



## **2025 Meeting of the Virginia Chapters of the American Fisheries Society**

Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Hyatt Place Blacksburg/University  
650 University City Blvd, Blacksburg, VA 24060

The Virginia Chapter thanks the  
**Sponsors of our 2025 Meeting and Annual  
Events**

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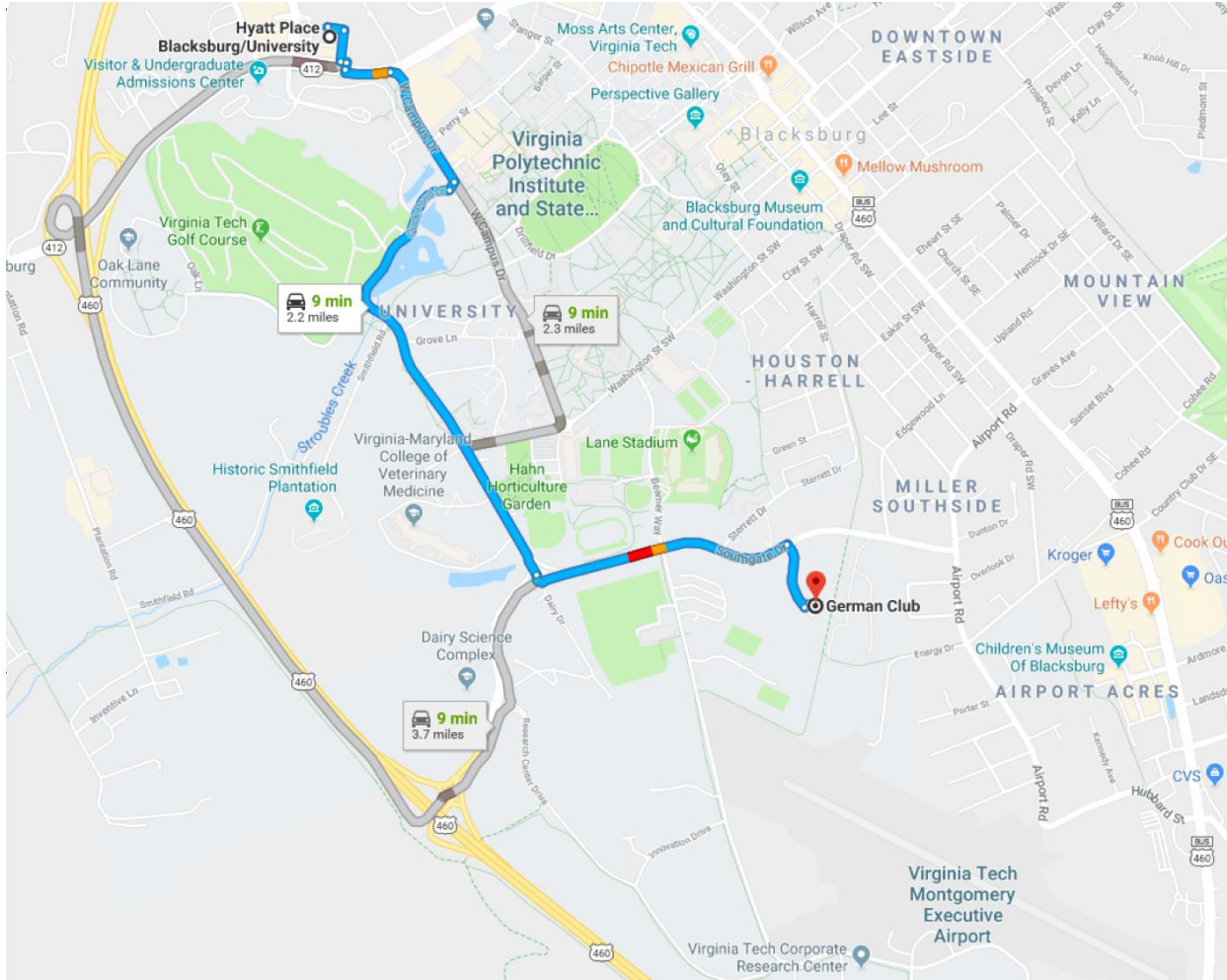




### Directions to Hyatt Place from US-460 W

- Follow US-460 W to VA-412 N/Prices Fork Rd in Blacksburg.
- Take the VA-412 N exit on to Prices Fork Road from US-460 W
- Continue on VA-412 N/Prices Fork Rd 0.7 miles
- Take left onto University City Blvd
- Take right at next stop light.

Address: 650 University City Blvd, Blacksburg, VA 24060



### Directions from Hyatt Place to German Club

- Continue to Prices Fork Rd 1 min (0.1 mi)
- Take W Campus Dr to Duck Pond Dr 2 min (0.4 mi)
- Follow Duck Pond Dr to Southgate Dr in E-01 3 min (1.0 mi)
- At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Southgate Dr 2 min (0.5 mi)
- Drive to your destination 1 min (0.2 mi)

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<b>Program at a glance</b>	
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
12:00 PM	Meeting Registration Opens
01:00 PM – 04:30 PM	MicroFish Course
06:00 PM – 08:00 PM	Informal Social – Hotel
<b>Wednesday 29th January</b>	
07:45 AM	Meeting Registration Opens
08:20 AM – 08:25 AM	Opening Remarks
08:25 AM – 09:45 AM	Contributed Papers
09:45 AM – 10:05 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:05 AM – 11:55 AM	Contributed Papers
11:55 AM – 01:20 PM	<b>LUNCH (on your own)</b>
01:20 PM – 02:40 PM	Contributed Papers
02:40 PM – 03:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
03:00 PM – 03:50 PM	Contributed Papers
03:50 PM – 04:10 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
04:10 PM – 05:10 PM	Chapter Business Meetings
06:00 PM – 07:00 PM	Poster Session and Social – German Club
06:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Dinner and Raffle – German Club
<b>Thursday 30th January</b>	
08:30 AM – 09:00 AM	Beth Nyboer—Keynote Speaker
09:00 AM – 09:40 AM	Contributed Papers
09:40 AM – 10:00 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Contributed Papers
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Closing Remarks / Awards

Program Committee: Steve Reeser, Tim Owens, Robbie Willis, John Kauffman, Albert Smith, John Odenkirk, and Joel Snodgrass.

**Tuesday, January 28th**  
 Registration Opens at 12:00

TIME		Hyatt Place Blacksburg - Ballroom	
Microsoft Excel for Fisheries Professionals		Instructor: Jack Van Deventer *	
1:00-4:30 p.m.	Course		
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Question and answer session		

\* *Jack Van Deventer conducted fisheries research in CA, NV, ID, and WY. He invented the fisheries population estimate software called MicroFish which is used in 109 countries. He was an award-winning professor at both Boise State (Bus. Stats) and at Washington State (Mgt Info Sys), where he trained more than 10,000 students in applied technology, including Microsoft Excel. His 45-year analytics career includes work in clinical informatics, project efficiency, and business intelligence. He retired six years ago from a Fortune 40 company (MetLife) as the Lead/Managing Data Scientist. Jack has since launched a sports analytics company, Basketball Science.Net (think "Moneyball" for basketball). Jack delivered his workshop "Microsoft Excel for Fisheries Professionals" last year at the Southern Division AFS meeting in Chattanooga and it was well received.*

**Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 Registration Opens at 8:00 A.M.

TIME		Hyatt Place Blacksburg - Ballroom	
8:20-8:25 a.m.	Opening Remarks Steve Reeser, VA Chapter President		
First Morning Paper Session		Moderator: Stephanie Coster	
8:25-8:45 a.m.	Comparing Machine Learning Approaches for Estimating Seabird Bycatch in U.S. Atlantic Pelagic Longline Fisheries <i>Iman Pakzad (student)—Virginia Tech</i>		
8:45-9:05 a.m.	Estimating Recreational Catch and Release Mortality of Striped Bass <i>Rachel Kelmartin (student)—George Mason University</i>		
9:05-9:25 a.m.	Snorkel Surveys Reveal Previously Unknown Associations and Behaviors of <i>Erimystax</i> Chubs in the Clinch and Powell Rivers, Virginia and Tennessee <i>Kyle Grundy (student)—Virginia Tech</i>		
9:25-9:45 a.m.	Assessing Factors that Contribute to Nest Abandonment of Bluehead Chubs ( <i>Nocomis leptocephalus</i> ) <i>Thomas Bustamante (student)—Virginia Tech</i>		
9:45-10:05 a.m.	<b>BREAK</b>		

**Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 Registration Opens at 7:45 A.M.

<b>TIME</b>		<b>Hyatt Place Blacksburg - Ballroom</b>	<b>⚡ indicates lightening talks (10 min)</b>
<b>Second Morning Paper Session</b>		<b>Moderator: Stephanie Coster</b>	
10:05-10:25 a.m.	If You Remove It, They Will Pass: Ashland Mill Dam, South Anna River <i>Alan Weaver—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>		
10:25-10:35 a.m.	Evaluating the Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Alosine Ichthyoplankton and Zooplankton Prey in the South Anna and Pamunkey River Systems ⚡ <i>Brycen Boettcher—Virginia Commonwealth University</i>		
10:35-10:45 a.m.	Get the Dam Students Involved: Combining Monitoring Work with Education ⚡ <i>Charles Gowen—Randolph-Macon College</i>		
10:45-10:55 a.m.	The Last Dam Summer: Pre-Removal Monitoring Related to Ashland Mill Dam ⚡ <i>Jacob Langley (student)—Randolph-Macon College</i>		
10:55-11:15 a.m.	Harnessing Genetics for Fisheries Management <i>Stephanie S. Coster—Randolph-Macon College</i>		
11:15-11:35 a.m.	Stream Morphology and Habitat Adjustments Following Removal of Baber’s Mill Dam <i>Louise Finger—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>		
11:35-11:55 a.m.	Dam Removal to Reconnect Diadromous Fish to Historical Habitats Across the Rapidan–Rappahannock River Basin, Virginia <i>Shawn Young—American Climate Partners</i>		
11:55-1:20 p.m.	<b>LUNCH – On Your Own</b>		

Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>

TIME		Hyatt Place Blacksburg - Ballroom	⚡ indicates lightening talks (10 min)
Afternoon Paper Session		Moderator: Don Orth	
1:20-1:40 p.m.	Quantifying Component Mortality Rates of Juvenile Salmonids Using Predation Detection Acoustic Tags (PDATs) <i>Elizabeth Greenheck (student)—George Mason University</i>		
1:40-2:00 p.m.	Understanding the Diverse Values of Shore-Based Recreational Fishing in Detroit, Michigan <i>Emma Rice (student)—Virginia Tech</i>		
2:00-2:20 p.m.	Availability of Viable Spawning Habitat in the Jackson River Tailwater <i>Robert Humston—Virginia Military Institute</i>		
2:20-2:40 p.m.	Using a Combination of Habitat Modeling and Environmental DNA Surveillance to Determine the Presence and Distribution of Critically Imperiled, Benthic, and Cryptic Fish <i>Hannah Swain-Menzel (student)—Tennessee Tech University</i>		
2:40-3:00 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>		
3:00-3:20 p.m.	A Review of Interspecific Hybridization in North American Leuciscids ⚡ <i>Wynn Haslam (student)—Virginia Tech</i>		
3:20-3:30	Trout Population Declines, Forage Prey Abundance, and Ecosystem State in a Regulated River ⚡ <i>John Santowski (student)—Washington and Lee University</i>		
3:30-3:40 p.m.	The Role of Connectivity in Shaping Spatial-Temporal Ecological Dynamics: The Arapaima in Amazon Floodplains ⚡ <i>Priscila dos Reis Cunha (student)—Virginia Tech</i>		
3:40-3:50 p.m.	Lessons Learned from Writing Fish, Fishing, and Conservation ⚡ <i>Donald J. Orth—Virginia Tech</i>		
3:50-4:10 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>		
4:10-5:10 p.m.	Chapter Business Meeting		
Evening Activities		German Club	
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Poster Session & Social		
7:00-10:00 p.m.	Dinner and Raffle		

**Thursday, January 30th**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>Hyatt Place Blacksburg - Ballroom</b>  <b>indicates lightening talks (10 min)</b>
<b>Morning Paper Session</b>	<b>Moderator: T. Reid Nelson</b>
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Effects of Climate Change on Recreational Fish, Fisheries, and Foods: A Global Perspective <i>Beth Nyboer—Virginia Tech</i>
9:00-9:20 a.m.	Restoring an Overcrowded Largemouth Bass Population in a Small Reservoir <i>Dan Wilson—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>
9:20-9:40 a.m.	Status of an Undescribed Sculpin in the New River Drainage, Virginia <i>Mike Pinder/Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>
9:40-10:00 a.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
10:00-10:20 a.m.	Revitalizing Lake Ecosystems: Sediment Remediation, Nutrient Dynamics, and Benthic Activity Improvements using TryMarine Technology in Brickhouse Lake <i>David Beasley/SOLitude Lake Management</i>
10:20-10:40 a.m.	Overcoming Challenges Faced by Private Sector Fisheries Managers <i>Tyler Meighan—SOLitude Lake Management</i>
10:40-11:00 a.m.	Comparison of Striped Bass Growth Among Native and Non-Native Ranges <i>T. Reid Nelson—George Mason University</i>
11:00-11:10 a.m.	Virginia Freshwater Mussel Conservation Plan Update  <i>Kayla Howard—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>
11:10-11:20 a.m.	Status of Spotfin Chub ( <i>Erimonax monachus</i> ) in Virginia  <i>Madison Cogar—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>
11:20-11:30 a.m.	Understanding Blue Catfish ( <i>Ictalurus furcatus</i> ) Expenditure in the James River, Virginia Using Creel Data Collected Between March and September 2024  <i>Mitchell Brooks—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>
11:30-12:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks/Awards</b>

TIME	German Club
6:00-7:00 p.m.	<b>Poster Session</b>
	Optimizing Microsatellites for Smallmouth Bass ( <i>Micropterus dolomieu</i> ) Parentage Analysis <i>Collin Burwell (student)—Randolph-Macon College</i>
	Cage Experiments to Assess Detection Distance for Fish eDNA in Small Temperate Streams <i>Joe Buckwalter (student)—Virginia Tech</i>
	Mobility of Trout Spawning Gravels During Pulse Flows in the Jackson River Tailwater <i>Julia McDonald (student)—Washington and Lee University</i>
	Evaluating Fish Distribution Resulting from Removal of Two Virginia Dams: Pre-Removal Phase <i>Matthias Gaffney—Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources</i>
	Snails in the Diet of the Cutlip Minnow, <i>Exoglossum maxillingua</i> <i>Tess Taloumis (student)—Roanoke College</i>
	How Regulated are Recreational Fisheries in the Great Lakes? <i>Matthew Louvet Jr. (student)—Virginia Tech</i>
	ARIMA+NN: Using Machine Learning to Predict Offshore Aquaculture Mortality Rates <i>Iman Pakzad (student)—Virginia Tech</i>
	Using Population Genetics to Inform Sustainable Aquaculture Governance in Lake Victoria, Uganda <i>Jonathan Low (student)—Virginia Tech</i>
	Navigating the Challenges of Cryptic Species Modeling: Insights from the Slender Chub and Co-Occurring Species <i>Mariana Castaneda-Guzman (student)—Virginia Tech</i>
	Looking for Lazarus: Environmental DNA (eDNA) Surveillance of the Federally Threatened Slender Chub ( <i>Erimystax cahni</i> ) in the Clinch and Powell Rivers <i>Robert T. R. Paine—Tennessee Tech University</i>
Dinner & Raffle – German Club 7:00-10:00 p.m.	