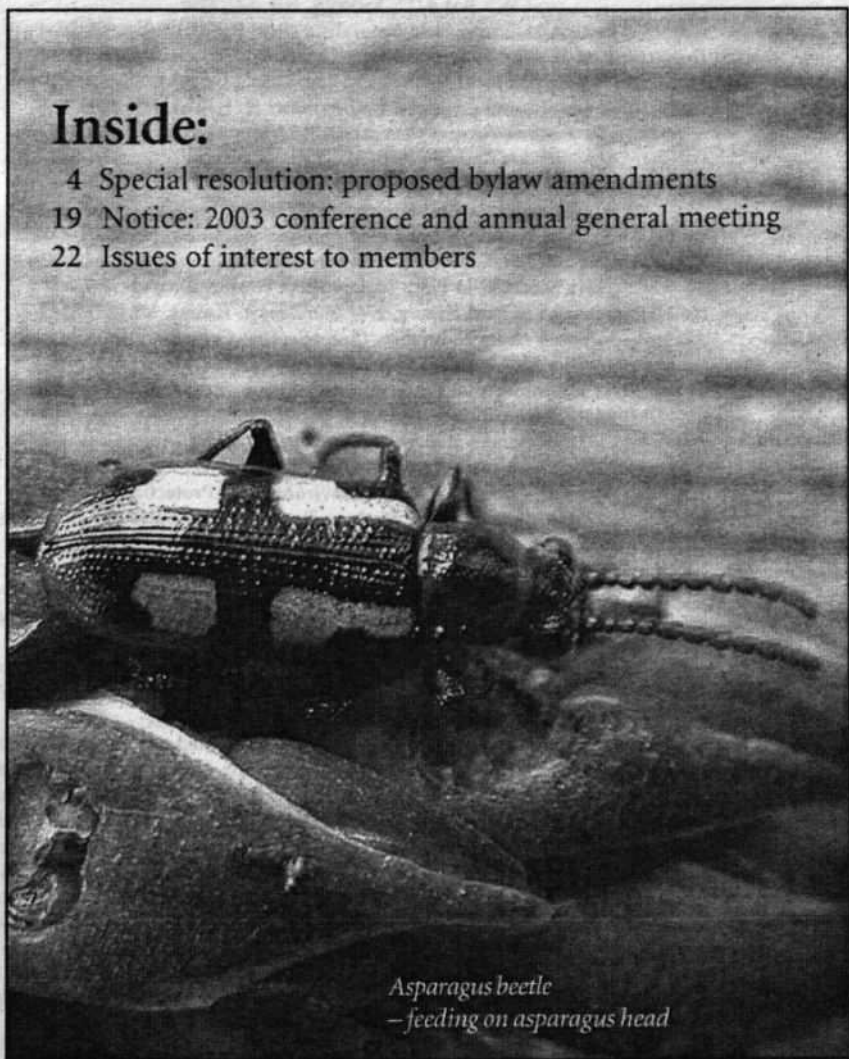


Inside:

- 4 Special resolution: proposed bylaw amendments
- 19 Notice: 2003 conference and annual general meeting
- 22 Issues of interest to members



*Asparagus beetle
— feeding on asparagus head*

Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (FNSN)

Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society (Rep: Jim Robinson)

PO Box 576, Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

Blomidon Naturalists Society (Rep: Larry Bogan)

PO Box 127, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

website: <http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm>

Cape Breton Naturalists Society (Rep (temp): David McCorquodale)

c/o Cape Breton Centre for Heritage and Science, 225 George St, Sydney, NS B1P 1J5

Chignecto Naturalists Club (Rep: vacant)

c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6

Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists (Rep: Randy Lauff)

c/o Department of Biology, St Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5

Halifax Field Naturalists (Rep: Ursula Grigg)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>

Les Amis du Plein Air (Rep: vacant)

PO Box 472, Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

Nova Scotia Bird Society (Rep: Sterling Levy)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc/

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society (Rep: Heather Drope)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

South Shore Naturalists Club (Rep: Jill Comolli)

c/o Jill Comolli, RR 1, Rose Bay, NS B0J 2X0

Tusket River Environmental Protection Association (Rep: Carol Jacquard)

c/o C. Jacquard, Box 8A, RR 1, Tusket, NS B0W 3M0

Members at large (Rep: Mary Macaulay)

e-mail: <nstn4219@ca.inter.net>

Affiliate Member – South West Nova Environmental Protection Group

Associate Member – Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society

The FNSN purpose is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia. We also work toward a coordinated effort on the provincial level to protect our natural environment.

- We promote the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the general public through education via publications, lectures, symposia, field trips, and other activities; through fostering the creation of nature centres and education programs; and by defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs.

- We encourage the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in such entities as parks, nature reserves, wilderness areas, and

heritage rivers.

- We defend the integrity of existing sanctuaries by exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction.

- We promote and engage in funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems.

- We encourage and engage in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to preserving essential habitats through working for the inclusion of all major habitats in a system of protected areas; encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the province; and encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitats.

FNSN is affiliated with the Canadian Nature Federation.

Visit our website at <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/hp-fnsn.html>

or call Doug Linzey at (902) 684-0943 for more information.

FNSN

President – Joan Czapalay
Vice president – Bob McDonald
Past president – Martin Willison
Secretary – Doug Linzey
Treasurer – Jean Gibson



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From the editor

In the January 2003 issue of FNSN News, your editor (that would be me) made a fatal mistake – the kind of mistake that editors aren't supposed to make. I reported on page 26 that "longtime [Cape Breton Naturalists Society] member and biologist Pixie Williams died during the year." Happily, for all of us, that's not true. In fact, Pixie will be with us at the 2003 FNSN conference, where she will be giving a talk and leading a field trip.

Fortunately, mistakes like this – on paper – are reversible. (This one came about because (1) I wasn't listening carefully enough when Thomas Bouman was reporting on the activities of the Cape Breton Naturalists and (2) I didn't check my "facts" thoroughly enough.)

Unfortunately, other mistakes have truly unhappy consequences – such as the mistake of allowing a valuable species or piece of landscape to die literally. This sort of thing is often a mistake of apathy or lack of vigilance on the part of a majority of us. For some reason, we just stand by while it happens, and later we all lament the results.

Fortunately, there are people in Nova Scotia who refuse to be apathetic and who insist on being vigilant about conservation. One of them is Raymond Plourde, wilderness coordinator of the Ecology Action Centre since late 2002. Another is ecology professor Martin Willison, FNSN past-president and president of the Nova Scotia chapter of CPAWS. Yet another is ecology professor Bill Freedman, who is the Atlantic chair of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

What about the thousands of others who care and want to see more effective conservation measures in Nova Scotia? We've said it before and we'll say it again: Get involved. Let your thoughts and opinions be known. Don't let apathy steal and kill off our natural heritage.

Doug Linzey

Notice of Special Resolution

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

The board of directors of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists has approved a motion of special resolution to amend the bylaws of the Society. In accordance with bylaws 44 and 45, notice is hereby given that a resolution to amend the bylaws as proposed in the following pages will be put to the membership at the 2003 annual general meeting to be held 15 June 2003.

The bylaws of the Society are reproduced in whole on pages 7-18. Proposed deletions are printed in ~~strickethrough~~ text; proposed additions are printed in *bold italics*. Explanatory text is inserted in [square brackets].

Amendments are proposed for bylaws 3, 3(a)(i), 3(b), 3(c), 5, 7, 9(b), 12, 22, 27, 34, 36(a), 39, 40, 46, and 48(c). A new bylaw is proposed to be inserted between the current bylaws 40 and 41. There are no changes proposed to the Memorandum of Association (see pages 5 and 6).

Only individual and federate members of the Society are eligible to vote at the general meeting.

Memorandum of Association of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

1. The name of the Society is the **Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists**.
2. The purpose of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia and to work towards a coordinated effort on the provincial level to protect the natural state of our environment. This may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a) promoting the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the general public by
 - i) educating through publications, lectures, symposia, field trips, and other activities; and
 - ii) fostering the creation of nature centres and nature education programs, and defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs;
 - b) encouraging the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in parks, nature reserves, wilderness areas, heritage rivers, and other such protected areas;
 - c) defending the integrity of existing sanctuaries by exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction within them;
 - d) promoting and engaging in funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems;
 - e) encouraging and engaging in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to the preservation of essential habitats by
 - i) working for the inclusion of all major habitats in a system of protected areas;
 - ii) encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction, where appropriate, of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the province; and

iii) encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitats.

3. The Federation may, as it becomes necessary or desirable in carrying out its objectives as described in 2 above,

a) acquire by way of grant, gift, purchase, bequest, devise, or otherwise, real and personal property, and use or apply it to the realization of those objectives;

b) buy, own, hold, lease, mortgage, sell, and convey such real and personal property.

4. The Federation shall not carry on any trade, industry, or business, and shall operate without purpose of gain to any of its members. Any surplus or any accretions of the Federation shall be used solely for the furtherance of its purposes as described in 2 above.

5. If for any reason the operations of the Federation are terminated, wound up, or dissolved, any property whatsoever that remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities shall be paid to some other non-profit organization in Canada having objects similar to those of the Federation.

6. The activities of the Federation are to be carried out at the registered office of the Federation and throughout Nova Scotia.

7. The registered office of the Society is at 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Bylaws of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

Definitions

1. In these bylaws, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith,
 - a) "Society" means the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists;
 - b) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies appointed under the *Nova Scotia Companies Act*;
 - c) "Director(s)" means any or all member(s) of the Board of Directors either elected or appointed;
 - d) "Elected Director(s)" means director(s) whose positions are subject to election by the membership at general meetings (i.e., Officers and Director(s)-at-large);
 - e) "Organizational Director(s)" means director(s) appointed by organizational member(s);
 - f) "Special Resolution" means a resolution proposed with due notice which requires the approval of both three-fourths of the Board of Directors and three-fourths of the membership present at a duly called general meeting for adoption.

Membership

2. There shall be five categories of membership in the Society: organizational, federate, individual, affiliate, and associate. These categories may be subdivided to allow differences in fees and terms.

a) All memberships are conditional on the payment of dues, and on such other conditions that appear elsewhere in these bylaws or are stated from time to time by the Board.

3. An *organizational member* is a non-profit society in Nova Scotia, whether registered or not, whose aims and ~~objects~~ *objectives* are compatible with those of the Society and whose activities include the study of natural history.

[This replaces an incorrect term with the correct one.]

a) An organizational membership is obtained by applying in writing to the Society, including such information as the Board requires. Organizational membership is granted if at least two-thirds of the active existing organizational members approve.

i) The founding organizational members were initially admitted by mutual consent, but are otherwise subject to these ~~regulations~~ *bylaws*.

[This section refers to this document, which comprises bylaws, not regulations.]

b) Each organizational member shall designate one of its members to represent it on the Board. *It may also designate an alternate to the board.* The members of an organizational member are eligible for federate membership. Organizational members do not vote at the Annual General Meeting.

[This is to make official our current practice of having alternates available to attend meetings when appointed board members can't attend. See also bylaws 39 & 46.]

c) An organizational member may be deemed to be inactive by the Board for failure to pay fees, list *federate* members, appoint or be represented by a delegate, or for such other omissions as may be defined by the Board. An organizational member inactive for three consecutive years automatically loses its organizational membership. The organization may reapply immediately.

[This is to clarify the type of member that organizational members must list

4. A *federate member* is a person who is a member of one or more organizational members, and whose name has been submitted by at least one organizational member, along with any required fees. A federate member has voting rights at general meetings.

5. An *individual member* is a person (or possibly family) sympathetic to the goals of the Society who applies for membership directly to the Society. ~~A federate member may take out individual membership.~~ An individual member has voting rights at the general meetings.

[We are unaware of any reason for this sentence and propose deleting it to avoid confusion.]

6. An *affiliate member* is a non-profit organization whose goals and objectives are consistent with those of the Society. Admission of affiliate members to the Society is at the discretion of the Board. An affiliate member does not have voting rights.

7. An *associate member* is any other organization wishing to show support for the Society's goals and objectives through membership. *Admission of associate members to the Society is at the discretion of the Board.* An associate member does not have voting rights.

[This addition is to correct an oversight. The wording is consistent with bylaw 6.]

Expulsion of Members

8. a) Any member may be expelled from the Society for activity prejudicial to the goals of the Society.

b) Expulsion shall be by motion at a Board of Directors meeting, and such a motion shall require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

c) Notice of motion, identifying the member or members involved, must be sent to the member(s) and to all directors at least thirty (30) days before consideration of the motion.

d) Regardless of quorum requirements expressed elsewhere in these bylaws, no organizational member shall be expelled without the approval of two-thirds of all directors.

Meetings

9. a) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society shall be held within four (4) months of the end of the fiscal year of the Society.

b) A Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Society may be called by the President or the Board at any time, and shall be called if requested in writing by at least ten percent (10%), or fifty (50), whichever is fewer, of the individual plus federate members. ~~Meetings~~ A meeting at the request of the members shall occur within twenty-eight (28) days of the receipt of the petition unless the petitioners are agreeable to a later date.

[This change is for clarification.]

10. Members shall be given ten (10) days' notice of a general meeting, specifying the place, day, and time of the meeting, and, in the case of special business, the nature of such business. The notice shall be given in a letter or newsletter sent to each member at his or her last known address. Any notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time the letter containing the same would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post. The non-receipt of any notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at any general meeting.

11. a) At each Annual General Meeting of the Society, the following items of business shall be dealt with, and shall be deemed to be ordinary business:

- i) Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting and any intervening Special General Meetings;
- ii) Consideration of the Annual Report of the Directors;
- iii) Consideration of the Financial Statements, including the balance sheet, the statement of income and expenses, and the report of the auditor;
- iv) Election of officers and directors as required;
- v) Appointment of auditors; and
- vi) Resolutions as provided for under bylaw 48.

b) All other business transacted at an Annual General Meeting, and all business transacted at a Special General Meeting, shall be deemed to be special business.

12. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting of the Society unless a quorum of members is present at the commencement of such business, and such a quorum shall consist of twenty (20) individuals, including individuals from at

least one-half the *active* organizational members.

[The designation "active" member is already in bylaw 3(a), and the definition of "inactive" member is in bylaw 3(c). This is important for establishing quorums for board meetings, voting requirements for accepting new members, passing special resolutions, etc. See also bylaws 27, 34, 48(c).]

13. If a quorum of members is not present within one-half hour of the time appointed for the general meeting, then

a) if the meeting was convened at the request of the members, it shall be dissolved; otherwise

b) it shall stand adjourned to such time and place as a majority of members then present shall direct, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present, it shall be adjourned without further fixing another date.

14. a) The President of the Society shall chair the general meetings of the Society;

b) If there is no President, or if the President is not present, the Vice-president shall preside;

c) If there is also no Vice-president, or if he/she is also not present, the directors present shall choose one of their number to preside.

15. The Chair may, with the consent of the general meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting, other than business left unfinished when the adjournment occurred, unless notice of such new business is given to the members.

16. a) At any general meeting, unless a poll is demanded by at least three members, a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried and an entry to that effect in the book of the proceedings of the Society shall be sufficient evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the members recorded in favour or against such resolution.

b) If a poll is demanded, it shall be taken in the manner prescribed by the Chair, and the result of such poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the Society in General Meeting.

Officers

17. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-president, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The Past-president, if one exists, is also an officer of the Society.

18. The President shall have the supervision of the activities of the Society, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors from time to time.

19. The Vice-president shall, subject to the direction of the Board, perform the duties of the President during his or her absence, illness, or incapacity, or during such periods as the President may request him or her to do so.

20. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the General meetings of the Society and the Board, the membership lists, and the correspondence of the Society; have custody of the Seal of the Society, if one is obtained; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

The foregoing does not limit the use of a recording secretary for the purposes of taking minutes; nor does it prevent the issuance or receipt of correspondence by others in pursuance of their duties.

21. The treasurer shall have responsibility for the preparation and keeping of the books and financial records of the Society and shall carry out such other duties as the Board may assign.

22. The books and records of the Society may be inspected by any member of the Society at any reasonable time with two (2) days' notice at the registered office of the Society: *a reasonable time and place by written request to the Board. The Board will make the books and records available within 14 days of receipt of such request.*

[Because we don't have a physical office and our registered office is in the Natural History Museum in Halifax, the original wording is unreasonable.]

Fiscal Year and Audit of Accounts

23. The fiscal year of the Society shall be from April 1 in any year to March 31 of the next year.

24. Should the Society be without an auditor due either to the failure of the members to appoint one at the Annual General Meeting or to any other cause, the Board may appoint one.

25. The Society shall provide an annual written report for its members. This shall include an audited financial statement, and the statement by the auditor regarding the correctness of the view of the Society's affairs presented.

A copy of the balance sheet, showing liabilities and assets, and a statement of income and expenses for the preceding year, as audited by the auditor, shall be filed with the Registrar within fourteen (14) days after the Annual General Meeting each year, as required by law.

Board of Directors

26. The subscribers to the Memorandum of Association shall determine the first Board of Directors.

27. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, one (1) director appointed by each *active* organizational member, and up to five (5) directors-at-large elected by the members at the rate of one (1) per one hundred (100) individual members or part thereof.

[See note for bylaw 12.]

28. Any individual or federate member of the Society shall be eligible for any elected position on the Board of Directors.

29. Vacancies in the Elected Directors positions shall be filled at each Annual General Meeting of the Society, or at Special General Meetings called for that purpose.

30. All directors shall maintain membership in the Society.

Terms of Office

31. Officers and Elected Directors shall serve terms of two (2) years, and are eligible for re-election to the same or different positions any number of times.
32. The immediate Past-president holds office for a maximum of two (2) years.
33. Should an Elected Director or Officer resign from the Board within a ninety-day period preceding an Annual General Meeting, that seat may remain vacant until the AGM. Otherwise, the Board shall appoint a member to take the vacant director's seat until the next general meeting.

The resignation of an Officer is automatically a resignation from the Board, but this shall not preclude the appointment of the individual to any vacant Elected Director's position.

Should the President resign, the Vice-president shall become President. Other officers may be replaced either from within the Board or through appointment to the Board.

34. Each *active* organizational member shall annually provide the Society with formal accreditation of its representative for the Society's AGM. This does not affect the organizational member's ability to change its representative at any time by notice to the Society.

[See note for bylaw 12.]

35. At every Annual General Meeting of the Society, retiring officers and directors hold office until the dissolution of the meeting at which their successors are elected.

Removal of Directors

36. a) Any director may be removed from the Board for activity prejudicial to the goals of the Society or to the orderly management of the business of the

Society, or for failure to perform his *or her* duties as a director.

[This eliminates gender bias. See also bylaw 40.]

b) Directors are removed from the Board by a motion passed at a Board of Directors meeting, and such a motion shall require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

c) Notice of motion, identifying the person or persons involved, must be sent to all directors at least fifteen (15) days in advance of consideration of the motion.

d) Should an Organizational Director be removed from the Board, the organizational member shall be informed as soon as practical, and shall appoint another, different director to replace the one removed.

e) Should an Elected Director be removed from the Board within a ninety-day period preceding an Annual General Meeting, that seat may remain vacant until the AGM. Otherwise, the Board shall appoint a member to take the removed director's seat until the next general meeting.

Board of Directors Meetings

37. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as often as the business of the Society may require.

38. a) A meeting of the Board of Directors may be held at the close of every Annual General Meeting without notice.

b) Notice of each other Board meeting, specifying time and place, shall be given to each Director a reasonable time before the meeting is to take place, but non-receipt of such notice by any director shall not invalidate the proceedings of any meeting of the Board.

c) Notice of Board meetings shall be given by the Secretary.

39. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Board of Directors unless a simple majority of directors (*or their designated alternates*) is present at the commencement of such business.

[See note for bylaw 3(b)]

40. The President or, in his *or her* absence, the Vice-president or, in the absence of both of them, any director chosen from among the directors present shall preside as Chair for the meeting of the Board.

{See note for bylaw 36.}

[Proposed new bylaw 41]

The Board of Directors may choose to conduct business via electronic media according to procedure determined from time to time by the Board. Such procedure shall set out rules for making, seconding, discussing, and voting on motions. The Secretary shall record successful motions made in this manner, and the results shall be read into the minutes of the next following Board of Directors meeting.

[This addition reflects the reality of doing business today. It is meant to supplement, not to replace, regular board meetings.]

[Proposed: renumber current bylaws 41-48 to bylaws 42-49 to accommodate new bylaw 41.]

Powers of the Board of Directors

41. The activities of the Society shall be managed by the Board of Directors. In addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred on them by these bylaws and otherwise, they may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Society, and are not hereby, or by statute expressly directed or required to be exercised or done by the Society in General Meeting.

In particular, the Board shall have the power to engage employees and to determine their duties and responsibilities and their remuneration.

The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee that shall consist of the Officers and such other persons as the Board decides.

42. Contracts, deeds, bills of exchange, and other instruments and documents may be executed on behalf of the Society by the Treasurer and the President or Vice-president or as otherwise prescribed by resolution of the Board of Directors. The Secretary may affix the Seal of the Society (if one exists) to any document on resolution of the Board of Directors.

43. The borrowing powers of the Society may be exercised by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Special Resolutions and Amendment of Bylaws

44. Every Special Resolution must be approved by three-quarters (3/4) of the Board of Directors before it can be put before the membership.

The Society shall file duplicate copies of every Special Resolution passed with the Registrar within fourteen (14) days.

45. The Society has the power to repeal or amend any of these bylaws by Special Resolution passed in a manner prescribed by law.

Miscellaneous

46. The Society shall file with the Registrar, along with its Annual Statement, a list of its Directors *and designated alternates* with their *civic* addresses, occupations, and dates of appointment or election.

[See note for bylaw 3(b); the second addition is to conform to requirements of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.]

The Society shall notify the Registrar within fourteen (14) days of any change.

47. Upon dissolution, surrender, or winding up of the Society, or upon revocation of the Society's designation as a designated conservation organization pursuant to the provisions of the *Conservation Easement Act* (S.N.S.1992, c.2), the Society shall make all reasonable efforts to have any and all easements or covenants acquired by the Society pursuant to the said Act assigned to another organization designated as a designated conservation organization or to the Minister of Natural Resources for the Province of Nova Scotia pursuant to the said Act. Unless otherwise stipulated in the easement, the order of preference is Federation member organizations or other organizations working with the Federation to maintain the particular easements, followed by like-minded provincial, then federal organizations, followed by the provincial government.

48. a) This bylaw applies only to resolutions stating Federation positions on natural history and conservation related matters and issues. It defines the means of introduction, notification, and passing of such resolutions at Annual General Meetings.

b) Notice, with full text, of resolutions to be moved under this bylaw

shall be given to all members at least ten (10) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting at which the resolutions are to be moved. Requirements as to manner of delivery are the same as those set out for notice of general meetings in Bylaw 10. Notice of any resolutions may form part of the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

c) Before a resolution can be moved under this bylaw, it must have the support of a simple majority of the *active* organizational members.

[See note for bylaw 12.]

d) Resolutions under this bylaw are carried by a simple majority.

e) Bylaw 16 applies to resolutions under this bylaw.

Club news

Heather Drope, the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society representative to the FNSN board of directors, announced that Charles Kron is the new NSWFS president. Many of you probably know Charles through his photography. The club has about 150 members throughout Nova Scotia.

The Annapolis Field Naturalists, by virtue of location, is a member of the Tobetic Wilderness Committee (the advisory group on management of the Tobetic Wilderness Area). That's the main issues-oriented activity of the club. Jim Robinson, AFNS representative to the FNSN board of directors, tell us that the club otherwise is concentrating on presentations and field trips of interest to members. A number of field trips have been organized jointly with the South Shore Naturalists.

A relatively new group, the South West Nova Environmental Protection Group, has joined the federation as an affiliate member. SWNEPG, which is centred in Shelburne, was organized in response to the El Paso proposal to bring natural gas on shore for treatment in the Shelburne area. The proposed pipeline and plant have the potential to do environmental harm. SWNEPG has organized trips in the area to identify species of interest. Anne Smith leads the organization.

2003 Annual Convention of the Federation of Nova Scotia
Naturalists (13-15 June 2003)

Celebrating the Secrets of Cape Breton's Natural History

Host: Cape Breton Naturalists Society
Where: University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, NS
When: 13-15 June 2003

Contact: Thomas Bouman
UCCB
Box 5300, 1250 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, NS B1P 6L2
Phone: (902) 563-1294 or e-mail: <Thomas_Bouman@uccb.ca>

Friday, 13 June 2003

- 11:00 AM Pre-conference tour to Usigban Falls near Baddeck, with Clifford Crompton
Meet at 11:00 AM at UCCB student residence parking lot.
- 6:00 PM Registration
- 7:00 PM *An overview of Cape Breton's Natural History* by David McCorquodale
Ice Breaker - enjoy wine and cheese

Saturday, 14 June 2003

- 6:00 AM Early morning walk starting at UCCB student residence parking lot
A. *The mixed pioneer forests around UCCB*, with Alina Crompton
B. *The marsh vegetation and birds at Dominion beach*, with Clifford Crompton
C. *An Acadian forest grove at BailliArd*, with Catherine Sneddon
- 8:15 AM Breakfast in Multipurpose Room
- 9:00 AM Welcoming address
Catherine Sneddon, Cape Breton Naturalists Society
Joan Czapalay, Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists
Michael Tanchak, University College of Cape Breton
- 9:20 AM *Twenty-five years of natural history study in Cape Breton* by Pixie Williams
- 10:00 AM Refreshment break
- 10:15 AM *Opening of poster session* by Terry Power
- 10:45 AM *The geology of eastern Cape Breton* by Fenton Isenor
- 11:15 AM *Ecology of the Bras d'Or Lakes* by Tim Lambert
- 12:00 PM Lunch

- 1:00 PM Field Tours starting at UCCB student residence parking lot
Note: Participants will use their own vehicles to travel to the field sites.
A. *Tree diversity of the East Bay Community Forest*, with Thomas Bouman
B. *Lichens and plants of the Baleine Coastal Barren*, with Pixie Williams and Catherine Sneddon
C. *Fossils at Point Aconi*, with Erwin Zodrow
D. *Quaternary geology of eastern Cape Breton Island*, with Fenton Isenor
E. *Unimaki Natural Resources Institute in Eskasoni*, with Cheryl Bartlett
F. *The Sydney Tar Ponds*, with Walter van Veen
G. *A boat trip to Bird Island*, with Vince van Shaik
Note: An extra charge of \$25.00 will be applied to tour option G.

- 7:00 PM Banquet
Note: reservation required
Boularderie Lake View Choir and Gaelic singer Margaret Williams

Sunday, 15 June 2003

- 6:00 AM Early morning walk starting at UCCB student residence parking lot
A. *The Historic Petersfield estate*, with TBA
B. *Bird watching at Schooner Pond*, with TBA
8:15 AM Breakfast in Multipurpose Room
8:45 AM *Aquatic biodiversity assessments near post-industrial sites in Sydney* by Kelly White
9:15 AM *Moose populations in Cape Breton Island* by Derek Quann
9:45 AM Refreshment break
10:00 AM **Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists**
Note: The meeting is open to the public.

Following the AGM:

1. Panel Discussion: Waterfront property development in Nova Scotia
Moderator: Alina Crompton
Perspectives: Henry Fullerton, Bras d'Or Stewardship Society; Tony Penney, East Bay Area Community Council; Fred Baechler, Geohydrologist; TBA, Eskasoni First Nation; TBA, Real Estate Agency
2. Convention wrap up
Rapporteurs: Anthony Mazzocca & Doug Linzey

Conference Speakers

- Fred Baechler – geohydrologist with years of consulting experience in the Sydney area
Cheryl Bartlett – biology professor and Canada Research Chair for Integrative Science

- Thomas Bouman – biology professor with an active research program on tree diversity and forest ecosystems
- Alina Crompton – retired research scientist of Agriculture Canada
- Clifford Crompton – retired research scientist of Agriculture Canada and curator of the UCCB herbarium
- Joan Czapalay – president of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists
- Henry Fullerton – long-term member of the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society
- Fenton Isenor – geology instructor and long-time member of the Cape Breton Naturalists Society.
- Tim Lambert – retired research scientist of Bedford Institute of Oceanography
- Doug Linzey – secretary of the Nova Scotia Federation of Naturalists
- Anthony Mazzocca – biology student
- David McCorquodale – biology professor and regular guest speaker on CBC Cape Breton
- Tony Penney – retired RCMP officer and president of the East Bay Area Community Council
- Terry Power – wildlife biologist with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and long-time member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Naturalists
- Derek Quann – warden with Cape Breton Highlands National Park
- Catherine Sneddon – research associate with the UCCB herbarium and long-time member of the Cape Breton Naturalists Society
- Michael Tanchak – biology professor and department head UCCB
- Kelly White – ecologist with ACAP Cape Breton
- Pixie Williams – adjunct professor and long-time member of the Cape Breton Naturalists Society.
- Erwin Zodrow – professor emeritus with an active research program on the palaeobotany of the Sydney coalfield

Registration

The registration fee for the 2003 Annual Convention of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists is \$55.00 per person, which includes two breakfasts, refreshments, and a lunch bag. The Saturday banquet is \$17.00 per person.

There is no charge for attending the AGM only.

Reservations for accommodation in the UCCB residence at special conference rates can be made directly with UCCB Conference Services: call (902) 563-1803.

The registration form is available on the FNSN Web site:

<www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/agm2003.html>

Issues of interest

The Tobeatic Wilderness

A lot of attention has been paid to the recent management planning exercise for the Tobeatic Wilderness area. The main reason is that this will be the first ever management plan developed under the Nova Scotia Wilderness Areas Protection Act. What emerges from this plan will amount to de facto regulations that will most likely apply to all wilderness areas as they develop their own management plans. In other words, this will be the exemplar plan.

That fact alone is causing various amounts of consternation among the various interests in wilderness areas. One of the main sources of contention is the use of ATVs, or off-road vehicles.

FNSN has made submissions to the Tobeatic Wilderness Committee, which is advising the provincial government. Our comments have mostly been about off-road vehicle use (see our policy, *FNSN News*, vol. 12, no. 2). We have also supported the efforts of TOPA (the Tobeatic Protection Alliance), a loosely knit alliance of groups with an interest in the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. Members are CPAWS-NS, Ecology Action Centre, Sierra Club Atlantic, Tobeatic Wilderness Committee, Annapolis Field Naturalists, Digby Fish and Game, Tuskent River Environmental Assessment Association, Enviro-Clare, and SW Paddlers. The provincial organizations are involved from a wider perspective of interest in the whole protected areas network and for concern about precedent-

setting activities such as the mine adjacent to the Tobeatic.

ATVs in Nova Scotia

On April 28, the Minister of Environment announced: "Voluntary Planning will assemble a task force of individuals from diverse backgrounds in the private or non-governmental sectors to address a wide variety of concerns regarding highway vehicles issues." Widespread concerns include public and user safety, liability, insurance, environmental damage, unauthorized use of private and public lands, and the lack of systems to enforce appropriate use.

Voluntary Planning is being asked to provide policy recommendations for recreation opportunities, possible legislative/regulatory changes, the role of public stewardship, trail development, insurance, enforcement, education and training, administration, and funding.

The public consultation, research, and recommendation process may take up to a year to complete. Jim Eisenhauer, chair of Voluntary Planning said planning for the project will begin immediately and a consultation schedule will be announced as soon as possible.

He said people who have knowledge, experience, or other credentials regarding off-highway vehicles and who are interested in volunteering for the task force should write Voluntary Planning Suite 600, Joseph Howe Building, Halifax, NS B3J 3J9; phone (902) 424-5682

or (toll free) 1-866-858-5850; or e-mail <volplan@gov.ns.ca>. The FNSN board encourages all members to let the task force know what you think of the ATV situation, how it affects you, and how it affects the natural world around you.

Forests at risk

Environmentalists are fighting proposed changes to New Brunswick's Crown Lands Act that would allow timber companies to double their harvests from Crown land. Activist Jean Arnold told CBC News late in February the recommendations put important forest areas – including stream buffers and deer wintering areas – in danger. The province says it will strike a legislative committee and hold public hearings concerning the proposed changes. (*Adapted from Atlantic Forestry Review, March 2003*)

Wouldn't it be nice to read just once that the government is cutting allowable cuts in order to conserve habitat and increase biodiversity on crown lands? —ed.

Expense of conservation

The Island Nature Trust's many conservation projects are endangered by skyrocketing insurance rates, CBC News reported Feb. 27. This year, the PEI non-profit group's bill for liability and property insurance will be close to \$6,000. The group hopes the provincial government will help out. Island Nature Trust owns about 1,050 hectares of property on PEI. (*Adapted from Atlantic Forestry Review, March 2003*)

It's a sad day when only governments can afford to conserve nature —ed.

Keeping the parks healthy

As part of the revised Cape Breton Highlands National Park management plan, the park staff would like the authority to close any given endangered waterway within the park boundaries to recreational fishing until such time as the health of the waterway is restored.

The FNSN board supports the staff in this regard, and, in the interests of habitat protection and maintaining biodiversity, we encourage this action.

Meanwhile, the anglers who regularly fish in the park are suspicious that closures would become permanent, with the objective of eventually prohibiting all fishing. Parks Canada assures us that this is not the intention.

Reporting observations

Ursula Grigg, Halifax Field Naturalists representative to the FNSN board of directors, mentioned that the Museum of Natural History appreciates receiving field trip reports. But, and this is an important caveat, museum staff require accurate species ID. Your reports should include the authority used to make identifications, precise locations, and the names of the trip leader and interpreter.

Reports can go by either mail or e-mail to

Leslie Pezzack
Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer St
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6
<pezzacle@gov.ns.ca>

You can also send your reports to your DNR regional biologist. DNR keeps a database of species locations and in the case of rarities will send someone into the field to check them out.

Nature
Poetry by Emily Dickinson

God made a little gentian;
It tried to be a rose
And failed, and all the summer laughed.
But just before the snows
There came a purple creature
That ravished all the hill;
And summer hid her forehead,
And mockery was still.
The frosts were her condition;
The Tyrian would not come
Until the North evoked it.
"Creator! shall I bloom?"

FNSN MEMBERSHIP is available in conjunction with memberships in the member organizations listed inside the front cover, for \$5.00 — contact the membership secretary of your organization.

Group, corporate and other category rates are available. Individual membership, available directly from the FNSN, entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and a vote at the AGM. Please fill in the following information, include a cheque or money order made payable to the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, and mail to:

FNSN Membership Secretary, c/o 6360 Young Street, Halifax, NS B3L 2A1

Please check one:

Single adult \$12 Family \$15 Student/Senior \$10

Donation _____

Name: _____

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