

FWS Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER



July 2018

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Oregon Reunion – A Great Success.

The gathering of retirees and active FWS personnel in Lincoln City on the scenic Oregon coast has come and gone but if you were one of the 100 plus retirees or the 30 plus active Service members who were there (attendee list at the end of this newsletter),



you know it was one of our better reunions. Much of the credit for that goes to Robin Thorson and the Region 1 people who worked so hard on the agenda and with the presentations that kept us all in rapt attention. They also took charge in guiding us on exceptional field tours highlighting the incredible natural resources of the Pacific coast and nearby wildlife features. **Thank You, Region 1!!** There's not enough room here to adequately describe all the highlights of this reunion. We had talks from the experts on salmon restoration and bull trout re-introduction efforts and successes, expansion of grey wolf populations and its attendant problems, on how wild horse removal from refuge lands has improved habitat for other species, and an update on Malheur NWR since the end of the takeover. We had an intriguing introduction to resource issues in the Pacific Islands and, closer to home, protection and recovery

efforts for sea turtles on the Oregon coast. We heard from Jim Kurth on what's happening in D.C. and from Robin on Region 1 issues. We heard from Jessica Klement of NARFE on legislative efforts that could profoundly affect retirement benefits, both for those already retired and those still in government service.

Of course, we didn't spend the week indoors. From our dinner tables after the Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife, we were treated to a wonderful display of whales breaching in the near coast. One show-off alone breached over a dozen times as we watched. And on our tours, many of us watched as a pair of bald eagles took to scattering a colony of thousands of nesting common murrelets from a nearshore rock, much to the delight of the local gulls who had hoped to plunder the now-deserted colony site. They were disappointed: too early in the season.

A note about the Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife. This year, the Walk raised \$700 for the Friends of Haystack Rock NWR which will help them purchase much needed transmitters for puffin studies. This is the fifth location where the Association has made a donation to show the local Friends group our appreciation for their efforts.

Finally, our banquet speaker, Jim Martin, got us all worked up with his talk about the activism of Teddy Roosevelt on behalf of the conservation and preservation of large swaths of our nation's national resource heritage in the face of Washington politics and special interests. He reminded us, no, he challenged us to continue to speak out for fish and wildlife as the job is never done and the assault on those resources that we spent our careers managing and protecting continues unabated. If we don't do it, who will?

Fall 2019 Reunion.

We have not yet begun any serious planning for a retiree reunion in the fall of 2019 but now that this year's reunion is a thing of the past, we will get cracking on a Chesapeake Bay Reunion. We are focusing on the Annapolis, Maryland area which offers relatively easy airport access from both BWI and Washington National airports and which has a multitude of possible venues for our group. Annapolis is also within easy driving distance from numerous resource attractions, both on the eastern shore and on the mainland.

We're looking at an October – early November 2019 timeframe and would like 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?

Travel & Leisure

Early Alert: Southeastern Texas Coastal Birding Trip Planned for April 2019. In case you didn't know, the Association has formed a Travel Committee (in fact two committees; one for domestic adventures and one for travel outside the continental U.S.

John Gallegos of the domestic travel group has informed us that they are working on a fun outing for April 2019. It is still in the planning stage so all the details have yet to be completed. More info will be provided when they ascertain the level of interest from among you. **There is a flyer at the back of this newsletter** with info on what is currently on the docket. Please read and, if you have any interest or questions, get in touch with John or any of his planning team.

Costa Rica 2019. Those interested in international travel have chosen to go birding in Costa Rica in April 2019 and are using Road Scholar to organize and lead the trip. It was FULL 2 days after the announcement went out! Big thank you to Sandy Tucker for finding this option for us and coordinating. All on trip will be FWS retirees or spouses.

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 issues you believe we should become more deeply involved in, let us know.

New Opinion on the Incidental Take of Migratory Birds. In our last newsletter, we reported on a December 22, 2017, Interior Solicitor's opinion that the "incidental" take of migratory birds in an otherwise lawful action does not constitute a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This reverses opinions going back nearly 100 years and means that now only the purposeful killing or take of migratory birds is illegal. It removes any incentive for project developers to take any measures whatsoever to prevent the incidental mortality of migratory birds caused by their actions. It also makes it more difficult to enforce waterfowl hunting regulations since violators can now claim they accidentally shot a duck or goose while shooting at a non-regulated species.

To put this all in perspective, power lines are estimated to kill 175 million birds each year, communication towers 50 million, oil waste pits one million and wind farms over 500 thousand. Many of these losses are reasonably preventable.

The Association's Board of Directors has released the following Alert and distributed it to all in our database, asking our members to take individual actions to prevent this blatant misinterpretation of a keystone of environmental law:

The FWS Retirees Association Board of Directors urgently requests members and friends consideration of the following Issue!

Issue: Reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act limiting its Conservation Value

One hundred years ago, Congress passed one of the earliest and most consequential conservation laws, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 implementing the first of four bilateral treaties and establishing Federal authority to regulate "take" of birds. Its language was, and remains, clear and straightforward: Unless an individual has a valid permit, "it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means, or in any manner" to "hunt, take, capture [or] kill" migratory birds.

It had been clear and straightforward for 100 years, but now under a new, precedent setting DOI Solicitor's Opinion (dated Dec. 22, 2017), the prohibitions on "take" have been dramatically and substantially limited to only killings when "the actor [is] engaged in an activity the object of which was to render an animal subject to human control. This contrived new standard is contrary to every other previous Administration's interpretation of the law. It means that the MBTA will not be useful in reducing the killing of migratory birds associated oil spills, oil pits, wind turbines, electric lines, commercial fishing and so many other commercial and personal activities that are known to kill large numbers of birds and for which there are reasonable measures that can be used to reduce the deaths. It essentially reduces the MBTA to a bird hunting statute.

The MBTA implements international treaties ratified by the U.S. Senate. Any Administration action that would affect the MBTA should have been done only after consultation with Canada, Mexico, Russia and Japan, and the U.S. Senate

In an unprecedented show of solidarity opposing this new interpretation, former career FWS professionals responsible for administering the MBTA, joined with former political leaders from FWS and DOI, republican and democrat, representing every Administration dating back to the 1970's, signed a letter to Secretary Ryan Zinke on January 10, 2018 expressing strong opposition to this ill-conceived limitation of one of America's most important and effective conservation laws. To date, this coalition of leaders has not received a response to this letter.

This important roll-back of the MBTA has been the subject of public and media outcry over the past few months including national newspapers such as NYTimes, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, as well as local newspapers throughout the country, and other media such as National Public Radio.

On April 11, 2018, DOI released a memorandum providing guidance on how FWS policies and practices would be modified to ensure consistency with the new “M-opinion”. The memo states that “We interpret the M-opinion to mean that the MBTA’s prohibitions on take apply when the purpose of an action is to take migratory birds, their eggs, or their nests. Conversely, the take of birds, eggs or nests occurring as the result of an activity, the purpose of which is not to take birds, eggs or nests, is not prohibited by the MBTA.” It provides examples of situations that would or would not be covered under the current interpretation.

State Response

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is compiling laws and regulations from all 50 states to evaluate how the reinterpretation of the MBTA will influence states’ abilities to fulfil their mandates to conserve and manage migratory birds. AFWA anticipates a release of this report in September 2018.

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sent a letter on June 28 to Secretary Zinke expressing concern about actions to weaken the intent of MBTA. MAFWA asks Zinke to “revisit the M-opinion that reinterprets the MBTA as not pertaining to the “incidental take” of migratory birds” and states that “this opinion diminishes the States’ ability to work with multiple partners in the conservation community, industry, and others to reduce losses of birds.”

A bill has passed in the House in California that fills the gaps left by the M-opinion, and the bill is expected to pass the CA Senate as well.

There are Congressional actions being pursued to deal with this issue from several perspectives. Some members of Congress (lead by Representative Cheney from Wyoming) have attempted to insert amendment language that would put this narrow interpretation of the MBTA in statute, while other members (62) have signed a letter to Secretary Zinke expressing concerns for this new legal opinion and the House Natural Resources Committee is considering legislation that would reestablish the longstanding interpretation in statute.

Needed Retiree’s Action

The FWS Retirees Association, a membership organization, comprised of retired, career natural resource science, conservation and management professionals, strongly objects to the Administration’s

action, and to any attempts to ratify these changes by the US. Congress.

As the MBTA is one of the most important foundation laws protecting wildlife, the Association urges all members to express your concern and objection to this new legal interpretation to both Secretary Zinke and your Members of Congress, House and Senate.

House Passes Bill to Overhaul Fishery Management Law.

On July 11th, the House of Representatives by a narrow (222-193) margin passed controversial legislation to overhaul how the federal government manages the nation’s fisheries. It would significantly revise decades old management law that has been effective in improving fish stocks by establishing seasons and limits on catch and on fishing practices. Under the Republican-backed measure, local fishery councils would have greater authority over fishing standards and over limits. It would also loosen the timelines for species recovery and let the local councils determine how to measure the health of a fishery. The proposed changes are generally endorsed by some recreational fishing groups but opposed by conservationists and major commercial fishing organizations who are afraid that it would ultimately lead to depletion of certain stocks. "I'm proud to say that my bill protects our commercial and recreational fisheries' interests and allow councils to do their jobs in a more streamlined and effective manner," Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), the bill's sponsor, said on the House floor. While recognizing the effectiveness of existing law and practices, he said the changes would ensure sustainable yields of fish for local coastal communities by allowing the local stakeholders to be part of the management of fisheries. Others, however, fear that too much local control could result in decisions that would promote local benefits and economics at the expense of the long-term and more widespread needs of coastal stocks.

Does the “tragedy of the commons” sound familiar?

Republicans Move to Weaken ESA. In an attempt to fulfill a campaign promise by Donald Trump, the Republican-led Congress has introduced legislation that would greatly weaken the Endangered Species Act, the landmark environmental law that for 45 years has protected species on the brink of extinction and led to the recovery of many iconic wildlife species.

On July 17th, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee began consideration of legislation introduced by Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) that would make it easier to remove species from the list of protected ones. The proposal also makes changes that would speed the approval process that federal agencies are required to complete before making changes that could harm endangered species, and would weaken protections for critical habitat. It would also effectively require tailored, potentially

narrower, protections for species listed as “threatened”, rather than extending to those species the same broad protections applied to “endangered” species.

The proposed legislation would also bestow more powers and responsibilities to state officials, allowing them to determine how animals and plants should be protected within state lines.

And, most importantly, the proposed changes would make it a requirement to include economic considerations in deciding whether to list a species as threatened or endangered. Currently, such decisions are based only on the status of the species and its degree of imperilment.

“We are proposing these improvements to produce the best conservation results for the species while reducing the regulatory burden on the American people,” Greg Sheehan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s principal deputy director, said in a statement. “One thing we heard over and over again was that ESA implementation was not consistent and often times very confusing to navigate.”

“We hope they ameliorate some of the unnecessary burden, conflict, and uncertainty that is within our current regulatory structure,” Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt told reporters.

The environmental community and congressional Democrats are not buying it.

In separate effort to placate development interests by helping them to avoid entanglement with ESA regulations, Republicans have included provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act that would weaken certain endangered species protections. One of these, submitted by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), would prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from being able to list the greater sage-grouse and the lesser prairie chicken as endangered species for 10 years. We have reported on the efforts to protect these iconic western species in the past and on efforts by the Trump administration to negate the years-long of successful effort to reach agreement with all affected interests on their conservation in the face of development.

Another provision that Republicans want to include would delist gray wolves found near the Great Lakes and Wyoming, while another amendment would block ESA protections for all gray wolves in the continental U.S.

On July 17th, 119 House Democrats sent a letter to various lawmakers in both chambers urging them to remove these provisions. “The 2019 Defense Authorization bills contain numerous, controversial, anti-environmental provisions that are unrelated to military readiness,” the lawmakers wrote. “These deceptive provisions would cause irreparable harm to our wildlife and public lands”. . . .”Decisions about how to protect species under the ESA should be based on

science and made by the experts at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, not Congress,” Democrats wrote.

And the Department of Defense at first seemed to agree. In a brief statement provided on July 18th, the Department indicated the provision “is not necessary to protect military testing and training” and urged its exclusion from the bill being negotiated by House and Senate leaders. However, one day later on July 19th in an e-mail from the Department’s legislative affairs office, they reversed that position and stated that the provision could help their military readiness by avoiding any potential negative effects from species listing. Guess someone had their chain pulled.

Cause of Bald Eagle Deaths Confirmed. We reported on the deaths of 13 federally-protected bald eagles in a field on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in May 2016. Six of the bald eagles were sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, which determined that all had Carbofuran, a long-outlawed pesticide, in their systems. A raccoon carcass found in the field with the eagles had also been analyzed at Ashland and it too was contaminated with Carbofuran. Five of the six eagles were determined to have fed on the raccoon.

Carbofuran is a very powerful and acute toxin that can kill after a very small, single dose. The chemical came under scrutiny over 30 years ago for killing millions of birds each year. The granular form of Carbofuran was banned in the mid-1990s while the liquid form continued to be allowed on crops until 2009. In either form, it was generally used as a rodenticide in agricultural areas to kill animals that feed upon crops. It was also used to kill predators by lacing carcasses on which the predator might feed. However, it also posed imminent threats to non-target species.

Today, the pesticide is off the market but old stocks may still remain or it can be obtained from other countries where it has not been banned. Consequently, it still occasionally kills birds and other wildlife in the United States. Sometimes those deaths are intentional and sometimes they are collateral damage after an animal scavenges a poisoned carcass.

Killing just one bald eagle is punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. However, it is extremely difficult to prove culpability. Birds may be found dead in one area after being exposed to the poison elsewhere. In this case, FWS Special Agent John LaCorte spent months interviewing more than a dozen property owners in the vicinity and came up empty.

But even if eagles weren’t the targets, someone illegally used the Carbofuran, and in doing so added a particularly egregious case to what LaCorte called an “epidemic on the Eastern Shore” of wildlife-poisoning crimes. Another 2016 case in which five bald eagles were poisoned in Delaware remains under investigation, officials said.

Isle Royale Wolf Reintroduction. The iconic wolf population on Michigan’s Isle Royale on the western edge of Lake Superior was once the stuff of ecological legend. The balance between the wolves and moose populations on the relatively undisturbed (by humans) ecosystem made it a key location for ecological research, both prior to and after the initial wolf reintroduction.

But in 1982, a sick domestic dog on the island triggered an ecological disaster that decimated the wolf population. Since then, the number of wolves on the island plummeted from a healthy 50 wolves to just two individuals and moose numbers, once held in check by the wolves, soared to the point that they were destroying their own habitat.

This year however, the National Park Service is set to reintroduce more than two dozen wolves to Isle Royale in an attempt to restore the natural balance between predator and prey. Hopefully, all will go well and Isle Royale will once again be an ecological showcase.

Wyoming Grizzly Hunt. In late May, the state of Wyoming announced that it will allow grizzly bear hunts for the first time in 44 years.

In a unanimous vote, the state's Fish and Game Commission approved the hunting of 22 grizzly bears this coming fall, in areas east and south of the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. This decision comes less than a year after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed Yellowstone grizzly bears from the federal Endangered Species list. They had been on the protected list for over 42 years and in that time their numbers increased from 136 bears in 1975 to an estimated 700 individuals. In our article in the October 2017 newsletter on this subject, we emphasized that, while de-listing at that time may be appropriate, the real challenge will be the development and enforcement of management plans by the states. Failure to closely monitor and take necessary actions to prevent their subsequent decline in the future could lead to re-listing and renewed federal oversight of this iconic species.

Many environmentalists say that although the species' numbers grew while listed as endangered, the bears continue to be threatened due to loss of food sources and human-caused mortalities. Some feel they need greater, not less protection. Mirroring those feelings, the Commission received more than 185,000 comments opposing the proposed hunt. Nevertheless, the Commission emphasized that they shaped the plan around public input and are taking a “conservative” approach to regulating the new hunting season.

Only time will tell.

Ole Griz in the North Cascades? Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke stunned environmentalists this spring when he announced his support for grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades ecosystem.

“The grizzly bear is part of the environment, as it once was here. It is part of a healthy environment,” he said, effectively reigniting an Obama-era grizzly recovery study that was halted early during the Trump administration.

Cattlemen were incensed, stating they have already faced too much carnage from the return of the wolf to Washington. But Zinke said he is convinced that wildlife professionals can “get it right,” and deliver an environmental-impact statement and record of decision by the end of the year under which the federal government will return the grizzly bear to its primordial home in the North Cascades.

Zinke said the process would take the concerns of public safety and the worries of cattlemen into account with a decision that would manage the numbers of grizzly bears returning to their mountain redoubt, a sprawling wilderness where the bear is at risk of local extinction.

Agriculture’s Wildlife Services Faulted by the Court. In late June, a U.S. District Court ruled that the Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services Division’s justification for killing thousands of animals in Idaho was “not convincing and objective” because it failed to take “the required ‘hard look’ at concerns” raised by others, including sister government agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the potential harm to the environment. Wildlife Services at one time was the Division of Animal Damage Control within the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The decision by Chief District Judge B. Lynn Winmill could have a broader impact on Wildlife Services than just in Idaho. Nationwide, Wildlife Services removes and kills millions of animals each year. Coyotes, wolves, grizzly bears, beavers, blackbirds, mountain lions, foxes and a wide range of others identified as nuisance animals are slain on behalf of ranchers, farmers, homeowners and airport operators — actions that are routinely challenged by environmentalists.

Winmill agreed with a suit brought by the Western Watersheds Project, the Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians and Predator Defense, which argued that Wildlife Services gave itself broad authority to destroy native predators in Idaho without conducting a scientific review of how such kills would affect the ecosystem. The court said officials dismissed concerns even when other agencies charged with environmental conservation — the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Idaho Department of Fish and Game — said the rationale given “was not an objective analysis of the environmental impacts.”

“The criticisms ... make this a unique case,” Winmill said. “It is rare for the court to encounter such unanimity of critical comments from other agencies.”

Under federal law, “an agency may use a convincing and objective analysis to reject criticisms and refuse to prepare a full environmental impact statement,” he said. “But that was not done here.”

As a result, Winmill found “Wildlife Services acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner.” Instead of issuing a final judgment, he ordered the division to work with the plaintiffs to establish a method for determining the impact of its animal control operations. The court will oversee that future negotiation. They will now have to fairly evaluate how killing thousands of coyotes in southern Idaho each year affects the environment.”

Most professionals acknowledge that Wildlife Services has a role in wildlife management but are concerned over the indiscriminate use of lethal methods. For example, the agency routinely declines to divulge information on where and how much poison is released into the environment and how many non-target species, including pets and imperiled or protected species are killed. With millions of animals killed nationwide each year, it is imperative to adequately study the broad environmental consequences of their operations and to revise their damage control methods to reflect the best scientifically documented control procedures.

Nevada Men Plead Guilty to ESA Violation. A Nevada man pleaded guilty in July in federal court in Las Vegas to multiple violations of the Endangered Species Act after he rammed his ATV into a gate at the Ashe Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and harmed the federally protected Devils Hole pupfish. The man also destroyed surveillance cameras and fired a gun at the gate. In addition to the ESA violations, he also pleaded guilty to destroying U.S. property and being a felon in possession of a firearm. All this all happened in April 2016 in the Amargosa Valley along the Nevada-California line, about 80 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

After failing to break through the gate at the enclosed area at Devils Hole, prosecutors say Nevada resident Trenton Sargent and two co-defendants scaled the fence and destroyed a sensor center for cameras and equipment, along with a National Park Service video surveillance camera.

Sargent said he then stepped into the water of Devils Hole, smashing fish eggs and larvae during the peak spawning season for the endangered pupfish, who lay their eggs on the shallow shelf there. It's the only place in the world known to still be inhabited by the rare species related to fish that once lived in an ancient lake covering Death Valley.

Violating the Endangered Species Act is a misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of up to a year in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Each of the other crimes, both felonies, are punishable by up to 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine. Sargent is scheduled to be sentenced in October.

His co-defendants previously pleaded guilty to destruction of government property and a violation of the Endangered Species Act. Each was sentenced to one year's probation.

Florida and FWS Resolve Stand-off over Everglades Refuge.

We reported earlier about a row between the Service and the South Florida Water Management District over the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The Service operates the refuge under a lease with the District and they threatened to cancel the lease, ostensibly because the Service had failed to control an invasive climbing fern on the refuge, a plant that had overrun much of the state. More likely, the District wanted to return the 144,000 refuge to state control because they had been unable to meet water quality standards for water it discharges onto the refuge and thought that would get them off the hook.

The threat infuriated environmentalists and over 67,000 letters were sent to Governor Rick Scott objecting to the prospect of loss of the federal refuge. Even former Assistant Secretary of Interior Nat Reed got involved.

Now however, a new District director has come to agreement with the Service. In March 2018, the Service and District solved two thorny problems: a land swap the district needed to expand a marsh to clean water and the Service getting a new 20-year lease after finalizing the land swap, thus ending the two-year old dispute. The refuge lease hinges on the Service's efforts to control the fern and other invasive plants rather than performance measures included in the former lease. For every year the Service spends above a minimum \$1.25 million, the lease gets extended a year. If spending falls short, a year is subtracted, meaning the lease could end after 10 years.

Miscellaneous.

Nathaniel P. Reed Dies after a Fall. Former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel (Nat) Reed passed away



in Quebec, Canada, on July 11, 2018, the result of an injury suffered in a fall a week earlier. He had slipped on rocks and hit his head shortly after landing a 16 pound salmon on the Grand Cascapedia River, one of his favorite streams. He never regained consciousness. Nat would have been 85 on July 22nd. His son, Adrian, said his

dad died doing one of the things he loved most.

A native Floridian from a wealthy and influential family, Nat grew up on his family landholdings on Florida's Jupiter Island and in Connecticut. From an early age he developed his keen sense of love and respect for the natural world,

fishing in Hobe Sound and along the Indian River and canoeing in the Everglades, a love that shaped his entire life and career, and led him to become one of the founders of the modern conservation movement.

After graduating from Trinity College in Connecticut in 1955, Nat served in the Air Force in Europe, the mid-East, and North Africa. In the 1960s, Nat was enlisted as Environmental Advisor to then Florida Governor Claude Kirk and was instrumental in blocking construction of what would have been the world's largest jetport but one that would have destroyed much of the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp. He also spoke out loudly on the environmental dangers of DDT and was able to effect a ban on the use of 10-80, an insidious poison that kills as many non-target species as problem predators.

In 1971, Nat was appointed Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, a position he held until 1977 under both Presidents Nixon and Ford. During that time, he worked closely with Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to preserve more than 100 million of parks and wildlife refuges in Alaska. He is also credited with helping craft the legislative language and garnering support for the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the amendments to the Clean Water Act.

Nat later returned to Florida and continued his efforts to protect the resources of his beloved home state. He founded the powerful 1,000 Friends of Florida group that seeks to manage growth in the state and helped lead the Everglades Foundation and the Florida Conservation Coalition. In 2014, Nat was given the Arthur Marshall Foundation annual "Champion of the Everglades" award. He also served on the boards of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Geographic Society and Yellowstone National Park.

In his autobiography published in 2016, Nat expressed hope that the country might return to bipartisan cooperation for the environment's sake. "I have seen how things can and should work and I hold faith that we may find such alliances again. We must because we can never, never give up the battle," he wrote. "Too much is at stake."

After his death, Nat's son, Adrian, asked that his father be remembered as a "fighter at his core, that he felt allowing despoliation of the environment to be a real and unacceptable sin." He added "Our family hopes that he will continue to inspire many more generations of Americans to stand up to powerful, seemingly invincible forces of greed and corruption."

Nat is survived by his loving wife Alita, their sons Nat Jr. and Adrian, and their daughter Lia, and five grandchildren.

Trump Pardons the Hammonds. On July 10th, President Donald Trump pardoned Dwight Hammond and his son, Steven, both of whom had been serving a five-year sentence

for arson on federal land. It was their sentencing that directly led to the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016.

The Hammonds had originally been sentenced in 2012 but served only a short portion of that sentence before being released. However, a federal appeals court ruled that they should be returned to prison to serve out the remainder of their terms. The Hammonds, who have a long history of conflict with the government over control of grazing on federal lands, re-entered prison in January 2016. The court's ruling set off a wave of anti-government protests that culminated later that month in the occupation of Malheur NWR by armed militiamen, led by Aamon and Ryan Bundy, sons of Cliven Bundy, a Nevada rancher who was himself facing federal charges for an armed stand-off with federal authorities over government land management policies. By issuing the pardons, Trump shows that, at least in this case, he sides with the ranchers in the battle over control of federal lands.

Death of a Region One Employee. On June 29th, Regional Director Robyn Thorson announced the sudden death of active FWS employee Richard Glenn, a microbiologist at the Abernathy Fish Technology Center. He died while on June 21st while jogging during a work break at the center. He was discovered by fellow employees laying on his back, unconscious, on the road. Despite heroic efforts of these staff, and by EMTs, he never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead on the scene.

Richard was 47 and had been a Service employee for nearly 19 years. He leaves his wife, Nicole, and four children, the youngest still in high school. A memorial service was held on June 30th with the Fish and Wildlife Service Honor Guard present. Our condolences to the Glenn family and to the staff at Abernathy.

Bear Attack on FWS Biologist. An FWS wildlife biologist who only shortly before landed her dream job researching grizzly bears in Montana is recovering from a bear attack that left her with a fractured skull and other serious injuries.

Amber Kornak, a seasonal field assistant, was attacked on May 17 while working alone near a stream in the Cabinet Mountains, agency spokeswoman Jennifer Strickland said. While being mauled, the 28-year-old Kornak managed to reach a canister of Mace-like bear spray and ended the attack. She then walked to her work vehicle and drove herself to find help, according to Strickland.

A gutsy performance! Here's to your good health, Amber.

Postal Service Retirees to be Forced into Medicare. U.S. Postal Service annuitants would be forced to enroll in Medicare parts A, B, and D in order to retain their Federal Employee Health Benefits Program coverage if a bipartisan bill passes Congress. The bill would cover both current

Postal retirees as well as any future retirees. The Postal Service Reform Act of 2018, introduced March 23, has received mixed reviews from advocates for federal employees who fear other government workers might one day also be impacted.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) president Richard G. Thissen called the bill an attempt to “balance the books of the United States Postal Service on the backs of postal retirees.”

A retiree may have to pay another \$1,600 or more per year in Medicare premiums, according to Thissen. “A Postal Service Medicare eligible annuitant subject to this section may not continue coverage under the Postal Service Health Benefits Program unless the Postal Service Medicare eligible annuitant enrolls in Medicare part A, Medicare part B and Medicare part D,” the bill said. It is also unclear whether current Postal Service health benefits program annuitants would also be forced to pay the ten percent per year penalty for every year they did not enroll in Medicare after they were eligible.

This legislation, if enacted, may be a pre-cursor to forcing all Federal Employee Health Benefits Program annuitants to enroll in Medicare.

Proposed Government Reorganization – Moving OPM Functions to GSA. The Senate Sub-committee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management held a hearing in late July on “The Challenges and Opportunities of the Proposed Government Reorganization on OPM and GSA” at which the Director of OPM and the Administrator of GSA were witnesses. Part of the reorganization proposed by the Trump administration is to transfer many OPM functions to GSA. These would include responsibility for federal retirement services and the administration of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program. OPM would retain control of worker compensation, workplace supply and demand, and worker skills training. Personnel Policy would be handed over to the Executive Office of the President. This latter proposal is the most threatening of all and could herald a return to the politicization of the Civil Service and the old and corrupt “spoils system”.

On July 25, NARFE sent a letter to the Sub-committee expressing those concerns. The following is a link to that letter: Hit CTRL on your computer and click on the link.

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/1M6KtMcJ69oQ7Gn3r-cww>

Executive Orders Alter Civil Service Protections. In late May, President Trump issued a series of executive orders that greatly alter current civil service procedures in a major step at overhauling the federal bureaucracy. One of the orders makes it easier to fire federal government workers, ostensibly to remove “poor performing”

employees and make government more efficient and responsive to the public”. This expands on legislation that Congress passed last year to bring more accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Whether that is good or bad depends on who interprets what constitutes poor performance

Another executive order sharply curtails the amount of time federal employees can be paid for union work. Unions representing government workers were quick to denounce the actions, calling them an “assault on democracy,” in the words of the American Federation of Government Employees, the largest federal employee union, which represents 700,000 workers from among the two million Civil Service employees in federal service. They see it as an attempt to strip federal employees of their decades-old right to representation at the worksite. Many experts on the Civil Service concur.

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.

Grady Eugene Hocutt (1934 – 2018). Grady Hocutt, or Gene as he liked to be called, died at the age of 83 in Aurora, New York, on April 2, 2018.

A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Gene earned Master’s degrees in psychology and biology at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Gene also served two years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 1970, Gene joined the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife refuge manager. He managed several refuges across the United States before settling in 1977 at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, from which he retired in April 1997.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Gilda M. Hocutt; his daughter, Sara Beth H. Stewart; and his grandson, Kyle Stewart.

A “celebration of life” for Gene was held on May 12, 2018, at the Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, New York.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of Montezuma Wetlands Complex, C/O Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, 3395 US Route 20, Seneca Falls, NY 13148.

Darlye R. Lons. We were informed that retiree Darlye Lons passed away on June 19th of this year of complications from a stroke. No obituary for Darlye has been found but the following information has been gleaned from messages from former colleagues Greg Siekaniec in Alaska and Scott Kahan in the Northeast Regional Office.

Darlye worked in Alaska from the mid-1980s until 2008 during which time he served, among other positions, as Refuge Manager for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Following that, he moved to Region 5 and served as a refuge supervisor in the Division of Wildlife Refuges.

In Alaska, Daryle worked with the regional solicitor's office in the mid-90s to create commercial use regulations that we still use today. He shepherded the refuges' 2006 Comprehensive Conservation Plan to completion and his expertise in management of commercial services greatly benefited all refuges in the Region. Daryle also was adept at management of facilities, among other improvements during his tenure, he secured a new high quality office building for the Fisheries Office and Alaska Peninsula-Becharof NWR; replacing overcrowded and out-of-date facilities.

In Region 5, He was regional supervisor overseeing the National Wildlife Refuges in the southern portion of the region.

In both regions, Daryle was known as a true professional, devoted to the refuges under his supervision and to their enjoyment by the public

Darlye's son, Travis Lons, said that they are still working out plans for a memorial/service this fall.

Harvey W. Miller (1928 – 2018). Harvey Miller passed away peacefully on July 10, 2018, at age 90, at Willow Tree Care Center in Delta, Colorado.



Harvey was born on February 10, 1928, in Pierce, Nebraska, the first child of Ezra and Hattie Miller. He attended Pierce schools, graduated high school there in 1945, and worked for several summers in Yellowstone National Park.

Harvey attended one semester at the University of Nebraska but then joined the Navy in 1946. He was discharged in

1947 and returned to his college studies.

Harvey married Margaret Williams of Norfolk, Nebraska, on Sept. 19, 1948. They made their home in Fort Collins, Colorado, until 1950 when Harvey earned his degree in forestry from what is now Colorado State University.

Harvey started his lifelong career in wildlife biology with the Game and Fish Commission of Nebraska working as a game warden and biologist in Ogallala and Bassett, Nebraska. He worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in Madison, Wisconsin; was manager of a National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Andes, South Dakota; was one of the first

employees at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, North Dakota; served as Central Flyway Coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakewood, Colorado; and ended his career in Lubbock, Texas, working for the Playa Lakes Joint Venture Project.

During his career, Harvey worked closely with biologists from Canada and Mexico, spending many weeks each fall banding geese in Saskatchewan. In 1957, Harvey modified existing cannon-netting equipment that became known as the Miller cannon.

Harvey was a long-time member of many wildlife and hunting organizations including the Wildlife Society, Central Flyway Council, NRA, Ducks Unlimited and Elk Foundation. He was a charter and life member of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Harvey and Margaret traveled to Europe, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Canada, and to many parts of the U.S. including several trips to Alaska. He was also active in his church and many civic and fraternal organizations throughout his life. He and Margaret retired to Montrose, Colorado, in 1995 where they continued to be very active residents. The Montrose Rotary Club honored Margaret and Harvey as Senior Volunteers of the Month and AARP honored them for their outstanding volunteer service.

Harvey was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Margaret, his brother, Harold Miller; and sister, Helen Albrecht. Daughters Catherine Hollingsworth, Carol Hillerson, and Mary Montoya survive him as do five grandsons

The family will have a private service at a later date with internment of ashes at Prospect View Cemetery in Pierce, Nebraska. Memorials in his name may be given to Colorado State University Mountain Campus, Pingree Park Student Scholarship fund, in care of Roberta Brouwer, Warner College of Natural Resources, CSU, 1401 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO, 80523-1401.

Robb Michael Morin (1950 – 2018). Robb Morin, the former Human Resources Officer in the Minneapolis Regional office, died March 3, 2018 at age 67. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Lynne. He is also survived by his mother, Aileen, sisters Mary Ekstrand and Terry Yáñez, and many aunts, nieces and nephews.

According to John Christian, Region 3 Assistant Regional Director, he “relied heavily on Robb's advice and counsel as did many employees that Robb's office supported. He was a wonderful kind supportive person who helped me with many personnel actions throughout the years. He really made a difference to our employees and our mission. He will be greatly missed. His legacy lives on in all those he helped us to hire who are now doing great things for conservation.”

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial for Robb was held on March 14, 2018 at the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel in Minneapolis followed by interment at the Lakewood Cemetery.

Willard Earnest (Bill) Nelson (1920 – 2018). Bill Nelson passed away July 18 in Tigard, Oregon. He was 98. He was born near Bend, Oregon and grew up in a logging camp where his father ran a loader (for logging trains) for a lumber company. He attended Oregon State University on a track scholarship but, with only one term left to go in college, he joined the Navy in 1942. Bill was decorated for his actions as a Corpsman in the landing on Iwo Jima in the South Pacific.



Upon his return home, Bill married and finished his BS degree in Fish and Game Management. He was hired into the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as a wildlife biologist (GS 4) in 1947 in a predator farm rodent position in Coos County, Oregon; he was later promoted to Portland (GS 7) in charge of rat work crews after the Vanport flood of the Columbia River that had devastated the Portland area. Thus began a career, all in Oregon in the then Predator and Rodent Control Program (gopher chokers). He eventually became the State Supervisor for the State of Oregon for the Animal Damage Control Program, a position he held for 10 years. He retired in September 1975 after nearly 34 years of service. He is survived by his wife Alice and two daughters Kathy Jean and Joyce Ann. A celebration of life is scheduled for August – date not announced.

Bill maintained an active life in retirement. As recently as two years ago he was with his hunting partners climbing the mountains for their annual elk hunting foray. He also notes in his Oral History (in the NCTC archives) accounts during his career such as when one of the state trappers captured a live mountain lion to be featured in the world-renowned Pendleton Roundup Parade. That lion was in the Pendleton Parade. There was also a live bear and a live coyote in the same pick-up, thanks to Bill's staff. The coyote got semi-loose and got up to the bear. The bear slapped him and knocked him out of the pick-up and right into a Jenny that had a colt with her. She killed that coyote right there in front of all those people in and watching that parade. Stomped on it, killed it. Yeah, one of those stories.

Abstract from the Willard Nelson oral history by Jerry Grover

Dorothe Norton (1928 – 2018). Former Region 3 employee, Dorothe Norton, passed away on June 6, 2018 in St. Paul, Minnesota after suffering a stroke. Dorothe worked in the Region's Law Enforcement office and retired from FWS in 1994 after more than 30 years of service. She regarded her FWS friends as family and looked forward to the annual reunions.



Following her retirement in 1994, she became associated with not only our LE get-togethers but with the Heritage Foundation of the FWS. In fact she was one of the early interviewers for the Oral History Project that is still going strong today. According to Mark Madison, the Service's historian, Dorothe must have recorded about 30 oral histories. Over the years, she also contributed enormously to the Retirees Association's Reunions and attended most of them.

She lived life to the fullest and survived numerous serious health threats before finally going home.

Dorothe is survived by children: daughter Terry Rief and sons Mike and Greg Norton; 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren; sister Mary McCorkel and countless other relatives and friends.

A funeral mass for Dorothe was held On June 14th at St. Stanislaus Church in St. Paul, followed by interment at St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery, also in St. Paul.

Patrick O'Halloran (1931 – 2018). Pat O'Halloran passed away at the age of 86 on June 11, 2018 in Reno, Nevada.



Pat was born in San Francisco, California in 1931, moved to Dunsuir in northern California, and then to Reno, Nevada. Pat was a graduate of University of Montana, Missoula and went on to receive his MS at University of Nevada, Reno. His early career in the Fish and Wildlife Service included work through the Patuxent National Wildlife Research Center on blackbird control in Arkansas. He later went on to work at Cabeza Prieta and Kofa Game Ranges in Arizona, River Basin Studies in Billings, Montana, Region One RO in Portland working in the Wilderness Study program. He then moved to Sacramento, California to be part of the Sacramento Area Office where he was primarily engaged in biological aspects of refuge management. After the Area Offices closed, he went to Sacramento NWR Complex as refuge

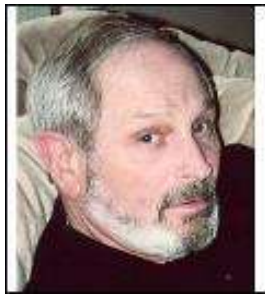
biologist and was instrumental in setting up a comprehensive habitat monitoring program. He later served as Acting Refuge Manager at the Sacramento NWR Complex. After retirement he moved with wife Janet to Greenville, CA.

Pat was a well-respected biologist with interest in many aspects of the natural world. He enjoyed reading about science, history, geology and more. His family and friends have many happy memories of learning about plants, animals, geology, and local history while camping, backpacking, fishing, hunting, or just spending time with him.

Professionally Pat was known as a thoughtful scientist. He was well respected amongst his peers and his advice and counsel was always well received.

He is survived by his children Nancy, Jim, and Dan, brother Mike and sister Alana. His wife, Janet, passed away in 2009.

Richard (Dick) Pospahala (1942 – 2018). Dick attended the University of Colorado in Boulder and in 1964, a semester shy of a degree in Chemical Engineering and Business, changed career paths to follow his heart.



He married his high school sweetheart, Christy Lou Dukes, and moved to Fort Collins where he enrolled at Colorado State University. He graduated with honors at CSU with a MS in Wildlife Biology and Statistics in 1969. With three week old son, Shad, Dick and Christy moved to Maryland where he began his

lifelong career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The birth of their daughter, Paige, soon followed in 1972.

During his 16 years at Patuxent, he served as Branch Chief for Surveys in the Office of Migratory Bird Management, developing an automated database system for the Bird Banding Laboratory and coordinating national and international surveys. In 1985, Dick accepted a new position in Anchorage, Alaska as Regional Migratory Bird Coordinator. Later, as Assistant Regional Director there, he wore many hats with oversight of various programs including Subsistence Management, Refuges, Fisheries, and Budget and Administration. Most notable, he helped guide the development of subsistence hunting regulations on federal lands, one of the first co-management success stories between Alaska natives and the Service. His insistence on sound science resulted in a reasoned approach to exploration, development and production of oil and gas resources on Alaska's North Slope while ensuring conservation and protection. Upon retirement in 2004, he was granted the

highest honor of the Department of the Interior, the Distinguished Service Award.

Dick was a complex man. He was passionate about his job and life. As a government employee, he firmly believed he was a servant of the public. As a hunter and fisherman, he was always respectful of and grateful for the beauty and sustenance Mother Earth provided. His leadership on wilderness adventures gave way to the nickname "Trail Boss". On a riverbank around a campfire, or at a social gathering, he relished sharing stories of adventures with family and friends. Conservationist, scientist, inventor, writer, and mentor were skills he looked forward to passing on to his four grandchildren. Sadly, several autoimmune diseases and Alzheimer's derailed that plan along with retirement dreams. Dick passed away on March 15th of this year in Spokane, Washington surrounded by his family at the early age of 76. Along with Christy, wife of 53 years, he leaves behind brother Don and sister MaryAnn Hotchkiss, son Shad, daughter Paige Williams and grandchildren: James, Chase and Reese Williams and Makena Pospahala.

The family is grateful for the loving care Dick received in the Courtyard Memory Care Unit at Rockwood South Hill Retirement Community, and Hospice of Spokane. Suggestions for memorial donations: Hospice of Spokane or conservation organizations of your choice.

Christine Ann Reffalt (1944 – 2018). Christine Ann Enright-Reffalt, age 74, passed peacefully on April 7, 2018, at home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a lengthy hospitalization to overcome complications arising from diabetes. Her husband, Bill (also an FWS retiree), and her sister, Katherine, were with her at the end.

Known for untiring dedication to wildlife and their habitats, Christine devoted her life to the on-going need for enlightened conservation. At an early age, she became interested in "bugs, butterflies, and birds," an interest later formalized by college degrees. A Bachelor's degree in biology from California's Mills College supplied foundational knowledge. She later gained a Master's degree in 1971 working as a Graduate Research Assistant with the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Colorado State University. Her thesis, evaluating Mallard duck nesting habitats in Colorado's Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, was recommended for publication by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experts for its thoroughness and its documentation of some of the highest nesting densities and hatching success of breeding waterfowl in the U.S.

Christine's career with the Fish and Wildlife Service began at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. She transferred a year later to Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma's home to reintroduced Plains Buffalo.

In 1974, she moved to Division of National Wildlife Refuges, thence, in 1975, was assigned to the Multiagency

Alaska Planning Group as a biologist-writer developing, documenting, and supporting proposed statutory refuge system additions in Alaska. Among her tasks was to serve liaison between the Chief of Refuges and the Alaska Planning Group. After going through the Departmental Manager Development Training program, Christine became primary Washington Office planner and legislative-support for the unique Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. That refuge, encompassing more than 2400 islands, islets, reefs, and capes stretching along Alaska's coastline, annually hosts fifty-five nesting seabird species numbering up to 40,000,000 birds, uncounted other migratory birds, marine mammals, and more. Owing in large part to Christine's innovation and diligence, this vital and diverse assemblage of wildlife is conserved in the refuge system.

Following the 1980 passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, authorizing enlargement of the refuge system by over 56 million acres and establishing a unique framework for planning/administering refuges, Christine worked in D.C. Realty Division. She played an important role developing a new land acquisition priority system. She also began a study of the natural biomes in all US states and territories. That led to her conceiving the idea of "An Ecological Framework for Conservation of the Biota of the United States." Unfortunately, transfer to Endangered Species, and flare-up of her diabetes requiring a kidney transplant, interrupted that effort that remains unfinished today.

At Endangered Species, Christine worked on recovery planning, developed a biological opinion regarding a vital pesticide labeling program and helped develop standards for Interagency Consultation.

During her career Christine received over eight Special Achievement, Quality Performance and Monetary Awards. Additionally, letters of commendation for superior products and performance and similar accolades from Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Robert Herbst, FWS Director Lynn Greenwalt, Senate and House Committee dignitaries and others attest to her outstanding career achievements.

In 1999, diabetes forced her to take early retirement from the Service and she moved with Bill to Albuquerque. Still, she continued her efforts to fulfill the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and its wildlife and habitat conservation efforts through the National Wildlife Refuge Association, Blue Goose Alliance, and similar conservation organizations.

Christine is survived by her brother Kerry, and his family, by her sister Katherine, and husband Bill. At this time, no services are planned; Christine was to be cremated.

Douglas Brown Winford (1945 – 2018). Doug Winford passed away at his home in Cookeville, Tennessee, on April 3, 2018.



Doug was born November 14, 1945 in Lebanon, Tennessee, and grew up and attended schools there. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management and a Master's in Fisheries at Tennessee Technical University, also in Cookeville. He served in the United

States Air Force from 1967-1970 as a loadmaster on C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Doug enjoyed a 36 year career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His job took him to Florida and South Carolina before moving back to Tennessee in 1980 as an Assistant Field Supervisor

Doug loved spending time outdoors with his family and friends and was an assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 108 for over 10 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, golfing, cooking and spending time with his grandkids. Doug was also an active member at First Baptist Church in Cookeville where he served as a Deacon for many years.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Mary Ruth Bobo Winford, who he married in 1968; three children; Brian, Eric, and Andrea; and five grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia and many loving nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at First Baptist Church in Cookeville on April 5th

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (friendsofthesmokies.org) or the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (<http://www.vicc.org/about/help/>).

Others

We are frequently informed of others who have died but are unable to find an obituary or enough information to compose one. We will simply report on their passing.

Larry Calvert. Former refuge manager Larry Calvert died on July 10, 2018, while traveling from South Dakota back to his home in Charlo, Montana. He leaves behind his wife, Anna.

Robert J. Fischer. We learned at the reunion in Lincoln City, Oregon this spring that Bob Fisher had died in 2017. He had worked in Federal Aid in Region 1.

William Godby. We were recently informed of Bill's death in May 2017 by his wife, Jeri, who commented that he deeply loved the Service and the people he worked with.

Patricia Metz. Ray Porter reported that Patricia Metz who was the outdoor recreation person at the Savannah

NWR passed away. She was suffering from cancer and was home with her husband John when she passed.

Laurie Shannon. Gerry Roehm advised that Laurie Shannon, who had been a refuge planner at Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR and in Region 6 died in February 2018. Laurie was a young retiree who enjoyed mountain climbing. She had climbed all 54 of Colorado's "14ers" and a good many other of Colorado's lofty peaks.

Unfortunately, only two years into retirement, Laurie was afflicted with a rare disease, Churg-Strauss Syndrome, and her health deteriorated rapidly.

She is survived by her husband, Tom and their son, Sean.

Helen Marie Town (1936 – 2018). Helen Town, wife of deceased FWS retiree Ralph Town, passed away on June 15th at Brookings Hospital in Brookings, South Dakota. She was 82 years of age. Helen and Ralph had been married for 59 years when Ralph died in 2014. She had followed him around the country from one National Wildlife Refuge to another. RIP, Helen

SOUTHEASTERN TEXAS COASTAL BIRDING
NOT SO COMMON BIRDING DURING THE LOCAL SPRING BIRD MIGRATION
APRIL 22-26, 2019



Monday, April 22: Travel on your own to Winnie, TX – Drive, or fly and drive from Houston Airport to our **(TBD) hotel**. Dinner and orientation at 5:30pm at a Winnie **(TBD) restaurant**.

Tuesday, April 23: Birding Opportunities – Car-pool to Anahuac NWR for an orientation & guided bus/van tour in AM. Volunteer beach clean-up & shorebirds in PM.

Wednesday, April 24: Birding Opportunities – Car-pool to McFadden NWR for an orientation, 9-mile, self-guided auto tour route and individual birding in AM; then to Trinity NWR for an orientation and birding trails in PM.

Thursday, April 25: On Your Own. Optional visits to free events in Galveston, Houston & Beaumont. Visit the following web-sites for additional info:

info@galvestoncvb.com (1-888-GAL-ISLE)

www.visithoustontexas.com/?utm_source=TourTexas&utm_medium=link

(1-866-822-0245) www.beaumontcvb.com

Friday, April 26: Travel home - or stay longer. **The hotel in Winnie will be contacted to determine if members arriving early or staying longer will still get the same discount.**

Because there are so many fun and free places to visit in the southeastern Texas coastal region, travel to and from Houston is best done on your own. An additional charge is required to cover the **bus/van rental** for the Anahuac NWR guided vehicle tour. There are no other costs for the tours, but food and lodging will be personal responsibilities.

The above web-sites provide a plethora of other activities during your visit, so do your research to get the “best bang for your bucks!” The April dates were selected because they coincide with local bird migrations and minimize other conflicts. Daytime temperatures average in the 80’s and the 60’s at night.

Please contact one of the following ASAP if you are interested in joining this fun event and learning more details: Shirley Karman (612-807-3209) in Ohio, Deb Rudis (907-723-9981) in Alaska, or John Gallegos (704-829-3084) in North Carolina. Texting or a phone call is preferred.

Lincoln City Reunion Attendees

Retirees and Guests

Dave and Gerri Allen
Cindy Barry
Paul and Wini Benvenuti
Sarah Bevilaqua
Elliot Black
Brad Bortner
Howard Bowers
Gail Carmody
Tom and Debbie Corbett
John Cornely
Marc and Debbie Epstein
Bob and June Fields
Jim Gillett
Rowan and Dee Mirando Gould
Dick and Pat Gritman
Jerry and Judy Grover
Warren and Sharon Hagenbuck
Bruce and Mary Ellen Halstead
John and Carol Martin Hanlon
Dave and Tiki Harlow
Geoff Haskett
Charles and Susan Henny
Libby Herland
Wayne and Ann Muir Hill
David and Marguerite Hill
Deborah Holle Friggel and
Terry Friggel
Chuck Houghten
Ron Iverson
Bill Knauer
Monty Knudsen
Roy Lowe
Dave Martin

Mark Maskill
June Mc Ilwain and Tim
Jackson
Jim McKevitt
Bob and Irma Miller
Mark and Anne Miller
Ed Murczek and Ann Blume
Mark Musaus
Jim and Verne Oland
Steve and Sue Parry
Matt Perry
Dennis Peters
Marv and Carol Plenert
Steve and Carol Rideout
Dave Riley
Richard and Monica Rodgers
Bill and Deanna Shake
Jim and Rose Shaw
Rollin Siegfried
David and Randi Smith
Dave Smith
Toni McLaughlin Stevens
Charles and Holly Storrs
Bob and Karen Streeter
Pete and Marlene Stine
Jim and Jacque Tisdale
Bob and Mary Trost
Sandy and Garry Tucker
Linda and Russ Watters
Bill Wilen
Wayne White
Bruce and Nicki Wiseman
Bev (Cricket) and Paul
Yoshioka

Active FWS Attendees

Chris Allen
Elaine Blok
Steve Chase
Gail Collins
Miel Corbett
Elisa Dahlberg
Greg and Nora Dehmer
Roy Elicker
Kevin Foerster
Holly Freifeld
Dawn Harris
Paul Henson
Peggy Hobbs
Amy Horstman
Chad Karges
Jim Kurth
Mark Madison
Kelly and Jodie Moroney
Maria Parisi
Miranda Plumb
Jen Poirier
Terry Rabot
Angela Sitz
John Stephenson
Mendel Stewart
Robin Thorson
Laura Todd
Paul Tritaik
Susan White
Charlie Wooley
Amber Zimmerman

Banquet Speaker

Jim Martin