



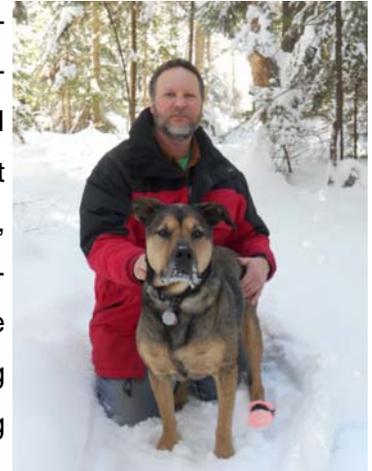
OFWIM news

President's Message: Donald Katnik

Inside this issue:

- President's Message **1**
- 2012 Conference:
Celebrating 20 Years of
OFWIM **2**
- OFWIM's Roadmap
for the Next 20 Years **3**
- Committee Updates **4-5**
- OFWIM Membership:
Renew for 2012 **6**
- Until Next Time **7**

We are mid-way between last year's conference in St. Louis and the upcoming conference in Austin. During this relatively quiet time, I would like to thank the members who have kept OFWIM going in between. This includes officers, committee participants, and those who have contributed to surveys and special discussions. We are fortunate to have both new members who bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm and long-standing members who provide continuity and experience.



Without all of them, there would be no annual conference and without those who come to the conferences—whether to present or just to hear the presentations and network with colleagues—there would be no OFWIM. This year's conference in Austin marks a special milestone: the 20th anniversary of OFWIM. It's a good time to reflect on where OFWIM has come from and where we want to be going. Making OFWIM more relevant and useful is the focus of the ad hoc "Visions and Goals" Committee (see separate article in this newsletter). In my daily work as a GIS Manager in a state fish and wildlife agency, I see OFWIM and the support it can provide as more relevant than ever. Emerging technologies, data sharing, and expectations for greater efficiency through collaboration are continuing challenges that I believe OFWIM can play a lead role in helping to address. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Texas in October! And I'm thinking about Maine 2013—it's where we will begin the next 20 years of OFWIM.

Donald Katnik
2012 OFWIM President



2012 Conference: Celebrating 20 Years of OFWIM!

OFWIM 2012

Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Annual Conference and Business Meeting
October 15-18, 2012

At this year's OFWIM conference, we will be commemorating the organization's 20th anniversary. The banquet will feature a history of OFWIM and the opportunity to reminisce about past experiences. Long-term members of OFWIM will be recognized.

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).



Lady Bird Lake, Austin, TX
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Featuring presentations, posters, and workshops on:

- New (and old) technologies
- Data Sharing
- Social Media
- And much more...

Travel grants and student scholarships will be available!

Everything's bigger in Texas, and the 2012 OFWIM Conference is no exception!!!

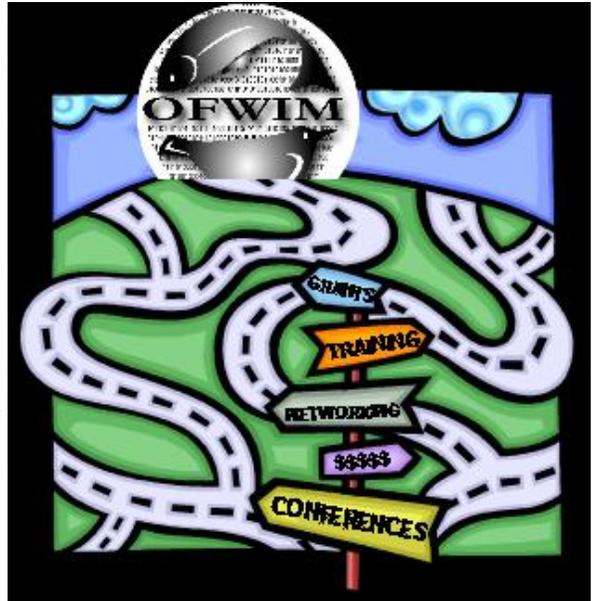
Keep an eye out for more information at www.ofwim.org.

OFWIM's Roadmap for the Next 20 Years

By Donald Katnik, OFWIM President

This year's conference in Austin, Texas will mark the 20-year anniversary of OFWIM. We have come a long way and this year there has been much reflection on where we want to go.

In January, nearly a dozen OFWIM members participated in the "Making OFWIM More Relevant and Useful" conference call. During that discussion, we considered questions such as what do members value the most about OFWIM? How can we increase our ability to network? Can we improve the types of training that OFWIM can provide?



A key outcome of that discussion was that all of these questions should be tied together to create a "roadmap" for OFWIM's future. In addition to helping members stay current with emerging technologies and standards, we could build a training program that also would advance OFWIM's goals by helping members become better at collaborating on grants and networking. Enhancing our ability to network using social media will be critical to moving OFWIM forward.

The discussion group recommended to the OFWIM Executive Committee that the ad hoc "Visions and Goals" Committee be continued with the new task of developing this "roadmap," which seemed a logical extension of the Committee's previous task of identifying and clarifying OFWIM's mission. The group recommended that we use a social media site to host further discussions between the "Visions and Goals" Committee and other interested members and as a place to post draft documents and a schedule for developing the roadmap. "ExComm" unanimously approved these recommendations. With the assistance of Kirk Keller, we have been getting a social media site ready and hope to be sending an email invitation to the membership soon. Everyone will be welcome to participate.

Committee Updates

OFWIM committees have updated their goals for 2012! Please visit the OFWIM website (www.ofwim.org, Committees page) to see what our committees have planned for the year.

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee

★ *Focus On: Best Practices for Data Sharing and a Survey of Current Technology Environments in State Fish and Wildlife Agencies*

The first conference call of OFWIM's Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee for 2012 took place on February 27. Dean K. Jue will continue to chair the DSTT Committee.

As a follow-up to the OFWIM 2011 conference in St. Louis, the DSTTC is planning to host a teleconference call summarizing the discussion from the Data Sharing Panel Discussion and to finalize a best practices document. Details on this teleconference call will be forthcoming soon.

The Committee is also planning to conduct a survey of OFWIM members as well as the appropriate representative from each state fish and wildlife agencies to determine the current technology environment within these agencies as well as their future technology plans. This survey will take place in spring 2012. Please be on the lookout for your survey!

The 2012 goals of the DSTTC are available on the OFWIM website. If you are 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) and he will be sure that you're included on all future committee correspondence and calls.

Training and Education Committee

★ *Focus On: Training Workshop for the 2012 Conference*

The Training and Education Committee is working hard to develop a training workshop for the final afternoon of the 2012 conference. The committee conducted a survey of the membership to determine the training categories of greatest interest, and found that the top three choices were:

- Mobile Applications Development
- Web Mapping Services
- Wildlife TRACS

The committee is now focusing on identifying trainers and topics within one of these categories for the conference training. We will also be developing webinars in the training categories identified in the survey; these will be held throughout the upcoming year. Watch for announcements about webinar training opportunities!

... continued

Communications Committee

★ *Focus On: A New Social Networking and Content Management Site for OFWIM*

In an effort to find a new content management and social networking site for OFWIM, the Communications Committee has been sampling and testing potential sites. Once a site has been identified that will meet all of OFWIM's needs, an invitation will be sent to the membership.



Lupines at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, TX

Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

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: Kendell Ryan Kendell.Ryan (AT) dgif.virginia.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

OFWIM Membership: Renew for 2012!

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

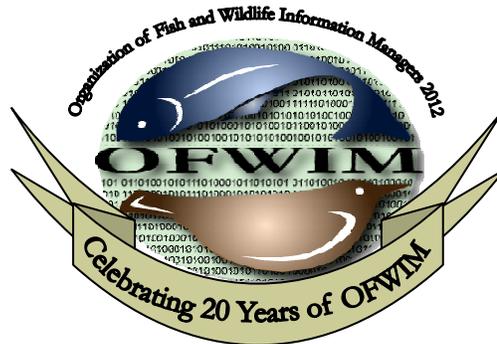
Individuals may join OFWIM for the membership rate of \$30. The Individual Membership is valid for one calendar year (January-December). Members are entitled to vote in OFWIM elections, to participate in OFWIM committees, and to hold office.

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.

Organizational Memberships

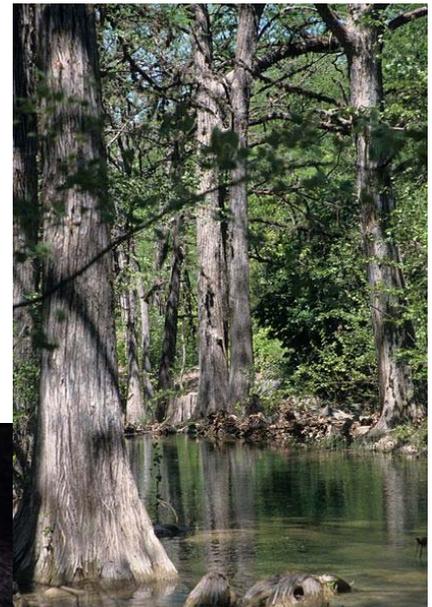
State and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other groups whose mission involves management of fish and wildlife populations or habitat, are encouraged to become OFWIM Organizational Members. Each Organizational Membership costs \$150 and entitles the organization to 6 OFWIM 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 6 individual members at the time of payment. Organizations may have more than 1 Organizational Membership.



Potential 2012 Field Trip Sites



Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Hamilton Pool Preserve
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Hamilton Pool Preserve, Travis County, Texas
Source: Wikimedia Commons

ORGANIZATION OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE
INFORMATION
MANAGERS

Newsletter editor
Robin Carlson
Pacific States Marine
Fisheries Commission
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
510-735-9513
rcarlson (AT) dfg.ca.gov



www.ofwim.org