



OFWIM news

President's Message: Keith Wethington

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Hello OFWIM Members!!!

Seems summer always passes by so fast, it's hard to believe our 2011 annual conference in St. Louis will be here in little more than a month!! For those who plan on attending but have not yet registered please consider doing so as soon as possible. Details on page 4.

Travel budgets are tight for everyone this year and will likely be that way indefinitely. I think attending the conference and business meeting in person has great value to me professionally. I encourage all our members to make every effort to attend. The reality though is many who wish to come simply can not for many reasons. Please consider utilizing remote access if you are not able to travel. More information about the remote access option can be found on page 5. It's not too late to register and attend the conference.

There is information about the 2012 meeting in Texas on page 15.

Here are some notes about the conference and other OFWIM news.

- o Four Student Scholarships were awarded this year. Please consider donating raffle items for the conference this year as this supports the scholarship fund.
- o The draft agenda for the conference is available to view online at <http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2011/2011%20Conference%20Agenda.pdf>
- o Join us for the field trip to Monsanto Research Center and Missouri Botanical Gardens.
- o Remember to vote for OFWIM officers. Candidate information is on pages 7-8.
- o Please consider becoming active in one of our several committees. This is a great way to grow as a professional and interact with peers from across the country. Special thanks go out to those who have participated this year. Committees are listed on page 11.
- o We are offering a geocache event this year. See details on page 5.
- o If you play any kind of musical instrument (tuba anyone?) please bring that along with you to the conference. I will have my guitar but definitely need accompaniment!!

Hope to see everyone in St. Louis!!!

Keith Wethington, 2011 OFWIM President



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



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

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

2011 Conference Overview

Monday, October 17: FIELD TRIP

Monsanto Research Center
Missouri Botanical Garden*
Gateway Arch
Welcome Social
Registration

* \$8 per person fee covers admission to the Missouri Botanical Garden. Bring money for lunch.



Tuesday, October 18: CONFERENCE

Registration
Poster Set Up
Opening Session
Accessing and Using National/Regional Data Session
Social Media Panel Discussion
Hacker's Ball Poster Session
Poster Take Down

Wednesday, October 19: CONFERENCE

Student Scholarship Awards Session
Tools That Improve Efficiency Session
Business Meeting/Lunch
Mobile Technologies Session
Access and Using National/Regional Data Session



Thursday, October 20: CONFERENCE

Data Sharing Panel Discussion
Potential Funding Sources Session
ADJOURN at Noon

2011 Conference Announcements

Registration is still available!!

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

- Member: \$320.00
- Non-member: \$400.00
- Student registration: \$200.00
- Retired Professional Registration: \$200.00
- One day registration: \$150.00
- Remote Access Registration: \$100.00 (connections are still available)

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

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:

<http://www.ofwim.org/meetings/2011/GuidetoOFWIM2011ConferenceExpenses.pdf>

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).

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. Here is a link to the rules for applying:

<http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2011/2011%20REMOTE%20ACCESS%20GRANT.pdf>



Geo **G.O!**
Cache OFWIM



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!

OFWIM - Who we are

You may be reading this newsletter and thinking, "What is OFWIM and why should I care?". If you have visited our website (<http://www.ofwim.org>) you may have seen the following on the main page.

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers, founded in 1993, is an international non-profit association dedicated to the management and conservation of natural resources through technology and information exchange.

Our Mission: To promote the management and conservation of natural resources by facilitating technology and information exchange among managers of fish and wildlife information.

Our Vision: To be a bridge between natural resource and technical disciplines to promote partnering, collaboration, sharing of ideas, and best management practices in order to effectively apply technology to the information and data needs of natural resource management.

So what does that mean? OFWIM consists of resource personnel - biologists, specialists and the like, as well as people from the technology side - programmers, database administrators and data librarians, etc from throughout the country and around the world. With such a widespread people knowledge base, we are able to draw on each other to try and answer the issues that face each of us daily. Together, this membership discusses the concerns we all have, and looks for ways to share the latest technological marvels and methodologies that make life just a little bit easier in the information management business. If you manage fish and wildlife data, this organization is for you.

Each year, the group meets in a different state, and members come together to discuss and share their latest findings at the annual conference. You may be thinking, my agency will not let me travel to other states for conferences. This is not a problem as OFWIM offers remote access for those who want to participate in the conferences but are unable to physically attend. Then when OFWIM comes to an area near you, you can attend in person if you desire.

OFWIM is a great organization, but it can be better. How? With your help. We need you to get involved!! If you are not a member, join. If you are a member, get in touch with a committee chair about participating in a committee. Already serving on a committee? Step up to a chair or vice-chair role. Currently heading up a committee? Consider serving as an officer in the organization, or helping out with the newsletter or website. Let the Membership Committee know that when the opportunity comes up again, you would like to be considered.

But wait a minute!! Isn't all this "commitment" talk going to take a lot of my time and money? Not at all!! Membership is only \$30 for an individual. And all committee work is handled via conference calls and emails, with the calls generally only being an hour once a month in most cases if not less frequently than that. But the mutual benefit to both the organization and to you for your time will be invaluable.

2011 OFWIM Officer Elections

Per OFWIM By-laws, members in good standing (who have paid 2011 dues) are eligible to vote in OFWIM elections. Voting is conducted online prior to the Business Meeting. If you are a current member and are unable to attend this year's Business Meeting, please use the online ballot to submit your vote. Members attending the Business Meeting are also encouraged to vote online; however, paper ballots will be available during the Business Meeting for those members who are unable to cast an online ballot prior to the meeting.

The deadline for casting an online ballot is 5:00pm ET on Friday, October 14th. The online ballots will be available at <http://vote.ofwim.org> until the deadline. Or check the main page of the OFWIM website.

Keep reading to learn about your OFWIM candidates for office...then cast your vote!

2011 OFWIM Officer Nominees

President—Elect:

Danny Lewis

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Danny works as a Research Specialist for the Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife. He has a BS in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Tyler. During his career, he has spent over 19 years creating computer applications and providing support to the division staff, currently using .NET 2.0 and SQL Server to provide intranet web-based access to the division's many databases. Danny has been married for 24 years, and has three children – two sons; a senior and 4th grader, and a daughter who is just starting kindergarten.

Danny has been a member of OFWIM since 2009, first attending a conference in New Mexico in the fall of 2008. He currently serves on the Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee, the Conference Planning Committee, the Vision and Goals Committee, and serves as Vice Chair of the Communications Committee. He briefly served as Member-At-Large before filling in as Secretary on the Excom. He has served as the Newsletter Editor and the OFWIM Webmaster over the past year.

Danny has also been a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for several years, where he received recognition for his contributions in support of Fisheries in 1998 and 2011.

When he's not shuffling kids to events, he enjoys sports, jogging, 42, listening to 80's music and chocolate chip cookies. He is excited about the opportunity for Texas to host the Conference in 2012.



(nominees continued on next page)

2011 OFWIM Officer Nominees

Member-At-Large:

Jim Husband

James is the Fish and Wildlife Information and Statewide Permit Manager with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Richmond, VA. He has over 20 years experience with information technology, education, criminal justice, and government agencies and institutions. In his current position, he directs a multidisciplinary team of biologists, GIS, database, and application programmers within the Statewide Resources Section of the Bureau of Wildlife Resources of the Department. James has held previous management positions in the private sector with several higher education institutions, working with distance learning technologies and strategies and private IT firms. Additionally, he has worked as a college professor and had a distinguished career in law enforcement and as a regional criminal justice planner.



Jon Purvis

As a data analyst with the Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife for 14 years, my job entails database administration and programming, permitting systems, statistical analysis, mail and web surveys, and citizen science projects. I have a BS and MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M university, and have been involved with research on swine skin cancer, coyote endocrinology, quail and prairie chicken disease, ring-necked pheasants reproduction and condition, and hunter demographics, among other topics.



I was editor of the 2007 TPWD Wildlife Research Highlights (http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0280_06_07.pdf), and have served as webmaster, newsletter editor, and archivist of the TX Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

In my spare time, I run a hobby farm with miniature cattle, goats, rabbits, and chickens, and am attempting to reduce the local feral hog population to sausage.

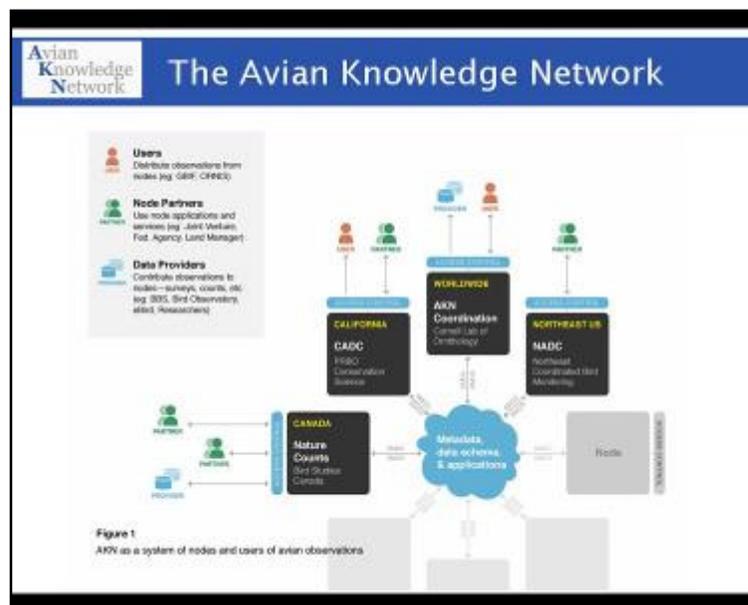
OFWIM Training and Education Committee Announcement

A free webinar entitled “*The California Avian Data Center and the Avian Knowledge Network*” will be presented by Grant Ballard, California Avian Data Center, on September 29, 2011 at 10:00 PT/11:00 MT/12:00 CT/1:00 ET.

The California Avian Data Center (CADC), a regional node of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) hosted by PRBO Conservation Science, integrates data on birds and ecosystems to improve conservation outcomes today and in the future.

CADC currently hosts more than 50 million bird observations for California spanning more than 40 years. These data are available for download, and are used in several interactive applications, including decision support systems for habitat managers working in the central valley and the Gulf of The Farallones, and projected effects of climate change on California’s terrestrial birds.

Building on the AKN infrastructure, CADC develops on-line analytical tools to enable habitat managers and conservation planners to derive trends, indices, interactive maps, and other visualizations from the collective data sources of participating partners.



California Avian Data Center:

<http://data.prbo.org/cadc2/>

An overview slide presentation about the CADC can be found here:

http://data.prbo.org/cadc2/uploads/Articles/AKN/Draft_AKN_Node_Architecture_v7n.ppt

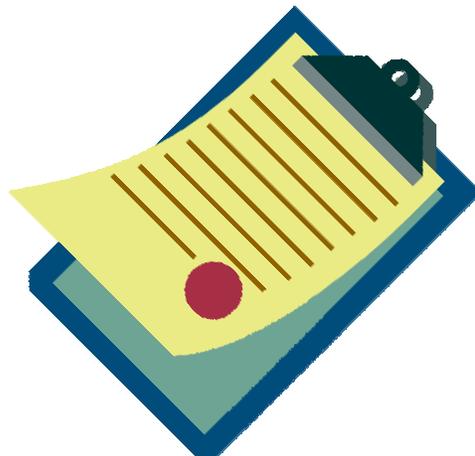
*****To reserve a space in the webinar, please email Robin Carlson (rcarlson (AT) dfg.ca.gov) by **September 26, 2011**. If you are interested in the webinar, but cannot attend the September 29 date, please let Robin know, as we may be able to schedule another session.

Data Standards and Technology Trends Happenings

The 2011 Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee (DSTTC) has worked with other OFWIM members to develop a social media track at the OFWIM Conference in St. Louis next month. Agency representatives will discuss how they have integrated social media applications such as Facebook and Twitter into their agency infrastructure. If you have an interest or experience in social media within your organization, this will be an OFWIM session you won't want to miss. If you cannot attend in person, you can do a remote access registration and reap the benefits of the session from your office or home.



Looking forward to 2012, the DSTTC plans to survey OFWIM members and other fish and wildlife agencies to identify the latest information technology trends within such agencies. This will help the committee and OFWIM itself better serve its member agencies. Another issue that the DSTTC may address this coming year includes the trend towards some data standards being based on proprietary software (e.g., MrSIDS, geodatabase) and its implications for the open standards environment. If you have expertise in or are just interested in these DSTTC activities and issues, please join us. Contact the chairman of the DSTTC, Dean Jue, at [djue \(at\) admin.fsu.edu](mailto:djue@admin.fsu.edu), or come talk with him at the OFWIM conference in St. Louis next month.



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



**Join an OFWIM
Committee!**

**Volunteer to fill
a leadership
vacancy!**

**Help keep OFWIM
going strong!**

Don't forget: renew your membership!

See page 13 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> 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

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.

OFWIM Organizational Membership

Your agency is invited to join!

Become an Organizational Member of OFWIM



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:

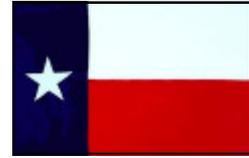
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Discount on registration for the OFWIM Annual Conference
- Access to the OFWIM content management system, an internet resource for sharing information and facilitating discussion among fish and wildlife information managers
- Access to the OFWIM-L e-mail listserv
- Networking 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>



**Save the date...
OFWIM 2012
Austin, Texas**



**October 15-18,
2012**

Back to the Future!

This year's meeting returns our group to the city that kicked off the annual conferences 18 years earlier.

- 2011 **St. Louis, Missouri**
- 2010 Cadiz, Kentucky
- 2009 Seattle, Washington
- 2008 Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 2007 Shepherdstown, West Virginia
- 2006 Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2005 Tallahassee, Florida
- 2004 San Diego, California
- 2003 Rapid City, South Dakota
- 2002 Baltimore, Maryland
- 2001 Portland, Oregon
- 2000 Silver Creek, Colorado
- 1999 Stateline, Nevada
- 1998 Madison, Wisconsin
- 1997 Reston, Virginia
- 1996 Key Largo, Florida
- 1995 Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 1994 Mountain Lake, Virginia
- 1993 **St. Louis, Missouri**

ORGANIZATION OF
FISH AND
WILDLIFE
INFORMATION
MANAGERS

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Danny Lewis
Texas Parks & Wildlife
11810 FM 848
Tyler, Tx 75707

danny.lewis (AT)
tpwd.state.tx.us

Visit us on the Web!!



<http://www.ofwim.org>

