



FAWN



FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF
THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME VIII NUMBER 1

APRIL 1991

NMFWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Slader Buck, Camp Pendleton, CA (619/725-4540, A-365-4540)
Past President: Larry Adams, HQ Army, Fort Belvoir, VA (703/355-7968, A-345-7968)
Vice President: Thomas Wray II, NAVSWC Dahlgren, VA (703/663-8684, A-249-8684)
Sec/Treasurer: Rick Griffiths, Aberdeen Proving Grnd, MD (301/671-3015, A-584-3015)
At-Large Directors:
West: Tom James, Naval Sub Base, WA (206/396-4192, A-744-4192)
Mark Littlefield, Fort Ord, CA (408/242-2825, A-929-2825)
East: Tom Poole, Fort Devens, MA (508/796-3021, A-256-3021)
Kyle Rambo, Patuxent Naval Air Station, MD (301/863-3670, A-326-3670)
Program Chair: ACTING- T. Wray II, NAVSWC Dahlgren, VA (703/663-8684, A-249-8684)
Newsletter Editor: Rich LeClerc, NOS Indian Head, MD (301/743-4705, A-364-4705)

COMMITTEES

Archives: Gene Stout, Fort Sill, OK (405/351-4324, A-639-4324)
Awards: Alan Dyck, Fort Pickett, VA (804/292-8501, A-438-8501)
Law Enforcement: Bill Rogers, MCAS Cherry Point, NC (919/466-3242, A-582-3242)
Nominations: Larry Adams, HQ Army, Fort Belvoir, VA (703/355-7968, A-345-7968)
Poster: Tom Glueck, Fort Leonard Wood, MO (314/596-7749, A-581-7749)
Resolutions: Jeff Bossart, NOS Indian Head, MD (301/743-4705, A-364-4705)

THE WILD SIDE

by NMFWA President, Slader Buck

If you haven't heard through the grapevine - the arrangements for our Annual Meeting have been finalized. We will be meeting at the DoD Natural Resources Workshop at the Air Force Academy during the week of 11 August. The NMFWA will be hosting a session and will have a full slate of events, including our Board of Directors meeting, a business meeting and banquet. A complete report of our progress up to now can be found in this newsletter.

Although most of us were not able to attend the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Edmonton, the Association was well represented. Gene Stout attended and he represented us at the Wildlife Management Institute Banquet and at the National Wild Turkey Federation Appreciation Breakfast.

In the past two issues of the FAWN I have been encouraging Association members to use the FAWN to generate discussion on natural resources management on DoD lands - "Let's hear from you." No takers yet, but you are out there. Talk to Association members and there is real concern about our work. Not with the kind of work we do; most of us enjoy the diversity of our jobs and the people we work with. It is the amount and pace of work that worries many of us. The expressions are familiar; we are "buried," "swamped," "deluged," "hopelessly behind," etc. with our day-to-day work, annual projects, new requirements and the never ending string of "fires." The consensus for a solution? - more "manpower" in the vernacular, "personnel" in reality. The chances of getting it under current budget conditions? - don't ask. In fact, some installations are losing personnel. Manpower is a touchy subject these days.

Maintaining enough personnel to do the job is not just a DoD problem, and it's not a new problem. Everyone recognizes that natural resources cannot be effectively managed without trained personnel. However, most resource agencies are facing budget related manpower shortages, even as the public is becoming more aware of the importance of their natural resources and, ironically, is more supportive of paying for resource protection and management.

One thing is obvious - our responsibilities are increasing. Requirements such as long-term trend monitoring, biological analysis of IR sites, review of encroachment threats and continued listing of endangered species are just a few of the labor intensive tasks we are, or will be, handling. We knew that it wasn't going to be easy, but lately it seems out of proportion.

How do we handle this situation? There are few choices: the often-heard do more with less ("work smarter"); do more but give less than 100% per job (not an option in my opinion); or do fewer tasks - an option you may not have. Recently, the solution has often been to attempt to accomplish more using contractors, other agencies, universities or with the help of volunteer services. What most of us are aware of, but has gone unsaid, is we can't throw money at work and expect internal manpower requirements to go away. Working outside takes time. Often lots of time. Scopes of work still have to be developed, logistics coordinated, field performance must be verified, reports must be reviewed and management actions implemented. And there is a limit. Soon you reach a point where you have eliminated all the non-essentials, looked at all the "creative" ways to accomplish your work, contracted what you can and arranged for volunteers to accomplish everything you can legally use them for. Still "buried?" - of course.

Still, faced with increasing workload and decreasing staffing we continue, and nobody is talking about changing careers. We are charged with the management of diverse and unique resources. And we are aware that the consequences of inattention can be damage or loss of those resources. Experience has shown that although there have been few times when the bulldozers (or tanks) are poised on the edge of the marsh and only immediate action will prevent large scale destruction, the same experience has shown that if you do not keep an eye on those dozers, they may just cut across part of the marsh. Importantly, we have learned that we can't be everywhere. We can't track every training operation, every construction project and every maintenance activity. It happens - we are too involved with one project to catch a problem in another area and resources are lost. We get frustrated, we put in more time and we try again. We like the work. Perhaps this is why natural resources professionals are dedicated.

But that "dedication" should have limits, because after you have given the government countless hours off the clock and taken work home to a point where home and family is at stake - we still can't accomplish all we need to or want to.

And, as a personnel officer told me, by doing so we are "sending the wrong signals" on manpower.

We don't really expect to get ahead and frustration is a big part of anybody's job in natural resources. But we should expect a reasonable level of support and be willing to fight for it. What I am suggesting is that we begin to send the right signals, in writing. We have to make our case for more manpower by doing a better job of documenting what is not getting done and the effect inaction has on the resources we are charged to manage and protect; and we need to present our Commands with meaningful options.

In doing so we need to clearly state that there are professional limits and there are personal limits. Asking for additional personnel in these days of declining budgets is not going to be well received; some people are not going to want to hear (or read) it. But it's necessary, and maybe someone will act.

Perhaps you disagree, or have another view. OK - let's hear from you.

1991 DOD NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
AND
NMFWA 1991 MEETING

The program committee has begun solidifying arrangements for the upcoming conference. It will be held at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado during the week of 11-16 August 1991. Tentative program agenda items include:

11 Aug - Registration
- NMFWA Board of Directors Meeting
- Social

12-15 Aug - Plenary Sessions (keynote addresses)
- DoD Banquet
- Service Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions (fish/wildlife, forestry, joint land use)
- NMFWA Banquet
- Poster Session
- Field Trip

16 Aug - NMFWA Business Meeting

The fish and wildlife session is being formulated and hosted by the Association. It will be divided into 5 topics with three 20-minute presentations and a 10-minute question and answer period for each topic. The topics are:

- Protecting and Enhancing Wetlands
- Recovering Endangered Species
- Enhancing Wildlife Habitat
- Serving the Resource
- Serving the Public

Several papers have already been submitted. More are needed, especially for the topic "Serving the Public" (i.e. public awareness, public access, etc.). There is no guarantee that all papers submitted will be part of the concurrent session, however, there will be a poster session (contact Tom Poole @ AV 256-3021) and our next annual meeting (Charlotte, NC) will be a mere 7 months away. You owe it to the resource, your Command, and yourself to participate. Contact Thomas Wray II @ AV 249-8684 for more information.

Attendance at the conference will be strongly supported by the upper echelons. Take advantage of this highly instructive training opportunity.

NOTE: Tom Poole is the Poster Chairman for the entire conference. Tom Glueck, NMFWA Poster Chairman, can be reached at AV 581-7749 if you want to help with the Association poster that will be displayed at this conference.

Forestry Concurrent Session

As part of the concurrent sessions portion of the conference, forest management issues will be discussed. As previously described, there will be five major topics addressed. The topics are:

- Integrated Forestry Planning
- Forestry Economics
- Managing Forests for the Future
- Restoring Damaged Lands
- Managing the Built Environment for Quality of Life

Your assistance is being requested for papers addressing this broad spectrum of topics. Papers will also be considered from other public/private sectors. Some ideas for papers include: Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act; Timber Sale Contracts and Administration (development of a DoD Contracting Procedural Manual); Program Planning and Budget Development; Income/expenses - Relationship to O&M Funding; Forest Protection (Fire and Pests); Integrated Natural Resources Projects; and NEPA Compliance. If you have a paper you would like to present, or other ideas for topics, call Tom Egeland, NAVFAC-HQ Forester at (703) 325-0427 or AV 221-0427.

Wildlife Whimsy by Tom Poole

As I thumbed through the NMFWA membership list recently, I was struck by the occasional installation with animal species in its nomenclature. A few minutes perusing a map of installations (circa 1982) resulted in the following list:

Falcon AFB, CO	NAS Whiting, FL
Longhorn AAP, TX	NS Mare Island, CA
Badger AAP, WI	NWS Seal Beach, CA
NWS Crane, IN	NWS Colts Neck, NJ
Camp Grayling, MI	NS Clam Lagoon, AK

Granted, the bovine and equine references are hazy, but there could be feral horses or burros on military lands in the southwest, and I wouldn't be surprised to learn that Gene Stout rustled a few head of longhorns from the nearby refuge.

These ten installations represent approximately 2 percent of the 467 I examined. Although this does not include all DoD installations, it is a reasonable sample. Therefore, I humbly submit the following: If the Department of Defense chooses, however inadvertently, to honor its fish and wildlife resources by naming 2 percent of its installations after animals, does it not make sense to dedicate 2 percent of the annual O&M budget to fish and wildlife programs?

1991 DOD WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

This year Gene Stout and his crew at Fort Sill, OK have graciously offered to host our annual law enforcement training session. The details are still being worked out, but the tentative dates of 23-27 September 1991 have been set. The point of contact is Glen Wampler. To sign up, you can call Glen at (405) 351-4324 or AV 639-4324. There is limited space for this training, so if you are the least bit interested, call Glen as soon as possible. You don't have to make a commitment, but if there is overwhelming interest, then appropriate adjustments may be made to accommodate the masses.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee still needs your help. We are asking for participation to run for the following positions: President, 2 (East & West) Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, 4 Regional Directors, and 2 At-Large Directors.

Response to this call for nominations has been extremely disappointing to date. If you want the Association to continue its existence in any meaningful way, please get involved. I'm encouraging each of you to please think about the upcoming elections and nominate future leaders for our Association. The next elections will be the first year that we will be using the new mail-in ballot system as noted in our amended bylaws. So please, consider running or nominating individuals for the above positions. Call an NMFWA Board member; you can be part of "The rest of the story!"

HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE!!!!

Honor those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to natural resource programs within DoD by submitting nominations for the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association awards program. If you know people, activities, or organizations who you feel have made contributions to your program, now is the time to recognize those individuals. It only takes a short time to submit a nomination for someone who may have donated hours of their time to improving natural resources, so please take the time to do so now.

You are not limited by category. You may consider areas such as habitat enhancement, endangered species, law enforcement, public relations, training, hunter safety, publications, or any other area you feel merits recognition. Let's just make sure we let them know that we appreciate the excellent work.

Nomination forms can be obtained by calling or writing to the Awards Committee Chairman, Alan Dyck, HQ, USAG, Fort Pickett, ATTN: AFZA-FP-E, Fish and Wildlife Management, Blackstone, VA 23824 (804) 292-8501 or AV 438-8501.

THE OPM CONNECTION

What is the OPM Connection? It is a brand new pilot program which began this fall in Washington, DC, Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The idea is to match Federal employees who want to work part-time with Federal agencies trying to fill part-time and shared jobs. The OPM Connection is actually a computerized list of current and former Federal employees who have registered their interest in working part-time as job sharers. Contact the OPM office nearest you for details.

RABBIT HUNT

by Tom Poole

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is looking for New England cottontails (Sylvilagus transitionalis) from Rensselaer County, the St. Lawrence River Valley, the Lake Champlain valley, and the Allegheny Mountains along the Pennsylvania border. Sylvilagus transitionalis is a class 2 candidate species considered for possible addition to the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife. Loss of habitat and competition with Eastern cottontails (S. floridanus ssp.) are believed to be the primary reasons for the species' population decline. Resource managers who can contribute field time or possess historical or current records of the species are asked to contact project leader Peter Nye or biologist Mark King at the Wildlife Resource Center, Delmar, NY 12054 or call at (518) 439-7635.

The results from the first year of the survey are disappointing with no S. transitionalis reported from the first three regions and no samples from the Alleghenies. One clue to look for is the presence of cottontails in habitat that supports varying hare (Lepus americanus). Perhaps there are flood control projects or radio/radar sites in the Alleghenies that deserve a closer look. (Author's note: While working as a Park Ranger with the Corps of Engineers in the 1970's, I came across a colony of S. transitionalis by following up on conversations with dam operators who ran snow survey transects throughout the watershed.)

COLLARED GEESE - REVISITED

by Tom Poole

The Prince Edward Island collaring project is providing important information about the movements of Canada goose populations on the Atlantic Flyway. Hunters and biologists report collared geese scattered among flocks along the entire length of the Massachusetts shoreline. This wide distribution has implications for the experimental late winter hunts conducted in Massachusetts and Connecticut for the purpose of reducing non-migratory, nuisance goose populations. Preliminary assessment of data suggests early autumn seasons are better than late or extended season hunts to trim flocks without causing additive mortality to migrants.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER WORKSHOP

Discussions are continuing in an attempt to pull together a workshop for DoD managers on the management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The Department of the Army is continuing to take the lead in planning and sponsoring the workshop. Tentative plans had been made to hold the workshop at Camp Lejeune during the period of 3-5 April 1991. The events in the Persian Gulf set the planning of this effort back, but we are looking for this worthwhile endeavor to re-surface shortly. If you are interested in this workshop, let your HQ people know.

JOBS: GS 486-5/7/9/11 F&W Biologist, NAS Patuxent River, MD - K. Rambo AV 326-3670
GS -13 Supvsy Env Engineer, NAS Patuxent River, MD - K. Rambo AV 326-3670
3 - GS 486-9 F&W Biologist, End Spec (RCW), Ft. Bragg, NC - T. Myers AV 236-2510
GS XXX-11 Inter-Disc, Bot/Ecol, End Spec, Ft Bragg, NC- T. Myers AV 236-2510
GS 486-7/9 Fish & Wildlife Admin, Ft. Jackson, SC- J. McCrackin AV 734-4793

FISH LADDER CONSTRUCTED IN CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

The following news release prepared by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources was submitted by Stephen Wampler (Aberdeen Proving Ground) and Larry Adams (HQ, US Army):

Van Bibber Dam Passageway Primed for Herring and Shad Spawning Run

The first Denil fish ladder successfully built in Maryland by the US Army and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), an initiative under the guidelines of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, is now operational at Van Bibber Dam according to DNR Secretary Torrey C. Brown, M.D.

The Van Bibber Dam fishway, located on Winters Run in Harford County, will reopen 3.5 miles of an historic spawning habitat closed to anadromous fish since the construction of the dam in 1942. This fishway is designed as a passageway upstream for herring and shad.

Herring and shad stocks are identified as a targeted species for restoration. Herring was once one of the most numerous fish in the Chesapeake Bay and the shad fishery was important to the economy of the upper bay.

Reopening the historic anadromous fish spawning habitat above the Van Bibber Dam and elsewhere in the state will restore herring and shad to or near historic levels.

Fisheries management techniques, maintaining adequate water and habitat quality in the spawning area will continue to be the responsibility of DNR and the Winter Run Watershed Protection Program. Harford County Department of Public Works, Maryland Department of the Environment, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and the Harford County Teachers Association will monitor this fishway to insure that a successful recruitment of herring and shad is taking place.

Denil fishways are specifically designed for certain species of anadromous fish such as herring and shad. Denil fish ladders are:

- inclined chutes attached to existing dams;
- concrete with inclined baffles that slope upstream at a 45-degree angle;
- constructed 2'-4' wide allowing a passage width between 1'2" to 2'4";
- designed to allow the passage of large flows of water that attract fish;
- designed with baffles to slow down the water velocity so that fish can swim up the fishway against the flow of water;
- designed to include resting areas for fish who swim constantly while in the fish passage on the way upstream to their spawning grounds.

WETLANDS TRAINING

The Department of the Army will be sponsoring a wetlands training course during the third quarter of FY91 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The class size will be limited to 35 students. The class objectives are:

- discussion of the new Army Technical Note, TN-420-74-5;
- review of the Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual;
- discussion of 404(b)(1) regulatory permits;

Contact Larry Adams at HQ, Army (703) 355-7968 or AV 345-7968 for info.

JOBS: GS 460-7/9 Forester Ft. Jackson, SC- J. McCrackin AV 734-4793
GS 480-7/9 F&W Administrator, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ -
GS 401-11 Natural Resources Manager, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ

WATER COLUMN

by Tom Bryce

Aquatic Plants or Aquatic Weeds?

Aquatic vegetation in ponds, lakes and streams can be very beneficial to both fish and wildlife, especially waterfowl. For the fish, aquatic vegetation can serve to enhance spawning and feeding habitat, provide resting cover, and provide substrate for aquatic insect production. However, when vegetation stands become dense enough to interfere with the intended uses and aesthetic values of the body of water, they become "weeds" and require "management." Besides the obvious negative aspects of dense aquatic weeds, they can upset the predator-prey balance of your resident fish populations. All too often these dense stands provide "safe havens" for prey species, preventing adequate predatory control. This, in time, will result in overcrowded and stunted forage fishes (i.e. bream, minnows, etc.). During the last 25 to 50 years, numerous exotic weed species have been introduced to this country; some intentional, others unintentional. In most instances, the introductions have been negative and a few have been downright disastrous! Some of the most "infamous" species are hydrilla, water hyacinth, Eurasian water-milfoil, purple loosestrife, Brazilian pepper, Brazilian elodea, and melaleuca. The control of such species has cost this nation millions of dollars and untold impacts on various fisheries, recreational boating, and the hydroelectric power industry.

The reduction of aquatic weeds should be undertaken from an integrated pest management approach, incorporating preventative measures, manual control, mechanical control, chemical control and biological control.

A. Preventative Measures.

1. Pond Construction: Manmade ponds should be designed and constructed to avoid creating habitats favorable to undesirable plant species. Prevent or reduce uncontrolled and excessive nutrient loads entering the ponds (i.e. sewage-fed streams or runoff from feed lots). Divert, when possible, excess water that will accelerate the loss of nutrients necessary in maintaining desirable plankton blooms. Ensure the slopes of pond margins are at least 3:1 or steeper and that the pond has no water less than 2 feet in depth (preferably, 3 feet).

2. Fertilization: Fertilization of "farm ponds" is a practical and inexpensive way to control aquatic vegetation (and increase fish production). Fertilizing throughout the growing season will stimulate the growth of desirable planktonic algae that will serve in reducing sunlight penetration to the bottom and in turn reduce the likelihood of aquatic plant establishment. (See the "Water Column" article on "Fertilizing" in an earlier FAWN.)

3. Water Level Control: A consistent and appropriate water level fluctuation program (i.e. winter drawdowns) can be very effective (and economical) in controlling as much as 90% of submerged vegetation infestations. A drawdown every 3-4 years, exposing at least one-half of the bottom may prove very effective, (not to mention improving fish population structure and aerating the exposed bottom muds).

4. Boater Education: All too often, the primary cause of aquatic vegetation establishment in a pond or lake is one of your sportsmen's boats and trailers. Post signs and distribute literature regarding the transfer of weeds by boaters and "goldfish bowl dumpers."

B. Manual Control. High labor costs and the difficulty of working around aquatic areas limit the effectiveness of this option. However, in some instances, it can be a viable alternative, such as uprooting recently established cattails.

C. Mechanical Control. Machines of all kinds have been developed over the last 20 years that do everything from cut and harvest to dredge. The costs can be prohibitive and the results short-lived. However, in specific situations, they may provide one of the only solutions. Often these floating, motorized harvesters are used to cut boating lanes through dense weed mats as a means of enhancing navigation. All too often, the cutting of many weed species may actually promote the spread of the infestation as many of the loose plant fragments re-colonize other sites around the pond and downstream.

D. Chemical Control. Today, there are 10 different chemicals approved for use in aquatic sites: copper sulfate based herbicides, 2,4-D, dichlobenil, glyphosate, diquat dibromide, fluoridone, endothall, simazine, acrolein, and dicamba. These chemicals often come in granular and liquid forms and are sold under numerous labels. None of these are classified as "restricted use" herbicides. Before selecting and using any of these herbicides, identify the target weed species, ensure the herbicide is labeled for that weed species, and read and abide by the label. I recommend that your office employ a certified pesticide applicator (DoD or State certified). I also recommend each installation obtain a free copy of the 1988 US Corps of Engineers' Technical Report #A-88-9, Vol. I and II, entitled "Aquatic Plant Identification and Herbicide Use Guide," at a minimum!

The quantity and concentration of herbicides to be used, and the method of application, can be affected by water volume (acre-footage), surface acreage, water hardness, turbidity, and the material of the holding/mixing tank. Do not treat too large an area at any one time in fear of massive organic decomposition and subsequent oxygen depletion (eg. one-fourth to one-half of the body of water at a time, waiting 7-14 days between treatments). Maximize submerged weed treatments in the spring and minimize their treatment in the summer due to warmer water temperatures (lower oxygen levels). Note that the use of some chemicals may call for closing the pond to fish consumption, drinking, swimming, irrigation, and livestock watering for different periods of time. **READ THE LABELS!**

E. Biological Control. Depending on individual State laws, the use of "weed-eating" species to supplement any of the above methods may be a cost-effective solution. Some very effective means include the release of: alligatorweed flea beetle, the white amur or grass carp, tilapias, stem-boring moths, etc. Some plants, such as spike rush, have also been used to help displace less desirable species. Work is being done, as well, in the area of plant pathogens. Check with your local and State aquatic pest control experts before launching into biological control.

No one method will be a panacea to all your plant problems! An integrated approach, utilizing 2 or more of the above-mentioned means, will serve you well in getting on top of your aquatic weed problems. Let me also encourage you to become a member of the Aquatic Plant Management Society or State Chapter of this international organization, and/or the North American Lake Management Society. These are great sources of aquatic plant management information!

If you have any specific questions about aquatic weed identification, herbicides and/or methods of application, please call me at (912) 767-2584 or AV-870-2584. Happy "scales" to you, until we meet again!

ED: Tom Bryce is the Fisheries Specialist in the F & W Branch at Ft. Stewart, GA.

FIELD NOTES

CAMP GRAYLING, MI - A pair of bald eagles generated considerable interest on this National Guard installation when they chose to nest near an air to ground range after their original aerie blew down. Andrea Sikkenga has hired a "nest watcher" to document the birds' behavior this spring and summer. A related cooperative project will place a satellite transponder on one of the adult birds to track post-breeding season movements off the installation.

LAKEHURST NAV AIR ENG CENTER, NJ - This 7,500-acre installation abuts Fort Dix and McGuire AFB in south-central New Jersey. John Joyce reports a record deer kill in 1990, with hunter success exceeding 100% during the primitive arms hunt. Contrary to popular misconceptions about the Garden State, it has a burgeoning deer population. The state uses a multiple-season, multiple-tag system which the installation has incorporated in its hunter access program. John also notes the recent appearance of eastern coyotes.

WALKER AFB, TN - This installation shares resource management responsibilities with the state fish and wildlife agency. The state runs the wildlife and fisheries programs on 32,000 of the 39,000 acres. Mark Moran manages the DoD forestry program and other related programs. Prescribed burns have been reinstated on the 5,800 acres of loblolly pine plantations with favorable wildlife response.

LEXINGTON BLUEGRASS AD, KY - Billie Morgan is working hard to pull together a proposal that combines the efforts of Kentucky University, a local rancher, and the Army. The concept would provide year-round grazing on a 4,300-acre study area within this ammunition storage depot. Grazing animal numbers would be incrementally increased in an attempt to quantify environmental impacts, especially water quality parameters, with an eye for that optimum balance of environmental and economic considerations. Overcoming inertia on the part of the real estate leasing authority is a major objective.

WALLOPS ISLAND (NASA), MD - Marilyn Ailes reports success with a "better fly trap." Wallops is a coastal barrier island and is overrun with greenhead flies. Two-foot cubical black boxes are perched on four legs and contain funnel-shaped screens. The "black cows," as they have been nicknamed, contain no lights or bait. Heat is radiated from the black surface. Over 20,000 flies are caught per box per week. They have produced a 75% reduction in fly populations without the use of chemical pesticides.

NAS OCEANA, VA - Pam Couch reports that Oceana is surveying recreational fishing ponds as part of a Cooperative Fisheries Management Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This is the second year under that agreement. A local Boy Scout troop is assisting with construction of a 1/2-mile nature trail. The trail will be marked with interpretive signs made at a local Corrections Facility and covered with wood chips donated by Virginia Power Co.

FORT POLK, LA - Steve Parris reports that they have established a Cooperative Agreement with the Natural Heritage Program for inventorying plants and sensitive habitats. Special emphasis is being placed on the numerous pitcher plant bogs, where several new state record species have been identified.

HOMESTEAD AFB, FL - Steve Mallott, a community planner, reports that they will assess the status of an endangered species, the Wood Stork, and one species of special concern, the Burrowing Owl. They will also assess the status of the Silver Rice Rat, a candidate species, on a site at Cujo Key.

MCAS CHERRY POINT, NC - Bill Rogers reports that they are beginning their first stocking of wild turkeys with the assistance of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Their goal is 5 toms and 10 hens for a first stocking. They are also working on a gray fox disease study with the Commission. What began as a scent station population survey evolved into the radio-telemetry disease study after a large outbreak of canine distemper. They are also working on a study to assess the impact of jet aircraft noise on wintering and breeding waterfowl, with special emphasis on breeding black ducks.

NAS PATUXENT RIVER, MD - Kyle Rambo reports that his staff is commencing their annual trapping and banding of diving ducks, especially canvasbacks and scaup. They will soon resume trapping and banding of raptors on and around their airfield. Information collected from these programs will hopefully aid in reducing the number of bird/aircraft strikes involving these high-risk groups.

EGLIN AFB, FL - Rick McWhite reports great strides in their endangered species program. They are hiring 2 new biologists, 2 technicians, and a clerk. Eglin is getting assistance from the University of Florida, with their focus on the red-cockaded woodpecker, the loggerhead and green sea turtles, and the Okaloosa darter. They are also doing some prescribed burning to control sand pine, which is encroaching on old growth stands of the longleaf pine/oak ecosystem.

FORT STEWART, GA - Tom Bryce reports an interesting Cooperative Agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Fort Stewart sponsors a children's fishing derby during National Fishing Week each year. The DNR provides all the catfish free of charge, and the Army must feed the catfish and keep the ponds closed until the fishing derby. This fishing derby provides a recreational fishing resource to the citizens of southeast Georgia, as well as to the personnel of Fort Stewart, who get to fish the ponds after the derby. Tom says there are plenty of nice fish left afterwards.

FORT MEADE, MD - Don Marquardt and the folks at Fort Meade are struggling through a base closure. Approximately 7,500 of their 9,000 acres will probably go to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, which already shares a boundary with Fort Meade. Cooperative management between DOI and DoD may be the result. The remaining 1,500 acres will probably be excessed. Final decisions should be made in September of this year. Good luck Don.

ADELPHI (HARRY DIAMOND) LABS, MD - Bob Wardwell has left the AFPMB for a job with Karen Menczer at Adelphi. Bob reports some interesting work with the brown tree snake before leaving AFPMB. He was part of a team that was establishing quarantine measures for the exotic snake, which has decimated populations of many wildlife species on the island of Guam, and has even caused some extinctions. They worked with military customs inspectors to scrutinize departing aircraft and cargo, created snake barriers around cargo areas, and investigated fumigation.

NOS INDIAN HEAD, MD - Rich LeClerc and Jeff Bossart are finishing up their first year of trapping wild turkeys at NAVSWC Dahlgren, VA for relocation onto NOS Indian Head, MD. They are also beginning efforts to inventory endangered and threatened species on the station. This is being accomplished through a Cooperative Agreement with the MD Natural Heritage office. Jeff is still battling inertia regarding wildlife law enforcement on military installations, in spite of the fact that he has successfully completed the extensive training provided at the Federal Law Enforcement Center at Glynco, GA.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, NC - Scott Smith reports some interesting endangered species work at one of their ranges to the southeast. The 46,600-acre range lies next to the Alligator River NWR, of which 41,000 acres are leased to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The remaining 5,000 acres are contained in 2 impact areas. Three Federally-listed endangered species occur on the range, the red-cockaded woodpecker, the American alligator, and the red wolf. A preliminary survey of RCW's has been completed, and the colony seems to be thriving. Alligator River NWR was the site of a red wolf reintroduction. Two pups have been produced each of the last two years, and possible denning sites on the range have been closed to public access. USF&WS refuge biologists are assisting with all the endangered species work.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In case you did not notice, all of these informative "Field Notes" cover installations in our eastern geographical area. That tells me that either the folks out west are too busy to tell us about all the wonderful things going on out there, or ... You installation folks need to inform your At-Large Directors about everything we know you are accomplishing.

FAWN c/o
Naval Ordnance Station
Code 096D
Indian Head, MD 20640-5000

Bulk Rate U.S. POSTAGE PAID Bryans Road, MD 20616 Permit No. 12
--

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MR. JUNIOR D. KERNS
265 GO-SAL ROAD
TALKBANKS, AR 72712



Printed On
Recycled Paper