

NEWSLETTER OF THE ESA AQUATIC ECOLOGY SECTION

March 2006

We have several items to bring to your attention, some old, some new:

1. Daniel Schindler and Maria Gonzalez were elected as Vice-Chair and Secretary in 2005, respectively. Daniel will become the Chair in 2008.
2. An Aquatic Section **thank you** to departing officers, Chris Luecke (Chair) and Kathy Cottingham (Secretary)!
3. James Vonesh was the recipient of the 2005 Frost Award.
4. Wendy Palen was the recipient of the 2004 Best Talk Award.
5. Allison Longmuir and Mike Allen received Travel Awards (\$200 each) to attend the 2005 conference in Montreal.
6. NEON announcement- call for comments from aquatic ecologists.
7. Business meeting and mixer in Memphis.
8. Request for judges.
9. Upcoming awards (Frost Award, Best Talk, Student Travel).

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 recipient of the 2004 Thomas M. Frost Award is Thomas A. Okey for his 2003 paper "Macrobenthic colonist guilds and renegades in Monterey Canyon drift algae: partitioning multidimensions" (Ecological Monographs 73[3]:415-440). This paper summarizes the ecological impacts of sedimentation on benthic communities in submarine canyons, based on work done for a Master's degree at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories under the direction of Dr. John Oliver. Tom went on to complete his Ph.D. with Daniel Pauly at the University of British Columbia and is currently a postdoctoral associate at the CSIRO in Australia.

2004 Frost Award Subcommittee: Kathy Cottingham, Chris Luecke,
Ace Sarnelle, and Craig Williamson.

The recipient of the Thomas M. Frost Award for 2005 is James Vonesh for his 2002 article “Complex life cycles and density dependence: assessing the contribution of egg mortality to amphibian declines” published in *Oecologia* (133:325-333). In this paper, James and co-author Omar De la Cruz use demographic models to demonstrate that post-embryonic factors should not be overlooked in studies of amphibian population declines. This paper is just one of several outstanding publications resulting from Dr. Vonesh's dissertation research done at University of Florida under the direction of Craig Osenberg. James is currently a postdoctoral associate at Washington University of St. Louis and will be starting a faculty job at Virginia Commonwealth in December.

2005 Frost Award Subcommittee: Kathy Cottingham, John Gilbert,
Maria Gonzalez, Chris Luecke, and Ace Sarnelle.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort of both subcommittees!

BEST TALK AWARD RECIPIENT. Wendy Palen was the 2004 recipient of the Best Talk Award given by the Aquatic Ecology Section. Wendy's talk was entitled “UV impacts on alpine amphibians: Linking UV tolerance with field exposure” and was co-authored by Daniel Schindler, Aaron Clauser, and Craig Williamson. Congratulations Wendy!

Students wishing to participate in this year's competition should send their application to the Chair (Ace Sarnelle) soon (see below).

2006 AWARDS. This year we will be giving the Frost Award (see below), as well as a Best Talk Award and Student Travel Awards (see below). Please see the [ESA web page](#) for details about the Best Talk Award. Please note: in order to be eligible for the Best Talk Award, students must have applied for the Buell/Braun Awards (deadline was March 1).

2006 BUSINESS MEETING AND MIXER. We will hold our annual business meeting and mixer at the ESA annual meeting in Memphis, Monday August 7 at 6:30. Free Food (until it runs out)! Don't miss it!

JUDGES NEEDED! Our Best Student Talk Award is based on evaluations by judges from 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/posters, please contact Chris Sacchi (sacchi@kutztown.edu). It's a relatively minor commitment, yet an important service – plus in recent years judges have been able to select which talks/posters they judge!

NEON PROJECT: SOLICITATIONS OF COMMENTS (by way of ESA President Nancy Grimm)
Comments from aquatic ecologists are needed!

Over the past 18 months, the design process for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) has engaged hundreds of scientists, including many ESA members, in developing plans for the infrastructure, science, education, networking, and informatics associated with NEON. Two documents—the NEON Integrated Science and Education Plan and the NEON Networking and Informatics Baseline Design—are now available for review at <http://neoninc.org> (click on the documents section hyperlink to access the PDF files). The NEON Project Office will be accepting comments (see comment forms) for an unspecified time.

In addition, NEON is in the NSF's FY 2007 budget request under Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, which can be viewed here : <http://nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2007/pdf/6-MREFC/32-FY2007.pdf>

ESA members who participated in this process deserve the thanks of the rest of us for their hard work. Ecology stands to benefit greatly from the establishment of a NEON and, in turn, the NEON design process can benefit from the thoughtful input of ecologists. NEON won't be everything to everyone, but it can be a community effort to tackle the kinds of questions that cannot be answered by single investigators or small teams. ESA members therefore are encouraged to learn about the NEON design and, if they have concerns or suggestions, to submit comments to the NEON Project Office.

We look forward to seeing you this summer in Memphis.

--Ace Sarnelle (Chair)
--Daniel Schindler (Vice-Chair)
--Maria Gonzalez (Secretary)
--Chris Swan (Communications Editor)

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOW

Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research

The Aquatic Section of the Ecological Society of America is pleased to announce the 2006 competition for 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, initiated in 2001, honors Tom's commitments to aquatic ecology and to graduate student education.

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 must also 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 1, 2006** to the Aquatic Section's Secretary:

Frost Award Committee
c/o María J. González
Department of Zoology
Miami University
Oxford OH 45056

Applications can also be submitted electronically as **pdfs**. Send files by email to gonzalmj@muohio.edu, 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.

Prior winners:

2002 - Jonathan Shurin
2003 - Cynthia Kolar
2004 - Thomas Okey
2005 - James Vonesh

To join the Ecological Society of America and ESA's Aquatic Section, visit [ESA's web page](#).
e-mail: membership@esa.org
phone: 202-833-8773

To make a contribution to the Thomas M. Frost Award Fund, send a check directly to ESA's business office (see above: 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.

Best Student Talk in Aquatic Ecology

The Aquatic 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- note that this deadline has passed).
- 3) The student must apply for Section's award by sending an email with the subject line "Best Student Talk" to the Section Chair, Orlando Sarnelle (sarnelle@msu.edu), by **May 1st** stating that (a) they are a member of the section, and (b) 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.

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. Applicants must be members of the Aquatic Section. Applications (abstract + letter of intent) should be submitted to the Section Chair, Ace Sarnelle, by emailing (sarnelle@msu.edu) with the subject line "Travel Award" no later than **May 1st**. Requests should be sent in a separate email from other correspondences.