



Volume XX—Number 3

Number 3

October 2002

THE WILD SIDE

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During the past few months, I have attended several professional conferences and regional meetings/workshops. At one – the American Fisheries Society’s (AFS) Annual Conference held in Baltimore, MD – I had organized a half-day symposium on fisheries and aquatic resources management on Department of Defense (DoD) lands.

Like many NMFWA members, my main purpose for attending these workshops/meetings was to gather new information that would better enable me to manage the fish and wildlife on my installation. However, I was also struck by how rarely I see DoD natural resources professionals give presentations at meetings and conferences other than at the NMFWA meetings.

The DoD has some of the finest natural resources professionals in the country working on its installations. The difficulty we sometimes face is that we are not always recognized as professionals.

One of my goals as your NMFWA President is to increase the professional visibility of our membership. The symposium at the recent AFS meeting was one such example. Director-at-Large Rhys Evans has been trying to get DoD sessions on the programs for The Wildlife Society’s (TWS) annual meeting as well as the Western Section of TWS’s annual meeting. Similarly, DoD sessions at other professional society meetings would increase the NMFWA members’ visibility among our peers. If not an entire session on DoD projects, I would encourage members to give papers and presentations at meetings, perhaps starting with state or regional chapter meetings.

Which brings me to my next recommendation: we have many outstanding studies and projects occurring on our installations, the findings of which could benefit our peers who are not affiliated with DoD. NMFWA members should

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Now is the time to submit your articles on events or field studies taking place on your installation.

See **FAWN** deadlines on page 2

The Wild Side — continued

consider publishing the results of some projects in a professional journal/publication. You do not even have to be the main author. Many researchers on DoD lands are in fact very interested in publishing the scientific results. You can work on a paper with your researchers and be listed as a co-author, rather than just receiving a one sentence acknowledgement.

Finally, I encourage NMFWA members to pursue professional certification from one of the several natural resources societies that conduct such certification – organizations like The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, Ecological Society of America, Society of Wetland Scientists, Society of Conservation Biology, etc. Some members may question the benefits of getting certified. Let me just say that I personally have found it to be beneficial, especially when negotiating with engineers while performing NEPA review or when I've been asked to provide depositions for legal proceedings. It can be useful when negotiating with US Fish & Wildlife personnel on Section 7 consultation or defending a Biological Assessment.

Granted, members usually must pay for the certification out of their own pockets. Some members may not believe they meet the educational requirements for certification. Let me just say that your work experience working on natural resources management at DoD installations is often sufficient to qualify for substitution for a course/subject area where you feel you are weak. Member Junior Kerns, who serves on TWS's Certification Board, can provide insight in how to translate your work experience to meet educational requirements for certification. I urge the NMFWA membership to give serious consideration towards pursuing professional certification.

As always, members should feel free to contact me regarding any issue or problem that the Association may be able to help you with. My home e-address is ravenwindrider@earthlink.net and I check it regularly. You can also telephone me at work or at home. Feel free to contact the other Board

members as well. Their contact info is found on the back of THE FAWN and on the NMFWA web site.



NMFWA BOD members Rhys Evans, Jim Copeland and Hildy Reiser with the NMFWA poster at the DoD Conservation Conference in Tucson, AZ, June 2002.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:

**16 DECEMBER for JANUARY
2003**

Articles on installation activities may be submitted through your respective Regional Directors (Scott Smith and Carl Petrick—Eastern Region; Coralie Cobb and Hildy Reiser—Western Region) or directly to me.

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

If you have questions about submitting articles, please call me at (601) 634-4862.

Mike Passmore
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NMFWA MEETING NOTES FROM BISMARCK

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) held a meeting in conjunction with The Wildlife Society (TWS) Annual Conference in September 2002. The NMFWA meeting was held in the Cannonball Room in the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, North Dakota. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Beemer at 1905.

A quorum of the Board of Directors was not present at this meeting. Introductions were made by those in attendance at the meeting.

The 2003 program for the Annual NMFWA Training Session is being finalized and will be posted on the NMFWA website. Sessions being planned include a 20 year history of NMFWA, wildlife health, wildlife hazards, coordination with other environmental disciplines, survey techniques/innovations, monitoring and scientific validity. Workshops being considered for the 2003 meeting include environmental law and a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service presentation on endangered & threatened species. The workshops are tentatively planned for the Sunday preceding the other sessions.

A herpetology workshop is being planned for early April 2003 at Fort Stewart. The workshop will provide information on management techniques, endangered species at Fort Stewart, and other topics.

The Law Enforcement Committee is looking for an installation to host the 2003 training workshop. This will be a 3-4 day workshop and there is flexibility in the dates it can be held.

NMFWA hosted a session at the American Fisheries Society meeting. Nine presentations related to work on military installations were well received by those in attendance.

Ms. Sherri Goodman wrote an article on the Range Readiness Provision in the Defense Appropriation Bill. The article was published in the Washington Post.

The NMFWA poster was displayed at the Department of Defense Conservation Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Hildy Riser, Rhys Evans, Jim Copeland and Mike Passmore worked the poster (see photo, page 2), which received a great deal of attention. The NMFWA poster is available for any member attending a conference or other such event. An ample supply of NMFWA brochures is also available. It was noted that the NMFWA poster has not been displayed at most TWS Annual Conferences. The poster may be displayed at the upcoming Southeast Deer Conference. The cost is minimal to ship the poster.

The TWS Biodiversity Working Group has funding for a one day workshop and could do another one at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource (NAWNRC) Conference. This workshop focuses on performance measures. It may be possible to have this workshop at the 2004 NAWNRC in Spokane Washington.

There are three NMFWA working groups that include herps, bats, and invasive species. There is some interest in forming working groups for long leaf pine ecosystems and overseas military issues. Members are encouraged to form other NMFWA working groups.

The Awards Committee is requesting nominees for awards. Nominations should be sent to Jim Hessil at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

The Past Presidents are always looking for nominees for the Presidential Award. Members are also reminded that nominees are encouraged for the Larry Jahn Award.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1930.

(Respectfully recorded by Mark Hagan)

2002 Board of Directors' Meeting, Dallas, Texas

The Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) was held in the Moreno Room of the Hyatt Regency Reunion Center, Dallas Texas on April 1, 2002. The meeting was called to order by President Don Pitts at 7:03 PM. President Pitts gave the President's Report, summarizing the motions that had been passed during his term. The Board of Directors discussed how the Secretary's vote tally sometimes differed from the President's tally when voting by electronic mail. President Pitts believed that the results of the motion (passing or not passing) did not differ between his records and the Secretary's records, but Ms. Julie Eliason (Secretary) indicated that the results of one motion differed between her records and President Pitt's records. President Pitts said that because some people sent their votes only to him, Ms. Eliason did not receive all of the votes to tally. Therefore, President Pitts' vote tally should be correct. Ms. Eliason indicated that she would like to discuss standardized electronic mail voting procedures at the New Board of Director's Meeting later in the week.

Ms. Eliason gave Secretary's Report, summarizing the correspondence sent during the year. The BOD provided additional agency addresses for Ms. Eliason to send the BOD contact list. A hard copy of the Secretary's Report will be submitted during the General Business Meeting.

Mr. Jim Copeland gave the Government Affairs Committee Report. When the House Military Readiness subcommittee met in March 2002, Mr. Copeland tried to get on the schedule but was unable to because the schedule was already set. Mr. Copeland sent an electronic mail message to the NMFWA membership asking them to write their congressmen regarding the outsourcing issue. He was notified by a NMFWA member that electronic mailings of this type using government computers were illegal. He is currently attempting

to get in the June/July subcommittee meeting, when the Defense Appropriations bill will be reviewed then. The committee would like to get a moratorium inserted into the Defense Authorization Bill in June/July. Mr. Chester Martin distributed copies of the Sustainable Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Act (SDREPA).

Dr. Michael Passmore gave the Newsletter/Membership Committee Report. The NMFWA membership is now 983; 130 members joined in the last year. Forty-four people were eliminated from the membership list because of returned newsletters. Dr. Passmore broke down the membership by gender, voting status, and military branch. Ms. Wanda Deal may include this information for the NMFWA poster.

Mr. Rhys Evans gave the Ad Hoc Website Committee Report. He will distribute the report during the General Business Meeting. Each month, more and more people access the website with the most visits (1300) occurring last month (March). NMFWA was requested to share links with another military website, but this motion was defeated. President Pitts said that other informal requests to share links had been received, but they were turned down. Periodically, people ask for information from our link.

The Law Enforcement Committee Report was given by Mr. Ken Denny in the absence of Michael Dunning. The training class for 2001 was held in Fort Carson, Colorado. Attendance was low because of the lack of advertising. Although only 13 people attended, it gave each individual more time with the instructors. Up to 40 people may attend the course. In 2002, the training session will be held at Fort Richardson, Alaska and will last 5 days. Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be there for interrogation techniques. A money advance is needed for this year's program. Mr. Denny suggested that an account be established for the law enforcement class so that the organizer can withdraw from the account when money is needed without requiring the Treasurer's assistance.

Ms. Tammy Conkle, Treasurer, stated that establishment of a separate account would be difficult because of how the account is set up. She felt that she has responded quickly to requests for funds in the past. Mr. Jim Beemer reminded the BOD that expenditures less than \$2000 are authorized without a BOD vote. He suggested that \$1500 would be a good advance amount for the course. Mr. Denny agreed that \$1500 would cover initial expenses. President Pitts said that NMFWA could come up with the advance amount quickly, if needed. There was then discussion pertaining to the number of people that are still unaware of the Law Enforcement Course. Mr. Junior Kerns said that he could get out information on his electronic mail distribution list and put it on DENIX. Dr. Passmore said he would advertise the course in the FAWN. President Pitts suggested that an announcement be placed on the NMFWA website. Dr. Hildy Reiser said she could also advertise it through Partners in Flight.

Ms. Conkle gave the 2000 Secretary's Report. The 2000 starting balance of the general Fund was \$26,522.42 and the ending balance was \$25,066.85. Ms. Conkle moved to accept the BOD meeting notes from March 18, 2000, provided that someone reviews them. Mr. Beemer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Conkle then gave the 2001 Treasurer's Report. She said that she compiles the Treasurer's records January to January, but the next new Treasurer would take over in April. The 2001 ending balance of the general Fund was \$21,064.42. The 2001 conference income was \$27,717.60. The Law Enforcement Committee earned \$2,343.80 during the Law Enforcement Workshop. Total income for 2001 was \$30,640.30 and total expenses were \$35,906.55, which accounts to a loss of \$8,188.95. NMFWA used to have a balance of approximately \$26,000 in the General Fund each year, but now the balance is approximately \$23,000. Ms. Conkle suggested that since the

FAWN newsletter is the biggest NMFWA expense of \$3,600 per year, NMFWA could save money by sending out nominations, ballots, or registration forms with the FAWN newsletter. Sending the FAWN electronically could also save money. The total amount currently in the Reserve Account is \$4,570.01. Ms. Conkle explained that funds from the Silent Auction go into the Reserve Account. Ms. Conkle said she would provide a more detailed report at the General Business Meeting.

Mr. Chester Martin asked if we could hire an accountant to figure out how much money we have in the General Fund, and Ms. Conkle replied that she knows exactly how much is in the fund at the moment; therefore, an accountant is not necessary. The Audit Committee verifies the amount recorded in the books. Mr. Martin said that Ms. Conkle should not have to be responsible for making decisions about operating in the red. He suggested that NMFWA devise a system so that we can make appropriate decisions about expenditures. Ms. Conkle said that we take in \$150 per person to attend the annual conference, earn \$20 for each person attending the Show and Tell Session, and earn \$40 per person for the banquet. The remainder of the registration fees (\$100 per person) goes to the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI).

Mr. Martin then gave the Program Committee Report. The Program Committee agreed on seven technical sessions, which included the following:

1. Encroachment and Military Natural Resource Management
2. Ethics in DoD Natural Resources Management
3. Forestry and Wildlife Management - Where Do We Stand?
4. Range and Prairie Restoration Efforts on Military Installations
5. Coastal Challenges on DoD Installations
6. Field Notes (miscellaneous topics)
7. Managing Ecosystems into the Future

Dr. Hildy Reiser suggested that the BOD should suggest topics for the technical sessions. Mr. Martin agreed and encouraged the BOD members to let the Program Chair know if they have ideas for session

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BOD minutes — continued

topics. This year we had BASH and PIF meetings and the Breakout Sessions were held early in week. Mr. Dennis Herbert, this year's Host Committee Chair, made eight trips to Dallas to organize the session and provided several articles for the FAWN. He mailed out the WMI program brochures, and compiled and reviewed abstracts for publication in the program. Mr. Martin reminded everyone that the Program Chair must start planning for the conference early in the year.

Mr. Dennis Herbert gave the Host Committee Report. This year the banquet will be held at Shadow Creek Ranch, which was much less expensive than holding it at the hotel. The Newcomer's Breakfast will be held at the Ferris Restaurant at 6:30 AM. To date, 24 people have signed up for it, 19-20 of which are actual newcomers. Mr. Herbert had donations of two hunting trips and two fishing trips to give away at the banquet. Fort Hood provided all of the audio-visual equipment, which saved NMFVA a great deal of money. There will be a field trip on Saturday to the Dallas Nature Center, where black-capped vireos may be seen there this time of year. A Suburban and van will transport people to the nature center. Mr. Junior Kerns said that during the week of the 2002 conference, the BOD should make a selection of the Host Committee Chair for the Winston/Salem conference in 2003 and for the Spokane conference in 2004. This would allow the future Host Committee Chair to learn from the current Chair. Mr. Beemer said that Alan Shultz is a possible Host Committee Chair for Winston\Salem.

Mr. Chester Martin gave the Bat Working Group Report. The working group requested a charter, which was granted, and he drafted a charter that will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow. The working group will then revise the charter and submit it to the BOD for final approval. Currently, there are 15 members in the Bat Working Group.

Mr. Jim Beemer gave the Herpetology Working Group Report on behalf of its Chair, Jay Rubinoff. The report was sent out via electronic mail. The

membership of the working group has increased to 50 members. One of the major actions by the working group was to write proposed conservation guidelines for DoD lands. These guidelines will be presented to Peter Boice. In addition, a herpetology project database was created.

Kim Mello gave the Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) Report. Jeanne Dye is the chair of the database committee and David Beckman is Chair of the Web Page Committee. The Web Page committee is almost finished with the web page for the NMFVA website. The Database Committee sent out a proposed database for the membership to review and comment. Mr. Mello said that information sharing is one of most important things in a working group, and much information was sent out to the members via electronic mail. Mr. Mello conducted a short survey of six questions on invasive species and presented some of this at the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program in Washington D.C. in December. The surveys results showed a big difference from the survey he conducted on exotic species in 1995. At the installation level, more and more people are dealing with invasive species. The ISWG also supported the Tri-annual Pest Mgmt Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in February. The ISWG will meet tomorrow from 0900 to 1100.

Dr. Jim Bailey gave the Audit Committee Report. He will do audit of the NMFVA Treasury account this week.

Dr. David Tazik gave the Nomination Committee Report. He sent a mailing to 435 people and received 71 votes via the NMFVA website, 20 by facsimile, and 1 by electronic mail. More than 80% of the votes were cast via the website. The winners of the election were Chester Martin, President Elect; Jim Bailey, Vice President; Rhys Evans, At-Large Director; Coralie Cobb, Western Regional Director; Carl Petrick, Eastern Regional Director. The total cost of the election was \$352.42 for ballot mailing.

Mr. Tom Warren gave the Archives Committee Report. He has updated the archives. Dr. Hildy

Reiser gave the Silent Auction Committee Report. This year the room for the Show and Tell session is big enough to have everything in the same room.

Mr. Mello asked what types of items generate the most money for the Silent Auction. Ms. Julie Eliason said that art prints usually generate a lot of money. Ms. Conkle said that T-shirts candy, and other items also do well.

Dr. Thomas Wray gave the WMI Committee Report, which was also submitted electronically. On April 24, 2002 WMI is having a meeting to discuss the technical and plenary session topics for 2003. Dr. Wray requested recommendations from the BOD for this meeting. NMFWA had a lot of input for this year's WMI conference.

Mr. Scott Smith gave the Reserve Account Committee Report. He said that Mr. Junior Kerns assisted him a great deal in the last year. The committee is trying to get legal guidance on tax-deductible contributions. Mr. Kerns researched whether the fund should go 100% charitable, and believes it is possible for the Reserve Fund to be set up as a charitable fund since PEER is a charitable organization. Possibly, NMFWA itself could also qualify as a charitable organization. To do this, we have to set up a charter and convince the IRS. Dr. Tazik said that a lawyer clarified the 501(c) 6 status, but not the charitable issue. Mr. Kerns said the decision was made several years ago, and maybe the BOD will find a need to change the status of the organization. If we did change to a charitable status, the paperwork would change substantially. Mr. Kerns recommended that we change the Reserve Account first, and then consider changing the regular organization. Our mission is to provide education to membership. President Pitts agreed that it would be good to be on a list of charitable organizations. Mr. John Joyce said it would take some effort to get set up and a professional may be needed to assist. Mr. Joyce said we should talk to the membership before voting on the issue.

Mr. Jim Beemer gave the By-laws Committee Report. The report had been sent to the BOD electronically. He only received one comment on

the proposed by-laws amendments electronically. Mr. Beemer said he thinks the General Business Meeting will have some controversial discussion regarding the membership issue.

President Pitts then summarized the topics to be discussed at the General Membership Meeting, which will include the following:

1. Law enforcement
2. Legacy
3. By-Laws Committee issues
4. Encroachment Bill.

Mr. Chester Martin said the Government Affairs Committee was contacted by a representative from the Isaak Walton League regarding the Sustainable Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Act. There was a discussion about who actually submitted the bill. The BOD decided to ask Peter Boice for more information about the bill. President Pitts asked if the BOD would accept the decision of the Government Affairs Committee meeting. The consensus of the BOD was not until they heard what the committee had to say. Mr. Martin suggested that the BOD members read the bill and provide input to the committee on how we should respond.

New Business:

Ms. Marge McHenry brought the NMFWA brochures she had on hand and suggested we send them to agencies, distribute them at the Show and Tell session, and distribute them at professional meetings, etc.

Ms. Tammy Conkle thanked the Herpetology Working Group for their efforts on the Herpetology Management Guidelines. She incorporated them into the INRMPs for the Navy in Southern California. The BOD agreed that we should send the Guidelines to Peter Boice.

Mr. Chester Martin said that the NMFWA program cost \$600 to print. Although the price is expensive, the program speaks to the entire membership.

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BOD Minutes — continued

He suggested that we discuss if we want to spend that much money again in future years. Mr. John Joyce agreed that the program is important, but suggested that it be sent electronically to save money. President Pitts agreed that the price was expensive and said he would like to cut down on paperwork. Mr. Beemer said that 4 years ago, a poll was conducted that indicated 60% of the membership would like to receive the program electronically.

Ms. Conkle said that 148 people pre-registered for the conference. Although she had current electronic mail addresses information, she had 10 electronic mail messages returned to her. Therefore, she thought it would be better if Dr. Passmore sent electronic mail messages to the membership to ask if they prefer to receive it electronically. They can also receive the FAWN from the NMFWA website. Mr. Joyce suggested that members should specifically ask for paper copies if they want them. Mr. Scott Smith asked if it was reasonable to notify members by electronic mail that the FAWN has been posted on website. President Pitts agreed that it was better not to send paper copies.

Ms. Conkle suggested that voting ballots for the BOD could be combined with the January FAWN to reduce costs. President Pitts agreed that the election was very expensive with few votes cast via mail.

Mr. Tom Warren suggested that the Treasurer and President decide before the NMFWA conference what archives are needed for the annual meetings so that he does not have to carry three binders to the conference.

Mr. Beemer gave President Pitts a tie-dye shirt as a congratulations gift for becoming a PhD student.

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm.

Attendees: Julie Eliason, Scott Smith, John Joyce, Don Pitts, Dave Tazik, Rhys Evans, Mike Passmore, Jim Beemer, Jim Copeland, Hildy Reiser, Chester Martin, Jim Bailey, Coralie Cobb, Tammy Conkle, Dennis Herbert, Kim Mello, Junior Kerns, Brian Morrill, Jim Hessil, Dan Gonnering, Joseph Hovis, Ken Denny, Michael Dunning, Marjorie McHenry, Gene Stout, Tom Warren



**NMFWA SPONSORS
SYMPOSIUM AT AMERICAN
FISHERIES SOCIETY
CONFERENCE**

At the American Fisheries Society's Annual Conference held in Baltimore, MD this past August, NMFWA sponsored a half-day symposium titled "*Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management on Department of Defense Lands: The "Unknown" Federal Player*". Nine presentations were given, covering a wide variety of topics and issues. The sessions were all well-attended, often having more people than some of the concurrent sessions that dealt with more traditional topics. All the presenters were exemplary in portraying the excellent fisheries and aquatic resources studies that occur on DoD installations. I offer my heartfelt congratulations for making the symposium the success it was.

The titles of the presentations are as follows: 1) Natural Resource Management on Military Lands. 2) The United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service: Forty Years of Cooperative Partnership. 3) Attributes of shortnose and juvenile Atlantic sturgeon populations in the lower Ogeechee River, Fort Stewart, GA during spring-summer 1999 & 2000. 4) Spatial and temporal patterns in stream fish assemblages inhabiting streams of Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Fort Polk, Louisiana. 5) A Preliminary Survey of the Freshwater Mollusks in the Canoochee River System, Fort Stewart, GA. 6) An Assessment of Stream Habitat Restoration and Sedimentation on Coldwater Trout Streams at Fort McCoy, WI. 7) Impacts of Sedimentation on Lotic Communities at Fort Polk, Louisiana. 8) Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal from Sandy Lake, Fort McCoy, WI. 9) Are Road Crossings Barriers to Fish Dispersal? Revisiting the Question for Lowland Streams on Fort Polk, LA.

Jim Beemer, President

DOD LANDS IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

Some places are exceptionally important—even essential—for bird conservation. Directing protection and management efforts towards these sites is crucial if viable populations of many species are to survive. Conservationists have long understood this fact, but only in recent years has a program emerged to formally recognize these sites. From its start in Europe in the 1980s, the Important Bird Areas concept has been a success, leading to the recognition and protection of some 3,500 sites. Through the years it has become a world-wide effort, with the first U.S. program beginning in 1995. American Bird Conservancy's Important Bird Areas Program has concentrated on identifying and documenting the very top sites throughout all 50 states—those of significance not just on a national but a global level. Additionally, state Audubon IBA programs have worked at identifying IBAs of state significance, and National Audubon is now working with BirdLife International to identify sites of national importance.

To be considered for Global IBA status in the U.S., a site must, during at least some part of the year, contain habitat critical to: (1) significant numbers of an endangered or threatened species, such as Piping Plover, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or Kirtland's Warbler; (2) a Partners in Flight (PIF) Watch List species, such as Black Rail, Cerulean Warbler, or Henslow's Sparrow; (3) a species with a limited range, such as Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-billed Magpie, or Brown-capped Rosy-Finch; or (4) a significantly large concentration of breeding, migrating or wintering birds, including waterfowl, seabirds, wading birds, raptors or landbirds. A scientific technical committee reviews all nominated sites and identifies those that meet IBA criteria. Once identified, the site itself may hold a media event or issue a press release to formally designate itself as an IBA.

The first IBA book produced in the U.S. was *A Guide to Critical Bird Habitat in Pennsylvania*, compiled for the PA Audubon Society IBA Program by Gary Crossley, who is now the DoD PIF Program Assistant. Books for several other states soon followed, and a book on the top 500 Global IBAs will be available from American Bird Conservancy (ABC) next year. Of these, 22 (almost 5%) involve DoD or Army Corps managed lands. In addition, a map of the Global IBAs in the U.S., produced by ABC and the National Geographic Society, is now available. Numerous other military IBAs qualify as sites of state and national significance.

Important Bird Areas recognize the excellent stewardship of our dedicated DoD natural resources professionals. Identification or designation of an installation as an IBA does not carry any regulatory or management implications, nor does it imply a requirement for public access. It simply acknowledges that management practices at a site have resulted in significant benefit to priority bird species. To be recognized for such exemplary stewardship by the bird conservation community is indeed an accomplishment in which we all can, and should, take pride. To those sites recognized as Important Bird Areas, I say congratulations and thank you for a job well done!

For more details, please view the IBA information in the Program Areas section of <www.dodpif.org>.

Chris Eberly <ceberly@dodpif.org>, DoD PIF Program Manager



2002 Annual Business Meeting

The General Business Meeting of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) was held on April 4, 2002 in the Reunion Ballroom G and H of the Hyatt Regency Reunion Center in Dallas, Texas. President Don Pitts called the meeting to order at 2:11 PM. President Pitts thanked Dennis Herbert and Chester Martin for all of their help organizing the conference.

Dennis Herbert asked for a show of hands of who could drive 5-6 rental cars to the BBQ location. He said that both buses would leave at 6 PM.

President Pitts gave the President's Report. The Board of Director's passed the following motions during the 2001-2002 term:

1. Motion to accept the Board of Directors' (BOD) minutes from the 2001 conference.
2. Motion to accept the General Business Meeting minutes.
3. Motion to provide a NMFWA membership mailing list to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a mailing of Birdscape Magazine.
4. Motion to supply four sets of mailing labels to the American Bird Observatory for the mailing of their next four issues.
5. Motion to accept the NMFWA *ad hoc* By-laws Committee proposal to send to the NMFWA membership for discussion and approval/disapproval. The proposal was to allow state and other federal agency employees and university personnel whose responsibilities include natural resources management on DoD lands will be submitted as one proposed amendment titled "Proposed NMFWA By-laws Amendment Number 1." The remaining proposals will be submitted as "Proposed NMFWA By-Laws Amendment Number 2."
6. Motion to accept the document prepared by the Herpetology Working Group entitled "Management and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians on Military Installations" dated August 7, 2001. Furthermore, that these guidelines would be forwarded to Mr. Peter Boice, Office of the Secretary of Defense, to seek acceptance as official Department of Defense (DoD) guidelines on the management of herps on military installations.
7. Motion to grant the Bat Working Group tentative recognition by the NMFWA BOD.
8. Motion to accept and approve the report of the Nominations Committee. The proposed candidate list was Chester Martin for President Elect, Jim Bailey and Terry Bashore for Vice President, Rhys Evans and Scott Belfit for At Large Directors, Jim Hessel and Coralie Cobb as Western Regional Directors, Carl Petrick and Tom Poole as Eastern Regional Directors.
9. Motion to renew the contract for the Webmaster Services with Virginia Dickerson for an additional year
10. Motion that NMFWA present an Award of Commendation to Mr. Daniel Meyer of PEER in recognition of his outstanding efforts for four NMFWA members in the legal court system.
11. Motion to approve the expenditure (not to exceed \$400) for the plaques and engraving of eight NMFWA awards to be presented at the Dallas meeting.

President Pitts reminded the membership that the NMFWA bulletin board was back in service on the NMFWA website and he hoped that everyone was using the bulletin board. The motions that did not pass included the following:

1. Motion to join PEER in asking the Department of Interior to develop a "no retaliation" policy for its scientists who employ and report good science.
2. Motion that the following link — [www.MilitaryPartners.com] be added to the NMWA page.

Ms. Julie Eliason gave the Secretary’s Report that summarized the letters mailed out on behalf of NMFWA and the submittals of minutes from the 2001 annual meeting.

Mr. Chester Martin gave the NMFWA Annual Training Session Program Chair Report. The primary goal of the Program Committee was to develop the program for the 2002 annual meeting. Topics were submitted at the 2001 meeting. Within 2 months, the final decisions were made on the session topics as well as the working group meetings on bats, herps and invasive species. Dennis Herbert and Chester Martin made several trips to Dallas over the course of the year. A Newcomer’s breakfast was held for the first time. The Committee prepared several articles for the FAWN and provided letters for DOD to encourage members to attend the meeting. Attendance was 200, which is excellent. The Air Force breakout session room was too small but the committee will try to remedy this problem next year. The Committee received and reviewed abstracts for the technical sessions which required extensive coordination with the session chairs.

Ms. Tammy Conkle gave the Treasurer’s Report. She thanked everyone that helped at the registration desk. The pre-registration forms had to be sent to her house and she apologized for any confusion or inconvenience. Next year she will try to conduct pre-registration entirely electronically. She reminded the membership that registration proceeds more quickly if everyone pre-registers, regardless of whether they actually attend the NMFWA Annual Training Session.

Last year 215 people pre-registered to attend the conference in Washington, D.C., while 185 people attended the full session. The 2001 conference earned \$22,192.04, while expenditures were \$ 22,108.35. Therefore, the total funds earned were \$83.69.

The 2002 conference in Dallas, Texas had 209 pre-registrants, of which 182 have already paid.

NMFWA holds its funds at the First American National Bank Reserve and Trust of Phillipsburg, Kansas. There are two accounts maintained by the organization that include 1) the General Fund and 2) the Reserve Account.

General Fund Annual Report:

2000 Starting balance -	\$26,522.42
2000 Ending balance (Jan.23, 2001)-	\$25,066.85
2001 Starting balance (Jan. 23, 2001)	\$25,066.85
2001 Ending balance (Jan. 22, 2002)-	\$21,064.42
2001 Expenses -	\$35,906.55
2001 Conference -	\$22,192.04
2002 Conference -	\$3,790.47
Conference pins for 2002 & 2003 -	\$758.84
Awards Committee -	\$504.18
Law Enforcement Committee -	\$1,750.00
Nominations Committee -	\$400.94
Poster Committee -	\$85.95
FAWN -	\$3,692.77
Postage and delivery -	\$87.90
Supplies -	\$111.06
TWS Sponsorship Fee -	\$1,000.00
Website -	\$1,495.85
Bank Service Charge -	\$70.20
2001 Income	\$30,640.30
2001 Conference Income	\$27,717.60
Law Enforcement Workshop	\$2,343.80
Bank Interest Income	\$545.21
Transfer from Reserve Account	\$33.69
2002 Starting balance (Jan. 22, 2002)	\$21,064.42
2002 Expenses (To Date)	\$6,917.59
2002 Training Session	\$2,794.16
Awards Committee	\$475.17
Nominations Committee	\$352.40
Poster Committee	\$223.05
Law Enforcement Committee	\$1,650.00
Mailing Supplies	\$150.00
Advance for set-up	\$1,500.00
FAWN	\$1,051.96
Website	\$370.85
2002 Income (to date)	\$84.62
Law Enforcement Training	\$7.06
Bank Interest Income	\$77.56

Note that some figures do not include all expenses or income for this period. Only verified transactions are included.

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*Annual Business minutes — continued***Reserve Account Annual report:**

Starting Balance when established April 2002	
	\$ 2,536.00
2001 Starting Balance (Jan. 23, 2001)	\$3,481.00
2001 Ending Balance (Jan. 22, 2002)	\$4,570.01
2001 Expenses (purchase account stamp)	\$33.99
2001 Income	\$1,055.02
2002 Starting Balance (Jan. 22, 2002)	\$4,570.01
2002 Ending Balance Expected	\$5,679.28
(silent auction earned \$1109.27)	

Taxes:

- 2001- Due to complications with the statement of Interest Income from the bank, the 2001 taxes were not completed on time and will be submitted with the 2002 tax forms.
- 2002- The non-profit tax forms have been completed and will be mailed by April 15, 2002.

President Pitts complimented Ms. Conkle on the great job she has done as Treasurer.

Past-president Dave Tazik gave the Nominations Committee Report. The nominations Committee consisted of Dr. Tazik, Dr. Hildy Reiser, Ms. Julie Eliason, Ms. Tammy Conkle, and President Pitts. A total of 92 votes were cast, 71 of which were cast on the NMFVA website, 20 which were cast by mail, and 1 which was cast by E-mail. The winners of the election were as follows:

President-Elect - Chester Martin
 Vice President - Jim Bailey
 At-Large Director - Rhys Evans
 Western Director - Coralie Cobb
 Eastern Director - Carl Petrick

Other BOD members retaining their seats on the BOD are Jim Beemer (President), Julie Eliason (Secretary), Tammy Conkle (Treasurer), Hildy Reiser (Western Regional Director), Jim Copeland (At-Large Director), Scott Smith (Eastern Regional Director), and Mike Passmore (Newsletter Editor).

The total expenses for the Nominations Committee were \$352.40. Dr. Tazik said that the incoming Nominations Chair, President Pitts, would be

nominations for next year. Dr. Tazik thanked everyone who ran for office and encouraged everyone to run in future. President Pitts then asked for volunteers to run for office. He explained the different offices and Committee Chairs that members may seek office for.

President Pitts then asked for additional BOD reports.

Ms. Coralie Cobb had no report as Western Regional Director. Mr. John Joyce, Eastern Regional Director, was not present.

Mr. Scott Smith gave the Reserve Account Fund Committee Report. Committee Members included Scott Smith (Chairman), Rick Griffiths, John Joyce, and Junior Kerns. Mr. Kerns was very helpful in researching the requirements to set the fund up where contributions could be tax deductible. It appears that a tax lawyer will be required to assist in this pursuit. Mr. Smith stated that he would like a general consensus from the BOD as to whether or not to seek legal guidance on the tax deduction status for contributions. Below is a recently revised draft of the policy:

**Policy Guidance
 For
 National Military Fish and Wildlife Association
 Reserve Account Funds**

- A. The purpose of the Fund is two-fold: (A) pay partial legal fees for NMFVA individuals and (B) support legal actions relative to natural resources management on military lands.
- B. The governing body shall be comprised of five voting members made up of past NMFVA presidents and past and/or current Board of Directors with one non-voting member from the general membership.
- C. The members of the Board should be appointed for three-year terms.
- D. The Board shall meet at least once per year.

E. The Board shall seek fund-raising avenues. These may include direct solicitation for contributions, collect funds from auctions, etc.

F. The funds shall be placed in an interest bearing account.

G. The Board shall oversee dispensation of funds.

H. The Board shall develop a list of criteria to ensure fair dispensation of funds.

I. The Board shall determine the final dispensation of funds, should it ever become necessary to dissolve the account.

Mr. Smith asked for feedback from membership. He will set up guidance with five BOD members to use the Reserve Account funds. Any questions or concerns should be directed to any of the committee members.

Dr. Hildy Reiser gave the Western Regional Director Report. She explained that she did not attend the DOD Partners in Flight (PIF) meeting in Monterey, California 2 weeks ago. She encouraged the membership to contact their congressmen for Legacy funds and to contact their senators to increase the Legacy fund. PIF receives 95% of Legacy funds. Because the former Senator that advocated the Legacy Fund has vacated that role, we need to find another Senator to take this on as a cause.

Mr. Jim Copeland gave the Government Affairs Committee Report. In August, DUSD's response to Congressman Don Young's questions on outsourcing became public. Of 868 natural resources positions, DUSD said that under the Sikes Act, 543 could be contracted because they did not involve inherently governmental functions like making policy or managerial decisions. The Committee tried to get a moratorium on outsourcing inserted into the Defense Appropriations bill, but then September 11th stalled the process.

Other items from the Government Affairs Committee Report are as follows:

1. On June 11, 2001. Thomas Wray went to Washington D.C. for a General Accounting Office Hearing on Outsourcing and gave the NMFWA statement. Jim Beemer, Don Pitts, Junior Kerns, and Jim Copeland wrote the NMFWA position for the full written statement to the GAO. Statistics from the PEER survey of the NMFWA membership on outsourcing were utilized in the statement.

2. On February 25, 2002 the Committee sent out an appeal to the NMFWA membership list and a forestry list to write their congressmen, especially those on the armed Services Committee. A sample letter was included. Several members responded that they had written. Mr. Copeland later got word that E-mailings of this type using government computers were illegal.

3. The Military Readiness (MR) Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee scheduled hearings on 'Outsourcing, Privatization, and A-76' on March 13, 2002. The Government Affairs Committee tried to get on the schedule but it was already set. However, they did talk to Mary Ellen Fraser of the MR (define) subcommittee who asked Mr. Copeland to fax the legal opinion of the Navy so she could find out why the other services had a different opinion of the Sikes Act. Jim Beemer later sent an ASCIM message that echoed the Navy opinion word for word (this was faxed to Fraser, also).

4. Future action: Insert a moratorium in the Defense Authorization Bill in June/July.

President Pitts thanked Mr. Copeland for all of his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Rhys Evans gave the At-Large Director's Report. This year NMFWA held a Newcomer's breakfast with 30 attendees.

Mr. Evans gave the *ad hoc* Website Committee Report: The last few months were record-breaking months for visits to the website. Members seeking information for the 2002 Meeting recorded

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Annual Business minutes — continued

More than 3200 individual visits in February. March is likely to top 3600 visits.

The Job Board has quickly taken of the number 3 spot on our most visited list, but this needs to be used more, both by job seekers and people with jobs available. The FAWN and Dallas Meeting information were the first and second most visited pages on the web site.

Recent additions to the website:

- 2002 Law Enforcement Refresher Workshop (June, Anchorage).
- Action Alert in early March from the Government Affairs Committee.
- Implanting radio transmitters in venomous snakes presentation.
- Invasive Species Working Group Charter.

Mr. Evans asked for suggestions from the membership as to what they would like to see on the website.

Dr. Jim Bailey gave the Audit Committee Report. Everything worked out well for the audit this year. Rafael Corral will be the Audit Committee Chair next year.

Ms. Conkle asked the membership to give suggestions for registration to Dr. Bailey. She reminded the membership that the people working the registration desk also want to eat and attend the meetings, so be patient if you have to stand in long lines. Dr. Bailey said that no evaluation forms were included in the registration packets this year. Therefore, suggestions for next year's conference should be sent to him.

Dr. Mike Passmore gave the Newsletter Report. His numbers differed from the numbers Ms. Conkle presented in the Treasurer's Report. He spent \$3340.47 to send three issues of the FAWN

in June 2001, October 2001, and January 2002. He reiterated Ms. Conkle's suggestion to request electronic versions of FAWN. He received reports that the FAWN gets routed to other people in the office besides the NMFWA members, so there is an advantage of sending paper copies. The FAWN is printed in black and white but on the website it is in color. Dr. Passmore encouraged the membership to send in field articles through the BOD. He had fewer articles than last year.

Dr. Passmore then gave the Membership Committee report. There are currently 983 members, which is net increase of 130 members over the last year. He is keeping a database of addresses, telephone numbers, etc. He reminded the membership that if they have been members more than three years, they should update their information. He especially wants electronic mail information to send the FAWN electronically.

Mr. Gene Stout asked for the number of voting members and whether or not there was an upward or downward trend with all of changes. Dr. Passmore responded that 529 are voting members, 398 are nonvoting members, and 49 are undetermined. Dr. Passmore said he has good information from last year, but that he will be updating the database.

Mr. Bob Wardwell gave the Awards Committee Report. The committee members consisted of Bob Wardwell (Chair), Jim Copeland, Rhys Evans, Thomas Wray, and Jeff Bossart. Five award nomination packages were received before the deadline, representing five categories and four individual and one group award. There were nominations submitted in the following categories: Professional-Technical; Volunteer-Education; Professional-Management; Civilian Support of Natural Resources; and Professional-Law Enforcement. The committee unanimously selected each of the nominees to receive the awards. The award recipients will be presented with plaques in recognition of their accomplishments at the NMFWA Awards Banquet on April 4, 2002. The recipients are the following:

Ms. Tessa E. Martin-Bashore- Volunteer-Education Special Achievement Award For Her Outstanding Efforts in support of the NMFWA

Herpetology Working Group.

Ms. Dawn Lovett - Professional-Technical Special Achievement Award For Her Exemplary Efforts in Support of Natural Resources Programs At the U.S. Army Adelphi Laboratory Center.

Mr. William F. Armstrong - Professional-Law Enforcement Special Achievement Award For His Outstanding Service as a Special Agent with the Wildlife, Marine Law Enforcement Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Ms. Julie Jeter, Mr. Jim McDermott, Mr. Kevin Porteck, Ms. Jean Bickford - Civilian Support of Natural Resources Special Achievement Award For Their Exceptional Efforts in Support of the 2001 Department of Defense/Society of American Foresters Meeting.

Dr. Rafael Corral - Professional-Management For His Outstanding Contributions to the Natural Resources and Pest Management Program at Fort Bliss, TX.

In accordance with established guidelines, a committee comprised of Don Pitts, Dave Tazik, Chester Martin, Jim Beemer and Bob Wardwell evaluated a nomination for the NMFWA Laurence R. Jahn Memorial Award. The nominee did not receive the requisite four (4) “Yes” in favor. Therefore the NMFWA Laurence R. Jahn Memorial Award will not be presented at the 2002 NMWA Awards Banquet.

The Awards committee spent \$ 375.63 on the eight (8) plaques and \$ 22.60 on shipping and handling. The Board of Directors authorized this expenditure. The Committee decided to retire the best tie award at the banquet.

Ms. Wanda Deal gave the Poster Committee Report. This year the poster was changed from focusing on the installation, to highlight the NMFWA Association. The poster now has

the Government Affairs Committee, the working groups, and a website section. Ms. Deal extended her thanks to the committee chairs and working group chairs.

Dr. Thomas Wray gave the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) Committee Report. He will attend a North American Conference Program Committee meeting later in April. This meeting will be our opportunity to influence the program for next year. He encouraged the membership to suggest session special session topics as well as Chair and Co-chair suggestions. The input can be regional or national in scope. Next year's meeting will be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Suggestions are needed by April 19, 2002.

Mr. Michael Dunning gave the Law Enforcement Committee Report. The annual training class was held at Fort Carson, Colorado last year. This year it will be held at Fort Richardson, Alaska from June 3-7, 2002. The cost is \$250. The class lasts 3-4 days and provides 40 hours of training, including one day in scenario training. If attendees do not have law enforcement training, the scenario training can be overwhelming. However, they do not exclude anyone from taking the course. Members can pre-register on NMFWA website or contact Ken Denny at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Mr. Chester Martin gave the Bat Working Group Report. The BOD unanimously approved the request for tentative recognition of a Bat Working Group for the NMFWA. Currently, there are 14 members, but the first meeting, which was held at the annual conference this year, had 28 individuals attending. The primary reason for the meeting was to discuss the charter. The charter will be modified and submitted to the BOD for approval. Mr. Martin was elected Chair and Mr. Rhys Evans was elected Secretary for next 2 years. Mr. Martin and Mr. Evans will plan the workshop for next year.

Ms. Tessa Bashore gave the Herpetology Working Group (HWG) Report. She was elected the new Chair. A meeting was held at the annual conference this year. The group will try to recruit new members for the working group. The most

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Annual Business minutes — continued

significant accomplishment this year has been the completion of HWG's guidelines on the management and conservation of reptiles and amphibians on military installations. A tremendous number of HWG members contributed to the final product. The guidelines are now available on the NMFWA HWG website for viewing. The guidelines will be forwarded to DOD for review and consideration.

Mr. Kim Mello gave the Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) Report. Forty people attended the Tuesday meeting. Information about the working group will be on the NMFWA website. Ms. Jeannie Dye is the Chair of the Database Committee. Mr. David Beckman is Chair of the Web page Committee. The Web page Committee is almost finished with information for the NMFWA website. The Database Committee sent out a proposed database for the membership to review and comment. Information sharing is one of most important things in a working group. A lot of information was sent out via electronic mail. Mr. Mello did a short survey of six questions on invasive species and presented some of this at the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program in Washington D.C. in December. The Surveys results showed a big difference from the survey he did on exotic species in 1995. At installation levels, more people are dealing with invasive species. The ISWG also supported the Tri-annual Pest Management Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in February 2002.

President Pitts introduced Dan Meyer, attorney for PEER. Mr. Meyer spoke on PEER's involvement with the case at Edwards AFB, California. NMFWA is the third largest block of members PEER has behind the Bureau of Land Management and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Meyer stated that PEER would help federal employees regardless of whether or not they are members Peer is also working in conjunction with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employees that are concerned about encroachment. President Pitts thanked Mr. Meyer and PEER for all of their hard work.

Mr. Jim Beemer gave the *ad hoc* By-Laws Committee Report. Last March in Washington DC, an *ad hoc* By-Laws Committee was tasked with considering staggered terms for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. If this proposal passes, the Secretary position would come up for re-election in 2003 while the Treasurer position would come up for re-election in 2004. A second proposal was to make the *ad hoc* Website Committee a permanent fulltime committee. The third proposal was to amend the voting member requirements to extend to Department of Interior employees, university employees, and state employees who have direct involvement in the management of natural resources on military installations. In addition, proposals to reflect how NMFWA conducts business via electronic means were also requested.

All of the voting members were sent the proposed amendments in the mail. Copies were also available at the NMFWA registration desk, in the back of the conference room, and on the website. Voting on the proposed amendments to the By-Laws was divided into controversial (number 3) and non-controversial (numbers 1, 2 and 4). Mr. Beemer reminded the membership that 2/3 of the voting membership needs to approve the proposed amendment in order for it to pass. One absentee ballot was sent prior to meeting.

Mr. Beemer received no written comments regarding the non-controversial proposal. The proposal passed with 45 yes votes and no opposed. Mr. Beemer received one vote and comment prior to the meeting against the second proposal to extend the voting membership beyond DoD employees. The mailed-in comment was read aloud. There was then discussion regarding the proposal.

Mr. Junior Kerns from White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico spoke in favor of the amendment. He made the point that the DOD work force is changing. Many people are working in the field of natural resource management on military lands but are not DoD employees. He asked the membership to be open to accept them as voting members. Ms. Julie Eliason from Camp Roberts, California said that according to the way the B-Laws are written, it could be interpreted that state employees working for the

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