

70th Anniversary Message from the President and Board Chair

National Wildlife Federation, America's conservation organization, was founded on partnerships. Since 1936, we have joined with people across the country, sharing knowledge and resources in a collective effort to protect the wildlife, special places and natural resources we all care about most.

It was 70 years ago that Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling met with Franklin D. Roosevelt, urging him to start what was originally called the General Wildlife Federation. Darling saw an opportunity to bring together individuals, organizations and agencies interested in the restoration and conservation of wildlife resources. Even then, America's land, water and wildlife were threatened. Recognizing the link between the people's health, the environment and our quality of life, the first conference participants set out to protect them all. They understood that it would take millions of informed, motivated people to do the job.

We began then, as an alliance of grassroots groups from all across the country, united in the work of protecting and restoring wildlife. The central mission of the General Wildlife Federation (later changed to National Wildlife Federation) was to educate and empower people to make a difference. Today, we represent the power and commitment of one million members and supporters partnered with wildlife organizations in 48 states and territories. Our supporters include Americans from all walks of life, of all political and religious beliefs and of all ages. And we continue to rely deeply on America's innate conservation ethic and our consistent partnerships—now a nationwide network—to accomplish our mission: protecting wildlife for our children's future.

We celebrate our 70th anniversary with the knowledge that our partnerships are key to our success and our challenges today are even greater than they were when we began. With the immediate threat of global warming, National Wildlife Federation must become actively involved in rallying awareness and solutions for the impacts that climate change has on our environment, our wildlife and our wild places.

Now, more than ever, we need the support of all our partners—affiliates, members, government corporations, foundations and individuals—to carry our message to cities and rural communities, homes and town halls, Congress and state legislatures, elementary schools and universities, courts and international venues. It is only through that support—through partnerships with people like you—that we will succeed. We thank you for all you have done in the past, and look forward to your continued commitment and action in 2007.



Larry Schweiger



Jerome Ringo

Larry Schweiger
President & CEO

Jerome Ringo
Chair, Board of Directors