



## **22nd Retiree Reunion**

Madison, Wisconsin

**May 12 - 16, 2025**



# **AGENDA**



## **List of All FWS Retirees Association Reunions**

Visit our website [FWSRetirees.org](http://FWSRetirees.org) and click on “Reunions” to see details from each Reunion, group photos, and personal stories as told by the attendees!

**1999** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

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**2001** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

**2002** – Spearfish, SD

**2003** – Pelican Island NWR, FL

**2004** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

**2005** – Portland, OR

**2006** – Albuquerque, NM

**2007** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

**2008** – Twin Cities, MN

**2009** – Kennebunkport, ME

**2011** – San Diego, CA

**2012** – Charleston, SC

**2013** – Kalispell, MT

**2015** – Corpus Christi, TX

**2016** – Memphis, TN

**2018** – Lincoln City (Oregon Coast), OR

**2019** – Annapolis, MD

**2022** – Spearfish/Deadwood, SD

**2023** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

**2025** – Madison, WI

### **Where to next?**

**Fall of 2026** – Anchorage, AK – Stay Tuned for More Info

## **Monday, May 12 – Arrival Day**

Check in to the Hyatt Place Madison/Downtown  
333 W. Washington Avenue

**2:00-8:00 PM:** Reunion Registration – Hyatt Place, 2nd floor meeting room

**3:00-5:00 PM:** Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife (prior registration required). Meet in the lobby of the Hyatt Place. Carpools will be organized to drive to the trailhead at the University of Wisconsin's parking Lot 130, to walk the trails in the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The \$15 cost will benefit the Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. (Lew Gorman, Leader)

**5:00 – 8:00 PM:** Welcome Social. Light appetizers and cash bar available for your enjoyment! Hyatt Place, 2nd floor meeting room.

## **Tuesday, May 13 – Meeting Day**

Meet at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Level 4 meeting room. One John Nolen Drive (Please allow 15 minutes to walk over from the Hyatt Place; maps provided at front desk)

**7:30 – 8:00 AM:** Reunion registration table at the Monona Terrace, Level 4 meeting room

**8:00 – 9:00 AM:** Welcome to the 22nd FWS Retirees Association Reunion! (Cindy Uptegraft Barry, Board Chair) Everyone Introduce yourselves!

**9:00 – 10:00 AM:** Remarks by Paul Souza, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (by video conference).

**10:00 - 10:15 AM:** Break

**10:15 – 11:00 AM:** Welcome to Region 3, by Will Meeks, Regional Director. Will will provide resource and program updates from the Midwest Region (by video conference).

**11:00 – 11:30 AM:** Tribute to Former Director Lynn Greenwalt, led by Former Director Dale Hall.

**11:30 AM – 1:30 PM:** Lunch on your own.

**11:30 AM – 1:30 PM:** FWS History Committee convenes, same meeting room

**1:30 – 5:00 PM:** Law Enforcement Get Together, return to the Hyatt Place 2nd floor meeting room, **Jerry Smith**, leader]

**1:30 – 2:00 PM:** Meeting resumes, with the Board of Directors' updates for the membership

**Cindy Uptegraft Barry**, Chair

**Paul Tritaik**, Vice-Chair, History Committee liaison

**Helen Clough**, newsletter and website

**Lewis Gorman III**, grants and outreach

Not present: **Patrick Martin** (Treasurer), **Jessy Jacobs**

(Secretary), **Conrad Fjetland**, **Chris Cline** and **Deborah Holle**.

**2:00 – 2:45 PM:** 50th Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge Association - **Desirée Sorenson-Groves**, President and CEO. The NWRA celebrates 50 years of supporting and defending national wildlife refuges by the organization founded by retired refuge managers.

**2:45 – 3:00 PM:** Break

**3:00 – 3:45 PM:** 50th anniversary of the National Wetlands Inventory Program – **Bill Wilen**. FWS has been the national leader in Wetland Mapping and Monitoring, providing essential data used to support conservation and to inform policy and decision making. To honor NWI's achievements, FWS retiree Bill Wilen will present the highlights, history and successes of the NWI Program.

**3:45 – 4:00 PM:** Ducks Unlimited (invited)

**4:15 PM:** Group photo (everyone)! Also provide instructions for the evening program and Wednesday's field trip

**5:00 – 6:30 PM:** Dinner on your own

**7:00 PM:** Evening program at the Monona Terrace Level 4 meeting room.

- Presentation of the FWS's Annual History Awards – 2024 and 2025.
- **Keynote Speaker, Douglas Brinkley**, acclaimed Presidential historian and conservation history author. "Wildlife Nation Revisited: John F. Kennedy to Donald Trump"

## **Wednesday, May 14 – Baraboo Field Trip Day**

**8:00 AM:** Depart Hyatt Place in the motorcoach.

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** International Crane Foundation (ICF). After a welcome and video, we will break into guided groups to view the world's 15 crane species.

**12:00 – 1:00 PM:** Pre-ordered take-out lunches at ICF's library, with a briefing on ICF's work.

**1:00 PM:** Depart ICF

**1:30 – 4:30 PM:** Arrive at the Aldo Leopold Foundation. The tour will include the Aldo Leopold Center (a green, carbon-neutral visitor center), the Shack and Farm of Sand County Almanac fame, on the banks of the Wisconsin River.

**4:30 PM:** Depart the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

**5:30 PM:** Arrive back at the Hyatt Place, Madison. Dinner on your own.

## **Thursday, May 15 – Necedah NWR Field Trip and Evening Banquet**

**8:00 AM:** Depart Hyatt Place in the motorcoach.

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** Arrive at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. We will tour the refuge, walk some trails, and see some restoration projects, so bring your binoculars to possibly view cranes and waterfowl. Wear suitable clothes and footwear for the weather. Pre-ordered take-out lunches at Necedah's Visitor Center.

**4:00 PM:** Arrive back at the Hyatt Place, Madison

**6:00 PM:** Banquet dinner begins at the Grand Terrace, Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

- Recognition of the Retiree Assoc. Life Members in attendance
- Conclusion of the on-line auction bidding for the three pieces of Kent Olson artwork, plus a silent auction for items brought to the Reunion.

## **Friday, May 16 – Departure Day**

## **Lifetime Members of the Association of Retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Employees 1999 - Present**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Denny Holland    | 17. Mike McMinn        |
| 2. Jerry French     | 18. Dr. Gail S. Baker  |
| 3. Tom Smith        | 19. Ray D. Brunson     |
| 4. Jim King         | 20. Robin Fields       |
| 5. June McIlwain    | 21. 21 Hannibal Bolton |
| 6. John Weisser     | 22. Stephen Parry      |
| 7. Jay Banta        | 23. Debra Corbett      |
| 8. Barbara Ritter   | 24. Dick Gritman       |
| 9. Frank Cockrell   | 25. Bruce Blanchard    |
| 10. Dale Hall       | 26. Rowan Gould        |
| 11. Robyn Thorson   | 27. Bob Streeter       |
| 12. Marvin Moriarty | 28. Robert Adamcik     |
| 13. Tom Taylor      | 29. Steve Thompson     |
| 14. Jim Pulliam     | 30. Judy Jacobs        |
| 15. Judy Pulliam    | 31. Bill Wilen         |
| 16. Donna Stanek    | 32. Jim Tisdale        |

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 33. Bruce Halstead        | 51. Michael Horton    |
| 34. Helen Clough          | 52. Jim Kurth         |
| 35. Deborah Holle         | 53. Kevin Foerster    |
| 36. Robin West            | 54. Paul Schmidt      |
| 37. Dwight Cooley         | 55. Bob Stevens       |
| 38. Toni Stevens          | 56. Patrick McDermott |
| 39. Cindy Uptegraft Barry | 57. Gail Carmody      |
| 40. Marc Epstein          | 58. Paul Tritaik      |
| 41. John Cornely          | 59. Nancy Coon        |
| 42. Nancy Morrissey       | 60. Megan Durham      |
| 43. Karen S. Bollinger    | 61. Jerry Grover      |
| 44. Walt Quist            | 62. Judy Grover       |
| 45. Karla Kramer          | 63. Jerry Smith       |
| 46. Lewis E. Gorman III   | 64. John F. Turner    |
| 47. Larisa Ford           | 65. Peggy Hobbs       |
| 48. Rick Lemon            | 66. Roberta Hylton    |
| 49. Sean Furniss          | 67. Jeff Underwood    |
| 50. Jim Smith             |                       |

**Who's next? Click "Join Us" on our website for more information!**

**FWSRetirees.org**





**Thank you to Ducks Unlimited for their generous contribution to sponsor this Reunion!**

