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THE WILD SIDE

Don Pitts - NMFWA President
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Now is the time to submit your Articles on events or field studies taking place on your installation.

See fawn dead-lines on page 2

The annual meeting in DC produced some rather glaring observations. First, it was quite obvious that our technical sessions are rivaled by few and surpassed by none. Most of us have been to meetings and seminars of several associations; our sessions clearly display dedication and technical acumen superior to most we've attended.

We are unique in our fields, having chosen to not only be serious natural resource professionals, but to do so facing the very special challenges of working on military lands under military command. There is not a person in our association who could not be working with a state or federal agency on land earmarked for natural resource management above all other concerns, with a chain of command whose upper tier is as dedicated and knowledgeable as us.

Instead, we have chosen biological equations never even considered by others. We concern ourselves with

aircraft flying at 500 ft agl, with flight crew safety and ESA compliance both as vitally important issues. We work to ensure our ground forces receive optimum training, to include live fire, tracked vehicle maneuvers, smokes and obscurants, while actually increasing TES numbers and improving critical habitat on the same lands.

We are dedicated to the military mission we so closely support, just as we are dedicated to the natural resources we are also called upon to protect and enhance. We do our jobs well. Our military is quite obviously the best in the world, and the best trained. Almost amazingly, the lands on which they train are richer in natural resources and biodiversity than the landscape surrounding the installations. With few exceptions, we are somehow among the most successful professionals in meeting our divergent goals on the planet. Our morale should be soaring.

continued..... page 2

The Wild Side — continued

But it's not. While everyone attending the meeting appreciated the educational enhancement and comparing notes with professionals from other installations, the over-riding discussion was the outsourcing issue. How, we ask, could anyone mess with such success? How could they not see that removing natural resource staff from bases poses the greatest imaginable threat to training?

How could they not see that such downsizing is in direct violation of the Sikes Act, Public Law 105-85, 16 USC 670a, Public Law 99-561, 32CFR Part 190, and 32 CFR Part 169, just to name a few?

Yes, it's a total mystery to us and to a majority of the nation. Still, the wheels are in motion and we appear to be heading for the mother of all train wrecks. The wheels are on the vehicle called ignorance. Decisions are being made by those who not only don't understand the law, but also don't understand the real probability of training being severely disrupted by their actions. An administration that has promised to improve our military readiness appears to be taking an action most detrimental to their cause.

They are neither stupid nor corrupt, but simply unaware of the ramifications of their actions. That's where we heed our calling. After all, don't we spend a good portion of our time explaining natural resource issues to ranking persons who really don't understand? Well, its time to expand our horizons, and our efforts. Obviously, we're pretty good or at least well-practiced in educating the ignorant. Let's do it again today. Let's each one of us write our Senators and

Congressmen and express our concerns. I'm told snail mail gets the most attention, but it never hurts to back it up with email. Remember our concerns are many: 1) it takes the dedication of a knowledgeable employee to facilitate training in the midst of growing compliance issues, 2) an employee defends the training and the resource; a for-profit company defends only the bottom line, and 3) outsourcing of natural resource management is illegal.

Let's get the word out, today. With the wonders of the internet, you've got their addresses, and with word processing the letters are written and printed quickly. In my case, also spell checked. We have no excuse, and our natural resources and quality military training hang in the balance.

You'll notice I said nothing about our jobs. Well, fact is, we're good, we could work anywhere. I would not write my representative just to save my job. Never have, never will. But to protect my pristine military land and the readiness of my military, well, it's fightin' time.

And while you're fighting, keep up the good work. Continuing to do our jobs well provides our most convincing proof.

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

17 SEPTEMBER for OCTOBER 2001

17 DECEMBER for JANUARY 2002



Minutes from NMFWA business Meeting March 22, 2001

The Annual Business Meeting of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) was held in the Hampton Room of the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. President Dave Tazik called the meeting to order at 1505 hr on March 22, 2001.

President Tazik first went over the rules of order. In order to encourage discussion, yet ensure that everyone who speaks is heard, he stated that comments and discussion would be limited to two issues per person per topic. He also reminded the membership about the rule of voting (only voting members were allowed to vote).

President Tazik announced that the Outrageous Tie Award would be re-instated this year at the banquet.

President Tazik made a special announcement in recognition and memory of Ms. Laurie Angel, a natural resources specialist from Fort Richardson, Alaska, who died recently.

President Tazik then gave the President's Report. He presented the following motions and outcomes that were voted by the Board of Directors (BOD) during the past year:

1. The primary action was presenting key issues to Congressman Young regarding the Sikes Act and the status of natural resources positions on military lands
2. The BOD increased the NMFWA training session registration fees to \$250
3. Recognized the invasive species working group
4. Approved a \$1000 contribution to The Wildlife Society meeting
5. Approved sharing the NMFWA mailing list with the DoD Partners in Flight for a mailing promoting International Migratory Bird Day
6. Agreed to reimburse vendors for \$450 for ATV damage at the Law Enforcement Training Workshop
7. Agreed to sign an affiliate agreement with the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Association
8. Agreed to contract with Ms. Ginny Dickerson for web master services
9. Established the Laurence R. Jahn Memorial Award

Ms. Tammy Conkle then gave the Secretary Report. She said that 195 registrants attended the conference this year. The Show and Tell session earned \$1028.25. The Secretary/Treasurer's report for 2000 was published in the FAWN. Mr. Jim Beemer made the motion to accept the minutes as presented in the FAWN, which was seconded by Mr. Don Pitts. **The motion passed.**

Ms. Conkle then gave the Treasurer Report for January 2000 – December 2000.

Beginning Balance = \$26,522.42
Ending Balance = \$25,329.55

EXPENDITURES (By Category) Included:

Program Expenditures =	\$16,894.77
Postage =	\$263.43
FAWN Printing and Reproduction =	\$4,374.14
Law Enforcement Course =	\$2,150.00
Working Group Expenses (Herpetology WG Training Course) =	\$795.99
Legal Expenses =	\$5,168.88
Webmaster Fees =	\$306.00
Office Supplies =	\$343.36
Bank Charges =	\$161.68
Miscellaneous =	\$2,114.26
TOTAL =	\$32,572.64

Minutes — continued

INCOME (By Category) Included:

Program Fees Collected = \$27,554.82

Law Enforcement Workshop = \$2,293.67

Miscellaneous = \$865.41

Bank Interest = \$665.87

TOTAL = \$31,379.77

DIFFERENCE Between Expenditures and
Income = \$1,192.87

The Reserve Account 2000 Balance =
\$3,481

And, as of the 2001 Training Session
Meeting = \$4,422.01

The 2001 Show and Tell Session Silent
Auction Earned \$1,028.25

Mr. Jim Beemer moved to accept the
Treasurer's Report subject to audit review.

Mr. John Joyce seconded the motion and **the
motion passed.**

Committee Reports:

Mr. Mark Hagan gave the Nomination
Committee Report. Five hundred and seven
ballots were mailed and 94 votes were cast
(66% of the votes were cast over the
website). Fourteen ballots were returned in
the mail. The results were as follows:
President– Mr. Pitts, President-Elect– Mr.
Beemer, Vice President–Mr. Chester Martin.
Secretary– Ms. Julie Eliason, Treasurer– Ms.
Conkle, At Large Directors– Mr. Jim
Copeland and Mr. Rhys Evans, Regional
Directors East– Mr. Scott Smith and Mr.
Joyce, Regional Directors West– Ms. Hildy
Reiser, Newsletter Editor - Dr. Michael
Passmore. Ms. Coralie Cobb will also work
as Western Regional Director for the second
year of her two-year term.

Mr. Glen Wampler gave the Program
Committee Report. He thanked everyone for
their involvement and stated that he had
received positive comments about this year's
conference.

Dr. Passmore gave the Newsletter Committee Report. Last
year three issues of the FAWN were printed for an
approximate cost of \$4000. Dr. Passmore would like to
reduce costs by contacting the membership via email to
determine if they would prefer to have the FAWN sent to
them via email. The last 3-4 issues appeared on the
NMFWA website. He reminded everyone that June,
October, and January are the months that the FAWN is
distributed; therefore, the deadlines are early May, early
September, and early December. Articles for the FAWN
may be sent to Dr. Passmore directly or via the Regional
Directors.

Mr. Greg Lee gave the Membership Committee Report.
He said that he is resigning as Membership Chair and
anyone interested in assuming this duty should contact Mr.
Pitts. NMFWA is averaging 800 members and
approximately five new members are added per week. He
reminded the membership to inform him if they know
members who have moved or left DoD employment.

Mr. Beemer gave the Awards Committee Report. He
thanked Mr. Wampler and those who submitted
nominations. One award was presented already at a
retirement ceremony. Mr. Beemer explained that the
Laurence R. Jahn Memorial Award would be presented to
a person or organization not directly associated with
NMFWA that has donated time and energy toward making
significant contributions to benefit natural resources policy
and programs on DoD lands. There are four criteria the
recipient must meet in order to receive the award: 1) the
actions must have an impact at the national level, 2) the
efforts must relate to program and/or policy issues, 3) the
efforts must extend far beyond the scope of normal duties
and should involve considerable personal time and energy,
and 4) the actions must involve collaboration with other
agencies and conservation organizations. Mr. Robert
Wardwell volunteered to be the new Awards Committee
Chair; therefore any nominations for this award should be
presented to him.

Mr. Mark Hagan gave the Resolution Committee Report.
Mr. Tom Warren, Fort Carson, Colorado, was asked to
present the resolution. Mr. Warren presented the history
of the NMFWA organization and the Sikes Act. The
resolution was published in the January issue of the
FAWN 30 days prior to the meeting .

The resolution was drafted by Mr. Hagan and was unanimously approved by the Government Affairs Committee. The resolution asks for reaffirmation of NMFWA support. President Tazik called for discussion. Dr. Bert Bivings moved to accept the resolution and Mr. Beemer seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Mr. Brian Hostetter gave the Law Enforcement Committee Report. Last year 22 law enforcement officers attended the class in Ft. Campbell, KY. This year the course will be in Ft. Carson, CO on May 24-25, 2001. Mr. Michael Dunning was nominated as Law Enforcement Chair for 2002.

Ms. Wanda Deal gave the Poster Committee Report. The poster was sent to the Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis and then to the present NMFWA conference in Washington, D.C. Ms. Deal said that she is working with individuals to provide new photographs for the poster and asked the membership to provide ideas.

Mr. Tom Warren gave the Archives Committee Report. The archives are a continual work in progress and it is currently updated. Mr. Warren will give copies of the archives to the immediate past president and new president.

Mr. Jim Copeland gave the Government Affairs Committee Report. He informed NMFWA that PEER would be mailing a questionnaire about outsourcing.

Dr. Jim Bailey gave the Audit Committee Report. He said that no discrepancies were found in the Treasury Books and that NMFWA can save money by emailing the FAWN, rather than mailing.

Mr. Jay Rubinoff presented the Herpetology Working Group Report. Mr. Rubinoff stated that the working group was very successful in that its membership had increased to approximately 50 individuals.

The working group proposed herp conservation guidelines for DoD. The guidelines will be put on the NMFWA website. Mr. Beemer and Ms. Tessa

Bayshore created a database of herp projects on DoD installations and are working on a database of herp species on DoD lands. The group is interested in putting together another workshop and plans to publish on the web techniques on implanting radio transmitters in venomous snakes .

Special Committee Reports:

Mr. Smith gave the Reserve Account Committee Report. Members of this committee include Mr. Smith, Mr. Junior Kerns, Mr. Rick Griffith, and Mr. Joyce. The committee decided they would like to change the name of the account to the "NMFWA Action Fund." The purpose of the account is to pay legal fees for NMFWA and support legal actions relative to natural resources management on military lands. President Tazik suggested that more work needed to be done on the charter and charged the committee to design specifics on how to implement the fund.

Dr. Bivings suggested a third purpose for the fund as "other actions identified by the BOD, " which would cover unforeseen non-legal actions.

Mr. Warren suggested that the action fund could be used to support the resolution that was just passed.

Mr. Joyce stated that the fund needs a specific focus, particularly legal actions. He also suggested that the resolution was covered by the "Action Fund". Mr. Wardwell disagreed, stating that it is too late to use the fund for political action and to support the resolution. He thought we could use the General Operating Fund to support the resolution because the membership passed the resolution.

Mr. Joyce asked Mr. Kerns if using the General Operating Fund for political action would affect our tax status. Mr. Kerns clarified that the General Operating Fund does not have a charitable status so the contributions are not tax deductible. It is possible, however, that the Action Fund can qualify for charitable status. Mr. Wardwell stated that we need to decide how to take political and legal action with the General Operating Funds.

Minutes — continued

President Tazik clarified that the action fund was established to separate funds from the General Operating Fund to be used for legal services and actions.

Dr. Bailey asked how we would keep from using the entire action fund if we have more than one legal action and how expenditure priorities would be decided. President Tazik stated that the Action Fund Committee would recommend to the BOD how to use the funds. The next step in developing the Action Fund is for the committee to make a recommendation and get approved by the BOD. President Tazik suggested that it would be in the charter. Mr. Kerns stated that the charter would clarify everything, including how funds would be collected, distributed, and used. President Tazik re-phrased the question as agreeing with the committee report and charging them with moving forward. They will accept the initial purposes of the fund and develop a charter to consider at the next annual meeting. **The motion passed with one opposed.**

Mr. Evans gave the Website Committee Report. He extended his thanks to Mr. Jess Cobb for his contribution in starting the website. The website address is www.nmfwa.org. He reminded the membership that the website changes weekly, so everyone should visit it regularly. The website includes newsletters, working group information, government affairs information, law enforcement workshop information, election results, as well as other topics. Ms. Conkle said that the website was useful for registering on-line for the conference. Mr. Tim Beaty asked if the PowerPoint presentations from the conference could be placed on the website. Mr. Evans responded that he did not know if there was enough space on the website to accommodate all of the presentations at one time, but he will try.

Dr. Thomas Wray gave the Host Committee Report. He said that the next NMFWA conference will be held in Dallas and that he will be attending a meeting with the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) in

April regarding program and the session suggestions. He asked for input from the membership on special session topics for that meeting.

Ms. Cobb gave a report on the Show and Tell session for the 2001 conference. She said there were 22 participants in the Show and Tell session and 32 entries for the photo contest. The 40 silent auction items netted \$1,028.25. Ms. Cobb asked future Show and Tell participants to fill out the on-line application for next year.

Mr. Kim Mello gave a report on the Invasive Species Working Group. Mr. Mark Dutton said there were currently 51 members registered for the working group. A charter has been drafted and is being reviewed by the BOD. Mr. Mello said that the working group would participate in a pest management conference and other conferences as well. The first meeting for the working group will be held immediately following the General Business Meeting.

Directors' Reports:

Mr. Joyce gave a Directors' Report for the Eastern Region. He was tasked to update the BOD Handbook, which he sent out to selected people for input. He extended his thanks to those who helped. He asked for comments to be mailed to him next week. Mr. Joyce also has been soliciting articles for the FAWN. He and Mr. Smith, the other Eastern Regional Director, split the membership and he contacted his members by email. There are 223 members in the northeast, but only 82 members had email addresses listed in the database. Twelve email addresses were returned to him; therefore he was able to reach only 70 members. He reminded the membership to provide good information on email addresses.

Mr. Smith gave the second Eastern Directors' Report. He thanked Mr. Lee and the members who submitted articles for the FAWN.

Mr. Evans gave the first Western Directors' Report. He said that the application for a symposium at the September 2001 Wildlife Society (TWS) conference in Reno was not accepted, but he invited everyone who was willing to participate in the symposium to contribute to the TWS paper session.

New Business:

Mr. Jeff Ruch from Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) gave an update on PEER's activities. PEER is creating a DoD section on the PEER website. PEER is the only plaintiff in the Sikes Act lawsuits. To date, \$20,000 was committed to the DoD section and associated legal suits for next year. He summarized the case with Mr. Bruce Eilerts from Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, which involved a conflict with the Base Command. The terms of the settlement cannot be

divulged, but the results were positive. Bruce has accepted a new job as the Deputy Director of the Center for Biodiversity.

Mr. Ruch explained PEER's policy on being discrete and how they serve an advocacy role in government by promoting undercover activism. PEER will be mailing out a survey to the NMFWA membership and asked members to fill it out and return it. The purpose of the survey is to document that the outsourcing problem is DoD-wide and not localized with just a few disgruntled people. PEER needs personal involvement from NMFWA in the issues we care about. We can use PEER as a tool to address resource issues such as the BLM suit at the California Conservation Area. Mr. Ruch asked that we join PEER for \$30 per year and asked NMFWA to consider renewing its partnership and to invite PEER to the 2002 conference.

NMFWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2001



Standing, Left to right:

Scott Smith — Regional Director, East
 Dave Tazik — Immediate Past President
 Rhys Evans — At-Large Director
 Tammy Conkle - Treasurer
 Jim Copeland – At-Large Director

John Joyce — Regional Director, East
 Hildy Reiser — Regional Director, West
 Mike Passmore - Newsletter Editor
 Julie Eliason — Secretary
 Coralie Cobb -- Regional Director, West

Kneeling, Left to right: Jim Beemer, President-Elect; Don Pitts, President; Chester Martin, Vice President

Minutes — continued

Dr. Bivings stated his support for PEER. President Tazik went on the record to thank PEER for the support they have shown NMFWA and gave his endorsement of their work on behalf of DoD land management. He also encouraged continued involvement of members with PEER.

Dr. Bailey gave a report on the guidelines for release of the NMFWA mailing list and labels. Previously, this issue was dealt with on an ad hoc basis. The results of his investigation indicated that many members do not want their information given out to agencies and companies. His recommended solution is to have the agencies and companies requesting NMFWA mailing lists and labels put a notice on the NMFWA website so that the members can contact them directly if they are interested. Ms. Conkle clarified that the BOD did not give out the membership list to anyone, but they did give mailing labels once for a Partners in Flight mailing promoting Inter-national Migratory Bird Day. The BOD will vote on the issue.

Mr. Beemer gave a report on the American Fisheries Society (AFS). He wanted to continue developing partnerships with AFS that can provide training for NMFWA members as well as generating support from our peers in the fisheries and aquatic resources field. He requested assistance in participating in the annual AFS meeting in August 2002 which will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. Session topics include threatened and endangered species, conservation programs, marine resources, fishing as outdoor recreation, etc. Jim sent out a call for papers for a proposed session, tentatively titled "Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management and Research within Department of Defense- the Unknown Federal Player." Abstracts are due by August 1, 2001 to be considered for this session. Submittals will be reviewed by peers. He would like 20-24 presentations for a full day session or 15 for a half-day session. (For more information on the 2002 AFS conference, contact Jim at 845-938-3857)

Ms. Deal thanked PEER for their assistance in her lawsuit with Edwards Air Force Base in CA. She requested that people who offered her assistance provide money to PEER and get involved. She said that we should do this not because of our jobs, but because of the resources.

President Tazik asked for nominations from the floor for the positions of President elect, Vice President, At-Large Director, Eastern Director, and Western Director. Mr. Martin was nominated for President-Elect by Dr. Wray.

President Tazik introduced the new Board of Directors:
 President – Don Pitts
 President Elect – Jim Beemer
 Vice President - Chester Martin
 Secretary – Julie Eliason
 Treasurer – Tammy Conkle
 Eastern Directors - John Joyce and Scott Smith
 Western Directors - Coralie Cobb and Hildy Reiser
 At Large Directors – Rhys Evans and Jim Copeland
 Newsletter Editor - Mike Passmore

President Tazik also thanked the people that ran for office but did not win.

Mr. Martin asked to speak about the NMFWA Annual Training Session which will be held in Austin, Texas next year. Mr. Dennis Herbert from Ft. Hood has agreed to serve as the Host Chair. Ideas for session topics include the following:
 Forestry and Wildlife Management - session chair,
 Mr. Copeland
 Ecosystem Management
 Encroachments
 Partnerships: Old and New
 Raptor Management
 Bat Conservation
 Restoration Projects
 Native Grasslands/Prairie Restoration
 Coastal Challenges
 Invertebrate Studies – Contributions to Natural
 Resources Management
 Ethics in DoD/Natural Resources – session chair,
 Mr. Rich Clewell

President Tazik said that he felt the NMFWA sessions were getting better each year. He thanked the BOD, the Host Committee and those who assisted in his tenure.

Mr. Pitts concluded the meeting with an endorsement for PEER and adjourned at 1645 hr.

Board of Director (BOD) Attendees: Dave Tazik, John Joyce, Chester Martin, Coralie Cobb, Tammy Conkle, Jim Beemer, Rhys Evans, Scott Smith, Don Pitts, Mike Passmore, Hildy Reiser, Glen Wampler, Julie Eliason, Jim Copeland

NMFWA 2001 – AWARDS!



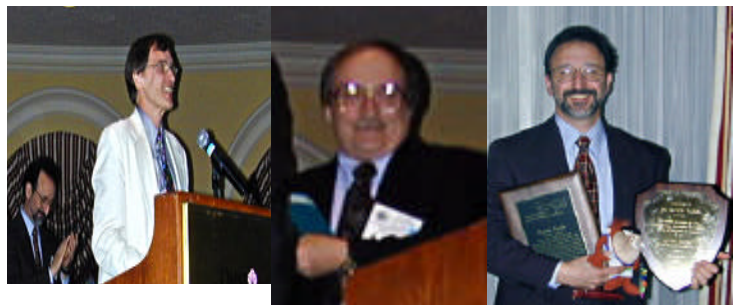
Nominate someone !

Call for Nominations — Board of Directors

The NMFWA Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the following Board positions for 2002: President-Elect; Vice President; At-Large Director; Regional Directors – West and East.

Please provide, by 15 Oct 01, your nominations to a member of the nominations committee:

- Dave Tazik (Chair) 601.634.2610
dave.j.tazik@erdc.usace.army.mil
- Don Pitts 217.352.6511x7510
donald.pitts@erdc.usace.army.mil
- Julie Eliason 805.238.8265
julie_eliason@hotmail.com
- Tammy Conkle 619.545.3703
conkle.tamara@ni.cnrs.w.navy.mil
- Hildy Reiser 505.572.3931
hildy.reiser@holloman.af.mil
- Jim Copeland 601.679.2482
jim.copeland@cnet.navy.mil



We need a strong Board of Directors willing and able to serve the interests of the Association. If you or someone you know is dedicated to NMFWA's goals, and has a desire to work toward those goals, we want them on the Board of Directors. Nominees for all positions are limited to voting members. President-elect nominees should have at least one year's experience on the Board of Directors. Our goal is to have at least two nominees for each position.

- *****
- ★ *Pictures Top to Bottom:* ★
- ★ Wanda Deal ——— Best Tacky Tie Award
 - ★ Tom Warren ——— President's Award
 - ★ John Bardwell ——— Special Recognition Award
 - ★ Wanda Deal/Mark Hagan — President's Award
 - ★ Peter Boice ——— Special Recognition Award
 - ★ Chester Martin ——— Best Conference Paper
 - ★ Dave Tazik ——— Past President's Award
- *****

Board of directors meeting March 23, 2001

The New Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) was held in the Executive Office of the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. President Don Pitts called the meeting to order at 1306 hr on March 23, 2001.

President Pitts discussed the Membership Chair recruitment. Ms. Coralie Cobb inquired about the duties of the position.

President Pitts discussed the question on the Invasive Species Charter recognition. **There was discussion of the motion and approval of the charter and Chairperson, Mr. Kim Mello.**

Mr. John Joyce and Dr. Dave Tazik initiated discussion on finalizing the Board of Directors Handbook.

Ms. Tammy Conkle and Dr. Tazik provided Ms. Julie Eliason the lists of organizations to send the new BOD contact list to.

Mr. Rick Griffith said that the Society of Range Management asked for a liaison to their group. President Pitts requested Mr. Griffith to be the point of contact on this issue.

The 2002 NMFWA Training Session schedule will change because the 2002 Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) technical sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday preceding the WMI committee meetings. In years past, the WMI technical sessions have always been held after the WMI committee meetings. Mr. Joyce made a motion to hold the NMFWA sessions before the WMI technical sessions. Mr. Jim Copeland seconded the motion. This schedule would provide for travel on Monday and Tuesday, the NMFWA Training Sessions would be held on Wednesday and Thursday, with the service breakout sessions and possibly another technical session held on Friday. The WMI plenary session and banquet

would be held on Saturday and the final WMI technical session would be held on Sunday. During discussion, it was stated that if the NMFWA Training Sessions were held before the WMI sessions, the registration procedure would be more difficult because the WMI registration table will not be open until after the NMFWA sessions end. **The motion passed 6 to 2 in favor of the proposed schedule.**

Discussion then followed on holding the NMFWA Training Sessions after the WMI meetings. This schedule would include the NMFWA technical sessions on Monday and Tuesday, the service breakout sessions on Wednesday, and Thursday would be a travel day. One disadvantage of the second option is that some NMFWA members will not be able to travel on Sunday and therefore would miss the first day of the NMFWA technical sessions. Another disadvantage is the lack of hotel rooms available after WMI leaves. **The motion to hold the NMFWA technical sessions before the WMI sessions was upheld.** Dr. Thomas Wray (NMFWA liaison to WMI) stated that NMFWA must provide WMI with a summary of our Training Session needs.

A motion was made by Dr. Tazik and seconded by Ms. Eliason to establish a By-Laws committee to investigate three changes in the by-laws:

1. Elect the Secretary and Treasurer in alternate years (currently they are both up for re-election in the same year).
2. Expand voting membership to include state and federal government employees who have a significant contribution to natural resource management on DoD lands (currently contractors and university employees are non-voting members).
3. Establish a standing committee for the website.

The motion passed unanimously. Dr Tazik

volunteered to chair the committee. Mr. Jim Beemer and Mr. Rhys Evans were selected as committee members.

It was discussed whether or not the NMFWA membership list should be distributed to contractors and agencies. Discussion included giving mailing labels out to requestors at the vote of the BOD and putting links on the NMFWA web page for businesses. Dr. Tazik made a motion on behalf of Mr. Jim Bailey to allow organizations requesting the NMFWA mailing list to present their request on the NMFWA website rather than receive a mailing list or mailing labels. This would allow members to respond directly to the company or organization. Mr. Beemer seconded the motion.

The motion failed. It was decided that the BOD would continue to decide on an ad hoc basis whether or not to distribute the mailing list when requested.

Mr. Evans made a motion to maintain close affiliation with PEER and invite Jeff Ruch to return to the 2002 NMFWA Training Sessions to provide an update to the membership. Dr. Tazik amended the motion to allow the Government Affairs Committee to be the link to PEER. **The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.**

Mr. Beemer made a motion to accept the Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) Charter, which was seconded by Dr. Tazik. Ms. Reiser questioned whether the term "invasive" should include viruses or bacteria. It was decided that the ISWG limit their focus to plants and animals. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Bob Wardwell initiated discussion regarding the charter for the new Awards Committee. He requested input on the physical description of the Laurence Jahn Award, which will be awarded by NMFWA in future years. Mr. Chester Martin will be responsible for the design of this award and for contacting the Jahn family and WMI to let them know that NMFWA will be issuing the award. It was decided that Mr. Martin would contact WMI for information about Laurence Jahn's contribution to natural resources. Mr. Evans

pointed out that we received positive press in Ecology USA about the award to Elsie Munsell.

On behalf of Dr. Wray, who had left the meeting, Mr. Junior Kerns discussed special topics for future WMI meetings. He requested North American Wildlife and Resource Conference session topics no later than April 15th. Mr. Beemer suggested the topic "Integrating Human Activity in Resource Management" and volunteered to propose the topic to WMI. Mr. Martin suggested a topic on Encroachment Issues. Discussion about clarifying the term "encroachment" followed. Mr. Kerns encouraged the BOD to email Dr. Wray directly with session topic ideas.

At the request of Dr. Wray, Mr. Kerns opened discussion on the issue of placing contractor ads in the FAWN and/or program agenda. Mr. Evans pointed out that guidelines currently exist but he did not think we had advertised this issue. It was suggested that advertisements could be placed on the NMFWA website.

Also at the request of Dr. Wray, Mr. Kerns discussed the Action Fund. It was clarified that the Action Fund was established to fund issues that the BOD does not feel are appropriate for the General Fund, such as legal fees. Mr. Scott Smith stated that the Action Fund Committee report would be completed next Monday and would be provided to the BOD for comments.

Old Business: Dr. Tazik discussed coordination with the DoD Conservation Meeting, which may be held in late summer 2002. No definite dates for the DoD Conservation Meeting have been established. President Pitts stated that combining the DoD Conservation Meeting with the NMFWA Training Sessions would enhance the NMFWA Training Sessions by increasing attendance. If the two meetings occurred at separate times and at separate locations, it may force some NMFWA members to choose between the two meetings if travel budgets

Minutes — continued

are limited. It was suggested that we should request that WMI lobby for the DoD conference. President Pitts stated that he would keep in contact with Mr. Peter Boice about the DoD conference.

Dr. Tazik discussed the new BOD list and which agencies to send the list to. The BOD will approve the list before it is sent to the agencies.

New Business: Discussion of the 2001 Show and Tell Session ensued. It was noted that having the Silent Auction outside the Show and Tell room resulted in lower proceeds. This arrangement occurred because many presenters did not register with Ms. Coralie Cobb ahead of time and there was not enough space to accommodate everyone. It was suggested to have separate tables for the Silent Auction items and move the bid sheets off the floor next year.

Dr. Tazik discussed the 501 C6 status of NMFWA. Dr. Tazik will get copies of the tax-free status form from Mr. Alan Perkins and provide them to President Pitts, Ms. Eliason, and Ms. Conkle. It was suggested that it is necessary to investigate whether or not the Action Fund falls under a separate 501 section for charitable associations because our current status prohibits tax deductions.

Discussion followed regarding the appointment of a new Membership Committee Chair because Mr. Greg Lee resigned. Mr. Evans read the by-laws regarding the responsibilities of the Membership Chair. Dr. Michael Passmore volunteered to work as the Membership Chair in addition to working as the Newsletter Chair. It was suggested that the membership list requires updating. Ms. Deal requested that Dr. Passmore provide her with the new membership demographics for the NMFWA poster.

Mr. Mark Hagan discussed the importance of getting other NMFWA members involved on committees so they can get familiar with the BOD and later run for office on the BOD. Too often committees are made up only of BOD members.

Mr. Evans discussed the NMFWA website. He requested input from the BOD to keep the website updated. The website contractor gets paid for 3 hours every month whether she works it or not.

Mr. Copeland moved to provide PEER with the membership list for the out-sourcing survey, which was seconded by Mr. Scott Smith. There was discussion about surveying each member on the NMFWA website or on the conference registration forms as to what mailings they would like. **The motion passed to provide the NMFWA mailing list to PEER.**

Mr. Kerns inquired why some registration forms were lost when people registered online through the NMFWA website. Ms. Conkle replied that she did not know why the forms were lost.

Mr. Kerns said that several people had requested the text from his speech for Ms. Deal and Mr. Hagan at the awards banquet and inquired if he could put it on the website. Mr. Evans replied that he will see that it gets included on the website. In addition, Mr. Evans said that he would like to put all of the power point presentations from the technical sessions on the website as well. Ms. Conkle suggested to include photos from the banquet and a summary of the conference on the website as well. Mr. Evans said that the website would be updated within the next week.

Ms. Conkle discussed the issue of how to post events at the annual training sessions on the website.

Dr. Dave Tazik discussed updating the membership database. A suggestion was made to update the database online, but previous attempts at this failed. Dr. Passmore suggested that members be sent cards to be return with corrected information.

Ms. Deal brought up the topic of charging dues for membership, which would help raise money and add value to the membership. One concern was that the dues would be perceived negatively and

that we would lose membership. In addition, there does not appear to be a financial need to charge dues at this time. The conference registration fee was raised this year to offset the increased conference costs. We do not expect the registration fee to increase again soon.

Ms. Conkle asked for clarification on registration procedures. She had received different directions on how much money to give WMI for members that only register for 1-2 days. Last year, NMFWA did not pay WMI anything for those registrants. Mr. Hagan said that previously, every three people that registered for one day counted as one person for the entire conference, so WMI was paid accordingly.

The last item of business involved discussion regarding NMFWA's involvement with PEER. It was decided that the BOD has made clear its intention to support PEER, even though all members and some DoD departments may not agree with this position. The BOD has been trying to educate the membership about the downsizing issue. The Action Fund will be used for legal fees.

President Pitts adjourned the meeting at 1517 hr.

Attendees: Don Pitts, Rhys Evans, Hildy Reiser, Glen Wampler, Coralie Cobb, Rick Griffith, Julie Eliason, Scott Smith, Chester Martin, Dave Tazik, Mike Passmore, Jim Copeland, Jim Beemer, Thomas Wray, Bob Wardell, Junior Kerns, Daisan Taylor, Mark Hagan, Wanda Deal

Awards committee report

At the NMFWA Awards Banquet in Washington, DC, the following awards were presented: **Ms. Elsie Munsell** received the **Professional-Management Special Achievement Award** for her lifetime efforts developing and implementing environmental and natural resources policies and programs within the Department of the Navy. **Mr. Scott Farley** received the **Civilian-Support Special Achievement Award** for his legal efforts in support of natural resources programs at the Army Environmental Center.

The **Volunteer-Management Special Achievement Award** was presented to **Donald E. Marx, Jr.** Mr. Marx who is the Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay youth Conservation Corps was recognized for his organization's efforts at Langley Air Force Base, Little Creek Amphibious Base and the Norfolk Naval Station. **Ms. Beth Eisenberg** was presented with the **Volunteer-Education Special Achievement Award** for her efforts at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Chester Martin received the award for the best presentation at the annual workshop. It was titled ***"Bats: Are There Future Endangered Species Waiting in the Wings?"***

So how do you get someone you know considered for one of these awards? Contact your new Awards Committee Chairmen, Bob Wardwell at (301) 394-1061 or Rwardwell@arl.army.mil.



Technical papers Wash. dc 2001

Carnivores on Military Installations

Results of Radio Telemetry Study of San Joaquin Kit Foxes at Camp Roberts National Guard Training Site, California. Roger P. Root and Julie J. Eliason, *California Army National Guard, HQ Camp Roberts, ATTN: CACR-EV, Camp Roberts, CA 93451-5000, (805) 238-8265, roger.root@ca.ngb.army.mil and julie.eliason@ca.ngb.army.mil*

Management of the Island Fox on NALF San Clemente Island: Conflicts with the Endangered San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike. Tamara Conkle, Natural Resources Office, Navy Region Southwest, San Diego, CA 92135, (619) 545-3703; David Garcelon and Douglass Cooper, Institute for Wildlife Studies, Arcata, CA 95518, (707) 822-4258; conkle.tamara@ni.cnrsw.navy.mil and Garcelon@iws.org and cooper@iws.org.

Swift Fox and Coyote Research on the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado. Eric M. Gese, *National Wildlife Research Center, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5295, (435) 797-2542, egese@cc.usu.edu; Seija M. Karki, Ann M. Kitchen, and Edward R. Schauster, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5210.*

Gray Wolf Management Program at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Marty Skoglund, Minnesota Army National Guard, HQ Camp Ripley, 15000 Highway 115, Little Falls, MN 56345-4173 (320-632-7201), marty.skoglund@mn.ngb.army.mil

9:55-10:15 Mexican Wolf Recovery Revisited: Life as a Viable Reintroduction Site Alternative. Daisan E. Taylor, *U.S. Army, White Sands Missile Range, ATTN: CSTE-DTC-WS-ES-ES, White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5048, (505) 678-6140, taylor1@wsmr.army.mil*

Interaction Management – Air Force Safety Awareness at Remote Alaska Sites. Gene V. Augustine, *611 CES/CEVP, 10471 20th St Rm 336, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-2200, (907) 552-0788, and John W. Bridges, US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 7, Marine Mammals Management, 1011 E Tudor Rd, Anchorage, AK 99503-6119, (907) 786-3810, gene.augustine@elmendorf.af.mil and john_bridges@fws.gov*

Feral Animals on Military Installations

LCDR Steve McCleary, Staff Legal Officer, USCG Training Center Cape May, 1 Munro Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204, (609) 898-6902, smccleary@tracencapemay.uscg.mil

Linda Winter, Director Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds & Cats, American Bird Conservancy, 1834 Jefferson Place Washington, DC 20036, (202)-452-1535, lwinter@abcbirds.org <<mailto:lwinter@abcbirds.org>>

Degraded Streams and Subsequent Management of Riparian Areas.

Using Soft Technology to Rehabilitate Impacted Streams. Steve Filipek and Larry Rider, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Stream Team Program, #2 Natural Resources Dr. Little Rock, AR 72205, (501)223-6371, sfilipek@agfc.state.ar.us and Bob Glennon, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Bldg., Rm. 5404, 700 W. Capitol Little Rock, AR 72201

Incorporating Instream Fisheries Habitat Considerations When Designing Streambank Stabilization Projects. Larry Mohn, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Regional Fisheries Manager, P.O. Box 996, Verona Virginia, (540)-248-9360, lmohn@dgif.state.va.us

Management Techniques.

Free Roaming Cat Management - Guidelines to a Successful Program (well maybe). Wright, T.A., Engineering Field Activity, Chesapeake

Partners in Flight, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and integrated Natural Resources Management Plans: Partnerships that advance Department of Defense Natural Resources Planning. Eberly, C. W. Department of Defense Partners in Flight Program, The Plains VA USA 20198.

Improving on the Ground Natural Resources Management on Department of Defense Lands through Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Planning. Fischer, R. A., M. P. Guilfoyle, and C. O. Martin US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory, Vicksburg, MS 39180 USA.

Development and Application of Advanced Technologies for the Conservation and Management of Wildlife Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems. Seegar W.S. and M. B. Henke. The Center for Conservation Research & Technology, UMBC (410) 455-8044; blakehenke@msn.com

Agreements before becoming Endangered Species.

The Army Threatened and Endangered Species Research Program: What it is, and why it looks the way it does. Hal Balbach, US Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL 61826
h-balbach@cecer.army.mil

Five-years of Army research on training impacts on endangered species: How can this help the installation trainer and resource manager? Timothy J. Hayden, Larry Pater, and Keturah Reinbold, US Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL, and David J. Tazik, Environmental Laboratory, Vicksburg, MS Timothy.J.Hayden@ERDC.usace.army.mil

Divide and Conquer: a Range-wide Approach to Conservation of the Black-tailed Prairie Dog. Pete Gober, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pierre, SD; Pat Mehlhop, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6,

Denver, CO; and John Sidle, US Forest Service, Omaha, NE. Pat_Mehlhop@fws.gov

Eastern Cave and Forest Bats: Are Future Endangered Species Waiting in the Wings? Chester O. Martin, Environmental Laboratory (CEERD-EE-E), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, 3909 Halls Ferry Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199 Chester.o.martin@erdc.usace.army.mil

Assessing Noise Impacts on Animals. Larry Pater and David Delaney, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL 61826
lpater@cecer.army.mil

Government Affairs.

Legal Overview of Outsourcing. Jim Robinette. Robinette Farms; Major, U.S. Army (Judge Advocate), 9421 Ulysses Ct., Burke VA 22015, 703.426.0733 (home), 703.477.5154 (cell).
jhrobin2@hotmail.com

Outsourcing: A Contractors Perspective. Joseph J. Campo, Ph.D., Geo-Marine, Inc., 11846 Rock Landing Dr., Suite C, Newport News, VA 23606, 757-873-3702 jcampo@geo-marine.com

Outsourcing: Lessons Learned at Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS. Jim Copeland, Forester, Naval Air Station Meridian, Public Works Dept, 1155 Rosenbaum Avenue Suite 13, Meridian MS 39309-5003, jim.copeland@cnet.navy.mil, 601-679-2482

Lessons Learned at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Jim Bailey, PhD. U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010, (410) 278-6748
jbailey@dshe.apg.army.mil

PEER and DoD Outsourcing. Dan Myer, General Counsel and Jeff Ruch, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), 2001 S Street, NW; Suite 570, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 265-7337, <http://www.peer.org>

At-large director report

Once again, the vast majority of my activities as At-Large Director are entirely related to my activities as Ad-Hoc Website Committee Chairperson. Every issue, I write “please check out the website!” So, I won’t write that this time (ugh, too late!). The website changes at least two or three times a month, even more if you count little cosmetic changes.

Exactly what you will see if you visit the site today is definitely different than what you would see if you visited the day I’m writing this. Check out literally pages of new information under the Government Affairs Committee: The new chair of that committee, “Bulldog” Jim Copeland is keeping that section dynamic and expanding to the extent that it needs a whole new section of the website. Jim has posted “What Can I Do?” and other items, so if you haven’t seen “GAC” lately, there’s much to see that’s new.

We’re still having problems with the Bulletin Board, but it should be back again soon. We have new direct links to PEER and WMI . Additional links have been added recently, and if anyone finds an appropriate site they think we should link to, a simple e-mail to me is all that’s needed. Our webmaster has also added one of those cool “hit counters,” so visit the site often and watch the number grow.

Highlights of the March meeting are posted, and very preliminary information on Dallas 2002 is also there. We will keep that portion of the site active as the meeting approaches and you will again be able to register on-line.

By the time this issue of the FAWN is published, I’d bet that we will post either the results or a link to the results of the PEER survey...

As At-Large Directors, Jim Copeland and I represent all members in one way or another, so please let us know if there’s anything that needs our attention. And visit the darned website, o.k.?

Rhys Evans; evansrm@29palms.usmc.mil

Membership list changes

NMFWA is in the process of updating and expanding out membership database. We are now including information on job title, organization, home and work addresses, etc.

Especially important is the inclusion of member’s email addresses and whether they want mailings of organizational materials sent to their home or work address. All of this information can be supplied to our database through the use of the membership registration on the NMFWA website. Even if you are a current member, you can fill out the form and we will add your information to the database.

Our mailing list is occasionally provided to organizations for their limited use in mailing information to our members. You may have in recent months received mailings from groups such as PEER and the American Bird Conservancy. Please note that a recent policy change approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) now requires that organizations requesting mailing labels from NMFWA must send their request to NMFWA and obtain approval from the BOD.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Mike Passmore, Membership Chair, at Michael.F.Passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil.



**Unlock our potential!!
Send in your information !!**

Herpetology working group

Though we are only in our toddler stage, the Herpetology Working Group (HWG) has taken many steps our second year in promoting the management and conservation of reptiles and amphibians (herps). As with our membership, efforts this past year have reached beyond DoD boundaries. Highlights are as follows:

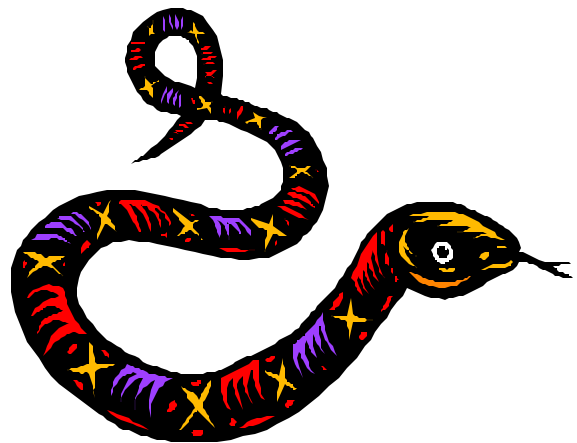
1. The herp technical session and workshop at the 2000 NMFWA meeting in Chicago and the field workshop at the US Military Academy, West Point, were a tremendous success. The HWG will explore the possibility of hosting other workshops and technical sessions.
2. The HWG has maintained an active dialogue over e-mail addressing technical, statutory, regulatory and educational topics, thus helping to maintain current knowledge of herpetological issues.
3. The HWG has provided information to a number of individuals within and outside DOD regarding issues from surveying threatened species on an installation to controlling nuisance frogs.
4. To take advantage of the DODI 4715.3 rewrite, the HWG submitted herp management and conservation guidelines for inclusion into the revised Instructions. Our proposed guidelines are simple but wise policies that can further reduce threats affecting reptile and amphibian populations on military installations. Mr. Peter Boice has acknowledged our recommendations, and stated that he will make sure each military department is aware of proposed guidelines.
5. The HWG has created and continues to build a database of herp studies at DoD installations. This database has provided the NMFWA membership a source of information on a variety of herp management topics.

6. HWG members have attended meetings of the Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (PARC). A number of HWG members were invited to and will be attending a PARC Workshop on Habitat Management Guidelines for Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles.
7. Articles were written and published in the FAWN on HWG activities.

Some other projects in the works include setting up a herp workshop in 2002 and including technical and educational information on the NMFWA HWG website.

Election results for the HWG chair and recording secretary for 2001 were announced at the HWG annual meeting held on March 21st in Washington.

Jay M. Rubinoff (rubinoffj@osc.army.mil)



President's report 2001

Correspondence

1. 24 April 2000. Letters to the Mississippi Congressional delegation requesting their assistance in stopping outsourcing of inherently governmental natural resource management functions on DOD lands. Addressees included: Senators Trent Lott and Thad Cochran, and Congressmen Chip Pickering, Ronnie Shows, Bennie Thompson, Gene Taylor, and Roger Wicker. An information paper on outsourcing was also provided.
2. 27 May 2000. Letter of Appreciation to Dr. Alan Moore, Acting Director, US Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL for work performed by CERL employees in support of NMFWA's March 2000 Training Workshop in Chicago, IL
3. 21 June 2000. Facsimile transmittal to Congressman Don Young's office requesting their assistance in reminding DOD of their responsibilities under the Sikes Act as regards outsourcing.
4. 18 September 2000. Letter to Dr. Michael Morrison, TWS Program Committee Chair supporting NMFWA's proposed symposium entitled State of the Art Wildlife Research on Military Lands.
5. 31 October 2000. Letters of invitation to Service Secretaries, DOD, and the Coast Guard to participate in the March 2001 NMFWA Training Workshop.
6. 18 September 2000. Letters to all U.S. Senators requesting their support for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999.
7. 12 February 2001. Letter to Dr. Rollin D. Sparowe, President of The Wildlife Management Institute, announcing the establishment of the Laurence R. Jahn Memorial Award.

Summary of Motions

- 12 July 2000. Tammy Conkle made the motion (seconded by Rhys Evans) to modify registration fees for the 2001 Training Workshop. Passed unanimously.
- 13 July 2000. Tammy Conkle made the motion (seconded by Don Pitts) to authorize a maximum expenditure of \$34,787.50 on the 2001 Annual Training Session. Passed 6 to 5.
- 28 August 2000. Don Pitts made the motion (seconded by John Joyce) that NMFWA recognize the Exotic Species Working Group. Passed unanimously.
- 19 September 2000. Rhys Evans made the motion (seconded by Scott Smith) that NMFWA approve sponsorship of the 2001 TWS National Meeting in Reno, NV in the amount of \$1000. Passed 6 to 5.

2 October 2000. Don Pitts made the motion (seconded by Rhys Evans) to release the NMFWA mailing list to Chris Eberly of DOD PIF and that he in turn make the list available to the USFWS and PIF so they can send a one-time mailing to our membership promoting the International Migratory Bird Day. Passed 10 to 1.

19 October 2000. Mark Hagan made the motion (seconded by Rhys Evans) to provide reimbursement to Mid-South Moto-Plex to cover expenses up to \$450 from damages incurred at the 2000 law enforcement workshop. Passed unanimously.

1 November 2000. Don Pitts made the motion (seconded by Rhys Evans) that NMFWA sign an affiliate agreement with the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Association, and exchange website links. Passed unanimously.

7 December 2000. Rhys Evans made the motion (seconded by Coralie Cobb) that NMFWA enter into an agreement with Ms. Ginny Dickerson to provide webmaster services at a cost of \$50 per hour, with costs averaging \$150 per month. The one-year agreement will include non-competitive renewal upon conclusion, with the agreement of both parties. There will also be an agreement cancellation statement, 60 day notice required. Passed unanimously.

19 December 2000. Rhys Evans made the motion (seconded by Scott Smith) that the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association establish the "Laurence R. Jahn Award" as recommended by the Awards Committee. Passed unanimously.

Other

April 2000. Prepared Information Papers on NMFWA and Outsourcing, and a NMFWA position paper on Outsourcing. These were provided to WMI, TWS, NRA, IAFWA, and Mississippi Congressional delegation.

1 October 2000. Association Tax Status. Had requested a review by legal counsel. Written report from Alan Perkins is pending. Per discussion with Alan Perkins, we are a "business league" under 501c6. There are no restrictions on political activities related to our organizational purpose. If we had dues, we would be obligated to notify our members that contributions and dues are not tax deductible.

21 December 2000. Signed contract with Ms. Virginia Dickerson, Vicksburg, MS for webmaster services.

Immediate Past President; Dave Tazik; tazikd@wes.army.mil

“we must fight - We must stand!”

I do not feel like a hero, as described during the award ceremony at our annual NMFWA meeting in March 2001. I thank you for the honor of the Presidents Award.

I feel deeply about the land – just like many of you. This is not just a job for me. This is a cause, a belief. Aldo Leopold believed you must care about the land to have a land ethic. It is an awe that can and should be passed on through educating our stakeholders, taking folks out to touch the land, through mutual respect of each of our diverse missions – operations and stewardship. Neither can survive without the other. If the operations mission goes away there will be no protection for the resources that have been protected for many years behind our boundaries. Without the resources there will be no operations, no clean air, no clean water, no vegetation to hide behind during training, etc. We must learn to live together. Again, Aldo Leopold in one of his addresses said "Civilization has so cluttered this elemental man-earth relation with gadgets and middlemen that awareness of it is growing dim. We fancy that industry supports us, forgetting what supports industry."

Can the DOD effectively and responsibly carry out a stewardship mission with non-natural resource government employees and contractors, or too few government natural resource employees and contractors? For the moment some have taken power who believe they can do more by ignoring their stewardship responsibility and the resources. Replacing natural resource employees with non-natural resource trained employees and contractors. Money savings? No, it is a shell game where we hire shadow employees, they look, act, and talk like government employees – but are contractors. DOD knows it does not save them money, so why? Could it be so some in DOD can have more power over the natural resource professionals, power to make them overlook, ignore, miss natural resource issues? DOD hires contractors who have no protection, who can be fired instantly, instead of opening up "protected" government natural resource positions. They put non-trained natural resource employees over natural resource issues and contractors, they cut government natural resource staff so low they are no longer effective.

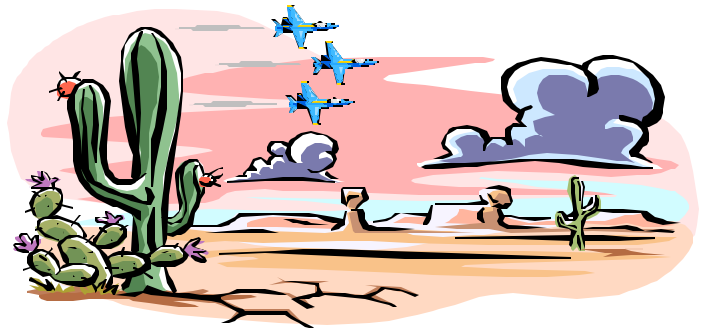
“The resource agencies will protect the resources,” you say. They want too, but are under-funded, beat down; powerless. Who is left to ensure the public’s stewardship mandate is implemented? The contract professionals who have - no protection.

This lawsuit it is not about money, prestige, jobs, Mark or me. It's about 25+ million acres, rare plants, rare wildlife, rare habitats, still intact natural processes. It is about preserving for the future, land to be treasured and used wisely. It is about public service. Ask yourself - are you not after all - ultimately a public servant? The public spoke, they gave us a mandate through many environmental laws crafted to protect natural resources. Some would like to change what the public said - ignore it. Ultimately my employer is the public - for I am a public servant. I heard what the public said and am duty bound to stand for them, as are all of you. We talked, we entreated, we wrote letters, to no avail. Now, let the courts decide. The lawsuit is not against the Air Force. It is **FOR** the continuation of wise natural resource management in concert with wise operations management. We are loyal to the AF and DOD, we are fighting for them. We believe natural resource management is invaluable to the mission.

Government Natural Resource Managers (no matter your actual title) WE are the front line of defense. WE are the militia in a battle raging around us eliminating trained natural resource government employees under the guise of saving money. Some of us may get taken out, many already have been, but the rest must march forward. Never stop pressing for what is right. John Muir, in his battle for Hetch Hetchy Valley did not win that battle - but he started a movement that avalanched into the Organic Act establishing the NPS, Wilderness Society and the Wilderness Act of 1964. John Muir died before seeing the results of the battle he fought, but because he stood up and fought, and moved others to fight, much more was won than was lost at Hetch Hetchy.

Thank you, to each of the past presidents who felt our efforts important and deserving of the President's Award. Thank you for the standing ovation affirming this award and which meant more to me than the award its self - for I began to see us standing together, not just us, alone. Thank you to those which support us and not able to be there. Thank you Junior, for your beautiful and very moving presentation. For the resources - for the true agency - for the public's voice - WE STAND - Please fight with us - please - stand with us. Government Natural Resource Managers and Contract Natural Resource Managers - unite - let us stand together, let us seek God's assistance for His resources - TOGETHER.

Wanda Deal (wanda.deal@edwards.af.mil)



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