



**International Scientific Collaboration**

In order to promote international collaboration, the Great Lakes Center is inviting scientists from different countries to conduct collaborative research or for experience exchange. Dr. Frances Lucy from Institute of Technology, Sligo (Ireland) will present a workshop on aquatic invasive species in June. Frances is Director of the Centre for Environmental Research Innovation and Sustainability, and Editor-in-Chief of international journals *Aquatic Invasions* and *BiolInvasions Records*.

**Exchange Student from the Netherlands**

Frank Collas, a graduate student from Radboud University at Nijmegen, the Netherlands, will spend three months from April to July at the GLC Field Station conducting a study on the mechanisms of attachment and detachment of invasive dreissenid mussels, as well as focusing on environmental factors that influence attachment strength, detachment, and survival rates. Although still in graduate school, Frank has already conducted several research projects on aquatic species and published two papers. Dreissenid species have invaded both the Netherlands and the Great Lakes, and their invasion caused ecosystem changes as well as large economic



losses. The ability of dreissenids to attach to hard substrates is an important factor in determining their impacts, and is critical for their dispersal. Frank is planning to perform a series of laboratory trials to test the effects of temperature, plate material and shape, and other factors on dreissenid attachment and detachment and contrast these between two dreissenid species, zebra and quagga mussels. To fund this study, Frank received an award from the Redboud Honours Academy. We are looking forward to Frank's visit and possible future collaboration.

**New Graduate Student**

We welcome Eric Bruestle – a new GLEs MA student - who will be working on the **Greenway project** to study lake sturgeon habitat use and feeding ecology in the lower Niagara River. Eric received his BA in Biology and Environmental Studies from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and has professional experience working with US Fish and Wildlife Service in Central New England Fishery Resources Office, New Hampshire Fish and Game, National Park Service in Crater Lake National Park, and in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. During this time, Eric co-authored a fishery management plan for American eels in the Merrimack River;



conducted Atlantic salmon surveys and Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics surveys; monitored threatened Bull trout populations; and coordinated Glen Canyon's zebra mussel monitoring program. Eric will be supervised by Dr. Dmitry Gorsky and will study diet and habitat use of sub-adult and adult lake sturgeon in the lower Niagara River, and develop and maintain an acoustic telemetry array for tracking lake sturgeon.



**Welcome back!**

Brianne Tulumello (right), a lab technician working on the **EPA monitoring** project, returned to work on April 9. She had been absent due to a prolonged illness. We missed her and are glad to have her back!

# Great Lakes Center Newsletter

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