Hurricane Katrina

On Monday morning, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall at New Orleans packing 145 mile per hour winds. It then slammed the Mississippi Gulf Coast and traveled inland, paralleling Interstate 59 through Meridian, my hometown. Trees bent over double, rain careened down in sheets, and we lost electricity at about 2PM.

Tuesday dawned bright and clear. The new steel roof was still intact, only a few tree limbs were down in the yard, and work had been called off until 1PM. A friend called to say he had a tree down with four holes through his roof. I packed ropes and a chainsaw and cut my way through tangles of pines and downed power lines into his subdivision. Even before we finished clearing his roof, neighbors were asking for help with their trees.

At the Naval Air Station, Public Works employees and sailors had already cleared the power lines of trees. Several line crews were already replacing wires and poles. The commodore, the retired Commanding Officer, and an army of teenagers with rakes were clearing yards in the Housing area. The new Commanding Officer fired up his gas grill to cook the meat in the neighborhood’s defrosting freezers. It would be a week before power was restored. The retired CO still had a gas water heater that had not been replaced with an electric one; he provided hot showers to the neighborhood.

FEMA had already turned the airfield mat into a staging area for truckloads of food, water, and ice to supply the harder hit areas to the south. Forest fire teams in yellow fire shirts inventoried and directed trucks. Half of the hangar was transformed into a 500-bed field hospital.

About a tenth of the Station’s forest was lying on the ground, especially the hardwood bottomland and pine uplands near openings that funneled

continued ...... page 2
the wind. Holes left from last year’s Hurricane Ivan were greatly enlarged. Trees had toppled like dominos in swaths as one fell into the next and the next. We foresters spent the next four weeks in front of a bulldozer cutting up trees that had fallen across the gravel roads and begging loggers to come haul away the downed timber. We eventually found four logging crews, three of whom had cut for us before. On weekends and after work there were plenty of trees to be cut in Meridian. Volunteers from around the United States handed out water, ice, and hot meals by day and slept on the floor of the big churches downtown. They cooked for us when we had no power, they sweated and cried alongside of us when we had no strength.

I asked a volunteer from North Carolina helping chainsaw trees off the homes of strangers, “Why do you do this?” She asked me if I had read The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. I had. “Remember the first sentence? “It’s not about you,”” she replied with a smile.

Let me leave you with some other lessons learned.

1. “Be Prepared” - Going camping with the Boy Scouts on the weekend before a hurricane is not good preparation. My wife can testify.
2. Things can be replaced. Put your loved ones first, they cannot.
3. A positive attitude (faith), family, and caring friends make hard times bearable.
4. Hurricanes, though infrequent, still shape the Gulf Coastal ecosystem. They help favor longleaf pine with its open crown and deep taproot over other pines. Hurricanes (and subsequent fire) also account for why surveyor’s witness trees from 1833 (at the time of settlement) included few trees over 24 inches DBH.
On March 17, 2005, in Arlington, Virginia, Fort Carson, a U.S. Army training installation near Colorado Springs, Colo., received the first U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Military Installation Conservation Partnership Award. It recognizes Fort Carson’s outstanding environmental resource conservation and management leadership achievements. To achieve established conservation objectives, Fort Carson partners with agencies, universities, NGOs and the public to provide solid on-the-ground management of many declining native species, including the Mexican spotted owl, mountain plover, swift fox, peregrine falcon, greenback cutthroat trout and the Arkansas darter. In dealing with complex environmental issues on military lands in the Colorado Springs area, Fort Carson is working cooperatively with The Nature Conservancy, state and federal agencies, private landowners and others in developing a comprehensive conservation plan to address land use and declining native species. In addition, Fort Carson supports a diverse outdoor recreation program, including hunting, fishing and washable wildlife opportunities. As part of this effort to promote natural resources on military land and to shift toward more environmentally sustainable and socially responsible practices, Fort Carson is also working in partnership with the Colorado Front Range community on increased use of renewable energy, reduction in water use, increased use of public transportation, reductions in air pollution, and reducing waste disposal to zero.

The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management at Fort Carson is responsible for more than 340,000 acres within the central shortgrass prairie ecosystem and is a leader in the military arena in conservation of native species, outdoor recreation, law enforcement, cultural resource management and recycling/resource recovery.

The award officially commends the military for contributions it has voluntarily made to the public and whose contributions have benefited Service programs, services or operations. The Service recognizes that the military has made significant contributions to natural resource conservation and believes these contributions are deserving of recognition. The award was presented by the Dr. Mamie Parker, Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association workshop, held in conjunction with the 70th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, Virginia.
It’s never too early to be thinking about nominations for NMFWA awards that will be presented at the Association’s Training Workshop to be held in 2006 at Columbus, Ohio. Please take a minute to review the award information below and recognize those folks that are doing great natural resources work in your area. Remember, any individual can make a nomination (you don’t have to be a NMFWA member) and awards can be presented to any individual or group that meets the Special Achievement Award criteria below. Nominations should be submitted (using the form on the next page) via e-mail to Marian Lichtler, Awards Committee Chair, at marian.lichtler@avonpark.macdill.af.mil (I am new to this, so please be gentle with me).

The NMFWA Awards Committee will review all nominations and nominees will receive a plaque, award certificate or NMFWA Presidential congratulatory letter. Don’t delay – make your nominations today!

**NOMINATION CATEGORIES**

1. **SUPPORT**: For persons who indirectly assist natural resources.
   - a. Military Support of Natural Resources. This area is for military personnel who, through their position, have given support to natural resources programs above the norm.
   - b. Civilian Support of Natural Resources. This area is for civilians who have supported natural resources above the norm. Individuals may be employed by DOD or a supporting agency.

2. **VOLUNTEER**: For a group or an individual assisting in natural resources programs.
   - a. Education. This area is to recognize efforts in natural resources education. Includes interpretation, hunter education, troop training by individuals, groups or interagency cooperation.
   - b. Management. This area recognizes efforts on an installation which assist program managers in a variety of natural resources projects. Includes research, revegetation, fish/wildlife habitat enhancement, and endangered species management by interns, private citizens, groups or organizations.

3. **PROFESSIONAL**: For persons working in natural resources conservation. Includes both DOD and non-DOD employees.
   - a. Management. This area covers all aspects of natural resources management. Includes lifetime achievements, special projects, or anything showing great dedication to the profession.
   - b. Law Enforcement. This area recognizes any of the wide variety of professions dealing with fish and wildlife law enforcement. Includes game wardens, JAG officers, lawyers, judges etc.
   - c. Technical. This area recognizes people who are critical to natural resource management but who often go unrecognized. Individuals may include tractor and heavy equipment operators, biological technicians, clerical, laborers, or others who provide technical services to the program.
NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION
FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Person/Group Nominated

Nominee’s Address

Phone: DSN Commercial

Nominator

Nominator’s Address/activity

Phone: DSN Commercial

Award Category (circle one)

Support – Military
Support – Civilian
Professional – Management
Professional – Technical
Volunteer – Education
Volunteer – Management
Professional – Law Enforcement

Description of Accomplishments and/or Achievements: Please provide a 1-2 page description of the nominee’s accomplishments.

NOMINATIONS DUE TO MARIAN LICHTLER BY COB 1 FEB 2006.
Now is the time to start planning to attend our 2006 NMFWA meeting to be held in Columbus, Ohio, March 21-24, 2006. This year we will focus on ways Natural Resource/Land Managers support the military mission. Make your plans to attend now and check the NMFWA website for regular updates.

Our line-up of sessions and speakers looks outstanding. We’ll have a “Special Session” -DOD OPERATIONS AND LAND MANAGEMENT. This technical session is for invited speakers who will provide updates on future directions of the individual service branches from the operations prospective. Speakers provide suggestion on how Natural Resource/Land Managers can assist Operations in helping sustain training and testing ranges for future military needs.

And Seven Technical Sessions:

* Managing for the Mission
* Small Mammals and Bats
* Getting the message out
* Wetlands
* Big Game and Fur Bearers
* Grasslands
* Noise and Wildlife

There will also be five Working Group meetings (see below)

We’ll of course have our traditional Show and Tell Session led by Coralie Cobb (coralie.cobb@navy.mil), Poster Session coordinated by Don Pitts (Donald.Pitts@ERDC.usace.army.mil), Silent Auction coordinated by Don Pitts and Dick Gebhart (Dick.L.Gebhart@ERDC.usace.army.mil), and the Photo Contest led by Tessa Martin-Bashore (Tessa.Martinbashore@us.army.mil). Candy Kline (candace.kline@oh.ngb.army.mil) and Don Pitts are the Host Committee Chairs.

There will also be opportunities for a few brief, 3-5 minute presentations during the Working Group Meetings. These are not intended to compete with the 15 to 20-minute Technical Session presentations, but to provide updates, “field notes” or otherwise very brief coverage of an appropriate subject. Contact the Working Group Chair (listed on our website) if you’re interested. Working Group Meetings scheduled include: Bats; Amphibians and Reptiles; Invasive Species; Bird Air Strike Hazard; Partners in Flight, and Conservation Law Enforcement.

We’ve got a great event planned for the off-site Tuesday evening mixer, and the banquet site on Thursday night will be as always, at an outstanding location. Some good news; the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) has informed us that they are not raising their registration fees, and the logistics and facilities fee we pay to them will stay the same as last year. The Board of Directors, in cooperation with the Program and Host Committees, has not raised our registration fee which will be the same as last year, $300. Students will still receive a deep discount, and retiree registration will remain the same. The registration fee will allow us to throw you a few perks, and remember that our fees include the Show and Tell and banquet as well as all WMI fees (except their banquet). It remains outstanding training that is directly related to our association’s objectives and the support of training and readiness; $300 for four intense days of training is still a bargain, and if you can extend for a few days of WMI sessions, that’s even better. The 2006 meeting is coming together as an outstanding training opportunity. DON’T MISS IT!

Terry L. Bashore; Vice President & Program Chair
(Terry.Bashore@nmfw.org)
Proposed Session: Wetlands – Blessing? Or a Curse?

The DoD is charged with defending freedom and liberty, but must carefully balance protecting the concept called “freedom” – and the tangible land it lives on. Many of the vast and valuable Natural Resources of this great land (which are inseparable from the value of freedom and liberty) often seem to be stumbling blocks and hindrances to accomplishing this mission. Wetlands, though performing valuable functions, are many times the “thorn in the side” of a (sometimes needed, sometimes “perceived needed”) DoD activity.

This technical session provides examples of difficult situations posed by the presence of wetlands to DoD natural resource/land managers and what steps were taken to overcome these challenges. Presentations for this session will illustrate how Natural Resource Managers developed workarounds the restrictions of jurisdictional wetlands to ensure the continuation of the mission.

Looking for presenters from Natural/Cultural Resources programs, Legal offices, ITAM, Range Operations, Commercial Mitigation Bankers, etc.

Contact Bryan Henderson, 919-722-7440 or DSN 722-7440 for more information or e-mail at bryan.henderson@seymourjohnson.af.mil.

Items Needed for Silent Auction

Items are now solicited for the Silent Auction at the Show and Tell in Columbus, Ohio, Wednesday, March 22, 2006. This is a major fund raising event for our organization and has always been well supported by our membership. It is also the membership that donates the most interesting items! Please give this some thought and donate! Items have widely varied, from your arts and crafts, which always sell very well, to your local wines, tequilas and rumored moonshine. The coordinator is Dick Gebhart (ERDC-CERL-CN-C (Gebhart), P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826-9005, 217-373-5847 COM, 217-373-7266 FAX, d-gebhart@cecer.army.mil). Just notify him of the item(s) you wish to donate so he can plan the facilities and arrange to bring the donated items to the meeting in March.

Continued on page 8
Threatened & Endangered Bats and the DoD Mission

Managing threatened or endangered species of bats on installations can be challenging. Changes in the statuses of protected and non-protected bats, technological advances in bat management tools, and current research are likely to be of interest to many Land Managers. There will be a session on bat conservation and management during the 2006 NMFWA meetings in Columbus, OH. This session will look at current and past management actions for bats on installations, the future outlook for bat conservation in the United States, DoD funded research into bat conservation and management, and new technological advances in bat management.

Rick Lance (session chair) is looking for presenters who would like to speak about bat management, studies, or other actions undertaken on DOD installations. Please contact Rick Lance (e-mail: otus@bellsouth.net; tel: 601-634-8650; post: 145 Lake Side Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39180).

Poster Session

The Poster Session at Show and Tell, March 22, 2006 in Columbus, is an excellent avenue to showcase your program and tell us about your successes. Whether its interesting or innovative management or research, you’ve most likely got a story to tell and this is the opportunity. The poster session is open to all members, and you are highly encouraged to show us what you’ve got. We’ll provide you with the space and reasonable facilities you need, and you provide us with your knowledge and experience. The poster session was the original purpose of our annual meeting’s Show and Tell, and remains one of the most interesting features of our weeklong meeting. You provide the knowledge, variety and interest, and we’ll provide the medium. To facilitate planning and ensure we’re ready for your story, contact this year’s Poster Session coordinator Don Pitts at 202-367-4987 or d-pitts@cecer.army.mil

Proposed Session: Natural Resources Success Stories--Getting the Message Out.

The old philosophical question goes “If a tree falls in the forest and no human is there to witness the fall, does the falling tree make a sound?” A similar question might be “If you have a successful natural resources program on a military installation and no one knows about it, how does the program’s importance get stressed to the command, regulatory agencies and the many publics that are impacted or benefit from the program?”

This session will look at methods that have worked for some military NR programs in command briefings, communications to sportsmen via the Internet and other outlets, general information to newspapers and other mass medias, as well as how the program’s success can be brought to the attention of NGOs.

Looking for presenters from Natural Resources programs, Public Affairs offices, Morale-Welfare-Recreation, ITAM, etc.

Contact Jim Beemer, 845-938-3857, M-F, 0800-1630 EDT/EST for more info or e-mail at ravenwindrider@earthlink.net
The Department of Defense is standardizing the Conservation Law Enforcement Program (CLEP) to meet Federal standards for training, qualifications, and to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Standardization means significant change in the way many installations implement CLEP. This session is designed for conservation law enforcement officers, natural resource managers, attorneys, and program administrators involved with CLEP. Speakers will provide updates on the status of standardization within their Service or at their installation and discuss changes in their programs and lessons learned from standardization. Speakers can also provide suggestions on how Services can improve communication and cooperation between Services and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and on how NMFWA can provide advocacy and quality training opportunities to support standardization.

Looking for Conservation Officers and other MAJCOM or Headquarters-level CLEP representatives to provide presentations.

Contact: Stan Rogers; HQ Air Force Space Command; stanley.rogers@peterson.af.mil; DSN 692-9915, or Comm: 719-554-9915

A U.S. Air Force C-130J Hercules delivered “Noah,” a rough-toothed dolphin to Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach, FL on 15 July 05.

The dolphin came from the Texas State Aquarium’s SeaLab facility, where Noah underwent rehabilitation after being stranded in August 2004, and was reunited with two other rough-toothed dolphins in preparation for their release back into the Gulf of Mexico.

Noah was accompanied by Dr. Tim Tristan, Texas State Aquarium’s veterinarian, and Lea Walker, Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network volunteer. The C-130 crew of five from the Air Force Reserve Command’s 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, MS, provided the airlift support from Texas to Tyndall AFB, FL.

Airlift was arranged through Coastal America, a partnership of 12 federal agencies and the Executive Office of the President, state and local governments, and private organizations. The partners work together to protect, preserve and restore our nation’s coastal resources. Coastal America works with the Department of Defense to link military missions and training requirements with coastal needs, and Texas State Aquarium is a partner with Coastal America.
Fort Hood is an 88,500 ha U.S. Army base located in the Lampasas Cut-Plains region of north-central Texas. The installation is in a karst landscape characterized by wooded limestone mesas with sinkholes, caves, springs, and rock shelters; grassland valleys separate the mesas. Cave adapted invertebrates and bats rely upon the unique, sensitive habitat provided within the karst features. A maternal colony of 10,000-12,000 cave myotis bats, a species of concern, rely upon Shell Bat Cave for roosting, and raising pups; due to topography, the area is also favored by military units for training. In 2004, we replaced the existing cave gate with a bat-friendly gate and established a protective buffer around the maternal cave. Additionally, we restored the surface at two abandoned bat caves located on the installation.

Shell Bat Cave is located near the edge of a mesa; it is a 117 m long, 11 m deep breakdown cave with a warm air dome. Human disturbance, military training, and trash dumping threaten the cave and the bats. In 1995, the cave was cleaned and an A-frame tent gate, for use by the bats, was installed over the emergence pit (figure 1). Analysis of gate dimensions and emergence observations noted during monitoring demonstrated that the gate was restrictive and dangerous to the bats during emergence. In 2004, the tent gate was replaced with a bat friendly cupola style box gate (figure 2). With the improved gate design: length nearly doubled from 1.65 m to 3.05 m; angle iron spacing (distance between horizontal bars which bats negotiate) increased 64% from 3.5 in to 5.75 in; gate volume (space between gate and emergence pit) increased 1200% from .91 m$^3$ to 12.5 m$^3$; and useable surface area (gate space exited by bats) increased 900% from 1.65 m$^2$ to 16.3 m$^2$. Gate change provides a faster and safer emergence for the bats, as well as roost protection against human disturbance. The change had no detectable impact on population numbers, and roost climate is currently being monitored.

Mesas with a commanding view of valleys are used by armor and infantry units to develop and maintain war-fighting tactics. Hilltop Access Trails (HATs) provide access to the mesa, maximize position defense training, and link lowland-to-highland tank trails. A HAT was constructed up the mesa slope 126 m away from the cave. This newly built trail allows large numbers of heavy armor and wheeled military vehicles near and on top of the cave, especially during nighttime maneuvers when the bats are emerging. To protect the colony from intense vehicle noise and physical disturbance, we created a highly visible diverter trail which deflects traffic 85 m away from the cave. Large rocks and pushed brush placed parallel to the diverter trail cordon off the 85 m safe zone; we also established an additional rock barrier in a 5 m radius around the cupola gate. These measures ensure that units still have access to the general area, and that the bats have protection via “natural” barriers.

Two additional caves once were roosts for thousands of cave myotis bats. It is unknown why the bats abandoned these roosts, but the emergence pits to both were completely blocked by closed canopy forest and shrubland. To provide ample flight space and make the caves visible to bats, we cleared all woody vegetation in a 7.5 m radius around the emergence pits. Additionally, we are monitoring these caves for evidence of bat recolonization, as well as the cave climate. Because the caves are in the live fire range, which has restricted access, there is no need to install gates on them. By having these abandoned caves suitable for and available to bats, we hope to increase our population and have “back-up” roosts should disaster befall the Shell Bat Cave colony.

Charles E. Pekins – Wildlife Biologist, Fort Hood Natural Resources Branch
Two meetings on bat conservation and management were recently held in Sacramento, California. The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS) conducted a “Natural History and Management of Bats Symposium” on 17-19 Oct 2005. This event was a two-day workshop featuring presentations by Dr. Patricia Brown, Dr. Elizabeth Pierson, and many other recognized bat researchers. Rhys Evans, 29 Palms Marine Corps Base, is co-chair of the Professional Development Committee of the TWS Western Section and served as the workshop organizer and coordinator. Presentations and demonstrations were provided on bat ecology, conservation, behavior, survey methodology, habitat evaluation, and status of western bat species. Roosting and foraging habitat requirements of western bats were highlighted throughout the meeting, and emphasis was placed on management considerations for species dependent on forest resources and caves and mines. A series of presentations also covered ultrasonic detectors, telemetry surveys, genetic tools, water resources, riparian issues, agriculture, bats and bridges, bats and buildings, and issues with urban expansion and wind turbines. Presentations on agency/organization perspectives and initiatives were made by invited representatives of federal, state, and local agencies and conservation organizations. I provided an overview presentation titled “The Department of Defense and Bat Management.”

The “35th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research” was held in Sacramento on 19-22 Oct 2005. The symposium included approximately 100 oral presentations and 55 posters on a diversity of bat research projects. Presentations made by NMFWA members were an oral paper titled “Development of an Automated Bat Counter for Large Emergences Using Digital Thermal Infrared Videography” by Bruce Sabol, Environmental Lab (EL), ERDC (co-authored with Robert Currie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Edie Melton, EL, ERDC), and a poster titled “Preliminary Assessment of Land-use and –Cover Change near Indiana Bat Hibernacula” by Matt Hohmann, CERL, ERDC (co-authored with Michael Just, University of Illinois). The meeting also included a workshop on “Innovative Techniques in Teaching,” a teacher workshop on “Bats of California,” and a special session on the potential impact of wind turbines on bats. Wind farms are being constructed at an accelerated rate across North America and have the potential to affect the populations of several bat species, especially migratory species. Thus, wind energy has been identified as a major conservation issue on an international scale. The Executive Committee of the North American Bat Conservation Partnership (NABCP) also met in conjunction with the symposium; I participated in this meeting as a federal representative to the NABCP.

Chester Martin, Chair – NMFWA Bat Working Group

**Upcoming Bat Meetings:**


10-12 Jan 2006. 3rd Annual Meeting of the Northeast Bat Working Group, East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA. POC: Susi von Oettingen (Susi_vonOettingen@fws.gov).


16-17 Feb 2006. 11th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and 16th Colloquium on Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern United States, Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Chattanooga, TN. See meeting announcement on www.sbdn.org/).
Wildlife Management Institute's prestigious Touchstone and Presidents Awards

Nominations may be submitted now for the Wildlife Management Institute's 2006 Touchstone and Presidents awards. These awards recognize exceptional professional creativity, ingenuity and tenacity in effecting a particular program that, within the past several years, has notably advanced the cause or prospect of sound resource management and conservation in North America. Nominations can be for programs in any natural resource discipline.

The Presidents Award honors a state, federal, provincial or other natural resource agency's or institution's division, department, office or program for some unique, innovative and successful program. The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Water Development Program received the 2005 Presidents Award.

The Touchstone Award salutes a natural resource management professional or group of professionals in the public and/or private sector for a program of creativity, "above and beyond" effort and accomplishment. The 2005 Touchstone Award recipients were the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association for their joint "Walk A Mile In My Boots" program.

Nominations for either award must be received by December 1, 2005. Nominations must include a letter that specifies (1) the name and mailing and email addresses of the prospective nominee(s), (2) the name and mailing and email addresses of the nominator(s), (3) a brief synopsis of the accomplishment, including its origin and dates, and (4) the names and phone numbers of three individuals who can give independent testimony about the value, scope and other merits of the achievement.

The awards will be announced and presented at the 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, which will be held in March 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. Award winners will be profiled in the 71st Conference Transactions.

Nominations must be received by December 1, 2005 at: WMI Awards, Wildlife Management Institute, 1146 19th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036, or by email to <mailto:bmckown@wildlifemgt.org>.

For other information about the awards, including other previous awardees, go to <http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/pages/awards.html>.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:

31 DECEMBER for JANUARY 2006 Edition

Articles on installation activities or other issues relevant to the association may be submitted through your respective Regional Directors (Eastern Region—Tessa Martin-Bashore and Tim Beatty; Western Region —Sabrina Kirkpatrick or Kirsten Christopherson) or sent directly to me. Electronic files should preferably be in MS Word©, Times New Roman font (12). One or two clear pictures (JPG) may be used (more may be negotiated), barring space constraints.

Mike Passmore (michael.f.passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil)
DoD Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species on DoD and Adjacent Lands Symposium and Workshop

DoD Symposium Brings Together Nation’s Top Endangered Species Researchers:

7-9 June 2005, Baltimore, MD

Developing effective methods for sustaining the Department of Defense (DoD) training and testing missions, while simultaneously protecting threatened and endangered species, is a challenge requiring strong partnerships that support ongoing cutting-edge scientific research. Establishing and fostering such partnerships was the focus of this DoD symposium which, for the first time, brought together nearly 200 stakeholders to discuss threatened and endangered species conservation and research needs on DoD and adjacent lands.

The event was sponsored by DoD’s Strategic Environmental Research and Development (SERDP) and the Army’s Environmental Research and Development Center, as well as the DoD Legacy Program, U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Participants included researchers and managers from DoD, all the military services, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and various non-profit organizations, state agencies, universities, and private consulting firms.

To read the full article, please see: www.serdp.org/tesworkshop.

Katharine Kerr [kkerr@hgl.com]
The Department of Defense Legacy Program has recently initiated a revision of the handbook *Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands*, originally published in 1996.* The new edition of this handbook is being developed by NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with the DoD, and will incorporate experiences gained over the past decade by military natural resources managers, as well as best practices from the biodiversity conservation community.

As part of the development process, NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy are seeking help of military natural resources managers to ensure that the new handbook best meets their needs. Specifically, they are seeking input to:

1. Identify those conservation issues and land management approaches of greatest interest to the military community
2. Document significant updates in the legal, policy, or scientific arenas that affect DoD conservation efforts; and
3. Highlight successful projects where biodiversity protection and military objectives both were achieved.

NatureServe recently sent an online survey to DoD natural resources managers in order to obtain their opinions. If you received this survey and have not yet responded to it, please do so by mid November. If you did not receive the e-mail invitation, please participate now. This survey is available at the link below until mid November. NatureServe expects the survey will take most people less than 30 minutes to complete and we hope that all NMFWA members will take this opportunity to influence this effort to help guide DoD conservation activities, while supporting DoD in efficiently carrying out its military mission.

**SURVEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THIS LINK THROUGH MID-NOVEMBER:**

*The original 1996 handbook is available online at: [https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Biodiversity/biodiversity.html](https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Biodiversity/biodiversity.html)*

**Nancy Benton, NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia**
RAISE YOUR HAND! RUN FOR OFFICE!!

NMFWA elections will have a couple of different twists this year. First, this is the first year contractors can run for office. Contractors that are eligible for office are those that meet the voting requirements, that being “full-time contractors involved in natural resources management on military installations”. At this time the Nominations Committee would like to receive nominations for the following offices:

- President Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- At-large Director (1 position)
- Regional Director- East (1 position)
- Regional Director- West (1 position)

Now for the second twist, we hope to hold the election, on line, during the month of December and announce the results in January so that the winners can make arrangements to attend the meeting to participate in all the Board activities. This means that we need to have a slate together by the end of November. I know I asked several people to run at the last meeting but since I have “senior moments” more frequently now please contact me again to throw your name in the ring. The closer we get to November the more arm-twisting I will need to do to insure we have a full slate. Nominees should not be concerned about being overwhelmed by tasks assigned to new Board members – ample guidance and assistance will be provided by members who have previously held the various offices. Prospective nominees should also realize that serving as officers and committee chairs of a professional organization such as NMFWA will provide leadership training and should help with an individual’s professional development.

Upon acceptance of the nomination, information required from the nominee will be requested for the ballot. Please contact Jim Bailey at: Jim.Bailey@nmfwa.org if interested in serving in any of the above positions. I can also be reached at DSN 298-6748. Additional voting information will provided with the ballot on our website.
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.