



Fish and Wildlife Retiree Association

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012



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Reunion 2013 - Where and When

As announced in our April newsletter and consistent with desires expressed by members at Charleston, the Board is looking to Region 6 for our next reunion. Several venues are under consideration. Criteria for selection include convenience and cost of travel, a quality site that could accommodate 100 to 150 attendees at reasonable rates, interesting fish and /or wildlife attractions within a relatively short driving distance, and most importantly, something to entertain spouses who are not necessarily fish and wildlife devotees.

Currently we are considering the following:

The Denver Area. Side trips available include Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR and Leadville NFH (Leadville will be celebrating its 125th anniversary). There are other local attractions in and around Denver including Rocky Mountain National Park, the Denver aquarium, Denver Zoo and the lower downtown shopping area. Venues currently under consideration for the reunion with conference facilities and reasonable rates include Denver, and the Breckenridge and Vail resort areas.

The Salt Lake City Area. There is downtown Salt Lake City itself where nearby Bear River NWR, the Great Salt Lake, the University of Utah, Hogle Zoo, Temple Square, and other local attractions should be of interest to all. Also to be considered for the reunion site is the resort area of Park City, just a half-hour drive from downtown but with loads of recreational and touring opportunities.

Spearfish, South Dakota. The Spearfish area has a wide variety of attractions including the D.C. Booth NHFH, Devil's Tower in nearby Wyoming, Deadwood, the Badlands National Monument, Custer State Park (not the battlefield site), and Mount Rushmore, all within about 100 miles.

The Northwestern Montana Area. The Missoula-Kalispell area of Montana provides opportunities to visit the National Bison Range, Creston NFH, scenic Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park. In addition, Missoula is home to the University of Montana. This area would be a natural for

proposed presentations on wolf reintroduction and grizzly bear issues.

The Yellowstone-Grand Teton Area. Need we say more. The variety of attractions and wildlife-related viewing opportunities is unsurpassed. In addition to the two national parks, there is the National Elk Refuge, the Jackson NFH and the unique attractions of the town of Jackson (formerly Jackson Hole) itself. In addition to Jackson, possible venues include Billings or Bozeman, Montana or Cody, Wyoming. As with the northwestern Montana area, a reunion in this area would also lend itself to talks on wolves and grizzlies.

Weather in any of these areas is a consideration. We want to avoid the major vacation times (and crowds) but still enjoy pleasant weather. We are looking at a period from mid-September to mid-October but the actual dates will depend on site rates and availability. In the past, we have tried to keep the room rates at or as near to \$100 per night as possible and to have that rate include full breakfasts and other amenities. Travel costs also need to be considered. Flights into Denver and Salt Lake City from most parts of the country are generally cheaper and more convenient than flights to smaller cities but may be offset somewhat by the costs of lodging.

Before we can go any further, we want your input. What would be your preference for a reunion site? Where do you want to go? We can certainly investigate other possibilities if you have other suggestions. Are you willing to pay more to visit an area of greater interest or for a venue of superior quality and with more amenities?

To obtain answers to these questions and to hear any suggestions you have for other venues, we would appreciate your responses to the following questions:

1. Without regard for the costs of travel, which location do you prefer?
 - a. Denver, Breckenridge, or Vail
 - b. Salt Lake City or Park City
 - c. Spearfish area
 - d. Northwestern Montana area
 - e. Yellowstone/Grand Teton area
 - f. Other (Please name an alternative location)
2. Does the cost of travel preclude some areas and make it unlikely that you would attend a reunion in that area?
3. Assuming the reunion runs for 3 1/2 days on site, How much are you willing to pay for quality lodging (Cost will include breakfast)
 - a. \$100 per night
 - b. \$125 per night
 - c. More (how much more?)
4. Suggestions for panels and presentations (Describe)

We hope to nail down a reunion locale by the end of August in order to have time to negotiate times and prices. Please, provide your answers to the questions, and any additional comments or

suggestions to Bob Jacobsen (e-mail: rjacobsen@hughes.net) not later than August 15th.

Judy Pulliam Departs Board: Matt Perry Appointed

It is with sincere regret we announce that Judy Pulliam, elected Board Chairperson this year, has stepped down from the Board to spend time with her son who is battling a serious illness. Judy has spent several terms on the Board and has contributed greatly to the development of our Association. We wish her well and hope for the best for her and her son.

The Board appointed **Matt Perry** to fill Judy's unexpired term. Matt was the next highest vote-getter in our recent election of new members and is expected to be a valuable asset in moving the Association forward and contributing to Board efforts.

Renaming of the Noxubee NWR as the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR.



Hamilton Family and FWS Officials at Noxubee

Between 200 and 250 attendees celebrated the re-dedication of the refuge in honor of former FWS Director Sam Hamilton, who passed away last year. Included among the attendees were current Director Dan Ashe, Deputy Directors Rowan Gould and Greg Siekaniec, four Regional Directors, and representatives of various Congressional offices. Former Board member Denny Holland represented the Retirees Association, which was a major contributor to the festivities, having donated \$1,500. Other contributors included the refuge Friends group, Ducks Unlimited, the Wild Turkey Society, Mississippi State University, and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation (which is funding the cost of re-signing for the refuge). It is important to note that we received prominent acknowledgement from both the members of the Directorate and from the Hamilton family.

Agreement with the ICCF

On April 27th, the FWS Retirees Association signed a "Statement of Cooperation" with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) to provide technical assistance and advice in fish and wildlife management matters associated with conservation projects in various parts of the world. The ICCF is a non-profit foundation that works with the House of Representatives and the Senate, and with representatives of foreign governments and NGOs, to provide leadership from the United States in global conservation efforts. It is the strongest association of U.S. public and private sector representatives dedicated to international conservation and counts among its members many of the largest U.S. corporations and conservation groups. The ICCF has recently launched an effort which will mobilize teams of retired and employed U.S. conservation professionals to provide technical assistance to developing nations. The Retirees Association will be among those providing expertise and guidance on conservation efforts that promote sound management of land, water, and biodiversity throughout the world. The ICCF will facilitate the deployment of retirees to host countries requesting assistance. In some cases we will work in coordination with currently active FWS staff.

To begin, we need to gather a list of retirees who might be interested in participating in these efforts. The trips may be from two to four weeks in duration and travel and support is expected from ICCF. If you think you might be interested, please contact Bob Stevens at boblstevens@aol.com and let him know of your field(s) of expertise and any limitations you might have on work activities.

Agreement with NCTC

The Retirees Association has formalized a "Memorandum of Agreement" with the Fish and Wildlife Service Heritage Committee and the National Conservation Training Center that more clearly spells out the roles and relationships of the three parties. Key elements of the agreement are that the Association will work to encourage the preservation of historical documents and information in order to promote a more complete understanding of the heritage of the Service and that we will maintain a database of all retired FWS employees. In turn, NCTC will provide logistical support for the Association, maintain hardcopies of our files and records at NCTC, house the retirees database, and will periodically publish a directory of retired Fish and Wildlife Service employees, using the database as the source.

Dreams of Africa

Have you ever dreamt of going to Africa, but the thought of planning and actually taking such a journey proved to be a little overwhelming? Well, here is a chance for you to realize that dream but with all the planning done for you! Recently, Board member **Donna Stanek** accompanied a group of FWS folks - some retired and some not, on a photo safari to South Africa and Zimbabwe and had a wonderful time. While there, guide Joe Viljoen made an exclusive offer for FWS retirees and their spouses/partners/friends; an opportunity to volunteer at a game reserve in South Africa for two weeks in February 2013. Joe Viljoen is very active in the South African conservation

community. He recently spearheaded the coalition of a group of landowners in the Vredefort Dome to have the area established as a World Heritage Site. He also manages a 40,000 acre wildlife reserve of his own about 2 hours southwest of Johannesburg. Many of the wildlife reserves in South Africa are privately owned and are critical to the conservation and management of such species as lions, giraffes, buffalo, impala and many other species.



Typical scene at Chazen Wildlife Reserve.

Joe is offering FWS retirees an opportunity to volunteer their talents and expertise on his property. Projects may range from building lion viewing platforms and mending fences to possibly capturing wildlife for reintroduction and study purposes. The group would also go on an overnight trip to one of the country's premier national parks, Pilanesburg, and be able to participate in a number of wildlife observation opportunities (game drives) at Joe's place of Chazen. Joe is very familiar with FWS employees and the Service's conservation roles. For the past few years he has led photo safaris exclusively for FWS employees and retirees and does a wonderful job. Groups invariably see a lot of wildlife, learn a lot and have an overall enjoyable time!

The next trip will be the last two weeks of February 2013, the exact dates to be determined but most likely leaving on a Friday and returning on a Thursday. The trip is limited to 10 individuals and one member of each couple must be a FWS retiree. There is some moderate physical work and activity involved, especially for the small construction projects. The cost for the two week trip is **round trip airfare and \$2400** for 12 days, all inclusive. This is significantly less than what he normally charges for a trip. This includes lodging, food, beer and wine in moderation, transportation in-country, laundry services and usually a surprise or two. Some may want to take advantage of being in South Africa and take a side trip to Cape Town. If you are interested in going, please contact Donna Stanek at dstanek0418@hotmail.com. or at 505-917-2023. **Please let her know by August 15** if you want to go. She is coordinating the trip and, as soon as the group is confirmed, will be contacting participants with travel and payment details. The first payment of \$500 will be due the first of September and the first of each following month. Airfare is paid separately by each individual. If this pilot group is successful, he expects to offer two two-week

trips each February. Remember it will be summer there, why not escape the winter to South Africa?

Dedication of a Bronze Statue at the Fallen Comrades Memorial Wall

On May 2nd, a bronze statue and plaque was placed and dedicated in front of the Fallen Comrades Memorial Wall at NCTC. NCTC Director Jay Slack emceed the ceremony which was attended by FWS Director Dan Ashe, members of the Heritage Committee and NCTC staff. Former Board member Denny Holland, accompanied by his wife Kathy were there representing the Retirees Association. There was an event the evening prior and a reception for the attendees after the ceremony. Both Jay Slack and Dan Ashe recognized and thanked the Association which contributed significantly to the costs of the statue.



From left to right, Heritage Committee Chair Patrick Leonard, NCTC Museum Curator Jeanne Harold, Denny and Kathy Holland, NCTC Historian Mark Madison, NCTC Division Chief Steve Chase, FWS Director Dan Ashe, and NCTC Director Jay Slack

FAA Award to John Winship

Retired FWS employee John Winship was recently awarded the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award by the Federal Aviation Administration. This award honors pilots with a 50-year record of demonstrated professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise with **no** accidents, incidents, or violations of FAA regulations.

PayPal Now Available

Something new has been added to our website: the ability to initiate a Retirees Association membership or renew an existing membership using PayPal. Visit the site at FWSretirees.org and check it out. If your membership is coming due, try using PayPal for its renewal. You will receive an electronic receipt for your membership donation which, as you should know, is tax-deductible. However, if you prefer the old-fashioned way, you can still write a check and fill out the form provided at the end of this newsletter to sign up or renew. Either way, don't fail to join us and stay active. Remember, this is your Association.

Student Conservation Congress

The Retirees Association provided funds to NCTC from our Mentoring Grant account for a "Student Climate and Conservation Congress" that was held at NCTC the week of June 24th. Over 100 students from various parts of the country attended the Congress.



Student Climate and Conservation Congress
June 24 - 29, 2012



ES Stories from the Field: Did you "Save the Dirt"?

Anyone who has worked in Ecological Services (or River Basin Studies, Habitat Conservation, Environment, or whatever else we were once called in polite conversation, of which there was very little) knows how tough and completely thankless the job could be. ES work was, and to a great degree still is, viewed as reactive and negative. It is the nature of the job - to protect, preserve, and where possible, enhance fish, wildlife and their habitats in the face of development, especially water-related development. Developers, both public and private, are not particularly fond of being told "No" or that they have to modify their projects or incorporate costly mitigation features. Heaven forbid, we should mention enhancement. The political heat was often intense. Nevertheless, to save the dirt, sometimes the same acre of dirt over and over again, it was what we had to do. And our accomplishments were hard to quantify. We usually couldn't count acres restored, waterfowl use-days, fish produced, or the number of visitors accommodated. We did well to maintain the status quo and there was little recognition for that.

But, on occasion, we did manage to save some dirt, or water, or some listed species and make a positive contribution that permanently benefited other Fish and Wildlife Service Program goals. Board member Jim McKeivitt is attempting to document those kinds of accomplishments and would like to hear from you. Have you a story or two to tell of an instance where, in fulfilling your ES mission, you contributed positively and significantly to other FWS programs? An example might be the Annapolis ES office testifying extensively at a Federal Power Commission hearing in opposition to an FPC license for the Davis Power Project in West Virginia, a project that was fully supported by the Governor and the rest of the politicians in the state. End result: no license for the power project and clear sailing for the establishment of the Canaan Valley NWR, the last state in the

union that previously had none. Another example might be the Sacramento ES office getting the ear of Interior Secretary James Watt to inform him that his nine Sacramento Valley refuges had only 3,500 acre feet of firm water supply and that they had no choice but to use contaminated agricultural drainage to operate. That led to the Bureau of Reclamation and the ES Office undertaking a refuge water supply study and the provision in law of a permanent supply of firm water to all state and federal refuges in the valley, some 650,000 acre feet of clean water.

There are certainly many more stories of this type out there, stories just waiting to be told. We want to do it. If you have something to contribute, write up a short narrative and send it to Jim McKeivitt at jimmymac@usamedia.tv. It's time to toot our own horn and pat ourselves on the back for a job well done.

Other Happenings

- NCTC is developing a NWR Refuges Officer exhibit and is in need of some "tools of the trade" artifacts that retirees may be willing to part with. They are particularly interested in older uniform components including shoes, belts, hats, patches and the like-and info on the dates they were worn and the dates that changes were made. They also are looking for any photos of officers in uniform at work. Contact Mark Madison for more info at 1-800-553-9472, ext 7276 or e-mail him at Mark_Madison@fws.gov.

- Mark is also looking for retirees' Masters Theses and Doctoral Dissertations for the library at NCTC.

- The D.C. Booth National Historic Fish Hatchery & Archives, the Booth Society, Inc., and the Washington Office Fisheries Program Branch of Partnerships and Communications have initiated a book project on the history of the former Spearfish National Fish Hatchery, SD. The book will be published by Arcadia Press and is due on the shelf in June 2013. This project will be a photo-history of the facility which dates to the early 1890s. The Booth Society, Inc. will get the byline -- and the book royalties -- using about 180 historic images from the D.C. Booth Archives.

D.C. Booth was authorized by Congress in 1896 as the Spearfish Station of the U.S. Fish Commission to produce trout to stock the Black Hills and surrounding region. The first historic fisheries collections of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were sent to Spearfish in the late 1970s. A museum was opened in the original 1899 hatchery building in 1982. Visitor facilities were constructed in 1994, and in 1995, a 10,000 square foot collection management facility was constructed. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic places and annual visitation is approximately 155,000 visitors per year. The growing museum collection numbers about 175,000 items (15,000 objects and 160,000 pieces of archival material), and focuses on the history of fish culture, fisheries management, US Fish Commission, US Bureau of Fisheries, National Fish Hatchery System, and the overall history of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If the publication proves to be successful, books on other historic stations may follow. For additional info contact Carlos Martinez at 1-605-642-7730 or carlos_martinez@fws.gov

- The D.C. Booth NHFH has also been tasked with developing a newsletter for the Region 6 Fishery Resources Program. Distribution will be primarily to Fishery Resources Program offices but interested individuals can request to be on the mailing list by contacting Carlos Martinez at Carlos_Martinez@fws.gov or calling 1-605-642-7730.
- Member Robin Fields would like our readers to know that *The Wildlife Society* prepares a weekly news brief which she thinks is excellent. It is open to TWS members **and** non-members alike and it is free. It highlights wildlife, fisheries, habitat and related political matters, both national and international. One can subscribe at the Society's website at www.wildlife.org. Simply click on the publications dropdown menu at the top of the homepage and select news briefs.

Passing of Colleagues

Phillip Clover. Retiree Phil Clover lost his life following a recent traffic accident in northern Oklahoma. Phil, a World War II veteran, was employed as a Biological Technician at Salt Plains NWR from 1965 until his retirement in 1990. Phil was one of those valuable refuge employees who could accomplish almost any task given to him. At various times in his career he served as a farmer, welder, carpenter, mechanic, fire fighter, dozer operator, and law enforcement officer. In his more traditional role of Biological Technician, he carried out weekly waterfowl surveys, annual deer surveys, nesting surveys, and assisted in banding thousands of waterfowl every winter. Every crew needs a Phil Clover to make sure the job gets done.

Warren Diffendall. Retired Agent Warren Diffendall passed away in December 2011. He was 90 years old. He spent most of his working career in the northeast part of the US, mainly in New Jersey and Connecticut.

Arlan R. Jacoby. Arlan Jacoby passed away on June 2, 2012 in Portland, Oregon. Arlan worked as a supervisory appraiser for the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in Portland. Arlan was born March 15, 1949 in Windsor, Colorado where he attended high school. Following high school, Arlan pursued his higher education at Colorado State University. He received his Bachelors degree in Forest Management in 1971. He retired from the Service in 2007 and is survived by his wife, Judee, also a career Fish and Wildlife Service employee, by his three children and by his brother.

Cathy McMinn. Cathy McMinn passed away on April 15, 2012 in Olympia, Washington with her husband and daughter at her side.

Bill Myer. Bill died at age 65 in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 8, 2012, surrounded by his family. Bill spent his entire life in service to others. He was one of the first VISTA volunteers in the mid 1960s, serving on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and in rural Missouri. He was proudest of his work with the Oglala Sioux in a successful project to reestablish tribal elk and buffalo herds. He had a thirty five year career with the federal government, most of it in management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington DC and in Albuquerque with the Peace Corps and VISTA. He served as Associate Peace Corps Director in Ghana and most recently was Peace Corps Director in Turkmenistan. He had a BS in conservation biology from Kent State University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. Bill is survived by his wife of thirty three years, Amelia (Mellie) and two daughters, Caroline (Callie) and Emily. His niece Ann Myer Ericson of Santa Fe and her family brought special joy to his life in his last few years

Vance Zook. Vance Zook passed away in Bowie, Maryland, just two weeks short of his 91st birthday. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Florence, and by five sons and three daughters.

Membership Application/Renewal

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mail Address: _____

City: _____ - State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail _____

FWS Program(at retirement) _____ Title _____

Office and Region _____

Memberships (Tax deductible): _____ 1-year - \$25.00 _____ 2-year - \$50.00 _____ 3-year - \$75.00* _____ Lifetime - \$500
 (* why not just round it off at \$100: after all, its a worthy and tax deductible cause)

Make check payable to and mail completed applications to:

Treasurer, FWS Retirees Association, 457 Wendell Rd., Shutesbury, MA. 01072-9714

For more information or assistance, e-mail Steve Rideout at sgrideout@verizon.net or phone Steve at 1-413-259-9123