

Connecting FWS Retirees and FWS Friends Groups

Heritage: The Retirees Association assists the Service Heritage Committee to preserve the history and cultural heritage of our natural resources and former personnel.



Heritage artifacts. The Retirees Association is always on the look out for special items that should be included in the FWS Museum and archives at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. Items related to your Refuge or Hatchery or relic fish and wildlife management tools would be considered for adding to the collection. Contact Mark_Madison@fws.gov .

Oral Histories. The Retirees Association Oral History Committee conducts interviews with former employees to preserve the heritage of the FWS and record the history of conservation in the U.S. Friends can assist by identifying former employees and local citizens important to the history of the Refuge or Hatchery. Contact johncornely@msn.com

Anniversary grants. All NWRs are eligible to apply for a grants to publically celebrate significant anniversaries of the Refuge. See <http://fwsretirees.org/Heritage.html>.

Station grants. Many FWS retirees are also members of friends groups. They are eligible to apply for grants of \$1000 or less to support a specific project on the refuge. Application info: <http://fwsretirees.org/Support.html>

Youth grants. The Retirees Association supports certain urban youth events in conjunction with the FWS urban programs for hunting and fishing. This grant program is under construction. Contact treasurer@fwsretirees.org for more info.

Travel Club. Some of the Retirees Association members are interested in combining travel with volunteer work that benefits the FWS mission and might not get done otherwise. If you have a specific multi-day project that several retirees could assist with let us know. Our retirees might be particularly helpful with bio-blitzes and projects that require some familiarity with **FWS** procedures. Contact chair@fwsretirees.org .

Volunteer connections. Below is an example list from one Refuge Manager of a variety of small projects that might interest retirees who are familiar with the Service's goals and needs. Do the FWS employees at your Refuge or Hatchery have a similar list of small projects the Retirees might help with? Can you provide housing or camping space for one or more Retirees?

- 1. Our tour video needs to be re-edited, at 22 minutes, its too long for our audience, it could be cut down to 15 minutes to improve how its received.*
- 2. We haven't had a historian for a while but there are numerous articles about the refuge or issues that we care about located in un-organized folders.*
- 3. I have between 50 and 100 maps, charts and blue prints which could be indexed, stored properly, and archived if needed.*
- 4. We need an updated herp and small mammal survey in the areas where we've been restoring habitat.*
- 5. There's plenty of areas where someone could do habitat restoration. Of particular interest is an area where we found a vernal pool last year.*

Connect with the FWS Retirees Association: chair@fwsretirees.org or <http://fwsretirees.org/Support.html>