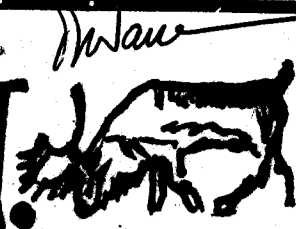




F&W.N.



FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF

THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

March 1985

THE NMFWA NEWSLETTER

Our initial publication deadline of Jan. 1 passed quickly and was reset at March 1. As the saying goes about our office carpool; better late than never.

This represents the first combined effort of NMFWA to publish a newsletter. The two previous editions were sole efforts by Gene Stout. Now with a committee heading the newsletter the work burden has been well divided. Each branch of service has a newsletter committee representative (the Army has two; east/west). This will be your direct line of communication to the entire membership, so use it to your advantage as well as for the benefit of others.

If this newsletter reaches people with no interest in NMFWA, please pass it on to anyone in the organization that deals with fish and wildlife or natural resources management.

The appearance of the newsletter may vary throughout the year as we experiment with different formats. Our goal is to have an informational yet informal content with a professional appearance. In order to hold down postage costs we may limit each installation to two copies regardless of membership.

The features in this issue are dominated by explanations. This was necessary to start the newsletter, so future issues will have more items of interest. Highlights in this issue include important letters to the DOD command, guest editorial on job vacancy advertisements, and the results of a friendly football challenge between Ft. Lewis and Ft. Sill.

NMFWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ELECTED PERSONNEL

President—Gene Stout
Past President—Lud Clark
Vice President—Joe Ward
Secretary/Treasurer—Tom Warren
At Large Director—West—Al Pfister
At Large Director—East—Linton Swindell
At Large Nominations Committee—Marlo Acock
Program Chairman—Larry Adams

TREASURERS REPORT

NMFWA has a checking account balance of \$608.12 as of 14 Jan. 1985.—Tom Warren, Sec./Treas.

THE TRANSFER STATION

(Ed. note: This will cover job vacancies, transfers, retirements, and new employees. Vacancies must be anticipated or correspond with the publication schedule. The guest editorial has additional job announcement information.)

Congratulations to Bill Bartush and Charles Boydston, both of whom recently accepted Wildlife Biologist positions at Tyndall AFB, Fl., and Fort Bragg, N.C., respectively. Don Morris, Fish and Wildlife Specialist at Bangor Sub Base, is moving to the Environmental office at Keyport, Wa. Good luck on your new ventures.

JOBS

Wildlife Biologist, GS-11. Avon Park, Fl. and Elmendorf AFB, Ak. Anticipated. Contact Joe Ward at 904-283-6237 or Av. 970-6237. (You may have better luck through the mail.)
Fish and Wildlife Specialist, GS-5/7/9/11. Bangor Sub Base, Bremerton, Wa. Contact CPO at 206-744-4775 or 744-4779 (recording). Anticipated.
Shellfish and deer background desirable.

THE WILD SIDE

Gene Stout - NMFWA President

How effective is an organization?

That answer is simple. Our organization... any organization for that matter... is only as good as its members are willing to make it.

That truism is especially pertinent to an organization as small and specialized as the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association. Let's face it. No matter how hard we try, we are currently limited to about 150 members, so it's up to all of us to make this organization effective and responsive to the needs of our membership.

Our first year was a real winner. We didn't set the world afire, but we laid groundwork for the development of the organization. Our recent meeting in New Orleans produced more solid accomplishments than most of us expected, and now it's up to all of us to keep the impetus moving.

This newsletter, for example, is the key to our number one goal... communication. A group of our members have made a commitment to putting out a quality product, and the membership is supporting this effort with the dollars. However, the ultimate success of this newsletter will depend upon its content. And content depends on input from you, the membership. Do not depend on Jock and his committee to do it all, or we will fall flat on our faces. We spent many, many hours in New Orleans debating the content of the letters we sent to Secretary Weinberger. The process itself was important because virtually every viewpoint had its input into the final documents. Do the documents satisfy everybody? Of course not, but they meet the needs of the organization as a whole, and that's what it is all about.

If you want the NMFWA to do something for your installation's needs, let me know. However, you must be willing to put in some work because YOU are the organization. We members of the Board of Directors are willing to help, but we are not going to do the legwork for over 100 members.

In New Orleans one very important fact became quite clear. This organization is basically conservative, and it prefers to work within the normal channels to improve matters with which we are concerned. This is probably a wise choice, especially considering the age of the organization. Don't expect the Association to take radical stances, particularly for issues that affect a small minority.

On the other hand, the Association did tackle some very tough issues such as more money for our programs, the subservient status of our professionals in some cases, inadequate fish and wildlife input into management plans, and wildlife law enforcement. NMFWA is not going to be a "I hope things get better" organization. It is willing to try to make things happen.

As I read over this column, it becomes obvious that it is rather dry and boring. Therefore, I thought I'd pass on some of my outdoor observations.

The size of a buck's rack is directly proportional to the distance between you and it and the speed with which it is increasing that distance.

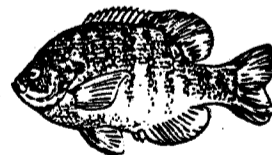
The number of deer you see while black powder hunting is directly proportional to the amount of water in the nipple.

The best way to bring home a big bass is to stand beside a 12 year old with a \$5 rod and worm. Maybe he'll sell you a 6 pounder.

It's easy to increase rabbit populations. Sell your beagle.

The more planning you put into a camping trip, the more likely it is to rain, sleet, and hail.

Let's hear it for the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association!
It's downright exciting!



EDITORS CORNER

I will use this column as a catch-all to form the membership of newsletter developments, assorted NMFWA business, or anything to report that does not fit elsewhere. We may even use the space to write an editorial.

If you are interested in a copy of the proceedings of the NMFWA New Orleans program, it may soon be published by the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg. Contact Chester O. Martin for more information at: Dept. of the Army, WES, CE, P.O. Box 631, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180-0631 or phone (601) 634-3958.

A copy of the NMFWA bylaws and bylaw changes may be obtained from Gene Stout at Fort Sill.

The DOD wood duck management survey has not yet been compiled. Results will be sent to interested parties when completed.

All the newsletter features the committee has put together sound great on paper, but success will only occur with membership involvement. Take the initiative and contact your branch representative. The deadline for the next issue is JUNE 15.

I would like to comment on my observations of the NMFWA New Orleans meeting. Since this was my first association with the organization except for a membership application, two newsletters, and a few phone calls, I initially qualified as an outsider (and now I am a pseudo-editor). The entire event was best described as a positive experience. The enthusiasm and participation of the group was beyond my expectations. The excellent program and business meeting (even though it was cut short) reflected well upon the effort by Gene Stout, Joe Ward, and the NMFWA Board of Directors to have a high quality training session and organization. As Gene relates in *The Wild Side*, "Let us keep the impetus moving."



Jock

Jock

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Ed. note: This column will include any short items of interest to NMFWA members, such as special achievements, work projects, unusual observations, etc.

Fort Carson, Colo......The Natural Resources Section has recently been awarded the Colorado Wildlife Federation Conservation Organization of the Year Award for outstanding involvement in conservation activities in the state. NMFWA congratulates the Fort Carson staff for this prestigious award.

Fort Lewis, Wash......The first record of a European widgeon was noted in December, feeding among two hundred American widgeon.....A record chum (dawg) salmon run occurred in January. Anticipating a large Rush of poachers from Oklahoma, the local University provided assistance. The Husky wardens, hiding in an Orange grove, swooped down on the Sooners, running and waving flags. Forewarned about Husky aerial attacks, they tried to escape in their Schooner wagon. The successful raid resulted in 28 citations issued for 17 dawgs in their possession. A federal judge in Reno deferred sentencing until the NMFWA meeting in March 1986..... A "Cookie Cutter", which is a unique channel cutting boat from Florida, has recently been used to open blocked salmon spawning areas and diversify wetland habitat.



The carp diet. You place a carp in your refrigerator and it takes away your appetite.

VIEWPOINT

(Ed. note: We would like to have a guest editorial in every issue. Subject material should be matters concerning NMFWA and limited to 350 words. As much as possible, equal space will be given to opposing positions. Viewpoint does not necessarily represent the official position of NMFWA.)

We, as members of the NMFWA, strive to improve the quality of natural resource management on DOD installations. A major component of accomplishing this mission is ensuring that competent and professional employees staff such programs. Attracting employees with such qualifications into programs is not difficult considering the current job market.

DOD natural resource programs attract qualified professionals but unfortunately, unlike many other resource agencies, often fail to retain them throughout the various levels of command. This is partially due to a lack of effort on the part of DOD natural resource administrators to advertise position vacancies so that qualified personnel on other installations might apply. It is no wonder that entry and mid-level natural resource personnel in DOD programs jump to other agencies that are willing to advertise vacancies, thus offering realistic expectation of career advancement.

It is a significant waste of time and money to familiarize personnel with the idiosyncrasies that are inherent with any DOD natural resource programs, then lose them to other agencies. Such occurrences are not only regrettable but preventable as well. There are mechanisms in place that allow for a better dissemination of DOD natural resource job vacancies. The CPO at each installation can advertise vacancies at the installation, Department, or DOD level. If this system proves to be inadequate, then perhaps a means of communicating vacancies among NMFWA installations can be devised.

As long as vacancies are not advertised we will continue to penalize DOD personnel at most levels. Poor morale results when a qualified DOD natural resource employee finds out, after the fact, that a vacancy at another installation was filled by an applicant from an OPM list-of-eligibles.

It does not have to be this way. A commitment on the part of DOD natural resource administrators to advise other installations of job vacancies will do a great deal to improve our image and strengthen the combined missions of our respective programs.

DOD Natural Resource Administrators are encouraged to utilize the mailing label service offered by Bob Wardwell of the Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center. Bob will send you mailing labels for some potential DOD candidates for mid and upper level positions. His services will not, however, supply candidates or identify any DOD personnel who are in entry level positions.

Jay Banta

Fish and Wildlife Branch, Ft. Sill

IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON

Pertinent legislation and other political issues of interest to NMFWA will be noted in each issue. If you know of items of interest to NMFWA members, contact Al Pfister at Fort Sill. This issue contains three letters and a resolution from NMFWA to Casper Weinberger, Sec. of Defense. They were developed by committees in New Orleans and approved at the business meeting.

A tentative date of March 5 has been set for the reauthorization of the Sikes Act by the House subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation in the Environment.

A rumor A bill to prevent contracting of fish and wildlife activities under the provisions of OPM Circular A-76 will be introduced. Our organization did not take an official stand on this issue since DOD will probably oppose it. However, many of our members have indicated a strong desire to personally work to pass such a bill.

Dear Secretary Weinberger:

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) is dedicated to the enhancement of fish and wildlife management on military installations.

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention a matter of significant concern to the membership of the NMFWA which is comprised primarily of DOD natural resources personnel. Our concern focuses on the subservient status of fish and wildlife biologists at some command levels and installations.

For example, Army Regulation 420-74, Chapter 2, Para 2-2b, states.... "Major commands with both land and forest management programs should staff with a minimum of one agronomist and one forester". The Army, Navy and Air Force Manual titled Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Management (Chapter 10, Para 10-2) provides staffing guidance for natural resource managers at the GS-12 level for larger installations. The qualification standards of natural resource managers developed at the installation and command levels often preclude fish and wildlife biologists from competing with other natural resource professionals (i.e., agronomists, foresters, range conservationists, etc.) for promotion or as in the case of the Department or Major Command often do not exist. The Army, for example, does not have a single fish and wildlife biologist at any command level.

These inadequacies within natural resource management programs have resulted in management of our valuable natural resources that is sometimes inconsistent with modern fish and wildlife management procedures. Therefore, the NMFWA recommends incorporation of the following to alleviate this existing situation:

1. DOD should have at least one fish and wildlife biologist at each department, major command headquarters and installation with adequate fish and wildlife resources.

2. Qualification standards for natural resource program directors at both installation and command levels should be developed that allow all professionals in any of the natural resource disciplines (i.e., agronomists, fish and wildlife biologists, foresters, range conservationists, etc.) to equally compete for promotion.

3. All expressed or implied reference to superiority of one natural resources discipline over another should be removed from all DOD documentation.

Incorporation of these recommendations will materially aid in the accomplishment of our overall mission of providing for the continuation of the military mission by maintaining our valuable training lands and concurrently providing high quality resources for enhancing the quality of life to members of our military communities.

Dear Secretary Weinberger:

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) was formed to provide for the optimum management of the Department of Defense's fish and wildlife resources. The majority of the membership is professional fish and wildlife managers within DOD.

Since wildlife law enforcement is our basic management tool, we are deeply concerned over its effectiveness under the current system whereby such enforcement generally is conducted by "security organizations". In all 50 states and the Department of Interior, this function is within the wildlife agency due to its "unique" functions for officers to have a natural resources background and be intimately familiar with the operational terrain. Traditional enforcement systems within DOD often cannot meet these basic requirements.

At the NMFWA's annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 21, 1984, the Association approved the attached resolution. This resolution, if implemented, would result in improved fish and wildlife management, and as has been shown on several installations, it can often reduce manpower. It is also consistent with the replacement of soldiers with civilians in non-military positions.

Our Association is prepared to offer any additional information or assistance you may need with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dear Secretary Weinberger:

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association met in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 19-21 November 1984. The Association was formed to enhance fish and wildlife management on military installations and provide a professional association for improved coordination among professional personnel involved with the Department of Defense fish and wildlife programs.

We understand that the Department of Defense will meet with Congressman Don Young to propose a rewrite of his bill to amend the Sikes Act (16 USC 670).

We recommend that the following items be included within that proposal:

1. The Sikes Act should be amended to authorize the Department of the Interior \$6 million each year for fiscal years 1986-1988 to be used exclusively for fish and wildlife management on military installations in accordance with needs identified by the Department of Defense.

2. The amendment should exclude Department of Defense Fish and Wildlife Programs from any year-end manpower ceilings for full-time permanent or temporary personnel working exclusively within approved natural resources programs on military installations. Those personnel may be funded from appropriated or non-appropriated fund accounts or the special wildlife conservation fund authorized under this act.

3. This amendment should require integrated natural resources management on military installations. Specifically, professional fish and wildlife staffs should play an equal role with other natural resources managers in developing the integrated management plan.

It is our understanding that the Department of Defense is considering introducing legislative changes to Section 2665 of Title 10 USC to allow the expenditure of all receipts in excess of forest management costs and State-shared revenue for all natural resources management projects, including fish and wildlife management. We fully support this proposal.

We appreciate the interest shown by your staff, particularly Ms. Christina Ramsey, for proper, professional fish and wildlife management on military installations. We support the Department of Defense initiatives to improve the management of fish and wildlife resources on military lands.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Department of Defense (DOD) is tasked with responsibilities for the conservation, management and restoration of the land and the renewable natural resources therein consistent with the military mission and in consonance with national policies on military lands under their control, and

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources are to be considered of prime importance within any installation management program from an either aesthetic, recreational and/or quality of life point of view, and

Whereas, the effective accomplishment of any fish and wildlife management program must include the cooperative interaction of all aspects of the program to include law enforcement which is the oldest and most basic fish and wildlife management technique, and

Whereas, many DOD agencies have elected to accomplish these required responsibilities of fish and wildlife management and its related fish and wildlife law enforcement utilizing various divergent staff agencies, and

Whereas, Installation Security/Prowest Marshal activities are often understaffed and inadequately trained to accomplish fish and wildlife law enforcement activities in a professionally acceptable manner, particularly considering personnel turnover rates, and

Whereas, existing DOD Regulations severely limit or altogether prohibit incorporation of fish and wildlife law enforcement practices relative to equipment selection, mode of operation and judicial processes as currently operational in the non-military system, where virtually all fish and wildlife law enforcement is accomplished within the appointed wildlife agencies, and

Whereas, Public Law 86-797, Fish and Wildlife Conservation on Military Reservations, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to "carry out a program of planning, development, maintenance and coordination of wildlife, fish and game conservation and rehabilitation on military reservations".

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved That the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association recommends that the Secretaries of the Departments of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines authorize DOD Installation Commanders to incorporate fish and wildlife law enforcement responsibilities within those organizations tasked with existing fish and wildlife management responsibilities; that these organizations be adequately staffed with professional personnel; that these personnel be adequately trained and provided with necessary "state of the art" equipment; and that appropriate regulations be modified to allow these personnel to operate in a manner similar to their counterparts in other state and Federal agencies.

INSTALLATION REPORT

This section will describe the location, habitat types, and current fish and wildlife management programs on various installations. The purpose will be to inform DOD resource personnel of management activities on other installations. If you are interested in featuring your installation, contact your branch representative.

Newsletter Committee

Editors—Jock Beall, Dave Clouse, Jim Stephenson
AFZH-EHB Attn: Ft. Lewis, Wa. 98433-5000
(206)967-5914/4008 Av 357-5914

Representatives—Army (West of Mississippi R.)

(405)351-4324 Al Pfister, Jay Banta
FTS 744-4324 Fish and Wildlife Br., DEH
Av 639-4324 Ft. Sill, Ok. 73503-5100

Army (East)
(301)671-3015/ Richard Griffith
4131 US Army Env. Hygiene Agency
Av 584-3015/ PMPMD
4131 Aberdeen P.G., Md. 21010-5422

Navy
(215)897-6207 Thomas Wray, Code 24B.3
Av 443-6207 NORTHNAVFACENGCOM
Phila. Naval Base, Pa. 19112

Air Force
(916)634-4485 Bruce Reinhardt, Nat. Res. Planner
Av 368-4485 9CSG/DEEV
Beale AFB, Ca. 95903

Marine
(803)846-7370 Mike Herbaugh
Av 832-7370/ Nat. Res. and Env. Affairs Officer
-7990 S-4 Section, MC Air Station
Beaufort, S.C. 29904

INFORMATION REQUEST LINE

This is designed to be a question/answer column where managers can present specific problems, then generate solutions or advice from the general membership.

Commander
HQ, I Corps & Fort Lewis
Attn: AFZH-EHB (Fish and Wildlife)
Fort Lewis, WA 98433



THOMAS L. WARREN
ATTN: AFZC-FE-EE
FORT CARSON, CO 80913-5000