



Ontario Chapter's 2012 AGM Venue Change



President's Message

As we all know, many hands make work light. Over the last few months, your Executive Committee has been busy with activities of relevance to our members. First, we have completed the annual ExComm elections, thanks to all who voted. Congratulations to all successful candidates! Second, I am pleased to report that the 2012 AFS-OC Annual Meeting will be held at a new venue this year (see opposite article). We are excited about the new venue. It would be wise to register early for this meeting, as we are expecting increased interest due to the new venue. Third, we are exploring options for short courses at the Annual Meeting, to maximize opportunities for focal interactions. If you have an idea for a course, please write to me soon (president@afs-oc.org). Fourth, we are planning additional events in northern Ontario, to enhance the interactions there. Early in 2012, Peter Addison will host a seminar at the MNR office in Thunder Bay. We are also looking for northern

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The Ontario Chapter Annual Meeting and Conference will be moving east for 2012. Located on Stoney Lake in the Kawarthas, Viamede Resort (pictured above) will be a comfortable place for our meeting. Although the venue will be different, you can expect to hear great talks organized around an interesting theme, mixed with student talks and lots of time to engage friends and colleagues in interesting conversation. This year's theme is "Science and the Tools for Aquatic Resource Management". The reasons for the move are two fold. The popularity of Geneva park became an issue this season with our usual dates (1st weekend of March) being unavailable. The only unbooked weekend was February 8th. The ExComm decided that moving the meeting three weeks earlier was not an option so we began looking for an alternate venue. The second reason related to comments received during the 2011 AGM. Some members felt that a change of venue might appeal to members who had already experienced Geneva Park. The Viamede Resort menu looks delicious and the meeting rooms look to be as good as we have become accustomed. Stoney Lake (at last report) has sufficient ice to support the Student Subunit's planned ice-fishing event. We encourage you to check out the Viamede website (www.viamede.com) as well as the Ontario Chapter website (www.afs-oc.org) for additional details.



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chapter members that could host similar seminars in or near Sudbury, Timmins and Red Lake. Last but not least, we are forming committees to address topics of interest to our members. Such topics are intended to result in a review described in a newsletter column. Topics noted of relevance include the use of fisheries management zones in Ontario, review of the updated *Fisheries Act*, and recent experiences with Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* as it relates to fishes.

In my first President's message I indicated that I will also use this space to highlight some of my experiences or projects in hopes that you, the membership, will get to know me better. During 2006, with Robert Eakins and others at EcoMetrix Incorporated, we assessed a fish kill downstream of a mine in the Peruvian Andes. This assessment initially considered a role of the mine in the fish kill but observations involving benthic invertebrates, water, sediment, and fish revealed that toxins from non-native fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) was the likely cause. This consideration suggested that recent rains washed ants in to the river, and non-native rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) suffered mortality if they consumed at least one ant. In contrast, the native catfish (*Astroblepus* spp.) did not suffer mortality, as they did not consume ants. We then reported the findings to the mine, the local people living near the mine and river, and then at different conferences. We still need to complete the manuscript for publication. This process allowed us to resolve the interactions involving native and non-native species, and use information from different endpoints to resolve a likely explanation of the fish kill.

Dean Fitzgerald, AFS-OC President (president@afs-oc.org)

Crayfish ID

Looking to identify Crayfish? A new identification guide to Ontario's crayfish, produced collaboratively by the Bishop's Mills Natural History Centre, the Toronto Zoo and others, is now available for free from Ontario Nature at:

http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/resources/PDFs/id_guides/crayfish_apr08.pdf



Photo above: AFS-OC President Dean Fitzgerald

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) held their Annual Colloquium on February 3, 2012. This colloquium, a 33-year tradition, has presented topics on fisheries research being done at the ROM such as *The Fishes of the Lost World: A conservation report from the field* and *Swimming with Dinosaurs: DNA Reveals that American Cichlid Fishes Date Back to the Late Cretaceous*. To find out about next year's colloquium visit:

<http://www.rom.on.ca/collections/colloquium>

The Ontario chapter is proud to be associated with:



www.ontariofishes.ca

Upcoming Conferences

Upcoming Conferences	Date	Website
AFS-OC Annual Meeting and Conference	March 1-3, 2012	http://www.afs-oc.org/
2012 Ecological and Evolutionary Ethology of Fishes Meeting	June 17-21, 2012	http://web2.uwindsor.ca/eeef/
55th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research	May 14-18, 2012	http://www.iaglr.org/conference/
142nd American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting	August 19-23, 2012	http://www.afs2012.org/

Aquatic Habitat Toronto

AHT represents a consensus based partnership between agencies with a vested interest in the improvement of aquatic habitat on the Toronto Waterfront. Partners include Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto and Region Conservation in consultation with the City of Toronto. Aquatic Habitat Toronto is responsible for the implementation of the Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy (TWAHRS). See <http://www.aquatichabitat.ca/> for more information.

Fish On-line

A unique tool developed by the OMNR for the angling community was recently launched. This on-line GIS tool will also benefit members who need to get some basic information of lake or fish characteristics. Not yet complete the tool will add the following features in the near future- additional lakes with fish species information , major rivers with fish species information, public access points and shoreline fishing opportunities, identifying GPS co-ordinates for desired locations on the map, private fishing licence issuers, fish sanctuary locations and more.

For more information or to search the Fish On-line website please visit:

http://www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/fish_online/fishing/fishingExplorer.en.html

Crown Land Use Policy Atlas

The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas is the source of area-specific land use policy for Crown lands in a large part of central and mid-northern Ontario. The interactive map browser is a major component of the site. It allows users to view the boundaries of Crown land use areas as well as associated land use policies. Land use policies are presented in policy reports specific to each land use area and can be accessed using the interactive map browser at:

<http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/clupa.html>.

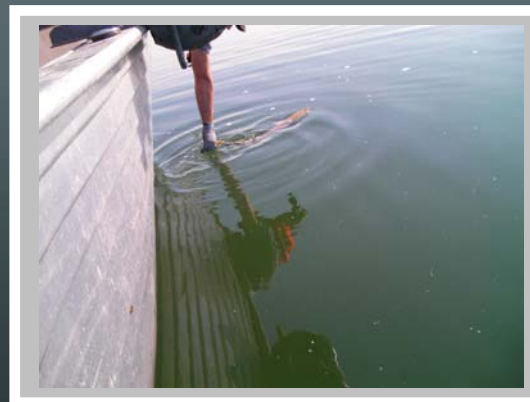


Photo above: Daily Lake Sturgeon catch from Wisconsin's spear fishery, 2012. Fish on the left is 108 lbs, 79 inches total length. Photo courtesy of Woodeye's restaurant, Winneconne, WI



Photo above: White water lily. Photo courtesy of Katie Easterling

Photo below: Returning a Lake Sturgeon to the water on a very calm day on Lake Superior. Photo courtesy of Bill Gardner



History Bytes

There have been 3 newsletter editors who have volunteered their time to bring news to the Ontario Chapter. These editors have produced 24 newsletters (including this one) over 8 years. The Northwestern Ontario Chapter which put out at least 34 newsletters during their 19 year history had 12 editors and the Southern Ontario Chapter produced at least 25 newsletters, in 15 years, with 8 editors. There were several instances where the editor of one chapter's newsletter later became the editor of other chapter's newsletter. To view any of the newsletters from the old chapters or the Ontario Chapter, visit (www.afs-oc.org) and see the **History** or **Newsletters** pages.

Science Teachers' Association of Ontario

Founded in 1890, the Science Teachers' Association of Ontario / Association des professeurs de science de l'Ontario (STAO/APSO) is a non-profit, province-wide professional organization run by volunteers who serve on the Executive and Board of Directors. Its current membership of approximately 2300 is made up of science educators from elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities. For more information please visit: <http://stao.ca/>.

The Western Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association

This not-for profit organization based out of London, ON is one of the oldest (130 years) angler groups in the province. A history, written by member Brian Logie in April 2006, details the accomplishments of the club and also provides a bit of interesting information on the early days of ponds in the Thames River watershed.

To read the club history or to learn more about the WOFGPA visit their website at: <http://www.wofgpa.org/>.

The North American Native Fishes Association

NANFA is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the appreciation, study and conservation of the continent's native fishes. NANFA's goal is to increase and disseminate knowledge about North America's native fishes and their habitats among aquarium hobbyists, biologists, fish and wildlife officials, anglers, educators, students, and others, through publications, electronic media, regional and national meetings, and other means; to promote the conservation of native fishes and the protection/ restoration of natural habitats; to advance the captive husbandry of North America's native fishes for the educational, scientific, and conservation benefits it affords.

For more information please visit: <http://www.nanfa.org/>.

Aquatic Invasive Species in Ontario

The draft Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan is now available on the OMNR website at:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@letsfish/documents/document/stdprod_085804.pdf



Photo above: A hard day in class at Fleming College. Photo courtesy of Fleming College.

Photo below: Trent University Grad students, Megan Lloyst and Josh Stacey preparing to sample American Eels, Photo courtesy of Lisa O'Connor.



Photo left: Bill Gardner

Photo right: Low flow on the Rainy River photo courtesy of Bill Gardner.



Featured Institution: Fleming College

By Paula Walton, Fleming College

Located in the heart of Central Ontario and surrounded by an interconnected series of lakes, river channels and streams, Fleming College is one of only two colleges in the province offering Fish and Wildlife programs. With close proximity to the Kawartha Lakes, a part of the Trent-Severn Waterway, nature becomes the classroom.

The Fish and Wildlife program at Fleming's School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences is the only one in Ontario accredited by the North American Wildlife Technology Association (NAWTA). The program specializes in two areas of study; Fish and Wildlife Technician and Fish and Wildlife Technology. The diploma programs offer the same courses for the first semester to expose students to a variety of career options. In addition, it provides an opportunity for students to explore and obtain a multidisciplinary perspective while acquiring a base of knowledge and fundamental skills. Courses in the first semester include Ecology and Environment, Ecosystem Skills, Geospatial Techniques and Environmental Leadership. In the second semester, students choose their specialization.

Fish and Wildlife Technician students are exposed to comprehensive, challenging training, facilitated by faculty with field experience to ensure students have the well-rounded, relevant skills that employers seek. A significant amount of time is spent in fish and wildlife laboratory work and in numerous field excursions. In the third semester, an intensive one-week field camp, with either a fisheries or a wildlife focus, allows students to practice their management skills and to learn about the logistics involved in the design and implementation of field projects.

Hands-on, experiential learning and in-depth studies into the science of fish and wildlife management is the centre of the Fish and Wildlife Technology program. Field experiences, work placements, data compilation and analysis, training in advanced laboratory techniques and report writing provides an opportunity to develop skill sets and Fleming is the only college in Ontario offering a third year specialization in Fish and Wildlife Technology.



Photo above: Fleming College Fish and Wildlife Students prepare to release Atlantic salmon fry into a Lake Ontario tributary.
Photo courtesy of Fleming College

Ontario Fishery Enhancement and Aquaculture Association

The OFEAA is an association comprised of land based aquaculturists, pond owners, land owners who manage waters on their land, cottage associations and other stakeholders interested in culturing and stocking fish in Ontario.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.ontarioaquaculture.net/>



Upcoming Ontario Chapter Events

Ontario Chapter AGM

Date

March 1-3, 2012

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

Featured Institution, continued from Page 5

Innovative partnerships with Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Ontario Power Generation and C&M Aquatics, along with many others, have enabled Fleming to offer a fish hatchery at their Frost Campus and participate in conservation projects such as Back to Salmon, also known as the Salmon Restoration Project, and Lake Simcoe Muskellunge Restoration.

Last year, staff and students involved in the Back to Salmon project released 147,000 fry, 25,000 fingerlings, and 17,000 yearlings. In total, Fleming College has stocked 584,345 Atlantic Salmon. Fish have been released into Cobourg Creek, Duffin's Creek, and the Humber River.

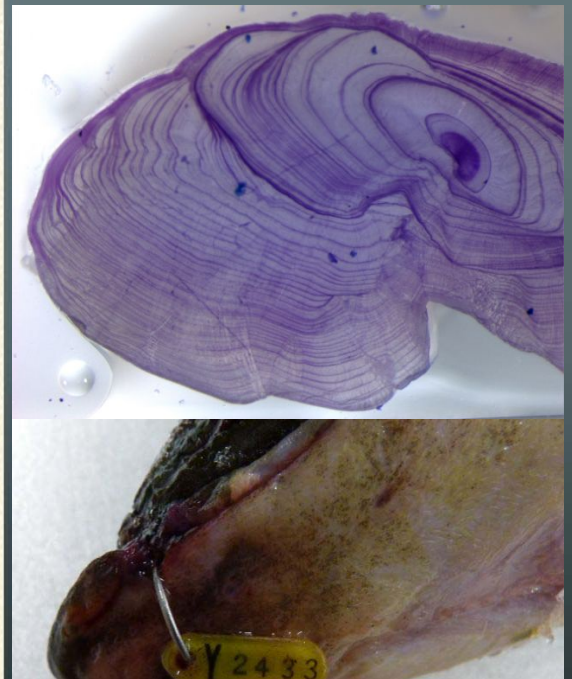
The Lake Simcoe Muskellunge Restoration project aims to restore a healthy breeding population of muskellunge to Lake Simcoe. In February 2011, Fleming's Muskellunge Fish Hatchery, in partnership C&M Aquatics, received \$10,000 in funding from the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation to research a way to mark and identify muskellunge in our lakes and rivers without using invasive physical tags.

Fleming's program reputation works in favour of graduates in the employment selection process. They find work in Canada from coast to coast. Graduates have secured a variety of positions from fish and wildlife technicians or technologists to interpreters at fish and wildlife reserves, fishing and hunting guides, and wetland inventory technicians. Graduates work for organizations such as government research agencies and ministries, private consulting firms, or environmental management agencies. The Fleming College School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, located at the Frost Campus in Lindsay, provides an exceptional learning environment and offers over 25 exclusive programs in this fast-growing sector including the Fish and Wildlife program. For over 40 years, the school has been producing highly skilled graduates who work in the environmental and natural resource industries across Canada and around the world.

For more information about Fleming's Fish and Wildlife diploma programs and other environmental program opportunities, please visit www.flemingcollege.ca.

A fishy tale about an Eel

On 22 July 1975 a 323-mm American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) was captured, tagged (with a small yellow split ring tag #:Y2433) and released above Moses-Saunders dam by Mr. Peter Liew, who was working with Ontario Hydro (now OPG and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources). In fall 2011 this same American Eel was captured in the "Silver Eel" fishery in the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Quebec by a commercial fisherman. Only the head was returned to fisheries biologists with the Province of Quebec but the head provided an otolith sample. The otolith rings confirm the date of release and show some interesting growth checks.



Upcoming Ontario Chapter Training

To Be Announced

Date

TBA

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

Student Subunit News

By Lee Gutowsky, President, OC-Student Subunit

The OC Student Subunit Executive Committee has developed a set of goals to guide us for this coming year:

Goal 1: Networking among young professionals

We want the subunit to feel open, transparent, and useful to the student membership.

Unit Strategies:

1. Host and sponsor a number of social events at meetings.
 - *Suggestion: Hold a student social BBQ and mid-day fishing trip at the 2012 AFS-OC Annual General Meeting*
2. Maintain and improve communications through email and social media.
 - *Suggestion: Continue to keep students and young professionals informed through email and our Facebook page*

Goal 2: Education/Training

AFS provides training for practicing young professionals in all branches of fisheries and aquatic sciences.

Unit Strategies:

1. Provide training that will give students skills that will be useful when perusing employment.
 - *Suggestion: Hold a class-2 backpack electrofishing certification course.*

Goal 3: Collaboration/Research

The network of AFS professionals and journals are a valuable resource from which students and young professionals can develop ideas and collaborate.

Unit Strategies:

1. Encourage collaboration and learning among subunit members
 - *Suggestion: Create AFS journal reading groups to discuss papers and develop ideas for collaborative research among students and professionals*

If you are a student and are not an AFS-OC member consider joining by visiting the American Fisheries Society website at: www.fisheries.org.

AFS-OC Online Store

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

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



The Ontario Ecology, Ethology and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C 2012), an AFS-OC sponsored event for undergraduate students will be held at McMaster University on May 11-13, 2012

<http://oe3c.mcmaster.ca/>



Photo above: White River Lake Sturgeon, photo courtesy of Andrew Ecclestone

Ontario Student Subunit Events

TBA

Date

TBA

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

First Notice and Call for Presenters



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

**Annual General Meeting
March 1-3, 2012
Viamede, Woodview, ON**

Science and the Tools for Aquatic Resource Management

**Join us for our 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference at the Viamede
Resort on the shores of Stoney Lake in the Kawarthas.**

We are currently seeking oral and poster presenters for the 2012 AFS-OC Annual General Meeting and Conference. Interested presenters should complete abstract submission by February 17th. There are limited slots available for oral presentations. Poster presentations can also be accommodated. Presentations are being solicited for all aquatic resource topics, and on completed studies, preliminary results, or case studies. Please send abstracts in Microsoft Word format by email to Nick Lapointe (vice-president@afs-oc.org).

Student presenters are eligible for the *E.J. Crossman Award* for Best Student Paper. An award for Best Student Poster will also be presented.

For additional information, see the [AFS-OC website](http://www.afs-oc.org) or contact:
Dean Fitzgerald president@afs-oc.org

**Registration is now open online. Special early bird rates
until February 20th. Chapter members and students are
eligible for discounted rates.**

www.afs-oc.org