

**MINUTES OF THE
71st ANNUAL MEETING
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 30-31, 2007**

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General Session, Friday, March 30, 2007

The 71st Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation (“NWF”) was called to order at 8:05 a.m. on Friday, March 30, 2007, by its Chair, Jerome Ringo, at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, DC.

Francesca Hernandez, a Campus Ecology Fellow enrolled at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the invocation, Mr. Ringo acknowledged the deaths of important members of the National Wildlife Federation family: Stan Watson of Connecticut and Seward Weber of Vermont.

Mr. Ringo extended a special welcome to NWF’s newest affiliate, the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, and its President and Representative Marc Davis, and Executive Director and Alternate Representative Norm Ritchie. He then recognized special guests Colin Maxwell, Executive Vice President of the Canadian Wildlife Federation (“CWF”), and his wife Cherry, and CWF Board Chair Nicolas Laurin and his wife Johanne Longpré.

Mr. Ringo introduced six Affiliate Leaders Scholarship Awardees: Lisa Brien, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; Jayne Buttross, Mississippi Wildlife Federation; Gregory Harlow, Association of Northwest Steelheaders (Oregon); Drew Lanham, South Carolina Wildlife Federation; Tarva Lee, Nevada Wildlife Federation; and Rosemary Thornton, Nebraska Wildlife Federation. Next, Mr. Ringo introduced the eight Campus Ecology Fellows seated in the audience. Mr. Ringo then introduced NWF President and CEO Larry Schweiger and NWF Senior Vice President and General Counsel and Secretary of the Board Cindy Lewin, who were on the podium with him. He encouraged all attendees to meet the NWF staff who were attending the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Ringo then reviewed the Order of Business set out in the program distributed at the registration desk and reminded the delegates that copies of the Secretary’s Report were available in the conference and press office. (The Secretary’s Report is attached as Exhibit 1.)

Next, Mr. Ringo called for the report of the Credentials and Affiliate Standards Committee. Mrs. Rebecca Scheibelhut, the Committee’s Chair, was absent. Accordingly, on behalf of the Committee, Earl Matthew from Rockport, Texas reported that the Committee had met twice in the past year and that proper credentials were received for Affiliate Representatives from 47 of the 48 affiliate organizations entitled to send a voting delegate to the meeting, and that 46 Alternate Representatives had also been credentialed. There was no contest to the seating of any Affiliate Representatives or

Alternate Representatives, so Mr. Matthew moved on behalf of the committee that the list of Affiliate Representatives and Alternate Representatives that had been distributed be declared the Official Roll for the 71st Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation. This motion was adopted unanimously without discussion. (The amended Roll Call is attached as Exhibit 2)

Next, Mr. Ringo asked Ms. Lewin to call the roll. She reported that a quorum was present. Mr. Ringo then noted that the amended minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, had been distributed. A motion was made and seconded that the reading of the minutes be waived and that the minutes be adopted as submitted; the motion was adopted unanimously without discussion.

At this point, Mr. Ringo called for any emergency resolutions. None were made.

Mr. Ringo then introduced Larry Schweiger, who introduced the first keynote speaker, Jim Martin, a seven-year member of the NWF Board of Directors from Oregon and Conservation Director for the Berkley Conservation Institute. Mr. Martin called our attention to the urgent need to address climate change in order to preserve natural wonders for future generations. He recommended that communities incorporate conservation in their land use planning efforts.

Mr. Schweiger then introduced the second keynote speaker, Professor David Orr of Oberlin College, a long time friend of NWF and the author of several books including, most recently, Design on the Edge: The Making of a High Performance Building. Mr. Orr reminded us, with references to current developments in science, news, culture and policy communities, that climate change is a global challenge that may have destabilizing impacts on all nations and people. He advised that the United States has delayed too long in confronting this challenge and must take leadership on it now.

At Mr. Ringo's invitation, Mr. Schweiger then gave the President's Annual Address. (President's Report is attached as Exhibit 3.)

Mr. Schweiger next had the honor of introducing the final speaker, Congressman John Dingell, representative for Michigan's fifteenth congressional district and chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep. Dingell emphasized the need for conservation groups to work together and remain vigilant in protecting existing legislation and public lands from attack. He promised to move forward with speed and due care, and to work with other members of congress, conservation and business groups, in order to write sound legislation that will address climate change. Rep. Dingell responded to questions from the audience with recommendations that we continue to build partnerships to achieve our mission.

Mr. Ringo adjourned the session at 10:07 a.m. to resume at 2:15 p.m. that afternoon with the Resolutions Session.

Resolutions Session, Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. Ringo opened the Resolutions Session of the 71st Annual Meeting at 2:23 p.m. on March 30, 2007. Ms. Lewin called the roll and reported that a quorum was present.

Mr. Ringo briefly explained the process for adopting conservation policy resolutions. He then called upon Craig Thompson, a member of the NWF Board of Directors, to chair the Resolutions Session. Mr. Thompson explained that he would ask each committee chair or vice chair to present the resolutions assigned to his or her committee. (The conservation policy resolutions, as adopted, are filed with the original of these minutes.)

Mr. Thompson called Don Johnson of Missouri, chair of the Education Committee, to present the committee's report. Mr. Johnson moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Education-1, "National Need for Reversing Our Nature Deficit,"** which was not amended in Committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted unanimously as submitted.

Mr. Johnson moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Education-2, "College and University Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Mr. Johnson moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Education-3, "Youth as Leaders in Conservation,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Next, Mr. Thompson called on Jenny Brock of Florida, chair of the Energy Committee, to present the committee's report. Ms. Brock moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Energy-1, "Hunters and Anglers Leading Efforts to Solve Global Warming,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Ms. Brock next moved the adoption of a **Proposed Resolution Energy-2, "Shift Subsidies from Conventional Fossil Fuels to Clean Energy Technologies & Practices,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Tom Ditty of West Virginia, vice chair of the Energy Committee, moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Energy-3, "Green Buildings: Architecture 2030 Challenge,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Mr. Ditty next moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Energy-4, "Promote an Equitable Climate Policy for Low-Income Families,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Next, Mr. Thompson called on Mark Winland of Wyoming, chair of the Land Committee, to present the committee's report. Mr. Winland moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Land-1, "Promote Sustainable 'Next Generation' Bioenergy to Address Global Warming,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

David Haire of Georgia, vice chair of the Land Committee, moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Land-2, "Incentives for Access to Private Lands Enrolled in Farm Bill Conservation Programs,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted with one dissent as submitted by the committee.

Mr. Winland moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Land-3, "General Mining Law of 1872,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted as amended unanimously by the committee.

Mr. Haire moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Land-4, "Reducing the Effects of Global Warming by Reducing Oil Consumption,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted as amended unanimously by the committee.

Next, Mr. Thompson called on Janice Bezanson of Texas, chair of the Water Committee, to present the committee's report. Ms. Bezanson moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Water-1, "Klamath River Dams,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Richard Fleming of Delaware, vice chair of the Water Committee, moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Water-2, "Ocean Health,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted unanimously as amended by the committee.

Mr. Fleming moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Water-3, "Marine Protected Areas,"** as amended by the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted as amended unanimously by the committee.

Ms. Bezanson moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Water-4, "Support for Public Recreation on Navigable Rivers of the United States,"** as amended by the committee. Discussion was had but no amendments were made on the floor. The resolution then was adopted with one dissent as amended by the committee.

Next, Mr. Thompson called on Richard Mode of North Carolina, chair of the Wildlife Committee, and Kent Salazar of New Mexico, vice chair of the Wildlife Committee, to present the committee's report. Mr. Salazar moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Wildlife-1, "Native American Tribes and Climate Change,"** as submitted to the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted unanimously as submitted.

Mr. Salazar moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Wildlife-2, "Public Trust Doctrine and North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation,"** as

presented to the committee. There was no discussion. The resolution then was adopted unanimously as submitted.

Mr. Salazar then moved the adoption of **Proposed Resolution Wildlife-3, “Support for Non-toxic Shot for Webless Migratory Game Birds,”** as amended by the committee. Mr. Dave Murphy of Missouri offered an amendment. Discussion was had and Mr. Murphy accepted several friendly amendments to his amendment. Mr. Murphy moved adoption of his amendment, which would replace lines 16-20 with the words:

Be it further resolved that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others should be encouraged to fund research to determine the extent and frequency of lead shot ingestion in mourning doves in the United States and to determine the best practices to reduce lead shot ingestion. Conservationists should work together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies, and industry leaders to persuade influential people and organizations if it becomes clear that requiring the use of non-toxic shot will be in the best interests of wildlife and the future of hunting.

Discussion was had on the resolution as amended in committee and on the floor. The resolution was adopted as amended by the committee and on the floor by a show of hands with 2 abstentions.

Mr. Salazar then moved that discussion of **Proposed Resolution Wildlife-4, “Hunting with Dogs,”** be postponed indefinitely on account of Mr. Corky Meyer of Wisconsin, the affiliate that originally proposed this resolution, had requested additional time to address nuances between states. Mr. Meyer called the question and the motion to postpone indefinitely was passed, with one dissent.

Mr. Salazar moved that **Proposed Resolution Wildlife-5, “Prohibition of Electronic Motorized Decoys for Taking Waterfowl,”** be adopted as amended by the committee. The committee amendments followed NWF staff recommendations to require further scientific study instead of a ban on this method of take. Discussion was had: Mr. Randy Lanctot of Louisiana, the affiliate that had proposed the original resolution, withdrew support for it because the amendment changed the original intent; Mr. Jim Wood of Arkansas spoke in favor of a ban based on research he had conducted in 2003. His motion to postpone the resolution indefinitely was seconded and passed.

There being no further business for this session, Mr. Thompson thanked all participants for their efforts, and following some brief announcements, adjourned the Resolutions Session at 3:56 p.m. He ordered that the Elections Session commence at 4:15 p.m.

Elections Session, Friday, March 30, 2007

The Elections Session of the 71st Annual Meeting began at 4:32 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2007, for the election of members of the Board of Directors.

Chair Jerome Ringo called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Lewin to call the roll. Since a quorum was apparent, the roll was not called.

Before beginning the election process, Mr. Ringo noted that during yesterday's Board of Directors meeting, one At-Large Director was re-elected—Lyvier Conss of Arizona—and two new At-Large Directors were elected -- Liz Hamilton of Oregon; and Mason Bryant Howard of Virginia.

Mr. Ringo then explained how the elections would proceed. He announced he had appointed two tellers committees: one chaired by Janice Bezanson from Texas, with Russell Huegins from Idaho and Don Snider from Kansas; the other chaired by Norm Ritchie from Oregon, with Anita Wagner of Nevada and Claire Shimabukuro from Hawaii.

The first election was for **Region 3 Director**. Mr. Ringo placed in nomination all the names that had been submitted to the Assistant Secretary: David Hargett of South Carolina and Sallie Sebrell of Virginia. No nominations were made from the floor. After the close of nominations: Rebecca Pritchett of Alabama and Stephen M. Leonard of Massachusetts made seconding speeches in support of David Hargett; Joe Calvert of West Virginia made a seconding speech in support of Sallie Sebrell. Election was held by ballot and Mr. Hargett won.

The next election was for **Eastern Vice Chair**. The only nominee was incumbent Steve Allinger of New York. On a motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed and Mr. Allinger was re-elected unanimously.

The next election was for **Region 2 Director**. The only nominee was Lise Van Susteren of Maryland. On a motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed and Ms. Van Susteren was elected unanimously.

The next election was for **Region 4 Director**. Mr. Ringo placed in nomination all the names that had been submitted to the Assistant Secretary: Jenny Brock of Florida; and David Haire of Georgia. No nominations were made from the floor. After the close of nominations: Carlos Tesitor of U.S. Virgin Islands and Ryna Rock of Arizona made seconding speeches in support of Ms. Brock; Edgar F. Veillon of Louisiana and Rebecca Pritchett of Alabama made seconding speeches in support of Mr. Haire. Election was held by ballot and Ms. Brock won.

The next election was for **Region 10 Director**. The only nominee was Kent Salazar of New Mexico. On a motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed and Mr. Salazar was elected unanimously.

The next election was for **Region 12 Director**. The only nominee was Jerry Meral of California. On a motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed and

Mr. Meral was re-elected unanimously.

Mr. Ringo then noted his appreciation to departing Board members who were not present: Steve Petron, former Eastern Vice Chair, and out-going At-Large Directors Maggie Bryant, John Mack Carter and Walter Umphrey. Mr. Ringo then thanked and presented eagle statues to the following out-going Board members who were present: Andy Brack, Region 3 Director from South Carolina; Steve O'Hara, Region 4 Director from Florida; Chuck Olmsted, Region 10 Director from Colorado; and Jim Martin, At-Large Board Member from Oregon.

Mr. Ringo noted that he, too, would be stepping down at the conclusion of this 71st Annual Meeting and that Tom Gonzales, of Colorado, would take over as Chairman of the Board. He presented Mr. Gonzales with a statue in appreciation of the work Mr. Gonzales has done on the Endowment Committee from which he is stepping down in order to serve as board chair. Mr. Gonzales stated his appreciation of the opportunity to move the NWF forward.

Next, Mr. Ringo called forward all newly elected or re-elected members of the Board of Directors and administered the oath of office to them. Mr. Ringo noted that the newly elected or re-elected board members will assume their new duties at the conclusion of Saturday's Closing General Session. Board members taking the oath were: David Hargett, Lise Van Susteren, Jenny Brock, Kent Salazar, and Jerry Meral.

After some brief announcements the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m. until the next day at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 31, 2007.

Closing Session, Saturday, March 31, 2007

The closing session of the 71st Annual Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerome Ringo, at 8:35 a.m. on March 31, 2007. Mr. Ringo introduced Larry Schweiger, who introduced the panelists for the opening panel on “Searching for Real Engagement in a World of ‘Clicktivism’ – Advocacy in the Age of Connectivity.” The panelists were Marty Kearns of Green Media Toolshed, a nonprofit consulting firm advising the environmental movement on communicating more effectively, and Mary Ann Hitt, executive director of Appalachian Voices, a small environmental organization that has made creative use of Internet advocacy campaigns. They spoke on how the Internet can be used to engage people in our cause and encourage them to take action.

Mr. Schweiger then thanked Mr. Ringo for his great service to NWF during his two-year term as Chairman of the Board, which is now concluded. A slide show on Mr. Ringo’s time at NWF was presented. Mr. Ringo thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve, introduced his family, and spoke movingly about the environmental degradation in his home state of Louisiana and the importance of NWF as a great messenger with a great message. He pledged to stay involved with NWF in the future.

Mr. Ringo then passed the gavel to Tom Gonzales, incoming chair, with his congratulations. Mr. Gonzales led the audience in reciting the Conservation Pledge.

The 71st Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation was then adjourned at 10:00 am. Attendees were invited to participate in restoration projects at various sites along the Anacostia River and to return for the awards dinner and closing banquet in the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Lewin, Secretary

Approved:

Tom Gonzales, Chair



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reports that:

- The official minutes of National Wildlife Federation meetings are in order and reports of all official committees have been submitted and are on file.
- Affiliate (voting) membership in the National Wildlife Federation is 48, including 46 states plus the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- The Secretary has sent out notices of all official meetings.
- Credentials certifying Affiliate Representatives and, in some cases, Alternates to the Federation's 71st Annual Meeting have been received from all but one of the affiliates and turned over to the Committee on Credentials and Affiliate Standards for its report.
- Invoicing the 2008 affiliate dues and the Call for Credentials for the 72nd Annual Meeting will be accomplished later this year.
- The 2007 Midyear Board meeting will be held August 2-5, 2007 in Traverse City, Michigan.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Board, the affiliates, and the staff for their cooperation in providing reports and materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia M. Lewin
Secretary

March 27, 2007



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Amended Roll Call

<u>State</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate Representative</u>
Alabama	Rebecca Pritchett	Tim Gothard**
Arizona	Ryna Rock	Kim Crumbo**
Arkansas	Jim Wood	Gayne Preller Schmidt
California	Bill Yeates	Lynn Sadler
Colorado	Colleen Gadd	Christian Westring
Connecticut	Ruth Cutler	Caroline Driscoll
Delaware	Seth Ross	Richard Fleming
Florida	Jenny Brock	Lynn Alan Thompson
Georgia	David Haire	Lynn Haire
Hawaii	Julie Leialoha	Claire Shimabukuro
Idaho	J. Kent Marlor	Russell W. Heughins
Illinois	Jon McNussen	Bruce Semans
Indiana	Dwight Shelton	Doug Allman
Iowa	Joe Wilkinson	Sue Wilkinson
Kansas	Steven Sorensen	Don Snider
Kentucky	Vikki Rawe	X
Louisiana	Edgar F. Veillon	Randy Lancot
Maine	Sharon Tisher	Matt Prindiville
Massachusetts	Stephen M. Leonard	Megan Amundson
Michigan	Don Meixner	Pat Klott
Minnesota	Gordon Meyer**	Keith Blomstrom
Mississippi	Jeanne Jones	Don Jackson
Missouri	Don Johnson	Dave Murphy
Montana	Stan Frasier	Toby Day
Nebraska	Bruce E. Stephens	Karl Whitmore
Nevada	Kevin Cabble**	Anita Wagner
New Mexico	Kent Salazar	Ed Olona
New York	Edna Sussman	Leslie Jacobson**
North Carolina	Richard Mode	John Benbow
North Dakota	Clarence Bina	Shawn McKenna
Ohio	Larry Mitchell, Sr.	Andrea Caito
Oklahoma	Andy McDaniels**	Karen Carpenter**
Oregon	Marc Davis	Norm Ritchie
Pennsylvania	Ed Zygmunt	Peter Dalby
Puerto Rico	Sheylda Diaz	Luis Silvestre**
Rhode Island	Jack Schempp	David Brunetti
South Carolina	David Hargett	Raymond Nelson
South Dakota	William Antonides	John Simpson

<u>State</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate Representative</u>
Tennessee	Monty Halcomb	Joanne Halcomb
Texas.	D. Maxson "Mack" Turner	Janice Bezanson
Utah	X	X
Vermont	Pete Land	Dale Guldbrandsen
Virgin Islands	Carla Joseph	Carlos Tesitor
Virginia	Sallie Sebrell	Martha Wingfield
Washington	K. Robert Johnson	Frank Van Gelder
West Virginia	Joe Calvert	Tom Ditty
Wisconsin	Corky Meyer	Lil Pipping
Wyoming	Harold Schultz**	Mark Winland

** *Did not attend annual meeting*

**National Wildlife Federation
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PRESIDENT LARRY J. SCHWEIGER'S REPORT

David, when I saw that photograph of the hummer I was thinking of a fellow that was interviewed the other day and someone asked him why he drives a hummer and he said, "You know I like to drive around in my living room, sitting on my barcalounger."

And that's unfortunately the attitude of so many. And you shared a New Testament story; I would like to tell you about an Old Testament story. It's one that's not often cited, because it comes from the book of Numbers. If you've ever read that book, it's not the most inspiring book in the sense of its content; it's very dense.

But in that book of Numbers, is this story, about this man, named Balaam, who had a stiff neck and had a hearing problem, and God spoke to Balaam and told Balaam not to go to this place that he was headed to because it was a very dangerous place, unsafe. Balaam ignored God and went off on his ass, and was riding to this dangerous place. Three times along the way the ass tried to get Balaam's attention because he could see they were headed to this dangerous place, and he didn't want to go there either. Balaam wasn't paying any attention. Finally the ass sat down and started speaking to Balaam and told Balaam he was headed to the wrong place.

I tell that story today because even an ass can see that we're on the wrong path.

You know that story had a lot of significance, and Balaam paid attention to the ass, because in those days there weren't very many talking asses, as there are today.

Working together, National Wildlife Federation and our affiliates, all of you in this room are making a huge difference, and you know, one of the things that inspires me most about National Wildlife Federation is, if you go the red states, we're red, and if you go to the blue states, we're blue, and if you find a few of those purple states, we're purple. But you know in every state, we're green. And that's what I love about National Wildlife Federation.

The Federation has long stood for protecting wildlife habitat, Jim talked so beautifully about that, I will not talk about that. That is one of our drivers, we need to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and we have not given up on that.

We are still working hard on that and I will not speak to global warming, our second priority, and our top and most urgent priority at this moment. What I will talk about is that third item: What is happening to our children.

Not too long ago I was flying from Washington DC to California, and I was sitting next to a young man who was about 10 years old. His mother put him on the plane, this young man

happened to be overweight, and he was flying to CA to visit his father. And we got up around 10,000 feet and he got his Gameboy out and he started to play. And he was playing very intently, never lifting his eyes from that Gameboy during that trip. We were flying over the Grand Canyon and the pilot came on the air and he said "Folks, we're seeing a very beautiful view of the Grand Canyon, look out your left window you can see it," and he said it's a fine view. I looked over at that young man, and not for one second did he raise his eyes off that Gameboy to look out the window at the Grand Canyon. And I realized that we were seeing - that I was seeing - before my very eyes a change that is occurring in our young people in America today. What's happening to our connection to nature and where has the outdoor time gone in America? There's something profoundly different that's happening to the basic connection between Americans and the out of doors. The signs are everywhere. The Association of American Child Education International estimates that our children are now spending 50% less time in the out of doors than we did. In 2004 the Kaiser foundation estimated the average child is now spending 6 hours a day watching TV, playing a game, or on the computer. Roper reported in 2001 that the long pattern of increasing activity in the out of doors is shifting downward, of 27 major outdoor activities, 21 of those had seen a downward trend and only 6 were increasing. More importantly Roper has warned that the young people, those who have access to computers particularly, are especially down, about 19-24%.

You might be asking at this point: "SO?" What does it matter to society whether kids spend time in the out of doors or not? As a conservationist, I'm concerned that there's an important link between the amount of time kids spend outdoors before the age of 11, and where they come down on things like climate, on wildlife and on nature in general.

Cornell University has found this connection, and their study indicates that young people who participate in nature before age 11 are a particularly potent pathway towards shaping their environmental attitudes and behavior in adulthood. I worry that we will not address global warming, for example, until it interferes with our television reception. Our affiliates have long stood for conservation and we are now standing strong for addressing global warming, and I have not met a single outdoors man or woman who doesn't understand the threat of global warming, and so we know that as our connection to nature is increased, our understanding of the urgency of this problem also increases.

Out of the window of my home in Pittsburgh I overlook a valley called Pine Creek, and in that valley 9 decades ago, was a woman and her daughter, and they walked and they looked at wildflowers. And that daughter was Rachel Carson. And I see the valley that Rachel and her mother spent time in, and the connection they had, and the sense of wonder that Rachel discovered with her mother, and I can't help but believe that that valley, and that mother, were so important to the development to one of our great conservationists.

Edward O. Wilson, in the book *Diversity of Life*, said the signals abound, the loss of life's diversity endangers not just the body but the spirit as well. If that much is true, changes occurring now will visit harm on all of our generations to come.

The often spicy and challenging social commentators, the Dixie Chicks, convey the same message, this way, in verses of their wildly popular song, *Cowboy Take Me Away*, you may have

heard it, many songs are not worth listening to the verses, but this one is. And listen to what the Dixie Chicks say. "I said I want to touch the earth. I want to break it in my hands. I want to grow something wild and unruly. I want to sleep on the hard ground, in the comfort of your arms. I want a pillow of blue bonnets and a blanket of stars. Oh, it sounds good to me." Doesn't that sound good to you as well?

Kids need to be outside more, for their own physical, emotional, and mental health. We all need to be connected with nature for the renewal of our minds and for the future of nature itself.

As a child, I spent many hours in the woods, and I thought about that as I was thinking about the young boy. My mother and father were outdoor people; my father was a dog trainer and hunter. My dad died 30 years ago, but you know, there's something very significant about being in the out of doors. And I want to really focus on that for a second.

Being in the outdoors is a multi-sensory experience; Unlike looking at a screen that's flat and doesn't touch you. As we absorb the inputs of nature in nature through our ears and eyes and nose and fingertips, our memories are made all the more durable, and the multiple inputs stimulate the parts of our brain that make these memories rich and healthy. We literally absorb nature as it absorbs us. Spending time with my father comes flooding back to me as I walk in the woods today, and smell a familiar plant or hear a distant crow in the crisp fall morning.

You know, it's been 30 years since dad died, but in those moments when I am in the woods, I can hear his voice so clearly once again, and I can see his ruddy face in the orange light of morning. I cherish these fleeting moments with my dad and I reconnect in a very powerful way when I go to the woods in the fall.

Last week I had the opportunity to take my first walk with my grandson, Thaddy. He was more interested in sticks, and he found a tree stump that looked like a car, so we drove it. That's all right. I want to make memories with Thaddy so he may grow up someday with the love of nature that has possessed my family for generations.

I would urge every adult in this room to make memories in nature with the children in your life. They will scarcely remember the day that you sat in front of the TV set with them, but I guarantee that they will never forget the time you spent in the out of doors.

Carry hope with you as you go into the woods with your children, and working together we can and we must make a difference for our world and for our children's world, and I thank you for this time.

Thank you.