

for his poster “A processbased approach for predicting surface fire effects on trees,” based on his current master’s research at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Edward A. Johnson. The Braun judges were impressed with the complex design of Sean’s study, and with his clear explanation of how he used non-trivial mathematics to demonstrate that a detailed understanding of fire behavior and heat transfer is necessary for predicting postfire tree mortality. Sean used very effective illustrations in his poster, and he did a great job of identifying the biological implications of his research. This project explores new terrain, bringing fundamental concepts from engineering to ecology; it has considerable applied value. Sean received his B.A. in 2001 from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Braun Award Selection Committee also gave an Honourable Mention to Lina Taneva for her poster, “Responses of forest soil respiration to elevated CO₂: implications for soil carbon storage.” Lina is a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Student Awards Selection Committee: Karen Clancy (Chair), Anita Davelos, Paul Marino, Christopher Sacchi, J. Alan Yeakley.

THOMAS M. FROST AWARD

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 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.



Cynthia S. Kolar

The 2003 recipient of the Thomas M. Frost Award is Cynthia S. Kolar for her article “Ecological predictions and risk assessment for alien fishes in North America,” published with co-author David Lodge in *Science* 298:1233–1236. In this article, Kolar and Lodge tackled the complex challenge of forecasting biological invasions by decomposing the problem into manageable components of the process, then demonstrated that only a few variables are necessary in statistical models to explain most of the variation in success of fish invasions in the Great Lakes. Kolar’s approach to predicting invasions in the Great Lakes is notable for being both quantitative and transferable to many freshwater, marine, and terrestrial habitats and taxonomic groups. Her article has garnered substantial national and international attention from the scientific and management communities, as well as from the media. This paper is one of a series of articles on species invasions resulting from Dr. Kolar’s dissertation research done at the University of Notre Dame under the direction of David Lodge. She is currently putting her research to the test in her job as the Invasive Species Workgroup Leader for USGS’s Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center.

Frost Award Subcommittee: Chris Luecke, Emily Stanley, Craig Williams.