



FAWN



FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF
THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME III NUMBER 1

June 1986

Meet your new Board of Directors elected at our 3rd annual meeting in Reno:

President: Tom Warren, Fort Carson, A-691-4828
Past President: Gene Stout, Fort Sill, A-639-4324
Vice President: Larry Adams, Patuxent River NAS, A-356-3612
Sec/Treasurer: Jock Beall, Fort Lewis, A-357-5914
Western Director: Slater Buck, Camp Pendleton, A-993-3528
Western Director: Patty Worthing, Western Div NAVFACENCOM, A-859-7608
Eastern Director: Maj Joe Ward, HQ AFESC/DEVN, A-970-6241
Eastern Director: Richard Griffith, USAEHA, A-584-3015
Program Chairman: Bill Bartush, Fort Sill, A-639-4324
Newsletter Editor: Tom Wray, NORTHNAVFACENCOM, A-443-6207

Also elected was your At-large member of the Nominations Committee:

Mike Herbaugh, Beaufort MCAS, A-630-⁷³⁷⁰~~1500~~ ext ~~7704~~

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is being published at Fort Sill due to the delay in getting a new committee established to put out the FAWN and the need to fairly rapidly pass on some information to NMFWA members. Tom Wray has been appointed editor by President Warren, and I understand he will be getting considerable assistance from Rich Griffith. We anticipate one very short newsletter mid-summer in order to pass on announcements of our upcoming annual meeting and training session as well as request input for Board of Director positions and any other items that needs to be put on the agenda. This "newsletter" may be in the form of a letter. Tom anticipates a mid-September newsletter which will be a full-blown affair with items such as a Nominations Committee report, proposed Bylaws changes, proposed resolutions, installation reports, a full schedule of the next meeting/training session, etc.

Tom will be looking for assistance from NMFWA members with regard to the publication of this newsletter, and any input you have will be appreciated. It is your newsletter. Editors can't invent news. They must be informed by our members. Tom will use last year's committee members, and he can use more help if you are willing. Give him a call. Here are some of the folks you can use to get input into the newsletter:

Tom Wray, Code 24B.3, NORTHNAVFACENCOM, Phila. Naval Base, PA 19112 [A-443-6207, C-(215) 897-6207]
Bruce Reinhardt, Nat Res Planner, 9CSG/DEEV, Beale AFB, CA 95903 [A-368-4485, C-(916) 634-4485]
Al Pfister, Nat Res Chief, ATTN: AFZC-DEH, Fort Carson, CO 80913-5000 [A-691-4828, C-(303) 579-4828]

Richard Griffith, US Army Environ Hygiene Agency, PMPMD, Aberdeen P.G., MD 21010-5422
[A-584-3015, C-(301) 671-3015]
Mike Herbaugh, Nat Res & Env Affairs Officer, S-4 Section, MC Air Station, Beaufort, SC
29904 [A-832-7370, C-(803) 846-7370]
Jay Banta, Wildl Biol, Fish & Wildl. Br., DEH, Fort Sill, OK 73503 [A-639-4324,
C-(405) 351-4324]
Your name would sure look good here!

THE WILD SIDE

Tom Warren, NMFWA President

The title of this column has long been the established by-line of our Past President, Gene Stout. I've always been partial to The Wild Side and think it is a most fitting title for this section of our newsletter. Therefore, with Gene's permission, I'm going to continue to use his by-line for the time being.

Before I get on with the business of guiding OUR Association for this year, I would be remiss if I didn't extend my appreciation to those of you who attended our recent training session in Reno. Because of your participation, we had a very successful meeting. There were several members of nationally organized conservation and professional organizations (The Wildlife Society, National Wildlife Federation and Wildlife Management Institute) present during our meetings. These individuals spoke highly of our Association, its objectives, and our resolve to support continued fish and wildlife conservation efforts within DoD. Additionally, I personally believe that because of our efforts during the past year and our participation within a meeting such as The North American Wildlife Conference we have helped to push our management efforts to the forefront among federal resource management agencies.

Within this newsletter, you will find a synopsis of both the Board and general business meetings conducted while we were in Reno.

Highlighted, we amended our Constitution and Bylaws thereby allowing for greater representation by the membership to the Board through establishment of two additional at-large directors while also adopting a Board position for the Newsletter Chairperson. By expanding membership of the Board, we increased regional representation and thereby increased input from the membership. The members of the Board are your representatives. I encourage you to utilize them.

Additionally, the membership approved two position statements for the Association dealing with the utilization of steel shot and trapping on DoD lands. Both position statements were sent to the DoD Natural Resources Group (DNRG) for their consideration. The DNRG elected to do nothing with the trapping statement as it was considered unnecessary given the existence of applicable authorizing directives.

Discussion was heard on the steel shot issue. However, additional consideration was prevented through the acceptance of a tabling motion. I believe this to be indeed unfortunate for several reasons. First, we (DoD) missed a unique opportunity to demonstrate our leadership role in the national conservation effort by implementing this much needed and timely changeover to nontoxic shot. Second, NMFWA was requested by DNRG members to recommend a course of action on this issue. As professionals, we debated, anguished, and resolved the issue to the majority's satisfaction. Our recommendations were not adequately considered by the DNRG in my opinion.

Recommendations are just that...recommendations. As an association, we cannot know all the appropriate answers. Yet, perhaps on this issue, the time has come for DoD to take the lead and implement independently those policies designed to conserve the fish and wildlife resources of the public trust for which we are responsible.

Our Association is growing both in membership strength and credibility. The key to this development has been effective communication. We need to continue this direction if we are to remain a viable organization. Communications among ourselves continue to improve with each edition of this newsletter. If you have something to say, by all means provide your input to Tom Wray's Newsletter Committee. Do not depend on this committee to get the job done for you. We must all continue to work for our common objectives within NMFWA.

I have established a personal objective during my tenure as your President to improve the growing communications we have with our higher commands and with other DoD

natural resources personnel involved with scientific disciplines other than fish and wildlife management. It is my intent to both retain the strength and integrity of the NMFWA while attempting to improve coordination between management activities.

So as not to be misunderstood, I offer my personal view of the importance of the wildlife resource and the military mission... The habitats utilized by the wildlife species, whether they be on the land, sea or air, are the same habitats as those utilized to accomplish the military mission. Therefore, all things being equal, the general "health" of wildlife habitat is indicative of our future ability to accomplish the military mission.

It is going to be an interesting year. Let's get started.

Synopsis of Annual Business Meeting in Reno, NV, March 27 1986

President Stout gave a short message on NMFWA growth and status.

A motion was passed to provide the Corps of Engineers access to our mailing list for distribution of information pertinent to our profession.

Secretary/Treasurer Warren informed us that membership was 248, and the organization was in debt approximately \$138. \$1,245 was collected at this meeting. Newsletter publication accounted for 94% of expenditures.

Program Chairman Adams was congratulated on the Reno training session.

Newsletter Chairman Beall gave a newsletter report.

Tom Poole discussed the waterfowl meeting of NMFWA members and recommended similar forums at future meetings.

The Constitution and Bylaws were amended along the lines announced in the January 1986 newsletter. Basically, the size of the Board of Directors was increased.

Scott Feierabend, National Wildlife Federation, presented information regarding the so-called steel shot issue and the stand taken by NWF.

Position statements regarding nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting and the use of trapping on DoD lands were debated, amended and passed. President Stout advised that he would send these to the DoD Natural Resources Group.

A report on the status of the Sikes Act was presented. No further action was taken by the NMFWA as an organization.

Tom Franklin, The Wildlife Society, discussed the benefits of individual membership in TWS as well as TWS support for NMFWA objectives.

Steve Emmons presented information on a wildlife law enforcement training session to be presented at Fort Carson on June 9-20, 1986.

New officers were elected. Incoming President Warren presented comments relative to the continued growth of NMFWA. Attending members expressed their appreciation to Past President Stout.

The new Board of Directors held a brief meeting following the general membership meeting.

Position Statements

Waterfowl Hunting with Nontoxic Shot

Ingestion of lead by waterfowl and other wildlife species causes deaths. Lead poisoning has been recognized for nearly 100 years in North America, Europe and Australia. Over the past 30 years estimates of deaths from lead poisoning in the United States vary from 1.6 to 3.6 million birds annually.

Over 100 bald eagles have been documented as having died of lead poisoning since 1966. Greater than 50% of these have been since 1980, and these documented cases

represent only a fraction of the total number of bald eagle deaths due to lead shot ingestion. Some large-scale die-offs of waterfowl due to lead poisoning have been reported. However, most deaths are less spectacular, attract little attention, and occur at the time of the year when they are likely to go unnoticed. Furthermore, sublethal poisoning from chronic exposure to lead has a widespread, detrimental effect on survivorship and natality. Lead poisoning of waterfowl is best described as a low visibility, chronic disease of attrition that varies in severity and is distributed over a wide geographic area.

Based on the number of shotshells fired by hunters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that over 3,000 tons of lead shot are expended annually in the United States. The lead pellets accumulate in bottom sediments and on upland sites where feeding waterfowl mistakenly ingest the pellets as food or grit. The availability of shot to waterfowl varies with substrates and other factors in wetlands and with agricultural practices in fields.

The legal authority for conserving and protecting migratory birds, including waterfowl and bald eagles, rests with the Department of the Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. According to a 1985 Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service, unless lead shot for waterfowl hunting is prohibited nationwide, the problem of lead poisoning in waterfowl, bald eagles, and other migratory birds will continue.

For these reasons it shall be the position of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association that the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting be eliminated nationwide. By this position, the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association:

1. Recognizes the widespread problem of acute and chronic lead poisoning of waterfowl and other wildlife caused by using lead shot for waterfowl hunting;
2. Recognizes steel shot as the only currently available and suitable substitute for lead shot;
3. Urges the Department of Defense to protect wildlife resources by prohibiting the use of lead shot for all waterfowl hunting on Department of Defense lands provided nontoxic shot can be made available for purchase in local areas; and
4. Promotes public and professional education programs concerning the use of nontoxic shot used for migratory bird hunting.

GENE STOUT, President
National Military Fish and Wildlife
Association

27 March 86

* The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association utilized Control of Environmental Contamination Due to Lead Shot, a conservation policy published by The Wildlife Society in 1985, for preparation of this position statement.

Trapping on Military Lands

Whereas, the Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for the conservation and management of natural resources on military lands under its control, and
Whereas, renewable resources, such as furbearers, may be utilized on a sustainable basis, and
Whereas, furbearers are an important recreational and economical natural resource, and
Whereas, this furbearer resource is currently under- or unutilized on many DOD lands, and
Whereas, furbearers are not currently addressed in many DOD installation wildlife management plans, and
Whereas, regulated trapping of furbearers is a biologically sound and practical means of managing furbearer populations;
It is therefore the position of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association that trapping be encouraged as a furbearer management tool on DOD lands. The Association also recommends that all installation wildlife management plans and regulations address furbearer management and be based on sound biological data. And, the Association also recommends that trappers be charged appropriate user fees where it is practical to do so.

GENE STOUT, President
National Military Fish and Wildlife
Association

27 March 1986

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor which express a different viewpoint from letters previously published will be published provided they are reasonably well written and are less than 350 words. Letters do not necessarily represent the position of the NMFWA.

Multiple-Use and DOD Natural Resources Funding Proposal

When we read the viewpoint section in the July F.A.W.N., we were disturbed by the "holier than thou" attitude that Jim Oman's letter seemed to convey simply because DOD forestry and agricultural outlease programs produce a profit. We expected Jim to "get waxed" in the next issue and we weren't disappointed, but Carrol Martin's comments in the January 1986 F.A.W.N. concerning multiple-use which in his opinion "means managing to benefit wildlife first with commercial gains for forestry operations only a secondary consideration" were equally disturbing and in our opinion equally wrong. These two letters demonstrate that there can be both "hardcore" foresters and "hardcore" wildlife managers. That door swings both ways.

We feel that Carrol had half a good idea when he wrote "bring aboard foresters trained to manage for timber". The point we want to make here is to manage in a multiple-use system, you (whether forester or wildlife manager) must know something about the other resources. If you don't, how do you expect to show anyone the benefits your resource can provide? Having "tunnel vision" for a single resource in a multiple-use management system is unsatisfactory, no matter what resource it is!

We feel that the coordination of forestry and wildlife works well at Camp Lejeune. That is not to say that we agree on every decision, we don't. But we work hard to make multiple-use management work, and we continue to work because this "snowball" does not roll by itself. It's time foresters and wildlife managers buried the hatchet, and not in each other's back. If you want multiple-use management to work, you've got to make it work, nobody will do it for you. It's quite easy to carry out management practices that produce maximum yields of either wildlife or forest products, but it's more difficult to carry out integrated programs for both. Sound multiple-use management is where the challenge is, but the satisfaction that comes from a successful multiple-use approach is worth the effort!

We support the funding proposals put forward by H.R. 1212. The profits from the DOD forestry and agricultural outlease programs won't even begin to pay interest on the national debt. Put the money back into all the renewable resources; that's where it came from.

Peter E. Black, Base Forester Charles D. Peterson, Supervisory Base Wildlife Manager
Camp Lejeune, NC

Note: A decision was made to stop publishing letters on this subject unless truly new viewpoints are presented.

Special Newsletter Note

This newsletter was printed single-spaced and in reduced type to cut publishing costs. In addition, as with recent editions, it is only being sent to no more than 2 members on one installation. Please, if your installation has multiple members, pass this around. If any of these arrangements are not suitable, please contact Editor Wray.

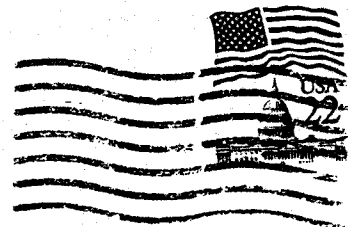
Sikes Act Update

As of June 3, 1986 the Sikes Act is still held up in two Senate Committees. Both the Armed Services and the Environment and Public Works committees have not scheduled hearings. There is dialog between DOD and the bill sponsor, Rep. Don Young, but no concrete results have been reported. There is strong support for bill passage in both committees, but DOD agronomists have been urged to oppose many of the bill's provisions. The principle problem is priority. Both committees are involved in many other bills.

FY 87 NMFWA Training Session/Business Meeting

CALL FOR PAPERS: NMFWA's annual training session will be held on 18-20 Nov 1986 in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with the Southeastern Assoc. of F&WL Agencies annual conference 20-23 November. Certain sessions are planned to create a workshop atmosphere with moderator, panel and and open discussion of selected topics. Specific topics planned at this stage are fisheries, waterfowl, and endangered/non-game management as it relates to DOD's military mission. Other sessions will be added if the demand is great enough. If enough sessions are scheduled, concurrent sessions may be held. A one page, double-spaced abstract should be sent no later than 1 August 1986 to: Bill Bartush, Fish and Wildlife Br., DEH, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5100; phone (405)351-4324 or AV 639-4324. Individuals with expertise with these subjects or in this program format are urged to call for further information.

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