



# OFWIM news

## President's Message: Donald Katnik

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I doubt many people have "Attend OFWIM Annual Conference and Business Meeting!" on their Bucket List, but OFWIM conferences can be a great opportunity to visit places you might otherwise never get to experience. If you haven't already, it is time to start thinking about attending OFWIM 2012 in Austin, Texas and submitting an abstract for a conference presentation, poster, or demo for the Hacker's Ball. We always have lots of good presentations (although the abstracts never come in as early as the Conference Planner would like), so I want to make a special pitch for more posters and demos for the Hacker's Ball. If you're struggling to describe your work in a 15-minute presentation, then consider the Hacker's Ball instead where you can delve into the details in one-on-one conversations. It's also a great way to foster collaborations and exchange ideas. And without the posters and demos, it's just a bunch of people standing around drinking beer. So we need you!



If you have never been to an OFWIM conference, then I can honestly say I enjoy these conferences more than any others I attend. OFWIM is a true community and, even though it is small compared to other organizations, our diverse members bring a cornucopia (I probably wouldn't have used that word if I just hadn't seen *The Hunger Games*) of skills and experience ranging from the truly useful to the wonderfully arcane. If you leave an OFWIM conference without having learned a lot of new things, then you must have fallen asleep (and there's another advantage to giving a poster versus a presentation – people tend not to doze off when standing up). I also understand that, after a successful knee operation, Captain Jack Sparrow is back on his feet and busy setting up a Geo-Cache in Austin, so we have that to look forward to in October as well [for the story of Jack's exploits in St. Louis, see the 2011 OFWIM Post-Conference newsletter on the web at <http://www.ofwim.org/>].

Enjoy your summers, get those abstracts in, and check out OFWIM GroupSite!

*Donald Katnik*  
2012 OFWIM President



Check out the training opportunities at the 2012 conference on page 5!

## 2012 Conference: Celebrating 20 Years of OFWIM!

### *A message from your 2012 President-Elect, Danny Lewis...*

Last year, we surveyed you concerning how OFWIM was meeting your needs, what we were doing well, and what needed improvement.

You told us. We listened.

In a few short weeks, after we work out a few kinks, get committees set up, and committee chairs trained on using it, we will be opening up a new group collaboration website that will allow ALL members to network, participate in discussion boards and file share year round.

But that's not all. You wanted improvements to the annual meeting. This year, in addition to all the great things you are accustomed to experiencing at our annual meeting, look for the following additions/changes:

A student/professional lunch – Tuesday, for those that wish to participate, students will have the opportunity to pair up with professionals to go to lunch and have a time of one on one Q&A together.

This will allow our professionals to welcome the students and make them feel a part of the group.

You will be able to check whether you wish to be included in this lunch on the registration form.

More Free Time – Tuesday and Thursday lunch breaks will be 2 hours, to allow you to go further for lunch, sightsee a little, or track down GeoCaches. Evening activities will start a little earlier and finish up earlier as well, allowing you more time to take advantage of the area.

Shorter Presentations – This year, presentation time slots will be shortened from 20 minutes with 5 minute Q&A to 15 minutes with 5 minute Q&A. This will allow us to get more presentations in each session, and keep audience attention fresh.

Special 20 Year Banquet/Celebration – At the Wednesday night banquet, we will be having a special ceremony to review the history of the organization and recognize those who got us where we are today.

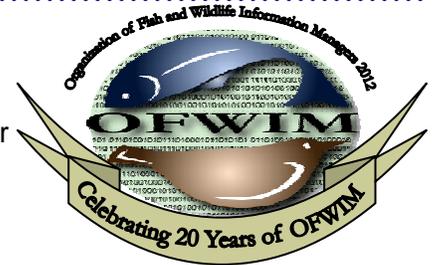
Training Workshop - We will be extending the meeting to a full day on Thursday and offering two workshops on Citizen Science and Mobile Technology.

You say you want more? How about a simple online abstract submission form? Done. As you can see, our committees have been hard at work making everything about OFWIM better for its membership. Now I would like to ask a favor from each of you.

Each year, in planning our conference, we have to estimate how many attendees, presentations, posters, banquet tickets and room nights we will have long before we know the true numbers. And each year, we scramble to put together last minute agendas and sweat out filling room blocks, because many do not respond until the last minute. This year's conference is shaping up to be a fantastic event. But we need your help to make it even better. Consider registering and booking your room early this year.

And for the person that still wants more...

Anyone who completes one of the following **by July 31<sup>st</sup>** will receive one special door prize drawing ticket in their conference packet for a chance at a \$50 Best Buy Gift Card. Anyone who completes two of these by that date will receive three special door prize tickets. A) Register for Conference, B) Submit an Abstract, C) Make your room reservations at the Conference Hotel. Must be present to win.



## 2012 Conference: First Call for Papers

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# First Call for Papers

2012 Annual OFWIM Conference  
October 15-18, 2012  
Austin, Texas

## Facilitating a Network of Fish & Wildlife Information Managers by Leveraging Emerging IT Technologies

### Anticipated Sessions

- Conservation on the Move - Mobile Technology
- The Future is Now - Student Research
- Reaching the Masses - Data Sharing/Social Media

### Other Topics of Interest

- New (and old) Technologies
  - GIS
  - Tools that improve efficiency
- TRACS (The new Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Tracking and Reporting Tool)
- Revising State Wildlife Action Plans



Austin, Texas

Source: Wikimedia Commons

**This call is for papers, panel discussions, and poster presentations related to the conference theme or to fish and wildlife information management in general.**

Individual papers should be 15 minutes in length to allow time for discussion. Panel Discussions should fit in 1½ hour sessions. This year OFWIM anticipates a limited number of remote access seats will be available for members, so think about joining us virtually and giving a paper from your office!

Submit a poster presentation for the “Hacker’s Ball,” an OFWIM tradition that combines the poster session with live demonstrations of applications.

**Deadline for submission of all abstracts (with speaker biography) is Friday July 6, 2012.** The abstract deadline may be extended, but acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The link to the abstract submission form can be found at:

<http://www.regonline.com/ofwim12abstracts>

Submit session topics, suggested panel discussion topics, and any questions to:

**Danny Lewis**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
(903) 566-1615 x201  
danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us

## 2012 Conference: Draft Agenda

# Draft Agenda

### Sunday —OCTOBER 14, 2012

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM OFWIM Executive Committee Meeting

### Monday —OCTOBER 15, 2012

#### **Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge Site Visit**

08:30 AM Depart Hotel

09:30 AM - 12:00 PM Guided tour of Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM LUNCH - Tug's BBQ (Lago Vista)

01:00 PM - 03:00 PM Continue tour of Balcones Canyonlands

03:00 PM Depart Balcones Canyonlands and return to Hotel

07:00 PM - 09:00 PM Conference Registration in hotel lobby



Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

### Tuesday —OCTOBER 16, 2012

07:30 AM - 12:00 PM Conference Registration

08:00 AM - 09:15 AM OFWIM Welcome and Opening Session

09:15 AM - 09:30 AM *Raffle / Break* (15 min)

09:30 AM - 11:30 AM "Getting the Job Done" - General Session

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM *Student / Professional Lunch*

01:30 PM - 03:10 PM "Conservation on the Move" - Mobile Technology Session

03:10 PM - 03:25 PM *Raffle / Break* (15 min)

03:25 PM - 05:05 PM Mobile Technology Session (cont.)

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM *Hacker's Ball* - Poster and Technical Demonstrations (*meal provided*)

### Wednesday —OCTOBER 17, 2012

08:00 AM - 10:00 AM "The Future is Now" - Student Research Session

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM *Raffle / Break* (15 min)

10:15 AM - 11:55 AM "Reaching the Masses" - Data Sharing/Social Media Session

12:00 PM - 02:00 PM *Business Meeting / Lunch* (*meal provided*)

02:15 PM - 03:15 PM "Finding a Home" - Group Collaboration Websites Discussion / Presentations

03:15 PM - 03:30 PM *Raffle / Break* (15 min)

03:30 PM - 04:50 PM "Finding a Home" - (cont.)

05:30 PM - 07:30 PM *Banquet / OFWIM 20 Year Celebration* (*meal provided*)

### Thursday - OCTOBER 18, 2012

08:00 AM - 08:30 AM *Breakfast* (provided)

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM Results of Data Standards Technology Survey

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM Citizen Science / Special Topics Session

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM *Raffle / Break* (15 min)

10:15 AM - 10:55 AM Citizen Science / Special Topics - (cont.)

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM *Lunch* (on your own)

01:00 PM - 04:30 PM Mobile Technology and Citizen Science Workshops

04:30 PM - 05:00 PM The Future of OFWIM - Maine and beyond

## 2012 Conference: Training Workshops

# 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 vari-

ous 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>.



### *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 retainment 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

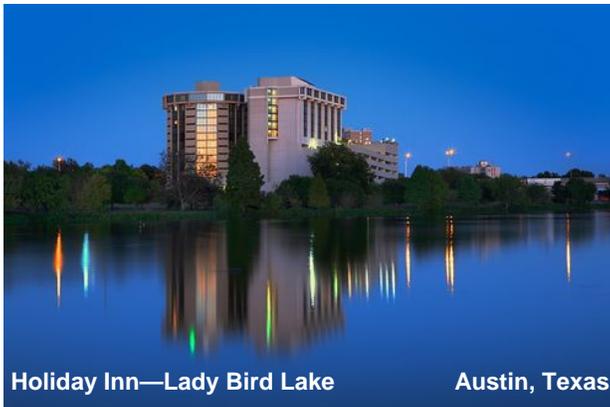
### Conference Registration

Early member (registering by 08/31/2012): \$270.00  
 Early non-member (registering by 08/31/2012): \$350.00  
 Regular member (registering after 08/31/2012): \$320.00  
 Regular non-member (registering after 08/31/2012): \$400.00  
 Student Registration: \$200.00  
 Retired Professional Registration: \$200.00  
 One day registration: \$150.00  
 Remote access registration: \$100.00 (limit 23 connections)

Registration opens June 11, 2012: <http://www.regonline.com/ofwimTx2012>.

### Lodging and Transportation

Holiday Inn-Lady Bird Lake, Austin, Texas. Reservations can be made by reserving on line: <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/austin/austl/hoteldetail>.



Holiday Inn—Lady Bird Lake

Austin, Texas

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

Nearest Major Airport: Austin-Bergstrom International Airport: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport/>

Rental Cars and Public Transportation: <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:**  
[http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2012/Guide to OFWIM 2012 Conference Expenses.pdf](http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2012/Guide%20to%20OFWIM%202012%20Conference%20Expenses.pdf)

## 2012 Conference: Opportunities

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### Travel Grants

OFWIM Travel Grants are designed to assist current or retired professionals in attending the 2012 Conference and Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, October 15-18. The application form is available at: <http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2012/OFWIMTravelGrant2012.pdf> and the application deadline is July 30, 2012. Award recipients will be notified by August 8, 2012. Recipients are expected to present a formal paper or poster at the meeting. Please contact Julie Prior-Magee <jpmagee (AT) usgs.gov> with questions.

### Student Scholarships

Please help us encourage students to apply for a travel scholarship to the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) conference. 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 (GIS). The scholarship award supports student attendance at the OFWIM Conference and Annual meeting. The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2012. More information can be found on the home page of the OFWIM website: <http://www.ofwim.org/>.

### ...and the Raffle

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>.

Many thanks to those who have already sent photos to Danny, including:

- Don Schrupp
- Gary Sprandel
- Sabra Tonn
- Daniel Vichitbandha



OFWIM Members in Olympic National Park, 2010

## Groupsite: The New OFWIM Portal

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This year, the Communications Committee has been working on finding a replacement for the OFWIM Portal hosted by the US Geological Survey, which was closed at the end of 2011.

Committee members have been testing a variety of social networking and content management sites in an attempt to find one that maintains as much of the functionality of the USGS portal as possible, while also allowing up to expand our social networking capabilities.

The best site identified so far has been Groupsite. Starting in July, after some final site organization and training, we will be opening the site up to the full OFWIM membership for a six month test period. Over that time, you will have the opportunity to join us on the site, play around with its features, and let us know what you think of it.



★ Watch for the invitation to join OFWIM Groupsite in July! ★

## Seeking Candidates for 2013 Member-At-Large

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We are looking for nominations for Member-At-Large for 2013. If you know an OFWIM member you think would be a good addition to the Executive Committee, please consider nominating them. You are free to nominate yourself or another OFWIM member. We do encourage you to check with the nominee for approval to include them on the ballot.

The Member-At-Large fulfills the following role:

*The Member-At-Large serves as advisor to the Executive Committee and coordinates special projects at the direction of the President or Executive Committee. The Member-At-Large also serves as Vice-Chair of the Data Standards Committee. The Member-at-Large also serves as Vice-Chair of the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee. The Member-at-Large is responsible for coordinating the Hacker's Ball at the annual meeting in coordination with the President-Elect (including logistics, arrangements, and program).*

For a information about the position, please visit: <http://www.ofwim.org/org/officers.html>.

To submit a nomination, please contact Beth Stys <beth.stys (AT) MyFWC.com>.

## OFWIM Membership: Renew for 2012!

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their 2012 membership!!

Michael S. Barbour (Alabama Natural Heritage Program)  
 Dorothy Butler (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Debby Fantz (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Doug Fees (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Julie Fleming (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Chuck Hayes (New Mexico Game & Fish)  
 Yan Hong (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Jeanette Jones (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency)  
 Kirk Keller (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Joe Kirby (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Thomas G. Kulowiec (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Danny Lewis (Texas Parks & Wildlife)  
 Deepti Manglik (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Kathleen Maybury (NatureServe)  
 Margaret Ormes (NatureServe)  
 Kevin Patten (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission)  
 Donna Reynolds (NatureServe)  
 Joel F. Sartwell (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Lori Scott (NatureServe)  
 Annie Simpson (U.S. Geological Survey)  
 Rob Solomon (NatureServe)  
 Judy Soule (NatureServe)  
 Tony Spicci (Missouri Department of Conservation)  
 Beth D. Stys (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)  
 Kathryn Thomas (U.S. Geological Survey)  
 Chris M. Wieberg (Missouri Department of Conservation)

To download membership forms, please visit the OFWIM website:

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



### Membership Year:

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

### Individual Memberships

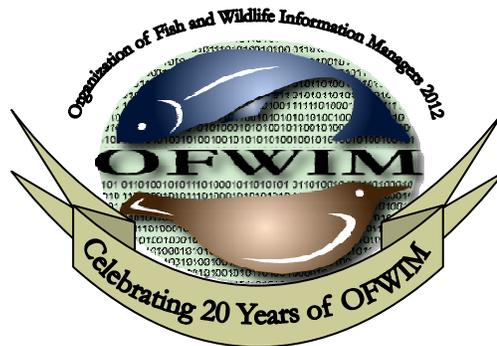
Individuals may join OFWIM for the membership rate of \$30. The Individual Membership is valid for one calendar year (January-December).

### 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.



## 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

ORGANIZATION OF  
 FISH AND WILDLIFE  
 INFORMATION  
 MANAGERS

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[www.ofwim.org](http://www.ofwim.org)