



Dear WLI Colleague,

Welcome to this edition of WLI World, full of issues that you have sent in about your wetland centres and their work. It's a great opportunity to take a look at what's happening across the network, to share stories about activities that are likely to be of interest across many WLI partners.

From a WLI global perspective we have been working with our partners at ERF (Environmental Ecosystem Research Foundation, the nonprofit conservation organization based in Seoul, R.O.Korea), the Ramsar Secretariat and many wetland centres to support their

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development of a new handbook on best practice for Wetland Education Centres. This handbook is the result of the International Workshop on Best Practices of Operation and Management of Wetland Education Centres which was held in Seosan city, R.O.Korea in November, 2014 and WLI was one of supporters. This will be a great new resource for anyone developing or running a wetland centre and will be launched soon.

We've also been actively working regionally to plan for the forthcoming WLI Asia regional conference which will take place in China in early 2015, held a webinar in North America for colleagues working in wetland centres there, and we are working with our Chilean colleagues to plan for a conference later in the year for the Neotropics region.

The WLI Russia network is active too, finalising the CEPA action plan and looking towards an event hosted at Smolensk Wetland Park, which will celebrate their newly refurbished centre, and at the same time their commitment to taking a lead on the WLI Russia network.



WLI and WWT hosted the Ramsar CEPA oversight panel (right) in December last year, at our London Wetland Centre. The panel worked on the draft resolution for CEPA which will be discussed at the next Ramsar conference in 2015 in Uruguay. As well as making good progress on the resolution, the participants enjoyed being based at our wetland centre enormously!

For the WLI annual report, please click [here](#), showing what the WLI network achieved during 2013.

Best regards,

Chris Rostron
Head of WLI

World Wetlands Day 2014 – Wetlands and Agriculture



The World Wetland Day theme this year was Wetlands and Agriculture – Partners for Growth, celebrating the link between wetlands and growing food, and the need to think about how this can be done sustainably. Many centres celebrated the day, taking the opportunity either to talk

about wetlands and Ramsar generally, or to specifically give messages about their links to wetlands and agriculture. Our WWT Welney centre reflected a very

wet winter for the whole of the UK, and despite being mostly underwater, still carried out activities, such as the swan feed, see right.

We are also reminding colleagues in the far North that if it's too cold to hold activities in February, you can still hold events later in the year. For example, North American Wetlands Month is in May, promoting events that are linked to wetlands and serving a similar purpose to World Wetlands Day.

For more information, please see the [WLI website](#), or check out the [Ramsar site](#).

American Paddlefish project, and a new name for the Caddo Lake Wetlands Centre, US



In March, Caddo Lake Institute and partners in the area released 47 American paddlefish into Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Bayou. Each fish has an implanted

radio transmitter. Since the radio signals are unique, each tagged fish can be tracked by towers placed along the bayou. As part of the experiment, students and other interested parties can follow paddlefish movements on the Caddo Lake Institute [website](#).

Managed by CLI's partner, the Collins Academy, students, teachers and educational groups are conducting their own age appropriate, standards aligned, environmental testing and investigations expanding on the work project scientists are doing. The paddlefish release and tracking data are providing opportunities for schools to become heavily engaged in ecological studies and environmental education.

Results of this experiment will determine whether restoration of flow regimes from the dam upstream of Caddo Lake, as well as channel substrate, will provide a favorable enough habitat for paddlefish restoration. If

successful, the experiment will lead to a watershed-wide reintroduction of up to 10,000 juvenile paddlefish.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has named the area including the Harrison Bayou watershed on the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Caddo Lake Ramsar wetlands, after the late Dwight K. Shellman Jr. (1945 to 2012) to honor his tireless conservation work. The Shellman Unit of the Refuge was dedicated during a ceremony on April 5th.

Designation of portions of Caddo Lake as "Wetlands of International Importance" and creation of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge arose in large measure from the efforts of Dwight K. Shellman, Jr., former President of the Caddo Lake Institute. Although many people worked to ensure Caddo Lake and its associated forests and wetlands are protected for future generations, Dwight's commitment and tenacity were essential to the effort.

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Wetland Link International

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Wetland Link International WLI 6-monthly bulletin

Please click [here](#) for our WLI 6-monthly bulletin with stories from the US on satellite tracking of paddlefish at Caddo Lake and Creston Valley's summer programme, very wet wetland walks in South Africa, celebrating World Migratory Birds Day in Singapore and site management challenges in Spain. We hope you enjoy reading it, please contact [us](#) if you would like to submit an article next time.

Best regards,

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