

CONFERENCE THOUGHTS FOR 2001 and BEYOND

Art Smith, South Dakota DNR

Well, we're about to experience our 2001 Annual Conference, and I hope you're as excited as I am. Final preparations are being made and November will soon be here. Predictably the 2001 will be followed by 2002's and later with 2003's conference. The 2002 OFWIM Annual Conference will be another Microcomputer Applications conference, similar to the one held in 1999. As of the issuance of this newsletter, the 2002 conference will possibly be held in Baltimore, MD and the 2003 may be held somewhere in South Dakota.

Although the general locations and scopes of these conferences have been decided, some of the session topics have not. This is your chance to provide your input! Got some specific topics you'd like to see? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Are you working on something but can't find a session that it fits in? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Did you attend a session years ago that you think needs revisiting? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Never thought conference planners knew what they were doing? THIS IS YOUR . . . well, I think you get the picture by now.

Please let your influence be felt by others. OFWIM was not made by, nor should it solely represent, the ideas and influences of only a few. There will undoubtedly be space in the 2002 microcomputer conference, and without question open sessions (as well as a general theme) for the 2003 conference. Forward your thoughts, suggestions, bribes, etc. to Art Smith (arthur.smith@state.sd.us) for compilation and future use. Thanks for your time, and, oh yeah . . . THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!



DOCUMENTS RELATED TO DATA MANAGEMENT

Submitted by Robert Cushman, Director CDIAC

Here are some helpful brief online guidance documents concerning data management that may be relevant:

- The Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center's "General Guidance on Data Usage and Management" (<http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/pns/guide.htm>).
- The ORNL Distributed Active Archive Center's "Best Practices for Preparing Ecological and Ground-Based Data Sets to Share and Archive" (<http://www.daac.ornl.gov/cgi-bin/MDE/S2K/bestprac.html>).

Both are global-change data centers located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; CDIAC (<http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/>) and are funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the DAAC (<http://www.daac.ornl.gov/>) by NASA. Either or both will provide a good starting point for people who have not had much experience with managing environmental data.

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Karen Reay, Secretary
OFWIM Newsletter
 4010 W. Broad St.
 Richmond, VA 23230-1104
www.ofwim.org

REGISTRATION FORM: OFWIM 2001 – “Data Standards from A to Z”

Name (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Affiliation

Mailing Address

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code Country

Daytime Phone Fax

E-mail Address

Name as it should appear on name tag (if different from above)

Affiliation as it should appear on name tag (if different from above)

Return this form along with your method of payment to:
 Jeff Trollinger, OFWIM Treasurer
 VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
 4010 West Broad Street
 Richmond, VA 23230-1104
 phone: (804) 367-8747, fax (804) 367-2427
 OFWIM_2K@dgif.state.va.us

Registration Fees (U.S. Dollars)

Full Registration _____ \$235.00
 Student Registration _____ \$100.00
 Additional Guest Tickets:
 Evening Social (Sunday, 11/4) # _____ \$ 7.50 each TOTAL: \$ _____
 Hacker's Ball (Monday, 11/5) # _____ \$13.50 each TOTAL: \$ _____
 Banquet (Tuesday, 11/6) # _____ \$34.00 each TOTAL: \$ _____
 Field Trip
 Columbia River Gorge (Sat., 11/3) # _____ \$40.00 each TOTAL: \$ _____

TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Method:

____ Check (payable to "OFWIM")
 ____ Purchase order P.O. # _____
 (**Note:** P.O.s will not be accepted after October 9, 2001)
 Banquet course preference: ____ chicken ____ salmon ____ vegetarian
 (include guest tickets in tally)

STUDENTS: The signature of your advisor confirms your current enrollment as a full-time student and your agreement to provide 4 hours of service at the conference.

Advisor signature University affiliation

CONFERENCE / HOTEL INFORMATION

OFWIM 2001 is being held at the DoubleTree Hotel-Columbia River (1401 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland OR, 97217). The hotel is located on the banks of the picturesque Columbia River and is conveniently located approximately 15 minutes from the airport, and 10 minutes north of downtown Portland. A limited block of rooms have been reserved at special rates for Conference attendees (\$77/night-single, \$97/night-double; federal government attendees tax exempt when presenting travel orders on department letterhead or a tax exempt form upon check-in). Conference rates are valid for the nights of November 3 through November 6. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis until October 5, 2001. Contact the DoubleTree Hotel-Columbia River to make your reservations (1-503-283-2111) now and be sure to mention you'll be attending the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) meeting!!!!

Interested in sharing a room? E-mail Kathy Quindlen at kquindlen@dgif.state.va.us for assistance in finding a roommate. While other lodging is available in the Portland area, we strongly encourage you to stay at the DoubleTree Hotel-Columbia River to ensure that OFWIM does not incur additional expenses for not meeting minimum room obligations. We thank you for supporting our efforts in that regard! Casual clothing is in order, with a sweater or jacket likely needed for any outdoor activities. Early November weather in Portland can be quite variable, with a good possibility of rain, so plan accordingly. Weather conditions for November in Portland: Average High Temperature: 53 degrees Average Low Temperature: 40 degrees Average Rainfall: 5.34 inches

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Portland International Airport serves all major airlines and is located only 15 minutes away from the DoubleTree Hotel – Columbia River. Numerous rental car companies operate out of the airport. The hotel operates a shuttle from the airport to the hotel at 15-30 minute intervals. Cost is FREE for hotel guests.

OFWIM SPONSORED FIELD TRIP

Columbia River Gorge Saturday, November 3rd, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Join us for a scenic and educational trip into the Columbia River Gorge. The field trip will include stops at Multnomah Falls, a special tour of Bonneville Dam and fish passage facilities, Bonneville Hatchery, juvenile salmon/steelhead PIT tag facility, and the Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Center. We will have an outstanding Northwest buffet lunch at Skamania Lodge, overlooking the Columbia River Gorge. Bring appropriate clothing and boots/shoes. There is a "chance" of rain. Fee: \$40.00 per person.

"Data Standards from A-Z"
OFWIM, Portland, Oregon, November 3-7, 2001
DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA

Saturday, November 3 - Field Trip to Columbia River Gorge (see page 7 for details)

Sunday, November 4 - Reception

Monday, November 5 - OPENING SESSION

- 9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10 AM **Keynote Speaker** Meredith Lane, Sr. Vice President, Science, Vice President, Biodiversity Research Group, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia PA
"Tackling the Complex to Hook the Simple - Infrastructure for the Information Age"
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:10 AM [What is a Data Standard and Why Do I Need One: A Review of OFWIM Survey Results.](#)
Stan Allen, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission/Don Fago, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:40 AM [The National Integrated Land System \(NILS\)](#)
Leslie Cone, Bureau of Land Management
- 11:00 AM Break
- 11:10 AM [A Strategy for Sharing Corporate Information](#)
Barb White, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 11:30 AM Break
- 11:40 AM [The Natural Resources Information Network- An Initiative of the Southern Interior Forest Extension & Research Partnership \(SIFERP\) & British Columbia's Natural Resource Communities](#)
Trina Innes, SIFERP, Canada
- 12:00 PM Lunch on your own

Concurrent Sessions

Data Collection & Data Entry

- 1:00 PM [A Rosetta Stone for Fish and Wildlife Information in the Pacific Northwest](#)
Tom O'Neil, Northwest Habitat Institute
- 1:20 PM Break
- 1:30 PM [Developing Species Distribution Database Utilizing Hand-Held GPS and WWW](#)
Daniel Vichitbandha, KY Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife Resources
- 1:50 PM Break

Planning With State Agencies

- [NBII/IAFWA Planning Meeting with State Agencies](#)
discussion led by Jake Faibisch,
International Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies
- [NBII/IAFWA Planning Meeting with State Agencies](#)
(continued)



CONCURRENT SESSIONS, CONTINUED

2:00 PM	Comparison of State and Federal Migratory Bird Harvest Surveys Art Smith, SD Dept of Game, Fish and Parks
2:20 PM	Break
2:30 PM	Scrambling for Data Standards in Habitat Restoration Projects Dick O'Connor, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
2:50 PM	Break

Volunteer Data

3:00 PM	Wildlife NatureMapping Karen Dvornich, University of Washington, NatureMapping Program
3:20 PM	Break
3:30 PM	Cybertracking and NatureMapping Dan Hannafious, NatureMapping Program Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
3:50 PM	Break
4:00 PM	Online Water Data Entry and Repository for Restoration and Monitoring Sites throughout Washington State Karen Dvornich, NatureMapping Program
4:20 PM	Break
4:30 PM	Keeping the Data Useable: Setting the Standard for Volunteer Data Collection Jeffrey Trollinger, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries

Library / Reference

Dublin Core-Based Metadata Standards for Resource Discovery: A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Work in Progress Anne Post Roy, NCTC - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
What Makes a Library a Library and Why Does it Matter? Lenora Oftedahl, StreamNet Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Gretta Siegel, Portland State University
WORKSHOP: How Do You Catalog a Frog, a Matchbook Cover and Other Information-Rich Sources? Lenora Oftedahl and Gretta Siegel
WORKSHOP CONTINUATION: How Do You Catalog a Frog, a Matchbook Cover and Other Information-Rich Sources? Lenora Oftedahl and Gretta Siegel

6:00 PM **Hacker's Ball (bring your applications, business cards and prepare to share ideas. A cash bar will also be open)**





Tuesday, November 6

9:00 AM **OFWIM BUSINESS MEETING**
 11:00 AM **OFWIM PLANNING 2002 Meeting**
 12:00 PM LUNCH on Your Own

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Data Management and Delivery

1:00 PM [The Chesapeake Information Management System \(CIMS: Using a Distributed Data System to Manage Environmental Data Across Political Boundaries\)](#)
 Bridgette Hagerty, Chesapeake Research Consortium

1:20 PM Break

1:30 PM [West Coast Electronic Fish Ticket and Logbook System](#)
 Carol Murray, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.

1:50 PM Break

2:00 PM [The Development and Implementation of a Database & GIS Application for Anadromous Fish and Impediment Information](#)
 Shelly Miller and Karen Reay, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

2:20 PM Break

2:30 PM [Hydrography Framework Clearinghouse for the Pacific Northwest](#)
 Dale Guenther, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2:50 PM Break

3:00 PM [Data, Standards, and The Scientific Collection Permit Process in Virginia](#)
 Kathleen Quindlen and Amy Martin, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

3:20 PM Break

3:30 PM [Applying a Consistent Definition to the Development of Statewide Salmonid Distribution Data](#)
 Jon Bowers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

3:50 PM Break

4:00 PM [Transcribing and Compiling Accurate Data](#)
 Bob Markve, Eric Rudrud, and Joe Ferrara, Dakota Data Services

4:20 PM Break

4:30 PM [Content Syndication Between State and Federal Fish and Wildlife Agency Web Sites: A Proposal on the Use of XML Resources](#)
 Kirk Keller, Missouri Department of Conservation

Metadata Training Session

[Metadata Training Session](#)
 Sharon Shin, USGS/BRD and Bruce Westcott, SMMS Metadata Consultant.

[Metadata Training Session \(continued\)](#)
 Sharon Shin/Bruce Westcott

[Metadata Training Session \(continued\)](#)
 Sharon Shin/Bruce Westcott

[Metadata Training Session \(continued\)](#)
 Sharon Shin/Bruce Westcott

[Metadata Training Session \(continued\)](#)
 Sharon Shin/Bruce Westcott

[Metadata Training Session \(continued\)](#)
 Sharon Shin/Bruce Westcott

7:00 PM **Reception / Banquet (Dr. Jack Hill, Director of the Houston Advanced Research Center and Co-chair of the NBII Coalition)**



Wednesday, November 7

Data Management and Delivery

- 8:00 AM [NBII Activities: Biological Data Profile and NBII Thematic and Regional Node Activities](#)
Sharon Shin, USDGS/BRD
- 9:00 AM [Use of Regionwide Data Exchange Formats to Organize Dissimilar Data](#)
Bruce Schmidt, StreamNet Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 9:20 AM Break
- 9:40 AM [Long Term Fisheries Monitoring Using Standardized Data Sets: How Well Is It Working?](#)
Michael Banach, StreamNet Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:40 AM [Obstacles to Standardization of Field Sampling Methodology, Or, Why Is It So Hard to Get Everyone to Do It the Same Way?](#)
Bruce Schmidt, StreamNet Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 11:00 AM Break
- 11:10 AM [Establishing and Implementing Aquatic Standards in the U.S. Forest Service: Protocols, Attributes, Hydrography and Applications](#)
Shaun P. McKinney, U.S. Forest Service
- 11:30 AM Closing and Wrap Up



Nominations being accepted for WMI's Touchstone and Presidents awards:

Nominations may now be submitted for the Wildlife Management Institute's 2002 Touchstone and Presidents awards. Both awards recognize *exceptional professional ingenuity and tenacity* in effecting a particular program that, within the past several years, has notably advanced the cause or prospect of sound resource management. Nominations can be for programs in any natural resource discipline.

The **Presidents Award** honors a federal, state or provincial natural resource agency's division, department, office or program. Recipient of the 2001 President's Award was the Yazoo Backwater Evaluation Team of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for its highly professional, successful and timely evaluation of the proposed, ill-advised Yazoo Backwater Pumps project in west-central Mississippi.

The **Touchstone Award** recognizes the achievement of a natural resource management program, professional or group of professionals in the public or private sector. The 2001 Touchstone Award was conferred on Montana wildlife biologists, Gayle Joslin and Heidi B. Youmans, who, on behalf and in cooperation with the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society, voluntarily championed and co-authored *Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife: A Review for Montana*, published in September 1999.

Nominations for either award must include a letter that specifies (1) the name and address of the prospective nominee(s), (2) the name and address of the nominator(s), (3) a brief synopsis of the accomplishment, including its origin and dates, and (4) the names and phone numbers of three individuals other than the nominee(s) who can give independent testimony about the value, scope and other merits of the achievement. Nominations for the 2002 WMI Touchstone and Presidents awards—to be announced and presented during the 67th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, April 3-7, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency Dallas in Texas—must be submitted *before December 1, 2001* to: WMI Awards, Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 801, 1101 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, or fax to (202) 408-5059.

The Columbia River Gorge: Fish Wheels, Fish Ladders, and Waterfalls

***FIELD TRIP (OFWIM SPONSORED) Saturday - November 3, 2001, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(\$40.00 per person)***

We'll start the day by boarding our luxuriously-apportioned tour coach (waiting in front of the hotel) and rolling East along the mighty Columbia River towards the Cascades, a mountain range taking its name from the almost impassible river rapids encountered by early European explorers and American immigrants navigating the Columbia River Gorge. Those mighty rapids are now submerged under the still waters of Lake Bonneville. We'll still see plenty of cascades, however, as we wind our way past magnificent waterfalls along the historic Columbia River Scenic Highway, culminating with a stop at majestic Multnomah Falls. If the Bonneville Dam has downscaled it's security alert status, we will stop in for a visit.

After lunch at Skamania Lodge, it's on to the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. We'll learn about the Region's cataclysmic geology, the culture of its indigenous peoples, and the historic highlights of the 196 years since Lewis and Clark canoed downstream, past this point, towards the Pacific Ocean. We'll follow the example of Captains Clark and Lewis soon enough, but first we'll stop again at Bonneville Dam, this time at the Visitors Center on the Washington side. We'll view the immense turbines in the new powerhouse and then, guided by staff biologists, receive an interpretive tour of the project's fish sampling lab. Then, exhausted, we'll turn tail and be carried lazily back down along the river, following the setting sun towards the ocean. Finally, our coach will deliver us, warm and dry, back in Portland with plenty of time to freshen up for dinner.

Additional Things to Do and See in Portland



Visit the Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) at www.pova.com.

In Portland: Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Japanese Gardens, Chinese Gardens, World Forestry Center Museum, Oregon Zoo, Sternwheeler, Columbia Gorge, Portland Art Museum, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Rose Garden, Portland Trail Blazers (Depends on schedule).

Downtown Portland: Micro-Breweries, Coffee on every street corner, Shopping (Lloyd Center;

Clackamas Town Center; Downtown, Outlet Stores).

Within 1 Hour of Portland: Columbia Gorge: Mount Hood/Timberline Lodge, Oregon Wine Country.

Within 2 Hour of Portland: North Oregon Coast: Mount St. Helens (WA), S. Washington Coast.

Fishing Opportunities: Fall Chinook Salmon Tillamook Bay/Nestucca River (Oregon Coast) (Guides Available). Average Cost: \$100-150 Full Day.

If you need more information on Portland activities, contact Stan Allen at (503) 650-5400.

Annual Election of Officers

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers is preparing for the annual election of officers to provide direction and leadership as members of the Executive Committee. At the annual business meeting in Portland, Oregon, in November, 2 positions will be filled: President-Elect and Member At-Large. The principle duty of the President-Elect is to coordinate all aspects of the Organization's annual meeting, serving as Chair of the Program Sub-Committee of the Communications Committee. At the completion of the year, the President-Elect automatically succeeds the current President. The Member At-Large serves a one-year term as an 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. Two other positions, Secretary and Treasurer, serve two-year terms and will be elected again in 2002. Under the Organization's bylaws, the Executive Committee is required to mail to all active members and delegates a ballot bearing nominations for President-Elect and Member At-Large. Members will be allowed at least 30 days from the mailing date to return ballots. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each office is elected. If a tie occurs, the Executive Committee makes the selection by majority vote.

If you will be attending the annual meeting in Portland, please plan to vote there in person at the business meeting. **If you will not be able to attend the annual meeting**, please vote now through the Organization's web site (www.ofwim.org/org/Election2001.html), or in writing using the ballot in this newsletter. You may also elect to authorize another member attending the meeting to cast a ballot for you by proxy.

Candidates for President-Elect (listed alphabetically): Kathleen Quindlen and Arthur Smith

Candidate Information: Kathleen Quindlen, OFWIM Nominee, President Elect

Kathy is currently the manager of Fish and Wildlife Information Services and Geographic information Systems for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). The Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service, (VAFWIS) system of databases has been developed and maintained by VDGIF for the management and delivery of wildlife resource and habitat data for the Commonwealth of Virginia. A large and varied user community, ranging from federal agencies to private consultants and industry, use VAFWIS to conduct geographic searches for threatened and endangered species occurrence and other pertinent wildlife resource information. Kathy's group manages diverse database and geospatial datasets that are used for many other applications, including land acquisition, land management, law enforcement, and research. Kathy has been an active member of the OFWIM since 1996, serving as Secretary from 1998 - 2000. Kathy lives in Richmond, Virginia with her two children. Kathy Quindlen, VDGIF, 4010 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104, Phone (804) 367-9717, Email: kquindlen@dgif.state.va.us.

Candidate Information: Art Smith, OFWIM Nominee, President Elect

Art Smith is employed by the Department of Game, Fish, & Wildlife as the Game Harvest Surveys Coordinator, a position he has held since 01/01/01, his favorite date. Prior to employment in South Dakota, Art was employed as a Statistician for the USGS National Wildlife Research Center in Madison, WI. Born in Columbia, MO, Art grew up in Santa Barbara County and received his BS in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA. and his MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Art is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, and has belonged to the International Biometric Society since 1993, The Wildlife Society (TWS) since 1994, and the National Animal Damage Control Association (NADCA) since 1995. He has served as Chair for the Urban/Suburban Canada Goose Task Force 1997-99, Chair of the TWS session "Improving Public Perceptions and Understanding of Wildlife Damage Management" in 1999, and TWS Education Awards Committee member in 1998 and 2001. Art has been the editor of "Interactions", the newsletter for TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group since 1998, NADCA Treasurer since 2000, Program Committee Member for the 2003 Wildlife Damage Management Conference, the OFWIM Midwest Regional Contact, and is a member of the OFWIM 2001 Annual Conference Planning Committee. Art's professional interests include population ecology and management of exploited populations, understanding human/wildlife interactions, applications of statistical techniques in non-traditional areas, and the development of a more orderly universe. He lives in Pierre, SD, with his wife, Mary, and 2 sons, Casey and Zack, and enjoys a diversity of activities, including volleyball, gardening, hunting, fishing, and semi-humorous writing about semi-real outdoors experiences. Art Smith, SD Game, Fish and Parks, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-3182, Phone (605) 773-4195, Email: arthur.smith@state.sd.us.

**Candidates for Member At-Large (listed alphabetically):
Jacob Faibisch and Barbara White**

Candidate Information: Jacob Faibisch, OFWIM Nominee, Member-at-Large

Jacob (Jake) Faibisch currently serves as the NBII Coordinator for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He holds a Bachelor of Science in wildlife and fisheries biology from the University of Vermont, and he is certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist from The Wildlife Society. Before coming to IAFWA, Jake created the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Educational Web Directory, a large, database driven website, and other conservation oriented websites, as an independent contractor. Jake was an I&E Manager for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources from 1995-1999, and he served as a natural resources educator for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Jake has also worked on wild turkey telemetry in Arkansas, and served as a wildlife biologist for the Peace Corps in the Republic of Congo working on forest ungulate surveys. Jake Faibisch, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 444 N. Capitol St, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001, Phone: (202) 624-7744, Fax: (202) 624-7891, Email: jacobf@ssso.org.

Candidate Information: Barb White, OFWIM Nominee, Member-at-Large

Seventeen of Barb's 22 years of Government service have been spent in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Her current position is Data Specialist with the Branch of Data and Systems Services, Division of Information Resources Management. The Branch is located in Lakewood, CO, but is administered by, and reports to, the Division office in Washington, D.C. Her primary duties include defining, developing, and administering data standards for Service-wide implementation; reviewing and developing policy and guidance on issues that pertain to Service data and information systems; and serving as System Administrator for the Service's Corporate Master Table (CMT) System, a web-based system that contains a core set of administrative data on Service organizations that is accessible to every Service employee.

During the period of 1983 through 1998, she served as the GIS and Remote Sensing Project Leader at the Midcontinent Ecological Science Center (MESC) in Fort Collins, CO. The five-year period between 1993 and 1998 was spent as an employee of the National Biological Service created by Secretary Bruce Babbitt (now known as the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division.) For 15 years, Barb managed and coordinated the GIS production and mapping support for the MESC and its clients. This included remote sensing, photo interpretation, manual transfer and drafting, digitizing, database construction and management, and geospatial metadata development.

In addition to her project leader responsibilities at the MESC, Barb served as the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) on the technical support services contract, which ultimately provided contractor services not only to the MESC, but five other research centers across the country. The five-year contract provided on-site and off-site contractor support services in several areas, including GIS, mapping, remote sensing, biological data collection and analysis, technical illustration and graphics production, technical writing/editing, database management, computer programming, and systems analysis. Barbara M. White, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Division of Information Resources Management, Branch of Data and Systems, Services, P.O. Box 25207 - DFC, Denver, CO 80225-0207, Phone: 303-275-2310, Fax: 303-275-2318, E-Mail: barb_white@fws.gov.

Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Ballot

**President-Elect (2001)
Please vote for one candidate**

- _____ Kathleen Quindlen
- _____ Arthur Smith
- _____ _____
(write-in candidate)

**Member At-Large (2001)
Please vote for one candidate**

- _____ Jacob Faibisch
- _____ Barbara White
- _____ _____
(write-in candidate)

Deadline for ballots is October 27, 2001

Completed ballots should be mailed to:

Jeff Trollinger, OFWIM Treasurer
4010 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230-1104

Nebraska WinFin Web Site

Submitted by Jay Francis, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

There is now a web site that has been developed that facilitates the distribution of a free database and utilities software system developed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. You may share the address of this web site with your colleagues. The user must provide an authorized user name and password. In addition, your name and affiliation are also required.

You may share the user name and password as well. Please keep in mind that WinFin is offered free of charge by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to benefit state and federal agency fisheries professionals and those at public learning institutions. For those individuals who cannot feasibly access this site for download, a CD can be provided upon request.

The WinFin web site address is www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fish/winfin/winfin.ihtml
username WinFinUser (not case sensitive)
password 4jjm_31 (not case sensitive)

Jay Francis, Fisheries Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 North 33rd, Lincoln, NE 68503,
Phone: (402) 471-5589



**The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse is Online!!!! <http://www.vgin.state.va.us/>
Submitted by John McGee, Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse**

The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse is now online through the VGIN web site (<http://www.vgin.state.va.us/>). Through the clearinghouse, you can search for metadata on spatial data in Virginia (as well as on other National Spatial Data Infrastructure [NSDI] nodes). Search criteria include: node (i.e. NSDI metadata clearinghouse site, i.e., Virginia, USGS, etc.); location (county name, geographic extent, etc.); temporal criteria (i.e., a specific date or date range); and keyword.

The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse is the first step towards a comprehensive catalogue of the Commonwealth's spatial data assets. Currently the Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse holds metadata for 53 spatial data layers from 17 state agencies. Each state agency is continually working to create metadata for their individual spatial data layers so the Clearinghouse will continue to grow over time. Furthermore each agency is responsible for updating existing metadata on a quarterly basis.

Metadata Initiative History

The Code of Virginia was amended in 1997 to require state government to document and maintain records of their spatial data assets. (§ 2.1-563.38) "...All state agencies that maintain GIS data bases shall report to the Division [VGIN] the details of the data that they develop, acquire, and maintain....after which each agency shall submit quarterly reports to the Division specifying all updates to existing data as well as all data development and acquisition currently in progress. Data exempt from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act need not be reported to the Division."

VGIN began working on the development of a low-impact metadata program in the summer of 1999 with the creation of the Virginia Metadata Workgroup. The workgroup was comprised of representatives from State Agencies and PDC's, and held meetings over an 8-month period. The Metadata Workgroup made the following recommendations to VGIN:

1. Develop an optional, abbreviated version of the FGDC Metadata Standard [Metadata Lite] to encourage and expedite the development of metadata in the Commonwealth;
2. Create a user-friendly, Web-enabled metadata entry tool to facilitate the widespread development of Metadata in the Commonwealth;
3. Create a metadata clearinghouse (as a node on the NSDI) to support the searching and dissemination of Virginia's metadata assets.

The Metadata Workgroup then worked to develop a Metadata "Lite" Standard for Virginia. After review and comments from state agencies, the VGIN Board, and presentations at conferences and annual meetings, the Metadata Lite was officially adopted as the minimum metadata standard for Virginia. This minimum standard is now referred to as Virginia MetaLite. While Virginia MetaLite is condensed, it is fully FGDC compliant, and represents the minimum standard for the development of metadata in Virginia. If an agency or organization wishes to generate "full-blown" FGDC metadata, it is encouraged to do so. State agencies can submit metadata to VGIN in either of two ways: (1) by filling out the Virginia MetaLite Online Metadata Entry tool (a web-enabled form); or (2) by submitting "full" FGDC Metadata to VGIN.

The Online Metadata Entry Tool:

Following the recommendations and work of the Metadata Work Group, VGIN developed a user-friendly web-enabled interface to support the development of Virginia MetaLite metadata. After a brief period of testing by several state agencies, the tool was made available to all state agencies in December 2000. VGIN is now in the process of testing the efficacy of using the user-friendly, web-enabled entry tool for supporting metadata development by local governments.

The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse:

The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse was developed as a user-friendly method for agencies, governments, and the public to search for spatial metadata in Virginia. The Clearinghouse currently has 53 layers of spatial metadata (either Virginia MetaLite or Full FGDC metadata), which have been provided by 17 state agencies. Please note that we have found one "bug" in the map extent tool, which we are working to rectify. Please explore the catalogue of data currently available on the Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse at (<http://vagus.state.va.us/documents/index.html>).