

Newsletter of the AFS Ontario Chapter



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

President's Message

Some of you may remember from my last message back in March 2003 that this Chapter was continuing the effort of previous years to raise our profile through various initiatives. I am very proud to say that our major initiative to modify the Chapter to better reflect a unified group of fisheries professionals throughout the province has been achieved. We are now the **Ontario Chapter!** Our request for a name change was approved at the recent Executive Directors meeting of the Parent Society, with much support from the Executive of the North-Central Division. Our early inquiries to the Parent Society for this change were positive enough for us to pursue a graphic design for a logo to accompany our new name. The successful logo design (see page 3) was formally unveiled at the Annual General Meeting to an impressed group of attendees. Shortly after the unveiling, Dave Maraldo, Manager of the Fisheries Section - Ministry of Natural Resources, approached the Chapter to partner

with the MNR and develop a bid to host the 2008 Parent Society Conference and Meeting in Ontario. The response from attending Ontario Chapter members was unanimously in favour of this partnership; the new province-wide representation, the ongoing initiatives and the growing membership all strengthen our chances of success. We have just received word that formal approval has been given to MNR to proceed with the 2008 bid and the Ontario Chapter is poised to provide all the necessary support required. We are also pursuing on your behalf, an award for Chapter of the Year which we believe is well within the grasp of our Ontario Chapter. These are exciting times for all of us and I encourage you to participate as much as possible. I also encourage you to spread the word of our efforts, participate wherever possible and remember, proudly check the Ontario Chapter box on your AFS membership renewal form.

Dave Green
President AFS-OC



2004 Annual General Meeting Report

Neither snow nor sleet nor the threat of freezing rain could keep approximately 90 attendees away from the AGM at the MNR's Frost Centre in Dorset. The attendance was the highest in recent years and reflected the strong line-up of talks and posters. The presentations included Dr. John Casselman's plenary address from the 2003 Annual Meeting in Quebec City. A total of 14 presentations and 3 posters graced the presentation hall at Dorset covering a wide range of fisheries and aquatic resource topics. The theme of "Ontario's Changing Fisheries" was well represented by a variety of talks that outlined research and results ranging from the Great Lakes to our smallest stream fish communities. New management strategies were highlighted and successful habitat restoration in support of aquatic communities was discussed. We were also happy to have four student presentations and one student poster representing the Universities of Guelph, Water-

loo, Windsor and Trent. Their presentations were first rate and gave those of us that do this for a living a reality check; they set the bar very high for all of us.

On a more somber note, we honoured the memory of Dr. E.J. Crossman and his contribution to fisheries and AFS. Dr. Casselman, one of Dr. Crossman's former graduate students, gave a heart-warming tribute via a series of slides outlining the research and life of Dr. Crossman. To honour Dr. Crossman, the AFS-OC dedicated the E.J. Crossman Award; the first recipient was Mr. Mark Poos, a M.Sc. candidate with Dr. McLaughlin at the University of Guelph. Mr. Poos' presentation dealt with the assessment of the presence and abundance of fish species at risk in southwestern Ontario and is part of a larger Department of Fisheries and Oceans initiative (see p.8). We are sure Dr. Crossman would have found the presentation interesting and agreed with the judges that it

was most deserving. However, the decision by the judges was not an easy one.

A very busy business meeting included an announcement of the passage of updated bylaws (see p.4), a vote on a name change from the Southern Ontario Chapter to the Ontario Chapter, unveiling of our new logo to go along with the name change (see p.3), and the announcement of a committee including the OC, OMNR and other resources agencies to bring the 2008 annual meeting of the Parent society of AFS to Ontario. Obviously, after such a hectic business meeting we were ready for the entertainment of the Lost Anglers (1/2 of the FishHeads), the raffles and the grand prize draw of the float fishing trip with our esteemed president Dave Green (Congrats Debbie DePasquale!!! Enjoy!).

Overall it was a wildly successful meeting and we would like to thank all the volunteers and speakers for their efforts.



American Fisheries Society ONTARIO CHAPTER - New Logo!

For many years now, we have been using a Chapter logo that was designed in the early days of the chapter. Over the last while we have experienced significant limitations with respect to the quality of the digital image and its lack of scalability, both of which are artifacts of a fifteen year old technology. With the launch of the new Ontario Chapter we felt it an opportune time to update our logo. So, in early February 2004 your Chapter Executive Committee (ExComm) approached the Graphic Arts Program at Conestoga College (Kitchener) about the possibility of a student contest to design the new logo for the Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. We received an enthusiastic

response and, on February 11th the contest was launched. The students were provided with a history of the Southern Ontario Chapter, our Chapter goals and philosophies and the reasons behind the impending change to the Ontario Chapter. We received 30 entries and were extremely impressed with the quality of the entries provided to us. Over the week leading up to our Annual General Meeting, your ExComm went through an extensive exercise of judging the various entries. The final choice was made (see below!) and we were proud to unveil the new logo at our Annual General Meeting on February 21st.

On March 3, 2004, ExComm representatives visited the col-

lege and announced the contest winner, Chad Krulicki, a second year student in the graphic arts program. We also presented the Conestoga College Graphic Arts Fund with a donation in the amount of \$500 in recognition of the students' efforts. This money will be used to offset the cost of buying graphic arts equipment for the college. For our part, we got a top notch logo for a fraction of the price that it would have cost us in the professional market. The students got a real life consulting experience and the college benefited as well. We are proud to have used our ongoing commitment to educational partnerships as a means of obtaining the new Ontario Chapter logo.



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

Bylaw Change Update

One of the goals of the AFS-OC Executive Committee is to maintain up-to-date bylaws that will allow the chapter to function in an efficient manner. After examining the bylaws of other chapters and the bylaw template suggested by the parent society, it was apparent our bylaws were in need of a major revision. The revised bylaws were based on the template provided by the parent society. Our current handbook, as well as, bylaws from other chapters were reviewed and appropriate changes were made to the parent society template to constitute the revised bylaws. The bylaws were then reviewed, by the Executive Committee, appropriate edits made and they were then submitted to the parent society for review by their constitutional consultant.

We pared down our original 22-page SOC handbook with 8

committees which are active at a parent society level but were never active within the OC to a 5 page document with one standing committee (Membership). A major addition of our new bylaws also reflects increased communications via the world wide web, email communications and voting on chapter issues by the membership via email.

There was only one major change to the charter of the chapter, its goals, purpose or Executive Committee duties. Otherwise, the bylaw change is an update to reflect electronic communication capabilities and bring us in line with the parent society. The one major change concerned the number of members required to represent a quorum for proposed changes to bylaws or to table new items "under special circumstances". Under our previous bylaws the

number could be reduced from the specified 1/3 of active members to potentially as few as 2 members. While it was highly unlikely, it would have been possible for a small group of members to add items or change bylaws without a proper quorum. It was recommended by the parent society that we always use a minimum of 1/3 of active members for a quorum. This is the standard recommended and with the addition of electronic voting it will be easier to obtain a quorum to vote on chapter issues than in the past.

Voting on adopting the new bylaws began in December of 2003 and a quorum of 2/3 of active members was reached at our AGM in Dorset. We are happy to report the bylaws were adopted by a unanimous vote and both the old and newly adopted bylaws are available on the website (www.afs-soc.org).



More AGM '04 Moments from Dorset



E. J. Crossman Award

The Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will dedicate the Best Student Paper/Poster Award at our Annual General Meeting in remembrance of Dr. E.J. Crossman. As a tribute to Dr. Crossman we established the E.J. Crossman Award for the Best Student Oral or Poster Presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. At the time of his passing, Dr. Crossman was Curator Emeritus of Ichthyology at the ROM Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology and Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, a world-renowned leader in ichthyology, and an active and honoured member of the American Fisheries Society. Dr. Crossman co-authored the award winning ***Freshwater Fishes of Canada*** with his colleague Dr. W.B. (Bev) Scott. This comprehensive book is one of North America's most important and informative works on freshwater fishes.

The financial award is provided to the student paper or poster judged best at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and will be given to the most deserving graduate or

undergraduate student who is enrolled in a university or college. The award provides annual travel support for a deserving graduate or exceptional undergraduate student from a university or college to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society or the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Chapter. The criteria for the award will include:

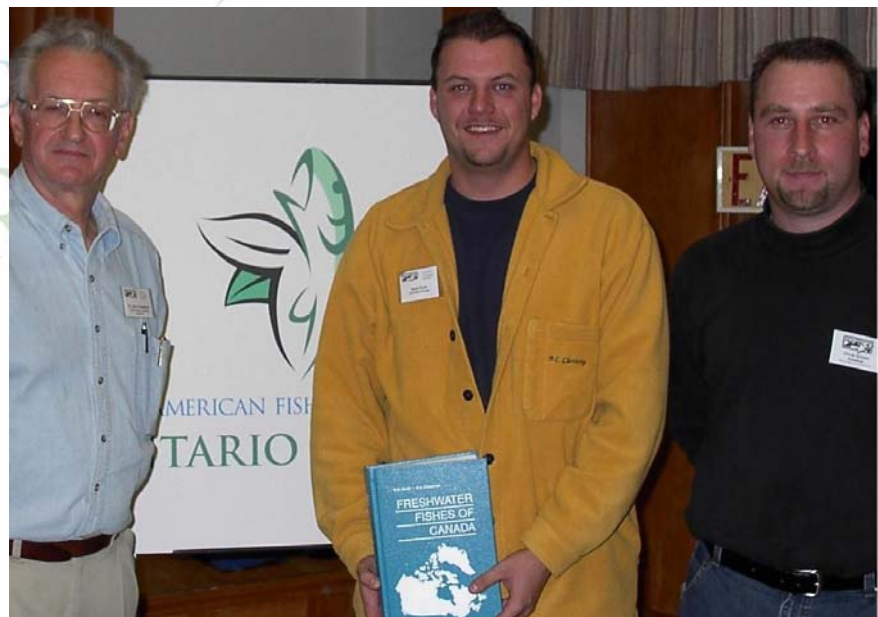
- 1) scientific approach;
- 2) organization and presentation;
- 3) communication skills; and
- 4) effectiveness of visual aids.

To honour Dr. Crossman, special consideration will be given to projects that emphasize his research interests including (in no particular order):

- a) research highlighting esocids
- b) the relationships, evolution, distribution and biology of freshwater fishes

- c) the biodiversity of the fishes of the Great Lakes
- d) research on the impacts of introduced fishes and organisms

Additional criteria includes that the recipient must be a student in good standing at a university or college. If the recipient is not a member of the American Fisheries Society, a student membership in AFS and OC will be part of the award. The intention of the award is to encourage participation at an American Fisheries Society function. The award consists of \$250.00 (CDN, including membership in AFS and the SOC if the recipient is not a member) and a copy of ***Freshwater Fishes of Canada***. This year's recipient was Mark Poos, from the University of Guelph (see p.8 for a brief summary of the research he presented at the AGM).



From left to right: Dr. John Casselman, Mark Poos, Dave Green

Executive Committee Change-over

The Annual General Meeting is also a time when the Incoming Executive Committee is voted upon (if necessary) and announced. We would like to welcome all new members to the Executive Committee and extend our thanks for their involvement! The incoming committee officially "takes office" in September.

	<u>2003-2004 (OUTGOING)</u>	<u>2004-2005 (INCOMING)</u>
<u>President:</u>	Dave Green	Dave Stanley
<u>President Elect:</u>	Dave Stanley	Warren Dunlop
<u>Past-President:</u>	Rob Steele	Dave Green
<u>Vice President:</u>	Shari Faulkenham	Shari Faulkenham
<u>Secretary:</u>	Jennifer Wright	Heather Lynn
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Dave Green & Brian Hindley	Brian Hindley
<u>Membership Chair:</u>	Rob Steele	Rob Steele
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Julianne Mayo	Julianne Mayo
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Rob Eakins	Rob Eakins
<u>Student Rep(s):</u>	Heather Lynn	Lynn Bouvier, Nick Lapointe, Andrew Drake
<u>Education Committee Chair:</u>	-	Jennifer Wright



Conference Announcement

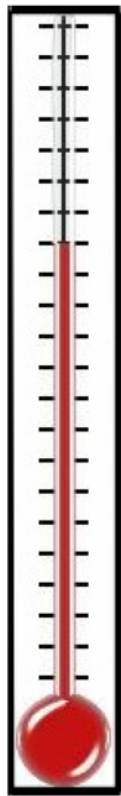
Forest Land-Fish Conference 2. Ecosystem Stewardship Through Collaboration.

April 26 - 28, 2004: Edmonton, Alberta

The conference will focus on the conservation of aquatic resources, particularly in boreal regions. Suggested topics are cumulative watershed effects, access management and riparian management. Multiple-use forested lands present an op-

portunity for interested parties to collaborate to improve management practices. Successful collaboration among researchers, resource managers and regulators, industry and other stakeholders, and special interest groups often presents a significant challenge. These groups are encouraged to showcase examples of successful collaboration. For more information see: www.tucanada.org/forestlandfish2

Membership Update



Membership Target (125)

Current Members (89)

We have added our membership thermometer to this issue of the newsletter to keep you informed of progress in recruiting new members to the Ontario Chapter. Currently, our membership stands at 89. To put this in some perspective, the average chapter membership on file with the parent society is 86. Oregon is the largest chapter with 477 members. We have set a conservative target of 125 members which we hope to achieve by the

time the term of the current Executive Committee expires (September 1, 2004). Please help us in achieving this target by encouraging colleagues who are not Ontario Chapter members to come on board. Membership in the Ontario Chapter is obtained by taking out a membership in the parent society of AFS and paying an additional \$5 to become an Ontario Chapter member. This can be done online at: www.fisheries.org.

Research Grant Opportunity

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) would like to inform and remind graduate supervisors and students at Ontario's universities of the O.F.A.H. Research Grants program. Since the late 1960s, the O.F.A.H. has been awarding grants of \$2,000 to deserving graduate students in the fields of wildlife, conservation, and sports fisheries research. The latter two grants will be of particular interest to student members of the Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The O.F.A.H. Sport Fisheries Research Grant is to help finance a scientific research project that will improve knowledge of Ontario's sport fisheries, and ultimately have the potential to enhance sport fisheries management capabilities. The O.F.A.H. Conservation Research Grant is awarded to a project that will improve knowledge of Ontario's natural resources, and ultimately have the

potential to enhance the efforts of conservation.

In previous years, recipients of the O.F.A.H. Sport Fisheries and Conservation Research Grants have had research topics on:

- * The use of calcified structures for stock discrimination in Great Lakes walleye
- * Predicting life history parameters of Ontario yellow perch
- * Impacts of climate change on lake trout
- * Growing trophy walleye – the effects of different prey communities
- * Residual ballast sediments as an important vector for non-indigenous species to the Great Lakes
- * Modeling angling behaviour and road access relationships

- * Impacts of an invasive invertebrate predator (spiny water flea) on food web dynamics in Canadian Shield lakes

Applications are judged on scientific merit, relevance and importance of the research to provincial O.F.A.H. interests, the candidate's proven record of accomplishments, and a clear and itemized budget. Applications will be accepted until December 31 of each year, and an announcement of each grant's recipient is made in mid-February. The recipients are also honoured at the O.F.A.H. Annual General Meeting.

For additional information and an application form, please visit www.ofah.org, or contact Rhonda Barkley by email: rhonda_barkley@ofah.org (preferred) or telephone at (705) 748-6324.

Member Research

Mark Poos, E.J. Crossman Student Award Recipient 2004

"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. This issue highlights the research presented at the Annual General Meeting in Dorset by Mark Poos, the first recipient of the E.J. Crossman Student Award. A brief synopsis is provided below and a more detailed description of his research is available through our website (www.afs-soc.org). We invite any member to submit unpublished work in progress.

Can Single Factor Remediation Recover Fish Species at Risk in a Complex System?

Poos*, M.S.¹, N.E Mandrak², and R.L. McLaughlin¹

¹Department of Zoology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario (email:mpoos@uoguelph.ca).

²Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (GLLFAS), Burlington, Ontario.

We used the Sydenham River as a test case to identify and examine the challenges of applying the species at risk act (SARA) to complex systems with multiple species at risk (SAR). Past recoveries have focused on single factor remediation where a habitat feature or abundance of another species was altered to assist in the recovery of a single species at risk. This paradigm has been useful in simple systems with relatively few species or anthropogenic stresses. It is less clear how SARA can meet its mandate by implementing the traditional approach in a complex system (many anthropogenic stresses, species and SAR). In the case of the Sydenham River, successful application of SARA requires that SAR are found in similar types of habitat and react similarly to changes in key habitat characteristics (e.g. turbidity). SAR including the eastern sand darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*) and the spotted sucker (*Minytrema melanops*) were found with differing, and often contrasting, habitat requirements in the Sydenham watershed. We demonstrate that implementing single factor remediation would have a detrimental effect to at least two SAR, regardless of the factor chosen. Alternative recovery strategies, such as preserving the most SAR and maximizing biodiversity, were placed into the current model and did not fair much better. In complex systems, management to protect SAR will need to consider multiple species and potential trade offs amongst recovery strategies that arise from inter-specific differences in habitat preferences.

Please see our website for a more detailed summary of Mark's research.

Earth Day - Thursday, April 22 2004

The Ontario Chapter of the AFS would like to have a presence during Earth Day celebrations this year. It is an excellent opportunity to expose members of the public to fisheries work being carried out in Ontario. Please submit ideas for events that you would like to see the AFS-OC attend this year. We will choose at least one event to attend and will e-mail the membership to keep them informed of details as they are decided upon. For event ideas, see: www.earthday.ca This web-site also allows you to register an event. We would like to see membership participation in this call for Earth Day ideas. Where do you, as members, want to see us? What type of events do you think we should be involved in? Is there another type of environment day that you would prefer to see us participate in? This is your chapter, so tell us what you would like to see us do. Send suggestions to any of the executive committee, including the newsletter editor. The email addresses of all executive committee members are present on our web-site: www.afs-soc.org. We hope to hear from you soon!!