



THE PATRIOTISM of Conservation

By EVAN HIRSCH

On CNN in late September it was reported that the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt (aka, "The Big Stick"), the largest ship in the world, and its battle group of 20 cruisers, destroyers, frigates, tenders and submarines stringing a mile and a half from end to end steamed from Norfolk en route to the Mediterranean.

How strange that such a warship is named after the man many of us associate with the dawn of

"For those of us who care about wildlife and the lands on which they depend, now more than ever is a time to proclaim our patriotism in the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt."

conservation in America. In fact, Teddy Roosevelt was a hawk of the first order. The President who established Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and more than 60 other wildlife sanctuaries also led

the charge to rebuild our military at the turn of the century and provide the training and readiness to ensure success in war.

Yet for him, being personally strong, patriotic and militarily prepared was not to the exclusion of caring for the natural world. Indeed, Roosevelt had an intense appreciation for wildlife. Curiously, today these convictions seem incompatible despite Roosevelt's example.

Shortly after the September
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NWRA LEADS C.A.R.E. MEDIA RELEASE

In partnership with the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), the NWRA led the production of a national media report, *Short-changing America's Wildlife*, to promote Refuge System funding needs. The report highlights the challenges of a geographically diverse set of 12 refuges and recommends a \$700 million annual budget for the Refuge System in fiscal year 2003. It was released in November at a national press conference on Capitol Hill and at two regional events attended by key members of Congress and CEOs of CARE group members.

The report is part of a larger

media strategy by the CARE group to generate Congressional and Administration support for refuges with an eye to the coming Refuge System Centennial. In

addition to the media events, CARE worked to involve local affiliate organizations and Friends groups as a way to help foster

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

NEW DIRECTIONS IN A NEW ERA

The attacks of September 11th have changed many things in our lives — the inherent sense of security we once took for granted has become a thing of the past; Americans now feel an unprecedented edginess and uncertainty; and those of us working to protect the natural world have struggled with how our commitment meshes with these grim events. The tragic death of Humbolt Bay refuge manager Rich Guadagno in the Pennsylvania crash has left those of us working with wildlife refuges with a sad but poignant connection.

While these events have served as a reminder of the frailty of human life, they have also helped bolster our convictions by forcing us to think carefully about their relationship to America's value system (see *Patriotism of Conservation*, page 1). As a result, our resolve at the NWRA to see the Refuge System stronger and better able to meet its important conservation objectives in the next century has never been stronger.

This resolve is manifest in our *Plan for New Directions*, crafted at the NWRA board meeting in June. The plan is, in essence, a roadmap for making the Association a strong and consistent long-term advocate for the Refuge System, and is built on these five basic principles:

- As America's only network of lands set aside with the primary mission of conserving wildlife, the Refuge System needs and deserves a powerful advocate working exclusively on its behalf;



MARIA CECIL

“In these uncertain times, we at the NWRA are committed to ensuring that one of America's greatest natural legacies does not become a casualty of international conflict.”

- To be a powerful advocate for refuges, the NWRA must have a strong and active membership;
- The future of the Refuge System rests in the hands of those working to promote and protect refuges at the local level;
- Partnerships will be the lifeblood of the NWRA;
- Without specific and realistic priorities a growing Refuge Association risks “death by a thousand cuts.”

Building on these concepts, we have carved out an agenda for the next five years that, if successful, will yield significant advances for the System and help set a strong

foundation for its next 100 years, while also ensuring steady and deliberate growth for the NWRA.

In the near-term we are seizing on the Refuge System Centennial as an important opportunity to highlight the need for significant funding increases, starting this fall with the release of a CARE media report entitled, *Shortchanging America's Wildlife* (see CARE, page 1). Partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we are sponsoring the first ever National Refuge Friends Conference in late February 2002, that will convene up to 300 members of Friends groups and local refuge volunteers from across the country for skills-building workshops and networking (see page 10). And next summer, we expect to launch a major policy initiative that will have broad ramifications for the Refuge System while involving Friends groups and other national partners.

Without doubt, the year ahead will be a challenging one, but never before has the Association's vision been so clear and our purpose so resolute. In these uncertain times, we at the NWRA are committed to ensuring that one of America's greatest natural legacies does not become a casualty of international conflict. For all of us working to better the National Wildlife Refuge System now, more than ever, is the time to join hands and recommit ourselves to this remarkable system of lands.

Evan Hirsche is President of the NWRA.



NWRA LEADS C.A.R.E. MEDIA RELEASE

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local and regional press coverage.

Established in 1996, CARE is a coalition of 20 organizations representing a wide range of interests working to secure increased federal funding for refuges. A diverse group of organizations including the National Rifle Association, the Wilderness Society, the Wildlife Management Institute, the National Wildlife Refuge Association and others, CARE has been an effective voice on Capitol Hill, helping to secure major increases in refuge funding.

Since CARE's establishment, Congress has responded to the needs of refuges by providing modest funding increases for each fiscal year, although significant additional funds are still needed. CARE believes that refuge operations and maintenance annual funding must be increased to a total of \$700 million for the Refuge System to meet its critical wildlife conservation mission.

FUNDING NEEDED FOR REFUGES

Operations.....	\$560 million
Maintenance.....	\$140 million
Total	\$700 million

Severe funding and staffing shortfalls have led to the decline of refuge habitats and wildlife populations and put popular wildlife-dependent recreation programs at risk.

For example, the **San Diego NWR** in California is a complex of smaller refuges set aside to stem the decline of several wildlife species including the California gnatcatcher, California least tern, arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, and



DEBRA REYNOLDS, USFWS

Log Pond Cove, at Silvio Conte NWR, is completely covered with invasive water chestnut.

light-footed clapper rail. Yet the refuge has insufficient funding to hire biologists to monitor and study these endangered species, leaving their future hanging in the balance.

The **Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge** contains 7.2 million acres of the Connecticut River Watershed scattered throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. It was established to protect areas infested by numerous invasive plants that are threatening a number of federal and state-listed endangered plants and displacing other native plants and wildlife. Lack of funding to support the refuge's war on exotic species could have serious consequences not just for refuge lands but for habitats within state and local jurisdictions as well.

Like at many refuges in the System, staff at **Noxubee NWR** in Mississippi must store flammable and potentially explosive materials in refuge facilities. Remarkably, Noxubee's oil and

paint storage building, just 20 feet from the administrative building, is in violation of OSHA regulations, putting refuge employee safety at risk. Funding is desperately needed to purchase a building equipped with the appropriate ventilation equipment and spill containment features.

Despite the best efforts of Refuge System staff and the CARE group, the funding shortfall is resulting in lost opportunities for enhancing wildlife populations, restoring degraded habitats, rebuilding endangered species populations and providing additional programs for wildlife viewing, wildlife education, hunting and fishing. A substantial investment is needed for the System to continue to function and benefit present and future generations. To view *Shortchanging America's Wildlife* and CARE's funding plan, *Restoring America's Wildlife Legacy*, visit our website at www.refugenet.org or call us at (202) 333-9075 to receive a copy.



REPORT FROM ALASKA

By JOHN MARTIN, ALASKA REPRESENTATIVE

As always, there's no shortage of issues affecting Alaska's 16 refuges. With a new President and staff on board, the NWRA is working to play a more visible role in connection with these critical issues.

Arctic NWR: In June the Association's Board of Directors passed a resolution opposing exploration and drilling. Subsequently, a letter was sent to members of Congress asking them to oppose drilling in the refuge's fragile coastal plain. We have also distributed alerts and updates on the NWRA Friends listserv.

Kenai NWR: Alaska's most visited refuge faces threats on several fronts that have put the refuge at the center of two major national reports. The first is a proposed 40-mile above-ground powerline that would cut through the heart of refuge brown bear habitat highlighted in Audubon's recent *Refuges in Crisis* report. The USDA recently completed a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed "Southern Intertie" for public comment that makes construction of the powerline through the refuge the preferred alternative. The environmentally preferred alternative (in



EVAN HIRSCHKE

Proposed powerline would cut through brown bear, moose, bald eagle and trumpeter swan habitat on Kenai NWR.

the NEPA document) is to locate it outside the refuge. Readers are encouraged to submit comments by December 5; a copy of the EIS is available online at: www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. For talking points and where to submit comments, please visit our website: www.refugenet.org, or call (202) 333-9075.

Kenai is also featured in the *Shortchanging America's Wildlife* report released by CARE this month. The report calls for water quality surveys in the refuge's increasingly stressed waterways.

In partnership with the Alaska Natural History Association, the NWRA helped Anchorage, AK, residents celebrate National Wildlife

Refuge Week on October 18 by sponsoring the showing of two films, *Alaskan National Wildlife Refuges* and *Arctic Dance: The Mardy Murie Story* at the Bear Tooth Theater Pub. All 350 seats were sold out an hour before the doors opened at 7:30, leaving only standing room for 80 others—100 more were turned away from the door. The Theater owner said that this was the busiest night they have ever had.

Izembek NWR: The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge still faces threats from the King Cove access project. Scoping had been completed on an EIS that includes an alternative for a road through the Izembek NWR. The NWRA continues to be ardently opposed to the road. Members can keep up with this project at: www.kingcoveaccesseis.com.

The **Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge** celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week on September 29 in Homer. Two hundred and fifty people joined refuge staff and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve staff on Bishops Beach (part of the AMNWR administrative site) for an all day event of environmental education, fun and lunch.

JOIN NWRA TODAY!

Membership benefits include our quarterly newsletter, action alerts, an NWRA sticker, and discounts on events.

\$25 (basic membership) \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 _____ Other

Make checks payable to the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Name _____ or Charge to Visa or Mastercard.
 Address _____ Credit Card No. _____
 City _____ Exp. Date _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Print Name as on Card _____
 Phone _____ Signature _____



KLAMATH BASIN CRISIS CONTINUES

By JOE MAZZONI, CA/OR REPRESENTATIVE

The Klamath Basin which straddles the California/Oregon border and holds six national wildlife refuges has been experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. With the needs of endangered suckers and coho salmon in the Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River, respectively, taking priority for water, virtually all agricultural irrigation from the 220,000-acre Klamath Reclamation Project was shut off by the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) in early April. This effectively denied all water deliveries to the Lower Klamath NWR. While the Tule Lake NWR continued to receive sufficient water to maintain its small sucker population, Lower Klamath had to rely on water stored last winter and limited well water purchased from neighboring farmers to maintain wetland habitats.

By mid-July, wetland habitat on Lower Klamath had been seriously impacted by the water shortage, and the Association joined with others in the conservation community in encouraging BR and the Interior Department to make sufficient water available to the refuge to at least meet the minimum needs of wintering bald eagles, as outlined in the Biological Opinion on this population.

Near the end of July, BR determined that storage projections for Upper Klamath Lake had been exceeded, and that approximately

70,000 acre feet of water could be released. Interior Secretary Gale Norton released the entire amount to the Klamath Project for agricultural purposes, specifying that none was to be released to the Klamath Refuge. Again, the Association joined others in expressing our dissatisfaction with this decision and urging the Secretary to make provision for minimal refuge water needs during the critical late summer, early fall period.

Subsequently, BR made



Migratory waterfowl depend on Klamath wetlands.

arrangements for the acquisition of water to meet Klamath refuge water needs for the months of August and September and provided nearly 8,000 acre feet of water in October. The end result has been that the minimum standards of the Biological Opinion on wintering bald eagle needs have been fulfilled. In combination with wetland conditions on Tule Lake, this has allowed the refuge to meet minimal requirements of fall migrant waterfowl.

In late July, the Association joined with the Wildlife Management Institute, the

Western Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited, the Audubon Society of Portland, and the California State office of the Audubon Society in a request to Oregon Senators Ron Wyden (D) and Gordon Smith (R) that they jointly convene with their Senate colleagues in California a public process to develop a long-term strategy to resolve the significant issues facing the Klamath Basin.

Senator Wyden later released a document that outlined a proposed long-term strategy incorporating many of our recommendations and announced his plans to sponsor legislation to address the more immediate effects of the drought. The Association again joined with others in submitting a list of measures to Wyden that the group recommended be included in any legislation considered this year.

In the interim, a legal challenge to BR's decision to stop normal irrigation filed by Klamath Basin irrigators failed in federal court. The court urged the parties to pursue a negotiated settlement, and a mediation process supervised by a U.S. Magistrate Judge was initiated. Association involvement in that process suggested that it held promise for negotiated solutions. However, in September, the irrigators decided not to participate any further, and the future of the mediation

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EVAN HIRSCHKE



FRIENDS CORNER

BUDGET ISSUES AFFECT ALL REFUGES: FRIENDS GROUPS MUST ACT

BY BEVERLY HEINZ-LACEY

Many challenges facing our national wildlife refuges are the result of a woefully inadequate budget. To bring the issue home, consider the following:

Have your Friends members noticed or complained that

- Visitors have little to no contact with staff.
- Outreach and education is limited or nonexistent.
- Habitats are degraded.
- Information on species is outdated, inadequate or absent.
- There is no biologist, no visitor service staff, etc.
- Visitor facilities are deteriorated, inadequate, or nonexistent.

These problems are pervasive across the National Wildlife Refuge System and are a sampling of the impacts of the funding shortfall described by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancements (CARE) in its annual plan about the need for increased funding for the Refuge System.

On a local level, Friends groups are doing much to assist refuges with these problems by volunteering, fundraising, and conducting outreach and education programs. Many groups are also helping on a national level by advocating for significant increases in the Refuge System budget. However, the funding shortage is severe and a larger grassroots effort is needed if we are to succeed at ensuring adequate funds for our refuge.

In recent years, Congress has responded with modest funding increases to help relieve the most critical needs, but significant funds are still needed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a sys-

every one of our refuges will continue to struggle to meet their mandates. The time for Friends groups to act is now. We have incredible influence with our legislators which we must use to

obtain a significant budget increase for the Refuge System. Collectively, Friends are a powerful force — if all groups take up the national funding challenge, we can make a significant contribution toward the health and success of our Refuge System into the next 100 years.

Following is a short list of ideas to get started:

NATIONAL STAFF VACANCIES

Essential Staff Vacancies	# Vacancies (Full Time Equivalents)
Manager	162.5
Biology	387.8
Resource	115.0
Education/Recreation	178.0
Law Enforcement	149.5
Clerical/Administrative	102.3
Maintenance/Equipment	254.9
Total	1,350.0

tem that prioritizes projects by need. Based on this and other data, CARE estimates that the Refuge System funding backlog is nearly \$2 billion.

CARE recommends a \$700 million budget for fiscal year 2002 (an increase of about \$400 million over FY 2001). Given the need, this is a modest increase. Contrast this to the expected allocation which increases the System budget by just \$20 million!

Here's one translation of how the current 2002 budget will barely scratch the surface of addressing the backlog. There are 1,350 essential staff vacancies nationally (see table) — *the FY 02 budget will fill less than 50 of these positions (less than 4%)*.

This national issue is a local issue — without more funds,

- Meet with your manager to learn about the challenges facing your refuge.
- Attend the Friends Conference in February 2002.
- Meet with your legislators and staff to share local concerns and request a significant budget increase for the System (use Capitol Hill visits during the Conference as an entrée to your delegates).
- Regularly inform your legislators about local and national issues.
- Invite legislators and their staff to visit the refuge.
- Engage and educate your community.
- Contact NWRA for more details and copies of CARE's funding plan.



FRIENDS CORNER

BUDGET SHORTAGES CREATE CHALLENGES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL: THE STORY AT BITTER LAKE NWR

By BEVERLY HEINZ-LACEY

Inadequate funding creates challenges for all refuges. At Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, these challenges fall into two primary areas: visitor services and invasive species management.

About 40,000-50,000 people visit the refuge each year, but there are few facilities to serve them: no weekend restrooms or staff, just a kiosk for brochures and general information. Until recently, there was no outreach staff to offer programs and work with local schools. Manager Ken Butts notes that wildlife diversity is great (e.g., it harbors the largest number of dragonfly species in North America), there are plenty of hiking areas, and the public loves the refuge. He says, "If we only had funding to do outreach, we could accomplish a lot!"

The second big challenge is invasive plant management, especially salt cedar, which wastes water and crowds out native plants. Ken says they can dig it up, but long-term management is a problem. Ken described a wetland area, which hosts four endangered species. Several years ago, they dug up the salt cedar and water flows increased, benefiting the endangered species. The

cedar is coming back, but they don't have anyone to go back to clean it out.

Ken looks to the Friends group for help in educating the community and legislators about refuge challenges. He figures that when the message comes from a prominent group of citizens, it has more effect than if it comes from a "bureaucrat" like himself.



Exploring the trail during the Dragonfly Festival, August 11-12, 2001, Bitter Lake NWR

LARRY KNADLE

educational programs and fundraising for an environmental education and visitor center.

On a national level, the group is nurturing their relationship with their congressional delegation. Whenever they meet, they discuss the challenges at Bitter Lake NWR and note that refuges face similar challenges nationally. They make a point to request improved fund-

ing for the whole System.

Politically, the group is fortunate to have Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM) as a neighbor and long-term supporter of the refuge. He has helped designate

Friends of Bitter Lake NWR are rising to the challenge. This group is young (established September 2000) and rather small (about 75 members), but they are gaining local and national support for refuges.

Locally, they have capitalized on mutual interests in the community. For example, they sponsored a Dragonfly Festival to educate visitors about the refuge and promote tourism in the area. As a result, the city contributed funds and the event drew about 2,000 people. The group is also working with schools on environmental

funds to manage salt cedar and supports plans to build an education/visitor center. As Chairman of the Interior House Subcommittee for Appropriations, Representative Skeen also has the power to help refuges nationally.

The group recently honored Representative Skeen by sponsoring "Joe Skeen Day." The event involved the city and county officials who signed a proclamation creating "Joe Skeen Day." Local and national officials attended the ceremony, and the Friends gave Representative Skeen a plaque,

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THE PATRIOTISM of Conservation

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11th attacks, an *Atlanta Constitution* article calling for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge read, “We owe it to our nation and the victims of these monsters to at least initiate and speed up the process that reduces that distasteful dependence. We’ve been terrorized. Must we remain willing hostages, too?”

In another article an analyst for Deutsche Banc in Baltimore was quoted as saying, “Trade a relatively small environmental damage to the Porcupine caribou herd in return for the World Trade Center? I know where I would come down. Who wouldn’t?”

The answer to that, of course, is that it’s a false trade off. We all know that drilling the Arctic will only diminish our dependence on foreign oil by a small percentage. Even if drilling started tomorrow, it would be ten years before oil began running down the pipeline. Modest conservation activities could release oil quantities equivalent to those from drilling the Arctic in a shorter time period for the indefinite future — and might also create more jobs. In a war against terrorists, do we want to be so reliant on an exposed 900-

mile pipeline through the heart of wilderness?

Despoiling the American landscape and its dependent wildlife in response to the barbaric acts of terrorists would be merely a temporary salve for a larger, more profound problem.

For those of us who care about wildlife and the lands on which they depend, now more than ever is a time to proclaim our patriotism in the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt. In a time when people are asking what they can do, we need to believe that our work to protect America’s wildlife and wildlands is as patriotic as giving blood or donating to human relief causes. The terrorist attacks have been termed an attack on America and her values. In response, we must strive to protect that which makes our country so unique — that we have decided as a nation that habitat and wildlife protection is a cornerstone of American values.

So, as the carrier group Roosevelt steams off to defend America, we should remember that the President for whom the vessel is named believed that fighting for America went beyond preserving our great society, it also

included fighting for the natural world within our borders.

When financial analysts tell us our patriotic duty is to go shopping, eat out or buy a new car we can say, “yes, we can do our part in that regard.” But we can also proclaim that we are not just a nation of consumers. We are a nation that cares about our fellow humans; we are horrified and torn by what has happened to the victims and families of the recent attacks; but we are also a nation whose forefathers had the vision and wisdom to protect open lands and wildlife knowing that, beyond their intrinsic value, they also make us whole. That this is what makes ours a civilized society.

So I urge you to stand by your values because they are unequivocal American values. Give blood, donate to relief causes, but firmly believe that your work to make Blackwater better for the birds and other wildlife, or fighting to keep the Arctic Refuge from being drilled for oil, is equally important for the nation.

Excerpted from the keynote address at the Friends of Blackwater NWR Annual Meeting, September 24, 2001.

KLAMATH BASIN CRISIS CONTINUES

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process is now in doubt.

There are no simple solutions to the tangle of problems that have evolved in the Klamath River System since the Klamath Reclamation Project was initiated nearly 100 years ago. Long term

solutions will come only when there is general acceptance of the need for change and a sincere willingness on the part of all interests to work out compromises that restore and sustain essential wetlands, provide suitable, high quality

water for fish and wildlife, properly balanced with a sustainable level of irrigated farming in the Klamath Basin. The Association will continue to support such an approach.



RICHARD J. GUADAGNO

SEPTEMBER 26, 1962 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

By MAGGIE MEIKLE

It is with great sorrow that I write about the loss of a committed supporter of National Wildlife Refuge System, who was killed in the September 11, 2001 tragedy. Richard Guadagno, manager of the Humboldt Bay NWR (CA), was aboard the hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in Pennsylvania. He was returning home from a visit with his family and the 100th birthday celebration of his grandmother.

When I was the director of Salem Audubon Society, I worked closely with Rich to establish our Audubon Refuge Keepers programs and to build cooperative chapter/refuge habitat preservation programs. Rich was a strong and vital part of that process and never stopped trying his best to keep the refuges healthy for wildlife. They were his first priority.

A Ewing, New Jersey native, Rich's 17-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took him everywhere from New Jersey to Delaware, all the way to Oregon



MAGGIE MEIKLE

and, finally, to California.

Rich was a biologist and a federal law enforcement officer. I'm sure that if anyone on that plane

tried to stop the hijackers, it was Rich. He was a very brave man and someone who never backed off from doing the right thing.

His many hobbies included stained glass art, birdwatching, hiking, gardening, and photography. Rich was a very warm, caring, thoughtful man, who often stopped to chat with refuge visitors. His office door was always open to the public, and on his days off, he could be found cheerfully helping volunteers complete their projects.

Rich is survived by his parents, Jerry and Bea Guadagno of Ewing, New Jersey, his sister, Lori Guadagno of Briscole, Vermont, his beloved dog, Raven, and a legion of shocked and saddened colleagues and friends. Memorial donations may be sent to: Friends of Opal Creek, P.O. Box 318, Mill City, Oregon 97360. Please write "in memory of Rich Guadagno" on the check memo line. A celebration of Rich's life will be held in November at Baskett Slough NWR.

BUDGET SHORTAGES CREATE CHALLENGES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL: THE STORY AT BITTER LAKE NWR

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making him an honorary member of the group. The event was well publicized and gave the group lots of friendship-building mileage.

While it's true not all Friends and refuges have key congression-

al leaders as neighbors or personal friends, it's also true that nurturing these friendships is relatively simple. The model used by Friends of Bitter Lake NWR is easily duplicated: match mutual interests; get publicity; regularly visit

and send letters to congressional members; and publicly honor friends. Friends groups nationally can take this approach to help ensure that all refuges receive the funding necessary to accomplish their missions.



NWRA TESTIFIES ON REFUGE CONCESSIONS BILL

On September 20, 2001, NWRA President Evan Hirsche testified before the House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans on H.R. 1370, the Refuge Concessions Bill. The bill, introduced by Representative Mark E. Souder (4th-IN), would authorize the maintenance and repair of buildings and properties located on lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System that are currently leased by various



L-R: Lou Hinds, Dan Ashe, Evan Hirsche, Chip Cunningham

concessionaires. While strongly supportive of the intent of H.R. 1370, the NWRA expressed the need to

carefully craft the bill's language so that it does not create incentives for refuges to allow concessions activities that might be inappropriate for refuges' wildlife conservation mission.

Other individuals who testified were Dan Ashe, Chief of the Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Lou Hinds, Florida Refuge Supervisor; and Chip Cunningham, a concessionaire at Okefenokee NWR in Georgia.

carefully craft the bill's language so that it does not create incentives for refuges to allow concessions activities that might be inappropriate for refuges' wildlife conservation mission.

GRETCHEN MULLER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL FRIENDS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by NWRA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Who:** All Refuge Support Group members and Refuge Volunteers are encouraged to attend. All levels of experience are welcome!
- Where:** Washington, D.C.
- When:** **February 23-24, 2002** features skills-building and networking opportunities, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. **February 24-25, 2002** features training and visits with your Members of Congress, sponsored by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

For more information or to register, call 202-547-1654, e-mail us at nwra@refugenet.org or visit www.refugenet.org. Registration ends February 1, 2002, but breakout sessions are first-come, first-served, so be sure to register early!

PLEASE PASS THE WORD ALONG! We also have ready-made announcements that you can include in your newsletter—e-mail nwra@refugenet.org to receive the artwork.

Help Us Celebrate A Century Of Conservation!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUBMIT REFUGE SYSTEM AWARD NOMINATIONS TODAY

Ever admired the dedication and talent of a coworker? Ever wanted to recognize a colleague for his/her outstanding work? Know of Friends group that deserves special recognition?

Here's your chance to recognize the excellent achievements of refuge supporters and employees alike! **NWRA is accepting nominations for the 2002 National Wildlife Refuge System Awards through December 1.** Sponsored by the NWRA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the awards honor outstanding accomplishments by refuge managers, Refuge System employees, volunteers, and Refuge Support Groups. Contact Debbie Harwood at 202-333-9075 or dharwood@refugenet.org for more information or to request the nomination form.

GREAT GIFT IDEA — 2002 REFUGE SYSTEM CALENDARS

Featuring the stunning images of renowned nature photographers and long-time refuge supporters John and Karen Hollingsworth, the 2002 Refuge System Calendars commemorate the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's legendary expedition. Each month illustrates a refuge along the trail, depicting the beauty and significance of this historic event. To order your calendar, call NWRA toll-free at 877-396-6972, or e-mail us at nwra@refugenet.org. Calendars are \$14.95 each, which includes shipping and handling.

Be Sure to
Check #1131 to
Support NWRA
in the Combined
Federal
Campaign!



NEW INTERIOR APPOINTEES NAMED

The NWRA would like to extend our congratulations to two recent appointees: The new Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Steven A. Williams, former secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and the new Assistant Interior Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Craig Manson, formerly a California judge. Both await Senate confirmation.

CLEARANCE SALE!

Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges

by Laura & William Riley

Regular Price: \$16.95, now **\$11.95**

Seasons of the Wild

by John & Karen Hollingsworth

Regular price \$19.95, now **\$13.95**

REFUGE SUPPORT GROUP MINI-GRANTS

Working with our partners the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the NWRA awards Friends groups grants of up to \$5,000 for start-up, capacity-building, and project-specific initiatives. There are two grant cycles each year, with deadlines of March 30 and August 31. In the August 2001 grant cycle, proposals were funded for 15 Friends groups in 11 states, for a total of \$63,345. For grant application materials, visit www.nfwf.org/programs/nwrgp.htm, or contact Trevor Needham at NFWF, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036, or call (202) 857-0166.

REFUGENET GETS A FACE-LIFT!

Surf our updated website! Become a member, make a donation, register for the National Refuge Friends Conference, and learn more about NWRA's exciting events and programs! Special thanks to our "Friend" Bob Srdoch for all of his help.

www.refugenet.org



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