

From the Eagle's Nest

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GREAT LAKES BIOLOGIST RECEIVES CHIEF SEALTH AWARD

By Karen Lynch, NAFWS

This year's honor of the Chief Sealth Award was presented to Dave Conner, a biologist/Administrative Officer at the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota.

As a recipient of this award, Conner joins five previous environmental professionals across the country acknowledged for their work and dedication

on behalf of tribal natural resources.

"This is definitely the crowning achievement of my career," Conner said, "with one exception. The greatest honor has been to have worked with the Red Lake Tribe for the past 15 years."

As a graduate with a master degree in fisheries, Conner gained his first experience in Indian country at Red Lake tribal fisheries. Inequities in the amount of funding provided to states compared to Tribes for environmental capacity

(See page 10 - Sealth -)



A happy day for Dave Conner when he received the Chief Sealth Award for commitment and stewardship on behalf of tribal natural resources in Indian country.

NATURAL RESOURCES CLOSE TO HIS HEART

Editor's Note: Ira New Breast, the new Executive Director of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, began his post on June 17, 2002.

Ira addressed the 2002 participants in May at the Society's 20th annual conference in Anchorage. Following is Ira's first address to the membership during the conference's general session:

Greeting the membership, he said in the Blackfeet language, "Hello, how are you? ...my friends, my relatives, and my ancestors."

"It's been said that we are one large extended family within the Native American Fish & Wildlife

Society.

My journey at Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Department was long and enjoyable. I have fought the battles for our fish and wildlife department. By this fighting, I've suffered the frustrations, I've undergone being the low animal on the food chain for funding when I'm measured up against or compared to human resource problems. I've been screamed at, I've gone home and taken long walks not taking anything out on my family of course. But I've tried to understand why I can't get the other world that's not associated with fish and wildlife to have the same heartfelt connection that I have for fish and wildlife resources.

This has been a focus of mine and for my people as well. Because of that focus, I've had the best interests of fish and wildlife resources in mind.

What is close to my heart is my traditional spiritual practices. I have been

(Cont. on p. 3- Close to...)

NCAI LEADER ENCOURAGES TRIBES TO GET INVOLVED

By: Karen Lynch, NAFWS

"Our way of life could be threatened," warned the president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Tex Hall, about tribal sovereignty issues taking place throughout Indian country.

Hall addressed the 2002 conference participants at the 20th Annual National Conference of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society in Anchorage on May 1, 2002.

"There is uncertainty

(See p. 11 - NCAI -)



224 MEMBER TRIBES

Agdaagux Tribal Council/Akiachak Native Community/
Akiak Native Community/Akutan Traditional Council/
Alakanuk Traditional Council/Alderville Indian Band/
Allakaket Village Council/Arapaho Business Council/
Asa'carsamiut Tribal Council/Almatuak Traditional
Council/Barona Band of Mission Indians/Bay Mills In-
dian Community/Beaver Tribal Council/Big Sandy
Rancheria/Birch Creek Village Council/Blackfeet Tribe/
Bois Forte Reservation/Bridgeport Indian Reservation/
Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma/Catawba Indian Na-
tion/Chalkstik Village Council/Chemehuevi Indian
Tribe/Cherokee Nation/Chevak Traditional Council/
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma/Cheyenne
River/Sioux Tribe/Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy
Reservation/Chippewa of Nawash Band/Chistochina
Village Council/Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana/Citizen
Potawatomi Nation/Clarks Point Village Council/Coeur
d'Alene Tribe/Colorado River Indian Tribes/Colville
Confederated Tribes/Comanche Tribe/Confederated
Tribes of Coos. Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians/
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes/Confederated
Tribes of the Goshute Reservation/Confederated Tribes
of Grande Ronde/Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians/
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation/Crow
Creek Sioux Tribe/Eastern Band of Cherokees/Eastern
Pequot/Ekwok Village Council/Elk Valley Rancheria/
Ely Tribe/Evansville Tribal Council/False Pass Tribal
Council/Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa/
Fort Belknap Community Council/Fort Independence
Paiute Tribe/Fort McDowell Mohave Apache/Fort
Mojave Indian Tribe/Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs
Apache/Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe/Grand
Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa/Hamamahville
Indian Community/Hoopa Valley Tribal Council/Hopi
Tribe/Hopland Band of Pomo Indians/Houlton Band of
Maliseets/Husila Tribal Council/Hydaburg Cooperative
Association/Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska/Iowa Tribe
of Oklahoma/Iqurmiut Traditional Council/Jamestown
S'Klallam Tribe/Jicarilla Apache Tribe/Kaibab Band of
Paiute Indians/Karuk Tribe/Kaw Nation of Oklahoma/
Kenaitze Indian Tribe/Ketchikan Indian Corporation/
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/Kickapoo Nation of
Kansas/Klamath Tribe/Klawock Cooperative Associa-
tion/Kodiak Tribal Council/Kotlik Traditional Council/
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewas/
Lac du Flambeau Chippewa/Lac Vieux Desert Chippewa
Tribe/Leech Lake Chippewa Tribe/Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians/Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa In-
dians/Louden Village Council/Manokotak Village
Council/Manzanita Band of Mission Indians/Marshall
Traditional Council/Mashantucket Pequot Tribe/
McGrath Native Village Council/Menominee Indian
Tribe/Mentasta Tribal Council/Mescalero Apache/
Micosukee Tribe/Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians/
Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma/Morongo Band of Mission
Indians/Nambe Pueblo/Nanwalek IRA Council/
Narragansett Tribe/Native Village of Aika/Native Village
of Barrow/Native Village of Deering/Native Village of
Eklutna/Native Village of Elim/Native Village of Eyak/
Native Village of Fort Yukon/Native Village of Goodnews
Bay Traditional Council/Native Village of Kotzebue/
Native Village of Kwinhagak/Native Village of Mekoryuk/
Native Village of Shaktoolik/Native Village of
Shishmaref/Native Village of St. Michael/Native Village
of Wales/Native Village of White Mountain/Navajo Na-
tion/Nenana Native Council/Nez Perce Tribe/
Nightmute Traditional Council/Ninilchik Traditional
Council/North Fork Mono Rancheria/Northern Chey-
enne Tribe/Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi/
Nulato Tribal Council/Oglala Sioux Tribe/Ojibway 1850
Treaty Council/Oneida Indian Nation/Oneida Tribe of
Indians/Organized Village of Kwethluk/Osage Nation/
Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma/Passamaquoddy Tribe/
Pedro Bay Village Council/Penobscot Indian Nation/
Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians/Pilot Point
Traditional Council/Pilot Station Traditional Council/
Poarch Band of Creek Indians/Pokagon Band of
Potawatomi Indians/Ponca Tribe of Nebraska/Port
Gamble S'Klallam Tribe/Prairie Band of Potawatomi
Nation/Pueblo of Acoma/Pueblo of Cochiti/Pueblo of
Isleta/Pueblo of Jemez/Pueblo of Laguna/Pueblo of
Pojoaque/Pueblo of San Ildefonso/Pueblo of Santa Ana/
Pueblo of Santa Clara/Pueblo of Taos/Pueblo of
Tesuque/Pueblo of Zia/Pueblo of Zuni/Pyrmaid Lake
Paiute Tribe/Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska/Quapaw
Tribe/Quagan Yavagungin Tribe/Quileute Tribe/Rainy
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Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians/Redwood Valley
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braska/Santo Domingo Tribe/Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa
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Tribe/Seneca-Cayuga Tribe/Shoalwater Bay/Shoshone-
Bannock Tribes/Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley/
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Tribe of Alaska/Six Nations of Canada/Soboba Band of
Mission Indians/Southern Ute Tribe/Spirit Lake Sioux
Tribe/Spokane Tribe/Squaxin Island Tribe/St. Croix
Tribal Council/St. Regis Mohawk Tribe/Standing Rock
Sioux Tribe/Swinomish Tribal Community/Stevens Vil-
lage Council/Stillaguamish Tribe/Summit Lake Paiute
Tribe/Swinomish Tribal Council/Tanana Tribal Council/
Three Affiliated Tribes/Tlingit & Haida Central Council/
Tohono O'odham Nation/Tribal Government of St.
Paul/Tsawwassen Indian Band/Tuolumme Me-Wuk
Tribal Council/Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa In-
dians/Ugaskik Traditional Village/Unga Tribal Council/
Upper Sioux Community/Ute Indian Tribe/Ute
Mountain Ute Tribe/Walker River Paiute Tribe/
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/White Earth Reserva-
tion of Minnesota/White Mountain Apache Tribe/
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes/Winnebago Tribe of Ne-
braska/Yakutat Tlingit Tribe/Yankton Sioux Tribe/
Yavapai-Apache Nation/Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo/Yupit of
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FROM THE EAGLE'S NEST

Is a communication tool to inform and facilitate the exchange of NAFWS news and information nationally, including Canada. We seek relevant information from our members and others who are interested. However, at times we do have limitations, so please understand if we should select another vehicle for your valued information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ron Skates, President
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 6, Bozeman, MT



There are Benefits to Society Membership

Greetings to you all! I hope everyone is well and for those of you who attended the recent national conference in Alaska, I hope you have returned with a renewed sense of vigor that will help us stay committed to what we strive for in our day-to-day lives.

I want to thank all those who were responsible for putting together a successful conference. As most of you long-time members may know, this year's conference in Anchorage marked our 20th year as an organization. Like most conferences, it takes an inordinate amount of time and effort to put together an event of this magnitude. On behalf of the rest of the Board of Directors and the staff, we express our sincere appreciation to all the folks who put in many hours and time away from their families to help make this a great conference. For those of you who were unable to attend, about all I can say is, you missed a "goot one" as Nathan Jim (Eight Ball) would have said.

As most of our membership should know by now, Mr. Ira New Breast from the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana has accepted the job as our new Executive Director and assumes his duties on June 17, 2002. I

have personally known Ira for several years, having worked with him on many occasions and have full confidence in his ability to lead our organization into the future. I look forward to the opportunity to work with Ira and the rest of the Society staff as we begin to address the many priorities that are before us.

Recently, I was approached by an individual who is a non-member of the Society. He asked me, "If I join this organization, what will my membership do for me?" Well, needless to say, this is a question that many of us hear in the Society from time to time. I immediately thought of what former President John F Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

In many cases, we tend to look at things in a self-serving way and that's not bad but we can often miss an opportunity to get involved based on that. So, to answer the question of, "What will my membership do for me?" There are many benefits: This publication you're reading is one of them. The gathering and sharing of information is important. There is also the providing of education/training opportunities to our youth, resource managers, conservation officers, and technicians, etc. We also provide scholarships and

awards recognizing outstanding individuals, technical assistance on various biological/environmental issues, and we provide expertise and advice to Tribal governments and their programs as requested. There are also opportunities to provide testimony to Congress in support of various tribal programs and projects; and to provide advocacy to assure the protection, preservation and conservation regarding the prudent use of tribal fish and wildlife resources. Lastly, perhaps the most important thing about Society membership is the comradery, the sense of family felt between members of the organization.

There are many benefits for individuals and I'm sure I haven't even covered all the opportunities. All I can do is encourage you to get involved and I'm sure you will be glad you did. In the case of the individual who asked me what would membership benefits in the Society mean, because he was recently honored with a special award this year at our national conference, and now he is a firm believer in the organization.

In closing, I would like to say that I'm honored to serve as your President again. I have had the opportunity to work with many Board of Directors and staff members over the years and say without a doubt, that they are some of the most dedicated and enthusiastic folks I have ever had the opportunity to work with. I can assure our membership that these folks have put their hearts and souls into their positions. In a world that is so unsettled
(see next column - Pres.)

(Close to... - Cont. from p. 1-)

involved in our Native American Blackfeet tribal spiritual group and that has opened my eyes in so many different ways. I hear about these problems and we ask if there are solutions so that we can work on it and move forward. And I found in every case as I moved along in the last few years that with attention to spiritual values much like our ancestors had in the past, their walk in daily activities was a spiritual holy path. And I found for myself if we can replicate that by praying and being involved spiritually recognizing the importance of everything, you are charged to protect, to serve and to manage that the problems will solve themselves. The solutions will present themselves for me as an individual or for any other group that I'm working with.

I very strongly believe in that there is a way to incorporate our spiritual values as Native American peoples into the direction and management of our fish and wildlife resources. That's where I come from.

Conservation Officers You're Not Alone

I want to mention something else close to my heart. As I mentioned earlier, there are the frustrations, the battles and overall efforts to provide for our fish and wildlife resources. What I would like to convey here today particularly to our grassroots tribal fish and

(Cont. on page 4 - Close to...)

(Pres. - Cont.)

and uncertain, it's important that we as Americans reach out to one another and treat everyone with love and respect. I'm sure our Creator would expect nothing less than that.

Until we meet again, have a great summer and enjoy your loved ones! God Bless.

- Ron Skates

CONSERVATION OFFICER TRAINING NEWS

by Ron Skates, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6

The Native American Wildlife Conservation Officer training was conducted during the week of May 6, 2002 in Billings, Montana. This training is sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) and the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Society). A total of 40 officers were accepted into the advanced training course, but due to travel problems and family emergencies, five individuals had to cancel at the last minute. Thirty-five participants completed the week-long training with representatives from 17 tribes that included four regions of the Society.

This advanced course was put together based on

ately needed throughout Indian country at a much larger level. The course included: firearm's certification; si munitions; defensive tactics; officer survival; waterfowl identification; techniques in interviewing/interrogations; federal acts and mandates and global positioning system training. Federal agents from several regions of the Service and representatives from the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks assisted in the training. These folks did an outstanding job and their services were greatly appreciated by the Society and the participants attending the course.

Since the requests are always for more training, I and Mr. Ira New Breast will be meeting with the Law Enforcement Directorate of the Service later this summer to advocate for additional training in each of the seven regions at



It's anybody's guess who these guys are. According to Ron Skates, he is the one in the middle and Joe Early is on the left and Audrey Belcourt is on the right during the law enforcement training held in Billings on May 6-10.

recommendations from past attendees and the feedback we received at the end of the course was perhaps the most positive of all the training held to date. It's obvious that this type of training is desper-

least once a year. Also, Mike Fox, the technical services director for the Society, is currently working on a "Rookie" law enforcement training which will be held in

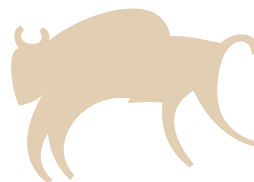
Lower Brule, South Dakota in August of this year. For more information on this course, please contact Mike at (303) 466-1725.

Challenge to Conservation Officers

At this past conference in Anchorage, I made a challenge to the conservation officers to organize between themselves and with the Society to become more of a voice as it pertains to the training/education needs they have. I also said it would be good for them to form their own council or committee within the Society and begin to work on long-range plans that will support their needs including a funding package, that the Society could move forward with.

Well, needless to say, they took me up on the challenge and they nominated representatives from each Region to establish a Conservation Law Enforcement council under the Board of Directors. This is a big step forward and I reassured them that they would have my full support as President as well as that of the Board. Over the last several years, I have had the privilege of working with many of these folks and will look forward to continuing our efforts to bring a strong sense of professionalism among the ranks of our Tribal conservation officers.

Until we meet again, have a great summer and be safe out there.



(Cont. from p. 3 - Close to...)

wildlife managers and conservation officers --- you're not alone. As Executive Director, I will be more than willing to provide you with the presence and support to help you achieve your management and conservation goals. That's really an area that the Society needs to focus on.

I've talked to a number of individuals who were involved in the establishment of the Society 22 years ago and they had a vision at that time. And that vision was exactly what I'm talking about now --- they needed help. Their vision was they need to help each other achieve our management and conservation goals. That's the very foundation of what the Society is based on. And I would like to see it go back in that direction. As Executive Director, it is my hope that I will never rely on aloof standards that the common everyday conservation officer doesn't feel like they can't contact me to get help. I'll make every effort to see that those individuals are helped in regards to their management needs, whether on a grassroots or a national level. I recognize that the Society is a national force that has the capability to go to Washington, D.C. and be heard very strongly. I've been pushed out of the offices of many congressmen, so I have that behind me and under my belt as well. Except maybe this time as Executive Director of a national organization, they'll be a little reticent to try and push me out of their offices.

Still, I think that even that is in the best interests of the fish and wildlife resources. I don't think there will be any doors closed to the Society's efforts if in the best interests of the resources. Again, I'm here for you. The Society is nothing more or less than the summation of each and everyone of you and your interests --- not my interests.

I'll work to make sure that is the end product of what we

(See page 7, - Close to -)

ALASKA REGION CONDUCTS WATER QUALITY WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Elijah Donat, Alaska Region, NAFWS

Our phase II Water Quality workshop was held in Craig, Alaska. Craig is located on the Prince of Wales Island. We did day-long field trips to Haidaburg and Kasaan. We were able to pull the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) together and it is going quite well.

The participants picked up on the template fairly quick. We had thought that not having per-diem/meals would be an inconvenience, but each day a Tribe sponsored a potluck meal for the group and the food was outstanding.

We gave memberships to all non-member Tribes that participated, and it looks like we'll see at least a few new members. The mad rush to prepare for this class and get equipment together has paid off. To save money we borrowed microscopes, plankton nets, and dissecting kits from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

Now that we've got this QAPP template out there, three Tribes from the class are now working on plans to do the monitoring. They will require further assistance, but it's worth it because no other Alaska Tribe has ever had an approved QAPP for water. What they're doing is for the protection of subsistence resources - it's starting to look like a success story.

Everything is mostly in

order for our next class in Iliamna, we are still putting together the participant list. We'll be able to save money next time by mailing the workshop equipment ahead of time instead of flying with it. We'll continue working on the Standard of Operation (SOP) so the template should be EPA approved towards the end of the summer. When it is completed, it will also have some applicability for the lower 48 Tribes because we are using Region 5's strategy.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association is flying our project to help with shellfish testing and using new testing equipment that was purchased. The Chilkoot Indian Association requested our help with their QAPP also. This should take place in July. The Tribes are paying for our expenses.

Also, if you need anything in the way of science equipment for the youth practicum, let us know.

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Phase II Water Quality Workshop held in Craig, Alaska. Here, participants are using a dissecting scope.



A group shot of the participants that attended the Water Quality workshop in Craig, Alaska.

DONATIONS TO HELP APACHES RECOVER

In response to calls by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians of California has donated \$1 million in financial assistance to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, which sustained damages to 60 percent of its reservation from the massive Rodeo-Chediski wildfire.

Prior to the fire, the Apache tribe's lumber business employed more than 400 people, most of whom have lost their jobs. According to Apache Tribal Chairman, Dallas Massey Sr., many reservations homes lost power, which led to hunger as food spoiled.

NIGA this month raised \$130 million during its two-day legislative conference on Capitol Hill. The Prairie Island Community of Minnesota and Sodak Gaming has

donated \$10,000. The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and the California Nations Indian Gaming Association donated \$5,000, and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe has sent \$25,000.

Contact: Carla Nicholas, NIGA, (202) 546-7711.

ALASKA NATIVE ELDERS IMPART WISDOM

By: Karen Lynch, NAFWS

Elders, always an important part of the Society's national conferences were again a hit at this year's conference in Anchorage.

Dr. Walter Soboleff

Dr. Walter Soboleff, from southeast Alaska, a Tlingit tribal member greeted participants, especially his Alaskan "brothers and sisters."

"It's a delight to see people here from all over the world. The bears are coming out of their dens and can you believe it, that these bears are walking through the main streets of the capital in Juneau?"

"I was born when our people were moving from culture to another. Its been said by scholars that the only thing permanent is change: How true this is.

"In southeast Alaska, we have a culture centered on family values. Respect, an important value is the first commandment of the Tlingits. If you have respect for yourself, you gain respect from others.

"Alaska has a problem with subsistence," he said, "we have been here for 1200 years and that is a long, long time. We've been impacted by the

western culture and civilization but has this culture tried to live our culture?"

Robert Aloysius

From the Lower Yukon in southwest Alaska, Robert Aloysius addressed the audience in his Native language of Yupiaq thanking the Creator for his life, his traditions, his culture, and his heritage.

"I'm Yupiaq, not Yupik, and to my estimation and knowledge, we have no Eskimos in Alaska. There are Eskimos in Canada - yes, but they were the first Native peoples that the French saw on their journeys to the Northern hemisphere. The first thing they looked at was what the Native people ate. They saw them eating raw meat. So they called these people Eskimos, which translates to "eaters of raw meat".

"We are many nations of people here, we're not just grouped together as Alaska Natives. We recognize ourselves for who we truly are. Being a specific people, we also recognize the other tribes that make up our nation of Alaska Natives."

Describing his education as a Yupiaq, Aloysius said, "My first education was what I called the Yupiaq university --- from birth to 14 years of age. My instructors were elders - my grandmothers. I was

educated in the ways of the human being. The way of the human being looks out to the world. There's no exclusion. Our education system is all inclusive -- my self, my family, my community, and every living creature. We are educated to love and respect all living creatures. I bet all of you Native Americans have that same basic philosophy of life?"

As Native peoples, Aloysius said there are two tools that we have: "We have our language and our spirituality. We have to use these two strengths and begin focusing on our children so that they will have these tools for their children and grandchildren.

"I remember growing up near the Kuskokwim River on what most people would call a wilderness. We depended on the land for sustenance and we were a nomadic people. We hunted, fished, gathered, trapped, but always with the knowledge of securing or gathering only what we needed. If you have surplus, it is shared with others who are the most needy.

His two grandfathers taught him how to hunt, fish, trap, and gather. "In the short life I've had, I'm seeing a decline in the bird, game, bear, and especially the fish populations. There's a river near us that used to run almost the color of milk. To me, it smelled like perfume. I'm sure that to a non-knowing person, they might say, "How can you stand that smell?"

"That perfume, to me, meant that salmon were spawning. Now we don't see that white color in the rivers anymore. Someday I'd like to see that come back so my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchildren can see it again.

"This is why, even though I am so unworthy of being here, I'm honored yet humbled to share with you what I know of my people. How they lived and how they honored and respected the resources

around them. It is said that knowledge is worthless if you keep it to yourself, this is why I share this with you."

In conclusion, Aloysius said, "I invite you to come and see the real Alaska. Come to our villages and see what you're working for. Especially, in the summer or fall, come visit our homes and our villages, so that you will understand that we are in desperate need of repair, renewal, and of rebuilding our natural resources.

"Look to your elders for guidance because they know what it's about and how to take care of it. Thank you."

Morgan Solomon

Morgan Solomon, an Inupiaq from Wainright, Alaska in the North Slope has been an advocate for wildlife since Prudhoe Bay Oil came to his region. "Our greatest concern in the North Slope is sea mammals, whales, fish, caribou and other renewable resources," said Solomon.

"Our organization, the Native Village of Barrow, the Arctic Slope Corporation and others in the area started in the 1960s when the federal government decided to control our fish and wildlife."

Solomon said that since the 1970s he began to notice climate changes in the North Slope. "Things that we have never seen before are happening to our natural resources," said Solomon. As a result, several strong regional corporations have banded together in our region to determine that we must protect the welfare of our natural resources because that is what the Inupiaq people depend on for their livelihood. It is their livelihood for tomorrow.

"I encourage you to talk to your Senators. Remember: You are a tool for your family and we have to work together and do research because we live where things are changing."

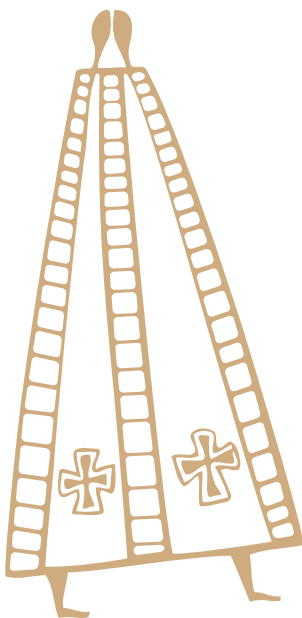


The Elders panel at the 2002 National Conference are: (L-R) Morgan Solomon - moderator; Dr. Walter Soboleff; Marie Wilson; and Bob Aloysius.

(Close to...cont.from p.4 -)

are able to achieve as a Society of what you want and not what Ira wants. I hope you really take that to heart. I hope that I'll get to know each and everyone of you, by name. But I do hope to build relationships with each and everyone of you. For those who aren't here and who are regulars to these conferences, I mean those people also. To the Society members who were not able to come here, we pray for blessings for you and your tribe and your people, particularly for young people and elders. For those elders that came here I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being here with us; with your generation to help us to be what you would hope us to be once we reach your age with the knowledge and wisdom.

Again, I thank you elders for being here. Thank you for listening. I hope you have a good time while you're here and will travel home safely to your families. I pray that your families are taken care of and blessed while you are away. Thank you.



BIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

Shaun Grassel, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation



Shaun Grassel, a biologist at the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe accepts his award, "Biologist of the Year" at the 2002 National NAFWS Conference in Anchorage.

By: Karen Lynch, NAFWS

Shaun Grassel, of the Lower Brule Sioux tribe and a member of the Society for five years received the "Biologist of the Year" award during the 2002 National Conference in Anchorage.

A tribal wildlife biologist at Lower Brule for seven years, he was nominated for his work toward the formation of the Intertribal Prairie Ecosystem Restoration Consortium (ITPERC) in the Great Plains Region.

The ITPERC is comprised of at least nine tribes in the Great Plains Region. The ITPERC's purpose is to: 1) develop and implement uniform management strategies for prairie habitats/species conservation; 2) to effect preservation and restoration of key prairie ecosystems; 3) protect species of special concern, and; 4) to promote and maintain tribal sovereignty as it pertains to natural resources management.

Gerald "Buzz" Cobell, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Tribal Technical Assis-

tance, said, "Thanks to Shaun's efforts the Lower Brule Tribe prepared and implemented its first tribal Black Tailed Prairie Dog (BTPD) management plan.

"He wrote the by-laws and prepared the articles of incorporation, provided testimony for consideration of funding to the House Interior Appropriation Subcommittee, and prepared the grant application to fund a BTPD coordinator.

"Shaun successfully represented tribal interests in the complex and often political climate associated with black-tailed prairie dog management."

Besides his passion for protecting and conserving threatened and endangered species, Shaun said he realizes the importance of his work when it involves creating more hunting opportunities for tribal members which he considers when setting harvest regulations.

"For example, said Shaun, "after we implemented a change in regulations for antler

point restrictions on buck deer, we started to see an even distribution of age structure in those that were harvested.

As a result, "It is extremely rewarding when tribal members come up to me and tell me about the nice big deer they are seeing compared to years ago, which means we have to keep up the good work."

As a biologist at Lower Brule, the diversity of his work at one time included law enforcement. "I trained at the Indian Police Academy which was a challenge. It prepared us for the stresses of the real world. I'm glad I received this training because to this day I'm still interested in tribal hunting and fishing rights.

He said, "There is so much going on in Indian country right now, it is such a great time to work for a tribe and to be involved in the fish and wildlife fields."

To have received the Biologist of the Year Award, Shaun was especially grateful to the Lower Brule Tribe for allowing him the flexibility to be a part of the many issues they contend with at the tribe.

"It is a true honor to receive this award and it is still hard to believe it. There are so many people out there in Indian country doing great things for their tribal natural resources, and to be recognized by my friends and colleagues is overwhelming."

Shaun's family moved to the Lower Brule reservation when he was 11 years old. He attended college at South Dakota State University receiving a B.S. degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Science, and a M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

(See p. 13 - Biologist -)

2002 National Conference



Guest presenters from New Zealand at the conference. (L-R): Dr. Graham Smith, Vice Chancellor at the University of New Zealand spoke about Indigenous Leadership; Dr. Fiona Cram, International Research Institute for Maori & Indigenous Education (IRIMIE); and Dr. Linda Smith IRIMIE, addressed the topic of, "Research from Our Own World".



photo by: Michelle Wilson, Nez Perce Fisheries

The Pacific Region shoot team is this year's first place team in the 2002 National Shoot Competition held in conjunction with the national conference in Anchorage, Alaska. This year's team members are: (L-R) Ted Lamebull (CRITFC); Del Brown (Spokane); Wade White Eagle (Nez Perce) and; A.K. Scott (Nez Perce). Not pictured - Bill Matt Sr. (Spokane).



One of the several Alaska Native dance groups that performed during the 20th Annual Conference performs a traditional dance.



The conference opening ceremony begins with the procession of conservation officers representing the Society's regional areas throughout Indian country.



Big ticket item at this year's auction was a carved moose antler taken by Paul Angell (left) who poses with Mike Bear from the Penobscot Nation who donated the carving.



Evon Peter, Chief of Venetie Arctic Village delivered the message that, "The process of colonization resulted in massive destabilization of social, political, spiritual, economic and cultural ways of being."

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY COME TOGETHER

by: Karen Lynch, NAFWS

It was a presidential day when former leaders of the Society joined together as a panel during the 2002 national conference to discuss the genesis and vision for the future of the Society.

Only four of the past presidents of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society could make the trip to Anchorage.

Gerald "Buzz" Cobell

One of the first leaders was Gerald "Buzz" Cobell, USFWS who said, "Historically, the Society was formed by a group of people looking for the same things and we each had individual challenges.

"If not for a couple of court cases in the 1970s and early 1980s when tribal hunting and fishing rights were threatened, there might not have been a need for this organization."

He also noted that around this same time, an article in *Outdoor Magazine* cited how tribes over harvested their resources and abided by non-regulated hunting activities which meant the pressure to better manage resources was imminent."

Cobell said these main issues brought serious thought towards the development of a national organization.

He said that at that time in the '70s, they all had high hopes for the Society. Some of these areas were: 1) To protect tribal hunting and fishing rights; 2) To facilitate intertribal communications; 3) To promote professionalism, and; 4) To rally tribes regarding national and

regional fish and wildlife issues.

Areas where there are good things happening: 1) The Society newsletter - serves as a good communication tool; 2) Pittman-Robertson DJ issue - still needs work; 3) Regional conferences - these help regions gather together for clarification of issues; 4) Agency support - have broken ground with outside agencies; 5) National recognition - need to build upon, and; 6) National conference - need to evaluate what is accomplished during this yearly event.

Cobell then asked: Where Do We Go from Here?

He said, "This is my last chance to be on the soap box, so I'm calling these next items "parting shots:" 1) Need to focus our dollars on high priority issues - like the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson programs, there's millions at stake there; 2) Need to utilize every

country, and; 5) Need to evaluate why the Society organized in the first place and have we lost sight of the most important issues?

Cobell challenged all to get recommitted to the spirit of the organization and to push for progress for the next 20 years.

John Smith

John Smith, a Colville tribal member and currently working at Bonneville Power Administration in Spokane, Washington served as the second president of the Society from 1986-87 and again in 1994-95.

Smith said that he became a tribal game warden in 1974 when he was 34 years old, an experience he said that changed his life totally.

"At that time, four Washington state game wardens were cited for trespassing on to Indian land. There were also state game wardens citing fishermen on the Colville Reservation. These ended

ment bought back the land for \$1/acre.

Smith said his tribe as a result, was not allowed to hunt or fish on the 1.5 million acres. "Until a tribal member was cited for hunting out of season, the tribe rallied behind him and they took it to the 9th circuit court and the tribe won.

The government may have repurchased the land but they didn't buy back the hunting and fishing rights."

Smith's experience with court cases and hunting and fishing rights had also determined his involvement with the Society in the late '70s. "Back then, we didn't have unity. It was like, why were they patrolling on our "rez" without our permission or why were they citing our people?

"These were the type of concerns that brought me to the table here and the NAFWS. These things were happening throughout the country."

Back then said Smith, there was not a staff to conduct the work responsibilities and his tribe assisted with some of the costs to do business. Then in 1976, as a result of the jurisdiction problems the tribe realized they weren't spending money on their hunting and fishing protection and established a tribal natural resources program.

In conclusion, Smith said, "I'm proud to be a part of this organization and I know this is something you've all helped to establish. The only advice I can give you is, to hang in there and learn the history. I have all the trust that you as members will take this organization down the road and that is going to make us all proud.

(See page 11 - Presidents -)



Four panelists that served on the President's panel are: (L - R): Gerald "Buzz" Cobell; John Smith; Teresa Harris spoke in place of Matthew Vanderhoop; and Ron Skates.

resource that we can tap into locally to help move the Society in the right direction; 3) Society auctions - open these to the general public; 4) Need to evaluate national conference locations - schedule them in Indian

up as Supreme Court cases until agreements were finally made out of court. Then the Colville had 1.5 million acres of their land taken away by the government because gold was found on the reservation. The govern-



Dave Conner accepts the 2002 Chief Sealth Award during the 2002 National Conference of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society.

(- Sealth - Cont. from p. 1 -)

building caught his attention years ago. "I found that tribes were losing out on millions of dollars. They had been receiving an unequal share of dollars in portion to the area of land they managed. Tribes had been receiving less than one percent when they actually manage 2.35 percent of trust lands and that doesn't include ceded territories or lands held in fee title."

In 1990 he began looking into Tribes being excluded from participating in the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts (Federal Aid). "Federal taxes are collected on all forms of hunting and fishing equipment," said Conner. "Americans, including Native people, hunt and fish and pay taxes which amounts to at least \$400 million a year."

Federal Aid provides states and territories their share of fish and wildlife conservation activities through a formula allocation. "Tribal members pay taxes just like everyone else. It seems that fish and wildlife resources on Tribal land are suffering because Tribal governments are not allowed access to these funds," he said. "It doesn't seem fair."

Conner is a great advocate of raising public and congressional awareness about this issue. He has also been instrumental in keeping tribal participation in Federal Aid as an issue of merit.

Bobby Whitefeather, Chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, also thought that tribes should receive their fair share of funding. "Over the past two years, Dave has led the Tribal fight at the national level to change the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) legislation," said Whitefeather. "It is one of the largest conservation funding pieces of legislation in history allowing Tribes their proportional share of CARA funds."

"Tribes had been receiving less than one percent when they actually manage 2.35 percent of trust lands..."

As it turned out, other tribes in the southwest U.S. had also been investigat-

ing CARA funding and had formed a united effort that began in 1999. At least eleven tribes led by the White Mountain Apache Tribe had written letters of support for the bill. This effort expanded the tribal push for CARA to include tribal language.

Faith McGruther, Regional Director of the Great Lakes Region Native American Fish & Wildlife Society was aware of how CARA could affect tribes said, "CARA represents the largest conservation funding legislation in our history and Dave worked to develop a powerful Tribal voice to seek tribe's proportional share. He not only worked strenuously for CARA but to ensure that the \$5 million in Tribal Wildlife Grants Program remains in the FY 2002 Interior Appropriation Bill."

Conner said although CARA has not passed, Congress did pass a temporary measure called CARA-Lite, a "diluted version" which provides funding for resource conservation. "As a result of tribal awareness and action, this resulted in a five million dollar inclusion of program money for conservation."

Before his arrival at Red Lake 15 years ago, Conner said he had no experience with Indian programs. It didn't take him long to learn. "Over time, my late boss, Lawrence Bedeau and I, oversaw the addition of a wildlife, wetlands, waters, environmental protection, and forestry divisions to the tribe's natural resources department. We also worked toward the recovery of the Walleye fish population.

"Since 1917, Red Lake was home to the largest and longest running commercial fishery in the

U.S. until it collapsed in the 1990s," said Conner.

After developing a recovery plan for the walleye and producing dramatic results, he said there is now "more Walleye in Red Lake than any time within the past 10 years."

Whether it is striving for the recovery of fish or leading the charge for tribal equity in legislation, Conner said it is possible for tribes to become better informed. "The value of the internet is indispensable." The National Congress of American Indians website provides good information about issues. Then there is the Library of Congress website that includes information on the House and Senate. It also includes information on the Administration and what's happening in terms of legislation as it effects everybody and the appropriation of funds."

As a long-time Society member and one of the founding members of the Great Lakes Region, Conner intends to continue his work at Red Lake. "I guess it's been my passion and I wouldn't want to do anything else.

If it weren't for the good relationships amongst people as members of the Great Lakes Region of the Society, there would not be that drive to achieve. I can say that the Society has played a major role to enhance tribes' ability through basically cementing partnerships within and between regions. The Society is an organization that presents an identity, for all of us."

Congratulations Dave as the 2002 recipient of the Chief Sealth Award and thank you for your hard work.

(- NCAI - cont. from p. 1)

in terms of our relationship with the Supreme Court. For the first time, we are asking tribes to rethink their positions if they are looking toward the litigation process.

"A case involving the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) involves a young tribal member whose non-Indian foster parents do not believe that ICWA gives a tribe first rights.

"Another sovereignty case before the Supreme Court involves the Nevada state game and fish officials being allowed to come onto a tribe's reservation.

"These are examples," said Hall "of the terrible undermining of tribal sovereignty, the most critical issues taking place in Indian country. These are larger than the trust fund mismanagement losses. If you think about our treaties, our sovereignty – it's who we are."

Threatened tribal sovereignty also affects tribal hunting and fishing rights for many tribes.

"On my reservation in North Dakota," said Hall, "tribal hunting and fishing licenses are not issued outside the boundary of the reservation.

"It amazes me, that our state officials were not aware that our tribe's management plan has existed for the past 25 years."

Despite having a management plan, his people pursued a memorandum of agreement between the Tribe and the state which now recognizes tribal hunting licenses.

With such cases, it is everyone's responsibility to educate state officials, neighbors, state game officials, and even the federal government said Hall.

Part of the problem, Hall said involves stereo-

types of Native Americans. A stereotype affects how Native people are viewed by non-Indians. An example is that "all tribes own a casino. This stereotype needs to be broken down."

Hall discussed another contentious topic in Indian country, emphasizing the importance of sacred sites.

He mentioned tribal agreements with the federal government need to be enforced for the protection of sacred sites. The 2003-2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial celebration means tribes have the opportunity to tell their stories. There will be many tourists from St. Louis to Portland, Oregon said Hall.

"At that time, tribes could also lose their stories. As the lake levels drop, priceless artifacts will be found. Archeologists have described these prehistoric areas as world-class sites. Agreements are needed here also. Protecting tribal rights needs to be enforced at these sites for looters," he said.

Tribes are also being challenged to include specific information in a



NCAI President, Tex Hall said it should be an American responsibility to protect our water and our lands.

bill. "Defining the word *sacred* means a line is put in the middle of our ceremonies and in the

middle of our culture – so think about that," he added.

Much of these concerns come at a time when tribes all over the country have court cases. There are cases in the east coast, southeast, southwest, in the northwest and in Alaska. Hall emphasized again that tribes need to work together.

"As Indian people, as soon as we step outside we see a mountain, a stream, a rock formation – it seems this country doesn't think twice about stepping upon our church. As soon as we step outside as Indigenous people, that is our church."

Quoting Sitting Bull, a great Sioux Chief, Hall advised that, "it is time 'to put our heads together' and see what we can do for ourselves today, for seven generations to come.

"I encourage tribal members to get involved with your tribe and become active about the issues. Our time has come: Tribes need to take a stand.

"I know there's a lady here in Alaska named Katy John, a Native elder who stood up against the state to vow hunting and fishing rights for her people. There has to be more people like Katy John.

"At some point, a stand has to be made. It is time to work with our neighbors to network and create partnerships. Our rights to hunt and fish and the protection of sacred lands and watersheds should be our top priority.

Dave Conner, a conference participant and a member of the Great Lakes Region and Chief Sealth Award recipient commented, "that fish and wildlife have been overlooked in the Indian trust reform process.

"As a result, there have
(See p. 13 - NCAI -)

(Pres. - Cont. from p. 9)

John Antonio

John Antonio served as third president from 1987-88. "I was proud to be the first Native American biologist out on the Navajo reservation in the 1970s," said Antonio.

As a long-time member and founding father of the Society, Antonio said there are many different persons who are part of this organization, many are elders, traditional people, and council members for their tribes. It takes a lot of different perspectives, we're all different and our Creator gave us different thoughts and abilities, so we need to put them together and follow along the same path.

Antonio said he was proud to be part of the team who came to Denver in the early days to help find the office that currently serves as the office headquarters.

Antonio proposed a challenge to the membership. He said a speaker once taught that the key to success is working together and the key to working together is leadership. "Each of us is capable of being leaders. If we put our ideas on paper, they are only ideas, but when implemented they become more than just ideas. The time for action is now."

Ron Skates

Ron Skates became president in 1992 and has worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service since the 1970s. He was the longest reigning Board member to serve for the Society and has held the positions of regional director, vice-president and president of the Society.

Skates said he was serving as the Society's president when the

(See p. 13 - Presidents -)

INTERVIEW: WITH IRA NEW BREAST

The new Executive Director
of the Native American Fish
& Wildlife Society

Where are you from?

I was born on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning Montana on September 8, 1961. My parents are Peter Manohkini (New Breast) and Betty Cooper. My sisters (no brothers) are Theda New Breast, Kathy Mc Daniel, Dr. Wanda Heffernon and Lori New Breast. My wife is Minnie Boggs, with Daughters Lura Runningcrane, Brittney Smith, and son Faron Runningcrane.

What Tribe are you a Member of?

I am an enrolled Member of the Blackfeet Tribe. My parents and sisters are each Blackfeet Tribal members. My wife and children are members as well.

Where did you grow up?

My parents were relocation program participants, and so they relocated our family to Oakland California in 1963. I was raised in the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area, living in Oakland, Berkeley, and later Albany California. Yearly, the family returned home to Browning to visit family and relatives. Once I became old enough to work, I saved money for travel home to Browning where I spent my summers with various relatives and friends.

Where did you attend college? What field of study?

I attended Humboldt State University and later San Francisco State University of California. I studied Wildlife Management and Geology respectively.

Were there any events in your life that led you to pursuing natural resources?

As a Native American youth living in a non-Indian urban environment, the greatest conflict I dealt with revolved around my self-identity. Overtime, as I developed and matured, the connection to my home on the Blackfeet Reservation increasingly offered peace of mind and a



growing sense of belonging. My time spent back home fostered a grounding sense of identity. As a youth and a young adult, the presence of my reservation home quieted the inner turmoils associated with coming of age, and helped to address the nature of my individual situation. In time, I realized that the peace and contentment I experienced was not only a result of the contact with my people; but included the nurturing effect from the land and its resources.

There never became a question of the direction my future would take; rather, the question posed was always how do I maintain a career connected to natural resources. Fish and wildlife has been and continues to be the medium by which I accomplish my connection.

What led you to apply for the Director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society?

I hold spiritual, cultural and heart felt connections to the existence of our fish and wildlife resources. I regard them as sentient beings sharing the earth equally with us. As a former tribal fish and wildlife director I experienced the struggles and challenges to provide responsible stewardship. It was always a personal view that my work would hold me within the realm of a grass roots tribal involvement. When I became aware that the NAFWS opened the executive position, my immediate response was the desire to remain committed to my tribe and reservation and forego any outside interest. Yet, there remained a persistent desire to apply for the position in the hope that through my experience and skills I could help remedy and address many of the unmet needs that plague every tribal fish and wildlife manager, administrator or law officer. The task and trust held by the Executive Director, I

perceived as a daunting responsibility, the duty quite frankly scared the hell out of me. I, like many other good people, respond to a challenge. Upon applying, I knew that should I be chosen, I would have to meet that trust with humility, honor and respect. I felt, and continue to feel that my commitment and dedication to fish and wildlife quite naturally extends to the interest of the Society.

How long did you work for your Tribe?

I initially worked for my Tribe from 1988 to 1990 in our tribal Grizzly Bear Program. I later worked for our Tribe in the Geographic Information System/ Geographic Global Positioning System Program during 1992 to 1995.

I became the Director of the Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Department in the spring of 1995. I departed as director in the spring of 2002 to assume the position as Executive Director of the NAFWS.

What do you envision for the Society's future?

I see a need of infusing renewed confidence in the Society's role on a regional basis by demonstrating commitment, enlarging our participation and working to expand service. As Director, it is my duty to ensure these as working guidelines for operations. Unity in purpose is the key to an envisioned directional success. My keenest interest stems from a grassroots background. And so my affinity to champion on the ground, fish and wildlife tribal managers is a personal commitment based on first-hand experience and knowledge of needs and especially of hopes and dreams. Through fundraising salesmanship and expansive grant writing capabilities I believe the Society can become independently stable while concurrently investing a staffed resident presence for the direct benefit for each region. As the Society expands capabilities, a system of checks and balances needs to be agreed upon to ensure that cash flow funds translate into streamlined staffing, marked by on the ground fish and wildlife work. For guidance in purpose, one need only to look at the vision held by the Society's founding members. Our tribal fish and wildlife people need

help, and the Society is the mechanism created by fish and wildlife managers, so that help can be achieved. The organization reflects the need of people helping themselves through unity. I perceive it as my duty to see that our focus does not waver from that simple principle.

Who in your life has impacted you most and why?

I am the product of many people. I treasure the experience of those people who have had obvious good influences on my life. Age and experience has taught me to be grateful for those people whose exposure, although unsavory on the surface, taught me valuable lessons as well. I continue to learn today.

Without reservation, my mother Betty Cooper has influenced my life. Through example, she continues to work younger people who try to keep up with her into the ground. Any task is given her best efforts. She gives to others without reserve or hesitation. Loyalty and support to others is her trademark. Her spiritual dedication and observation of prayer and ceremony is exemplary. My mother's physical constitution is enviable. Although inconvenienced her capacity to forgive in any situation is astounding. She extends genuine love and respect to all people she meets. Any good qualities I would venture to attribute to myself is there in large part due to her influence. I try to repay these gifts from her by reflecting her values and example. I thank the creator that he gave me this great person to be my mother. Until I go to the other side, I will humbly and gladly repay this gift.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy?

I enjoy participating in various traditional spiritual ceremonies. I truly enjoy spending time with my wife and kids. Being new to the Denver area it is difficult to participate in old hobbies or activities. I hope to be able to get out and practice tennis, while living in California that was a very time consuming activity for me. I enjoy distance bike riding, I hope to be able to do that here in the Denver area. In

(see page 14 - Ira -)

NORTHEAST REGION U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE HOSTS TRIBAL NEPA WORKSHOP

By: DJ Monette, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Northeast Region, Native American Liaison

The Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted its first Tribal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Workshop on February 12 and 13, 2002 at the Regional Office in Hadley, Massachusetts.

The Tribal NEPA Workshop was based on a request by Narragansett Indian Tribe Natural Resources Director Dinalyn Audette. The workshop focused on topics such as: Applying the NEPA Process; Environmental Assessments; Environmental Impact Statements; Public Review Process; Components of a Good NEPA Analysis; and Common NEPA Mistakes. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also participated and provided NEPA information from their agency.

The Tribal NEPA workshop was attended by natural resource staff from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Tuscarora Nation, and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. The workshop was part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's training commitment to the Tribes in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Native American Policy and the Region 5 (Northeast Region) Implementation Plan.

Because of the enthusiastic interest and positive feedback from the participants, a similar workshop may be held next year. If you are interested in participating in future training opportunities conducted by the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please contact Native American Liaison D.J. Monette at 609/646-9310.

Photo by, Ed Henry/USFWS



Photo caption: Participants that attended the Tribal NEPA Workshop

(Presidents - Cont. from p.11 -)

Society held its first International Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1993. Following that, he worked at trying to get tribes involved in Federal Aid Programs and assisted with the writing of the 1993 Indian Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Act.

"This year, there is hope as Congress has appropriated to the Department of the Interior funding of 125 million tied to the State Wildlife Grants/Landowner Incentive Programs. As a result, tribes will receive 9 million from these programs."

Skates also was instrumental in the development and the actual signing of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Native American Fish and Wildlife Policy.

Since 1997, the USFWS has trained and certified more than 450 tribal conservation officers. We worked hard with the Society to develop a certified Law Enforcement training program for Tribal Conservation Officers/Managers.

He also worked to get three videos produced for the Society.

(Biologist - Cont. from p.7 -)

In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, and trying to stay fit. Most importantly he said he tries hard to spend as much time as he can with his family and relatives who are scattered throughout the state of South Dakota.

Shaun and his "significant other" are making plans for a future together. This, he said, "could involve making some big changes."

Congratulations to Shaun for the hard work and dedication on behalf of tribal natural resources management.



(- NCAI - cont. from p.11 -)

been cuts in funding and failure to adopt new initiatives. For example, the BIA's Conservation Enforcement and Fish Hatchery initiatives. These are critical resources that form an integral part of the federal Indian trust responsibility.

"Although it bears repeating as often as possible to our elected officials in Washington and to appointed department heads that the

Secretary of Interior's trust responsibility to protect tribal natural resources must not be abridged."

Conner emphasized that tribes need to stay on top of the issues and utilize organizations like the Society and NCAI as information clearing houses.

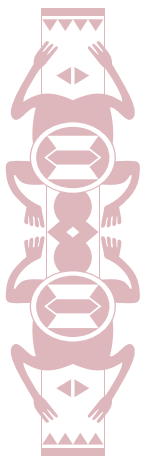
(Ira - Cont. from p. 13)

Montana, as long as you pedaled your bike with the wind you could gain ground. Otherwise, you and the bike were just blown over or fell over trying to go against the wind.

Any comments?

I will work to be out among the membership in their work areas. I will be present in the regions. Please, feel free to introduce yourselves. I will do my best to get to know as many of you as I can. As you know, my workload will find me continually in regional or tribal office environments, still I would truly enjoy seeing first hand field work (of any kind). Hint, hint.

Thank you for sharing your story with our membership.



No Aerial Spraying, Colombia's Indigenous People Plead

(Environmental News Service) -- The Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Putumayo Zone (OZIP) and the 128 Indigenous Governing Councils in the Department of Putumayo have issued a plea to the government of Colombia and the international community not to spray their lands with herbicide intended to kill illegal coca plants.

NATIVE AMERICAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

A scholarship opportunity for Indian students wanting to enroll in a master's level Resource Management program may do so at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.

Any qualified Native American or Alaska Native holding a Bachelor's Degree is eligible to apply for a Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship program is intended to financially support Indian students in their educational goals and to better prepare tribal members to manage cultural and natural resources.

Each student's program of study is designed to meet individual needs and goals. Necessary undergraduate course work may be a part of it.

The Native American graduate fellowships are funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and provide two years of financial support.

To obtain graduate school admission materials, contact: Office of Graduate Admissions, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7510, (509) 963-3103, e-mail requests to: masters@cwu.edu or visit website at: <http://www.cwu.edu/~geograph/fellows.html>

U.S. to Ban Trade in Predatory Fish

(MSNBC) -- As fish go, the northern snakehead is something to behold. The toothy, torpedo-shaped native of China grows up to 3 feet long, and when its food sources run out, it can survive up to three days out of water while it slithers to another pond or river. The trouble is, it's not native to the United States and thus can destroy local ecosystems.

WILL BE MISSED...

submitted by: CLEAR Staff, UAB

Barbara Hilyer, long-time director of CLEAR's Workplace Safety Training Program, passed away on May 23, 2002, after a bout with cancer. She was 65.

Barbara came to CLEAR in 1988, after five years teaching in University of Alabama's (UAB) biology department. She quickly established herself as a creative and popular instructor, unparalleled in her enthusiasm for her subject and in her dedication to the workers who were her students. She was equally adept as program director, molding a top-notch staff and expanding CLEAR's reach to union locals, fire departments, and Native American tribes throughout the nation.

But we knew Barbara for many other things, as well. She was an avid Auburn football fan who had to borrow a television to watch big games. She loved and trained Rottweilers. She was a handywoman -- listing such skills as masonry, carpentry, plumbing, wiring, and fireplace

installation on her resume. To Barbara, the perfect vacation was canoeing, kayaking, and backpacking in the West. She played the piano and the dulcimer.

Barbara died sur-



rounded by family and friends in the place she loved -- what we at CLEAR simply knew as "Barbara's mountain," outside Salt Lake City, Utah. Her colleagues and her students cherish the time they had with her.

Editor's Note: The Society worked with Barbara and the University of Alabama for the past four years, co-sponsoring HAZ-MAT training programs. She will be missed throughout Indian country and we will miss her quarterly columns that she delightfully provided in the Society's newsletters. Our sincere condolences go out to her family and loved ones.

GRANTS DIRECTORY

Catching the Dream (CTD) formerly Native American Scholarship Fund, Inc. (NASF) has published the first-ever comprehensive directory of grants to Native Americans. The book, called "The National Indian Grant Directory" or NIGD, is a 600-page description of grant makers. It details some 548

foundations, corporations, federal government agencies and religious organizations that make grants to Indian tribes and non-profit organizations. The book is available from CTD for \$99.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling.

The CTD address is: 8200 Mountain Road, N.E., Suite 203, Albuquerque, NM 87110, or call: (505) 262-2351.

SPEAKERS VISIT COLORADO SCHOOLS

Mike Fox, Technical Services Director at the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society and Susan Ricci were guest speakers recently at Hoff Elementary School in Greeley, Colorado.



Mike and Susan with the kids at Hoff Elementary School in Greeley, Colorado.

Fox and Ricci participated in the school's Adventure's in Reading Day. Fox gave a presentation about the importance of wildlife, specifically the buffalo to the tribes of the

Career Opportunity: Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), a major program in the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), protects America's agricultural base (it's food and fiber) from exotic plant pests and diseases. PPQ officers and technicians staff international airports, border crossings and seaports throughout the United States inspecting cargo, baggage and passenger carried materials entering the country. Other officers and technicians work in domestic programs combating diseases and pests such as: Citrus Canker; Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Plum Pox, and Asian Long

Great Plains.

Susan, formerly employed with the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative in Rapid City, South Dakota provided the buffalo box presentation. The buffalo box includes parts from the buffalo including a bladder quill pouch, horn spoon, and foot bones.

There were 250

students who attended the assembly. Following the presentations, students asked questions and had the opportunity to observe and touch the various parts from the buffalo box.

Horned Beetle. Candidates must be citizens of the United States and have at least 24 hours of college level courses in plant science, entomology, biology, or related courses.

Also please note: All persons selected for Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer positions must within their first year of employment, successfully complete a ten-week training course in PPQ's Professional Development Center in Frederick, Maryland.

Specific opportunities and their locations can be found at APHIS Current Job Openings. Further information can be obtained by contacting: Francis K. Murphy at (800) 762-2738 or Rick Wadleigh at (303) 969-6565.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 12-15, 2002 - Annual Southwest Region Conference, Bluewater Resort and Conference Center, Parker, Arizona. Hosted by the Colorado River Indian Tribes. For more information: John Antonio at (505) 248-6810, Sam Diswood at (505) 552-9642, or Ray Aspa, Sr. at (928) 669-9285.

August 18-23, 2002 - NAFWS Northeast Regional Conference, Moose River, Maine. Hosted by the Passamaquoddy Tribe. For more information: Clayton Sockabasin at: (207) 796-2677.

August 24-28, 2002 - Governor's Interstate Indian Council 2002, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, Kansas. The Governor's Interstate Indian Council is a permanent, official organization working to promote and enhance government-to-government relations between tribes and states. For conference information: Jodi Spindler at (785) 368-7318.

September 4-6, 2002 - National Indian Council on Aging, Albuquerque, New Mexico. "Healing Ourselves, Healing Our Spirits, Healing Our World". For information: (505) 292-2001.

September 12-13, 2002 - Western Water Law: Water Shortage, Supply and Quality in the Arid West, Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado. To register online: www.cle.com or call (800) 873-7130.

September 26-28, 2002 - Native Tourism Alliance is hosting an international conference in Denver. The conference focus will be on tourism opportunities for casino tribes, marketing

tourism and the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Tourism professionals from as far away as New Zealand are expected. Contact: Ben Sherman, (303) 661-9819.

October 28 - Nov. 1, 2002 - Pacific Regional Conference, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. For more information: Joe Jay Pinkham at (509) 865-6262 or Ted Lamebull at (541) 386-6363.

SENATE FORMS NATIVE CAUCUS

The Senate has created a Native American Caucus that will help improve coordination among Senators who care strongly about Native American issues. The members of the Caucus will work together to help move legislation concerning Indian affairs through the Senate.

So far, the Caucus has eight members: Senators Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO); Patty Murray (D-WA); Ted Stevens (R-AK); Pete Domenici (R-NM); John McCain (R-AZ); Bryon Dorgan (D-ND); and Tim Johnson (D-SD).

These Senators have sent letters to their colleagues to join the caucus as well. If you feel your Senators should join the Native American Caucus, please do not hesitate to contact him or her to convey your feelings.

NCAI is delighted that the members of the Caucus have decided to join together to work for the benefit of Indian Country, and we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks. NCAI will keep you informed of any new members of the Caucus.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT!