

2022 USAS Student Subunit Annual Report
Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine WAVMA Chapter
6035 Castle Haven Rd, Cambridge, MD 21613

I. Membership

a. Number of Members: 29

b. Officers

President: Charles Stewart-Bates
Vice President: Juliette Nye
Secretary: Kortnie Wheaton
Treasurer: Justin Bolin
Advisor: Dr. Mark Flint/Dr. Raphael Malbrue
Merchandise Chair: Jazmin Pendergrast

c. Subunit's Recommendation for \$250 Travel Award to Aquaculture America¹

Charles Stewart-Bates, 2024, aquaculture medicine: Charles is presenting at the Aquaculture America Conference on alternatives to antibiotics in addressing fish disease outbreaks. His presentation will delve into why there is a need for alternative treatments and what alternatives are most practical given the cost in the industry.

II. Chapter Activities and Events

- 5 members carpooled for a tour of a local aquaculture operation in central Ohio: Freshwater Farms of Ohio. Students were taught about the different husbandry requirements of species cultured at the facility. An open discussion and Q/A session were held after the tour.
- 9 members toured the Nationwide Children's Hospital zebrafish facility. Dr. Raphael Malbrue led the tour and discussed important considerations in sourcing zebrafish, facility biosecurity, disease outbreaks, and treatment plans.
- 10 members attended a zoom presentation on fish welfare from Dr. Lisa Posner (NC State College of Veterinary Medicine).
- 15 members attended a zoom presentation on anomalous cases of both ornamental and cultured fishes from Dr. Greg Lewbart (NC State College of Veterinary Medicine).
- 43 students (school-wide event open to nonmembers) attended a fish necropsy and diagnostic techniques "wet lab". Dr. Dan Gascho (Four Star Veterinary

¹ From the [USAS Procedures and Policies](#): "Each year, up to four (4) USAS student subunits will be provided with matching funds from USAS to support travel to the Annual Conference. USAS (or industry partner) will provide up to \$250 in matching funds per subunit (\$1,000 total annual commitment). Each subunit will select one (1) student based on merit. Travel award recipients will be selected by the subunit. Each subunit may develop its own selection criteria but we suggest that priority be given to the following: 1. Is the student presenting or bringing a poster? 2. Does the student have other travel funds available? 3. Has the student contributed to the subunit and/or USAS overall (i.e., subunit officer, activities etc.)? 4. Has the student previously received funds from USAS? 5. In addition, subunits may elect to use an abstract competition."

Services) led this lab and demonstrated various diagnostic techniques on the tilapia specimens to individual students. 15 nonmembers attended the event.

- 8 members attended a zoom presentation on salmonid virology and outbreak management from Dr. Nora Hickey (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission).
- 10 members carpooled for a tour of central Ohio aquaculture operations. Two hour-long tours were delivered by the owners of the respective farms: Fresh Harvest Farm and Millcreek Perch Farm.
- 4 members attended a collaborative event between our chapter and the theriogenology club. Dr. Roy Yanong (UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory) presented on fish reproduction in the culture setting.

III. Chapter Changes from previous year (if applicable)

Our number of members decreased from 37 to 29. Our numbers always hover around 30 members so these numbers are reflective of historical interest in the chapter. This year represented a significant transition from zoom events to in-person events, as the university finally granted permission for these types of events. As a result, we are in the process of cutting down zoom speakers in favor of farm tours, wet labs, etc. so members get the most out of the chapter.

IV. Chapter Struggles/Concerns or areas for improvement

Social media remains a weak point in our chapter. However, our merchandise/outreach chair is in the process of revamping social media activities for the spring semester. In addition, we hope to gain more support from faculty at the college of veterinary medicine. Aquaculture medicine is still viewed by many faculty as a niche field, but an increasing number are becoming more aware and appreciative of its importance.

V. Photos





VI. Treasurer's Report

Dues for the club totaled \$406.00 in order to cover the cost of labs, transportation, and excess merchandise. Tilapia purchased for the fall necropsy lab totaled \$100. T-shirts ordered in various sizes totaled \$380, although \$140 was offset through individual orders. As of now, the school-associated bank account shows a running balance of \$538.47.

The spring semester will feature additional farm tours, a fish necropsy lab, and a crayfish anesthesia lab. Transportation costs are expected to be the primary cost, as another club we are collaborating with has already acquired fish specimens with their funds. Nationwide Children's Hospital will cover the cost of the crayfish anesthesia lab as well. Our merchandise chair is planning club-themed stickers to raise more funds for this spring as well.