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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

*Information from the Accomplishment
Reporting System for June 1-30, 2003*

Inside this issue...
Federal Fishing Day around the region,
A Rally for a Refuge,
International cooperation on sturgeon recovery,

Fergus Falls Completes Significant Burning Season

Another successful prescribed fire season has been completed at the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District. For fiscal year 2003, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District completed 41 burns on a total of 3,684 acres.

This spring, 32 prescribed fires were completed on Waterfowl Production Areas totaling 3,422 acres. The district assisted the Minnesota DNR with one burn totaling 330 acres. Nine wildfires (totaling 390 acres) occurred on WPAs this spring. The district also burned three brush pile sites left from firebreak construction while snow was still on the ground in March.

Ninety percent of the prescribed fires completed this spring were areas that had not been burned in 5-10 years or had never been burned. Biologically this may have been one of the best prescribed fire seasons yet.

Sites were burned with a number of different objectives including: controlling tree encroachment, stimulating a native seeding or native prairie, enhancing populations of flea beetles used for controlling leafy spurge, stimulating native prairie for seed harvest, preparing for native grass seeding



-USFWS Photo
Service firefighters Seth Grim (right) and Les Nelson (left) are joined by two National Parks Service firefighters on the Spink Waterfowl Production Area, part of Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, while conducting a prescribed burn.

or inter-seeding, reducing hazardous fuels, and reducing exotic species. The complexity of many of these burns was much higher than we had worked with in previous years. All in all it was a very successful season for our burn crew. *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

Community, Local Leaders Rally to Support Local Refuge

On June 14, the Friends of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, in cooperation with refuge staff, sponsored a special "Rally for the Refuge." This event was conducted as part of the year-long celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial. The rally featured family-oriented activities, including a nature hike complete with hidden treasure, a 5-K fun run, book signings by photographer Karen Hollingsworth, several special guest speakers and an afternoon cookout.

All of the participatory activities took place in the morning, with more than 115 people joining in. The cookout was held in the parking lot of the old Cedar Avenue bridge, long closed to vehicular traffic, but still extremely popular with birders and refuge trail users. The bridge was closed by the City of Bloomington in 2002 due to safety



-USFWS Photo
Rally participants try their hands at opening a "treasure chest."

considerations, and was the focus of the rally. Options are being explored by many concerned partners on how best to proceed with reopening access to this unit of the refuge for wildlife dependent recreational activities. Raising public awareness and support is an important first step.

Guest speakers at the cookout included U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad, State Rep. Ann Lincheski, Bloomington Mayor Gene Winstead, Bloomington Director of Community Development Larry Lee, Tom Worthington from the Regional Office and Refuge Manager Rick Schultz. Revenue generated by the event exceeded \$1,700, far exceeding expectations, and fueling the thought that a Refuge Rally will become an annual event. Future programs will continue to focus around urgent operational needs.

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley boasts a current active membership of 577 individuals. They are looking to grow that membership substantially, and increase their support for the refuge through successful, high profile local events like the one held on June 14. *Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Alpena FRO Conducts Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron

From May 28 to June 25 staff from the Alpena Fisheries Resource Office conducted a fishery independent lake whitefish survey in 1836 Treaty waters of northern Lake Huron.

Staff involved included treaty unit coordinator Aaron Woldt, biologists Adam Kowalski and Scott Koproski, assistant project leader Tracy Hill and project leader Jerry McClain. The goal was to collect fishery independent abundance and biological data of lake whitefish stocks in treaty waters. The data is used in statistical-catch-at-age population models that are updated annually to determine harvest regulation guidelines (HRG's) for tribal commercial fishermen in 1836 Treaty waters. In 2002 fisheries personnel from Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) in Brimley, Mich., participated in this study, but were unable to take part in the 2003 survey.

As dictated in the 2000 Consent Decree, the Modeling Subcommittee (MSC) of the Technical Fisheries Committee annually collects data and conducts model runs to determine lake whitefish HRG's for five management units in northern Lake Huron. In 2002, the MSC identified fishery independent lake whitefish data as a critical need. This survey meets the data need. The 2000 Consent Decree is a 20-year fishery allocation agreement for 1836 Treaty waters signed by the State of Michigan, United States, BMIC, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians —

Using Alpena FRO's 30-foot research vessel and staff, 24



(left to right) Scott Koproski, Aaron Woldt, Tracy Hill and Adam Kowalski show off four of the lake whitefish netted during a survey in Lake Huron.

overnight, variable mesh gill net sets were conducted in lake whitefish management unit 4 (Alpena to Presque Isle) and unit 5 (Presque Isle to Hammond Bay). All lake whitefish collected were measured, weighed, checked for lamprey wounds, sexed and assessed for maturity and visceral fat content. Non-target fish species were worked up in a similar manner as well. Staff took scale, fin ray and otolith samples from each lake whitefish for age determination and removed stomachs whole. The stomach contents will be identified and counted by staff at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab in Muskegon.

This survey will continue annually and be tailored to meet the needs identified by the MSC. All data from this survey will be compiled, maintained and analyzed at the Alpena FRO. *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*



-USFWS Photo
American Avocets Nest on Hamden Slough

Four rare American avocet chicks were observed on Hamden Slough NWR. The avocet chicks were near Bisson Lake, on the 'frog pond.' This is the second year for successful avocet nesting on the frog pond. The chicks were observed by Tractor Operator Bob Scherzer, an accomplished birder. A nesting island is maintained for shorebirds in the frog pond. *Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough*

Mingo Job Corps Contributes To Shuttle Recovery Effort

Eighteen Mingo Job Corps student employees and two staff members returned to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri in April from Hemphill, Texas, site of the recent discovery of the space shuttle *Columbia's* unique flight recorder. Hemphill is one of four camps that were home to more than 4,800 ground personnel assigned to the shuttle recovery effort.

Space shuttle *Columbia*, on its 28th flight, broke up as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere on February 1 after a 16-day mission dedicated to research in physical, life and space sciences. All seven crew members were killed.

The disintegration of the orbiter began west of California and ended over Texas, and the main debris field is located over eastern Texas and western Louisiana. Ground operations camps for interagency government crews are located in Nacadoches, Hemphill, Palestine and Corsicana.

Job Corps teams, using vocational training skills learned on their Job Corps centers, helped to recover shuttle debris, built campsites for workers, created press briefing platforms, constructed fuel containment areas and set up facilities with heating systems. NASA requested incident response teams from a number of Job Corps centers, including Mingo.

The Mingo crew waded through thick, prickly briars near the shuttle's flight path for fourteen days. Recovered items were sent to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida where they are being reassembled in the reusable space vehicle hanger. A grid outline of the shuttle has been painted on the floor to aid in reconstructing the bottom of the



- Photos courtesy of NASA

Items recovered by the Mingo team joined thousands of others on a hangar floor, where they will help experts learn exactly what went wrong.

orbiter.

More than 35,000 items weighing a total of 47,900 pounds have been recovered during the investigation. This represents 21.5 percent *Columbia's* total weight. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which oversees the effort, the mission has a goal of retrieving 50 percent of the shuttle's orbiter.

Representatives from NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency accompanied the crew on their daily search. The EPA heads up the response function to identify and neutralize potentially hazardous material as well as collecting, tagging and mapping each item. NASA representatives aid in identification of shuttle debris.

Mingo student employees were able to attend educational programs in the evenings featuring presentations by several shuttle astronauts and the flight's science coordinator. Because the International Space Station has been using the shuttles to replace crews, replenish supplies, and take up new construction components, the three member crew aboard will have to rely on Russian *Soyuz* rockets.

Astronauts said it would be at least a year before shuttle launches would resume which will delay ISS completion scheduled for 2006-2007. Astronauts thanked the crews for their efforts to find clues towards determining the cause of the terrible accidents that took the lives of the seven astronauts aboard. -Robert Barth, Mingo Job Corps Center



- Photos courtesy of NASA

Search teams, including the students from Mingo, combed the forests, swamps and plains of Texas and Louisiana searching for shuttle debris.

Region 3 Finds Success at Outdoor Writers Conference

Region 3 programs had a strong presence at the 76th annual conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, held June 14-18 in Columbia, Mo.

External Affairs staff members Georgia Parham, Rachel Levin and Abby Rodriguez helped staff the Service's national exhibit, and supported other agency-coordinated activities.

In addition to staffing the Service booth and mingling with their counterparts from the Washington, D.C., Office of Public Affairs, Region 3 EA staff assisted at panel discussions featuring Service Director Steve Williams and Refuges Chief Bill Hartwig, as well as a speech by Interior Secretary Gale Norton. Other Region 3 staff participated in sessions and provided support, as well.

During his presentation on the Refuge System Centennial, Hartwig honored his former region by highlighting Big Muddy



Bill Hartwig, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, speaks to outdoor journalists and photographers at the OWAA conference.



-USFWS Photos by Abby Rodriguez
Assistant Director for Fisheries, Mamie Parker (left), Migratory Birds and State Programs AD Paul Schmidt and Service Public Affairs Chief Megan Durham look on as a USGS fishery biologist holds up a "Carp Deflection Device" during a discussion about aquatic invasive species.

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge as one of the shining jewels in the vast necklace that is the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The theme of the conference was "Voyage of Discovery," a reference to the upcoming bicentennial of the journey of Lewis and Clark. Many programs focused on the Missouri River, which the Corps of Discovery navigated in 1804 as they began their journey westward. Columbia ES office supervisor Charlie Scott participated on a panel about the modern-day issues facing the Missouri, a particularly controversial subject these days.

Big Muddy Refuge manager Tom Bell also participated in the conference, contributing to a Service-led discussion about the impacts of silver and Asian carp and other invasive species in major rivers such as the Missouri and the Mississippi. During this session, a Columbia-based USGS biologist displayed his (yet-to-be-

patented) "Carp Deflection Device," a metal trash can cover designed to deflect the blows from silver carp that fling themselves out of the water at research vessels (and researchers).

Park Ranger Tim Haller of Big Muddy brought a display and joined Ducks Unlimited to present an award to the Missouri Junior Duck Stamp winner.

All of the Service's sessions were well-attended and the exhibit attracted many visitors (including hotel guests not attending the conference). External Affairs staff pitched Region 3 stories using a plethora of press materials, including a series of fact sheets on fisheries issues provided by the RO. *Rachel F. Levin, External Affairs and Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR*

Sturgeon Assessment Assistance Provided to Canadian Agencies

What do you get when a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service vehicle tows a Fisheries and Oceans boat to an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office in northern Ontario?

In addition to a lot of questions and odd looks, you get a truly cooperative effort to assess spawning lake sturgeon. In 2001, the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team Lake Sturgeon Committee received a Great Lakes Fishery Trust grant to collect samples and describe the genetic characteristics of spawning sturgeon populations in the Great Lakes.

As part of that effort, Ashland FRO contacted Canadian representatives on the Lake Superior Technical Committee to offer assistance with work in Canadian



A sturgeon is released after its assessment in Ontario.

waters. In 2003, Ashland FRO provided a second year of technical assistance in the form of consultation, field personnel, and equipment to Fisheries and Oceans and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to conduct sturgeon assessments. Additional partners included the

Pukaskwa National Park, and Pic River First Nation. Crews set nets in the Pic, White, Batchawana, Michipicoten, Goulais and Chippewa rivers. A total of 18 sturgeon were captured in the Pic River for a total of 33 over two years. A total of 8 sturgeon were captured in the Batchawana, 1 in the Chippewa, none in the White, 7 in the Goulais, and 1 in the Michipicoten. Biological information was collected from all sturgeon and tissue samples from most fish. Upon analysis the tissue samples will begin to provide an understanding of the genetic diversity and similarities of sturgeon populations in the rivers throughout the Great Lakes. *Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO*

Ohio Forms Working Group to Combat Invasive Plants

Over the past several years, there has been a growing awareness of the problems invasive plants present to the



- USFWS Photo

Purple loosestrife is just one of many invasive plants in Region 3.

protection of our fish, wildlife and plant communities. Invasion by non-native species has been recognized as the second largest threat to native biodiversity.

Through a series of publications, workshops, and presentations, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been involved in educating the public on the threats of invasive plants in Ohio's natural areas. The response from these efforts led to the formation of a working group to address the questions and information needs in Ohio.

Several states have invasive plant working groups. These groups are often referred to as Exotic Pest Plant Councils or Invasive Plant Councils. In Region 3, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin also have developed invasive plant working groups.

The main purpose of the working group is to gather individuals who have an interest in addressing invasive plant issues in Ohio. There are now more than 50 partners, including federal, state and local natural resource agencies, garden clubs, university researchers, arboretums, botanical gardens, the landscaping industry and others.

Two working group meetings have been held so far, with plans to continue meeting twice a year. Sub-groups have also been created to tackle issues such as 1) education and outreach, 2) control and restoration, 3) distribution and documentation, and 4) science and research. The group members anticipate that more agencies and individuals will become involved as the group makes its presence known across the state. *Sarena Selbo, Reynoldsburg FO*

Ready, Set, Fish! Genoa hosts first annual fishing clinic

More than 120 people attended Genoa National Fish Hatchery's Fishing Clinic/Derby this June, hosted by the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fishery Stations. Sixty-five children from local schools and civic organizations attended to learn more about fishing gear, boating and water safety and cleaning and caring for their catch.

The children also were given an opportunity to participate in a casting contest. After an hour and a half of moving through four different learning stations, the kids were turned loose to try their hand at catching rainbow trout, yellow perch and bluegills in the hatchery ponds. Excess rainbow trout broodfish weighing more than two pounds apiece were also stocked to add a little more excitement to the day. After two hours of fishing and more than 50 fish caught, the Friends group hosted lunch, and prizes donated by local businesses were distributed. Each child received a grab bag full of information on fishing and aquatic nuisance species.

The Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fisheries Stations is a support group for the LaCrosse Fisheries Resource Office, the La Crosse Fish Health Center and the Genoa National



-USFWS Photo

A brother and sister show off a freshwater drum they hooked at Genoa NFH's annual Fishing Clinic/Derby. The dirt on the fish's face suggests it was less than enthusiastic about its participation in the event.

Fish Hatchery. This first derby was a cooperative effort between the three and the Friends Group, with staff from all three stations participating in the event. It was also the first project completed with the newly organized Friends Group.

Several interested parents attending the event expressed interest in joining the Friends, and were steered to group members for information on the club. *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

Kids' Fishing Day at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center Another Success

More than 125 kids attended the free fishing day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Ashland, Wis.

The fourth annual event took

place June 7 and was as popular and fun-filled as previous years. Children ranged in age from three to 17 and came from as far as Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. They learned about habitat, equipment safety, and catch and release.



-USFWS Photo

Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO project leader, imparts some casting wisdom at the NGLVC Fishing Day.

They got a chance to learn to cast, and to fish for hatchery-stocked rainbow trout in one of the center's ponds. A new activity, "gyotaku," caught the attention of many anglers this year. Gyotaku is a Far Eastern art form of painting fish and making a paper cast of them.

Several agencies, sponsors and volunteers participated, including the U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Coast Guard, Trout Unlimited, and interested volunteers. Sponsors included Pure Fishing, Bill Lewis Lures, Berkley Trilene, Mepp's & Mister Twister, Bayfield County Tourism Association, Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle, Friends of the Center Alliance, Ltd., Pizza Pub, Hugos Pizza and Anglers All. *Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*

Partnerships Enhance Refuges from Minnesota to Missouri



-USFWS Photo

Rice Lake NWR Blossoms for Centennial

The Rice Lake NWR Headquarters area got a new look on June 4 when 26 Aitkin County Master Gardeners and McGregor Flower Club members planted the Centennial Garden. Funding for the project was provided through the Service's cost share program. The \$2,500 cost share funding was matched by more than \$3,000 in materials, equipment and time contributed by the two garden groups, Friends of Rice Lake Refuge and refuge volunteers.

Future Farmers of America Plant Future Forest

Recently students from the Elsberry Chapter of the National Future Farmers of America organization and faculty sponsor Jestun Nutter assisted the staff at Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge with planting more than 1,670 prairie cordgrass and 730 swamp milkweed seedlings on the refuge. The work was completed under an agreement with the Service in which the Elsberry FFA Chapter processed (cleaned and scarified) seed and produced seedlings for a restoration project at the refuge. In turn, the Service contributed more than \$1,000 for their services.

Student labor to plant the seedlings amounted to better than 50 hours of volunteer time. The staff at Clarence Cannon appreciate everyone's time and commitment to the project and wish to thank the following individuals and Mr. Nutter for their support of the refuge: Jarred Wehde; Jennifer Houston; Justin Houston; Whitney Howard; Philip Lavy; Samantha



-USFWS Photo

Trower; Steven Lavy; Patrick Sellers; Mitchell Houston; Brennan Lagemann; Andrew Howard; Ashley Hagemeyer; Crystal Harris; Holly Jo McLean; Travis Mueller; Mary Cooley; and Justin Blackman. Other volunteers include Leah Crank and Paul Mueller.

This native restoration project is just one example of the partnership between refuge staff and the Elsberry FFA Chapter that

has developed throughout the years. Previous activities included the construction of wood duck nesting boxes, assistance with trapping and banding wood ducks during fall migration, native landscape planting around the refuge headquarters, as well as other projects. *Candace Chambers, Great River NWR*

Rural Illinois Children Receive Their First Environmental Education Program

When refuge staff from the Middle Mississippi River and Crab Orchard NWRs first approached the Christ Lutheran School in Jacob, Ill., they were surprised and a little concerned when they were met at the school's front door by Principal Stephen Rockey.

It seemed a bit unusual for a principal to meet visitors before they actually entered the building, but the refuge staff was about to learn that there are many unusual - and special - things about this particular school. This rural southern Illinois schoolhouse comprises just three rooms and a gymnasium, and the total student body from kindergarten through eighth grade includes just 59 students. When Principal Rockey was asked if he would be interested in receiving an environmental education program someday, his response was "what are you doing right now? I have a science class that begins in two minutes and I'm the teacher."

Feeling a bit unprepared for that offer, refuge manager John Magera and park ranger John Giles decided to host a field trip to the nearby Wilkinson Island division of the Middle Mississippi River NWR, and a classroom education program during the final week of school.

When the refuge staff arrived at the school to begin the field trip, they were again surprised to find every single student and many of their parents lined up outside the school, ready to go. More than 15 parents shuttled all 59 students (plus some younger siblings) the two miles to the site of a bald eagle nest on the refuge. There, the students had a chance to learn about the newly established refuge as an immature bald



- USFWS Photo by John Magera

Park Ranger John Giles and his screech owl make an appearance before the entire student body of Christ Lutheran School.

eagle flew by within a few hundred feet. For many of the students and parents, it was the first eagle they had ever seen, even though it had hatched less than three miles from their school. After a chilly morning on the levee, the group headed back to the school's gym to enjoy a lesson on raptors by park ranger John Giles. Giles brought with him a live screech owl that drew many ooh's and aah's from the group. After the program ended, refuge staff agreed to help Principal Rockey develop an environmental education field program to bring students to the refuge to learn about the fish and wildlife of the Middle Mississippi River.

What started as an offer for a field trip may soon develop into a lasting partnership between a small, local school and their "neighborhood" refuge. *John Magera, Middle Mississippi NWR*

Editor's Note:

Inside Region 3 will be expanding its focus in the next several issues. The vast majority of the publication will continue to be made up of submissions from the Accomplishment Reporting System.

The "News in Brief" page at the back of the publication will become a regular feature. Feel free to submit news of awards, administrative notices of general interest and other "information soundbites" through the ARS, or by email to abigail_rodriguez@fws.gov

Finally, in an effort to keep up with our fast-moving Regional Management Team, we'll soon begin a regular "Where's the Regional Leadership?" feature. If you spy the RD, DRD or and ARD at your field station, snap a picture and submit it with a brief caption to the above email address.

News in brief - Announcements, Awards and Assorted Information

Service Challenge Cost-Share Program Information and Guidance For Fiscal Year 2004

The Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region has participated in the Service Challenge Cost-Share Program (SCCSP) since 1988. This on-going program has been effective because of the cooperation between the Regional Office and field offices.

The SCCSP includes three funding components: On Service Lands, Off Service Lands and Habitat Improvement (restoration or enhancement projects on private lands must provide positive conservation impacts to Service lands).

Field stations and ecosystem teams can submit SCCSP proposals to the Regional Office for Fiscal Year 2004 flexible funds. Criteria for project selection include local partnerships and local involvement; a minimum 50:50 cost-share ratio; for habitat projects, consideration will be given for the restoration cost per acre and the duration that restored habitats will be protected.

Proposals are encouraged to restore and enhance grasslands and wetlands used by migratory birds, and to control and reduce invasive species, non-native species and noxious plant species, especially on Service-owned lands. Regional SCCSP funds can also support fish- and wildlife-dependent recreation, environmental education and outreach programs on refuge lands.

Project proposals must be submitted to Steve Kufrin by 4 p.m. Sept. 30. Kufrin can be contacted at 612-713-5447.

And the award goes to...

Michael F. Fodale of the **Marquette Biological Station** received the 2003 Vernon C. Applegate Award for outstanding contribution to sea lamprey control and research at the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in Thunder Bay, Ontario June 3-4.

The Commission, chaired by Dr. Bill Beamish, is composed of presidential appointees from the United States and privy council appointees from Canada, and is responsible for sea lamprey control in the entire Great Lakes basin. Mr. Fodale, along with Roger Bergstedt of the U.S. Geological Survey and Doug Cuddy of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, received the award for their work in identifying where and how to control sea lampreys in the St. Marys River.

Shiawassee NWR hosted the Refuge Volunteers' Appreciation Potluck Picnic June 12. Forty volunteers and their families and refuge staff attended.

Volunteers who donated their time in fiscal year 2002 were recognized in a short ceremony. One hundred and fifteen people donated 2,900 hours. Twenty donated 40 or more hours to various refuge projects. Steve MacAlpine was honored as the 2002 Volunteer of the Year for his efforts in helping establish a successful deer hunt for hunters confined to wheelchairs. Steve helped Refuge Biologist Jim Dastyck start this program in 1991 and it has been continuing ever since. Steve is also very active in the Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

Notable happenings

Colonel John Rivenburgh, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer for the Huntington District visited the Reynoldsburg Field Office (ROFO) for the first time June 12. The primary purpose of the visit was to sign the finalized Partnering Agreement with the Huntington District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Reynoldsburg Office before the Colonel moves to another assignment. Rivenburgh has been instrumental in leading efforts to have partnering agreements with the Elkins, WV, Field Office and ROFO. He has attended several coordination meetings with the Corps and the Service during the past year. The Colonel has impressed the ROFO staff with his thorough understanding of environmental issues. He will be greatly missed by the Service staff; we wish him good luck with his new assignment.

Regional Director visits Alpena for first, last time

The new Regional Director, Robyn Thorson, visited Michigan on June 23. The RD's visit was part of a larger trip to Region 3 field stations. As her visit took place during distribution season, Thorson was able to observe the fish loading process, as well as the usual morning responsibilities at the hatchery (feeding and cleaning). Thorson spent time listening to suggestions and learning about concerns unique to this hatchery program and field station. Her visit concluded with lunch before she left for Alpena Fisheries Resources Office. The hatchery staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet her and the black flies thought she was very sweet.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed June 1 - 30, 2003. Employees can search all reports using the ARS's Report Manager.

Neosho National Fish Hatchery's Annual Fishing Clinic/Derby for the Kids

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Herring Gulls in Saginaw Bay Tested for Immune Functioning

Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

Actions Minimize Risk to Rare Species during Spot Applications of Granular Bayluscide

John Heinrich, Marquette Bio Station

Sights set on two Lake Superior streams for alternative sea lamprey control

John Heinrich, Marquette Bio Station

Service Staff Member Receives Award at the Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission

John Heinrich, Marquette Bio Station

Alpena FRO Provides career Training Opportunity for Local High School Students

Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO

Genoa NFH discovers new host fish for the endangered Higgins-eye pearly mussel and Hickorynut mussel

Tony Brady, Genoa NFH

Shipwreck Inventory

Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO

Survey of Tannery Creek

Susan Wells, Alpena FRO

Refuge Officers assist with Operation T & E

Edward De Vries, Shiawassee NWR

U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys Lampreys to Save Lake Trout

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Elsberry Chapter of the National FFA Organization Helps Clarence Cannon NWR

Restore Native Habitat
Candace Chambers, Great River NWR

American Avocets Successfully Nest on Refuge

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

Summer Discovery Camp for Preschoolers Held at Shiawassee NWR

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Streamlined Acquisition of Basic Engineering Requirements (SABER)

Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS

Region 3 Congressional Affairs Internet Site

Jane West, External Affairs

New Class of Whooping Crane Chicks Arrives at Necedah NWR

Rachel Levin, External Affairs

Congressional and National News Dissemination in Region 3

Jane West, External Affairs

EEO Training and Scholarship Information Added to DCR Web Page

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Lake Trout Assessment Being Conducted

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Great Lakes sustainability conference held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO

Alpena Youth Learn About Fish and Fishing

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Alpena FRO Conducts Fishery Independent Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Sea Lamprey Display Travels East

Terry Morse, Marquette Bio Station

West Nile Virus Workshop Offers Real Information for Land Managers and Educators

Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO

03 Projects Identified and Underway by Northern Wisconsin Wetland Team

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Common Moorhens May be Nesting on Refuge

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

Whittlesey Creek NWR Forest Restoration

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Sea Lamprey Status in Great Lakes presented at International Association of Great Lakes Research

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Corps and Service Respond to Detroit Free Press Editorial

Craig Czarnecki, East Lansing FO

Ready, Set, Fish! Genoa hosts first annual fishing clinic
Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Ruffe Surveillance in Lake Superior Expands to the Soo Locks
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Environmental Toxicology Course Taught
Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

Fox River Green Bay NRDA Hill Briefings
Jane West, External Affairs

Tannery Creek Dam Removal Project Planning
Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Program Has Another Successful Year
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

Ashland Fishery Office's Web Page Tops 30,000 Hits!
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Big Muddy supports Outdoor Writers Conference
Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

First Chevron Dike Constructed in Middle Mississippi River
Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO

Isle Royale/Tobin Harbor Survey for Coaster Brook Trout, June 12 - 18, 2003.
Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Visits to the Offices of Two U.S. Senators and One U.S. Congressman from Wisconsin
Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

Fish Transfer in Preparation of the Keweenaw Bay All American Fishing Derby
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Green Bay Fisheries Office staff meet with Dr. Stanley Szczytco, UW-Stevens Point internship director
Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Sea Lamprey Presentation Given to Red Cliff Tribal Council and Natural Resource Committee
Terry Morse, Marquette Bio Station

Pine River Watershed Fish Passage Tour
Susan Wells, Alpena FRO

Asian Carp Corral
Burr Fisher, East Lansing FO

Lake Erie Water Snake Draft Recovery Plan Available for Public Comment
Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO

STEP Student Spending the Summer at the Jordan River National Fish Hatcher
Danieller Miller, Jordan River NFH

Alpena FRO Hardware/Software Upgrades
Debra Turner, Alpena FRO

Portable sea lamprey traps installed at powerhouse on St. Marys River
John Heinrich, Marquette Bio Station

Fantastic Fish Day at Minnesota Valley Refuge
Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

Pendills Staff Assists At Seney's Kids Fishing Day
Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

Rally for the Refuge
Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

Alpena FRO Assists With Annual ANS Surveillance in the Illinois Waterway
Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

IMBD Celebration at Minnesota Valley
Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

East Lansing Supervisor Meets with Director of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Craig Czarnecki, ELFO

Neosho National Fish Hatchery's Annual Fishing Derby for the Physically Impaired and the Elderly
David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Green Bay Fisheries Office personnel attend River Morphology and Applications course.
Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Biologically Significant Prescribed Fire Season Completed
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Service Contributions Recognized
Wayne Fischer, Illinois Private Lands Ofc

FRO's Experiment With Mid-water Trawl to Corral Asian Carp
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Expands Propagation Efforts to Other Native Mussels
Tony Brady, Genoa NFH

Shiawassee NWR Recognizes Volunteers
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Partnering Agreement Signed by Corps and Service
Kenneth Lammers, Reynoldsburg FO

Wisconsin DNR and Service Meet to Coordinate Fisheries Programs
Mark Holey, Green Bay FRO

Tribal member identified for Service Partnership video by Innovative Technologies, Inc.
John Leonard, External Affairs

Sturgeon Assessment Assistance Provided to Canadian Agencies
Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

Missouri Bladderpod (Lesquerella filiformis) Proposed for Reclassification
Laura Ragan, Ecological Services

Hautman Brothers Collaborate on Special Print to Commemorate Centennial of National Wildlife Refuge
Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Goby Round-up Participation
Jessica Kuester, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

Green Bay Fisheries Office Assesses Lake Whitefish Populations in NE Lake Michigan
Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

Thunder Bay River Erosion Site Surveyed
Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Big Muddy goes Fishing with Big Brother
Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Fish and Wildlife Service participates in Sierra Club, Mississippi River EcoRegion Meeting
Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO

Chicago Illinois Field Office participates in local youth fishing club event
Shawn Cirton, Chicago FO

Shiawassee NWR Hosts Free Fishing Day for Kids
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

2003 Kids' Fishing Day at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center was Another Success
Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR

Inner-City Youth Fishing Day a Tribal - Service Event
John Leonard, External Affairs

Service Participates With Army General Counsel Visit
Craig Czarnecki, East Lansing FO

Regional Director Participates in Neosho Hatchery's Annual Fishing Clinic/Derby
David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Minnesota Teacher Students Win National Wetland Conservation Award
Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Five Midwest States to Share in \$10 Million Dollar Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grants
Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Inland Lake Survey and Collecting Northern Pike for Mercury Testing for the Keweenaw Bay Reservation
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Kindergarten Visit
Danieller Miller, Jordan River NFH

St. Louis media cover sturgeon trawling, the Big Muddy NFWR, and floodplain development
Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO

CFRO represented at Missouri River Natural Resources Conference
Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO

Rice Lake NWR Blossoms for Centennial
Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Dam Removal Workshop a Success
Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO

FY 2003 CVA funding approved by Director for administration by Federal Aid
Julie Morin, Federal Aid

Last Fish Health Inspection of the year completed at the Neosho NFH, Missouri
Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

IA DOT briefed on the Topeka shiner and its habitat
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

Watershed Walk
Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

May meeting of the Thunder Bay River Working Committee
Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Ohio Forms Invasive Plant Working Group
Sarena Selbo, Reynoldsburg FO

Sea Lamprey Control Represented at Aquatic Nuisance Forum
Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Lincoln Elementary School Head Start Class Visit
Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

River Workshops teach teachers about the Mississippi River
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO



**Inside Region 3
July 2003**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 3
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