

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S RESTORATION WORKING GROUP

Summer 2000 Newsletter

Edited by Steve Windels

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Message from the Chair

My involvement with the Restoration Working Group over the last four years has been focused on the symposium and in helping Peter Fasbender, Steve Windels, Erv Klaas, Sara Schweitzer, and a few others, to get this group up and running. Only periodically did I give serious thought as to how this group could be more relevant and beneficial to its members. As Chair, the need to answer that question seems imperative. Fortunately, you as members of the Restoration Working Group provided part of the answer in a recent survey. The intent of the survey was to provide a profile of the membership, ideas for future direction of the organization, and to identify existing areas that need improvement.

A quick look at the results (see *survey results on page 7*) confirms that we are a diverse group with a breadth of expertise. Members work in all regions of the U.S., and parts of Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Our projects encompass many North American ecosystems and taxa.

If there is a mandate from the membership it is that the Working Group should be in the business of promoting communication among members, increasing the expertise of members, and allowing for professional contact. It is reassuring that the first two wishes are explicit in the Charter and already a focus of the Working Group. The latter point is implicit in the Charter but may take some creativity to improve. The reason being that it is also clear from the survey that most members do not attend the annual TWS conference and associated Working Group annual meeting, and therefore have little chance to interact personally.

Suggestions for improving the Working Group also focus on enhancing communication and providing professional exchanges. Members need more notification and information about meetings. They also want to see greater use of the Internet.

We have an official Charter, we co-hosted a symposium, we elected our first full set of officers, we have now heard from members, but where do we go from here? First, I believe that continuing to improve communication by making greater use of electronic media should remain a high priority. We can't improve the content of information exchange until we set up the mechanism or infrastructure for it. At the same time, we can meet the

desire of most survey respondents who say they do, or may, want to get more involved in the Working Group. We will need a steady stream of volunteers, particularly students, who often have the sharpest computer skills, to help maintain a web page, moderate a listserv, edit the newsletter, or manage an electronic membership database. If you don't have the skills or desire to help with the infrastructure, then consider helping to enhance the information content by sending snippets to the Newsletter. The real benefit of a Working Group will not be realized until a critical mass of members start exchanging their restoration-related experiences and technical expertise.

Second, I hope to draw on our collective creativity to enhance professional contact given the reality that most members do not have the means to travel more. We should start a discussion of whether to supplement traditional meetings with web-based interactions. Although it may not be feasible yet, new technology is being developed rapidly that will allow for video feed to a web site. A more modest way to enhance professional contact is to simply broaden our interactions with other restoration groups, particularly the Society for Ecological Restoration. I suspect the various restoration groups share many interests but also have unique perspectives.

In the end, good intentions and plans go only as far as members carry them. The key to our long-term success is to increase member participation. I am excited to be a part of the Restoration Working Group of TWS and will work energetically with present and past officers to improve it. Please join us.

Dale E. Gawlik, Ph.D.
Everglades Division
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
(561) 682-6712

ELECTION RESULTS FOR WORKING GROUP OFFICERS

The Restoration Working Group recently held elections for the 3 officer positions and 1 board member (regional representative). Results follow:

Chair	Dale Gawlik - S. Florida Water Mgmt. District, West Palm Beach, FL
Chair-Elect	Richard Crawford - University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
Secretary/treasurer	Peter Fasbender - Fish and Wildlife Service, St. Paul, MN
Midwest Representative	Doris Rusch – Ft. Atkinson, WI

Don't forget to review the nominees for the other 3 Regional Representatives (page 4) and **to cast your ballot for your respective region by September 8 !!!!!**

INFORMATION EXCHANGE UPDATE - Steve Windels, Newsletter Editor

Newsletter

After a several hiatus, the newsletter is now back on its regular quarterly schedule. As Dale mentioned, submissions to the newsletter are a great way to get involved in the working group. After learning that the vast majority of members have email access, we decided to try sending out the newsletter as an email attachment. We did this as a way to save some printing and mailing costs but also to ensure that members would get the newsletter at least 3 weeks before the annual TWS meeting in Nashville. Ultimately, once the web site is operational, the plan is to publish the quarterly newsletter online, and then alert working group members via an email list or listserv when it becomes available.

Web Site

For some good examples of what a web site can do for working group communication check out the GIS, Remote Sensing, and Telemetry Working Group site at fwie.fw.vt.edu/tws-gis and the Biodiversity Working Group site at wlm13.umenfa.maine.edu/unit/biodiv-wg/biodiversity. The GIS Working Group, for instance, has an "Expert Database", where working group members and nonmembers alike can enter their name, contact information, and specialty or expertise into a accessible database online. For our working group, the ability to add abstracts about specific projects could also be valuable.

We are still searching for an organization or individual who will host a web site for the working group. Likewise, we need any individuals with experience in designing and maintaining web sites to help get ours started.

Listserv

Julie McClafferty, a graduate student at Virginia Tech. who also manages the TWS main listserv, has offered to set up and manage a listserv for the working group as well. She did not, however, that some software problems with the VTU system have caused some problems with people being able to post messages to the listserv. As an alternative, she has also offered to set up a listserv for the working group through a service that provides free listservs (www.egroups.com). The only drawbacks to such a system are the small advertisements attached to the end of each message and each new member to the listserv has to individually sign on through the web site, though they promise not to send unsolicited emails. Thank you, Julie, for volunteering your expertise and time with this!

NOTES FROM THE MIDWEST REGION

Hello from your new Midwest Rep

Greetings Ecologists. I was pleased to learn that I will be representing you Midwesterners on the Restoration Working Group. Having spent a couple decades as a wildlife manager, and the last 5 years as a natural areas biologist, I have a grasp of the prodigious effort required to restore and maintain native communities. Moving up the scale to ecosystems and landscapes, the task is truly gargantuan. Yet restoration of native systems is a basic underpinning of biodiversity. We all believe that retaining biological diversity is essential for our little planet to continue to flourish and continue to give us physical and spiritual sustenance. So here we are set upon this vital task, but still collecting basic knowledge about how to do it.

As old as I am, I'm still kind of a new kid on the WG block. I've been a non-participating member of the Restoration and Biological Diversity working groups for years. Now that I'm semi-retired with a little more free time, I'm looking forward to being an active participant. It's timely for me to move from a hands-on land-manager grunt, restoring an acre at a time, to a bigger-picture realm which has potential for a more significant contribution.

Interacting with the knowledgeable and skilled professionals in this field will be a great pleasure and a surefire learning experience for me. I will see many of you (I hope) at our WG Meeting on September 13 in Nashville. If you would like to contact me, my current email address is: DrTackle@aol.com. Phone me at 608-423-4431 or snail mail me at W8863 Hwy 12, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538.

- Doris Rusch

North American Prairie Conference attracts more than 650 registrants

More than 650 people attended the 17th North American Prairie Conference, July 16-20, hosted by Northern Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa. Activities included technical sessions, workshops, discussion groups, social events, and field trips to prairie preserves, restored prairies and wetlands. At least a dozen vendors selling seed and planting equipment for prairie restorations were present. Wildlife biologists from the Iowa DNR did an excellent job of showcasing wetland restoration projects in the prairie pothole region of northern Iowa. – Submitted by Erv Klaas

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August, 2000, the working group has a treasury balance of \$2264.93. Expenses to date this year have been \$142.50 for publishing/ mailing the newsletter. Membership fees of \$508 have been deposited and \$10.28 earned in interest on the checking account.

The Restoration Working Group will be meeting during the TWS annual conference in Nashville on Wednesday, September 13 from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. in Room 212 (NCC). We hope to see you all there!

OFFICER NOMINEES

NORTHEAST REPRESENTATIVE (1)

(CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, QB, RI, VA, VT, and WV)

Jeff Kiefer

Personal data: Born May 11, 1961 in Philadelphia, PA; 1 daughter, Jessica.

Education: B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from Purdue University in 1983. M.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in 1985.

Previous positions: Private Lands Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bloomington (IN) Field Office (1992-96). District Wildlife Biologist, Indiana DNR (1988-92). Soil Conservationist, Walworth Co. (WI) Land Conservation Department (1987-88).

Current Position: Private Lands Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bloomington Field Office (1996-present).

Job Duties: Administer the Partners for Fish and Wildlife habitat restoration program of the USFWS for Indiana, working with landowners, contractors, and conservation agencies/organizations to restore wetlands and associated upland habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife. Coordinate USFWS involvement with USDA agencies and programs, including the Wetland Reserve Program and Swampbuster implementation. Serve as a USFWS representative on Steering Committees for North American Waterfowl Management Plan projects within Indiana, including the Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project.

TWS Activities: TWS member since 1984; Restoration Ecology Working Group member since 1994; Certified Wildlife Biologist; Chair, Farm Bill Committee, Indiana Chapter (1990-present); Member, Professional Award of Merit Committee, North Central Section (1992); President, Indiana Chapter (1994); Treasurer, North Central Section (1995); Chair, Endowment Fund Committee, Indiana Chapter (1996-present).

Other Professional/Conservation Affiliations: Member, Society of Wetland Scientists, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and other conservation organizations.

SOUTHEAST REPRESENTATIVE (3)

(AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, PR, SC, and TN)

James W. H. "Bud" Cates

Current Position: Program Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mine Reclamation, Tallahassee

Current Responsibilities: 1.) Implementation of the Integrated Habitat Network/Coordinated Development Area concept, a strategic habitat restoration, wildlife corridor, greenway, and regional reclamation plan for the 1.3 million acre central Florida phosphate mining district; 2.) Administration of the Saddle Creek Restoration & Alternative Mitigation Project, a 12,000-acre, multi-agency watershed restoration project; 3.) Administration of a 15,000-acre land-use-dispute settlement in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern which combines permitting, mitigation, mining, preservation, acquisition, and management into a public and private win-win situation; 4.) Co-author of the Suwannee River Ecosystem Management Plan and member of the Executive Coordinating Committee of the Suwannee Basin Interagency Alliance (Ga. & Fl.); 5.) Department Coordinator for multi-agency Ecosystem Management/Team Permitting process for 3 new phosphate mines totaling about 55,000 acres; 6.) Training of bureau employees regarding ecosystem management, habitat restoration, reclamation methods and procedures, and land management.

Education: B.S., Forestry/Wildlife Ecology, University of Florida, 1971

TWS Activities: Charter Member of the University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Certified Wildlife Biologist (1991-present); Member of the Restoration Ecology Working Group of TWS

Awards: 1.) Named Reclamationist of the Year (1995) by the National Association of State Land Reclamationists; 2.) DEP Sustained Exemplary Service Award (1996); 3.) Chevron Conservation Award nominee.

Romy Myszka

Current Position: Oversight and Evaluation Staff, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Atlanta, Georgia. Regional biologist until agency re-organization in 1998.

Current Responsibilities: Program audits of USDA/NRCS activities nationwide.

Education: B.S., Fisheries, Humbolt State University, Arcata, California, 1975

TWS Activities: Provided assistance to the symposium (Ecological Restoration and Biodiversity: Theory and Application) sponsored by the Restoration Ecology WG and Biological Diversity WG in 1998 (Buffalo, NY). Member of the Southeast Forestry/Wildlife Farm Bill Working Group.

Other Professional Affiliations: Past officer in the Soil and Water Conservation Society (Ohio Chapter); Ohio Wildlife Management Association; and the Ohio Chapter of TWS. Member of the American Fisheries Society, The Nature Conservancy, Atlanta Audubon Society (currently active with the Important Bird Areas and Shade-grown Coffee committees), and the Georgia Native Plant Society.

Sara H. Schweitzer

Current Position: Associate Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Management, D. B. Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens.

Current Responsibilities: Teaching– *Techniques in Wildlife Population Management* (sr. undergrad. and grad. students), *Field Orientation and Measurement in Forest Resources* (jr. undergrad. students), *Senior Project* (sr. undergrad. students), *Ecology and Management of Waterfowl Populations and Their Habitats* (grad. students), *Fish & Wildlife Seminar* (grad. students). Research projects include, pothole blasting in tidal, freshwater wetlands to enhance waterfowl and waterbird habitat; nesting ecology of least terns on natural and artificial habitats in Georgia; nesting ecology and factors limiting the reproductive success of American oystercatchers along the Georgia coast; responses of herbaceous vegetation and northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) populations to thinned CRP pine plantations; home range size, habitat use, and nesting success of eastern wild turkeys in a landscape dominated by pine plantations and row crop agriculture; responses of songbird populations to logging CRP pine plantations; and landscape, class, and patch-level responses of avian communities to thinning and creating openings within CRP pine plantations; responses of herbaceous vegetation and small mammal communities to three vegetation management techniques in a right-of-way in southwestern Georgia; cowbird/host community dynamics and the impact of brood parasitism on nest-survival parameters and seasonal fecundity of songbirds in southeastern old-field habitat.

Education: B.S. (1985) from the University of North Carolina, M.S. (1988) from Texas Tech University, Ph.D. (1994) from Oklahoma State University

TWS Activities: Member of parent chapter, Southeastern Section, and Georgia Chapter; President-Elect and now President of the Georgia Chapter; Co-faculty advisor for the University of Georgia Student Chapter and Conclave Team; member of Restoration Ecology Working Group; reviewer of manuscripts submitted to the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and to the program committee for the Annual Conference of TWS.

Other Professional Affiliations: Society for Range Management, Southeastern Quail Study Group, Southeast Deer Study Group, Association of Field Ornithologists, Waterbird Society (formerly, Colonial Waterbird Society), Georgia Ornithological Society.

WEST REPRESENTATIVE (1)

(AB, AK, AZ, BC, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NWT, NV, OR, UT, WA, and WY)

Phil Delphey

I am currently a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Boise, Idaho. I work on interagency

consultation, listing, and recovery of endangered species, predominantly in the Snake River Basin of Idaho and Oregon. Previously, I worked for USFWS in Indiana, where I concentrated on restoration of tallgrass prairie and wetlands. I studied wetland restoration as a graduate student at Iowa State University, where I received my M.S. in Animal Ecology in 1991. As an undergraduate I attended Illinois State University where I majored in Biological Sciences.

I have a strong interest in the restoration of wildlife and fish habitat. My current work in this area focuses on a variety of Federally threatened and endangered species and ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. I served as newsletter editor for the first few years of the Restoration Working Group and have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1990.

Membership Survey Results

Around the first of the year, 1999 we distributed via email a survey to approximately 110 members for which we had email addresses (out of about 135 total members). The purpose was to learn more about the members and identify ways to improve the working group. Fifty two people (47%) responded. The responses and their percent frequency are reported below. Because respondents could give more than one answer in many cases, the percentages are based on the number of responses not respondents.

1. How many years have you been a member of the TWS Restoration Working Group?

<u># Years</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
< 1	12
≥ 1 < 2	24
≥ 2 < 3	20
≥ 3 < 4	14
≥ 4 < 5	4
5	27

2. Why did you join this working group (i.e., what did you hope to get out of it)?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Seeking information	32
Exchange information	30
Professional networking	27
General interest	5
Job notices	3
Other	3

3. What do you feel should be the purpose of this working group?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Allow information exchange	43
Provide technical info. to members	18
Write technical documents	10
Allow professional networking	8
Other	22

4. What do you feel is the best way to communicate with the TWS membership?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Email	33

Newsletter	22
Web site	15
Internet	6
Listserv	5
E-newsletter	5
Other	16

5. How many annual TWS meetings have you attended while you were a member of the Restoration Working Group?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
0	67
1	12
2	6
3	4
4	12

6. How many Restoration Working Group meetings have you attended while you were a member of the Restoration Working Group?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
0	81
1	10
2	2
3	4
4	4

7. What changes could the Restoration Working Group make to increase your likelihood of attending their meetings?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Nothing	24
Better notification	18
Nearby location	18
More substantial agenda	7
Not sure	7
Other	27

8. Would you like to become more involved in Restoration Working Group activities?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Yes	42
Maybe	29
No	25
Unknown	4

9. What is your connection to restoration ecology?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Job related	81
Grad school	9
Teach subject	6
Volunteer	2
Unknown	2

10. If you are involved in a restoration project, what role do you play?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Project management	49

All aspects	16
Research	15
Volunteer	7
Unknown	13

11. If you are involved in a restoration project, what state are you working in, and on with what species, vegetation community, or ecosystem are you working?

State or region:

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
West U.S.	27
Mid-west U.S.	22
Northeast U.S.	16
Southeast U.S.	16
International	9
U.S. nation-wide	5
Hawaii	4

Species, vegetation community or ecosystem:

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
Wetland	30
Forest	15
Prairie	12
Riparian	11
Birds	8
Savanna	7
Other	18

12. Are you a member of any other professional restoration-related organizations?

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
None	33
Soc. Ecol. Restoration	27
Soc. Wetland Scientists	11
Soc. Conservation Biology	5
Other	24

13. Additional Comments??

<u>Response</u>	<u>% of responses</u>
More communication	38
Better use of internet	25
Other	38