

HOLIDAY ISSUE

December 2021

FAPAC-DOI NEWSLETTER



Winter scene at Kulm Wetland Management District, a prairie and wetland landscape that provides habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species. Photo by Krista Lundgren, USFWS

In This Issue

Table of Contents

Vice President of Finance Farewell Letter.....	2.
Board Reflections.....	3.
What Happened to my Presents?.....	5.
Wanted: Future Leaders for FAPAC-DOI.....	7.
Hearts for Love!.....	8.

Contributors

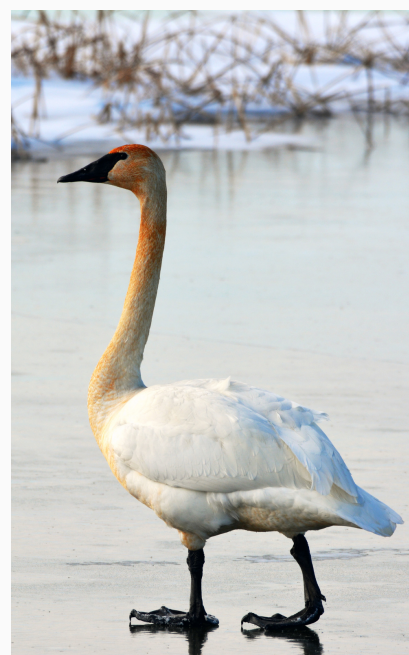
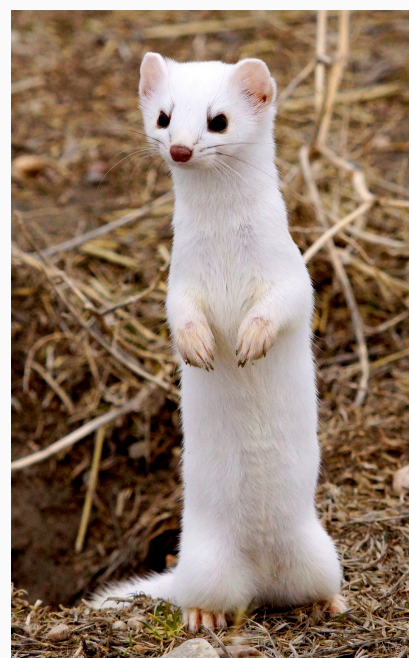
Shuwen Cheung
Barbara Green

THANK YOU SHUWEN!!!

Dear FAPAC-DOI,

I like to make a short note that I'll be leaving my position as Vice President of Finance, FAPAC-DOI at the end of December. I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I appreciate all Chapter members for your support throughout this year. It's such a great pleasure for me to serve this position and get to know some of you from past Chapter meetings. I've enjoyed participating in our Chapter activities and I am proud to be part of the community. Although I'm not taking this position any more, I'll certainly still be part of the group and I am looking forward to take part in Chapter activities next year. I'm wishing you all the best moving forward. Thanks again for being a part of making my time here at FAPAC-DOI such a great one! Have a happy holidays and stay safe!

Thanks!
Shuwen



Photos from top to bottom: Pronghorn in frost-covered sagebrush. Photo by Tom Koerner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); A white weasel standing in brown grass. Photo by Jana M. Cisar, USFWS; Trumpeter swan on a winter day at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Karl Fleming, USFWS.



A heavy winter snow at Crater Lake National Park. Photo by David Grimes, National Park Service



2021 BOARD REFLECTIONS

Lena Chang - President

When I think back to 2021, I think of it as a “calmer” extension of 2020 - a year of transition with many changes and challenges and opportunities for growth - the biggest being moving after 10 years of living in one location and starting a new job in the FWS after 13 years in one office! I found gratitude in the small things and appreciated any quiet moments I could find in nature alone, with friends and family, or at home with my pets!

Thomas Liu - Leadership Liaison

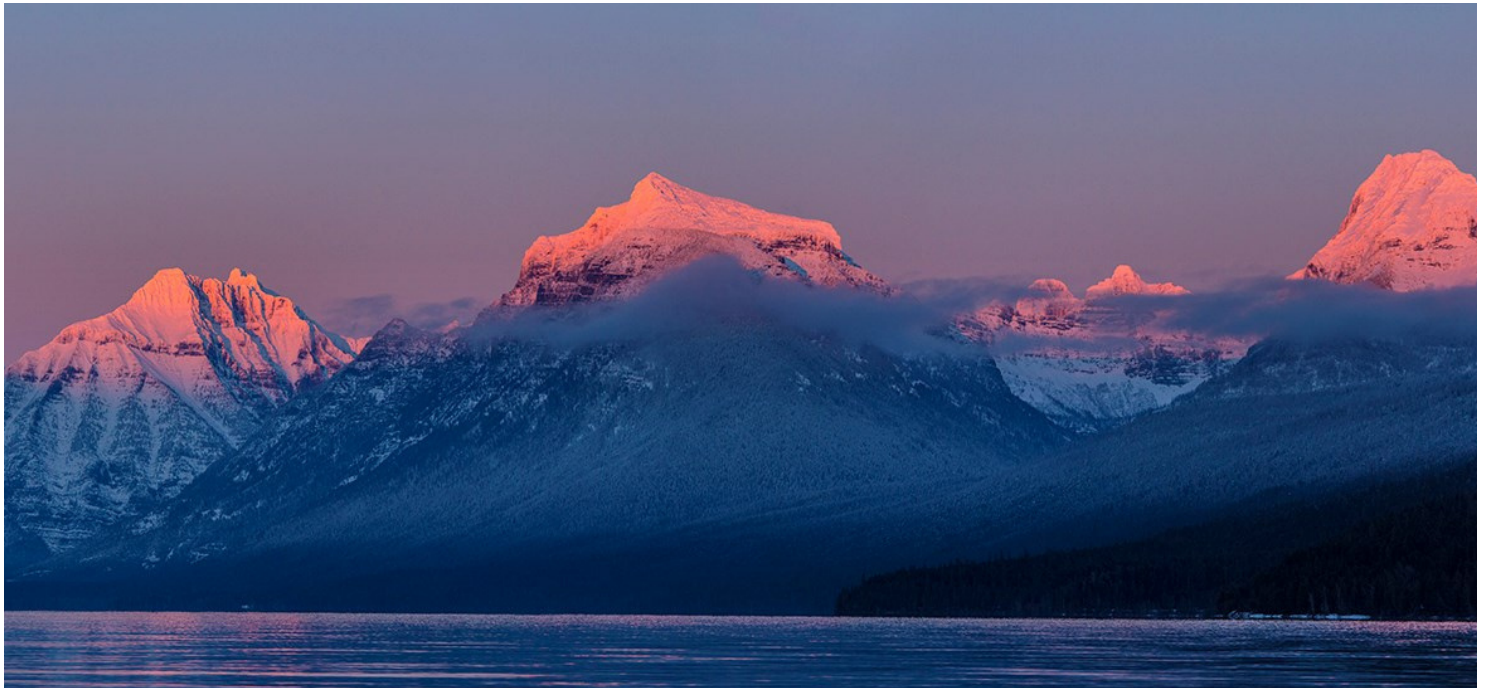
This past year has been a tough one for me, from relatives being hospitalized with COVID, to worrying about anti-AAPI incidents, to not being selected for a position I had really wanted. But there have also been highs that I'll remember for the rest of my life - like the day I got my 1st COVID vaccine, signing BOEM's first ever renewable energy lease on the West Coast, and trips to Yosemite and Great Basin National Parks with the family. I'm so grateful for the support and camaraderie from family and friends (like everyone on the FAPAC DOI board); to me, this reiterates how important it is to continue to build up and rely upon the communities that we're a part of. Together we can get through anything!



Janet Cushing - Senior Advisor

As I think back on this past year, I'm amazed at how quickly time went by. And while we were still living with the COVID pandemic, life continued - work, school, sharing happy moments with family and friends. I dug deeper to find ways to build resiliency within myself, by connecting even more with the natural world around me, breathing mindfully, and acknowledging gratitude for so many things that I normally used to take for granted. I look forward to 2022, connecting with the FAPAC community (maybe even meeting with some folks in person!), and doing what's within my circle of influence to make this world a better place.





The mountains behind Lake McDonald shine with an intense alpenglow at sunset. Photo by National Park Service



Shuwen Cheung - Vice President of Finance

Thinking of the past year, my life filled with sadness, happiness, struggles, and peace. I enjoyed the conversations with other board members during those Team meetings. I feel so lucky to still hold on a job I like and surrounded with my family during the pandemic. I learned to get along with my inner self calmly. It turned out to be a great experience mentally and spiritually.



Martin J. Moore III - Vice President of Programs

Another year down and another year I find myself incredibly grateful. I'm grateful for the people around me, I am grateful for the challenges I've been given, and I am incredibly grateful of every opportunity I've been given that has taught me and that I have grown through. Happy Holidays and warm aloha to you and your family!



Karen Sinclair - Vice President of Outreach

As 2021 comes to a close, I find myself increasingly looking towards monarch butterflies and water for inspiration. Through the return of monarch butterflies to southern California, I am inspired to have hope and resilience for an unpredictable future. Through this year's moments of floating on a SUP on a still lake, swimming in water, and having rain dance on my shoulders, I am reminded to be present and feel the subtle sensations of nature.



Ashley Chou - FAPAC-DOI Intern

2021 has been quite a hectic year for me, navigating the transition from a virtual college experience back to an in-person one. Still, I am thankful for having made it through and am hopeful for what lies ahead in 2022!

"Together we can get through anything!"

What Happened to my Presents?

BARBARA GREEN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE

When I was a little girl, my mother was the only person who ever made a distinction between my birthday and Christmas presents. Friends, and even my siblings, would hand me a combo present – a birthday gift wrapped in Christmas paper and the one gift was meant to represent two celebratory events.

Throughout the years, I have befriended others who also have a December birthday, and we shared stories of these combo gifts. We understand the importance of not wrapping a birthday gift in Christmas paper, along with separating birthday and Christmas celebrations.



Northern Lights swirling over the Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve. Photo by DevDharm Khalsa, National Park Service

I know not every friend and/or family member of a December birthday celebrant bestows a two-for-one combo gift on them, yet based on my experience and the friends I have, that was truly our lot in life. Rather humorous, admittedly, yet part of our reality growing up, and for some of us, still happens as an adult. In my ripe old seasoned age, I deeply value and treasure love and relationships, and not material gifts. However, thinking back to my youth and the hilarious stories my fellow December birthday buddies and I regaled each other with, along with others who may have shared our plight, this little ditty is for you.



What Happened to my Presents?

December birthday babies can you hop to this beat?
Your birthday is close to Christmas and you thought it was neat.

To be a winter baby rapping to the chilly song and dance,
You kicked up your heels and like Rudolph did a snowprance.

Yet, you grew up thinking what's the deal, what's going on?

What happened to my presents is the name of this song.

What happened to my presents, why do I get just one?
This combo deal, this two-for-one just isn't much fun.
We are told the day is too close to Christmas or on that day too,
So, they only give us one gift and we end up feeling blue.
Listen to me homies, 'cause you better please remember,
Don't combine the gifts for your buddies born in December.

What happened to my presents, why one instead of two?
Combo gifts makes winter babies sigh and want to boo hoo.
So, listen up gift givers, here's some friendly advice,
If you want to combine a present, you better think twice.
Even Santa knows the difference between the two events,
Please be good to your friend and kindly separate the presents.

What happened to my presents, do you think I'm being funny? Maybe just a little bit, yet you can still spend a bit more money.

Listen all you loyal friends who like to hang out with us,
Get us a combo present and we might put up a fuss.
We shop together, hang out and go to lunch and dinner,
So be a hospitable homie, buy two gifts and be a winner.

What happened to my presents, maybe I sound a bit greedy?

But, my birthday id and ego say they're feelin' kinda' needy.

Christmas is a jubilant time to celebrate and treasure,
Yet birthdays are special too, so don't deprive us of this pleasure.

Happy Birthday/Merry Christmas is not my cup of tea,
No combo gifts please, for a December birthday baby.

What happened to my presents, is it time to end this song?


You bet, since you get the gist of what I was saying all along.

Thank you for your time and I hope this was a smidgen entertaining,



And thank you in advance for doing your level best in refraining,

From giving a December birthday chum the two-for-one deal,

You'll make us so ecstatic, we may emit a joyous squeal!



**Happy New Year
and blessings to
you and your
families;
Take special care
of yourself and
those who mean
the world to you.**

I celebrate Christmas and I am respectfully mindful there are different faiths, traditions and holidays celebrated throughout December. Whichever holiday you celebrate and whatever tradition you uphold, may you have a wonderful and festive celebratory time.

The FAPAC Community is one I appreciate and am truly proud to be a member of – you helped make 2021 a better year for me. I wish you the very best and appreciate your time immensely. Thank you for your kindness in reading my articles this past year. And a special thank you to Ashley Chou, for her time and effort in creating a phenomenal newsletter.



Sandhill Cranes flying at sunset on the Huron Wetland Management District South Dakota. Photo by Sandra Uecker, USFWS

WANTED:

FUTURE LEADERS OF FAPAC-DOI

Open Position (Now till September 30, 2022)

Vice President of Finance

- Responsible for managing the funds and annual budget of FAPAC-DOI

Upcoming (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023)

Per our bylaws, all officers can only serve in their position for no more than two consecutive terms. Therefore the following positions will be available on September 30th and will need a successor.

President

- Responsible for delegating and coordinating all FAPAC-DOI activities. The official representative and spokesperson for FAPAC-DOI

Vice President of Outreach

- Responsible for keeping minutes of all meetings, maintaining all official correspondence and documents of FAPAC-DOI (e.g. website), and keeping track of membership attendance.

Please see the Bylaws for more information.

Are you interested in improving your leadership skills or inspiring future AANHPI leaders in DOI? Do you dream of advocating for diversity and inclusivity initiatives within DOI?

If so, please consider becoming a part of the FAPAC-DOI board!



In 2007, 16 bison were reintroduced to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. The herd has since grown to more than 80 animals. Photo by John Carr, USFWS

Hearts For Love!

A COMMUNITY'S DISPLAY OF LOVE AND SOLIDARITY



AAPI Origami Heart Display at 1743 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, California



Origami Heart Directions

KAREN SINCLAIR
FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
VENTURA FIELD OFFICE

If you happen to be in San Francisco, California, I recommend visiting the Paper Tree in Japantown to see this impressive display of handmade origami hearts submitted by the community!

In response to the rise of hate crimes against Asian Americans during the pandemic, the Paper Tree initiated a grassroots origami campaign as a show of support to the families of the victims' targeted by the hate crimes. By folding origami hearts, they hoped to illustrate the outpouring of love to counter the hate and to generate positivity.

As of today, they have already received 7,093 Hearts from communities farther and wider than they could have ever imagined!

Join the Fold!

Show your support by creating your OWN HEART and displaying it in your front window! It can be a single large red heart or many smaller hearts making up a large heart. If you can, put AAPI on your display somewhere.

Send a picture of your display to heartsforlove@paper-tree.com with the subject: Hearts for Love. Be sure to include your name and city/state/country in the email!

Learn more at gofoldme.com



Learn how to make your own heart!



AAPI Paper Heart Template