



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Jordan River NFH Gains Support For Friends Group**

On September 22, 2005, Project Leader Rick Westerhof and Lead Fishery Biologist Tim Smigielski hosted a meeting designed to organize new and existing hatchery supporters and partners for the formation of a Friends Group. A dozen local community members attended in response to personal invitations. Unfortunately, there was no participation from “walk ins” who may have read about the meeting in the paper or saw it on our website. Nevertheless, the meeting was still quite a success. Rick and Tim presented the initiative and explained the reasoning behind its priority. The attendees were full of ideas and supported forming a group. One of the twelve in attendance has committed to board membership as have several others who were unable to attend the meeting that night. Tim Smigielski said, “It will take a few more meetings and some additional legwork in the community to firm the whole thing up. In order to do it right we need self-starters who are passionate about the hatchery as a focal point in the community. It is evident that many of the most capable and talented folks already have “full plates” but still, there they were, at the hatchery, until nine o’clock at night being our friends.”

*-Tim Smigielski*

#### **Jordan River NFH Partners with Antrim County Parks and Recreation**

During our September 22 friends group meeting at the hatchery, Mr. Allen Pecar of Mancelona, Michigan suggested to Lead Biologist Tim Smigielski that the hatchery should give a presentation to the Antrim County Parks and Recreation Board regarding our efforts to develop a friends group. Mr. Pecar thought several Board members may be interested in helping us, or they may know of others that might.

So on October 20, 2005, Hatchery Manager Rick Westerhof gave a presentation to the Antrim County Parks and Recreation Board. The presentation focused on lake trout restoration efforts in the Great Lakes, increased outreach efforts, and the development of a friends group. The meeting went very well with several suggestions that might generate more interest in the friends group. One was to add information about the hatchery to their searchable website with a link to our website. After the meeting Mr. Pecar took Rick around and introduced him to other programs in the office. Rick met and spent some time with Marc Randolph, Director of the Grass River Natural Area, to look at ways to partnership and draw from their volunteer pool. Unfortunately, the Grass River Natural Area’s next meeting isn’t until January or February 2006.

Rick was surprised to learn many of the Board members were familiar with the hatchery but hadn't visited in years. One gentleman told Rick old stories about developing the Five and Six Tile creeks water supply and how he used to hang out in the area. As we continue to expand our efforts to develop a friends group, one thing is for sure, more people are realizing that the hatchery doesn't just raise fish anymore.

*-Rick Westerhof*

### **International Cooperation**

John Johnston went to Parry Sound (on the Canadian side of Lake Huron) to help the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources capture and spawn 49 pairs of wild lake trout from October 22 through 30. The eggs were sent to the Chatsworth Fish Culture Station for incubation, and the resulting fish will be kept in quarantine there for 1½ years. If the fish do not test positive for the presence of certain pathogens, during or subsequent to their quarantine, they will be transferred to Sullivan's Creek NFH where they will contribute to future lake trout restoration efforts in Lake Huron.



John Johnston (right) assisted the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with wild lake trout gamete collection.  
*-Photo by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources*

*-Wayne Talo*

## ***Aquatic Species Conservation and Management***

### **Annual Cleaning of Five Tile Spring Completed**

On October 25, Maintenance Mechanic Robert Petersen finished cleaning the forebay and headbox of the Five Tile spring complex. This is done annually to prevent the accumulation of sand and silt in our water supply lines.



Bob Petersen working in the Five Tile headbox.  
*-Photo by Clarice Beckner*

**Jordan River NFH Staff Aid Spawning Operations**

Several of our staff traveled to lake trout brood stations to provide assistance during the spawning season. Wayne Talo helped Iron River NFH sort and spawn lake trout and sort coaster brook trout during the week of October 11, 2005. John Johnston, Paul Haver, Tim Smigielski, and Denise Johnston went to Sullivan’s Creek NFH to sort, spawn, and excess lake trout during the weeks of October 3, 11, 24, and 31, respectively.

*-Wayne Talo*

***Public Use***

**Jordan River NFH Staff “Too Busy” at the Hunting and Fishing Expo**

John Johnston and Wayne Talo, Fishery Biologists, staffed a USFWS display at the Northland Sportsman’s Club Family Hunting and Fishing Expo. About 1,500 visitors attended the annual event on September 11, 2005. The organizers hope to recruit the next generation of anglers and hunters through the Expo, so many booths and activities are geared to interest children. Ours is no exception, as we offer fish tattoos and “hands on” displays of fish food and aquatic invasive species.



Wayne Talo at the Northland Sportsmen’s Club  
*-Photo by Tim Smigielski*

John Johnston said “It was so busy that we were unable to step away from the booth during the whole four hours.” Sportsman’s Club staff made sure the guys didn’t wither away though. They rescued John and Wayne with hotdogs and drinks - Wayne loves hotdogs! The trout tattoos and our replica of a lake trout with an attached sea lamprey are always big draws to the booth. Jordan’s display always provides materials and insight on the Great Lakes lake trout restoration program and hatchery operations.

*-Tim Smigielski*

**Project Leader Rockin’ to the Oldies, Again!**

Rick Westerhof, Project Leader, was working the weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup>. Although busy, he made time to accept a call from Jim Miller, our media contact with the local oldies radio station. Jim hosts a program called *Outdoor Adventures*. Rick and Jim, both of whom are rarely serious about anything, had an adult conversation about our friends group initiative, our winter outreach program, and an update on how the 2005 Hatchery

Fest turned out. Plans are in the works to be on Jim's show more frequently as just another way of updating northern Michigan on hatchery activities and lake trout restoration in the Great Lakes.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Hosts the Adventure Rage Race**

On September 24-26, 2005, 28 teams participated in the [2005 Salomon / Moosejaw Adventure Rage](#)<sup>1</sup> at the Boyne Mountain Resort. The race is a 30 hour supported race that begins in Ellsworth and ends at Boyne Mountain, Michigan. There were seven legs in the race:

- 1) 22 mile canoe down the Chain of Lakes;
- 2) 35 mile bike from Bellaire to Kalkaska;
- 3) 16-18 mile orienteering course to find 13 points in the woods;
- 4) 13 mile bike from Kalkaska to the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery;
- 5) 6 mile trek (walk or run) from the hatchery to Graves Crossing;
- 6) 6 mile pack rafting down the Jordan River to Webster's Bridge; and
- 7) 12 mile bike from East Jordan to Boyne Mountain.



Two contestants in the 2005 Adventure Rage Race.  
-Photo by Infiterro Sports LLC

The hatchery was used as a transition site or staging area for the teams.

The race organizers showed up around 9:30 pm to get things ready for the racers. Each team must check in and check out or get disqualified. Then around 10:30 pm the support teams began arriving to get things ready for their team members. It wasn't until 12:15 am Sunday morning that the first team arrived at the hatchery with the last team coming in around 5:00 am. Six teams never made it to the hatchery because of injuries or they ran out of time. Rick Westerhof, Hatchery Manager was on hand to give tours, answer questions and make sure the restrooms, water and picnic tables were available. Many of the racers were extremely grateful for a "clean normal restroom", water and place to relax before the next stage of the race, as the racers were already in their 17th to 22nd hour of the race. Also, the support teams enjoyed the accommodations, especially compared to the last transition area that was out in the deep dark woods. The support teams took up most of the parking lot with chairs, tables, food and support gear for the racers. One team even had a meal served, cooked over a propane stove. The entire group was so quiet, not even one permanent employee living on station knew they were there from 9:30 pm to 6:00 am. The first team finished in 25:37, almost two hours before the second place team. The last team finished in 29:53, just barely before time expired.

Overall, the race was quite a success and the hatchery was glad to be part of it. We look forward to similar events in the future and hope the hatchery can be the “RAGE” of the area.

*-Rick Westerhof*

### **The M/V Togue Returns to the Alpena Lighthouse Festival**

After a year’s hiatus, the M/V Togue once again participated in the Alpena Lighthouse Festival October 7-9, 2005. For a three day period, tours of the vessel were given by Bob Bergstrom, Marine Engineer, and Mike Perry, Ship Captain. Hatchery Manager Rick Westerhof and Assistant Manager Denise Johnston began tours with an overview of the Lake Trout Restoration Program and a pictorial “tour” of the lake trout life cycle and hatchery.



The M/V Togue at the 2003 Alpena Light House Festival.  
*-Photo by Rick Westerhof*

Unfortunately, the Togue was not able to attend last year’s festival due to scheduled dry dock repairs in Escanaba, Michigan. This was the sixth time the vessel was available for tours and was the only Great Lakes vessel participating. Turn out was down from previous years, as no transportation was provided to the off site location, as it was in the past. The event was coordinated with Susan Wells from the Alpena Fisheries Resource Office.

*-Denise Johnston & Mike Perry*

### **Jordan River NFH Staffs Non-Traditional Math/Science Career Expo**

Rick Westerhof and Wayne Talo talked to approximately 100 eighth grade boys from local schools about careers in fisheries with the Service at the Raven Hill Discovery Center in East Jordan, Michigan on October 25 and 26, 2005. The boys learned about the academic skills required for success in a hatchery setting (basic math and algebra, verbal and written communication skills, and some familiarity with office software) which are also applicable to many other careers. They also learned that a good work ethic in addition to the ability to work well within a diverse workforce is critical. Rick discussed job opportunities within the Service, potential salaries, and how relocation is a fact of life for many career Service employees. We presented some background on the lake trout restoration program and the sea lamprey control program, and lastly, guided them through a basic aquaculture problem – doing a fish inventory.

*-Wayne Talo*

## ***Cooperation with Native Americans***

### **Facilities Tour**

Wayne Talo provided a facilities tour to Officer Jim Petoskey of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on October 20. In addition to the normal “fifty cent” tour, Officer Petoskey was also shown the hatchery website and a video slide show detailing hatchery operations and the construction of the M/V *Spencer F. Baird*, which is to replace the M/V *Togue* as our offshore fish distribution vessel in the summer of 2006.



Officer Jim Petoskey and Wayne Talo

-Photo by Clarice Beckner

The Jordan River NFH is always interested in establishing new contacts and strengthening old ones within the resource conservation community.

*-Wayne Talo*

## ***Leadership in Science and Technology***

(Nothing to report).

## ***Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management***

(Nothing to report).

## ***Workforce Management***

(Nothing to report).

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<sup>1</sup> Link to Adventure Rage race: <http://www.infiterrasports.com/results/05rage.htm>