OFWIM - What’s in it for me?

We all have increasing demands on our time and find ourselves making tough choices about where best to spend it. This is my shameless pitch to encourage you to spend a little more of yours on OFWIM because OFWIM can only be as much as what its members are willing to bring to it.

So here’s my little story: I attended my first OFWIM conference in 2007 at the National Conservation Training Center (what a cool place!) in West Virginia. Didn’t know a soul or have a clue what OFWIM was about – someone in my agency just said that we sometimes sent someone to these meetings and off I went. OFWIM conferences usually start with a field trip and as I waited to board the van I felt like I was witnessing a family reunion rather than the start of a professional conference. Everyone was laughing and hugging and swapping travel stories (best was the person who took advantage of an unexpected flight layover to take a taxi out to the beach – I think that was the 2007 OFWIM President).

Throughout the day I was surrounded by people who not only were FUN but also spoke the same language that I do (most of my agency colleagues think computers are tools of the devil and “metadata” is just a really, really big spreadsheet). Every presentation was something I could relate to and many gave me ideas for how I could do my job as an information manager better. In short, OFWIM was the technological support network I’d been lacking within my own agency. At the end of that conference I signed up to be on two OFWIM committees. Committee membership was a manageable load – just a few hours of conference calls per month – but look where it led me. 2011 will be my 4th OFWIM conference. Every one has been a better experience than the last as I’ve gotten to know the OFWIM community better and become more involved in it.

Speaking of 2011, we’re going to have a GREAT conference in St. Louis this fall (I get to say that because one of my responsibilities as President-Elect has been to lead the 2011 Conference Planning Committee). I say “lead” because of the huge amount of help I’ve had from other OFWIM members who are volunteering their time to plan the conference. We’re going to have our first-ever OFWIM GeoCache Contest this year. Participants will be grouped into teams that will hunt for hidden geocaches around downtown St. Louis. This fun FREE experience will be a great way to get to know other OFWIM members better, so be sure to sign up! Teams’ first assignment will be to come up with their team name – as I’m giving you over 3 months to think about that I’m expecting some totally awesome names.

Sound good? Okay – here’s the part where we lock the doors until everyone puts something in the collection basket. OFWIM is a great organization but too much of the work of keeping it going has been falling on too few shoulders. We’re a small group and we need
everyone to pitch in. If you’re not a member, please consider joining – you won’t regret it! If you are a member and are not on an OFWIM committee, please consider volunteering for one or helping out in some other way.

Thanks for your patience and hope to see you in St. Louis!

Don Katnik  
2011 OFWIM President-Elect

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Help Needed with the Biological Data Standards Website

In the September 2010 OFWIM Newsletter, the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee launched the Biological Data Standards web site (http://ofwimds.blogspot.com) to provide a searchable and easily browsed resource for biological data standards.

We are looking for volunteers who can help with the following areas:

**Additions/Submission**
Do you know about a biological data standard that is not currently listed on the site? Submit the standard and some brief information following the instructions on this informational page:


**Curation**
- Submissions are held in draft mode until they are reviewed and finalized as additions.
- We need individuals who can log in to the site and review submissions, tag the entries with keywords/tags, and publish the standard posts.
- Curators would also review and post any comments submitted about the standards.
  (Blogger provides a simple WYSIWYG interface for editing posts so HTML knowledge is not a necessity.)

**Reviewing**
- Have you used any of the biological data standards listed on the web site? What was your experience with them? Do you know projects which utilize a particular standard?
- The reviews can be captured as Star-Ratings or Comments on posts to demonstrate how a standard is successfully used in practice.
- Once the reviews are moderated by a Curator, they are made public for all to read and learn from.
- In order to submit a Comment, open a standard post page, and enter your comments in the text box displayed at the foot of the standard.
  (Users can also anonymously rate standards by clicking on the Star-Rating next to each standard.)

Your assistance in any of these areas on any of the standards with which you are familiar would be much appreciated and would be of value to other OFWIM members and biological information managers in general. If you can volunteer a little bit of your time and expertise, please get in touch with the chair of the DSTT Committee, Dean Jue - <djue (AT) admin.fsu.edu>. Thank you!
2011 Conference Announcements

Registration is now open!!

Don’t wait, register today!! Register online at  http://www.RegOnline.com/OFWIM2011

Early member (register by 09/02/2011): $270.00
Early non-member (register by 09/02/2011): $350.00
Late member (after 09/02/2011): $320.00
Late non-member (after 09/02/2011): $400.00
Student registration: $200.00
Retired Professional Registration: $200.00
One day registration: $150.00
Remote Access Registration: $100.00 (limit 23 connections)

Book your room for the Conference!!

Location:  Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch
4th & Market Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Website:  http://www.druryhotels.com
Click on Book it Fast
Enter group number—2102252

Phone:  1-800-DRURYINN
Rooms will only be held until September 30, 2011

Putting on an OFWIM Conference is a lot of work and assistance is always needed to help make it a success! Please consider volunteering your time. As thanks, we are offering 50% discounted rooms to the first 3 volunteers for Session Moderators and free room upgrades (from Standard to King Suite) to the first 3 volunteers for Presentation Evaluators.

Lodging rates (per night)

Single:  $105 + tax
Double: $115 + tax
Triple: $125 + tax
Quad: $135 + tax

Note: Current tax rates are 15.74%
2011 Conference Announcements (cont)

2nd Call for Papers – We encourage you all to share what is going on in your world at our conference. We have a fillable PDF form set up on our Web site at [www.ofwim.org](http://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, **July 29, 2011**, so we can get a draft agenda published before early registration closes.

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**OFWIM Travel Grants** are designed to assist current or retired professionals in attending the 2011 Conference and Annual Meeting at the Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch, St. Louis, Missouri, October 17-20. The application form is available at:


and the application deadline is **July 29, 2011**. Award recipients will be notified by August 8, 2011. Recipients are expected to present a formal paper or poster at the meeting.

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**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 2011:**

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 GO! Trophy (but you only get to keep it until 2012 when it will be back up for grabs).

A great way to learn about GeoCaching and get to know your OFWIM colleagues!
2011 Conference Announcements (cont.)

Conference Expense Guide - How much will a trip to this year’s conference cost? With all the different expenses (food, lodging, registration, transportation), estimating the total cost can be a daunting task. That’s why once again this year we have provided you with a handy Guide to Conference Expenses on the OFWIM website. You may go directly to the guide with this link:


OFWIM Remote Access – Having trouble finding the time or approval to join us in St. Louis this year, but don’t want to miss out on all the presentations? Register for remote access to the Conference!! Only $100.

Furthermore, if you decide to give a presentation remotely, you may submit for a Remote Access Grant to cover your registration expense (see below).

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OFWIM Remote Access Grant
The OFWIM Membership and Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the availability of a Remote Access Grant. This grant is designed to assist a current or retired professional in attending the 2011 OFWIM Conference using the remote access option. The successful recipient of the grant will be eligible for full reimbursement / waiver of the $100 remote access registration fee. Only one Remote Access Grant will be awarded.

Criteria: 1) The award recipient must present a formal paper at the 2011 OFWIM Conference via remote access. 2) Membership in OFWIM is not required. 3) The grant will be awarded based on need. Under-representation by states in previous OFWIM meetings and equitable regional representation will be used as secondary criteria for evaluation.

Application Procedure: Please send an email to Julie Prior-Magee <jpmagee (AT) usgs.gov> by October 3, 2011, stating that you are interested in applying for the Remote Access Grant and verifying that you have submitted a presentation for consideration (include title). The grant recipient will be notified via email by October 5, 2011.

Grant Details: Successful recipient of the grant will be eligible for reimbursement of the $100 remote access registration fee if they have paid this expense. Alternately, recipients may work with the OFWIM Treasurer to have this fee paid directly by OFWIM when registering for remote access.

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Students Scholarship Award - The 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. Submission deadline is July 29, 2011. For more information, go to the application:

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee Update

The 2011 Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee (DSTTC) has been holding monthly conference calls since April. Discussions have focused on the OFWIM data standards blog, the need for an updated survey of the OFWIM membership, and social media and networking.

Megan Hines has written an article about the data standards blog for this OFWIM newsletter. This blog is a valuable resource for all information managers working on biological data, not just OFWIM members. If you are interested in helping populate the blog with more biological data standards or in helping guide the direction of this blog, contact the DSTTC at the e-mail address given below.

It has been 10 years since the last OFWIM membership survey. In the computer technology field, those survey data represent medieval history! Technologies such as tablet PCs, smart phones, and cloud computing did not exist. Wikipedia was just being launched and applications such as Facebook and Twitter were still years away from being developed.

In the interest of continuing to be of relevance to OFWIM members, the DSTTC is planning to develop and conduct a new OFWIM membership survey to find out the extent to which OFWIM members and their organizations have embraced these newer technologies and how OFWIM and the DSTTC can be of value to them. The current plans are to have a detailed proposal and design of a membership survey that will be conducted in 2012, with the results presented at the OFWIM Annual Conference in 2012.

A technology trend that has definitely had a big impact on many organizations is social networking and media. It has affected not only communication within the organization but also how the organization interacts with its customers and target audiences. The DSTTC will have Kirk Keller from the Missouri Department of Conservation on its July teleconference call to learn how social networking and media has affected one state agency as well as to explore the possibility of having a social networking and media session at the 2011 OFWIM conference. If your organization is on the forefront of this technology or if you know of an expert on this subject that might be willing to participate in an OFWIM session on this topic in October 2011, please contact the chairman of the DSTTC, Dean Jue, at <djue (AT) admin.fsu.edu>.

Raffle Items Needed

It's never too early to think about raffle items that you or your agency may be interested in donating to the 2011 OFWIM Raffle, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Proceeds from the raffle ticket sales support the OFWIM Student Scholarship Fund, which helps underwrite the travel costs of the next generation of fish and wildlife information managers to attend our Annual Meetings.
Training and Education Committee Update

If you haven’t done so already, please take a minute to answer our training needs survey:
http://www.esurveyspro.com/Survey.aspx?id=01d4f40d-7680-43c8-b5c3-315777f8f505

On June 29, the Training and Education Committee, in coordination with the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee, sponsored a webinar:

**US Topo, GeoPDFs, and the National Map**
Presented by Tom Connolly (USGS)

The webinar demonstrated the components and capabilities of the US Topo, a digital map product in GeoPDF form created by USGS and now available for most of the US. Topics included how to find out what geospatial products are available for a given area of interest, how to download them for free, and some of the information that can be obtained from the US Topo GeoPDF using Adobe Reader and the freely downloadable Terrago Toolbar. The webinar also covered some of the functionality available in *The National Map* viewer. Tools discussed in the webinar can be found at the links below.

US Topo:
http://nationalmap.gov/ustopo/

Map store to access map products for free download:
http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&carea=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do

The National Map, including access to the viewer:
http://nationalmap.gov/index.html

If you missed the webinar, but are interested in further exploring the capabilities of US Topo and the National Map Viewer, this site will allow you to find the USGS Geospatial Liaison for your region:
http://liaisons.usgs.gov/geospatial/
### 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**: Julie Prior-Magee  
  jpmagee (AT) usgs.gov
- **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**: Kristin Rogers  
    kristin.rogers (AT) MyFWC.com
  - **Vice-Chair**: Julie Prior-Magee  
    jpmagee (AT) usgs.gov

- **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

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**Join an OFWIM Committee!**

**Volunteer to fill a leadership vacancy!**

**Help keep OFWIM going strong!**

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**Don’t forget: renew your membership!**

See page 10 for the membership form.
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](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 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](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:

Julie Prior-Magee, OFWIM Treasurer
USGS Core Science Systems
Biological Informatics Program
P.O. Box 162
Rodeo, NM 88056
(575) 646-1084

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.
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
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

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

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