Back in 2005 or so when I was still working at the Army Environmental Command there was a story that circulated that was attributed to an employee of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The gist of the story was that this person was in an INRMP meeting for operation and effect with installation natural resources staff. During discussion it was pointed out that the USFWS needed to carefully review INRMPs because DoD biologists and land managers weren’t really proficient on how to properly manage for flora, fauna and endangered species. In reply, the Natural Resources Branch Head pointed out that the USFWS did a great job managing wildlife refuges but would they know how to properly manage if they introduced mechanized infantry and rolled tanks through the area. I have no idea if this story is true but I have always enjoyed the overall message; the Department of Defense employs some of the best biologists and land managers in the federal government system and they are challenged daily to make sure that soldiers are trained and the military mission continues.

Making sure that the mission can continue uninhibited is one of the greatest challenges that we have as land managers. Continually we are faced with new laws, regulations and policies that force the natural resources community to stop, take a breath, and come up with a new or updated management strategy. Additionally, training missions routinely change, usually on short notice, requiring a new management strategy to be rapidly implemented.

Understanding how natural resources management on a military installation must support federal, state and local laws, and DoD and Service specific policy, as well as, mission needs is not something that most new natural resources professionals to the DoD are knowledgeable or comfortable with. Over my 15 year career supporting DoD I have had the opportunity to interface with new hires, interns, and summer help. Most often these people are still in college or have graduated with degrees in wildlife biology, forestry, or an environmental science. Few have any background or knowledge to what the military does. I was no different when I was in college. I thought the sole purpose of the military was to train soldiers and in the process destroy the lands with live fire and dropping bombs all day long. Coming in to my first job supporting the military I only knew that endangered species, birds, wetlands, forests and many other ecosystems needed protecting and the military needed to understand and oblige.
The Wild Side, cont’d

The trend of not understanding military training in all its forms continues today. One of the roles of NMF-WA should be to help mentor all of these new employees to better understand what role they play in both managing the lands and all its components with making sure that planes fly, ships sail, and tanks roll. Getting new employees to DoD to consider joining NMFWA so they can reach out to the membership to discuss issues and problem solve is essential.

Speaking of awareness, members should also take the opportunity during annual INRMP meetings with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state natural resources agencies to take the time and provide a windshield tour of an installation and if possible, military training. Let them see your challenges first hand so that they can better understand what it is like to conduct military training on a “wildlife refuge”.

ARE YOU BEING NICE TO YOUR POLLINATORS?

Did you know OSD recently distributed a memorandum on the DoD Policy to Use Pollinator-Friendly Management Prescriptions? The 5 Sep 2014 memorandum is issued in accordance with and references DoD Instruction 4150.07 on DoD Pest Management and DoD Instruction 4715.03 on Natural Resources Conservation Programs.

The policy can be viewed at the NMFWA website at:


The migratory bird Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Defense and Fish and Wildlife Service has been signed by both Acting DUSD(I&E), John Conger, and USFWS Director, Dan Ashe. The signed MOU can be found at https://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/otherlinks.cfm?newDnxWin=1.

The MOU was entered into pursuant to Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds (66 FR 3853 [January 17, 2001]). Its purpose is to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations while sustaining the use of military managed lands and airspace for testing, training, and operations.
Rick Griffiths passed away at the end of July. In true Richard Griffiths fashion, he was still making plans to attend future NMFWA and other wildlife meetings, just a few days before the end. He never allowed Parkinson’s disease to define his life or limit his activities.

Rick was named after his father and grew up mostly on the East Coast (Maryland). Rick had met his wife of 52 years (Linda) at college, when they attended Colorado State University, where he studied wildlife biology and plant physiology, graduating in 1963. They lived in Idaho, Utah, Maryland, and California, before retiring to Utah. His final position with DoD was as a Wildlife Biologist for United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, in California.

Rick was one of the original members of the Association, although his employment in the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, Pesticide Monitoring Division at Aberdeen Proving Ground, left him as a non-voting member for several years. Looking back, Rick was always one of the most active volunteers for the Association. In 1986 Rick ran for and served as an Eastern Director. By 1988, he was the NMFWA Awards Chair and Acting Secretary-Treasurer. He held the position of Secretary-Treasurer through 1991, when he became the Newsletter Editor. In 1994, he returned to position of Secretary-Treasurer. By 1995, Rick was Vice President of NMFWA and began his term as President in 1997. As a Past President, Rick remained active for the last 17 years.

Rick was one of the driving forces behind the NMFWA Reserve Fund, which morphed into the Defense Conservation Foundation and he served on the Board of Directors for that for the last seven years. Likewise, Rick was still on the NMFWA Hall of Fame Committee at the time of his passing. He rarely missed a teleconference or meeting, unless he was out in the woods at Scout Camp.
Richard Edwin Griffiths, *cont’d*

Those of you who knew him well were also aware of his service to Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Linda worked at Scout Camps nearly every summer since his retirement. The Scout uniform seemed to be the uniform of the day at his service. Rick was a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, which is an honor presented to those who have made a positive impact on the lives of youth through hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service.

Rick was an avid photographer. His pictures were often among those honored in the NMFWA photo contest. He did not do “selfies.”

The dignity and professional courtesy that Rick demonstrated on a daily basis was symbolic of the way in which he lived his entire life. He inspired us all. He will be missed.

NMFWA Membership Update

NMFWA President Todd Wills has taken on the monumental task of recreating the NMFWA membership list and he is looking for your help. The current membership list is terribly outdated with many members who have retired, taken new positions outside of the DoD, or have outdated email addresses. By updating the membership list NMFWA hopes to identify and bring in the numerous new natural resources professionals who are replacing the many members who are retiring. We also want to be able to show DoD and Service leadership the importance of NMFWA as a tool for training, communication and problem solving. If you are a current NMFWA member please send Todd an email at (todd.wills@navy.mil) that, at a minimum, contains the information from your signature block. Lastly, if you know of natural resources professionals on your base that are not members, give them a shove, and show them how easy this free membership can be.
2015
National Military Fish & Wildlife Association
Annual Natural Resources Training Workshop
and Meeting

March 9-13
Omaha, Nebraska

START PLANNING!!!


Please visit our website often as information will be updated as it becomes available http://www.nmfwa.net/index.php/conference.


Registration will open in December
2015 Annual Training Workshop
Agenda Highlights*

* Agenda items are still developing. Please check our website frequently.

- Working Group Special Sessions and Business Meetings
  - Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)
  - Bat
  - Invasive Species
  - Fish and Wildlife Recreation
  - Herpetology
  - Pollinators
  - Conservation Law Enforcement

- Workshop-Using Genetic Tools to Enhance Natural Resource Management on DoD Lands

- Military Services Breakouts

- Session-Climate Change and INRMPs

- Session-Using NEPA to address BASH issues

- DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Meeting

- DoD Bird Conservation Meeting

- Day-long DoD Forestry Break-out Session

- Annual NMFWA Members Meeting

- NMFWA Board of Directors Meeting

- NMFWA Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction

- NMFWA Show and Tell

- Wildlife Management Institute Special Sessions
  - Avoiding a House Divided: Creative Conflict Resolution to Unite Conservation in the Coming Decades
  - The Business of Conservation: Converting Consumers to Customers
  - Planning for Species Sustainability: Avoiding the Need to List Under the ESA
  - The Evolution of Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research

What do you want to see? How are you going to participate?

We are putting together an exciting and informative agenda. If there is anything that you want to see, let us know. Think about what would make you want to attend the meeting.

Looking for a few good (wo)men! We have numerous ways you can get involved, from volunteering at the evening events to chairing sessions. We want to hear from you.

Please contact our Vice President and Program Chair, Elizabeth Neipert, at elizabeth.neipert@colostate.edu with questions, suggestions, ideas, or interest in involvement.
We need you to strut your stuff!

Building on the long NMFWA tradition of identifying topical and informative sessions, the process of establishing the program for the 2015 NMFWA Workshop to be held in Omaha, NE March 9-14 is in full swing.

Since 1983 NMFWA has worked to bring the military services together and build a unified understanding of natural resources and how best to work together and meet the military mission. The annual workshop represents the best opportunity to bring DoD, Service HQs, Regional Commands, and installation staff together to discuss the pressing and emerging issues, help shape guidance, and identify ways to meet the goals of sustainability within dynamic circumstances.

Now it’s time to share your work with the rest of the DoD natural resources community.

Presentations (oral) will be scheduled for 20 minutes, which includes 15 minutes for the presentation and five minutes for questions. We encourage participants to consider presenting their work as both an oral presentation and as posters. The poster format at the Show and Tell allows authors to interact with attendees and discuss their work at length. More details about the Show and Tell and poster submission will be in the next FAWN.

For in-person presentations, submit a working title and brief abstract to Elizabeth Neipert at elizabeth.neipert@colostate.edu by COB 21 November 2014.

Time slots are quickly filling up. If you would like to host a session or meeting or want to hold a workshop or training session please contact Elizabeth.

Nebraska Trivial!

⇒ Nebraska was once called "The Great American Desert".
⇒ The State insect is the honeybee.
⇒ Kool-Aid was invented in Nebraska by Edwin E. Perkins in 1927.
⇒ Nebraska has more miles of river than any other state.
⇒ The Naval Ammunition Depot located in Hastings was the largest U.S. ammunition plant providing 40% of WWII’s ammunition.
New Dawn for the Night Lizard

Robert E. Lovich, Senior Natural Resources Specialist, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
Melissa Booker, San Clemente Island Wildlife Biologist, Naval Base Coronado, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest

The island night lizard (*Xantusia riversiana*) celebrated a historic milestone on May 1st, 2014, when it was formerly removed from listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) throughout its range on Santa Barbara, San Nicolas, and San Clemente Islands off the coast of Southern California. Only 1-2 percent of species listed under the ESA have been delisted due to recovery; to see the island night lizard join this rare group is a proud moment for the Navy and DoD. The incredibly high number of lizards on San Clemente Island shows that rare species can thrive alongside high-tempo Navy operations through proactive management. This milestone provides enhanced future operational testing and training freedom on Navy lands on San Clemente Island and San Nicolas Island. This accomplishment is made possible through the natural resources stewardship, support, and hard work in recent decades to benefit the Island Night Lizard through monitoring, restoration of native habitats, and the removal of non-native species.

With this recent delisting of the island night lizard, there have been a number of indirect benefits as well. Island night lizards have been the focus of many scientific collecting trips historically and are well represented in collections (museums, universities, etc.), with the largest collection housed at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. While there are many island night lizards in these collections, with most coming from San Clemente Island, surprisingly few specimens have been collected in recent years and this limits the types of research that can be pursued. Of all island night lizards in collections, 98.8% were collected between 1911-1980, 0.95% were collected 1861-1907, and only 0.03% (5 specimens) have been collected since 1980. The additional requirements of federal permits under ESA since the listing of the species in 1977 apparently limited this type of scientific work. Along with whole specimens, the few tissue vouchers for DNA analyses in major museums (n = 5) are prohibitive to undertaking any genetic analyses based on these tissues alone. The lack of whole specimens prevents comparative studies such as examinations of changes in body size, parasite loads and types, and dietary analyses through time. Many non-native species of plants and animals have been removed from the islands inhabited by this species since the 1980's, funded by the U.S. Navy in large part. Without whole specimens, science at large has been missing the material to determine what changes may have taken place in this species through the restoration of native habitats, and removing non-native species. Climate change may also be having an effect on the species, but the gap in whole specimen collections for nearly 30 years is a prohibitive gap without meaningful data from 1980-present.
The good news is that recent funding provided by the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program has allowed a group of scientists to assemble the tissues necessary to conduct a range wide genomic analysis of the island night lizard. Coincident with this project was the May 1, 2014 delisting of the species, which permitted the same scientists to collect the first series of island night lizard from San Clemente Island since the 1980's. Concurrent with the genomic study, the San Diego Zoo was willing to house some live Island Night Lizards to maintain as a captive assurance colony. Five individuals were given to the San Diego Zoo by the U.S. Navy in July 2014, and just a few weeks ago, one of those gave birth to two juveniles. These same lizards will soon be on exhibit, for potentially millions of visitors to see at this world-renowned zoo. This provides an important and rare opportunity for the story of DoD wildlife stewardship to reach the broader public audience, who may be unaware of DoD efforts to manage for resilient and sustainable natural resources, even on operational ranges.

The Navy will continue monitoring this species pursuant to a post-delisting monitoring strategy for SCI that the Navy and US Fish and Wildlife Service collaboratively developed. The Navy and DoD are excited about the results of the genomic analyses, the assurance and outreach colony at the zoo, and the data gathered on captive rearing of neonates from those recently born at the zoo. Currently there is hope to have several more follow-on projects related to these, and other species from the California Channel Islands. It is these types of collaborations that allow science to advance, protect the species, and highlight the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure the best future for our natural heritage while demonstrating to the public that DoD takes its responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act seriously.

The island night lizard is one of the few species that visitors to the San Diego Zoo will see that was recovered under the ESA and the only one that was recovered and persists in the millions on a U.S. Navy Range.

Acknowledgements: Chris Funk (Colorado State U.), Kim Gray-Lovich (San Diego Zoo Global), Greg Pauly (Los Angeles County Museum), Robert Powell (U.S. Navy), and Larry Jones (Ret.)
The Wildlife Society – Military Lands Working Group Update
Rhys Evans

We’re official!! After getting “interim approval” to function as a new Working Group of The Wildlife Society (TWS) in 2012, we have formally requested final approval from TWS Council this fall. One part of this was enticing 50 members to sign up for the Military Lands Working Group. Now, we need to keep those members interested enough to drop that massive $5 fee each year… So, for those of you who have become members (thanks!), and those of you who might (you must also be a member of The Wildlife Society at the “national” level), here’s what we’ve been doing:

Milwaukee, October 2013:
- Two events were sponsored by Military Lands Working Group:
  - Workshop: Monitoring Wildlife Populations- New Slants on Use of Existing Technology (Basic Biology Using Modern Technology)
  - Panel Discussion: Entry-level Federal Career Opportunities
- Chair of the Working Group participated in the Milwaukee “All Working Group Coordination Meeting”

Pittsburgh, October 2014:
- One event will be Sponsored by Military Lands Working Group:
  - Reducing the Threat of Extinction Through Cooperative Conservation on Military Lands
- One event will be Co-Sponsored by this working group:
  - Integrating Invertebrates into Wildlife Science and Management
- Additionally, three speakers from this working group will present papers during “Reflections on 15 Years of Successes, and the Future of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.”
- A Working Group meeting will be held (Wednesday October 29th, 7:30 a.m.)

Officers:
  Chair: Rhys Evans
  Vice Chair: Robert Lovich
  Secretary: Deanna McCullum
  Treasurer: Kirsten Christopherson

Current Membership: 59
Bank balance (April 2014): $472

Because (as with many of you) I am experiencing significant obstacles obtaining travel authorization, I will not be able to attend at the TWS meeting in Pennsylvania, but several of our members (both of NMFWA and TWS-MLWG) will be…so if you’re there, make sure to identify yourself!

Oh, one final thing. Though it’s not an official action of either NMFWA or TWS-MLWG, we’ve once again wisely used some of our GREAT “natural resources” by convincing Chester Martin and Robert Fischer to provide outstanding artwork as first and second prizes, respectively, at the Pittsburgh “Quiz Bowl.” Check out Chester’s art!
Army Natural Resources Conservation—Team/Individual Environmental Awards FY13 Nebraska Army National Guard Second Place Winner: Larry Vrtiska

The Natural Resources Program for the Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG) has expanded dramatically over the last two years due to the efforts of Environmental Program and Natural Resources Manager Larry Vrtiska. Larry’s Natural Resources Program includes forestry, wetland identification and restoration, endangered species habitat protection and creation, native grass management, fisheries habitat, agency and community partnerships, and extensive project management & reporting. And thanks to his emphasis on inter-agency coordination, cooperation, and cost sharing, Vrtiska has accomplished his many natural resources conservation initiatives at low or no cost to the NEARNG.

Larry accomplished several programmatic milestones over the past two years, including implementation of the first controlled burn ever conducted by the NEARNG at Camp Ashland and introduction of a novel treatment approach for toxic blue green algae in NEARNG lakes using a long-lasting aluminum-sulfate treatment. The controlled burn conducted at Camp Ashland this April was not only the first prescribed fire at the training site, but also for the NEARNG. Larry worked with NEARNG trainers and wildland fire response units to design a prescribed fire event that would serve environmental purposes—reduction of dense vegetation, enhancement of biodiversity, and limitation of fuel load—while also fulfilling an important training need. Set up as a training event involving firefighting units on the ground and Blackhawk helicopters dumping water from above, the prescribed fire was completed at no cost to the NRC program.

Vrtiska has also fostered a close partnership with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, providing researchers and students a tremendous resource in terms of Platte River and associated ecosystem access. Teaching students how environmental sustainability and mission success coincide in harmony is very important, and both the NEARNG and the university benefit from the partnership. What is more, Vrtiska’s support of higher education through hands-on fieldwork directly contributes to the development of the next generation of environmental stewards in Nebraska and beyond.
Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation Individual or Team, and Honorable Mention from the Secretary of Defense regarding the SECDEF Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation Individual.

Michael Wright

Naval Air Station Oceana

Michael Wright is a Natural Resources Specialist who directly oversees the management and implementation of 3 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans covering 4 primary naval properties under two separate Commands: NAS Oceana (NASO), NASO Dam Neck Annex, Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress, and Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Northwest Annex. She provides direct leadership to the Region’s only conservation law enforcement officer, a biological science technician, several student hires, and a multitude of volunteers. Michael provides technical oversight and guidance with regards to National Environmental Policy Act NR reviews for her primary areas of responsibility and additional properties under the NASO Public Works department’s purview, such as: Navy Dare County Bombing Range; seven Naval Operational Support Centers located in VA, NC, and WV; and several other special use assets in VA and NC.

Michael actively supports bird management in the state of Virginia as a DoD Partners in Flight representative and provides Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazards (BASH) assistance to DoD facilities nationwide with her role supporting the NMFWA BASH working group as a co-chair.

Michael has been associated with numerous natural resources issues, research, and related partnerships. Through her hard work and perseverance she was also nominated and won the FY2009 CNO Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation Individual.

Anna Keyzers and Gary Cottle

Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nevada

Mr. Gary Cottle and Ms. Anna Keyzers manage the natural resources of NAS Fallon, which occupies approximately 241,000 acres in Churchill County, Nevada. The Main Station consists of 8,670 acres and is surrounded by 3,000 acres in the Agriculture Outlease Program, and 3,865 acres of rangeland vegetation. NAS Fallon is currently the only Navy facility providing advanced integrated Carrier Air Wing Strike training. Military aircraft from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Nevada Air National Guard all train at NAS Fallon.

The Team performs many duties throughout the year as needed including Bird/Animal Strike Hazard planning, pest management throughout the installation, oversight of the grounds maintenance contractor, and educational outreach to the military and their families and the community at large. Inspections of Navy lands and agricultural parcels are conducted monthly to monitor cattle grazing, wildlife, vegetation, landscaping hunting, fishing, and dumping/vandalism.
The Team has applied for and received National Environmental Education Foundation Department of Defense Legacy awards for in FY12 and FY13. These grants have supplied additional funding for two restoration projects; one at Dixie Valley and one at the Main Station, both of which were coordinated using volunteers to accomplish the project goals.

The Team actively participates in local meetings with County, NDOW, USFWS, etc. relating to invasive weeds management strategies, water use issues, listing of species and to coordinate actions and plan future projects.

Active participation in organizations such as the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, Society for Range Management, National Arbor Day Foundation, Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the DoD Partners in Flight keep the Team abreast of current developments in the field of study.

The Team either oversees or actively participates in several committees, such as Earth Day, Spring Wings Bird Festival, National Recycling Day, and Veteran’s Memorial Park. These various committees refocus our public outreach efforts every year to reach out to children, military families, co-workers, and the local community.

Mr. Cottle and Ms. Keyzers have shown excellence in supporting the natural resources program at NAS Fallon. It is through their dedication and commitment to land management that guarantees the success of the air stations military mission.

Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation – Small Installation

Vermont Army National Guard, Camp Johnson

Camp Johnson, located in Colchester, Vermont, is a 660-acre training site for the Vermont Army National Guard (VT ARNG), providing dismounted training and supporting warrior leader and infantry conversion courses. As an undeveloped site in a more urban area, Camp Johnson is also an important location for the preservation of rare pitch pine habitat. Pitch pine habitat and populations are shrinking in response to development pressure. The Camp Johnson tract supports a population of about 200 to 300 mature pitch pine growing primarily in small groups. Over the past 100 years fires have been suppressed due to the fear of spreading to residential and commercial buildings along the fringes of Camp Johnson. In 2013 the installation Natural Resources Conservation program at Camp Johnson reintroduced prescribed fire as a management tool. In partnership with state agencies and universities, the VTARNG environmental office has actively managed this rare habitat and the many rare and endangered plant and insect species that rely upon it. Camp Johnson has become one of the last remaining places in the nation with this undisturbed natural community, offering an invaluable opportunity for studying and learning to regenerate this ecosystem while also finding ways to match conservation goals with the VTARNG mission.

This roadmap outlines DoD’s three adaption goals and sets forth actions to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. The roadmap states “Climate change will affect the Department of Defense’s ability to defend the Nation and poses immediate risks to U.S. national security. The Department is responding to climate change in two ways: adaptation, or efforts to plan for the changes that are occurring or expected to occur; and mitigation, or efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap (Roadmap) focuses on the Department’s climate change adaptation activities."

The following excerpt most pertains to military land managers, but the entire roadmap is worthy of a review:

GOAL 2 – INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS ACROSS THE DEPARTMENT AND MANAGE ASSOCIATED RISKS

Built and Natural Infrastructure

DoD installations are in essence “power projection platforms” from which the Department employs forces across the full spectrum of military operations. As such, adapting to changing climate conditions is critical to the ability of the Department to address current and future threats, and sustain its mission. Effective adaptation planning will ensure the continued availability of the land, air, and water resources at our installations and ranges so the Department can train and operate today and into the future. As appropriate, the Department will seek refinements to existing processes and develop new climate-specific plans and guidance. Specifically, the Department will review and, as needed, modify:

- Installation Master Plans to guide development activities.
- Design and construction standards.
- Encroachment management plans and programs.
- Stormwater management and other utility systems.
- Facility maintenance and repair cost models.
- Installation-level water resource management plans.
- Emergency preparedness and response planning.

Army National Guard rescues flooding victims after Hurricane Isaac. Credit: US ARNG Sgt Rashawn D. Price

Damage from flash flooding at Fort Irwin, CA, August 2013. Credit: US Army
DoD PIF. Do you know what this acronym means? Do you know what the program is all about? If you are familiar with the Department of Defense Partners in Flight program, I like to think it was because I did something right. After I left my computer career to return to graduate school and earned a Master of Science degree in natural resource from The University of Georgia, I started as the first person to work full-time on bird conservation in DoD in the fall of 1997. The DoD PIF program itself got started in 1991 when Joe Hautzenroder was appointed the DoD liaison for the newly-created Partners in Flight initiative. Joe laid an incredible framework for the program, which allowed me to take and run with it. I was hired for a one-year term, with a possible extension for another two years. After 17 years of one-year contracts, the time has come for me to move on to the next phase of my career and to also reflect on some key accomplishments during my time here.

**Awareness, communication, education.** Being a former computer scientist, I felt it was important to utilize technology to improve our communication and outreach efforts. I secured the dodpif.org domain and developed a web site (www.dodpif.org), which continues to evolve as an invaluable resource for bird information. With the help of Dr. Kim Smith at the University of Arkansas, I established an email listserv that now has a membership of almost 500 users. We now had resources available on the web site, and a mechanism to communicate with hundreds of people about the program. Next I began writing articles and giving presentations. My first presentation was at the 1998 National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) meeting in Orlando – the first of 17 consecutive NMFWA meetings I have attended. Since Orlando, I have given talks at no fewer than 35 different conferences, meetings, and workshops ranging from local Audubon chapters to The Wildlife Society (TWS) to the American Ornithologists’ Union. I have been an invited speaker on several occasions, including the keynote at the Georgia chapter of TWS annual meeting with the theme of wildlife management on military lands. Virtually every presentation (with the exception of NMFWA, of course!) has opened the surprised eyes of the audience to the fact that DoD really does manage natural resources, including birds! Writing articles about bird conservation on DoD lands is another passion of mine. I authored or co-authored more than 35 articles on topics from radar ornithology and satellite tracking to a series about birding on DoD installations. I have written two feature articles in Birding magazine (American Birding Association), and was a consultant to National Wildlife Federation on a feature about bird conservation on DoD lands. The article starts, “With the sun sinking fast over the salt marsh, Chris Eberly had barely half an hour to complete his mission.” (Intrigued? You can find this and other articles on dodpif.org). Every presentation and every article opened doors to new audiences and new opportunities to promote the incredible work of DoD natural resource professionals.
**Power of Partnerships.** It is no surprise many people working as a team can accomplish more in less time. But my conversations in grad school with Eugene Odum helped me see this in a fresh perspective. Dr. Odum, called the Father of Modern Ecology, believed that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. While he was referring to ecosystems, I feel this also applies to people and partnerships. I am always looking for opportunities to bring people together to make our conservation efforts more effective. Joe and I organized the first face-to-face meeting of the DoD PIF Representatives (Reps) in 2001. The annual meetings have strengthened the role of the Reps and sharpened the focus and value of the DoD PIF program. The group developed criteria to objectively evaluate bird-related Legacy proposals and I have coordinated that review process since 2001. I wanted the Reps to better understand how managing natural resources varied in different regions, so the location of each meeting moved around the country, granting me the privilege of visiting numerous military installations. Field trips to a local installation provide a beneficial exchange between the Reps and installation biologists. Local conservation groups are also invited to give presentations. With our understanding of the unique issues and the key partners in each region, we can better identify valuable proposals and help submitters fine tune their proposals to meet DoD and installation mission needs. It is not a coincidence that bird-focused projects have received nearly 20% of Legacy funding since 2001.

**Leadership.** It was important for me to become involved with the national PIF group to give DoD a presence within the larger bird conservation community. I became active in the Federal Agency Committee and the national Steering Committee and served 2-year stints as chair for each committee. My active engagement with PIF helped elevate awareness of DoD as an active partner in bird conservation and a number of installations subsequently found new partners through PIF for natural resource projects. My involvement with the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) brought awareness of DoD natural resource programs to the broader, all-bird community. My long-term partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) plus leadership in the federal Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds fostered a more open dialogue with FWS on migratory bird policy and technical matters. Word spread that there was a dedicated bird resource for DoD. Phone calls and email from federal and state agencies, non-governmental groups, professors and grad students, one misguided FOIA request, and even private citizens all pointed to one thing – DoD PIF was now a leader in bird conservation and people knew who to call with any questions about DoD and birds.
NMFWA. But perhaps the highlight of my DoD career has been my involvement with NMFWA. I found out quickly that my passion for birds was equally matched by the passion of military biologists for what they do. As Vice President and Program Chair in 2007, I naturally decided to focus on partnerships for the 2008 NMFWA meeting in Phoenix. When the Wildlife Management Institute learned about it, they decided they wanted to use the NMFWA partnerships theme. I agreed, but in exchange negotiated for a Special Session at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (the larger conference at which NMFWA occurs). This was the first Special Session to feature DoD. With the help of Steve Helfert (FWS liaison to DoD), we organized an all-star lineup for the session “Conservation Partnerships: Effective Military Natural Resources Conservation” – Peter Boice (Deputy Director, DoD Natural Resources), Benjamin Tuggle (FWS Regional Director), Duane Shroufe (Director, AZ Game and Fish Dept.), LTC Adrian Nagel (Garrison Commander, Camp Navajo), Bruce Thompson (Director, NM Dept. of Game and Fish), and Major General Michael Lehnert (Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West). This remains one of the best-attended sessions at the North American conference in the past decade, if not more, and did more to raise the visibility of DoD’s natural resources programs with state and federal natural resource leadership than any other single event. I like to think that the reason I was elected as the first contractor to be NMFWA president (“Oh, you’re not like other contractors…”) is because of the trust and respect I earned for both myself and the DoD PIF program through leadership and building partnerships. And though I have been but one of the many Presidents of NMFWA, each of us brings our own vision and set of priorities. It is that diversity of leadership that will continue to make NMFWA the outstanding partnership it is.

Being honored by your peers is one of the most rewarding aspects of any passion. I received the 2002 Partners in Flight National Leadership Award, which was presented at the Third International Partners in Flight Conference in front of my bird conservation peers. Last year I received a U.S. Forest Service Wings Across the Americas award, for my work with International Migratory Bird Day, in front of federal and state agency peers. But for me the most significant recognition has been from my DoD peers – the NMFWA Natural Resources Conservation Management, Model Programs Award. This is the ultimate acknowledgement of the positive impacts of my efforts. Even though I am leaving the DoD PIF program, I have faith that the foundation we have built together over the past 17 years will provide the stepping-stones for the conservation of birds and all natural resources on DoD lands for years to come.

As of September 1, 2014:
Chris Eberly
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
103 West Hwy. 332
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
979-480-0999

Yellow-headed Blackbird, © Chris Eberly, Sherbourne NWR, MN
HERP Working Group Chair

As we move forward to the new year and prepare for the upcoming annual NMFWA training workshop it is also time to start looking for a new herp working group co-chair to replace Mr. Jay Rubinoff as Jay has fulfilled his two year residency co-chair. Being a co-chair of the herp working group provides a great experience to build your resume. If you love herpetology and are looking for a new role to take on, consider this position!

If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to contact Valerie Arkell at 785-274-1388 or valerie.j.arkell.nfg@mail.mil.

Call for NMFWA BoD Nominations

Warning! Do not pass up this incredible opportunity. NMFWA is looking for people who are interested in being a part of the democratic process and run for the 2015-2016 NMFWA Board. The election of Officers and Regional & At-Large Directors shall take place in January 2015.

If interested or have questions about what position you would be perfect for please contact Coralie Cobb (Coralie.cobb@navy.mil) or Todd Wills (todd.wills@navy.mil) for more information.

DoD Natural Resources Community Websites

NMFWA is happy to introduce three websites developed by DoD and are designed to be outreach tools not only within DoD but also with other federal agencies, state and local governments and others partners with a nexus to the DoD natural resource community. These websites use photography as the foundation to allow members to share their photos with other members but also allow for document sharing, event announcements, and natural resource discussions. The DoD PARC site was the original website introduced in 2012 and based on its success (over 1,000 member photos posted). The DoD Natural Resource and DoD PIF sites were developed and released in the past few months. Free membership to one or all the websites is easy, just go to the website and sign up. Take a few moments to check them out!

DoD Natural Resources Website
https://dodnaturalresourceslibrary.shutterfly.com

DoD Partners in Flight (PIF) Website
https://dodpifphotosite.shutterfly.com

DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) Website
https://dodparcphotolibrary.shutterfly.com
Retirement Corner
Please join NMFWA in wishing the best for our newly retired members

Steve Getlein

Steve Getlein retired from federal service July 31, 2014. Steve was a long time employee at the Army Environmental Command (1996-2001/2005-2011) in Aberdeen, MD, and a member of NMFWA since the late 90s. He also supported the Marine Corps environmental program in Japan from 2001-2005 where he was once mistaken as a Dugong while diving and subsequently worshiped by locals for 4 days.

Bad ideas Steve was part of included the Vietnam War, some of the early wetland function models, the 1991 wetland delineation manual, rubber-sheeting early landscape image fill-ins, pretty much all fuzzy-focus, feel-good employee-development classes, natural resources strategic sourcing, huddles and GFEBS (General Fund Enterprise Business System).

More successful endeavors: promoting reversion to the 1987 wetland delineation manual, development and teaching several portions of the CECOS natural resources compliance class, leading a team that wrote a programmatic environmental assessment for graphite smoke generators as the generators were being painted at the factory, involvement in a mitigation conservation land purchase while the building was under construction and serving as activity environmental coordinator at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense.

Steve moved to Idaho in August, where he is studying fencing, taking tango lessons, having weekly paella in Boise's Basque district, teaching the ultra-survivalist families how to play canasta, and occasionally driving to the Sawtooth Mountains, where he continues his lifelong quest for areas, no matter how small, where one can stand for several minutes without hearing man- (or woman-) made noise and ponder the philosophical question - if a man makes a comment that his wife can't hear, is he still wrong

Congratulations on your retirement Steve!
Valerie Elliott

After 30+ years of government service, Valerie Elliott decided it was time to retire at the end of August. Ironically, her first day of retirement was Labor Day. Valerie has been working for the DoD since April 2001 at McChord Air Force Base and then Joint Base Lewis-McChord as a Natural Resource Planner. Her career has been varied, primarily working as a Fishery Biologist, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Minerals Management Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Marine Fisheries Service in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Valerie has been passionate about her work. Her successes have included changing project mitigation monitoring and accountability at the Seattle Army Corps of Engineers and the Washington State Department of Ecology, getting the McChord Field Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and designing and completing a successful cooperative agency dam bypass project, which garnered a NMFWS award.

Although she never practiced law, Valerie maintained that the knowledge she gained from law school (Lewis and Clark) and graduate school (Environmental Studies at Montclair State University (N.J.)) along with her forestry degree (B.S. Fish and Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho) provided her with a strong background for the natural resources work she performed.

Valerie plans to continue observing and photographing all things natural, going bowling, traveling, catching up on reading, doing more gardening, and having more fun with her cat. She also plans to volunteer as a naturalist with a local agency and to continue volunteering as a salmon steward with the local Stream Team.

Editor’s Note: Valerie was always a strong competitor in the annual Photo Contest. Here are two of my favorite entries.
Edward B. Kiker

Edward B. Kiker retired on 30 September 2014, after 39 years of government service, most of it working for Department of the Army in one capacity or another. Most of his career was spent working on various space programs, however for those NMFWA members who have been around a long time, he was also an award-winning natural resources specialist at Fort Greely, Alaska.

Mr. Kiker first went to Fort Greely as a Second Lieutenant in the early 1970’s. While there, he recognized the need for the installation to have a natural resources manager (at the time, there was no environmental program at all on Fort Greely), so he assisted the Facility Engineer and the Civilian Personnel Office to create a position description for one. After deployment to Korea and then to Fort Belvoir, Ed left active duty as a captain and returned to Fort Greely, where he was offered the position he had helped to create.

Ed would serve as the Natural Resources Manager at Fort Greely until about 1983. I (Junior Kerns) first met Ed Kiker when I was assigned, as a Second Lieutenant and would eventually become the Deputy Assistant Director of Facilities and Army Engineering. Basically, I worked as a wildlife biologist alongside of Ed, until I had a permanent change of station out of Alaska in December 1979.

In January 1980, Ed won the Army Chief of Staff Conservation Award and was a runner up for the Secretary of Defense Conservation Award that year. Although he never made it to one of our NMFWA meetings, he was one of the pioneers of natural resources management on military installations. His history is our history.

Ed Kiker spent most of the last 30 years following his passion for space development. Most folks did not realize that Ed had graduated from Harvard with a major in Lunar Geology. He had also worked with NASA and the Apollo 15 program to help select and map the landing site at Hadley Rill on the moon. Later, Ed would represent Alaska at many international space conferences. In the 1980’s, he was the Alaska State Director of Project High Frontier. In 1987, he accepted a position with the Army Space Institute. Mr. Kiker would later transfer to US Army Strategic Missile Defense Command in Colorado. In 2006, he made his final government move to Redstone Arsenal, AL. Ed’s final position with the Army was as Executive Officer of the Chief Technology Office for the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command with Army Forces Strategic Command.

He is currently working with NASA, through the Kepler Space Institute to develop technologies to mine and construct facilities on Mars, the Moon, and various asteroids. And just to keep busy, Ed Kiker has worked with the Boy Scouts of America his entire life. He was presented the Silver Beaver Award for his many years of selfless service to the Scouts. In his files, Ed has letters he exchanged with J. Edgar Hoover. More recently, Ed wrote to the Secretary of the Navy to suggest that our fleet be allowed to fly the First Navy Jack (flag), as a morale booster after 9/11. It still flies on our ships today.
The FAWN

Calling all Ansel Adams!

NMFWA is looking for photographs for the NMFWA display. We need photos of natural resources work on military installations to show off our work. Please contact Kirsten Christopherson to donate your photos.

Presentations from the 2014 NMFWA Annual Training Workshop, held in Denver Colorado, have been uploaded to the NMFWA website (www.nmfwa.net) and can be found under Conference Presentations. If you missed the Workshop, check out the more than 31 presentations that have been uploaded.

Center for Environmental Management
MILITARY LANDS
Colorado State University

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
OCTOBER 2014

The FAWN

John Haddix, Fort Wainwright, AK

Jason Gibbons
Air Force Environmental Center of Excellence, Travis AFB, CA

Rick Lance, ERDC-EL Vicksburg, MS

Michele Richards, Ft. Custer Training Center, MI

Greg Fleming, Ft. Belvoir, VA

James Swift, NAS Patuxent River, MD

Director At-Large
Seth Berry, Naval Support Facility, Indian Head, MD
Laura Muhs, NAVFAC Headquarters, Washington DC

2014/2015 Board of Directors
President—Todd Wills, Naval Support Activity, Monterey, CA
President–Elect—Coralie Cobb, NAVFAC Southwest, CA
Vice President—Elizabeth Neipert, Ft. Wainwright DTA, AK
Secretary—Nicole Olmstead, NAVFAC Mariannas
Treasurer—Lauren Wilson, Air Force Environmental Center of Excellence, Travis AFB, CA

The FAWN
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.

NMFWA is on FACEBOOK!

To follow us on Facebook, type in National Military Fish and Wildlife Association in the Facebook search bar and hit
Partners in Flight Webinars

Did you miss the last DOD PIF webinar? Don't worry, you can still access the presentations at the DOD PIF website: http://dodpif.org/involved/webinars.php

Introduction to Stressor Management
06/05/2014, Dr. Eric Kershner and Charisa Morris, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Avian Knowledge Network presentation (slides without any audio) by Leo Salas/Point Blue Conservation Science and Katie Koch/USFWS

Demonstration and Implementation of Autonomous Aerial Acoustic Recording Systems to Monitor Bird Populations in DoD Inaccessible Areas
Dr. Richard Fischer, US Army Environmental Research and Development Center

And check the website for the next webinar.

Military Natural Resources Professional Certification Program

Details of the certification program are located on the NMFWA website. New versions of the certification application are posted at the site and are available in both Word and PDF format.

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact Dan Savercool at Savercool@aol.com

Protect Our Lands for Future Generations

Earn your Sustainable Military Lands Management Certificate online from one of the nation’s top-ranked universities, and gain valuable land management skills and knowledge of cultural and ecological issues.
Conference Roundup

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
Baltimore, MD
August 9-14, 2015
[http://esa.org/baltimore/](http://esa.org/baltimore/)

[http://wildlifesociety.org/](http://wildlifesociety.org/)

Society for Range Management, Sacramento, CA, January 30 to February 7, 2015
[http://www.rangelands.org/events/](http://www.rangelands.org/events/)

Society of American Foresters National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT October 8-11, 2014
The list of NMFWA Board Members and Working Group Chairpersons can be found on the NMFWA website under Administration > Board of Directors.

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.