



Volume 5, No. 1

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NRIC99 HELD AT THE BEGINNING of July 1999 in SASKATOON Saskatchewan. The meeting started with a field trip to Last Mountain Lake Bird Sanctuary (LML). This sanctuary is North America's oldest being set aside in 1887. The day started with a general overview of the region, wildlife, conservation, and work in progress. Our hosts for the day were Ken Born, Assistant Manager of LML, and Dean Nernberg, Plant Ecologist. Dean specializes in short grass prairie conservation. Dean guided us through the day to the different ecoregions of LML. Many species of birds were seen. A highlight was the real cowboy herding the cattle using his rope and horse. The day finished with a visit to Manitou Lake. Manitou Lake is an alkaline lake with a high density of minerals. Here participants could swim in the spa or the lake, then join everyone for a dance at Danceland. Danceland has a unique rubber tire and horsehair floor covered with hardwood to ease tired legs and feet. Sharon Levy graciously gave line dance lessons. It was a very enjoyable evening.

The next two days were spent listening to presentations from various participants. The attendees were given an overview of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan by Todd Bryant, Saskatoon Tourism. The keynote speaker was Mark Johnson. Mark did a presentation on Global Warming and Forestry. The following day and a half were filled with presentations. The banquet and gift exchange took place on Thursday evening. On Saturday, there was a riverboat ride followed by a trip to the edges of the boreal forest and to Batoche. The day was full ending with dinner. Good byes were said, as most participants left early the next morning. May we meet again.

NRIC 1999 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**Chair:** Gretta Siegel**Recorder:** Sharon Levy**Attending:** Angela Battiste, Anne Hedrich, Carla Heister, Lorelee Kerr, Sharon Levy, Louise Richards, Gretta Siegel, Sue Visser, Barbara Voeltz, Richard Voeltz, Alison Welch, Paul Wilson, Geoffrey Yeadon, Pat Yeudall.

Tremendous thanks to Pat, Bill and Candice Yeudall

for being such fantastic hosts!

LaLee suggested compiling lists of journals in forestry and wildlife to be part of the Journals of the Century project. Carla and Greta will do this.

Membership Reports:

Paying dues members: 22. Pat: requested that people be allowed to join for 2 years in succession, and to join at the conferences. Suggestion accepted. The \$10 fee is a maintenance fee and not a membership fee. Anne passed around a prototype of a membership brochure. She will mail the brochure to people listed in the (yellow) NRIC Library Survey as a means to try and build the membership. Paul will send Anne address labels from Fish & Wildlife for the mailings. Anne and Carla suggested we list the papers and/or abstracts of papers given at the NRIC conference on our web site. Also list the name and e-mail address of the presenter. Candice Yeudall (Pat's daughter) will continue to maintain the NRIC Conference web site for another year.

Treasury Report: Barbara Voeltz

Postage costs: \$56.43

Auction receipts: \$199.00

Auction take 7/99: \$169.00 (Canadian)

Current Balance: \$2227.45

There was discussion of raising fee from \$10 to \$20. Decision was made to keep it at \$10.

Suggestion that the NRIC survey be posted on our web site

Updates on Projects:

Encyclopedia of Associations: NRIC is listed in the National Wildlife Federation Conservation Directory: NRIC is listed.

LaLee suggested that the state DNR magazines need to be indexed. There are 32 magazines. Could use the Fish & Wildlife thesaurus for descriptors. Perhaps someone could write a grant to get funding for this project. Possibly list the state publications on our web site, and also list URLs for any that are in electronic format. Louise and LaLee will work on this project.

Natural Resources Environmental Sites web page: list "good" sites and criteria for what constitutes a "good" site. It was suggested we include sites from Federal,

Regional, and State Natural History sites. Include annotations. The list could begin with using Carla's lists from her presentation. Everyone should add to this by sending sites to Carla. It was suggested to include BiblioFind and Advanced Book Exchange.

Officers:

Anne Hedrich will continue as Membership Chair for another year.

Barbara Voeltz will continue as Treasurer for another year.

Louise Richards will be the new newsletter editor. The newsletter should be bi-annual and there should be an assistant editor.

There was discussion on length of time people can hold offices. 5 years is the length of time.

Issues and Discussions:

NRIC Fish & Game Natural Resources Library Survey: everyone wants it expanded. Discussion of whether to include academics or Natural History schools. The feeling was not to include these groups, but to use our web page to link to this information. People who attend the NRIC conference should be included in the survey. Geoff and Allison will add attendees as an addendum.

Membership Issues:

Anne raised several issues: 1) How can we increase our membership? 2) How can we carry out new ideas?

There are not enough members to do all of the jobs.

We should use the Survey to generate membership and add 800 numbers; MIN numbers; PDF files. We should take brochures about NRIC to our other meetings, and in particular to the Natural History Caucus of SLA. We absolutely have to keep our web site up to date. Carla will try and update the site. We should put our newsletter on our web site, and when appropriate, download and make copies to take to other meetings and conferences.

Consensus that we still want a paper copy of our newsletter, but it should also be on our web site.

Conference Issues:

Speakers: years ago it was agreed that we would not pay for speakers. We use local people. We give them lunch. Is this a problem? Discussion seemed to indicate that there are people who will speak without receiving a fee.

Discussion about if we want to increase attendance at the conferences. Resounding "YES!" Should we fund travel for first time attendance? Discussion of why we come to NRIC: we're small; the conference is totally focused on natural history; the conferences are held in places we wouldn't normally go; speakers are targeted to natural history subject matter, not just library issues. Suggested that we get papers to be presented at the conference earlier and put abstracts up on the web. Perhaps there are topics from previous years that we may want to expand on the next year. Is money an issue in regards to attending our conferences? Some "yes" responses, some "no" responses. Suggestion to send a survey to past conference attendees and try and find out why they have not returned. Gretta, Sue, and Anne will work on creating a survey to mail out. Do we want to meet every 2 years instead of every year? Fears that there might be lack of continuity. If we have hosts, we'll continue to meet every year. Suggestion to invite a vendor or two to present at our conferences. People were interested in OCLC or NISC.

Next Year's Meeting:

Louise will look into having a meeting in the Seattle area. She'll touch base with Carol Green and Diane Mitchell.

Freebie:

Paul will send a free copy of WILDLIFE AND THE AMERICAN MIND to anyone who would like a copy. e-mail him: paul_wilson @fws.gov

Meeting adjourned at 3:25PM.

Submitted by Sharon Levy

To Do List:

Journals of the Century Project: Carla and Gretta
DNR Magazines added to web site: Louise and LaLee
Good NH web sites: everyone. Send suggestions to Carla
NR Library Survey: Geoff and Allison add attendees as an Addendum
Update web site: Carla
Survey to send to past conference attendees: Gretta, Sue, Anne
Next year's meeting: Louise, Carole, Diane

ABSTRACTS OF MEETING PAPERS:

1. Geoff Yeadon: Purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service (FWRS) web site and on-line database(s). A brief overview of each of the six searchable databases was provided. Specifically, various strategies/methods for searching the Main Bibliographic Database were demonstrated. The Reference Service web site is located at <http://fa.r9.fws.gov/r9fwrs/>. It provides information about FWRS services, PDF files (the current FWRS Newsletter and a list of available Recovery Plans), a link to access FWRS databases and search information, and links to other sources for fish, wildlife and/or natural resource information.

2. Paul Wilson: Is there a Crisis in Wildlife Management?

A presentation at the 1998 Wildlife Society Conference in Buffalo, New York, stressed the need to market wildlife research because state agencies were cutting back or eliminating their research activities. A decrease in the number of research biologists and/or research activities, may explain recent decreases in the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service (FWRS) workload. The FWRS workload peaked in fiscal year 1993 with 7000 orders requesting 23,000 documents that generated approximately 900,000 pages of photocopies. By 1995, the number of orders had decreased to less than 6500, with 620,000 pages copied and 24,400 documents shipped. These numbers remained relatively stable through 1996 and 1997 for numbers of orders and numbers of pages, however the number of documents shipped each year dropped precipitously to just over 18,100 in 1998, and the number of orders dropped slightly to 6,265. In fiscal year 1999, the number of documents shipped increased slightly to 18,620, whereas the number of "cooperator" agency orders dropped 14.6% to 5,352. The trends of fewer orders received and fewer documents sent suggests less research is being conducted by state wildlife agencies to support their management of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Reasons for this lack of support for research may be politicized agencies and/or decreased budgets, but Paul will not publish those results until he gets closer to retirement age.

3. Anne Hedrich: Library Outreach

How do we contact people outside of our libraries to let them know what we have to offer? Are different forms of outreach used by different types of

libraries? Do we need to do outreach? Is outreach more, or less, important in this information age? This was a panel session made up of librarians from three different types of libraries: academic, government, and corporate. Each panelist described her/his situation and discuss outreach tactics that have worked and those which haven't. Following the short (10-15 minutes) presentations by panel members, the session was opened up for general discussion. Panelists: Anne Hedrich (academic) and Alison Welch (government). Inez Hopkins (corporate) was not able to attend the meeting, so this library type was not covered.

NATURAL RESOURCES WEB SITES

1. King County (Washington) Department of Natural Resources: <http://splash.metrokc.gov>

A good salmon page and the King County Endangered Species Act page.

2. National Association of Conservation Districts:

<http://www.nacdnet.org>

Links to the 3000 conservation districts around the country. Districts educate and help local citizens conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and natural resources.

3. National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils:

<http://www.rcdnet.org>

RC&D's are rural development programs of the Federal government that provide for the sustainability of local economies and resources.

4. Columbia-Pacific RC&D:

<http://www.colpac.org>

Southwest Washington's RC&D

5. Natural History Resources:

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/subway/nathistres.html>

Good list from the Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley

NRIC 2000: CALL FOR PAPERS

The Natural Resources Information Council will hold its Tenth Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington on July 30, 31, and August 1, 2000. The meeting site and

housing will be on the University of Washington campus. Librarians and information specialists are invited to present papers. Topics may concern the nature, acquisition and management of print and online information in the natural resources field. Suggestions for other relevant topics are welcome. If you are interested, please provide the following information to Louise Richards by March 15.

1. Your name, address, email, phone, fax, and URL.
2. Title of paper.
3. Brief abstract and the estimated length of presentation.
5. Equipment needed (computer, etc.):

Send to:

Louise M. Richards
University of Washington
Fisheries-Oceanography Library
Box 357952
Seattle, WA98195
or email Louise at machung@u.washington.edu

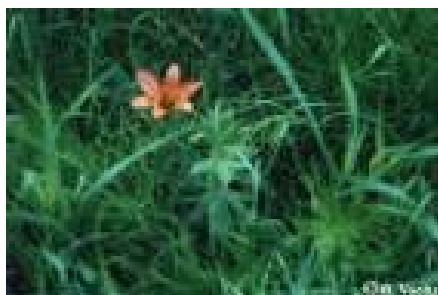


Photo by B. Voeltz

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