Greetings and happy Spring, OFWIM members!

Here in mid-Tennessee we have been experiencing a rollercoaster of winter-spring-winter-spring conditions all winter. The first week of spring has brought us more of the same. I hope everyone gets to enjoy spring-like temperatures before summer hits us full on.

Why do you join OFWIM? Is it to be a part of a professional organization? To attend the annual conference once a year? To present or listen to the latest research going on in our field? To read the newsletter for helpful tips and tricks? To share in the latest technology at the Hacker’s Ball? Or to reconnect with friends and network with fellow colleagues in the same discipline? All of the above? Another way to continue networking with fellow members outside of the conference is through Groupsite, which serves as a discussion forum, a place to pose questions, and for posting announcements.

Joining a committee is another great way to stay connected. Our OFWIM committees have been very active since the first of the year keeping OFWIM going strong. The Committee Chairs are listed in this newsletter and each committee’s goals and objectives are listed on the OFWIM website. I encourage anyone that wants to become more involved with OFWIM to contact the Chair and let them know you want to participate.

The Elections, Nominations and Awards (ENA) Committee is developing a slate of nominees for the upcoming election. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving as President-elect, Secretary, or Member-at-Large, please contact Jim Husband, the ENA Chair. Applications for Student Scholarship and the Innovation Award are included in this newsletter. Pass this on to anyone you know that might be interested in applying.

Communications Membership and Outreach has been working on an online form for membership dues payment. Look for news in the near future about that.

Training and Education Committee and Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee assisted with the OFWIM/Qualtrics webinar last month. Qualtrics followed up the webinar with a video demo that was more informative. Find the link in the Groupsite discussion. Please feel free to pass on information of webinars that you know of that might be of interest and post to Groupsite.

Conference planning has been hard at work putting together plans for the conference this October in Chattanooga, TN. So mark your calendars for Oct 1-5. A memorable highlight this year will be the banquet at the Tennessee Aquarium. More conference info will be coming soon. Tell others about the conference. Tell others about OFWIM!

In closing, let me encourage you to renew your membership dues and to encourage coworkers and colleagues to join as well. Keep spreading the word about OFWIM!

Enjoy your spring!
Student Research Scholarship Award for Local Students

Purpose: The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Student Research Scholarship recognizes academic and professional excellence among students enrolled full-time in fisheries and wildlife-related curricula at an accredited college or university, with research or studies emphasizing wildlife information management and/or geographic information systems (GIS). This scholarship award supports student research as well as attendance at the OFWIM Conference and Annual Meeting. To learn more about OFWIM, visit the web site (http://www.ofwim.org).

Criteria:

1. The Award will be made to one graduate student who is local to the conference and working towards a graduate program, such as a Graduate Certificate Program, Master’s degree or PhD. Membership in OFWIM is not required for eligibility.

2. The Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee will award the scholarship based on the following criteria:

   Quality of Applicant
   - Academic background suitable for project
   - Academic opportunities the student has engaged
   - Motivation: sincere curiosity and interest in topic or research experience
   - Faculty advisor’s assessment of the student’s performance and potential
   - Has promise of future professional involvement and significant contribution toward the field of fish and wildlife-related information management or technology

   Quality of Research Project
   - Student’s level of participation in the research
   - Student’s effort, commitment, and enthusiasm for the project
   - Project contains significant elements of advancement of fish and wildlife information management processes, or introduces new technology for such, or new uses of existing technology.
   - Project may be part of an ongoing thesis/dissertation, but student must be able to demonstrate significant progress of the project during the year the scholarship is in effect, if awarded.

3. The award recipient must present a formal paper on the research project prospectus during the OFWIM 2017 Conference and Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, TN October 1–5, 2017.

4. The recipient must also present a formal paper on the research project results or significant progress during the following year’s OFWIM 2018 Conference and Annual Meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon (tentative).

Application Procedure:

Any qualified student may apply for the scholarship by completing the Student Application Form, Part I (attached). The student's faculty advisor must verify the accuracy of all information provided in Part I. In addition, the faculty advisor must complete and sign Part II of the application.

The completed and signed application form (Parts I and II) must be received by the Committee Chair on or before the deadline – July 31, 2017.

The scholarship will be available on an annual basis.

Scholarship Award:

The successful recipient of the scholarship will be eligible for a $1000 scholarship toward the research project, awarded as 2 - $500 awards, the first to be presented at the 2016 Conference, and the second upon completion of the project at the 2017 Conference.

In addition, the recipient will be awarded a waived registration fee for a 1-day conference registration the first year, and up to $1000 conference travel reimbursement to the full conference the second year.
The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Student Research Scholarship program recognizes academic and professional excellence among students enrolled in fisheries and wildlife-related curricula at an accredited college or university, with research or studies emphasizing wildlife information management and/or GIS.

Send either (1) one digital copy (Parts I and II) to:

Beth Stys, OFWIM Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
beth.stys@myfwc.com

For additional information, contact Beth Stys at the above e-mail address.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** July 31, 2017. (The recipient will be notified by August 31, 2017.)

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**Part I. To be completed by the applicant.**

Name: ________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

Current College/University: ________________________________

Major: ________________________________

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LOCAL STUDENT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Part I. Continued.

1. Describe your career goals and knowledge of information management and/or GIS as related to aquatic- or wildlife-related sciences. Include any leadership qualities and professional activities you have had in your field of study (e.g., presentations, publications, memberships, symposia, awards, etc.), if applicable.

2. Provide the title and a brief abstract of the research paper you would present at the OFWIM Conferences, if selected for this scholarship.

3. Attach copy of transcript from your current institution of higher learning (does not have to be an official copy).

Applicant Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Note—the information contained in Part I must be verified and signed by the Faculty Advisor.

Faculty Advisor Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
LOCAL STUDENT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Part II. To be completed by the applicant’s faculty advisor.

Applicant’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

Advisor’s Name: _____________________________________________________________

Advisor’s Phone: _____________________________________________________________

Advisor’s Email: ______________________________________________________________

1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. What leadership traits has the applicant demonstrated in the aquatic- or wildlife-related sciences? Do you see future potential in this applicant with regard to participation in professional organizations such as OFWIM?

Faculty Advisor Signature: __________________________________ Date: ________________
OFWIM Conference 2017
Sunday, October 1 - Thursday, October 5, 2017

Chattanooga Choo Choo
Chattanooga, TN
Organization of
Fish & Wildlife Information Managers

www.ofwim.org

This year’s conference will be held in Chattanooga, TN on the banks of the Tennessee River. The conference hotel and meeting space is the famous Chattanooga Choo Choo. There is plenty to see and do for you and your family during off hours including Rock City, Lookout Mountain, Ruby Falls, Chattanooga Ducks, and so much more. Chattanooga is located about two hours southeast of Nashville and 2 hours north of Atlanta at the intersection of I-24 and I-75. You have a choice of two international airports - Nashville International Airport or Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. There is also the Chattanooga Airport with a limited number of flights in and out.

The Chattanooga Choo Choo began as The Terminal Station and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The station was destined for demolition until a group of local businessmen made an investment to save it. It began a new life as a hotel with its reopening on April 11, 1973. The hotel is served by a free trolley service which provides access to many dining and entertainment options.

Rate: $95 + taxes for regular rooms
Current tax rate is 8%
Pullman car rooms are extra & limited

Several meals and snacks included with the registration fee including Hacker’s Ball dinner buffet and the Banquet at the Tennessee Aquarium. There are two dining facilities at the hotel and lots of other dining options within walking distance or a short trolley ride including Big River Grille, Sticky Fingers, 212 Market, and Puckett’s. A list and map will be provided.

Hosted by:
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Google Earth has a time-slider function that allows you to view historical imagery, but is there a way to view that imagery in ArcGIS with your other data layers? You could convert all your data to KML, but then you wouldn’t have the analysis power of GIS. So, how do you get the historical image into ArcGIS?

**First the Google Earth Steps:**

1. Open Google Earth and navigate to the view extent for your project area.
2. In the Layers panel, turn everything off.
3. Go to Tools - > Options, and change the “Show Lat/Long” option to “Decimal Degrees”
4. Press “r” on your keyboard; this will reset the view angle to be “top down” and rotates the map so that it is “north up”
5. Press F11 to make your map go full screen.
6. Click on the “add placemark” button
7. Move the icon from the middle of the screen to the top left corner of the map.
8. Rename the icon “Top-left”
9. Click the button to change the icon.
10. Choose this icon

11. Jot down (or copy and paste) the latitude and longitude coordinates to use later.
12. Repeat the process to add icons for “Top-right”, “Bottom-left”, and “Bottom-right”
13. Once you have all four corners marked, labeled, and the coordinates copied down go to File -> Save -> Save Image and save your file.

**Now the ArcGIS steps:**

1. Open ArcGIS.
2. Go to View -> Data Frame Properties and select the Coordinate System Tab.
4. Go to Customize -> Toolbars -> Georeferencing.
5. Add the image file from Google to ArcGIS. If it prompts to build pyramids, click OK; also click OK if you get a warning about spatial reference.
6. Zoom into the top left corner of your satellite image.
7. From the georeferencing toolbar, click the “add control points” button.
8. Hover over the exact center of the top left icon you created, and LEFT click once.
9. RIGHT click once and click on “Input X and Y…”
10. Add the correct coordinates for your Top-left control point ***REMEMBER: “X” is Longitude and in the NW hemisphere of the world it is a negative number and “Y” is Latitude***

11. Repeat the process for the remaining 3 control points. If the map has disappeared from your view...
window, right click on the layer in the Table of Contents and choose “Zoom To Layer”

12. To finish georeferencing, click on the “Georeferencing” menu item from the toolbar and select “Update Georeferencing”

Here’s an example of using the swipe tool to compare the historical image from 1992 with an image service available through ArcGIS:

13. You should now be able to add other data layers over the imagery layer.

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) invites individuals and conservation agencies/organizations to apply for the OFWIM Innovation Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in the advancement of fish and wildlife information management technology or processes.

Nominated projects/applications will be evaluated for their technical accomplishment, innovation, success in meeting their stated goals, and/or success in developing and sustaining a partnership.

Eligibility for this award is open. Nominees may be individuals or agencies/organizations, but the nominee must have retained creative control over any website or technical application. This form may be used to nominate the submitter’s work or that of others.

The winning individual or organization will receive a 1-year free membership to OFWIM, as well as recognition at the 2017 Conference in Tennessee, and on the OFWIM website.

Send the completed nomination form (electronic submission preferred) to:

James E. Husband  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
7870 Villa Park Dr, Suite 400, Henrico, VA 23228  
jim.husband@dgif.virginia.gov

For additional information, please contact Jim Husband @ 804-367-8391 or jim.husband@dgif.virginia.gov.

For more information about OFWIM, visit www.ofwim.org. See application on next page!
NOMINATION DEADLINE: August 1, 2017. The award winner will be notified at the OFWIM 2017 Conference, October 1–5, 2017.

1. Name of Person or Agency/Organization Submitting this Form:

Contact Person (if submitter is an agency/organization):

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

2. Name of Person or Agency/Organization Being Nominated (if different than submitter):

Contact Person (if nominee is an agency/organization):

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

3. Describe the project or application, including the specific need(s) that it addresses:
4. (If applicable) Describe the partners (agencies, organizations, individuals) involved in developing and deploying the project or application and the role of each partner in the project:

5. Describe the intended audience of the project or application, and how the project or application was tailored to meet the needs of that audience:

6. Describe some of the challenges/barriers addressed during the development of the project or application and the strategies used to address these issues:
7. (if applicable) Describe the lessons learned from the partnership. How was the partnership particularly effective? How will these lessons be applied to future projects?

8. If the project or application is available online, provide the URL and any other instructions needed for accessing it:

9. How long has the project or application been in use?
Background & History

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is challenged to provide public hunting opportunities in a state where more than ninety percent of the land is privately owned. As part of the solution, we offer controlled hunts at TPWD-managed lands and a handful of leased private properties. These hunts are limited in number and in high demand. The Public Hunt Draw System is designed to offer fair and equitable access through a system of lotteries.

Hunters can apply to participate in drawings for the available hunting slots. There are hunts for alligator, deer, pronghorn, turkey, javelina (collared peccary), feral hog, and exotic antelope. Some hunts are designated "youth only," and some are specifically for bow hunters. Application fees range from $3 to $10, with no fee for youth-only hunts. If your name is drawn, some hunts then require you to buy a permit to participate in the hunt. All hunters are required to have purchased an Annual Public Hunting Permit by the time of the hunt, but it is not required to apply.

The draw system dates back at least two decades. Until 2014, it was done on paper. The Department published an annual booklet of available hunts, with application forms to tear out and mail in. Each hunter was allowed one application per type of hunt category (general deer, management deer, youth turkey, etc.). Winners were notified by mail. If your name wasn’t drawn then you didn’t hear anything, although there was a phone number you could call to check on your status.

New System

Everything is online. Applicants can search the catalog of hunts, download it for future reference, apply, pay fees, and check status on the website. The one application per hunt category restriction is no longer in effect. Winners are notified by e-mail. If they don’t purchase their permits or complete their reservations by a specified deadline, the system draws new names. This cuts down on the number of “no-shows” which occasionally happened under the old system.

The redesigned Public Hunt Draw System was a collaborative project of the TPWD’s Wildlife, Information Technology, and Administrative Resources Divisions. Programming assistance was provided by Gordon-Darby, Inc.

Results

In first year of new system, total applications rose from 99,000 to 184,800, submitted by 31,223 unique individuals. The average number of applications per person was 5.92. Eleven individuals applied at least 100 times. The following year (2016), applications averaged 7 per person, and 38 individuals applied more than 100 times. A constituent survey in spring 2016 got almost a 20% response, and indicated people were generally happy with the new system.

The new system saves staff time, with applicants entering their own information in the database. The overall demographics of the applicant pool are about the same as they were with the old paper applications, but more people are participating, and they are applying for more hunts than before.
OFWIM 2016-17 Members

Alabama Natural Heritage Program
Michael Barbour

Arizona Game & Fish Department
Jami Kuzek, Julie Mikolajczyk, Frances Peck, Austin Smith, Sabra Tonn

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
Alex DiJohnson, Heather Konell, Joseph Myers, Jennifer Ni, Sarah Rains, Julie Defilippi Simpson, Geoff White, Coleby Wilte

Center for Conservation Biology, Williamsburg
Marie Pitts

Colorado Division of Wildlife
Don Schrupp (retired)

Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Andrew Treble

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Kristin Rogers, Beth Stys

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Matt Burlingame

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism
Susan Steffen

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Jason Czapiga, Shawn Haskell, Amy Mechan, Don Katnik, MaryEllen Wickett

Maine Natural Areas Program
Lisa St. Hilaire

Missouri Department of Conservation
Tim Bixler, Chris Cloyd, Douglas Fees, Julie Fleming, Joe Kirby, Alex Prentice, Dyan Pursell, Mark Roberts, Joel Sartwell, Craig Scroggins, Tony Spicci, Alicia Struckhoff

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Carolanne Fechohan

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Keith Hurley, Keith Koupal, Brett Roberg, Rachel Simpson

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
John Bulger, Chuck Hayes, Leland Pierce, Virginia Seamster, Reuben Teran, Lance Tyson

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Stan Allen, Michael Banach, Kathleen Berridge, Anne Elston, Van Hare, Brett Holycross, Bill Kinney, Sharon Powers, Kate Sherman, Chris Wheaton, Greg Wilke, Karen Wilson

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Lynn Barrett, Pat Black, Jeanette Jones, James Kelly, Susan Lanier, Greg Wathen

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Dyanne Cortez, Danny Lewis, Jon Purvis

The Timmons Group
Lowell Ballard, Stephanie Brolund, Chris Gerecke, Kevin Gooss, Nathan Tate, Uma Vish

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Cynthia Eichhorn, Philip Marley, Sheryn Olson

U.S. Geological Survey
Julie Prior-Magee, Elaine Nakash, Annie Simpson

University of Missouri
Kayla Key, Emily Tracy-Smith, Lauren Toivonen

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
Amy Ewing, Karen Horodysky, Jim Husband, Jay Kapalczynski, Lenee Pennington, Susan Watson

Are Pie Charts Ever a Good Idea?

Individual contact information is available in the Member Profiles Section at ofwim.groupsite.com
Help grow OFWIM! Take our poster to your next conference, training, or meeting.
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Jeanette Jones

President Elect
Joe Kirby

Secretary
MaryEllen Wickett

Treasurer
Michael Barbour

Member-At-Large
Rebecca Scully

Past President
Keith Hurley

OFWIM COMMITTEES—JOIN ONE NOW!!!

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Conference Planning: Joe Kirby (Chair), Lynn Barrett, Karen Horodysky, Jeanette Jones, Kayla Key, Kristin Rogers, Rebecca Scully, Beth Stys, Sabra Tonn, Susan Watson

Data Standards & Technology Trends: Kristin Rogers (Chair), Rebecca Scully (Vice-Chair), Michael Barbour, Jason Bulluck, Matt Burlingame, Karl Eliaison, Amy Ewing, Julie Fleming, Joe Kirby, Kirk Keller, Tyler Kydd, Jeff Kopaska, Philip Marley, Shalia McDougal, Elaine Nakash, Jon Purvis, Joel Sartwell, Don Schrupp, Julie Defilippi Simpson, Souleymane Toure, Eric Woodworth

Elections, Nominations, & Awards: Jim Husband (Chair), Beth Stys (Vice-Chair), Jeanette Jones, Danny Lewis, Kristin Rogers, Austin Smith, Sabra Tonn

Training & Education: Michael Barbour (Chair), Tara Bell, Amy Ewing, Keith Koupal, Marcia McNiff, Dyan Pursell, Brett Roberg, Don Schrupp, Virginia Seamster, Annie Simpson, Rachel Simpson

FOXTROT by Bill Amend (image from gocomics.com)