1.

I am a new member of AFS, and I am excited to start engaging in more activities and conferences. I became a member February 2019.

I am attending the AFS Florida Chapter conference in Haines City, Florida, during April 2019. During this conference, I plan to present my poster on adaptive data management practices for biological and ecological data. I am attending the conference with several of the University of Florida Oyster Restoration project cohort, and we are planning to attend and present a poster at this conference.

During the Reno 2019 conference, I am also planning to present my research as well. I am hoping that there is enough interest in increasing advancements to survey and data collection, as well as advances in analysis software.

I am motivated to find new opportunities to become a more engaged member of AFS.

2.

During my 2017 summer IFAS awarded and sponsored internship, I gained experience using mapping tools in the software program R. The internship peaked my interest in creating visual representation of spatial data regarding wood stork migratory movements. Some of my graphics have been featured in other graduate students’ publications.

I attended the 2016 SEAFWA conference, were I was awarded and sponsored by the Minorities in Natural Resources Conservation (MINRC) to attend workshops and compete with other students in an essay related to how being a minority in natural resources has given me unique perspective in conservation. I won the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award for the essay I wrote for this conference and was featured online as the winner for this award.

For spring 2019, I plan to be trained as a Data Carpentries Instructor, so I can share and teach my data management knowledge with others. I am an active member of R-Ladies, Gainesville, and UF’s Data Carpentries clubs. Both clubs provide me the opportunity to support outreach for students that are also data driven.

As a graduate assist also working on the on the University of Florida Oyster Restoration project, I manage a website where the data for this project are available for the public and other conservation agencies. My graphics and figures are also used for the projects’ quarterly reports. I create representational visualizations of water quality data using R. Other responsibilities for this project include helping to build and maintain a custom database for the water quality and oyster sampling data. This project is new, and I am currently involved in every aspect of the database setup. You can view my work at: https://lcroysterproject.github.io/oysterproject/.

2. a

My goals as a student of aquatic natural resources are 1) present my research to as many people and at as many conferences that I am able to 2) teach students and professionals about best practices to incorporate an effective data management plan for their monitoring/ sampling 3) be trained in skills that will launch my career.

As a “data manager” for the University of Florida’s Oyster Restoration project, I spend much of my time trouble shooting errors, and providing support for biological data management workflow. My goal is to spread my knowledge throughout fisheries and wildlife biologists, which might need data support as there is a lack of data management courses available at universities.

Being a well-spoken public speaker and presenter is a skill that I would like to enrich before my time as student ends. Presenting in front of a group of aquatic natural resources managers will give me amazing feedback and the opportunity to know what biologists needs in terms of data management.

Having a broad and diverse set of skills is what I am pushing myself to achieve before my assistantship ends. I strive to learn from experts in natural resources fields, including methodology, modeling, and data collection methods. My goal is to be a competitive natural scientists with an extensive skill set.

3.

Reasons to attend the Annual AFS Meeting is to 1) have the opportunity to sit in on valuable lectures and workshops 2) meet others that are passionate about ecological data as I am 3) present my poster and educate others on verified methods for adaptive data management.

Conferences such as these are amazing opportunities to learn about upcoming research information and ongoing projects that are happening in wildlife. I have only been able to attend a few conferences, but the knowledge learned from these sessions have still had a lasting impression on me and have influenced my understanding of ecological processes and the programs that monitor them.

Being able to network with others that are in my field is a priceless way of getting insights into my future profession. There are many professionals I keep in contact with, that I met at the 2016 SEAFWA conference in Baton Rouge, LA, which is the last conference I attended. These professionals often give me advice and tips on how to get the most of my education and the steps I should take to be a completive wildlife biologist/ data scientist.

I am passionate and motivated to present my poster at this conference. The research that I am working of is quite different, and I think it would be a valuable experience to present adaptive management workflows for ecological data to professionals that are looking for ways to make their data and findings reproducible and sharable.