



OFWIM news

President's Message: Keith Wethington

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Greetings OFWIM members! As your 2011 president, I look forward to working with our committee members and the extended membership. I'm enthused by the activity that has already begun and confident that our organization will continue to provide the membership with valuable tools that help us grow as professionals.

Attendance was down slightly at the 2010 annual meeting at Lake Barkley State Park in Cadiz, KY but overall I think it was very successful. Participants who were able to come provided numerous excellent presentations and posters. The venue at Lake Barkley allowed ample opportunity for membership interaction and networking. Our Student Scholarship Winners provided us a truly international perspective with presentations on projects from Sumatra, the Himalayas, and central Appalachians. We also were able to provide remote access through WebEx to members who were unable to make the trip.

The Executive Committee (ExCom) has had a bit of a bumpy start this year. USGS policy concerning staff participation on committees resulted in some officer changes in the ExCom after the annual conference. Kristin Rogers has agreed to continue as Treasurer until a MOU between USGS and OFWIM has been signed that would allow Julie Prior-Magee to serve as Treasurer. Jen Carlino is staying on as Past President and is serving on her personal time. Danny Lewis has graciously accepted the role of Secretary when Elizabeth Martin had to step down. Also, Dean Jue has joined the ExCom as Member at Large. On behalf of OFWIM I want to extend a huge thanks to Jen, Kristin, Danny, and Dean for stepping up and keeping our organization moving forward. I also want to highlight that Robin Carlson has agreed to participate in ExCom as a valued "Past, Past President" and I very much appreciate her experience and willingness to help in this transition with so many new officers. Don Katnik rounds out the ExCom as President Elect.

OFWIM Committees are becoming active now and several have already met. The newsletter provides information about each Committee and I encourage you to sign up and get involved, we need the talents of all our members!

Please mark your calendars for this year's conference in St. Louis, Mo., October 17-20. Additional information about the conference is given in the newsletter.

OFWIM is truly a wonderful organization. I am honored and humbled as I interact with this talented and motivated group of professionals. Many opportunities for growth and learning lie ahead of us. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions. Keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov 502-564-7109 ext 4488

Best to all,

Keith

M. Keith Wethington
2011 OFWIM President

GIS, Wildlife, and Fun Time in Kentucky: An Experience from OFWIM Conference

I felt very lucky to be selected as one of the student scholarship winners for 2010 by the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM).

The topic of the conference was really interesting. Also, as an international student with field study located abroad (I came a long way from Indonesia to study Wildlife Sciences at Virginia Tech, and my focus of study was the Sumatran tiger ecology in a large landscape that require large-scale spatial modeling), I always wanted to get to know and exchange knowledge with GIS people working in the Fish and Wildlife area. In addition, I had never been to Kentucky and got to know the wildlife and the issues in the area. So, the invitation for the conference really came at the right time.



I am really motivated to develop my GIS-related expertise. One of the many reasons is to be able to understand the relationship between wildlife and the environment, then, based on that, be able to accurately predict their condition (including the probability of occurrence) of wildlife species across landscapes. When I came for the conference, I had learned different modeling skills that allowed me to understand the relationship between wildlife and the environment, and to predict species (in my case Sumatran tiger) distribution.

OFWIM is an ideal place not only to share my GIS-related works, but also to get feedbacks from other experts and practitioners in the area. The conference that provided many different means of interactions among participants also allowed me to get updated with some of the most recent developments in wildlife information managements and technological applications in wildlife research. I am particularly impressed with the intensive involvements of OFWIM members in various research and management undertakings related to information management on fish and wildlife. From the presentation and poster sessions, for example, I learned that some participants have developed advanced techniques to help synthesize massive information that are becoming widely available online through utilizing web-application mash-ups. Such web applications can be very useful to provide managers with necessary information to effectively manage fish and wildlife as resources.



In addition to the seminars, poster sessions, discussions, and other indoor meetings that we had, I particularly enjoyed and learned a lot from the field trip organized the day before the conference. Joining the field trip was the best way to interact and to get to know other participants in relaxed and fun ways. The field trip gave me a much better perspective about the issues in wildlife management in Kentucky and some lessons learned on how the managers handled the situations on the field. I was impressed with the method of land acquisition for conservation in Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge that benefits everyone in and beyond the managed area. Meanwhile, the on-going habitat restoration in Duck Is-

land was also of particular interest. Finally, looking at the successful restoration of Elk and Bison provide a real lesson and motivation on how wildlife conservation can be successful. Thank you OFWIM!

Sunarto
Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, 106 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech, Va 24061
Email: Sunarto (AT) vt.edu

OFWIM 2010 Conference Reflections

I was honored to be selected as a recipient of the OFWIM student travel scholarship and being given the opportunity to present my research at the annual meeting in Cadiz, KY. This is especially true given the outstanding work presented by the other scholarship recipients! For me, the conference was both fun and educational. The use of GIS techniques is a critical aspect of my current research and will undoubtedly be invaluable to me in the future. Thus, being given the opportunity to share my research and learn from other individuals conducting similar research was extremely valuable. Furthermore, the conference opened my eyes to other aspects of wildlife and fisheries information management that I had not previously considered. I learned valuable techniques regarding data management that I have carried with me back to my department at West Virginia University. For example, I learned valuable techniques regarding metadata construction, as well as overall dataset organization.

The conference also offered a great opportunity to meet other professionals. Everyone I met at the conference was extremely personable, and I felt that the entire conference fostered positive and constructive discussion between all attendees. I will have to admit, too, that I had a great time meeting people and taking part in the evening socials! I was also able to see a beautiful part of KY that I had never been to before.

I would like to thank OFWIM for providing me with the opportunity to attend the annual conference in Cadiz, KY. I would also like to thank everyone at the conference for being so welcoming to all of the travel award recipients. I found the conference to be both fun and educational, and I hope that you were able to gain something from my presence at the conference, as well.

Eric Merriam

West Virginia University Division of Forestry, Natural Resources, and Design,
322 Percival Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506
Email: emerriam (AT) mix.wvu.edu

The OFWIM Conference, Cadiz, Kentucky, 2010

OFWIM conference in Cadiz, Kentucky, just as any conferences or scientific meetings, was an important event for me. This meeting was even more exciting as when I reached Cadiz and learned that there were more about wildlife information management system beside the GIS. The first instance when I applied to OFWIM conference, my understanding about the meeting was a platform where developments on GIS/remote sensing application to wildlife and fisheries will be shared. But it was more than that.

First of all, I was honored to be selected for the OFWIM student scholarship to attend and present my work the conference in Cadiz, KY. As a master research as the part of wildlife ecology program at Texas State University, I applied GIS and remotely sensed data to predict distribution of endangered red panda in Nepal. I got an opportunity to share the work with the student and other attendees and obtain their feedback. Beside this, the information management systems adopted by various agencies to manage wildlife was a great learning opportunity, especially for an international student coming from a developing country. The presentations and posters, and the interactions covered wide application of IT and GIS in wildlife and were very interesting and motivating. The location of the meeting was also great.

The initiatives and hard works of the OFWIM members in organizing the meeting successfully are praiseworthy. I congratulate them for this and thank OFWIM and all the members for organizing the meeting and also providing the scholarship to attend the meeting.

Naveen K. Mahato

Department of Biology, Texas State University (Graduated), San Marcos, Tx 78666
Email: mail (AT) naveen.com.np

2010 OFWIM Field Trip



The group loads up on boats to head over to Duck Island.

Michael Johnson, Clarks River National Refuge Manager gives a presentation to the group.



Steve Bloemer, Wildlife Biologist with the Land Between the Lakes Natural Recreation Area, presenting to the group before taking them on a driving tour of the Elk and Bison Prairie.



Keith gets an up close look at the bison.



2010 OFWIM Field Trip cont.



Scenic shot of Lake Barkley.



Duck Island Trail



Multiple elk provide picturesque photo shoot for excited visitors to the Elk and Bison Prairie at LBL.

Many thanks to Sunarto Sunarto and Gary Sprandel for the wonderful Field Trip pictures!!

2010 OFWIM Award Winners

Student Scholarship Award

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Student Scholarship recognizes academic and professional excellence among students enrolled full-time in fisheries and wildlife-related curricula at an accredited college or university, with research or studies emphasizing wildlife information management and/or geographic information systems (GIS). The scholarship award supports student attendance at the OFWIM Conference and Annual Meeting.

2010 Winners:

- Sunarto Sunarto, Virginia Tech University
- Eric Merriam, West Virginia University
- Naveen K. Mahato, Texas State University

Best Presentation Award

This award recognizes the best presentation offered at the annual meeting of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers. Presentations are evaluated based on their oral delivery, effectiveness of accompanying graphics, thoroughness of coverage of the topic, analysis and insight into the topic, and relevance to the conference theme.

2010 Winners (tie):

Smartphone Development: Examples at Two Ends of the Spectrum
Kirk Keller, Missouri Dept. of Conservation

Development of a Mobile Application for Collecting Spatial Oil Observation During Aerial Surveys
Beth Stys, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Best Poster Award

This award recognizes the best poster offered at the annual meeting of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers. Posters are evaluated based on the effectiveness of their graphics, the thoroughness of their coverage of the topic, their analysis and insight into the topic, the presenter's ability to discuss the topic, and their relevance to the conference theme.

2010 Winner:

Development of a Mobile Application for Collecting Spatial Oil Observation During Aerial Surveys
Beth Stys, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

OFWIM 2011 Officers and Committees

Officers:

President:	Keith Wethington	keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov
President-Elect:	Don Katnik	donald.katnik (AT) maine.gov
Secretary:	Danny Lewis	danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us
Treasurer:	Kristin Rogers	kristin.rogers (AT) MyFWC.com
Member-at-Large:	Dean Jue	djue (AT) admin.fsu.edu
Past President:	Jennifer Carlino	jennifer965 (AT) gmail.com

Committees:

Conference Planning Committee

Chair:	Don Katnik	donald.katnik (AT) maine.gov
Vice-Chair:	Tony Spicci	tony.spicci@mdc.mo.gov

Communications Committee

Chair:	Lisa Zolly	lisa_zolly (AT) usgs.gov
Vice-Chair:	Danny Lewis	danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us

Elections, Nominations and Awards Committee

Chair:	Beth Stys	beth.stys (AT) MyFWC.com
Vice-Chair:	Keith Wethington	keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee

Chair:	Dean Jue	djue (AT) admin.fsu.edu
Vice-Chair:	Elizabeth Martin	elizabeth_martin (AT) usgs.gov

Membership and Outreach Committee

Chair:	<vacant>	we.need (AT) you.today
Vice-Chair:	Kristin Rogers	Kristin.rogers (AT) MyFWC.com

Training and Education Committee

Chair:	Robin Carlson	rcarlson (AT) dfg.ca.gov
Vice-Chair:	Sabra Schwartz	sschwartz (AT) azgfd.gov

Vision and Goals Committee (Ad-Hoc)

Chair:	Keith Wethington	keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov
Vice-Chair:	<vacant>	we.need (AT) you.today



**Join an OFWIM
Committee!**

**Volunteer to fill
a leadership
vacancy!**

**Help keep OFWIM
going strong!**

Don't forget: renew your membership!

See page 10 for the membership form.

OFWIM Committee Updates...

Conference Planning Committee:

We have secured a venue and set the dates for the 2011 conference (see “save the date” flier included in this newsletter). As in the past, we intend to provide remote access options for those unlucky ones who cannot travel to St. Louis. You may all consider this an informal “call for papers” (a formal one will be coming out soon). But you all know the drill by now – oral presentations or a poster for the Hacker’s Ball (but we’re open to “outside-the-box”; if you have an interpretive dance or want to write a song about data management, bring it on!). We would love to have presentations relevant to our theme of “Managing Fish and Wildlife Data to Adapt to Changing Environments” but, as always, would welcome any topics of interest to the OFWIM membership such as new technologies, partnerships, etc. We would really like to incorporate some training/workshops into this year’s conference to provide greater benefit to members (and also perhaps to help with securing that elusive “out-of-state” travel approval). If you have suggestions, please contact [Donald.katnik \(AT\) maine.gov](mailto:Donald.katnik(AT)maine.gov). We also would welcome anyone interested in sitting in on the conference planning calls (send an email to the same address). **NEW THIS YEAR – GeoCache OFWIM!** The conference will include a GeoCache competition to test your geographic treasure-hunting skills. It will be a team effort, so this will be a great way to get to know some of your OFWIM colleagues better. For those of you who have never been to an OFWIM conference, put this on your calendar – OFWIM is a great community and the conferences are always incredibly informative. For those of you who have missed the last few conferences, time to reconnect—we’re getting tired of making fun of you when you’re not there!

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee:

The first conference call of OFWIM’s Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee for 2011 took place this month. Dean K. Jue, OFWIM’s Member-at-Large, will be chairing the DSTT Committee until a new chair is found.

See the on-line September 2010 OFWIM newsletter for an example of some of the work that the DSTTC members do. If you would be interested in data standards and technology trends in the biological arena, join the committee. Just send an e-mail to Dean ([djue \(AT\) admin.fsu.edu](mailto:djue(AT)admin.fsu.edu)) and he will be sure that you’re included on all future committee correspondence and calls.

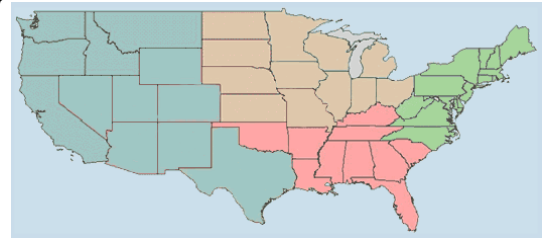
Training and Education Committee:

The Training and Education Committee is developing workshops and training sessions to be offered at the 2011 conference as well as in webinars over the course of this year. In order to determine the training needs and interests of the OFWIM membership, we will be requesting your participation in a survey. Look for the survey in the coming weeks, and please share with us what types of training you would like to see OFWIM offer (or if you or a colleague would like to present a workshop)!

A Message from the Membership & Outreach Committee

Help Us Spread the Word about OFWIM!

Hello from your Membership and Outreach Committee. We are working hard this year to make sure that everyone knows what a great organization OFWIM is. Your OFWIM Regional Contacts have been developing a comprehensive outreach contact list that we will be using to communicate with our colleagues across the country this year. Part of our efforts will be focused on spreading the word about this year's annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. We will be distributing the meeting announcement and call for papers within our regions to encourage participation. We would also like to ask any members who know of a great place to spread the call for papers, either within your own agency or elsewhere, to please feel free to do so. If you are able to share the announcement, please notify your OFWIM regional contact so we can include your location(s) in our master outreach contact list. Your regional contacts are:



Northeast Region Contact: Don Katnik Donald.Katnik (AT) maine.gov
Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Southeast Region Contact: Keith Wethington keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Midwest Region Contact: Yan Hong yan.hong (AT) mdc.mo.gov
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

West Region Contact: Sabra Schwartz SSchwartz (AT) azgfd.gov
Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

Our Committee also works to increase our membership by encouraging non-members attending our annual meeting to join OFWIM and helping with a focused membership drive every three years. So again, you can help us to get the word out about the benefits of OFWIM membership. The OFWIM Brochure <http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2011/OFWIMBrochure2011Update.pdf> is available online and we encourage you to share this information with potential members. And finally, we can support members willing to help with outreach at local/regional/national meetings on behalf of OFWIM. We can provide OFWIM materials that you can share at meetings you may be attending. So please contact **Kristin Rogers, Committee Vice-Chair, kristin.rogers (AT) MyFWC.com** with any ideas you have for spreading the word about OFWIM. For more information about the Committee please go to the OFWIM website http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership_committee.html

2011 Individual Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2011. Individual Members are entitled to vote in the annual election and hold office. Current members are notified of new newsletters and have access to special OFWIM web content. Current members also receive a discount on 2011 conference registration.

The 2011 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. To become a new member of OFWIM or renew your current membership, please complete and mail the form below with a check or money order for \$30 payable to **OFWIM**, to:

Kristin Rogers, OFWIM Treasurer
c/o FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville, FL 32653
(352) 955-3211 x101

OFWIM 2011 Membership Form

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:(_____) _____ Fax:(_____) _____

Email: _____

Please note that we have also added a ***Student Membership*** option. 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 is valid for one calendar year (January-December), and may be renewed if the person continues to be officially enrolled in the degree program during the following calendar year. Student Members are entitled to vote in OFWIM elections, to participate in OFWIM committees, and to hold office. Students wishing to join OFWIM under the Student Membership must obtain the signature of their official faculty advisor on their membership application. To fill out a Student Membership form, please go to: http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2011/2011OFWIM_StudentMembershipForm.pdf.

OFWIM Organizational Membership

Your agency is invited to join!

Become an Organizational Member of OFWIM



The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) is a non-profit professional organization whose goal is to promote the management and conservation of natural resources by facilitating technology and information exchange among fish and wildlife information professionals. An affiliate of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), OFWIM was formally established in 1993. In achieving its mission, OFWIM emphasizes coordination, outreach, technical assistance, and continuing education. Members of OFWIM include GIS specialists, database managers, biologists, web developers, programmers, researchers, and others who manage information and technology related to fish and wildlife resources.

Benefits include:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Discount on registration for the OFWIM Annual Conference
- Access to the OFWIM content management system, an internet resource for sharing information and facilitating discussion among fish and wildlife information managers
- Access to the OFWIM-L e-mail listserv
- Networking and professional development opportunities for fish and wildlife information management professionals

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 5 OFWIM Individual Memberships, with full member privileges. Individual Memberships are also available at the cost \$30 per year. An Organizational Membership form is now available on the website:

<http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html>

Announcements

Call for Papers – We encourage you all to share what is going on in your world at our conference. We have a fill-able PDF form set up on our Web site at www.ofwim.org to help capture your paper proposals. On the form you are asked to provide a synopsis of your topic and introductory biography of the presenter. Submissions can be made for presentations, panel discussions, or poster displays at our Hackers Ball. Presentations are typically scheduled for 15 minutes of presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions. Panel discussions are put together from presentations on related topics. Poster presentations can be strictly visual or involve interactive participation. We encourage you to submit your topics by Friday, June 24, 2011, so we can get a draft agenda published before early registration closes.

OFWIM now has a Group Page on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) to help promote our organization. To join the group, once signed in to a LinkedIn account, go to the Groups Directory and simply look up “Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers”. Within the first day we already had a non-OFWIM member sign up for the group.

Thanks to all our Raffle Donors for the 2010 Conference in Cadiz, Kentucky! We were able to raise \$383 to help with student scholarships!

OFWIM Thanks you....

Service Awards 2010

Jennifer Carlino

For her service as President for the period of September 2009 to October 2010, and including a term as President-Elect from October 2008 to September 2009.

Lisa Zolly

For her service as Secretary for the period of October 2008 to October 2010.

Kristin Rogers

For her service as Treasurer for the period of October 2008 to October 2010 (and continued help with those duties during the transition).

Yan Hong

For her service as Member-at-Large for the period of September 2009 to October 2010.



Visit us on the Web!

Go to <http://www.ofwim.org>

Or scan the barcode at the right with your smart phone





OFWIM 2011

Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers *Annual Conference and Business Meeting*

“Managing Fish and Wildlife Data to Adapt to Changing Environments”

October 17-20

St. Louis, Missouri

Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch



Shaw Nature Reserve



Missouri Botanical Gardens

Presentations, posters, & workshops on:

- Climate change
- Funding sources for programs
- Revising State Wildlife Action Plans
- New (and old) technologies
- USFWS System for tracking program funds
- Accessing and using national/regional data



- Build working relationships
- Practice your geographic skills
- Be on the Team that finds the most conference GeoCaches!

Additional information at <http://www.ofwim.org>