

# Newsletter of the AFS Southern Ontario Chapter



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## President's Message

It has been a few months since we last touched base with our membership and there are some exciting developments on the horizon. These developments arose out of our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Dorset** on March 21-23. At the business portion of that meeting several ideas were raised with respect to the current role of the AFS SOC and possibilities for an expanded role. As a result, we are currently taking the pulse in northern Ontario to see if there would be an interest in expanding our horizons to include northern Ontario fisheries biologists. If sufficient interest is out there, we may embark on a transition from the Southern Ontario Chapter to the Ontario Chapter of the AFS. This is certainly an exciting prospect! Since our AGM we have also been hard at work developing our **new AFS SOC website**. It is still under construction but we are pursuing many ideas and I encourage you to visit the website at [www.afs-soc.org](http://www.afs-soc.org). Soon to come will be a new chapter logo that we are commissioning via a cooperative effort with the graphic arts program of a community college.

At our **AGM** it was clearly evident that numbers were down and that MNR, DFO and academic institutions were drastically under represented. We are unsure of the exact reasons for this lack of representation; however, we do have some ideas and are working diligently to correct this situation. In the meantime, those members that we do have representing these groups continue to provide wonderful insight and tireless work to help promote the Chapter and we applaud them for it. We are also looking at shifting the timing of the weekend this coming year to perhaps attract certain groups for which the third week in March simply does not work. We are considering a February date and welcome feedback from the membership on this possible change.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to **the Fishheads** who once again provided a brilliant musical performance for us at Dorset. The science is always interesting at Dorset but I have truly come to appreciate the opportunity to network and to share experiences; these opportunities have become ingrained as a part of the AGM experience. The Fishheads certainly help facilitate this atmosphere.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the **Parent Society Annual General Meeting** to be held in Quebec this year (see below). Your Executive Committee will be supporting the event, both financially and through logistical support on the ground. We do not often get a chance to host the parent society meeting in Canada so this is a great opportunity for SOC members to participate at a reasonable cost. Please consider attending this important event.

## AFS 2003 Annual General Meeting – Quebec City

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of the AFS is being held at the Quebec Convention Center and the Quebec Hilton in beautiful Quebec City, QC, on August 10-14, 2003. **The theme** of this years meeting is "Worldwide decline of wild fish populations". There will be several exciting speakers at the plenary session, held on Monday August 11, 2003. Included in the list of keynote speakers is the SOC's own Dr. John Cassleman who will be speaking on the declines of fish stocks in the Great lakes and St. Lawrence River. Several AFS-SOC members are also giving either oral or poster presentations.

A very important date to remember is July 11<sup>th</sup>. You must **register** by this date to receive the early bird rate of US\$295.00 (after July 11<sup>th</sup>, the rate is US\$395). Student registration is US\$95.00. This registration includes both plenary and technical sessions, all symposia breaks, socials, "goody bag", program, and abstracts CD-ROM. Registration may be done online at: [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) or by downloading a pdf form and mailing/faxing it to the head office. Registrations received after August 1<sup>st</sup> will not be processed at AFS headquarters. After that date registration must be done on site.

An informative **website** has been created by the organizers at: [http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/AFS\\_congres/accueil.htm](http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/AFS_congres/accueil.htm), or you can reach the site through their home page: [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org). Hotel and travel information can also be obtained from the conference web site. We hope to see you there!

## Southern Ontario Chapter's Executive Committee Outgoing and Incoming Members

This year is quickly coming to an end for some of our executive committee members. The 2002-2003 ex-com. members will be working throughout the summer, but the fall will see the usual transition to a new executive committee made up of both familiar and fresh faces. Continue to check our website ([www.afs-soc.org](http://www.afs-soc.org)) for further contact info.

Title	2002-2003 Outgoing	2003-2004 Incoming
<b>President</b>	Robert Steele Natural Resource Solutions Inc.	Dave Green Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
<b>Vice President</b>	Kim Connors Minnow Environmental	Shari Faulkenham Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
<b>Past President</b>	Michael Roy Gartner Lee Limited	Robert Steele Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
<b>President Elect</b>	Dave Green Natural Resource Solutions Inc.	Dave Stanley Stantec Consulting Ltd. (formerly Beak)
<b>Secretary</b>	Jennifer Wright Natural Resource Solutions Inc.	Jennifer Wright Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Green Natural Resource Solutions Inc.	Jay Barnutcz Department of Fisheries and Oceans
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	John Miller Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Julianne Mayo
<b>Webmaster</b>	Robert Eakins Stantec Consulting Ltd. (formerly Beak)	Robert Eakins Stantec Consulting Ltd. (formerly Beak)
<b>Membership Chairs</b>	Dave Gibson Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Dave Gibson Fisheries and Oceans Canada Tanya Suggit MNR, Guelph District
<b>Student Representatives</b>	Scott Gibson (U of Toronto) Heather Lynn (U of Guelph)	Heather Lynn University of Guelph

### Announcing the Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database!

A fully searchable database for all Ontario freshwater fishes including introduced, extirpated and extinct species. Containing current information pertaining to life history, habitat, size and age, distribution, status and reproduction for 149 species, 3 subspecies and 2 established hybrids. Includes photographs, range maps, notes, references, glossary of terms and related web links. Check it out at: <http://www.afs-soc.org/fishdb/index.htm>

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### FIELD ANTICS: A Call for Field Stories!!



Many of us either spend significant time doing field work during the year, or know of others who do. This has prompted us to put out a general call for field stories that are interesting, exceptional, comical, or fun; we would like to hear anything that you think is worth telling. Submit an anecdote about yourself or someone you know. Incriminating photos are welcome to accompany the story! Stories may be submitted on-line through our website ([www.afs-soc.org](http://www.afs-soc.org)), or directly through the following address: [newsletter@afs-soc.org](mailto:newsletter@afs-soc.org)), or through any member of the executive committee. We hope to have at least one "Field Antics" anecdote to tell in each newsletter this year. So be sure to make note of funny mishaps, crazy fish, and lessons learned that need to be passed on. Information about new gear or methods that you have tried, "DOs" and "DON'Ts" concerning any aspect of field work, etc. are all welcome additions. Then look out for this section in future newsletters. We would like to use "Field Antics" as a means to live and learn and then pass it on. With that in mind, **have a great field season this year!**

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