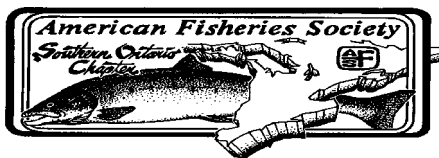


Newsletter of the AFS Southern Ontario Chapter

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President's Message

For those of you who are keenly tracking the advancement of the Southern Ontario Chapter, I am very proud to announce that this year's Executive Committee is working hard to advance the goals of this Chapter on behalf of its members. For the past few years, the direction of this chapter has been to develop and build up our membership, as well as increase the profile of our skilled and determined fisheries professionals in Ontario. With this in mind, we have approached the Parent Society to formally request a name change from the Southern Ontario to the **Ontario Chapter** of the American Fisheries Society. This motion was well favoured by the parent society governing board members that were approached. It was also felt by the majority of those polled in our membership that this minor change in identity would effectively remove any perceived barriers between the fisheries professionals in Ontario, and provide the foundation for one strong organization. We have also fine-tuned our operational procedures and can now provide "up to the minute" details of our chapter membership. This will also mark the launch of our first digital newsletter, which is no small task. Our website www.afs-soc.org has been an overwhelming success for us as a Chapter. Our thanks to Robert Eakins, webmaster and author/designer of the Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database. Our counterparts in the States have noticed our Chapter initiatives, which led ultimately to being recognized in the fall issue of the North-Central Division Mainstream Newsletter. I would also like to add that having responded to scheduling difficulties, which have long plagued our Annual General Meeting in Dorset, we have changed the date for this year's AGM to February 20-22, 2004. We look forward to seeing all those that could not attend previous years due to hockey tournaments, curling bonspiels and other March commitments. I look forward to seeing you all in Dorset.

- Dave Green - President. AFS-SOC

Call For Membership

The Southern Ontario Chapter of the AFS currently has 84 members in good standing. There are a number of members whose membership in the chapter has recently lapsed and we certainly encourage these members to rejoin. Joining the chapter is as simple as checking the Southern Ontario Chapter box under the "Section Dues" part of the registration form for the parent society. As always, we also welcome new members to our chapter. Throughout this newsletter you will read about many new initiatives that clearly demonstrate that "membership has its privileges". Most importantly, remember that that Southern Ontario Chapter is the only voice for professional fisheries biologists in Ontario. We need your involvement to make this chapter a truly representative voice!

- Rob Steele – Membership Chairman



Feature Biologist:

Bob Morris

Credit Valley Conservation Authority

Bob was born in 1959 in St. Catharines. Neither his parents nor 4 siblings showed any interest in the outdoors. A neighbor took him on his first camping trip in which the only fish reeled in was an American eel by Bob. He still recalls his most memorable birthday present being a Mitchell 301 fishing reel at the age of 12. He often fished the Welland Canal only blocks away, or would have his Dad drive him to Martindale pond to fish sunfish and carp. Family vacations north of Kingston introduced him to bass and pike. Early on, Bob became interested in science and geography and enrolled at Brock University to co-major in Geography and Environmental Studies. By the late 70's, courses in Fluvial Geomorphology were already teaching him more about fish habitat. He recalls some struggle with pure biology because it did not get him outside as much as he had hoped, and Environmental Studies was more interdisciplinary and challenging. Eventually, Bob had to backtrack and take more biological training. It was easier when he related more of it to his angling experiences and growing hobby of keeping native fishes in aquaria, including rarer species such as blackside darter and green sunfish. In fact, after his Bachelor's degree, Bob and a close friend found themselves fishing almost everyday for 6 months while collecting unemployment. Summer jobs and other relevant contracts were always easy to find up until then, beginning as a Junior Forest Ranger in 1976, doing MNR Stream Surveys in Niagara, Creel censuses in Geraldton and on Lake Erie, studies of the Oshawa Second Marsh, and then Conservation Planning back in Niagara. However, spending his unemployment cheque one night at a pub led to the decision to apply for a Master's degree (dear old Dad would help pay anyway). He was accepted to Trent University's Watershed Ecosystems Program where he could combine his passion for fish and the geography of streams. He also had an interest in impact analysis knowing there would be a noble cause rehabilitating such streams one day. The Don River was selected as the worst case scenario in which to study "The Effects of Urbanization on Stream Features and Fish Communities". Bob took on a number of side contracts, which extended his stay in school until 1990. Aside from being a Teaching Assistant, part time research included a historical account of the Great Lakes Commercial Fisheries and walleye and northern pike spawning assessments. Bob accepted full time work in Simcoe with MNR where he started out doing wetland evaluations, while still finishing off his thesis. He then became their Stream Rehabilitation Biologist in the summer and Wild Turkey trapping technician in the winter. Just as he found time to defend his thesis, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority was impressed with it, and basically summed it up by saying they did not want the Credit becoming another Don given the growing urban pressures. At first he was reluctant, but discovered the amazing trout fishery that the Credit was known for (he had also just taken up fly fishing) and accepted the position. Now Bob enjoys the challenge of the GTA combined with some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems of Ontario emanating from both the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine. The Credit has now been his home for 12 years and he plans to stay and protect the Credit's most valuable indicator species, the native brook trout, for generations to come. Bob is often seen on the river in his spare time fishing, and volunteers with Trout Unlimited Canada and the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club. With some more arm-twisting we hope to see him more involved with AFS as he has always supported our goals and efforts. He also enjoys hiking, photography and art. Bob has not found the time to get married ...yet?



133rd AFS Annual Meeting - Quebec City 2003

Just a short update on the 133rd AFS Annual Meeting in Quebec City (August 10-14). The turnout was exceptional – the third largest meeting to date with over 1800 attendees, 1300 presentations/posters, and 38 symposia (typically there were 10-15 concurrent sessions at a time). The theme of the meeting was a sobering Worldwide Declines of Wild Fish Populations and while it did not paint a pretty picture of fish stocks, it is at least heartening that the declines are noted and work is proceeding to rebuild some of the stocks. We would like to congratulate one of our SOC members, Dr. John Casselman – OMNR, who was a keynote speaker at the conference. Dr. Casselman's presentation centered on the declines and changes in the Great Lakes fisheries, especially Lake Ontario, including American eel and lake trout, the impact of climate change on fisheries and the impact of invasive species on native populations. It was an intensive presentation but well received by the 1000 plus in attendance for the plenary session.

Ontario was well represented at the meeting with symposia chaired by Ontarians including, Dr. Casselman (International Eel Symposia) and Dr. Mark Ridgway (Brook Trout Conservation and Management); additionally the Building on Beverton's Legacy and the Life History symposia were dominated by Ontario researchers. Based on my count there were 73 papers or posters presented at the meeting by Ontario fisheries scientists, so hats off for their efforts.

Your ExComm was well represented at the meeting with myself (President elect), Dave Green (President), Rob Steele (past President) and Mike Roy (past past President) in attendance. Numerous other SOC members were there as well. We all agreed it was a great event and the only problem was choosing talks to go to with 10+ concurrent sessions. Quebec City is a fascinating place and I personally wish I had had more time to discover and investigate its history.

Despite the size of the meeting, number of concurrent sessions and number of attendees, it was one of the best (if not *the* best) annual meeting I have attended. It was very well run with session moderators enforcing time limits, strong organization and a compact site - so congratulations to Dr. Martin Castonguay (DFO), Faune et Parcs Quebec and the parent society of AFS on a tremendous effort with respect to hospitality, logistics and organization. The only downside was the meeting ended as the August blackout began, thus air transportation was not an option for those of us returning to Ontario but quick thinking and rental cars ensured the return home for many us!

- Dave Stanley — President Elect



2004 Ontario Fish Identification Workshops Royal Ontario Museum



The Royal Ontario Museum is again providing an opportunity for fisheries professionals to improve their fish identification skills. Staff in the Ichthyology Section will conduct two three-day workshops on April 28-30 and May 3-5, 2004 at the University of Toronto. Cost will be approximately \$400 (\$300 for students paying their own way). A workshop in Dorset is also planned but dates and costs are unavailable. For further information and a registration form please contact:

Marty Rouse, Erling Holm, or Mary Burrige

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Member Research

"Member Research" is a new section of the newsletter that we hope to offer with each issue this year. This section is used to publish un-reviewed work-in-progress from our members. The work may have been presented at a conference, colloquium, or it may have been prepared for a course, etc. The abstract will be presented in the newsletter, with the full paper being available through the web-page (www.afs-soc.org). We invite any member to submit unpublished work in progress. This month's member research highlights work done by our webmaster, Rob Eakins.

Presented at The 39th Conference of the International Association for Great Lakes Research, May 26-30, 1996, Erindale College, University of Toronto, Mississauga, Ontario.

FITCHKO, J. Geomatics International Inc., 3370 South Service Road, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7N 3M6; EAKINS, R., Beak Consultants Limited, 14 Abacus Road, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6T 5B7; and GLASGOW, A.R., TransCanada PipeLines Limited, 111-Fifth Avenue SW, P.O. Box 1000, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P4K5. **Return of the Ouananiche to Trout Lake, Near North Bay.**

ABSTRACT. Due to stockings beginning in 1935, an ouananiche population in Trout Lake became the only known self-perpetuating Atlantic salmon population in Ontario. The only documented spawning area in the lower reaches of Four Mile Creek was designated as a fish sanctuary in 1958. A train derailment spill of zinc concentrate in 1967 resulted in the extirpation of the ouananiche population by 1976. After spill site remediation in the early 1980s, zinc concentrations in the creek had declined substantially. A restocking program for Atlantic salmon was initiated in 1989.

Increased zinc concentrations above background in sediment cores collected in 1994 from Trout Lake reflected loadings from the spill site. A subsequent decline of zinc levels in recent sediments reflected spill site remediation. Zinc levels in the creek in 1994 and 1995 were generally below the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L.

Spawners were observed in Four Mile Creek in the fall of 1992 and 1994. Sampling of young-of-the-year in 1993, 1994 and 1995 confirmed that spawning in the previous year was successful. Overwinter fry survival was established by the presence of naturally produced parr in 1994 and 1995. One naturally produced grilse was captured in 1995. These findings indicate that ouananiche may once again be established as a self-sustaining population in Trout Lake.

INDEX WORDS: Atlantic salmon, Trout Lake, zinc, extirpation, stocking, restoration.

Please see our web-page for the full paper. Thank you.

Member Book Announcement!

Fisheries, Reefs and Offshore Development coeditor David Stanley



Cumulatively, the reports in this volume represent decades of research and greatly expands our knowledge of the impacts of man-made structures on marine assemblages and updates the 1991 AFS symposium "Fisheries and Oil Development on the Continental Shelf." If you have any technical questions regarding the volume please forward them to: Fisheries.Reefs.Offshore@Stantec.com. To purchase a copy of the book please visit the AFS website or use the link found below. **Note:** the AFS special publication from the MMS sponsored workshop "Gulf of Mexico Fish and Fisheries: Bringing Together New and Recent Research" is available from the American Fisheries Society. The book can be ordered from:

<http://www.fisheries.org/publications/catbooks/x54036.shtml>