U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

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Gary Lagoons

Indiana Natural Resource Damage Settlement Finalized

The Service's Bloomington, Indiana Field Office (BFO) was notified April 28, 2000, that the Indiana Attorney General's Office has received the deed to the restored Gary Lagoons clean-up site in accordance with an Administrative Order of Consent with the Potentially Responsible Party and former owner of the property. It's anticipated that the Attorney General will record the deed soon on behalf of the Indiana Department of Natuarl Resources (DNR).

This was the last step in a long, tedious process to protect this rare dune and swale habitat that was nearly paved over by the Chicago-Gary Regional Airport as part of a future airport expansion.

In the 1970s, the site was used to illegally dispose of hazardous wastes into a wetland associated with a relatively large tract of remnant dune and swale habitat.

In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spent $4 million to remove 10,250 tons of toxic wastes from the wetlands at Gary Lagoons site.

In addition, more than 500,000 gallons of contaminated water was treated and removed.

The Service's Bloomington Field Office, as natural resources trustee, became involved with the site in 1993, when it provided technical assistance to EPA's Superfund program.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement negotiations began in 1997 for this site. The Service and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management helped the EPA develop its site clo-

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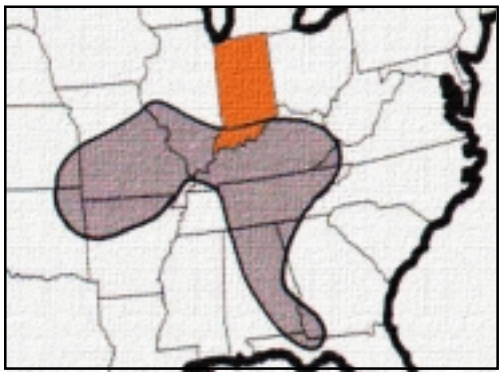
Minnesota Artist Wins National Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Bonnie Latham, 17, a home-schooled student from Hastings, Minnesota, won First Place May 1, at the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition in Washington D.C. Bonnie competed with the Best-of-Show from the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. Bonnie's winning art was a pair of northern pintails done in acrylic. Bonnie studies waterfowl in the field and then photographs them. She paints relentlessly in her family's studio in Hastings using her photographs as a guide. Bonnie has previously entered the Minnesota competition capturing first and second place in prior years. *Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Management Plan Will Help Protect Lone Colony of Endangered Gray Bats

The U.S. Army, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recently completed the Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP) for the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant at Clark County, Indiana (INAAP).



In addition to southern Indiana, the Gray bat's range e includes three states in Region 3. (USFWS graphic)

The plan creates a framework for management of the federally-endangered gray bat, which occurs on the installation.

The INAAP Endangered Species Management Plan helps to maintain and enhance the gray bat population on the installation. The cave system at INAAP supports the northern-most known maternity colony of gray bats, and is part of the only gray bat colony in Indiana.

Key features of the plan are the protection of karst features, forested stream corridors, and water quality. The plan addresses the management of the gray bat in concert with the mission and other land-use objectives on the installation. Conservation of gray bats at INAAP is of particular concern because the Army is in the process of leasing and excessing the base; portions will be used for Charlestown State Park and portions will be used for commercial purposes. The ESMP will facilitate Army compliance with the Endangered Species Act during the process. Partners include: U.S. Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lessees of INAAP property. *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO*

Service Answers Questions at Public Meetings for EMP Pool 8 Phase III

Public meetings were held in Brownsville, Minn., and Stoddard, Wis., April 24-25, 2000 to discuss the study boundaries and goals of the Phase III Environmental Management Program islands for Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River.

Representatives from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers answered the public's questions about the project.

Approximately 25 people attended the Brownsville meeting, 35 attended the Stoddard meeting. Overall, public opinion for the project was favorable.

Partners include: Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse*

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Gary Lagoons Habitat Protected Through NRDA Settlement

sure plan. The site was graded to appropriately re-create the previous dunes and planted with native prairie vegetation consistant with the oak savannah nature of the adjacent rare dune and swale habitats.

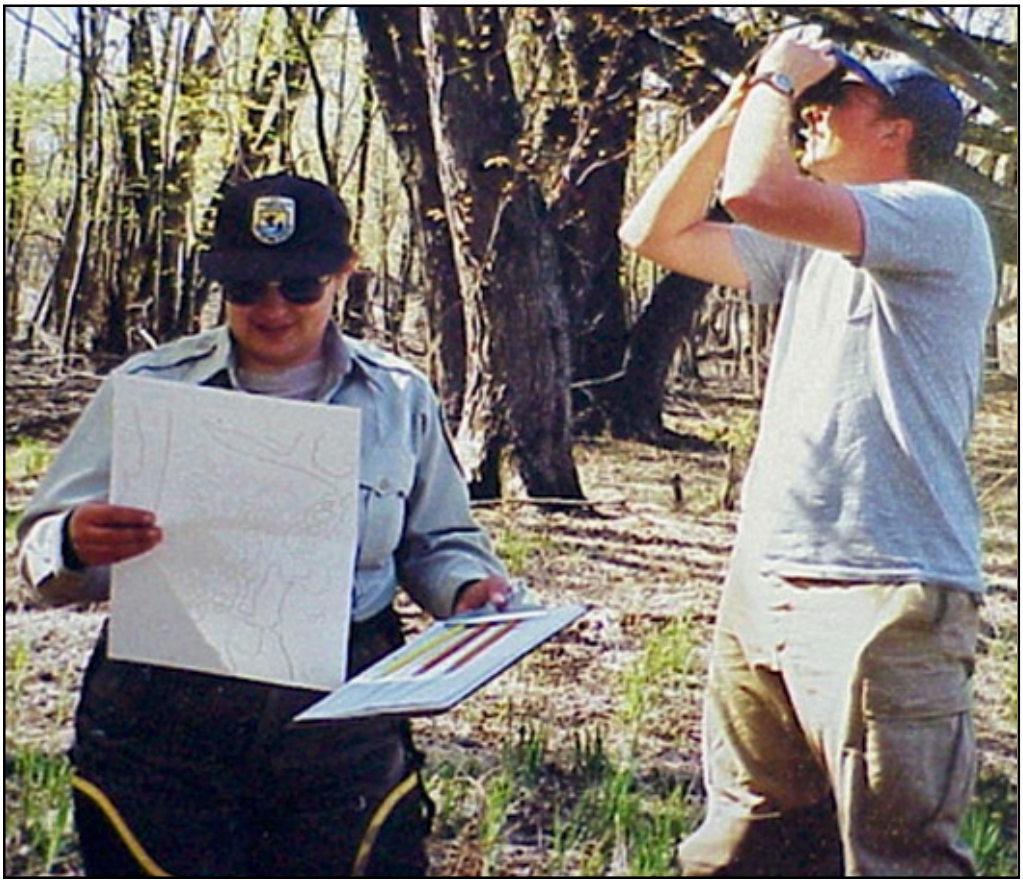
The Gary Lagoons is the 17th Superfund/Oil Spill site in Indiana where successful settlement of natural resource damage claims has been reached. The settlement, signed in October 1999, consists of the Potentially Responsible Parties conveying the title of this seven-acre property to the Indiana DNR.

The site will be managed by the DNR's Division of Nature Preserves as a new addition to its two nearby nature preserves.

The Department of the Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) program at its field implementation level in Indiana consists of Bloomington Field Office (BFO) staff working on behalf of the Regional Director, authorized official for the Department.

BFO works closely with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management through a 1993 Memorandum of Understanding.

The Service also works closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department's Solicitor's Office in Washington, D.C. the Indiana Attorney General's Office, and the U.S. Department of Justice on this case. *Daniel Sparks, Bloomington FO*



On the Lookout. Biology technicians Cindy French and Chris Pekar from Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge lend a their eyes to the Winona District heron count. (USFWS Photo by Cynthia Samples)

Staff From Upper Mississippi River Refuges Survey Heron Rookery

Biology technicians from the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge-Winona District, and Treampeleau NWR craned necks skyward during a survey of the District's St. Mary's Heron Rookery April 26, 2000.

The white-wash and presence of birds in the nests were clues used by the Service employees on this survey. The Winona District has 16 active heron rookeries, and each spring biology technicians survey the rookeries for activity. This year, a few great egrets were found among the great blues, but no double-crested cormorants were discovered.

The St. Mary's rookery has more than 800 nests. Survey participants included Biology technicians Cindy French, Steve Erickson, Chris Pikar, Brian Stemper and Cynthia Samples. *Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

91 Species Tallied at Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District

With the help of Refuge volunteers, staff at the Brussels District of Mark Twain NWR were once again able to complete the 2000 spring bird count. Covering over 90 miles of roads on and around the Refuge, the count tallied 91 species of birds. Included in the count are several unique sightings such as western sandpipers and snowy egrets, both species that normally only use the Refuge during the fall. The spring 2000 count of 91 species compares to 83 species counted in 1999 and 45 in 1998. *Russell Engelke, Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District*

Public Meeting Held for Ambrough Slough HREP

A public meeting was held May 8, 2000, in Prairie du Chien, Wis., to discuss habitat restoration plans for the Ambrough Slough Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) on Pool 10 of the Upper Mississippi River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-St. Paul District, in cooperation with the Service and Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources have been investigating measures for fish and wildlife habitat restoration within the Ambrough Slough backwater complex.

The HREP aims to reduce flows to improve winter fish habitat by reducing current velocities and maintaining water temperatures within tolerance ranges of backwater fish species.

Partners include: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources.

Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

Spring Drought Conditions Continue at Squaw Creek NWR

Drought conditions have persisted since October 1999 with precipitation by the end of March totaling only 6.3 inches, more than 3 inches below normal.

Only .3 inch of rain fell in October, the driest since 1975. Recharging of all wetlands began in mid-September and was not completed until late March.

In a normal year, all wetlands are completely recharged in six-eight weeks. This has been the driest fall since the record 1988-89 drought. *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

Service Provides Adult Lake Trout to USGS Fish Health Research

In April, 120 excess Lake Trout broodstock (adults) of the Lewis Lake and Green Lake strains were transferred from the Pendills Creek/ Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery Complex to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) lab in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania., where they will be used for Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) research.

The Pendills Creek/Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery Complex in northern Michigan holds seven genetically distinct strains of Lake Trout. The fish provide a source of disease free eggs for restoration programs on the Great Lakes.

Early Mortality Syndrome is a non-infectious disease that results in variable mortality of the offspring of feral Lake Trout which may be linked to thiamine deficiencies. One exotic prey species in the Great Lakes is alewife which contain high levels of thiaminase which is a thiamine destroying enzyme and may be a factor causing low thiamine levels in Lake Trout resulting in Early Mortality Syndrome.

A portion of the Lake Trout broodstock that were transported to Wellsboro will receive an alewife diet to provide a source of thiamine deficient eggs for further research.

The project is in cooperation with USGS labs in Wellsboro, Penn., and Columbia, Mo., together with the Green Bay Fisheries Resources Office in Green Bay, Wis.

This research is an important factor in the Service's continuing efforts to restore lake trout in the Great Lakes. *David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH*

Service Helps National Park Service Plan Resource Inventories

Service staff assisted the National Park Service during an Inventory and Monitoring Workshop in Ashland, Wis,. April 26-27, 2000.

Participants developed plans for the nine units of the National Park System's Great Lakes Network to: document the occurrence of at least 90 percent of the species of vertebrates and vascular plants; describe the distribution and relative abundance of species of special concern; and to provide baseline information needed to develop a general monitoring strategy and design, tailored to specific threats and resource issues.

The National Park Service sponsored the workshop to build a peer-reviewed list of inventory needs for each of the nine parks in the network; formulate clear objectives for each of the inventory projects; and obtain peer evaluations of the importance and value of each project.

Partners include: National Park Service, USGS Biological Resource Division, Wisconsin DNR, University of Minnesota, Northland College, Michigan Technological University, and others. *Tom Busiahn, Ashland FRO*

Old Timer. One of the three-year old trout stocked at the LacVieux Desert Indian Reservation. (USFWS Photo by David Radloff)

Service Supports Tribal Fisheries at LacVieux Desert Indian Reservation

On March 30, 2000 staff from the Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery transferred 280 adult native brook trout to waters on the Lac Vieux Desert Indian Reservation. The fish averaged 3.0 pounds each.

The reservation is located in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan which is in the historic range of native brook trout.

Brook trout and lake trout are held at the Hiawatha Forest National Fish hatchery to provide a source of disease-free eggs for restoration programs predominantly in the Great Lakes Ecosystem. The fish stocked were over three years-old and past their prime as a source of high quality eggs.

New year classes of brook trout are started annually to provide the best quality eggs for native fish restoration programs. *David Radloff,Pendills Creek NFH*

Service Joins State, Federal Law Agencies For Missouri Road Checks

Service law enforcement agents joined law enforcement officers from Missouri to two operate wildlife road checks April 30 and May 7, in southern Missouri.

Agents from Missouri Department of Conservation Agents, U.S. Forest Service, Missouri State Highway Patrol, County Sheriffs manned the April road block near the Arkansas border in Thayer, Mo., resulting in 27 wildlife violations, 53 warnings and 15 citations from the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Wildlife violations consisted of 25 turkey violations, one bass violation and one fur bearer violation. Of the 27 violations, 18 were committed by non-Missouri residents.

One hundred sixty six vehicles out of 1,714 passing vehicles were diverted for inspection.

The May wildlife road check ocurred in Douglas County, Mo., where 276 vehicles passed through the road block with 44 vehicles diverted for inspection.

Five wildlife violations were documented, and two citations issued by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. All five wildlife violations were committed by non-residents. *Dan Burleson,St. Peters LE*

Wood Duck Production Dips Slightly at Squaw Creek NWR

All wood duck nest boxes at Squaw Creek NWR were serviced during the winter. Forty-six of the 53 available boxes produced 281 ducklings. This is compared to the 333 ducklings produced in 1999. *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

Tree Helpers. Friends Group member Jim Eddy prepares a hole for planting while Ranger Cindy Samples (center) talks with students about tree planting during the Arbor Day event at Upper Mississippi River NW&FR. (USFWS Photo by Brian Pember)

Students Join Volunteers and Refuge Staff to Plant 250 Trees at Upper Mississippi River Refuge

Sixty third graders and 20 volunteers joined staff at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge to plant 250 trees April 28, Arbor Day. The event was organized by the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges (FUMRR) with the assistance from the Winona District and Headquarters offices.

Park Ranger Cynthia Samples conducted an environmental education activities while Biological Technician Brian Pember organized the volunteers. Biological Technician Brian Stemper, manned the woodchip hauling rig.

One of the volunteers, staff member Steve Erickson, was off duty that day but volunteered his services to help the Madison Elementary third graders plant 250 trees. Volunteers consisted of members of the refuge Friends group, City of Winona Parks Department employees and high schoolers from Rushford, Minn.

FUMRR donated the money for the trees. The student tree planting was the first building block of a Friends group adoption of a refuge area. FUMRR intends to continue assisting with the Prairie Island area as their local work project.

Partners include: Madison Elementary, FUMRR, City of Winona, Minn. *Cynthia Samples,UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

Service, Canadian Tribes Partner to Help Spawn Lake Sturgeon

Staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) travelled to Emo, Canada, to assist the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery and the White Earth Biology Department with spawning lake sturgeon.

The Rainy River First Nation tribe is rearing lake sturgeon in an effort to increase the population on the border waters. Joe Hunter, Rainy River Hatchery manager, is willing to sell surplus fish to the White Earth Reservation. It is the goal of the White Earth Biology Department and the Service to restore lake sturgeon to the Reservation.

This project is also being accomplished in coordination with the Minnesota DNR's effort to restore lake sturgeon to the Red River drainage.

Approximately 40 quarts of lake sturgeon eggs will be hatched at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery. The First Nations will stock fish into the Rainy River, some will be used for a genetics study, and 40,000 fry will be purchased by the White Earth Biology Department and shipped to Genoa and Neosho NFHs to be raised to six inches. These fish will then be tagged and stocked into White Earth and Round Lakes on the White Earth Reservation.

This effort compliments the Minnesota DNR's work on restoring lake sturgeon to the Red River drainage.

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Trails End. Visitors and Refuge staff gather at the end of the trail where a large stone and plaque are dedicated to Mike Callow. (USFWS Photo by BIll Hutchinson)

Mike Callow Memorial Trail Dedicated at Squaw Creek NWR

Approximately 125 family members, friends and acquaintances of former Region 3 employee Mike Callow gathered May 13, at Squaw Creek NWR to help dedicate a quarter-mile hiking trail in his honor.

Callow, a former assistant manager at the Missouri refuge, died tragically in an airplane accident while conducting waterfowl surveys over the Columbia River in November 1998.

Mike was stationed at Squaw Creek NWR from August 1991 to July 1998 and one of his greatest loves was native grassland restoration work.

The day began with a reception at the Refuge headquarters where a light lunch was served and personal commentaries were given. The Service was represented by Jim Kurth, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, Washington D.C. and Greg Siekaniec, Deputy Chief. Bill Hutchinson, Division of Refuge Operations represented the Regional Office.

Mike's parents, James and Elsie Callow, cut a ribbion to offically opening the Mike Callow Memorial Trail. Family and friends then walked the trail, which ended at a restored native prairie site. The ceremony continued with the unveiling of a bronze plaque, mounted on a large rock that marks the end of the trail. *Bill Hutchinson, Refuge Operations*

Service Joins Partners to Track Spawning Lake Sturgeon's Return to Menominee Tribal Waters in Northeast Wisconsin

The Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) is joining with Menomonee Tribe and other partners to help track spawning lake sturgeon as they attempt to return to traditional spawning areas above dams along the wolf river in northeast Wisconsin.

The lake sturgeon has long been a major focal point of Menominee Indian culture. Historically, tribal members living in northeastern Wisconsin were dependent upon an annual subsistence harvest of lake sturgeon each spring, when large numbers of the fish swam upstream in certain Great Lakes' tributaries to spawn.

In the Lake Winnebago-Wolf River system, lake sturgeon were able to swim far upstream to traditional spawning sites on the Menominee Indian Reservation until the early 20th century, when a pair of hydropower dams were built several miles downstream of the reservation. The swift and boulder strewn reach of river just below the dam located furthest downstream, in Shawano, Wis., is now the site of the most intensive lake sturgeon spawning activity.

As a consequence of these barriers to upstream fish passage and continued harvest pressure, lake sturgeon were eventually extirpated from the river reaches upstream of the dams.

Lake sturgeon remained a missing component of the native fish community here until 1995, when a long-term, multi-agency restoration and management plan was initiated for this ancient species.

Since then, a total of 66 feral Wolf River lake sturgeon have been captured at sites located downstream of the dams, surgically implanted with radio transmitters, and released at sites located upstream of the dams in reservation waters of the Wolf River. Although many of these fish remain in waters upstream of the dams and on the reservation, others have returned to waters downstream of the dams.

Data gathering. Sturgeon movement data is gathered from equipment placed atop the Balsam Row Dam, near Shawano, Wis. (Below) Jeremy Pyatskowit and Heather Arthur of the Menominee Environmental Services Department check the operation of telemetry equipment. (USFWS Photo by Mark Steingraeber)

In order to evaluate the temporal desire of radio-tagged lake sturgeon that are now located downstream of the dams to return upstream in the vicinity of these structures, staff from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) have established an automated radio-telemetry data logging station at each of the dams. Private partners in this effort include the Little Rapids Corporation and Northwoods Hydro Incorporated, the respective owners of the Shawano and Balsam Row dams.

The dam owners are providing secure access and space to deploy telemetry equipment at the dams. In addition, staff from the Menominee Indian Tribe's Environmental Services

Continued next page

Service Tracks Spawning Lake Sturgeon in Wisconsin

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Department maintain this equipment, download the electronic data it collects, and transmit this information to the LaCrosse FRO for validation and interpretation.

Several radio-tagged lake sturgeon were present near the Shawano dam when data collection began in early March and remained there intermittently throughout the month.

A total of 11 different radio-tagged lake sturgeon were simultaneously observed near the dams when spawning peaked in late April. The majority of these fish (nine) were observed at the Shawano dam for several consecutive days.

Tribal Partners. Jerememy Pyatskowit and Heather Arthur of the Menominee Environmental Services Department download telemetry data from equipment atop the Balsam Row Dam. (USFWS Photo by Mark Steingraeber)

The observations indicate a continued desire among the previously relocated radio-tagged lake sturgeon to return upstream towards the Menominee Indian Reservation in the spring to spawn, despite their prior downstream movements that carried them off of the reservation.

When combined with corresponding water temperature and discharge data, the automated telemetry observations may also indicate environmental cues that stimulate these fish to move upstream to a dam's tailwater zone, as well as downstream past a dam.

Automated telemetry observations for radio-tagged lake sturgeon are expected to continue at the dams throughout the remainder of the year. *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following Accomplishment Reports were processed by the Accomplishment Reporting System May 12, 2000. Accomplishments submitted after that date will appear in the next issue of Inside Region 3.

1. **Public Meeting Held for Ambrough Slough HREP**
   Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

2. **Service, Canadian Tribes Partner For Lake Sturgeon Spawning at Rainy River First Nations**
   Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

3. **Audubon Spring Bird Count at Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District**
   Russell Engelke, Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District

4. **IMBD Celebration Held in La Crosse**
   Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse

5. **Detroit Lakes WMD Staff Mentors Fourth Grade Students**
   Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD

6. **Wood Duck Production Dips Slightly at Squaw Creek NWR**
   Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR

7. **Refuge Exhibit at the Fillmore Mississippi Heritage Conference**
   Cynthia Samples,UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

8. **Migration Marvels Presented at Green Point ELC**
   Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

9. **Firefighters Provide Help on the Prairies**
   Ron Cole, Big Stone NWR

10. **Urban Interface Comes to Hamden Slough NWR**
    Michael Murphy,Hamden Slough NWR

11. **LaCrosse FRO Staff Teach Conservation Topics at Winona Middle School**
    Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

12. **Prescribed Burns at Mark Twain NWR - Brussels District**
    Russell Engelke, Mark Twain NWR-Brussels District

13. **Warm Weather Affects Fall-Spring Waterfowl Migrations**
    Ron Bell, R3-Squaw Creek NWR

14. **Minnesota Student Wins National Junior Duck Stamp Competition**
    Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

15. **One Eagle Nest Destroyed-A Second One Being Built**
    Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR

16. **Service Supports Tribal Fisheriest at LacVieux Desert Indian Reservation**
    David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH

17. **Christmas Bird Count**
Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR

18. **Aquaculture Class Tours Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery**
David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH

19. **Drought Conditions Continue at Cypress Creek NWR**
Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR

20. **Service Provides Adult Lake Trout to USGS Fish Health Research**
David Radloff, Pendills Creek NFH

21. **Service Joins State and Federal Law Enforcement at Missouri Road Checks**
Dan Burleson, St. Peters LE

22. **Demand For Outreach Grows at O'Hare Airport**
Keri Halpin, Chicago LE (Inspection)

23. **Scout Safari at Green Point Environmental Learning Center**
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

24. **Minnesota Celebrates Junior Duck Stamp Artists**
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

25. **Students Join Volunteers and Refuge Staff to Plant 250 Trees at Upper Mississippi River Refuge**
Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

26. **Gary Lagoons Natural Resource Damage Settlement Final**
Daniel Sparks, Bloomington FO

27. **Management Plan Will Protect Endangered Gray Bat at Indiana Ammunition Plant**
Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

28. **Fifth Graders Learn Radio Telemetry at Necedah NWR**
LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR

29. **Upper Mississippi River Refuges Survey Heron Rookery**
Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

30. **More Than 400 Students Clean Up Necedah NWR on Earth Day**
LuAnn Rochester,Necedah NWR

31. **Service Answers Questions at Public Meetings for EMP Pool 8 Phase III**
Mary Stefanski, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse District

32. **Ashland FRO Assists Tribes With Spring Walleye Surveys**
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

33. **Service Review of Manuscript on Biomarkers for Chemical Exposure in Fish Accepted**
Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

34. **Wetland Restoration from Saginaw NRDA Described to University Students**
Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

35. **Shiawasee NWR Hosts Dedication for Proposed Great Lakes Discovery Center**
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

36. **National Wildlife Week Popular in LaCrosse, Wis.**
Mary Stefanski,UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse District

37. **Students Redesign Upper Mississippi River Refuge During Earth Day Celebration**
Darla Wenger, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

38. **Service Assists Indian Commission Survey Walleye Populations in Ceded Territory of Wisconsin**
Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

39. **Mud & Treasure Exhibit Held Over at DeSoto**
Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR

40. **Service Helps National Park Service Plan Resource Inventories**
Tom Busiahn, Ashland FRO

Inside Region 3

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