



# OFWIM news

## President's Message: Donald Katnik

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It was great seeing everyone who made it to St. Louis in October and meeting new people there as well. Those of you who could not make it were missed!



OFWIM activity cycles annually with a buildup to the conference followed by a lull until after the holidays when suddenly "next year's" conference becomes "this year's." That makes this the "Post-Conference Lull" Newsletter and time to reflect on last year and to begin thinking about next year.

New restrictions on the ability of NBII members to participate in OFWIM was a key issue during 2011. OFWIM had really come to rely on NBII's support such as using their Portal as our community environment on the web. NBII staff were common on OFWIM committees and in officer positions. The 2011 conference was noticeably lean on attendance by NBII members and we missed them. In an era where budgets and politics leave every agency vulnerable to sudden change, we learned it's critical to not become too dependent on any single agency. Growing our membership by making OFWIM more relevant to members was the topic of much conversation during 2011 and will continue to be in 2012.

Along those lines, we surveyed those who attended the 2011 conference to find out what OFWIM was doing right and what we could do to support members better. Opportunities to network with colleagues, learn about new technologies, and view presentations at the annual conference were the most valued benefits of OFWIM. Conference attendance, however, has continued to decline as difficulty in getting travel approval has increased. Lowering conference costs and providing more tangible outcomes were cited as the best ways to make it easier to get travel approval. Given all of that, we have decided to lengthen the 2012 conference a little by adding a training session during the afternoon of

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the last day – but we need your input on what kind of training you want!

OFWIM's use of social media also was a topic of discussion in 2011. It began with the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee and culminated in a Social Media session at the conference. Not only is this a tool that many of our individual agencies are beginning to use, it is clear that for OFWIM to remain a viable collaborative organization it will require a greater OFWIM presence in social networks. It's ironic that for a group of "tech" people, many of us are still struggling to get a handle on social media. Loss of the NBII portal is forcing us to find a new community environment on the web and presents an opportunity for OFWIM to expand more into social media. The Communications & Outreach Committee will be working on this challenge in 2012.

We want to continue our discussions about making OFWIM more relevant to members, which in turn we hope will grow our membership and make it easier for members to get approval to participate in OFWIM. We're looking for more ideas and want to move forward with those already shared by developing specific strategies to implement them.

WE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS BY INVITING ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A GROUP DISCUSSION VIA CONFERENCE CALL IN EARLY JANUARY. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the discussion. Please visit this Doodle Poll to indicate your interest and the dates/times that would work best for you (<http://www.doodle.com/3ctv7xbu66dbkbpm>). Those who cannot make the conference call can email their input to [Donald.katnik@maine.gov](mailto:Donald.katnik@maine.gov) and it will be incorporated into the discussion. Participation will not obligate you to any additional commitments! Please make the effort to share your opinions and help guide the future of OFWIM!

*Join the discussion!*

*To participate in the conference call to discuss how to make OFWIM more relevant to our members, please respond to this poll:*

<http://www.doodle.com/3ctv7xbu66dbkbpm>

*Donald Katnik*

2012 OFWIM President

**2012 Conference: Save the Date**

# OFWIM 2012

**October 15-18, 2012**

Organization of Fish and Wildlife

Information Managers (OFWIM)

Annual Conference and Business Meeting



This year's conference will be held at the Holiday Inn on beautiful Lady Bird Lake in the heart of Austin, Texas.



Congress Street Bat Bridge

Look for the return of Capt. Jack Sparrow and the GeoCache Contest!!



- Presentations, posters & 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!!!



**Congratulations to the OFWIM 2011 Award Winners!**

**Best Presentation Award**

*The Missouri River Public Use Assessment: Developing a Database to Present Statistical Results*

Tom Treiman, Missouri Department of Conservation

**Best Poster Award**

*A Basin Approach to Conserving Florida's Freshwater Habitats and Species*

Beth Stys and Jennifer Bock, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Student Scholarship Awards**

**Carla Atkinson**, University of Oklahoma

**Ramiro Crego**, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

**Larry Lawson**, University of Florida

**Michelle Nuanez**, University of New Mexico



**Student scholarship winners: Larry Lawson, Michelle Nuanez, Carla Atkinson, and Ramiro Crego**

**Service Awards**

**Keith Wethington:** For his service as President for the period of October 2010 to October 2011.

**Danny Lewis:** For his service as Secretary for the period of October 2010 to October 2011.

**Dean Jue:** For his service as Member-at-Large for the period of October 2010 to October 2011.

**And Welcome to the New 2012 Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Don Katnik	donald.katnik (AT) maine.gov
<b>President-Elect:</b>	Danny Lewis	danny.lewis (AT) tpwd.state.tx.us
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kendell Ryan	Kendell.Ryan (AT) dgif.virginia.gov
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Julie Prior-Magee	jpmagee (AT) nmsu.edu
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Jim Husband	jim.husband (AT) dgif.virginia.gov
<b>Past President:</b>	Keith Wethington	keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov

## OFWIM 2011: A Student's Perspective

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By Larry L. Lawson, Jr.

Tropical Aquaculture Lab, Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida

Firstly, a big thanks to the OFWIM members and student scholarship selection committee for offering such a great opportunity for students to present their research in a professional forum. I was particularly excited to attend this year's meeting in St. Louis, MO, because it is my home town, the Cardinals (baseball team) were heading to the World Series, and there was a notable presence of the Missouri Department of Conservation at the meeting. Additionally, this was the first opportunity I have had to present my research at home since starting my Master's research at the University of Florida.

My first thought when I looked at the meeting agenda and abstracts was, "whoa! this is going to be way over my head." Turns out, for the most part, I was right. Fortunately, that is the best part of going to conferences. You learn new things, experience new places, and meet new people. I certainly learned a lot about the difficulties of data management. My experience has always been on the data collection side of things, and I never realized how much work and collaboration goes into providing the latest data collection tools to fish and wildlife managers. My impression of the members and topics of the OFWIM meeting was that there are some great people working on these issues and our ability to collect and share information using technology is changing and improving.

My other big take home from the meeting was an understanding of the broad geographic range and complexity of issues that the OFWIM members address. The presentations included topics spanning the entire U.S. from the Pacific Northwest to South Florida and most of the states in between. I found that to be particularly important when we look at the distribution of fish and wildlife. They are not bound by political boundaries, so an effective data manager must be able integrate data collection, synthesis, and management in a way that can be used effectively and efficiently in collaboration with multiple user groups.

*"My other big take home from the meeting was an understanding of the broad geographic range and complexity of issues that the OFWIM members address."*

In conclusion, the meeting was informative, the members were friendly and personable, and it was an enjoyable experience. I hope OFWIM continues to provide student scholarships as they are an important tool for students to learn and participate in real world issues. The meeting provided me with a new understanding of the current research involving data management. From radio-collars on elk and black bears in Missouri to tracking salmon migrations in California, OFWIM and its members will be leading the way in innovative data systems and providing a better means to manage our fish and wildlife resources.

## OFWIM 2011: OFWIM GeoCachers Plunder St. Louis Treasures

By Capt. Jack Sparrow

A peaceful gathering of 40,000 residents of “The Lou” celebrating the St. Louis Cardinal’s victory over the Milwaukee Brewers was disrupted by a ravaging horde of geocachers who descended like locusts upon the “Gateway To The West” this past October. To the horror of everyone, these geocachers—in town for a Conference of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers, a.k.a.



**They are Just Shameless**



**Two Nefarious Geocachers**

“OFWIM”—scurried all over town searching for hidden “caches.” Nothing was sacred. Not the historic Court-house, site of the infamous “Dred Scott” trial. Not the majestic City Hall. Not the Bohemian Nijinski Hare. Not the Arch itself or even “Bevo,” beloved mascot of Anheuser-Busch Brewery (at least two geocachers shamelessly took pictures of poor Bevo with their cell phones to “prove” their finding of him)!



**The Nijinski Hare (they spared HIS leg)**



**Poor Bevo**



**Their Idea of a 'Compass'**

This year marked the first such “GeoCaching” spectacle for OFWIM (who last year comported themselves much more respectfully in Kentucky). Apparently two high-ranking OFWIM’ers (who shall remain nameless but converged upon the fair Midwest city from Maine and California) spent a day before the October 2011 conference using a GPS to locate historic and interesting sites around downtown St. Louis. Conference attendees, armed with these geographic coordinates and clues to the sites, fought to see who could find the most during the duration of the conference

(which thankfully lasted only four days). I can only surmise that because I know something about following clues to hidden treasure (and I don’t need a fancy GPS to do it, although my compass *is* somewhat magical) these OFWIM’ers took it upon themselves to make ME the prize of this disturbing contest! To make matter worse, the U.S. Postal Service saw fit to dismember me on my way to St. Louis!! But what’s a pirate without a wooden leg?



**Another OFWIM Geocaching Scalawag**

Rumor has it that these OFWIM’ers are heading for Austin, Texas in 2012 and plan another GeoCache contest as part of their conference there. As the “prize,” I shall no doubt be dragged along with them (how much of a fight can I put up with only one leg?), but you haven’t heard the last from me!

**OFWIM 2011: Field Trip Highlights**

The day started with a tour of the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium, led by George Yatskievych. Doug Holland next treated led us on a tour of the MBG Library and Rare Book Room, where we learned about their digital archiving process. After a tasty lunch at one of the garden cafes, we wandered the beautiful garden grounds. After returning to downtown St. Louis, some intrepid OFWIM'ers took the tour to the top of the Arch for a magnificent view of the city. An enormous thank you to the folks from the Missouri Department of Conservation for arranging the trip!!



**Banana Plant**

**M. Hines**



**Inside the Climatron**

**M. Hines**



**Lily Pond and Climatron**

**M. Hines**



**The View from the Arch (in the rain)**

**R. Carlson**



**Don Katnik, Don Schrupp, Jim Husband, Sabra Tonn, and Bruce Schmidt**

## Thank You 2011 Raffle Donors!

### Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

"Waiting at Crow Creek" throw  
 2005 Collector's Plate and Stein (pair): "Cardinal in the Pines" (original photograph by Douglas Graham)  
 Collector's Plate and Stein (pair): "Winter Comfort" (original artwork by Bob Henley)  
 One additional wildlife stein  
 2005 Limited Edition *Virginia Wildlife* Collector's Knife in a decorative solid cherry box

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Great Florida Birding Trail t-shirt  
 Florida Birding Trail Guides  
 SCAT Happens t-shirt

### Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Baseball cap  
 Drink coozie

### Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources

Trapping Coyotes video  
 Stream habitat Posters  
 Wildlife Tracks ID cards  
 Elk and bobwhite Restoration patches

### Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

T-shirts  
 Bird cards  
 Thistle feeder

### Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Computer bag  
 Umbrella

### NatureServe

The Future of Life, signed by author E O Wilson  
 The Birds of Heaven, signed by illustrator Robert Bateman

### ESRI

Spatial Statistical Data Analysis for GIS Users Media Kit  
 GIS Spatial Analysis and Modeling Book  
 Making Spatial Decisions Using GIS Book with Media  
 Understanding GIS for ArcGIS 10.0: An ArcGIS Project Workbook with Media  
 User Conference 2011 Esri Map Book Volume 26  
 Web GIS: Principles and Applications (2 copies)

### Donald Katnik (personal donation)

Bottle of Maple Syrup  
 Bottle of Blueberry Jam  
 "Yankee Golden Retriever" calendars (2)

### John Stys (personal donation)

Handcrafted Cutting Board

*A total of \$303 was raised  
 in the 2011 raffle.*

*All funds will be used to  
 support the OFWIM  
 student scholarship!*

## **OFWIM Membership: Renew for 2012!**

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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.

## 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: Sabra Tonn      STonn (AT) azgfd.gov

### Vision & Goals Committee (Ad-Hoc)

Chair: Keith Wethington      keith.wethington (AT) ky.gov  
 Vice-Chair: Currently vacant

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