Now is the time to submit your articles on events or field studies taking place on your installation.

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THE WILD SIDE
Rhys Evans – NMFWA President

In this newsletter, you’ll find a reprint of two articles from BATS magazine, originally published by Bat Conservation International (BCI). I’ve been a member of BCI for more than a decade, I think. One thing I really like about BCI is that they only ask me for a donation twice per year, unlike so many other organizations that send 2-3 “urgent” letters asking for contributions every month.

When we asked for (and obtained) permission to reprint this article, their editor wrote “I was very pleased...to find that the military was so actively involved” in bat conservation. That also tells us that we can work a bit harder to get the word out about other good things we do on our installations. It’s not a question of “if a tree falls in a forest...,” but if we don’t tell people about the good things we’re doing, there is certainly somewhat less of an impact.

In my last “Wild Side,” I told you that I’d like to take a few minutes to introduce you to the new members of your Board of Directors. I take that back...I’d like to make it even better. I’ve asked each of the officers and directors to write a very brief biography, so we’re no longer just names and e-mail addresses (at least for those of you who don’t come to our annual meetings and drink beer with us...).

Though it’s a work in progress, check out what we’ve started on our website (click on “Board Members” at the top menu).

Mike Passmore is assembling a great program for 2007 in Portland. We’ve got a banquet site locked up and several top-notch Technical Sessions coming your way. One really cool detail is that the great Portland light rail system will get you from the airport to our conference.

Continued on next page
hotel for only $1.35! There’s still some room in the program, so if you’re interested in presenting a paper, or you can blackmail an associate to do so, look on page 11 to see if your topic fits into one of the technical sessions or working group meetings. And everyone, keep an eye on our website, as it will always be the best place to obtain the most up-to-date meeting details.

In a few weeks, we’re going to start our 2007 election for officers and directors. We’ll announce it as widely as we can, but let me just say now that it would be a great idea to make a note on your calendar to vote in early November. The election will, we hope, conclude by December. We’d like to give our successful candidates additional time to obtain travel orders so they can come to Portland. There are also a few procedural questions to be asked on the ballot, specifically a few bylaws changes.

Congratulations to At-Large Director Coralie Cobb and her husband Jess (our former webmaster). They’re expecting the autumn ’06 arrival of NMFWA’s President for the years 2051-2052. Coralie has repeatedly complained about being called a “Large Director,” but that title probably applies right now! Hopefully, she and Jess will post a photo of “Baby Cobb” for us on their website. Coralie also received her status as a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist recently, so that’s even more good news.

Speaking of Certification, President-Elect Terry Bashore’s been working on the NMFWA Certification program, it should be ready for intense member review, comment, and (we hope) approval by the time we meet in Portland.

A final note: Our website’s “Bulletin Boards” are again functional (see next page). PLEASE use these great resources. Post questions, suggest solutions to other members’ problems and find some great candidates for important job vacancies. These boards are for you, they’re awesome when used properly, and they’ll go away if they’re not used. You have to register to start a “string” or respond to a question, but it’s quick and easy.

As always, the NMFWA Board of Directors is here to serve you, our members. So, if you have comments, suggestions, praise or questions, send them to me. If you have any complaints, contact your Regional Directors! All the best! Rhys

WHOA! Before you read on, Take Note! 
The FAWN is moving to default electronic distribution, starting Jan. 2007! If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy, please alert the editor, Rick Lance, at richard.lance@nmfwaw.org or 145 Lake Side Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39180.
The NMFWA Bulletin Board – an underutilized resource...

There’s a vastly underutilized resource available to NMFWA members – we call it the Bulletin Board. Located on our website (www.nmfwa.org; click on Bulletin Board in the upper menu), this is like the thing in your front office, only much bigger, and read by more people. You can share important information, news, announcements, opinions, and maybe even a relevant (and clean) joke or two.

We also have a Job Bulletin Board, which is intended for posting vacancy announcements, inquiries, sharing Position Descriptions, and a lot more (though, since it’s open to the world, you shouldn’t share any personal information). Persons looking for work are also welcome to post info here (but don’t post your resume).

We’ve resolved an issue that arose a few years ago on the boards due to a scumbag who kept posting inappropriate material. You will now be required to register (very quick and very easy) and, yeah, remember AN-OTHER password and username. We apologize for this extra step, but it will help us keep the site clean. We will continue to immediately remove any inappropriate material.

We won’t ask you to visit the bulletin boards daily, but we truly think that a weekly visit may help you do your job! It should help you find qualified staff, help you get answers to vexing questions, and allow you to show everyone how smart you are when you respond to someone else’s vexing question. So, please, folks, use this awesome resource, or it may just go away.

If you suspect our record of your postal or e-mail address is out of date, send your updated info to Richard.Lance@nmfwa.org. We’re getting a lot of retuned post and e-mail!

DoD Endorsement Letter

A DoD endorsement letter is available for our Annual Meeting in Portland (March 19-24, 2007), and is available for download on our website (click on "2007 Meeting").

DoD endorsement may facilitate and expedite getting travel orders for this key training opportunity.
VOTE!

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can, And the Wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Neibuhr 1892-1971

One of the things you can change is who represents you on the NMFWA board. You do have a choice. Take courage and make a difference!

NMFWA elections are being held several months early to allow candidates plenty of time to arrange funding and travel for the annual meeting and Natural Resources Training Session (Portland, 20-24 March 2007).

The Nominations Committee sweated through the summer finding qualified volunteers to run for positions on the Board. Please take time to read what they have said in the enclosed candidate statements (pages 5-10). Then go to www.nmfwa.org and click on the spinning VOTE arrow. Ballots are open 5 November until midnight on 8 December. Candidate statements will also be available on the website.

Not satisfied with some of the candidates? Maybe you should run for office next year! Contact rhys.evans@nmfwa.org to volunteer and change the things you can!

Jim Copeland, Immediate Past President

List of Candidates for the 2007

President Elect

Mike Passmore – Environmental Lab, US Army ERDC, Vicksburg, MS

Vice President

Chris Eberly – DOD Partners-In-Flight, Wash, DC
Dick Gebhart – Construction Engineering Research Lab, US Army ERDC, Champaign, IL

Director-at-large

Randy English – Yuma Proving Ground, AZ
Elizabeth Evans – Fort Bragg, NC

Western Regional Director

Kirsten Christopherson – Beale AFB, CA
Wally Haussamen – Fort Hunter Liggett, CA

Eastern Regional Director

Tessa Martin-Bashore - Fort Eustis, VA
Dan Gonnering - Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, WI

Secretary

Helene Cleveland – Army Environmental Center, MD
CANDIDATES for NMFWA Board of Directors

Mike Passmore – candidate for President-Elect

I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist and have been working with the US Army Corps of Engineers for 26 years. Since Aug. 2005, I have been Deputy Director (acting) of the Environmental Laboratory, Engineer Research and Development Center, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. I started my career in 1980 as a Wildlife Biologist with the Corps’ District office in Walla Walla, Washington and enjoyed working all across the Snake River Basin of the Northwest. In 1996, I moved to the Environmental Lab to become Chief of the Ecological Resources Branch.

I grew up in Northern California and received my BS and MS degrees (wildlife science) from Oregon State University. I was a Graduate Fellow of the Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation in Texas, where I completed my PhD at Texas A&M University (Wildlife Ecology/Ornithology). During my college years, I worked for the International Biological Program (Oregon), Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (Pink Salmon research), and California Dept. of Fish and Game (Upland Game research). I’ve been active in The Wildlife Society for many years, holding several positions, including: Associate Editor of the TWS Bulletin (’98-’00) and Newsletter editor for the Biodiversity Working Group Executive Board (’02-present).

I’ve been a member of NMFWA since 1986. I was Newsletter Editor and Membership Chairman for 1999-2006. I am currently Vice President and Program Chairman for the 2007 NMFWA Training Sessions in Portland, OR. I hope to further serve our organization as President-Elect while NMFWA continues to grow and influence the conservation and management of natural resources on DOD lands.

I am married and have a daughter, 2 sons, and 2 grandsons. Photography, hunting, fishing, and birding comprise most of my outdoor activities.

Chris Eberly – candidate for Vice-President

NMFWA is a dynamic organization poised to increase the value-added leadership it provides to DoD and the DoD natural resources. The annual meeting at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference is a fantastic opportunity to attract the attention of wildlife and natural resources professionals not yet familiar with the exceptional work that NMFWA members do every day. It is also the best forum for educating DoD leadership on a wide array of topics in which NMFWA members are actively involved. NMFWA has done very well in raising its stature through this meeting. My hope is to expand the visibility and partnerships for DoD natural resource professionals, both within and outside of NMFWA, through the technical program of the annual NMFWA meeting.

I have been Program Manager of the Department of Defense Partners in Flight (PIF) program since 1997. I consult with the DoD natural resources community on bird conservation issues and communicate with NMFWA members and others regarding legislation and current events related to bird conservation that may impact DoD land management. I have visited more than 80 current or former military installations.

Continued on next page
Chris Eberly cont. – I grew up in Pennsylvania and received a B.S. in computer science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1981. After working 2 years as a programmer-analyst and 9 years for Hewlett-Packard in computer support, I returned to grad school at The University of Georgia in 1992. I received an M.S. in natural resources management with a focus in ornithology in 1996. During grad school I was active in Georgia Partners in Flight, the Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas, and the Student chapter of The Wildlife Society. While serving as president of the Oconee Audubon Society in Athens, GA, I helped organize the joint annual meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and Georgia Ornithological Society in 1995.

Leadership roles at the national Partners in Flight level have included chair of the Implementation Committee (national steering committee), chair of the Federal Agency Committee, webmaster of the PIF web site <www.partnersinflight.org>, and Vice Chair of the PIF Northeast Working Group. I am on the steering committee for the 4th International PIF Conference to be held in 2008. Ongoing roles include Communications Working Groups for Partners in Flight and both the U.S. and International Committees of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). I received the national Partners in Flight Leadership Award in 2001.

I have written or been involved with articles about DoD’s role in bird conservation in Bird Conservation, National Wildlife, Birding, Hawk Migration Studies, Federal Facilities Environmental Journal and Currents magazines, and edit the ongoing series about birding on DoD lands in the newsletter of the American Birding Association, Winging It.

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Dick L. Gebhart – candidate for Vice-President

U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center
Construction Engineering Research Laboratory

1991 Ph.D. Range Science Utah State University
1985 M.S. Agronomy University of Nebraska-Lincoln
1982 B.S. Range Management University of Wyoming

I am presently Acting Branch Chief/Project Manager for the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch where I provide oversight for the Sustainable Military Land Management and Terrestrial Invasive Species Research Programs. I have over 20 years experience in the areas of rangeland ecology, military land management, revegetation, erosion control, dust control, and weed management. My past service to NMFWA includes Invasive Species Working Group Chairperson and Secretary, Awards committee member, Silent Auction Chairperson 2005-2007, and Director at Large. I have enjoyed these activities immensely, learned a lot about how NMFWA operates, made many new friends, and wish to continue my service to NMFWA as your candidate for Vice President. If elected, I will continue to be an enthusiastic proponent and market the collective professional abilities represented by the NMFWA membership wherever and whenever the opportunities present themselves. I am honored to be associated with this group of dedicated, knowledgeable, and talented natural resources professionals and will strive to improve the external and internal visibility and reputation of NMFWA as a premier source of information and guidance for sustainable military land use and natural resources management.

Continued on next page
NMFWA BOD Candidates continued from previous

Randy English – candidate for Director-at-Large

Randy English is the Conservation Manager for the 840,000-acre U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). His mission at YPG is to conserve the integrity of the installation’s natural and cultural resources in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, policies, and regulations and in support of its desert testing mission. Randy is the team leader for a conservation staff comprised of a conservation manager, cultural resources manager, wildlife biologist, and archaeologist. In addition to coordinating closely with YPG personnel to integrate resource conservation and military mission activities, Randy spends a great deal of effort fostering partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public, and in conducting public education and outreach.

Randy has been at YPG since 2002. Before coming to Arizona, Randy worked as a biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District, as a fisheries biologist aide for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and as a researcher for the Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center. He received his Honors Degree (BS) in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the Pennsylvania State University, completing both the Behrend Honors Program and the Schreyer Scholar Program. Randy is also a veteran of the United States Army.

Randy enjoys being outdoors, hiking, camping, and fishing. He is a member of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team, and Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative Southwest Arizona Committee.

Randy knows that the notion of managing natural and cultural resources on military installations as if they exist within a vacuum is obsolete. Although DoD resource managers are some of the most well trained, experienced, and highly motivated individuals in the country, the daunting task of managing an installation’s increasingly limited resources in the face of more and more demanding military mission requirements can be overwhelming. For that reason, organizations such as NMFWA that promote the sharing of information, ideas, and expertise across DoD and beyond, are crucial to resource and mission sustainability. Randy hopes that through his participation in NMFWA, whether it be as professional member or at-large director, he can continue to develop strong working relationships to benefit resource conservation.

Elizabeth Evans – candidate for Director-at-Large

My first introduction to the NMFWA organization was in 2003 when Fort Bragg hosted the Conference in Winston-Salem North Carolina, I was recruited as part of the Fort Bragg conference committee and volunteered to help in any capacity needed. I set up the field trip to one of North Carolina’s State Parks-Pilot Mountain, assisted with the computer presentations and taking photos of the event to name a few. I learned many things throughout the week on how to run a successful conference and had a great time working with members from across the country. I attended the next conference in Spokane Washington and assisted in setting out the auction items. In both years, I entered the Photography Contest and won 1st place in Military Activities in 2003 and 1st place in Botany in 2004. NMFWA gives us a common place to discuss and learn from the challenges we face on our installations; challenges that supersede habitat type, which section of DoD we work for, or what side of the country we work on. It also gives us an opportunity to showcase our accomplishments and reward hardworking personnel by presentations and the awards program. I would like to assist in promoting the good things we accomplish at the installation level, as well as being a member of NMFWA.

I was raised in the Northeast corner of Vermont (near the edge of the earth). I grew up learning to hunt, fish
NMFWA BOD Candidates continued from previous

Elizabeth Evans cont. – and camp, along with a healthy appreciation for nature. With my love of biology, I entered into the Wildlife Program at the University of New Hampshire. There I worked at the Wildlife Research facility and assisted in a couple of graduate projects. At UNH, I also became a member of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and have been a member of the national chapter since 1987. Financially challenged, I transferred back in-state to the University of Vermont and completed my B.S. in Wildlife Management in 1990. At UVM, one of my jobs was making study skins out of freezers full of dead birds. The smallest being a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the largest a Snowy Owl.

After college, my first job was as a research assistant, under contract with the University of Florida, at Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida surveying for Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees. This was my first introduction to military installations and their vast unseen resources. Besides surveying for the cavity trees, I was a member of the some of the first teams to initiate banding of Red-cockaded Woodpecker populations. In 1993, I left Florida and moved north. I landed a position on Fort Bragg Military Installation in the Sandhills of North Carolina. I started out as a temporary Biological Science Technician and, over the past 13 years, have worked my way up to a permanent Wildlife Biologist. My job duties include monitoring, data entry, protection, habitat restoration, and surveying for Fort Bragg’s endangered and rare species. The majority of my work is with Red-cockaded Woodpecker but I am also responsible for conducting educational presentations to the military and general public. I am currently on two education committees with Fort Bragg and the NCTWS, and have completed an ecosystem brochure.

Like most, I started in this field to be “out in the woods” and away from people. As we move up, we spend less and less in the field. I am more fortunate than most in that my job gives me the flexibility to be in the field one day with a chainsaw 20ft up in a pine tree, cutting out a hole for a nest box, and the next as a guest speaker at the Environmental Compliance Class, educating soldiers, civilian, and contractors about endangered species and Fort Bragg’s ecosystem. I am never bored!

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Kirsten Christopherson – candidate for Western Regional Director

I am currently the Chief of the Conservation Element in the Environmental Flight at Beale Air Force Base in north central California. My favorite projects at the base include riparian, vernal pool, and native grassland restoration; I enjoy involving volunteers, interns, and local college students in these projects to promote environmental education. I am the Treasurer of the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist. I graduated with degrees in Zoology and Biological Conservation from the University of California, Davis (B.S., 1994) and California State University, Sacramento (M.S., 2000).

In 1999, when I was still relatively new to the world of DoD, I attended my first NMFWA annual meeting. I quickly realized that there were many dedicated people in the DoD who faced challenges similar to mine. I have attended every meeting since. Two years ago I became more involved in the organization when I was elected to the Board as a Western Regional Director. I ran for the position because it is important to me to support an organization that promotes conservation on military lands and provides a forum for exchange of ideas for those of us entrusted with protecting these important resources. If elected again, I will continue to support the Board of Directors and the Association through spreading the word about regional issues to the westerners via the membership email list. Additionally, I plan to sign up to work various issues on committees, as needed. For example, I am currently working on making some changes to the NMFWA bylaws to add a Central Region (and thus, Central Regional Director), so that we can make sure each region has better representation on the Board. There are a lot of great ideas that come up at the board meetings, and they often just need someone to take the time to implement them. I hope to continue to be one of those people.

Continued on next page
Wally Haussamen – candidate for Western Regional Director

Greetings – I’ve been advised that it takes several years to break into the ranks of the NMFWA Board of Directors, especially as a Regional Director. I am not one to compete for something without the intent of reaching the goal; so here goes.

I am the Natural Resource Manager at Fort Hunter Liggett, California, a 165,000 acre U.S. Army Reserve Command training facility. I am the keeper of all things associated with nature on the installation, including the human uses of those natural things and most especially all associated aspects of supporting the installations training mission. I think the term “Jack-of-all-trades” applies well to this job. I’ve been at this job and a NMFWA member since 2002.

My previous work experience involved 25 years with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in various capacities as a Game Warden, Research Biologist, Research Branch Supervisor, Big Game Manager, and Wildlife Areas Supervisor. My experience was primarily with big game species including mule deer, elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain lion. I managed to see that a couple of these long-term research projects evolved into computer population and environmental models that were integrated into species management. I also supervised a couple of fisheries research projects one culminating in a strategic planning model.

My ecological training came in the form of Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University in 1972 and 1974, respectively. The rest of my training has come from the school of hard knocks. Most of my bumps, bruises, and triumphs over the years have come from managing people and working with difficult management systems rather than from the science that I thought of as my passion in life. So, I’ve spent a good deal of my career in helping good people learn to work productively in difficult management systems and with each other.

I bring to NMFWA this diverse background of a sound science foundation and experience in helping scientists get the scientific information into the decision process. This has been particularly helpful for me during the past four years in trying to integrate and balance mission with conservation. I would be honored to serve as the Western Regional Director to NMFWA should the membership choose to grant me the opportunity.

Tessa Martin-Bashore – Candidate for Eastern Regional Director

Tessa Martin-Bashore serves as the Training Land Manager for Fort Eustis, VA where she acts as the primary assistant to the Chief, Training Division by participating in the management and operational functioning of the training lands. She is responsible for planning, conducting and monitoring land management programs, which include the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Program, and for advising all echelons of the installation staff on professional and technical matters pertaining to the conservation of natural resources, maintaining high quality training environments, and environmental laws and regulations pertaining to range and training area management. Prior to becoming part of the civil service, Tessa worked as a DoD environmental contractor.

I wish to serve as Eastern Regional Director. If elected, I will actively strive to enhance communication and cooperation between operators and natural resource managers to sustain the military mission and conservation management goals. I will work toward establishing a strong network for exchanging information among and between NMFWA membership, DoD land management associations, as well as the various regulatory agencies.
NMFWA BOD Candidates continued from previous

Dan Gonnering – candidate for Eastern Regional Director

Dan is the Natural Resource Manager for Volk Field CRTC and Hardwood Air to Ground Weapons Range. He has worked for the Wisconsin Air National Guard for fourteen years. Prior to his current position, he worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Horicon office, where he alternated, as a limited term employee (LTE), between fisheries and wildlife management. Dan has an Associate Degree in Wildlife and Forestry from Fox Valley Technical College in Wisconsin and is currently working on a BS in Environmental Management through Columbia Southern University.

Current duties as the Natural Resource Manager revolve around wildlife management, pest management, forestry, cultural management, and assisting the environmental manager with hazardous waste and assorted environmental projects.

I have been a member of NMFWA since 1993. Though never holding office, I’ve presented and chaired talks, along with assisting with AV and rating presentations for awards during our annual meetings. I view NMFWA as more than just another organization, but as a clearing house of cutting edge, out of the box ideas that are extremely useful to anyone wishing to learn and use. As Eastern Regional Director, I would love to assist others getting the most out of NMFWA.

*************************************************** ***

Helene Cleveland – candidate for Secretary

For the past 9 years I’ve been the conservation projects coordinator (liaison) to the Army Environmental Center (based at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD) and the other military services. So, I have learned a lot about managing natural resources to support the military mission.

I believe I joined NMFWA in 1998. I have enjoyed working behind the scenes in whatever ways I can to help out.

I became a USDA Forest Service forester in 1981, working in every aspect of natural resources, and even some in cultural resources management. I have a BS and MS in forest science from The Pennsylvania State University. I was on active duty in the Air Force for 4 years as a Morse code operator in the 70's.
2007 NMFWA Meeting & Training Workshop

Now is the time to start planning to attend our 2007 NMFWA Meeting & Training Workshop to be held in Portland, Oregon, March 20-24, 2007. Conservation techniques and training opportunities will highlight this year’s training sessions. 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” – OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION TRAINING. This technical session will feature invited speakers who will provide information on availability of conservation training for all services. Another unique event will be the SERDP Session on the first day of the week-long training event.

There will be nine other Technical Sessions:
* Invasive Species Issues
* Habitat Restoration Using Native Plants
* Ecology of Military Training Disturbances
* New Bird Regulations and INRMPs
* Bio-Control of Invasives
* Fire as a Management Tool
* Bird Conservation
* Wetlands
* Herpetology

There will also be three Working Group meetings:
* Invasive Species
* Bats
* Herpetology

Our traditional Show and Tell Session will again be showcased in Portland, and will include a Poster Session, Silent Auction, and Photo Contest.

There may be opportunities for a 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.

We have a great event planned for the off-site evening mixer, and the banquet site will be, as always, at an outstanding location. A couple of interesting field trips are also taking shape.

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 actually be reduced slightly this year to $280. Students will still receive a deep discount, and retiree registration will remain the same. The registration fee includes the Show and Tell and banquet as well as all WMI fees (except their banquet). NMFWA outstanding training sessions continue to directly relate to our association’s objectives and the support of training and readiness; $280 for five full days of training is a bargain!

The 2007 meeting will be an excellent training opportunity in a great location. Make your reservations early! DON’T MISS IT!

Mike Passmore; Vice President & Program Chair
(michael.passmore@nmfwa.org)
NMFWA AWARD NOMINATIONS NEEDED!!

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 2007 in Portland. 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 criteria below.

Nominations may be submitted to Marian Lichtler, the Awards Committee Chair, via e-mail at marian.lichtler@avonpark.macdill.af.mil, or via post (see next page) to her at CEVN, 29 South Blvd., Avon Park AFR, FL, 33825–5700. The NMFWA Awards Committee will review nominations, and awardees 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                                        Volunteer – Education
Support – Civilian                                        Volunteer – Management
Professional – Management                                 Professional – Law Enforcement
Professional – Technical

Description of Accomplishments and/or Achievements: Please provide a 1-2 page description of the nominee’s accomplishments.
From Hazards to Heroes – Langley Air Force Base Osprey Help Restore Degraded Populations

Langley Air Force Base (LAFB) consists of 2,883 acres within Hampton, VA, on the northwest and southwest branches of the Back River. LAFB’s proximity to the coast provides installation personnel with a wide variety of recreational activities, but presents some unique challenges to the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Program. One of the major challenges...Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). According to the USDA National Wildlife Research Center, Osprey rank as the 5th most hazardous bird species to aviation. During the summer of 2000, an F-15 aircraft stationed at LAFB collided with an Osprey, causing over $750,000 in engine damage, forcing the pilot to terminate the mission and conduct an emergency landing.

In 1999, LAFB entered into a partnership with the Wildlife Services Division (WS) of the USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service to help manage the installation’s BASH issues. Shortly after the major Osprey strike in 2000, LAFB worked to create an Integrated Osprey Hazard Management Program (IOMP). The first step of developing a successful IOMP was to obtain information about Osprey populations adjacent to LAFB’s airfield. The second step was to determine how to manage these populations from a BASH perspective.

While Osprey populations in states along the Atlantic seaboard have experienced significant recovery following the 1973 ban on use of DDT, some inland states have not been so lucky. Ohio initiated an Osprey recovery program in 1996, with a program goal of 20 nesting pairs of osprey by 2010. Based on interest from Ohio, and later Indiana, nestling translocation quickly became an integral to the IOMP. LAFB’s nestling translocation program focuses on reducing Osprey fledgling strike hazard risk and to manage recruitment rates (Osprey return to the nest where they learned to fly) while supporting recovery initiatives in Ohio and Indiana.

At the ages of 35 – 49 days, select nestlings are hand caught, placed inside cardboard carriers, and transported by aircraft to specific locations in the recovery state for release into the wild. The number of nestlings translocated per nest is dependent upon the availability of nestlings at the appropriate age during the time of collection. To date, 104 nestlings have been relocated to Ohio and 48 nestlings have been relocated to Indiana.

Is the relocation program working? Osprey populations adjacent to Langley have shown healthy signs of stability with an average of 31 nesting pairs and a 1.56 reproductive rate over the past five years. Through nestling contributions from Maryland, New York, and Langley AFB, Ohio reports that they reached their goal of 20 nesting Osprey pairs in 2003, *7 years ahead of schedule*. Ohio also indicates that Osprey nests are now found in 23 counties and have produced 295 chicks that successfully fledged since 1996. Populations in Indiana have grown from 2 active nests in 2002 to 11 active nests in 2005, and Osprey have successfully raised 23 nestlings.

Our Osprey relocation program is a truly cooperative effort. Lead by the WS representatives in the Wing Safety Office, numerous other organizations including the Environmental Management Flight and the Operations Flight have contributed to the success of the program.

Recently, LAFB learned that neither Ohio nor Indiana requires additional nestlings at this time. If any FAWN readers are aware of ongoing Osprey recover efforts where nestlings from LAFB may be beneficial, please contact Mr. Thomas Olexa at 757-764-5357.

*By Troy M. Andersen*

*Natural Resources Manager*

*Langley AFB, VA*
Fort Stewart Studies Rare Salamander

By Dirk J. Stevenson and Mark Bevelhimer

Sampling methods for an uncommon and protected salamander are being studied at Fort Stewart, GA by researchers based at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

Adults of the flatwoods salamander, *Ambystoma cingulatum*, a mediumsized (to 5 inches in total length) species in the Mole Salamander family (Ambystomatidae), spend the majority of their lives underground. Endemic to pine savannahs and flatwoods of the southeastern Coastal Plain, this amphibian was federally listed as “Threatened” in 1999 due to habitat loss. Adults of this salamander travel to isolated, depressional wetlands forested with pond cypress and black gum to breed during the autumn-early winter. Their aquatic larvae, strikingly patterned with yellow and brown, subsequently develop in these ponds and metamorphose during March-May.

Fort Stewart (280,000 ac) contains an abundance of suitable habitat for this rare salamander. The extensive, high-quality longleaf pine flatwoods landscapes scattered over the installation are literally pockmarked with these “cypress-gum ponds”. Over 1,200 of these “wet-weather”, temporary pond-type wetlands (most from less than 1 ac to 3 ac in size) have been mapped for the base, and approximately 500 of these were identified by a leading flatwoods salamander authority as “potential breeding habitat” for the species. And to date, 21 flatwoods salamander breeding sites have been documented on Fort Stewart. The vast amount of good habitat is due in large part to the installation’s active habitat management and prescribed-fire program, since the flatwoods salamander favors open-canopied, grassy breeding sites and terrestrial flatwoods habitats maintained by frequent fire. Since 1992, Fort Stewart has prescribe-burned an average of 104,000 ac/year, with an average of 40,000 ac/year burned during each growing season (March-September) over this period. Of course, open-canopied, good-visibility, and navigable pine forests are also favored by the military for training purposes.

Due to a variety of reasons, discerning salamander presence at potential breeding ponds, and even finding salamanders at known sites, is often difficult. Because locating the strongly fossorial (= burrowing) adults is well-nigh impossible without using costly and extremely labor-intensive drift fence techniques, flatwoods salamander surveys throughout the range of the species (South Carolina-Georgia-Florida) have traditionally sampled by dipnetting for larvae. But, if low population densities of larvae are present at breeding ponds (habitats that tend to be densely choked with sedges and grasses and hard to dipnet thoroughly) then the species presence may easily be overlooked. It is conceivable that an occupied pond could be sampled for several years before the first larval salamander is found.

This is where the team from Oak Ridge comes in. Aquatic ecologists Dr. Mark Bevelhimer and habitat modeler Dr. Bill Hargrove of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Environmental Sciences Division were awarded a 3-year grant via the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) to study field sampling techniques. By combining field sampling and computer analysis, the researchers hope to develop guidelines for more efficient sampling.

Thus far, the team has spent two springs sampling ponds with various types of small traps and dipnets to find out which methods are most effective at capturing flatwoods salamanders and to better understand what

*Continued on next page*
mixture of aquatic organisms (other amphibians and fish) are indicators of an environment that is conducive to flatwoods salamander breeding. This evaluation also includes a thorough analysis of the different types of plants that are in and around the ponds.

To date the team has sampled over 70 ponds at Fort Stewart, including most of the 21 where flatwoods salamanders had been observed previously, and found larvae in only one pond. However, that’s better than anyone else in the state of Georgia has done! Flatwoods salamanders found in 2005 and 2006 at Fort Stewart are the only ones found in the state in the past six years. Three years of severe drought from 1999-2002 prevented any reproduction during those years and the population seems to be struggling to recover.

One goal of the project is to be able to predict which ponds are most likely to support breeding so that survey efforts can be concentrated in those areas. Because there are so many factors to consider, the researchers will be depending on some sophisticated computer models to determine which environmental factors, such as plant species, water quality, and predator abundance, correspond best with salamander presence or absence.

Not only is the research team trying to figure out where to sample, but also when to sample. The presence of the salamanders in the ponds is closely tied to winter and spring rains and the filling of the temporary ponds. In Georgia, flatwoods salamander larvae typically metamorphose and leave the ponds in March or April. Because the first months of 2005 were unusually dry, the salamanders didn’t hatch till late in the spring. The result of the late hatching was that flatwoods salamanders were collected in the pond that year through the end of May, the latest pond residency ever documented.

Noted astronomer Carl Sagan once said, “Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.” Not being able to find flatwoods salamanders doesn’t mean they are not in a particular habitat, but with information gained during this study, biologists from Fort Stewart and Oak Ridge hope to be able to increase the confidence with which they proclaim a particular pond to be likely breeding habitat or not. Greater certainty in these predictions will benefit the conservation of this rare species without hampering the important military mission of Fort Stewart.
Range Rattlesnakes
By Joseph Hovis, Chair, Herp Working Group

My first experience (5 years ago) with a “Range” Rattlesnake was on Range 27 (aka Tank Range) near an Infantry Target Pit. When the range was constructed, the engineers piled up large rocks in a loosely consolidated pile about 20-m from the pit. Partway underneath a flat rock was a rather cantankerous female Timber Rattlesnake hanging out in the late morning sun. She immediately let out a volley of rattles to let me know that she was there and then quickly glided for cover under the rock. At the time I thought “well I guess this is good habitat based on the amount of loose rock and open tree canopy.”

Operation Viper — Once again on Range 27 (this summer) on the Western Mover (1000-m section of track with a pop-up tank target) I was looking for toads and their main predator, Eastern Hognose snakes, when suddenly out from underneath the warm steel rail out popped a very active and noisy female black phase Timber Rattlesnake. She mistook the poor toad that was near her for a threat and he barely hopped to safety as she was striking at anything (males are much more docile). I stepped back to regain my composure and she immediately crawled into a small hole in a railroad tie which happened to be her home. That experience stimulated my curiosity, so I headed over to my favorite basking site (Target Pit 12). Right by that original rock that I located 5 years earlier, there were 2 female rattlers (yellow and black phases). Having satisfied my viper craving that day and impressing my summer crew with my “Animal Planet-like” ability to locate venomous snakes (as if on cue) we headed to a different area of the range. While on the radio to warn the Range Maintenance Staff, the Range Control NCOIC informed me that he located 2 snakes that day, one under a mover on an Infantry Squad Battle Course and one on the trail to the mover on the ISBC. Five Range Rattlesnakes in one day!!! Several days later the maintenance guys said that even though they knew the snake was on the mover in the railroad tie it was making them nervous. So instead of taking a shovel to address the issue they asked for assistance.

So, Operation Viper commenced. Our first step was to cover the hole in the tie with gravel but the rattlesnake was able to dig it out and then commenced to hanging underneath the target mover which made the situation a bit more risky for maintenance staff. Even though it is not recommended, I decided that a short-distance move was the next step. Armed with a snake stick, a plastic bin with a lid, and my wingman, I decided that “Miss Rattle” could be safely moved. This violated one of my rules — no handling of venomous snakes — as I do not want to fill out any paperwork, and open myself up to good-natured ribbing from colleagues. We moved her about 800-m to the rock pile by the Infantry target pit. By next week, she was back at the Western Mover. Operation Viper was a bust! Finally, we decided to try a passive technique by covering all holes with rock (not gravel) and placing several coverboards and manipulating flat rocks so they had some space underneath. As of now this has worked and hindsight being 20/20 we should have tried the habitat manipulation before moving. We would appreciate other stories of range vipers and encourage members to submit their own.

Shorebird Tracking Initiative! Recent years have seen a substantial increase in the number of shorebirds that are being color banded and flagged. The Bird Banding Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service is assisting in tracking reports of color banded or flagged shorebirds. Information on the Pan American Shorebird Project can be now found at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=CA9EA2C5-1

This site provides instructions on how to report a color banded shorebird sighting and general information on banding shorebirds. Reports should be e-mailed to BBO_CWS@ec.gc.ca.
MILITARY BATS

U.S. armed forces are looking out for bats

by Jim Kennedy

I was hacking my way through the thick Central Texas brush toward a cave once favored by a colony of cave myotis when my foot came down very close to an arm-length metallic tube on the ground. "Don't touch that!" warned my guide, Charles Pekins. I paid strict attention: Charles has what's probably a unique credential among wildlife biologists - he's had UXO training. That stands for unexploded ordnance, so you should listen when he speaks.

Scattered about the rugged landscape were a lot of other strange devices that I also should not touch. That's the way it is on a live-fire range where soldiers train for war with real ammo. Bat conservation involves special challenges on a military base, but armed-forces installations around the country are making the effort. And they are scoring some significant successes.

The U.S. Department of Defense controls some 13 million acres (5.25 million hectares) (NMFWA Editor’s note: Is that just Dept of the Army?) of land in the United States, vast swatches of it mostly undeveloped and home to a great variety of wildlife. Protecting animals and habitats becomes a complex undertaking when the land must also fulfill the military's training missions, which can involve such things as 68-ton battle tanks rumbling across the landscape at 40 miles (64 kilometers) per hour. It's even harder when the tanks and troops are firing live ammo. Civilian bat biologists, including graduates of BCI's Bat Conservation and Management Workshops, are learning to balance the needs of bats and soldiers.

Fort Hood, Texas, is home to the largest armored force in the U.S. Army. Tanks and other armored vehicles have 337 square miles (873 square kilometers) to race across, with much of it used for live-fire training. On this cool April day, we parked our truck in a shallow bomb crater and started out. We followed an eroded tank track across the hill toward the entrance to Egypt Cave, which I still couldn't see. I had no idea how a bat could see it, either. When we finally reached the tiny opening, we found it almost totally blocked with a non-native fern and surrounded by M-16 cartridge casings and spent smoke grenades. "Not a very bat-friendly site," I noted. Charles assured me that several thousand cave myotis (Myotis velifer) had been using the cave as recently as the 1970s.

We cleared brush and ferns away from the entrance and slipped into the cool underground. Down the short entrance passage and around a
corner, roosted in the cave at one time, but none of the guano was fresh. Our problem now was to figure out how to manage the cave better so the bats could return. That's where Pekins comes in.

Pekins, Wildlife Biologist for Fort Hood, served in the Army from 1989 to 1995, then earned a degree in conservation biology from the University of Texas at Austin. He worked with The Nature Conservancy before joining Fort Hood's Natural Resources Branch in 2003. "My interest in bats is a fairly new aspect to my life," Pekins says, but it is a natural outgrowth of a long interest in caves. One thing "that galvanized my interest enough to include bats in my professional career" was attending a BCI Workshop in Arizona.

Now, Pekins says, "everything about bat life, history and evolution has me fascinated. The more I learn about and study these creatures, the more I realize how well they occupy their niches. I incorporate caves and bats into landscape management decisions at Fort Hood, which was not done in the past, and I try to educate the public about the benefits and uniqueness of bats."

Much of his effort has gone into Shell Mountain Bat Cave, where a major maternity colony of 10,000 to 12,000 cave myotis gives birth and raises pups. This is a species of concern that seems to be declining across its range in the Southwestern United States and Mexico. Accurate population data are hard to come by, however - a shortcoming BCI is working to resolve. The Shell Mountain Bat Cave colony on Fort Hood is an important population, and one that apparently has declined significantly since the 1980s.

The cave entrance was cleared in 1995, when an A-frame tent gate was installed for use by bats. That gate was woe-fully inadequate - and dangerous - to emerging bats. In 2004, it was replaced with a larger, appropriately designed cupola-style gate that increased the bats' exit space by 900 percent. Although it allows much faster and safer emergences, the gate seems to have had no impact yet on the size of the colony. Temperature and humidity conditions within the cave-roosting area are being monitored.

The cave, unfortunately, is within an area of mesas and valleys needed by armor and infantry units for developing and training in war-fighting tactics. It is not, however, used for live-fire exercises. To protect the cave colony from excessive noise, Pekins' team diverted the main access route into the area, creating a new route around the cave. Large rocks and brush piles now keep traffic at least 280 feet (85 meters) from the bats. They also built a rock barrier, 33 feet (10 meters) across, around the cupola gate. The idea is to ensure that military units still have access to the general area, while the bats are protected by "natural" barriers. Among the more than 200 known caves on Fort Hood are two others - Egypt and Tippit - that apparently once gave refuge to thousands of cave myotis. Although it is uncertain why bats first abandoned these caves, the entrances to both were blocked by trees and shrubs. The fort's Natural Resources Branch cleared all woody vegetation within 25 feet (7.5 meters) of each entrance. Pekins is monitoring temperature conditions within the caves, as well as checking for returning bats. "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 Mountain Bat Cave colony," Pekins said.

Another workshop graduate, Conservation Biologist John Lamb, is working on conservation efforts at Arnold Air Force Base in Tennessee. Endangered gray myotis (Myotis grisescens) roost during the summer in the Woods Reservoir Dam at the Air Force base.
The dam is important to Arnold AFB’s military mission because the reservoir provides cooling water for its aerospace testing facilities. The bats find snug roosts in expansion joints in the dam’s ceiling. Lamb’s Conservation Department works with base civil engineers to schedule routine inspections and maintenance after the bats have left for the winter. "Guano guards" protect machinery beneath the roosting space.

The maternity colony at the dam, however, has been declining since monitoring began in 1998, falling from an estimated 18,300 bats to 6,100 in 2005, according to Lamb’s latest annual report. The physical environment of the dam is unchanged, and the reason for the decline is unclear. But radio-tracking data and the presence of gray myotis foraging in areas throughout the base suggest many of the bats may have moved to more suitable roost sites in the region, probably a result of increased protection of Tennessee caves.

Lamb said a radiotelemetry study in 2004 indicated that gray myotis captured while foraging on the base were not roosting in the dam, and no caves exist on the base. To determine roost sites and their links to foraging habitat on base, Arnold AFB’s Conservation Department initiated a long-term banding project, both at Arnold and at three gray myotis caves within 15.5 miles (25 kilometers) of the base. More than 800 gray myotis have so far been banded in the two years this project has been active. "Two of our bats were recaptured by other researchers," Lamb said. "One had traveled 45 miles (72 kilometers), but had stayed in Tennessee, and the other traveled 110 miles (177 kilometers) into Kentucky.

"These findings reinforce the need for partnerships . . . ." he said. "Arnold AFB demonstrated its commitment to partnerships and bat conservation by initiating the formation of the Tennessee Bat Working Group."

Bat conservation projects large and small are being undertaken at a number of military bases around the country. Camp Shelby in Mississippi not only allowed bats to move into some abandoned bunkers, but installed bat-friendly gates to protect them. Bases in Arkansas, California and elsewhere coupled bat-house installations with humane exclusions form base buildings. The National Military Fish & Wildlife Association includes an active Bat Working Group, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Environmental Laboratory has conducted bat-population surveys on at least five military installations and helped set up sampling programs and conservation-management plans at many others. Bats are on their way to finding a home with the military.

Memorandum of Understanding Between DoD and Bat Conservation International

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Defense (DoD) and Bat Conservation International (BCI) was signed by both parties in October 2006. The MOU allows for cooperation and coordination between DoD and BCI to identify, document, and maintain bat populations and their habitats on DoD installations.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish procedures for planning and conducting cooperative efforts by BCI and DoD on DoD lands. It establishes policies and procedures for BCI to provide technical assistance to DoD in maintaining or increasing the productivity of bats and their habitats on DoD lands; to keep once-common bat species from being Federally-listed as threatened or endangered; and to work to recover presently listed species of bats and prevent species extinction. The MOU allows DoD to receive technical assistance for improving management of bat populations and their habitats, and to gain access to a nationwide network of data and support that can be used to assess the significance of bat populations and habitat on DoD lands.

The MOU recognizes that both BCI and the DoD have responsibilities and interests in the management of wildlife and their habitats. Both parties recognize that wildlife habitats should be conserved and managed to protect wildlife and to meet the growing public demand for wildlife conservation and related scientific opportunities. BCI and DoD may assist each other in conducting inventories, monitoring, and research; initiating actions which will increase the productivity of bats and enhance their habitats; and educating the public about the roles and values of bats in ecosystems on lands managed or used by the DoD.

For further information about the MOU, please contact Chester Martin (Chester.O.Martin@erdc.usace.army.mil) or Trish Griffin (trish.griffin@us.army.mil).
Few soldiers stationed at Fort Huachuca suspect that, in addition to intelligence training, signal activities and electronics testing, the southern Arizona post's mission includes protecting endangered lesser long-nosed bats and thousands of acres rich in their favorite food. That mission, it seems, is being accomplished: A survey found just one of the bats (Leptonycteris yerbabuena) in 1995. Last year's count came to about 14,000.

Located at the base of the Huachuca Mountains just 15 miles north of Mexico and 75 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona, Fort Huachuca is home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and other units, as well as to the lesser long-nosed bat and an arid landscape rich in the agave plants on which it feeds. The fort's conservation effort is a collaborative that encompasses its environmental staff and military police, plus outside experts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lesser long-nosed bat as endangered in 1988, following a decline blamed mostly on disappearing habitat and roost disturbance. The bats feed on night-blooming cacti, including saguaro and organ pipe, and many species of agave. One of only three U.S. bat species that feed exclusively on nectar and fruit, the lesser long-nosed bat is a vital pollinator and seed-disperser for desert plants.

Lesser long-nosed bats are found in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico and range deep into Mexico. The U.S. populations winter in Mexico, then follow a "nectar trail" of flowering desert plants northward in spring and early summer.

Since roughly 10 percent of the fort's 70,000 acres are studded with agave, it seemed likely the endangered bat would visit the base, but historical data was lacking. In 1990, the fort utilized part of a Department of Defense contract with an environmental consulting firm in Tucson to locate, monitor, count and protect bats. Ronnie Sidner, a bat biologist, was charged with determining when, where, and how many bats are present.

Fort Huachuca contains three known lesser long-nosed bat roosts - two caves used as day roosts and one as a night roost. To conduct her census, Sidner stands just outside the roost entrances with infrared lights and night-vision gear. Bats are recorded on video, then Sidner goes frame-by-frame counting the bats present.

The lesser long-nosed bat is one of 11 species documented on post, and Fort Huachuca has implemented a variety of steps to protect their roosts, minimize disturbances and ensure a healthy population of both agave and lesser long-nosed bats, said Wildlife Biologist Dawn Daw of the Fort Huachuca Environmental and Natural Resources Division. The fort's conservation investment since 2000 totals $155,200.

During the months that lesser long-nosed bats are in the vicinity, the three roost caves and access roads are closed. The caves are surrounded by fences and observed by solar-powered surveillance cameras. Foraging ranges are protected as Agave Management Areas, where off-road vehicles are banned. Prescribed burns are planned so as to protect the roosts and agave.

"I am very proud to be a part of the Army's program to protect lesser long-nosed bats, their roosts and food plants on Fort Huachuca," Sidner said. "The Army has taken the suggestions of field biologists, who knew what needed to be done, and did it."

Lesser long-nosed bats use long snouts and tongues to feed on nectar from agave flowers and are key pollinators for agave. A point of interest — the fermented juice of Agave tequilana, or blue agave, is the main component of tequila.

GRANT NULL is a Media Relations Specialist at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca in Arizona.
Corps of Engineers at Work

St. Paul District restores native prairie to Lock and Dam 8 embankment

by Kurt Brownell, Natural Resource Specialist

The first of a proposed series of environmental enhancements at the district’s locks and dams was initiated last June. That’s when the embankment at Lock and Dam 8, near Reno, MN was mulched and seeded with native prairie vegetation by a Corps contractor.

To accomplish this, about six acres of existing vegetation on the downstream side of the embankment were treated with an herbicide. This was done to kill non-native plants that had become established and to reduce competition for water and nutrients as new seedlings grow.

Test plots were prepared to evaluate potential methods to enrich the soil for enhancing plant growth. The plots were divided into areas where three or six inches of topsoil were incorporated into the existing substrate.

Additional test plots were created where biosolids from the La Crescent, MN wastewater treatment plant were mixed into the soil (test plots comprised .71, .80, and 1.27 acres respectively). Biosolids are the solids that remain after municipal wastewater has been treated. They are relatively odor-free and disease-causing organisms have mostly been eliminated. They are high in organic matter as well as basic plant nutrients. These nutrients are in a form that acts as a slow release over several growing seasons. These attributes complement restoration projects such as this one.

The remaining 3.24 acres of the site were left untreated and consisted of the existing coarse-grained dredged sands from which the embankments were originally constructed. The site was then seeded with 28 species of native prairie forbs and grasses and mulched with straw.

The enhancements serve three purposes:

• Planting a diverse mix of native vegetation improves wildlife habitat and aesthetics.
• Deep-rooted native species provide better erosion protection than existing vegetation.
• Dividing the project into test areas and monitoring these areas helps determine the most cost-effective method of establishing native vegetation for future embankment projects, islands in the Environmental Management Program and dredged material disposal sites.

This initiative is similar to two other prairie restoration projects initiated by Brownell while managing the biosolids program at Fort McCoy, WI. Both projects resulted in a good cover of native species.

The biosolids cost the Corps nothing, though hauling costs and erosion protection measures established in areas where the topsoil or biosolids were added were borne by the Corps. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regulations also dictate that the biosolids be incorporated into the soil within 48 hours of application and, as an added safety measure, areas receiving biosolids are posted as restrict access for one year following application. The biosolids were applied above the 25-year flood elevation, roughly halfway up the embankment.

One month after being planted, the site had received very little rainfall and endured many consecutive days in the 90s. In spite of this, the site had fairly good cover of vegetation on all plots except for the untreated sand. The areas receiving biosolids had the lushest vegetation.

Continued on next page
Island clearing logs $1,700 for district

By Kurt Brownell, Natural Resource Specialist

As of Oct. 7, the St. Paul District has made just under $1,700 on the sales of logs, thanks to an environmental restoration project coordinated through the natural resource project office in La Crescent, Minn.

Flash back to April 15, when 54 Badger Challenge Cadets landed on Goose Island, Corps-owned land on the Mississippi River three miles south of La Crosse, Wis.

The cadets joined Kurt Brownell, natural resources specialist; Jon Sobiech, forester; and Jerry Lee, ranger (now retired), to clear away black locust as the first step in re-establishing a diverse bottomland hardwood forest at this site. This project started in September 2004 and is the first phase in controlling an invasive species that covers hundreds of acres on Goose Island, as well as elsewhere in the district.

Badger Challenge is an 11-year-old program operated by the Wisconsin National Guard, designed for at-risk youths from 14 to 16 years old. The program teaches cadets to get their lives back in order by participating in a rigorous 17-hours-a-day schedule, including physical training, classroom work and environmental work projects. The cadet program accepts volunteers only (no court orders); and since the first class in 1994, the academy has graduated hundreds of young men and women and given them new direction in their lives.

The cadets typically provide labor for environmental projects at Fort McCoy, Wis. Brownell inquired with the academy to see whether they were available for off-post work and arranged for their work at Goose Island. The cadets assisted the Corps in consolidating black locust logs into piles to facilitate their sale and chipping logging debris not suitable for sale. The cadets learned about invasive species and the Corps’ efforts to eliminate them. The Corps benefited by receiving no-cost assistance from the cadets.

Thanks to the cadet’s help, the site has now been cleared of logging debris. They sorted and stacked logs for easier removal with outcomes that enriched the cadets and the district.
Thinking Like a Manager

Reflections on Wildlife Management

A Wildlife Management Institute Book


original illustrations by Daniel P. Metz

Thinking Like a Manager is a fictional novel that follows six wildlife managers—each a representative of a different perspective of the profession—succeeding an emergency survey mission in the aftermath of an oil spill in the Northwest. With the mission complete and with time on their hands due to inclement weather, they discuss the doctrines, theories and tribulations facing contemporary wildlife biologists. Some struggle with and some embrace the human element in wildlife management, yet all agree that the element is inescapable.

Thinking Like a Manager is an entertaining means of exploring the interrelationships of Aldo Leopold’s ecological tenets, the public trust doctrine and sociological practices that today’s wildlife management professionals must incorporate to be effective. For a profession that has changed drastically since its inception in the early 1900s, this novel offers a model for teamwork to achieve such an end.

“This book will be useful to wildlife managers in the context of a training program or a planned effort to improve decision-making processes.”
Glen Matthews,
Regional Wildlife Supervisor
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

“Everyone in the profession should read this, especially students before entering the workforce.”
Ken Elowe, Director of Fish and Wildlife Management
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

“This is an innovative and successful approach to explaining the evolving and essential role of the wildlife management professional.”
Gary White, Professor, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Colorado State University

To purchase ($10.00 + $2.00 shipping) Thinking Like a Manager, contact
Wildlife Management Institute, 1146 19th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036-3727
WMI accepts checks, money orders, purchase orders or credit cards.
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