

# Newsletter of the AFS Ontario Chapter



## AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY ONTARIO CHAPTER

### (Past) President's Message

Greetings Folks,

Welcome to the very late summer issue of our newsletter.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, I have ceased to be the president of the chapter (hence the (Past) President's Message). Jack Imhof has taken over the reins of power and it is in his trusty hands that the chapter moves towards co-hosting the 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa.

This issue of the newsletter contains information, presented by Chapter President Jack Imhof, outlining the planning of the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting. The Education Committee (with Samantha Mason) has put together a wonderful introductory course on bioengineering; details can be obtained either from the newsletter or from the website. Jack Imhof also reports on a tour of the Redhill Creek construction project, which recently occurred. Student subunit activities are reported upon in an article by Mary Finch. Also included in this newsletter is information about fish health issues in Ontario and the 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference. I have submitted another *View From Up Here* and I also draw your attention to the article about [Facebook](#).

There are exciting things on the horizon for us as fisheries professionals. The chapter is moving forward with many planned initiatives, especially in education. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time towards professional development there are lots of opportunities for involvement at the chapter, the division, and the society levels.

There are especially interesting opportunities involved with planning for the 2008 Annual Meeting. I encourage each of you to participate.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to lead this chapter during the past year. I have learned a lot about how the AFS and the North Central Division work, about how I handle workload and timelines and about how to better delegate things. This past year has gone by way to quickly. It has been a lot of work but also a very fun time. The final thanks has to go to both the ExComm and my wife for all of their help and patience during my time as president.

Cheers,

Bill Gardner  
[past-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:past-president@afs-oc.org)



## Steaming Towards AFS 2008

Time seems to be flying by as the AFS 2008 Committee continues meet and plan for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa. The 2008 AFS meeting is now only a year away!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the organization of the meeting is moving forward. Most of the sub-committees have met to introduce themselves and to discuss their workplans. Some of the major activities, such as Fund-raising and Program will only get into high gear after the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Francisco in early September. Other committees such as the Local Arrangements, Student Committee and Social (fun) Committee are actively working on ideas and logistics.

The Chapter sent out an invitation to members asking for volunteers for the various committees. Quite a few members have stepped forward and their contact information has been forwarded to the Committee Chairs. The big push for volunteers will really get going this coming spring. The people that have volunteered to date will become involved with the planning component of each committee, we will definitely need more on-the-ground help closer to the event, as well as, during the event.

Several Ontario Chapter members will be going to San Francisco for the 2007 Annual Meeting. I will be there representing the Chapter as President, Debra Martin-Downs will be attending representing the AFS 2008 Fund-raising Committee, as will Lynn Bouvier who will be representing the Chapter at the Equal Opportunities Section's luncheon (Thank you Lynn!). All in all, it will be an excellent opportunity to see what we can expect in Ottawa!

Perhaps the most exciting news is the finalization of the official logo for Ottawa (see below).



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
**Fisheries in Flux**

American Fisheries Society - Ottawa 2008

This logo will appear on all letterhead, posters and brochures for Ottawa. In addition to the logo, there was discussion about creating a poster. Some examples of possible artwork were developed, but none have captured the imagination of the 2008 Committee or for that matter, the AFS-OC ExComm. The chapter has been invited to develop a poster and to sell it if we wish. We will take this under consideration and likely come back to the membership to discuss it this fall.

The Student Sub-committee has also been working on t-shirts for Ottawa. Make certain to put aside some money to buy your own memento of Ottawa 2008.

Jack Imhof  
[president@afs-oc.org](mailto:president@afs-oc.org)

## AFS-OC Student Subunit Update

Summer means field season and the joy of being a student means that quite often you get to be involved in the fun and excitement that field work brings. Hope that everyone's field season treated them well and if you were not in the field this summer that you were able to take advantage of the great weather to get out from behind your desk. Good luck with the upcoming school year.

The *pro tem* Student ExComm is busy planning for the first official student subunit events that will take place in the fall. The subunit has planned a Class 2 backpack electrofishing course that will be offered in conjunction with the Institute of Watershed Science. This course will run on September 28-29 in the Burlington area. We have strived to keep course fees down and are able to offer the course at a very reasonable price of \$35 for student subunit members and \$50 for students that are not members of the subunit. A registration form is included in this newsletter as well as on the website. For more information, you can also contact any member of the ExComm.

Our *pro tem* Vice President (Mike Donaldson) is still very busy helping with planning the student activities for the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting in Ot-

tawa. We soon will be announcing student volunteer opportunities for this event. Please stay tuned for more announcements as the planning will really pick up steam in the fall.

All Ontario Chapter members who are students are automatically members of the subunit. Our goal is to provide training opportunities to our members in addition to providing information on potential educational, volunteer and employment opportunities. If you know of any upcoming projects that would be of interest to the subunit- please feel free to contact any member of the *pro tem* ExComm. We are always looking for new members so please let any potential students know about us.

Cheers,

Mary Finch  
[student-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-president@afs-oc.org)

Michael Donaldson  
[student-vice-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-vice-president@afs-oc.org)

Andrew Drake  
[student-secretary@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-secretary@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](http://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 150 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, [webmaster@afs-oc.org](mailto:webmaster@afs-oc.org).





## FISH HEALTH UPDATE

### Carp Die-offs in the Kawartha Lakes Region

Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) die-offs in the Kawartha Lakes Region this summer were investigated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and pathologists from the University of Guelph and found to be the result of Columnaris (*Flavobacterium columnare*). Columnaris is a common bacterium that lives in freshwater and mud and can affect freshwater fish of all ages and species worldwide. Outbreaks tend to occur periodically when fish are under atypical stress conditions such as low oxygen levels, high water temperatures excessive crowding and/or handling. Columnaris is not known to be a human health risk but gloves should be worn when handling diseased fish. Fish affected with Columnaris may display sores or ulcers on the fins, head, body, mouth or jaws. Occasional outbreaks are almost impossible to prevent and in poor conditions may result in large die-offs.

### VHS Surveillance

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia cases confirmed in Ontario Ottawa, August 22, 2007— The Government of Canada today announced that the Great Lakes strain of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia has been detected in fish from Hamilton Harbour and the Thames River in Ontario. These two findings mark the first detections of the disease in 2007 in Canada.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia is an infectious viral disease that can cause illness and death in fish, but does not affect human health. Fish were initially tested by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the University of Guelph before Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia was confirmed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

These findings fall within the Ontario ministry's identified management zone for the disease. Therefore, no changes are planned to existing Ontario live fish movement controls implemented in early 2007. Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia has been detected in the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes basin since 2005.

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, is currently conducting a surveillance program to better understand the geographic distribution of the virus and affected species. To date, fish from six sites in Ontario and Quebec have been tested, and no additional cases of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

have been detected. The results of this program, once analyzed, will help guide actions that federal and provincial governments may take to further manage the disease.

A similar, complementary surveillance program is also underway in the United States to provide a complete picture of the presence of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia in the Great Lakes basin.

A full report of 2007 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia findings from the joint federal/provincial surveillance program will be released in the fall. This program is expected to continue for the next two years. The two provinces will continue to collect fish in the fall of 2007 with the collaboration of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to collect additional samples with provincial funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

For more information on VHS visit <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing/VHS.html>

Reprinted from the Government of Canada News Release August 22, 2007



## The View From Up Here

It's been a busy summer. Although work has kept me closer to the Sault than past years, there have still been lots of field projects to keep me busy. A few weeks ago I had occasion to visit and stay overnight in the Town of Iron Bridge (population 800). I have passed through this town, located approximately 120 km east of Sault Ste. Marie, well over 100 times in the 15 years that I have lived in the Sault. I can count on one hand the number of times that I have actually stopped in the town, usually for fuel, but twice for food (I would recommend the Red Top Motel for the fine French cuisine, by the way). After checking in to the motel where I was going to spend the evening, I took a walk "downtown". Like many of the small towns located along the Trans-Canada Highway, the part of town that one sees driving along the highway is not the downtown. The actual downtown is actually located 1 street north of the Trans-Canada. As I walked along through the town I was treated to a story board describing the history of the town. The Town of Iron Bridge, originally named Tally-Ho, was chosen as the location of the first iron bridge in Northern Ontario. This bridge was built in 1886 to span the Mississauga River.

During dinner I had the privilege to sit beside a retired OMNR biologist from Iron Bridge. He enlightened me about the natural history of the area. For those of you who have never seen (or heard of) the Mississauga River it is home to one of the largest spawning populations of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes. To anglers, it's famous for its walleye. The river also supports no less than 4 hydro dams with 8 hydroelectric generating units. These 4 hydro dams are capable of gener-

ating 499 Megawatts of electricity. When the hydro dams were built (mostly in the 1950's) a very large reservoir (Tunnel Lake) was created. During the late 1970's or early 1980's the Blind River OMNR transferred adult sturgeon into Tunnel Lake (and also had plans to transfer them into other reservoirs on the Mississauga; but never did!). This population apparently has yet to be studied although anecdotal reports from anglers seem to indicate that lake sturgeon still reside in Tunnel Lake. Given more time I would have liked to visit Tunnel Lake and maybe SCUBA dive the old town site that was lost when they flooded the reservoir.

Maybe next year.

Until then, Happy Fishing.

Bill Gardner  
[past-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:past-president@afs-oc.org)



## Facebook Finds The AFS-OC

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

With the rise in popularity of [Facebook](#), Bill Gardner has created an Ontario Chapter group. This group, entitled *Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society*, is open to all. This group is not meant to replace the chapter website but instead to allow OC members who use Facebook, an opportunity to interact and chat in a very user friendly atmosphere. Feel free to check it out. To locate the group, type "Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society" in the search box on [Facebook](#).

## Field Tour of the Red Hill Creek Project

On Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 a small group of Ontario Chapter members and a few American Fisheries Society members-at-large (7 in total), met with Dr. Bill Annable, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Waterloo, to tour his work on the redesign of the Red Hill Creek stream corridor.

The specific purpose was to gain a first hand understanding behind the approach, rationale, design and implementation of this major 7 km restoration project. The general purpose was to see if there was enough interest in the relationships between geomorphology, engineering and biology to develop a two-day AFS-OC workshop on this specific subject.

We chose perhaps one of the hottest and muggiest days of the year, but despite the heat, the walking tour looking at a 3.5 km portion of the restoration work was a success by all those that attended. The attendees included, Jack Imhof, Silvia D'Amelio, Jenie Lapierre, Lynn Bouvier, Vic Cairns, Brian Greck, and Jen Wilson. We encompassed a range of ages and experience, including fisheries management, aquatic research, engineering and plan approval.

The consensus was that a two-day workshop would be worthwhile, perhaps located at the CCIW in Burlington, Day 1 might include an overview of the Natural Channel Design principles and process (engineering, geomorphology and biology), while Day 2 could involve a tour of Red Hill Creek to look at one type of example.

Jack Imhof  
[president@afs-oc.org](mailto:president@afs-oc.org)



## Stay Informed... Visit the AFS-OC website

Visit the AFS-OC website (<http://www.afs-oc.org>) often and keep up-to-date on the latest news, employment opportunities, conferences and workshops. Our webmaster works very hard to keep the information current. Check out the **Events and Conferences** page for the latest in ongoing fisheries happenings.

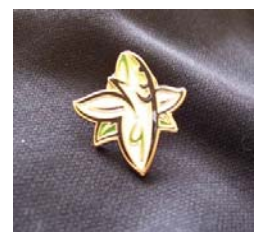
## AFS-OC Swag! Get your Hats and Pins Here!

**Impress your friends and colleagues - Support your AFS-OC now!**

Ontario Chapter baseball caps and lapel pins are now available for purchase from your Executive Committee.



<b>Cost:</b>	Baseball Cap	<b>\$20.00</b>
	Lapel Pin	<b>\$3.00</b>



If you would like to place an order for a baseball cap or lapel pin, please contact Heather Lynn ([secretary@afs-oc.org](mailto:secretary@afs-oc.org)).





Student Subunit  
Ontario Chapter of American Fisheries  
Society



Institute for Watershed Science

**Backpack Electrofishing Certification  
Course (OMNR Class 2)**

28-29 September 2007  
Canadian Centre for Inland Waters  
Burlington, Ontario



- Obtain your OMNR Class 2 Electrofishing Backpacking Crew Leader Certification.
- Course consists of Friday afternoon of classroom theory and Saturday hands-on field experience
- A GREAT chance to meet other students interested in fisheries as this course offering is limited to students registered in a post-secondary educational institute.
- Course cost:

**\$35 for AFS-OC student members**

**\$50 for non AFS-OC students**

For registration or additional information please contact: Mary Finch ([student-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-president@afs-oc.org)) or visit our website: [www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)

**Registration Form**  
**Backpack Electrofishing Certification Course**  
**Sept 28-29, 2007**  
**Burlington, Ontario**

**Personal Information**

Name:
Post Secondary Educational Institute Currently Attending:

**Contact Information**

Street Address:
City:
Postal Code:
E-mail Address:
Telephone Number:
American Fisheries Society Member? Yes / No

**Course Costs**

Student with AFS membership	\$35
Student without AFS membership	\$50

Course includes light snack on Friday during classroom theory session. Students are to provide their own packed lunch during Saturday's field session. Accommodation in the Burlington area for the Friday night is not included in course fees. If you require help finding accommodation please email Mary Finch ([student-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-president@afs-oc.org)).

**Please fill in your total course costs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email completed registration form to: Michael Donaldson ([student-vice-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-vice-president@afs-oc.org))

All payments must be made by cash or cheque.

Cheques are to be made payable to: American Fisheries Society - Ontario Chapter

Please forward payment to: American Fisheries Society – Ontario Chapter  
 c/o Mary Finch  
 GLLFAS  
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
 867 Lakeshore Road  
 Burlington, Ontario  
 L7R 4A6

***Students are required to bring their own leak-free chest waders for the field portion of the course.***





American Fisheries Society Ontario Chapter



**Introductory Bioengineering Course**

Tues Oct 16 – Wed Oct 17, 2007

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

COURSE INSTRUCTORS:

Glenn Harrington, Harrington and Hoyle Ltd. Landscape Architects  
Bob Morris, Aquatic Biologist, Credit Valley Conservation

GUEST SPEAKER:

Harry Reinders, R&M Construction



**BEFORE**

Groff Mill Creek Restoration, 1993

Before:

- Channel had been lined with concrete blocks and straightened

After:

- Meander pattern established and stabilized using soil bioengineering
- Bed lined with coarse river stone

Results:

- Reduced bank erosion, reduced water temperatures, increased dissolved oxygen
- Increased species diversity



**AFTER**

COURSE CONTENTS:

- 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)
- Bioengineering techniques (fascines, brush layering, brush mattresses, live stakes, rock revetments with live stakes, crib walls etc.)
- Obtaining approvals
- Obtaining and preparing bioengineering materials
- Site preparation
- Project construction/implementation



**Registration Form - Introductory Bioengineering Course**  
**October 16-17, 2007**

**Personal Information**

Name:
Title:
Student: Yes No (please circle one)
Affiliation:

**Contact Information**

Street Address:
City:
Postal Code:
E-mail Address:
Telephone Number:
Fax Number:
Accommodations at YMCA Required? Yes / No
AFS Member? Yes / No

**Course Costs**

		Student with AFS Membership	Student without AFS Membership	Non Student with AFS Membership	Non Student without AFS Membership
Prices With Accommodations	Early Bird Price	\$ 180.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 200.00
	Price after Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	\$ 195.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 215.00
Prices Without Accommodations	Early Bird Price	\$ 155.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 175.00
	Price after Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	\$ 170.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 190.00

Please note: Course cost with accommodations includes meals: 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and 4 snacks. The course cost without accommodations includes 2 lunches and 4 snacks.

**Please fill in your course costs:**

Do you require overnight accommodation on Tues. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>? Yes No (please circle one).

If yes, please note a \$25 additional charge applies (see table above).

**Total Course Cost to be paid:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**To obtain the early bird price, your cheque must be received by AFS-OC no later than Sept. 21, 2007.**

All course payments must be made by cash or cheque.

**Cheques are to be made payable to: American Fisheries Society - Ontario Chapter**

Please forward registration and payment to:  
 American Fisheries Society – Ontario Chapter  
 c/o Lynn Bouvier  
 GLLFAS  
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
 867 Lakeshore Road  
 Burlington, Ontario  
 L7R 4A6

## Advances in Tagging and Marking Technology for Fisheries

The American Fisheries Society, the Australian Society for Fish Biology, and the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society are pleased to announce Advances in Tagging and Marking Technology for Fisheries Management and Research, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, February 24-28, 2008. Abstract submission and registration are available now at our website, [www.fisheries.org/units/tag2008](http://www.fisheries.org/units/tag2008), (abstract submission deadline is 31 October 2007) or feel free to contact [brad.parsons@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:brad.parsons@dnr.state.mn.us) with questions. Also, please read our "Guest Director's Line" in the June issue of *Fisheries*.

The sessions for Advances in Tagging and Marking Technology for Fisheries Management and Research will include: satellite tags, archival tags, acoustic tags and arrays, radio telemetry, new methods utilizing traditional internal and external tags, chemical and genetic marks, various integrated approaches, and data analysis techniques. It is the hope that discussions held at this symposium will be the impetus for even greater advances in tagging for fisheries science. Furthermore, the proceedings of this new Symposium will provide the next step beyond Fish Marking Techniques, and the proceedings from the Australian Society for Fish Biology Tagging Workshop in 1988 and Workshop on Fish Movement and Migration in 1999, into this century's methods, technologies, advances, and challenges.

We look forward to seeing you in New Zealand!

Sincerely,

Brad Parsons

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## Conference Calendar

[137th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting](#) (September 02-06, 2007) San Francisco, CA

[34th Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop](#) (September 30-October 3, 2007) Halifax, NS

[Wild Trout IX Symposium](#) (October 09-12, 2007) West Yellowstone, MT

[Mining and the Environment Conference IV](#) (October 20-27, 2007) Sudbury, ON

[14th A.D. Latonell Conservation Symposium](#) (November 14-16, 2007) Alliston, ON

[68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference](#) (December 09-12, 2007) Madison, WI

[Advances in Tagging and Marking Technology for Fisheries Symposium](#) (February 24-28, 2008) Auckland, New Zealand

[138th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting](#) (August 17-21, 2008) Ottawa, ON

139th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting (August 30-September 03, 2009) Nashville, TN

[American Fisheries Society Calendar of Events](#)





# WE INVITE YOU to the 68<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

**Madison, Wisconsin  
December 9-12, 2007**

The conference will mark the 68<sup>th</sup> year that natural resource professionals have met to share new research, management experiences, and valuable insight on fish and wildlife research and management. The Conference will be held in the beautiful Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Convention Center on the shore of Lake Monona just blocks from the State Capitol, the University of Wisconsin campus, and downtown dining and night life.

The Conference theme is **"BE THE CHANGE: MANAGE LOCALLY, CONSERVE GLOBALLY"**. Mahatma Gandhi's "You must be the change you want to see in the world" was a call for local, individual action to make a difference. Likewise, Rene Dubos challenged participants in the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to "Think Globally, Act Locally" suggesting that ecological consciousness begins at home. What we do locally on our individual fish and wildlife properties or on private lands in our own states can and will have an effect on Midwest regional fish and wildlife populations and their habitat. We are inviting attendees to explore ways to put their individual management actions into a larger context to benefit all fish and wildlife across the Midwest.

The challenge of natural resource professionals today is to manage for ALL fish and wildlife and their habitats. This goal can result in conflicting management strategies for habitats required by different species (e.g., managing for early or late successional forests). One potential solution to this problem is to think and plan at different scales so management moves beyond the local scale towards management of sustainable and healthy habitats across a larger landscape, integrated with but buffered from human development. This solution can provide a model that can be emulated nationally and globally, particularly where natural resource management is in its nascence.



We are considering a variety of symposia topics to help emphasize this theme:

- Prescribed fire
- Lead impacts on fish and wildlife
- Urban fish and wildlife
- Coping with terrestrial and aquatic invasive species
- Aquatic organism passage
- Habitat fragmentation
- Landscape and watershed scale research, management, and planning in the Midwest
- Emerging diseases and pathogens in fish and wildlife

The diverse and exciting program, unique setting, and special events promise that the 2007 conference will be one that you will not want to miss. So, please put December 9-12 on your 2007 calendar NOW, and plan to come and see us in Madison.

Visit us on the web at: <http://midwest.ncd-afs.org/>



**CONTACTS:**

Steering Committee Co-chairs:  
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[Gerald.Bartlett@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Gerald.Bartlett@wisconsin.gov)

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Arrangements Committee Chair  
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Program Committee Chair - Wildlife  
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