President’s Message: Bruce Schmidt

If you ever wanted to become active in a professional organization, OFWIM is the one for you! While some organizations can seem dominated by a clique of longstanding members, OFWIM openly welcomes new members and is happy to have them become active in leading the organization. After attending only two OFWIM meetings, I was persuaded to run for president elect, and now here I am writing this President’s Message. Other examples include Daniel Vichitbandha, who ably assumed the Treasurer’s role shortly after joining OFWIM, Scott Anderson, a new member who is chairing the Technology Trends Committee, Beth Steys, our President Elect, and Viv Hutchison, our new Newsletter Editor and Communications Committee Chair. And these are only a few examples! Do YOU want to get involved? Just respond to the call for committee members or office candidates, and WELCOME!

Of course, we also have our longstanding members who continue to be active and step in whenever something needs to be done! I hesitate to try and name all of these wonderful people for fear of skipping some. They include many of our officers (past and present), committee members and chairs (past and present), and all around “go to” people. Suffice it to say that we have a dedicated group of members who have constantly shown great willingness to do what is needed to make this a truly progressive and active organization. My point is that this is close to being an ideal organization, with strong commitment to the organization itself and the fish and wildlife resources we ultimately help manage, experienced members, and growing numbers of enthusiastic new members stepping into leadership roles! How could we ask for more?

OFWIM is actively taking steps to become a fully professional organization. At the recent business meeting in San Diego, we modified the bylaws to create a membership body that is separate from and more extensive than just those who are able to attend a meeting in any given year. We changed the membership year to emphasize that this is a full time organization, not just an annual meeting. And, we are revamping the old OFWIM-L listserv into a new listserv (OFWIM-L) that will be more closely aligned to OFWIM and its goals. The Membership Committee is now undertaking an annual membership drive, which extends well beyond this year’s meeting registrants. If you are not already a member for 2005, don’t forget to sign up!

While we don’t have a theme set for the 2005 meeting yet, one goal that I see as important for the year is for all OFWIM members to reach out within their respective agencies to promote modern information management in support of the agency’s mission. While some agencies have made great progress in utilizing technology in support of fish and wildlife management and restoration, others still have a long way to go. Demonstrations of how IT can improve financial and programmatic efficiency, increase communication with and involvement of constituents, broaden the scope of data utility, increase the power of data analysis, and speed decision making will benefit both the agency and those engaged in IT programs within the agency. Simply helping field and administrative staff with using modern computer tools can go a long way toward promoting the value of IT within agencies.

I am looking forward to a very interesting year for OFWIM, and we are already off and running. Many thanks go to Kathy Graham, Past President, for the leadership she showed, particularly in guiding committee work. I intend to continue her approach, and have already worked with each of the committee chairs to establish a list of goals for the year. The committees are already functioning, although I encourage more members to join in to help further the committee work and share the workload. The Executive Committee has already met several times to discuss the 2005 meeting, and we hope to be able to announce the meeting details, including location, dates and theme, very soon.

Information management is all about communication, so please feel free to send your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to me at bruce_schmidt@rsutc.org. I would also encourage OFWIM members to sign up and use the OFWIM-L listserv to communicate with other members and the ExCom. Together we can help OFWIM succeed as an effective tool for improving fish and wildlife management across the continent.
Welcome New Executive Committee (ExCom) Members

President
Bruce Schmidt
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
bruce_schmidt@psmfc.org

Secretary
Amy Martin
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Amy.Martin@dgif.virginia.gov

Treasurer
Daniel Vichtbandha
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
daniel.vichtbandha@mail.state.ky.us

President Elect
Beth Stys
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee
beth.stys@fwc.state.fl.us

Member-at-Large
Sabra Schwartz
Arizona Game and Fish Department
sschwertz@gf.state.az.us

Past President
Kathy Graham
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Kathy.Graham@dgif.virginia.gov

Welcome Committee Members: from the President

At our annual Business Meeting, held on Sept. 25, 2004 in San Diego, California, the OFWIM membership voted in the new Executive Committee for 2004-2005. Congratulations and welcome to Beth Stys, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, who was elected President Elect; Amy Martin, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, who was elected Secretary; and Sabra Schwartz, Arizona Game and Fish Department, who was elected Member at Large. These new ExCom members join Kathy Graham, Past President; Daniel Vichtbandha, Treasurer; and me on this year’s ExCom. This is a strong group, and I look forward to working with all of them!

Welcome, also, to Vivian Hutchinson, USGS, NBB, who is taking on the critical role of Newsletter Editor. She is replacing Amy Martin, who did an outstanding job with the newsletter but took on the Secretary position for OFWIM. I have no doubt that Viv will continue in the tradition of high quality, professional looking newsletters. While not formally on the ExCom, the editor frequently participates in ExCom meetings to develop information for the newsletter.

OIFWIM Committees 2004-2005

Communications
Chair: Viv Hutchinson
vhutchison@usgs.gov
Vice-Chair: Amy Martin

Continuing Education
Chair (vacant)
Vice Chair (vacant)

Data Standards
Chair: Lila Borge-Wills
lborgew@vt.edu
Vice-Chair: Sabra Schwartz

Meeting Planning
Chair: Beth Stys
beth.stys@fwc.state.fl.us
Program Sub-chair: (vacant)
Arrangements Sub-chair: (vacant)

Membership
Chair: Dave Morton
MortonD@dgif.state.va.us
Vice-Chair: Daniel Vichtbandha

Outreach
Chair: Keith Wethington
keith.wethington@mail.state.ky.us
Vice-Chair: Bruce Schmidt

Technology Trends
Chair: (vacant)

Ad-hoc Committees
Nominations and Awards
Chair: Becky Wajda
Becky.Wajda@dgif.virginia.gov
Vice-Chair: (vacant)

Vision and Goals
Chair: Kathy Graham
GrahamK@dgif.state.va.us
Vice-Chair: (vacant)
My San Diego OFWIM Experience

What a great place to hold a conference! At first I was a little apprehensive about the OFWIM meeting being at the Paradise Point Resort. After all, it was on an island far from any restaurants that could be reached by foot. Little did I know there would be no reason to leave the island. The meeting started at 1:00pm on Thursday with several great presentations and the evening ended with the poster session. The poster session, or Hacker’s Ball, was one of the best poster presentations I’ve seen. Not only were the posters and live web demonstrations of interest, but OFWIM supplied fantastic appetizers and an open bar. It was the first time I’ve ever seen the poster session so well attended, and people stayed longer than in past years.

Day two was a busy day of sessions and workshops with a free evening. Those who did have vehicles, carpooled to dinner and other points of interest within San Diego. Several people even took in a baseball game at Petco Park. Others stayed at the resort, had dinner, did some bird watching and even spent some time in the hot tub. The resort had much to offer including sail boat rentals, tennis courts, full service spa, and putting green. With the fantastic weather we had, it could be considered “Paradise.”

Day three included the business meeting, which was well attended. The business meeting had a full agenda, including OFWIM by-law changes and elections. The meeting was very productive and afterwards, many of the attendees walked over to the park at the far end of the island to partake in the Pacific Island Celebration during the lunch break. Saturday afternoon included more presentations and workshops. The evening was capped off with the reception and banquet. Again, OFWIM supplied an open bar and fantastic meal. There was a presentation by a local wildlife rehabilitation facility, which was both entertaining and informative. There was even music supplied by the adjoining wedding (unbeknownst to the wedding party). Every one seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and stayed to visit with new and old friends.

Day four was a half day of plenary presentations and wrap up session. The focus of the conference was partnerships and the future. It was great to see the success of state and federal agencies working together to achieve a common goal. Several of the presentations dealt with the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (CWCS), which all states will complete by October 2005. The conference was a great way to get together and trade tips and tricks and alternative view points to the mandatory plans. There was also a metadata workshop, which was well attended.

The 2004 conference can be deemed a success by several measurements. The weather couldn’t have been better, the food and facilities were exemplary, and we accomplished everything on the agenda for the business meeting. Just being able to network with others doing similar work has both tangible and intangible measurements of success. This was my third OFWIM meeting and I am already looking forward to next year’s meeting. I just hope we get better attendance - after all, we will be celebrating the completion of the CWCS!

— Sabra Schwartz is the newly elected Member-at-large to OFWIM.
Products and Materials from the 2004 Annual Meeting

Materials are available at:
www.ofwim.org

2004 Business Meeting Minutes

2004 Treasurer’s Report

Abstracts of Presentations and Posters

Presentations from 2004 Meeting

Hacker’s Ball Posters

Looking forward to seeing you in 2005! Check the websites for the most recent updates!
http://www.ofwim.org/meetings/2005/OFWIM2K5.html

Changes in OFWIM Membership Rules

At the 2004 annual business meeting, several changes to OFWIM membership were approved:

Membership Year

The membership year now coincides with the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Previously, membership was from annual conference to the following annual conference.

What does this mean to you?

Memberships for 2004 will expire at the end of December. Unless you specifically paid for 2005 membership, either through conference registration or separately, your membership will expire on December 31st. A new 2005 membership form is now available on the website. Please pay your $25 membership dues before January 1st, 2005. An e-mail reminder will be sent to all members and former members whose membership expires at this time.

Organizational Membership

Government Membership has been changed to Organizational Membership. 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 $100 and entitles the organization to 6 OFWIM General Memberships with full member privileges. The organization must list the names of the 6 individual members at the time of payment. Organizations may have more than 1 Organizational Membership.

What does this mean to you?

Get your organization to become an Organizational Member! The normal cost of 6 General Memberships is $150. So get with at least 4 other co-workers and become an Organizational Member. An Organizational Membership form is now available on the website. OFWIM will work with current Government Members to transition to Organizational Membership.

http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html

Sponsoring Membership

The Sponsoring Membership category has been removed from the By-Laws.

What does this mean to you?

There are no current Sponsoring Members. If your organization would like to support the mission of OFWIM, please contact a current officer to discuss sponsorship opportunities.
2005 Individual Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2005. 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 2005 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](http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html)

The 2005 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. 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 $25 (in U.S. dollars!) payable to OFWIM, to:

Daniel Vichitbandha, OFWIM Treasurer  
c/o Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources  
1 Game Farm Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601-3908

**OFWIM 2005 Membership Form**

Name: ____________________________________________
Agency: __________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __ Zip: __________
Phone: (____)________________ Fax: (____)______________
Email: ____________________________________________

**Memberships**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Member – 2005</td>
<td>$ 25</td>
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<td>(one voting membership)</td>
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Please pay in U.S. dollars! $_________
2004 Raffle Donations—Thank you!

Arizona Game and Fish Department
1 Book, "Arizona Fishing Holes"
1 Book, "Arizona Wildlife Views"
1 Book, "Man and Wildlife in Arizona"
1 Cookbook, "Almost All Things Edible"
1 AZ Game and Fish Conservation Education Coffee Mug

California Department of Fish and Game
2 Books - "Atlas of the Biodiversity of California"

Colorado State Division of Wildlife
1 Video - "All About Colorado Trout Fishing"
2 Publications - "Sagebrush of Colorado"

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
1 Hunter Education Travel Mug
2 Hunter Education Coffee Mugs
2 Hunter Education Sport Bottles
4 Hunter Education Baseball Caps
6 Hunter Education Letter Openers
1 ND Game and Fish Mouse Pad
1 ND Game and Fish Rain Gauge
1 ND Game and Fish Travel Mug
2 ND Game and Fish Decks of Cards
2 ND "Fishing, a ND Heritage" Baseball Caps
2 Booklets Titled "Beyond Fair Chase"
1 ND Game and Fish "Fishing Volunteer" Shirt
1 ND "Watchable Wildlife" Polo Shirt

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
2 PSMFC White T-shirts
7 PSMFC White/Black Trim T-shirts
10 PSMFC Black Polo Shirts (Women's)
2 PSMFC Black Polo Sweaters
11 PSMFC Black Turtlenecks
12 PSMFC Black Sweater Vests w/PSMFC Logo
1 PSMFC Black Sweater Vest w/Logo
1 PSMFC Blue Denim Shirt
1 PSMFC Blue Denim Shirt (Women's)
3 PSMFC Black Canvas Shirts w/Logo

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
1 Limited Edition "Virginia Wildlife" Knife and Leather Sheath
1 Watchable Wildlife Gift Ensemble (notebooks, collector pin, binocular strap, and "Oliver the Owl" stuffed animal)
1 VA Wildlife Baseball Cap
3 VA Wildlife "Coastal Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail" T-shirts
2 VA Wildlife "Coastal Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail" Fanny Packs
2 Packages of Notebooks
5 VA Birding Binocular Straps
20 VA DGF Collector Pins
1 VA Wildlife 2004 Collector Plate "Winter Comfort"

Wildlife Foundation of Florida
2 Prints - Gray Fox Prints
2 Prints - White-tailed Deer
2 Prints - Reddish Egrets
2 Prints - Bobwhite Quail

Joel Schwartz, Ford and Haig Tobaccanist (Business Donation)
3 packets of 5 cigars (Graycliff, Avo, Davoff, Padrock, and Zino brands), cigar cutter, and matches

Barb White (Personal Donation)
1 Mountain Prairie Region Jacket
2 Mountain Prairie Region Baseball Caps
1 Starbucks Stainless Steel Thermos
Thank you to all who participated in OFWIM 2004!

Remember to renew your membership...

See you in 2005!

2005

OFWIM

Conference and Annual Meeting

Pre-Announcement

(Tentative Plans)

When: October 17-21, 2005

Where: Ramada Inn and Conference Center - Tallahassee, FL

We are looking for volunteers! We need volunteers willing to help plan the meeting program as well as people willing to help with the meeting facility, attracting vendors and the like. If you are interested, please contact Beth Styx, OFWIM President-Elect, by email at beth.styx@fwc.state.fl.us or by phone at 850-488-6661.

We are also looking for suggestions about where the OFWIM 2006 Conference and Annual Meeting should be held. Please submit your suggestions by email to Bruce Schmidt, OFWIM President, at bruce_schmidt@psmfc.org or by phone at 503-595-3113.