

# Inside Region 3

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External Affairs Office

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## Region 3 Receives \$3 Million in Large Wetlands Grants

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved three North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) large grants to Region 3 partners March 22, 2000, totalling \$2,998,788. These successful projects were the South-Central Wisconsin Prairie Pothole Initiative, the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Restoration Project phase II, and the Indiana Four Rivers Project phase III.

In addition to other partner activities, the grants may purchase lands for the National Wildlife Refuge System at Leopold Wetland Management District and Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge.

Partner wildlife habitat acquisition, restoration and enhancement activities will be accomplished by groups including Ducks Unlimited, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever, the White Earth Band of Chippewa, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Indiana Heritage Trust.

The NAWCA large grant program is open every March and July, for grant requests up to \$1 million. Successful projects are generally matched by a non-federal dollar to grant ratio of at least 2:1. *(Barbara Pardo, Refuges & Wildlife)*

## Cleanup of PCB Contaminated Sediment From Saginaw River Begins

The first barge load of dredged sediment from Michigan's Saginaw River was removed April 13, beginning the removal of 345,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment. The cleanup is being funded by a \$28.2 million Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlement with General Motors and other parties.

Luedtke Engineering, under supervision of the Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will dredge contaminants from river near Bay City and Essexville, Mich.

The dredged sediment is being placed in a confined disposal facility operated by the Corps of Engineers.

The Service, State of Michigan, and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe reached the settlement with General Motors in the fall of 1998. The settlement also provided for the restoration of coastal wetlands and lake plain prairies around Saginaw Bay.

Additionally, the settlement funds the purchase of 1,677 acres of wildlife habitat, restoration of fish spawning grounds at Tobico Marsh and operation of the Green Point Learning Center in Saginaw, Mich; construction and operation of two



**Special Bucket.** A special 15-cubic yard capacity clamshell bucket is being used to remove the contaminated sediment to barges. The bucket helps minimize the dispersion of sediment during dredging and bucket raising. A silt curtain is also being used at the dredge site to minimize dispersion of contaminated sediments.

-USFWS Photo by Lisa Williams

boat launches on the river, and improvements to one on the bay, and future monitoring. The dredging project will remove approximately 90 percent of the PCBs remaining in the lower river. The project should be completed by November 2000. *(Lisa Williams, East Lansing Field Office)*

## Foundation Awards \$255,700 Challenge Grant for the Proposed Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded a \$255,700 challenge grant to Region 3's Geographic Area 1 for the proposal entitled "Reintroduction of Migratory Whooping Crane in the Eastern United States: Initial Startup Costs." This amount is comprised of \$75,000 in federal matching funds and \$180,700 in non-federal matching funds.

The grant will be used to fund a sandhill trial migration experiment that will take place this year. The Whooping Crane Recovery Team recommended this trial migration

prior to the reintroduction of whooping cranes as a way to assess the efficacy and feasibility of rearing and training techniques. The long-term conservation outcome of this project is the reestablishment of a migratory whooping crane population in the eastern United States that does not mix with the established Aransas/Wood Buffalo population. This result would fulfill the requirements of the whooping crane recovery plan and bring the species closer to delisting.

The reintroduction site is Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central

Wisconsin; the proposed wintering site is Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf-coast of Florida. The cranes will be led on migration by ultralight aircraft. The proposed reintroduction of whooping cranes is planned to begin in 2001.

The Service's partners in this project include the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, International Crane Foundation, Operation Migration Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and USGS - Patuxent Wildlife Research Laboratory. *(Leslie TeWinkel, R3-GARD)*

## Region's FY99 Annual Report Completed, Posted to Website

The Region 3 Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999 is complete and being released to members of the Region and the public. The 500-page Report is a comprehensive record of the Region's efforts in managing and maintaining ecosystems, refuges, fishery resources



and hatcheries, private lands and waters, partnerships and restoring and preserving the delicate balance of species in America's heartland.

The Annual Report and Annual Report Summary were posted to the Region 3 Website April 14.

The 121-page Annual Report Summary highlights the accomplishments, activities and goals for Ecosystems and Pro-

grams in Region 3, including the Midwest Natural Resources Group.

The Summary is presented in two parts, Part One: Ecosystems, and Part Two: Programs. The complete, unabridged version of the Fiscal Year 1999 Annual Report is a comprehensive report containing more than 1,300 individual accomplishments in addition to the highlights described in

the Report Summary. The Report details accomplishments for both Ecosystems and Programs as reported by field offices through the Region's Accomplishment Reporting System. The Ecosystem/Program chapters, backed by detailed accomplishment reports provide a detailed record of the Region's daily accomplishments.

*(Scott Flaherty, External Affairs)*

## Trumpeter Swan Shooter Convicted in Illinois

An Illinois man charged with shooting a collared trumpeter swan last December was convicted March 22, 2000 in federal court in Springfield, Ill.

Edward Zulauf, of Jacksonville, Ill., was fined \$250, \$10 court costs, and ordered to pay restitution of \$500 each to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Treehouse Wildlife Center in Brighton, Ill..

Service Special Agent Tim Santel assisted Illinois Conservation Officers investigate the swan shooting which occurred Dec. 23, 1999, in Morgan County, Ill. The injured swan, bearing yellow neck collar E72, was part of the Wisconsin DNR Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program.

The swan was recovered by the Illinois DNR and the bird was sent to Treehouse Wildlife Center for rehabilitation. The swan was later sent to the University of Minnesota for further treatment, however the swan's wing was later amputated as a result of the shooting. *(Timothy Santel, Springfield LE)*



# Pendills Creek Fin Clipping Operation Readies 708,000 Lake Trout For Stocking in Great Lakes

Five adult finclippers and two student-volunteers from Sault College, Canada, teamed up with staff from the Service's Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery in northern Michigan, to painstakingly clip the fins of approximately 708,000 lake trout fingerlings this spring.

Seasonal employees and volunteers worked approximately 1,000 hours to clip (painlessly) left pectoral fins (LP) on each fish. Beginning April 18, 2000, these six to seven-inch fish will be stocked into waters of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

Annually clipping one or more fins on each fish allows fishery biologists and researchers to evaluate the lake trout's survival, growth, recruitment, and to track their movements. It also helps to differentiate between hatchery and wild lake trout populations.

During the clipping operations, quality control counts are performed twice daily and four times for each pond to ensure the majority of fish lose a fin. There are fish 16 ponds or raceways at Pendills Creek, each containing approximately 40,000-



**Fish Stocking.** In this photo of last year's stocking, Lake trout fingerlings from Pendills Creek NFH are transferred to the MV Togue for stocking the Great Lakes. This year, the fish will be stocked at points in Lakes Huron and Michigan.

-USFWS Photo by Tracy Matheis

50,000 fish. Typically, 200 fish are sampled from each pond in four separate samples of 50 fish each. The fish are counted as clipped or not clipped based on the quality of the clip. Poor or partial clips are considered not clipped.

Sixty-eight quality counts, sampling

3,400 lake trout fingerlings were performed during the 2000 finclipping operation. Pendills Creek achieved a 98.3 percent finclipping efficiency. The rate was 96.1 percent in 1999, 95.7 percent in 1998, and 98.9 percent in 1997.

(Robert Pos, Pendills Creek NFH)

## Hatchery's New Multimedia Presentation Describes Service's Lake Trout Restoration Efforts

A multi-media presentation developed by the staff at the Pendills Creek/Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery Complex is helping communicate the Service's lake trout restoration efforts at the northern Michigan facility.

Developed over 18 months, the presentation contains computerized images that can be customized for various outreach audiences and activities.

Highlights of the presentation

include the history of lake trout decline, restoration authority, and role of the national fish hatchery system. Hatchery operations include spawning of fish, incubation of eggs, egg shipments, fry rearing, advanced fish culture, fish health, fish marking, and fish distribution.

Special projects covered include the Astroturf program, early life history fry plants, outreach activities, and Youth Conservation Corps projects. This multi-media presentation was

recently viewed by the Regional directorate.

Suggestions are currently being incorporated into the program. When completed we will be able to display all or parts of the presentation using a multi-media projector and laptop, VCR tape, or personal computer.

A customized web page is also part of the hatchery's future plans. (David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH)

## Sophisticated Science Collars Poacher

### Strontium Analysis of Deer's Antlers Helps Solve Case

A Wisconsin man was sentenced in federal court March 10, to 30 days in jail, fined \$2,000 and ordered to perform 1,000 hours of community service for violations of the Lacey Act.

Clyde H. Masten III of Portage, Wis., had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of violating federal law by poaching a trophy buck in Wisconsin, then transporting the deer to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Once in Michigan, Masten and an accomplice staged the hunting of the deer on videotape. Masten then placed a Michigan non-resident archery tag on the deer and hauled it back to Wisconsin.

At the time, Masten's hunting privileges in Wisconsin were under three-year revocation. Masten has 27 prior convictions for violating Wisconsin fish and wildlife laws. During the investigation, Masten lied in a written statement to Service Special Agents, claiming the deer was killed legally in Michigan. Special Agent Ed Spoon then worked with Dr. Brian Beard at the University of Wisconsin's Geology and Geophysics Department, to build corroborating evidence in the case. Dr. Beard analyzed the strontium

isotope content of the poached deer's antlers, and compared it with known values for buck white-tailed deer living in the Upper Peninsula and in Columbia County, Wis., where the deer was killed.

Dr. Beard's analysis showed conclusively that the deer could not have been killed in Michigan, and its strontium levels were identical with deer killed in Wisconsin's Columbia County.

This is the first time that strontium analysis has been used to solve a wildlife case.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Crocker sentenced Masten to serve 30 days in jail with work release privileges. Masten was also fined \$2,000 and ordered to perform 1,000 hours of community service. Judge Crocker placed Masten on five years probation, during which he may not hunt or fish in the United States; may not purchase a hunting or fishing license; may not possess firearms or fishing equipment and may not accompany anyone engaged in hunting or fishing.

The investigation was a cooperative effort among the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Service. (*Ed Spoon, Madison LE*)

## Law Enforcement Successes Garner Funds for Great Lakes Fish Conservation

Five thousand dollars was recently presented to Roger Knight of the Ohio Division of Wildlife to purchase equipment necessary to process Lake Erie fisheries data while at sea.

The monies are part of a \$15,000 settlement resulting from the prosecution of L. R. Jackson Fisheries Ltd., of Port Stanley, Ontario.

Service law enforcement agents led the investigation of the Canadian company after uncovering its illegal harvest of fish in the U. S. waters of Lake Erie. The company was convicted in U.S. federal court, and ordered to pay \$15,000 for Great Lakes' fish protection. The fine was deposited in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Great Lakes Fisheries Conservation Fund, which serves as the repository for court fines stemming from Service law enforcement activities in the Great Lakes basin.

In the Jackson Fishery case, the Foundation distributed monies to Mr. Knight as recommended by Geographic Assistant Regional Director (GARD) John Christian, the Region 3 project officer, in consultation with Special Agent Dan LeClair and the Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement, Dick Marks.

The \$5,000 award will improve the efficiency of fisheries data collection and processing in Lake Erie. In the future, the Great Lakes Fisheries Conservation Fund will continue to be used to link the efforts of the Service's Law Enforcement with the affected resource. (*Leslie TeWinkel, R3-GARD*)

## Landowners Voice Concerns at Yellow River Forum

Service staff met with 23 landowners at Necedah NWR March 18, to discuss landowner information needs and concerns in the Yellow River focus area.

Larry Wargowsky, refuge manager, Necedah NWR, Rebecca Power, park ranger, Bill Peterson, private lands biologist and Tom Magnuson, Region 3 ascertainment specialist, hosted the group, the first Yellow River Forum. At this meeting, 23 landowners identi-

fied their information needs and issues that they believe are of greatest concern for private landowners within the Yellow River Focus Area. All landowners within the Yellow River Focus Area were invited to this meeting.

A second meeting is being planned. The results of these meetings will help guide natural resource management in the Yellow River.

(*LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR*)



# Hunters Pitch-in to Clean Up Sediment Trap Dike at Mark Twain NWR

On March 25, nearly 30 members of the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. (MWHI) spent a Saturday morning removing trees and dead-fall from a sediment trap dike on the Gilbert Lake Division of Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District.

MWHI is a group of sportsmen that hunt on Illinois' state-managed wetlands in near the Refuge. The Hunters are extremely interested in the management of the refuge due to its potential for holding waterfowl in the area during the fall hunting season.

The sediment trap dike is being rehabilitated in an effort to develop some level of water control in the area affected by the dike.

A threatened plant, decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*), grows in this area and water level control will improve the Refuge's ability to manage this species, as well as our ability to enhance waterfowl habitat.

*(Elaine Titus, Mark Twain NWR)*

# Missouri Farmer Investigated Following Bird Kill

A farmer in McDonald County, Missouri, is the subject of continuing federal criminal investigation after allegedly using the veterinary drug "Warbex" to kill birds using his feed lot.

In a written statement to Service special agents, the farmer admitted to mixing Warbex with oats then spreading it around a feed lot to kill nuisance black birds. Service special agents accompanied by Missouri



**Service on Display.** More than 6,000 visitors learned about the National Wildlife Refuge System and other Service programs during the spring Expo at Cabela's. -USFWS Photo by Dan Sobieck.

# Service Programs Take Center Stage at Cabela's Spring Expo in Wisconsin

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge's McGregor District took center stage during the Cabela's Spring Expo, March 11-12, 2000 at the Cabela's store in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

The Expo provided great exposure for the Refuge and Service. The Service exhibit included the National Wildlife Refuge System Display and items from Federal Aid, including the

very popular luggage tags. The District's bald and golden eagles were also on display.

According to store managers, 6,000 visitors saw the exhibit with a good many of them inquiring about various refuge activities. The Refuge's District mission was also featured during a radio interview at the event. *(Tim Loose, UMRNW&FR-McGregor District)*

Conservation agents recovered more than 1,400 dead birds killed by the warbex.

A sampling of the dead birds included: 638 brown-headed cowbirds, 443 red-winged black birds, 240 grackles, six red tailed hawks, one Cooper's hawk, 21 Eastern meadowlarks, two dark eyed juncos and one killdeer.

Warbex is a veterinary drug used to kill parasites in agricultural animals

and is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The farmer initially denied responsibility.

Service special agents contacted the FDA's Criminal Division and are now conducting a joint investigation. Once the investigation is completed the case will be turned over to the United States Attorney's Office for filing charges. *(Larry Keck, Jefferson City LE)*

## White Earth Tribe Conservation Board Reviews Refuge Hunting

Staff from Hamden Slough NWR updated members of the The White Earth Tribe Conservation Board on the status of the North Star 2000 project, Mar.13. North Star 2000 will restore 220 wetlands and 1,000 acres of upland on Service property.

The project began in 1997. Most of the North Star project is within the White Earth Reservation boundary. Board members and Refuge Manager Mike Murphy discussed the summer restoration of Bisson Lake, the growth of wildlife diversity and abundance around the project and the increasing numbers of visitors and hunters.

Board members also discussed tribal hunting options within the White Earth Reservation boundary. Options discussed included: closing the waterfowl season to tribal mem-

bers and having the refuge serve as a sanctuary, having a partial season for tribal members, and options for upland hunting and big game hunting.

The Board leaned most favorably towards closure of the Bisson Lake area to waterfowl hunting, with a possible opening to tribal members in late October.

To date, 94 wetlands have been restored on the north end of Hamden Slough NWR. This portion of the Refuge is within the White Earth Indian Reservation boundary.

An additional 23 wetlands will be restored in this area in 2000 including 100-acre Bisson Lake. Wildlife numbers have soared and attracted many visitors for wildlife observation or hunting adjacent to the refuge. *(Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR)*

## Service Helps Negotiate Fishery Agreement With Great Lakes Tribes

A series of intense negotiations between the five 1836 Treaty Great Lakes Tribes, the state of Michigan, and the United States concluded March 2, 2000, with guarded optimism over the progress made.

Sport, commercial, and subsistence fishery and native fish conservation interests are working together to develop a new fishery management agreement between the five 1836 Treaty Tribes and the state of Michigan to replace the 15-year Consent Decree that ends this year.

These most recent negotiations are especially critical as the court established litigation deadlines near. The Service's three upper Great Lakes Fishery Resources Offices (FRO), Alpena, Green Bay, and Ashland FROs, have been providing the technical expertise and guidance to attorneys for the the Departments of Justice and Interior.

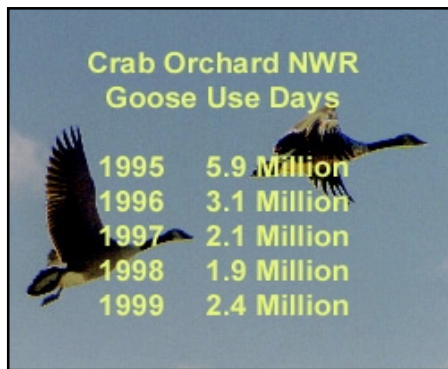
On March 8, 2000, the Department of Interior solicitor reported that the services received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been very helpful in guiding the difficult negotiations along. *(Brian Lubinski, Fisheries)*

## March Surveys Show Slight Increase of Goose Use Days at Crab Orchard NWR

A March survey of corn fields at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge shows a slight increase in the numbers of geese and other wildlife feeding on crop fields on the southern Indiana refuge.

Surveys conducted by Refuge staff and Illinois Department of Natural Resource personnel estimated 2.4 million Goose Use Days (GUDs) from October 1, 1999 to March 1, 2000 on the Refuge, up from 1.9 million GUDs last season.

Goose Use Days are defined as one



goose on the refuge for one day. While geese fed a great deal on wheat, clover, and grasses, no fields were totally consumed.

Assessments were completed on 87 Refuge cornfields totaling 1,697.2

acres. In fields where cooperative farmers left 25 percent of corn unharvested, geese and other wildlife consumed 51 percent of all corn.

A five-year trend of Goose Use Days on Crab Orchard NWR is illustrated in the above graphic.

*(Paul Williams, Crab Orchard NWR)*

## County Wants EIS for Proposed Amphitheater

Commissioners for Scott County, Minnesota, recently voted four to one to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be developed as part of a private industry proposal to build an outdoor amphitheater in Scott county.

The proposed location for the amphitheater is on land adjacent to the Louisville Swamp unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge officials fear the noise and traffic could adversely affect the Refuge. *(Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR)*



## Service Partners With Minnesota County and DNR to Propose 375-Acre Prairie Lake Restoration

Litchfield Wetland Management District has initiated a proposal to restore a 375 acre drained lakebed in northern Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

Prairie Lake was "meandered" during the original government survey but drained by a county ditch project in the early 1900s. For many years the lakebed was used for cropland and pasture, but is currently unused and choked with cattail.

Recent surveys show that water up to three feet deep could be restored throughout the basin with no adverse impacts to adjacent landowners or upstream drainage systems.

With this understanding, neighboring

landowners are supporting the proposal. The project would require installing a water control structure in the county ditch at the eastern edge of the basin.

The Kandiyohi County Attorney has been consulted and has encouraged the Service to continue the process and in accordance with Minnesota drainage statutes present a petition and prepare a public hearing for the proposal. Assuming the legal proceedings are successful it is likely that the project can be completed during calendar year 2000.

When finished, the project area and its upland component (extensive acre-

age of CRP grasslands) will provide exceptional habitat for waterfowl other migratory birds and resident wildlife. The estimated total cost of the project is \$10,000. However, no restoration funds have been expended to date.

When completed, an extensive, 375-acre, semi-permanent emergent wetland will result. The project area will provide habitat for breeding and migrating birds and resident wildlife. The local office of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources strongly supports the proposal and is providing technical assistance. *(Steven Erickson, Litchfield WMD)*

## Rose Lake NAWCA Small Grant Approved

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council has approved a \$50,000 grant for the Jefferson County, Wis., Parks Department that will help fund the \$334,000 purchase of the 58-acre Ward tract abutting Rose Lake and a 200-acre shallow water wetland.

This acquisition protects over a half-mile of shoreline and offers the public access to the wetland.

Significant educational opportunities exist at the Fort Atkinson High School, located one mile from the new park. The Madison Private Lands office provided support for the grant proposal and will be providing technical assistance to develop a long-term management plan as well as financial assistance for habitat restoration. For more information contact Art Kitchen at (608)221-1206. *(Art Kitchen, Wisconsin Private Lands Office)*

## Region Partners Receive \$283,000 in Small Wetlands Grants

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council awarded seven North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) totalling \$283,000 to grants to Region 3 partners March 9, 2000. Only 22 such small grants were awarded nationwide.

Successful projects in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture were the Giese Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) (Minn.-\$50,000), Wolf Creek WPA (Minn.-\$40,000), Straight River WPA (Minn.-\$27,000), and the Jim Hautman Restoration Project (Minn.-\$33,000).

In the Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, grants were awarded to the Nahant Marsh Preserve (Iowa-\$33,000), the Rose Lake Property Acquisition (Wis.-\$50,000), and the Missouri Bootheel Partners Program (Mo.-\$50,000).

Several Service field offices were

involved in planning these habitat projects, and many of those will be involved in completing them. The offices include the Morris Wetland Management District (WMD), the Detroit Lakes WMD, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Rock Island Field Office and the Madison Private Lands Office.

Other major partners in these projects include Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; Minnesota Pheasants, Inc.; Minnesota Deer Hunters Association; Minnesota Waterfowl Association; River Action, Inc.; Jefferson County Parks Department; and Bootheel Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.

This \$1 million-plus NAWCA small grant program is open to applicants every fall, for grant requests up to \$50,000. Larger requests must go through the NAWCA large grant program, which accepts applications in March and July.

*(Barbara Pardo, Refuges & Wildlife)*

## Ohio River Valley Ecosystem Team Identifies Its High Priority Activities for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001

The Ohio River Valley Ecosystem Team (ORVET) finalized its annual work plan March 23. The work plan prioritizes activities and will help guide the Team in Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001.

The majority of activities planned are related to the Team's six Resource Priorities: Mussels, Migratory Birds, Trust Fishes, Cave and Karst Habitat, Wetland and Riparian Habitat, and Rare Species.

Other priorities include pursuing op-

portunities for collaborating with federal agency partners and other stakeholders in conjunction with the Midwest Natural Resources Group, and continuing to work with partners on the Army Corps of Engineers' Ohio River Mainstem Study to ensure that fish and wildlife resources are fully considered.

Several projects described in the work plan show the ORVET's commitment to projects that span the Ohio River Valley Ecosystem.

Such projects include implementing a

coordinated bird strategy focusing on important habitats in the ecosystem, integrating state-by-state GAP analysis data in the ORVET Geographic Information System (GIS), and developing a proposal to determine overwintering requirements and habitats of Ohio River fishes.

In addition to outlining Team priorities, the work plan also emphasizes the importance of partnerships in the ORVET's activities. (*Leslie TeWinkel, R3-GARD*)

## "Marsh Madness" Attracts 300 to Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

"Marsh Madness" arrived at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Saturday, March. 25.

About 200 adults and 100 children spent a sunny, but windy afternoon enjoying these indoor activities: origami frogs, coloring/info sheets on frogs, the Tremendous Touch Table, "Whose Ribbit is it?"- a frog program, and Rita & the New Age Croakers.

Antique duck decoys, provided by Friends of PWLC board member, Roger Rustad, were on display. Modern-day duck decoys were

provided by Eddy Edwards, Law Enforcement Officer at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District.

Aquatic life was viewed in aquariums & under microscopes, while wood duck boxes & bluebird houses were constructed on site by Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club members.

A Frog pond/Toad Abode Corner, Junior Duck Stamp display, Historical Taxidermy, and wing board duck identification were among the exhibits. Visitors enjoyed the water dog training demonstration, learned goose calling tips and techniques, and

checked out various duck blinds.

Underwater viewing of pond life from the floating bridge and waterfowl identification overlooking Mallard Marsh rounded out the day.

The mission of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center is to provide environmental education opportunities for students, private landowners and the general public and to foster stewardship through protection, enhancement and restoration of the prairie pothole ecosystem. (*Terrie Eidal, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*)

## Updated Website Focuses on Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon

Fishery biologist Tracy Hill has completed a major upgrade to the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Page ([www.fws.gov/r3pao/sturgeon](http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/sturgeon)).

The page was created and is maintained through funding from the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team (GLBET).

The page consolidates information from numerous Service field stations, resource agencies and universities that are conducting lake sturgeon projects in the Great Lakes Basin. The web page also serves to educate

the public and scientific community about the Service roles, responsibilities, and activities regarding depleted native species such as lake sturgeon.

The page now contains information from 11 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices, three state agencies (Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin) three Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Lake Management Units (Superior, Huron, and Erie), and four universities: Central Michigan University, University of Michigan, Michigan Technical University and Cornell

University.

In addition to the agency/university contacts, the page contains the research priority needs of the GLBET Lake Sturgeon Subcommittee, Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Genetics Status Assessment and links to other sturgeon sites.

The site has had approximately 7,500 hits per month since posting in April of 1998, and has received more than 10,500 hits in August and November 1999. (*Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO*)



## Friends Group Helps Fund Refuge Marsh Projects

Responding to the challenge of finding donors to fund enhancements to the Upper Halfway Creek Marsh Project, The Coulee Region Chapter of Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges has received funds or pledges for more than \$14,000 to apply toward Marsh projects. In January 2000, the group was given a list of five enhancement projects in need of funding: purchase native grass/wildflower seed, provide funding for a parking area, purchase a viewing scope, construct a spur trail from the adjacent state bike trail and materials to construct a sitting bench. Total estimated cost for these items was \$13,700. To date, the group has either received or has pledges for \$14,205.

*(Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse)*

## Region Briefs New Members of Upper Mississippi River Task Force

John Blankenship, regional geographic assistant regional director (GARD), met March 24 with Allen Hance, the new Sea Grant Fellow for Wisconsin Representative Ron Kind's office, and coordinator for the Upper Mississippi River Task Force, and George Dusenbury, Northeast Midwest Institute employee and Task Force member.

Blankenship provided information on Service activities that will help them accurately brief Members of Congress and respond to the public on Regional issues. Blankenship explained the Service's role in the Environmental Management Program (EMP), discussed the Service's response to the Upper Mississippi River Task Force letter and discussed the Service's letter to the Army Corps of Engineers about the EMP. *(Jane West, External Affairs)*

## Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Funds Restoration Projects in Wisconsin

Nine Service field stations with Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program responsibilities in Wisconsin will receive \$188,850 during Fiscal Year 2000 through the Service's flexible funds process to be used to restore habitat on private lands throughout the state.

Funded projects include two dam removal projects on important waterways, an expanded wetland restoration effort in the area around Necedah National Wildlife Refuge,

eight projects to enhance and restore stream fish habitat and improve water quality and others.

The projects also include the restoration of fish passage on the Baraboo River, a tributary to the Wisconsin River, restoration of wetlands in the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge area, and improvement of stream habitat in several areas of the state. *(James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Office)*

## Service Formalizes Agreement With Wisconsin's Sand County Foundation For Baraboo River Restorations

The Service and the Sand County Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) to facilitate the restoration of wildlife habitat within the floodplain of the Baraboo River.

The Service and the Foundation have agreed to combine efforts to restore wetland and upland habitat, remove fish passage barriers, and cooperate on projects of mutual interest within the floodplain area of the Baraboo.

The Sand County Foundation and

the Service have mutual interests in the restoration of the Baraboo River floodplain. Examples are the Service's efforts to establish a National Wildlife Refuge in the area, and the Foundation's efforts on removing dams to facilitate fish passage on the Baraboo.

The MOU formalizes an ongoing understanding between the parties to assist in mutually beneficial projects. *(James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Office)*

## Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation Lauds Junior Duck Stamp Program

Minnesota Valley NWR's sponsorship of the Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Contest was recently recognized at a luncheon and workshop hosted by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF).

The Foundation recognized the Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Program for challenging Minnesota school children in the field of art

and conservation, and also for recognizing the children's accomplishments.

MAEFF will continue to include the Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Program in its "Reach for the Stars" program, and will market it to all Minnesota schools. *(Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR)*

# Accomplishment Reports Received

## We're Back

After a four month break, Inside Region 3 returns to regular publication. Inside Region 3 will be published twice each month until the end of the Fiscal Year. Since October 1, 1999, more than 750 accomplishment reports have been received by the Accomplishment Reporting System. Reports received March 1 - April 17, 2000 are listed here. Members of the Service can view a report by going to the ARS Website: <http://www.fws.gov/ars> and search the system by the Report headline or author. If you need assistance, please contact the Regional ARS Manager, Scott Flaherty at 612-713-5309.

1. **March Surveys Show Goose Use Days Increase at Crab Orchard NWR**  
*Paul Williams, Crab Orchard NWR*
2. **New Public "Turn-Around" Improves Access For Fishing Wildlife Viewing**  
*Paul Williams, Crab Orchard NWR*
3. **350 Assist In Spring Clean-up At Sherburne NWR**  
*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*
4. **Region 3 Annual Report and Summary Completed, Posted to Website**  
*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
5. **Regional Director's Conference Room to Get Audio-Visual Facelift**  
*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
6. **Volunteer Groups Enhance Halfway Creek Marsh Project on Upper Mississippi Refuge**  
*Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse*
7. **Friends Group's Efforts Help Fund Upper Mississippi Refuge Marsh Projects**  
*Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse*
8. **Cleanup of PCB Contaminated Sediment From Michigan's Saginaw River Begins**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*
9. **Fin Clipping Operation Readies 708,000 Lake Trout For Great Lakes Stocking**  
*Robert Pos, Pendills Creek NFH*
10. **Aquaculture Students Complete Work Placement at Pendills Creek NFH**  
*David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH*
11. **Morris WMD Restores 53 Wetlands**  
*Wayne Henderson, Morris WMD*
12. **Audubon Magazine Columnist Visits the Backwaters of the Upper Miss Wildlife and Fish Refuge**  
*Darla Wenger, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*
13. **Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality**  
*Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*
14. **Volunteers Replant Trees on Pool 8 EMP Islands**  
*Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse*
15. **Fernald NRDA Site Restoration Update**  
*Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*
16. **Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation Lauds Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Program**  
*Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*
17. **Wisconsin Park Naturalists Updated on Federal Wildlife Laws**  
*Ed Spoon, Madison LE*
18. **Annual Safety Inspection Conducted**  
*Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO*
19. **Occasional Problems With Wetland Mitigation Bank Proposals in Ohio**  
*Kenneth Lammers, Reynoldsburg FO*
20. **Sharing Expertise with Lithuanian Professor of Environmental Studies**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*
21. **Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Art Goes on the Road**  
*Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*
22. **Marsh Madness" Attracts 300 at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center"**  
*Terrie Eidal, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*
23. **Sediment Trap Dike Clean up**  
*Elaine Titus, Minnesota Valley NWR*
24. **Service Biologists Attends Ohio Odonata Society Meeting**  
*Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO*
25. **Service Formalizes Agreement With Sand County Foundation For Habitat Restoration on Baraboo River**  
*James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*
26. **Mark Twain NWR Distributes Wildlife Videos Local Schools**  
*Russell Engelke, Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District*
27. **Region Briefs New Members of Upper Mississippi River Task Force**  
*Jane West, External Affairs*
28. **Lake Trout Marking Program Completed**  
*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*
29. **Upper Mississippi River Task Force**  
*Jane West, External Affairs*
30. **Ohio River Valley Ecosystem Team Identifies High Priority Activities for FY 2000 and 2001**  
*Leslie TeWinkel, GARD*
31. **Great Lakes Day in DC**  
*Jane West, External Affairs*
32. **Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Winner Named**  
*Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*
33. **Region 3 Receives \$3 Million in Large Wetlands Grants**  
*Barbara Pardo, Refuges&Wildlife*
34. **NRDA and Ecological Risk Assessment Explained to MSU Class**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*



35. **Greater Scaup Artwork Earns “Best Of Show” at Wisconsin Junior Duck Stamp Contest**  
*LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR*
36. **Trumpeter Swan Shooter Convicted in Illinois**  
*Timothy Santel, Springfield LE*
37. **Detroit Lakes WMD Staff Mentors Fourth Grade Students**  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*
38. **Local Sportmen’s Club Helps Fund Conservation Projects at Minnesota Valley NWR**  
*Tracy Fifarek, Minnesota Valley NWR*
39. **Hatchery Creates Multi-media Presentation Describing Lake Trout Restoration Efforts**  
*David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH*
40. **Special Agents Provide Federal Conservation Law Training to Illinois Conservation Officer Recruits**  
*Laurice Stevens, Jefferson City LE*
41. **Partners Fund Restoration and Enhancements on 260 Acres of Waterfowl Habitat on Minnesota Valley NWR**  
*Tracy Fifarek, Minnesota Valley NWR*
42. **Foundation Awards \$255,700 Challenge Grant for the Proposed Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes**  
*Leslie TeWinkel, GARD*
43. **Presentation to a Freshman Class at Michigan State University**  
*Christine Lousias, East Lansing FO*
44. **Hamden Slough Completes Winter Upland Seeding of 116 Acres**  
*Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*
45. **Rare Plants and Local Ecotypes Symposium**  
*Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*
46. **Visitors Build Woodduck Boxes at Rydell NWR’s Waterfowl Habitat Day**  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*
47. **Wisconsin Landowners Voice Concerns at First Yellow River Forum**  
*LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR*
48. **Scott County Board Wants EIS for Proposed Amphitheater**  
*Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR*
49. **Hatchery Staff Prepare to Culture Endangered Mussels.**  
*Todd Turner, Genoa NFH*
50. **Zinc phosphide poisons owl in Illinois**  
*Timothy Santel, Springfield LE*
51. **Great Lakes Task Force Round Table**  
*Jane West, External Affairs*
52. **Rose Lake NAWCA Small Grant Approved**  
*Art Kitchen, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*
53. **Service Partnering With County to Propose 375 Acre Prairie Lake Restoration**  
*Steven Erickson, Litchfield WMD*
54. **Ottawa NWR Trapping Program**  
*Christy Smith, Ottawa NWR*
55. **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Funds Restoration Projects in Wisconsin**  
*James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Office*
56. **Presentation to Oakland County Audubon Society**  
*Christine Lousias, East Lansing FO*
57. **White Earth Tribe Conservation Board Reviews Refuge Hunting**  
*Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*
58. **Law Enforcement Successes Garner Funds for Great Lakes Fish Conservation**  
*Leslie TeWinkel, GARD*
59. **Native Fish Restoration/Tribal Trust; United States versus Michigan**  
*Brian Lubinski, Fisheries*
60. **Service Takes Center Stage at Cabela’s Spring Expo**  
*Tim Loose, UMRNW&FR-McGregor District.*
61. **Program to Blair Optimists Club by ORP of DeSoto**  
*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*
62. **Local Scouts Install Wood Duck and Bluebird Boxes at Minnesota Valley NWR**  
*Katy Fitzgerald, Minnesota Valley NWR*
63. **Horicon NWR Celebrates Refuge System Birthday**  
*Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*
64. **Detroit Lakes WMD Plans Native Prairie Seeding on 817 Acres**  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*
65. **Necedah NWR Hosts its Second Nextbox Workshop**  
*LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR*
66. **Seney NWR Hosts Snowshoe Building Class**  
*Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*
67. **Girl Scouts Descend on Prairie Wetlands Learning Center**  
*Terrie Eidal, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*
68. **Sophisticated Science Helps Catch a Poacher**  
*Ed Spoon, Madison LE*
69. **Outreach Program Continues for Lake Erie Water Snake**  
*Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO*
70. **Muscatatuck NWR/JPG Completes 4,000 Acre Burn**  
*Stephen Miller, Muscatatuck NWR*
71. **2000 Northeast Wisconsin Teacher’s Convention**  
*Jeff Hemming, Green Bay FO*
72. **Career Fair at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**  
*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*
73. **Region Partners Receive \$283,000 in Small Wetlands Grants**  
*Barbara Pardo, Refuges&Wildlife*
74. **Interjurisdictional Rivers Page of the Mississippi River Basin**  
*Jerry Rasmussen, Large River Fisheries Coordination Office*
75. **Special Agent Investigating Eagle Poisoning**  
*Ed Spoon, Madison LE*

- 76. Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Page Updated**  
*Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO*
- 77. LaCrosse FRO Coordinates Annual Meeting of White Earth Tribe, Minnesota DNR and Service**  
*Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*
- 78. Work Group Examines Community Partnerships and Wildlife Value to Economic Development**  
*Ron Cole, Big Stone NWR*
- 79. 65 Percent of Detroit Lakes WMD Nestbaskets are Successful in 1999**  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*
- 80. Rydell NWR Friends Selected as Friends Group of the Year**  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*
- 81. East Lansing Field Office submits reports to Michigan DEQ on the Grassy Island, Wyandotte NWR, MI.**  
*Dave Best, East Lansing FO*
- 82. Team Advances Ecosystem Approach in the Great Lakes Basin**  
*Leslie TeWinkel, GARD*
- 83. High School Career Fair in Flint, Michigan**  
*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*
- 84. 781 Sherburne/Crane Meadows Volunteers Honored at Dinner**  
*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*
- 85. Project Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage**  
*Annette Williams, East Lansing FO*
- 86. Trail of Two Cities Receives First Major Grant**  
*Jerry Rasmussen, Large River Fisheries Coordination Office*
- 87. Draft Status Assessment Completed for Wabash Belted Skimmer**  
*Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO*
- 88. Hatchery Contributes To Annual Sport and Travel Show**  
*Robert Pos, Pendills Creek NFH*
- 89. Warbex Can Kill**  
*Larry Keck, Jefferson City LE*
- 90. Bald Eagle Watch 2000 Promotes Ecotourism on the Upper Mississippi**  
*Darla Wenger, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*
- 91. Service Offices in Michigan and Ohio Combine For Outdoorama Outreach**  
*Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*
- 92. 2000 Eagle Watch Weekend**  
*Darla Wenger, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*
- 93. Horicon Marsh Events Calendar Completed**  
*Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*
- 94. Horicon NWR Leads Marsh Tour in Support of Local Tourism**  
*Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*
- 95. Meeting Examines Relaxing Dredge Windows in Southeast Michigan**  
*Jenny Wilson, East Lansing FO*
- 96. Service Helps Keep Ohio Up-to-Date on Endangered and Threatened Species**  
*Megan Sullivan, Reynoldsburg FO*
- 97. Two Great Lakes Lakewide Management Plans Assisted by the Service**  
*Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO*
- 98. Biologists Receive First Aid/CPR Training**  
*Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO*
- 99. Clam Case Presentation to Iowa DNR Statewide Conference**  
*Walt Kocal, Des Moines LE*
- 100. Green Point Learning Center Hosts Animal Tracks"**  
*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*
- 101. Bald Eagles Topic for Elderhostel Program**  
*Darla Wenger, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*
- 102. Special Steamboat Bertrand Exhibit and Oral History Project Planned For DeSoto NWR**  
*Sarah Tuttle, Desoto NWR*
- 103. The Service attends the Ohio Natural Resources Coordinating Committee meeting**  
*Kenneth Lammers, Reynoldsburg FO*

## Inside Region 3



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