



Happy New Year – We Hope 2024 will be Successful for Everyone!

Please mark your calendar for the next General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 7 February 2024

This will be a Dinner Meeting with a Guest Speaker!

Doors open at 5:30 PM.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Join us for Seafood Gumbo.

Cost \$10.00/person.

1615 East LaRue Street, Pensacola

Please join us in welcoming Amanda Croteau. Dr. Croteau received a Ph.D. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida. She earned her M.S. in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism from the University of Florida and a B.A. in Marine Biology and Environmental Studies from New College of Florida. Dr. Croteau joined UWF in 2020 as a Postdoctoral Research Associate.

Dr. Amanda Croteau is an estuarine ecologist and Research Assistant Professor in UWF's Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation. Her research interests primarily focus on fisheries and plankton ecology, water quality, and habitat restoration. She has worked across the state on projects related to the evaluation of salt marsh restoration, impacts of recreation on natural resources, plankton ecology, fish community ecology, and age and growth of fishes. Her current research includes understanding water quality, plankton, and settlement dynamics in Perdido Bay; plankton ecology of coastal dune lakes; patterns of settlement and habitat use of fishes in Santa Rosa Sound.

Please join us as we learn about her yearlong study (2023) in the Perdido Bay System. Her presentation is entitled **Monitoring Across Borders – Filling Gaps in a Data Poor Estuary.**

During the next few weeks, the BFA will be planning outreach events in which we will be visiting elementary schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties before the end of the school year. The purpose of these visits is to 'Bring the Coast to the Kids' in the new BFA Mobile Lab. This effort is made possible through an Impact 100 Grant that BFA in partnership with the Satori Foundation (<https://satorifoundation.com/>) received in 2021. Due to the many difficulties encountered during the Covid epidemic, supply chain-demand issues, and the reopening of in-person schools, we were unable to complete 'one' of the outreach components of our project, but we stand committed to completing it this year. If you are a *BFA Member* and wish to participate in our program, please let us know – so we may include you by sharing our curriculum and having you join us as we meet our future stewards in the classroom, on a boat, or in the field. We have some exciting projects and lessons planned.

Everyone was affected differently by the isolation and inability to continue our regular activities and social interactions. That said, the region we live in has continued to change with more folks moving here from out-of-state every month. During the 2020-2023 Covid Hiatus, the BFA shifted their efforts and focused on writing reports (see the Bruce Beach tab on our website), working on grants, and finding a vehicle, and equipment for the new mobile lab. While it's true, we did not have Membership Meetings or send out Newsletters, however we did attend an awful lot of zoom meetings, scouted out new sampling areas, sampled during heavy rain events, and were able to meet with many groups of citizens who are interested in additional water quality sampling in their community.

As a result, we are in discussions with several state agencies, including FDEP to schedule our water quality monitoring program after *Covid*, and with FWC to begin our Bayou Texar Oyster Project. We recognize that our community has many multi-generational families to transient populations which include students to military personnel, and we hope to share the importance of protecting our natural resources for future generations. After all, good water quality is the basis of good health.

The Bream Fishermen Association (BFAwater) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental conservation and recreational opportunities for anglers, hunters, campers, and people invested in related outdoors activities. It is the objective of the BFA to support, develop, and implement programs that will:

- 1) Improve the quality of our environment.
- 2) Protect and maintain our present wilderness type lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes, bays, forests, and beaches in their natural undeveloped state.
- 3) Advance the causes of plant, marine, and wildlife preservation; and
- 4) Environmental education and outreach.

The vision for the Bream Fishermen Association is the re-connection of communities to their watersheds through a thriving regional watershed monitoring approach. The activities of citizen volunteers through this organization foster the appreciation, conservation, restoration, and appropriate management of our area waters. The desired outcomes for the resources are increased biological diversity and productivity from head-water streams to our panhandle bays.

The BFA has a long legacy of assisting county, state, and federal partners in area-wide water quality monitoring. Through these monthly efforts, citizens have become aware and engaged in their area's waters and are becoming better stewards for the environment.

Membership is open to all individuals who support these objectives. Please join the BFA by sending us your contact information (name, mailing address, phone, and email) be sure to notify us if you prefer to receive notices and announcements by mail or email, and \$20 annual dues to our mailing address:

BFA 1203 North 16th Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32503

Or email us at:

thebreamfishermen@gmail.com