Greetings OFWIM members! As your 2010 president, I am excited about all of the activity and momentum already underway across our community. The 2009 OFWIM Conference in Seattle, Washington was a huge success. The excellent presentations, Hacker’s Ball and poster session, field trip, and an enjoyable venue contributed towards many excellent opportunities emerging from our time together. I would like to thank our four student scholarship award winners who enhanced the conference and provided an opportunity to learn more about their activities from across the country. A special thank you goes to our remote access participants who spent many a late evening with us on the phone and by WebEx!

One of the significant accomplishments this year includes the update to the OFWIM Bylaws that took effect January 1, 2010. Thanks to the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee that helped bring the existing OFWIM bylaws up to date! We also determined the OFWIM Vision for the next three years with the leadership of Mark Brunner as the Chair of the Ad hoc Vision and Goals Committee.

Mark Brunner also gains the title of OFWIM President-Elect this year. I would like to welcome Mark as well as Yan Hong, who joins OFWIM as the new Member At Large, along with Lisa Zolly as our continuing Secretary, Kristin Rogers at our continuing Treasurer, and Robin Carlson as our Past President. I would like to thank Robin for her outstanding leadership as President last year, Don Schrupp as Member At Large, and Sabra Schwartz for her help and advice as Past President in 2009.

Many OFWIM Committees have already met at least once since the Conference. The newsletter provides information about each Committee and I encourage you to sign up and get involved!

One of the key activities this year will be a new OFWIM project that will be led by Don Katnik as part of the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee. Open to all current members, this project will collaboratively develop a tool for capturing metadata for individual features within a database, based upon work already initiated at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Don will demonstrate Maine’s instance of this tool, an ArcGIS tool with VBA scripting to capture metadata when editing geographic features, and discuss how OFWIM might leverage some of the work already done to develop a tool that meets the broader needs of OFWIM members. Don has started an OFWIM community portal project, "Feature-level Metadata" to support this effort.

Also, the Training and Education Committee plans to sponsor several Webinars this year on topics of interest to OFWIM members. Please make sure your membership is current, so you can take advantage of these excellent sessions!

Please mark your calendars for this year’s conference in Lake Barkley, Kentucky from October 17-21, 2010!!

I feel incredibly privileged to be part of such a motivated, professional organization and welcome any thoughts on how we can continue OFWIM’s success and relevance into the future. I look forward to an exciting year! I can be reached at jcarlino@usgs.gov.

Cheers,

Jennifer
Jennifer Carlino—2010 OFWIM President
Save the Date

October 17 – 21, 2010
Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Annual Conference and Business Meeting

Information at http://www.ofwim.org

Through presentations, panels, and a poster session, the OFWIM conference will highlight innovative technologies and applications that facilitate conservation of natural resources.

Cadiz, Kentucky - Check Out the Area
The Lake Barkley Lodge: http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/lb/
Land Between the Lakes National Forest recreational activities: http://www.lbl.org/Recreation/links.html
Elk and bison prairie: http://www.lbl.org/EBPrairieGate.html
Woodlands Nature Station: http://www.lbl.org/NSGate.html
The Bison Range: http://www.lbl.org/BisonRange.html

OFWIM 2010 is being planned now...Be sure to save the date!!
Through a great effort by the Vision and Goals committee to come up with some candidate Vision statements and wonderful input from the whole membership at the 2009 conference, we decided on the following:

**Our Vision:** To be a bridge between natural resource and technical disciplines to promote partnering, collaboration, sharing of ideas, and best management practices in order to effectively apply technology to the information and data needs of natural resource management.

The next step of the Vision and Goals committee is to define Goals. We will be brainstorming ideas to present at our 2010 conference for membership approval. The Goals should identify steps the organization can take to achieve our Vision. If you have ideas for Goals please let us know by emailing them to mark.brunner@mdc.mo.gov. Thank you all for your participation in the Vision process.

*Photo: Foggy day at Marrowstone Science Center in WA; Jeff Falgout, USGS*
Reflections on the 2009 OFWIM Conference in Seattle, WA...

As a fisheries student with interests in utilizing GIS data and analyses to help highlight the impacts of human activities on streams, I was immediately interested in attending the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers annual meeting in Seattle to learn more about the organization. However, there was no way I could have afforded the trip from Virginia without financial assistance, so I was very excited to receive one of the scholarships which covered almost all of the costs of the trip. I was not disappointed with my visit to Seattle and the OFWIM meeting, during which I learned a huge amount about the challenges faced and the solutions used to incorporate technology into fisheries and wildlife research. The members of OFWIM, while clearly professional, are very laid back in general and this made the meeting and the various activities very enjoyable. Although I definitely enjoyed the meetings, getting to know the other students, and the excellent food that I enjoyed throughout the week, the best part of the trip was by far the visit to Olympic National Park, which I have added to my list of places to visit. Thank you, OFWIM, for the scholarship and for the well planned week.

Tye Deweber*

*Tye was one of four student scholarship winners who attended the 2009 OFWIM conference.

Looking for additional information about the 2009 Meeting?

Business Meeting Minutes:

2009 Conference Presentations:
2009 OFWIM Field Trip

A breezy ferry ride: Yan Hong, Jen Carlino, Jean Freeney, Julie Prior-Magee, Nina Chkhenkeli, Lakegan Harris, Viv Hutchison, Jeff Falgout

Paul Hershberger, USGS, talks to OFWIM members about Marrowstone Marine Field Station

Fish experiments...

Learning about the Wetlab...

OFWIM hikers in the distance on Hurricane Ridge (Olympic Peninsula)
2009 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.

2009 Winners:

Michael T. Calkins, New Mexico State University
Jefferson T. Deweber, Virginia Polytechnic and State University
Grant Humphries, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Brad Timm, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Web-Based Technical Application Award

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Web-Based Technical Application Award recognizes excellence in the development and deployment of a fish or wildlife information-related technical application on the Web. Applications are evaluated for their usability, innovation, use of current technology, success in meeting their stated goals, and relevance to fisheries and wildlife information technology.

2009 Winner: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Conservation Permits for Gopher Tortoises
AAJ Technologies
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 topic, and relevance to the conference theme.

2009 Winner: Evaluation of a New Tool for Computerizing Fisheries Data in the Field
Bruce Schmidt, Pacific States Marine Fisheries 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.

2009 Winner: Scientific Data Management Team
Jeff Cowen & Brendan Sylvander, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Left to Right: Jeff Cowen, Brendan Sylvander and Bruce Schmidt (Photo credit: Robin Carlson)
OFWIM Thanks you...

Service Awards: 2009

Robin Carlson

For her service as President for the period of October 2008 to September 2009, and including a term as President-Elect from October 2007 to October 2008.

Don Schrupp

For his service as Member-At-Large for the period of October 2008 to September 2009.

Raffle Donations: 2009

Sabra Schwartz (personal donation)
- prickly pear syrup
- prickly pear jelly
- prickly pear cactus candy
- prickly pear cookbook

Arizona Dept. of Game & Fish (Sabra Schwartz)
- 2 baseball hats
- 2 mouse pads
- 2 mugs with safety kits, carabiners, and hand sanitizers
- 2 Arizona Wildlife Views books
- 2 Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Arizona books
- 2 Almost All Things Edible books
- 2 Arizona Wildlife Viewing books

Jen Carlino (personal donation)
- 2 Paula Fong t-shirts
- Advice From a Moose t-shirt
- Great Sand Dunes t-shirt
- Rocky Mountain National Parks t-shirt
- ladybug t-shirt
- dragonfly t-shirt
- State Forest State Park hat and t-shirt package
- montane forests t-shirt
- American Wilderness book
- Great Sand Dunes tote bag
- Rocky Mountain National Park tote bag

Julie Prior-Magee (personal donation)
- New Mexico Journey Guide book

Beth Stys (personal donation)
- 5 hand-turned wood pens

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (Bruce Schmidt)
- PSMFC baseball hat
- PSMFC umbrella
- PSMFC computer messenger bag

Don Schrupp (personal donation)
- Building a GIS book

Maine Dept. of Wildlife (Don Katnik)
- Maine’s Threatened & Endangered Species book
- Vernal Pools of Maine poster
- Snakes of Maine poster
- Turtles of Maine poster
- Amphibians of Maine poster

Lisa Zolly (personal donation)
- State Forest State Park fleece vest
- State Forest State Park baseball hat and t-shirt set
- Advice from a Hummingbird t-shirt

Missouri Dept. of Conservation (Mark Brunner)
- Furbearers of Missouri DVD
- Fiddles & Forests CD
- Echoes of Missouri CD
- Shrubs & Woody Vines of Missouri Field Guide
- Trees of Missouri Field Guide
- Show Me Bugs book
- Discover Nature tote bag
OFWIM Webinar Feedback Request
from OFWIM Training & Education Committee

The OFWIM Training and Education Committee (TEC) would like to extend the efforts begun last year to offer training and education opportunities to the membership throughout the year through webinars for the OFWIM Community, enabled via the NBII Portal.

The TEC members are already working on some concepts, but we'd like to take this opportunity to request input from the OFWIM membership regarding additional 'topics' you'd like to see presented.

Additionally, if you could offer to conduct a webinar, or recommend someone who would be willing to present and facilitate a webinar on your topic, that would be most useful. Please submit your ideas, via the 'Training and Education Committee 'project' for the OFWIM Community (via the NBII Portal) or by email.

The committee is currently considering a series of webinar / discussion forums relative to a 'Feature Level Metadata Tool' [FLEM] (in support of activities of the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee) and a webinar on the use of open source software for geospatially enabled web sites. Do let us know what topics you might like to see covered in 2010.

Don Schrupp (hqwris@lamar.ColoState.EDU)
Chair - OFWIM Training and Education Committee - 2010
OOFWIM Announcements from the Membership:

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

GIS Coordinator/Biologist I Position Vacancy – UPDATE

I announced at the September 2009 OFWIM conference that Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has a vacant GIS position that we would be filling this fall. We still have the vacancy, but it will not be advertised and filled until spring/early summer of 2010.

The delay is because we are reclassifying the position from the Biologist I to a GIS Coordinator, which I believe will be a better fit for the position and enable me to target candidates with more technical skills. This requires legislative approval; hence the delay.

I will make an announcement through OFWIM when the position is officially advertised. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at Donald.katnik@maine.gov with any questions.
**OFWIM 2010 Officers and Committees**

**Officers:**
- President: Jen (Pollock) Carlino, jcarlino@usgs.gov
- President-Elect: Mark Brunner, mark.brunner@mdc.mo.gov
- Secretary: Lisa Zolly, lisa_zolly@usgs.gov
- Treasurer: Kristin Rogers, kristin.rogers@MyFWC.com
- Member-at-Large: Yan Hong, yan.hong@mdc.mo.gov
- Past-President: Robin Carlson, rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov

**Committees:**

**Meeting Planning Committee**
- Chair - Mark Brunner, Mark.Brunner@mdc.mo.gov
- Vice Chair - Keith Wethington, keith.wethington@ky.gov

**Communications Committee**
- Chair - Viv Hutchison, vhutchison@usgs.gov
- Vice Chair - Lisa Zolly, lisa_zolly@usgs.gov

**Elections, Nominations and Awards Committee**
- Chair - Beth Stys, beth.stys@MyFWC.com
- Vice Chair - Jen (Pollock) Carlino, jcarlino@usgs.gov

**Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee**
- Chair - Scott Anderson, scott.anderson@ncwildlife.org
- Co-Chair - Lisa Zolly, lisa_zolly@usgs.gov
- Vice Chair - Yan Hong, yan.hong@mdc.mo.gov

**Membership and Outreach Committee**
- Chair - Julie Prior-Magee, jpmagee@usgs.gov
- Vice Chair - Kristin Rogers, kristin.rogers@MyFWC.com

**Training and Education Committee**
- Chair - Don Schrupp, hqwris@lamar.colostate.edu
- Vice Chair - Robin Carlson, rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov

**Vision and Goals Committee (Ad-Hoc)**
- Chair - Mark Brunner, mark.brunner@mdc.mo.gov
- Vice Chair - vacant, –
2010 Individual Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2010. 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 2010 conference registration.

If you work for an organization with 4 or more individuals interested in OFWIM membership, you may benefit from obtaining an Organizational Membership. Information about Organizational Membership can be found at: http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html

The 2010 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. 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 (in U.S. dollars!) 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 2010 Membership Form

Name: __________________________________________________
Agency: ________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___ Zip:__________
Phone:(_____)______________ Fax:(_____)_________________
Email: _________________________________________________
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
Thank you to all who submitted information and articles to this issue of the OFWIM news!

Photo: Olympic National Park, Hurricane Ridge, WA; Viv Hutchison USGS