

NEWSLETTER OF THE ESA AQUATIC ECOLOGY SECTION

March 2003

It's been a busy year and we have several items to celebrate or to bring to your attention:

1. Jonathan Shurin was the recipient of the 2002 Thomas Frost Award
2. Heather Vance-Chalcraft was the recipient of the 2002 Best Talk Award.
3. Aquatic Visions Committee.
4. Call for nominations for officers.
5. Upcoming awards (Frost Award, Best Talk, Student Travel).
6. Business meeting and mixer in Savannah.
7. Request for judges.
8. DIALOG announcement.

1. FROST AWARD RECIPIENT. Thomas M. Frost was the director of the University of Wisconsin Trout Lake Station from 1981 until his death in 2000. His colleagues remember him as a dedicated and creative scientist who brought a gentle, caring humanity to our endeavors. To honor Tom's commitments to aquatic ecology and to graduate student education, the Aquatic Ecology Section initiated the Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research in 2002. This award recognizes an outstanding paper resulting from research done as a graduate student.

The inaugural recipient of Thomas M. Frost Award is Jonathan B. Shurin for his article "Dispersal limitation, invasion resistance, and the structure of pond zooplankton communities" published in *Ecology* (81:3074-3086). Through a set of simple yet elegant experiments, this study demonstrated that natural communities were relatively closed to invasion, and that invasion of exotics was facilitated by mortality within resident zooplankton populations. Perhaps most importantly, it provides clear evidence that diversity increases resistance to invasion in natural systems. This paper is just one of several outstanding publications resulting from Dr. Shurin's dissertation research done at University of Chicago under the direction of Matthew Leibold.



Margaret Palmer presents the First Annual Thomas M. Frost Award to Jon Shurin at the 87th annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Frost Award Subcommittee: Chris Luecke, Craig Osenberg, Emily Stanley, Craig Williams

2. BEST TALK AWARD RECIPIENT. Heather Vance-Chalcraft was the 2002 recipient of the Best Talk Award given by the Aquatic Ecology Section. Heather's talk was entitled "*Evaluating the prevalence of non-additivity for multiple predator species in aquatic systems*". Congratulations Heather! Students wishing to participate in this year's competition should send in their application now (see below).

3. AQUATIC VISIONS COMMITTEE. We wrote and received a Long Range Planning grant from the Society to support the development of a long-range plan for the Section. We proposed a 5-member committee to be charged with devising a long-range plan for the Section. While we expect the committee to give serious consideration to the future of our student support (travel grants, award for Best Talk, Frost Award, etc.) and communication via our list-serve (which has been down since a virus attack last summer) and our webpage, we also expect them to address outreach and education. For example, we could use our web page to share course materials (labs, modeling activities, simulation demos, and photos, developed/taken by section members and distributed freely). The Section could also greatly assist in K-12 efforts. In many regions, ecological sciences are being squeezed out by sexy new approaches in biotech and molecular genetics. Efforts to renew ecology in local school systems might be a worthwhile endeavor of the Section.

The committee could also address applied issues by helping build strong links between the Society (especially university faculty) and local, state, and federal groups doing, for example, aquatic restoration. Much of this restoration work now has a strong engineering perspective (conducted by consulting firms) with limited application of ecological principles. Despite increased funding for restoration efforts, the quality of this work often is constrained by unreliable methods and approaches. The Aquatic Section could play a strong leadership role in helping guide these activities (e.g., through short courses, or even just by facilitating communication with Aquatic Section members), and recognizing and highlighting the exceptional cases (to serve as exemplars, perhaps coupled with educational materials to illuminate the value of the approach taken and contrasted with less preferred alternatives).

We thereby solicit nominations for membership on this committee. **Please submit nominations** to [Craig Osenberg](#) by April 15th. Self-nominations are welcomed! We have funds to support one meeting of the committee and expect the committee to hold a meeting during the Savannah ESA meeting.

4. NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS. Nominations are hereby request for the offices of Vice-Chair and Secretary. Both will serve two-year terms. At that time the Vice-Chair assumes the position of Chair. Further information can be obtained by contacting one of the current officers. **Please submit nominations** to [Craig Osenberg](#) by April 15th.

5. 2003 AWARDS. This year we will be giving the Frost Award, as well as a Best Talk Award and Student Travel Awards. Please see the [Section's web page](#) for details¹. Please note: given the delay in sending out this newsletter, we are extending the nomination deadline for the Frost Award until April 15th.

¹ We have had problems updating our web page. We hope to have the update posted in the next several days.

6. 2003 BUSINESS MEETING AND MIXER. We will be holding our annual business meeting and mixer at the upcoming ESA annual meeting in Savannah. The mixer is tentatively scheduled for 6:30-8:00 pm, Monday, August 4th. Please check the program for the final schedule.

7. JUDGES NEEDED! Our Best Student Talk Award is piggybacked on the Buell competition. Thus, it's critical that members of our section volunteer to serve as judges in the Buell-Braun competition sponsored by the Society. If you are able to serve as a judge for 4-6 papers/poster (it's a relatively minor commitment, yet an important service), please contact Karen Clancy (kclancy@fs.fed.us).

8. DIALOG ANNOUNCEMENT from C. Susan Weiler (Program Organizer, weiler@whitman.edu):

Dissertations Initiative for the
Advancement of Limnology and Oceanography
<http://aslo.org/dialog/dialogposter.pdf>
Symposium application deadline: May 1, 2003

DIALOG is an interdisciplinary, international program for recent Ph.D. recipients across the aquatic sciences, co-sponsored by a variety of professional societies, such as ESA. DIALOG includes:

- **Ph.D. DISSERTATION REGISTRY.** Abstracts are posted online in a searchable format to provide a concise overview of the field and highlight individual accomplishments; see <http://aslo.org/dialog/dcite.html> to access the Abstracts. A convenient on-line registration form is posted at <http://aslo.org/forms/phdform.html>.
- **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.** The weekly DIALOG News provides a clearinghouse for job announcements and other information of interest to recent PhDs. Grads are added to the news list as soon as they submit their PhD abstract to the registry. Send announcements to dialog@whitman.edu.
- **SYMPOSIUM.** Biennial symposia enable graduates to present their research in an interdisciplinary forum, learn about agency programs, discuss emerging research, education and societal issues, and forge lasting collegial bonds with their peers.

DIALOG V is scheduled for Oct. 19-24, 2003 at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research. Graduates who completed their Ph.D. between January 1, 2001 and March 31, 2003 and whose work in biological, chemical, geological or physical science is relevant to freshwater or marine biological/ecological science are eligible.

Participation is limited to 40, with selection based on the application materials submitted. Travel support is provided by the sponsoring agencies (NASA, NOAA, NSF and ONR; funding from the European Commission is pending). Deadline for applications is **May 1, 2003**.

Program information, abstract submission form, Dissertation Registry and symposium application instructions are available at <http://aslo.org/phd.html>. To take full advantage of the program, graduates are encouraged to register with the program as soon as they complete their PhD.

We look forward to seeing you this summer in Savannah.

- Craig Osenberg (Chair)
- Chris Luecke (Vice-Chair)
- Emily Stanley (Secretary)
- Chris Swan (Communications Editor)

Visit our [Section's web page](#).

Due to problems updating our web page, we have attached current information about the awards at the end of this newsletter...

THE AQUATIC ECOLOGY SECTION OFFERS THREE AWARDS:

- 1) [Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research](#)
 - 2) [Best Student Talk in Aquatic Ecology](#)
 - 3) [Student Travel Awards](#)
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Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research

The Aquatic Section of the Ecological Society of America is pleased to sponsor the Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research. Thomas M. Frost was the director of the University of Wisconsin Trout Lake Station from 1981 until his death in 2000. His colleagues will remember him as a dedicated and creative scientist who brought a gentle, caring humanity to our endeavors. This prize, founded in 2001, honors Tom's commitments to aquatic ecology and to graduate student education. The recipient will receive a plaque and a cash prize.

Eligibility and nomination: This annual award will be given to a scientist in recognition of an outstanding paper resulting from research done as a graduate student. At the time of the nomination deadline, the paper must be published and the nominee must be a graduate student or have received the Ph.D. within two years. The nominee must be first author of the paper if there is more than one author. Nominated papers must be published in a peer-reviewed journal and be in the area of aquatic ecology. The nominee also must be a member in good standing of ESA's Aquatic Section at the time of nomination. Self-nominations and nominations by colleagues are welcomed.

Nomination packets should include:

1. A copy of the paper
2. A brief letter describing the impact of the paper on the field and stating the date of completion of the degree if the nominee is no longer a student

3. A letter of support from the major professor that also confirms the nominee's eligibility for the award
4. A CV from the nominee

Please send four copies of the nomination materials by **April 15th** to the Aquatic Section's Secretary (Emily Stanley: ehstanley@facstaff.wisc.edu). Applications can also be submitted electronically as **pdfs**. Send files to the Emily with the phrase "Frost Award material" on the subject line.

Selection criteria: Applications will be reviewed by the Awards Committee appointed by the Officers of the Aquatic Section. Candidates will be judged based upon the paper's contribution to the field, including its originality, study design, and impact.

Contribute: To make a contribution to the Thomas M. Frost Award Fund, send a check directly to ESA's business office (address below; clearly indicate on the check that is for the "Frost Fund") or make a contribution when you renew your ESA membership by checking "Frost Award" on the membership form under "Contributions" category.

The Ecological Society of America
1707 H St, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202)833-8773
Fax: (202)833-8775
E-mail: membership@esa.org

Best Student Talk in Aquatic Ecology

The Section also makes an award for the best talk presented at the annual ESA meeting by a student in the Aquatic Section. The competition is coordinated with the Buell Award (awarded by the Society).

- 1) To be eligible, a student must be a member of the Aquatic Section, and the paper must involve aquatic research.
- 2) The student must simultaneously compete (and be eligible) for the Buell Award (so the student must submit an application to Buell Award Committee).
- 3) The student must apply for Section's award by sending an email (with the subject line "Best Student Talk") to the [Section Chair](#) (by **May 1st**) stating that 1) they are a member of the section, and 2) that they have applied for and are eligible for the Buell Award. They also should include or attach a copy of their abstract.
- 4) The officers of the Aquatic Section will serve as the awards committee. They will use the Buell evaluations as the basis for their decision.
- 5) The recipient will receive a \$200 award from the Section.

Everyone in the section is strongly encouraged to volunteer as a judge for the Buell-Braun competitions. Because our section will be using the evaluations conducted by the Buell judges, it's imperative that the Section provides additional judges. In the past, ESA has had a hard time obtaining sufficient numbers of judges for the aquatic talks. If we cannot increase the participation of our members, we will be unable to continue to offer

the Section award, so please sign up. Please contact the Chair of the Buell-Braun Committee (Karen Clancy: kclancy@fs.fed.us) if you are interested in being a judge for the Buell-Braun competition.

Student Travel Awards

The Section will give a limited number of travel awards to offset the expenses incurred by students who are attending the ESA Annual meeting to present a talk or poster. Travel awards will be \$150 and will be awarded on a lottery basis. Applications (abstract + letter of intent) should be submitted to the [Section Chair](#) (by email with the subject line **“Travel Award”**) no later than **May 1st**. Requests should be sent in a separate email from other correspondences.