

ANREP News
Summer/Fall, 1999

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Excellence through Partnerships

Welcome to ANREP'S Inaugural Newsletter! - ANREP, or the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals, was formed in 1995 by a group of interested professionals in the natural resources areas of Extension. Forestry, wildlife, fisheries, wood products specialists, range and soil scientists as well as water quality, environmental education and a host of other aligned specialists from throughout the country comprise its membership. By-laws, committee chairs and an executive board are responsible for administration of the Association. This newsletter, an occasional product of the Communications Committee attempts to provide its' members with current information and news from around the country that can help with programming and a better understanding of Extension natural resources issues and opportunities. To submit information to the newsletter, please send electronically to whubbard@uga.edu.

ANREP Working to Receive Official Extension System Recognition - Rick Hamilton, ANREP's Immediate Past President, is working to bring ANREP into the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP). This is the organization to which other Extension Program Associations belong, including the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, National Association of Extension Home Economists, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and Epsilon Sigma PHI. JCEP's mission, similar to ours, is to promote communication, cooperation and professionalism among Extension Educators.

Of particular importance to us Extension natural resource people, ECOP has included JCEP as a partner to implement the national Strategic Framework for Extension. Participation on JCEP is a logical way to provide information on the importance of natural resources Extension programming within our system. We hope to have this affiliation a reality within a year.

Answering Your Questions -

By Bob Edmonds, President, ANREP - Here are a sampling of questions that the Executive Committee has received formally or informally over the last few months.

Q. What has ANREP done for me lately?

A. Great question. The First Annual Extension Natural Resources meeting in Deerwood, MN last year was a success, partially attributed to having a fledgling organization of natural resources Extension professionals. This meeting gave Extension natural resource professionals a time for learning, informal and formal exchange of ideas, and a time to commit to the advancement of a national organization to help us enhance Extension natural resource recognition and support. At an ANREP forestry sub-meeting in Traverse City, MI in September, at the National Society of American Foresters meeting, an effort was started to promote the closer interaction between Extension and the U. S. Forest Service State and Private and between Extension and State Foresters' offices in each of the states. Our goal is to have these entities think first about Extension if they are developing strategies for natural resource outreach and education. Often, Extension is left out or is brought in after the planning is done. The Extension units in the 20-state Northeast Area followed through, with some success, at the regional Natural Resource Program Leaders' meeting at State College, PA. This June. Plans are underway to have an ANREP presence at the National SAF meeting in Portland, OR in September and the Extension Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference in Portland, ME in September. A second national Extension Natural Resources Conference is scheduled for May, 2000 at Lake Tahoe.

Now that we have become organized, we need to move forward aggressively to provide support for Extension natural resource programs and to facilitate interactions among states that will strengthen their ability to sustain the good work that they do. Your input into the direction that ANREP is going is needed right now. Let your Regional representative or any Board member know what you want to see from ANREP over the next 3 to 5 years.

Q. Is forestry, wildlife, range and other natural resources on par with other program areas in the minds of CSREES leadership? Also, what is the future of RREA?

A. This one of the things that ANREP is in business to find out about and it is in ANREP's members interest to ensure that natural resources is recognized and supported at the top levels in CSREES and in Congress. We have excellent support at the Program Leader level. We need to develop a strategy of communications, marketing and information sharing with others in Washington. Your input into this strategy is important. Your ideas will be taken seriously.

RREA continued because of support from clientele. This funding source, important to many of us, was on the ropes. Letters and personal contacts by individuals and organizations with whom we work were enough to keep RREA viable. Support came mostly from Eastern States. We need nation-wide support to ensure sustained or increased funding for RREA.

A note about ANREP Dues - If you haven't seen a bill from ANREP for your 1999 dues, don't worry. We haven't been aggressive on asking you for dues money since the first Extension Natural Resources Conference last year in Deerwood, MN. We are still in the formative stages, positioning ourselves for action on the issues important to you. Our treasury currently looks good, with about \$5,000 on hand. At this point, our expenses are low. As we take on a higher profile and take on a more Extension-activist role, our financial needs will begin to increase.

Current members will be receiving an e-mail dues notice in mid-January for the year 2000

membership. Dues will remain at \$25 per member. If you are not now a member and would like to join ANREP, please send a check for \$25, payable to ANREP, 4-402 Forest Resources Building, Athens, Georgia 30602. Your dues will cover you through the end of the year 2000.

We all appreciate the support in volunteer time and time spent coming to ANREP functions as well as the financial support that you have made. We expect that in the next few years this investment will pay excellent dividends to all of us who are Extension natural resource professionals.

Meet the 1999 ANREP Board

- President - Bob Edmonds (bob.edmonds@unh.edu)
- President-elect – Bill Hubbard (whubbard@uga.edu)
- Secretary – Mark Vodak (vodak@aesop.rutgers.edu)
- Treasurer – Deborah Hill (dhill@ca.uky.edu)
- North Central Regional Representative – Mike Kroenke -mike.kroenke@ces.uwex.edu)
- Northeast Regional Representative – Gary Goff (grg3@cornell.edu)
- Southern Regional Representative – Ed Jones (Edwin_Jones@ncsu.edu)
- Western Regional Representative – Viviane Simon-Brown (viviane.simon-brown@orst.edu)

ANREP Committee Chairs and Committee members

Strategic Planning – Ed Jones edjones@amaroq.cesncsu.edu

Members: Jonathan Kays, Peter Smallidge, Robert Franklin, Joe Schaefer, Marcus Jackson, Steve Daley Laursen, Arno Bergstrom, Viviane Simon-Brown, Mike DeLasaux, Stephan Carlson, Jim Finley, Carl Evensen

Resolutions and Policy (including by-law changes) - Steve Daley Laursen
slaursen@forestry.umn.edu

Members: Jim Pease, Jonathan Kays, Wiley Buck, Jim Finley

Communications – Bill Hubbard whubbard@uga.edu

Members: Peter Smallidge, Charles Wittman, Ron Mahoney, Kim Henken, Jeff Stringer, Rick Standiford, Gail Tischler, Marty Moen

Nominations –

Members: Jim Miller, Bruce Wilkins, Scott Cotton

Membership – Co-chairs – Don Hanley dhanley@u.washington.edu and Chris Schnepf cschnepf@uidaho.edu

Members: Joe Schaefer, Sue Donaldson, Mike Kuhns, Jenny Cocanougher

Awards – Larry Biles lbiles@reeusda.gov

Members: Roy Roath, Mel Baughman

Second Extension Natural Resources Conference – Co-chairs Rick Standiford and Bill Frost.

Do you want to join a committee? Do you want to be updated on what's happening in your committee? Contact the ANREP Committee Chair of the committee in which you are interested. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve. As our organization gains momentum, you can be assured that committee activities will step up. Your leadership of ANREP's direction is important to our success and is very much appreciated.

Spotlight on the Northeast Region -By NE representative, Gary R. Goff, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University

* Solidifying State Agency Forestry and Extension Forestry. One of ANREP's goals is to have state and federal agencies think of including Extension when they are developing natural resource educational programs. Peter Smallidge, Extension Forester at Cornell has been on the front lines of this effort. He was on the panel discussing this issue at the ANREP meeting last year in Traverse City, MI and has been active in this effort as Chair of the Northeast Forest Resources Extension Council (NEFREC).

At the summer meeting of NEFREC this June at Penn State, during the full session with the state agency forestry staff, Extension foresters suggested several possible revisions to the Forest Resource Program Leaders by-laws. These suggested revisions would more fully integrate Extension with state agency foresters, and must be presented to the full group for a vote. NEFREC will review modifications at their December meeting at Grey Towers and then submit to the Executive Council of the Forest Resource Program Leaders. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact Peter Smallidge by phone (607/255 - 4696) or email <pjs23@cornell.edu>.

* Reaching Private Woodland Owners through the COVERTS Project. Over 70% of all forestlands in the northeastern U.S. belong to private individuals and families. Every state provides some professional advice and assistance to its private forest owners, usually under the auspices of the Cooperative Forest Management (CFM or Service Forestry) Program. These public programs are drastically under-funded and under-staffed with only one professional forester or wildlife biologist per several tens of thousands of landowners. Consequently only a tiny percentage of owners benefit as a result and most make their forest and wildlife management decisions in an information vacuum. The COVERTS Project, jointly funded between The Ruffed Grouse Society and the USDA Cooperative Extension System, now operates in ten northeastern states. Its mission is to reach private landowners with unbiased, research-based information that will allow them to establish and achieve their stewardship goals. Each year hundreds of new volunteers are recruited and trained to work with their neighbors as forest owner peers. The COVERTS volunteers corps reach tens of thousands of landowners annually.

In 1997, a three-state mail survey of landowners was conducted through Univ. of Connecticut's Dept. of Communication Sciences. The survey was administered slightly differently in each state, but volunteers and visited forest owners were contacted to assess the success of the programs. Some interesting results include:

- 18% of the randomly surveyed forest owners in CT knew of the COVERTS program
- in the past year, respondents reported earning over \$265,000 in forest-related activities as a result of their contact with the COVERTS Project, saved over \$287,000 in property/income taxes, and anticipated earning an additional \$374,000 over the next 5 years as a result of things they learned via the COVERTS Project
- NY respondents indicated that because of the visit by a volunteer, 38% did or plan to prepare a written management plan, 58% did or plan to do timber stand improvements, 48% did or plan to do wildlife habitat improvements, and 38% did or plan to join a forestry organization. For more information on the results of the survey contact: Steve Broderick in CT, sbroderi@can1.cag.uconn.edu, Gary Goff in NY grg3@cornell.edu, or Jim Finley in PA, fj4@psu.edu.

* Northeast Regional Extension Forester. The Northeast Forest Resource Extension Council (NEFREC) has been working with Dr. Nancy Bull, the liaison to the Northeast Extension Directors, to review possible strategies to refill the position of NE Regional Extension Forester. During their December meeting, NEFREC will consider a final version of a proposal to the Extension Directors. NEFREC will likely revise the position to focus only on the northeastern states and just on those states contributing to the position. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact Peter Smallidge by phone (607/255 - 4696) or email pjs23@cornell.edu.

* Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Research and Outreach Cooperative Established. It has been 3 years in the making, but it now appears certain that state wildlife agency funding will be available to establish the Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Research and Outreach Cooperative (WDM Coop.). This initiative was prompted by the Northeast Wildlife Administrators Assoc. (NEWAA) and the Northeast Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.. Through this multi-state effort (12 of the 13 NE states) new approaches for mitigating wildlife damage and a better understanding of beliefs, attitudes, and preferences of key stakeholder groups in relation to various management strategies will be developed. Projects will be undertaken by a cooperative of university scientists, state and federal wildlife agencies, and private industry for addressing high-priority wildlife damage concerns in the Northeast. A similar initiative is in development with the NE Regional Assoc. of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, and a proposal will be submitted for review at their winter meeting. For more information contact either of the co-leaders, Paul Curtis at Cornell University pdc1@cornell.edu or Gary SanJulian, at Penn State jgs9@psu.edu.

* NY and PA team up to tackle deer problem. Cornell University and Penn State have joined forces to assess the cause and investigate some possible solutions to the problem of deer overabundance. As well referenced in the Summer '97 edition of the Wildlife Society Bulletin (Vol. 25, no. 2) nearly all eastern and midwestern states are attempting to deal with overabundant deer populations. Penn State and Cornell have initiated research and extension programs on this topic in accordance with the new Agriculture Research Extension and Education Reform Act policy that requires at least 25% of Federal Formula Funds (Hatch, Smith-Lever) be used in multi-state projects (refer to <http://www.reeusda.gov/part/areera/>). A synopsis of some of the joint effort can be reviewed in a paper to be presented in late Aug. at the ungulate management conference to be held in British Columbia, Canada. A copy of the paper,

“Can white-tailed deer populations be managed at the landscape scale using traditional hunter harvest?”, can be obtained from Paul Curtis at pdcl@cornell.edu.

SECOND NATIONAL EXTENSION NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE: Excellence through Partnerships

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

May 16 - 18, 2000

Harrah's Hotel and Casino

Stateline, Nevada (South Lake Tahoe)

Sponsored by:

* USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
-Natural Resources and Environment (USDA-CSREES)

* Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP)

*** Who Should Attend:

This conference is aimed at natural resource extension educators (including environmental education, fisheries, forest products, forestry, 4-H/youth, range, recreation, Sea Grant, water, and wildlife). It is particularly targeted toward Cooperative Extension Service personnel, including county, area, and state faculty from Land Grant Universities, Sea Grant Institutions, and 1890 Institutions. This will build on the success of first conference held in Deerwood, Minnesota.

*** Call for Papers, Case Studies, Speakers, Posters:

Submit an abstract (up to 1-page) of your proposed paper, case study, concurrent session, poster, table-top display, or other educational materials by October 15, 1999 to:

Larry Biles, Nat. Program Leader, Forest Management
USDA/CSREES/NRE

Stop Box 2210, Suite 821, Aerospace Center

Washington, DC 20250-2210

ph.: 202-401-4926

lbiles@reusda.gov

Submissions via e-mail are preferred. Submissions via surface mail should include a disk (Dos or Windows compatible) using MS-Word or WordPerfect..

Submissions should be focused on the Program of Excellence categories developed by the Natural Resource and Environmental Management (NREM) Base Program Strategic Team, and other associated topics (see: www.nrem.net):

I Sustaining Forest, Rangeland, and Marine Environments (including fisheries, wildlife, marine, forest products)

II Enhancing Air and Water Quality

III Urban and Community Environments (including land use planning)
IV Youth Environmental Education

Authors of accepted papers will be notified by January 1, 2000

*** Conference Location and Information:

Harrah's Hotel and Casino is located on the south shore of Lake Tahoe adjacent to the border of California and Nevada. Participants will fly into Reno, Nevada (mid-week and weekend airfares are the same for this area). Reasonably priced shuttles are available for the 45-minute ride from the airport to the hotel. The location in Lake Tahoe offers an excellent opportunity to discover this sub-alpine lake in an area of unique natural beauty in the Sierra Nevada. This area is subject to intense concern about the balance between environmental and human values. Fire management, forest health, riparian grazing, water quality, land use planning, and sustainable management practices can all be witnessed from this unique location. Harrah's is a five star hotel, and conference participants will receive a special room rate of \$99 for single or double occupancy. Conference registration will include most meals, as well as handouts. Travel expenses and registration fees for speakers will generally not be paid by the conference budget, but some partial scholarships may be available.

*** Tentative Agenda:

May 15 - Early registration, check-in, early bird reception
May 16 - AM - Registration, pre-convention field trips
PM - General session, breakout sessions, reception and poster session
May 17 - Breakout sessions, field trips, luncheon, reception and poster session
May 18 - Breakout sessions, field trips, general session (ends approximately 4:00 PM)

*** Expected Meeting Outcomes:

- * Increase communication, cooperation, and networking among diverse natural resource professionals to strengthen Extension program development.
- * Share case studies and model programs that may be adapted to Extension natural resource programs across disciplines and states.
- * Strengthen skills in needs assessment, educational methods, communication technologies, and program evaluation to empower natural resource educators to better address emerging issues important to diverse clientele.
- * Enhance visibility, credibility, and relevancy of natural resource programs in the context of Extension's overall mission.
- * Build a cohesive, structured, multi-disciplinary support base for Extension natural resource programs in the future.

*** For More Information:

Program and Submission of Abstracts:

Larry Biles, Nat. Program Leader, Forest Management, 202-401-4926, lbiles@reeusda.gov

Arrangements and Facilities:

Joni Rippee, Univ. of Calif. Center for Forestry, 510-642-0095, rippee@nature.berkeley.edu

Rick Standiford, Univ. of Calif. Center for Forestry, 510-643-5428,
standifo@nature.berkeley.edu

Bill Frost, Univ. of Calif. Div. of Agric. and Natural Resources,
530-621-5509, wefrost@ucdavis.edu Information on ANREP and

Membership: see www.anrep.org

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