President’s Message: Jim Husband

Merry Christmas! I hope the holiday season finds you and your families well. I know that we will all be busy preparing for family and friends and getting caught up in the festivities of the season. It is my sincere wish that you relax and take some time to enjoy the winter season.

As we move into the New Year... Committees are reforming, gathering new members, and becoming active. Please consider lending your talents to one or more of these important missions of OFWIM, and get involved. It's easy to get started; the committee signup link is on the home page of Groupsite (www.ofwim.groupsite.com). Please fill out the form, and someone will contact you. Together, we can accomplish great things, and getting actively involved gives you the satisfaction of knowing you made a real difference in the organization.

I am sad to report that our longstanding committee chair and newsletter editor, Robin Carlson is stepping down after three years of continuous service. I know this was a hard decision for her, given her strong and steady commitment to OFWIM over the years. We will miss her, but she has assured us she will continue work on the member survey and help with the creation of the infographic for the membership drive. Don Katnik will replace Robin as the new chair of the committee and editor of the newsletter. Don is the Past President of OFWIM, and as many of you know, he worked very hard to insure the 2013 conference in Maine was a huge success. Robin and Don, thank you for your loyal service and commitment to OFWIM.

It’s incumbent on all of us to make our membership grow. For 2013, we have 18 individual memberships and 7 organizational members for a total of 69 overall. Over the next couple of months, reach out to and re-engage former and current colleges about OFWIM. My agency has two new employees that are prime candidates to join OFWIM. A common theme to share with prospective members is the professional relationships and camaraderie that OFWIM fosters. Please engage others and promote the benefits of OFWIM such as access to top notch training webinars, access to Groupsite, peer interactions, and of course the annual conference hosted in Flagstaff, AZ in 2014. Each member possesses unique talents that benefit us personally and professionally. I know from personal experience how some ideas and projects generated by others in OFWIM have been carried back to my own agency and openly discussed, and in some instances implemented. Last year was a great year under Danny’s leadership. I hope I can serve you as well as he did, and continue the synergy he generated.

Enjoy the holidays, and I look forward to talking with many of you in the coming year.

Regards,
Jim Husband
2014 OFWIM President
21st Annual Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Conference and Business Meeting
Flagstaff Arizona
Sept. 28th - Oct. 2nd, 2014

2014 Conference Agenda at a Glance

Sun, Sept 28
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
ExComm Meeting & Social Gathering

Mon, Sept 29
8:00 am – 11:30 pm
Presentation Session I
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Lunch on your own
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Presentation Session II
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Hackers Ball (Posters & Technical Demonstrations)

Wed, Oct 1
8:00 am – 11:30 am
Morning Field Session
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Lunch
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Afternoon Field Session
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Dinner & Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, Oct 2
8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Workshop and Training Sessions

Tues, Sept 30
8:00 am – 11:30 pm
Presentation Session III
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Lunch on your own
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Presentation Session IV
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Banquet

Visit our website: www.ofwim.org

Located at the High Country Conference Center
Northern Arizona University & Drury Inn
Congratulations to the OFWIM 2013 Award Winners!

Best Presentation Award
*How to Manage Your Agency's Fish Web Pages Without the Webmaster Lifting a Finger*
Jeff Kopaska, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Best Poster Award
*Spatial Modeling to Predict Swamp Rabbit Habitat in Missouri*
Philip Marley, Missouri Department of Conservation

Student Scholarship Award
*Assessing the Effects of Landscape Patterns and Arrangements on Native Bee Abundance in Maine’s Wild Blueberries*
Shannon Chapin, University of Maine

Service Awards
Danny Lewis: For his service as President for the period of October 2012 to October 2013.
Jeanette Jones: For her service as Secretary for the period of October 2012 to October 2013.
Julie Fleming: For her service as Member-at-Large for the period of October 2012 to October 2013.

Innovation Award
*Feral Hog Mobile Application*
Missouri Department of Conservation

And Welcome to the New 2014 Officers!

President: Jim Husband  jim.husband (AT) dgif.virginia.gov
President-Elect: Kristin Rogers  kristin.rogers (AT) myfwc.com
Secretary: Jeanette Jones  jeanette.jones (AT) tn.gov
Treasurer: Jon Purvis  jon.purvis (AT) tpwd.texas.gov
Member-at-Large: Julie Fleming  julie.fleming (AT) mdc.mo.gov
Past President: Danny Lewis  danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.texas.gov
OFWIM 2013: A Student’s Perspective

By Shannon Chapin
University of Maine

I am pursuing my M.S. degree in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine. My research focuses on the application of spatial modeling tools to assess how landscape patterns and arrangements impact native bee abundance in Maine’s lowbush blueberry fields. Bees are a very important component to most ecosystems as they provide a mechanism for pollination, and therefore food for other wildlife (including humans!), but they are often overlooked by wildlife agencies.

Because of this, I was very excited to be chosen as the 2013 recipient of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Student Research Scholarship as it enabled me to share my research proposal with representatives from wildlife agencies across the states. The OFWIM scholarship is a great opportunity for students. The recipient is presented with a substantial monetary award, invited to present their research proposal at the current year’s OFWIM meeting (registration fee waived), and invited to present their research findings at the following year’s meeting (registration fee waived and travel costs provided).

I was presented with this honor at the 2013 OFWIM Conference and Annual Meeting at Schoodic Point, Maine. The meeting focused on improving work efficiency and efficacy, while bridging the fields of information technology and wildlife and fisheries science. While the group of information managers present was relatively small, it was diverse with representation from wildlife agencies located across the Country. Actually, I think the smallness of this conference was one of its best traits; I was able to network with many people and gain valuable feedback about my research. I am looking forward to traveling to Flagstaff, AZ next year to present the results of my research and reconnect with the people I met this year. I expect to graduate in May 2014 and look forward to the opportunities that may arise in Maine where I can put my skills in applying GIS to wildlife conservation issues to good use.
Congratulations to the winner of the 2013 Geocaching Contest:

**Michael Barbour**

Michael has provided us with photos documenting Captain Jack’s exploits since leaving the conference...

Watch OFWIM Groupsite for further documentation of Captain Jack’s adventures!
**OFWIM 2013: Field Trip Highlights**

*College of the Atlantic: Natural History Museum*

*Acadia National Park: Cadillac Mountain*

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Photos by Danny Lewis

Credit: OFWIM field trippers on the coast

Credit: Acadia National Park walking trail

Credit: Navigating the rocky shoreline

Credit: College of the Atlantic
Communications, Membership & Outreach Committee

- Publish the OFWIM newsletter.
- Coordinate communication between committees and members of the organization.
- Publicize the annual conference.
- Administer travel grants.
- Maintain and increase organization membership by actively identifying and contacting potential members.
- Maintain the OFWIM online presence, including the public website social media outlets.

Training & Education Committee

- Develop OFWIM Training Plan(s).
- Work to provide training workshops at the OFWIM Annual Conference and Business Meeting.
- Seek OFWIM membership input regarding their training needs.
- Continue to provide distance learning opportunities in collaboration with the Communications Committee and the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee.
- Make materials available from the web-based education/training sessions on the OFWIM Community Portal, after sessions are held, to allow OFWIM members to have continued access to training content.
- Complete the duties of the committee by way of conference calls throughout the year and posting of committee records (agendas and minutes) to the OFWIM portal (ofwim.GroupSite.com).

Data Standards & Technology Trends Committee

- Develop and maintain a Groupsite page for use as a reference.
- Prepare short “Tech Notes” articles for the OFWIM newsletter to inform members about new technology.
- Prepare documentation on emerging technology related to management of wildlife and fisheries data.
- Facilitate collaboration and funding opportunities across OFWIM membership for development of technology tools.
- Facilitate a continued discussion on data.

Elections, Nominations & Awards Committee

- Maintain awards programs.
- Develop a slate of candidates for officer positions.
- Solicit nominees for available awards.
- Maintain the student scholarship program.
- Plan student conference activities.
- Coordinate on-site voting of Best Presentation and Best Poster awards.

Conference Planning Committee

- Plan for a successful OFWIM Conference.
- Coordinate Conference communication between committees and members of the organization.
- Publicize the annual conference.
- Work with local venue representatives to ensure Conference needs are met.
- Encourage OFWIM participation to include actively soliciting presentations, posters and demonstrations for the conference program.
- Determine future venues for the OFWIM Conference.

To join an OFWIM committee:
2. Click on Join an OFWIM Committee in the Shared Links section of the Groupsite home page.
3. Submit the committee signup form.
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will be advertising for a Data Management/Analyst II position very soon.

**BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTION:** This position oversees the management of information collected by various administrative units of the Department and supervises the Bureau of Resource Management’s data processing functions. This position provides design and technical assistance for the development of information management systems and associated databases. It produces output from databases in a manner and form required to meet specific program needs in accordance with established time schedules and Department responsibilities. The job responsibilities include managing fisheries and wildlife biological data on which species management decisions are made, special hunting permit applications and permit lotteries, big game and fur tagging data and registration materials, hunter survey data, fish stocking requests and records, tracking legislative bills of interest, supporting certification records, etc. The successful candidate must have excellent skills and relevant experience with computer programming, database design and management, data management and quality control, and an inherent goal of customer service and continual improvement. Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills are required.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Eight (8) years of education, training, and/or experience analyzing, evaluating, and/or developing improvements to organizational and/or managerial systems, programs, and practices. **Preference will be given to** candidates with a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science, Computer Programming, or related field, demonstrated database expertise, and relevant experience in a supervisory capacity.

For more information, go to [http://tinyurl.com/mngmntanalyst](http://tinyurl.com/mngmntanalyst) where the official announcement will be posted (expected 12/10/2013).

When the position is officially advertised, a link to it will be posted on the OFWIM GroupSite. Any questions, please contact Don Katnik at 207-941-4455, Donald.katnik (AT) maine.gov.
Thank You 2013 Raffle Donors!

A total of $378 was raised in the 2013 raffle.
All funds will be used to support the OFWIM student scholarship!

Arizona Game and Fish Department
“Mammalian Predators in Arizona”
“Arizona Wildlife: The Territorial Years, 1963-1912”
“Arizona Wildlife Viewing Guide”
“Arizona's Official Fishing Guide”
“A Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles in Arizona”

Missouri Department of Conservation
“Cooking Wild in Missouri” (2)

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
TWRA Hunter Education Hunting knife
Wooden Pen with Case
DU Laptop/Brief Case
Tennessee Watchable Wildlife Polo Shirt and Long Sleeve T-shirt
Nautical Knot Board with Clock

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
1991 VA Waterfowl Stamp Print
1992 VA Waterfowl Stamp Print
1996 VA Waterfowl Stamp Print
1998 VA Waterfowl Stamp Print
DGIF Binocular Straps (3)
DGIF Pad-Folios (3)
DGIF Coffee Mugs (6)
Cloth Storage Bags (sm) (25)
2013 Virginia Wildlife Calendars (20)

ESRI
“Python: Scripting for ArcGIS”
“GIS Tutorial 1: Basic Workbook (for ArcGIS 10.1)”
“GIS Tutorial 2: Spatial Analysis Workbook (for ArcGIS 10.1)”
“Quick Start Guide to ArcGIS Online” (10)
“Land Administration for Sustainable Development”
“Fourth Edition: Thinking About GIS”
“Understanding GIS: An ArcGIS Project Workbook”
“Tribal GIS: Supporting Native American Decision Making”
“ESRI Map Book – Volume 28” (2)
ESRI GIS – Trade Show T-shirts (2)
ESRI Coffee Mugs (2)

Exelis - Visual Information Solutions
Exelis - Visual Information Solutions Notepad Binder
Exelis - Visual Information Solutions Mousepad

Dyanne and Javier Cortez (personal donation)
“Tipi, A Modern How-to Guide”

Donald Katnik (personal donation)
"The Freshwater Mussels of Maine” (2)
Bat Posters (3 sets)
Maple Syrup

Kristin Rogers (personal donation)
Highland Organics Blueberry Barque

John Stys (personal donation)
Handmade Wooden Cutting Board
Handmade Wooden Breadboard
Handmade Wooden Pens (2)

Sabra Tonn (personal donation)
Arizona Gift Bag (Thermal Tote, Thermal Water Bottle, Shot glass, Key Chain, Magnet)
Arizona T-shirt
Southwest Wildlife Calendar
Kokopeli Wine
“Desert in Bloom”
“Sedona”
WTF T-shirt (Welcome to Flagstaff)

Ann Ellington Wagner (personal donation)
Handcrafted TN Horseshoe Wall Ornament
OFWIM Membership: Renew for 2014!

Thank you to the following renewals / new members since the August newsletter:

Julie Defilippi (Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program)
Sherry Lake (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Danny Lewis (Texas Parks & Wildlife)
John Taylor (Texas Parks & Wildlife)
Jimmy White (Texas Parks & Wildlife)
Eric Woodsworth (Canadian Wildlife Service)

To download membership forms, please visit the OFWIM website:

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

Membership Year

The membership year for all membership types now coincides with the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Previously, membership was from annual conference to the following annual conference. An e-mail reminder will be sent to all members and former members whose membership expires at this time.

Individual Memberships

Individuals may join OFWIM for the membership rate of $30. The Individual Membership is valid for one calendar year (January-December). Members are entitled to vote in OFWIM elections, to participate in OFWIM committees, and to hold office.

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 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.

Retired Memberships

Retired individuals may join OFWIM for the special rate of $10. The Retired Membership is valid for one calendar year (January-December). Members are entitled to vote in OFWIM elections, to participate in OFWIM committees, and to hold office.

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! Organizational Memberships are valid for one calendar year (January-December). The organization must list the names of the
More Highlights of the 2013 Conference...

Please visit the OFWIM website to find:

PDFs of conference presentations
http://www.ofwim.org/meetings/2013/presentations/index.html

Business Meeting Minutes

Relaxing at the Sea Dog Restaurant after the conference
photo by Danny Lewis

Lighthouse on Bar Harbor (post-conference boat tour) photo by Danny Lewis