



## NRIC Newsletter Volume 6 Issue 1 May 2001

### NRIC 2001 in Yellowstone

Inez Hopkins, Convener

Plans for the 2001 NRIC conference at West Yellowstone, Montana are starting to shape up! The conference is being held in the historic Stage Coach inn located just a few blocks from the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The conference starts bright and early on Thursday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am with a get acquainted brunch and will continue through until 11am on Sunday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Additional speakers are being added continuously, but so far we have the following speakers/tours set up:

Lalee Kerr: Database of reference collection that she is establishing, including Web sites.

Paul Wilson: Fish and Wildlife Reference Service Update.

Carolyn Duckworth: National Park Service, presentation on field journals and a little history of the park

Alpen Guides: Eight-hour guided tour of Yellowstone National Park with stops for sightseeing. Guides are biologists/geologists, so they will be able to answer all of our questions.

Grizzly Bear Discovery Center: Guided tour of their facility, including up close and personal with bears and wolves.

I will send out additional information about the program as soon as I confirm the speakers. If you wish to give a presentation, just give me a shout or an email and I will sign you up! If you want to wet your whistle and get a preview of

Yellowstone and the area, take a look at the following sites:

Yellowstone National Park official site:

[www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm)

Stagecoach Inn (conference locale):

[www.yellowstoneinn.com](http://www.yellowstoneinn.com)

Montana Travel Guide:

[www.travel.state.mt.us/virtualvisitor/faq.htm](http://www.travel.state.mt.us/virtualvisitor/faq.htm)

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce:

[wyellowstone.com](http://wyellowstone.com)

Total Yellowstone Page (great info):

[www.yellowstone-natl-park.com](http://www.yellowstone-natl-park.com)

Grizzly Discovery Center:

[www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.com](http://www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.com)

A little on cost! Room rates are extremely reasonable at \$55/night for a single and \$63/night for a double with two queen beds. I haven't got the exact cost for registration figured out yet, but it will include the costs of all meals except two, the tour, and a few other things. I hope to have it finalized in late spring, so the preliminary registration information will be distributed at that time, along with Yellowstone, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana travel planners (just in case you want to spend a little extra time before or after the conference.) Several fun things that are planned for the conference include the NRIC crazy trade that will be held the night of the banquet, along with an auction of other items. So start thinking about your trade item, and something to donate for the auction (if you can.)

Remember when you come to Yellowstone, you will want to bring a camera, walking shoes, and binoculars! If you have any questions, contact

me at 208-322-8844 (school), 208-484-0690 (cell), 208-336-4746 (home), inez\_hopkins@hotmail.com. See you in Montana!

## **IUFRO Needs YOU**

Carol Green Forest Resources Library,  
University of Washington

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists with a vision "to bring together scientific knowledge about all aspects of trees and forests through the cooperative efforts of its world-wide member research organizations and scientists." The IUFRO World Congress is held every five years, but during the intervening years, the eight technical divisions and their 268 units are encouraged to communicate through meetings and other contacts.

I have recently been appointed as coordinator of IUFRO Unit 6.03.00 that focuses on information service and knowledge organizations. My responsibility as coordinator includes expanding an international network of forestry information professionals and facilitating the working of this network. (For more information about the organization see [gis.umn.edu/iufro/](http://gis.umn.edu/iufro/).)

Currently, Unit 6.03.00 is organized into four Working Units: Libraries and Information Services, Trends in Forest Terminology, Forest Decimal Classification, and Latin American and Caribbean Information Systems Network. Additional Networks in Africa and Europe are becoming active and there is currently some discussion of changing the Working Units into a geographical organization structure. North American information professionals have not been very active in IUFRO in recent years which is one reason I accepted this appointment.

The World Forestry Congress (unrelated to IUFRO) is meeting in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada in September 2003. (See [www.cfm2003.org/english/index.htm](http://www.cfm2003.org/english/index.htm)) Some interest has been expressed in developing a side meeting to the World Forestry Congress that would allow international forestry information professionals, including those from North America, to get together and exchange ideas. The next IUFRO World Congress isn't until Australia

in 2005, so this event in Quebec seems well suited to provide a locale and synergy for an interim 6.03.00 meeting.

A few years ago, as a separate activity not part of IUFRO Unit 6.03.00, but with overlapping membership, the IUFRO Executive Board established a Global Forest Information Service Taskforce to develop "an Internet-based metadata system that will provide coordinated worldwide access to forest information." ([gis.umn.edu/iufro/taskforce/hptfgfis.htm](http://gis.umn.edu/iufro/taskforce/hptfgfis.htm)). This taskforce is meeting in Portland, Oregon in mid-August, 2001.

I have proposed a meeting of Northwest forestry librarians and other interested parties to coincide with the meeting of the IUFRO Task Force on Global Forest Information Service in Portland, Oregon on or about August 12-15, 2001. The purpose of this meeting, in addition to networking and communication, would be to discuss the feasibility and desirability of holding a IUFRO Unit 6.03.00 meeting to be held in conjunction with or as a side meeting to the World Forestry Congress in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada in September 2003.

Other activities in Portland might include a joint session with the Taskforce to get a better idea of their activities and goals; a discussion of other organizations and individuals who might be interested in participating in or helping to sponsor a meeting in 2003; the development of strategies to get North American forestry related information professionals more involved in IUFRO activities; and a discussion regarding the continuation of the Social Sciences in Forestry Bibliography now published at the University of Minnesota.

I am researching the extent of interest in either of these two meetings or of extending the participation of North American librarians in IUFRO. Although NRIC does not focus exclusively on forestry, many NRIC members work with this material and related information. If you are interested in finding out more about these meetings (or of participating in their planning), or in developing international contacts (you need not be a forestry librarian), please contact me at [ccgreen@u.washington.edu](mailto:ccgreen@u.washington.edu) or by calling 206-543-2758. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Mississippi on the Web

Tabitha Madzura Missouri Watershed Information Network

Missourians wanting to learn more about the health and history of their fabled Mississippi and Missouri Rivers can click on to a new website feature offered by the University of Missouri-Columbia. The rivers are detailed from prehistoric historic times up to the latest in environmental concerns and threats to endangered species.

Go to [outreach.missouri.edu/mowin](http://outreach.missouri.edu/mowin) and click on Missouri Rivers. The site is maintained by MoWIN (Missouri Watershed Information Network), which is a clearinghouse for information on water quality. "We now have a new feature dedicated to providing Missourians with a wealth of information on their two great rivers. We soon hope to have the same feature for other rivers in the state."

The site includes information on such issues as river flow and seasonal water levels, hypoxia, chemical character, lock and dam information, transportation and wildlife and recreation. "As far as we know this is the first such point of reference of its kind. People should find it very useful." MoWIN also provides a database on a wide array of water quality topics. It is electronically linked to several state and federal agency data banks. Typical user requests include information on regulations of wastewater removal, point and nonpoint pollution, flooding problems and water use permits.

Housed on the MU Columbia campus, MoWIN is a partnership with 29 state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and private industries. Contact information: Phone (573) 882-0085; Toll Free (MO only): 1-877-H20-shed (426-7433); Fax: (573) 884-5650; Mail: 205 Agricultural Engineering, Columbia, MO 65211; email: [mowin@missouri.edu](mailto:mowin@missouri.edu)

## Why A Reference Service?

Paul Wilson Fish and Wildlife Reference Service

The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service (FWRS) is an important feature of the Federal Aid program, providing information about, and copies of, reports prepared from projects funded

by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Wildlife Restoration Act. In carrying out the information support activities with which it is tasked, the FWRS collects, stores, indexes, and provides copies of such reports for State and Federal biologists. On an annual basis, the FWRS staff receives and processes over 1,000 reports, receives up to 7,000 requests for reports, distributes 18,600 to 24,500 copies of reports, which require up to 750,000 pages of photocopies and up to 6,000 pages of microfiche.

In 1964, an audit of the Federal Aid program resulted in a recognition of the need to coordinate State research information, mainly to prevent the duplication of research, and to share information generated from Federal Aid-funded research. The International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners (now known as the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) directed the Division of Federal Aid, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to address this need. The Library Reference Service was established in 1965 to accomplish this task, and was operated under contract with the Denver Public Library until late 1983. In 1974, the Library Reference Service name was changed to the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service. In 1984, the FWRS operation was relocated to the Washington metropolitan area, and has remained in this Rockville-Bethesda, Maryland location, operated by various government contractors.

The mission of the FWRS is to receive, evaluate, catalog, index, store, retrieve, and distribute reports produced by the State fish and wildlife agencies from research studies supported by Federal Aid in the Sport Fish Restoration and the Wildlife Restoration Acts program. FWRS also receives reports produced by the Anadromous Fish Conservation Program, Endangered Species Grant Program, Endangered Species Recovery Plans, and M.S. Theses and Ph.D. Dissertations produced by the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units. Records of reports from these programs are contained in the Main Bibliographic Database (31,882 records) and the Survey/Inventory Database (7,835 records).

\*Note\* - While the Winter Compilation Newsletter (NL #127) listed only 595 documents, 1,511 records were added to the Main Bibliographic Database in the year 2000. Many older documents from the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Proceedings, USFWS Special Reports (Fisheries), and other out-of-print USFWS reports were processed during the year 2000, and maybe found in the Main Bibliographic Database.

Additional collections located at FWRS include the Lead Shot/Lead Poisoning Clearinghouse (over 1000 records), Boating Access/Boating Facilities Clearinghouse (323 records), the Clean Vessel Act Education/Information Clearinghouse (100 records), the Habitat Conservation Plans Database (202 records), and a Region 5 Black Bass Database (118 records). Most of the FWRS collection is comprised of this type of "gray literature," however, efforts have been made to incorporate other reports that may be relevant to State biologists such as journal articles, conference and symposium proceedings, and various titles of older USFWS publications, most of which are out of print.

Costs benefits to the State fish and wildlife agencies are both direct and indirect. Thirty of 56 State and territorial wildlife agencies maintain, to varying degrees, a fish and wildlife library (source: Natural Resources Information Council 2000 Annual Survey of Fish and Game/Natural Resource Libraries). The direct benefits to State libraries is the use of the Reference Service for conducting literature searches and obtaining documents without incurring the costs of commercial database vendors and document delivery (generally \$20-30/document, and \$50-75 for literature searches on private databases).

Also, an indirect benefit exists when State personnel can refer outside requests for information to the FWRS, which would reduce or eliminate state personnel time and the material costs associated with providing copies of State reports to other entities (personal comm., B. Voeltz, Nebraska Game and Parks).

To further enhance these benefits, the FWRS has increased the number of "free pages" (from 100 to 200 pages) of photocopy available to Cooperators - State and Federal agency personnel. (See Reader Service Slip)

## **FWRS Near Closure What about the Future?**

Geoffrey Yeadon Fish and Wildlife Reference Service

On January 22, 2001, the staff of the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service (FWRS) was informed that the FWRS projected would be closed for operation on January 31, 2001. This action only allowed FWRS staff one week of personal and job-related preparation for the shutdown. How could this be happening to a viable project in the middle of a five-year contract, after being in operation at its present location since 1983, and being in existence since 1965?

The FWRS was created as a result of an audit in 1964 of the Federal Aid (FA) Program, which is responsible for overseeing projects funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson, 1950) and the Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson, 1937). In 1965, the Library Reference Service, (later renamed the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service) was established to meet the need for coordinating State research information, to prevent the duplication of research, and to share information generated from FA-funded research.

The FWRS has been an important feature of the Federal Aid Program, providing one-of-a-kind state reports and other "gray literature" to State and Federal research biologists and librarians, and the general public. So, why was a decision made to dismantle such a valuable service?

In 1999, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) conducted an audit of the Federal Aid programs, and found discrepancies in FA administrative funding allocations. As a result of the GAO audit and Congressional hearing on this matter, Congress passed the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (H.R. 3671). As part of this Act, the amount of FA Administrative funds appropriate to oversee State projects was reduced. The FWRS receives its funding directly from these FA Administrative funds. It goes beyond the scope of this article to address all the specific factors involved which lead to this decision, but many questions and opinions, however, have arisen as a result of this decision. In the mean time, as a result of actions taken by concerned State and Federal librarians and biologists,

private individuals and organizations, the FWRS contract was extended for a 90-day period, ending May 4, 2001. During this period, negotiations between the USFWS and the operator of the FWRS (KRA Corporation) resulted in the FWRS project being placed under a multi-state grant, administered by the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. The allotted grant will extend through December 2001. After that--??

### NRIC Member Honored

The Nebraska Chapter of Sigma Xi named Richard Voeltz, University Libraries, University of Nebraska--Lincoln, Outstanding Science Librarian for 2001. Richard is Associate Professor and Liaison for Physics, Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Math at UNL Sigma Xi was founded in 1886 and now has about 75,000 members who are elected because of their achievements in science and engineering. For more information about Sigma Xi, visit [www.sigmaxi.org](http://www.sigmaxi.org).

### NRIC Contacts

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### Tenth Annual Meeting in Seattle

Louise Richards University of Washington

July 2000 saw 18 NRIC members gather in Seattle on the University of Washington campus for NRIC's tenth annual meeting. Highlights of the four days included presentations on the Elwha Dam on the Olympic Peninsula, disaster recovery for libraries, the National Conservation Training Center Library, tours of the Center for Urban Horticulture and the Cedar River Watershed and other very interesting papers. At the business meeting the chief topic of discussion was how to increase membership. Networking and offering a travel stipend to a first-time attendee were two ideas. Yellowstone was selected as the site for the 2001 meeting. These are some comments from the conference evaluations:

1. What did you like best? Quality of presentations; Notebooks; Opportunity to meet agency librarians; Location; Sunday beginning
2. What would you change? Hold business meeting in the middle of the schedule; Appoint a timekeeper for contributed papers; Hold roundtables
3. Topics or themes for future meetings? Information literacy; Outreach to other information groups; Digitizing resources; Subject analysis; Future of access to government information; Regional researchers; Retain focus on natural resources, natural resources librarianship, and general topics for librarians.