



FAB Mission

To provide a forum for the exchange of information and training for aquatic biologists and scientists in related disciplines

Volume 34, Issue 1

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2026 Volume 34, Issue 1

Message from the new FAB President, Matt Scriptor

I am Matt Scriptor and I would like to introduce myself as the new president of the Florida Association of Aquatic Biologists. My academic career took place at Florida Tech in Melbourne, FL, and ended in 2015 with the completion of my dissertation on the larval fish assemblage of the St. Johns River, Florida. In 2002 and from 2011-2013, I worked for and learned fish and invertebrate identification at the FWC's Indian River field lab (go FIM!). Ecological Associates in Jensen Beach hired me after I completed my dissertation to identify ichthyoplankton and meroplankton entrainment samples as part of Clean Water Act 316(b) sampling. I was asked to temporarily assist with marine benthic samples while another taxonomist was away on maternity leave, and when she never returned to EAI, I inherited that project. When EAI had the chance to work on marine ichthyoplankton samples collected off Guyana, the opportunity expanded to include zooplankton and phytoplankton. Somehow, I found my way into the Stream Condition Index and freshwater benthic macroinvertebrate taxonomy world. What a long, strange ride it has been! Those of you who know me from the many taxonomic workshops know that I jokingly say that I identify everything except polychaetes. I'm glad to serve as your president for the next two years and I hope to meet many of you in person at the workshops and annual meetings!



It is with great pleasure that I can announce our spring taxonomic workshop will focus on leeches! Dr. Fredric Govedich, professor of biology and the department chair at Southern Utah University and lead author of the Hirudinida chapter in Thorp and Covich's *Freshwater Invertebrates: Keys to Nearctic Fauna*, has agreed to lead a taxonomic workshop on leeches from May 5-7, 2026, at the University of Florida's Entomology and Nematology teaching laboratory.



Announcements – Part 1

Upcoming Meetings

2026 Spring Freshwater Taxonomic Workshop

The Spring Freshwater Workshop will focus on Hirudinea and will be held May 5-7 at Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, Florida



The Workshop will be led by Fredric Govedich, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah.

Register today on the [FAB website](#)!

39th Annual FAB Meeting

The 39th Annual Meeting of FAB location and date is currently being finalized. The proposed site is Barrier Island Center at [Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary](#) on Melbourne Beach in early August 2026.

Further information will be posted on the [FAB website](#) when details are finalized.

2026 Fall Marine Taxonomic Workshop

The tentative taxon for the 2026 Fall Workshop is Pycnogonida and to be led by Bonnie Bain of Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah.

Further information will be posted on the [FAB website](#) when details are finalized.



2025 Annual Meeting Recap and Awards

Florida Association of Biologists Awards

- *Steve Harris*: Contributions to Florida Aquatic Biology and Benthology
- *Carrie Scarola*: Contributions to FAB
- *Brianna Valdes* and *Rodolfo Arambulo*: FAB Student Travel Award



Shannon McMorrow and Andy Rasmussen presented the Contributions to Florida Aquatic Biology and Benthology Award to Steve Harris who was unable to attend the meeting presents Kirsten Banks with the award for Best Oral Presentation by



Carrie Scarola accepts her award for Contributions to FAB



Student Presentation Awards

Best Oral Presentation by a Graduate Student

Jada Brown, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Smithsonian Marine Station, Fort Perce, FL

Sensitivity of Benthic Infauna: Exploring Shifts in Community Dynamics and Estuarine Health



Shannon McMorrow presents Jada Brown with the award for Best Oral Presentation by a Graduate Student

Best Oral Presentation by an Undergraduate Student

Kirsten Banks, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

*An Analysis of Gastropod Populations in a Mixed *Caulerpa prolifera* and *Halodule wrightii* Seagrass Bed*



Shannon McMorrow presents Kirsten Banks with the award for Best Oral Presentation by an undergraduate student



Best Poster Presentation by a Graduate Student

Justice Williams, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL

*A Proteomic Study Assessing the Impact of Brevotoxin on Zebrafish (*Danio Rerio*) Embryo Development*



Shannon McMorrow presents Justice Williams with the Best Oral Presentation by an Undergraduate Student

Best Poster Presentation by Undergraduate Students

Brianna Valdes and Rodolfo Arambulo, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers

Title: *Quantifying the ecological succession of epibiota at an artificial reef on the southwest Florida shelf*



Shannon McMorrow presents the Best Poster Presentation by Undergraduate Students to Brianna Valdes and Rodolfo Arambulo





FAB 2025 Annual Meeting Attendees

From left to right: Scott Duncan, Craig Duxbury, Kiana Maldonado, Almando Morain, Jessica Reker, Andy Rasmussen, Kelly Rein, James Douglass, Kevin Campbell, Gabriela Re, Dana Denson, Madelyn Ritter, Ellie Cook, Brianna Valdes, Doug Strom, Justice Williams, Rodolfo Arambulo, Dave Karlen, Greer Babbe, Elizabeth Urban-Gedamke, Jada Brown, Holly Sweat, Wayne Price, Jessica Zehnpfennig, Shannon, Julie Christian, Jennifer Davenport, Matt Scriptor, Michelle Shelton. Not Pictured: Yojana Ballesteros, Kirsten Banks, Frankie Hedge, Brooke Marti, Michael Middlebrooks, William Mullen

Meetings and Conferences of Interest

- [Society for Freshwater Science \(SFS\)](#) May 17-21, 2026. Spokane, WA
- [Florida Junior Academy of Sciences \(FAS\)](#) March 20, 2026. University of Tampa, FL
- [North American Lake Management Society \(NALMS\)](#) November 3-6, 2026. Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada
- [American Society of Limnology and Oceanography \(ASLO\)](#) May 12-16, 2026. Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- [The Ecological Society of America \(ESA\)](#) July 26-31, 2026. Salt Lake City, UT
- [The Crustacean Society](#) January 3-7, 2027, Pittsburgh, PA
- [Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation \(CERF\)](#) November 11, 2027. San Juan, Puerto Rico
- [Florida Lake Management Society](#) September 1-4, 2026. Bonita Springs, FL

For an extensive list of related conferences, visit:
<https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/marine-science>
<https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/ecology>



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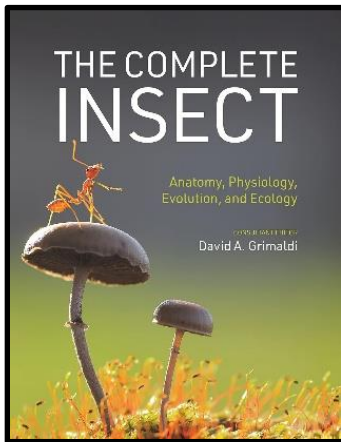


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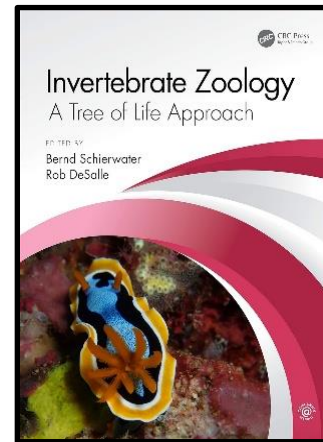


Announcements – Part 2

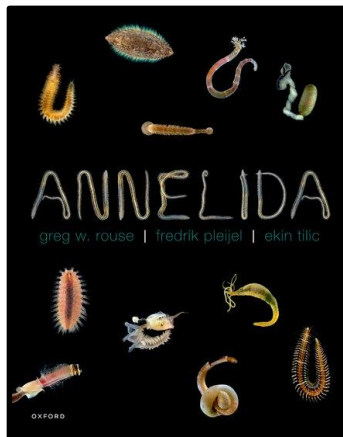
News & Books



[The Complete Insect: Anatomy, Physiology, Evolution, and Ecology. David A. Grimaldi \(Editor\)](#)



[Invertebrate Zoology: A Tree of Life Approach: Bernd Schierwater, Rob DeSalle](#)



[Annelida. Greg Rouse; Fredrik Pleijel; Ekin Tilic](#)

Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Florida Association of Aquatic Biologists
38th Annual Meeting
Wekiwa Springs State Park, FL
December 9-10, 2025**

Craig Duxbury called the meeting to order at 1330.

Approval of the Minutes: The draft minutes from the 37th Annual EC and Business Meeting were published in the 2025 February Newsletter in draft form. Craig introduced a proposal to officially approve, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Shannon McMorrow (Chair)

FAB Awards:

- Contributions to Florida Aquatic Biology and Benthology: Steve Harris
- Contributions to FAB: Carrie Scarola
- FAB Travel Award: Brianna Valdes and Rodolfo Arambulo

Student Presentation Awards:

- Best Oral Presentation by a Graduate Student: Jada Brown, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Smithsonian Marine Station, Fort Pierce, FL
Sensitivity of Benthic Infauna: Exploring Shifts in Community Dynamics and Estuarine Health
- Best Oral Presentation by an Undergraduate Student: Kirsten Banks, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL
*An Analysis of Gastropod Populations in a Mixed *Caulerpa prolifera* and *Halodule wrightii**

Seagrass Bed

- Best Poster Presentation by a Graduate Student: Justice Williams, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
*A Proteomic Study Assessing the Impact of Brevetoxin on Zebrafish (*Danio Rerio*) Embryo*

Development

- Best Poster Presentation by an Undergraduate Student: Brianna Valdes and Rodolfo Arambulo, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
Quantifying the Ecological Succession of Epibiota at an Artificial Reef on the Southwest Florida

Shelf

Elections were held for the Treasurer position, FAB President, and President- elect beginning January 1, 2026. All motions passed unanimously.

Bylaws: Doug Strom (Chair)

The Workshop and Certification Committee has been changed to just the Workshop Committee, as discussed at the previous EC meeting

Registered Agent: David Evans (Chair)



In 2026, Julianne Knight-Gray will be taking over as Chair for Dave Evans. Dave will be working with her during this transition. The Registered Agent manages FAB's tax-exempt status as per a 501(3) non-profit organization. Annual and quarterly reports are required.

Editorial: Peggy Morgan (Chair)

Peggy is working on the next edition of the FAB Newsletter slated for publication in February/March 2026 and will send it to Julianne for editing. Please send Annual Meeting and Workshop announcements, literature, news items and other items of interest to Peggy at Pegrat307@msn.com.

Treasury: Rob Mattson (Chair)

Checking Account as of December 31, 2025: Beginning Balance January 1, 2025, was \$16,558.09 and the ending balance, December 31, 2025, was \$18,487.47. On January 1, 2025, the Endowment Fund was \$ 61,944.96 and the ending balance, December 31, 2025, was \$ 65,831.34.

Scott Duncan will be assuming the position of Fab Treasurer in 2026.

Internet Committee: Jennifer Davenport (Chair)

The FAB website status is stable, and Jen now has the capacity to accept credit cards at our meetings and workshops for registration and merchandise.

Membership: Shannon Mcmorrow (Chair)

FAB currently has 38 paying members. There are 251 people on our contact list.

Nominating: Scott Duncan (Chair)

Matt Scripter will become FAB President as of January 1, 2026. Michael Middlebrooks has been nominated for President-Elect beginning January 1, 2026. Scott will assume the role of Treasurer beginning January 2026, and Peggy Morgan will continue as Secretary through 2026.

Workshop: Craig Duxbury (Chair)

Craig will assist Matt Scripter, as new President in 2026, with the 2026 Spring Taxonomic Workshop, which is expected to be held at UF in Gainesville in May 2026. The taxonomic group featured is Hirudinea.

Dave Karlen is working on coordinating the 2026 Fall Taxonomic Workshop, which will be held at the University of Tampa Marine Field Station in the Fall. Dave is considering Isopoda as the taxonomic focus.

New Business:

Todd Risk has agreed to become the Government Representative on the EC, replacing Mike Heyn, who is now retired. We still need a Student Representative. Please send suggestions to Scott.

Doug motioned to adjourn; Dana seconded. It was unanimously approved at 1450.

Submitted 02/26/26

Peggy Morgan, Secretary



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Aquatic Biologists
Virtual Meeting
12/3/25, 2025

Doug Strom, presiding

Attendees: Jennifer Davenport, Doug Strom, Shannon McMorrow, Scott Duncan, Craig Duxbury, Rob Mattson, Peggy Morgan, Andy Rasmussen, Dave Evans, Holly Sweat, Carrie Scarola, Julianne Knight-Gray, Wayne Price

Doug distributed copies of the FAB Constitution, EC members list and EC Meeting Protocols

Doug called the meeting to order at 1205.

Approval of the Minutes: The draft minutes from the 37th Annual EC were published in the 2025 August Newsletter in draft form. There were no corrections or objections. Scott moved the minutes for approval and Peggy seconded the motion. The EC voted and unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Shannon McMorrow, Chair

FAB presents two Special Awards: Contributions to Florida Aquatic Biology and Contributions to FAB. Shannon reported that the recipients will be announced at the Business Meeting. Jennifer requested the coordination of the Student Travel Award Program be transferred to the Student Awards Committee. Scott will assume Chair of the Awards Committee beginning January of 2026. Doug clarified that he would need to review Committee membership and update as necessary.

Bylaws: Doug Strom, Chair

The Workshop and Certification Committee name has been changed to Workshop Committee, as discussed at the previous EC meeting.

Any other issues with or suggestions for the Bylaws should be directed to Doug.

Editorial: Peggy Morgan, Chair

Peggy is working on the next edition of the FAB Newsletter slated for publication in February/March, 2026 and will send to Julianne for editing. Please send Annual Meeting and Workshop announcements, literature, news items and other items of interest to Peggy at Pegrat307@msn.com.

Treasury (Finance and Endowment): Rob Mattson, Chair

Checking Account as of December 31, 2025: Beginning Balance January 1, 2025 was \$16,558.09 and the ending balance, December 31, 2025, was \$18,487.47. On January 1, 2025, the Endowment Fund was \$ 61,944.96 and the ending balance, December 31, 2025, was \$ 65,831.34.

Scott will be assuming the position of Fab Treasurer in 2026.

Jennifer had the annual meeting with FAB's Financial Advisor. The risk level remains at 80/20 equity risk level.

Internet Committee: Jennifer Davenport, Chair

Jen reported that the FAB website status is stable.

Jen now has the capacity to accept credit cards at our meetings and workshops for registration and merchandise.



Membership: Shannon McMorrow, Chair

Carrie reported that FAB currently has 38 paying members. There are 251 people on our contact list.

Nominating: Scott Duncan, Chair

Matt Scripser will become FAB President as of January 1, 2026, Michael Middlebrooks has been nominated for President-Elect beginning January 1, 2026. Scott will confirm this with Michael. Scott will be assuming the role of Treasurer beginning January 2026, and Peggy Morgan will continue as Secretary through 2026, but indicated that the EC should search for her replacement.

Workshop: Craig Duxbury, Chair and David Karlen, Co-chair

Michael Middlebrooks will become the Workshop Committee Chair in January, 2026. Craig will be assisting Matt, as new President in 2026, with the 2026 Spring Taxonomic Workshop, which is expected to be held at UF in Gainesville in May 2026.

Dave Karlen is working on coordinating the 2026 Fall Taxonomic Workshop, which will be held at the University of Tampa Marine Field Station in the Fall. Dave is considering Isopoda as the taxonomic focus.

Registered Agent: David Evans, Chair

Dave expressed his gratitude to all the EC members and his appreciation for all the time and talent contributed to the FAB.

Julianne will be taking over as Chair in 2026. Dave will be working with her during this transition. The Registered Agent manages FAB's tax-exempt status as per a 501(3) non-profit organization. Annual and quarterly reports are required.

Dave took the initiative to update our Financial and Endowment contracts identifying Scott as Treasurer and Julianne as Registered Agent. Next orders of business are to update names and addresses on SunBiz and the FAB bank account.

New Business/Action Items:

The correct sequence of the Annual Meetings was discussed. Since there was no Annual Meeting in 2024, there was confusion as to whether the upcoming meeting would be the 38th or the 39th. Jen moved to consider the upcoming meeting to be the 38th, and Craig seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved. Doug explained that this scheme ensures the 40th meeting will coincide with the organization's 40th anniversary, resolving confusion.

Scott reported that Todd Risk has agreed to become the Government Representative on the EC, replacing Mike Heyn, who is now retired. We still need a Student Representative. Please send suggestions to Scott. Jennifer requested that Dave be added to the bank account so he can coordinate all expenditures related to the Fall Taxonomic Workshops.

Craig and Jennifer discussed finalizing the agenda, with presentations scheduled in 30-minute blocks (20 minutes for the talk, 10 minutes for transition and questions), aiming to distribute the agenda within a day.

Julianne and Jennifer emphasized the importance of locking down meeting dates and locations early to facilitate state employee travel approvals, suggesting use of previous agendas as templates. Craig and Doug agreed to schedule the business meeting before lunch on the first day to maximize participation, rather at the end when participation drops.



Peggy will send judging forms to Shannon, who will adapt them as needed and recruit judges at the Annual Meeting. Andy volunteered on the spot.

Follow-up tasks:

- Student Travel Awards Committee Transition: Transfer responsibility for receiving and evaluating student travel award applications from the ad hoc committee to the awards committee and ensure the new chair has access to the relevant email account and password. (Jennifer, Shannon, Scott)
- Student Travel Award Announcement: Ensure the president includes the student travel award announcement in meeting or workshop communications and update templates to reflect this new award. (Awards Committee Chair, President)
- Bylaws Constitution Edits: Review and finalize edits to the Constitution, specifically ensuring all references to the certification committee are struck through, and distribute the updated version to the EC and bring extra copies to the annual meeting for membership review. (Doug)
- Newsletter Content Collection: Send information about the president, upcoming workshop, and any relevant content (including group photos from the meeting) to Peggy for inclusion in the February newsletter. (President, Workshop Committee, All Members)
- Newsletter Reference Submission: Submit any interesting taxonomy or aquatic ecology references to Peggy for inclusion in the newsletter. (All Members)
- Financial Report Preparation: Prepare and email the financial report, including the endowment balance, to Craig, Doug, Jennifer, Scott, and others for the business meeting. (Rob)
- Treasurer Transition: Complete the transfer of Wells Fargo account access and all financial files from Robert to Scott and update the bank account address as needed. (Rob, Scott)
- Endowment Fund Risk Review: Review and confirm the continued appropriateness of the 80/20 equity distribution for the endowment fund, considering current risk levels and organizational needs. (Jennifer, Finance Committee)

Peggy motioned to adjourn; Holly seconded. It was unanimously approved at 1324.

Peggy Morgan, FAB Secretary
Submitted 02/25/2026



Annual Membership fees are due February 15!

Your membership fee covers one year: January 1 - December 31 and is due February 15th of each year. Once registered, you will receive email confirmation of your purchase. If you would like to pay your dues and register for a workshop, you may add them to your cart upon check-out. They will be displayed as separate items on the receipt for easy bookkeeping.

[Pay Now by Credit Card \(online, preferred method\)](#)

or

Check, payable to FAB and mailed to:

Scott Duncan, Treasurer
395 Needle Blvd.
Merritt Island, FL 32953

If you *have not* paid your membership dues for 2026, please add 2026 membership dues (\$35) to your cart. To check your membership status, please email: memberships@floridaaquaticbiologists.org

