

NEWSLETTER

of the
SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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ANNOUNCING

At long last, professional fisheries scientists working in southern Ontario have formed a local chapter of the AFS.

A petition was made to the executive committee of the AFS during the 118th annual meeting at Toronto this past September. The petition stated that the newest North Central Division chapter would be open to all members of the parent society who have an interest in fisheries and related issues of importance to southern Ontario. The enthusiastic support of many key people ensured that the chapter became inaugurated before the conference wound down. Now our real challenge begins!

The chapter is expected to be embraced by local fisheries workers because of its commitment to facilitating communication and science transfer amongst chapter members. The chapter will also present the views of members to the parent body, the general public and various government agencies. Annual meetings will be convened to carry out by-law responsibilities and to discuss timely fisheries concerns in either workshop or presented papers sessions. Last but certainly not least, the chapter will strive to promote the fisheries profession in southern Ontario as well as the wise use of our aquatic natural resources.

A pro-tem slate of officers has been charged with coordinating initial chapter business culminating in the holding of formal elections at an annual meeting sometime in late winter/early spring. The current executive committee is made up of :

President - Les Stanfield
President-elect - Ken Harris
Sec/Treasurer - Henk Rietveld

All three of these gentlemen are employed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. David McLeish, membership chairman, and Hal Schraeder, Newsletter editor, round out the chapter officers to date.

CALLING ALL FISH PRO'S

-- Now is the time for all good fisheries professionals to come to the aid of the chapter --

THIS IS IT - the ground floor! You can appreciate that the chapter is in its infancy, so it needs to be nurtured along.

It has been estimated that of the estimated 300 fisheries professionals working for the MNR, two-thirds reside in southern Ontario. You might just as well triple that when you consider the various other sources including universities and colleges, museums, consultants, conservation authorities, other government ministries, private interest groups and corporations. Obviously this represents a broad spectrum of specialties in fisheries science. If the chapter is to represent these interests then it is incumbent on you to get involved.

-- The AFS is your professional society by virtue of what it is already doing to advance the fisheries profession --

A timely issue that the chapter hopes to pursue concerns the relevance of the Society outside the bounds of the continental USA. The AFS is much more than just a lobby group but political realities in the states (vis-a-vis program funding appropriations) have tended to focus Society attentions. How can we best apply the experiences of the Society to the Canadian scene? The chapter is keenly interested in forging a truly international society to further our discipline.

-- DID YOU KNOW? --

* THAT the AFS is the world's oldest and largest (8500 strong) organization dedicated to strengthening the fisheries profession, advancing fisheries science, and conserving fisheries resources

* THAT membership in the AFS ensures professional development through annual meetings, symposia and workshops, participation in one of over a dozen discipline sections, and publications (*Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, *The Progressive Fish-Culturist*, *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, and *Fisheries: A bulletin of the AFS*). The AFS is also a major publisher of reference works including textbooks, manuals and symposia proceedings

* THAT the AFS rewards the accomplishments of its members in several significant ways: Professional Certification, Publication in the Society's prestigious international journals, and Awards for outstanding service to the Society, its sub-units or to fisheries science

* THAT for further information about membership in the Society you can contact them directly at: *American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, USA 20814-2199.*

-- PRESIDENT'S CORNER --

by
Les Stanfield

Welcome to the Southern Ontario Chapter of the AFS. If the speed with which the chapter was formed and the excom selected are any indication, this is going to be a very proactive venture.

No doubt this chapter is long overdue considering the high level of interest in Southern Ontario fisheries. It took a 'kick' from the NCD - in the form of a note in their newsletter asking us where we were - to rouse us. Henk Rietveld took up the gauntlet and submitted our petition at the 118th AFS business meeting on September 14th. Our first

chapter meeting occurred right after our petition was unanimously accepted whereupon we rounded up volunteers to form a pro tem executive. A formal business meeting has been scheduled for March 1989. We thought we would convene it around a workshop. One theme that has been suggested is 'HABITAT PROTECTION THROUGH COOPERATION'. We are also looking for an appropriate location - preferably close to good fishing! One final note about the meeting - **WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE POSITIONS.**

I would like to reiterate that the chapter will consist of, and represent the views of fisheries professionals from varied backgrounds including government (federal, provincial and conservation authorities), private industries (Ontario Hydro, consultants), academics, students and concerned individuals. I extend my sincerest invitation to you all and encourage you to sign up your colleagues.

It has been proposed that the chapter be geographically defined as Ontario south of the French and Mattawa rivers. The chapter's objectives ultimately seek to advance fisheries science within this sphere of influence. For example, one of the main themes developed at the recent AFS conference identified the need for better information transfer. This would promote new opportunities for innovative management strategies and tactics. It is my hope that the chapter can facilitate this.

The *NEWSLETTER* will contain progress reports on management and research projects being conducted by members, fisheries news items, letters and opinions, upcoming events, comings and goings, and Parent Society news. As our next *NEWSLETTER* is scheduled for January, please start forwarding your material to *Henk Rietveld c/o MNR, Box 9000, Brendale Square, Huntsville, Ontario, POA 1K0.*

Again, WELCOME! Please send in the membership application and start letting us know what you want out of your professional organization.

O.K. , SO HERE'S THE PITCH

You are being presented with the opportunity to participate in strengthening a professional organization of southern Ontario fisheries specialists. We expect to contact local Parent Society members - and other people with an interest in fisheries who reside in the area - with the intent of bringing them on board. *If you have not already been approached to join we ask you to please contact David McLeish, 29 Lynd Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1T8. He will be pleased to send you a membership package and other related materials.*

There are, of course, nominal expenses to be incurred in the running of the Southern Ontario Chapter. To this end, we wish to solicit remittance of \$5.00 for each membership at this time. *If you are not currently a member of AFS please consider joining the Chapter now anyway so that you can sample the benefits of this first class professional society.*

The relevance of the Southern Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will ultimately rest in its ability to reflect the consensus of its members on various issues as well as its ability to provide services to the membership. We need a membership which consists of individuals from various walks of life and who are concerned for our fisheries resources. Only in this way can we ensure that individual members will benefit from their association with a network of other interested professionals with stimulating views and particular skills. This is intended to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. Your membership in the Southern Ontario Chapter of the AFS will complement your affiliation with other existing professional organizations.

SO COME ON, **GET INVOLVED** !!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION :

Sign me up right now. I've enclosed five bucks (\$5.00) and look forward to receiving more NEWSLETTERS and other neat stuff :

NAME _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS Apt. _____

Street _____

City/Town _____

Province _____

Postal code _____

PHONE NO. Area code () _____

SEND THIS APPLICATION TO : David McLeish
29 Lynd Avenue
Toronto, Ontario.
M6R 1T8

-- THANK YOU AND WELCOME ABOARD --

Please let David know if you require more copies of the Newsletter.