

in the drift

The SFS Newsletter



'Are we buying or just kicking tires?'

Here's to Jim Sedell (1944-2012). When Jim's colleagues heard the 'Jimmyism' above, they knew it was decision time: was a potential project worth the effort or not? If so... Look out! The fiery and passionate stream ecologist who seemed to be everywhere at once—on the front lines of science, policy, and even business—got cut short by pancreatic cancer and passed away August 18th. Jim helped with *in the drift's* short series on "art and benthology" (see page 3 here: <http://bit.ly/SW9LbW>), which was inspired by another of his many passions: creative writing. Stan Gregory, Gordie Reeves, and Pete Bisson have written a memorial for SFS (<http://bit.ly/TakK1c>) to their comrade. Jim will be sorely missed in our society and well beyond.

Speaking of creativity, we here at *in the drift* and in the rest of the PIP committee continue to seek and to value the input of *all members* in alerting us of newsworthy topics. Please contact us at news@freshwater-science.org with any SFS news tips!



Jim Sedell and a giant sequoia planted in his memory by family, friends, colleagues at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon.

Finally: this is our first *in the drift* without Teresa Tibbets, who has spent the past 3 years or so writing the *JNABS*, then *FWS*, article spotlights. Thanks for your contributions, Teresa! We will miss you (and you are welcome back any time, by the way...)

-Deb Finn & Julie Zimmerman

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'Summer' 2012

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Did you know...? (info tidbits from the Bulletin and beyond)

- If you haven't already: don't forget to complete the SFS publications survey (link is in a recent email from SFS Member Services). We hope for lots of feedback on *in the drift*, as well as the long-standing bibliography and Bulletin!
- The PIP committee has posted videos of Art Benke's Award of Excellence address and Ronald Bassar's Hynes Award address on the SFS youtube channel ("NABSbenthos").
- A special review team within the Publications Committee has been

working hard to identify and come to an agreement with a new co-publisher for our journal, *Freshwater Science*. Stay tuned to the email listserve for more updates on that search.

- In his "President's Environment" (see Bulletin), our new prez Dave Penrose admits he was a little nervous in the spotlight in Louisville, but this "old bughead" has been thrilled with all the support he is getting from his "extended family" (ie: SFS members).
- Dave P. also notes that the Science & Policy Committee has created a new subcommittee that will

Special session abstracts due!

Do you have a topic for a special session at the SFS 2013 meeting? If so, your abstract is due in to Amy Ward by **22 Oct.** More details here: <http://bit.ly/SWbptW>

work primarily on climate change issues.

- Don't forget to check the summer Bulletin to see all the student members who won awards for excellent oral and poster presentations! (And by the way, there were 189 volunteer judges for these, if I counted correctly!)

freshwater-science.org

Freshwater Science article spotlight: Final RMF paper embodies the spirit of the series

Kominoski & Rosemond *Freshwater Science* 31(1): 51-68

John Kominoski and Amy Rosemond have the honor of publishing the final paper of the Rosemary Mackay Fund (RMF) series in *Freshwater Science*. The goal of the RMF was to publish “speculative, forward-looking, and philosophical” articles on benthic science and was established as a tribute to our journal’s first editor. As with many other authors through the years, John and Amy were able to pull off this conceptual, big-picture study with the RMF as sole funding source.

What exactly was the “big picture”? Kominoski describes it as twofold. Given ecologists’ depth of knowledge about the importance of organic matter in supporting stream food webs, the first component is an argument for a “bottom-up” approach to conservation (when in fact much recent, conservation-oriented research in freshwater ecology has focused on



Authors Amy Rosemond and John Kominoski enthusiastically scan the program for organic matter-related talks at SFS 2012 in Louisville (photo Mark Wetzel).

“[Our] biggest challenge was articulating predictions that would be comprehensive of what we already know about aquatic ecosystems and global change but also consider how interactions among various drivers would play out over space and time.”

consumers). In Kominoski’s words, “organic matter resources are critical support components for aquatic food webs” - so the second big-picture component of the paper was to begin to derive a predictive ecology of how organic matter quantity and quality can be expected to shift throughout entire stream

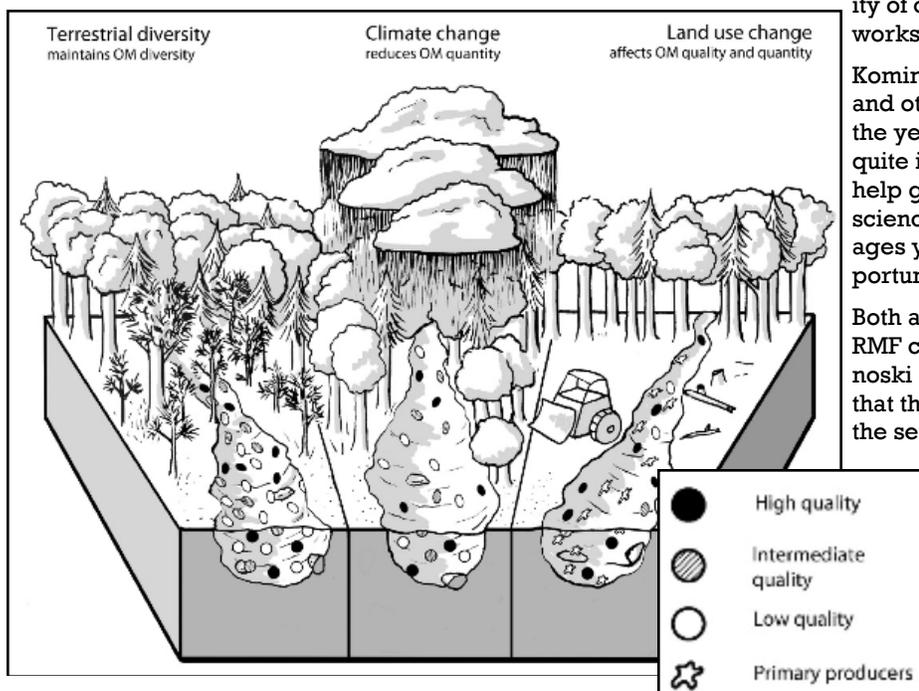
networks (from headwaters to large rivers) with broad-scale environmental change.

Kominoski and Rosemond challenged themselves to go beyond the time-consuming literature review and into the realm of prediction to answer the question: “Where are aquatic ecosystems headed, and what information do we need to better protect their functional integrity?” That is: how do we ensure continued quantity and quality of organic matter resources in river networks?

Kominoski figures that challenges like this one and others that have been encouraged over the years by our journal’s RMF series can be quite important for early-career ecologists to help gain focus into what their contribution to science and society will be, and he encourages younger SFS-ers to jump at similar opportunities when they arise.

Both authors were thrilled to be chosen by the RMF committee to pursue this project. Kominoski says that they didn’t realize at the time that their invited paper would be the last of the series, and they are sad to see the program come to a conclusion. At the same time, they look forward to SFS and *Freshwater Science* coming up with a new approach for encouraging “RMF-like” papers in the future to engage us in new and progressive ideas in aquatic ecology.

We thank John and Amy for providing a thoughtful, “big idea” paper representative of the ideal that the RMF strove for, and we also look forward to new approaches for supporting and publishing these sorts of papers in the future!



For the authors, a key part of communicating their predictions clearly was working with an artist (illustrator Liz Nixon) to help conceptualize their main predictions in drawings. Kominoski says it was inspiring to work with an artist, and authors and illustrator now laugh about how Figure 1 (above) predicts that the “cross between a sea star and a fried egg” (i.e., the primary producers) will increase with land use change.

Nick's meeting notes: "Jax 2013" planning well underway!

Regular readers (those vast numbers of you) will recognize that this is typically Pam Silver's spot for journal updates. This issue, Nick Aumen takes her place, with updates about planning for next year's meeting in Jacksonville (aka "Jax 2013"). Next issue Pam will be back with big news about a new co-publishing arrangement for Freshwater Science. Thanks for the updates, Nick, and we look forward to a fabulous Florida SFS meeting!

Innovative and exciting meeting plans include:

- 2 field trips already set (Okefenokee Swamp and Ichetucknee Springs State Park Tubing), PLUS an all-day field trip for families/friends during the meeting (to St. Augustine). More field trips are possible...
- Carbon offsets will be available as payment options to

a nonprofit group (tentatively: savingspecies.org).

- Sporty stuff will happen, including the 5K (which will start and end at the hotel); and a recent poll showed 65% (of 210 responses) in favor of a kayak race and 34 folks interested in—no, you will never guess—a golf outing! Nick says most of the golf interest was towards the "lower end" option, so he will organize that for Friday May 24th.
- The newly minted Sponsorship Committee is actively seeking sponsors and have already secured \$5000 from Everglades National Park. Dave Penrose and Nick Aumen will visit "Jax" in January to round up more local sponsors. Let them know if you have ideas!
- Plenary invites are being sent out, budgets worked out, and bands to hire for the banquet are under review!



Meeting webpage:
<http://bit.ly/OHQZof>

Canada's ELA on federal chopping block

Most of us are probably aware of the ongoing struggle Canada's Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) is facing. The home of cutting edge whole-lake research – from Schindler et al.'s classic studies on phosphorous and eutrophication to ongoing work on atmospheric mercury deposition, climate change, and ecological impacts of transgenic fish (to name a few) – the ELA is clearly a gem for freshwater ecological research. But this gem is on the verge of burial in a mine of federal funding cuts – cuts planned in spite of >\$1 million poured into recent upgrades of the ELA facilities.

ELA is operated in large part by Fisheries & Oceans Canada (formerly "DFO"), which plans to terminate funding by March 2013. As you might expect, the planned closure has caused a backlash in the scientific

community and beyond. Clearly, ELA is a unique and important facility – the only one of its kind in the world.

What can SFS members do? Thus far, SFS has signed on to a multi-society (including ASLO, ESA and others) letter to the Canadian government to protest the closure; and our Science & Policy Committee helped Dave Penrose draft a letter that went to seven major Canadian newspapers – although S&P chair Ron Griffiths was dismayed to report that the letter got essentially nowhere. Most of these newspapers are managed under a single umbrella, he says, and "after one article on a subject is published, the editors refuse anything else".

Nonetheless, Orihel maintains that there are other approaches to keep the pressure on – and she believes that it is the continued pressure that provides the best hope. She suggests letters to the Canadian government (yes, even from non-Canadians!) from the standpoint of concerned scientists. Furthermore, there has been very little press coverage "south of the border", and published letters to the editors of local American newspapers will have a farther reach than many of us might suspect. And if you have time: write a viewpoint paper in a journal (perhaps our own?)...

Resources for letter-writing, links to pubs, updates, and more:

www.saveela.org

Interview with David Schindler: <http://bit.ly/SPT1Tt>

We thank Diane Orihel for her time and advice and hope for the best for the future of ELA!



Mesocosm research at Canada's Experimental Lakes Area (from ELA press package).

You can help to reverse the funding cuts to ELA: keep the pressure on by writing letters to the Canadian government and to the editor of your newspaper!

community and beyond. Clearly, ELA is a unique and important facility – the only one of its kind in the world. Some higher profile examples of the scientific backlash include a viewpoint paper published in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* (Hering et al. 2012) and an editorial in October's issue of *Journal of Plankton Research*.

Diane Orihel, organizer of the group "Save ELA", believes there is still reason for optimism for a governmental change of heart. All of the opposition parties have now adopted a pro-ELA stance, and increasing pressure from the international scientific community is ever more



Kentucky-fried Freshwater Science: 2012 meeting recap



Photo: Deb Finn

The Colonel greeted SFS's 60th annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky

Our 60th annual meeting in Louisville was the first under our new name. And the Society for Freshwater Science got off to a great start, with >950 meeting registrants.

Some things change; some stay the same. In his presidential address, Joe Holomuzki emphasized all the big changes going on in SFS but also pointed out the many great things (e.g. his moustache, see photo below) that remain beloved constants in our society.

Award of Excellence to Art Benke. Art outlined his own

"evolution of a benthologist", from Cornell ponds to broad-scale river conservation—with a bit of his extensive secondary

production work threaded throughout. We liked the story about Vince Resh telling Art that his NABS presidential address in the late '80s had to be about something he didn't know anything about. Vince was kidding, but it is a good thing that Art fell for it and took on conservation. Outcomes were his *Rivers of North America* book and our society becoming considerably more involved in conservation issues. Here's to those "Wow!" moments!

Other awards. Michael Barbour, an active society member since 1972, got the Service Award; the Environmental Stewardship Award went to Jerry Jacobi, who turned science into action and played a key role in getting water back into the Santa Fe River this year (and who also beat Barbour's 1972 annual meeting record by 2 years, recalling the 5¢ beers in 1970); Ronald Bassar got the Hynes Award for an awesome PNAS paper on evolutionary ecology of Trinidadian guppies.

Instars emerging. The undergrad mentoring program 'Instars' doubled in size from 2011 to 2012!

Homecoming. Ex-president and first journal editor Rosemary Mackay visited and signed copies of her NABS history book *Beneath the Surface*.

Pam's quilts. The storied quilts sewn by journal

editor Pam Silver continue to bring in big bucks for the Endowment. At this year's auction, Trefor Reynolds shelled out \$2600 for Pam's Richard Norris-themed quilt. Rosemary Mackay had the highest bid on a smaller one.

Bourbon cruise. SFS-ers saw the sun set on the Ohio River Tuesday night from the decks of the *Belle of Louisville* and a smaller companion river steamboat. One of many highlights was the bourbon selection on board.

New prez. Our new leader Dave Penrose was sworn in at the Wed. business lunch, saying this is his "biggest honor". We are happy to have you Dave! Jerry Jacobi is

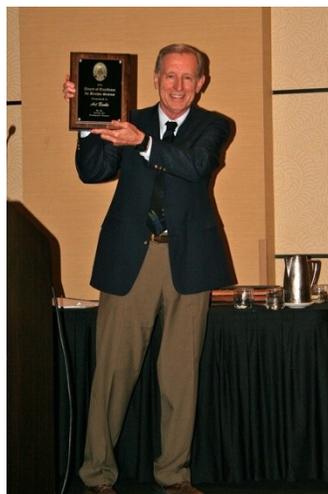
his right-hand man, and they both agree that folks serving on committees are the heart of the society. (Hint hint.)

Take a bow, Ron. After 12 great years, Ron French is stepping down from his Bulletin editor post.

New Sponsorship Committee. Al Steinman is chair. Go to him with all your money-raising ideas.

Louisville Sluggers. The fun continued on Wed. night with a banquet of ballpark food in the stands at Slugger Field, home of the Louisville Bats baseball team. Then many SFS-ers took to the field for batting practice and amazing feats in the outfield. Angus McIntosh realized he shouldn't have worn his dress shirt, and little Eli (Christy Fellows and Wade Hadwen's son) showed some fantastic prowess in right-center field.

Thanks! ...to meeting organizer Jan Stevenson, program coordinator Ken Fritz, and all the others who helped make this meeting happen!



Art Benke displays his well deserved Award of Excellence (photo Mark Wetzel)

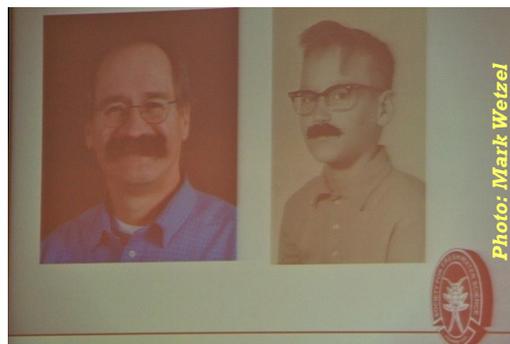


Photo: Mark Wetzel

Outgoing president Joe Holomuzki proves that his moustache is a "constant" in SFS and beyond.



Mark Galatowitsch won the 2012 photo contest with this shot, entitled "Hide and Seek". Don't miss the SFS calendars by Freshwaters Illustrated containing each year's top contest entries!



Mussel beauty at Sunday's taxonomy workshop (photo Mark Wetzel)