

# ESA AQUATIC ECOLOGY SECTION

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ESA COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted by:

**Craig W. Osenberg**  
**Chair, Aquatic Ecology Section**  
**July 15, 2003**

This past year, we have continued to concentrate our efforts on awards that support and recognize contributions made by graduate student researchers. Below we summarize this year's activities and decisions, as well as ongoing endeavors:

1. **AWARDS.** The Section now offers three types of awards:
  - Student Travel Awards
  - Best Student Talk in Aquatic Ecology (for a paper presentation at the ESA meeting)
  - Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research (for a paper published  $\leq 2$  years since receiving Ph.D.)

Details on the awards can be found at our web site (<http://www.esa.org/aquatic>). We also provide brief updates on the awards and recipients below.

2. **STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS TO 2003 ESA MEETING.** The Aquatic Section is pleased to announce that 4 students will receive travel awards (\$150) to help them attend the annual ESA meeting in Savannah. Those students are:

**Heather Leslie**, Oregon State University  
**Karen Gaines**, University of New Mexico  
**James Vonesh**, University of Florida  
**Kerry Griffis-Kyle**, Syracuse University

3. **BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD.** In 2001, we initiated an award for the best oral paper presented by a student in the Aquatic Ecology Section. The competition is coordinated with Buell-Braun committee. The 2002 recipient was:

**Heather Vance-Chalcraft** (University of Illinois and Ill. Natural History Survey)  
*"Evaluating the prevalence of non-additivity for multiple predator species in aquatic systems "*

Heather received a check for \$200 in recognition of her presentation.

4. **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 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 (and comes with a check for \$500).



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

The inaugural recipient of Thomas M. Frost Award was **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. [Frost Award Subcommittee: Emily Stanley (Chair), Chris Luecke, Craig Osenberg, Craig Williamson]

The 2003 recipient was recently selected and will be announced at this year's Aquatic Ecology Section Business Meeting.

#### 5. SPONSORED SYMPOSIA

2002. Together with SER and the ESA Applied and Theoretical Ecology sections, we sponsored a joint ESA/SER symposium on *Ecological Theory and Restoration Ecology*, organized by Margaret Palmer, Joy Zedler, and Don Falk. It was a great success. The organizers are now putting together an edited book derived, in part, from the ESA symposium.

2003. This year we are co-sponsoring "When the rivers run dry: cross-disciplinary perspective on society responses to drought and ecosystem impacts" organized by Alan Covich and Cathy Pringle.

The symposium will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30-5:00pm in the SITCC Oglethorpe Auditorium.

2004. We will have an open discussion of ideas for Aquatic Symposia at our annual business meeting to generate interest and focus attention upon themes of particular importance to the Section. If proposals are developed before the business meeting and there is consensus, we may also decide which symposium to officially sponsor (although sponsorship is not necessary for inclusion in the final program).

#### **6. ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICERS.**

Elections are now underway for new officers. Mike Lemke and Ace Sarnelle were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair; Kathy Cottingham and Yvonne Vadeboncoeur for Secretary (and Chair of the Frost Award Committee). Voting is being done via a commercial website where we have posted a ballot (<http://fs8.formsite.com/aquatic/form214299275/index.html>) – this is the first time we have tried this strategy. Results will be announced at the 2003 business meeting in Savannah.

#### **7. LONG-RANGE PLANNING GRANT.**

Our section received a grant from the ESA Executive Board to support the development of a long range plan for the Section. Our progress has been slower than expected. We hope to have a committee finalized and to hold an initial meeting during in Savannah.

#### **8. BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA FOR TUCSON.** The 2003 Business meeting of the section will be held at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ESA in Savannah, GA, on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Hyatt's Waterfront Room. Our agenda is:

- Present the student travel awards.
- Announce the winner of the Best Student Paper Award, 2002.
- Announce and present the winner of the 2003 Thomas M. Frost Award.
- Announce new officers.
- Discuss symposia for 2004 meeting.
- Discuss the Long-Range Plan and Planning Grant.
- Announcements and new items from the floor.

#### **9. CURRENT OFFICERS OF THE AQUATIC ECOLOGY SECTION.**

**Chair** (2001-2003):

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**Vice-Chair** (2001-3) & **Chair-Elect** (2003-5):

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**Secretary (2001-2003):**

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**Past Chair (2001-2003; Chair, 1999-2001):**

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