



ASSOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

RETIREES

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Fall 2011

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Reunion 2012 Charleston, SC

Block the dates! Our next reunion will be in historic Charleston, SC, February 12 -15th, inclusive. We are staying in the heart of the downtown historic district at the *Francis Marion Hotel* (www.francismarionhotel.com).

Reservations can be made soon using our group code: **FWS RETIREES** (space between is important) for the special \$99 per night rate for the dates of the reunion. Go to the reservation page, select our group dates, and when the calendar comes up, enter the group code (upper or lower case is ok but the space is important). Or you can call them at (877) 756-2121 Toll Free and give them our group code they will honor the \$99 rate for our dates. Regular rates of \$159 before and \$179 after reunion dates apply.

Reunion registration will be \$100 and cover the social, the banquet and typical non-tour amenities. Checks made out to **FWS Retirees Association** can be sent to: Steve Rideout, 457 Wendell Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Airport shuttle is \$25, and parking is \$12/day unless you have a handicap decal, then it's complimentary.

Tours and Field Trips to Bulls Island, the ACE Basin and the Charleston Tea Garden, home of the only active tea plantation in the US are being organized. Monday night will be the Ice-breaker social, Tuesday will be tour day, programs and the Banquet will be Wednesday. A more detailed Draft Agenda will come in our December Newsletter.

If you have been to Charleston, you know why you want to join us. If you never have, put this one on your Bucket List. The place is gorgeous; the history will surround you and easily be seen and felt in walking, carriage or bus tours. I know I can't wait to see it again, and heck, I'm a Yankee! We will also mark a special USPS recognition of Bob Hines 100th anniversary of his birth. See below for details.

Association News

We have drafted an article for publication in FWS News to inform active employees of our organization and the things we do to support the Service and resource conservation in addition to our core mission of recording and preserving our rich history.

Board Member Jim McKeveitt has taken the lead in updating our Bylaws that will be available for review and decision at reunion.

The Board is actively recruiting nominations for dues-paying members for four open Board positions for three-year terms, come January. Current President, Richard Coon, and Treasurer Denny Holland's terms expire, and under current Bylaws they are not eligible to run again. Additionally, Bob Ruesink's current three-year term ends and he has decided not to run again and Jim Matthews has decided not to fill out Ed Loth's term.

Please consider submitting your name for one of these open positions. If you know of a bashful someone who you think would be a good Board addition, please let us know and we'll take it from there. Take a look at our web site, view Board Member profiles for an idea of what you might include in a nomination. They should be submitted to Steve Rideout at sgrideout@verizon.net by November 15. The Board of Directors will provide a slate of Nominees to be submitted to dues-paying members for a vote in early December. The Board holds a monthly toll-free conference call and meets at reunion and other times as needed.

We interact actively with the Service's Heritage Committee and staff at the National Conservation Training Center and have input at the highest National and Regional Office levels to influence Service goals and objectives, the recent Volunteer Outreach and Mentoring Initiative (see below) being a prime example.

The Board supported the Quilcene NFH 100th Anniversary celebration and received a wonderful thank you note from Manager Ron Wong including the following picture with our logo prominently displayed on the lower right.



Volunteer Outreach Mentoring Initiative

Service Director Dan Ashe sends the following message of support”

Dear Retirees,

I am excited to learn that you will be working with diverse groups of youth and new employees as you implement your "Mentoring and Career Awareness Assistance" grant. I and the leadership of the U. S. Fish and wildlife service are fully aware that the future of the service lies in the recruitment and retention of employees dedicated to resource conservation. The association of retired fish and wildlife service employees is the perfect group to help us in this important endeavor. Your demonstrated commitment and expertise comprise great coaching and mentoring tools to this new generation of potential and new employees. I couldn't be happier to have you by our side on this important mission.

Dan Ashe

Board Members Denny Holland and Judy Pulliam with major help from Gail Carmody developed a successful grant application to support the Service through a new Volunteer Outreach and Mentoring Initiative initially targeting youth from diverse backgrounds to consider a career in natural resource conservation, especially with the Service. They have met with the Region 4 Directorate to begin a pilot program. In support of that effort Gail has produced the enclosed promotional flyer that includes an important survey link to help us determine the level of interest and expertise within the organization. Please take the time to take this survey and help with this important initiative. It is a great example of how we can take our years of experience and use them to strengthen the Service and its mission.

Here's an implementation example from Gail at a Florida youth job fair.



Highlighting the Service to University of Florida students.

Retirees can join Service staff at career days and job fairs or visit nearby colleges and universities to tell their stories to prospective students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Gail joined R4 staff at a recent event at the University of Florida.



L. to R. Keenan Adams, deputy manager at Pelican Island NWR, **Gail Carmody, FWS Retirees**, Shari Brewer, Diversity Outreach Specialist in Region 4, Courtney Williams, Recruiter in Region 4, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Bob Hines Tribute at 2012 Reunion

On the first day of the reunion a short event is planned to honor Bob Hines, the Fish and Wildlife Service's resident artist who died in 1994. The year 2012 would be his 100th birthday. The event will include participation by the U.S. Postal Service; a pictorial cancellation with a theme tied to Bob Hines will be available along with cacheted envelopes. A cacheted envelope with printed information about Bob Hines will be available for each attendee. In addition, Bob Hines artifacts and memorabilia will be on display.

Everyone Has a Story to Tell

This was the title of a local community college writing course that I took and we have been hoping to include a few stories from our members from time to time. We know all of you have many interesting stories that your colleagues would love to hear. Your Newsletter is the perfect place to get some of them told for the enjoyment of former friends during your FWS working days. Let's hear from you. You can send your contributions to postmaster@fwsretirees.org or to me directly, sgrideout@verizon.net and if you don't have email, send them to me at Steve Rideout, 457 Wendell Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072

Neal Ward sent this in about some great times at Uvalde NFH. As he tells it:

“In the late 1960's I was transferred to the Uvalde, Texas National Fish Hatchery as Assistant Hatchery Manager. While we were there less than two years, that station was among our very favorites. Being Wyoming natives with mountains, snow and sub zero temperatures in the winter, it was a bit of a change to see farmers harvesting carrots and other vegetables in the winter months. We were told season changes are marked by leaves falling off the trees in the winter and reappearing again in the spring. Rattlesnakes were abundant, copperheads were less

plentiful. I soon became accustomed to having many water snakes (Natrix) working the ponds with us. They had quite an appetite for the fish we raised. Station personnel used to spend off duty hours shooting snakes with .22 rifles and pistols.

Anyway, because of its location in south Texas the hatchery was really an ideal station to work. The town's people were extremely friendly, the school system was good, medical facilities were good and rarely did we get a visitor from the Regional Office. We were just too far away and it was too hot down there!!!! The town of Uvalde was very proud of their "Live Oak trees." Some streets they even paved around them and cars had to swerve to miss them. There was one "Unique Drive In Bar" there built around a "Live Oak tree." Hatchery Manager Ron Elkin asked me if I was thirsty after one hot days work and I of course replied yes !!! He told me we were going to "Shadowland" and he proceeded to take us to the drive in bar under the live oak tree, where a bar maid came out and delivered cold "Lone Star Beers"!!! Hot afternoons used to find us at Shadowland drinking Lone Star beer under the Live Oak tree after that. Another tidbit" One morning Ed Meier came in and told us they had just arrested Dock Newton one of the last train robbers. He had tried to rob a bank at Camp Wood, Texas. He was so old the guard took his pistol away and they took him to a nursing home."

New Retiree Publications

The new '*J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge*' book is written by a man who spent 32 of his 48 years on Sanibel Island as a refuge employee involved in day-to-day management. Charles LeBuff was the second permanent refuge employee hired by refuge manager Tommy Wood -- to whom the book is dedicated.

Kelby Ouchley, retired USFWS Refuge Manager reports that "last year LSU Press published my first "retiree book," *Flora & Fauna of the Civil War* (which was mentioned in the newsletter). This year I have had two additional books published. My historical novel, *"Iron Branch: The Civil War Tale of a Woman In-Between"* was released in July, and this month LSU Press released, *Bayou-Diversity: 'Nature & People in the Louisiana Bayou Country'*. The last is a collection of 150+ natural history essays.

Joe White, writes the following: Ok fellers, here it is. I know you have been waiting for this moment much too long. Believe it or not, here in the middle of my seventh decade I have published a book. *"Sweet Times, Sweet Places"* is an early year's memoir about a country bumpkin growing up in rural east-central Mississippi and the deep piney woods of south Alabama during those 1930s-1950s sweet times. Go to www.blurb.com and search by author (Joe D. White) or title (Sweet Times, Sweet Places) to preview three chapters of my masterpiece, and while you are there you might as well go ahead and order a copy!

On-line links to Service publications

On-line FWS Information sources:

Fish and Wildlife Service News

<http://www.fws.gov/news/date.html>

National Wildlife Refuge News

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/RefugeUpdate/>

Fisheries News

<http://www.fws.gov/eddies/>

Email updates always needed

If you have e-mail and did not receive a notice that this Newsletter was posted at <http://www.fwsretirees.org>, it may mean the Association does not have your current e-mail address **or** that you have spam blocking software that isn't allowing batch e-mail notification from the Retiree Association. To Update or Receive FWS Retiree e-mail – Please send your current e-mail address to:

postmaster@fwsretirees.org

There is an explicit obligation on our part -- the address list is secure and goes nowhere else; it is used internally to provide you information of interest about happenings of the Service, the passing of former colleagues, to help you locate addresses of colleagues you have lost contact with, etc. Also, if you do not want your name on either the e-mail nor snail mail address list, let us know and it is off.

We have recently discovered that we have lost contact with some of our members despite having a valid email address. This turns out to be a fatal flaw in the protocol of our current mass email provider. We are evaluating other mass email services with the hope of moving to one that does not have the same protocol for locking out contacts. Future contacts will still be from our organization, but may be from another provider and you may need to check your spam folder to see if we were directed to it, and unblock us. We will do our best to keep you apprised of this situation and strive to make it both easy and as painless as possible on your part!

Passing of Colleagues

Dr. Alfred C. Fox passed away September 25, 2011, in Port Angeles, Washington after a brief illness. Al was born in New York State in 1928, received his B.S. degree from Cornell University in 1955, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Montana State University in 1961 and 1965. After becoming the first Unit Leader at South Dakota State University, he served as Georgia Coop Unit Leader, did a stint as head of Ecological Services in DC and went on to be the long-time Director of the Western Fisheries Research Center in Seattle where all remembered him for his scientific leadership and yes, unique personality.

Donald Edward Lindberg passed away on July 29, 2011 in Fargo, North Dakota. Born August 27, 1938 in Rolla, ND, Don joined the Service in 1967 where he worked for 41 years. He worked many areas in North Dakota staying longest at Des Lacs NWR near Kenmare, North Dakota until 1973. He moved to Lake View, Oregon and a year later, to Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1982, he moved to Anchorage, Alaska, becoming a Budget and Finance Officer until his retirement in May, 2003.

Beth Lumry, 88, of Loveland passed away Saturday, September 17, 2011. She was born on December 27, 1922 in Aurora, Missouri. She worked with in Finance and after they

moved to the Denver Service Center where she was the Administrative Officer for Law Enforcement LE until her retirement. She was a voucher examiner and/or payroll clerk in Finance for many years.

Don Zirjacks, 79 passed away on August 25, 2011. He retired from the Carson NFH but he and wife Pat made their retirement home in Arizona. Don was born August 19, 1932 and served many positions in the National Fish Hatchery system including manager of the Nashua NFH and assistant hatchery supervisor in Region 5.

Robert Henry Hillen, 90, of Fort Collins, CO passed away September 30, 2011 at his home. Bob enrolled at Colorado State University and in 1949 graduated with degree in wildlife biology. He had thirty year career with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Norman Gene Berggren died on Sept. 10, 2011 at his in Salem, Oregon at age 75. After attending college to earn his AA degree in Civil Engineering he began work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1970. He retired as Chief of Surveys and Mapping, Region I, in 1995.

Walter L. Grimes passed away March 11, 2011. Walt retired from the service after managing the Winthrop NFH for nearly two decades. Walt began his hatchery career in his native Arizona at the Tonto Creek Hatchery. After joining the USF&WS, he worked at various hatcheries including the Williams Creek NFH, Creston NFH, Coleman NFH and finally Winthrop. After his retirement in 1978, Walt worked as manager of the Annette Island tribal hatchery in Alaska, and managed the Coleville Confederated Tribe's new hatchery in Bridgeport, Washington for its first two years of operation.

Raymond McFarland, 84 died February 5, 2010. Ray loved his work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and retired in 1985. (Taken from a brief handwritten note provided by his loving wife, Majorie).

Julie Bliss Swanburg, 59, died in Portland, OR on 24 October, 2011, after her 2 ½ year battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. She was hired into the Service one week after graduating from high school [she interviewed in her graduation dress complete with hat] and worked as a Personnel Management Specialist. One of her main assignments was support for the Fishery Resources Program where she earned the reputation as 'Mrs. Fish' for effective supportive work in all personnel matters. She left the Service in 1996 to work in her Clackamas County offices.

Thesis and Dissertation Project at NCTC

As a continuing reminder, the NCTC library is still looking to add your thesis or dissertation to its collection. In 2007 the Service's Heritage Committee initiated a project to collect and archive copies of graduate theses and dissertations of current, past and retired FWS employees. This worthwhile effort is supported by the Retiree Association. To date over 200 works on

a diversity of subjects have been received at the FWS Archives at NCTC. While we are encouraged by the response, we know this is just the tip of the iceberg of graduate contributions over many decades. This is an ongoing project and we would like to enlist your help getting the word out. Copies can be originals, photo copies, or electronic copies. The electronic ones are actually the easiest to archive. At some point a list of all of the authors and the titles of their works will be available. The research does not have to be FWS related or completed while the author is or was an FWS employee. The only requirement is that the author has been an employee of FWS at some point in their career. For further information, contact project sponsor John Cornely (303-933-9861; johncornely@msn.com) or if you have a thesis or dissertation that you would like to donate or can make a copy to donate, please send to:

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698 Conservation Way
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-9713
1-800-553-9472, x7276
mark_madison@fws.gov

Newsletter edited by:

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A Conservation Promise To Future Generations

Register Your Commitment Now

Dear FWS Retiree,

Many of us are now involved with local youth programs and mentoring current USFWS employees. By working together, we can expand our reach.

The Association's partnership with the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is seeking to increase activities of Retirees Association members by assisting with your mileage costs and supporting conservation career awareness events.

Please register what you are already doing and/or to become involved with a local youth group or mentoring by clicking this link: <http://www.iotform.com/form/12263852310> Retirees from all job series are needed to assist with this important project.

Why do this?

- Rewarding work with youth or current employees
- Use latest official USFWS career awareness and education materials
- Help connect all youth with the Great Outdoors
- Improve mentoring skills
- Help identify potential top candidates for USFWS employment
- Be reimbursed for mileage and other selected travel costs
- Re-connect with friends and make new ones

How does USFWS and conservation benefit?

- Institutional knowledge is passed on
- More youth are contacted nationwide
- Conservation careers become real choices to students
- Career awareness and conservation education is consistent
- Top candidates for internships are identified
- Ways to reach target minority populations are expanded
- Volunteers are trained in mentoring skills

**For more info, contact:
Denny Holland, 1-877-831-5591, Denny_Holland@fws.gov**

10/16/2011

A Reminder: The Association is accepting 2012 Annual Dues. Yes! I want to continue to be part of the *Retiree Association* (please print)

Name: _____ **Spouse** _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

(To help defer the costs of printing and mailing)

USFWS Program: _____ **Title:** _____

(At Retirement) **Office & Region:** _____

_____ **1-year Membership at \$25.00** _____ **2-year Membership at \$50.00**

_____ **3-year Membership at \$75.00** _____ **Lifetime at \$500**

(or why not just round it off to \$100)

Make check payable to and mail completed application to:

Treasurer, FWS Retirees Association

102 Ridge Ave

Eufaula, AL 36027-1306

For more information or assistance, call 1-877-831-5591 or Denny_Holland@FWS.gov