

Newsletter of the AFS Ontario Chapter



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

President's Message

This is the second of three President's Messages during my term. As I thought of what to write, I couldn't help but feel that this is like the second movie in a trilogy. There is still one more episode to go so this is not an ending, but more of a bridge. And I hope this message is more like the second instalment of *The Lord of the Rings* than the second *Matrix* movie.

Where is this going you are probably wondering? For many of us, the winter is a bridge between field seasons, a time when we are writing funding proposals, analyzing and summarizing data or preparing for next year's work. For others, it is a time to begin looking for that perfect summer job and for others it is a chance to visit a nearby lake for some hard-water action.

Whatever you are up to, the Ontario Chapter is also keeping busy. Membership in the chapter is just over 190, our highest ever. There are a number of new members as a result of their attendance in Ottawa and I welcome you and I hope you get involved with the activities of the chapter.

The Tri-Chapter meeting in Duluth was a great success, with a small portion of the profits coming to Ontario. Links to the presentation abstracts and some of the presentations themselves are on our Chapter website. While in Duluth, Jack Imhof and I had a chance to talk to Bill Franzin about insurance for chapters in Canada. Currently the coverage for US chapters does not extend north of the border and the ExComm feels strongly that it is the Parent Society's responsibility to ensure members in Canada are also insured when attending AFS events. Stay tuned for an update in the future.

Since there were not enough members for quorum, there was no Annual General Meeting in Duluth. We are hoping to organize an AGM/social event in late May or early June so stay tuned for more information. The Chapter is currently short a President-Elect for 2009/2010 so please contact someone in the ExComm if you have a nomination

in mind. Further down the road, keep your eyes open for details about the return to Geneva Park in late February, 2010 for our AGM.

Samantha Mason is organizing another bioengineering workshop in April and though numbers are limited, registration will soon be up and running on our web-page. Work is underway on the 2008 Chapter of the Year application, with a June 1 deadline for submissions. Finally, chapter members won a number of awards in 2008 and the winners are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy the summary of the Duluth Tri-Chapter meeting on page 3. Jack Imhof provides an overview of the financial implications associated with hosting the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa last year (page 2). For the students, check out the update on the activities of the Student Subunit on page 5.

I don't want to keep you reading any longer than necessary. Please be sure to check our web-page regularly for updates, job postings or conference and workshop announcements. Remember that the ExComm is there to help answer any questions you may have and we are always looking for new volunteers. I hope you are able to make the spring AGM.

Cheers and hope to see you in the spring,

Jon Clayton,
president@afs-oc.org



Ottawa 2008 – The Final Tally

Well, the dust has finally settled on the 2008 American Fisheries Society's Annual Meeting in Ottawa. As I reported to you in the last newsletter, this Annual Meeting was a success all around. The organizing committee under the able leadership of Dave Maraldo, along with all the fantastic volunteers, many AFS-OC regular and student sub-unit members, did us all proud. Our U.S. colleagues were very generous in their complements on the organization, program, socials and overall hospitality of the Annual Meeting.



We as a Chapter also did ourselves proud. We did well with the organization and running of the Annual Meeting Raffle. We grossed \$14,330 and netted a little over \$8,700 so that the 30% share to the Chapter was a shade over \$2,600. Given the enormous amount of work and effort of our Chapter members, this was a great success. The raffle model that we employed, provided by our friends from Trout Unlimited Canada worked very well and was almost seamless in its execution.

One of the big questions remaining from the Annual Meeting was, "How well did we do overall?". This sounds like a simple question, but is a very complicated one to answer. Elaine Philp, Budget Chair for the Annual Meeting had to go through all receipts, bills, costs and revenues with a fine tooth comb. This took a fair amount of time, especially since the budget and final financial report is subject to audit.

Another wrinkle, a positive wrinkle, was thrown at us this past December when the Governing Board of AFS at their December meeting decided to mod-

ify the proportion of profits (if there were profits) from the Annual Meetings would be changed. Formally the division of net profits were: 80% to the Parent organization; 10% to host Chapter; and 10% to the Division if it was co-hosting the Annual Meeting. At the December Board Meeting, the Board revised the breakdown to acknowledge the effort it takes to host an Annual Meeting so that the new breakdown is: 70% to the Parent Society, 20% to the host Chapter and 10% to the Division if it is co-hosting. The Board agreed that this change would be retroactive to the Ottawa meeting!

Well, the dust has finally settled and I spoke to Dave Maraldo on February 25th and he informed me that all the material had just been sent to Bethesda for review. Late on Thursday, Dave sent out the great news. The total net profit for the Annual Meeting was **\$197,270.05!!!** This net profit makes the Ottawa Annual Meeting one of the top 3 or 4 Annual Meetings ever! As a result of the new sharing ratio, the Ontario Chapter will receive a cheque for **\$39,454**. This is the most money ever awarded back to a host chapter (in large part due to the change in percent to the Chapter of course). With the inclusion of the raffle proceeds, this brings the total net proceeds to our Chapter from the Annual meeting to over \$42,000.

After the deep and cleansing breaths, our President and Treasurer suggested that the ExComm take some time to consider how to manage and use this legacy in a wise and effective manner. We will consider various options and will bring some suggestions forward to the Chapter membership later this year.

In the meantime, it was one heck of a ride. The scars are almost healed and the funds coming to the Chapter are a salve on our sores. On behalf of myself, Jon Clayton, and the rest of the ExComm, I want to extend my thanks to all those members that participated with such enthusiasm in helping to organize and run such a successful Annual MeetingWell Done!!!!

Jack G. Imhof,
past-president@afs-oc.org

Tri-Chapter Meeting – Duluth, Minnesota

Way back in the summer of 2007, the Ontario Chapter was approached by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Chapters of the AFS with an intriguing invitation: would we be interested in joining them for a joint Chapter AGM? The ExComm thought that it was a wonderful idea, a chance to meet some of our colleagues from the other side of the Great Lakes and hopefully a way to further engage our members in Northern Ontario. We suggested to both US Chapters that February 2009 would be perfect timing, giving our Chapter the chance to focus on the AFS 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa and then time to help plan for the Tri-Chapter meeting in February 2009.

The Tri-Chapter meeting of the Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario Chapters was held in Duluth, Minnesota from February 2nd to 4th. The original intent of our chapter was to use some of the profits from the AFS 2008 Raffle to defray the cost of as many members as possible who wished to attend the meeting. As the planning proceeded this past fall, it became evident that the financial crisis in North America was going to limit government and non-government participation in the meeting, even though the Chapter was going to provide ground transportation to the meeting. Overall, there were just over 300 registrants, including 8 from the Ontario Chapter. Four of us left the GTA around 10 a.m. on Sunday morning for the drive to Duluth. We had perfect weather for all but the last 30 minutes and arrived in Duluth at 1 a.m. Monday morning local time, a total of about 17 hours. Sober reflection after the drive to Duluth convinced us to take two days to get back.

Monday gave us a chance to check out downtown Duluth. The town planners, obviously realizing that the western tip of Lake Superior is cold in the winter, had installed a heated Skywalk between many of the buildings in town, which made the trips back and forth from the hotel to the convention centre bearable. Monday night was a "Meet and Greet" and there was an opportunity to see the IMAX film *Mysteries of the Great Lakes*. One of the storylines was the restoration of Lake Sturgeon in a river in Wisconsin and the main biologist in the movie was present to relate some of his experiences of the filming to those in the audience.

The meeting was excellent and a great experience for all that attended. The majority of the local arrangements were done by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters and they deserve credit for a very well organized event. John Casselman accepted our request to be our Chapter's keynote speaker and was perhaps the highlight speaker at the meeting: Thank you John! John's presentation title was, *Sensitivity of fish and fisheries to changing climate: Response and Adaptation*. We had numer-

ous attendees stop us to say that it was the best presentation of the meeting. Caleb Hasler did the Chapter and Student Sub-unit proud by presenting a paper at one of the concurrent sessions. Bill Gardner also acted as a moderator for some of the sturgeon sessions.

Tuesday afternoon was the start of the four concurrent sessions and there were more than 90 presentations overall. Presentations that I attended included sturgeon management, Brook Trout management and fish passage. The presentations were very interesting and it was a great benefit to get a different perspective and approach to issues and questions we have on this side of the border. The social on Tuesday night was very well done, with a local outdoor writer showing some slides of his trips around North America. The Wisconsin Chapter apparently has a tradition of throwing knotted napkins at winners of the raffle items. Little did we realize our mistake in choosing seats at the front of the event!



Presentations continued on Wednesday morning but we left a bit early to tackle the 17 hour drive. We did find a Cabela's on the way home and managed to find some time for a bit of shopping. We stopped about 45 minutes east of Chicago for the night and continued on our way on Thursday, arriving back in Mississauga around 4 p.m.

It was certainly a tiring few days, but well worth the drive. There is a lot of work going on in our neighbour States and anyone with an opportunity to see some of the research would be remiss in not going. While I don't think that we want to get involved with a joint meeting in the near future, these meetings do provide a chance to see new ideas, discuss emerging issues and meet new friends. I would hope that future ExComms explore a similar meeting format with other neighbouring chapters.

Ottawa 2008 Award Winners

In keeping with the Oscars we wanted to be sure to celebrate and acknowledge our own shining stars of the Ottawa 2008 AFS Annual Meeting. In no particular order, our Chapter Award Winners for 2008 are:

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

John M. Casselman

J. FRANCES ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP

Karen Murchie – Runner-up

JOHN E. SKINNER MEMORIAL FUND

Cindy Chu

STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

Karen Murchie
Connie O'Connor – 2nd place

THE FISHERIES SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES OUTSTANDING YOUNG RESEARCHER MEDAL

Steven Cooke

I apologize if I have left anyone off this list. If I did, please send me an email and I will ensure you are mentioned in the next newsletter.

The chapter was well represented on many of the committees and provided tons of support during the meeting. Finally, while it is typically done following an Annual Meeting, the Parent Society also passed a Resolution of Appreciation thanking the hosts for organizing the meeting.

Excellent Job EveryoneI look forward to seeing **another** proud list of Ontario Chapter winners in 2009!

Jon Clayton,
president@afs-oc.org



AFS-OC NEW ONLINE STORE

Now you can get your AFS-OC Hats and Pins ONLINE!

Now it's easier than ever to proudly support your AFS-OC Chapter!

Visit our new Online Store at <http://www.afs-oc.org>



And order your Ontario Chapter baseball caps (\$21.00) and lapel pins (\$3.50).

Both are readily available for purchase by visiting our new Online Store at <http://www.afs-oc.org> or emailing us at sales@afs-oc.org.



Student Subunit Update

Hello Everyone,

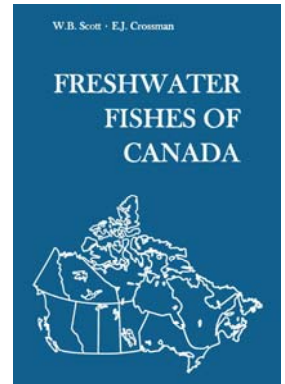
The Ontario Chapter Student Subunit has been hard at work brainstorming and planning for new workshops and events for the upcoming year. We have been in contact with the Queen's University GIS lab about the possibility for hosting a weekend workshop using their facilities, and we may run a fish identification course in the spring in Toronto. We would also like to host the E.J. Crossman Symposium and a weekend retreat at the Queen's University Biological Station, where the coveted "Freshwater Fishes of Canada" will be awarded. Keep your eyes peeled on the AFS-OC website for updates regarding these and other upcoming student events

Check out the webpage for a synopsis of the last E.J. Crossman Symposium written by our VP Monica Granados. Also, with the help of Treasurer Connie O'Connor and Webmaster Rob Eakins, the previously broken links on the student page have been repaired.

The chapter has kindly donated funding towards the Ontario Ecology and Ethology Colloquium to be held on April 26th to the 28th in Kingston, Ontario. For those interested, click on the link (<http://biology.queensu.ca/oec09/Welcome.html>).

If there are any courses or events you would like to see run by your student subunit, please don't hesitate to email me at student-president@afs-oc.org. Also, please make sure to renew your memberships.... REMEMBER to check the Ontario Chapter subsection box, also, the Canadian Aquatic Resource Section, and the Education Subsection are good boxes to check off as well.

Caleb Hasler,
student-president@afs-oc.org



Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database

The AFS-OC is proud to be affiliated with the Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database (OFFLHD). Once hosted by the Ontario Chapter, the OFFLHD now has its' own domain (www.fishdb.ca). This website is an unparalleled source of information concerning the fishes of Ontario. Researchers, consultants and students alike agree this interactive searchable database provides a valuable resource to all those interested in Ontario freshwater fishes.

The OFFLHD is a fully searchable database for all Ontario and adjacent Great Lakes freshwater fishes including introduced, extirpated and extinct species. It contains current information pertaining to life history, habitat, size and age, distribution, status, reproduction and nomenclature for 151 species, 3 subspecies and 2 established hybrids. The website also includes photographs, range maps, notes, references, glossary of terms and related web links.

Try it out for yourself by clicking the OFFLHD logo on the Ontario Chapter homepage, or directly by visiting <http://www.fishdb.ca>. Explore, learn and enjoy.

The Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database was created and is maintained by Rob Eakins, AFS-OC Webmaster.





Introductory Bioengineering Course

Tuesday April 21 (9am-5pm & 7-9pm)

Wednesday April 22 (9am-5pm)

**Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA, Paradise Lake Outdoor Centre
3738 Hessen Strasse, St. Clements, ON**

Course Instructors

Glenn Harrington - Harrington & Hoyle Ltd. Landscape Architect,
Harry Reinders - R&M Construction, **Jack Imhof** - American Fisheries Society &
Dave Beaton - Credit Valley Conservation Authority



Topics to cover:

- **Basic plant ecology**
- **Role of roots in bioengineering**
- **Mechanics of soil erosion**
- **Project planning** (soil conditions, sunlight, hydrology, spatial constraints, slopes, large vs small rivers)
- **Obtaining approvals**
- **Bioengineering techniques** (fascines, brush layering, brush mattresses, live stakes, creating appropriate bed conditions, crib walls, etc.)
- **Implementation of large scale bioengineering projects**



****Participants will complete a hands-on project on Clair Creek in the City of Waterloo****

To register, please visit: www.afs-oc.org

Questions can be directed to: sales@afs-oc.org

COST: Approx. **\$200** (fluctuates depending on accommodation needs, student status, American Fisheries Society membership, and early registration)