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ANREP News

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President's Report

Bill Hubbard, whubbard@uga.edu

Well, here it is February, 2000 and no millennium bug in sight! The new 00's on our computers and calendars haven't caused us to miss a beat! ANREP hasn't missed a beat either. You'll see from this newsletter that your association has been hard at work in the first month of the year. The committee chairs and members have been diligent in their responsibilities. Special thanks to North Central Region Chair, Mike Kroenke. He not only contributed an article to this newsletter but he was able to get four others from his region to do so too! A couple of other notes to pass on to you:

1. The ANREP directory in your packet will be updated quarterly at www.anrep.org. Please be sure to let us know if the information we have in there is correct. There will also soon be an opportunity to update this information on-line.
2. Don't forget to pay dues for 2000. These dues have helped support copying, mailing and other activities of this young organization. They are also important, as we are finding out for membership in the Joint Council on Extension Professionals (JCEP). We will have more to report to you in the future about this important Council but suffice it to say for now, we are still working on becoming official members.

3. The **Second National Extension Natural Resources Conference: Excellence Through Partnership** looks to be shaping up as nicely as the 1st. Both the number and quality of submissions for this year's conference compare well to the Minnesota conference. See if you can convince your Extension Director or ANR Program Leader to accompany you this year. They might be pleasantly surprised by what they see and hear. They will soon receive a hardcopy announcement and an introductory letter from ANREP (as requested by the Membership Committee - see committee updates for more information).

Many of you have responded very favorably to our Past President's recent call for more activism. Our greatest need now is to become a more cohesive organization with great grassroots support and communication. Please take a moment to digest the information in this newsletter and give us your thoughts. Also, our expanded website will hold more information throughout the year as we become more organized.

Spotlight on the North Central Region

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First, a little about myself. My work and desire is to help protect and enhance one of the most precious and pristine freshwater resources in the world - Lake Superior, which represents 10% of the freshwater resources of the world. I do this as an Extension professional, teacher, facilitator, researcher, organizer, and cooperater with others. All of us are in positions to make valuable contributions to protect the natural resource qualities we hold dear and that enhances the quality of life for everyone.

I want to express my thanks to ANREP members for giving me the opportunity to serve as the North Central Regional Director. With the elections being just over a half year ago, I still feel like I'm just getting my feet wet. My impressions are relatively new, and I'm just getting a feel for the ANREP leadership and direction. After some initial questions on where we are going and what value are we giving our membership, I can now safely say with confidence that I believe ANREP is in good hands and is heading in a very positive direction with very capable leadership.

Both Bob Edmonds and Bill Hubbard are very dedicated Extension professionals who have committed a great deal of time and effort in laying the ground work to help make ANREP effective and relevant in identifying and meeting the needs of its members. The ANREP Board and Conference Planning Committee have also shown this leadership and commitment. National Program Leader Larry Biles has shown a great deal of leadership, commitment and support of these efforts in time and dollars.

I'm hoping that through ANREP we can share our work more effectively on a national level, that we will be accepted as a member of JCEP thereby achieving a greater potential to influence decision makers on natural resource issues, and that we can develop an even more active organization to accomplish our strategic planning goals.

I invited a few colleagues from the North Central Region to write articles for this newsletter because I wanted a larger perspective from some Extension colleagues who have committed their lives to improving

the lives of others through natural resource programming efforts and leadership. Thanks to Pat Walsh, Steve Daley-Laursen, Charlie Barden, and Bill Cook for sharing their insights and programs with us.

Let me hear from you about your views on how we can make ANREP the most relevant for your needs. Please call me at 715-685-2674 or e-mail me at mike.kroenke@ces.uwex.edu. I hope to see you at the National Conference at Lake Tahoe in May!

TREE ID WEBSITES

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In my Extension Forester role with Michigan State University, many schools and forest owners have inquired about on-line resources for tree identification. After searching the Internet for these sources, I found very few. Oh, there are many excellent image galleries, but not much in the way of helping a user identify that tree in the backyard.

So, I built a tree identification website for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. You can find the site attached to the Michigan Society of American Foresters website (<http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf>). The website has three different keys that feature 54 species. Species description pages include 73 species. Additional features include over 300 images, range maps, species abundance lists, an interactive glossary, an identification characteristics page, and taxonomy lists. More additions are planned for the future.

Considerable versatility was built into the structure of the site however the essential flow moves the user through a key to a possible identification. A click on the tree name brings the user to a species description page where similar-looking species are found in the same place.

Before the fear of web-building skill develops in you, I'll say that I knew almost nothing about web software or website construction before tackling this project. The limiting factor in building a key for your region will be TIME, not your skills. However, if the experience in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is any indicator, usership will easily justify the effort put into a tool such as this.

Community Involvement in Natural Resources Decision-Making

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In Wisconsin, as well as elsewhere in the country, the continuing strong economy and population growth are requiring changes in the breadth and focus of natural resources educational programming. Community attitudes toward protecting quality of life and controlling future directions for growth are impacting natural resource decision-making. There is no longer an economy versus environment trade-

off. Today, there is a continuum of issues that require a careful balancing for successful resolution.

Community issues in natural resources programming present great educational opportunity for Extension professionals as well as the potential for heated local conflict. For example, in northern Wisconsin, a region that relies upon a mixture of tourism and forest industries to support its economy, our faculty work with citizens and community leaders on a variety of issues including shoreland development and regulation, forest and wildlife management, and tourism. To be adequately addressed, these interdisciplinary types of issues require access to a broad and interdisciplinary group of experts. Extension's ability to bring university resources to focus on a local issue, along with its credibility for being a non-advocacy institution, puts it in the best position to help communities to plot a future which best balances natural resource protection with community development.

To be successful our faculty have increased capacity in both process and content. The process skills help communities and individuals focus on the questions that need to be addressed. The content can then be brought to help decision-makers understand the technical, legal, economic, and social impacts of various development strategies. Successful resolution of community-based natural resource management issues requires a consensus building process among businesses, local governments, state and regional regulatory agencies, and citizens.

In short, natural resources programming can not be performed in a vacuum any more. Increasingly, decisions about managing forests, wildlife, agricultural lands, and shorelands require broad, interdisciplinary educational support. With our locally driven programs, process and content expertise, and ability to look at issues from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, Extension is well placed to help natural resource dependent communities make decisions that will help them achieve economic prosperity while maintaining and enhancing their quality of life.

Multi_Disciplinary Work to Improve Water Quality in Kansas and Nebraska

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The University of Nebraska and Kansas State University may have fierce athletic rivalries, and the two states are currently in Federal court over water quantity and quality issues, however the Extension programs at the two universities have recently started a project with EPA aimed at improving the water quality within the shared watershed of the Blue River basin. A series of inservice events for Extension agents and other resource professionals in both states is planned. Demonstration areas and publications will also be developed. The University of Nebraska_Lincoln is contributing an Extension agricultural engineer to the project while Kansas State is providing an Extension agronomist. Extension foresters from both states are also involved. Best Management Practices (BMP's) for tillage, fertilization, and pesticide use will be promoted, along with the installation and management of riparian forest buffers.

Also, a research project will start this spring in Kansas aimed at quantifying the effects that riparian forest buffers actually have on water quality. Much of the research on buffers has been conducted with mature woodlands on the East Coast, and due to differences in climate, soils, and native vegetation, the

effectiveness of planted buffers needs to be confirmed in the Midwest. Foresters, agricultural engineers, and agronomists are involved in this project. For further details about either endeavor, contact Charlie Barden by phone (785) 532_1444, or e_mail cbarden@ksu.edu.

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships Launched at the University of Minnesota

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In 1997 and 1999, the University received funds from the Minnesota Legislature to establish new experiments in faculty-citizen engagement throughout the state. Dubbed the Regional Agricultural and Natural Resource Sustainable Development Partnerships, these new experiments in outreach, education and research are being established in five regions of the state. The Partnerships are an interdisciplinary effort with current leadership provided by the College of Natural Resources, College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, and the Minnesota Extension Service.

The University has a long rich history of outreach and applied research that has helped Minnesotans address issues in the past, but changes in society and its needs have called for a next generation of approaches to our work on Minnesota's issues. Citizens who hold dearly their relationship with this university tell us the time is right for new models and experiments that test the real accessibility of university resources, in both short and long term formats. The Regional Partnerships are the university's leading experiment in this engagement enterprise.

The Regional Partnership is a new model of learning and leadership. The program places faculty and citizens in novel learning communities where they together invest the university's research and outreach resources in the discovery and application of new knowledge relating to local issues and needs. Each Regional Partnership consists of a team of citizens and university faculty who identify issues relating to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their region. The teams themselves control an annual budget that they invest in research and education projects to advance the understanding of sustainability in their region. A statewide coordinating committee with representation from each regional team, provides an opportunity for the regions to share their experiences, learn from one another, consider collaborative projects across regions and issues that affect the entire state.

The Partnership program is founded on three core principles:

- C Building rich and vibrant partnerships between citizens of the region and their land grant university. We are testing a next generation of citizen-faculty teamwork.
- C Addressing community issues in a manner consistent with sustainable development principles. The programs are advancing sustainable development on a regional basis.

- C Working in an active citizen participation mode. The program builds local capacity for civic organizing in Minnesota communities.

Key goals for the partnerships include:

- C Building long-term collaborative relationships;
- C Leveraging existing resources and public investments with additional local, private resources;
- C Supporting programs that reflect regional identities in the state;
- C Modeling new modes of partnership between communities and the university;
- C Developing connections and projects that result in increased understanding of sustainability concepts and practices, and tangible improvements in regional sustainability.

The University of Minnesota and the citizens of the state are blessed with a rich natural resource base, strong community and regional traditions and vibrant economic conditions. They share a common vision for a sustainable future, and know they must work together to achieve it. The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships are a new vehicle for achieving the vision.

Position Announcement: Natural Resources Youth Education Coordinator/ Lecturer

The College of Natural Resources (CNR), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, invites applications for the position of Natural Resources Youth Education Coordinator/Lecturer. The position is a permanent, full-time, 12-month appointment with the following responsibilities:

- C Plan, develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive statewide teacher education program emphasizing forests, wildlife, and natural resources, keyed to Virginia's Standards of Learning for primary and secondary grades.
- C Coordinate the annual on-campus Wood Magic Show for area schools and develop and implement the Wood Magic Traveling Classroom.
- C Develop a programmatic link with the College of Human Resources and Education, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Virginia Museum of Natural History at Virginia Tech, and Virginia Cooperative Extension.
- C Serve as the CNR Coordinator for Project Learning Tree (PLT), and represent the CNR on

statewide PLT committees.

- C Assist in teaching an undergraduate natural resources education course that includes training students in PLT, Project WILD, and Project WET.
- C Develop and manage the Natural Resources Education Curriculum Center.
- C Respond to requests for information about natural resources, particularly from teachers.
- C Seek contract and grant funds to provide additional support for the natural resources youth education program.
- C Take on a leadership role within appropriate natural resources youth education organizations in Virginia.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will possess BS and MS degrees, with at least one degree in a natural resource field. In addition, youth education and classroom experience are highly desirable.

Application Process: Submit a letter of intent, resume, official undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and three letters of reference. Review of applicants will begin on April 1, 2000, and will continue until position is filled. Starting date is on or after June 1, 2000, but school teachers working under contract for the 1999-2000 academic year are encouraged to apply. Salary is commensurate with qualifications.

Send to: Dr. James E. Johnson, Associate Dean - Outreach, College of Natural Resources, 324 Cheatham Hall, Mail Code 0324, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Virginia Tech has a strong commitment to the principle of diversity and, in that spirit, seeks a broad spectrum of candidates including women, minorities, and people with disabilities.

Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify Arlice Banks, College of Natural Resources, 540-231-7051, Virginia Telecommunications Relay Service number 1-800-828-1120, by the application deadline.

Virginia Tech programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation.

Committee Updates

Communications Committee

Bill Hubbard, whubbard@uga.edu

Welcome to ANREP's newest committee chair - Dr. Jeff Kirwin. He is an Extension Specialist for youth natural resources education at Virginia Tech. His experience includes nearly 20 years as a County 4-H Extension Agent. But perhaps more importantly, he is a tree farmer. Jeff has degrees from Bridgewater (VA) College (Biology), University of Minnesota (Forestry) and the University of Virginia (Environmental Sciences). His teaching interests include using web technology to reach youth and teacher audiences, and involving youth in scientific research. His own research interests focus on forest ecology, ecosystems and land-use change. As communications chair, Jeff would like to continue the work started by Bill Hubbard, using technology to meet the communication needs of an evolving organization. Jeff's primary responsibilities will include newsletter editorship and oversight of the website to ensure we are communicating with our membership. Please help me in welcoming Jeff by providing him with ideas and

news from your county, state or region. Thanks, Jeff for agreeing to chair this important committee.

Resolutions and Policy

Stephen Daley-Laursen, sdaley@extension.umn.edu

The ANREP Resolutions and Policy Committee has been asked to submit to the membership, a proposal to modify the organizational By-laws regarding terms of office for Executive Committee members. The proposed modification would increase the term of office for the following Executive Committee members from one year to two years: **Secretary, Treasurer and the North Central, Northeast, Southern and Western Regional Representatives**. President, President-Elect and Past-President would still preside over one year terms.

The rationale for this modification is that it would provide the organization and its officers with better continuity of leadership and management. Proponents suggest that officers with one year terms barely have the opportunity to become familiar with their roles and agendas when they end their terms. Officers with longer terms would be more efficient across the length of their term, and would have a better chance of taking complete action on their leadership and management agendas.

This proposed modification has been placed as a referendum on the back of the ballot for officers for the membership to vote on. Please contact me if you have questions or comments about the proposal or if you have additional By-laws modifications or resolutions to propose for our members consideration. Submitted on behalf of committee members Jim Pease, Jim Finley, Wiley Buck and Jonathan Kayes.

Awards Committee

Mel Baughman, mbaughma@forestry.umn.edu

The Awards Committee has started off the year enthusiastically. The Committee, consisting of Mel Baughman, Larry Biles, Roy Roath and Jeff Kirwin have, through conference calls and email exchanges begun the development of a fairly comprehensive awards program. The committee has come up with a number of ideas including recognition for distinguished service, early and career leadership, individual and team domestic programming and individual and team international programming. Also awards for development of educational materials (publications, newsletters, cd-rom/software, websites, etc), Extension programming and even an ANREP partner award are being considered. The committee will meet again via conference call in early February to discuss these ideas and others. Their hope is to be able to offer something this year for recognition at the **Second National Extension Natural Resources Conference** in Lake Tahoe in May. Future work includes drafting of award descriptions in more detail and getting this awards program adopted as ANREP policy.

Strategic Planning Committee

Edwin Jones, edwin_jones@ncsu.edu

The Strategic Planning Committee started its process at the expanded Executive Committee meeting in early December. At this meeting, the following points were included as imperative for ANREP to deal with in the short term. Short-term strategic needs include:

1. Enhancing communication channels
 - C newsletter three to four times per year
 - C use of the listserv and website

- C survey states on success stories
 - C survey of ANREP members: how can ANREP serve your needs
- 2. Improving the website
 - C should be interactive and current
- 3. Determining our level of “activism” (both internally and externally)
 - C “Alert bulletins” on important issues and legislation
 - C foster initiatives - be on cutting edge of policy development
- 4. Improving our visibility
 - C exhibit at national ANR leaders meeting
 - C information briefs on what we do
 - C awards program; recognize past ANREP leaders

Long-term strategic planning will take place over the next few months and we welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please contact me for more information.

Membership Committee

Chris Schnepf (cschnepf@uidaho.edu) & *Don Hanley* (dhanley@u.washington.edu)

A subcommittee of the ANREP membership committee met in an ad-hoc meeting in Spokane Washington on January 20, 2000. This ad-hoc group consisted of Bill Hubbard (ANREP President), and Chris Schnepf and Don Hanley (ANREP-Membership Committee Co-chairmen). At the meeting we proposed five goals for ANREP membership:

1. Get a membership brochure in the hands of **every** natural resource extension person in the country in the year 2000. In order to achieve this goal the following action items are necessary
 - C Ask a current member to be a member ‘*champion*’ in each state - to be "An ardent supporter of ANREP membership at the local level."
 - C Get an email and PO mailing list of county and state natural resource Extension staff/faculty from the state *champion* for each state.
 - C Send an electronic and a hardcopy membership brochure to every NR person.
 - C Ask the state *champion* to follow-up with personal invitation to join.
2. Have ANREP brochures available at **all** Cooperative Extension functions attended by NR personnel.
3. Update the existing ANREP Membership Brochure:
 - Include hardcopy and electronic versions.
 - Include testimonials in the brochure from current members.

- Include a checkbox giving credit for “sponsors”.
- 4. Ask the President to send an ANREP description and membership information to all Cooperative Extension Directors and ANR Leaders – to explain the organization.
- 5. Propose to the Executive Committee that a Retirees Category be initiated and promoted.

Conference Chair/Conference Liaison

Rick Standiford, (standifo@nature.berkeley.edu)

Conference planning for the **“Second National Extension Natural Resources Conference: Excellence Through Partnership”** is proceeding well. We received over 180 abstracts from around the country (and even one from Australia) and have been overwhelmed at the level of interest. A conference planning committee met on-site in early December to review the abstracts and discuss final conference format and logistics. The conference is slated to start on May 15th and continue until the 18th. Field exercises, keynote presentations, concurrent sessions and a poster session are among the activities planned. The weather should be fabulous this time of year and beautiful Lake Tahoe will be waiting for us. Check the website (www.anrep.org) often for more information including the final program and other important meeting logistics as they become available.