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## Meet 'Algae Man' Ayers, the architect of AlgaeBio's workplace 'culture'

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The vanity plate on his navy blue Ford F-350 truck neatly sums things up with one word: ALGEMAN.

At various points in his career, Andy Ayers has worked with trout, shrimp, mahi-mahi, and yellowfin tuna. But Ayers' calling, as it turns out, appears to be developing and refining those tiny marvels known as unicellular algae.

A zoologist by trade, and a native southwesterner, Ayers is the scientific face of Algae Biosciences Incorporated. With its production facility near Holbrook, Ariz., now undergoing a multimillion-dollar expansion, AlgaeBio is currently poised to make a serious splash into the global microalgae industry.

"In my experience, growing algae is more of an art than a science," says Ayers, the Chief Executive Officer of AlgaeBio. "You have to be able to anticipate problems before they occur. And the only way to really do that is to have grown algae in many different situations around the world."

While doing his master's degree research at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu in the mid-1980s, Ayers was the "algae guy" involved in a program to boost Hawaii's natural population of tuna and mahi-mahi.

And near the end of the '80s, Ayers worked for a private company with research facilities based at Texas A&M University, overseeing the algae component of a multinational outfit's shrimp farming operations in Panama and Colombia.

"They were growing massive amounts of algae . . . multiple-ten-thousand-gallon tanks of algae cultures, and we had to make sure that algae was growing as clean and dense as possible," recalls Ayers. "The time I spent down there ended up crucial to my work with AlgaeBio, because it gave me the expertise in growing massive amounts of algae — and that's what we're going to be doing here."

## **Media Advisory: Algae Biosciences Incorporated**

AlgaeBio's production facilities near Holbrook, in the high desert plains of northeast Arizona, are currently undergoing a \$5-million, first-phase expansion, which is expected to allow the company to reach large-scale commercial production levels by early 2012. And first on the agenda for AlgaeBio is the extraction of ultra-pure omega-3 fatty acid oils from microalgae for international customers in the nutraceutical and food additive industries.

This initial stage of expansion calls for 1,500 of AlgaeBio's proprietary bioreactors to be pressed into service, as well as the instalment of more harvesting and support equipment.

Proprietary technologies — including harvesting and extraction methods, and bioreactor design — as well as exclusive aquaculture access to pristine brine water from the Coconino Aquifer give AlgaeBio a clear advantage over the competition in terms of production cost, as well as purity of product.

Ayers has also been busy creating an AlgaeBio advantage in the lab. Ayers has painstakingly refined a group of specific photosynthetic, naturally biodiverse algae strains, under exclusive licence to AlgaeBio, that are ideal for the company's unique growing environment, and allow for year-round harvest. In preparation for AlgaeBio's move up to commercial production, "I've started a process to basically push these algae to produce higher amounts of omega-3s, using an intense artificial selection process," he says.

Thanks to its enviable production capabilities, AlgaeBio's downstream opportunities include: pharmaceuticals, such as designer proteins, vaccines, enzymes, antibodies, and research agents; sustainable biofuels; macroalgae for human food; organic pigments that can replace synthetic dyes in food and cosmetics; organic compounds called carotenoids, which as potent antioxidants reduce cell damage and fight disease; and liquid feed for marine life.

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**ABOUT ALGAE BIOSCIENCES INCORPORATED:** AlgaeBio is an Arizona biotechnology company that researches, develops, and manufactures ultra-pure products from micro and macro algae such as nutraceuticals, food additives, and pharmaceuticals. With access to near-perfect algae growing conditions, exclusive aquaculture access to a pristine brine water supply, and advanced proprietary technology, AlgaeBio produces superior human and animal consumable products, as well as offering advanced algae-based products and technologies for distribution into the agribusiness, biofuel, and aquaculture markets. AlgaeBio owns and operates large-scale production facilities near Holbrook, Ariz., and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Algae Biosciences Corporation.

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