MEMBER PROFILE

Jordanna Bergman

Ph.D. Candidate, Carleton University

About my work

For my dissertation, I am investigating the ecological connectivity of a freshwater historic waterway, the Rideau Canal Waterway, as experienced by both native and invasive fishes. This system is a 202-km navigable route that, like many other waterways globally, encompasses the difficult challenge of managing anthropogenic barriers (e.g., navigation locks, water-control dams) to simultaneously provide connectivity to native species while minimizing invasions. Our goal is to determine the seasonal, species-specific, and ecohydraulic drivers of fish movements within the waterway itself and across barriers, and use results from my research to support conservation actions and management strategies.

Inspiration for this work

My love for the outdoors fueled a passion to protect and conserve our natural world, and encouraged my desire to pursue a career in conservation research. My previous research experiences focused mostly on the marine environment; upon learning about the drastic biodiversity declines occurring in freshwater ecosystems, I turned my attention towards conserving and restoring our world's precious freshwaters for my Ph.D. I've been referred to as a "freshwater convert" and have loved this field.

Something else about myself

I'm an avid backpacker and so appreciate chances to "escape" our concrete societies. Spending time in the backcountry is wonderfully rejuvenating for me and reminds me that these beautiful wild places are what inspired me to become a conservationist



in the first place. If I'm not working, or planning a backpacking trip, I'm probably thinking about food—cooking is a favorite second hobby!

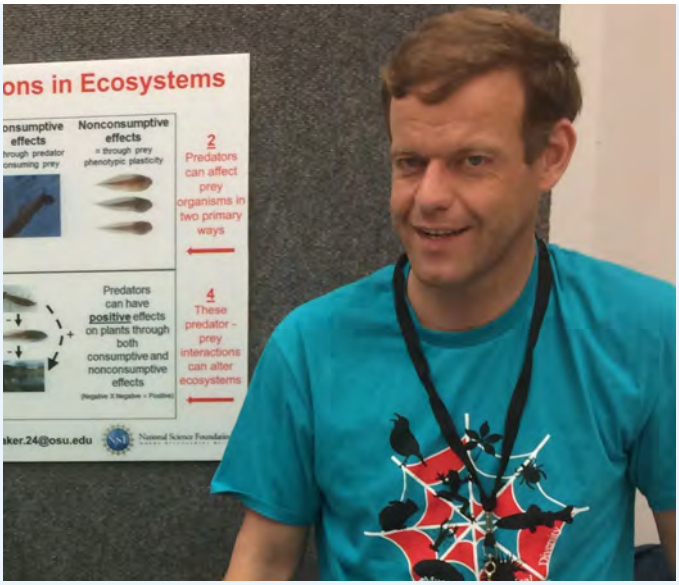
IN MEMORIAM

Michael Fraker

(1978–2023)

In April, the Great Lakes community lost a committed researcher and friend, Michael Fraker. His expertise in ecological modelling increased implementation of ecosystem-based management across the Great Lakes. He earned his Ph.D. in Ecology and Environmental Biology from the University of Michigan in 2007 and completed postdoctoral research at the University of Michigan, Oklahoma State University, and The Ohio State University.

Mike could be counted on as an insightful collaborator who never stopped learning innovative techniques. In 2019, he joined the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research and transitioned to Michigan Sea Grant in 2021 as research program manager. Throughout his career, he led diverse projects from sustainable fishery management to coastal climate change adaptation while prodigiously publishing 35+ articles. He inspired budding student researchers in each



of his professional appointments and will be remembered as an indispensable, kind mentor. His gentle nature and thoughtfulness will be dearly missed.

Contributed by Brenna Friday, Donna Kashian, and Stuart Ludsin.