

Newsletter of the AFS Ontario Chapter



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

President's Message

Well, I think it is mission accomplished – we *can* have a highly successful annual meeting outside of the Frost Centre. I would like to offer my thanks to Warren Dunlop (president elect) for organizing a stimulating agenda and for finding an excellent venue – Geneva Park. The speakers provided many items for discussion and the student presentations/posters were of exceptional quality. The decision on best paper proved difficult and I would like to offer my congratulations to Ms. Erin Dunlop (Ph.D. candidate – University of Toronto), winner of the E.J. Crossman Award and to the runner up, Mr. Nick Lapointe (M.Sc. candidate – University of Windsor) for their efforts. One of the highlights of the weekend was the appearance of Dr. Bev Scott – co-author of *Freshwater Fishes of Canada*. Dr. Scott was involved with judging the E.J. Crossman Award and then graciously agreed to co-present the award. The theme of this year's AGM was "Fisheries Connections". This was reinforced from my perspective while having lunch with Dr. Scott; he mentioned that one of the reasons he got involved with fish was his entrepreneurial activities of growing and selling tropical fishes as a teenager. One of his early customers was a young Jack Christie (longtime OMNR research scientist) - Dr. Christie was my first supervisor while a summer student at OMNR's Glenora Fisheries Station. Fisheries truly keeps us connected and I am convinced that there are no more than 2 degrees of separation between any of us in the province.

I would like to welcome new members to the Ex-Comm. Mr. Bill Gardner (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) was selected as the next president elect, the post he will assume in September. Mr.

Jon Clayton (Credit Valley Conservation) was voted in as vice president in a very close race with Mr. Scott Gibson (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources). Ms. Shari Wiseman (Hamilton Conservation Authority), current vice president will step down from that post and assume the office of treasurer from Mr. Brian Hindley (Aquafor Beech Limited). Lastly, Ms. Debbie DePasquale (University of Guelph) will take over the newsletter editor position from Ms. Julianne Mayo (Royal Ontario Museum). I would like to offer my thanks and those of the chapter to our departing ExComm members, Mr. Brian Hindley and Ms. Julianne Mayo. Both helped out tremendously and made significant contributions to the chapter, they will be missed. Julianne is moving to Halifax, Nova Scotia and we wish her all the best in the future.

We all know that the 2008 parent society AGM in Ottawa is on the horizon. On a related note, Dr. Chris Goddard, current Canadian Aquatic Resource Section (CARS) president is soliciting nominations for CARS vice president. This vice president will be the sitting president of CARS when the parent society meeting is in Ottawa. From both a CARS and OC perspective, it would be desirable to have the CARS president from Ontario during the 2008 parent society AGM. So if you are interested in the position or would like to nominate a candidate please contact Dr. Goddard at cgoddard@qlfc.org. The only requirements are that the candidate be an AFS and CARS member.

Continued....

President's Message continued...

A couple other items from the business meeting included exploring alternative days (e.g., Thursday and Friday or Friday and Saturday) for the AGM to attract more participants and free up valuable weekend time. Another item the ExComm are exploring is soliciting an OC member from northern Ontario to sit on the ExComm as the northern member-at-large. Since we are an Ontario wide chapter we feel this would ensure the views and opinions from northern Ontario are represented.

I also would encourage members to purchase an Ontario Chapter baseball style hat (\$20) and/or pin (\$3) (see below). To help promote this I would like to offer a hat to the OC member who can guess the species of fish pictured with me in this photo (see right). I will purchase the hat and donate it to the winner. The only hint I am willing to offer is that the species is not found on the [Ontario Fresh-water Fishes Life History Database](#). Please email me (president@afs-oc.org) with your entries and good luck!

Lastly, I would like to thank all our sponsors (both monetary and merchandise) for supporting the chapter. Their generosity enabled us to reduce the cost for students to attend the chapter meeting by approximately 60%, and provided the funds to administer the E.J. Crossman Award. Their help is crucial to maintaining student attendance and participation in the chapter.

I encourage all members to visit the website (www.afs-oc.org) for additional information and useful links.

Regards, Dave Stanley



AFS-OC Swag! Get your hats and pins here!

Hot off the press! New and improved AFS-OC baseball hats and lapel pins are now available for purchase from your Executive Committee.



Cost: Baseball Hat \$20.00
Lapel Pin \$3.00

If you would like to place an order for a baseball hat or lapel pin, please contact President Dave Stanley (president@afs-oc.org) or Secretary Heather Lynn (secretary@afs-oc.org).



Impress your friends and colleagues—get your hats and pins now!

2005 Annual General Meeting Report

The first AGM for the newly constituted Ontario Chapter saw a change in venue due to the summer 2004 closure of the Frost Centre by the OMNR. This year's meeting was held at the YMCA's Geneva Park Conference Centre on the shores of Lake Couchiching. Despite the increased registration fees resulting from the change, attendance was almost 90, and close to last year's recent high. The weekend kicked off with an informal mixer in the Lodge Lounge.

We had a very full programme, with 22 oral presentations, 5 posters and a biotelemetry workshop on Sunday afternoon. The theme of "*Fisheries Connections*" was well represented with presentations on fisheries management, planning and science frameworks and engaging the public in resource management. The full programme including abstracts is available for download in pdf format from the chapter website.

Student participation was outstanding, with 8 oral and 2 student poster presentations representing the Universities of Guelph, Waterloo, and Toronto. Also in attendance was a strong student contingent from Fleming College. The high calibre of student presentations made it tough on the Crossman Award judges, which included Dr. W.B. (Bev) Scott (see page 4).



In keeping with the "*Fisheries Connections*" theme, the business meeting included discussions about the possibility of including an At-Large Northern Ontario position on the ExComm to improve communications and service to our northern members. Chris Goddard, President of CARS, discussed ways to better integrate Canada into the AFS Parent Society. One

option for strengthening CARS would be to include the OC president as a member of the CARS Ex-Comm. The membership was also encouraged to join CARS. Jay Barnucz introduced the Ontario Bass Federation (OBF). OBF is heavily involved with the Parent Society in the States; they would like to be more involved with fisheries research and are interested in partnering with the OC.



After the business meeting, everyone was ready to socialize. Following a great BBQ chicken & rib dinner, delegates enjoyed the bluesy, rock & roll sounds of "The Painted Dogs" and caught up with old friends and colleagues. Biotactic Fish & Wildlife generously provided some of the refreshments for the social. Raffle prizes were awarded throughout the evening, including the grand prize draw for the float fishing trip with past-president Dave Green (Congratulations to Derek Parks – who seemed pretty excited to win!!!).

Delegates were pleased with the new venue – accommodations and food were highly rated, and those from the GTA felt it was convenient to pop up for the day. Generous donations from our sponsors helped to offset the registration fees of students & helped fund the Crossman Award. Overall, the meeting was a great success due, in no small part, to the efforts of all the volunteers and speakers.

- Warren Dunlop, President Elect

For more AGM photos, see page 7.

Student Award Winners at the 2005 AGM

In honor of Dr. E.J. Crossman, the AFS-OC established the E.J. Crossman award for the Best Student Paper / Poster at the 2004 Annual General Meeting. Dr. Crossman was well-known for his invaluable contributions to fisheries research as a world-renowned ichthyologist, co-author of the ***Freshwater Fishes of Canada***, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, Curator Emeritus at the Royal Ontario Museum, and long-standing member of the American Fisheries Society.

Each year, this award is given for the best paper or poster presentation delivered at the AGM by a graduate or undergraduate student enrolled at a university or college, with special consideration given to those projects emphasizing the research interests of Dr. Crossman. The award consists of a copy of the ***Freshwater Fishes of Canada***, a one year membership with AFS, as well as \$250.00 in travel support for the student to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, or the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Chapter.

At the 2005 AGM, this award was presented to Ms. Erin Dunlop, who is currently a Ph.D. candidate enrolled at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Brian Shuter and Dr. Helen Rodd. Erin presented a paper, entitled "Evolutionary Changes in

Harvested Populations", detailing her research on how size-selective harvest by anglers can cause evolutionary changes in smallmouth bass populations, yielding smaller sized fish and younger ages at maturation. For further information on Erin's research, please see Newsletter Volume IV, Issue III under Member Research, or visit our website at <http://www.afs-oc.org> to view her abstract in the 2005 AGM Conference Program.

Ms. Dunlop was honored to be presented with her award by Dr. W.B. (Bev) Scott, Dr. Crossman's long-time colleague, and Becky Cudmore, Dr. Crossman's final graduate student. As a special addition to this year's award, Mrs. Margaret Crossman, Ed's wife and research assistant, donated a few of Dr. Crossman's reprints and one of his famous bow-ties to the recipient of the E.J. Crossman award.

The Ontario Bass Federation (OBF) sponsored an award to the runner-up for the Best Student Paper / Poster, which was presented to Mr. Nick Lapointe. Nick is currently a M.Sc. candidate at the University of Windsor under the supervision of Dr. Lynda Corkum and Dr. Nick Mandrak, and presented a paper detailing his Master's research. His abstract for the paper is included on the following page.



Left: Dr. Bev Scott presenting the E.J. Crossman award to Erin Dunlop, accompanied by Dave Stanley, AFS-OC President (left) and Becky Cudmore, E.J.'s last graduate student.



Right: Jason Barnucz, Ontario Bass Federation representative, and Dave Stanley presenting Nick Lapointe with the OBF student award.

Member Research - Nick Lapointe, M.Sc. Candidate, U of Windsor

Lapointe*, N.W.R., (lapoin5@uwindsor.ca) Corkum, L.D., and Mandrak, N.E.

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario

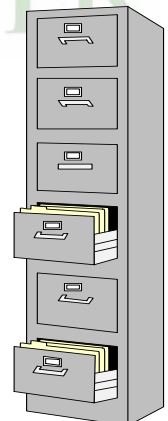
Fish-Habitat associations in shallow Canadian Waters of the Detroit River.

There are few quantitative studies on habitat requirements of fishes in large rivers because of the challenges of sampling these systems. In 2004, fishes were sampled at 60 randomly selected sites (30 in-shore, 30 offshore) representing upstream, middle, and downstream segments of the Detroit River in May, July and September. We sampled using boat seining and electrofishing. Lengths of up to 30 individuals of each species were measured at each site. Shoreline features were recorded for onshore sites and micro-habitat features were measured at all sites. Species of note include previously unrecorded longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*) and pugnose minnow (*Opsopoeodus emiliae*) - a species at risk. Range maps were produced for each species, showing four general distribution types; sparse, moderate, dense, and dense but absent from upstream sites. Length-frequency distributions were plotted for the most abundant species for each season to determine age-classes for habitat associations. Associations between fish species and environmental variables were analysed using CCA. Centrarchids were found in areas of high macrophyte density; spotfin shiner (*Cyprinella spiloptera*) were found in shallow waters with low turbidity; and johnny darter (*Etheostoma nigrum*) were found in shallow areas.

AFS-OC Executive Committee - Upcoming Changes

A new Executive Committee was voted upon at the Annual General Meeting and a big welcome goes out to the new ExComm members. We look forward to the year ahead! The incoming committee officially takes office in September. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the departing executive for all their contributions and hard work in the past year.

	2004-2005 (OUTGOING)	2005-2006 (INCOMING)
President	Dave Stanley	Warren Dunlop
President-Elect	Warren Dunlop	Bill Gardner
Past-President	Dave Green	Dave Stanley
Vice President	Shari Wiseman	Jon Clayton
Secretary	Heather Lynn	Heather Lynn
Treasurer	Brian Hindley	Shari Wiseman
Membership Chair	Dave Green	Dave Stanley
Newsletter Editor	Julianne Mayo	Debbie DePasquale
Webmaster	Rob Eakins	Rob Eakins
Student Rep(s)	Lynn Bouvier, Nick Lapointe, Andrew Drake, Mark Poos	Lynn Bouvier, Nick Lapointe, Andrew Drake, Mark Poos
Education Committee Chair	Jennifer Wright	Jennifer Wright



Mussel ID Workshop



The Ontario Freshwater Mussel Identification Workshop is sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and will take place at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW) in Burlington on June 21-22, 2005.

The format will follow last year's workshop with one day of in-class sessions covering basic mussel biology and reproduction but focusing on developing the skills required to identify these animals in the field (live specimens) and from shells. We will also cover an introduction to sampling/survey techniques and proper collection and handling of specimens. The second day will involve a field trip to the Sydenham River

(Canada's richest mussel river) where we will demonstrate field techniques and practice field identifications. Specimens of all 41 Ontario species will be available during the classroom component and participants can expect to see 20+ species and up to half of Canada's Endangered mussel species in the field.

For more information, contact Todd Morris at:

Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Central & Arctic Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
867 Lakeshore Road,
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 4A6

MorrisT@dfo-mpo.gc.ca



Your Input Counts!

Draft Ontario Biodiversity Strategy available for public comment

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is leading the development of a biodiversity strategy for Ontario. Representatives from industry, environmental, government and other organizations, as well as members of the general public contributed to its development through a broad, cooperative process. The Ontario Biodiversity Strategy provides a broad framework to help coordinate and focus priorities and share responsibility for action to help protect Ontario's rich variety of plants, animals and natural ecosystems. The establishment of a Biodiversity Council, that would include agricultural, industry, environmental, and Aboriginal representatives, has also been proposed in the Strategy.

The MNR is welcoming public comments on the draft Biodiversity Strategy.

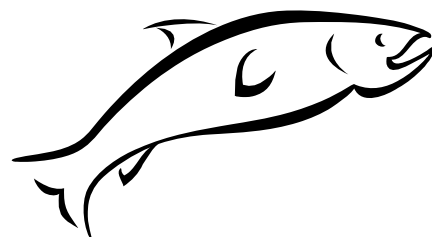
You can download a copy of the strategy and get more information about how you can provide comments at: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/biodiversity/>

3rd Edition of Fisheries Techniques seeks input

The editorial team for the forthcoming (ca. 2007) Third Edition of Fisheries Techniques (Al Zale, Donna Parrish, and Trent Sutton) seeks input from fisheries educators, students, and professionals on the content and format of the Third Edition.

To share your views on what the next edition of Fisheries Techniques should be, please complete the short survey at the following website: <http://wildfish.montana.edu/survey/>. This is a great opportunity to make the Third Edition more useful and relevant for you.

All responses will be considered seriously and treated confidentially.



More Moments from the 2005 AGM - Geneva Park!



Course Notification

Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol

June 11-17th University of Western Ontario, London Ontario

This course is designed to train and certify users in a variety of standardized techniques for evaluating habitat, invertebrates and fish communities in wadable streams that are summarized in the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol manual. These methods have been developed as provincial standards through collaboration between the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The techniques offer varying levels of effort/precision for each component of the stream system and students will receive training to complement the manual in each of the modules. Training is provided on how to identify and document sites, carry out benthos, temperature, fish community, physical processes and instream structure surveys and do data management. On the weekend prior to the OSAP course we also offer two concurrent courses in first level fish and benthos identification.

ATTENDENCE? This course is intended for field crews and resource managers involved in stream management and field inventory programs.

Enrollment is limited to 25 participants so it is recommended that you register as soon as possible. Priority will be given to those persons requiring the protocol for scheduled surveys.

Note: in anticipation of high demand, we are exploring the feasibility of providing a second course the week of June 20-24th that would not include fish or benthos identification. On your registration form, please indicate below your availability to attend this alternate course.

ABOUT THE COURSE: This is an intensive hands on course combining classroom, laboratory and field sessions, with most of the emphasis placed on how to collect high quality data. The course is organized in modules to which practitioners can sign up individually or for the complete package. Days will generally consist of a morning lecture, travel to a stream, demonstration of techniques, supervised application of one or more modules, data entry and verification, debriefing and testing. **Students should be prepared for some evening work and all participants are strongly encouraged to read the manual they will receive prior to the course.**

RECOGNITION: Participants will receive a certificate to recognize their level of competence in each module. Level 1 indicates competence as a crewmember, while Level 2 indicates competence at a crew leader level. Level 2 indicates a capability to train crewmembers (Level 1). Due to the time lines available for training not all modules will be taught to the level 2 proficiency.

The fish and invertebrate identification courses are part of a new partnership between MNR, DFO, MOE and the ROM to certify skill levels in these areas. Students will have the opportunity to be certified to level 1 for fish and invertebrates. Level 2 fish identification may be provided if at least 10 people register for this module. A list of taxa that students will be expected to be able to identify will be provided to all registrants prior to the course and it is strongly advised that students familiarize themselves with these taxa prior to the course. It is not mandatory to take the test to be certified. Note: The schedule permits students that are already proficient in benthos identification to take the quiz and thereby be certified at level 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah Rosolen, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds
P.O Box 280, 11 St. Mary's Street, Portland, Ontario, K0G 1V0
Phone: 613-272-5136 or email: rosolen@watersheds.ca

or

Les Stanfield, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Phone: 613-476-8966 or 613-476-8777 Fax: 613-476-7131 email les.stanfield@mnr.gov.on.ca

OSAP Course Registration Form

Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

COURSE FEES: Course fees cover instruction, course materials, habitat assessment and class II backpack electrofishing certification.

Full Course Registration Fee		\$ 650.00
Prices for Partial Courses		
Class I Fish Identification: () or Benthos Identification ()	\$ 150.00	_____
Class II Backpack Electrofishing Course	\$ 125.00	_____
Section 1, 5, 6 (Site ID, temperature, data manage)	\$ 175.00	_____
Section 2 (benthos)	\$ 150.00	_____
Section 3	\$ 150.00	_____
Section 4	\$ 200.00	_____
Total for partial Courses		_____

If you would like to purchase a cover ring please add \$15.00 \$ _____
TOTAL COST ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please send cheque or money order payable to Centre for Sustainable Watersheds: P.O Box 280, Portland, ON, K0G 1V0. ****Cancellations after May 21, 2005 will be assessed a \$75 administration fee ****

Availability to attend alternate course in Belleville June 20th to 24th no: _____ yes: _____

ACCOMODATION: The cost for rooms is provided below. CSW will coordinate bookings; costs are to be paid by the participants upon arrival. Dorms will be available on the Friday evening for early arrivals. Cafeteria style food is available as pay as you go, and students are responsible for providing bag lunches for all days in which field work is carried out.

Arrival Date: _____ **Departure Date:** _____ **Number of nights required:** _____

Indicate preferred plan with check mark:

- Economy: no breakfast, no cleaning: 36.75/night _____
- Full Service: includes cold breakfast and room service: \$51.45/night: _____
- Weekly Economy plan: no breakfast no cleaning: \$228.85/person _____
- Continental breakfast is available for \$5.50 plus PST. _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A list of equipment required for the course will be sent to each participant with confirmation of registration. Manuals will be sent to participants a minimum of 1 week prior to the course. Receipts will be provided at the course.

Note: since space is limited, please provide rationale for taking this course:

Website Updates

Domain Change: Our website domain has changed from *afs-soc.org* to *afs-oc.org* to reflect our new name. The old website url will continue to point to the new one for 1 year, but we encourage everyone to update their bookmarks/favorites with the new address (<http://www.afs-oc.org>). Executive Committee email addresses have also changed to reflect the new domain (i.e., newsletter@afs-oc.org).

History: A copy of all Historical Newsletters that have been received to date (November 1988 to May 1999) are now available in PDF format. If you have any newsletters that are not available on the web-site, please contact Bill Gardner at history@afs-oc.org. In addition, Past Executive Committee members are listed by year of service. Information for 1997-98 is missing. If you can provide please contact Rob Eakins at webmaster@afs-oc.org.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Fish Species of Southern Ontario: Status Reports

The Beak Consultants Limited report entitled "**Rare, Threatened and Endangered Fish Species of Southern Ontario: Status Reports**", by Brad Parker and Paul McKee (September 1980), has been made available on the EcoMetrix Incorporated web site (<http://www.ecometrix.ca/links.htm>) as a useful reference to fisheries biologists and resource managers. This 238 page report documents the biology, detailed distribution and population status of 13 fish species considered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and by the National Museum of Natural Sciences as candidates for COSEWIC designation, at that time. The report remains one of the most comprehensive documents on the distribution and ecology of these fishes in Ontario and gave rise to more than a dozen publications. While the report makes status recommendations, the subsequent status designations assigned differed in several cases, based on additional information and considerations by COSEWIC.

Newsletter Editor, Julianne Mayo, Signing Out...



Stream electrofishing, with the TRCA.

After two years as Newsletter Editor for the AFS-OC, I am signing out. This is my last newsletter as editor because I am moving to Halifax, Nova Scotia very shortly. I even needed to recruit a little extra help for this one since my move is coming up so quickly (thanks guys!!) It has been a pleasure to develop a new look and feel for the AFS-OC newsletter at such an exciting time for the chapter. The newsletter has been an effective way to communicate the chapter changes to our members and I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of such a wonderful group of people. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the executive committee and to so many members of the AFS-OC who played a huge role in making this Newfoundlander feel much less like a fish out of water here in Ontario over the last several years. It's been so much fun... and perhaps I'll see you in Ottawa, 2008!



Counting Coregonid gill rakers at the ROM.