

# ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FISH AND WILDLIFE EMPLOYEES

1st Quarter 2021  
PO BOX 2568  
Olympia, WA 98507

# NEWSLETTER

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Please let us know if you know someone who has recently retired from WDFW.
- The Post Office forwards mail for only a short time period. Please notify the Secretary with address changes.
- Dues are \$20.00 per year. Send them in now to PO BOX 2568, Olympia, WA 98507.

## 2021 Board of Directors:

**President:** Lora Leschner

**Vice President:** Bruce Crawford

**Secretary:** Mark Quinn

**Treasurer:** Fay Bronson

## Board Members:

Bob Everitt

Dick Smith

Bob Zak

## DUES ARE NOW DUE!

We are now in 2021, and Annual Dues are still \$20.00. Fay Bronson, Treasurer, reports that this year's payment of dues is way down from what it usually is. Please send your dues to: PO BOX 2568, Olympia, WA 98507.



Fay wants to remind all members that if you receive your newsletter via e-mail, the cover e-mail says what year you are paid through. We print "pd thru date" on mailing labels, as well, so everyone can check and see if they are current with their dues.

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Submitted by Mark Quinn

For many years the Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Employees (ARFWE) has made annual charitable donations to various conservation organizations in Washington State in honor of those members lost the preceding year. This includes efforts to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats as well as donations to scholarship funds and memorial scholarship funds for students enrolled in natural resource curriculums. Following is a summary of donations made the last five years and a brief description of the charity.

## 2016: \$500 Donation to The Ecosystems Scholarship Fund

The Ecosystem Scholarship Fund was established by Rollie Geppert after he retired from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Rollie believed the future of our natural resources was in the hands of young

adults and that education was the only viable long-term solution to saving ecosystems and all the fish and wildlife they support. The Fund is now administered through the **Community Foundation of South Puget Sound** in Olympia, WA. and makes awards every year to a deserving natural resource sciences student. This scholarship fund is unique in that it provides a systematic process for assisting students with their college expenses in pursuing careers in natural resources and land use planning. Also, donors who employ people in natural resources and land use planning can have confidence that this scholarship will ultimately create a pool from which they can hire future employees.



Chilcotin Ranges to the North Cascades, from the Cascades to the Kettle River Range and Greater Rocky Mountains, and more.

### **2018: \$755 Donation to the Dave Brittell Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

This scholarship fund was established by Dave's family. Dave was a former research biologist, Regional Wildlife Manager and Assistant Director of the Wildlife Program. He passed away shortly after retiring in 2017.

Dave was a passionate wildlife advocate and recognized leader within the agency. He epitomized the "...be hard on the issues and soft on people" approach to management and was deeply respected by employees of the Program, throughout the agency and with the public.

The scholarship memorializes Dave's love of fish and wildlife and the recreational opportunities it provides for Washington State residents. It also recognizes his devotion to science and the foundation it provides for natural resource decision making. The Scholarship awards are made annually to support students enrolled in Wildlife Biology and Natural Resource related curriculums.

### **2017: \$500 Donation to Conservation Northwest**

Conservation Northwest is a Washington State focused Conservation Organization. They are active and extraordinarily successful at partnering with numerous individuals, government, and other conservation organizations to effect landscape level conservation projects on the ground. The Wildlife Overpass along I-90 just east of Snoqualmie Pass is just one example of what they have been able to accomplish with multiple partners over the last couple years. They have also played a major role in protecting and helping to restore populations of Lynx, Fischer, Marten and Wolverines to their historic ranges in Washington State.

**Restoring habitat connectivity has been a cornerstone of Conservation Northwest's work since their founding in 1989.** By focusing on connecting the big landscapes, they have protected vital wildlife corridors and reconnected habitat between Washington's North and South Cascades, from the British Columbia Coast and

## 2019: \$500 Donation to Washington Outdoor Women (WOW)

WOW was started by Ronnie McGlenn, wife of former Fish and Wildlife Commissioner John McGlenn

WOW is celebrating its 23rd year and offers hands-on workshops dedicated to teaching women and girls traditional outdoor wilderness skills in relevant settings.

WOW Workshops connect women and girls to the outdoors and provide unforgettable experiences for all skill levels. WOW instructors teach 20 different skills that have outdoor applications, from fly fishing to archery to map reading and much more.

Their workshops teach a deeper respect for the outdoors and how to become responsible stewards of our state's natural resources.



## 2020: \$250 Donation to Youth Outdoors Unlimited (Pending)

**Youth Outdoors Unlimited** (<https://www.youthoutdoorsu.org/contact-us>) is a Washington based non-profit organization dedicated to take **youth diagnosed** with life threatening illnesses or physical disabilities on the hunting or fishing adventure of their dreams! **Youth Outdoors Unlimited** was honored by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife for 2017 Organization of the Year!

## 2/18/21 BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Lora called the meeting of the Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Employees to order at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Attendance: Lora Leschner, Bruce Crawford, Bob Zak, Fay Bronson, Bill Hebner, Bob Everitt, Tim Young and Mark Quinn.

### Old Business:

Minutes approved from 12-10-2020 Meeting by unanimous consent.

Treasurer report: Bill and Lora met with Fay to review last year's budget and certified ARFWE's financial records for 2020. The ending balance for last year was: Checking account: \$5,974.22, savings: \$2,916.92, total: \$7,891.14. Overall balance decline by \$250 due mostly to the drop in membership.

Bob Zak moved to approve the budget and 2020 audit, seconded by Bob Everitt and motion passed.

Joan Keller says the deadline for submittals for the next Newsletter is March 4. Bruce Crawford, Bob Everitt, Bill Hebner and Mark all volunteered to contribute. Bill said he would be willing to call Lloyd Walker and interview him for a story and Bob Zak will contact Chris Anderson as well.

Bruce gave an update on his book. He has sold all but 20 of the 100 he had printed including copies to a few past directors and game commissioners. There was a lot of discussion about how to make the book and similar

information available to retirees and well as those outside the agency who might be interested in knowing more about our history. It was decided to make the book purchase information available on the public portion of ARFWE's website along with information on other books that may still be in print. Bruce agreed to do that.

Mark suggested adding a solicitation for ARFWE's annual charitable donation to the cost of Bruce's book. It was suggested that maybe this should be voluntary. Some discussion about using the book for other uses, maybe new employees. \$15 per book mailed to Bruce at Bluefish publications, 2395 Burk Road, Blaine, WA 98230. No decisions on what exactly to do regarding the charitable surcharge for Bruce's book but will be discussed at next meeting.

Mark Quinn has an extra copy that he will offer up for a raffle at the next annual meeting and picnic with the funds going to ARFWE's annual charity.

#### ARFWE Recruitment:

Bill and Lora reported and their meeting with WDFW staff Nate Pamphlin and HR Director to increase awareness of ARFWE for people about to retire. WDFW has agreed to distribute a package of information from ARFWE to all future retirees as they transition to retirement. That package will include an invitation letter, Bruce's story about 'The day the Mountain Blew" and the two most recent newsletters. On the other hand, WDFW is interested in using ARFWE to help with internal recruitment and sharing news about volunteer opportunities (Barbara Hoff is WDFW Volunteer Coordinator) for interested retirees. Great ideas and this info should be shared at the annual meeting/picnic. **[Editor's note: It was decided to put a one-page flyer re: ARFWE in the info sent to people about to retire. See information included with this newsletter]**

Fay Bronson brought up the sensitivity about sharing personal information as it relates to widely distributed newsletters, blog information or information from the private portion of the website. Everyone agreed that we

need to be careful and should make certain to scrub the newsletters for any private information.

Tim Young asked about seeking out some IT assistance from newly retiring WDFW staff. We could amend the invitation letter to new retirees to highlight the need for some IT assistance for ARFWE.

Bob E suggested not asking for DOB on the membership invitation since that is personal info

that could be misused. Mark Q agreed. After discussion it was agreed to just mark it optional on the membership application form.

Tim Y suggested using electronic transactions instead of writing checks on the website. Tim noted that there is a 3% surcharge from the credit card companies but it is faster and easier for most people. Several discussions about costs of third-party vendors and security audits. Tim will follow up with more info.

It was suggested that we also send invites to former and existing commissioners, along with newsletter. After discussion of bylaws, it was agreed that anyone who otherwise does not qualify can join with board approval.



Public Page: WDFW liked some of what was on the public page of ARFWE.

Anything that appears on the public page should include disclaimers and protect personal information and be done with permission. Some of the board asked about the number of visitors to public and private pages. Tim can provide?

Tim asked about whether Bruce had thought about digitizing his book. Bruce will contact the state library about giving them a copy of the book.

Write up something in the newsletter about using the public and private portions of the website. Tim will post whatever we can send him in terms of pictures and information related to ARFWE and employees.

Tim will write up a reminder about how to access the private site.

ARFWE's charitable contribution for 2021. The board discussed the recommendation from the last meeting to consider **Youth Outdoors Unlimited** (<https://www.youthoutdoorsu.org/contact-us>) for 2021. Motion by Bob E, second by Bruce to make ARFWE's annual charitable contribution half (\$250) of what it was last years due to decreased revenue in 2020. **Youth Outdoors Unlimited** is a Washington based non-profit organization dedicated to sharing outdoor hunting and fishing opportunities with **youth diagnosed** with life threatening illnesses or physical disabilities. **Youth Outdoors Unlimited** was honored by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife for 2017 Organization of the Year! The board asked for some additional information on this organization before finalizing the donation. Fay agreed to contact them and confirm that the contribution would be used in and by kids from Washington.

Tim explained how "go-fund-me" works and suggested that this is an alternative/complimentary charitable method for the charity that we choose for ARFWE's annual donation. Meeting adjourned at lunch time.

Next Zoom Meeting: May 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30; Submitted by: Mark Quinn, Secretary

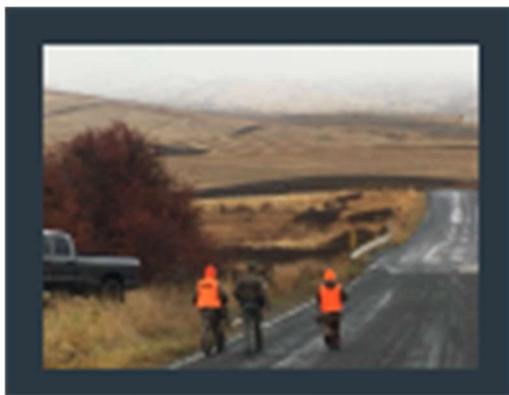
Following is Fay's report on her phone conversation with Youth Outdoors Unlimited:

**I spoke with Cindy Carpenter today regarding their organization. The other locations on their website are for fundraising activities only. All business and field hunting trips etc. are conducted and coordinated thru the Moses Lake main office. I asked about who participates in the program.....most of their participants are youth from Washington, but they do have some from Idaho, Oregon and occasionally from British Columbia since one of their annual hunts is in Canada. I was encouraged that we could comfortably donate, and our funds would be spent largely to benefit Washington youth.**

I also mentioned that many of our retirees worked for Washington Game, Wildlife and Fisheries their entire careers. I noticed on their website that they advertise for volunteers. I asked if we could mention the need for perhaps our seniors to contact them if they are interested in volunteering with their organization and she said absolutely! For all their hunting activities they have certified firearm safety instructors because the kids need to pass that class before they can go on a hunt.

If we decide to donate to them, I can set up a "go-fund-me" page. I need to set up a separate bank account with WSECU for ARFWE and I need to provide all federal tax id information for our account since we are going to be responsible to send the money to Outdoor Youth. It does not look like it is difficult, just need to get all the ducks lined up. I will be meeting with WSECU this next week. I am going to research some more just to be sure that I understand all the information correctly. But right now, that is my limited understanding. What I am unclear of is this.....when I set up the account can ARFWE be the intermediary or does the money have to go directly to Outdoor Youth from the GoFundMe page? Whose account becomes the tax liability with the IRS? I am also going to contact Tim if I have a couple other questions since he already did a GoFundMe page."

## NEWLY RETIRED



HERE'S TO THE NEXT CHAPTER

### HAPPY RETIREMENT CAPTAIN DAN RAHN!

After more than 35 years of service to the State of Washington, Captain Dan Rahn will be retiring on March 31. Captain Rahn will truly be missed, but we are excited for him as he begins new adventures! Due to Covid-19, there will not be a retirement party. However, if you'd like to contribute funds toward a retirement gift, or send a card or well wishes, please send by March 24 to:

Sgt. Mike Sprecher 2315 N Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, WA 99216

## BITS AND PIECES

**Bobbie Thorniley:** Congratulations.....Starting January 2021 you are eligible for free membership in the Centenarian Club! Members get the newsletters etc. without paying dues. In the year members turn 90, they are eligible for free memberships. Please stay safe and take care.

**Pat Lohrer:** Pat's son, Jeff, called me to let me know his Mom is still in the Assisted Living home in Port Angeles. Pat turned 91 in January and can recall with perfect detail nearly every experience she had while at the Game Department – and everywhere else! Her short-term memory isn't so good, Jeff reports, and says they called in Hospice care this week.

**Linda Hayes:** Linda's daughter, Tiffany, called me to let me know how Linda is doing. She became disoriented, so is now living with her daughter and son-in-law in Stanwood. While there, she became ill, and was hospitalized with Covid-19 pneumonia for a couple of weeks. She is back at her daughter's home in Stanwood and is doing well. She is getting around pretty well (including up and down stairs) and has no supplemental oxygen now. Linda worked in the Olympia Licenses section for a number of years before working in Mill Creek. She then transferred to the Department of Corrections and eventually retired from there.

Got up this morning  
and ran around the  
block 5 times. Then  
I got tired, so I picked  
up the block and put it  
back in the toy box.

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### Chris Anderson reports the following for Region 2:

(1) Dan Rahn's last day is March 31. Current captains had until the end of February to send notice they'd like to be considered for transfer.

(2) Sgt Dan Christensen from Okanogan Co is leaving. His last day is February 28. He has accepted the police chief position in Omak.

### **Kessina Lee reports the following for Region 5:**

Cindy Varley, regional admin, has gathered some of the names of new staff who have joined Region 5 in the past six months. This is not an exhaustive list, but if you let us know when your newsletter publishes, we can have a more thorough list for you next time.

#### **Habitat Program:**

Madeline (Maddie) Nolan, Assistant Regional Habitat Program Manager



Laura Brown, Columbia River Estuary Restoration Manager

#### **Enforcement**

Sergeant Ryan John, Detachment 5 (transferred from Region 6)



#### **Wildlife**

Monique Ferris, Private Lands Biologist

Zach Breitenstein, Assistant Wildlife Area Manager at Shillapoo

Jerika Wallace, Natural Resource Tech 2, Cowlitz Wildlife Area

John Edwards, Columbia River Pinniped Program Lead

#### **Fish Program/CRMU**

Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead

Monica Blanchard, Lamprey Biologist

Beth Deacy, Commercial Fishery Biologist

Matt Sturza, Smelt Fishery Biologist

In general news, staff have been on mandatory telework for a full year now, with the exception of Enforcement and our hatchery crews who have worked straight through the pandemic. The transition was a little bumpy at first but our teams quickly adapted and succeeded in completing critical work and providing a high level of customer service. WDFW employees are passionate and dedicated and their commitment to Washington's natural resources has been evident throughout this difficult year.

We look forward to getting back to a new normal, but in the meantime Region 5 staff continue to work diligently for fish, wildlife, and people.

## OLD FRIENDS REMEMBERED ~

**John Sneva** passed away on January 31, 2021. John was born in North Dakota in 1949, and is survived by his wife, Rita and two daughters. John attended the University of Washington and obtained a BS in Fisheries. A career with the Department of Fish and Wildlife took him to Seattle in 1976, then to Tumwater where he and his family put down their roots. John was a highly accomplished fish biologist. His career blessed him with numerous friendships that remain strong today.

**Jeffrey Haymes** passed away January 3, 2021 at the age of 57. He was born in Georgia in 1963. Jeff graduated from the University of Washington and was a fisheries biologist for WDFW. He loved many outdoor activities and sports. A near-fatal mountain biking accident left him a quadriplegic. With the support of his loving wife, Kim, and voice-activated software, he was able to continue his 25-year career at WDFW. He is survived by his wife and brother.

**"In Memoriam: The Association makes an annual donation to a worthy conservation cause in memory of all retirees or spouses who have passed away during the previous year. This is in lieu of flowers at the time of death. The Association does not always learn of deaths in a timely fashion. If you can help us in this respect, we would appreciate it."**



### Centenarian Club

**Helen Lartz Barnett**  
**Dale Finley**  
**Dorothy Ford**  
**Helen (Hartung) Geiger**  
**Rose Goebel**  
**Russ Hupe**  
**Pat Lohrer**  
**Guinevieve Lund**  
**Stan Scott**  
**Dolores Sharp**  
**Kay Shea**  
**Pat Sibon**  
**Merrill Spence**  
**Willie Stout**  
**Bobbie Thorniley**  
**Lloyd Walker**  
**Art Westrope**

Newsletters are free to members of this elite club. If you qualify by approaching 100 (90+) let us know.

**STAY SAFE EVERYONE!**