



The American Fisheries Society
Genetics Section
Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 1
March 2009



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President's Message

Dear Genetics Section Members,

I would like to use this message to provide information from the American Fisheries Society **Mid-Year Management Committee Meeting** that was held earlier this month in Besthesda, Maryland. This was my first opportunity to participate in the meeting. I came away with a stronger appreciation of the governance structure of the Parent Society and of the dedication of volunteer members of the Management Committee and the year-round employees in the AFS office.

The Society's strategic vision emphasizes aquatic stewardship, information transfer and outreach, and membership services. In the area of membership services, there are numerous opportunities to connect with and benefit from interactions with members from other AFS sections. I have always been impressed with the diversity represented by the different sections of our Society. I strongly encourage Section members to browse the web pages for other Sections in the Parent Society. There is an incredible amount of information and expertise that would be extremely valuable to Genetics Section members. Opportunities for collaboration are abundant. For example, the Water Quality Section has valuable protocols for measuring biotic and physical features of aquatic environments that would be extremely valuable for members involved with collections of environmental data to supplement genetics data. Papers presented at our Section's 2007 Symposium on Landscape Genetics speak to the importance of environmental covariates to explain the apportionment of genetic variation over space. The Information Technology and Bioengineering Sections likewise are able to assist Genetics Section members in areas of equipment and sampling technology. Members in the Fish Management and soon to be formed Fish Habitat Section can provide valuable assistance to field-oriented members. I hope interested members will take the opportunity increase awareness of opportunities outside the Section.

Membership services available to Society members are increasing at all governance levels. In the Genetics Section that are a couple of new developments. First, coming soon to our Section's web site we will post our **membership directory** that will include contact information of our members. Secondly, I am suggesting that we develop an **Area of Expertise** (AoE) field to be added to the membership directory in the coming months. This information would be a valuable way to convey information to prospective students and job candidates and to colleagues seeking information and collaborations. The data will also provide an introspective look at the break down of our membership and provide a means of easily summarizing areas of strength and areas where we could strengthen our recruiting. The format for the AoE information is still being discussed. We will send out a call for information in the near future with instructions on format and length. **Jeff Hard** and I will be collating this information and updating the data base.

The Society is looking into other electronic mechanisms for communication of information and dialog among members of the society and our stakeholders (e.g., Facebook-like schemes). One resource that is now available to members and will be available for our Section's exclusive use shortly is a list server. Section members will soon be able to use a Section listserve to communicate information. We envision that content would be restricted to topics including graduate student and other job opportunities, conferences, technical information on protocols, and to ask questions to our members in topical areas associated with molecular and analytical methodology. I welcome input from members if they have suggestions for alternative uses of the list serve. The messages will be filtered through a server 'moderator'. The Parent Society will also institute electronic balloting at the Society level which will be available for Sections, Chapters, and Divisions to use.

This year, the annual meeting is in Nashville, Tennessee. The quality and diversity of talks available in contributed papers and symposium represents one of the strongest reasons for attending the meeting. This year is no exception. **Eric Hallerman, Jamie Roberts, Jess Jones, and Bill Templin** have organized our Section's symposium this year. The symposium title is "**Conservation of genetic diversity in unexploited populations**". The Physiology Section will sponsor a symposium entitled "Aquaculture and Genomics" which should also be of great interest to our membership. A complete list of all symposia is already available on the AFS web site (www.fisheries.org/afs09/). I hope to see a large turnout at the meeting.

This year our Section will sponsor two **Wright awards** for students presenting at the national meeting. The information regarding the award is posted elsewhere in the Newsletter and on the Section's web page. I would encourage students who are members of the Section to apply for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Kim Scribner

AFS Genetics Section President

Announcing the Annual Genetics Section

Graduate Award in Memory of James E. Wright

The Genetics Section of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce the **James E. Wright Graduate Award**. This award is presented annually by the Genetics Section at the AFS Annual Meeting and is intended to recognize excellence in graduate-level work in fisheries genetics and to assist graduate students with travel to the national meeting. The section anticipates awarding two checks for \$500 each to attend the 2009 AFS annual meeting in Nashville. All graduate students are encouraged to apply.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Potential for success in research in fisheries genetics (60%)
2. Anticipated contribution to upcoming annual meeting, e.g. paper, poster, or other contribution (20%)
3. Service to the Society, its Sections, or Chapters (10%)
4. Demonstrated need for travel assistance (10%)

Application Procedure:

1. Applicant must be a full or affiliate member of the Genetics Section at the time of application.
2. Application package should include:
 - a. A brief curriculum vitae including anticipated degree, date of completion, and career goals
 - b. A statement of the thesis or dissertation and abstract of progress to date
 - c. The names and addresses of two references familiar with the applicant's background and abilities.
 - d. A statement of previous service to the Society, its Sections, or Chapters, and need for travel assistance.
 - e. A statement addressing anticipated contribution to the upcoming annual meeting.

Deadline for application is: June 5, 2009

All application materials should be sent via postal or email to:

Jeffrey B. Olsen
Conservation Genetics Laboratory
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
ph (907) 786-3598
Email: jeffrey_olsen@fws.gov

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Seeking Presentations for an AFS Genetics Section Symposium on the Conservation of Genetic Diversity in Unexploited Populations

The theme of the 139th Annual Meeting of AFS is diversity. Biological diversity can be considered on multiple scales, from genes to populations to landscapes. While population genetics of exploited species has been studied extensively, that of unexploited species has not. Hence, AFSGS is proposing a symposium exploring issues regarding conservation of genetic diversity in unexploited populations.

Contemporary patterns of genetic diversity in unexploited species are the consequence of natural history, upon which human impacts such as habitat fragmentation have been overlaid. Molecular genetic techniques have been applied with increasing frequency to study of population genetic variation in unexploited species. Some studies have led to recognition of the effects of recolonization after deglaciation, past connections of watersheds, and current isolation of populations. At a management level, key issues include: a) detecting, protecting, and managing cryptic biodiversity, b) balancing inbreeding and outbreeding depression and demographic considerations, c) developing evolutionarily defensible restoration strategies, d) ensuring adaptability to future conditions, and e) making conservation decisions with limited data. The context for this symposium will be set out in an introductory presentation. A series of invited and contributed talks will present case studies of landscape-scale consideration of population genetic variation, including fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans. Given the location of the annual meeting, we will especially consider unexploited species living in the Southeast U.S. To the degree supported by the data, each case study will consider aboriginal patterns of genetic variation, human impacts on patterns of genetic variation, and implications for management of non-game species. Participants will be urged to address their presentations to non-geneticists. The symposium will close with a panel discussion.

The organizers of the proposed symposium are **Eric Hallerman**, **Jamie Roberts**, and **Jess Jones** (Virginia Tech University), and **Bill Templin** (Alaska Dept. Fish & Game). Those interested in contributing a presentation should contact Eric at ehallerm@vt.edu or Bill at bill.templin@alaska.gov.

Automated Message i4z39: Submit News to AFSGS

In these tough economic times, it should come as no surprise that your AFS Genetics Section newsletter editor was replaced by a robot. This and all future newsletters will be generated by a device that is unpaid, has no personal life and does not sleep. Thus it is expected that no one will notice the difference.

If you would like to announce a symposium, advertise for a grad student or just complain, please email the robot editor at jcarlin@gustavus.edu before **May 25**.

Sincerely,

Genadyne Systems Model IXTHY01-A (formerly Joel Carlin), Newsletter Editor

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 2009

- Apr 1 — Early registration and contributed talk deadline for **SMBE Annual Meeting**, "Darwin to the Next Generation." To be held Jun 3-7 at Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa USA. See ccg.biology.uiowa.edu/smbe/.
- Apr 14 — Early registration deadline for 8th **Indo Pacific Fish Conference** & 2009 ASFB Workshop and Conference, "Biodiversity: What to measure and monitor for fisheries and aquatic ecosystem management." To be held May 31 - Jun 5 at Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Western Australia, Australia. See www.ipfc2009asfb.com/.
- Apr 20 — Abstract deadline for the 2009 **ICES Annual Science Symposium**. To be held Sep 21-25 at Estrel Convention Center, Berlin Germany. See www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2009/index.asp.
- Apr 24 — Early registration deadline for **World Aquaculture 2009**. To be held May 31-Jun 5 at World Trade Center, Veracruz, Mexico. See www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/WA09_Index.aspx?code=WA2009.
- Apr 26-29 — 65th Annual **Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference**. Eden Resort Inn & Suites, Lancaster Pennsylvania USA. See www.neafwa.org/.

May

- May 12 — Early registration deadline for AMSA 2009 **Marine Connectivity**. To be held Jul 5-9 at the Adelaide Convention Center, Adelaide South Australia, Australia. See www.amsaconference.com.au.
- May 15 — Abstract deadline for American Genetic Association Annual Symposium 2009 on "**The Genetics and Genomics of Environmental Change**." To be held Jun 8-11 at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island USA. See www.brown.edu/Departments/EEB/aga/.
- May 18 — Symposium proposal deadline for **Society for the Study of Evolution** meeting to be held Jun 25-29, 2010, in Portland Oregon USA. Email proposals to Dr. Charles Fenster (cfenster@umd.edu).
- May 23-26 — European Science Foundation presents "**Conservation Genetics: Integrating Population Genetics and Conservation Biology**." Rica Nidelven Hotel, Trondheim Norway. See www.nina.no/?io=1001707.
- May 25-29 — **World Aquaculture 2009**. World Trade Center, Veracruz, Mexico. See www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/WA09_Index.aspx?code=WA2009.

May 31-Jun 5 — 8th **Indo Pacific Fish Conference** & 2009 ASFB Workshop and Conference, "Biodiversity: What to measure and monitor for fisheries and aquatic ecosystem management." Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Western Australia, Australia. See www.ipfc2009asfb.com/.

June

Jun 3-7 — Annual Meeting of the **Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution**, "Darwin to the Next Generation." Symposia include "Origin and evolution of animal genomes" and "Teaching molecular evolution." Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa USA. See cgc.biology.uiowa.edu/smbe/.

Jun 8-11 — American Genetic Association Annual Symposium 2009 on "**The Genetics and Genomics of Environmental Change**." Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island USA. See www.brown.edu/Departments/EEB/aga/.

Jun 25 — Online registration ends for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the **Society for Conservation Biology** will be held in Beijing, China, 11-16 July 2009. See www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2009.

July

Jul 5-9 — AMSA 2009 **Marine Connectivity**. Adelaide Convention Center, Adelaide South Australia, Australia. See www.amsaconference.com.au.

Jul 9 — Full proposal grant deadline for NSF **Population and Evolutionary Processes** program. See www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12824.

Jul 10-15 — Summer meeting of the **Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**. "Wildlife Water and Energy: Balancing our futures." Hyatt Regency Newport Beach California USA. See www.wafwa.org/html/summer09.shtml.

Jul 19-23 — 75th annual meeting of the **American Malacological Society**. Cornell University, Ithaca New York USA. See www.malacological.org/meetings/

Jul 21 — Full proposal grant deadline for NSF Faculty Early Career Development (**CAREER**) program. See www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5262&org=NSF.

Jul 22-27 — **Ichs and Herps 09**, the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland Oregon USA. See www.dce.ksu.edu/conf/jointmeeting/.

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Late 2009, 2010 Events

- Sep 13-18 — **Resurrection Ecology** Symposium. Herzberg Conference Center, Herzberg Germany. Email info@resurrection-ecology.net for more information.
- Sep 20-24 — Annual meeting of **The Wildlife Society**. Monterey California USA. See joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=37&Itemid=184.
- Sep 21-24 — 7th International Conference on **Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife**. Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung, Berlin Germany. See www.izw-berlin.de/de/veranstaltungen/index.html?7th-IZW-Conference/7th_izw_conference.html~rechts.
- Sep 21-25 — 2009 **ICES Annual Science Symposium**. Estrel Convention Center, Berlin Germany. See www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2009/index.asp.
- Oct 15 — Grant deadline for **Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid**. See www.sigmaxi.org/about/news/giarOct.shtml.
- Nov 1-4 — **SEAFWA 2009**, the 63rd annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Omni Hotel, Atlanta Georgia USA. See www.seafwa2009.org.
- Nov 20 — Grant deadline for NSF **Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant** for Biological Sciences. See www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5234.
- Jan 9, 2010 — Full proposal grant deadline for NSF **Population and Evolutionary Processes** program. See www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12824.
- Jan 3-7, 2010 — **SICB2010**, the annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Washington State Convention and Trade Center Seattle Washington USA.

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