

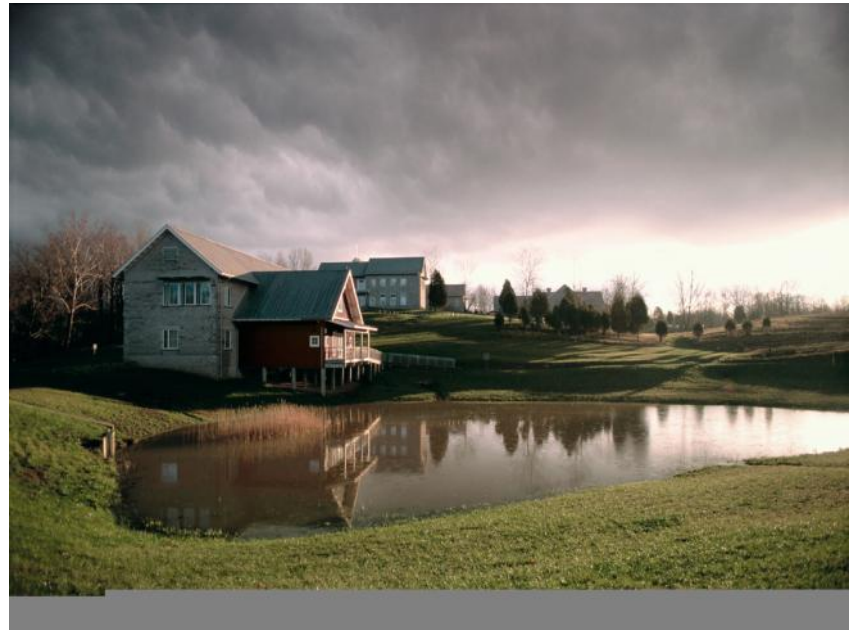


OFWIM news

President's Message: Vivian Hutchison

As another successful year for OFWIM comes to a close, I would like to thank all of those members who put time and effort into making the organization move forward! It has been a pleasure serving as President this year, and I feel honored to have been given an opportunity to work closely with very talented Executive Committee members. Leading OFWIM is truly a "team effort"!

An OFWIM year always culminates in the annual conference, and I look forward to seeing those who can attend September 17-20 in Shepherdstown, WV at the National Conservation Training



Division of Education building at NCTC Ryan Hagerty, / US Fish and Wildlife Services Center (NCTC). This year's theme, "Common Problems - Common Solutions: Advancing Natural Resource Management Goals thru Collaboration and Technology" has produced what will surely be some very interesting presentations and posters. Additionally, we have planned several workshops for professional development that we hope will be of interest to you while you are at the conference: "Experiments with Shapefiles and Google Earth", "GPS Device Selection", and

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Don't forget to vote!

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“GAP Data – Where to Find It and How to Use It”. You can read more about these fantastic workshops in this issue of the newsletter. Finally, we have also arranged for some very interesting field trips on Monday: Tour Harper’s Ferry or hike to Weverton Cliffs (morning) and/or visit the historic Antietam Battle Field (afternoon). Please join us if your travel plans permit!



Dining Hall in Commons Building at NCTC
Ryan Hagerty, / US Fish and Wildlife Services

This issue of the newsletter details many of the things you will need to know before your arrival at the conference. If you have further questions about any part of the process, please feel free to contact me (vhutchison@usgs.gov), or Sabra Schwartz (sschwartz@azgfd.gov), at any time. We want your experience to be a fulfilling and memorable one.

I am pleased to announce the dates and locations of next year’s conference. OFWIM 2008 will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico from October 27-30, 2008. Save the date on your calendar! Meanwhile, see you in Shepherdstown!

Best regards,

Viv

Viv Hutchison
2007 OFWIM President

Which OFWIM Committee will you serve on?

The OFWIM Committees are an important part of the organization. Please consider where you will serve next year. The committees are listed in the column to the right. Please take a look at them and check out the OFWIM website for a description of the responsibilities. <http://www.ofwim.org/org/committees.html>

OFWIM Committees:

Communications Committee

Chair

Shelaine Curd Hetrick
Shelaine@iiaweb.com

Vice-Chair

Robin Carlson
rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov

Continuing Education Committee

Chair

Sabra Schwartz
sschwartz@azgfd.gov

Vice-Chair

(currently vacant)

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee

Chair

Scott Anderson
scott.anderson@ncwildlife.org

Vice-Chair

Beth Stys
beth.stys@myfwc.com

Meeting Planning

Chair

Sabra Schwartz
sschwartz@azgfd.gov

Vice-Chair

(currently vacant)

Membership and Outreach Committee

Chair

Janet Hess-Hebert
jhessherbert@mt.gov

Vice-Chair

Aliya Ercelawn
aercelawn@tnc.org

Elections, Awards and Nominations

Chair

Viv Hutchinson
vhutchison@usgs.gov

Vice-Chair

Beth Stys
beth.stys@myfwc.com

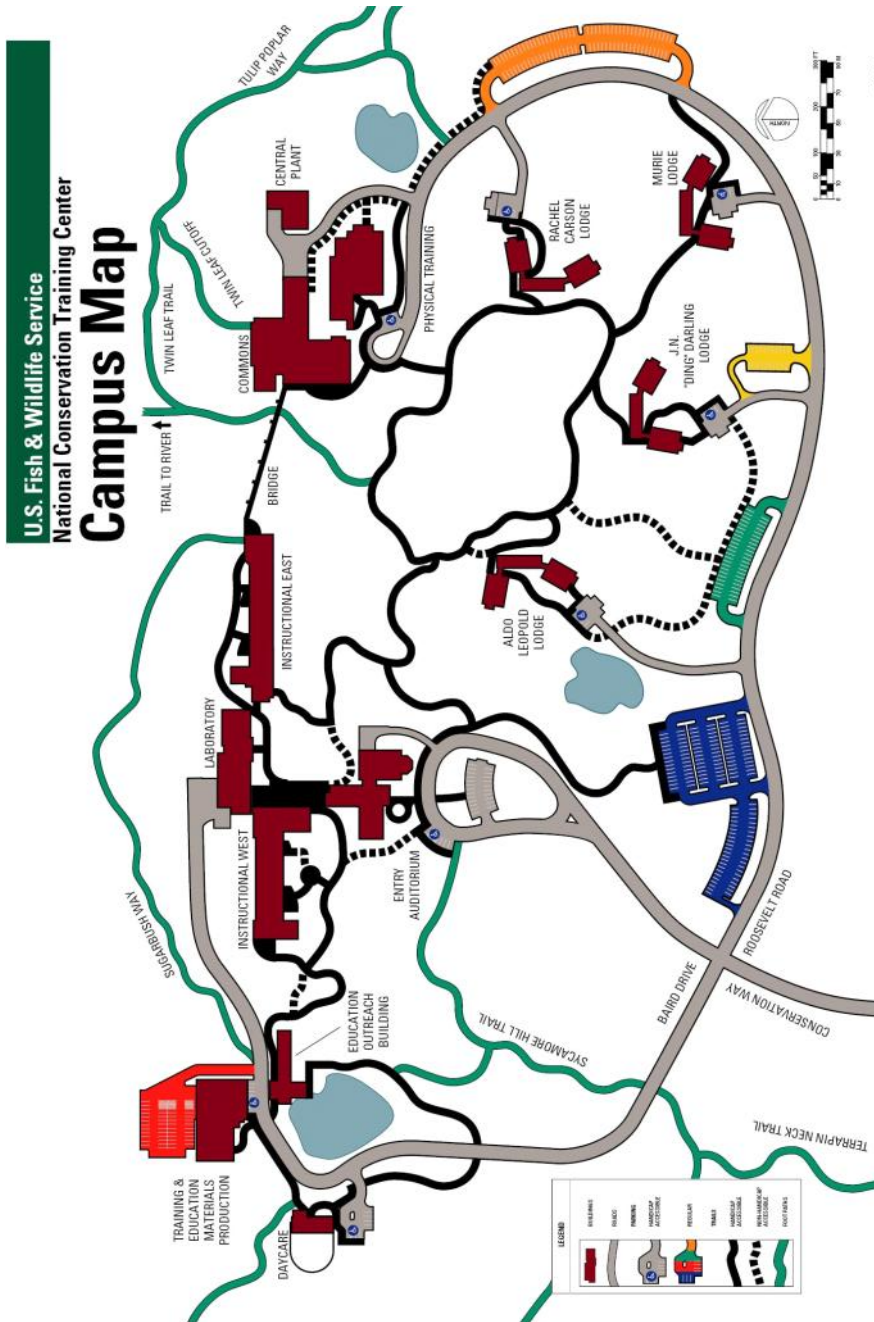
National Conservation Training Center Campus

Walk the 5 miles of paved footpaths throughout campus -an outstanding environment for bird-watching, jogging, and nature photography. The rugged hiking trails take you through eastern hardwood forests and Potomac River meadows.

Information from <http://training.fws.gov/discover/campus.htm>



Organization of Fish and Wildlife
Information Managers



For all the
latest
OFWIM
information
visit
www.ofwim.org

To print a full-size version of the NCTC Map visit: <http://training.fws.gov/meet/pdf/campusmap.pdf>

Field Trips

Appalachian Trail and Weverton Cliff

Join Don Owen (NPS) on a fantastic morning hike along the Appalachian Trail to Weverton Cliffs, which overlooks the Potomac River. Don will guide the group and explain many of the features, plants, and local issues of the Appalachian Trail.

<http://www.chaoshikers.org/PastEvents/20030713Weverton/20030713Weverton.htm>



Jefferson Rock, Harper's Ferry

Marsha Wassel / NPS

Harper's Ferry

Enjoy the morning on a self-guided tour of Harper's Ferry. A visit to this quaint, historic community, at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, is like stepping into the past. Stroll the picturesque streets, visit exhibits and museums, or hike our trails and battlefields. There's a wide variety of experiences for visitors of all ages, so come and discover Harpers Ferry.

<http://www.nps.gov/hafe>

Antietam Battle Field:

The Bloodiest One Day Battle in American History

Enjoy the afternoon on the anniversary of this historic battle. 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led to Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

<http://www.nps.gov/anti>



Dunker Church and Dogwood Tree

Keith Snyder / NPS

OFWIM 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference

September 17-20, 2007

National Conservation Training Center

Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Common Problems – Common Solutions:

Advancing Natural Resource Management Goals through Collaboration and Technology

Monday, September 17

Field Trips

- 7:30 Gather for field trip in parking lot
- 8:00-11:30 **Harper's Ferry or Weverton Cliffs Trips**
- 11:30 Gather for afternoon field trip in parking lot
- 12:00-4:30 **Antietam Battle Field**
- 6:00-8:00 **Welcome Social** (Location: Roosevelt Room) Registration Table Open
- 8:00-9:00 Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 18

- Registration Table Open 8:00am - 5:00pm
- Opening Plenary Session** (Location: Auditorium)
- 8:30-8:40 President's Welcome - Viv Hutchison
- 8:40-8:50 Welcome to West Virginia
- 8:50-9:20 Keynote Speaker -
General Plenary Session:
Moderators: Viv Hutchison (morning) - Sabra Schwartz (afternoon)
Effective Application Development and Use of Information Technologies and Services
- 9:20-9:40 AmericaView: Free Imagery, Training, Applied Research Partnerships, Networking with Users of Remote Sensing Nationally - Morgan
- 9:40-10:00 An Introduction to XMap, Field-optimized GIS Software from DeLorme - McKittrick
- 10:00-10:20 50 States Initiative - Robinson
- 10:20-10:50 **BREAK/RAFFLE**
- 10:50-11:10 Application of SWReGAP data: Perspectives from State Wildlife Agencies - Boykin

- 11:10-11:30 Citizen Science - Data Collection Using Volunteers and ASP.NET to Collect Turkey Gobbling Data - Rhodes
- 11:30-11:50 Web Application that Allows Contractors to Upload Data Collected with a GPS Receiver Directly to an SDE Feature Class - Koch
- 11:50-12:50 **LUNCH**
- 12:50-1:00 **RAFFLE**
- 1:00-1:20 NBII Current Computer, Geospatial, and Information Science Efforts – Frame
- 1:20-2:50 Panel Discussion: Portal Communities – Borge Wills, Morton, Burley, et. al.
- 2:50-3:20 **BREAK/RAFFLE**
- 3:20-3:40 A New Marking and Tagging Program for Chinook Salmon in California: the AutoFish System™- Carlson
- 3:40-4:00 Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): Life after AREV – Herrington and Borge Wills
- 4:00-4:20 Experiments for Google Earth and Google Map – Brunner and Keller
- Managing Data for a Changing Landscape**
- 4:20-4:40 Using the Open Source GRASS GIS and MySQL Programs to Leverage National GAP Data Sets for Vertebrate Modeling – Schrupp
- 4:40-5:00 Development of Consolidated Database Systems in a State Fish and Wildlife Agency: The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System – Schmidt
- 5:00 End of Session
- 6:00-9:00 **HACKERS BALL** (Location: Roosevelt Room)

Wednesday, September 19

General Plenary Session (Location: Auditorium)

Moderators: Robin Carlson (morning) and Aliya Ercelawn (afternoon)

Managing Data for a Changing Landscape

8:00-8:30 Habitat Distribution Models for 37 Vertebrate Species Addressed by the Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan of Clark County, Nevada - Boykin

8:30-8:50 MIRADI – Adaptive Management Software for Conservation Projects – Salafsky

Effective Application Development and Use of Information Technologies and Services

8:50-9:50 NatureServe Web Services – Scott

Prioritization for Land Acquisition

9:50-10:10 Wildlife Environmental Review Map Service – Morton

- 10:10-10:40 **BREAK/RAFFLE**
- 10:40-11:00 Prioritization of Land for Acquisition in AZ – Francis
- 11:00-11:30 LandScope America: The Conservation Guide to America's Natural Places – White
- 11:30-12:00 Panel Discussion – White, Francis, et. al.
- 12:00-2:00 **LUNCH/BUSINESS MEETING** (Location: Cafeteria)
- 2:00-2:10 **RAFFLE**
- 2:10-5:00 **Computer Training Workshops:**
 Experiments with Shapefiles and Google Earth (Location: Computer Lab)
 GPS Project Considerations and Device Selection (Location: GIS Lab)
- 7:00-10:00 **BANQUET** (Location: Divided area in Café)

Thursday, September 20

- Concurrent Paper Session and Computer Lab
 Moderator: Janet Hess-Herbert
- 8:30-11:30 Computer Training Workshop: GAP Data – Where to find it and how to use it.
 (Location: Computer Lab)
Information Management for State Wildlife Action Plans (Location: Auditorium)
- 8:30-8:50 Options for Delivery of Wildlife Action Plan, Public Hunting Areas, and Species Data –
 Sprandel and Vichitbandha
- 8:50-9:10 NatureServe's Observation Data Model – Reynolds
- 9:10-10:10 Panel Discussion – Hess-Herbert, Anderson, et. al.
- 10:10-10:30 BREAK
The Importance of Data and how to Convince Others
- 10:30-10:50 Acknowledgement Strengthens Motivation, a Key Factor in the Success of any Project, Or-
 ganization, or Family. – Lorenzen
- 10:50-11:10 Training Others in Data Needs and Uses – Stys
- 11:10-11:30 A Tale of Two Inventories, Or: Isn't it Really Metadata We Need? – Schmidt
Plenary Session (Location: Auditorium)
- 11:35-12:00 Where Do We Go From Here?
- 12:00 **ADJOURN/CLOSE MEETING**
- 12:00-1:00 **LUNCH**
- 1:00-4:00 Optional Birding Trip or NCTC Tour

Computer Courses

Gap Analysis Program: A Workshop to Demonstrate Web Accessibility to GAP Data (Thursday morning)

Presenters: Julie Prior-Magee, Matt Rubino, Steve Williams.

The goal of the Gap Analysis Program (GAP) is to keep common species common by identifying those species and plant communities that are not adequately represented in existing conservation lands. GAP gives land managers and policy makers the information they need to make better-informed decisions when identifying areas for conservation. Most of the program's massive amount of geospatial and support data has been generated by projects undertaken for individual states. In some cases, regional projects have been completed for groups of states. This workshop will focus on two online systems that provide access to GAP data. The GAPServe web site and mapping application (<http://gapanalysis.nbi.gov>) was developed to showcase the vast richness of GAP data. Using the GAPServe interface, non-technical visitors to the website can explore the data and print out maps without downloading any data or having GIS software; while technical visitors can find and download GAP data for their own applications. In addition to accessing GAP data from GAPServe, users may also view GAP data using the Online GAP Data Explorer Tool (<http://www5.basinc.ncsu.edu>). This decision support tool will be demonstrated during this hands-on workshop and users will be able to view both North Carolina and Southwest Regional GAP data.

Half of the time during this workshop will be spent on the GAPServe website and half will be spent on the GAP Data Explorer Tool. After the morning break participants will have an hour of free time to explore the data on their own.

GPS Device Selection (Wednesday afternoon)

Presenter: Glenn Gravatt

This hands on workshop will demonstrate several different makes and models of GPS devices. It will discuss those easiest to use by volunteers and which work best under dense canopy cover and which are best in open areas. The class will also cover getting data from your device to the computer and what to do from there.



Experiments with Google Earth and Google Maps (Wed. afternoon)

Presenters: Mark Brunner and Kirk Keller

Wanting to have interactive map opportunities on the public Web but not really knowing what we were doing, the Missouri Department of Conservation developed an application to ingest shapefiles of Conservation Areas, merge them with area public use information, and create a Google Earth KML file for public download into the free Google Earth viewer. This has not been without its quirks, issues, and limitations including requiring a new build each time a piece of information is updated and having no control over the wrapper in which it is presented. Enter Google Maps which can be embedded in a custom Web page that can be tailored to ones own presentation style. The challenge then becomes how to dynamically feed the page polygon and supporting information in real time.

Bring your own shapefiles to use in class.

Candidates for President-Elect

Shelaine Curd Hetrick

Information International Associates



Shelaine Hetrick has a master's degree in applied ecology and conservation biology from Frostburg State University and a bachelor's degree in computer science and statistics with a second major in biology from Roanoke College. Shelaine leads the Biodiversity Informatics Group for Information International Associates (IIa), which focuses on the latest information tools and techniques to collect and disseminate biodiversity information and data for ecological and environmental decision making. She has worked with NASA on large-scale international field projects focusing on data collection, protocols, quality control and assurance, and data archiving. She gained experience studying the effects of fire in the ecosystem working for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. Shelaine is the Partnership and Outreach Coordinator for the Southern Appalachian Information Node of the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII-SAIN). She has worked with state, federal, profit and non-profit agencies to develop geographically based visualization tools. Shelaine and her husband, Jon, live in Oak Ridge, TN with their daughter.

Robin Carlson

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission



Robin Carlson has worked for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) since 2000, first as a Data Analyst/Programmer and since 2003 as a Project Leader. During her tenure at PSMFC, she has worked primarily on the California Habitat Restoration Project Database (CHRPD). She is responsible for designing and managing the database, which includes stream habitat restoration projects funded by many different agencies throughout the state. She also coordinates data standards and performance measures between the agencies that use the CHRPD as their primary grants-tracking tool. In addition to the CHRPD, her work includes oversight for the California Passage Assessment Database (PAD).

Robin received a BA in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1997, and an MA in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago in 2000. Prior to working for PSMFC, she started a specimen-level database of parasitic flies. She is currently the OFWIM Secretary, and has been managing the transfer and update of the OFWIM website for the last two years. In the 2005/2006 OFWIM year, she served as the newsletter editor and chair of the Communications Committee. She has also served on the OFWIM Awards and Nominations Committee since 2004/2005.

[Vote Now!](#)

<http://205.230.28.31/ofwim/voting/vote2007.cfm>

Candidates for Member at Large

Rick Lorenzen

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Rick Lorenzen is the Systems Analyst Unit Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Wildlife Division. His teams develop and maintain Natural Resource Management software and Geographical Information Systems. Their Mobile Lake Survey Software project won the 2006 Minnesota Government IT Recognition Award for Innovative Use of Technology.

Rick attended Carleton College for liberal arts education, Brown Institute for computer programming, and Metropolitan State University for a business/management degree. He worked in Information Technology since 1980 for Brown Institute Service Bureau, Hennepin County, PACE Laboratories, Analysts International Corporation, Pillsbury, and 3M. Rick joined the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2001 as their Fisheries Information Technology Supervisor and Software Development Project Manager. He is currently supervising software development and Geographic Information System development teams and managing several Fisheries software **development projects**.

At past OFWIM conferences, Rick presented Expectations and Requirements, Mobile Hardware Selection, and Mobile Hardware and Software Lessons Learned. Rick also hosted our 2006 OFWIM conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota and tells Ole and Lena jokes with an authentic Minnesota accent.

Jennifer Pollock

USGS NBII

Jennifer is the Node Manager for 3 regional NBII Nodes in California, the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington), and the Mountain Prairie (Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas). Through her coordination among partners including State agencies, several biological datasets are now available online across the region on topics such as birds (e.g., sage grouse, bald eagles) fisheries (e.g., salmon and trout species), wildlife, and butterflies and moths, and wildlife diseases.



Jennifer first started attending OFWIM annual meetings in 1999 in Stateline, NV and has provided metadata training and support to many of OFWIM's participating agencies and organizations. At the 2002 Data Summit in Baltimore, a partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game was initiated and has led to many data layers now available through the State biological observation application. Throughout the years of involvement with OFWIM, Jennifer has focused on enhancing communications between the federal and state agencies by identifying and implementing activities that benefit both groups.

Education:

2006 Master of Science, Environmental Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

1992 Bachelor of Science, Environmental Biology and Management, University of California, Davis

[Vote Now!](#)

<http://205.230.28.31/ofwim/voting/vote2007.cfm>

2007 Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2007. 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 2007 conference registration.

If you work for an organization with 4 or more individuals interested in OFWIM membership, you may benefit from obtaining an Organizational Membership. Information about Organizational Membership can be found at: <http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html>

The 2007 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. 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 the appropriate amount (in U.S. dollars!) payable to **OFWIM**, to:

Aliya Ercelawn, OFWIM Treasurer
c/o The Nature Conservancy
711 Navarro, Suite 410
San Antonio, TX 78205

(210) 224-8774; aercelawn@tnc.org

OFWIM 2007 Membership Form

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:(_____) _____ Fax:(_____) _____

Email: _____

Memberships Annual Dues

Individual Member – 2007 (one voting membership) \$25

Organizational Member — 2007 (six voting memberships) \$100

- Membership Form must be filled out for each member

Please pay in U.S. dollars \$ _____



Large Flowered Trillium
Ryan Hagerty / US Fish and
Wildlife Service

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OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE
INFORMATION
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See you at the
2007 Conference and Annual Meeting
Shepherdstown, WV
September 17 – 20, 2007

Shuttle Service Reminder!

If you are planning to use the Shuttle that is available from Washington-Dulles International, you **MUST** make a reservation through the Hotel Reservations Office at 877-706-NCTC (6282). The one-time fee of \$70.00 is charged for one way or round trip service and is payable at the NCTC Front desk upon checkout.

***Shuttle Schedule:**

Sunday Arrivals:

Departs Dulles at 1:00 pm / Arrives NCTC at 3:00 pm
Departs Dulles at 4:00 pm / Arrives NCTC at 6:00 pm
Departs Dulles at 7:00 pm / Arrives NCTC at 9:00 pm

Friday Departures:

Departs NCTC at 1:30 pm / Arrives Dulles at 3:30 pm
Departs NCTC at 4:30 pm / Arrives Dulles at 6:30 pm

***The Shuttle only runs on Sunday and Friday**

Please send newsletter comment, suggestions,
and articles to Shelaine Hetrick
shelaine@iiaweb.com

www.ofwim.org