

FWS Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

June 2017



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NCTC 20th Anniversary – And We're Invited to the Party.

In our last Retiree Newsletter, we announced that there would be a gathering at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, the week of October 16, 2017 to celebrate its 20th anniversary. All FWS retirees are invited to attend and participate in the celebration *and* to have our own mini-reunion. NCTC has offered us retirees free lodging for the week and many of you have indicated an interest. A block of rooms has been set aside for us on a first come, first served basis - you can be among the first and head the list. In our earlier communications, we advised that more precise information would be forthcoming so you could plan your travel and confirm your reservations. Here 'tis the latest!

Dates. Most should plan to arrive at NCTC **Tuesday, October 17**. The main program starts the next morning and ends after breakfast on **Friday, October 20**. However, if you are interested in seeing what the Service's *Heritage Committee* is doing, they have scheduled an all-day Tuesday meeting; come one day earlier, you're welcome to attend. The most current draft agenda is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Reservations. You will need to *call in to confirm* your attendance and the dates you will stay. The call in number for reservations is: **304-876-7900**. Available 24 hours but best between 9AM and 5PM EDT. You will be encouraged to provide a credit card for incidentals, i.e. bar tab. NCTC will make name tags for all attendees. If you want Bubba on yours (or not), let them know.

Meals. There are two meal plans available to attendees: a plan based on the government per diem rate of **\$40 per day** covering all meals and anything you put on your plate. This is probably good if you eat like a field hand; or an **a la carte plan** where you pay just for what eat. NCTC staff recommends this option as much cheaper (unless you really do eat like a field hand).

Shuttle. NCTC will operate a special free shuttle van service for retirees between Dulles airport and the NCTC campus for those that might prefer not having to rent a car. If you want this service, let them know when you reserve your room. They will need to know your airline, flight #, & arrival time. Riders will meet at the *Reston Limo Service* van at the shuttle pickup island across from exit 7 (baggage claim 2 & 3). The driver will know your airline and flight schedule. However you will need a picture ID to board. The shuttle schedule is:

Tuesday, 10/17 - Dulles to NCTC at 1 pm, 4 pm, & 7pm.

Friday, 10/20 - NCTC to Dulles at 9:30 am.

Additional shuttle times may be possible but must be requested at the NCTC front desk

Coordination. Board member Jerry Grover has agreed to coordinate this event for the Association. If you encounter any difficulties or have questions, contact him: He can act as an intermediary and/or answer your questions.

Jerry's e-mail address is: Groverjj612@frontier.com and his phone number is **503-684-1809**.

This information has also been put on the Retiree Association website (www.fwsretirees.org). Any updates to the agenda or other important changes will be provided there.

Future Gatherings and Reunions.

Spring 2018. Our next regular FWS Retirees Reunion will be on the central Oregon coast in May 2018. We have booked the week of May 6, 2018 at the Chinook Winds Casino and Resort in Lincoln City. The program is yet to be developed but the accommodations are excellent. We have negotiated room rates that start at less than \$100 per night for this venue which sits right on the ocean. Most of the rooms have an ocean view. Amenities include a sauna and spa, a heated indoor swimming pool. eight different on-site dining venues, headliner entertainment, and a lush 18-

hole golf course just a tee shot from the casino. Free transportation to and from the Portland Airport is available. We will keep you fully informed as planning progresses but for now, keep that week open.

Fall 2019. We have not yet begun any serious planning for a Chesapeake Bay Reunion in the fall of 2019 but think that one possibility would be to time it to coincide with the Easton Waterfowl Festival which is usually held in mid fall. However, we also want to avoid any weather problems. Your thoughts?

The Association Wants You to Help Reach Out!

As members of the FWS Retirees Association, whether dues-paying or not, YOU can help your retired and nearly retired friends learn about the exciting and informative benefits of becoming a member!

The basic purposes of the Retirees Association are to facilitate camaraderie among Service retirees and with the active Service and to promote the heritage and history of the Service and its present and past employees. We might add to this list “have fun”, “travel”, “volunteer”, “mentor”, “support conservation education” and “keep abreast of natural resource issues”, among many other things.

We currently have around 2,600 retirees in our member database but know there are many more out there for whom we have no contact info. It is increasingly difficult to identify and reach out to those who are nearing retirement, or have recently retired, due to privacy restrictions within the Service. To enhance our ability to reach out, the old “word of mouth” technique is pretty much what we have to rely on now.....THIS IS WHERE YOU ALL COME IN! If you read the Retirees newsletter and receive other communications from us, you know well about our many and varied activities, about the fun we have with travel and periodic reunions scattered around the nation, and our stances on issues affecting the Service. THIS IS A PLEA FOR YOUR HELP—REACH OUT TO AT LEAST ONE NON-MEMBER RETIREE OR NEAR-RETIREE AND LET THEM KNOW ABOUT US!!! Give them a copy of our brochure and a recent newsletter, email them a link to our website (FWSretirees.org), offer a membership application (remember, the first year is dues-free, and non-sustaining memberships are always dues-free), and if you have any interesting stories or experiences with the Association, share those with others. Let us know how it goes, and any feedback you receive from those you contact. If you need copies of our brochure, membership application form or recent newsletter to hand out, let us know and we’ll rush them out to you, or you can print them directly from our website. Thank you for your help and for your support of YOUR Retirees Association!

Resource Issues.

The Association strives to keep you abreast of fish and wildlife matters of regional or national significance or of importance to the Fish and Wildlife Service. If there are resource issues that you believe the Association should become involved in beyond merely keeping you informed, let us know.

Finally, Convictions in the Malheur Takeover.

After failing last fall to convict Ammon and Ryan Bundy and five others for the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, a Portland jury in March convicted two others of conspiracy to impede FWS personnel from doing their jobs at the refuge. Jason Patrick and Darryl Thorn face up to six years in prison on those charges. Thorn was also convicted of firearms charges on a federal facility. Two other men were found not guilty of the conspiracy charge but were found guilty of damaging federal property. After the takeover which resulted in the death of one of armed occupiers, a total of 26 people were indicted on the conspiracy charge. In addition to the 11 who appeared in the two trials, 14 pleaded guilty and charges against one man were dropped.

More on the “Bundy Saga”.

Remember the armed 2014 stand-off between Nevada cattleman Cliven Bundy and federal agents over grazing on BLM lands? Seventeen defendants were charged in the standoff, which pitted cattle ranchers, anti-government protesters and militia members against the Bureau of Land Management.

Well, in the first of separate three trials against some of the 17, a jury was deadlocked and Chief U.S. Court Judge Gloria Navarro was forced to declare a mistrial in the case against four of the accused. The men were all charged with identical counts which could result in life imprisonment if convicted. A re-trial was ordered.

Two other defendants were earlier convicted on multiple counts. An Arizona man was convicted on eight charges, including threatening and assaulting a federal officer, obstruction, interstate travel in aid of extortion and brandishing a weapon. He had told a video crew after the stand-off that he had come to the Bundy Ranch to kill federal agents. The video crew was made up of undercover FBI agents.

The second man, an Idaho resident, was convicted of obstruction and interstate travel in aid of extortion.

Then, on May 25, Judge Navarro called a New Hampshire man a “bully vigilante” and sentenced him to about six more years in prison for conspiracy and interstate travel in aid of extortion (he has already spent more than one year behind bars). He was accused of helping organize the confrontation. He had initially pled guilty to the charges but later tried to withdraw that plea, a move which Judge Navarro denied. She said she doesn't think he had accepted responsibility for his actions.

Navarro's mistrial decision will delay the start of a separate trial against cattle rancher Cliven Bundy and his sons, Ammon and Ryan Bundy, who are described by prosecutors as the leaders of the standoff.

Alaska Oil Drilling.

On June 1st, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed an order to “jump-start Alaskan energy”—meaning, in this case, to drill for more oil. The order pertains to two places: the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, the largest block of federally managed land in the United States, and the coastal region of the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Zinke called for a “lawful review and development of a revised Integrated Activity Plan” aimed toward increased petroleum production from these lands. The move will reassess the current management plan that the Interior Department spent years creating in coordination with tribes, local governments, the state and others. Zinke’s order calls for an update to estimates about quantities of oil beneath the ground within three weeks.

Oil interests have repeatedly attempted to get approval to drill in ANWR and had been repeatedly denied by the Service and by Congress. Environmental groups have universally condemned the Secretary’s action and will certainly mobilize once again against any drilling in the refuge.

Sage Grouse Agreement under Review.

In our October 2015 newsletter, we reported on a successful landscape conservation agreement and plan for sage grouse that was negotiated by the many affected parties. FWS had proposed to list the vanishing species under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. That concerned many of local and state entities enough to bring all parties together to develop a plan that would make an endangered species listing unnecessary. Several federal agencies, the many states and private landowners involved agreed to implement crucial conservation and enhancement actions in lieu of listing. All told, tens of millions of acres of vital habitats will be protected and money will be dedicated to future actions, actions that will also benefit over 300 other key western species. Then Interior Secretary Sally Jewell praised the collaborative effort and plan.

On June 7th, current Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a secretarial order convening an interagency task force to review the 98 existing land-use management plans and associated policies created by that agreement to preserve critical sage grouse habitat, with the intent of determining whether they should be altered or rolled back. Zinke said the goals are to evaluate whether the federal government’s policies related to the greater sage grouse are compatible with state policies, whether they’re beneficial for local economies and jobs, and how they impact production of domestic energy. Zinke said the review will be guided by President Trump’s “energy independence” executive order

issued in March, aimed at removing environmental regulations governing the oil and gas industry. It will include determining if the plans place a “burden” on energy development (even though the plans already make over 80 percent of areas with high or medium oil potential available for development). He also said he wants to restore trust in the process, listen to states and businesses and improve consistency among Interior agencies like BLM and FWS in enforcing the policies. “There’s a lot of mistrust and anger out there about how the federal government is managing the lands and that we’re not listening to the states and the local communities,” he told reporters and said a major focus of the review is to see if there are other actions that could help the sage grouse while being more flexible for states and businesses like oil and gas.

The current agreement and plans resulted from years of hard work to balance interests, including those of the oil and gas industry. While some may think the policies go too far, many, including several western governors and other politicians, disagree. “Westerners worked in an unprecedented way to create the current sage grouse conservation plans that are widely supported and serve as a model for future successful collaboration,” said Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR). “When it comes to managing the traditional multiple uses of our public lands, the Interior Department must ensure that all local stakeholders have a seat at the table, not just those who agree with this administration’s goals of benefiting the oil and gas industry.” And the two governors who co-chair a federal-state sage grouse task force, Matt Mead of Wyoming (R) and John Hickenlooper of Colorado (D), stated that “wholesale changes to the land use plans are likely not necessary at this time.” Zinke has yet to respond to the governors’ concerns.

Conservationists immediately called the task force review an unnecessary attempt to open critical sage grouse habitat to oil and gas drilling a threat to their continued survival. “Secretary Zinke should be careful not to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory when it comes to sage grouse conservation,” said the Audubon Society’s Brian Rutledge.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

In 2016, after a robust public review process, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was designated. It consists of 78,000 acres on the East Branch of the Penobscot River in a remote and breathtakingly beautiful area of northern Maine. If you have ever visited this area you know it is clearly an irreplaceable national treasure.

We now understand that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is considering whether to alter or rescind the site’s federal protections or possibly reduce it in size as he is recommending at the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Your support for continued federal protection for these bountiful resources of this area is needed.

UPDATE! On June 24, Secretary Zinke indicated that he is “comfortable” with the area remaining at its current size and under the management of the National Park Service as long as activities such as hunting, fishing, and timber harvesting are preserved and that local have a say in its management. With those caveats, he said he can see a path forward to make it work.

Jaguar Sightings in the U.S.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials have released a photo from a trail camera showing a jaguar in the Dos Cabezas of Arizona. This area is about 60 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border and about 80 miles east of Tucson. The photo, taken in November and only recently retrieved, shows the extremely rare cat wandering through the mountains.

FWS spokesman Jeff Humphrey says it’s the farthest north of the border that a jaguar has been seen in decades. “The significance is that we’re getting a clearer understanding of where jaguars occur in the borderline area,” Humphrey said. “It’s been decades since a jaguar was spotted in that mountain range”.

Only seven jaguars altogether have been documented in all of southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico since 1996.

The photo alone is insufficient to determine the age or sex of the jaguar. Two others recently sighted (since 2011) elsewhere in Arizona were both males. One of these, dubbed El Jefe (the boss), was seen several times south and southeast of Tucson. The other was seen around the Fort Huachuca area about 70 miles southeast of Tucson. These recent sightings raise the possibility that the species may re-establish itself in the U.S., especially if the most recent cat seen is a female. The habitat is apparently there but local attitudes about their presence are mixed. Whether they become re-established or simply migrate back and forth, they should be seriously considered in planning for the proposed border wall.

Mexican Wolf – The Saga Continues.

In previous newsletters, we informed you of the conflict between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of New Mexico over the Service’s plan to re-introduce additional captive-bred endangered Mexican wolves into New Mexico to increase the gene pool and aid in the species’ recovery. New Mexico refused to issue a permit for the release and in late May of 2016 a federal judge issued a temporary injunction halting the release until FWS obtained a state permit. In January of this year, the Justice Department on behalf of FWS filed an appeal with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn that injunction. The government contention is that the law allows the government to go

against the state’s wishes if necessary to save a listed species.

On April 25, a 10th Circuit judge sided with the federal appellants and lifted that injunction, removing that obstacle to the U.S. government's plan to release more wolves over the state's objections. However, it is not clear whether additional animals would be reintroduced any time soon. FWS spokesman Jeff Humphrey said the agency was still reviewing the decision and it’s uncertain whether the Trump administration would allow the Service to proceed.

Miscellaneous.

New FWS Deputy Director.

On June 5, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tapped the head of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to be the Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a newly created position where the appointee will serve as acting Director of the agency until a permanent director is nominated and confirmed. He is expected to start in mid-June.



Sheehan is a longtime hunter, fisherman and aspiring wildlife photographer who has worked for Utah’s wildlife division for 25 years, five as director.

“We are grateful to have Greg Sheehan join our team and help lead USFWS as we advance a pro-conservation and more collaborative agenda at the Department,” said Secretary Zinke. “His experience and proven record in wildlife service as well as his organizational management skills will be an invaluable asset to the Service and the Department.”

On his appointment, Mr. Sheehan said, "I am thrilled to have an opportunity to work with Secretary Zinke and the great team at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to helping promote the fish and wildlife resources in America through collaborative partnerships with states, local government, the sportsmen's community, and others."

Geoffrey Haskett Named President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association

The National Wildlife Refuge Association has announced the appointment of Geoff Haskett as President of the



Association. Geoff, who has been Acting President of the Refuge Association since early 2017, brings extensive experience with the National Wildlife Refuge System. He has previously served as a leader and manager in the Fish and Wildlife Service, including stints as Regional Director in Alaska and Chief of Refuges in

D.C. He will assume responsibility as President immediately.

"Geoff Haskett's extensive knowledge of the Refuge System coupled with his strong leadership and ability to build support for national wildlife refuges will serve both the organization and the Refuge System well," said Rebecca R. Rubin, Chair of the National Wildlife Refuge Association Board of Directors. "Our new President is deeply knowledgeable about the Refuge System, he is committed to our mission, and he has the right skills to advance it."

Since starting out with Service in Oregon, Geoff has devoted his career to the stewardship of public lands. He brings over 38 years' experience as a leader and manager of national programs, resources, and staff. He most recently served as Regional Director of the Alaska Region from 2008-2016.

Founded in 1975, the National Wildlife Refuge Association is an independent nonprofit focused exclusively on protecting and promoting the National Wildlife Refuge System through programs that protect, enhance, and expand the system and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.

Natural Resource Agency Retirees Coalition.

The FWS Retirees Association has been invited to join and coordinate with groups associated with other federal resource agencies, primarily retiree organizations, in a coalition. We would conduct quarterly telephone conferences, share information and newsletters, broker requests for technical information from among our respective memberships, and alert each other to natural resources issues. As appropriate, we would join forces to address significant issues of common concern. Those organizations are:

BLM – Public Lands Foundation;

NPS – Coalition to Protect America's National Parks; and

USFS – National Association of Forest Service Retirees.

Communicating and coordinating amongst ourselves will increase our ability to function and enhance our relevance in the realm of natural resource conservation.

Newest Life Member.

Steve Thompson has ponied up and become the latest retiree to opt for Life Membership in the FWS Retirees Association. As a Life Member, Steve is contributing significantly to the efforts of the Association and is to be commended. Thanks, Steve.

Won't you also consider a tax deductible Life Membership to help support **your** Association?

114 Years for the Refuge System.

On March 14, 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued the following news release:

WASHINGTON - Today, the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#) celebrates its 114th anniversary. Managed by the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), national wildlife refuges are a national network of public conservation lands that provide access for hunting, fishing, education, and recreation opportunities as well as vital habitat for thousands of species. The refuges are also an economic boon to local communities.

"This past Saturday, I visited the National Bison Range in Moiese, Montana, to speak with refuge managers and get a better understanding of both the habitat and the management of the range. In addition to the range, the Refuge System has millions of acres of public lands and waters that provide quality hunting and fishing in addition to other recreation activities," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "Our wildlife refuges are an incredible asset to the national economy, bringing tourism and recreation jobs as well as revenue from spending in local communities. At the same time, refuges offer a place where families can carry on cherished outdoor traditions while making the important connection between people and nature. It worries me to think about hunting and fishing becoming activities for the land-owning elite. Refuges are an important part of making sure that doesn't happen"

Hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$144.7 billion in economic activity across the United States, according to the FWS's most recent [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 90 million Americans, or 41 percent of the United States population age 16 and older, pursue wildlife-related recreation. The report "[Banking on Nature](#)" shows that refuges pump \$2.4 billion into the economy and support more than 35,000 jobs.

President Theodore Roosevelt created the [first national wildlife refuge in 1903 at Pelican Island, Florida](#). Today, the Refuge System is the world's largest network of conservation lands and waters, managing more than 850 million acres, including seven national monuments of which two are marine, 566 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetlands management districts. National wildlife refuges protect wildlife habitat on dramatic landscapes that range from Alaska wilderness to Montana's native grasslands and from Texas lagoons to woods and ponds within Philadelphia city limits.

More than 460 national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts are open to the public, hosting some 50 million visitors every year – almost all offer free admission year-round. There is at least one national wildlife refuge in every state and U.S. territory.

"Refuges are intrinsic parts of the communities that surround them, contributing to the local economies, serving as recreational epicenters for residents and visitors, and keeping local ecosystems healthy and resilient," said Refuge System Chief Cynthia Martinez. "What better way

to celebrate these national treasures on this anniversary than by visiting your nearest refuge?"

75th Commemoration of the Battle of Midway.

Kevin Foerster, Refuge Chief for the Pacific Region, asked us to inform our members about this anniversary event so important in our nation's history. While this announcement is being provided to you *after the fact*, we felt it important to pass it on for informational purposes. Kevin wrote:

"We are approaching the 75th Anniversary of the historic Battle of Midway. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is honored to have the responsibility for managing the **Battle of Midway National Memorial** and the associated Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

In commemoration of the battle, we are partnering with the U.S. Navy and other cooperators in observing this iconic event in our history and honoring the sacrifices made. Events will be held at several locations around the country on June 5 (including Midway Atoll, Honolulu, San Diego, Pensacola, New Orleans and Washington DC. These events will include a livestream of the ceremony at Midway Atoll. **For details see the website www.midway75.org** Please note the opening page to the website has a four minute trailer film (sound needed) that is a prelude to a 40 minute feature film produced by Tandem Stills and Motion about the history and cultural significance of Midway Atoll. By all accounts - it is outstanding.

Hope you have an opportunity to join us in this historic commemoration - even from afar!

A few other places to find related information about the events

<https://www.facebook.com/PacificIslandsFWS/>

- <http://usfwspacific.tumblr.com/post/55039880702/stemming-the-tide-of-time-and-saving--murals-at>
- <http://usfwspacific.tumblr.com/post/31000842713/war-and-peace-at-midway-atoll-national-wildlife>
- <http://usfwspacific.tumblr.com/post/100507097010/world-war-ii-era-fighter-plane-discovered-at>

President's Budget Cuts Interior Department.

The White House would cut the Interior Department budget by about 12 percent, reducing Interior's funding to \$11.6 billion in fiscal 2018, about \$1.6 billion less annually. The budget proposal, released in late May, would eliminate programs that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has called unnecessary, duplicative, or low priority. Among them: discretionary grants to help reclaim abandoned mine sites, National Heritage areas that Trump administration officials say are more appropriately funded locally and National Wildlife Refuge payments to local governments.

The budget also cuts funding for new major acquisitions of federal land by more than \$120 million. The administration

says it instead intends to focus on investing in and maintaining existing federal lands. The proposal would increase funds to help address the roughly \$11 billion maintenance backlog within the national park system.

"It was not an easy job. There were difficult decisions that were made," Zinke said in a call with reporters. "This budget overall speaks to the core mission of the Department of the Interior. It funds our highest priorities — safety, security, infrastructure."

Federal Retirees Also Targets of Proposed budget.

According to an article in the Washington Post in late May, the Trump administration's budget proposal includes reductions in federal employee retirement programs. While these proposals still need to be addressed in both the House and Senate, they nevertheless are troubling. The proposal includes:

- An increase of 1 percent in retirement contributions for those in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) -- phased in over a period of several years.
- Instead of using the current high three average salary to calculate retirement annuities, replace with high five year average salary baseline.
- Eliminate the cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to current and future FERS employees
- Reduce the COLA for CSRS employees by 0.5 percent.
- Eliminate the FERS annuity supplement for eligible employees retiring 2018 and beyond.

This is something you might want to get involved in because, if approved by Congress, it will hit you in the pocketbook.

NOTE! OMB has officially released the White House 2018 budget proposal and the section on "savings and reforms" can be read using the link below. The "*Reduce Federal Retirement Benefits*" section starts on page 155.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/msar.pdf>

LE Retirees Get-together.

Forty five of our retired law enforcement colleagues got together to celebrate, reminisce and enjoy each other in Nashville this past April. They plan to meet again next May in Niagara Falls. Jerry Grover has been trying to get them to join our reunions but no luck so far.

Passing of Colleagues

If you are aware of the passing of any retired FWS employee, including those who left the Service because of organizational or late career changes, please let us know so that we can pass that information on to our readers.

George Gunars Bekeris (12926 – 2017).

George Bekeris passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on April 9, 2017 at the age of 91 in Edina, Minnesota. Born in Riga, Latvia, he immigrated to the United States in 1949. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. George had a successful 30



year career in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service both in Minnesota and Washington D.C. George was an appraiser in the Region 3 Realty Division and later the Chief of Realty in D.C. after which he retired back to Minnesota. However, his retirement did not last long, as he became an appraiser for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources where he spent the next 10 years. George enjoyed being outdoors hunting & fishing, especially with his two black lab companions. George had a long & happy life that included family (both in the U.S. and in Latvia), friends, and travel. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, who always wanted the best for him and his family. He passed on his life's values to his family, including his gentleness, quick wit and sense of humor.

George is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruta (Ruth); his daughters, Anita (Tom) Pederstuen and Ingrid (Kevin) Highland; and his four grandsons, Karl and Tyler Pederstuen and Dan and Evan Highland.

A memorial Service for George was held on April 21, 2017 at the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Memorials are preferred to the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edina Chapel.

Edwin Blaine Fair (1932 - 2017). Ed (Bo) Fair passed away unexpectedly Friday, March 17, 2017 at his Telford residence in eastern Tennessee at the age of 85. A native of Carter County, Tennessee, Bo was a 1950 graduate of Elizabethton High School and a graduate of Utah State University with a degree in Fish & Wildlife Management. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict. He was employed as a Fishery Biologist with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and a onetime manager at the Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery at Millen, Georgia. He was a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Elizabethton and Dashiell Masonic Lodge # 238 in Elizabethton, Tennessee. In earlier years he was a Cub Scout Leader and Coached Little League.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Edna LaFollette Fair; his three children: Sandie Ellis (Ernie) of Columbia, South Carolina, Melinda Welch (William) of Raleigh, North Carolina, and Jennifer Fair Acworth, of Georgia. He is also survived by his grandson: Joseph Ellis, his sisters; Dorothy Dykes (Gerald), Shirley Hale, and Ann Ingram (Billy) as well as several nieces & nephews.

Funeral Services were conducted on March 21, 2017 followed by interment at Happy Valley Memorial Park, near Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Clarence Edward (Ki) Faulkner (1923 – 2017). Ki Faulkner passed away on April 3, 2017 from complications arising from aortic stenosis. He was 93. During his 36 years with FWS, Ki served in multiple positions in Regions 1 and 3 and in the Washington office

In the interest of space, the following are “excerpts” from a tribute to Ki written by his son, Scott Faulkner.

An American Hero

How does one summarize such an impactful life?

My Dad, Ki Faulkner, saved lives in the middle of a war, saved lives by making airports safer, and helped save entire species from extinction. Ki Faulkner devoted his live to the outdoors. He loved to hunt and fish, and to simply walk in the woods, teaching others about the wonders of nature.



He left after his freshman year at the University of Maine to volunteer for the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. He quickly rose to acting Platoon Sergeant of 3rd Platoon in the 86th Regiment. The Tenth Mountain Division was specially trained for mountain warfare and led the Allies' final push in Northern Italy during World War II.

Known for his leadership skills and his acts of bravery. Ki earned two Bronze Stars, for rallying his men in turning back a German counter-attack on Riva Ridge and for leading the capture of the German headquarters in Torbole during the battle for Lake Garda.

Yet, he was most proud of his Soldiers Medal. In 1945, his platoon was staying in a warehouse readying for a patrol. A pin popped out of a grenade during distribution of ammunition. As others froze, Ki rushed forward, grabbed the grenade, and threw it through a ceiling skylight to explode in the air. He saved the lives of eighteen of his comrades. The commendation reads:

“By his quick thinking, instantaneous initiative, and selfless heroism endangering his own life to save the lives of the other eighteen men, Sergeant Faulkner has earned the highest commendation and praise for his gallantry and valor.”

Ki returned home and earned a BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Maine. Just as he was starting his career, he was called back to duty during the Korean War where developed and led highly challenging field exercises for the 101st Airborne on Okinawa.

Once back in America, Ki began a 36-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He came to prominence for developing bird safety procedures in the wake of the deadly 1960 plane crash at Boston's Logan Airport. His guidelines for removing bird habitats near runways remain the global standard to this day.

While in the Midwest Region in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ki developed and led teams to help recover species facing possible extinction. One team developed radio collars and plane based tracking technology for the Eastern Timber Wolf to better understand their behavior. Those populations are now recovered. Others collected bald eagle eggs from healthy birds in Minnesota, then used hot water bottles to keep them warm as they flew to other parts of America to replace eggs laden with DDT. That species too is recovering in the lower 48 states. Another team of experts perfected ways to drive away cowbirds, a nest parasite, in order to save the Kirkland Warbler.

Ki's most ambitious effort began with the chance discovery of a Black Footed Ferret in a prairie dog town. Ferrets were thought to be extinct since the 1920s. His teams charted the tiny population and began a captive breeding and release program that continues to this day in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution. In 2015, a male Ferret born in captivity was named after him in honor of his role. "Ki Ferret" is now happily making little ferrets after being released into the wild in Colorado.

My Dad's greatest desire was to have young people for generations to come love for nature and the outdoors. He founded the first co-educational Explorer Post for Wildlife. In his final years, he donated all his collections, photos, and papers to the museum at the National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown, West Virginia. These include his hand tied fishing flies and hand carved decoys, all amazing works of art.

I was incredibly blessed to have Ki Faulkner as my father, and to be guided by him throughout my life, up to just a few days ago. His legacy lives on through the descendants of those he saved in Italy, the animals who still thrive in the wild, and the generations of young people who will view his collections and be inspired to love the outdoors as much as he did.

Ki married Irene MacDonald Faulkner on June 22, 1946. She passed on November 6, 2013. They will both be memorialized and interred during a private family gathering in Maine later this year.

Those wishing to honor Ki Faulkner should make a donation to the Harpers Ferry Park Association; P.O. Box

197; Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. Make checks payable to "Harpers Ferry Park Assn. Ki Faulkner".

Fred A. Glover (1918 – 2017). Dr. Fred A. Glover, pilot-biologist, researcher, educator, and longtime member of The Wildlife Society, passed away April 1 just before his 99th birthday. Born in San Francisco, California in 1918, he grew up in Klamath Falls, Oregon, developing lifelong outdoor interests during camping, hunting, fishing and dog training excursions with his father.

Fred earned a B.S. in wildlife management at Oregon State University where he met his future wife, Evelyn Reese. He obtained an M.S. in zoology from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in zoology/ornithology under Dr. Paul Errington at Iowa State University.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps/U.S. Air Force during World War II, flying missions to Japan from Guam and Saipan as a member of the 502nd and 498th Bomber Groups. His flying record and knowledge of different aircraft led to a flight instructor position. He continued flying for more than six decades.

After the military, Fred taught wildlife management at California's Humboldt State College from 1950-1953. He accepted a pilot-biologist position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, surveying migratory waterbirds in North, South, and Central America. His experiences include being stranded in the northeastern Canadian wilderness to arriving in Cuba shortly after the revolution, exploits detailed in his 2002 book "*Muskeg to Mangrove, A Flying Biologist's Story.*"

Fred and his family lived near Washington, D.C. from 1953-1964 while he worked in the migratory bird program, eventually becoming supervisor of banding, surveys and the chief pilot. Relocating to Colorado, he served as Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Leader and professor at Colorado State University, guiding graduate students on a variety of wildlife research projects until retiring in 1972. He became research vice-president at the Thorne Ecological Institute, Boulder, Colorado, and formed a Fort Collins based consulting practice, flying his plane across the country, often accompanied by Evelyn.

Fred was recognized for outstanding achievements during his professional career, including two nominations for the prestigious Turner World Environmental Award. He was a member of several scientific organizations and authored more than 50 publications and reports.

Glover is survived by daughters, Nancy and Peggy, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. His wife, Evelyn, died in 2002, after a marriage of nearly 62 years.

Persons wishing to honor Dr. Glover may contribute to the endowed "North American Wetlands and Migratory Waterbird Fellowship" in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. csugifts@csuf.colostate.edu.

(Contributed by Tom Gray, Bob Streeter and David Anderson)

Duane C. (Bud) Lowery (1931 – 2017). Bud Lowery passed away at the age of 86 on June 8, 2017 at a care home in Meridian, Idaho. Bud was a law enforcement agent with stints as Senior Resident Agent in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and as Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the Denver Regional Office before taking a position as Training Officer in the Central Office.

No other information is available at this time.

Jim Maxwell. We were informed by Allan Brown in Region 4 that longtime Fisheries employee Jim Maxwell passed away in early April. He had been retired for over 20 years. No other information on Jim could be found.

Joel Miller (1943 – 2017). Joel Miller passed away on April 8th from complications of cancer.

Joel was born in Ely, Nevada where he attended local schools. Hunting and especially fishing were his favorite pastimes as a young boy. Joel followed his childhood passion and decided to major in Wildlife Biology at Utah State University. While earning his degree he also worked as a student trainee for the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Airforce and was stationed in Thailand where he flew as a paramedic on rescue helicopters during the Vietnam War.

Upon completion of his service to his country, he returned to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and for the next 40 years had a productive career. He loved his work, whether it was dealing with big game in Nevada or waterfowl in the wetlands of the Central Valley of California. He served as assistant manager on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge in Willows California where he managed the Bicentennial Land Heritage Program which afforded the refuge many improvements. He was also instrumental in attaining easements throughout the Central Valley, adding vast acreages to the beautiful wetlands we see throughout the grasslands surrounding Los Banos, California. He was the primary member of the team that implemented the wildlife provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, providing hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water and developing conveyance facilities to deliver that water to all the Central Valley state and federal refuges. Joel concluded his career as the assistant supervisor for California refuges in Sacramento.

Joel was preceded in death by his younger brother Robert Miller. He is survived by his wife Paula (Carlotti) Miller, sons Aaron Miller (Veneta) and Derek Miller (Molly) and five beautiful grandchildren, Lacey, Sabrina, Kora, Camryn and Zakiah as well as his older brother Rodney Miller of Palo Alto (Eileen) and several nieces and nephew. A Memorial Mass for Joel was held on April 21st at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Los Banos. Burial followed at

the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, California. A celebration of life and reception followed at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Los Banos.

Chandler Robbins (1918 - 2017). Renowned Fish and Wildlife Service ornithologist Chandler Robbins died March 20th of this year at the ripe old age of 98. Born July 17, 1918, in Belmont, Massachusetts, Chandler (Chan to those who knew him) devoted his life to birds, their study and protection. Among fellow birders, he was revered as a father of modern ornithology. It is not an exaggeration at all to call him one of the giants of 20th century ornithology and bird conservation," John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y., said in an interview.

Chan was born to be a birder. His father was a birder, and his brother, Samuel, also grew up to be a noted



ornithologist. He once said that his first conscious memory was of a display of mounted birds at the library in Belmont. So it came as no surprise that his life's journey took him into the field of ornithology and to the Service.

Chan received a bachelor's degree in physics from Harvard University in 1940 and later a master's degree in zoology from George Washington University. He began teaching math and science in Vermont. When World War II broke out, he declared himself a conscientious objector and joined the Civilian Public Service, work that eventually brought him to the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland.

Chandler joined the Service in 1945 as a junior biologist at Patuxent and for more than six decades worked there as an ornithologist. While his avian studies took him around the world, he worked primarily in the regional environs around Laurel and the D.C. area. In the 1950s, he documented the damage wrought by the pesticide DDT, including its thinning effect on osprey and eagle eggshells. Rachel Carson, a colleague at the time, relied on his research for her 1962 environmental manifesto "Silent Spring."

During his years of full-time work at Patuxent, Chandler made critical contributions to ornithological research in the areas of bird identification, bird banding, and bird surveys. His breeding bird surveys, in which trained citizen volunteers across the US and Canada count every bird seen or heard at stops along assigned routes allowed Chandler to draw attention to forest fragmentation caused by road construction and other development. He showed that when a forest is fragmented, species that dwell on the forest edge tend to grow, while those that thrive in the interior tend to decline.

He was senior editor of the “Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia” but was most well known as the principle author of “The Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification,” a bible for millions of birders. Unlike most earlier guides, this book first published in 1966 included a wealth of color images as well as maps of each bird’s breeding ground and migration path and a sonogram, or visual representation, of its call.

During his long career, Chan documented avian life around the world, including on the Pacific island of Midway, where in 1956 he tagged a young Laysan albatross that came to be known as Wisdom. He re-banded the same bird in 2002. She is now believed to be the oldest known wild bird, a matriarch who laid an egg as recently as December of 2016.

Chan has been credited with tagging more than 115,000 birds over the years of his professional career. When asked by the Baltimore Sun to name his favorite bird species, Chan immediately responded it was the house wren, a plain brown creature that he loved for its “amazingly high-pitched and intricate song.”



Chan formally retired in 2005, but became "Scientist Emeritus" at Patuxent and continued his field research until shortly before his death. The awards he received during his professional career until his retirement is too numerous to list here but they can be seen by clicking on the following link:

[groups that have honored him](#)

In spite of his renown, Chan was a humble down-to-earth man. Retiree Dave Klinger said that “What symbolized Chan Robbins most eloquently to me was his worn-out old pair of government binoculars. Dented, heavy as lead and beat to hell. I hope they go into a Fish and Wildlife Service museum



some day. He could have afforded the finest optics in the world, but he was comfortable with what he had. His acuity of eye and ear exceeded the powers of mere physics.” Chan’s wife of six decades, the former Eleanor Cooley, died in 2008. His survivors include four children (Jane, Nancy, Stuart and George); two grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

NCTC 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, October 16, 2017

Heritage Committee Arrives

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

All Day Heritage Committee Meeting
1:00PM Retirees & Guests Arrive
5:30PM Informal gathering in Commons Lounge
6:30PM Dinner
7:00PM Social Time in Lounge

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

6:30-8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Jay Slack, NCTC Director - Welcome and Remarks
10:00 AM Break
10:30 AM Engaging the Next Generation
11:45 PM Lunch
12:45 PM Tour of Antietam National Battlefield (board buses at Commons) **confirmed**

4:30 PM Free time
5:30-7:00 PM Dinner
7:30 PM USFWS Mini Film Festival and Art Show
9:00PM Campfire—Denny Holland Benches Dedication

Thursday, October 19, 2017

6:30-8:30 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Roosevelt Room Welcome
9:15 AM Keynote speaker Jim Kurth, Acting FWS Director. Heritage in the FWS” **confirmed**
10:00 AM Dedication of Gallery Room with FWS Art Collection, Jay Slack and Charlie Wooley, Deputy RD 3
10:30 AM Break
11:00 AM Green Panel in Roosevelt Room
12:00 PM Lunch
1:30 PM Museum and Archive and Museum Tours
2:30 PM Break
3:00 PM **“Bully”** - A play about Theodore Roosevelt starring Case Hicks in the Byrd Auditorium **confirmed**
5:30 PM Actor Reception
6:00-7:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Commons Lounge with music
Friday, October 20, 2017
6:30-8:30AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Shuttle to Dulles Airport

FWS RETIREES ASSOCIATION



Why join?

*Keep connected to USFWS, renew friendships,
make new friends with similar interests,
travel to unique wild places, and/or
do volunteer work for fish and wildlife conservation.¹*

Membership Application/Renewal/Update

Fill out and mail OR use online form and PayPal on our website at <http://www.fwsretirees.org/>

Please complete each section in **BLOCK LETTERS** using Black Ink

This is a: New Application ___ Renewal ___ Information Update ___ (CHECK ONE)

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email _____ @ _____

FWS Program (at retirement) _____

Office and Region _____ Retirement Date _____

YOUR INTEREST AREA(S), PLEASE CHECK:

- Heritage – oral and written histories, artifacts, photo records; celebrate station anniversaries
- Mentoring – youth activities, new employees;
- Communication - newsletter articles, web page, Friends Groups, members, current employees
- Membership – Regional captain, recruiting; marketing
- Travel with other members – national and international volunteer projects
- Reunion location – site selection, tours, program, auction, Walk for Wildlife

DUES (TAX DEDUCTIBLE): ___1-yr - \$25.00 ___2-yr - \$50.00 ___3-yr - \$75.00* ___5-yr - \$100 ___Lifetime - \$500

___ Get me in the database! I'm a new retiree! No dues needed!

___ Send a membership pin (one per member only)

**Make check payable to and mail completed applications to:
Treasurer, FWS Retirees Association, PO Box 27896, Panama City, FL. 32411**

A retiree is any person who worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
and has now retired, including their spouses or partners.

If you were caught up in a reorganization, retired from another agency, or took on a second career,
but still consider yourself part of the FWS family, you are an eligible retiree.

Among these are colleagues that were formerly in Research, Animal Damage Control,
or certain National Fish Hatcheries transferred to State operation

¹ By adding your name to the Retirees database, you will continue to enjoy FW News and Refuge Update and will receive announcements of other fun and rewarding Retirees activities. No dues are required to be added to the database. You will have voting membership privileges for one year. Dues are voluntary and support Association activities. We hope that you will join in the future!