

FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
SALAMANDERS



2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

CONTRIBUTING TO A WORLD WHERE
SALAMANDERS ARE CONSIDERED,
CONSERVED, AND APPRECIATED
WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND.

FALLS CHURCH, VA

A New Beginning



What an amazing year we've had! Chopsticks for Salamanders has officially formed an independent non-profit. As of July 2015, we are now the Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders (FCSal). Under this new organization, we have begun implementing brand new initiatives, reaching out to an international audience, and forming a strong base of support that will allow our important work to conserve salamanders to go on in perpetuity.

I must express our most sincere gratitude to the American Association of Zookeepers. Not only did AAZK shelter CFS when we were a small, struggling program, but local AAZK chapters continue to be our most important supporters. AAZK national once again invested in our work this year, granting us the Polar Bear International Conservation Grant for AAZK membership and making us a conservation partner!

We once again had the opportunity to choose from an incredible selection of grant applications this year, reaffirming the importance of the work we do and inspiring us to create several new initiatives to provide further funding for salamander conservation. Most significantly, we have set aside 7 May 2016 as the first annual Salamander Saturday, a day to celebrate salamanders worldwide. FCSal would like to invite you all to join us in this celebration by

hosting or attending a Salamander Saturday event near you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in 2015; for liking us on Facebook, purchasing chopsticks, donating a silent auction item, and helping us spread the message to conserve salamanders. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of supporters. We simply couldn't do it without you.

Now, on to 2016!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Augustine'.

Lauren Augustine

President, Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders

www.fcsal.org

<https://www.facebook.com/ChopsticksForSalamanders/>

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SUPPORT AND FUNDING

FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SALAMANDERS

INNOVATIVE OCCASSIONS

New events meant new sources of funding in 2015

FCSal has been working to develop partnerships with a variety of other groups since its beginnings as Chopsticks for Salamanders. Many of these partnerships led to extensive new sources of funds in 2015.

First we would like to thank the Greater Baltimore Chapter of the American

Association of Zookeepers for hosting the Salamander Sushi Social on January 12, 2015 at Ashai Sushi in Baltimore, MD. Participants had a chance to

win raffle items, purchase silent auction donations, and received 15% off their dinner bill. Not bad for enjoying a night of sushi for the benefit of conservation. This event raised over \$1000 for FCSal!

FCSal hosted the Run 4 Salamanders on June 6, 2015 in Falls Church, VA. The run raised

over \$2,000 and was attended by 84 participants who came out in support of FCSal and salamanders everywhere.

In December, FCSal was supported by the 3rd annual Salamander Happy Hour, held at Fat Pete's BBQ in Washington DC. Participants enjoyed food and

drink specials while browsing and bidding on unique art and other items provided by FCSal supporters. The event raised over \$500 dollars

and helped FCSal network with a new group of supporters.

We would like to offer a huge shout out to the many businesses that sponsored and donated to our events in 2015, including Ashai Sushi, Fat Pete's BBQ, Road Runner Sports, New Columbia Distillers, and BBQ bus.

“PARTICIPANTS HAD A CHANCE TO WIN RAFFLE ITEMS, PURCHASE SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS AND RECEIVED 15% OFF THEIR DINNER BILL. NOT BAD FOR ENJOYING A NIGHT OF SUSHI FOR THE BENEFIT OF CONSERVATION.”

WELCOME NEW PARTNERS!

FCSal would like to welcome our newest partners that are selling chopsticks for salamander conservation!

Greater Cincinnati AAZK

Toronto AAZK

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

Houston Zoo

Greater Houston AAZK

Brevard Zoo

Jacksonville AAZK

Oklahoma City Zoo

These organizations have purchased bulk chopsticks to sell to their members, zoo guests, families, and friends, showing their commitment to salamander conservation and reducing the use of disposable chopsticks. We would like to welcome these institutions and organizations to our cause and thank them for helping FCSal raise over \$2,000 in 2015!

2015 GRANT CYCLE

The 2015 grant cycle once again demonstrated how many salamander researchers are doing amazing work – and why our fundraising is so important.

"Conservation Genetics and Migration Monitoring of the Rare Pigeon Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon petraeus*) within a Highly Restricted Range" Thomas McElroy, PhD and Kate Donlon, Kennesaw State University, awarded \$5,000

Pigeon Mountain salamanders (*Plethodon petraeus*) exist in a small range and are protected as a rare species in Georgia. The distribution of this species correlates with rocky outcrops patchily distributed within a 15 km area on the eastern flank of Pigeon Mountain in Northwest Georgia. Because small populations are at a greater risk of extinction, a genetic assessment of the species will significantly aid in conservation planning. This research will generate mitochondrial haplotype and genomic DNA profiles from polymorphic microsatellite loci. These data will be used to examine the species' genetic structure. Due to the limited knowledge of this species dispersal rate and a preference for a habitat type that is discontinuous throughout its range, a mark-recapture study will be performed to estimate population size and monitor contemporary migration patterns. The information generated by this research will be applied to a management plan for this rare amphibian by the Department of Natural Resources. Results from this study will directly benefit the conservation of this species and be used to educate the public about salamander conservation through a partnership with The Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta Georgia.

"Using environmental DNA as a sampling method for occupancy modeling in the Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*)" Thomas W. Franklin, Appalachian State University, awarded \$1,000.

Traditional survey methods for rare benthic organisms are expensive, time consuming, labor intensive and can be dangerous to the researchers and stressful to the target animals. Using environmental DNA (eDNA) is a non-invasive survey method that is an increasingly popular alternative for detecting rare aquatic species. Sampling via eDNA involves filtering water and using molecular techniques to isolate DNA to detect and quantify the abundance of a target species. Previous studies have demonstrated eDNA to be particularly useful for detecting the presence of the elusive Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*). Hellbenders are currently experiencing rapid, range-wide population declines and deserve the upmost conservation status and research. Our objectives are to incorporate eDNA into occupancy models to quantify the presence and detectability of hellbenders. We will collect eDNA via water samples, and, at the same locations, conduct exhaustive traditional hellbender surveys (ie. snorkeling, rock-turning) and characterize habitat so that we can analyze the data using an occupancy modeling approach. We will target 30 sites in the Upper New River Drainage in North Carolina and sample each site three times each from May – August 2015. By complementing traditional survey approaches with an eDNA approach to estimate occupancy, other researchers and conservation biologists can employ more time and cost effective methods to long-term hellbender monitoring programs.

+To disseminate information about the threats to salamanders and their habitats. +To increase awareness about salamander diversity, biology and conservation. +To raise money for salamander conservation, education, and research. +To fund salamander conservation initiatives through an annual grant.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Revenue

Surplus funds (2014).....	\$10,948.00
Individual donations.....	\$204.00
AAZK chapter donations.....	\$1,058.00
Grant funding.....	\$500.00
Chopsticks sales (AAZK chapters).....	\$2,278.64
Chopsticks sales (Conferences).....	\$175.00
Merchandise Sales Online or Small In Person.....	\$1,439.00
Run for Salamanders Fundraiser (t-shirts and run registrations).....	\$2,745.00

Total Revenue	\$19,347.64

Expenditures

Further chopstick purchases.....	\$1,505.25
Grants funded.....	\$7,200.00
Website expenses.....	\$188.02
Postage and printing.....	\$383.81
Logo design.....	\$200.00
Non-profit status.....	\$475.00

Total Expenditures	\$9,952.08

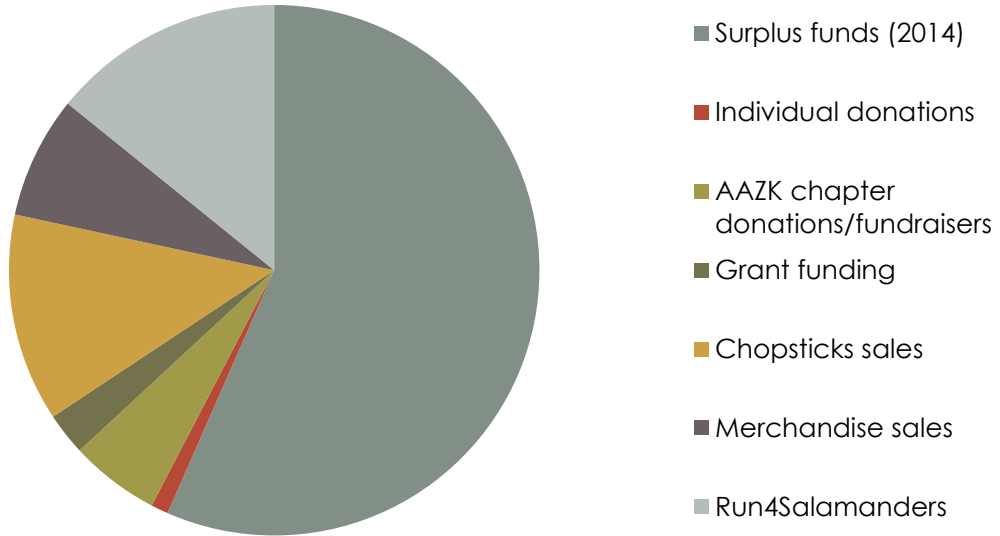
Base cost per chopstick sale

Chopsticks base price.....	\$0.80
Embroidered carry-bag.....	\$1.95
Business card.....	\$0.22
U.S. shipping per pair (in bulk).....	\$0.25
Trifold added to each chopstick sale.....	\$0.15

Base cost per pair	\$3.37

Paying bulk price of \$10.00 per pair generates \$6.63 for salamander conservation per pair.

Revenue



Expenditures

