

# The AFWA Strategist

Update for Members and Partners of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Fall 2016

## 2016-2017 AFWA Officers & Executive Committee

Nick Wiley, Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as its new president during AFWA's 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The full slate of officers and Executive Committee members include:

### 2016-2017 AFWA Officers & Executive Committee

#### Officers:

President: Nick Wiley (FL) Vice President: Virgil Moore (ID)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Broscheid (CO)  
Past President: Dave Chanda (NJ)

#### Executive Committee:

Chair: Glenn Normandeau (NH) Vice Chair: John Arway (PA-FBC)

#### Members:

Ed Carter (TN) Jim Douglas (NE)  
Kelley Myers (IA) Greg Sheehan (UT)  
Carter Smith (TX)

#### Ex Officio Voting Members:

Canada: John Blake (NL) Midwest: Dr. William Moritz (MI)  
Northeast: Catherine Sparks (RI) Southeast: Gordon Myers (NC)  
Western: Scott Talbott (WY)



The 36 Fellows of Cohort 11 began their intensive 8-month training experience at the National Conservation Training Center in October 2016. They will join an ever-growing network of more than 350 professionals who have come together from conservation organizations across the nation to further develop their leadership capacity through the NCLI experience.



### *Save the date...*

107th AFWA Annual Meeting  
Snowbird, Utah  
September 10-13, 2017

[www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)



## Business Meeting Resolutions

AFWA's voting membership passed four resolutions during its September 14<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting:

**PROMOTION OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND REACTIVATION (R3) ACTIVITIES WITHIN STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES** recognizes the importance of R3 efforts through both the CAHSS and RBFF, as the efforts of these organizations are critical to the future of the sports of hunting, angling, boating and shooting.

**AN ENDORSEMENT OF FUNDING FOR U.S. FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE MANAGEMENT-RELATED SCIENCE TO STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES** encourages Congress to fund those research activities of U.S. Forest Service Research and Development program that directly benefit the state fish and wildlife agencies, particularly in the areas of sagebrush ecosystem conservation, fisheries management, wildlife disease management, pollinator conservation, urban wildlife conservation, and the development and implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans.

**STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION TO THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND ONGOING WORK** stands ready to work with the US Congress and the Administration to implement the Blue Ribbon Panel's funding recommendation by passing legislation to create a 21st century conservation funding model that provides states, territories, and the District of Columbia with sustained and dedicated funding to conserve all fish and wildlife and their habitats; and also stands ready to support continuing efforts by the Blue Ribbon Panel to develop recommendations that will ensure state fish and wildlife agencies remain relevant and supported by all citizens well into the future.

**IN APPRECIATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION AND THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION FOR HOSTING THE AFWA ANNUAL MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA, PA** extends its deep appreciation to both Director Arway and Director Hough and their staffs, for hosting the 106th Annual Meeting, and the Association further extends its sincere congratulations to Director Arway and his staff on this occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Founded in 1902, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public's long-term benefit and use.



## AFWA Awards



Photo (L-R): Dave Chanda, Dan Forster

### 2016 Annual Award Recipients

**Dan Forster** received AFWA's top honor, the Seth Gordon Award for lifetime achievement in conserving North America's natural resources in the public trust and contributing to the programs of the Association.

The **Missouri Stream Team Program** received AFWA's Ernest Thompson Seton Award for leadership in promoting scientific wildlife management and is a great example of how Missourians value conservation of fish, forests, and wildlife, and how the Conservation Department, DNR, and Conservation Federation of Missouri work with citizens to conserve our natural resources.

**Davia Palmeri**, the Climate Change Coordinator with AFWA, received the Mark Reeff Memorial Award for outstanding young wildlife management professional under 35.

Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award—**Paul Tudor Jones**, owner of the Blue Valley Ranch—a conservation ranch that runs cattle and bison and prioritizes wildlife.

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources - Law Enforcement Public Relations** was selected for the 2016 Conservation Law Enforcement Award.

The Association presented Special Recognition awards for outstanding commitment to the work of AFWA to **Roy Grimes** and the **Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance**

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## Project WILD

AFWA staff and leaders have been working behind the scenes with Project Wild leadership for the last six months on the possibility of AFWA taking over management of the K-12 Environmental Education Program that is in 46 states (38 of them through state fish & wildlife agencies). Members approved a motion authorizing staff to continue the process, developing the legal framework for the acquisition and focusing on maintaining sound business practices.

## Blue Ribbon Panel Update

Legislation introduced by Congressman Don Young (R-AK) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) continues to attract bipartisan cosponsors and support. We now have fourteen co-sponsors signed on to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 5650). Directors are encouraged to reach out to those House Representatives that you have personal relationships with and ask for their support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016 (H.R.5650).

Blue Ribbon Panel Campaign Manager, Sean Saville, is working on a campaign plan and he will be seeking your guidance and advice to that end over the next few weeks. In the meantime, please reach out to Sean directly at (202) 838-2561 or ssaville@fishwildlife.org if you have questions or comments about next steps on legislative or other fronts.

## State Contributions to Canadian NAWCA/NAWMP

Contributions from 37 states to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2015-16 were \$3.063 million US dollars. This is a slight dip from last year's record due to administrative challenges in Illinois where the duck stamp funds could not be appropriated. However, Illinois remains committed to supporting conservation in the Canadian breeding grounds. The slight decline this year is overshadowed by increased investments by a number of other states.

Ducks Unlimited will match \$US 2.863 million of the states' investments and the NAWCA will provide \$US 5.574 million to bring the US investment to \$11.5 million. At the present-day currency exchange rate, the state, DU and NAWCA funds will generate an additional \$US 3.7 million. In combination, the US sourced funds, along with Canadian funds, will generate a total investment in waterfowl habitat in Canada of approximately \$15 million US dollars. This investment in Canadian waterfowl breeding habitat is initiated by the state commitment of \$US 3.063 million, and is a critical component of the success of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

## Legislative Updates

### Water Resources Development Act (S. 2848 and H.R. 5303)

The House and the Senate will be conferencing reauthorizations of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that collectively provide nearly \$5 billion dollars in Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) water related projects, include numerous provisions for aquatic resource management, direct the ACOE to consider natural and resilient infrastructure when moving forward with certain projects, require that programmatic mitigation plans consider hydroconnectivity, and require that ACOE share water resource data for all ACOE projects on a publicly accessible database.

### House-Senate Continue Negotiating Energy-Sportsmen's Bills

House and Senate staffs continue negotiating provisions for a conference agreement on their respective energy and sportsmen's bills. Committee leadership for the conference in both chambers have committed to crafting a final agreement the President will sign and will continue negotiation until the end of this Congressional session.

### 2018 Farm Bill: AFWA Preparations Begin

AFWA's 2018 Farm Bill Working Group, comprised of regional associations' representation and Agriculture Conservation Committee and working group leadership, will craft a new reauthorization policy platform this fall and winter. The first draft will be available for full committee and State Directors' to review in February 2017. The final reauthorization policy platform will be slated for adoption during the 2017 North American Conference on Wildlife and Natural Resources in Spokane, WA, scheduled for March 4-11, 2017.