



**MIDWEST**  
Association of  
Fish & Wildlife  
Agencies

## **REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**JULY, 2007**

**It was a good year for the Midwest Association. After rolling off a very successful annual meeting in Spearfish, SD, the momentum continued. President Scott and I kept each other busy getting all of his appointments in order under his presidency. Our Association was honored to have some of our Federal partners agree to become sponsors of MAFWA under our new sponsor program. Robyn Thorson, Service Region 3, came on as a Major Sponsor, Charlie Brown and Jeff Green came in at the Gold level for APHIS-Wildlife Services, and Mitch King and Jay Slack, Service Region 6, entered at the Silver Sponsor level. Thank you very much for your critically important support of this association.**

**Our NGO friends have also continued with their sponsorships and we couldn't survive without them. We have 2 new NGO sponsors this year. The Ruffed Grouse Society is a new Bronze sponsor and our second industry sponsor, Bass Pro Shops, has come on at the Silver level. You can review the listing of our key supporters in your program. Thanks to each of you!**

**One of my key duties is to team up with Matt Hogan and travel to meet new Directors as they come on board. This past year, Matt and I met with Rob Carter in Indiana, Rich Leopold in Iowa and Dave Graham in Ohio. The purpose of these sessions is to introduce new Directors to AFWA and MAFWA, stress the value and importance of working beyond their state borders, and to invite them to engage. I am very pleased that Rich and Dave are here with us and that Jon Gasset was able to make this meeting for the first time as a new Director.**

**Another duty on my list was to make connection and build a bridge with the Midwest Governor's Association, which I was finally able to do. Their office is located near Chicago and I was able to introduce myself and our Association to Staff Director Ilene Grossman. I invited her here today but she is involved in mandatory leadership training in Madison this week. I learned that MGA was formed in 1962 and includes all of our states except CO and KY. They, like us, only recently have become a more active group. Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle is the current Chair of the Midwest Gov. Assn. and he recently testified before Congress in support of conservation titles in the next Farm Bill. I was pleased to learn that Luke Miller from Ohio and Bill Smith from Wisconsin had important input to the Governor's testimony. This is something we need more of in the future. I will try to get Ilene to our next meeting and perhaps the Private Land Committee meeting.**

**Your Executive Committee is very active meeting 6 times during the year. These are very important meetings to keep things moving since our Association meets only once per year. Several important Farm Bill letters were approved and sent, a new manual providing Guidance to MAFWA Committees was prepared and approved, applying for trademark protection for our new logo was approved, as was applying for liability insurance for staff and officers. Thanks to Carol Bambery and AFWA for critical assistance with these last two items. The Executive Committee also approved moving forward with a formal outside audit of our financial records and many thanks to John Hoskins for volunteering his Missouri auditors to conduct this audit and save the Association important dollars. Finally, the Executive Committee recommended the formation of a new committee within the Association, the Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee, which you just approved.**

**I was able to land two new affiliate members this year: the Ruffed Grouse Society and the Mule Deer Foundation. The staff of the 3 other regional association, Matt and I meet quarterly, either in person or via teleconference. These sessions are very important in coordinating and communicating around the country. I thank Matt for taking the lead in setting up these sessions.**

**A lot was accomplished during the year and much more needs to be done, but we are certainly moving forward as an Association. As is**

normal, our committees do much of the work for the Association and I am working more closely with them than ever before. We as an Association are indebted to Scott and Laurie and the WI DNR for providing me with critically important office space, computer and computer services. And, I don't know how we would function without the long term and very significant contribution made to our Association by the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks by allowing Joe and Sheila to spend their time helping run the Association, so thank you Keith, Joe and Sheila.

Finally, Betty and I want to thank each of you for your support, caring and prayers for our daughter Heather. It has been an unbelievable 2 years of struggle with Heather's brain cancer. Heather has been through some really tough times with more to come. We are very proud about how strong and positive she continues to be. As you might expect we are very nervous about her next MRI, which is tomorrow, which will tell whether or not "chuck" (Heather's name for her tumor) is under control. Heather has lost more of her visual field due the second surgery, but she can still drive. She has lost weight and tires easily, but her blood work has been good and she is working full time. As of now, she will begin 6 more months of chemo with the drug Temodar beginning at the end of July. Please continue your prayers for her.

Thank you.