FWS Retirees Association
NEWSLETTER

Fall (November) 2026

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Message from the Chair



Greetings everyone!

I wish everyone could have made the trip to Anchorage for the 23rd Reunion of this Association! I'll attempt to sum up in 4 words my thoughts:

Gratitude = Almost half of the 80+ reunion attendees, including spouses, were from the Alaska region. They welcomed us with their warmth, generosity, and leadership.

Warmth = Renewed friendships, of course

Generosity = Over 50 items were donated for the live auction and silent auction!

Leadership = Our field trips were led by retirees Donna Dewhurst, Rosa Meehan, and Pat Heglund. The bus rides were narrated along the way with their local expertise (and fun!) and then enhanced by their knowledge of our destinations in Seward and Hatcher Pass. In addition, we were welcomed by Regional Director Sara Boario, and her senior staff, and we received updates on marine mammals, refuges, climate change (USGS), and subsistence issues (DOI). Jim Kurth's keynote speech was a highlight of our closing banquet.

During the week of the reunion, I received many hearty "thumbs up" and "great job". Then I quickly followed up with giving full credit to our Reunion Co-Chairs Helen Clough and Robin West. Their months of reunion planning, preparation, and advance networking with local vendors, was rewarded with a very successful reunion…some said, "the best ever!" Stay tuned for the news of our next Reunion, Spring 2028, in the southwest! And I hope to see you there!

I'll mention one more item of note, and draw your attention to an article later in this newsletter. FWS retiree Kim Lambert contacted our Association and we are now establishing the *Kim Lambert Youth Conservation Fund.* As we have previously mentioned, our Association's long-standing grant to fund youth programs at FWS facilities was not funded by this Administration. With Kim's generous donation, we will get this program back on track for FY 2027, and hopefully beyond. Be assured that all donations to this fund will go towards on-the-ground projects by youth at our refuges and hatcheries, with no administrative overhead costs deducted from the fund.

All my best to you and your families during the upcoming Holiday seasons. *Cindy Uptegraft Barry*

***Facebook Reminder**: Please continue to spread the word about our Facebook page, "Fish and Wildlife Service Retirees" by inviting friends who are FWS Retirees to "follow" our page. You can do that by going to the page, clicking on the three dots in the upper right, and choose Invite Friends. Stay tuned for future content, and let us know what you would like to see by contacting Peggy Hobbs (peggyhobbs@msn.com).*

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Business

Kim Lambert Youth Conservation Fund



FWS retiree Kim Lambert read in one of our recent newsletters that the current Administration denied funding for our Association's grant request to support youth projects on FWS lands. She contacted Board member (grants coordinator) Lew Gorman to discuss donating her personal funds to the Association to continue this on-the-ground work by youth. During a recent Board meeting, we heard directly from Kim about her passion for youth and her financial support for many organizations, including *61* scholarships to students in the 12th grade in the DC/MD/VA area.

By unanimous vote of the Board, we established the **Kim Lambert Youth Conservation Fund.** Beginning in February, 2027, Kim's donation of $5,000 will be available through our existing network of Friends groups, to target on-the-ground youth projects approved by our selection criteria. After a review of the first year, she will look at doubling that amount in 2028. "Yearly, I look forward to funding this endeavor" she states.

Kim served the federal government for 42 years. She started her career with the National Park Service, then spent 41 years with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Kim worked for seven different programs – from Albuquerque to Capitol Hill. Kim spent much of her career in headquarters with the Environmental Justice (EJ) field *beginning under the* direction of Dr. Larry Shannon to FWS' principal representative.

In 2013 and 2017, she was awarded a Proclamation as an agent of the Federal Government in the forefront advancing EJ and philanthropy work. 2017, honored as the FWS Individual of the Year; 2018, the DOI Environmental Achievement Award. 2019, Morris College conferred an honorary Doctor of Law degree for her "unrelenting energy, keen insights, splendid contributions and all that she does to help young people become successful. Kim accepted the Deferred Retirement and departed December 2025.

Alaska Reunion, September 21-24, 2026

About 80 retirees and guests attended the Alaska Reunion held in Anchorage, September 21-24,2026. The Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife kicked off the event Monday afternoon with 44 people signed up – over half of the attendees. They were able to walk to Westchester Lagoon from the hotel and most chose to walk round trip enjoying some nice fall Alaska weather. The Walk raised $920 for the Friends of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges.



Cindy Barry, Stephen Parry, Deborah Holle & Columbus Brown at the opening reception at the Hotel Captain Cook.

The opening reception was held at the top of the hotel with great views of Anchorage, the adjacent Chugach Mountains and an Alaskan sunset. Clouds did obscure the view of Denali which was visible later in the week. Tuesday was the day of formal programs starting with a welcome from co-chairs Robin West

and Helen Clough. Retiree Association chair Cindy Upegraft Barry and board members in attendance gave brief presentations of the status of Retiree Association activities. Board members attending included Cindy Barry, vice-chair, Paul Tritaik, and board members Peggy Hobbs, Helen Clough, and Deborah Holle. The program included a welcome to Alaska from Alaska Service Regional Director Sara Boario who shared her unique Alaskan background and a greeting from the Service Director.



Rowan Gould, Janet Ady and Alaska Regional Director Sara Boario

Holly Pardue shared retirement job opportunities available through New Solutions. (https://newsolutions.org/jobs/). Friends of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and FWS retiree, Poppy Benson shared information about their organization and thanked the Association for its generous donation from the Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife. She also updated us on current Alaska issues. Dick Mylius, retired Director of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Lands and Water gave a presentation on the history of Alaska and public lands management. He received high praise from participants including retired Service employees who had worked and sparred with him over the years.


Marine Mammals Panel - Alice Garrett, Dan Bjornlie, and Paul Schuette

The afternoon consisted of presentations about Alaska Service programs including Alaska Refuge Chief Karlin Itchoak and key staff who shared updates on the Alaska Refuges. Brandt Maxwell from Ducks Unlimited shared information about their Alaska Initiative. Alice Garrett, Dan Bjornlie, and Paul Schuette gave an overview of the marine mammals program. Katya Wessels, Subsistence Council Coordination Division Lead, and Robbin La Vine, Policy Coordinator gave a presentation on the unique Alaska Subsistence program currently located within the Department of the Interior. The afternoon ended with a presentation on Alaska's Changing Climate by Dr. Jeremy Littell from USGS's Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center.

The evening program was former Iditarod musher and former Service employee Aliy Zirkle who shared her memories of coming to Alaska to work for the Service, and the beginning of her love for Alaska, sled dogs, and later the "Last great race." Her memory of every twist and turn of the almost 1000-mile route from the ceremonial start in downtown Anchorage to the finish line in Nome was remarkable.



Aliy Zirkel looking at video or her feeding snacks to her Iditarod dog team

Wednesday and Thursday were field trip days. On Wednesday 38 participants took a motor coach from Anchorage to Seward, enjoying amazing Alaska scenery along the way, and visiting the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward and the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center near Girdwood on the return trip. Between the two facilities, participants got to see iconic wildlife from marine mammals and seabirds to moose, caribou, brown and black bears, and wood bison. Others visited the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage and the Anchorage Museum – both filled with exhibits about Alaska's native people and its history.

Thursday, a motorcoach took a large group to the Independence Mine State Park in Hatcher Pass about an hour north of Anchorage where fall colors were on display. Several participants braved the mud to hike to an adjacent lake while others visited the well-preserved site of a gold mine that showcases some of Alaska's more recent history. The two Anchorage field trips were also available on Thursday. Those visiting the Native Heritage Center were treated to demonstrations of Alaska Native dances and the Alaska Native Youth Olympics that were being put on for middle school students from Anchorage. It was fun to watch both the exhibitions and the enthusiasm of the junior high students,

especially for some of the Olympic events which are increasingly popular in the state.



Lake near Independence Mine State Park and destination of a short, but challenging, hike.



Jim Kurth, keynote speaker at the banquet.

Feedback to date has been positive. The reunion was a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new people. Retirees attended from all over the country with several traveling from the east coast – for some it was their first visit to Alaska and for others it was a return to a former home.



Paul Tritaik at Independence Mine

Additional pictures from the reunion are at the end of this newsletter, on our Facebook page, and will also be posted to the reunion section of our website.

Info From the Treasurer

by Patrick Martin

Current Finances

- As of 11/02/2026:
- Association main/operations checking account balance: $15,055.26
- Association grant account balance: $6,580.41

Anchorage Reunion financial summary:

- One partner donation - Ducks Unlimited, $3,000
- Two member donations - one for $1,000 and one for $1,089 (paid a bill at the reunion)
- Silent Auction raised $1,656
- Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife raised $920 which was donated to the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges

- Financial summary:
    - All expenses: $28,482.51
    - All income, incl. donations: $27,937.86
    - Net: -$544.65

Other:

As per Board decision, an individual was interviewed and selected to provide bookkeeping services Current Treasurer (Patrick Martin) and past Treasurer (Doug Fruge) will be working with them to transition selected task responsibilities. There will still be a Retiree Association Treasurer position.

Oral History Update

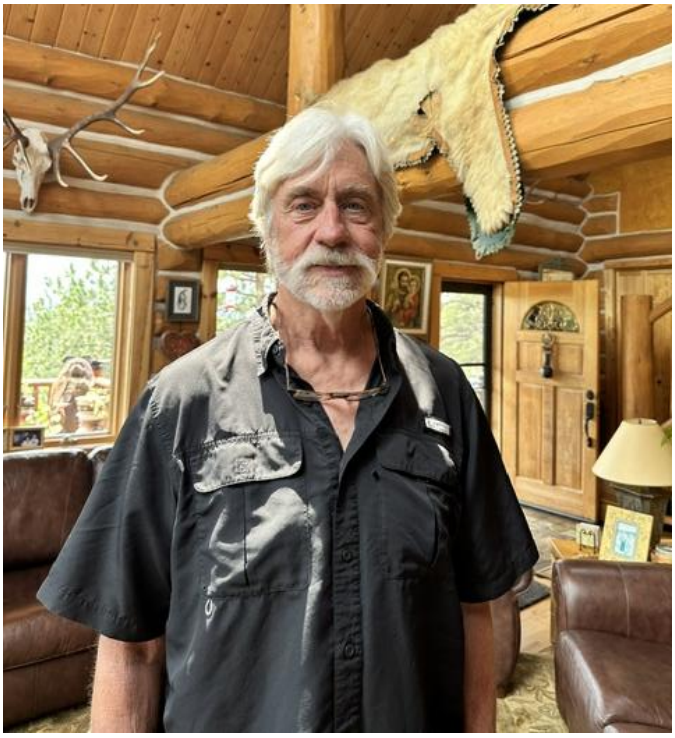
By Libby Herland, Chair, Oral History Subcommittee

The FWS Oral History Program is having a banner year! We conducted 12 interviews at the retiree's reunion in Anchorage alone – practically unheard of - bringing the number of oral history interviews conducted in 2026 to 26. This is outstanding! **Tom Striegler**, **George Morrison**, **Bernadette Atencio**, **Greg Langer**, **Helen Clough**, **Bill Ostrand**, **Jim Hall**, **Mike Blenden**, **Chris Cline**, **Cynthia Wentworth**, **Karen Bollinger**, **Frank Muth**, **Cecilia Todd**, **Leslie Slater**, **Stuart Marcus**, and **Columbus Brown** have been interviewed since June. I thank all these folks for taking the time to share their stories, and I thank the interviewers as well. More interviews are planned for this fall.



Libby Herland interviewed Tom Striegler (right) about his law enforcement career at Tom's home in Ft. Collins in June. Jerry Smith (left) participated in the interview as well. Photo taken by Geri Striegler.

We continue to make excellent progress on drafting and finalizing transcripts. Since my last newsletter, we have finalized the transcripts of the interviews with **Rick Perry**, **Rosa Meehan**, **Larry Ditto**, a special remembrance by 5 FWS employees of **John Blankenship**, **Keith McCartney**, **Bob Flores**, **Frank Cole**, **Jennifer Harper**, **Karen Bollinger** (an earlier interview with Mark Madison), **Ed Bangs**, **Phil Norton**, Ann Davenport remembering her husband **Darcy "Bud" Davenport**, and **Andy Yuen**. These are already online or will be shortly. An additional 20 draft transcripts were sent to the interviewer or interviewee for review and will hopefully be finalized soon.



In his oral history interview, retired Special Agent George Morrison shared several hair-raising stories of his time working undercover in the FWS Office of Law Enforcement Special Operations unit. One of his cases was featured on the documentary "Monsters of God" released this past August on HBO. Photo taken by Libby Herland.

Speaking of finding the completed transcripts online, the Oral History Program staff at NCTC had been building a very nice Oral History Collection online but for some inexplicable reason, the administration is no longer letting the collection be populated. It is still available at https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/oral-history-transcripts but it only contains 152 transcripts. As of this writing, there are 538 oral history transcripts on the FWS website, which includes those in the Oral History Collection. To find any transcript, go to fws.gov. Search for Documents. Type in "oral history transcript" or type in the name of the person you are specifically looking for. If there is a finalized transcript for that person, you can click on the transcript to read it or download it.

Unfortunately, the FWS did not approve a history grant with the Retirees Association for FY 26. We have been the recipient of such a grant, which funds oral history interview and transcription expenses, for as long as I have been on the History Committee. If the FWS fails to award a grant in FY 27 for this work, it may impact the tremendous momentum we have in conducting interviews and completing transcripts. More interviews will likely be conducted by phone. Please do not let this deter you from expressing an interest in being interviewed, however. Please reach out to me if you would like to be interviewed, want

to know the status of your transcript if you have been interviewed, or if you are interested in being an interviewer. It would be great to talk with you! You can reach me at 413-822-5026 or herland194@gmail.com. Let's keep the stories coming and keep our conservation history alive. Thanks!

Membership

Membership chair Deborah Holle reported the following new/renewed members for June, July and August 2026. Membership reports for the remainder of 2026 will be reported in the winter newsletter. If you have questions about your membership please contact:
Deborah Holle at **promote@fwsretirees.org**. **FYF stands for first year free.**

06−15−2026 **BARTEL,** Jim (Debbie Bartel); Carlsbad, CA; 01/2014; Pacific Southwest (R8); Carlsbad Fish & Wildlife Office. **FYF**

06−14−2026 **BERG**, Ken (Jane Weydemeyer); Ashland, OR; 6/2019; Pacific (R1), Ecological Services, Washington FWO, Lacy, Oregon.

06−13−2026 **BOWDEN**, Sally (Bennie), Wallops Island, VA; 9/2017; Northeast (R5), Refuges and Wildlife, National Wildlife Refuge System, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

06−16−2026 **BOYLE**, Barbara (Peter Boyle); Evergreen, CO; 12/2025; Mountain Prairie (R6), RO. **FYF**

06−17−2026 **CATHEY**, Karen (Stephen Helfert); Green Acres, WA; 2020; Southwest (R2), Ecological Services, Austin, TX.

O5−20−2026 **CHASE**, Steven (Karen Chase); Middleburg, VA; 1/2026; NCTC (R9) Director, National Conservation Training Center. **LIFE**

06−05−2026 **DERKSEN**, Dirk (Margret Peterson); Anchorage, AK; 6/2011 Alaska (R7), Alaska Science Center, changed to Research Program – USGS. **FYF**

05−30−2026 **DETRICH**, Phillip; Mt Shasta, CA; 3/2010 Pacific Southwest (R1), Ecological Services, Yreka Fish & Wildlife Office. **FYF**

EVANS, Thomas; Anchorage, AK; 7/2026. **FYF**

06−20−2026 **GARNER**, Lindley; Great Falls, MT; 12/2025; Mountain Prairie (R6), Science Applications, merged with Migratory Birds, Sagebrush Ecosystem Team. **FYF**

05−15−2026 **HALL**, James (Elaine Hall); Manasses, VA; 09/2017; Southeast (R4); National Wildlife Refuge System, Law Enforcement Specialist.

08−05−2026 **HAMILTON**, Charles (Patrick Clark) 5/2025, Northeast (R5), Alaska (R7), Marine Mammals Management. **FYF**

06−17−2026 **HELFERT**, Stephen (Karen Cathy); Green Acres, WA; 2/2010; Southwest (R2), Ecological Services, Austin, TX. **FYF**

05−06−2026 **JEWELL**, Susan; Springfield, VA; 02/2024; HQ (R9), Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation, Branch of Aquatic Invasives.

08−09−2026 **JOHNSON,** Richard (Pamela McDermott); Soldotna, AK; 12/2012; AK (R7), National Wildlife Refuge System, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. **FYF + $50 donation**

05−25−2026 **KNUDSEN**, Brad; Crofton, MD; 12/20; Northeast (R5); Refuges and Wildlife; Patuxent Research Refuge. **+ $50 donation**

05−16−2026 **LEVITT**, Alan (Marilyn); Chevy Chase, MD; 12/2010; HQ (R9).

08−04−2026 **LORANGER**, Andre (Linda Loranger) 1/2025; Alaska (R7) National Wildlife Refuge System, Kenia NWR. **FYF**

05−31−2026 **LOWE**, Roy, (Laurie Lowe); Waldport, OR; 12/2015; Pacific (R1), National Wildlife Refuge System, Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

05−01−2026 **MAGHINI**, Mark; S. Burlington, VT 12/2025; Northeast (R5), Natl Wildlife Refuge System, RO, Hadley, Mass. **FYF**

06−15−2026 **McCUE**, Robert (Patricia); Grand Island, NE; 10/2024; Mountain Prairie (R6) Ecological Services, Denver Regional Office.

06−20−2026 **MULLEN**, Douglas; Lansing, IA; 1/1998; Midwest (R3), Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge, McGregor District.

06−15−2026 **NEAL**, Jim (Mary Neal); Nacogdoches, TX; 1/2011; Southwest (R2), Migratory Birds, National Wildlife Refuge System/Realty.

06−18−2026 **NOLKE**, James (Kathryn Hamsman−Spice); Portland, OR; 1989; Alaska (R7), Ecological Services, Fairbanks Ecological Services Office. **FYF**

05−14−2026 **PERRY**, Matt (Georgia Perry); Mitchellville, MD; 12/2011; Northeast (R5), Research Program Legacy FWS, moved to USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Ecological Services, Hadley, MA.

06−15−2026 **PISAPIA**, Ralph (Linda); Meredith, NH; 7/2002; Northeast (R5), Regional Office, Hadley, Ecological Services.

05−03−2026 **POTTER**, Michelle; Balston Spa, NY; AK (R9); 12/2025; National Wildlife Refuge System.

07−28−2026 **SWOOPE**, Gina (Brian Parker); Virgina Beach, VA;12/2025; Northeast, (R5) Management & Administration, Headquarters Division of Budget Performance and Work Force.

08−18−2026 **STUDY**, Julie (Bob Study); Shepherdstown, WV; 6/2024; Headquarters, (R9) National Conservation Training Center – Division of Training. **FYF**

06−21−2026 **WATHEN,** Wayne (Laura Wathen); Centennial, CO; 09/1996; Mountain Prairie (6), Ecological Services and Endangered Species.

07−19−**2026 WENTWORTH**, Cynthia; India, Alaska; 8/2007; Migratory Birds Subsistence, Alaska Migratory Bird Co−Management Council. **FYF**

06−28−2026 **WISEMAN**, Donald Bruce (Nicki Wiseman); Ridgefield, WA; 12/97; Pacific (R1), National Wildlife Refuge System, Colorado River Basin, Wildlife Biologist under Columbia River Fisheries ARD; Regional Liaison in Washington −Vancouver

Doug Forsell joined as life member #71 at the Anchorage Reunion and **Kim Lambert** will be life member #72.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has eight numbered geographic regions: Region 1 (Pacific), Region 2 (Southwest), Region 3 (Midwest), Region 4 (Southeast), Region 5 (Northeast), Region 6 (Mountain-Prairie), Region 7 (Alaska), and Region 8 (Pacific Southwest), each covering specific states and territories to manage conservation efforts for fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

Natural Resource Issues

Volunteers Plant 10,000 Native Saplings at Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Community planting efforts have created a mosaic of habitat stages across restored tracts. The smaller shrubs in front of the American flag were planted 3 years ago, while mature trees behind were planted 10 years ago.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted the 32nd annual Rio Reforestation Event on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge in south Texas. Over 2,000 volunteers attended and helped plant 10,000 native trees and shrubs at the event. This community reforestation effort continues a decades-long tradition that is helping restore wildlife habitat in southern Texas.



Volunteering planting native plants. USFWS Photo

Through partnerships between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many national and local partners, volunteers are helping restore *Tamaulipan thornscrub* habitat on Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge tracts. This effort supports the refuge's long term conservation goal of improving habitat connectivity and resilience in the area. The event's restoration action focused on improving wildlife habitat connectivity between Lower Rio Grande Valley and its neighboring refuge, Santa Anna National Wildlife Refuge.

Volunteers arrived in the early morning the day of the event, many with shovels already in hand. Within two hours they had plant all 10,000 trees and shrubs, representing over 38 different species native to the area, including Texas ebony, and elbow bush and granjeno. These saplings will take root in rich brown soils which have been maintained and restored through cooperative agriculture agreements between the refuge and local farmers.

Thamara Flores, Visitor Services Manager at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, first attended a Rio Reforestation event as a volunteer nearly seven years ago. "The Rio Reforestation really brings the community together every year," said Flores. "Community members that first volunteered decades ago are now bringing their children or grandchildren, so they too can plant trees and carry on that legacy of conservation."

Since the first annual Rio Reforestation effort in 1992, over 743 acres have been restored through this community conservation event. Many of the early plantings have now grown into mature thornscrub habitats. These dense forests provide nectar for hundreds of butterfly species, year-round habitat for resident songbirds, and migration habitat for hundreds of thousands of migrating raptors that pass through the area. Restoring these important habitats brings community members together and helps conserve wildlife for future generations. *From USFWS News Release.*

Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Efforts in Northern Arizona - Releases support development of first-ever "nursery site" for black-footed ferrets in the wild

At dusk in a shrubby grassland valley within northern Arizona, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Jessica Miller and several volunteers look for a reflective shine. After they spot the eye-catching flash, they take a small pet carrier from the truck and set it near the source: a red driveway reflector that marks a dusty prairie dog burrow. They open the cage door, and an endangered black-footed ferret cautiously considers the tunnel and then quickly darts underground.

Releasing black-footed ferrets raised under human care into appropriate wild habitats is a key action to support recovery of this iconic species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arizona Ecological Services Field Office works alongside the Arizona Game and Fish Department to recover black-footed ferrets, and are part of the larger, range-wide Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Implementation Team. This team includes other state and federal agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations.



"Black-footed ferret recovery is a team effort," said Holly Hicks, Small Mammal Project Coordinator with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "Multiple agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and The Phoenix Zoo make releases like this possible and would be very difficult to accomplish without their support."

This past spring, the Arizona team helped release 19 ferrets at designated sites in northern Arizona. After the ferrets find their perfect burrow and stay underground, the team sets up trail cameras to monitor them. When biologists review the footage, they get a glimpse into the world of ferrets, from evading badgers and hunting prairie dogs to playing with other ferrets.

The Most Endangered Mammal in North America

Once common across the grassland habitats of the Great Plains, black-footed ferret populations plummeted as the prairie was turned into farmland and the ferret's primary food source, prairie dogs, was devastated by intentional eradication and the non-native sylvatic plague (yes, the same plague responsible for the Black Plague of Europe). Not only are black-footed ferrets dependent on prairie dogs for their main food source, but they also live in prairie dog burrows. Therefore, prairie dog habitat is black-footed ferret habitat.

The black-footed ferret was listed as endangered in 1967, but the species was thought to be extinct by the 1970s. Amazingly, the species was rediscovered in 1981 on a ranch in Wyoming. From that single population the Service and partners have supported a slow but steady recovery. About 300 black-footed ferrets live in the wild today at reintroduced sites, 20 of which live in Arizona at two reintroduction sites.

Landowners Support in Northern Arizona

In Arizona, black-footed ferrets are reintroduced at very specific places selected based on prairie dog densities and partner cooperation. These areas include the expansive shrubby fields in Aubrey Valley and Double O Ranch near Seligman, and the smaller Garland Prairie site, near Parks. The sites are also working ranches, and cattle and some sheep live alongside the prairie dogs and ferrets.

Recovering ferrets means working with private, state and federal land managers. The ferret populations in Arizona are classified as parts of a non-essential experimental population, under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act, which allows landowners to continue their regular ranching operations without worrying about violating the Endangered Species Act by accidentally harming a ferret.

"With the 10 (j) rule, there's more regulatory certainty and flexibility for landowners and land managers with the activities they do on the land," said Miller. "This facilitates support and contributes to the success of the recovery efforts."

Garland Prairie: The First Nursery Site

Black-footed ferrets are bred and raised under human care at various facilities across the country. Once they are weaned from their mother, they are taken to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center in Colorado for pre-conditioning, otherwise known as "training on how to act like a wild ferret." They learn how to hunt prairie dogs, hide from predators, and use underground tunnels. This behavioral training boosts their chances of survival. But survival is still a struggle, and the Arizona recovery team hopes to improve the ferret's odds.

The first ferret release at Garland Prairie was in 2025, and there are plans to continue releasing ferrets at the site for at least three consecutive years. This establishes Garland Prairie as a first-ever "nursery site" for the black-footed ferret. The National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center typically chooses reintroduction sites based on their potential to support 30 breeding adult ferrets. But Garland Prairie is smaller than typical sites and will likely never contain enough prairie dog habitat to support that many ferrets.

"This will be the first time this concept of a nursery site is being implemented," said Miller. "So that's pretty exciting." As a nursery site, the hope is that the Garland Prairie ferrets will successfully breed, successfully raise kits (baby ferrets), and reach the site's carrying capacity. Once the ferret population has no more room to grow, future kits will be translocated to other sites. Because they would be born in the wild and would learn survival skills from their parents, the team expects that these ferrets will have a leg-up from the facility-trained kits and that their survival rates will further increase. Garland Prairie is an ideal location for a nursery site, because it is enclosed by ponderosa pines to discourage dispersal away from the site, and it is small so the team can more easily monitor and capture the animals.

Recovering Ferrets in Arizona is Different

Biologists release ferrets in the fall because it coincides with the time when kits naturally disperse from their mother to establish their own territories. Spring releases have been avoided because there were concerns that holding ferrets over-winter would acclimate them more to captivity and reduce success in the wild. However, in Arizona after fall releases, the team has observed poor recapture rates, indicating low survival rates. This could be due to the prairie dogs' behavior in the area.

Northern Arizona is the southern end of the black-footed ferret's range. The prairie dogs that occur in northern Arizona are Gunnison's prairie dogs, while most of the other ferret reintroduction sites are in black-tailed prairie dog colonies. Unlike black-tailed prairie dogs, Gunnison's prairie dogs hibernate for four to five months during the winter. So not only does this population of ferrets in Arizona have to learn how to live in the wild for the first time, but they also must figure out how to dig out hibernating prairie dogs from their plugged burrows. The lower survival rates may be because ferrets are challenged with being able to get to their hibernating food.

The Arizona team released ferrets this spring and plan another release in the fall and next spring. They will have a total of three years of fall and spring releases to compare and see which is most successful. Most of the year, ferrets are solitary except when they come together to mate. During the first survey following this past spring release, the team found a male and a female in the same burrow and that is encouraging.

The Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Implementation Team continuously looks for innovative ways to recover this endangered species. In addition to releasing, tracking, and surveying ferrets, the team vaccinates kits soon after they are born because the young ferrets are extremely susceptible to the plague. Plague is spread via fleas, so the team also disperses flea control to prevent spread of plague, which kills prairie dogs and ferrets. While the fates of the ferrets released this spring are still uncertain, Miller knows that all these efforts bring the endangered black-footed ferret one step closer to recovery. *From USFWS News Release.*

Notes From the Field and Other Things

We welcome your contributions on just about anything that may be of interest to FWS Retirees. Just send them to Helen Clough at communications2023@fwsretirees.org.

Trail Dedicated in Honor of Karen Hollingsworth at Moosehorn NWR

On Saturday, October 17, amidst the brilliant multicolored leaves of 'Downeast' Maine, a small group of refuge employees, Friends, and volunteers gathered at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge to recognize a true champion of the refuge system: Karen Hollingsworth.

Karen Hollingsworth is an acclaimed wildlife photographer who, for more than 40 years, devoted herself to telling the story of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. For many Americans, including so many career refuge employees, the images of Karen and her late husband John are what introduced them to the refuge system. For decades, if one saw a refuge brochure, flyer, poster, or calendar, chances were very good that underneath each photo was written the names "John and Karen Hollingsworth". As said by Project Leader John Magera, "It would not be an exaggeration to say that John and Karen Hollingsworth did for our National Wildlife Refuge System what Ansel Adams did for our national parks."

As she worked to expose "America's best-kept secret", Hollingsworth visited more than 400 refuges, often hauling 50 pounds of camera equipment into remote wild areas. On those excursions, her greatest hopes were that her lenses didn't fog up or freeze, her numb hands could work all the rings, dials, and levers, her film would stay dry, and the weather, the light, and the animals would all cooperate.

Karen's photography has appeared in numerous books, magazines, posters, calendars, websites and brochures. Her traveling exhibition, *Reflections of Nature*, featured 34 images highlighting the diversity of the nation's public lands. Her subjects have included the Florida panther, bald eagle, American alligator, and endangered Yaqui chubs.

For more than 30 years, her photos toured the United States, including stops at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the U.S. Senate, Cape Kennedy, and more than 100 wildlife refuges and community centers. Karen also collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution on the Smithsonian Book of National Wildlife Refuges and has a permanent exhibition at the USFWS's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. After capturing approximately 150,000 film images, Karen helped form the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA), served on the board

of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and helped create the idea of a nationwide Friends Group movement and was part of the first working groups that developed Friends agreements, guidance, and mentoring programs. She also worked extensively with USFWS staff and Friends groups to guide the implementation of landmark national wildlife refuge policy.

When John Hollingsworth passed away in 1995, his ashes were spread at Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge near Milbridge, Maine. For the past 30 years, visitors to Petit Manan have been able to walk a trail bearing his name to one of his favorite places to photograph wildlife. After John passed, Karen made the decision to move from Colorado to Maine to be closer to the places they both loved. In 1998, she settled into her home in Pembroke with the intention of the property one day becoming part of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge.

After many years, Karen decided it was time to move elsewhere and reached out to the refuge about donating the property. Her dream finally came true after three years of the arduous land acquisition process, initially shepherded by former Project Leader Keith Ramos. He passed the torch to John Magera, who brought the project to completion and dedicated a trail in Karen's name where her home — now demolished to make way for priority habitat — once stood.

Visitors to the Karen Hollingsworth trail, now open to the public, can experience the beauty of Maine the same way she once did. They can inhale the scent of spruce and fir, watch eagles soar through the sky, and listen to rushing rapids of Lee Stream that spill into the bay. If the 22-foot tide is out, they can walk across the rocky landscape to Black Duck Island. At the end of the trail, overlooking Dennys Bay, sit two wooden Adirondack chairs. Their quiet presence serves as an invitation to sit down, absorb the serenity of the moment, and take in the wild beauty that Karen Hollingsworth so faithfully captured.



Karen Hollingsworth and her husband, Doug Grann, sit on two Adirondack chairs amongst fall foliage overlooking Dennys Bay at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Maine. Photo by John Magera/USFWS

Mini Grants Report

Gear for All: Expanding Access to Gear and Outdoor Recreation at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

The grant, "Gear for All," increased access to gear among partners neighboring the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) has expanded the variety of programs and strengthened capacity for both the Refuge and its partners. This initiative provides outdoor gear and improved access for local partners engaging youth through partner organizations, overcoming barriers of access by establishing a new shared gear resource library, sharing not only "Gear for All' items but any gear that can be lent among partners and used on public lands, inspiring a greater connection to the Refuge and the broader National Wildlife Refuge System.



Youth using microscopes.

Northeast Metro Coalition (NEMC) is a Great Outdoors Colorado Generation Wild community. Together, we are dedicated to providing equitable environmental education and outdoor recreation opportunities for the Northeast Denver area. The NEMC partnership envisions a future where everyone— wherever they live and regardless of resources— has abundant opportunities to connect with nature in ways that inspire, transform, and empower them to become lifelong stewards of the outdoors. Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges (FFRWR) is the administrative backbone of NEMC and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) serves as an invaluable programming and central meeting location.

The NEMC partnership provides programming to the Northeast Denver Metro area, specifically the Denver neighborhoods of Montbello and Northeast Park Hill as well as Commerce City and Northwest Aurora. Our area is regarded for its connectivity to nature and spaces for viewing wildlife in an urban setting,

including Bluff Lake Nature Center, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, and the RMANWR. Our partners offer outdoor programming in birding, archery, nature walks, kayaking, water testing/ exploration, and camping, among many other exciting activities.

Our coalition reaches more than 40,000 youth eligible for Generation Wild programs. Unfortunately, several of our program participants experience barriers to accessing the outdoors including activity costs, transportation, and access to gear items. Our partner organizations are aware of these barriers, and they are dedicated to creating safe and inclusive spaces, so our population can enjoy the outdoors. Several of our partners have purchased gear items specifically to make programming more accessible for their participants. These items have the potential to enhance programs at all partner locations, in addition to the programming they already support, which inspired the creation of the NEMC Shared Resource Initiative. For example, both the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership and the Bird Conservancy have available binoculars, and the Bird Conservancy has accessible monoculars. By making these resources available to all partners, all organizations have more opportunities to offer high-quality birding programs and reach a wider audience.

The Shared Resource Initiative allowed several partners to purchase gear that makes their programs more accessible. Those gear items are no longer limited to one organization's programs. They form a shared coalition resource, which benefits the partnership in several ways. The Shared Resource Initiative facilitates partnerships by providing organized and transparent information on the available gear items. The gear directory is available on the NEMC partner website. Information includes the number of items, sizing, condition, and how to acquire them. A straightforward request form lets the Generation Wild Coordinator and the staff at the hosting site coordinate each transfer.

To participate, all partners signed an MOU, and Commerce City's attorneys prepared an official agreement. This gives the partnership a clear framework for sharing, storing, and caring for equipment. Commerce City is storing and maintaining many high-demand items, including Yak Traks, hiking poles, telescopes, and paddle boards. This relieves the RMANWR, which has limited storage space and staff capacity, while keeping the shared gear at a centralized location in Commerce City. Commerce City is also storing some other partners' gear, such as Groundwork's winter coats.

Some specific purchases to expand this initiative include water nets, butterfly nets, and sweep nets for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership's citizen science programming. Bluff Lake Nature Center acquired waders to use in their environmental education and stewardship projects. The RMANWR acquired several types of archery equipment, including stock cables, arrows, points, and arrow rests, to expand access to one of the most popular outdoor recreation opportunities on the Refuge.



Youth with a net provided by the grant

In addition to facilitating partnership, the Shared Resource Initiative expands programming opportunities. Access to a broader pool of gear through the Shared Resource Initiative (which includes both Gear for All gear and other sharable gear), such as bows and arrows for archery, paddle boards for water recreation, and telescopes for stargazing, lets organizations add new activities to their existing programs. Shared winter coats and traction devices like Yak Traks help ensure participants can join cold-weather programs in Colorado's cooler months where outdoor recreation opportunities are limited. The gear lets participants experience local environments safely. Photos below show use like waders and microscopes already being used in programming at Bluff Lake, fishing poles used at RMANWR and Cherry Creek State Park, and archery equipment which has already brought in new partners to RMANWR like the CottonWood Institute and Springfield Institute. Providing gear at no cost removes one of the most common obstacles to outdoor participation, so more young people can join. *From report provided to Retirees Association by Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges.*

Fun Facts & Family Ties

Some of you may know that Fun Facts was the idea of Mark Madison, FWS Historian and his staff. Employees sent them to Mark by the dozens. Most were about the FWS. The Retirees Newsletter Fun Facts deal with the experiences of the people—YOU.. Send your submissions to Deborah Holle at **promote@fwsretirees.org**

This story below was penned by David Klinger and is the fifth in a series of short features about little−known aspects of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. It was in

the Winter 2008 issue of the Fish & Wildlife News in the Fish Tales section.

LOST TO HISTORY

By David Klinger

By all accounts, it was a horrible way to die.

The story begins in 1934—the depths of the Great Depression—when Brice McBride joined the Fish and Wildlife Service as a water manager. Fresh from service with the 23rd Engineer Corps in France in the Great War and a 14−year career as a water commissioner in Utah's Sevier River Valley, McBride came highly regarded. "Brice McBride was one of our foremost hydraulic engineers," agency Director Al Day said upon McBride's later demise. "He… performed outstanding work in connection with the Service's program for the development of migratory waterfowl refuges…"

McBride had been summoned to the Windy City for consultations at Fish and Wildlife Service headquarter, which in that post−World War II era were still located in Chicago. Much of the Service and other "non−essential" agencies were booted from Washington, DC in 1942 to make room for the huge influx of war−related bureaucracies. Most Interior's Department agencies were ensconced in Chicago's mammoth Merchandise Mart, after a massive wartime relocation. Its owner—former ambassador and Democratic Party stalwart Joseph P. Kennedy—later turned a hefty postwar profit replacing them with more lucrative commercial tenants. By mid−1946, however, the Fish and Wildlife Service still resided mostly in Chicago.

McBride checked into the LaSalle Hotel on a Monday and was assigned an upper floor room. Soon after its debut in 1909, the elegant 23−story, 1,000−room LaSalle had earned the reputation as the "largest, safest and most modern hotel in America outside of New York City." By 1946 it was a firetrap.

There is disagreement how the conflagration started. One source blames a carelessly−tossed cigarette butt that sparked a minor blaze in the pit of the No. 5 elevator shaft sometime the following Wednesday night, June 5th. *Time* magazine, two weeks after the blaze, pinned it on a short circuit in a false ceiling above the hotel's Silver Lounge. What is known is that within minutes, the LaSalle was burning out of control, flames engulfing the mezzanine and shooting up elevator shafts to the seventh floor . . . where they largely stopped. The LaSalle's upper floors then filled—not with flames—but with dense, suffocating smoke. It was there that Brice McBride and 60 others died.

Many guests had remained in their rooms, thinking the initial cries of "Fire!" were a joke; most were asphyxiated when they opened their doors and their rooms filled with smoke, their escape routes by then cut off by the sickening fumes. One victim was seen casually applying her makeup while awaiting rescue from her 18th floor bathroom. Some tossed out hastily scrawled notes crying "Help!" from their windows. Some dropped luggage and furniture to attract attention in the streets below. Some hurled themselves. Others were luckier. One guest was led down an 11−story fire escape by her seeing−eye dog. Two sailors reportedly dragged 27 others to safety.

The LaSalle Hotel disaster sparked one of the greatest overhauls of fire safety codes in Chicago's history, with new rules mandating automatic fire alarms, two−way fire department radios, and posting of emergency procedures on hotel room doors.

But Brice McBride was largely lost to history. Until this year, when an agency review of its carefully preserved press release for one of its periodic special events revealed a forgotten half−page announcement of his death from June 6, 1946.

The demise of the LaSalle Hotel fire's 61 victims—now 61 years later—has 'provoked a review of the circumstances of the death of Brice McBride, to confirm that he died "in the line of duty". McBride might thereby qualify for memorializing on the Fish on the Fish and Wildlife Service's "Fallen Comrades" wall at the National Conservation Training Center.

The event triggering the discovery of this apparent historical oversight? Last {years} 100th anniversary commemoration of the birth of the Services now most esteemed and best-known employee. For the cryptic death announcement of a little−known Utah water bureaucrat, was penned by a fellow employee who, herself worked unheralded and largely in obscurity in 1946. . . Rachel Carson



Retiree Travel

Botswana in the Dry Season: Delta, Plains, and Victoria Falls; plus, a Bonus

During this past June and July, two groups of intrepid FWS retirees including Paul and Rachel Tritaik and Jan and Graham Taylor, family, and friends went on an adventure of a lifetime to the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park in Botswana and a day trip to Victoria Falls. In addition, we made a stop in South Africa to ChaZen Game Reserve.

June and July are superb months for exploring northern Botswana and it did not disappoint! The dry season brings clear skies, mild daytime temperatures, and cool evenings, while wildlife gathers around dependable water sources. The combination of the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park let us see two distinct safari landscapes, and a day trip to Victoria Falls added a dramatic dimension.

The Okavango Delta

Flying over the Delta in small "bush planes" let us see how the waters were moving across the landscape. In the Okavango Delta, seasonal floodwaters often spread across the region during these months, transforming channels, lagoons, and islands into rich wildlife refuge. Staying in a remote camp, we were truly in the Delta. We glided quietly through the reeds in a traditional mokoro, took daily guided bush walks learning about how wildlife lives in the Delta. Early mornings can be brisk, but the soft light and still water made them especially memorable. We were able to silently approach elephants feeding and hippos bellowing in the water and explore a lion kill site, with the lions watching us, watch them! Evenings can bring nighttime camp visitors – elephants will often roam through the camp and up to the tents as they move to the water. Some of us, got a little more up close than we had expected! The thing is to keep calm and listen to the guides. And it makes for a good story when you get home!



Wildlife viewing from traditional mokoro

Chobe National Park

Chobe National Park provides a livelier contrast, particularly along the Chobe River. Game drives in the early mornings and late afternoons revealed open floodplains and woodland, where we saw giraffes, impalas, lions, cape buffalo, (to name a few) and a variety of bird life. On the boat safaris we had close views of elephants drinking and bathing, crocodiles resting on the banks, hippos taking mud baths and feeding on various grasses, and antelopes moving through the golden grass. We were fortunate to see lions along the Chobe River hunting and resting after feeding on a kill. As the dry season advances from June to July, wildlife sightings around the river can become increasingly concentrated. The guides know when and where much of the "charismatic wildlife" will show themselves. This gave us a chance to really observe how animals use their home.



Sunset at Chobe National Park

A Day at Victoria Falls

Both groups took a day trip to Victoria Falls can be visited on a full-day excursion across the border into Zimbabwe or Zambia. The Falls did not disappoint, with most getting pretty wet from the spray! Our guides told us that the falls were fuller than they had been in a few years. Needless to say, it was an impressive display of cascading and rushing water creating thunderous sound, drifting spray, and vivid rainbows along many of the viewpoints! As a bonus, we took a helicopter ride over the falls, walked the trail along the falls, and then had a lovely lunch at a restaurant on the edge of the falls.

ChaZen Game Reserve

There was a fourth stop on our adventure and that is ChaZen Game Reserve, located about two hours south of Johannesburg in the Vredefort Dome, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This private wildlife refuge is owned by our safari hosts, the Viljoen Family. On their 40,000-acre refuge they have a large variety of wildlife to see. While there, we were treated to genuine South African hospitality and had a chance to see a large variety of

antelopes species (more than a dozen can be found here) plus giraffes, zebras, and other small creatures. Two things to note about ChaZen is the very active and important breeding programs for the African lion and African Painted dog. The Viljoens are working with other reserves near Kruger to diversify the lion gene pool in that area and to reintroduce the endangered African Painted dog. Both groups got to see and learn about these programs up close.

Each group had a unique experience! These four destinations created a varied African itinerary: tranquil waterways in the Delta, abundant riverfront wildlife in Chobe, the immense spectacle of Victoria Falls, and the important conservation work being carried out by private reserves. It is hard to put into words how this trip is experienced, simply the variety of habitats and wildlife are incredible!

What's Next?

There are two more safaris in the planning stages for FWS retirees, family, and friends.

The first is to Tanzania, September 28 – October 8, 2027. This is an amazing trip during the Serengeti spring. Stops include Arusha, Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Ndutu Flats, and the western Serengeti. There is still space available, but reservations must be made by November 1, 2026.

The second one is to North West South Africa, March 27 – April 8, 2028. This is a great trip for those less adventuresome but wanting to see Africa and its amazing wildlife! The trip essentially goes to two locations: ChaZen Game Reserve and Pilanesburg National Park with a stop at the Cradle of Humankind a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Between these two locations, you have a great chance of seeing the "Big 5" and staying in very comfortable lodgings. This trip is also a good choice for those wanting to experience Africa without breaking the bank. We will not start taking reservations until this coming March. As with all our trips, we keep the group to no more than 12.

If you are interested in either trip or have any questions, contact Donna Stanek at dstanek0418@hotmail.com or text her at 505 917 2023.



Victoria Falls from the air

Author Author

By Deborah Holle

John C. Oberheu

I am still amazed by how many Fish & Wildlife employees write books. One of my favorite Supervisors, John C. Oberheu worked in the Jacksonville Area Office. John passed away at the age of 93 on October 9. 2024. He had a different path to his job in wildlife. He was born in Trivandrum, now Thiravananthapuran, in southern India. He was the son of Missouri Synod Lutheran missionaries. His family evacuated on an American Troopship during WW II to the United States. He earned his degree in Wildlife Management from Southern Illinois University (SIU) in 1953, later returning for his master's degree. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Korean Conflict from 1953 to 1955.

I purchased two of John's, children's books when my sons were small. **The Manatee That Flew: The True Adventure of a Florida Manatee** and **Hurricane Mom**. The story of a young squirrel during hurricane Ivan, and **Pa's Pearls: Lessons of a Lifetime for my grandchildren.** Most of us would be most interested in **Pour Salt on Its Tail**. It is the memories of a Career Wildlife biologist. It's a little different because he talks about how the Service implemented changes in FWS policies as different Administrations were in charge of our policies. Happy reading and I hope it will inspire more of you to write your stories.

Robin West

Another prolific retiree author is Robin West, who was co-chair of the Anchorage reunion. Robin mentioned that several people asked him about his "Alaska" book that Cindy Barry referenced in her opening remarks, (**Thirty of Forty in the 49th**). Though released six years ago, it has a good summary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and Alaska FWS issues woven into its stories. Copies can be obtained through Amazon or the publisher at https://store.bookbaby.com/book/Thirty-of-Forty-in-the-49th.

More from Deborah

If you have written any books or articles your peers would love to hear from you. Email me at promote@FWSretirees.org and we can talk about your publication. We are also interested in fun and interesting stories for the newsletter. Looking forward to hearing from many of you.

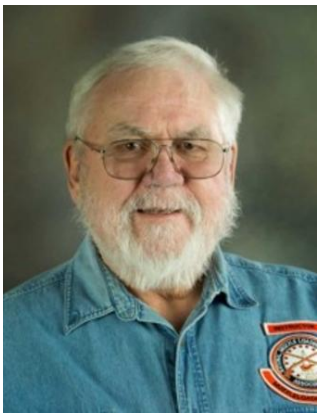
Thanking you in advance, Deborah Holle

Passing of Colleagues

If you are aware of the passing of any retired or active FWS employees, including those who left the Service before retirement, please let us know so we can pass that information on to our readers.

If you can provide us with links to online obituaries, that would be most helpful, and should be sent to Helen Clough at communications2023@fwsretirees.org.

Keith Darwin Bayha – March 5, 1940 – June 2, 2026



Keith Darwin Bayha, born March 5, 1940 in Emmett County, Michigan, passed away in Alaska on June 2, 2026. Keith lived a long and meaningful life, full of adventure and accomplishments. He documented many in his writings, professional and non-professional publications, journals, and an autobiography. Prominent among these are the seven-volume "History of Muzzle Loading in Alaska," "Anatomy of a River," and Bayha family genealogy.

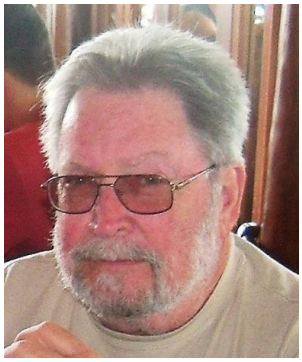
He grew up in a civil war era farmhouse in southern Michigan and graduated from Bellevue High School and Michigan State University while enrolled in a football scholarship. In Bellevue High School as captain of the football team, his coach often commented about his "command presence."

As youngster he dreamed of trapping in Alaska when exploring fields and pastures. He retired from a 37-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service serving in Michigan, North Dakota, Idaho, Washington D.C., Colorado, and Alaska. He will be remembered by his colleagues for his role in creating and elevating the discipline "Instream Flow" which is the quantification of water requirements of fish and wildlife and other uses of water in streams and lakes and securing their protection by establishing water rights.

Keith was an active leader among muzzle loading enthusiasts and trappers in Alaska and nationally. The South-Central Chapter of Alaska Trappers Association recently created a scholarship in his name awarded yearly. His hobbies include hunting, birdwatching, painting, trapping, and muzzleloader target shooting, and other shooting events. While working in Washington D. C. in the 1970s he created a painting key to elevating interest in stopping the development of a scenic valley in Idaho. The painting is now displayed in a visitor's center in Idaho.

He and his wife, Beverly participated in national muzzleloading shoots in Indiana and Arizona. He served on the NMLRA national board for two years and as officer of several organizations in Alaska. In his younger years, he officiated at baseball and football games. He especially enjoyed side coaching young football players. He prided himself as having worked at Mc Donalds in the 1960s to pay off college loans. He predeceased his parents, former wife, and a brother. Survivors include his wife Beverly, sister, two sons, stepdaughter, stepson, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. *Provided by Keith's widow, Bev.*

Gary James Carmichael - July 28, 1947 – April 3, 2026



Gary James Carmichael died on April 3, 2026 at his home on Maui where he had lived with his wife, Melissa Ring, for the past 10 years. He had been in declining cardiac health, knew the end was coming, and was at peace. Gary was an artist, scientist, outdoorsman, story teller, handyman, wonderful friend, devoted partner, and so much more.

Gary was born in Hastings, Nebraska on July 28, 1947 to Robert and Elsie (Nuss) Carmichael. His father's family were Irish and his mother's were "Germans from Russia", farmers that immigrated to the prairies in the 1870s. He spent his formative years in Norfolk. He was heartbroken to move to Springfield NE beginning his sophomore year

.

Gary's parents gave him a suitcase for graduation from Platteview High School in 1965, and he reunited with Norfolk friends at the University of Nebraska. He remained a committed Huskers football fan throughout his life. There were many distractions that kept him away from classes and studying. The draft board knew that he failed his first semester before he was officially notified. He did not want to risk Viet Nam so he powered through to get back in and graduated (barely) in 1970. He attributed his later academic success to gaining a bit of "maturity" but he never lost his playful spirit.

At a crossroads, Gary married and moved St. Louis. After a number of short-term positions, he was employed by the Southern Illinois University Dental School as an animal caretaker. There he met the Chair of the St. Louis University Biology Department who encouraged him to apply. Despite his undergraduate record, with the Chair's support, he was accepted and graduated with a MS(R) in Biology.

With home life deteriorating, Gary spent most of the next year in Guatemala and Belize where he met up with ex-pats and lived as a vagabond: Helping to build a tropical lodge near Tikal; Making wood carvings and rubbings; and joining a team to capture the photographs of the Quetzal bird in the mountainous rain forests until he ran out of money and returned to St. Louis. He was newly divorced and considering a move back to Central America

when he met Melissa, a Psychology graduate student at SLU. Their lives were forever intertwined and he recommitted to education.

Gary completed his PhD in Vertebrate Biology at Memphis State University. While there, his mastery of Spanish led to joining a research team from Virginia Tech on two fish sampling trips to Mexico, the source of many stories of their adventures. He conducted his doctoral research at the San Marcos (Texas) Fish Hatchery and Technology Center and spent the next seven years there as a Fisheries Management Biologist followed by a brief stint at the Pinetop Fisheries Assistance Office and living on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona.

Next, Gary developed the research program as the initial Research Leader at the new USDA Catfish Genetics Research Unit in Mississippi but was enticed to return to USFWS. When he was approached, the Mora (New Mexico) National Fish Hatchery & Technology Center was a controversial proposal that needed a project leader to overcome programmatic resistance and sell the idea while also designing, building and operating it. It was a difficult journey with stops and starts but became his crowning achievement. The facility was state of the art. The water reuse design was such that Gary received a national award for "Efficient Use of Water in the Federal Sector" from the Department of Energy. Unfortunately, the Mora project remained unpopular with in the USFWS and dealing with upper management led to his medical retirement.

Throughout his career, Gary specialized in physiology and genetics in sport fish, farmed catfish and most extensively with endangered species. He collaborated with fellow scientists in research and other scholarly endeavors and had over 50 publications in prestigious professional journals and presentations at invited conferences. He was sought out by colleagues for his knowledge, integrity, writing skills and friendship. Areas of study included physiological stress of fish during handling, transportation, and following stocking; Genetic studies of hybridization among wild populations of largemouth bass, introgression of endangered Apache trout and Gila trout with introduced rainbow trout, genetic studies of endangered Colorado pike minnow and population surveys of razorback sucker in the Colorado River as well as systems of hatchery management. Gary provided research opportunities to graduate students and served on the graduate committees for both Masters and PhD students. He was a lifetime member of the American Fisheries Society.

Melissa had happily joined him as they traveled to each new state, finding meaningful employment and advancing her career, but after Gary's retirement from the Service in 2002, "the moves were hers". Next stop was Doe Run, MO where Gary became a gentleman farmer and with friends developed Buck Mountain Vineyard and Winery. Then to Alaska when Melissa had a job opportunity and finally to Maui.

Gary is survived by his wife of 42 years, his brother Bill (Jenny) and niece Tracy Whitaker (Emmett), Melissa's family and the close friends he made throughout his life. He was cremated and will be buried privately alongside generations of his in-laws at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

Fredric Gordon Deines – October 1, 1945 – May 11, 2026



Plan and attack the day. So begins the last journal entry of Fredric Gordon Deines on May 11, 2026, words written again and again by a man who for eighty years launched himself out of bed before sunrise and charged at the world like a bull moose, much like his hero Teddy Roosevelt.

Born to loving parents Dean Arthur and Agnes Annette (nee Hansen) Deines in Omaha, Nebraska, on October 1, 1945, Fred had a way of making an impression—and not just because he was full-bearded and sometimes referred to himself as Hagar the Horrible after the comic strip. Or because he could tell you true stories about getting lost at sea and swimming in the caldera of a volcano. But because he was genuine and good-natured and generous—the kind of man who couldn't wait to give you a gift or who would happily help you build a new deck for your home as long as you agreed to use ample bolts and screws. He had strong opinions about fasteners and appreciated things that were built to last, including friendships. Paint, in his view, had no business concealing a natural wood grain, and in the same way he respected people for who they were.

Fred grew up near 72nd and Dodge in Omaha, close to where the city surrendered to farmland and a boy could still get his knees dirty. He remembered both when his parents had to sell their home due to hardship and how proud they were to buy a new one. After graduating from Westside High, he began to study billiards in the Student Union while dating Ellen, who would later come to accept shotguns as Mother's Day gifts despite never developing a taste for hunting herself. He then volunteered to serve his country and won her hand while on leave from Vietnam, returning for a second tour just in time to survive ninety days of shelling as an aviation ordnance man on the Da Nang Airfield during the Tet Offensive with Marine Composite Squadron One of the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Maybe that's when he started to hold up two crossed fingers and say aloud, "You and me, God, just like this—Yes? Yes!" Or maybe that was after he was almost lost at sea—not the first time, but the second, when Ellen, now his wife and watching from the shore, spotted his rudderless Zodiac disappearing over the horizon. In any case, he put the GI Bill to good use and followed his love of animals to attain a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University.
So began the era when Fred traveled with a "DAS kit" (dead animal skull kit) and earned a reputation for boiling bones in

relatives' homes, starting the first of many collections, including not only skulls, but tools, fine crystal, baseball caps, guns and knives, old books, big game trophies, hand-carved Norwegian trolls, and fallen songbirds he'd pull from the freezer to have you feel the softness of their feathers.

In his first post-college jobs, he worked in ecological services with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Omaha and Grand Island, Nebraska. With two small daughters in tow, he and Ellen then headed north to Alaska. Not for gold or oil, but for natural resource management, as Fred pursued his career at the Alaska Maritime and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges. These were the years when he amassed a wardrobe of Gore-Tex and began to resemble an Early Winters advertisement, helped reintroduce the endangered Aleutian Canada Goose, and inspired numerous young naturalists through his dedication and enthusiasm in the field.

He also welcomed a son into the world and accumulated a few more stories. Like the one about standing atop two tussocks and roaring to scare off an Alaskan brown bear, or rappelling down a cliff for the first time on a moonless night on Kasatochi Island in the Aleutians, almost getting his hand bit off by an angry puffin and hunting for Dall sheep on a glacier.

Fred also brought his love of nature into the home. Scarface (the Dall sheep from the glacier) hangs in his living room and Ellen often hung the family's ironing from caribou antlers. His kids were taught to band birds and count them using a dot-square tally. He took them skiing at night and on full-moon walks and named sunsets after them. His "bear hugs" were legendary and his support unwavering.

In his retirement, Fred built a home in Highland, Wisconsin, where he enjoyed managing his own land, driving a tractor, hunting, and spending far too much money on bird seed and suet for his "feathered piglets." During these more quiet years, he also journeyed inward, finding the courage to accept he'd returned from Vietnam with PTSD and seeking help through counseling. Then, for the first time, he began to tell stories about bombs that melted into twisted flowers before his eyes and what it's like to be thrown thirty feet over the top of a bunker. Maybe that's why he could pick himself up again and again after yet another surgery—and why he could plan and attack his days to the very last. "Pshaw," he'd say. "Don't forget, I'm a former Marine!"

Now on another adventure in the great above, where surely, he's drinking aquavit ("the water of life") with a host of angels and regaling them with a good tale, Fred will be forever remembered by his family for his extraordinary love and devotion.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Dean, and is survived by his wife Ellen (nee Dahlquist) Deines, with whom he celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in February of this year, daughters Kahrin (Michael) DiGioia and Alison (Sam) Sehnert, son Nickolas (Megan) Deines, and grandchildren Hadley, Seppi, Nora, Stanley, Joseph and Charlee, as well as many other family and friends, the songbirds of Southwest Wisconsin, the dog and that damn cat.

Richard "Dick" Dickinson (1945 –2026)



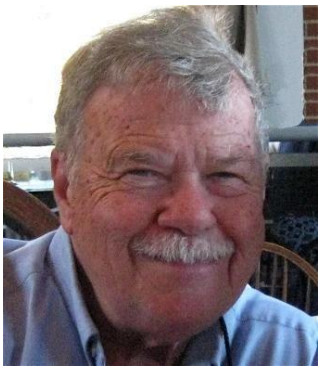
Eagan, MN - Richard "Dick" Dickinson, age 81, of Eagan, Minnesota, died peacefully with his family at his side.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 52 years, Connie; daughters Heather Dickinson (Chad Williams) and Lindsey Dickinson (Mike Roering); grandchildren Hope (Kyle) George, Gabe (Cassidy) Hurley, Ruby Roering, and Leo Roering; and five great-grandchildren, Jamison, Layla, Olivia, Jordan, and Kate. He is also survived by his sister, Suzanne Dickinson; brother, Clarance Dickinson; dear in-laws Jim (Darlene) Halverson, Janet (Chuck) Amundsen, Mary Halverson (Richard Needham), and Joyce Halverson (Hubert Boyce); and beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Laurance and Jane Dickinson; brother, Laurance Dickinson; and infant grandson, Tyler Terry.

Dick was born in Elmira, New York, and spent his childhood in Owego, New York, and Tucson, Arizona. A Vietnam War veteran, University of Arizona graduate, and longtime public servant, Dick greatly enjoyed his more than 25-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Special Agent. He made many friends working for the protection of our fish and wildlife resources. He loved sharing stories about the creatures and characters he encountered in his work. After retirement, Dick was a member of the FWS Retirees Association.

Outside of work, Dick enjoyed raising his daughters, watching birds at the feeders, traveling with Connie, delighting in his grandchildren, and spending time with the "gang of six." He will be remembered for his deep love of family, the many stories he loved to tell, and his ever-expanding collection of wild socks.
Compiled by Paul Tritaik and Jerry Smith.

Thomas McAndrews – September 8, 1936 – December 11, 2025



Tom McAndrews Jr., a 30-year employee with the FWS, died on December 11, 2025, at his home in Nashua, NH. He was 89. Tom was born in 1936 and raised in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Columbia University and served as an infantryman in the 82nd Airborne Division in West Germany and Fort Bragg, NC.

Tom was teaching biology in New Jersey when he was hired by Refuge Supervisor Tom Horn to be the interim manager of the newly established Great Swamp NWR. Tom starred in "Saving the Great Swamp: Battle to Defeat the Jetport", a documentary by Scott Morris, which chronicled the fight to construct a jetport in New Jersey near New York City. This fight resulted in the establishment of the Great Swamp NWR.

Tom served next as the assistant refuge manager at Iroquois NWR in New York. He also worked at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwest Oklahoma. He may have been in charge of the Job Corps Works Program at the refuge.

After completing a Departmental training program in Washington, DC, Tom was selected by Refuge Supervisor Howard Woon to fill the position as refuge manager at Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware. Later, Tom moved to the Region 5 Regional Office in Massachusetts where he remained for the rest of his career. He served as the Assistant Refuge Supervisor for both the North and South zones and also as the Bicentennial Land Heritage Program regional coordinator. Tom retired in 1995.

Tom was a warm, affable, kind, and generous man who made lasting friendships as well as contributions to the wildlife refuges of the northeast U.S. He and his wife Joan traveled extensively around the world and particularly loved the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Tom and Joan attended many Retirees reunions until Joan's ill health and eventual passing in 2021.

Tom is survived by his sons Tom and Jeff, two grandchildren, and a brother-in-law. Donations in Tom's name may be made to Home Health and Hospice Care, Merrimack NH, or the Nashua (NH) Soup Kitchen. S*ubmitted by Libby Herland with information from Ed Moses*

Judy Greenwalt

Former Service Director Dale Hall notified us that Judy Greenwalt, Lynn Greenwalt's widow, passed away on October 26, 2026 at the age of 93. She passed away peacefully and is with Lynn. A full obituary, if available, will appear in the next newsletter

Judy Lee McClendon - November 20, 1949 — July 30, 2026



Judy Lee McClendon, 76, of Poplar Bluff, MO, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center.

Judy was born on November 20, 1949, to Charles and Dolores June (McMillan) Lipscomb in Granite City, Illinois. She married Michael McClendon on December 02, 1967, in Carterville, Illinois.

Judy was a hard-working, caring, and dedicated wife and mother. She received her Bachelor of Science with a major in biology from Southeast Missouri State University. While attending college, Judy raised her children and remained heavily involved with their activities; even making time to be their Girl Scout Leader. She was the first member of her family to receive a college degree and was very proud of her accomplishments.

Judy worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge near Puxico. After retiring, she worked for The Corp of Engineers and FEMA; traveling across the country to assist with emergency operations in areas of devastation.
Judy and her husband Mike were very involved with fundraising and organizing events for various conservationist clubs and organizations in the area, including Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Judy received national recognition and numerous awards for "The Best Jake Event". Although Judy's passion surrounded conservation, her caring and generous spirit didn't stop there; she was also a proud member of the local Rotary Club and Lions Club, even being recognized as the first female Governor of the Lions Club.

Like her father, Judy was very outgoing and never met a stranger. Although she could be described as stubborn or hardheaded at times, she had a servant's heart and was always willing to help where needed. Judy loved her family fiercely and never hesitated to put them first. In addition to her own children, she also raised her grandchildren, Charles and Amelia. Her kindness and generosity led to many impactful connections throughout her life. These connections often left lasting impressions on the hearts and minds of those who had the opportunity to experience the selfless love and kindness of Judy. She will be deeply missed.

Judy is survived by her husband of 59 years, Mike McClendon; three daughters, Michelle (Derek) Melton, Kari Lee McClendon,

and Amber Minks; two sisters, Maria (Martin) Hubbard and Rebecca (Scott) Oelke; brother, Charles Lipscomb Jr.; ten grandchildren, Jonathan, Jack, Erika, Eden, Charles, Tanner, Amelia, Logan, Benjamin, and Emily; three great-grandchildren, A'jay, Ayla, and Koa; beloved canine companion, Poope Lee; along with numerous extended family members and friends. Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Delores and brother, James Jackson.

Phillip "Phil" Morgan - February, 1936 – June, 2026



Phillip "Phil" Scott Morgan, age 90, passed away on June 20, 2026. Born on February 26, 1936 in St. Joseph, Missouri, Phil lived a life dedicated to family, faith, conservation, and public service.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, Earl Victor Morgan and Kathryn Marie Hodgin Morgan, and his sister, Margaret Morgan Steiner.

He graduated from Oregon High School in Oregon, Missouri, in 1954 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Colorado State University in 1958. Following graduation, Phil proudly served his country as an officer in the United States Army Intelligence Corps, attaining the rank of Captain and serving on both active duty and in the reserves from 1958 to 1964.

In 1961, Phil married the love of his life, Karen Lea Hayes. Together they built a loving family and shared many years of devotion and partnership. He is survived by his wife, Karen; his children, David Morgan, Cheryl (Bob) Gardner, and Steven Morgan; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Phil devoted his professional life to conservation through a distinguished 38-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His service included assignments at national wildlife refuges in Utah, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as leadership and administrative positions in regional offices in Minnesota, Oregon, and Georgia, and at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C. He retired in 1994, leaving a lasting impact on wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Even in retirement, Phil remained committed to conservation. He volunteered with the National Wildlife Refuge Association and was a founding member of the Blue Goose Alliance, organizations dedicated to supporting and promoting the well-being of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Phil was an ardent supporter of Pelican Island NWR in retirement, as he was in the Regional Office, and advocated for its recognition during the Centennial. Phil was a long-time member of the FWS Retirees Association and was active in several other nonprofit conservation organizations.

A faithful member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Georgia for many years, Phil served his church in numerous capacities including the Oren Morris Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Phil was deeply committed to his faith community.

Phil found great joy in the outdoors. Whether hunting, fishing, camping, or simply enjoying nature, he felt most at home in the wild places he spent his life working to protect. He was also a talented woodworker who loved creating beautiful and practical items for family and friends, including wooden rocking horses, birdhouses, Adirondack chairs, lamps, and gliders.

Phil especially enjoyed fixing things, and his family often joked, "If Papa couldn't fix it, no one could!" His craftsmanship, ingenuity, passion for conservation, dedication to public service, steadfast faith, and love for family will be remembered by all who knew him.

Phil's legacy lives on through the family he cherished, the natural resources he helped preserve, and the many lives he touched through his service and friendship. May Phil's memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him. *Compiled by Paul Tritaik..*

Barbara "Barbie" Diann Reynolds - April 11, 1952 — July 20, 2026



Barbara "Barbie" Diann Reynolds (Young), age 74, passed away peacefully on July 20, 2026, after a long, and brave battle with Multiple System Atrophy. She is now with the Lord in Heaven, Jesus Christ. Born on April 11, 1952, in Blackwell, Oklahoma, to Merle and Maryjo Young, Barbie grew up on the family farm where she helped work the fields and harvest crops.

She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend who left behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and beautiful memories. Barbie graduated from Tonkawa High School, Tonkawa, Oklahoma, in 1970. On July 30, 1970, she married her faithful and loving husband, Ronald (Ron) Edward Reynolds, beginning a beautiful life journey together.

Professionally, Barbie was dedicated to preserving the natural world, enjoying a meaningful career providing administrative support for environmental conservation organizations. She also assisted husband Ron with many field studies of waterfowl during his career as a wildlife biologist. During her career, she proudly served the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bluestem Inc. (environmental consulting company) in Bismarck, ND, the North Dakota Wetlands Trust, and Ducks Unlimited Inc. Barbie worked for the Migratory Bird Management Office at Patuxent

Wildlife Research Center for many years between the late 1970 and the late 1980s.
Barbie was married to Patuxent alumni, Ron Reynolds, for 56 years. After Barbie and Ron left Patuxent, Barbie remained very active as a volunteer with the Fish and Wildlife Service and assisted Ron on many field projects. She was well-known and respected by many professionals.

Her professional passion mirrored her personal life, as Barbie found immense joy in the simple, beautiful moments of nature. She had a deep appreciation for the outdoors, particularly long, peaceful drives through the country, admiring wild flowers, and enjoying fishing with her husband (when the fish were biting). She was happiest when surrounded by her family and friends, sharing stories and laughter.

Above all, Barbie's heart belonged to her family. She was a deeply devoted mother to her only child, Kimberly Diann Bercaw, and cherished numerous adventures they shared traveling together with family. As a proud grandmother, Barbie poured her love and creativity into sewing beautiful pieces for her three grandchildren, who were her ultimate pride and joy. Her bright spirit, kind heart, and resilient love for life will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her loving husband, Ron Reynolds; her daughter, Kimberly Diann Bercaw (Reynolds), and her son-in-law, Benjamin (Ben) Todd Bercaw; her three cherished grandchildren, Isabel Bercaw, Caroline Bercaw, and Harrison (Harry) Bercaw; her sisters, Marilyn Taylor and Debra (Debbie) Denton; her brother, Merle Young Jr.; as well as a large circle of extended family and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Merle and Maryjo Young, and her sister, Karen Young. *Compiled by Paul Tritaik and Matthew Perry.*

Richard Lee Schreifels – September 21. 1940 – October 22, 2026



Vietnam Veteran, Retired Senior Chief Boatswain Mate, USN

Beloved Husband, Brother, Dad, and Grandpa

Richard L. Schreifels, Age 86 of South St. Paul on 10/22/2026. A devoted loving husband and father. Dick loved life, family, and friends. Born in Houlton, Wisconsin on September 21, 1940. He was preceded in death by; his loving wife of 52 years, Rosemary, parents Charles and Constance; brothers Melvin, Jim, Charles, and Michael. Survived by son, Anthony (Jennifer); daughter, Kimberly (Adam) Smith; grandchildren Alexandra (Ali), Donovan, Inara; sister, Diane Richenberg; brother Joseph; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

After serving 20 years in the Navy, Dick went on to work 26 years with the St Paul District Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While in the Navy, Dick served 30 months in Vietnam as the Boat Captain of a 50-foot Mine Sweeping Patrol Boat operating in the Mekong Delta. Some of the medals Dick was awarded in Vietnam are the Silver Star and Bronze Star with "V" for valor. He was a life member of Fleet Reserve Association Viking Branch 136, VFW Post 295 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 639.

William Bruce Zimmerman - July 9, 1944 — July 29, 2026



William (Bill) Zimmerman, age 82 of Huntsville, Alabama, passed away peacefully on July 29, 2026 surrounded by loving family.

Born on July 9, 1944 in New York, Bill grew up with a strong sense of duty and love for his country. Following high school, he moved to Colorado to attend Colorado State University and completed his degree in Wildlife Management. After college, he answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). He served his country in Vietnam War and was honored with several medals while serving the (USMC).

After completing his military service, Bill built a successful career with the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Special Agent. Bill Zimmerman retired in 2001 as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge in Region 1. Bill was a member of the FWS Retirees Association.

Bill loved the outdoors, especially while fishing and hunting with his dear friends. He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement in taking time to enjoy his coffee each morning, walking his beloved dog, Sadie. He loved to travel and visit friends along the way.

Bill is survived by his wife, Gay Zimmerman; his two children, son Matthew (Lilly) Zimmerman and daughter Katherine (Stephen) Parker; and their mother Barbara Zimmerman. Step children Andrea (Tracey) Rodgers and Brent Inman. Bill cherished his 11 grandchildren; Haley, Zoey, Alex, and Kavik Zimmerman; Nicky and Leah Lares; Aviya and Eli Parker; Wesley Inman and Ava and Colton Rodgers. Brother-in-Law, Mike Woodfield (Betty), niece Mila Woodfield (Alex) and grandnephew Arlo; and special Aunt Joan Zimmerman. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Arthur and Sally Zimmerman, as well as his sister Eleanor Woodfield.

While Bill's presence will be missed, those who knew him and loved him will carry forward memories that reflect his character and spirit. *Compiled by Paul Tritaik and Jerry Smith.*

Group Photo at the Anchorage Reunion



Top row *– left to right: Rosa Meehan, Joe Meehan, Bruce Conant, Jerry Smith, Leslie Slater, Poppy Benson, Kim Kurth, Jan Taylor, Graham Taylor, Jim Smith, Cecilia Todd, James Todd, Columbus Brown, Barry Whitehill, Karen Bollinger, Mendel Stewart, Kristin Stewart, Sandra Scarce, Doug Forsell, Robin West, Steve Berendzen, Pat Heglund, Bob Platte, Robyn Thorson, Rod Hansen, Amy Wing, Stephen Parry, Janet Ady, Tony DeGange, Frank Muth, Mike Blenden, Paul Tritaik*
Front/middle row *– left to right Peggy Hobbs, Matthew Perry, Rowan Gould, Donna Stanek, Scott Hanley, Libby Herland, Cindy Barry, Kristine Sowl, Helen Clough, Denise Baker, Terry Friggel, Danielle Jerry, Deborah Holle, Piers Ady, Stuart Marcus, Chris Cline, Danny Moss, Sharon Janis. Photo: Rollin Young.*

Not pictured: Rollin Young, John Hobbs, Rachel Tritaik, Dee Mirando-Gould, Austin Sellenvold, Mimi Hogan, Georgia Perry, Chris Hansen, Denice Elison, Glenn Elison, Scott Schliebe, Nadine Schliebe, Shannon West, Thomas Evans, Robin Will, Eric Will, Donna Dewhurst, William Ostrand, Sara McCabe, Andy Loranger, Richard Johnson, Pam McDermott, Cynthia Wentworth, Gina Swoope, Brian Parker, Susi Miller, Joel Garlich-Miller, Ted Swem, Nancy Tankersley, Bill Larned.

Albuquerque Retiree Luncheon



Pete and Marlene hosted the latest FWS retiree luncheon on Wednesday, Sept 9, 2026 at the El Pinto Restaurant in Albuquerque. We had 12 retirees attend this time and as usual all enjoyed the fellowship. Sitting: Sally Spier, Terri Craig (Sally's daughter); Standing (l-r): Pete Stine, Dom Ciccone, Jerry Burton, Sue Burton, Doug McKenna, Gary Montoya, Carla Montoya, Jim Hubert, Marlene Stine & Sylvia Biscamp (Jim's friend).

More Reunion Photos

















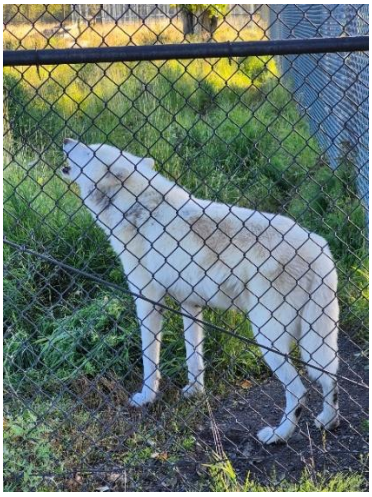

Mendel
Stewart






Red
Hansen
Carrie
Hansen
Jim
Hall





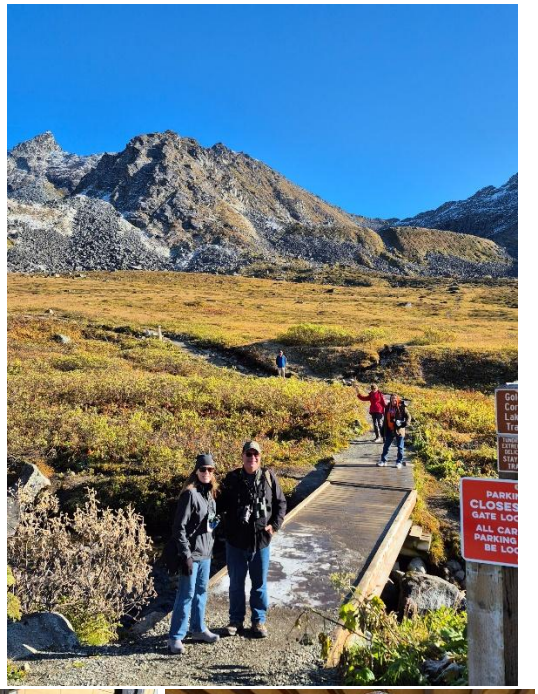












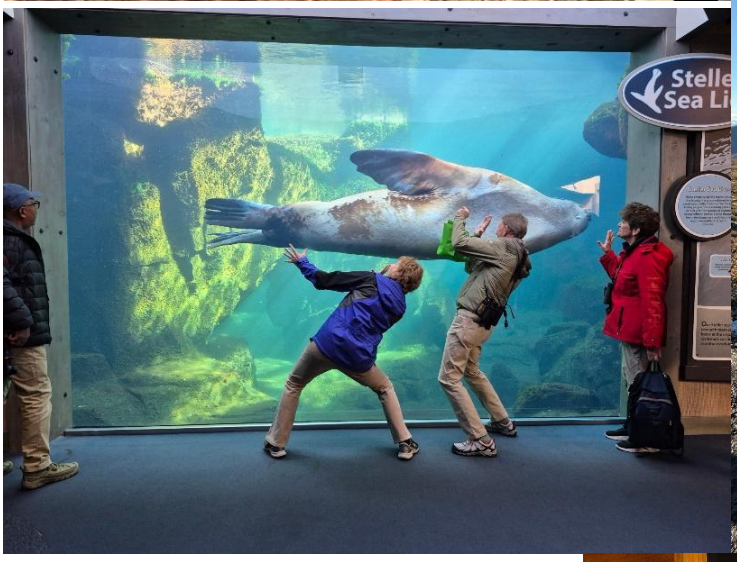

Ounces of Gold
Mountains of Rock


Tony
Delamgo


Thomas
Evans




What Animals Leave Behind:
Unlocking Data For Conservation with eDNA


Stelle
Sea Li






EXIT









Are you up to date on your dues?

The Fish and Wildlife Service Retirees Association depends primarily on dues and income generated at our reunions to maintain its operations. We receive no funding from the federal government or outside sources of funding for the day-to-day activities of keeping the organization functioning. Please help keep your Retirees Association going and active by paying your dues each year. If you're not sure whether you've paid your dues yet for this year or not, click on Membership List and Dues Status to find out.

This Newsletter was compiled by Newsletter Editor Helen Clough with contributions from other Board, Association members and others. If you have information or would like to contribute articles that would be of interest to Association members for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact Helen at communications2023@fwsretirees.org.

Also, be sure to visit our website for more up-to-date information at www.fwsretirees.org