

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report

Partnerships and Accountability

Partners Assist with Fall Adopt a Highway Project

On September 14th, the staff at Jordan River teamed up with partners from East Jordan Snowmobile Club and Concord Academy Antrim Charter School to once again help keep Michigan beautiful. The group removed 20 bags of debris from the road side in an hour and a half. A new record? Probably not, but a great effort anyway. Once the job was done everyone returned to the hatchery and enjoyed a sub sandwich lunch. Thanks to all who help keep the highway out in front of the hatchery clean.

-Tim Smigielski

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Staff Played Key Roles in Vessel Dedication

Certainly, no one would disagree that the success of Region 3's September 7th M/V *Spencer F. Baird* christening event was a TEAM effort. There is no "I" in team, of course, but there are several other letters representing the names of staff, which on the ground made this event a classy, one-of-a-kind affair. Jordan River NFH Project Leader Rick Westerhof was in on the ground floor several years ago with the development and planning of the new vessel and carried it forth. He had the lead on many critical details both in building, delivery, commissioning, and dedication. *We found him setting up chairs out on the dock the morning of the event.* Rick was recognized at the event for his exhaustive efforts. Administrative Assistant Clarice Beckner spent hours working on a variety of details and you know the "devils in the details". She also received recognition for her huge efforts. *We found her after work hours "schmoozing" the dry cleaners into pressing the 300 shirts, delivered late, just a day before the event.* Paul Haver who is the original "Jack of all Trades" had been involved with the design of the vessel as well as many of the details of the christening event. He too was recognized. *We found him fabricating a "commemorative cherry wood bottle swinger" finished on his own time days before the event.* Captain Mike Perry and Engineer Bob Bergstrom were also awarded for their efforts. They were recognized for their patience and dedication to cause, technical expertise in the design and



USFWS Director Dale Hall makes his address at the dedication of the M/V *Spencer F. Baird*. The Great Lakes Maritime Academy's training vessel, the *State of Michigan*, is in the background.

-Photo by Karla Bartelt

construction phases and tons of other reasons that I can't remember right now. *We found Bob Bergstrom riding back for 21 days of his life from Morgan City, Louisiana to Cheboygan, Michigan, which saved us a lot of money.* Whew! That just covers our part of the team here at Jordan River. Plus, there are those unsung heroes who picked up the slack, so that others could work on this project. If you haven't been involved in something this big before and the opportunity comes along, just do it! You will find that behind the pageantry and fan fare are the some of the finest, most creative and dedicated people you will ever meet. They are your co-workers USFWS employees.

-Tim Smigielski

The Class of 2006 Has Left the Building!

The Lake trout reared indoors since last November at Jordan River NFH have been relocated. Approximately 2.2 million fingerlings of three separate strains were moved to the outdoor raceways as of September 19th. At this time in the rearing cycle, the fingerlings become too crowded to remain in the tank room. This annual process went off without a hitch. Many staff were involved in the process including step student Chris Olds and volunteer Andy Pavelek. Wayne Talo, Paul Haver, Denise Johnston, John Johnston and Tim Smigielski all participated in the move to varying degrees during the month. The Lake trout will remain in the outdoor raceways until they reach their final destination in Lake Huron or Lake Michigan beginning in April of 2007.

-Tim Smigielski

Jordan River NFH Biologist Assists Alpena Fishery Resource Office (FRO) with Annual Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Surveillance

On September 21st John Johnston, Fish Biologist from Jordan River NFH, was on hand to help Alpena FRO biologist Anjie Bowen with the ANS Surveillance in the East Tawas area of Lake Huron. John reported that Round gobies were abundant at the sample site. The crew also captured some Rainbow smelt, Mimic shiners and Bluegill. The samples were collected by trawling off the R/V *Sentinel*. Nice Work!

-Tim Smigielski



A Round goby specimen.
-Photo by USFWS Alpena Fisheries Resource Office

Public Use

Inland Seas Invites Jordan River NFH Biologist to Present during Invasive Species Awareness Weeks

Inland Seas is an educational organization that provides unique learning opportunities to children. The organization is based in Suttons Bay, Michigan. The office is set on Grand Traverse Bay in Lake Michigan. Inland Seas schooner ships sail out around the Great Lakes providing programs on water quality, aquatic biology, environment stewardship and the like. Staff at the “Seas” heard about the “Fish Are Fun” programs at the Jordan River Hatchery and asked that Tim Smigielski, Fish Biologist at Jordan River NFH provide a presentation on exotic invaders during their invasive species “drop in” programs. Tim presented information on invasive species life history and common practices employed to reduce the spread of nuisance species around the Great Lakes. Tim also held a session on “Fish ID”. Tim presented information on anatomical features and characteristics used to identify Great Lakes trout and salmon. Inland Seas and Jordan River Hatchery are a good match and the partnership will certainly build into the future.

-Tim Smigielski

4H Conservation Tour Held at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in 2006

Michigan State University Extension 4H and the Antrim County Soil Conservation District co-sponsored the “2006 Conservation Tour”. This year it was held at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. Over 300 fifth and sixth grade students from Antrim County attended the day long event. The students rotated between stations that were set up on the hatchery grounds. There were many volunteers and partners involved in addition to hatchery staff. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Antrim Soil Conservation District, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Michigan Visitor Center, See North (non-profit conservation organization), Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension and Jordan River staff including Project Leader Rick Westerhof, Fish Biologists John Johnston, Wayne Talo and Tim Smigielski. Volunteer workers from Americorps and volunteers with the hatchery (Dan Sutherland, Andy Pavelek, and Peg Myers) rounded out the crew.



John Johnston demonstrates the finer points of pond cleaning.
-Photo by Wayne Talo

The students learned about the importance of our watersheds and the need for high quality water for trout culture. The students really enjoyed the station headed by Maureen Jacobs and Julie Fraley from the MDNR hatcheries. Students collected aquatic insects in the Jordan River,



identified them, and learned the significance of their distribution and abundance to the ecosystem. Wayne and John demonstrated pond cleaning, talked about fish culture in general, and provided the teachers with handouts detailing some hatchery math examples to teach the kids once they got back to school (these are posted on our educational opportunities web page at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/education.htm>). Once back to the hatchery building, Stan Moore from MSU Extension and Rick Westerhof tag teamed the key messages of sea lamprey control and Lake trout restoration. Tim followed up with an explanation of fish distribution and a tour of the tank room. Wow, long and busy, but so many compliments from parents, kids and spectators. Thanks to Dee Miller, Antrim County 4H Education Director, who coordinated the event for the 4H.

-Tim Smigielski

11th Annual Northland Sportsman's Family Hunting and Fishing Expo a Great Success

A whole bunch, (over a thousand) grinning kids passed through the Northland Sportsman's Club event on Sunday September 10th. The one day event runs from noon until 4:30pm. Fish Biologists Wayne Talo and Tim Smigielski from Jordan River National Fish Hatchery were on hand to promote the Great Lakes fisheries programs. The kids and their parents learned about aquatic nuisance species, sea lamprey control, Lake trout restoration and hatchery operations. Tim tirelessly told the same jokes to every group of children who stopped for a trout tattoo. The families enjoyed samples of wild game, trout fishing ponds, shooting sports, archery and a number of exhibits such as Michigan Trappers Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon Society and Michigan DNR Law Enforcement. It was great fun and this event is a super forum for us to tell our stories to the public.

-Tim Smigielski

Cooperation with Native Americans

(Nothing to report).

Leadership in Science and Technology

(Nothing to report).

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

(Nothing to report).



Workforce Management

Jordan River NFH Biologists Attend Genetics Training at the Regional Office

Paul Haver and Denise Johnston, two very fine fish culturists from Jordan River NFH, honed their skills at a recent training course. The course “Fish Genetics” was offered through NCTC out of the Region 3 Regional Office in Fort Snelling, Minnesota in late July. Paul and Denise felt fortunate to get the opportunity. The leadership at Jordan River NFH is very supportive of continuing education and training.

-Tim Smigielski

Hatchery Volunteer Moves on to Permanent Employment

Dan Traynor, who has been part of the partnership between the MDNR Charlevoix Research Station and the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, will begin his professional career next week. Dan, who already has an impressive array of experience for his age, has taken a position as a Fish Assistant with the MDNR Fisheries Division. Dan will be part of the statewide Creel Census Program. He will be covering the Port of Grand Marais on Lake Superior, along with some large inland lakes in the east central portion of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (lucky dog!). Dan has been with Jordan River since May of this year. He worked as a volunteer at the hatchery for one day per week in return for affordable housing. During the remainder of his time he worked with MDNR Charlevoix staff on a variety of Great Lakes research projects. Good Luck Dan, and thanks for the quality work during your stay.

-Tim Smigielski