

THE FAWN



Volume XXIII

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THE WILD SIDE

Doc Bailey – NMFVA President
(Jim.Bailey@nmfva.org)

Training!!! Just as the military must train as it fights to develop skills needed to survive on a battlefield so must DoD Natural Resources managers train to ensure we have the best techniques to protect military training land. We have the dual responsibility to ensure that our troops have the land to provide realistic training so they are prepared for their missions but we must also protect those valuable Natural Resources that make our country worth fighting for.

Now we are approaching a situation that may compromise our ability to train as we work. In our past 21 years the NMFVA has developed a recipe for the successful training of our members. We have established partnerships and working relationships with notable organizations of like interests that provide an atmosphere where we can transfer information and ideas that provide for an effective training experience. In an effort to save money and consolidate activities DoD

is promoting one big training meeting at the annual Joint Services Environmental Management (JSEM) meetings. While this might seem to provide the best “bang for your buck” on the surface, in reality you will be negating considerable coordination between several Federal agencies and a number of NGO’s that cooperate to provide a meaningful training experience for DoD Natural Resources managers.

The registration fees for the JSEM conference are considerably higher than our registration fees and the content of the meeting is not nearly as concise and appropriate for our training needs as the content developed for our meetings. In short, instead of assuming that JSEM is the appropriate training vehicle for all DoD environmental activities it would seem that communication with the organizations that will be affected by training changes (such as NMFVA) be initiated to determine training needs.

Share with others the events or field studies taking place on your installation !

See FAWN deadlines on page 15

THE WILD SIDE — *continued*

On the positive side of Natural Resources training results, I had the good fortune to help judge the Army Natural Resources Conservation awards for large installations this year, and I was extremely pleased that the quality was so impressive and the competition was so fierce. It was very difficult to determine a winner from the top four Army entrants and the others were also very good. What I am trying to get at here is that the training that is provided at the NMFWA conference is instrumental in developing Natural Resources managers that staff the installation's programs. This training procedure has been refined over years of NMFWA meetings, designed by the people working on the installations for installation improvement. Techniques developed for one program or environmental region can be tweaked and redesigned to fit other programs or regions without having to reinvent the wheel each time. Intangibles such as leadership and character development accrue through NMFWA meetings. On a personal note, I learned many things during my term as NMFWA president that I would not have picked up in my installation environment.

Since all the services have Natural Resources award programs for large and small installations, as well as individuals, I am going to recommend that the FAWN run articles from selected entrants to the annual competition from the previous year to share tested techniques that have worked for them. Since no one wants to volunteer for additional work, articles can be submitted using information documentation provided to the award agencies.

Since this is my last Wild Side, I suppose I should briefly rehash some of the events of the year. First, I hope you know that we are voting on a change in the bylaws that would allow full voting privileges for contractors who are working full time in the Natural Resources arena on a military installation. This is a somewhat controversial question that has been discussed before but circumstances dictate that we revisit it. Please take some time and vote on the contractor voting issue, as well as officers for next year.

Second, we (a group of past NMFWA presidents) drafted a letter to Mr. Rumsfeld asking for adequate funding to implement our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP's). As of yet, this letter has not been sent because of changing conditions in Command policy. Further action may still occur depending on policy changes.

A third significant action is addressed earlier in this Wild Side with the withdrawal of DoD support for the NMFWA meeting and the suggestion that the JSEM meeting be the training venue for DoD environmental personnel.

As you can see nothing has really happened on any of these issues to date, therefore I guess this has been a rather uneventful year. No, I take that back. We raised prices for the annual meeting to \$300 for the registration fee. I think I need to finish my term before I get "tar and feathered".

One thing that has occurred on my watch, which I hoped we fixed, was the attack of our web site by the phantom pornographer. We got some very disgusting porn attached to our web site, which caused us to take down portions of the web site until we could change procedures for entry. We hope to make entry to the jobs area and bulletin board simpler soon. I kidded Chester on the increase of Viagra and penile enhancement spam during his term. I hate to think of what he may have in mind for me now.

In closing, I would like to encourage everyone to attend this years meeting in Arlington. We expect a very interesting meeting both in terms of quality speakers and fun entertainment. Rhys Evans has done a fantastic job of building the program. I would also like to thank all those associated with NMFWA in any capacity for their support this year. I'll see you soon in Arlington.

Keep up the good fight!



VOTE ONLINE NOW!!!

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

It's election time again – time for us to do our duty and vote for the NMFWA Board members who will represent the Association in 2005-2006. The Board positions up for election this year are President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, At-Large Director (2-yr term), Regional Director – East (2-yr term), and Regional Director - West (2-yr term). **Additionally, you are asked to vote on whether or not to give voting status to contractors who work full-time on installations.**

This notice serves as the official announcement of Association elections. The actual ballot and candidates statements will only be available through the NMFWA website at www.nmfwa.org. Voting members may either vote on-line or print the ballot out and mail it to the following address: Chester Martin, 113 Estelle Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39180. Voting must be completed no later than 4 March 2005.

For voting purposes, only those NMFWA members who are full-time government employees (DoD civilians or state National Guard) directly involved in the management of natural resources on military lands are eligible to vote. In order to verify voting status, each ballot must contain the individual voter's full name and government agency employer. Ballots that are received lacking this information will not be counted. Ballots are viewed only by the Immediate Past President and are kept strictly confidential.

Your vote makes a difference! I strongly encourage each of you to take the time to support your Association and vote for the candidates of your choice.

Chester O. Martin, Nominations Committee and Immediate Past President
(Chester.Martin@nmfwa.org)

ICEBREAKER IN ARLINGTON!!

On Monday evening starting at 6:30 pm, NMFWA welcomes both Old Timers and Newcomers to the second annual NMFWA Icebreaker at “King Street Blues,” located in the underground “Crystal City Shops” complex adjacent to the Crystal Gateway Marriott (about a two minute walk from the lobby). This event is not included in registration, but the menu is decently priced and the food is excellent (I ate there twice in May, yet again demonstrating the pain and suffering it takes to serve you, our members). No, really, the food is great and they have a full bar. It's mostly Cajun/Creole food, with “Ultra Famous” BBQ Ribs, voted the best in Virginia many years in a row. Expect to spend about, \$7-15 for dinner. Your bar bill? I can't even begin to guess...

Relax and dine among friends as we gather for food and conversation. This tradition began when Tammy, Coralie and Rhys were all sitting at the same banquet table and met a new NMFWA member who had eaten takeout in her hotel room the previous three nights. Do not miss the informal networking opportunities: meet new friends and help one another with common problems! The Icebreaker will try to help you restore a positive attitude after the always-fun service breakout sessions.

The tradition started with a Newcomer's Breakfast held for two years. It was good to meet, but it was too darned early in the morning! Last year, Luigi's in Spokane was admittedly quite crowded, but the food was superb and a good time was had by all.

Rhys Evans
(Rhys.Evans@nmfwa.org)

2005 NMFWA Annual Training Sessions

Opening Session / Keynote Address (Monday):

To be announced

Special Sessions:

1. INRMP Renewal Questions and Answers:

Can you believe it's already time to revise these critical documents? Join us as we ask representatives from FWS, state resources agencies and each military branch to answer pressing questions... **(Tuesday)**. Chair: Eileen Regan, <eregan@ereresources.com>.

2. NGO Observations on Military Land Management and INRMPS.

Invited Panel Discussion. Speakers from several environmental advocacy groups will present their perspectives, recommendations and complaints about military land management. You may not agree with--but you must be aware of--their points of view. **(Thursday)**. Co-chairs: Jim Omans, HQ U.S. Marine Corps (LFL), (703) 695-8240, <omansjd@hqmc.usmc.mil>; and Heidi Hirsh, HQ U.S. Marine Corps (LFL), (703) 695-8240, <hirshh@hqmc.usmc.mil>.

Technical Sessions:

1. Invertebrates: Trampled Underfoot.

Often overlooked, invertebrates on military installations occupy valuable ecological roles. These varied roles make them valuable as bioindicators. From Florida to California, caves to sand dunes, many invertebrates are in trouble and that can't be a good indicator. Chair: Neil Bass, Whiteman Air Force Base, MO. (660) 687-2014; <neil.bass@whiteman.af.mil>.

2. Wildlife Research In Support Of The Military Mission. Research and monitoring is a foundation of natural resources management since an ecosystem approach must be based on the best available data. This session will feature successful research projects (problems, challenges, hypotheses, and study designs) that have been conducted at installations across DOD, all of which have directly supported our core mission: military readiness. Chair: Joe Hovis, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. (717) 861-2806; <jhovis@state.pa.us>.

3. Field Biology, Modern Technology.

Similar to the session in Spokane last year, but with all new topics and tech! Return to the fundamentals of biology with today's equipment. See how modern tools can do in minutes what used to take hours. Chair: Robbie Knight, Fallbrook Detachment, CA. (760) 731-3425; <robert.n.knight@navy.mil>.

4. Build It and They Will Come: Habitat Restoration on Military Lands.

This session will look at various types of habitat restoration on military lands. Speakers will present information on the how to get what you really want out of a restoration contract, and restoration from the wildlife, botany and wetland perspectives. We are going to look at 6 different ways to restore habitat...with at least 6 different sides to the story of restoration. Chair: Coralie Cobb, U.S. Navy, Miramar, CA. (858) 577-6238; <coralie.cobb@navy.mil>.

5. The Chesapeake Bay Challenge: Find out what's new and what's going on in one of the world's largest estuarine ecosystems - the Chesapeake Bay. Whether you work within the Chesapeake watershed, or would simply like to borrow some great teaming and partnering ideas, this session is for you. New initiatives in the Chesapeake restoration challenge, including invasive species, may be transferable to your own

local ecosystem initiative. Co-chairs: Kyle Rambo, NAS Patuxent River, (301) 757-0005 <kyle.rambo@navy.mil> and Jim Bailey, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, (410) 278-6748; <jim.bailey@usag.apg.army.mil>.

6. Invasive Species Management. This session will focus on the control of invasive plants on DOD lands and other federal properties. Practical examples of ongoing weed management efforts on installations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges, and U.S. Forest Service lands will be discussed. Weed management conducted for a variety of land management objectives, and at various landscape scales, will be addressed. Co-chairs: Brian Mihlbachler, USFWS/USAF Academy, CO, (719) 333-3308, <brian.mihlbachler@usafa.af.mil>; and Toni Hodgkins, Fort Sill, OK (580) 639-4324, <hodgkint@sill.army.mil>.

7. Ecology and Management of Reptiles and Amphibians. This session will explore radio-telemetry of turtles, northern pine snakes and timber rattlesnakes; as well as comprehensive herpetological surveys, and translocation of neonate rattlesnakes. Chair: Terry Bashore, Langley Air Force Base, (757) 764-3967, <terry.bashore@langley.af.mil>.

8. Integrating Bird Conservation into INRMPS. Invited Panel Discussion. Will the Migratory Bird Rule, Executive Order MOU, and expanded list of species of concern impact your installation's training mission? This session will help you understand how to integrate new migratory bird information into your INRMP, and describe DoD's bird monitoring strategy that will protect both the military mission and priority bird species. Chair: Chris Eberly, DoD Partners in Flight Coordinator, (540) 253-5675, <ceberly@dodpif.org>.

9. Field Notes: Saving the Best for Last. This session will feature an assortment of papers that did not quite fit into the previous

sessions. Topics vary throughout the Natural Resources disciplines and will provide a very interesting session. Chair: Matthew Klope, NFESC Port Hueneme, (360) 257-1468, <matt.klope@navy.mil>.

Rhys Evans; Vice President & Program Chair
(Rhys.Evans@nrmfwa.org)

2005 Photo Contest

The 7th annual NRMFWA Photography Contest will be held in conjunction with the Show and Tell Reception. Please indicate on the pre-registration form that you wish to participate. Late registrants may enter, but advance notice is important for space requirements.

Contest rules are as follows:

1. Photos must be taken by the participant. Anyone registered at the NRMFWA conference is eligible to enter.
2. Photos must be mounted on stiff backing such as photo board, art board, or foam core, etc. Matting is optional. Do not submit photos in glass frames. Each photo must have the name and address of the photographer clearly marked on the back, along with the entry category.
3. Photos must be at least 5 X 7 inches and no larger than 11 X 14 inches in size (not including mat or board). Color and black and white prints are acceptable. Slides are not allowed.
4. Each photo must qualify in one of the following categories:
 - a. Wildlife (any species is acceptable)

Continued on page 6

NMFWA Working Groups To Meet In Arlington

Herpetology Working Group

During the upcoming 2005 NMFWA meeting in Arlington, VA, the Herpetology Working Group (HWG) will once again be holding their annual meeting. We are currently looking for four to six members who would like to present a 5 to 10 minute presentation on any herpetological work being conducted on their respective installations. Please submit to me your name, affiliation, contact info., and proposed title. Be aware that this is not intended to compete with the Reptile and Amphibian Biology and Management Technical Session chaired by Dr. Terry Bashore.

The agenda for the meeting has not yet been set. Tentatively, we intend on having elections, verifying email addresses, having an open discussion on current installation herp related work, and a discussion on the problems faced with participation in the group. We will also look for ideas for new projects that the HWG could possibly initiate or support.

Anyone who is interested in reptiles and amphibians is urged to join the HWG. Currently, there are 72 active members. If interested, please feel free to contact me at the below email address.

The HWG is always looking for contributions of ongoing research, articles, legislation, web sites, whatever. Please feel free to send anything that you feel would interest the group. See you in March.

Todd Wills (todd.wills@aec.apgea.army.mil)

Invasive Species Working Group

Officers of the ISWG are: Co-chairs, Brian Hostetter and Heidi Howard and Matthew Hohmann, Recording Secretary. Past Co-chair for 2004 was Dick Gebhart and Recording Secretary was Matthew Hohmann. The ISWG will have its business meeting on March 17th after Partners in Flight. As of this date, there are over 130 members in the ISWG. The intent of the ISWG business meeting is to relate current status of the working

group and have a short discussion on lessons learned from the management of invasive species at several installations. Future plans for the group will also be addressed at the meeting.

Agenda

Date: March 17, 2005

Time: 0900-0945

Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott,
Grand Ballroom K, Arlington, VA

TIME PERSON(s)	TOPIC
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5 min Heidi Howard (Cochair ISWG)	Announcements
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20 min Brian Hostetter (Cochair ISWG)	Installation Lessons Learned/Show and Tell
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10 min	Questions/Answers/Discussions (All)
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10 min	Elections/Closing Remarks (All)
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Bat Working Group

The NMFWA Bat Working Group meeting is scheduled for 1700-1800 hrs on Tuesday, 15 March, in "Grand Ballroom H." Because of the reduced time allowed for the 2005 Bat Working Group meeting, the session will primarily consist of a business meeting and election of the Working Group Chair. Items that will be discussed include status of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) revised recovery plan, potential down-listing for the gray bat (*M. grisescens*), new research efforts, and various management issues. If you have a particular topic that you would like addressed, please contact me at Chester.Martin@nmfwa.org. Elections for Working Group Chair will be conducted during the meeting rather than beforehand by ballot. Please send any nomination requests to Tom Glueck at glueckt@wood.army.mil.

NMFWA Reception and Awards Banquet

Our annual reception and awards banquet will be held this year at the opulent and nearby Fort Myer Officers’ Club the evening of 17 March 05 from 1800 to 2130. Following the reception, Five Star Catering will provide a buffet style spread with a choice of salads, entrees, accompaniments, and desserts. We will complete the evening activities with our awards banquet.

Two 55-passenger buses have been reserved to shuttle you to and from the event from 1730 to 1830 and 2130 to 2230, respectively. Access to the military facility will require photo identification! In addition, please let us know of your intentions early via the pre registration process as a list of attendees is required days prior to the banquet. You are strongly encouraged to utilize the bus transportation as rental cars and POV’s may have difficulties gaining access to Fort Myer.

So come join us for an evening in the grand and spacious Alfred J. Koran Ballroom to eat, drink (1 free ticket given to attendees at our annual member’s meeting), and be merry!

Wray, Thomas II (thomas.wray@navy.mil)

For current information on the NMFWA meetings in March, including Show & Tell, Silent Auction and Registration, please visit www.NMFWA.org or contact Rhys Evans, program chair, at: Rhys.Evans@nmfwa.org

NMFWA AWARD NOMINATIONS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!!!

The deadline for award nominations to be presented at the upcoming NMFWA Training Workshop in March is approaching fast! Please take a minute to review the award information below and recognize folks that are making a difference with your natural resources management program. Remember, any individual can make a nomination (you don’t have to be a NMFWA member) and awards can be presented to any individual or group that meet the Special Achievement Award criteria below. Award information is also available on the NMFWA web site at <http://www.nmfwa.org>.

The NMFWA Awards Committee will review all nominations and nominees will receive a plaque, award certificate or NMFWA Presidential congratulatory letter. Don’t delay – deadline for all award nominations is **February 10, 2005!**

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

SUPPORT: For persons (military or civilian) who indirectly assist natural resource management.

VOLUNTEER: For a group or an individual assisting in natural resources programs. May be:

- a) Education, or b) Management.

PROFESSIONAL: For persons working in natural resources conservation. Includes both DOD and non-DOD employees. May be: a) Management,

- b) Law Enforcement, or c) Technical.

Nominations should be submitted via e-mail to Jim Hessel, the Awards Committee Chair (james.hessel@us.army.mil).

USFWS Employee Speaks out on NMFWA and DOD Natural Resources Management

From: Jay_Banta@fws.gov
To: Passmore, Michael F ERDC-EL-MS
Subject: RE: FAWN

Mike: Feel free to print it if you would like. It was a real flashback to see that Kim, Tom Wray, Rick Griffiths, Chester Martin, and several of the other old warriors are still active. I will be ready for CSRS retirement when I hit my 30 years/age 55 which will be less than 5 years. I know that all of these geezers must be close or even over. After four more years of the current administration, I'll bet they will be ready to punt!

“Steve Plunkett, of Dugway Proving Ground, recently e-mailed me a copy of the FAWN. I want to commend you and the NMFWA on such an outstanding newsletter. As a former DOD Natural Resources staffer (Ft. Sill, 1982-89) and a former charter member of NMFWA, I certainly enjoyed seeing that many of the "warriors" I knew are still active and trying to fight the good fight. NMFWA was in the 80's, and I suspect still is, a critical clearinghouse and information vehicle for the multitude of assaults (and the occasional victories) that are occurring on DOD natural resources.

NMFWA should rest assured that there are many on the outside who are watching the budget and policy changes very closely. Many installations are having difficulty getting or perhaps allocating sufficient funding to even meet the legal requirement of federal law and executive orders and it does not set well with most us. While most Command level DOD staff does not like to hear or be reminded of it, DOD has an obligation to the property owners (contrary to their belief, the citizens of our nation, rather than the DOD, are the primary owners) to maintain a minimally sufficient effort at good stewardship.

This mantra of "training at any cost" is simply shortsightedness and a true failure of those at the highest levels to discharge their responsibility to

the citizen of this nation in an prudent manner. The day of installations making significant expansions is long past and the time to really take care of what is currently DOD controlled so that there can be sustainable training and capability to meet evolving missions is here. Hopefully, there will be some in the Command structure who have the vision to grasp this and persevere.

As a federal land manager adjacent to a large piece of military property, it is my hope that such installations will be active players and bring the tremendous habitat resource they possess to the table as we focus on managing resources at the landscape level. Installations have much to offer to the process and can and should be an integral part of all of the national initiatives that are trying to pull resources together for a greater good.

I was impressed to see that the NMFWA membership was in excess of 1,000 members. I encourage each and every one to continue the "good fight". We are in an era where support for progressive and responsible natural resource management on public lands is frequently not commensurate with what is prudent. DOD Natural Resource staffers are the "thin green line" for nearly 25 million acres. That is a formidable challenge and one that will keep all of them against the ropes and counterpunching as they try and do their best to protect the incredible natural resources found on nearly every installation.”

Jay Banta
Fish Springs NWR
Dugway, UT 84022



Recent Retirements

Jim Pottie

Several months ago Junior Kerns suggested that we say thank you and goodbye to Jim Pottie, a friend of mine that works on Aberdeen Proving Ground. He recently retired after 25 years of service. Since I have worked with Jim for a long time I said I would like to put a few words together for the FAWN. As I thought about what I would like to say a bigger theme emerged and thus I have come up with an article that is not your typical golden watch, thank you, retirement speech. I hope your not offended, Jim, because you know how much we appreciated the time and energy you gave to the Army.

If you look out across your typical audience at any session of the annual meeting this year, what would you expect to see? I see a lot of very familiar faces that I have grown up with, professionally, in my time with NMFWA. Many have graying hair or beards and that characteristic toughness that comes from spending long hours in the field, or even longer hours behind a desk trying to do more with less. Many of these faces are disappearing, like Jim's, after an honorable period of service. Some are reappearing, sort of like born-again contractors, which retired from the government only to return as contractual experts. Most have been with NMFWA for a long time.

There are also a few new faces, far too few, and if you ask them who they are you may get an answer like "I am on contract with the Nature Conservancy, or USFWS, or your local University and assigned to the nearest installation". Very seldom do you get the answer "I am a new biologist just hired by the installation itself".

We seem to be missing a generation between those that are now retiring and those that are poised to take over. I fear that there may be some tough transitions between the era of the government servant and the era of the government contractor. How we bridge this generational jump may be our defining moment.

As much as I love seeing all the familiar faces I would much rather see a whole new batch of twenty-something year old faces smiling back saying "we are here to take your place, we are here to keep up the good fight".

Thank you Jim Pottie, and thank you to all the others that have just retired or will soon retire.

We appreciate your service.

Doc Bailey
(Jim.Bailey@nmfwa.org)

John Bardwell

To: Members, National Military Fish and Wildlife Association

I'm only passing this along to let you all know of my retirement at the end of this month (December). Some of you are reps within the NMFWA with whom I've been pleased to be acquainted since one of the first meetings in New Orleans in 1977. I've been involved with Sikes Act issues since my first job as a State Biologist in NC, Fish & Wildlife Administrator on Fort Bragg, USFWS National Sikes Act Coordinator, & this last assignment as USFWS Liaison to the Army Environmental Center. I have no regrets in how my career has evolved & would not want to change a anything. One of the things I truly admire and respect is observing how the NMFWA has grown into an admirable natural resources organization with professional members who have met and continue to meet challenges that can prepare you for anything in life. I wish each of you good health and good memories.



Dennis Herbert

Subject: Farewell Letter from the Natural Resources Branch

To the men and women of the Natural Resources Management Branch, The Nature Conservancy Fort Hood Project, PMO Game Wardens, and the mired others that have worked with or for this Branch and the betterment of the resources, I am so very proud of those that have been true to the Natural Resource mission and put it first, for without a functioning resource base we can not support the Fort Hood mission which is, has been, and will continue to be training soldiers to defend this country. As aggravating and senseless as it may seem to some to protect individual pieces of the resource such as soil, vegetation, or endangered species, without them you don't have a complete, functioning ecosystem. And without this complete ecosystem what will support the "mission"?

There have been so many changes at Fort Hood during my career I can't possibly list them, but a few that I am proud to have been a part of are: "real" dollars spent on conservation practices in the training area, an incredible Game Warden Section, a prescribed burning program that is second to none, improving the quality of the deer herd, the first installation with contract aerial wildfire protection, the Urban Natural Area, an endangered species management program that the State and the US Fish and Wildlife Service look to for answers to their questions, a long relationship with The Nature Conservancy that has been professional from the very start, and stopping abuses such as firewood cutting, motor cycle riding, reptile hunting and overgrazing.

It has been my honor to be a part of and lead the great men and women who serve this nation by being a part of the team that defends our nation. This country will be eternally indebted to you for your service.

What does one say at the end of a great career that spanned 33+ years: continue the struggle against the special interest groups that seek only to line their own pockets and support their inflated egos at

the expense of the American tax payer.

Thanks to a great group of dedicated professional employees that made my job so much easier. God bless each of you and God bless this nation.

Dennis M. Herbert
C, Natural Resources (P)
Fort Hood, TX 76544
Effective 03 January 2005

**Harry Hodgdon**

At the end of September Harry E. Hodgdon stepped down as Executive Director of The Wildlife Society to pursue some new challenges and interests. TWS Council wishes the best to Dr. Hodgdon in his future pursuits and thanks him for his 27 years of dedicated service to the organization. Below is his personal statement to TWS officers and members.

I came to TWS in 1977 as Field Director and was selected to oversee the organization in 1982. The decision to leave was not easy and resulted from a combination of personal and work considerations, including illness in my family.

After more than 2 decades as Executive Director, it is time for fresh ideas and approaches to keep the Society moving forward during a time of declining membership and tight finances. As I look back on the last 27 years, it is with a sense of great accomplishment for how far we have come together.

Retirements — continued

Today, the Society is much more effective at meeting the needs of its members and the profession, thanks to establishing a full-time wildlife policy position to advocate the use of wildlife science in decision-making, initiating and sustaining a long-range planning process, establishing a professional development program, expanding international activities including periodic International Wildlife Management Congresses, developing subject-area working groups, initiating and organizing an annual conference and trade show, establishing a renewal mechanism for certification of professional wildlife biologists, establishing a managing editor position and permanent editorial office, redesigning the Wildlife Society Bulletin, and our recent Endowment Campaign initiative, to name but a few of our accomplishments.

Over the years I have been extremely fortunate to have been teamed with so many terrific individuals - Society presidents and Council members with whom I developed strong and lasting friendships based upon mutual commitment and trust; dedicated Section, Chapter, and Working Group leaders who were always ready to go that extra mile for the Society and the resource; Committee Chairs and Editors who were eager to share their expertise to further the Society's mission; and a hard working staff dedicated to serving our members and the profession. It has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated-people over the years and I look forward to maintaining these relationships in the coming years.



Needed – Information on Disabled Sportsmen's Activities

During 2004 NMFWA BOD meetings, I raised several issues regarding disabled veterans and opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation activities (especially hunting and fishing) on DoD installations. Conversations with natural resources personnel at the meeting indicated that there was considerable variability among DoD installations regarding the ability to implement hunting and fishing programs for disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities. Concerns voiced by a sample of installation personnel included lack of participation during scheduled events, costs of permits, limited personnel available to manage the program, conflicts with Rod and Gun Club representatives, and restricted access due to homeland security regulations. I am putting together a presentation on Disabled Sportsmen's Access for the 2005 NMFWA meeting in Arlington, and would like to hear from other natural resources personnel regarding both positive and negative aspects of conducting handicapped hunts, etc. on their lands (I will not mention the names of installations or specific offices in my presentation or in any other media unless given approval). I am also in need of digital photos showing hunting activities and specialized equipment for disabled hunters. Thank you in advance for your input. Please send information to me at Chester.Martin@nmfwa.org.

Chester O. Martin
Chair, ad hoc Committee on Disabled Sportsmen

Technical Symposium and Workshop: Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species on DoD and Adjacent Lands

The goal of this Symposium & Workshop is to define and evaluate Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species (TER-S) research on or adjacent to Department of Defense (DoD) lands. For the first time, researchers from multiple organizations will assemble to more holistically address TER-S issues at a national level. The event will be held from 07-09 June 2005, at the Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD.

On-line registration will be available from 05 January, 2005 through 16 May 2005; on-line abstract submittals will be accepted from 05 January 2005 until 28 February, 2005. Please see www.serdp.org/TESSWorkshop for additional information. For questions, please e-mail TESSWorkshop@hgl.com.

Position Available: Director of Bird Conservation Audubon Pennsylvania

Apply to:

Paul Zeph
Audubon PA
100 Wildwood Way
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-213-6880 x-18

Send e-mail applications to:
pzeph@audubon.org

“Open until filled; call before applying”



Wind Energy and Birds/ Bats Workshop

A workshop was held in Washington DC on May 18th and 19th, 2004 for industry, federal agencies, state agencies, and nonprofit groups that were interested in the potential impacts to birds and bats due to wind power facilities.

The complete transcript of the meeting and PowerPoint presentations are due to be posted on the web. A date for posting is yet to be determined, but I will send out a region- wide email when the information is available on-line. It will most likely be posted on the American Wind Energy Association website.

Presentations were given on the following topics: Developing wind power projects and Risk assessment from the industry point of view; Monitoring for Avian Impacts; Altamont Case Study; Other Case studies -WV, OR, WA, etc.; Offshore Wind power projects - status of Denmark project (limited information on impacts to birds or marine animals); Impacts to Bats; and Avoiding, Minimizing and Mitigating Avian and Bat Impacts.

If anyone would like copies of the list of publications/references that was provided, or the participants' contact information, please contact me and I will send it to you via regular mail.

Some web sites that may be helpful include:

<http://www.nationalwind.org>
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/engineer/windpower/index.htm>
<http://www.awea.org>
<http://www.nrel.gov>

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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH INVASIVE SPECIES!?

(News from the Working
Group)

Information is welcome from all levels (installation, HQ, etc.) and Services. We encourage readers to submit articles and updates for each issue of the FAWN on anything related to invasive species initiatives.

Whiteman AFB, Missouri Neil Bass, Natural Resource Planner, (neil.bass@whiteman.af.mil)

In 2004, Whiteman received money to control Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp). Seven acres of severely infested riparian zones were cleared. Eleven acres of *Sericea lespedeza* were treated and 3 acres of fescue were killed all to promote native revegetation. Some of the revegetation areas are to support juvenile survival of Northern Crayfish Frogs—a species of concern in Missouri. The new year will bring more of the same and eastern red cedar removal from native prairie.

West Point Military Academy, New York
Chris Pray, Natural Resources Specialist.
845-938-7122

Treated 86 ac Japanese barberry with Round Up Weathermax 1.5% (dependable results), Round Up Original 1% mixed with 1% Nu-Film 17 (testing-encouraging), and Rodeo 2% (wetlands). 19 ac of dense brush by contract, 67 of scattered bushes with in-house labor. 710 ac treated since 1988. A successful program which has been popular with trainers.

Clear-cut ~ 1ac of autumn olive. Follow up with foliar Crossbow on sprouts next year. Fair results.

Continued 7 years of *Gallerucella* and *Hylobius* beetle introductions to treat Purple Loosestrife infestation. Little loosestrife mortality, but plants in treatment area do tends to be smaller. Other wetland species now more plentiful. Natural reproduction.

Tested wound-and-treat method with Crossbow on autumn olive, oriental bittersweet, and buckthorn, and ailanthus. Treated ~3 ac.

Torched (Red Dragon propane torch) ~ 1 ac bittersweet, rose, ailanthus, autumn olive. Abject failure (seemed to stimulate growth rather than reduce it).

Treated ~ 2 ac of Japanese knotweed with Round Up Weathermax 2%. Repeated treatments since 2001. Plants persist as tiny (3-4 inch) seedlings. Probably root fragments still viable in the soil. Lots of competition now, but will plant ever be eradicated?

'Weeded' Mine and Lower Cragston Lakes for Water Chestnut. Species continues to colonize new habitats, but easily treated.

Placed 100'x40' black plastic over Phragmites patch adjacent to rare bog plants. Need to follow up with spot treatments of Rodeo. Tested foliar Rodeo 2% on phragmites in Buckner wetland.

Stocked 200 triploid grass carp in Weyants Pond to control Eurasian Water Milfoil. This was a follow-up to a stocking approximately 6 years ago. Appears to be successful.



Aircraft/black vulture collision
Photo by Mike Finn

Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

Brian Hostetter, Natural Resources Manager
(brian.hostetter@navy.mil)

Completed an aerial application of herbicide on 75 acres of common reed (phragmites) at three installations, Norfolk Naval Base, NAS Oceana - Dam Neck Annex and NAB Little Creek. Spray plans were required and independently developed for all three facilities prior to application. Spot application of herbicides were used on 2 acres of kudzu and about 1/2 acre of tree-of-heaven. A draft regional invasive species control plan has been developed. Ongoing nutria control efforts at NSA Norfolk - Northwest Annex.

NAS Meridian, MS

Jim Copeland
(jim.copeland@cnet.navy.mil)

* continued spot treating kudzu with picloram on 20-acre site, 12-year effort, also treated pine sites with kudzu using an imazapyr-metsulfuron methyl (Arsenal-Escort) tank mix.

* continued treating roadside cogon grass (1-ac) with Imazapyr after a timber sale, cogon did not migrate in the log skidder trails after pretreatment with imazapyr.

* have abandoned efforts to control Japanese climbing fern as it seems to have already spread everywhere.

Fort Richardson, AK

Christopher Garner, Natural Resources Coordinator
(christopher.garner@richardson.army.mil)

In 2004, fifteen northern pike (pike are not indigenous to south-central Alaska) were netted from a popular fishing lake on Fort Richardson, Alaska, including one female of 37.5 inches. Pike are believed to have been illegally transplanted on post approximately five years ago and have thus far been confirmed in only one lake. Stocking of catchable-size rainbow trout has been intentionally decreased due to the presence of pike which may threaten the stocking program altogether. Reports have also implicated pike in attacks on several waterfowl chicks. Pike removal and monitoring efforts will continue in 2005.

A U.S. Army, Alaska-wide Invasive Species Management Plan is currently being developed that will include monitoring and management of invasive flora and fauna.

Fort McCoy, WI

K. Mello et al, Wildlife Mgmt Program,
(kim.mello@emh2.mccoy.army.mil)

In 2004: (1) treatments using integrated pest/weed management strategies and controlled test plots continued for garlic mustard, leafy and cypressspurge, spotted knapweed, wild parsnip, glossy buckthorn, black locust, honeysuckle, crown vetch, and cow vetch; (2) 5 species of insects were reintroduced for the biological control of spotted knapweed; (3) over 800 lbs of garlic mustard was hand pulled with volunteers, military units, high school students, and wildlife staff; (4) an invasives project was conducted with the Army Corp of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Lab (CERL) through the Conservation Assistance Program (CAP); and (5) continued on with many partnerships and outreach programs.



**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR
UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:
31 May for June 2005
30 September for October 2005**

Articles on installation activities or other issues relevant to the association may be submitted through your respective Regional Directors (Eastern Region—Scott Smith and Tim Beatty; Western Region — Sabrina Kirkpatrick or Rafael Corral) or sent directly to me.

Electronic files should preferably be in MS Word®, Times New Roman font (12). One or two clear pictures (JPG) may be beneficial (more may be negotiated) and will be used, barring space constraints.

Mike Passmore, Editor
(michael.f.passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil)

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