



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Welcome one and all to the great state of Georgia for the 63rd Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Conference. I want to thank this year's host, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, for all their assistance in helping us coordinate the Minorities in Natural Resources Committee (MINRC) program activities for this year's conference. I also want to pay special thanks to last year's host, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, for all the support provided during the 62nd SEAFWA conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. The 2008 Annual Conference was a resounding success, despite the fact that the Department was coping with the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Ike, which left several parks and wildlife areas severely damaged. My hat's off to my colleagues for putting on a great 2008 conference and providing great financial support to the MINRC.

While thankfully, our friends here in Georgia haven't had to deal (this year) with a natural disaster reaching Ike's proportions, they've had to overcome other significant challenges in planning the 2009 SEAFWA Conference. Imagine planning for a conference

during one of the most severe economic downturns since the Great Depression—dealing with uncertainties surrounding the financial woes of many member states, along with expected reductions in conference attendance. That being said, the Georgia DNR has planned a great conference and I hope to see many of our MINRC members here. As usual MINRC has coordinated an excellent program and we were able to attain our goals for student recruitment. This year, MINRC is sponsoring 14 students to the conference from colleges in AR, GA, FL, KY, LA, MO, MS, and VA. This number is more modest than in previous years, but in line with current economic realities.

As my time as Committee Chair winds down, I wish to thank all the officers, members and patrons of MINRC for their support. While I've enjoyed being your leader over the past couple of years, I look forward to passing the baton and working with MINRC in other supporting roles. I congratulate Robert Cook, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, as the next Chairman, and I look forward to his leadership. There's still much to accomplish in terms of workforce diversity among



SEAFWA members. However, I sense a renewed sense urgency and commitment on the part of state directors and the Wildlife Society to engage and maintain relevance among more diverse audiences--I look forward to the Committee's on-going efforts in assisting to develop positive solutions.

Al Bingham
MINRC Chair

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PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

Presenter Biography - Audrey Peterman

Audrey Peterman is co-author with her husband Frank of the groundbreaking new book, *“Legacy on the Land: A Black Couple Discovers Our National Inheritance and Tells Why Every American Should Care”* being widely touted as a bridge between the past and present, leading to a brighter future for land conservation. In *Legacy*, you can follow the Petermans’ efforts since 1995 to integrate “The Great American Outdoors,” to expose the vast acreage of America’s natural treasury to urban populations, and to integrate the perspectives of African Americans and other people of color into the environmental and conservation movements.

Mrs. Peterman is co-founder

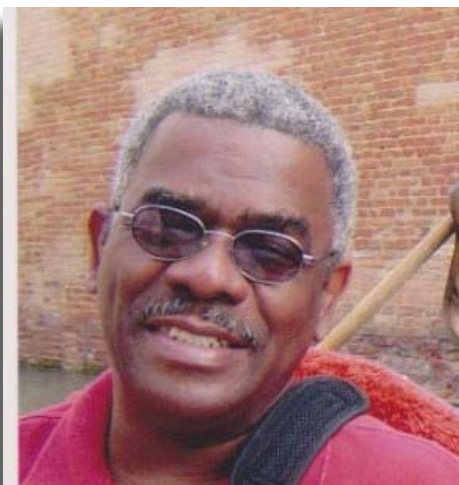
and President of Earthwise Productions, Inc., and publishes the bi-monthly periodical, *Pickup & GO!* She serves on the Steering Committee of the “Keeping It Wild” program in Atlanta, as well as on the boards of the National Parks Conservation Association, the Association of Partners for Public Lands, Greening Youth Foundation and the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

Mrs. Peterman was the impetus behind the wildly successful First Biannual Conference & Expo: *Breaking the Color Barrier in the Great American Outdoors* recently held in Atlanta, September 23-26, 2009.

www.breakingthecolorbarrier.com



Presenter Biography - John Yancy



Regardless of our Organization, there are ways of working smarter to meet Natural Resource professional job transition objectives. We will explore how to minimize challenges while maximizing opportunities relevant to achieving career goals. We will analyze what needs to be included in career and personal goal strategies. We will also address how implementation plans are essential for helping to meet and monitor goal accomplishments.

Together we will share past experiences, insights and guidance to help professional job transitioning strategies work for you.

WELCOME TO GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division is pleased to host the 63rd Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta, Ga., November 1-4, 2009.



Photo Courtesy of Centennial Olympic Park

Our theme of Challenges to the North American Model in the 21st Century acknowledges that the greatest challenges ahead in the conservation and management of our natural resources revolve around preserving the integrity of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Today we face numerous issues that stand to

erode the foundational elements that comprise this conceptual framework that has guided our conservation and management efforts for more than 150 years. Modern issues potentially threaten the model's core concepts, reminding us of the importance of defending these conservation pillars, known as the Seven Sisters of Conservation. The plenary session will offer speakers who will expose the various issues and challenges ahead and examine possible solutions relative to the model and its seven pillars. These discussions will unite, educate and examine solutions to preserve the integrity of the model now and for future generations.

The conference is centrally located in the heart of Atlanta where southern history, culture, entertainment and award-winning cuisine merge. While the conference will offer ample opportunity for growth and learning, there also will be plenty of time for relaxation

and exploration. Sunday night's "Welcome to Georgia" reception at the Omni Hotel will feature unmatched southern cuisine and entertainment. For Tuesday night's dinner and awards banquet, The Georgia Aquarium plays host and attendees will have exclusive, private access to the world's largest, most engaging aquarium.

Plan to take a break and enjoy all that Atlanta has to offer. The Omni offers five-star services and there are many fine restaurants just a short walk from the hotel. Visit the Fernbank Museum of Natural History and take in an IMAX film or explore one of the exhibition galleries, stop by the High Museum of Art, the leading art museum in the southeast, take in an Atlanta Falcons game at the Georgia Dome, attend a play or concert at the beautiful, historic Fox Theatre, take a sip at the new World of Coca-Cola, explore a downtown landmark – the Atlanta Zoo, or stroll through numerous shops at Atlantic Station.

PHOTO BOOTH - CONFERENCE 2008



DIVERSITY AWARD

The annual MINRC Diversity Award is awarded to a state for their efforts, accomplishments and best practices for workforce and constituent diversity, through a careful screening process.

The Chairman and members of MINRC wish to congratulate the **State of Missouri** for their efforts. Congratulations!!!!

We encourage you to continue pressing forward.

2009 MINRC SPONSORS

Thank you to all of our sponsors for the 2009 SEAFWA Conference.



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Division

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fish and Parks

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4

MEMBERSHIP

Yes, I want to join MINRC!

Name _____

Organization _____ **Affiliation** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Permanent Address _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

E-mail _____

- Regular Membership \$25.00** **Student Membership \$10.00**
 Lifetime Membership \$250.00 **Retirement Membership \$10.00**

Please make your check(s) payable to MINRC, and return to:
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