The Graduate Student Scholarship went to Amanda Rosenberger and the Undergraduate Student Scholarship was presented to Mary Beatty.

The Chapter also matched a \$200 donation. Mr. Mike Pinder donated a \$200 Chapter payment for artwork on new t-shirts to the Tim Copeland Transplant Fund. A total of \$400 was presented to the Fund.

Chapter Officers:

President – Becky Wajda
President-Elect – Dan Garren/Price Smith
Past President – Chas Gowan
Secretary – Mark Kopeny
Treasurer – Bob Greenlee

2002

The Virginia Chapter held its 12th annual meeting on February 6-8, 2002 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This was also the 3rd joint meeting of the Virginia and Tidewater Chapters. Both Chapter's were pleased that Ken Beal was able to attend and help with the opening remarks and comments, and Laura Bird also attended the full meeting and gave a presentation on the parent society's continuing education and certification programs.

Over 70 professionals and students from both the public and private sectors attended the meeting. There were ample opportunities for the exchange of ideas and updates on work and research being conducted throughout North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, in both freshwater and marine environments. Monetary awards were given for the two best poster presentations as well as five student oral presentations (1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the graduate division, and 1st and 2nd in the undergraduate division).

The chapter presented four additional awards at its annual business meeting. Awards were given for Professional Biologist (Don Kain, DEQ) and Conservation (Big "M" Bassmasters) that the

chapter felt deserved special recognition for their environmental and/or fisheries enhancement and preservation work in Virginia. Two \$500 scholarships were given to a graduate (Dave Hople, VCU) and undergraduate student (Sherry Zanqueneh, Va Tech) for excellence in their studies in the field of fisheries or aquatic science.

Also, in 2002, the Chapter supported the DeHart Wetland Project (Patrick County). The Chapter contributed funding for the design and production of a special information sign for this award winning interpretive wetland project. The sign is posted along the wetland boardwalk trail that is part of the project.

The Chapter approved the formation of several committees. An ad hoc Best Chapter Committee will make recommendations to the Chapter about improving the quantity and quality of the Chapter's activities. A second ad hoc committee (Financial) will help direct Chapter finances in support of all Chapter activities. An Outreach Committee, a new standing committee, was also approved that will be entrusted with improving educational and other related work of the Chapter. The Outreach Committee will improve the capability of the Chapter to better educate the general public about the Virginia Chapter and the American Fisheries Society as well as help the Chapter better support fisheries related work throughout Virginia.

Chapter Officers:

President – Price Smith
President-Elect – Mark Hudy
Past President – Becky Wajda
Secretary – Mark Kopeny
Treasurer – Bob Greenlee

2003

The thirteenth annual meeting was held at Fralin Hall on the Virginia Tech campus on March 20th and 21st, 2003 in spite of severe budgetary constraints in affect for most state agencies. Mr. Fred Harris, President of National AFS, gave opening remarks. The meeting was well attended by professional biologists from several state agencies as well as many students from a number of Virginia colleges and universities. A total of 100 registered for the technical meeting. Students contributed 17 of the 26 technical presentations at the meeting as well as a majority of the 11 posters presented at the Thursday evening social.

Although there was no general theme for the meeting, the technical session was a broad overview of fisheries research and management throughout Virginia. Monetary awards were given for the best undergraduate as well as the best graduate student presentations, and another award was given for best student poster.

The annual business meeting was held on Thursday, the 20th. The business meeting began with

presentations from Christine Fletcher, Hutton Program Assistant of National AFS, who gave an introduction to the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. John Copeland then gave a special commendation to his Hutton volunteer, Tomas Ivasauskas. A similar award was presented earlier in the year to Derek Blyer, a Hutton student with Paul Bugas and Steve Reeser (DGIF, Region IV) during the summer of 2002. Carolina Franco, Unit Services Coordinator of National, gave an introduction to AFS Certification and National's continuing education program. The Professional Fisheries Biologist Award was given to Scott Smith of the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, and the Natural Resource Citizen Conservation Award was presented to the Clinch River Headwaters Association. Student scholarships of \$500 each were presented to Dan Gibson of Va. Tech. (undergraduate) and to Matt Fisher of VCU (graduate).

Renaming of the special awards and scholarships was announced. The Professional Biologist award is now the Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist Award and the two Chapter scholarships are the Robert D. Ross Graduate Scholarship and the Robert E. Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship.

On May 17th, four Chapter members and three volunteers participated in the 2nd annual Virginia BioBlitz at Douthat State Park. The event is intended to increase awareness of the biodiversity in Virginia and includes a public outreach component.

The Chapter helped fund and co-sponsored the Shenandoah Sojourn, a float trip down the Shenandoah River in which the public received a first hand look at the natural history and wonders of one of Virginia's best known and scenic rivers.

Chapter Officers:

President – Mark Hudy
President-Elect – Steve Reeser
Past President – Price Smith
Secretary – Shelly Miller
Treasurer – Mike Odom

2004

The fourteenth annual VA-AFS Chapter meeting was held in Lexington, VA, March 18th and 19th. Sixty-five people attended the meeting. Fourteen oral presentations and 7 posters were given covering a wide variety of topics including fish habitat, angler surveys volunteer monitoring, conservation, and genetics. Four student awards for presentations and posters are awarded every year. Winners included: Eric Fitzpatrick of Virginia Tech (best paper by an undergraduate), Seth Coffman of James Madison University (best paper by a graduate), Peder Brakke of James Madison University (best poster by an undergraduate), and Keith Whalen of James Madison University (best poster by a graduate).

The chapter business meeting was held following the first day of presentations. At the business meeting, the new officers were installed. Steve Reeser of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) was installed as President, and John Odenkirk, also of VDGIF, was installed as President-Elect. Mark Hudy, USFS, will now serve as Past President.

Scholarships and awards were also distributed at the business meeting. Judy Okay of the Virginia Department of Forestry was awarded the Natural Resource Conservationist award. Dawn Kirk, aquatic biologist with the USFS, was given the Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist award. Greg Murphy of Virginia Tech was awarded the Robert Ross graduate scholarship, and Lauren Grimmer of Randolph-Macon College was awarded the Robert E. Jenkins undergraduate scholarship.

A large portion of the business meeting centered around planning of the Southern Division spring meeting which will be co-hosted by the Virginia and Tidewater chapters in 2005. An oversight committee has been formed, and plans are well underway. The meeting will be held in Virginia Beach, February 9-13.

The social on the first night was punctuated by a raffle. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the student scholarship program. The meeting was a success, and the Chapter is looking forward to meeting the challenges ahead!

Chapter Officers:

President – Steve Reeser
President-Elect – John Odenkirk
Past President – Mark Hudy
Secretary – Shelly Miller
Treasurer – Mike Odom

2005

The 15th annual VA-AFS Chapter meeting was held in conjunction with the Southern Division Annual Meeting (previously described as the Midyear Meeting), which was hosted by the Chapter in Virginia Beach, VA, February 10-13th. The meeting attracted 365 attendees to the same facility on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay where the 1995 Midyear Meeting was held. Fully one-third of those attending were students. State, federal, and private industry biologists, administrators, and students from throughout the southeast participated in 131 oral presentations, four workshops, a poster session with 25 posters, and copious social events. Students played an active part in the meeting and provided 58 of the platform oral presentations. Almost 60 students were paired, based on education and employment interests, with fisheries professionals in the public and private sectors for the fifth annual student-mentor lunch. Gus Rassam, AFS executive director, and Barbara Knuth, AFS president, addressed the Division on Friday. John Ney,

professor of fisheries at Virginia Tech, presented the meeting keynote address: “It’s Your Turn Now: Fisheries Management in the 21st Century” during the Plenary Session on Saturday morning. The technical program included six concurrent sessions, and topics ran the gamut of freshwater and marine interests, with an especially strong slate of marine papers from the Tidewater Chapter. Special symposia were held on Asian carp, marine issues, striped bass, and catch-and-release fishing. Workshops were also available to attendees with topics including “Otolith aging techniques for Catfishes”, “Leadership Regardless of Position: You Don’t Have to be a Chief to Have an Influence”, “Achtheres Striped Bass Parasites”, and (for students) “Employment After Graduation: Perspectives on Jobs in Private, State and Federal Positions”. Social events were held each night and were highlighted by the VA Chapter sponsored Student Social and Fish Fry on Friday night and a catered dinner at the VA Marine Science Museum Saturday night. Friday featured over 300 pounds of catfish with all the trimmings in true “Tom Gunter” southern style while the Mike Proffitt Band provided musical entertainment. Saturday’s dinner was taken at leisure while viewing the spectacular exhibits of the Marine Science Museum. After dinner, attendees were treated to a fund-raising raffle emceed by Don Orth and the Imax movie “Into the Deep”.

Scholarships and awards were distributed at the chapter business meeting. Judy Strang, of the Pedlar River Institute, was awarded the Natural Resource Conservationist award. Bud LaRoche, biologist with the VDGIF, was given the Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist award. Marcy Anderson of Virginia Tech was awarded the Robert Ross graduate scholarship, and Jeremy Shiflet, also of VA Tech was awarded the Robert E. Jenkins undergraduate scholarship.

Chapter Officers:

President – John Odenkirk (VDGIF)

President-Elect – Dan Michaelson (VDGIF)

Past President – Steve Reeser (VDGIF)

Secretary – Robert Humston (VMI)

Treasurer – George Devlin (VDEQ)

2006

The Winchester Holiday Inn was the site of the 2006 “Meeting of the Virginias” (co-hosted with the West Virginia Chapter) on March 15-17th (our 16th Annual Chapter Meeting). Eighty-four registrants (including 18 graduate and undergraduate students) participated in the three-day meeting marked by two special symposia. The meeting began on Wednesday afternoon with a half-day FAST fish modeling workshop taught by Scott Smith and Vic DiCenzo to 28 students from four states. The workshop was popular enough that two requests have already been made to take the show “on the road”.

The basic program occurred on Thursday and Friday morning and featured 25 oral and six poster presentations (including nine student presentations). The program began Thursday

with a “Fish Health Issues” symposium, which was followed by a “Northern Snakehead Fish Introduction” symposium; both of which had regional implications for attendees. The balance of the program was diverse and covered a variety of game fish, aquatic diversity and human dimension topics.

Annual award winners were Dan Downy, James Madison University (Outstanding Conservationist) and John Kauffman, VDGIF (Professional Service Award). Best student oral presentation was awarded to Carrie Peirce (Randolph Macon College) for *Spawning behavior and hybridization of two darter species native to central Virginia*. Scholarships (\$500 each) were awarded to two deserving Robert Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship candidates: Morgan Hyatt (Randolph Macon College) and Tomas Ivasauskas (VA Tech).

Socials were held both nights culminating in a comedic raffle event late Thursday emceed by Tom Wilcox and George Palmer.

Chapter Officers:

President – Dan Michaelson (VDGIF)
President-Elect – Scott Smith (VDGIF)
Past President – John Odenkirk (VDGIF)
Secretary – Robert Humston (VMI)
Treasurer – George Devlin (VDEQ)

2007

The North Carolina and Virginia Chapters of the AFS co-hosted a very successful annual meeting in Danville, VA on February 26-28. A total of 109 members attended with an almost equal split between the North Carolina and Virginia Chapters. Student turnout from Virginia and North Carolina was excellent.

The meeting kicked off on the 26th with the VA Chapter business meeting where new officers were installed. Dan Michaelson (VDGIF) from President to Past President, Scott Smith (VDGIF) from President Elect to President, Steve Owens (VDGIF) was elected Treasurer taking over duties from George Devlin (VDEQ), and Robert Humston (VMI) was re-elected to another term as Secretary. Awards were presented to Tom Gunter, VDGIF (Professional Service Award) and to Trace Noel (Outstanding Conservationist). Best Virginia student presentation was awarded to Ryan McManamay (Virginia Tech) for “*The effects of stream resources on fish and macroinvertebrate nutrient composition and nutrient excretion.*” One \$500 scholarship was awarded to Jeremy Shiflet.

The North Carolina Chapter business meeting was held on February 27th. Newly initiated officers were Kent Nelson (NCWRC) President and Christian Waters (NCWRC) President Elect. Lawrence Dorsey (NCWRC) became Past President, Duane Harrell (Duke Power) ended his term as Past President, and Brian McRae (NCWRC) continues as Secretary Treasurer. Richard

Mode was presented the Fisheries Conservation Award recognizing his efforts for conserving trout habitat and resources. The Richard L. Noble Best Student Presentation Award was presented to Brad Garner (NCSU) for "*Intensive grass carp stocking effects on reservoir invasive plants and native fish populations.*" The W. Don Baker Best Professional Presentation Award was presented to Robert Barwick (NCWRC) for "*Evaluating property owner willingness to implement shoreline habitat improvement techniques.*" The chapter paid a portion of student lodging expenses to assist travel to the meeting. Dr. Tom Kwak presented Aja Tajiri, the Hutton scholar whose internship was funded by the chapter and also mentored by chapter members.

Professional presentations began on the morning of the 27th. The overall meeting theme was management of shared North Carolina/Virginia resources. The program consisted of 25 (11 of which were student presentations) excellent talks and two posters, including one student poster. In addition to scientific presentations, Bob Curry (NCWRC) talked about the Southern Division AFS disaster relief efforts to assist Hurricane Katrina recovery in Gulf states and Dr. Brian Murphy (Virginia Tech) gave an eye opening presentation on the preliminary impacts of the Three Gorges Dam construction on Yangtze River fisheries in China.

Socials were held both evenings with two separate raffles (VA Chapter emceed by George Palmer and North Carolina State Student sub-unit emceed by Marybeth Brey) on the 27th. Both raffles were very successful and very fun for all involved. Part of the proceeds from the VA Chapter raffle will be used for Hurricane Katrina relief.

Chapter Officers:

President – Scott Smith (VDGIF)
President-Elect – Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)
Past President – Dan Michaelson (VDGIF)
Secretary – Robert Humston (VMI)
Treasurer – Steve Owens (VDGIF)

2008

A very successful joint meeting of the Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters, American Fisheries Society took place on February 5-7, 2008 in Blacksburg, Virginia. The meeting had 82 registered participants. Of the 82 attendees, 38 of them were students (46%). This meeting featured 21 oral presentations (13 by students) and 4 posters (all by students). All of the presentations and posters were of exceptional quality. In a very tight contest, the best student paper award was shared by Shannon White and Arba Williamson (both from Randolph-Macon College) for their talk entitled, "Understanding why stream trout move during summer". The annual (and much anticipated) Virginia Chapter raffle was held during the social on the evening of February 6th. One of the more entertaining raffle prizes was a pair of socks and used Wal-Mart gift card (with \$5.95 left on it) won by Bud LaRoche (VDGIF). Numerous members of both chapters assisted VA Chapter member Tom Gunter (Aquatic Biological Monitoring

Services) with the excellent meal (blue catfish and pork barbecue, with all the trimmings) provided at the social. There was enough food to feed Cox's Army, and nobody left the event hungry. Virginia Chapter members Tom Wilcox, George Palmer, and Chad Boyce (all of VDGIF) ably handled the emcee duties at the raffle. They were nice boys, but they made a lot of noise. Overall, the meeting was quite a success. All of the posters and presentations were extremely good, and most folks seemed to enjoy themselves. The collaboration between the two chapters was quite successful, and produced outstanding results.

At the Virginia Chapter business meeting held February 6th, new officers were installed. Bob Greenlee (VDGIF) became the President, and Eric Brittle (VDGIF) became the President-Elect. Robert Humston (VMI) and Steve Owens (VDGIF) continued their terms as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Virginia Chapter awarded its Robert E. Jenkins undergraduate scholarship to Brett Carpenter (Virginia Military Institute), and its Robert D. Ross graduate scholarship to Jamie Roberts (Virginia Tech). The Virginia Chapter's Eugene Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist Award went to Steve Reeser (VDGIF). The Chapter's Natural Resource Conservationist/Citizen Conservation Award went to Jeff Turner (Blackwater/Nottoway Riverkeeper Program). All of the award recipients were extremely deserving of these honors.

On Wednesday August 6, 2008, the Chapter conducted a very successful summer continuing education workshop in scenic downtown Collinsville, Virginia. During the workshop, Dr. Jeff Slipke from Southeastern Pond Management presented the 42 attendees (41 paid) from as far a field as Delaware (not to mention: MD, PA, NC, and NJ), with some innovative ideas regarding pond management. Thanks to Jeff for an outstanding presentation.

In 2008, the Chapter provided support in the amount of \$500 to the 2008 Envirothon, which is a program that reaches at least 600 Virginia high schools, and provides students opportunities in environmental and natural resource studies through team competition.

Chapter Officers:

President – Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)
President-Elect – Eric Brittle (VDGIF)
Past President – Scott Smith (VDGIF)
Secretary – Robert Humston (VMI)
Treasurer – Steve Owens (VDGIF)

2009

On February 10 – 12, 2009, the nineteenth annual meeting was held at the Stackhouse Theater, in the Elrod Student Commons, on the Washington and Lee campus. A workshop, *Topics on Fish Kills and Fish Health: A Workshop for Field Biologists*, was held on Tuesday the 10th. Participants heard presentations by Rocco Cipriano (Bacterial Pathogens), Vicki Blazer (Inter-

Sex), Don Orth (Necropsy), Debora Iwanowicz (Parasites of Fish), John Coll (Viral pathogens), and Alex Barron (Consumption Advisories). A total of 98 registered for the workshop and meeting, of these 25 were students. Comp registrations were offered to an additional 20 students from W&L and one from VMI, and an additional 9 faculty and staff members of W&L. Bringing total attendance to 128. Beyond the workshop's six invited presentations by experts in the field, students contributed 11 of the additional 23 technical presentations during the contributed presentation sessions, as well as a majority of the 5 posters presented at the Wednesday social.

The annual business meeting was held on Wednesday, the 11th, with Steve McMullin, Past President of SD AFS, providing opening remarks. At the business meeting, new officers were installed. Eric Brittle (VDGIF) was installed as President, Adrienne Averett (VDEQ), was installed as President-Elect, Steve Owens (VDGIF) was installed for a second consecutive term as Treasurer, and Bill Kittrell (VDGIF) was installed as Secretary. Bob Greenlee (VDGIF) will now serve as Past President. Robert Humston (W&L) agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor.

Scholarships and awards were also distributed at the business meeting. Bill, Kittrell (VDGIF), was given the Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist award. Robert Leaf of Virginia Tech was awarded the Robert Ross graduate scholarship, and Shannon White of Randolph-Macon College was awarded the Robert E. Jenkins undergraduate scholarship. Best scholarships were awarded at the full \$500 level. Shannon White, with co-presenter Josh Harris, also received the best student presentation award (\$100). The Natural Resource Conservationist award was not given this year.

Socials were held both evenings at the Hampton Inn Col Alto, in Lexington, with a raffle (emceed by Tom Wilcox) held during the Wednesday evening event. Thanks to Tom's unique talents, the raffle was extremely successful, offering high entertainment value for all involved.

Chapter Officers:

President – Eric Brittle (VDGIF)
President-Elect – Adrienne Averett (VDEQ)
Past President – Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)
Secretary – Bill Kittrell (VDGIF)
Treasurer – Steve Owens (VDGIF)

2010

The twentieth annual meeting of the VA Chapter AFS was held at the W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake on February 3 – 5, 2010. The meeting was held in conjunction with the VA Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual meeting. A total of 86 fisheries and wildlife professionals and 28 students attended the joint meeting. Two workshops were conducted on February 3rd at no additional cost to meeting participants. The

first workshop, *Baseline Analysis of Virginia's Landscapes*, was conducted by Chris Burkett and Jim Husband (both from VDGIF) with 28 participants in attendance. The second workshop, *Stream Access Issues*, was comprised of three presentations from Larry Mohn (VDGIF), John Kauffman (VDGIF) and Leon Szeptycki (UVA) with 52 participants involved. Both workshops were very interactive, and attendees had ample opportunity for questions to be answered by the presenters. A social hosted by The Wildlife Society was held Wednesday evening.

The technical sessions began on Thursday, and an informative panel discussion entitled *Balancing Local Land Use Planning & Natural Resources Management: Challenges & Opportunities* was held mid-morning. Panelists included Chris Burkett, Paul Lancaster, Tom Martin and Tammy Stephenson with Adrienne Averett serving as Moderator. An interactive break out session concluded the panel discussions just before lunch. Concurrent sessions of fisheries and wildlife oriented presentations followed lunch. Anticipated severe weather wreaked havoc on the originally scheduled program with all of Friday's presentations being moved into Thursday using creative planning. By Thursday evening, a total of 22 technical presentations had been given, and an additional 8 posters were presented during the Thursday social.

The annual business meeting was held on Thursday evening February 4th with President Eric Brittle presiding and 41 in attendance. Brian Murphy (Southern Division Representative) gave a brief status report on the Southern Division AFS. The Robert Ross Graduate Scholarship was awarded to Daniel S. Stich of Virginia Tech. The Robert Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Shannon White of Randolph-Macon College. Both scholarships were awarded at the full \$500 level. The Best Student Paper for an undergraduate student was shared by Josh Harris and Shannon White at Randolph-Macon College. The Best Student Paper for a graduate student went to Brad Trumbo of James Madison University. Awards for the Natural Resource Conservationist and the Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist were not given this year. Adrienne Averett was installed as President, and Eric Brittle will now serve as Past President. Bill Kittrell continues to serve as Chapter Secretary. Although unable to attend the meeting, Bob Andrews and Morgan McHugh were installed as President – Elect and Treasurer, respectively. Robert Humston continues to serve as Newsletter Editor.

The joint AFS/TWS meeting effectively ended on Thursday evening February 4th; however, there was a social and fundraising raffle held after supper. The raffle was hosted by the Virginia Chapter AFS and was emceed by Bill Kittrell and Paul Bugas. It was a huge success with funds generated for student scholarships and other worthy endeavors. The majority of meeting participants vacated the 4-H Center Thursday evening before the winter weather. However, a few hardy individuals stayed until Friday morning and awoke to the arrival of heavy snow.

Chapter Officers:

President – Adrienne Averett (VDEQ)
President-Elect – Bob Andrews (Dominion)

Past President – Eric Brittle (VDGIF)
Secretary – Bill Kittrell (VDGIF)
Treasurer – Morgan McHugh (NOAA)

2011

The twenty-first annual meeting of the VA Chapter AFS was held at Cacapon State Park near Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, February 8 – 10, 2011. The meeting was held in conjunction with the West Virginia Chapter's annual meeting. A total of 84 fisheries and aquatic resource professionals attended the joint meeting. An additional 18 students, from numerous universities across the region, also participated. Two continuing education workshops were offered at minimal cost on February 8th. The first workshop, *Field Chemistry Refresher*, was taught by Dr. Dan Downey with James Madison University. Zac Loughman, an instructor at West Liberty University, conducted the second workshop entitled *Natural History, Conservation and Taxonomy of West Virginia and Virginia Crayfish*. Meeting participants enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner and social hosted by the Virginia and West Virginia Chapters on Tuesday evening.

The technical presentations began on Wednesday morning with concurrent sessions featuring topics on Warmwater Gamefish as well as Aquatic Communities. The afternoon concurrent sessions focused on Trout and Fish Health, respectively. Another all-you-can-eat buffet and social was hosted by the Virginia and West Virginia Chapters on Wednesday night. During the social, the Virginia Chapter AFS hosted a raffle emceed by Bob Andrews, Bill Kittrell and Cory Kovacs. It was a huge success with approximately \$800 generated for student scholarships and other worthy endeavors. The Thursday morning technical session included topics pertaining to Trout and Habitat Restoration. When the meeting concluded Thursday at noon, a total of 33 technical presentations had been given, with an additional 11 posters presented during the Wednesday evening social.

The annual business meeting was held Wednesday afternoon February 9th with President-Elect Bob Andrews presiding. The Chapter President, Adrienne Averett, had accepted a position in Oregon the previous year and could not attend the meeting. Pat Mazik gave a brief status report on the Southern Division AFS. The Robert Ross Graduate Scholarship was awarded to Ryan Schloesser of VIMS. The Robert Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Jason Emmel of Virginia Tech. Both scholarships were awarded at the full \$500 level. Only one award for The Best Student Paper was given this year, and it went to Shannon White of Virginia Tech. The Natural Resource Conservationist award was given to Ryan Hodges of Warm Springs in Bath County. John Kauffman was presented a Lifetime Distinguished Service Award for his career achievements and dedication to fisheries science. Bob Andrews was installed as President, and Adrienne Averett will now serve as Past President. Vic DiCenzo and Cory Kovacs were installed as the new President-Elect and Secretary, respectively. Morgan McHugh will continue to serve as Chapter Treasurer, and Robert Humston continues as Newsletter Editor.

Chapter Officers:

President – Bob Andrews (Dominion)
President-Elect – Vic DiCenzo (VDGIF)
Past President – Adrienne Averett (ODFW)
Secretary – Cory Kovacs (VDGIF)
Treasurer – Morgan McHugh (NOAA)

2012

The Virginia Chapter AFS held its 22nd annual meeting at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, January 31 to February 2, 2012. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Virginia Tech Chapter's annual meeting. Attending the joint meeting were 112 registered participants including 61 fisheries professionals and 51 students. Two continuing education workshops were offered at minimal cost on January 31st. The first workshop, *Introduction to GIS for Fisheries Scientists* was taught by Shannon White and Tiz Mogollon both of whom are graduate students at Virginia Tech. Robert Humston (Washington and Lee University) and Vic DiCenzo (VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) served as instructors for the second workshop entitled *Statistics for Fisheries Research*. Meeting participants enjoyed an all-you-can-eat fish fry and social hosted by the Virginia Chapter at the German Club on the Virginia Tech campus Tuesday evening.

The technical presentations began on Wednesday morning and continued throughout the day in Fralin Auditorium with a poster session late in the afternoon in the Atrium. The 2012 annual business meeting was held Wednesday afternoon just before another all-you-can-eat buffet and social hosted by the Virginia Tech Chapter in downtown Blacksburg. The Virginia Chapter hosted a raffle which generated approximately \$700 for student scholarships and other worthy endeavors. Technical presentations continued Thursday morning, and the meeting concluded at noon on Thursday. A total of 21 technical presentations were given, with an additional 4 posters presented Wednesday evening.

The annual business meeting was held on February 1st with President Bob Andrews presiding. Bryan Murphy, (Southern Division President) updated the Chapter on the Division's plan of work for the upcoming year. The Robert Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Patrick Snelling of Virginia Tech. The Ross Graduate Research Scholarship went to Shannon White of Virginia Tech. Brandon Peoples and Cory Dunn tied for Best Student Papers, and both were given a monetary award. Shelton Miles received the Natural Resource Conservationist award for his work on the Staunton River. This award is given every year to an outstanding citizen conservationist in Virginia. The Eugene W. Surber Award was given to John Schmerfeld with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in honor of his National Resource Damage Assessment work. Vic DiCenzo was installed as President, and Bob Andrews will now serve as Past

President. John Copeland and Mike Isel were installed as the new President-Elect and Secretary, respectively. Dawn Kirk will serve as Chapter Treasurer, and Robert Humston continues as Newsletter Editor.

Chapter Officers:

President – Vic DiCenzo
President-Elect – John Copeland
Past President – Bob Andrews
Secretary – Mike Isel
Treasurer – Dawn Kirk

2013

The Virginia Chapter AFS held its 23rd Annual Meeting at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia from February 26 to 28, 2013. The meeting was attended by 92 people, including 54 fisheries professionals and 38 students. The meeting opened with a continuing education workshop on February 26 entitled “Instream Flow – What it is and Why it Matters”, coordinated by Don Orth of Virginia Tech and Scott Smith of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, offering the opportunity to learn from speakers with a broad range of experience in instream flow research and management.

Before the technical presentations began on February 27, a plenary session was held around the theme “Outlook on U.S. Sportfishing: Where have we come from and where are we going?” Four speakers, including Bob Duncan, David Whitehurst, and Lee Walker from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Mike Leonard from the American Sportfishing Association addressed this topic, providing a historical perspective and a future outlook.

Technical presentations followed the plenary session and continued until the early afternoon of February 28. A total of 24 presentations provided the attendees with updates on a broad range of aquatic topics. Student presentations were a key feature of the technical sessions, including students from Virginia Tech, James Madison University, Washington and Lee University, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Randolph-Macon College, and George Mason University.

The 2013 Annual Business Meeting was held February 27 just before a barbeque buffet prepared by Tom Gunter, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries retired fisheries biologist, at the Col Alto Hotel in Lexington. The evening social featured poster presentations to foster professional interaction, with 7 posters presented by students and professionals. A raffle held at the evening social generated \$1,001 for student scholarships.

President Vic DiCenzo presided over the Annual Business Meeting. The Robert Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Brandon Fair of Virginia Tech. The Ross Graduate Scholarship went to Joseph Schmitt of Virginia Tech. Nate Adkins and Morgan Brizendine from Virginia Tech were recognized for graduate and undergraduate Best Student Papers,

respectively, and both received a monetary award. Johnny Wood received the Citizen Conservationist award for a lifetime of featuring fishing news on News Channel 5 in Bristol, Virginia. The Eugene W. Surber Award was presented to Bob Greenlee with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for his work on blue catfish and tidal largemouth bass. John Copeland was installed as President, Vic DiCenzo will serve as Past-President, and Don Orth as President-Elect. Dawn Kirk and Mike Isel will continue their service as Chapter Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Chapter Officers:

President – John Copeland
President-Elect – Don Orth
Past President – Vic DiCenzo
Secretary – Mike Isel
Treasurer – Dawn Kirk

2014

Virginia is for Fish Lovers was the theme of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Chapter Meeting, held in Fredericksburg, February 11 to 13. Despite the arrival of winter storm Pax, attendance was good for technical sessions, business meeting, and two continuing education workshops. Dr. Colin Shea and Greg Anderson taught Occupancy Modeling and Dr. David Crosby taught Fish Health. Technical sessions provided a mix of updates on species of concern, including redbellied dace *Chrosomus*, crayfish, Atlantic sturgeon, freshwater mussels, American shad, and Roanoke Logperch, as well as progress for road-crossing, acid-sensitive streams, liming, environmental flow, Walleye, and safety management.

Chapter Awards were presented to Ned Yost, Citizen Conservationist, and John Copeland, Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist. Mike Isel, Dawn Kirk, and John Copeland received Certificates of Appreciation for their service as officers. New officers of the chapter are Don Orth, President, Eric Hallerman, President-Elect, John Harris, Treasurer, and Christine May, Secretary. Best student paper awards were presented to Bonnie Jean Myers, Virginia Tech, and Lindsey House, James Madison University. Robert Ross Scholarships were awarded to Brandon Peoples, Virginia Tech, and Kristen Anstead, Old Dominion University, and Robert E. Jenkins scholarships were awarded to Jessica Dodds, Virginia Tech, and Casey Pehrsons, George Mason University.

Chapter Officers:

President – Don Orth
President-Elect – Eric Hallerman
Past President – John Copeland
Secretary – Christine May
Treasurer – Johnathan Harris

2015

Adaptations was the theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Chapter Meeting, held in Blacksburg, Virginia, February 17-17. Once again, the continuing education committee stepped up its game as Laurie Fox, Lloyd Hipkins and John Kauffman combined their efforts to offer a program on aquatic vegetation identification and control methods. Plenary speakers included Exec. Director, Douglas Austen, and past AFS President John Boreman. Members of the three chapters contributed 22 outstanding podium presentations and 15 posters. Biologists, retirees and the like all enjoyed the question and answer poster session held at the VT German Club Wednesday night. Best student paper awards were presented to Dustin Smith, West Virginia University, and Ashley Weston, Virginia Tech. Surber Fisheries Scientist award was presented to Brian Watkins and Citizen Conservationist award was presented to Ken Landgraf. Scholarship awards were presented to Amanda Hyman (graduate) and Erica Ascani (undergraduate). Officers include Don Orth, Past-President, Eric Hallerman, President, Craig Roghair, President-Elect, John Harris, Treasurer, and Christine May, Secretary. Thanks to Dominion Virginia Power, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Aquatic Biological Monitoring Services, Bass Pro Shops, Biomark, Chesapeake Research Consortium, Midwest Lake Management, Parker Bows, Appomattox River Company, Urban Angler, Ltd., Sycamore Bend Retreat, National Bass Guide Service, Orvis, Shenandoah Streamworks, Aquatic Biological Monitoring Services Inc., John Kauffman, LLC, and Virginia Tech for funding.

Chapter Officers:

President – Eric Hallerman

President-Elect – Craig Roghair

Past President – Don Orth

Secretary – Christine May

Treasurer – Johnathan Harris

2016

The 2016 edition of the annual meeting was held jointly with the North Carolina Chapter AFS and the Southeast Atlantic Slope and Virginia Atlantic Slope Mollusk Groups in March at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, VA. The meeting featured a continuing education session on conservation genetics, a Dan River symposium, catfish symposium, nearly 50 contributed papers, 15 posters, 2 fantastic socials, a raffle, and silent auction. The meeting was our mostly highly attended of the past 10 years with an official count of 145 participants. The Danville meeting could not have been successful without the hard work of the Fundraising Committee. The committee joined forces with its North Carolina equivalent to collect monetary donations from over a dozen sponsors and also rounded up variety of donations for our raffle. Donations and raffle proceeds helped to offset meeting costs and support our scholarship program. The Awards Committee was also a major contributor to the success of the Danville meeting. They weighed several worthy nominees for professional awards and did an

outstanding job identifying the best student papers at the annual meeting. Congratulations to all of the 2016 award winners:

- Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Scientist Award: Brian Murphy, Virginia Tech
- Natural Resource Conservationist Award: Mike Ward, Smith Mountain Striper Club
- Robert D. Ross Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: Sasha Doss, Virginia Tech
- Robert E. Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: Oliver Nettere, Washington & Lee University
- Best student paper awards: Michael Moore, Virginia Tech and Jack Eschenroeder, Georgia Southern University

Chapter Officers:

President – Craig Roghair

President-Elect – Mike Isel

Past President – Eric Hallerman

Secretary – Dan Goetz

Treasurer – Dan Wilson

2017

The 2017 annual meeting was held at Washington & Lee University from Feb 21-23, 2017. The meeting featured an Applied Fish Health Symposium with guest speakers from USGS, USDA, USFWS and VDGIF, 35 contributed papers, and 6 posters. Chapter membership voted in favor to host SDAFS 2021 and adopt the Virginia Junior Fisheries Biologist Program. The Awards Committee considered several nominees for professional awards and did an outstanding job identifying the best student papers at the annual meeting. Congratulations to all of the 2017 award winners:

- Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Scientist Award: Mike Pinder, VDGIF
- Natural Resource Conservationist Award: Jean Scott, Monumental Mills dam removal
- Robert D. Ross Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: Jason Emmel and Corbin Hilling, Virginia Tech
- Robert E. Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: Skylar Wolf, Virginia Tech
- Best student paper awards: Shannon White, Penn State and Oscar Galagarza, Virginia Tech

Chapter Officers:

President – Mike Isel

President-Elect – Johnathan Harris

Past President – Craig Roghair
Secretary – Dan Goetz
Treasurer – Dan Wilson

2018

The 2018 annual meeting was held at the Hyatt Place in Fredericksburg from Feb 20-22, 2018. The meeting had a workshop on Field Study Design and Statistical Power, 2 invited speakers on climate change, 23 contributed papers, and 9 posters. The business meeting featured guests from AFS Parent Society and SDAFS (Doug Austen, Dan Cassidy, Brian Murphy and Wes Porak). It was also announced that the chapter won the Outstanding Chapter Award for the Southern Division in 2018. The Awards Committee considered several nominees for professional awards and did an outstanding job identifying the best student papers at the annual meeting.

Congratulations to all of the 2018 award winners:

- Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Scientist Award: George Palmer, VDGIF
- Natural Resource Conservationist Award: Robbi Savage,
- Robert D. Ross Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: Jon Studio, James Madison University and Katie McBaine, Virginia Tech
- Robert E. Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: Cole Reeves and Chanz Hopkins, Virginia Tech
- Best student paper awards: Katie McBaine, Virginia Tech; Jon Studio, James Madison University; Emily Ploppert, Randolph Macon; and Hania Abboud, James Madison High School

Chapter Officers:

President – Johnathan Harris
President-Elect – Brad Fink
Past President – Mike Isel
Secretary – Kirk Smith
Treasurer – Karen Horodysky

2019

The Annual Meeting was held at the Hyatt Place in Blacksburg from Feb 19-21, 2019. The meeting was a joint meeting with the West Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters and was one of the highest attended Chapter meetings with 153 total attendees including guests (55 registered students). The meeting featured a special symposium titled “The R3 Initiative” that included presentations by invited speakers John Arway, Ret. Director of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Kayla Donathan, WVDNR’s Public Information Specialist, and Ed Herndon,

VDGIF's R3 Coordinator. The meeting included one and a half days of technical sessions with 38 contributed papers (18 student papers), and an evening poster session with 15 posters (10 student posters). President Johnathan Harris presided over the Annual Business Meeting on the evening of Feb 20th, which featured guests from AFS Parent Society (Dan Cassidy, Lauren Maza, and Brian Murphy). At the meeting, Brad Fink was installed as President. Johnathan Harris now serves as Past-President and Vic Diczenco as President-Elect, while Karen Horodysky and Kirk Smith will continue their service as Chapter Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Two wonderful socials were held at the Virginia Tech, German Club and featured a pizza social sponsored by the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment and one of Tom Gunter's famous BBQ dinners. Overall the meeting was extremely successful professionally and monetarily with meeting proceeds exceeding \$7,092.05, with an additional \$1,066.63 raised in scholarship, raffle proceeds. The Awards Committee considered several nominees for professional awards and did an outstanding job identifying the best student papers at the annual meeting. Congratulations to all of the 2019 award winners:

- Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Scientist Award: **Dan Wilson**, VDGIF
- Natural Resource Conservationist Award: **Dr. and Mrs. Sacknoff** (Nominated by Bill Kittrell, VDGIF)
- Robert D. Ross Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: **Shelia Harris**, Virginia Tech
- Robert E. Jenkins Undergraduate Scholarship in Fisheries and Related Aquatic Sciences: **Stephen Stang**, Virginia Tech
- Best Undergraduate Student Paper Awards: undergraduate: **Ben Kline**, Penn State; runner-up **Louis Bondurant**, James Madison
- Best Graduate Student Paper Awards: **Alissa Ganser**, Virginia Tech; runner-up **Katie McBaine**, Virginia Tech
- Best Student Poster Award: **Spencer Alascio**, Washington and Lee
- VA Junior Fisheries Biologist Scholarship Recipient: **P.J. LeBel from Tidewater, VA** and current student at Hampton Sydney, working with Dr. Troy Tuckey at VIMS

No workshops were held by the Chapter in 2019.

In September 2019, John Hopkins Press released the first edition print of the Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Virginia authored by Paul Bugas, Corbin Hilling, Val Kells, Mike Pinder, Derek Wheaton, and Don Orth. This was a Chapter sponsored endeavor that started in 2012 by the Outreach Committee.

2019 Chapter Officers:

President – Brad Fink
President-Elect – Vic DiCenzo
Past President – Johnathan Harris
Secretary – Kirk Smith
Treasurer – Karen Horodysky