This will be my last President’s Message. By the next newsletter, Danny Lewis will be OFWIM President. Congratulations and good luck to Danny! Judging by the great job Danny has done with organizing the upcoming conference, I am sure that 2013 will be a good year for OFWIM.

I believe this past year has been good for OFWIM, too. Our committees have been busy! The most significant accomplishment has been migrating our social media/web collaboration needs from the NBII Portal to GroupSite. We already have over 30 OFWIM members on GroupSite and hope to increase that number at the conference in Austin where we’ll be helping members create GroupSite profiles and demonstrating how to use the site.

As you’ve seen from the draft agenda and announcements, at this year’s conference we’ll be celebrating 20 years of OFWIM. We’ll be looking back on where OFWIM came from and what its founders originally wanted OFWIM to be. Considering that OFWIM is still active today, I’d say their intentions have proven valuable to fish and wildlife information managers.

At next year’s conference in Maine, we’ll be deciding on OFWIM’s future—what will our hopes, needs, and intentions be for the next 20 years? We’ve had some initial conversations about that through a “Making OFWIM More Relevant” conference call in January 2012 and in our “Vision and Goals” committee on GroupSite. I am looking forward to continuing that conversation throughout the next year and next fall here in Maine.

Finally I would like to thank all OFWIM members who have been involved over the past year in keeping OFWIM going. Committee members and Chairs, officers, and other members who have participated—there would be no OFWIM without you! Being OFWIM President is actually pretty easy when we have such professional, dedicated members. Mostly it consists of saying, “That’s a great idea” and, “Thanks for doing that.” It has been an honor and a lot of fun being OFWIM’s President.

Donald Katnik
2012 OFWIM President
2012 Conference Overview

Sunday, OCTOBER 14, 2012: Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, OCTOBER 15, 2012: FIELD TRIP
Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge *
Congress Street Bat Bridge
Registration / Presentation Loading
*Bring money for lunch

Tuesday, OCTOBER 16, 2012: CONFERENCE
Registration
Opening Session
Conference Session I
Student/Mentor Lunch
Conference Session II
Hacker’s Ball Poster Session/Technical Demonstrations (meal provided)

Wednesday, OCTOBER 17, 2012: CONFERENCE
Conference Session III
Lunch (meal provided)
Business Meeting
Conference Session IV
Evolution of OFWIM Web Presence
Banquet / 20 Years of OFWIM Celebration (meal provided)

Thursday, OCTOBER 18, 2012: CONFERENCE
Breakfast (meal provided)
Conference Session V
Workshop I: Phenology & Citizen Science Go Mobile
Workshop II: Ornithological Crowdsourcing: An Innovative Approach to Data Collection
Adjourn at 5 pm

IMPORTANT!!!
FIELD TRIP SIGNUP DEADLINE
Due to overwhelming response to this year’s Balcones Canyonlands field trip, and so that we may be able to properly provide transportation for the participants and prepare for the number of field trippers we have, those who still desire to participate in the field trip need to register and indicate the field trip option by Monday, September 24th.
Training Opportunities at the 2012 Conference

The Training & Education Committee is excited to announce the following two workshops to be offered during the final session of the 2012 conference, on Thursday, October 18.

**Phenology & Citizen Science Go Mobile**

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN), an early adopter of mobile technology for citizen science and ecology, will lead a workshop on the benefits, complications, and lessons learned from introducing their own program to the mobile world. The session will explore various mobile platforms, web services, and approaches to infrastructure, security, and more. For more information, check out their current mobile apps: [http://www.usanpn.org/mobile-apps](http://www.usanpn.org/mobile-apps).

**Ornithological Crowdsourcing: An Innovative Approach to Data Collection**

Learn about the development of the North American Bird Phenology Program, first ornithological crowdsourcing program created around a collection of historic migration cards. The North American Bird Phenology Program was a network of volunteer observers who recorded information on first arrival dates, maximum abundance, and departure dates of migratory birds across North America. Active between 1880 and 1970, the program was coordinated by the Federal government and sponsored by the American Ornithologists’ Union. It exists now as a historic collection of millions of migration card observations, illuminating almost a century of migration patterns and population status of birds. Today, in an innovative project to curate the data and make them publically available, the records are being scanned and placed on the internet, where volunteers worldwide transcribe these records and add them into a database for analysis.

The BPP program will be presented in a step-by step process:

- Development of the program's crowdsourcing methods.
- List of software and scanning equipment considered and used for the program.
- Methods for data rectification and output.
- Lessons learned and recommendations for building similar projects.
- Target user group, outreach tools, volunteer retention methods used and user feedback.
- Discuss BPP program in the broader context of citizen science: why it is worthwhile to develop these projects.
2012 Conference: Registration, Lodging & Transportation

Conference Registration

Regular member: $320.00
Regular non-member $400.00
Student Registration: $200.00
Retired Professional Registration: $200.00
One day registration: $150.00
Remote access registration: $100.00 (limited number of connections available)


Lodging and Transportation


You must enter the group code, OFW, to get the contracted group rate. You can also call the Reservations Center toll-free at 888-615-0509 to talk to an agent to book. Please note the OFW code to be assured of getting the right rate and coded into the group properly. By either method, you should book by the group cut-off date, Sept. 25, 2012.

*Rooms will only be held until September 25, 2012*

Rate: $108.00 + taxes per night (Single and Double)
Note: Current tax rates are 15%
Parking at hotel: no charge


Rental Cars and Public Transportation: [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport/transportation.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport/transportation.htm)

Taxi Charge (one way) $15.00

The hotel has a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport. Please call for schedule and information: 512-472-8211.

*For more information about conference logistics, please go to:*
2012 Conference: Opportunities

Raffle Items Needed

If you would like to help raise funds for the student scholarship, please consider donating an item for the conference raffle. All funds from the raffle go directly towards the student scholarships. If you have raffle items to donate, please contact Danny Lewis <danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us> to let him know what you are planning to send, and to obtain a mailing address for shipping.

Seeking Photographs for the Banquet

If you have photographs from past OFWIM events that you would like to include in the banquet presentation, please email them to Danny Lewis <danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us>. The deadline for submitting photos is September 24, 2012, so that we may have time to put the presentation together.

Many thanks to those who have already sent photos in, including -- Don Schrupp, Gary Sprandel, Sabra Tonn, Daniel Vichitbandha, and Viv Hutchison.

Data Standards and Technology Trends Survey

If you have not yet had an opportunity to respond to the Data Standards and Technology Trends survey, please take some time to do so by September 22nd, so that the committee may have time to summarize their findings prior to the conference.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OFWIMTECHSURVEY

It has been 20 years since OFWIM has conducted a survey similar to this one, and much as changed in the technology field since then. We want to present the result of this survey at our annual OFWIM conference. We hope to see you there! But YOUR response is important, even if you cannot attend the conference.

Thank you for your participation in the survey and for helping to make OFWIM a better professional organization.

If you have any questions about how to respond to a particular item on the survey, please contact Dean June (dsjue (AT) admin.fsu.edu).
2012-2013 OFWIM Officer Elections

Per OFWIM By-laws, members in good standing (who have paid 2012 dues) are eligible to vote in OFWIM elections. Voting is conducted online prior to the Business Meeting. If you are a current member and are unable to attend this year’s Business Meeting, please use the online ballot to submit your vote. Members attending the Business Meeting are also encouraged to vote online; however, paper ballots will be available during the Business Meeting for those members who are unable to cast an online ballot prior to the meeting.

The deadline for casting an online ballot is 5:00pm ET on Friday, October 12th. The online ballots will be available at CLICK HERE TO VOTE until the deadline. Or check the main page of the OFWIM website. Keep reading to learn about your OFWIM candidates for office...then cast your vote!

2012-2013 OFWIM Officer Candidates

*** President-Elect ***

James Husband  
Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

James is the Fish and Wildlife Information Section/Permits Manager the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries in Richmond, VA. He has over 25 years experience with information technology, education, criminal justice, and government agencies and institutions. In his current position, he directs a multidisciplinary team of biologists, GIS, database, application programmers and Permit Specialists within the Wildlife Resource Bureau of the Department. James has held previous management positions in several higher education institutions, working with distance learning technologies and strategies, local government, and private IT firms. Additionally, he has worked as a college professor and had a distinguished career in law enforcement and as a regional criminal justice planner for several Virginia localities.
2012-2013 OFWIM Officer Candidates (cont.)

*** Member-At-Large ***

Julie Fleming
Missouri Department of Conservation

Julie Fleming is a Programmer/Database Manager for the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Resource Science Division. She has a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her current job responsibilities include developing databases to support various research projects such as a study of pollinators of native plants, evaluation of estimating deer populations using trail cameras, black bear population monitoring and assessment of low water crossings as barriers to fish passage. She also maintains several long-term datasets to help monitor populations of mussels, fish, doves, deer and other species. She is a long time OFWIM member and has served on the Data Standards and Technology Trends and Conference Planning committees.

Joel Sartwell
Missouri Department of Conservation

I am a systems analyst with the Missouri Department of Conservation in the Resource Science Division. I received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Nebraska. My interests include scientific software development, user interfaces for data entry on mobile devices, simulation, and statistical wildlife biology. In addition to my primary work with hand-held computers using .Net for data entry, I’m actively involved with creating animal-borne videos on bears and deer, data capture from paper mail surveys using OCR/ICR/OMR, web based data entry and web-based mapping applications with GPS data of bears and elk in Missouri.

I have been a dedicated runner, albeit a slow one, for over 25 years (sidelined recently by injuries) and a rabid mountain biker for about 15 years. I am also a faithful Mizzou fan and enjoy attending sporting events for many different sports at the university.

I’ve spent most of my life in Missouri, the last 20 years of which have been in Columbia. My wife Marva and I have two daughters, Laura and Jacque, and one granddaughter Tisha.
As a data analyst with the Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife for 16 years, my job entails database administration and programming, statistical analysis, mail and web surveys, and computer application development for data-intensive projects. I have a BS and MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University, and have been involved with research on swine skin cancer, coyote endocrinology, quail and prairie chicken disease, ring-necked pheasant reproduction and condition, hunter demographics, and dove aging and mortality, among other topics. Although I love research, I spend most of my time managing and analyzing data that has been gathered by other people. In my spare time, I run a hobby farm with miniature cattle, goats, rabbits, and chickens, and am attempting to reduce the local feral hog population to sausage.

Jon Purvis
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Groupsite: Update on The New OFWIM Portal

We have the OFWIM Groupsite up and running now, and have sent invitations to join the site to membership. Thus far, 37 individuals have taken advantage of this offer to participate in our new collaboration website.

For the rest of you, some email servers may be sending the invitation email to the junk mail folder. If you are an OFWIM member and have not yet received an invitation email or have misplaced the email, email Danny Lewis (danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us) and let him know. He will resend the invitation and follow up with you to insure that you are able to take advantage of this membership opportunity.

One hoped for future benefit of the website is that we will at some point be able to send out announcements and other pertinent OFWIM information via Groupsite, thus reducing the number of emails sent out manually. Groupsite members are able to adjust their settings as to how often Groupsite emails are received.

We will also be assisting individuals at this year’s conference who may still be having issues as well.
Thank you to those who have joined or renewed their 2012 membership!!

Listed are members who joined/renewed since the June newsletter (thru September 5th).

Stan Allen (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)
Mike Babcock (Yakama Nation Fisheries)
Michael Banach (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)
Brenda Bowling (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
Robin Carlson (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)
Dyanne Cortez (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
Sara Dugger (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Van Hare (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)
Dean Hendrickson (University of Texas at Austin)
William Kinney (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)
Susan Lanier (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency)
Julie Prior-Magee (U.S. Geological Survey/NBII)
John Purvis (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
Bruce Schmidt (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)
Donald Schrupp (CDOW - Retired)
Lisa Zolly (U.S. Geological Survey/NBII)

Membership Year:
All memberships are valid for one calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Members are entitled to vote in OF-WIM elections, to participate in OFWIM committees, and to hold office.

Individual Memberships
Individuals may join OFWIM for the membership rate of $30. The Individual Membership is valid for one calendar year (January-December).

Student Memberships
Students currently enrolled in accredited graduate or undergraduate degree programs are invited to join OFWIM as Student Members for the special rate of $10. The Student Membership may be renewed if the person continues to be officially enrolled in the degree program during the following calendar year. Students wishing to join OFWIM under the Student Membership must obtain the signature of their official faculty advisor on their membership application.

Organizational Memberships
State and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other groups whose mission involves management of fish and wildlife populations or habitat, are encouraged to become OFWIM Organizational Members. Each Organizational Membership costs $150 and entitles the organization to 6 OFWIM General Memberships, with the same member privileges as Individual Members. You get 6 OFWIM memberships for the price of 5! The organization must list the names of the 6 individual members at the time of payment. Organizations may have more than 1 Organizational Membership.

To download membership forms, please visit the OFWIM website:
http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html
GeoCaching is a real-world treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers (called geocaches) using GPS, their navigational skills, and their wits.

At OFWIM 2012:

Geocaching is back for its 2nd year! Participants who sign up to play will be randomly grouped into teams that will compete throughout the Conference to locate the most GeoCaches and win the coveted Traveling Jack Award (but you only get to keep it until 2013 when it will be back up for grabs).

This year, we will combine existing Austin geocaches with specially created OFWIM geocaches to create a myriad of opportunities to explore the local area and find caches. A great way to learn about GeoCaching and get to know your OFWIM colleagues!

Did You Know??

September 12, 2012 was Programmer’s Day, an international professional holiday. It is celebrated on the 256th (hexadecimal 100th, or the 2⁸th) day of each year (September 13th during common years, September 12th in leap years).

The number 256 (2⁸) was chosen because it is the number of distinct values that can be represented with an 8-bit byte, a value well known to programmers.
SAVE THE DATE...
Sep 30—Oct 3, 2013
OFWIM
2013 Annual Conference & Business Meeting

Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC)
Acadia National Park, Maine

SERC’s mission is “connecting science, education, parks, and people,” making it an ideal location for OFWIM’s 2013 Annual Conference & Business Meeting. The facility is located on 2,000 acres of Acadia National Park on Maine’s Schoodic Peninsula. Join us for our usual conference presentations, posters, and technical demonstrations and help plan the next 20 years of OFWIM!
Get Involved, Join a Committee!

Contact the Committee Chairs listed below for more information...

**Conference Planning Committee**
- Chair: Danny Lewis  
  danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us
- Vice-Chair: Jon Purvis  
  jon.purvis@tpwd.state.tx.us

**Communications Committee**
- Chair: Robin Carlson  
  rcarlson (AT) dfg.ca.gov
- Vice-Chair: Jeanette Jones  
  Jeanette.Jones (AT) tn.gov

**Elections, Nominations & Awards Committee**
- Chair: Beth Stys  
  beth.stys (AT) MyFWC.com
- Vice-Chair: Don Katnik  
  donald.katnik (AT) maine.gov

**Data Standards & Technology Trends Committee**
- Chair: Dean Jue  
  djue (AT) admin.fsu.edu
- Vice-Chair: Jim Husband  
  jim.husband (AT) dgif.virginia.gov

**Membership & Outreach Committee**
- Chair: Currently vacant
- Vice-Chair: Julie Prior-Magee  
  jpmagee (AT) usgs.gov

**Training & Education Committee**
- Chair: Robin Carlson  
  rcarlson (AT) dfg.ca.gov
- Vice-Chair: Donald Schrupp  
  hqwris (AT) lamar.colostate.edu

**Vision & Goals Committee (Ad-Hoc)**
- Chair: Donald Katnik  
  donald.katnik (AT) maine.gov
- Vice-Chair: Currently vacant

www.ofwim.org