



# VIRGINIA CHAPTER *of the* AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## PROFESSIONALISM

- We meet annually in the early spring varying the meeting location to sites around the state. We have met at such locations as Virginia Beach, Mountain Lake, Danville, Lexington, and Big Meadows in the past.
- Our annual meetings include presentations by students, faculty, government employees, and the private sector on current research in the aquatic sciences.
- The Virginia Chapter frequently combines its meetings with those of the Virginia Tech, the Potomac, and Tidewater Chapter, as well as chapters from neighboring states.
- Our annual meetings provide an excellent relaxed forum for meeting and networking with others who are employed in the arena of fisheries science.
- Our poster sessions, raffles, and socials are weaved into the fabric of this yearly event.
- The Virginia Chapter hosts continuing education workshops to advance professional skills. Past workshops have included: riparian restoration, statistical design, population estimation, human dimensions, and water withdrawal.



## RECOGNITION

- Money for students! Annual scholarships are given to an undergraduate and a graduate student attending a Virginia college or university. Also, two cash awards are handed out for best student papers at our annual meeting.
- Working professionals: The Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Biologist Award is offered annually to a deserving fisheries scientist.
- Citizens are recognized as well. The Natural Resource Conservationist Award is also presented annually. This plaque goes to an individual who makes a positive contribution to the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.

## COMMUNICATION

- In addition to annual meetings and workshops, the Virginia Chapter hosts a website and develops a newsletter three times a year.
- Members with e-mail are automatically placed on a list-serve, where job notifications and important fisheries issues are frequently posted.

## ADVOCACY

- The Virginia Chapter has two standing committees that address important environmental issues affecting fisheries conservation: Environmental Affairs and Advocacy.
- Letters, resolutions, and policy statements regarding aquatic issues have been drafted and sent to decision makers since the chapter was formed.

## OUTREACH

- Virginia Chapter members have mentored several high school students as part of the AFS's Hutton Scholarship. Students accepted into the Hutton program receive \$3,000 over the summer, along with the opportunity to work with fisheries biologists in the field.
- We support local outreach efforts, such as contributing to the Shenandoah Sojourn, purchasing a sign for the DeHart wetland in Patrick County, assisting with angler education, and giving copies of the Freshwater Fishes of Virginia book to local libraries.
- Visual education, through materials regarding Virginia's aquatic ecosystems and fisheries are in production. A CD introducing high school students to fisheries management and research in Virginia is underway.



## MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL AFS:

- Gets you a monthly issue of *Fisheries*, a magazine devoted to science, resource issues, jobs, and professional development
- Up to four peer-reviewed scientific publications are available
- Professional certification is available
- Student awards and travel assistance to national meetings
- Discounts on the latest books published in fisheries science

## THE VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

was organized in 1990 to fill the needs of student and professional fisheries scientists throughout the Commonwealth. We are a unit of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), an organization founded in 1870 to improve fisheries conservation and advance professionalism. Virginia Chapter's mission is to provide a forum for communication and information exchange on fisheries issues in Virginia. To that extent, we have been highly successful. Read on and see if there is place for you within our ranks.



"The Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society allows younger professionals a great opportunity to meet with other students/professionals, get a feel for research being conducted over a large region, get input and feedback on your own projects, and make new and important contacts!"

— BRAD TRUMBO,  
COLLEGE STUDENT, YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AND MEMBER OF VA AFS



## Virginia's Aquatic Resources by the numbers

- 1 largest estuary in North America
- 2 natural lakes
- 10 public fish hatcheries
- 16 scenic rivers
- 20 endangered freshwater fish species
- 81 freshwater mussel species
- 211 freshwater fish species
- 2,800 miles of trout streams
- 25,000 miles of warmwater streams
- 254,000 acres of publicly-owned reservoirs
- 400,000+ resident freshwater licenses sold annually
- 517,000,000 dollars spent on fishing in Virginia in 2001



## CONTACT

- Go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org), click on **Units**, then click on **Chapters**, then click on **Virginia Chapter**
- An electronic membership form is posted on the website and annual fees are kept at an affordable level to encourage membership
- Membership is open to any interested party



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Student photos above depict AFS's Hutton Scholarship program. Students accepted into the Hutton program receive \$3,000 over the summer, along with the opportunity to work with fisheries biologists in the field. The Virginia Chapter members participate in this program and have mentored several high school students as one of several outreach efforts.

