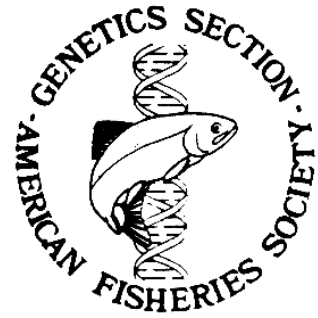




The American Fisheries Society
Genetics Section
Newsletter
Volume 22, Issue 4
November 2009



In This Issue:

[President's Message](#) • [Coastwide Salmonid Meeting](#) • [SNP Workshop](#) • [Wild Trout X PhD Assistantship](#) • [2009 Annual Meeting Minutes](#) • [Newsletter Submission](#) • [Calendar](#)

President's Message

Dear Genetics Section Members,

I wanted to use this issue to share my thoughts about the current demographic status of Genetics Section membership, and how we might work to increase participation by young genetics professionals in Section activities. Before the past AFS meeting, Section member Eric Hallerman, Student Sub-Section President Kristal Schneider and I met to discuss opportunities to better engage students in allied genetics discipline. Discussions continued at the Section Business meeting. Briefly, I would like to share information about Section Membership and about discussions that took place at the meeting.

The Section has historically hovered around ~ 200 dues-paying members. The numbers for our Section membership are considerably lower than other sections and higher than others. I don't have the statistics for other Sections regarding proportional representation of students to regular members. The demographic composition of the Genetics Section is aging. Currently 15% of the Section is composed of Students. 2% of the Section are registered as "Young Professionals" (YP). This AFS (YP) designation for recent graduates is relatively new and likely doesn't include some members who transitioned directly from Student to Regular membership. However, the numbers suggest that comparatively few Section members are students and fewer still remain affiliated with the Section following graduation.

There are a couple of other pieces of information worth considering:

1. The vast majority of regular **members are not associated with academic institutions**. Most are with agencies or in the private sector. This fact begs several questions.

- (a) Why aren't more university faculty working with fish and in allied genetics areas not associated with AFS and the Genetics Section?
- (b) For those faculty who are, why aren't their students AFS Genetics Section

members?

(c) How do we attract students if faculty are not themselves a member?

2. The vast majority of members are involved with what would be pigeon-holed as "applied population genetics". **The field of genetics is extremely diverse.** Emerging and mature sub-disciplines including genomics, quantitative genetics, physiology, immunology, disease, etc utilize genetics in some way. However, our Section fails to attract members with these diverse professional backgrounds, even though fishes are the creatures they study. Perhaps there are fewer students in general entering the field in the principle focus area(s) represented by regular members and their academic mentors. Perhaps the demographic trends in membership speak to general levels of Section activities at other meetings and professional events outside the annual AFS meeting?

3. Historically, the Genetics Section has engaged in few **activities outside the AFS annual meeting**. Activities focusing on students include:

- (a) awards of travel grants in the form of annual Wright Award competition to recognize top students presenting at AFS meetings.
- (b) sponsorship of Section symposia that are populated in part by student presentations

Below is a summary of **ideas for enhancing student membership** in the Genetics Section that were discussed at the Annual Meeting.

- (a) Have students prepare an article for publication in Fisheries in the "Student Angle" section of an upcoming issue that outlines their perspective on values of Genetics Section membership to their professional development.
- (b) Offer a year of free membership in the Section that would be paid for by the Genetics Section.
- (c) Directly contact fisheries university faculty and other practicing professionals who are not Genetics Section members to encourage participation by themselves and their students.
- (d) Contact participants of AFS meetings presenting talks in the area of genetics that are not AFS members.
- (e) Utilize Student Sub-Section and use Student Sub-Section list server and Student list server to better communicate with students including graduate student positions, employment, Genetics Section activities, etc.
- (f) Offer students greater participatory role in Genetics Section governance, including but not restricted to participation on the Section Executive Committee
- (g) Expand Genetics Section involvement in activities outside the AFS annual meeting that would include students.
- (h) Increase Section member participation in Student Mentoring and attend Student Events at the AFS meeting.

These and other suggestions were discussed at the Section Business meeting and a number of action items were developed. First, we've asked the 2009 co-recipients of the Wright Student Award, Yen Duong and Jamie Roberts to prepare the articles for *Fisheries*. Section representatives attended the Student Colloquium at this year's meeting and a communication regarding Genetics Section activities was posted on the Student Subsection listserver. Second, members in attendance at the Business Meeting voted to grant a 1 year free membership to the Section. This is not a revenue-neutral action but one which we hope will increase participation. Third, we have and will continue to contact senior members and professional fisheries geneticists not currently Section members to initiate or renew memberships. Fourth, our Section has reached out to other Sections, particularly the Fish Culture Section to jointly sponsor symposia that include presentations from members of both Sections. An example is a symposium entitled "Cultured Aquatic Animals: Use and Implications for Stock Enhancement, Fisheries Management, and Species Diversity", will be held at the AQUACULTURE 2010 conference in San Diego, California March 1-5, 2010. AQUACULTURE is the Triennial meeting of the Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society, the National Shellfisheries Association, and the World Aquaculture Society. Greater engagement of these and other groups provides opportunities to educate professionals of genetics issues that affect the sustainability of our fisheries. Importantly, initiatives such as joint symposia sponsorship also addresses Section goals of increasing visibility across AFS Sections, and enhancing communication and collaborations with members of other Sections. We would encourage Genetics Section members to sponsor symposia at other professional meetings. As an example, our section is providing financial resources for a student to participate in this year's **Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting** to be held in Boise, ID on June 9-11. Fifth, Section members attending the Business Meeting approved a motion to add a student representative as an 'ad hoc' Committee member on a trial basis with the potential to change Section Bylaws to formalize this commitment after review and vote by Section membership. An announcement via our new list serve requesting applications for this student position will forthcoming in the near future. Other suggestions are welcome. Hopefully these initiatives will bear fruit in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Kim Scribner

AFS Genetics Section President

Symposium Announcement
Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting
June 2-4, 2010 Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho

You are invited to attend the 2010 Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting! Please join us for a stimulating meeting with all of your top colleagues.

[Back to Top](#)

Important Information:

- Located at Grove Hotel in rockin' downtown Boise! (reservation info to come)
- Proceedings planned to be published in special issue of *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (more info to come)
- Student travel scholarship to be provided by AFS Genetics Section (more info to come)
- Mug at registration entitles holder to free beer at Banquet!
- Finish with a rafting trip on the Payette River!

Tentative Agenda:

Tuesday, June 1: Evening - Ice-Breaker Social
Wednesday, June 2: Morning - Plenary session: Genetic adaptation of salmonids
Afternoon - Plenary and general session
Evening - Poster Session
Thursday, June 3: Morning - General session
Afternoon - Fluidigm Exhibit and Breakout Meetings
Evening - Social & Banquet
Friday, June 4: Morning - General Session
Afternoon - Rafting trip

For more information, contact: Shawn Narum (nars@critfc.org) or Chris Kozfkay (christine.kozfkay@idfg.idaho.gov)

Workshop Announcement

SNP Workshop III

March 22-24, 2010 Seattle, Washington

You are invited to participate in **SNP Workshop III** on March 22-24, 2010, to be held at a resort near Seattle, Washington. Details on location and names of guest speakers will be announced as soon as finalized this month.

Similar to SNP II, held in Anchorage in 2006, we plan to discuss latest developments in SNP discovery and applications. Different from SNP II, we plan to broaden the scope beyond aquatic species to include the exciting developments that are taking place in studies of other non-model organisms. Papers presented at SNP III will be invited for potential publication in a Special Issue of *Molecular Ecology Resources*.

For more details, visit our website at www.snpworkshop.org; updates will be posted as they occur.

Regards,

Jim Seeb

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Lisa Seeb

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Lorenz Hauser

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Kerry Naish

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Gary Carvalho

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Symposium Announcement

Wild Trout X: "Conserving Wild Trout"

September 28-30, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone MT

The Wild Trout Symposium brings together a broad and diverse audience of governmental entities, non-profit conservation groups, media representatives, educators, anglers, fishing guides, and business interests associated with trout fisheries to exchange technical information and viewpoints on wild trout management and related public policy. Held every 3 years, each symposium has led to innovative wild trout management approaches.

Wild Trout X offers a unique forum for professionals and anglers to interact, and where participants will be exposed to the latest wild trout science, technology and philosophies. This conference will equip participants to better manage, preserve, and restore these significant but declining resources. The symposium will focus on the needs of working-level wild trout professionals, conservationists, and trout anglers.

The Wild Trout X Program Committee is soliciting abstracts for presentations and posters. Please send brief abstracts (300 words or less) to Committee Co-chairman, Kevin Meyer no later than **April 1, 2010**.

Abstracts on all aspects of wild trout research, management, conservation, education, and recreation are welcome and will be considered. However, the following topics are of particular interest:

- Climate change and wild trout
- Whirling Disease 50 years later
- Resource extraction and wild trout resources
- The role of the Endangered Species Act in wild trout management
- Genetic considerations for managing wild trout
- Understanding interactions between wild trout and invasive species
- Sustaining interest in wild trout in our youth and urban citizens

Additional session topics will be added based on the papers that are submitted. Presentations will be accepted in oral or poster format, so please specify your preference and whether you would be willing to present in either format. Please note the authors who are selected for oral presentations at the symposium must submit a complete manuscript ready for Symposium Proceedings publication by **August 31, 2010**. Successful applicants will receive further information upon acceptance of their paper.

Abstract submission should be sent electronically to Kevin Meyer (address below) by **April 1, 2010** using Word Perfect or MS Word file format. Guidelines for abstract, poster, and manuscript preparation can be found at the Wild Trout X web site: <http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com>

For additional information and inquiries, contact the Program Committee Co-chairs:
Kevin Meyer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Tele: 208-465-8404, Fax: 208-465-8434, kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov

Doug Besler, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Tele: 828-659-3324,
Fax: 828-652-3279, doug.besler@ncwildlife.org

Nominations are also invited for the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal. Two medals are conferred at each symposia in memory of this distinguished naturalist: one natural resource professional and one nonprofessional who, in the eyes of their peers, have made long-time and significant contributions to the enhancement, protection, and preservation of wild trout. Please send nomination letters and a brief rationale including complete recipient contact information no later than **April 1, 2010** to Wild Trout X Awards Chairman:

Jim Daley, New York Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources, Tele: 518-402-8959, Email: jgdaley@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Ph.D. Assistantship

Michigan State University

Agency/Location: Quantitative Fisheries Center (QFC), Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

Responsibilities: Conduct research developing new methods for identifying stock and cohort contributions to admixed fisheries. Student will work at the intersection between genetics, stock assessment, and statistical modeling, and will have the opportunity to receive advanced training in each area. Student will also interact extensively with fishery management collaborators on this project and with the QFC.

Qualifications: M.S. in fisheries or related quantitative science, GPA of 3.0 or greater, and competitive GRE scores. Aptitude or interest in modeling of population dynamics, genetics, or application of statistics to natural resource issues. Experience in computer programming (R or AD Model Builder) desirable but not required.

Salary: Annual stipend of \$18,000. Waiver of tuition and related fees.

Closing Date: Until filled.

Contact: Please submit CV, unofficial transcripts and GRE scores, and letter of application to Drs. Jim Bence (bence@msu.edu) and Travis Brenden (brenden@msu.edu).

Notes from the AFS GS Annual Business Meeting

31 August 2009, Nashville TN

I. Call to Order

President **Kim Scribner** called the meeting to order, and a quorum of 16 members was present.

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the 2008 Genetics section business meeting were approved.

III. President's Report

President **Kim Scribner** reviewed the Governing Board Meetings:

- AFS Journals: considering shift to online only versus paper publications to reduce printing costs, this move was not approved by the board but likely to be considered in the future
- Society evaluating alternate publishers, which can offer a broader reach through publication bundles sold to libraries or institutions
- Want to improve the impact factor of the journals; two currently have an impact factor less than 1.
- An upcoming Fisheries article will explain the journal status from the publications committee.

Section business discussed:

- The Section website has been updated and also has a membership list posted.
- There is the option to have a listserve maintained by the parent society, and posts go through a list keeper, Kim volunteered to serve this function.
 - o Requested feedback about use and content: meeting announcements, job postings, technical and analytical support, etc.
- The Policy Section has a Safety Committee and has a safety guide online for access, recommended section members to review and use as needed.
- A new AFS Strategic Plan will be available online soon for members to review and vote on.

IV. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Meredith Bartron provided the following report: as of August 14, 2009, the Genetics Section had a balance of \$5,624.11, including all July expenses. We began the fiscal year (8/1/08) with \$6,196.11. Income was generated for the Genetics Section from member dues (\$865.00). Expenses over the year have included two Wright awards (\$1,000.00 total).

Total membership as of August 24, 2009 was 172 members, an increase of 20 members from June of 2008. For comparison purposes, a high of 272 members was reported in January 2007 and 87 members were reported at the meeting in 2006 (based on previous Secretary-Treasurer's report).

The Report was approved.

V. Announcements

George Milner passed, he published many landmark contributions, including those to the field of Genetic Stock Identification.

A joint symposium at the World Aquaculture Society is being hosted with the Fish Culture Section in San Diego next year, and is expected to provide revenue from participation.

The Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting is scheduled for June 2010, at the Grove Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Tentative dates are June 9-11.

VI. Committee Reports

Nominating Committee (Ed Heist): Nominations are needed by the end of the year for both Secretary/Treasurer and President-Elect. There will be an electronic election in the spring.

Program Committee (Bill Templin): Eric Hallerman, Jamie Roberts, Jess Jones, & Bill Templin put together the genetics-sponsored symposium "Conservation of Unexploited Populations" at this meeting. There are also many other genetics-related talks at the meeting, including a genomics symposium. There was a call for discussion of symposium suggestions for Pittsburgh (2010 Annual Meeting).

Award Committee:

James Wright Student Travel Award

The James E. Wright Graduate Award is presented annually by the Genetics Section at the AFS Annual Meeting to recognize excellence in graduate-level work in fisheries genetics and to assist graduate students with travel to the national meeting. Candidates for the award submit applications that are evaluated by a selection committee using four criteria: potential for success in research in fisheries genetics, anticipated contribution to upcoming annual meeting, service to the Society, its Sections, or Chapters, and demonstrated need for travel assistance.

The Wright Awards were given to **Yen Duong** and **Jaime Roberts**. Yen Duong is a doctoral student at Michigan State University and will be presenting the paper "Reproductive ecology of lake sturgeon: inferences based on genetically determined parentage" with coauthors **Patrick DeHaan, James Crossman, Patrick Forsythe, Edward Baker, Kregg Smith, Kim Scribner**. Jaime Roberts is a doctoral student at Virginia Tech and in addition to assisting with planning for the genetics-sponsored symposium, also presented a paper "Balancing risks to the endangered Roanoke logperch" with coauthors **Daniel Dutton, Joanne Davis, Paul Angermeier, and Eric Hallerman**.

Stevan R. Phelps Memorial Award

Each year the Genetics Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) presents the Stevan R. Phelps Memorial Award, which it established in 2000 as a perpetual memorial to Steve, a geneticist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife who died prematurely from cancer in 1999. The award, which honors Steve's strong commitment to publication of applied genetic research in fisheries, is given annually to the authors of the best genetics paper published in an AFS journal the preceding year. The ranking and determination are conducted by a panel of Section members.

The Phelps Award was given to **Rachel S. Schwartz** and **Bernie May**, for their article "Genetic Evaluation of Isolated Populations for Use in Reintroductions Reveals Significant Genetic Bottlenecks in Potential Stocks of Sacramento Perch" published in

Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, Volume 137, Issue 6 (November 2008) pp. 1764-1777.

Website (Willy Eldridge, not in attendance): Kim thanked Willy for his hard work updating and maintaining the website.

Resolutions: none were put forth.

VII. New Business

As president, one of Kim's goals has been to increase membership services (list serves, updated website), increase the visibility of the section, and enhance student participation. To do this, he has worked with **Eric Hallerman** and **Kristal Schneider** of the Student Section to address this topic (see attached notes from their conference call). Discussion at the business meeting focused on how the section could work towards these goals.

- Mentoring-have members participate in the student mentoring lunch, offer mentoring opportunities throughout the year on an individual basis
- Sponsor symposium to focus on underrepresented groups
- Highlight the presence of the genetics section at other meetings (ASIH, Coastwide, Evolution...)
- Include area of expertise on membership list
- Provide template for Genetics Section members to provide workshops and presentations which could also be revenue generating.
- Suggestion to contact state agencies surrounding next meeting (Pittsburgh) to see if there would be interest in a genetics-related workshop prior to the conference.
- Kristal mentioned that membership surveys in the past highlight that sections need to show the benefit of membership, and why membership is worth it
- Suggestion to have a mixer at the next meeting, sell raffle tickets that would be also equal membership cost, and prizes could be provided.
- Other sections, such as the Physiology Section, often hold meetings independently of the annual meeting, could be a model to increase participation

Motion: To issue one year free for membership to the AFS Genetics Section for new student members (by **Eric Hallerman**, seconded by **Julie xxx**). All members in favor (aye)

VIII. Meeting adjourned

[Back to Top](#)

A Call for Papers...or E-mails

I apologize for the lateness of newsletters as of late. I presume that everyone, including your humble editor, has been busy getting ready for the holidays (finding recipes for turkeyfish with sculpin stuffing, no doubt). On occasion I get requests to include materials not written yet, and so I "stop the presses" while waiting for these items. Our next deadline for the newsletter is before **January 25**, and I hope to actually send the January newsletter out in, you know, January. Send your announcements, job adverts, and/or holiday fishing photos to jcarlin@gustavus.edu

Sincerely,
Joel Carlin, Newsletter Editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November & December 2009

Nov 30 — Early registration deadline for **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. See www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/index.php3.

Dec 6-9 — 70th Annual **Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**, Springfield IL. See <http://dnr.state.il.us/Midwest/>.

Dec 18 — Symposium submission deadline for **SMBE 2010**, the Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, to be held in Lyon, France on July 4-8. See <http://smbe2010.univ-lyon1.fr/>.

January 2010

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. See www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/.

Jan 3-9 — **Populations, Evolution, and Physics**, a special conference at the Aspen Center for Physics that brings together experimental biologists, population geneticists, and physicists, to discuss research on the dynamics of evolving populations. Email mark.siegal@nyu.edu for details.

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

Jan 15 — Abstract deadline for the **Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference**, to be held Apr 25-27 at the Marriott Boston Newton, Newton MA. See www.neafwa.org/2010/index.html.

Jan 20 — Abstract deadline for 24th **International Congress for Conservation Biology**. To be held 3-7 July in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. See www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2010.

February

Feb 5 — Abstract deadline for the **140th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society** to be held Sep 12-16, 2010, in Pittsburgh PA. See afs.confex.com/afs/2010/contributed/cfp.cgi.

Feb 12 — Abstract deadline for **ASLO & NABS 2010**, the joint Meeting of American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and the North American Benthological Society. To be held June 6-11 in Santa Fe NM. See www.aslo.org/meetings/santafe2010/.

Feb 18-22 — 2010 annual meeting of **AAAS**, San Diego CA. See www.aaas.org/meetings/.

March & April

Mar 1-5 — **Aquaculture 2010**, including the AFS-Fish Culture and AFS-Genetics Section symposium "**Cultured Aquatic Animals: Use and Implications for Stock Enhancement, Fisheries Management, and Species Diversity.**" Town and Country Resort and Conference Center, San Diego CA. See www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/Default.aspx?code=AQ2010.

Mar 10-13 — 28th Annual **Salmonid Restoration Conference** in Redding Convention Center, Redding CA. See www.calsalmon.org/.

Mar 15 — Application deadline for **Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research** undergraduate and graduate research grant program. See www.sigmaksi.org/programs/giar/index.shtml.

Mar 22-24 — **SNP Workshop III**. See this newsletter for details, or www.snpporkshop.org.

April 1 — Abstract and Award deadline for **Wild Trout X** to be held September 28-30, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone MT. See this newsletter for details.

Apr 25-27 — **Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference**, Marriott Boston Newton, Newton MA. See www.neafwa.org/2010/index.html.

[Back to Top](#)

The American Fisheries Society Genetics Section November 2009 Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 4

[President's Message](#) • [Coastwide Salmonid Meeting](#) • [SNP Workshop](#) • [Wild Trout X](#)
[PhD Assistantship](#) • [2009 Annual Meeting Minutes](#) • [Newsletter Submission](#) • [Calendar](#)
