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THE WILD SIDE

David Tazik - NMFVA President
 (Dave.J.Tazik@erdc.usace.army.mil)

Many of you know Pat Walsh, some of you don't. Pat, formerly of Avon Park AFR, FL, has left DoD for cooler pastures in the National Wildlife Refuge system in Alaska (see article on page 18). We owe a debt of gratitude to Pat for all the work he has done in support of the Association. I am personally indebted for his assistance on the Government Affairs Committee during the past two years. Much of what he did was done in a silent way and might not otherwise be recognized. Thanks Pat and good luck!

After a long and considered search, Rhys Evans, with the help of Tessa Martin-Bashore and Jim Beemer, has found a new webmaster. Ms. Ginny Dickerson of Vicksburg, Mississippi recently signed a contract to provide much needed web assistance. This is no small matter. We recognized some time ago, thanks to Marjorie McHenry, that the web would serve as an important information exchange and communication tool for the Association.

And Jess Cobb has done a great job in getting it off the ground at a reasonable cost. Still, we have yet to realize the full potential of this medium. We hope that Rhys and Ginny will help get us there.

We have had an outstanding response to our call for contributions to the Field Notes section of the Newsletter thanks to the efforts of John Joyce and Scott Smith, our two Eastern Directors. Originally advocated by one of our Past Presidents, Tom Poole, we need more of this sort of input to the Newsletter. I challenge each of you to come up with at least one such contribution during the coming year.

In our last issue, we published a letter authored by our friend, Congressman Don Young, requesting information from DoD on the status of natural resource management functions performed by DoD employees. We also included the interim response provided by Defense. As of this

The Wild Side — continued

writing, Defense has not provided a final response to Mr. Young. We await the outcome.

We have a new working group on Invasive Species. With exotic species increasingly recognized as a major threat to ecosystem integrity, perhaps second only to habitat loss, it is timely. This follows successful establishment of the Herpetology Working Group, which hosted a workshop at West Point Military Academy, NY this year. Jim Beemer spearheaded the NMFWA working group concept and is to be commended. For more information on the Invasive Species Working Group, contact Kim Mello, Fort McCoy, WI (608-388-5766; DSN: 280-5766). For the Herpetology Working Group, contact Jay Rubinoff, Rock Island Arsenal, IL (309-782-4474; DSN: 793-4474).

Please read and consider the draft resolution published on page 6. While it is simply stated, it has serious implications for the direction that our Association will take in the coming months and years. It cuts to the core of the mission of this organization, and the strategies we pursue in attempting to live up to that mission – providing for sound natural resources management on DoD lands in support of the military mission. This resolution will be brought up for consideration at our March 2001 business meeting.

I thank this year's Board of Directors for the outstanding work they have done on your behalf during the past 10 months. I also thank you all for allowing us the opportunity to serve and promote the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association. It has been both a rewarding and a frustrating year. Rewarding in seeing that we can accomplish much that is good for Defense natural resources management when we pursue our convictions aggressively. Frustrating in that those for whom we work, and, unfortunately, many others in the greater federal bureaucracy under-appreciate the value and nature of the work that we do in our capacity as civil servants.

I urge you to seek out opportunities to help your Association -- run for a seat on the Board of Directors, volunteer to present a paper, contribute an article or note to the newsletter, participate in our working groups. Be proactive, your Association needs your help. And there is much work to be done!

See you all in Washington, DC. We have important business to discuss, and we need to hear your voice.

EDITOR'S NOTES.....

As you are reading my fourth newsletter, I want to thank those who make each issue possible — mainly the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons, but also those of you in the field who contribute information and articles. You will notice an increase in this issue of the articles which fall under the heading of “Field Notes” (denoted by the borders of stars on the titles). Unfortunately, not all the photos I received could be squeezed into the newsletter — thanks for those and keep those articles coming. The sharing of this information here and on the web site makes this organization a uniquely strong and cohesive group.

Our advertising rates have been finalized, so send any potential advertisers to the President or directly to me. Please address any comments regarding the newsletter to me; those are welcome and will help the FAWN to improve.

Mike Passmore (Michael.F.Passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil)



2001 National Military fish and wildlife Association meeting program – Washington, dc

Program Summary

Sunday, March 18

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Wetlands Grant Proposal Workshop
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Committee Meetings

Monday, March 19

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings
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Tuesday, March 20

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Partners in Flight</i> Meeting
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	New Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Government Affairs Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 21

8:00 – 8:20 a.m.	Opening Remarks
8:20 – 10:10 a.m.	Technical Session 1, <i>Conservation and Management of Carnivores on Military Lands</i>
10:30 – 12:00 noon	Technical Session 2, <i>Feral Animal Impacts on Military Operations</i>
1:00 – 2:40 p.m.	Technical Session 3, <i>Degraded Streams and Riparian Management</i>
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Technical Session 4, <i>Wetlands: Constraints and Opportunities</i>
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Herptile Working Group Meeting
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Show and Tell Reception

Thursday, March 22

8:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Technical Session 5, <i>Threatened and Endangered Species Management and Research</i>
10:00 – 12:00 noon	Technical Session 6, <i>Government Affairs “Goes to Court”</i>
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Department of Defense Conservation Planning Session
2:45 – 5:00 p.m.	General Business Meeting
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Invasive Species Working Group Meeting
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Reception
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Awards Banquet

Friday, March 23

8:00 – 12:00 noon	Service Breakout Sessions
	U.S. Army
	U.S. Navy
	U.S. Air Force

FOLKS! It's silent auction time again!!!

It is once again time to think of our annual meeting and the one event that occurs that excites all: the Silent Auction! This activity raises money for our organization and is a fairly painless way to do it. And everyone who participates "wins"! As host of this annual meeting's Silent Auction, I am asking for donations of useful or attractive items such as artwork, books, CDs, cowboy poetry tapes, etcetera. If you can give something, please let me know via email. I'll see you in DC!

Tina Lorentzen (loren@gvmail.usna.edu)

2001 dod training sessions

By the time you read this, you should have received your pre-registration packet for our March meeting in Washington, DC. If not, please contact me (wrayt@nswc.navy.mil; 540-653-4186; DSN 249-4186) and I'll forward you the information immediately.

This meeting is shaping up to be one of the best ever. Located at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in beautiful downtown Washington, DC, you will find most if not all of your needs right at your fingertips. Our nation's capitol is served well by its Metro System. Vehicles are not a necessity unless you plan to travel beyond the city limits. Numerous eating establishments of various ethnic origin are located within walking distance of the hotel. And the hotel has spent a few chips since our last stay four years ago, providing us with fitting accommodations for our annual meeting.

The Program Chair has worked hard to ensure a top quality meeting. The Host committee and I have worked hard spending your registration fees. So, come on and get the hell out of Dodge and spend a few days with some of the finest people around.

Look forward to seeing you.

Thomas Wray (WrayT@NSWC.NAVY.MIL)

Nmfwa show & tell

It is time to start thinking of the 2001 NMFVA Workshop and while you are considering your travel plans to the Nation's capital...how about contributing to the Show and Tell reception. The Show and Tell is a great opportunity to network with natural resource professionals in an informal atmosphere. We need YOU to share the wit and wisdom of your installation's successes, failures, high points, low points, achievements, good deeds, unique programs, partnerships, recent ventures, pet projects, and/or money saving techniques!!!! This is the time to share with your counterparts so we can all learn what is going on in your part of the world. Projects can be presented in several formats: poster boards, video presentation, computer, slide shows, or any combination thereof. Installation contractors can contribute their achievements as well. If you are interested, please contact me.

Coralie Cobb (CobbCH@efds.w.navy.mil)

NMFVA awards in 2001

The National Military Fish & Wildlife Association Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for its annual awards which will be presented at the Association's Annual Conference, to be held in Washington DC in March 2001.

Nominations may be submitted via fax or email to the Awards Committee Chair (that's me). FAX number is (845) 938-2324. Home e-mail is ravenwindrider@earthlink.net. The categories are Fish & Wildlife Special Achievement Awards; up to seven different categories.

The deadline for submitting nominations is 31 January 2001. Contact me with questions.

Jim Beemer; NMFVA Awards Committee Chair; (845) 938-3857; (yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil)

2001 nmfwa photo contest!!!

Attention shutterbugs! Are you a budding or experienced photographer? Do you have photographs of your favorite wildlife species or field activity you are dying to show off? How about entering them in a photo contest at the 2001 NMFWA conference to get the oohs, ahs, and recognition you deserve? You could win a prize that would make the effort all worth while! Here are the rules:

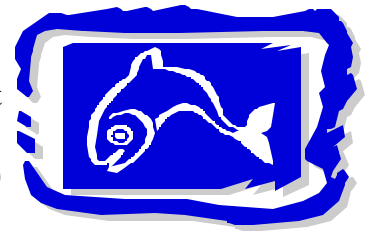
1. Photos must be taken by the participant. Anyone registered at NMFWA conference is eligible to enter.
2. Photos must be mounted on stiff backing (photo board, art board, foam board, etc.). Each photo must have the name and address of the photographer clearly marked on the back with the entry category. Matting is optional. Do not submit photos in glass frames.
3. Photos must be at least 5 X 7 inches and no larger than 11 X 14 inches. Color and black and white prints are acceptable. Slides will not be accepted.
4. Each photo must qualify under one of the following categories: (a) wildlife, (b) installation field activities (photo must have been taken at a DoD installation to qualify for this category), (c) landscapes (any location is acceptable), and (d) humor/fun (includes wildlife or people in humorous poses, people taking part in fun activities, studio shots, etc.).
5. Each participant may enter up to two photos in each category. One prize will be awarded in each category. Winners will be honored at the annual banquet.
6. Bring your photos with you and submit them before the show and tell reception. Details on where to submit the photos will be provided with your registration materials.

Keep that camera handy and keep snapping!

Julie Eliason (julie.eliason@ca.ngb.army.mil)

2002 fisheries symposium —

I am working to put a proposal together to sponsor a symposium at the 2002 American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Conference to be held in Baltimore, MD sometime in the last two weeks of August, 2002. Tentative title for the symposium would be "Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Inventory and Management by Department of Defense - The 'Unknown' Federal Player."



I am shooting for a full day which would require about 20 peer-review-quality presentations, each lasting 20 minutes. I hope to be able to have the full spectrum of activities including: recreational fisheries management activities; habitat restoration projects; marine species & habitat; commercial fisheries operations; freshwater mollusk & crayfish projects; T & E fish species studies, management and restoration activities; public utilization; education projects.

The submission date for the proposal will be early September, 2001. If I could have titles, authors, and abstracts by 1 August 2001, that would give the opportunity to put a winning proposal together. Should I receive more than 24 submittals, I would have a committee select the best presentations for the symposium and encourage the remainder to submit their papers to a Contributed Papers Session.

Questions may be directed to me either at work or my home email address:
ravenwindrider@earthlink.net.

James Beemer (yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil)

**Nwfw resolution --
Military downsizing**

The Resolutions Committee has developed a resolution on downsizing natural resource positions within the Department of Defense. Publication in the FAWN and its distribution fulfills the 30 day notice of intent to bring this resolution before the membership at the Annual Business Meeting to be held in Washington D.C., in March 2001. The resolution is presented below for consideration by the NMFWA membership. Comments, questions, and proxy votes should be submitted to Dave Tazik (dave.j.tazik@erdc.usace.army.mil).

Resolution

Whereas, the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) is a private nongovernmental organization that is dedicated to the professional and sound management of natural resources on Department of Defense (DoD) lands; and

Whereas, the NMFWA is an organization dedicated to providing for natural resource management on DoD lands in support of the military mission by utilizing sound natural resource management principles under the direction of professionally trained natural resources personnel; and

Whereas, the Sikes Act Amendments of 1997 require each military installation to employ sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resource managers; and

Whereas, most natural resources management functions are inherently governmental; and

Whereas, the military mission is dependent on the sound management of natural resources; and

Whereas, the DoD is implementing various strategies involved in outsourcing, privatization, and downsizing government positions, including natural resource management functions; and

Whereas, the downsizing, outsourcing, and privatization of natural resource management functions presents a significant threat to the professional management of natural resources and the support of the military mission;

Therefore be it resolved, that the NMFWA considers the downsizing of natural resource management functions throughout DoD to be one of the most significant issues of this time and therefore a high priority action for the Association.

Further be it resolved, that the NMFWA will take, on a high priority basis, political, legal, and/or other necessary actions to halt and reverse the downsizing of natural resource management functions throughout DoD, in order to sustain accomplishment of the military mission and continued professional stewardship of the public trust resources upon which that mission is predicated.

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR
UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:**

1 MAY 2001 for JUNE edition

15 SEPTEMBER 2001 for OCTOBER edition

(Michael.F.Passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil)

Herpetology working group report

In support of the efforts and goals of the Partner's in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), the Herpetology Working Group proposed the following instructions for inclusion in the DODI 4715.3 rewrite:

"REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Reptiles and amphibians (herptiles) are integral parts of our environment. They not only provide for increased biodiversity, but also have tremendous medical, ecological, and aesthetic value. Healthy herptile populations are necessary for maintaining diverse, functional ecosystems through insect and rodent control and energy transfer, to name a few. They are also excellent biological indicators of environmental health. Unfortunately, there have been tremendous declines in a number of herptile species within the United States and around the world.

The global decline of herptiles is well documented. Habitat loss, disease, and displacement from invasive species are just a few of the known factors contributing to their decline. DOD already addresses habitat loss in installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, but implementation of additional simple but wise efforts and policies can further reduce threats affecting reptile and amphibian populations on military installations.

The following instruction is implemented in support of the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) and to promote DOD's commitment to the conservation of reptiles & amphibians and their habitats on military installations.

X. Amphibians and Reptiles (herptiles) on Military Installations

X.1 Harvesting/Collecting:

- (a) Herptiles may be harvested on a

State's fish and game laws and the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.

(b) To prevent the potential spread of disease and invasive herptile species, the collection of live herptiles on a Military Installation is prohibited, unless IAW (c) below.

(c) The use of commercially-purchased, live herptiles for fishing bait is prohibited on Military Installations. This is also to prevent the potential spread of disease and invasive herptiles. On-site collection of live herptiles for use as fishing bait is permitted, as long as it is done IAW all applicable state and Federal regulations and no individual animals leave the site.

X.2 Pets:

(a) Individuals who bring herptile pets onto a Military Installation should have proper documentation (origin, permits, purchase receipts) and be aware that under the Lacey Act of 1900, as amended, it is unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, possess, or purchase any fish, wildlife, or plant taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any Federal, State, foreign, or Indian tribal law, treaty, or regulation.

(b) Collection of live herptiles off-post is discouraged. However, an individual who brings such collections on-post must have the proper permits (see (a) above). The Installation Natural Resources Manager should be made aware of any live herptiles kept on-post.

(c) To prevent spread of disease and invasive herptiles, the releasing of pet herptiles is prohibited anywhere on the Installation. The Installation Natural Resources Manager should be consulted prior to disposal of unwanted herptiles."

Jay Rubinoff (rubinoffj@osc.army.mil)



COYOTE STUDIES AT AVON PARK AFR

For the last 30 to 40 years, the coyote (*Canis latrans*) has been expanding its range to the east and south. Since 1988, coyotes have been documented in Polk County in central Florida. Avon Park Air Force Range is located in Polk and Highlands counties, Florida, and is the largest bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi at 106,070 acres. The earliest confirmed kill of a coyote on the range occurred in the 1996-97 hunt season. Increased coyote sightings and sign in central Florida over the last ten years sparked interest in studying the range expansion and population growth of the coyote in the region. Avon Park Air Force Range now has two projects underway to study the coyote on the installation.

Using the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group as an organizational tool, a regional population and distribution scent station survey for coyotes was initiated in 1997 and run by Avon Park Air Force Range wildlife personnel. This survey is now coordinated by the University of Florida and has 31 participating sites in 19 counties. At Avon Park, a series of 52 equally spaced scent stations are established on one day in February and read for tracks on the second and fifth days hence. A fatty acid scent disk is placed in the center of a three-foot circle of sifted dirt established on the shoulder of unpaved roads. Our results show a steady increase in relative abundance and a spread in distribution across the range over 4 years. Our numbers have risen to within the range of relative abundancies found in similar studies done in western states. The coyote harvest by hunters has also increased over the same period of time from one to six animals harvested during the hunt season of each year.

The second coyote study is a capture, tag, and telemetry study also being done in conjunction with the University of Florida. Coyotes are captured with

rubber-jawed leg hold trap. Traps are placed in areas of recent coyote sign. Upon capture, the animal is measured, weighed, sexed, checked for previous lactation, and a rough age is estimated. A VHF radio collar is then placed on the animal and it is released.

Positions of each animal can then be calculated by obtaining three or more azimuths from known points using radio telemetry equipment. Since 1998, we have collared 31 different animals and have obtained over 700 positions on study subjects located using a program from Ecological Software Solutions. Positions are transformed (with all associated data) into a shapefile and viewed in GIS. Using a minimum convex polygon method, we found the average range of 9 animals to be a little over 8000 acres in 1999 with very little contemporaneous range overlap between family groups.

Other benefits of the trapping program are the ability to learn about causes of mortality, dispersion rate, general health, and size of family groups. Of the coyotes we have lost from the study, seven have dispersed beyond telemetry range and eight have been confirmed dead. Of the deceased subjects, 75% died from having been shot or trapped by hunters or off range landowners. Only one animal was thought to have died of natural causes. Of the dispersed animals, most (63%) were young males estimated to be in their second year or younger, which is consistent with what is known about dispersal from other areas.

We hope to use the methods at hand to investigate other questions regarding seasonal changes in range, daily activity cycles, and other questions about how the coyote is using the land in central Florida.

Keith Morin (keith.morin@avonpark.macdill.af.mil)



 ★ **GIS DEVELOPMENT AT** ★
 ★ **DARE CO. BOMBING RANGE** ★

Dare County Bombing Range (IN) has been working with Gulf Engineers and Consultants of Baton Rouge, LA to develop a geographical information system (GIS) to assist in managing the natural resources of its 40,000-acre buffer zone. The original data was in Atlas GIS format and was initially converted to MapInfo and an MS Access database which was customized to track the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) population and management activities associated with the RCW. The Atlas GIS data were converted to ArcView format. Through field collection, purchasing, and acquisition from other sources, a variety of data layers have been incorporated into the system.

Themes currently used in the GIS include RCW clusters, individual trees, cavities, forage habitat, potential recruitment stands, banding data, forest cover types, stands with inventory data, vegetation, ecosystems, soils with peat depth, NWI maps, roads, hydrology, and boundaries. Base data includes 1994 black and white, 1998 color infrared, and 1999 natural color photography, USGS quadrangle maps, and satellite imagery. The RCW database is updated at least annually with RCW monitoring and banding data, and more often with the addition of cavity inserts or restrictors and recruitment stands, and notable RCW or cavity trees observations.

In addition to being used in support of endangered species management, the GIS is used to assist in timber harvests, make management decisions concerning southern pine beetle control, and provide supporting data for NEPA documentation for various actions on the Range. Future uses of the GIS may include housing a digital photograph database for cavity trees, forest stand modeling including growth and yield, managing public hunts for white-tailed deer and black bear, and management of prescribed burning.

R. Scott Knaus (rsknaus@gecinc.com)

 ★ **Student conservation** ★
 ★ **Association opportuni-** ★

I'm John Lewis and I'm working at HQ USAF conservation division as a resource assistant. Whether you need improvements in trail maintenance, invasive plant control, office outreach or research, the Student Conservation Association (SCA) offers assistance through a variety of working levels. As the nation's leading provider of youth for your conservation needs, the SCA offers groups of high school or college students work under your supervision. Terms are usually three, six or twelve months. This allows ample time for the SCA member to accomplish laborious tasks and grow into a position that releases workload pressure from you and your natural resource team. Each service has an agreement in place with SCA to help you meet your needs. Check with your headquarters' natural resource office for details and application procedures. Also, check SCA's website for a broader perspective at www.sca-inc.org.

NMFWA EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!!!!

Reminder: Please send your E-mail address to: Greg Lee, Membership Committee Chair at: gregory.lee@moody.af.mil for your address to be included in the NMFWA database.

This will aid Regional Directors and other BOD members facilitate improved communication with the membership.

Pat walsh moves on—

After 12.5 years at Avon Park Air Force Range in Florida, Pat Walsh has decided to move on. He has accepted, and by now started, a new job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as lead biologist on Togiak NWR, southwestern Alaska. Biogeographically speaking, this includes 1.1 million acres of brown bears, caribou, moose, wolves, waterfowl, walrus, and 1,500 miles of salmon and trout rivers and streams. He'll be supervising 5 biologists and other support staff working on fish and wildlife investigations/management issues. The town of Dillingham is the biggest town in the Bristol Bay area--around 3,000 people. It's 350 miles west of Anchorage--no road access--boats or planes only.



Pat writes, "I have found much professional satisfaction in my work here at Avon Park Air Force Range. However, my involvement in the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association has provided deeper satisfaction. I've had the opportunity to help shape national policy in the interest of both national defense and natural resources management. I'm proud of the work our organization has done, and it's been an honor to be a member. I'll miss being a part of this organization, but I'll continue to watch your work. Good luck to all of you and good luck to the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association!"

As a fellow Association member writes, "Pat.... a guy who... thank goodness... doesn't know the meaning of the word 'quit'. If it wasn't for Pat Walsh, we would be a lot further down the 'outsourcing' road. Many of us, whether we know it or not, owe our jobs to Pat. He paid a big price for saying 'not no, but hell no!' to those who would ignore the law and go about their business of screwing up the environment on Defense installations. He paid our price. He's that kind of guy."

Many of you will remember Pat for the outstanding job he and his Avon Park associates did in hosting our annual workshop in Orlando in 1998. Who can forget the diversity of wild game and baskets of raw oysters!

Best of luck Pat!

First dod wildlife Manager honored!!

On his 90th birthday (November 11, 2000), Jerome J. Pratt of Sierra Vista, Arizona, was presented the DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE by Major General John D. Thomas, Jr., Commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca.

When Pratt reported for duty as the wildlife manager in December 1957, he filled the first such position in DOD. He developed the first wildlife management plan for a military installation and consummated the first cooperative agreement under the Sikes Act. He joined the National Park Service in 1964 and retired from Haleakala National Park, Maui, Hawaii in 1972.

Attend nmfwa 2001

Washington dc

18-23 March 2001

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