I know most, if not all, of our Past Presidents can relate to the situation in which I currently find myself. It’s now January and we are down to single digits in the count of weeks until our Annual Meeting and Training Workshop. Where did the time go!? Although preparations for this year’s meeting started last year in Pittsburgh, planning and logistics have certainly kicked into high gear. Your Board of Directors (BOD), especially Program Chair, Eric Britzke, is busy ensuring we bring you an agenda chock-full of training and up-to-date content. For the most recent published agenda, please visit the Workshop area of our website. There is one deviation from the “norm” on this year’s schedule, which I would like to call to your attention. In response to several requests to offer even more training opportunities at our meeting, we will be offering trainings on both Monday and Friday during the week of the meeting. We hope you are able to plan accordingly. Please review the rest of this edition of the FAWN for updates and requests pertaining to the meeting in Spokane.

As it has been said by other presidents, this association is only as good as its members make it. In my initial address when I took on the role of president, I asked all the new attendees to stand up. I know I was shocked by the number of people that were standing. We all know that these newcomers need to be welcomed and engaged. One way your BOD is taking an active step in purposeful outreach to this cohort is to host a Newcomer’s Breakfast at this year’s meeting. For this purpose we are going to define “newcomer’s”, as anyone who is either attending their first or second NMFWA meeting. The goal is to introduce these new members to our association and fill them in on the ways NMFWA is here to help them and how they can be involved and get the most out of their membership.

We all want to set this Association up for success and it starts with engaging our members and building bridges between our past and future. This engagement can be on several fronts including within geographic regions, respective Service branches, or subject matters. With recent retirements and those impending we need to harness the influx of new energized talent and get them involved outside the meeting week. We are renewing a NMFWA mentorship program and this upcoming meeting will see a soft kickoff to mentorship activities. Expect further details in an upcoming email on our listserv.
The Wild Side, *cont’d*

In the same line of thinking, our committees perform an incredible amount of work. Without this work a number of regular activities of the Association would fail or cease to exist. It is imperative to have new leadership in place prior to losing the old guard. I would like to call on ALL of the Association’s committee chairs to find at least one new(ish) person, either at our meeting or shortly after, to bring into the fold and get acquainted with the ropes of each committee’s business.

Although the meeting and workshop is on our minds, we need to remember NMFWA operates 51 other weeks of the year. There are certainly ways each member can be active every day. President Conkle said it best when she wrote, “The uniqueness of our jobs means that educating and learning from one another is a primary way of improving… One way to contribute every day is to take a moment to share something about what you do so we can all learn a lesson from your experiences - bad or good. In addition to sharing your accomplishments with your fellow NMFWA members I think it is also important to take a moment to boast about yourselves outside our community.” Her take away point being that we need to share our successes and failures so we can all learn but also to share the great work our members do to support natural resources conservation while supporting military training and readiness with the broader natural resource community. What good things are you doing? Who will you tell?

To assist with answering this question we are rolling out a new feature in the FAWN. This section provides our members a new platform to share their good work in an easy fashion without committing to an entire article. “Out of the Office” will showcase photos of members in the field, conducting the work that we all feel so passionately about. So go ahead and share your work!

We will be gathering in a few short weeks. I hope to see many of you in Spokane so we can share stories and lessons learned.

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**Successful Recovery of Lesser Long-Nosed Bat Assisted by Citizen Science, Improved Research and Bat-friendly Tequila**

January 05, 2016

Although many species of bat across the U.S. are not faring well, the lesser long-nosed bat is bucking that trend. Due to a host of traditional, and not so traditional, conservation efforts, the lesser long-nosed bat has rebounded from near extinction in the late 1980s to being the first bat species proposed for delisting under the Endangered Species Act. The success exemplifies the power, flexibility, and ingenuity that the act inspires.

82nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 4-11, 2017

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Visit the Wildlife Management Institute's website for information.

Please remember to register as NMFWA member so the Association gets credited.

Rooms fill up fast, so make your room reservations as soon as possible!

The conference will be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, Washington. The room rate is $99 per night and they are now accepting reservations. The meeting will be held at the Convention Center which is connected to the hotel via sky bridge. The River Front Park, Spokane River, and Centennial Trail are all within walking distance of the hotel. All of which will contribute to a great meeting!

Want to be more involved? Eric is also looking for volunteers to help run AV in the sessions and working group meetings. If interested, please contact him at Eric.R.Britzke@erdc.dren.mil

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: Please be aware that Spokane will be hosting their annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 11th from 12-3PM. This will affect travel out of the Davenport Grand as the parade route comes over the bridge on Washington St., directly across from the Davenport; and in the past has traveled down Washington St. The city closes the streets of the parade route to vehicular traffic during the parade. Please keep this in mind as you make your travel plans on Saturday.
The Annual Workshop isn’t all talks and working groups - great social events are planned for the week as well.

The Tuesday night Social Mixer will be held at CHATEAU RIVE, just across the bridge from the host hotel. This is a great opportunity to catch up with fellow NMFWA members that we may only get to see at the annual meeting. It is also a great way for our new members to get out and meet everyone.

BARRISTER WINERY will host our Annual Awards Banquet Wednesday evening. We will honor those who have excelled in their field and enjoy a wonderful meal together.

And don’t forget about the Show and Tell Reception featuring:

A Poster Session

This is a great way to justify attendance and is an excellent way to communicate to NMFWA and WMI community your projects, surveys, cost saving tools or perhaps even interesting observations.

In order to save room please contact Nicole Olmstead at (nicole.olmsted@fe.navy.mil) with your intentions. There is no cost associated with the presentation of posters.

And a Silent Auction to Support a Student!

Silent Auction proceeds will start funding a new scholarship for future wildlife and fisheries biologists, botanists, ecologists, range conservationists, foresters, and wildlife law enforcement agents and we need your donations. Think about bringing an item unique to your region. Wine from California. Cheese from Wisconsin. Beef jerky from Texas. Or vintage NMFWA swag. So let’s support our future leaders and make this Silent Auction the best one yet.

Contact Kirsten Christopherson at norska(dot)kc(at)gmail.com with any questions or offers of help.
Highlights for the meeting include Endangered Species Act training on Monday and Pollinator training on Friday.

There will also be technical sessions, Working Group sessions, and Service break-out sessions. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings as well.
Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) 2016 Project-of-the-Year Award for Resource Conservation and Resiliency

Demonstration and Implementation of Autonomous Aerial Acoustic Recording Systems to Inventory DoD Installation Impact Areas for Threatened, Endangered, and Species at Risk Bird Populations

The Department of Defense (DoD) manages millions of acres of land for the purposes of training troops and testing weapons platforms to ensure military readiness. These lands are very unique among federal land management agencies in that very large and inaccessible parcels have been set aside as impact areas for various types of munitions and explosive ordnance. These lands are highly suitable as habitat for many threatened, endangered, and at-risk (TER-S) avian species across the country. DoD has both regulatory and stewardship responsibilities to manage and monitor for many of these species, which has proven difficult due to the inability to access these restricted areas on the ground.

An ESTCP-funded project led by Dr. Richard Fischer of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and Dr. Dave Buehler at the University of Tennessee aimed to assess the significance of inaccessible areas to TER-S bird populations. They have addressed the accessibility issue by using an autonomous aerial acoustic recording system (AAARS) composed of a weather balloon that transports an electronic payload over otherwise unreachable areas. The key functions of the payload are to record the vocalizations of the target avian species, provide tracking telemetry to spatially correlate the audio data and track the flight path of the system, control the altitude of the system, and reliably and safely recover the system.

The benefits of this effort are widespread and will have a broad impact on the DoD community. Implementation of the AAARS will enable natural resources staff for the first time to inventory which species are present in inaccessible areas, estimate relative abundance and density of these species, and track status of the populations over time. This project will provide information that will significantly improve DoD's ability to comply with the MBTA, NEPA, Executive Order 13186, the Endangered Species Act, and where applicable, the Migratory Bird Rule. Furthermore, monitoring TER-S in formerly inaccessible areas will directly support the objectives of the recent DoD Coordinated Bird Monitoring Plan that recommends focused monitoring on species that have the potential for future impacts to the military mission.

For this significant work, Dr. Fischer, Dr. Buehler and their project team received the 2016 ESTCP Project-of-the-Year Award for Resource Conservation and Resiliency for their project titled Demonstration and Implementation of Autonomous Aerial Acoustic Recording Systems to Inventory DoD Installation Impact Areas for Threatened, Endangered, and Species at Risk Bird Populations.

Project Team
Dr. David A. Buehler, University of Tennessee
Dr. Richard A. Fischer, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center
John B. Wilkerson, Stacy K. Worley, David R. Smith, Emily V. Hockman, and Stephanie C. Prevost, University of Tennessee
CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

The annual NMFWA Photography Contest will be held in conjunction with the Show and Tell Reception, so you still have to time capture that perfect picture!

Contest rules are as follows:

1. Photos must be taken by the participant. Anyone registered at the NMFWA conference is eligible to enter.

2. Photos must be mounted on stiff backing such as photo board, art board, or foam core, etc. Matting is optional. Do not submit photos in glass frames. Each photo must have the name and address of the photographer clearly marked on the back, along with the entry category.

3. Photos must be at least 5 X 7 inches and no larger than 11 X 14 inches in size (not including mat or board). Color and black and white prints are acceptable. Slides are not allowed.

4. Each photo must qualify in one of the following categories:
   a. Wildlife (any species is acceptable)
   b. Installation field activities (photo must have been taken at a DoD installation or project site to qualify for this category)
   c. Landscapes/scenic (any location is acceptable)
   d. Humor/fun (includes wildlife or people in humorous poses, people taking part in fun activities such as NMFWA meeting, studio shots, etc.)
   e. Botany (any plant species is acceptable, this includes fungi and alga).

5. Each participant may enter up to two photos in each category. One prize will be awarded in each category. Participants at the Show and Tell Reception will vote on the winning photos.

6. Bring your photos with you and submit them before the Show and Tell Session.

The POC for the contest is Bob Schallmann at robert.schallmann@navy.mil
The regal fritillary (Speyeria idalia) was once an abundant butterfly species of North American prairie communities. Despite its once broad geographic distribution, populations have declined by ~99% in the prairie region for reasons that are poorly understood. The rapid, range-wide declines and persistent threats to extant populations from habitat loss and mismanagement prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate a species status review of the regal fritillary as a potential candidate for listing under the endangered species act in September 2015. Due to its uncertain status and potential to effect military training on Fort Riley, the installation initiated a two year study to assess the effects of management practices and habitat features on the distribution and density of the species and their preferred larval host plant for the Midwest, prairie violet (Viola pedatifida). The project was initiated with the generation of a species distribution model of prairie violet to readily identify potential areas across the landscape containing patches of host plants and subsequently facilitate the location of regal fritillary larvae. The species distribution model produced maps of the probabilistic occurrence distribution of prairie violet throughout the study area and highlighted habitat features and management practices important to the occurrence of prairie violet. The seven final variables used to create the species distribution model and identified as important to the occurrence of prairie violet were elevation, slope, hillshade, slope position, land cover type, soil type, and average fire frequency. Using the species distribution model for prairie violet, eight areas were located to conduct surveys for regal fritillary larvae that were managed using various management haying regimes and fire-return intervals (low ≥ 10 years, moderate 3-5 years, and high 1-2 years). A binomial generalized linear model was used to determine the effects of management, host plant density, months since burn, and the interaction between months since burn and management on the occurrence distribution of regal fritillary larvae.

Results indicate that greater host plant density and short fire-return intervals are important to the occurrence of regal fritillary larvae and, despite current management recommendations, larvae may be negatively impacted by a lack of fire. Tracts of prairie were surveyed within the study area using a distance sampling approach along line transects stratified by overall management (burned, grazed, and hayed) and fire-return interval (low ≥10 years, moderate 3-5 years, and high 1-2 years) for adult regal fritillary. Results indicated that adult density was at least 84% greater in areas that received moderate fire-return intervals and greatest in areas that were grazed and burned on a moderate fire-return interval. However, density estimates of adult regal fritillary did not differ among overall management practices (i.e., burned grazed, hayed). Additionally, adult density increased as percent cover of grass, litter, and prairie violets increased. In contrast, adult density decreased as percent cover of woody vegetation and forbs increased.

These results support the use of prescribed fire in a shifting mosaic or patch-burning practice as a viable management strategy for maintaining and conserving regal fritillary populations within the Flint Hills region.

Fort Riley plans to continue the larval and adult survey portion of the study for the upcoming season. Ultimately, this data and analysis may provide key information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as they make their final determination on the species.
Climate Change Working Group News

Annual Meeting; Spokane Thursday, March 9, 2017

Please join the Climate Change Working Group on Thursday for our annual meeting at the 2017 NMFWA Workshop in Spokane, Washington. The Working Group is happy to be hosting several talented and experienced speakers again this year during the meeting that will build upon previous year’s sessions and discussions (see agenda below). We will also be discussing plans for upcoming training workshops at the NMFWA Workshop in Norfolk in 2018 as well as the future direction and leadership of the Working Group. If you have interest in getting involved and see more Climate Change presentations and training in the future – don’t miss out!!

Agenda

0915-0920: Introduction and Member Sign-in

0920-1005: Presentations (*Note: presentations build upon previous 2015 and 2016 topics)

1) 0920-0935 - Effectively Incorporating Climate Adaptation into INRMPs: Follow-up from 2016 Conference - Bruce Stein (National Wildlife Federation), Dawn Lawson (U.S. Navy’s Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific) and Carolyn Enquist (U.S. Geological Survey)

2) 0935-0950 - Interactive Discussion – Climate Change Adaptation: What has Worked/Not Worked in the Real World of INRMPs - Dawn Lawson, Bruce Stein, and Christy Wolf (U.S. Navy – NWSSB Detachment Fallbrook)

3) 0950-1005 - Integration of Climate Change into NEPA (A Practical Exercise) - Charles Baun (Conservation Branch Manager, IDARNG)

1005-1015: Member Business – (Future training opportunities, closing remarks)

If you are interested in joining the NMFWA Climate Change Working Group, please email either of the Co-Chairs Janet Johnson, Janet.Johnson@fmo.azdema.gov, or Charlie Baun, Charles.w.baun.nfg@mail.mil.

It’s that time again: NMFWA Elections!
Your candidates are profiled on the next six pages.
At-Large Director

- Serves a two-year term
- Provide assistance to the President as requested, particularly with special projects.
- Make regular progress reports to the President, and submit necessary items for approval prior to taking action.
- Serve on the Awards Committee by soliciting nominations from the membership, reviewing award nominations and providing recommendations.
- Assist the Program Chair and Newsletter Editor by soliciting technical papers for the Annual Training Workshop and articles for the newsletter, respectively.
- Provide the Newsletter Editor with at least one article for each edition of the newsletter.
- The At-Large Director whose term is not expiring shall serve on the Nominations Committee to provide a slate of officers for the following year.

Janet Johnson
Janet as worked as a biologist and currently as the Natural and Cultural Resource Programs Manager for the Arizona Army National Guard since 2009. She has managed a wide variety of wildlife and range of habitats on Arizona Guard installations including bear, elk, and Mexican-spotted owl within mixed-conifer / pine forests at Camp Navajo near Flagstaff to desert tortoise, snake, and saguaro cactus within the Sonoran desert training sites. Janet received her B.S. (1995) in Wildlife Biology with a minor in Botany from Colorado State University. Before completing her M.S. (2005) in Forestry from Northern Arizona University (NAU), she conducted research on avian ecology and habitat use in California, New Mexico, Colorado, El Salvador, Panama, and Mexico. Janet has also worked as a research program coordinator for NAU where she developed and facilitated educational and research partnerships and collaborative projects between NAU and public and private landowners. Janet’s interests include wildlife habitat connectivity and climate change, conservation planning, and bridging the gap between research and land management. In her free time, Janet can be found somewhere recreating outdoors, searching out live music, or laughing loudly with family and friends. She has served as the NMFWA Director-at-Large and Awards Committee Chair since 2015 and as the Co-Chair of the Climate Change Working Group since 2016 and is looking forward to getting the change to serve and support the NMFWA members for another two years.

Jeff Mach
Jeff has served as Natural Resources Conservation Manager for the Oregon Military Department since 2004. He guides natural resources management on the Oregon Army National Guard’s (ORARNG) four training installations and more than 50 ORARNG Readiness Centers, Army Aviation Support Facilities, and equipment maintenance shops throughout the state. Jeff received his Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1975. Prior to working for the ORARNG, Jeff worked for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for 16 years and as an environmental consultant in Alaska for 10 years.

Jeff has actively worked on western burrowing owl conservation and research efforts on the former Umatilla Army Depot for the past six years and jumps at most opportunities to work in the field instead of in the office. In his spare time, Jeff and his wife, Dawn, can be found hiking, biking, boating, or otherwise travelling far and wide. He is a published photographer and otherwise wastes his time trying to keep two vintage British sports cars on the road.
Jim Swift

I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the NMFWA Board of Directors in 2017. There has been a great foundation laid down by previous NMFWA presidents and Board of Directors. It would be an honor to represent NMFWA and continue the vision previous Boards of Directors have begun.

I am a Natural Resources Specialist at NAS Patuxent River, where I have worked since 1997. My program responsibilities include the Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard reduction, hunting and fishing programs, and environmental education. I have also been a volunteer hunter safety instructor since 2000. I am a 1995 Graduate of Virginia Tech in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. I moved to Maryland in 1985 where my father finished his last tour in the Navy and where I volunteered for the same office that I now work. My nine year old twins, Jake and Sadie, keep my wife Kristin and I very busy. I also enjoy hunting and working with my four legged hunting companion, Gunner.

Regional Directors

- Correspond with and serve as a liaison with the membership regarding Association matters, news, etc.
- Provide assistance to the President.
- Serve a two-year term. Three membership regions (West, Central, and East)
- Make regular progress reports to the President, and submit necessary items for approval prior to taking action.
- Serve on the Membership Committee, and assist the Chair by soliciting new members and maintaining current addresses for active members.
- Serve as members of the Outreach Committee.
- Assist the Program Chair by soliciting technical papers for the Annual Training Workshop.
- Assist the Newsletter Editor by preparing news items for the newsletter, and soliciting articles from the membership. The Regional Directors are responsible for submitting or soliciting at least one article for each edition of the newsletter.
- The three Regional Directors whose terms are not expiring shall serve on the Nominations Committee to provide a slate of officers for the following year.
- The Regional Director (in the second year of their term) in the region in which the Annual Training Workshop is being held shall be the Host Committee Chair or appoint a Host Committee chair.
- The Regional Director (in the first year of their term) in the region in which the Annual Training Workshop is being held shall serve on the Host Committee.

Eastern Region

Gregory W. Fleming

Greg is a Wildlife Biologist currently working at US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Virginia as a Natural Resources Specialist. He has spent most of his professional career working at Fort Belvoir as a Wildlife Biologist but has also performed bird surveys—including breeding, wintering and migratory—on eight DoD Installations in Eastern and Central U.S. Throughout his career, he has had a primary interest in habitat management for species of concern as well as other wildlife. Greg’s education consists of degrees in Wildlife Technology and Recreation and Park Management from Penn State. During his time at Penn State he volunteered at bear check stations and completed internships conducting wildlife surveys and habitat improvements.
Gregory W. Fleming, cont’d

Greg has been involved with Partners In Flight for 18 years and since 2002 has served as a Southeast Representative, and on the Monitoring and Research Committee for DoD PIF. Greg has also been a member of NMFWA for over 14 years and has been a BOD member for four years, on the Scholarship Committee and a past Awards Committee team member.

Seth Berry

Seth is currently the Natural Resources Specialist at Naval Support Facility Indian Head in Indian Head, Maryland. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the University of Kentucky in 2001. In 2004, he took a Student Conservation Association internship position at NSF Indian Head which turned into his current position. During the past 13 years at Indian Head, Seth has conducted numerous projects and surveys that include: wetland/vernal pool creation, stream restoration, shoreline stabilization, forest management, pollinator habitat conversion, bald eagle management/conservation, invasive species control, MAPS and endangered species surveys (plants, bats, birds, herps, small mammals). Other types of experience include INRMP updates, hunting/fishing coordination, regulatory consultations and NEPA review. Seth has been a NMFWA member for over 10 years, served as a NMFWA Director At-Large in 2015 and is currently serving as co-chair of the NMFWA Bat Working Group. When not at work, Seth enjoys family time with his wife and daughter, hiking, looking for herps and Kentucky basketball.

Michael Wright

Michael Wright is a US Navy Natural Resources Specialist, who has been designated the installation level Natural Resources Manager and Team Leader. She is employed by NAVFAC MIDLANT, and is assigned to the NAS Oceana Public Works Department in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She has been in this position since 2007. Mrs. Wright provides assistance to any US Department of Defense (DoD) facility, primarily in the state of Virginia, related to bird management as part of her duties as a DoD Partners in Flight (PIF) representative. Mrs. Wright started with DoD PIF in 2003 as the Western US Research and Monitoring Representative. She took on the roll as the Virginia DoD PIF steering committee representative in 2007. Mrs. Wright serves on several DoD PIF working groups. Mrs. Wright is a member of NMFWA and most of the organization’s working groups. She is a past chairman for the NMFWA’s Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Working Group (WG). Her term as a chairman and immediate past chairman for the BASH WG ran from 2012 to 2016. Prior to working with the Navy, Mrs. Wright worked as a Wildlife Research Biologist for the US Army out of Fort Carson Military Reservation in Colorado. Prior to working with the DoD, Mrs. Wright held biological science technician, researcher, internship, and/or volunteer positions with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Arkansas at Monticello, and Old Dominion University. Mrs. Wright has an undergraduate degree in Zoological Park and Wildlife Management and a master’s degree in Forest Resources and Geographic Information Systems (focus in Wildlife Management).
Western Region

Jason Gibbons
I am currently assigned to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center’s Environmental Management Directorate at the Travis Installation Support Team, California. I was raised in Washington, Colorado and Germany, and attended Washington State University where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management in 1999. With a major in wildlife management and a minor in range management, I began my career with the USFWS at McNary National Wildlife Refuge. I then spent 8 ½ years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services program, where I worked in various district and state wildlife damage and invasive species positions, including Guam, for 8 ½ years. I switched and began working for the Department of Defense as their wildlife biologist at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona in 2007; then the Conservation Element Chief at Malmstrom AFB, MT; and now in sunny California working on regional natural resource and other environmental programs and contracts.

My interests include focusing on the education and training of our natural resources managers, our ability to apply proven science-based management techniques, manpower and the future of our natural resources managers, and last but not least, funding and the importance of inter-agency relationships. I currently live near Sacramento, California with my wife and three young children. I’m active in church, school activities, and kid’s sports programs. Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my family, my German-wire hair pointer, and hunting and fishing when possible.

Roland Sosa
Roland is a Southern California native and currently lives in Encinitas, CA. He is a Natural Resource Specialist for Naval Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest in San Diego, CA. He manages natural resources projects including, but not limited to, threatened and endangered species surveys, habitat restoration, and vegetation mapping. Roland also conducts burrowing owl, coastal California gnatcatcher, small mammals, and herpetological surveys for several Navy installations. In addition, Roland supports the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) group on natural resource issues and he is a Dive Safety Inspector for contracted dive activities.

Prior to his current position Roland served as a Wildlife Biologist for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Natural Resources Project Manager for HDR EOC and a Biologist for the City of San Diego. At Camp Pendleton, a training base, he managed threatened and endangered upland species such as coastal California gnatcatcher, Pacific pocket mouse, and Stephens’ kangaroo rat. At HDR he managed natural resource projects and at the City of San Diego he conducted nesting bird surveys and vegetation mapping for the brush management program.

Roland earned his B.S. in Biology from San Diego State University in 1990 and he has participated in post-baccalaureate studies at Missouri State University and Loma Linda University. In Missouri he assisted with a variety of field work including mist netting, deer trapping, and herpetological surveys. While at Loma Linda his focus was herpetology specifically focusing on Conservation genetics.

Roland became a member of NMFWA in 2007 and is a current member of The Wildlife Society.
Central Region

Michele Richards

Ms. Michele Richards has accumulated a broad and deep suite of skills in environmental issues and natural resources management. From humble beginnings as a research technician at the Kalamazoo Nature Center to her now established career and reputation with Michigan Army National Guard’s Environmental Division, she has championed environmental causes and made significant strides in the management of natural spaces in Michigan and beyond. Well-honed skills include endangered species management, prescribed fire, habitat restoration, vegetation inventories, climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and vulnerability assessment, and invasive species management. Michele has used her extensive network of good relationships with environmental professionals locally, statewide and nationally to innovate in many environmental realms including eDNA monitoring methods, regionally coordinated invasive species management, and furthering prescribed fire as a management tool, to name a few.

Highlights of her work so far include the preservation of 326 acres around Hart’s Lake, a pristine lake on Ft. Custer Training Center’s border, sourcing the funding and team to do cutting edge research locally and nationally on the Cerulean Warbler, the most rapidly declining neotropical migrant bird, and having Michigan Army National Guard represent all of Army as the climate adaptation pilot site for Department of Defense.

She has served on NMFWA’s Board for several years and enjoys working with the dynamic and hard-working crew to help keep NMFWA’s work moving forward vibrantly. Michele’s other favorite mission in life is parenting her three fantastic daughters, ages 20, 17 and 2.

Secretary

Records all proceedings of the Association, and serves as custodian of the Association’s records. Proceedings include BOD meetings and the Members’ Meeting at the Annual Training Workshop, as well as any Board meetings and/or teleconferences held throughout the year.

Serves a two-year term, elected on even-numbered years, by simple majority of the membership vote.

Maintains an electronic record of all NMFWA correspondence, motions and votes made by the BOD, and other documents.

Serves as a member of the Nominations Committee.

Records and transcribes all actions of the Board and Association meetings. Copies of meeting minutes are distributed to Association Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs as soon as possible following meetings. Condensed versions of these same minutes are furnished to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

Prepares letters to conduct Association business upon the President's request.

Maintains electronic file(s) containing copies of all correspondence and other Association documents in chronological order by calendar year of his/her term, for historical and reference purposes.

Works with the Program Chair, Awards Chair, etc. to develop news releases for the Annual Training Workshop, election results, awards, etc.

Provides copies of meeting minutes to the Newsletter Editor as soon as possible following the annual meeting for inclusion in the June FAWN, and submits articles to the newsletter as appropriate. Minutes should be reviewed for release by the President.

Provides a summary of actions from Board teleconferences, if any are conducted, in the October and/or January issues of the FAWN, as appropriate.
Secretary

- Records all proceedings of the Association, and serves as custodian of the Association's records. Proceedings include BOD meetings and the Members’ Meeting at the Annual Training Workshop, as well as any Board meetings and/or teleconferences held throughout the year.
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- Serves as a member of the Nominations Committee.
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- Provides a summary of actions from Board teleconferences, if any are conducted, in the October and/or January issues of the FAWN, as appropriate.

Nicole Olmsted

Nicole is currently a Natural Resources Specialist for Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Marianas focusing on the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution from the University of California, San Diego and worked for NAVFAC SW for seven years before moving to Guam. Nicole became a NMFWA member in 2008, has served in secretary position for the Board of Directors since 2013, plans the Show and Tell, and participates in the Invasive Species and Pollinator working groups. At work, her interests include invasive species control and management. Guam provides a unique opportunity to deal with biosecurity in an island ecosystem. Other experience includes working on INRMPs, Section 7 consultations, endangered species surveys, NEPA documents, and GIS projects. Nicole loves to travel, dive, and spend time outside in her free time.

Vote Today!

Send an email to: Nominee Chair at coraliecobb@gmail.com and Secretary at Olmsted.n@gmail.com

Please vote for one candidate for each of the following:

⇒ At-Large Director
⇒ Eastern Regional Director
⇒ Western Regional Director
⇒ Central Regional Director
⇒ Secretary
FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS

ALEXANDRIA, VA, January 5, 2017—The Department of Defense (DoD), through the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP), supports the demonstration of technologies that address priority DoD environmental requirements. The goal of ESTCP is to promote the transfer of innovative technologies through demonstrations that collect the data needed for regulatory and DoD end-user acceptance. Projects conduct formal demonstrations at DoD facilities and sites in operational settings to document and validate improved performance and cost savings.

ESTCP is seeking proposals for demonstrations of innovative environmental technologies as candidates for funding beginning in FY 2018. The solicitation requests pre-proposals via Calls for Proposals to Federal organizations and via a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Private Sector organizations. Pre-proposals are due March 9, 2017 by 2 p.m. ET.

Detailed instructions are on the ESTCP website under Funding Opportunities (https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Funding-Opportunities)

DoD organizations (Service and Defense Agencies) may submit pre-proposals for demonstrations of innovative technologies in the following topic areas:

- Environmental Restoration
- Munitions Response in Underwater Environments
- Resource Conservation and Resiliency
- Weapons Systems and Platforms

The Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) and Call for Proposals (CFP) for Federal Organizations Outside DoD are seeking pre-proposals for technologies in the following topic areas:

- Innovative Technology Transfer Approaches
- Long Term Management of Contaminated Aquatic Sediments
- Management of Contaminated Groundwater
- Detection, Classification, and Remediation of Military Munitions in Underwater Environments
- Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for Safe and Cost Effective Natural Resources Management on Department of Defense Lands
- Demonstration/Validation of Alternatives to Hexavalent Chromium in Manufacturing and Maintenance of Weapons Systems
- Waste to Energy Converters for Overseas Contingency Operations

Coming Soon! The FY 2018 ESTCP Installation Energy Solicitation is due out on or about February 2, 2017.
2017 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) Webinar Series

The REPI Webinar Series is brought to you by the DoD, and showcases best practices, tutorials, and knowledge sharing on REPI partnerships that support military missions and accelerate the pace and rate of conservation.

Unless otherwise noted, all webinars begin at 1:00 p.m. eastern. To download the detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, please visit http://www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars.aspx.
Welcome to the FAWN’s newest feature to highlight all the great and varied fieldwork we do across DoD lands. Send in your photo (or photos) with a caption and tell everyone what you did the last time you got “Out of the Office.”

Liz Neipert conducts bird surveys on Shemya Island, AK, part of the western Aleutians.
**Retirement Corner**

Please join NMFWA in wishing the best for our newly retired members

Though not a retirement, John Haddix, Conservation Branch Chief, Fort Wainwright Alaska, is moving from DoD to Bureau of Land Management. John penned the following note to share with NMFWA members:

I have started letting folks know that I will be leaving DoD on Jan 6th. I have accepted a position here in Fairbanks with BLM as the Assistant Field Manager Visitor Services AND Steese National Conservation Area Manager. While I will be exchanging one federal ID Card for another I will still be involved with co-management of Fort Wainwright Lands. The 1.6M acres of FWA withdrawn lands that I have been responsible for will be a sub-set of the 45M acres of BLM lands that fall within the Eastern Interior Field office that I will have some co-management responsibility for. This is an exciting opportunity for me to become familiar with more of Alaska's public lands.

It has been my pleasure to serve in committees with NMFWA, to work with the dedicated NMFWA members and I will greatly miss the comradery that this group has. I have appreciated the members of this groups dedication to the mission, the resources we are charged with conserving and your readiness to assist other managers working through issues at their installations. Don't be a stranger if you make it up to the Fairbanks area.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

John Haddix
Conservation Branch Chief
Fort Wainwright Alaska

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**ATTENTION! All Newcomers to NMFWA**

If you are new to the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association and are planning to attend the 2017 Workshop in Portland then we would like to invite you to the first ever *Newcomer’s Breakfast*!

We will be holding the inaugural event for all newcomers on Wednesday, March 8th at 0700. Check out the program when you arrive in Spokane for the location of the breakfast. The breakfast will give all newcomers to the Association a chance to meet and greet the Board of Directors, as well as ask any questions about the Association that you may have. It will also give the Board of Directors a chance to meet and greet all the new faces to the organization and introduce all the ways to get involved in your organization. Plus, there will be coffee!
Yahoo Groups

If you'd like to join up, from the e-mail address at which you'd like to receive messages, send a blank e-mail to:

NMFWA-Members-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Listserve messages from NMFWA related email has been blocked by some military IT systems. You have the option to sign up with either work or home email. If you're already getting messages from us, do nothing.

If you ever decide to leave the group, it's simple! Just send a blank message to

NMFWA-Members-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you ever need to get your NMFWA emails at a different address, the easiest thing to do is "unsubscribe" from one address and "subscribe" from another.
The FAWN

We know what you face.
Complex environmental issues.
Equally complex bureaucracy.
Limited time and resources.

Meeting these challenges requires more than services.
It takes global experience, sound science, and effective collaboration among stakeholders.

This is what we deliver.

The knowledge you need to succeed.

www.cemml.colostate.edu

NMFWA is on FACEBOOK!
To follow us, type National Military Fish and Wildlife Association in the Facebook search bar and hit
The FAWN

Janet Johnson, Arizona Army National Guard, Phoenix, AZ

2016/2017 Board of Directors

President—Elizabeth Neipert (elizabeth.neipert@colostate.edu)
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The USDA National Invasive Species Information Center has numerous conferences and training workshops: [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/calendar.php](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/calendar.php)

DENIX has a list of upcoming conferences and meetings: [http://www.denix.osd.mil/conferences/](http://www.denix.osd.mil/conferences/)

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting
Portland, OR
August 6-11, 2017
[http://www.esa.org/portland/#.V_RcKeArI2x](http://www.esa.org/portland/#.V_RcKeArI2x)

The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 23-27, 2017
[http://wildlifesociety.org/](http://wildlifesociety.org/)

Society for Range Management,
St. George, UT
January 29 to February 2, 2017
[http://www.rangelands.org/events/](http://www.rangelands.org/events/)

Society of American Foresters National Convention
November 15-19, 2017
Albuquerque, NM
Spokane, Washington is unique in many ways:
City was founded as Spokan Falls in 1872
Spokane means “Children of the Sun” in the local native language
Currently the second most populous city in Washington
Largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis
Created “Bloomsday,” the largest timed running race in the nation
Features the “Hot Zone,” free outdoor wireless internet in a 100 block downtown area
It’s the sunny side of the state
Hosted the 1974 World’s Fair
Hosts “Hoopfest,” the planet’s largest three-on-three basketball tournament
Childhood home of Bing Crosby
Started Father’s Day

75+ Fun Things to Do in Spokane, WA
A revitalized downtown is providing a boom for this sporting city in Washington state where biking, hiking, skiing, and more is just a way of life. With beautiful scenery and plenty of attractions, there are plenty of fun and epic things to do in Spokane every day of the year. This website has 75 of them for your next visit that you need to check out!

https://funthingstodo.io/spokane-wa-fun-things-to-do/

NOTE: Titles and affiliations are for informational purposes only and do not present the individuals as spokespersons of the Department of Defense or agency/installation listed.