



## 2010 Ontario Chapter Annual Meeting Recap

By Jon Clayton: OC Past President

### President's Message

Ten years ago I became a member of the American Fisheries Society. It was one of many memberships I proudly listed on my resume. I visited the website and read the newsletter occasionally, but that was it. Seven years ago a friend convinced me to attend the Ontario Chapter AGM. As I walked around Dorset listened to talks, read student posters, and spoke with professionals from all over the province I began to understand that I could realize so much more as a part of this organization if I just got involved. This venue for networking, collaboration and learning was open to anyone. It provided a place where scientists, professors, consultants, students, technicians – anyone in the fisheries community could contribute and realize growth. It was at that very meeting that I met people who would go on to be some of my closest friends, colleagues, research partners, an employer and even my husband. The sense of community and support that a professional realizes when they are actively a part of a group of like-minded individuals is immeasurable. It is with that in mind that I encourage all of you to convince a friend, a student, or a co-worker to join us at the AGM, again or for the first time. Joining this chapter will be the best \$5 you ever spent!

Continued on page 2

This past March saw the Annual General Meeting for the chapter return to Geneva Park in Orillia. The theme this year was “Challenges for a Changing Fishery in a Changing World.” We had 69 attendees, made up of students, agency staff from Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans, and the private sector. Many were newcomers to the AGM while others were meeting veterans. We were also joined by Mark Porath, the North Central Division President from Nebraska. Coming from a fairly salmonid-centric part of the world, I found it interesting to speak with someone who deals mostly with issues relating to warmwater species.

After brief introductions on Friday morning, Mark provided a short overview of what the North Central Division does and some of the issues they are wrestling with in the United States.

Continued on page 3



### In this issue:

President's Message.....	Pages 1/2
2010 Annual Meeting Recap.....	Pages 1/3
ROM Biodiversity website.....	Page 2
Ecoseparation information.....	Page 4
Freshwater fish in Ontario's boreal...	Page 4

Featured Institution.....	Page 5/6
CARS Update.....	Page 6
Student Subunit News.....	Page 7
Steve Kerr and Muskies Canada....	Page 8
Long Point Fish Study.....	Page 9

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

After many years of enjoying the newsletters, website, talks, workshops and annual general meetings its time for me to give back. I would like to thank the membership for accepting me as a president and commit to giving to the chapter as it has given to me. I would like to thank Jon Clayton for his commitment and leadership over these last two years. Meeting the chapter's need in 2009 when no one was able to step into the president's position was above and beyond the call of duty and we all appreciate your dedication to our chapter. He has moved right into fatherhood which I'm sure will be much less stressful!! Congratulations Jon and Loveleen.

Please take a note of the article on page 4 regarding the ecological separation of the Great Lakes drainage from the Mississippi River drainage. This is a critical time in fisheries which may see a drastic change in our aquatic ecosystems. As fisheries professionals in the Great Lakes drainage we need to take the time to vote. Read the resolution on the NCD website and cast your vote! (see page 4 for links) Congratulations to Steve Kerr on his induction into the Muskies Canada Hall of Fame. There is no doubt that Steve has contributed significantly towards the science and conservation of Muskellunge. As a biologist who has benefited from Steve's hard work I can say that this is but one piece of a large breadth of great work!

Over the next year I hope to build on the strong positive momentum built by the previous chapter presidents. Expanding educational and training opportunities for our chapter by building on our current initiatives like seminars will continue to be a priority for this executive. We plan to build upon our existing partnerships, including the Natural Channels Systems Initiative in partnership with the Canadian Water Resources Association to complete the development and implementation of natural channel systems training courses. As always, expanding our membership and getting more members actively involved is extremely important.

I would like to close by offering many thanks to all those you have brought the chapter to where it is today. To the current executive, Jon Clayton, Bill Gardner, Andrea Hibbert, Caleb Hasler, Connie O'Connor, Dean Fitzgerald, Jack Imhof, Lynn Bouvier, Monica Grandos, Peter Addison, Rob Eakins and Scott Gibson (who also welcomed a new addition this year - Congratulations) thank you for your ongoing commitment to the chapter. I look forward to working with all of you towards a successful 2011 for the Ontario Chapter.

Silvia D'Amelio, President – Ontario Chapter



OC President Silvia D'Amelio



Rainbow trout at the Mill on the Credit River

The Ontario chapter is proud to be associated with:



[www.fishdb.ca](http://www.fishdb.ca)

Looking for information on Biodiversity in Ontario?

The ROM has a wonderful website for easy searching of biodiversity facts.

Check out the website at: <http://www.rom.on.ca/ontario/index.php>

(continued from page 1)

All of the presentations over the rest of the day were excellent. In the afternoon, we were treated to a documentary entitled "RiverWebs", a movie about a Japanese ecologist, Dr. Shigeru Nakano. It chronicles his life, research and tragic death at the height of his career. I highly recommend seeing it if you get a chance. A number of people also took the opportunity to ice fish and congratulations must go out to Warren Dunlop on his jumbo perch.

At the business meeting, we were excited to fill our two vacant ExComm positions. Dean Fitzgerald stepped up and was acclaimed as the President-Elect for 2010-2011. After much cajoling, Silvia D'Amelio was nominated and acclaimed as the next President. Her duties will begin in October. Thanks to both of you for accepting!

The social on Friday night was once again another highlight. Generous support from our sponsors helped make the raffle a success and over \$700 was raised for the Student Subunit.

At the end of the meeting on Saturday, awards were given to the best student oral and poster presentations. Sean Landsman from Carleton University was the winner of the E.J. Crossman Award for best oral presentation. His presentation was titled "*The Effects of Catch-and-Release Angling for Muskellunge*". The OBFN winner for best poster presentation was Laura Chomyshyn from Carleton University. Her poster was entitled "*Evaluating the Need to Minimize Water Entry and Surgical Aseptic Techniques During Telemetry Implantation Surgeries*".

I would like to thank our sponsors for helping to keep the costs down and providing raffle prizes. I would also like to thank all the speakers and poster presenters for putting together such informative talks and posters. The event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the ExComm and I particularly would like to thank Scott Gibson, Lynn Bouvier, Bill Gardner, Jack Imhof, Andrea Hibbert, Rob Eakins and Caleb Hasler for doing the organizing and all the behind the scenes work to make everything run smoothly. I would finally like to thank Geneva Park staff for making our stay enjoyable. Photos from the meeting will soon be available on the chapter website.

Keep your eyes open for details about next year's meeting. The dates are: March 3-5, 2011. It should prove to be just as fun and informative.

Science Idol: The Scientific Integrity Editorial Cartoon Contest:

Vote for your favourite editorial cartoon at:

[http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific\\_integrity/science\\_idol/2010-science-idol-contestants.html?utm\\_source=tw&utm\\_medium=tw&utm\\_campaign=tw](http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/science_idol/2010-science-idol-contestants.html?utm_source=tw&utm_medium=tw&utm_campaign=tw)



Photo above: OC VP Scott Gibson presents the EJ Crossman Award for best student oral presentation to Sean Landsman.

Photo below: OC VP Scott Gibson presents the OBFN Award for best student poster presentation to Laura Chomyshyn.



The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) states that aquaculture now supplies 50% of the global supply of fish for human consumption. The OECD's webpage for fisheries information (including links to each country's national fisheries agency) is:

[http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en\\_2649\\_33901\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37401,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en_2649_33901_1_1_1_1_37401,00.html)

## Ecological Separation Resolution

Over the past few months officers with the North Central Division's resolutions Committee, in consultation with the chapters, have been developing a resolution to assert that an ecological separation between the Mississippi and Great Lakes drainage basins should be made. The resolution can be read in its entirety on the NCD website at: [www.ncd-afs.org](http://www.ncd-afs.org).

Voting for (or against) the resolution can be done at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H3D7T7W>

## Interested in more information on Asian carp?

<http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/Branches.aspx?BranchId=40>

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/Publications/article/2006/01-01-2006-eng.htm>

## Are you interested in serving on the AFS-OC ExComm?

There are several positions that that will become available for the 2011-2012 Ontario Chapter Executive Committee. These positions will begin in September of 2011. The ExComm meets monthly via teleconference and the workload is shared by everyone. Each position requires a different skill set.

For further information contact any member of the Executive through the ExComm page on the OC website:

[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)

## Maps and GIS information of the Great Lakes

Need GIS information on the Great Lakes basin? Check out the Great Lakes Information Network's Maps and GIS webpage at: <http://gis.glin.net/>

## Freshwater fish in Ontario's boreal: Status, Conservation and Potential Impacts of Development

David R. Browne. WCS Canada Conservation Report No. 2. September 2007.

This report represents a first step in expanding the dialogue on Boreal conservation to include aquatic ecosystems. The objectives of the report are to:

- I. present information on the region's fish species;
- II. review what is known and what remains unknown regarding the effects of various types of resource development activities on freshwater environments and fish; and
- III. offer policy and research recommendations toward the enhancement of freshwater fish conservation and management in the region.

<http://www.wcscanada.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fpLGzVUjyzA%3d&tabid=2541>



Left Photo: Bill Gardner and Jack Imhof at the 2010 AGM.



Right Photo: Jon Clayton opens the Business Meeting at the 2010 AGM.

## Featured Institution:

### Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology

Sault College is located at the hub of the Great Lakes and is an ideal location for eight programs in Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies. With the proximity of the Boreal and Great Lakes St. Lawrence forests, as well as numerous lakes and streams, students can take advantage of the living classroom to learn about ecological principles, conservation biology and sustainable management.

A focus on practical, hands-on field training in combination with traditional classroom based learning, makes the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Technician and the Natural Environment Technician/Technology (NET) programs popular choices. The F&W Conservation program provides a broad background in natural resources and specialized skills in the field of fish and wildlife management. The NET programs (2 and 3 year) are geared toward individuals looking to integrate conventional resource management with new emerging disciplines such as Field Investigative Techniques, Advanced GIS, Energy Site Development and Invasive Species Management.

Emphasis in first year for both these programs is placed on outdoor navigation, ATV operation, canoeing skills, tree identification, ecology, fish and wildlife identification, wilderness survival and includes a 5-day first year field camp.

In second year, both the Fish & Wildlife and NET field camps are highlighted by a 2-day lake survey which includes gill and trap netting, seining, water chemistry, bathymetry and fish processing. In addition, a wetland habitat evaluation is completed on a local marsh where aquatic plant communities are identified and mapped. Radio telemetry to monitor an introduced elk population is practiced as are mark-recapture population estimates on littoral fish and small mammals.

Many of the survey methodologies conducted during the second year are based on provincial protocols such as the Ontario Benthos

Continued on page 6



## Editor's note:

Many of the Colleges and Universities in Ontario have significantly changed their programs and courses in the last 5 years. A new Featured Institution article will appear every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> newsletter in each volume. The featured biologist article will appear every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS IN A

*NUTSHELL* By: Joan Cabreza, Editor

Interested in receiving aquatic invasive species information: A retired US EPA biologist named Joan Cabreza, edits a document which, although based on the west Coast of the US, provides some interesting information on Invasive species that can be relevant to us in Ontario. To subscribe, send Joan an email at: [joancabreza@msn.com](mailto:joancabreza@msn.com)



Photo above: Sault College students check a trap net "in class".

## Upcoming OC Events

Ontario Chapter Lecture series

Ontario Chapter AGM

## Date

TBA

March 3-5, 2011

## Website

[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)

[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)

Continued from page 5

Biomonitoring Network (OBBN), the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP), Broad Scale Fisheries Monitoring and the Ontario Marsh Monitoring Program. As a result, students are job ready for ongoing resource monitoring in the province.

Sault Ste. Marie is the home of several provincial and federal agencies: the Ministry of Natural Resources; Ontario Forest Research Institute; the Department of Fisheries & Oceans including the Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Sea Lamprey Control and Fish Habitat Management; Natural Resources Canada; the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (Soo, Michigan) and a new Invasive Species Research Institute. As a result, experts and researchers regularly serve as guest speakers and field work facilitators.

Partnerships with local organizations have given students an opportunity to volunteer for unique area projects such as the Wood Turtle Habitat Enhancement Project, the Wild Turkey Introduction on St. Joseph's Island, the Lake Huron-North Shore Elk Restoration Project, the Neebish Ice Fishing Derby, the St. Joseph Island Hunter Reporting Station, Bird Studies Canada sandhill crane surveys and the Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authorities' Children's Water Festival. These give students a chance to make contacts with agencies and to add valuable work experience to their resumes.

The co-operative education component to all Natural Environment & Outdoor studies programs also provides students work experience prior to graduation. Post graduation, some students may pursue a Bachelor of Science degree, taking advantage of several articulation agreements with Canadian as well as American universities. Both strategies provide students with a competitive edge in a challenging job market.

Find out more at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) or call us at 1.800.461.2260

## News from the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (CARS) by Caleb Hasler

CARS has a number of initiatives underway that may be of interest to OC members:

### 1) CARS student colloquium at CCFR

This will offer students the opportunity to ask fisheries professionals (academics, government scientists, NGO representatives, and consultants) questions about their career paths and motivations.

### 2) CARS series in Fisheries

The series highlights several NSERC Strategic Network grants that have recently been granted to Canadian working groups.

### 3) CARS is developing a Canadian Fisheries textbook

The plan is to spring board the project at an upcoming CCFR (2012) or AFS meeting (Interested parties should email Steven Cooke).

### 4) Various CARS Awards

The Peter A. Larkin AFS Travel Award to Katie Stammler of the University of Western Ontario- Katie recently presented her research at the AFS meeting in Pittsburgh. The runner-up was Kurt Samways from the University of New Brunswick. CARS also recognized the past contributions by Kim Hyatt, Howard Powles, and Peter Amiro; all have served CARS with excellence and will be receiving their plaques soon.

### 5) Canada Wide Water Strategy

Kim Hyatt, on behalf of CARS, is participating on the "Initiators Group" with the Canadian Water Resources Association and others to develop this strategy

### 6) CARS Newsletter

Coming soon to your inboxes!

Looking for information on fish diseases?

The Canada Food Inspection agency administers the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP). This program is a science-based regulatory program for aquatic animal diseases based on the Health of Animals Act and the Health of Animals Regulations.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/aqua/aquae.shtml>

## Student Subunit News

The decline of global fisheries stocks is the subject of the documentary *The End of the Line*. The film details the enormous pressure human consumption inflicts on fish populations across the world. Markets in Japan are host to the lucrative trade of the scarce blue fin tuna. The shores of Canada's Atlantic coast, once teeming with cod are now under a fishing moratorium. Graphs and charts in the film illustrate the negative slopes of species abundances across time, all terminating at zero abundance in only a few decades. The documentary is a startling look at the condition of the global fisheries and reveals the practices and decisions contributing to the decline to the public.

In conjunction with the Toronto Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology, the student subunit screened the film to an audience of over 25 individuals on the campus of the University of Toronto. The screening was followed by a presentation by Stacy O'Malley from Sea Choice, an organization that provides consumers with information on sustainable seafood options. Sea Choice also presented the attendees with a seafood guide containing sustainability ratings for popular seafood items. The cards provided a medium for attendees to mitigate some of the effects of consumer demand presented in the documentary.

For more information please visit the website: (<http://endoftheline.com>).



Left Photo: Juvenile Lake Sturgeon being PIT tagged on Batchawana Bay by DFO and OMNR students.

Right Photo: Sault College students conduct a stream survey during one of their many labs.

## Looking for volunteer opportunities?

Check out the Ontario Biodiversity Education and Awareness network's website at:

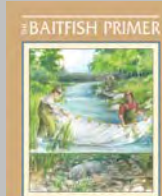
<http://www.biodiversityeducation.ca/index.php/cbb>

Ontario Student Subunit is looking for a few good people!

The OC Student Subunit is seeking nominations for students wishing to lead. Positions available are: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Duties include participating in monthly conference calls with the OC Executive Committee and planning student events (i.e., courses, socials, retreats, etc.)

For more info email Caleb Hasler at: [student-president@afs-oc.org](mailto:student-president@afs-oc.org)



Fish Id just got easier. Now you can download the Baitfish Primer. Just go to:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/pub/baitfish-appat-on/index-eng.htm>

## OMNR biologist inducted in the Muskies Canada Hall of Fame

At the 2010 Muskies Canada Board of Directors annual meeting, six individuals, including MNR senior fisheries biologist Steven Kerr, were inducted into the Hall of Fame. With the exception of Steve, all were prominent, long standing members of Muskies Canada.

Muskies Canada Hall of Fame Award is the club's most prestigious award bestowed to individual members who have outstanding dedication in: science, media and club development and promotion.

Muskies Canada Hall of Fame was created on the club's 20th anniversary in 1998. Only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time the induction ceremony has been held, Steve joins past inductees Ed Crossman and John Casselman. Steve has been working cooperatively with Muskies Canada for over twenty-five years on projects such as:

- Organized the "Managing Muskies in the 90s" workshop in 1995 and publishing workshop proceedings.
- Chaired a government-NGO task team to develop standards and benchmarks for provincial size limit regulations for muskellunge.
- Solicited financial support for the "Know the Difference" sign campaign.
- Supported the thirty year volunteer angler diary program by providing angler logs, collating information and publishing results.
- Served as MNR liaison with MCI on projects including the restoration of muskellunge in Lake Simcoe and the Spanish River, muskellunge radio telemetry on the Rideau River, and guidelines for proper handling of large muskellunge.
- Written several articles on muskellunge management in Ontario which were published in the MCI's Release Journal and Muskies Inc. magazine.

Congratulations Steve.

## Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish 3-4 February, 2011 from 9 AM - 5 PM in Seattle, WA

[http://www.htisonar.com/at\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.htisonar.com/at_short_course.htm)

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on-operation and a variety of applications are covered. Lunch is provided. For more info or to save a seat, email [support@HTisonar.com](mailto:support@HTisonar.com).

## Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment

10-11 February, 2011 from 9 AM - 5 PM in Seattle, WA

[http://www.htisonar.com/ha\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.htisonar.com/ha_short_course.htm)

The hydroacoustic short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. Split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed in detail. Lunch is provided. For more info or to save a seat, email [support@HTisonar.com](mailto:support@HTisonar.com).



Photo: OMNR Biologist Steve Kerr displays his Muskies Canada Hall of Fame award.

## Upcoming Conferences

A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium  
71<sup>st</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference  
Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research  
(CCFFR)

## Date

November 17-19, 2010  
December 12-15, 2010  
January 6-8, 2011

## Website

<http://www.latornell.ca/>  
<http://www.midwest2010.org/>  
<http://www.phys.ocean.dal.ca/ccffr/>



## The Long Point Fish Study

Long Point Bay is a provincially significant wetland with a high diversity of aquatic species, including a large number of COSEWIC and COSSARO listed species, *aka* species at risk (SAR). With the enactment of the Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2007, Ontario's commercial fishers are required to document and release unharmed all SAR listed as threatened and endangered under the ESA. A 2009 study of inner Long Point Bay SAR was sponsored by the Species at Risk Research Fund for Ontario (SARFFO), and conducted by the Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association (OCFA), OMNR's Lake Erie Management Unit (LEMU) and the Long Point Biosphere Reserve Foundation. The purpose of the study was to document possible effects of commercial fishing operations on SAR in inner Long Point Bay. Commercial fishing activities (hoop netting) were monitored over 2 sampling periods (spring and fall) in 2009 on inner Long Point Bay and any COSSARO or COSEWIC listed species as well as several other non-listed species, such as painted turtles (collectively called species of interest [SoI]), were documented. The condition of any SoI captured was also recorded and a photograph was taken. The study found a total of 203 individuals of species of interest were captured in the 368 commercial hoop net lifts that were observed. All species of interest, including all turtles (painted turtles, northern map turtles and snapping turtles), that were caught in commercial hoop nets survived and were returned to the lake unharmed. Of the 203 SoI captured, only one listed individual, a Spotted Gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), was observed (Threatened, COSSARO and COSEWIC). The remaining specimens were either designated as Special Concern (199), with Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*) and Grass Pickerel (*Esox americanus vermiculatus*) the most common, or were non-listed turtles (3). Kurt Oldenburg of LEMU, one of the studies authors, said he "was pleased with the outcome" and that "the study assisted in guiding management of the fishery as well as contributing additional knowledge on SAR distribution". Principal investigator, Kevin Reid of OCFA, said "The Long Point Bay species at risk study is one of a growing number of examples where Ontario's commercial fishing industry is making a real contribution to our understanding of fisheries ecology".

## AFS-OC Online Store

Looking for gifts for the boss, the intern, that special someone? Look no further than the Ontario Chapter On-line store. Check it out at:

<http://afs-oc.org/cgi-bin/online/storepro.php>



Submission deadline for next issue of *The Lateral Line* is  
December 01, 2010