

# Newsletter of the AFS Ontario Chapter



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
ONTARIO CHAPTER

## President's Message

### Chapter of the Year Award, Bid for the 2008 AFS Annual General Meeting, and More...

Over my term I have had numerous occasions to inform you of our Chapter initiatives and achievements. It is my privilege to announce that *the Ontario Chapter has been awarded Chapter of the Year* (<100 members) by the Parent Society for our achievements in 2003. This is great recognition for the tireless efforts of many dedicated professionals who have helped shape this Chapter over the past number of years and the enthusiastic support of our membership. I will be accepting this award on behalf of the Ontario Chapter at the 2004 AFS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin (<http://www.afs2004madison.org/>). I hope many of you will be present to share in our recognition in Madison.

The timing of this award could not be better as *the Ontario Chapter/ Ministry of Natural Resources will also be presenting our bid to co-host the 2008 American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Ottawa*. We have received very strong endorsement and assistance from the North Central Division, Canadian Aquatic Resources Section, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and many others too numerous to mention. If we are successful, the benefit realized by all the participants will be momentous. I

would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the 2003-2004 Executive Committee who have been instrumental in the success of this Chapter. As we now have over 100 members, perhaps Chapter of the Year (>100 members) for 2004 can be our next crowning achievement.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new Executive Committee members who will be assuming their new positions as of September for 2004-2005. We are thrilled to have you on board and look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. These are exciting times for our chapter, and the more active members we have involved, the better we will be. While the executive member positions have been filled for this coming year, we are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact any member of the existing executive or support committees; all contact information for these individuals can be found on our web-site: <http://www.afs-soc.org>.



Dave Green  
President 2003-2004

## Featured Biologist: Tom Pratt, Fisheries And Oceans Canada



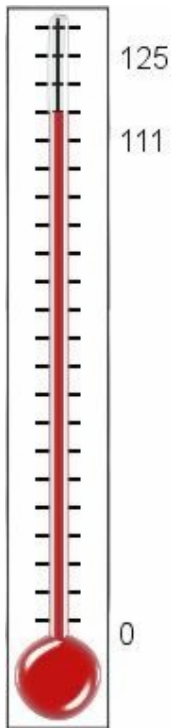
Tom was born in Oakville but spent his formative years fishing for sauger, redhorse suckers and goldeye on the banks of the Assiniboine River in Winnipeg. His parents, a banker and teacher whose appreciation of the outdoors was primarily confined to the fairways of country clubs, were surprised to discover an avid biologist in their midst. The rearing of native fishes at home, particularly darters, resulted in an enthusiasm for aquatic conservation that remains evident today. With a fisheries career goal always at the forefront, Tom completed a B.Sc. (Zoology) at the University of Manitoba, where he credits Drs. Mark Abraham and Ken Stewart for fostering his interest in fishes and their behaviour. In 1995, Tom returned to Ontario to undertake graduate training at Trent University's Watershed Ecosystem Graduate Program. Under the guidance of Dr. Michael Fox, Tom completed a M.Sc. investigating the importance of predator communities in structuring pumpkinseed life history strategies. Tom remained at Trent to undertake a Ph.D., studying the importance of growth and habitat selection on the survival of age-0 walleye. This experience led to a short stint as a postdoctoral fellow on a walleye stock identification project at the University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research under the tutelage of Dr. Peter Sale. In 2001, Tom was approached by the Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences about a position with Fisheries and Oceans Canada based in Sault Ste. Marie, and he happily accepted. Since then, Tom has been contentedly observing fishes in their natural habitats, studying the effects of habitat manipulations on fish production, and researching ways to improve native fish passage and sea lamprey barrier dams. He has also become interested in the rehabilitation of Lake Superior tributary spawners; particularly lake sturgeon and coastal brook trout. Any free time is spent outdoors with his wife Kim, and their two young children.

## AFS-OC Website Update - Bigger and Better at: [www.afs-soc.org](http://www.afs-soc.org)

If you have not checked out our web-site recently, you should really surf over and take a good look. A website redesign has been completed and all submitted abstracts from the 2004 Annual Meeting have been posted. Rob Eakins, our webmaster, and the executive committee have worked hard to put together a site that is chockfull of useful information for you, our members. The site now includes our new Chapter by-laws, as well as synopsis and highlights of the 2004 Annual Meeting. As many of you may be aware, we also host Rob

Eakins' Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database, a powerful tool with numerous applications. Our home page is continually updated with recent news and developments to keep our members informed, including information regarding the Leslie M. Frost Centre closure and announcement of the 2004-2005 executive committee. Our web-site also offers members a comprehensive list of relevant links to other interesting and VERY useful web-sites. So please take a few minutes to visit us on the web!! (<http://www.afs-soc.org>)





## **Membership Update - We're Getting There!**

In our last newsletter we added the membership thermometer to keep you up to date on Ontario Chapter membership. At that time we set a conservative target of 125 members, hoping to achieve this goal by the time the term of the current Executive Committee expires (September 1, 2004). We are happy to inform you that we have reached 111 members. Here are some quick numbers to put our membership in perspective:

### **Largest Chapter (Oregon)**

**477**

### **Average Chapter Membership**

**86**

### **Ontario Chapter**

**111**

Please help us in achieving our membership 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 on-line at <http://www.fisheries.org>.

## **AFS Annual Meeting 2004: Madison - Less Than 1 Week To Go!!**

We would like to encourage all Ontario Chapter members to attend the 134th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society at the Monona Terrace in downtown Madison, Wisconsin, from August 22nd through August 26th, 2004. The theme celebrates Wisconsin's name (which has been translated as "gathering of waters") and Wisconsin's celebrated ecologist Aldo Leopold. Best known for his "land ethic" and as a pioneering figure in wildlife management, Leopold defined land as "a community" that explicitly embraced fish and water.

If you are planning to attend you may register in one of three ways:

- 1) Using the American Fisheries Society's **online registration system**.
- 2) By printing out the **2004 AFS Annual Meeting Registra-**

**tion Form**, filling it out, and mailing it to the address listed on the form along with the appropriate registration fee.

- 3) By filling out the registration form that has appeared in the last few issues of *Fisheries* and returning it, along with the appropriate fee, to the address listed on the form.

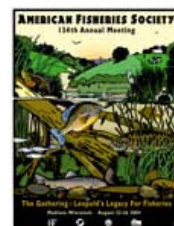
The cost to attend this year includes an early registration fee of \$295 which increases to \$395 after July 23. Non-AFS members must add \$100.00.

Student registration is \$95. Non-AFS members must add \$30.00. (Students include post-doctoral students and individuals accepted to graduate school in fall, 2004. You must include either a copy of your student ID or a letter from your advisor or department to qualify for student registration.)

A complete program and additional registration details are provided at the following website: <http://www.afs2004madison.org/>

Your Chapter President, Dave Green will be attending this year's meeting to accept the award for Chapter of the Year at the awards luncheon on August 23, 2004 and to assist in the presentation of the joint bid for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Support from Ontario Chapter members will be invaluable at this time so please consider attending.

Hope to see you all there.



## Leslie M. Frost Centre Closed

As many of our members have likely heard, the Leslie. M. Frost Natural Resource Centre was recently closed. As of Wednesday July 14, 2004 the Frost Centre's operations by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have ceased. Programming and/or bookings are no longer offered at the facility. All hiking and ski trails, canoe routes and the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails remain open for your continued enjoyment. The Frost Centre website is no longer available.

The executive committee of the AFS-OC have submitted a letter to the Honourable David Ramsey, Minister of Natural Resources in response to the Frost Centre's closing. Below you will find an excerpt from that letter. Please check our website (<http://www.afs-soc.org>) for the full content of the letter.

"The Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) would like to voice our disappointment at the proposed closure of the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre. The American Fisheries Society is the oldest and largest organization of professional aquatic biologists in North America with over 120 members in the Province of Ontario. As resource professionals we have been intimately associated with the Frost Centre over its history. Since the incorporation of the Ontario Chapter of AFS, the Frost Centre has served as home of our Annual General Meeting and we are now into our second decade at the centre. As resource professionals we realize the importance of outreach, education and communication and the Frost Centre was a key component of OMNR in its dissemination of information, training of MNR staff and other professionals and outreach to students and the public. ... The use of the Frost Centre by students, the education and the outreach provided by the centre were invaluable to [student] development. The education of students through the Frost Centre increases the awareness of the environment and often plants the seeds for the next generation of environmental managers and scientists. ... In closing the Ontario Chapter of AFS cannot support the closure of the Frost Centre. We ask that you reconsider the closure, revisit funding options, explore new and innovative cost sharing that will ensure this valuable resource can be maintained for future generations...."



## AFS Southern Ontario Chapter History - Call for Action

**Have you ever wondered what the early days of the Southern Ontario Chapter were like?** Well, Bill Gardner has and he is in the process of collecting historical information to put together a more detailed history of the chapter. There is a brief history in the old SOC handbook, but Bill wants to expand this history to include things such as initiatives that the chapter has been involved with (like F.I.S.H.) and membership trends, as well as photos and AGM memories (past student winners, programs, etc.).

So, if you have any old photos, stories or memories of the AFS-SOC and would like to have them included in the history, or if you have ideas about how the history could be presented, please give Bill a call/e-mail and he will be glad to discuss this with you.

Bill can be reached at work: (705) 942-2848, [gardnerw@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:gardnerw@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or at home: (705) 254-6270, [william.gardner@shaw.ca](mailto:william.gardner@shaw.ca)