

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report**

### *Partnerships and Accountability*

#### **Deputy Director Randall Luthi Visits the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**

As part of a grand tour of Fish and Wildlife Service field offices and projects in the State of Michigan, Deputy Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Randall Luthi, visited the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery on May 14. He was making a concerted effort to visit field stations to see the work of the Service.

Providing transportation and accompanying the Deputy Director was Charlie Wooley, Region 3 Deputy Regional Director; and Craig Czarnecki and Mike DeCapita of the East Lansing Ecological Services Field Office. Once at the hatchery, the group was joined by Bob Adair, Sea Lamprey Control; and Jerry McClain and Heather Rawlings, Alpena Fishery Resource Office.



(Left to Right) Andy Pavelek, Dan Sutherland, Bob Adair, Mike DeCapita, Jerry McClain, Randall Luthie, Paul Haver, Rick Westerhof, Craig Czarnecki, Charlie Wooley, Chris Olds  
- USFWS photo

While enjoying a lunch provided by the hatchery staff, the Deputy Director was given a formal introduction to the entire hatchery staff. He was then given background information on the hatchery's impressive volunteer program; focusing on Dan Sutherland, Andy Pavelek and Dan Myers, the three volunteers in attendance. He then gave the hatchery staff a brief look into his background and the previous positions he has held. The visit culminated with a tour of the hatchery grounds and facilities. The hatchery staff proudly explained their contributions to the Great Lakes Lake trout restoration program. We hope Mr. Luthi's visit will result in other Washington staff members wanting to visit our facility.

*-Clarice Beckner*

#### **Jordan River Volunteers Parade Down Main Street during Bass Fest**

This year's Mancelona Bass Festival Grand Parade was held Saturday June 2. Again, Jordan River NFH displayed a fish stocking truck in the parade. This year's float was staffed by volunteers. Ray Puroll, his daughter Megan and long time hatchery volunteer Dan Sutherland did the hatchery proud, as they handed out candy to the many eager children. The truck is always popular. This will be the fourth year that the hatchery has participated. The Village of Mancelona, the Bass Festival

## ***Jordan River NFH, May through June 2007***



Committee (Tim and Joan Moore) and the public schools are all supporters and close friends of the hatchery. Jordan River NFH staff and volunteers were glad to return the support.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan River NFH Staff Support Their Friends at Mancelona Bass Festival**

The Family Night kick off celebration for the annual Mancelona Bass Festival was a super success. The event took place on the grounds of the middle school, Wednesday evening May 30. The evening featured a rock wall for climbers, basketball shootout contest, face painting and fun food. Tim Smigielski, lead Fisheries Biologist was on hand with a display promoting awareness of invasive species. Tim explained the measures that resource users need to employ to prevent further spread of such invasives as Zebra mussels, Round gobies and Eurasian water milfoil. He fielded many questions about the newest issue in the Great Lakes region, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). Tim applied about seventy bass tattoos during the event. Thanks to Tim's wife Janet who assisted in keeping the long line of kids moving.



[www.mancelonabassfestival.org/](http://www.mancelonabassfestival.org/)

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan River NFH Biologist Lends a Hand at Alpena Open House**

The new Great Lakes stocking and assessment vessel *M/V Spencer F. Baird* was welcomed in Alpena with an Open House coordinated by the Alpena FRO on Saturday June 9. It was a beautiful sunny day in northern Michigan. The Baird and crew were in town for the last leg of lake trout distribution out of Jordan River NFH. Approximately fifty visitors toured the vessel between 1pm and 4pm. Tim Smigielski, Lead Fisheries Biologist, primarily greeted the public as they boarded the vessel and explained the Service's role in the lake trout restoration program. Captain Perry was in the pilot house showcasing the *Baird's* impressive technology. Seaman / Fisherman David Bohn assisted folks onto the vessel and drummed up visitors off the board walk. Alpena FRO Project Leader Jerry McClain and Fisheries Biologist Aaron Woldt showcased the vessel's assessment capabilities. Nick Gruneis from Iron River NFH, who was the resident Fisheries Biologist, literally, (he was on board for the remainder of the stocking runs) provided a wonderful tour of the rest of the vessel. This was a great day for the Service. The team that was assembled did an excellent job representing the Service and telling our story.

*-Tim Smigielski*

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

### **Jordan River NFH Transfers 1.1 Million Lake Trout Fingerlings to Pendills Creek NFH**

The fingerlings are transferred every spring because Pendills lacks the rearing space needed for fry. Therefore, Jordan River NFH rears the fish to about 300 to the pound and then ships them off. Typically just over 800,000 are transferred. However, because Pendills will be experimenting with fall fingerlings this year they requested additional fish. The fingerlings, which were hatched from eyed eggs at Jordan River, were reared to 289 fish to the pound and then transferred between May 10 and June 1 of this year. 604,839 Lewis Lake strain fingerlings and 502,919 Superior Apostle Island strain were hauled in seven trips from the Jordan River NFH. Jordan River NFH is located about 17 miles west of Gaylord, Michigan about an hour south of the Mackinac Bridge. Pendills Creek NFH is located in Brimley, west of Sault Ste Marie.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan River NFH 2006 Year Class Has Graduated**

As of June 17, the 2006 year class of yearling lake trout reared and stocked out of Jordan River NFH resides in lakes Huron and Michigan. The lake trout arrived as eyed eggs beginning in mid November of 2005. The yearlings were comprised of three different strains, Superior Apostle Island Wild (SAW), Seneca Lake Wild (SLW) and Lewis Lake Wild (LLW). Over 2.2 million lake trout yearlings were released between mid April and mid June of this year. Of the 2.2 million, slightly more than 1.2 million were stocked offshore in Lake Huron and 1 million were stocked offshore in Lake Michigan.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Jordan River NFH Step Student Sent to Corral Carp**

There was something fishy about Chris's opportunity to assist Lacrosse FRO staff with their survey work. In fact, Chris Olds, at a tender 21 years of age, a hometown boy from Northern Michigan received the experience of a lifetime. Chris was part of a crew performing surveillance for invasive carp species on the Illinois River. We don't have these species up here at the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel and we don't want them. Chris's adventure included being knee deep in a boat full of carp, and receiving a couple of thuds on the back when the fish broke water. Chris was glad to get the experience and be part of the important work being done by the FRO.

*-Tim Smigielski*



STEP student Chris Olds during the 2007 Carp Corral  
- USFWS photo



## ***Public Use***

### **Manton Michigan Boy Scouts Visit Jordan River NFH**

On June 23 Denise Johnston, Assistant Project Leader at Jordan River NFH, led a tour of the hatchery and grounds for the troop. The scouts were on the move hiking so they were only allowing 45 minutes. Denise made it happen, giving them the speed tour. Her work boots were smokin' that day, not only from the tour, but the heat. The weather was unusually hot and humid, but dry, good news for hikers and campers. Nice work Denise!

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Mancelona Summer School Students Visit Jordan River NFH**

On a hot hot day June 22 Amy Derrer of Mancelona Michigan chaperoned a trip to the hatchery. Now the trip was part of an exciting day where the students were headed to a water park for the rest of the day. So needless to say John Johnston, Fisheries Biologist, had his hands full of 30 pretty anxious kids. John got their attention taking them through the "cool," in more ways than one, tank room. The tank room has 1,400 gallons a minute of water flowing through it at about 46 degrees. Good air conditioning. The students checked out the 2007 year class which is about 5 months old now. John explained our annual rearing cycle and showed the kids some "baby lake trout." Amy said, "You guys are the best." Thanks for the compliment, Amy, and come again!

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **STEP Student from Jordan River NFH Reaches Out**

Chris Olds is a STEP student attending Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. This is Chris's fourth season at the hatchery. He does quite well dealing with the public for someone of his young age and experiences. He volunteered to put on a program at the Boyne City Middle School in May. Chris presented information about the lake trout restoration program and the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery and he lead the students through a lake trout dissection. Chris assisted the students with identification of the main anatomical structures, their location and function. He did an excellent job telling our story and representing the hatchery.

*-Tim Smigielski*

### **Boy Scouts from Romeo, Michigan Hike to the Hatchery**

Now the scouts didn't hike from Romeo, which is a 4 hour car ride from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. But they did hike in from the North Country Trail for a lunch break and tour of the hatchery. The scouts were camped at Pinney Bridge walk-in campground and were headed back to their vehicles for the trip home. Chris Olds, STEP Student at Jordan River NFH, was working the weekend. Chris led the 36 Boy Scouts through the hatchery explaining fish culture practices and hatchery operations. It was a rainy day so the scouts were offered the shelter of the hatchery



building to enjoy their lunch. The hatchery receives visits from at least six Boy Scout troops annually.

*-Tim Smigielski*

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

(Nothing to report).

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

### **Jordan River NFH Biologist Worth his Salt?**

The owner and operator of our neighbor hatchery the Jordan Valley Trout Farm showed up at the Jordan River NFH and apparently found a doctor in the house. A fish doctor that is! Apparently his rainbows were sick. He described the situation to John Johnston, Fisheries Biologist here at the hatchery. John recommended that he perform a standing salt bath “until they look ready to pickle” and then restore the flow. It worked! He came back thanking John with the good news reporting that his fish came out of their funk and are swimming happy and healthy. Just one of our many services we provide to the public at Jordan River NFH!

*-Tim Smigielski*

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

(Nothing to report).

## ***Workforce Management***

### **Andy Pavelek Jordan River NFH Super Volunteer Moving On**

The evening of June 15 was fun, but kind of sad too. We had made a good friend and co-worker who we looked forward to seeing every day and ... it was not going to be that way anymore. When he received his certificate of appreciation at the party and heard, “speech!”, which is not Andy’s strong suit, he didn’t hesitate. His message was simple, he felt the same way, he had been so impressed by how he was welcomed at the hatchery and how he was welcomed into our personal lives. This atmosphere made his stay “the best experience of all of his volunteer rehab work” Hospitals, schools, athletic clubs, are no match to volunteering at Jordan River NFH. Andy’s work

here was exemplary. His can do, positive attitude is contagious and he will be truly missed. But... he is our friend and we will see him again, often we hope.

*-Tim Smigielski*

**Jordan River NFH Volunteer Program Attracts Another Gem!**

Hannah Edwards is the newest volunteer at the Jordan River NFH. Hannah is the daughter of Steve and Ruthanne Edwards from Greenville, Michigan. She has recently graduated from high school. Hannah started her volunteer term on June 6. This fall, Hannah will be attending Michigan State University. What a great choice! She will be in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources studying Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Hannah enjoys the outdoors, particularly running and backpacking. She also likes to travel. National Parks are a favorite vacation spot for the Edwards family. She will be volunteering at Jordan River NFH through August. Hannah is hoping to gain some base knowledge of fisheries, the what, when, where, and why? The staff at Jordan will make sure that Hannah gets some great experience before fall. Please join in welcoming Hannah to the USFWS.



Hatchery volunteer Hannah Edwards - Photo by Tim Smigielski

*-Hannah Edwards*