

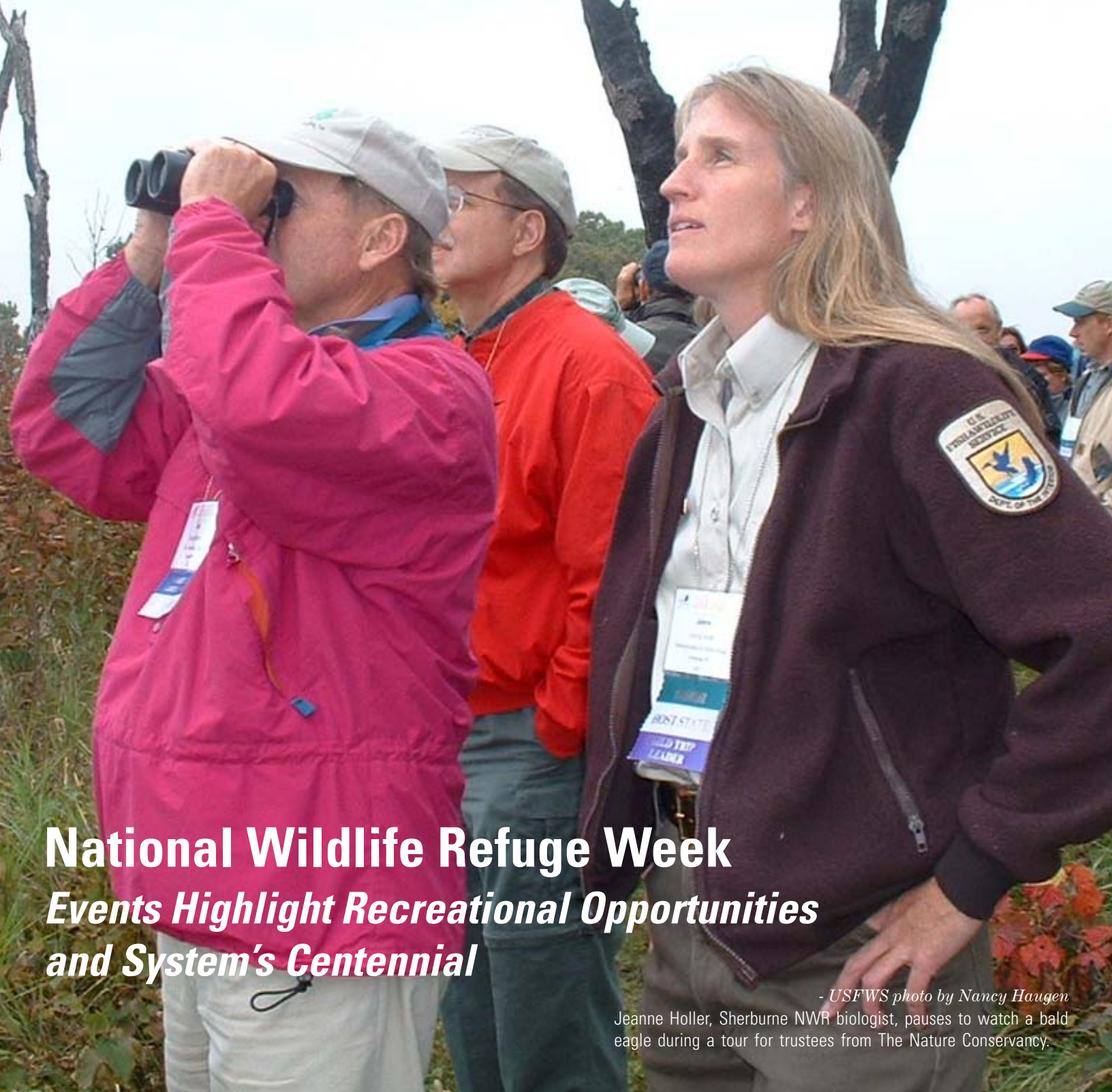


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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

*Information from the Accomplishment
Reporting System for Oct. 1 - Oct. 31, 2002*



National Wildlife Refuge Week
***Events Highlight Recreational Opportunities
and System's Centennial***

- USFWS photo by Nancy Haugen
Jeanne Holler, Sherburne NWR biologist, pauses to watch a bald eagle during a tour for trustees from The Nature Conservancy.

National Wildlife Refuge Week Events

National Wildlife Refuges across the country celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week, Oct. 13-19. Regional events during the week focused on partnerships, recreational opportunities and the upcoming Centennial.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge celebrated with two special school field trip days on Oct. 16 and 18, an off-site school program on the 17th and an open house on the 19th. More than 315 students and adults participated from eight schools and seven communities in the school programs.

The open house on Saturday included a guided bird watching tour of the refuge, a goose talk and a drawing for prizes donated by Friends of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Midwest Interpretive Association, Marsh Country Feeders, Common Ground Distributors, Marsh Master, Uncle Dave's Enterprise, Project WET and others.

Ten volunteers supported activities, and without their participation and leadership, the celebration wouldn't have been so successful. *Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*



- USFWS photo by Molly Stoddard.

Refuge Volunteer Dennis Greeninger (standing far right) from Oshkosh, Wis., helps lead the bird watching tour during National Wildlife Refuge Week at Horicon NWR.



- USFWS photo by Molly Stoddard.

A student from Jefferson Elementary in Beaver Dam, Wis., takes a moment to identify plants and start a nature journal as part of National Wildlife Refuge Week activities at Horicon NWR.

More than 400 visitors attended the ninth annual Wildlife Festival held Oct. 12, at **Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge**. This wildlife-centered event celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week and highlighted the upcoming Centennial. The day included two guided bird tours, three nature walks, four presentations on wildlife and wildlife-dependent activities, a hay ride with wildlife interpreters and 10 activities and interactive exhibits that provided opportunities for learning about plants, animals and wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation activities. The event was made possible with assistance from the Friends of Sherburne, 71 refuge volunteers, four partner organizations and 19 business sponsors. *Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*

National Wildlife Refuge System Week Events (continued)

Building Habitat Together was the theme of this year's celebration at **Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge**. The refuge teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and combined a dedication of the refuge's Environmental Management Program

projects with fun and educational activities. Approximately 100 visitors braved chilly temperatures and overcast conditions to enjoy a day at the refuge.

Regional Director Bill Hartwig spoke about the refuge system's contribution to improving wildlife habitat and its upcoming Centennial celebration. Col. Robert Ball spoke of the Corps' pride in the projects they have put in the river as part of EMP and presented Rick Frietsche, former manager at Trempealeau, and the J.F. Brennan Company, contractor of the project, with certificates of appreciation for the team approach that was taken to produce a quality project. Matt Nikolay from Senator Russ Feingold's office expressed the Senator's commitment to EMP and Congressman Ron Kind spoke about the benefits of river wildlife to the community and the improved habitat provided by EMP. Bea Stellpflug, longtime volunteer on the refuge and frequent refuge visitor, expressed her appreciation for the habitat changes created by the EMP projects on the refuge.

The talks were followed by tours of the project areas. After the tours, visitors participated in numerous



- USFWS photo by Joya Szalwinski

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District Commander Col. Robert Ball, Congressman Ron Kind and Service Regional Director Bill Hartwig (left to right) attended a celebration at Trempealeau NWR highlighting the success of the Environmental Management Program.

activities including building bluebird and bat boxes, making bleach print bandanas and pinecone bird feeders, listening to stories and music by the locally famous "river rat" Kenny Salwey and the Talkwalkers.

The day concluded with an Owl Prowl that allowed visitors to use their night senses. *Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR*

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week in conjunction with its annual Fall Festival. More than 350 visitors participated in activities and viewed displays and presentations.

Children went on a "Wild Blue Goose Chase" scavenger hunt that took them to programs on wolves, a history of the National Wildlife Refuge System, crafts, storytelling and ended with a visit from Puddles, the blue goose.

Upon completion of the "goose chase," all participants received a blue goose mini-beanie baby key chain with information about the Centennial.

A display about the Centennial and the Centennial time capsule, as well as a variety of other displays about the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and related programs were also in the exhibit area. *Ken Garrahan, Prairie Wetlands Learning Center*



- USFWS photo by Scott Flaherty

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Paul Hoffman (left), talks with Tom Kerr (center) and Refuge Manager Rick Schultz at Minnesota Valley's Refuge Week event on Oct. 19.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Restores Habitat on Private Land

Since 1987, Region 3's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program has worked in cooperation with thousands of landowners and conservation partners to restore more than 270,000 acres of privately owned fish and wildlife habitats. More than 18,000 acres were restored in fiscal year 2002.

Originally a pilot project in western Minnesota, the program was first offered to local landowners to restore "prairie potholes." Since then, more than 24,000 landowners have voluntarily restored more than 1 million acres across the U.S. through the program.

To complete these cooperative projects on the local level, the Service's fish and wildlife biologists have partnered with state and local agencies, conservation organizations and individuals. Partner's generous contributions of financial and in-kind services, including labor, materials and equipment, have funded the construction costs for many of the restored habitats.

Here are just a few examples of the projects completed this year.

Wild Rice Planted in Headwaters of Thunder Bay River

Staff from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program at the Alpena Fishery Resources Office planted 10 bushels of wild rice in a 40-acre flooded field owned by the Beaver Lake Hunt Club on Oct. 10. The flooded area is in the headwaters of the Thunder Bay River.

The Hunt Club is located in the southwest section of Alpena County, Mich., and is a 1,300-acre private hunting club. Members primarily hunt deer but are searching for ways to improve habitat for a number of wildlife species including turkey, partridge, migratory birds and brook trout.

Service staff and four members of the hunt club used canoes to plant the rice. Technical difficulties ensued when one of the canoes flipped twice. Luckily, a majority of the rice had already been planted before the canoe flipped.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife program biologists will assess the success this project to determine if

the planting of wild rice as a viable means of improving wetland habitat. *Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*



- USFWS photo by Heather Enterline
Landowner Todd Broad prepares to cast wild rice seed into a 40-acre wetland at the headwaters of the Thunder Bay River.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project Helps Cub Scouts Work Toward Earning Conservation Badge

Cub Scout Pack 549 from Verona, Wis., assisted in dry sand prairie and oak savanna restoration on a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program project.

The Scouts worked on invasive species removal, interpretive sign construction and garbage clean-up on a remnant dry sand prairie. Midway through their work, they took a break and learned about state endangered ornate box turtles, which are endemic to the area.

Bob Hay, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources herpetologist, provided hands-on experience with live turtles and explained the life history and habitat requirements of turtles.

The scout's contributions to this project bring them a step closer toward earning their Conservation Badge. *Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc.*



- USFWS photo

Cub Scouts learned about ornate box turtles and assisted with a restoration project as part of earning their Conservation Badge.

Fiscal Year 2002 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Continued)

Fiscal year 2002 was another successful one for the Ashland Fishery Resources Office's Private Lands program. One stream and 15 wetland restoration projects were completed in the FRO's eight-county area of responsibility. A total of 231 acres of wetlands were restored/established and 46 acres of upland habitat were enhanced and protected through management agreements.

Project sizes ranged from the one-half-acre Theil wetland restoration to the establishment of the 195-acre Sugarbush Impoundment on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. The Holoubek stream restoration project in Price County narrowed the stream in section and restored meanders, riffles and pools on a heavily degraded 1,000-foot section of the Little Elk River.

From the smallest to the largest, these projects have restored and enhanced quality habitat for the

area's fish and wildlife. Species such as gray wolves, bald eagles, American black ducks and brook trout rely on the region's wetland, stream and riparian areas for their survival. Trumpeter swans, which because of recent transplants have been gaining a foothold in northern Wisconsin, will depend on the area's healthy wetland systems.

With the vast majority of wildlife habitat being on private land and thousands of acres being lost to development each year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Private Lands Program is more important than ever in protecting and preserving wetlands where swans trumpet and brook trout swim.

The Holoubek stream restoration project was completed in 2002. This cooperative project was spearheaded by the Price County Land Conservation District with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The landowner also donated many hours of his time as well as the bulldozer used during construction. Students from the Phillips School District also played a key role in the project by volunteering their help in the initial revegetation and will conduct final tree



- Photos by Butch Lobermeier,
Price County LCD

Holoubek stream before (top) and after (bottom) the Partners for Fish and Wildlife restoration project. The Service worked with Price County, the Wisconsin DNR and the landowner to successfully complete this project.

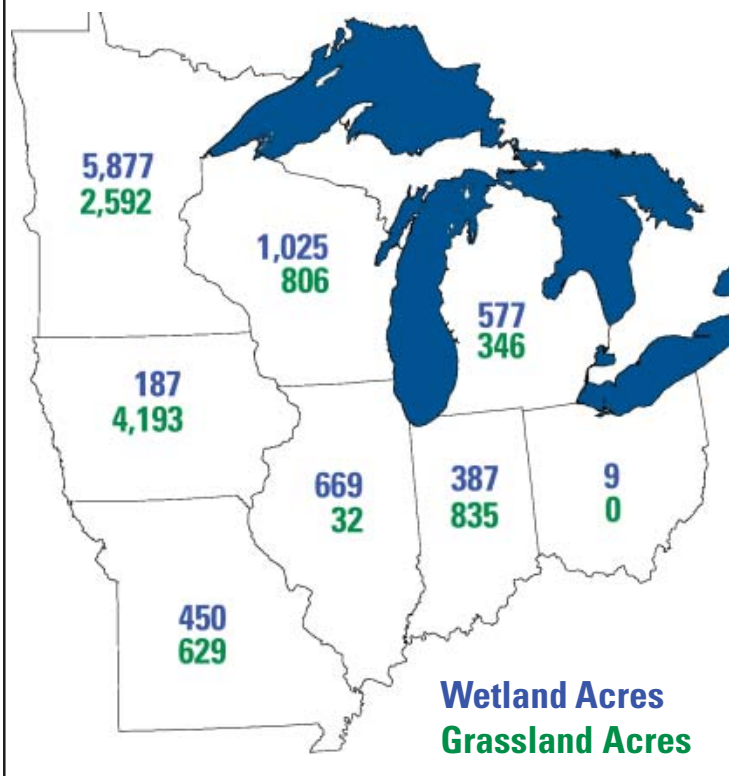


planting this spring.

The site, located on the Little Elk River in Price County, Wis., had been heavily impacted by years of intense cattle access. In total, 1,000 feet of stream were restored. The course was narrowed, large boulders strategically placed, and riffles, meanders and pools were created. The riparian area has been fenced, seeding and initial tree planting has taken place. Final tree planting will be conducted next spring.

Brook trout have already been observed using the newly restored stretch of river as well as songbirds, ducks and geese. *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

Acres Restored through Partners For Fish and Wildlife Fiscal Year 2002



Regional Divers Work to Save Endangered Species, Track Invasive Species

Team Completes Zebra Mussel Sampling on Wisconsin's Lake Metonga

Despite seven inches of snow, 30 degree temps and 20 mph winds, on Oct. 21, divers completed surveys for zebra mussels in Lake Metonga in northeastern Wisconsin's Forest County. This is the first year of a long-term monitoring plan developed for the lake. The dive team was comprised of Nick Rowse, Twin Cities Field Office; Scott Yess, LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office; Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO; and, Mike Preul, aquatic biologist for the Sokaogon Chippewa Community - Mole Lake Band.

The dive team completed five transects throughout the lake shore, quantifying the habitat, water depth and densities of zebra mussels. This data will be added to the sampling information collected earlier in the year to complete the first part of the monitoring plan.

Unfortunately, the results do not bode well for Lake Metonga. All the transect sites found adult and juvenile zebra mussels, with one transect

showing densities up to 96 zebra mussels per quarter-meter sampled. Zebra mussels were found on most substrates, including a dead rusty crayfish and Eurasian water milfoil (both exotics to the lake) and a native plant, Elodea.

As the dive team was leaving the lake, another unfortunate find was discovered at the boat ramp. Outlet Creek, which flows out of the southern basin of Lake Metonga, had Eurasian water milfoil and Elodea caught on rocks below the small dam on the creek. Attached to the plant material



- USFWS photo by Glenn Miller

Nick Rowse, Twin Cities FO; Mike Preul, Mole Lake Band; Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO (left to right) and Glenn Miller (not shown), Ashland FRO, braved snow and freezing temps to monitor zebra mussels on Lake

were juvenile zebra mussels, which appear to be drifting down the creek and moving toward Rice Lake. The lake is located on the Mole Lake Reservation and flows into the upper watershed of the Wolf River system. *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*

Divers Step Up Efforts to Save the Endangered Higgins' Eye Pearlmussel From Extinction



- USFWS photo by Gary Wege

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Diver Mike Davis holds three-month old Higgins' eye pearlymussels collected from cages in Lake Pepin.

In April 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided a biological opinion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Upper Mississippi River's nine-foot channel project.

Zebra mussels, an invasive species that are devastating to native freshwater mussels, are transported by towboats and other large craft to upstream areas on the Upper Mississippi River using the locks and dams. Because of this, the Service determined that operation and maintenance of the project for an additional 50 years would jeopardize the continued existence of the Higgins' eye pearlymussel. The Service recommended that the Corps establish populations of Higgins' eye in areas with no/few zebra mussels and

implement a zebra mussel control program.

The Corps accepted the Service's recommendations, developed a Higgins' Eye Pearlymussel Relocation Plan and established an Inter-agency Mussel Coordination Team to assist in implementing the biological opinion requirements.

Since 2000, a variety of conservation measures have been implemented, including genetics studies, mussel culture at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, establishing cage culturing locations in the Upper Mississippi River and tributaries, stocking juvenile mussels, relocating adult mussels, stocking glochidia inoculated fish, cleaning and stockpiling adults and survey/monitoring

Continued next page

"Divers" continued from previous page

activities.

In 2002, the Mussel Conservation Team: constructed over 90 host fish cages; collected 56 gravid female Higgins' eye mussels for culture at Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Wisconsin; inoculated 7,500 host fish with Higgins' eye glochidia; installed 55 cages with inoculated host fish in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois; released 3,300 glochidia inoculated fish in Iowa and Wisconsin; cleaned and stockpiled 547 adult Higgins' eye in Illinois and Wisconsin; surveyed native mussels and zebra mussel veligers in the Upper Mississippi River and tributaries; and, moni-

tored Higgins' eye mussels in cages and at two adult relocation sites.

In 2000 and 2001, 471 adult Higgins' eye were relocated to the Twin Cities reach of the Upper Mississippi River which has few zebra mussels. Adults were monitored in September; survival was high and gravid females were found indicating that the relocation is successful so far. No zebra mussels were found on the relocated adults.

Host fish cages were also monitored. High water throughout the summer adversely affected cage culture in Pool 1; many cages were buried with sediment. However, in

Pool 4, cage culture was successful and 560 young mussels (three months old) were collected from 10 cages. In addition, 180 mussels born last summer and relocated to a marked cage in the Lower St. Croix River had excellent survival and growth. Genoa NFH currently have more than 1,000 sub-adult Higgins' eye mussels ready to relocate next summer to establish a new population.

More activities will follow in 2003 as this long-term program continues to protect Higgins' eye pearlymussels from extinction.

Gary Wege, Twin Cities ES

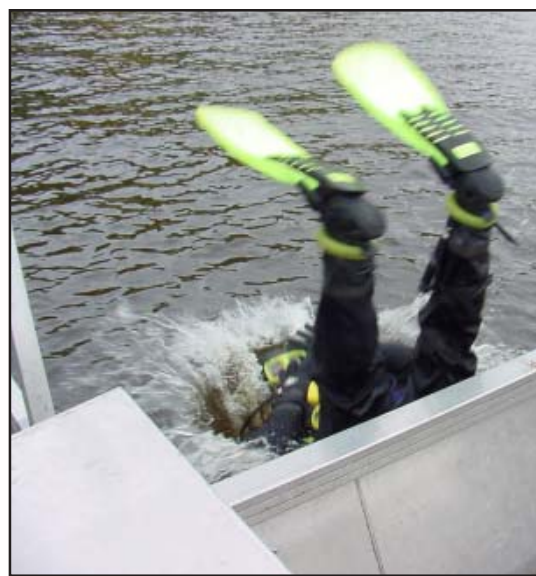
Dive Team Locates Leading Edge of Zebra Mussels in the St. Croix River

Divers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission searched for zebra mussels during the first week of October. Divers searched the St. Croix River, starting just north of the Stillwater Bridge and working south. The dive team changed their monitoring technique in an effort to cover the substrate more thoroughly and attempted to detect the leading edge of zebra mussel reproduction.

This strategy worked and the first sign of reproduction was determined to be just north of Bayport, Minn., at river mile 20.5. The exotic mussels were found near a small marina and

a popular boating location. Reproduction was apparent, however, the number of zebra mussels were not greater than one per square meter.

During the summer, two additional monitoring dives were conducted. Data from the three dives will be analyzed along with data from multi-plate monitoring to form recommendations which will be presented to the St. Croix Zebra Mussel Task Force. Nick Rowse (USFWS) and Bob Whaley (NPS) presented the results of the October dive at the St. Croix Research Rendezvous. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*



- USFWS Photo

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO, plunges into the St. Croix River to search for zebra mussels.

Divers Continue to Search for Endangered Winged Maple Leaf Mussels in St. Croix River



Divers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission assisted Dr. Mark Hove from the University of Minnesota, in locating winged maple leaf mussels (shown on left).

Winged maple leaf mussels are an endangered species only found in a short stretch of the St. Croix River near Taylor's Falls, Wis.

To help increase populations of

this mussel, researchers are trying to determine its host fish species. A critical step to this research is finding gravid winged maple leaf samples.

To date, this has been a major obstacle. Of the nearly 30 mussels found, only one has been gravid.

Three days of diving were devoted to searching for the rare mussel. However, the effort was unsuccessful. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

Cruising the Upper Mississippi River

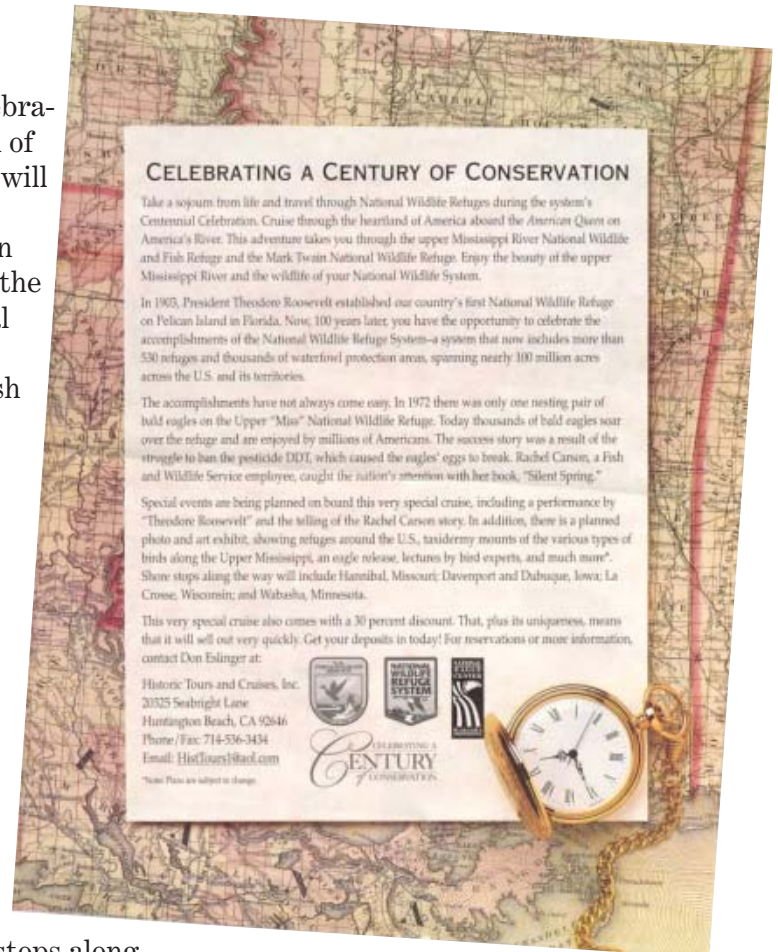
Take a sojourn from life and travel through national wildlife refuges during the System's Centennial Celebration. Cruise the Mississippi River through the heartland of America on-board the American Queen. This adventure will take you through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and a portion of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Enjoy the beauty of the Upper Mississippi River and the wildlife of your National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge has partnered with the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Historic Tours and Cruises, Inc., and the National Eagle Center to offer a tour "*Celebrating A Century of Conservation*" on-board the American Queen Steamboat traveling on America's River -- the Mighty Mississippi.

The journey will be complete with a Teddy Roosevelt impersonator, Mississippi Mud pie and the best birding seat around -- the deck the American Queen.

Special events are being planned on-board this very special cruise, including: Backwater Birding with the Blue Goose; Eagle Days; Photo Exhibits and Movies; Mississippi Mud and Mussels Day; Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges; and a Time Capsule a Float.

The cruise will depart from St. Louis, Mo., on July 26 and arrive in St. Paul, Minn., on Aug. 2, making several stops along the way. For more information about shore city celebrations contact: MN -- Mary Stefanski, WI -- Pam Dryer, IL -- Pam Steinhaus, IA -- Tim Loose, and on-board cruise information -- Cindy Samples, UMRNW&FR- HQ



Centennial is Service Focus at International Watchable Wildlife Conference

The Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System was the primary message provided to more than 250 wildlife tourism representatives attending the national Watchable Wildlife Conference Oct. 16-18, in St. Paul, Minn.

Staff from the Regional External Affairs office joined members of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to staff a Centennial display during the three-day conference, held at the St. Paul Radisson hotel. In addition to the display, the Service provided guest speakers and input to the conference's educational curriculum, titled, "A Vision For Wildlife." Dan Ashe, chief of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-

tem, was a keynote speaker Oct. 17. Ashe spoke to the group about Teddy Roosevelt and the origins of the refuge system. Rick Schultz, refuge manager at Minnesota Valley NWR, spoke later the same day to a work group about the public support that helped create Minnesota Valley NWR.

The conference provided an excellent vehicle to share information about the Service, the refuge system and the Centennial to key professionals in the wildlife viewing and wildlife tourism trades. Staff at the Centennial display filled numerous requests for information about the refuge system and the Centennial. The highlight of the conference

was the Oct. 17 premiere of a new IMAX Film, "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees" at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The special screening for conference participants was followed by a guest lecture from Dr. Jane Goodall. Following the lecture, a short video on Minnesota Valley NWR was shown to select members of the conference. The video was produced by Watchable Wildlife Inc., in high-definition video. The film crew, a group of graduate film students from Montana State University, will return to the refuge this winter to continue filming areas of the refuge. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

Volunteers Assist With Summertime Paddlefish Survey on "Old Man River"

Summertime, and the livin' is easy
S.... paddlefish are jumpin' on the
Upper Mississippi ...

While this musical lyric may not make it on Broadway, it could well have been on the lips of many volunteers who frequently assisted the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office this summer. The volunteers assisted with field work on "Old Man River" to evaluate paddlefish use of Polander Lake in Upper Mississippi River Navigation Pool 5A, near Winona, Minn.

This netting survey, funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Paul District, helped evaluate the impact to paddlefish of a recently constructed artificial island complex and associated dredging activities.

One or more of sixteen volunteers accompanied La Crosse FRO staff on 21 of their 46 sampling dates during the course of the 28-week (April-October) field season and contributed a total of 264 hours in support of this project. In addition, nearly two dozen employees stationed at nearby Service offices (Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona, La Crosse, and McGregor Districts; Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge; Necedah National Wildlife Refuge; La Crosse Fish Health Center; and,



Volunteers Tom Brockman and Bill Brockman, and Upper Mississippi NWFR Intern Curtis Store (left to right) display three paddlefish captured, evaluated and released during the survey.

the Twin Cities Regional Office) enthusiastically volunteered to participate in the survey when invited to go fishing on the river. For some of these individuals, the day-long outings represented the first professional fisheries experience of their career.

A total of 14 paddlefish that

ranged in size from eight to 58 pounds were captured, tagged and released at several sites around the lake during the survey. Likewise, a total of 21 lake sturgeon (another migratory species related to the paddlefish) that ranged in size from 14 to 43

pounds were coincidentally caught and tagged. Before these fish were released, a small portion of fin tissue was collected from each and preserved as samples for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources researchers to use in a statewide genetics analysis of lake sturgeon populations.

Besides the opportunity for volunteers to take part in catching some of these remarkable fish and perhaps have their picture taken with one of them before its release, survey participants also gained a greater awareness of the diverse assemblage of native fauna that inhabit the river (e.g., fishes, reptiles, mollusks) and the ecological threats posed by expanding populations of invasive species.

Analysis of the paddlefish catch data is now underway and a project report is scheduled for completion early in 2003. *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*



- USFWS photos by Mark Steingraeber

A La Crosse FRO volunteer releases a 58-pound paddlefish. This was the largest paddlefish caught during the seven-month survey.

More Canoes Launched in "Paddle to the Sea" Project

On Oct. 16, the Red River Basin Institute, River Keepers of Fargo, N.D., and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsored a launch of tiny canoes throughout the Red River basin to promote awareness of the Red River watershed.

The activity is inspired by the H.C. Hollings children's story, "Paddle to the Sea," in which a young boy in Canada carves a wooden figure in a canoe and sets it forth on a journey to the sea from the north shore of Lake Superior.

The project involves more than 10 schools and 400 students from Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba.

Each canoe is uniquely numbered and registered on the Red River Basin Institute's website. Each canoe contains instructions asking

those who find them to post an update on the website.

Teachers will use this info to integrate math, geography and other subjects into the canoe launch program.

Two of the canoes are outfitted with satellite transmitters and will be tracked through a satellite tracking system. These data will be down-linked to the Institute and posted on the website.

Several National Wildlife Refuge System offices in Regions 3 and 6 are supporting the project through their local schools.

In Region 6, Arrowwood NWR and Wetland Management District, Valley City WMD and Tewaukon NWR are coordinating launches on the Sheyenne River and North Dakota's Wild Rice River.



- USFWS photo

A Moorhead eighth-grader prepares to launch his canoe into the Red River of the North.

In Region 3, Fergus Falls WMD, the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and Detroit Lakes WMD are coordinating activities on the Ottertail, Pelican and Buffalo rivers.

Progress of the canoes can be followed at: <http://www.tri-college.org/watershed/> Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Five Missouri Men Sentenced for Poaching Elk in Colorado

On Oct. 21, 2002, the last of five Missouri men were sentenced in Gunnison, Colo., for illegally killing seven elk and wounding an eighth. The sentencing comes exactly two years after the men began their Colorado hunt. This investigation was conducted jointly by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Dan Burleson, Missouri Department of Conservation Agent Sean Pennington and Colorado Investigator Eric Schaller.

On Oct. 21, 2000, five men from Missouri and one from Illinois went to Colorado for an elk hunting trip. The men decided to purchase only three elk tags, because on prior trips they were not able to fill all the party's hunting tags.

On the first morning of their hunt, the man from Illinois killed and tagged an elk. Shortly after, Brandon Johnston shot and killed an elk. Johnston had not purchased an elk tag as he had not taken a hunter safety course.

Later that day, Clifford Lawing killed one cow and two bull elk, and wounded another bull. Lawing also did not have an elk tag, again because he also had not taken a hunter safety course.

Near Lawing, Ralph Murphy shot twice, killing two elk. Earlier, Murphy had also illegally killed a mule deer for camp meat. Murphy tagged one of his elk with his elk tag. Dustin Bonham loaned his elk tag to cover Johnston's elk and Stacey Guffey later purchased an elk tag to cover one of Lawing's elk.

Ultimately, the six hunters returned to Missouri with four elk racks and some meat from Johnston and the Illinois hunter's elk. The rest of the elk meat was left to rot in Colorado.

Johnston, Guffey and Bonham received citations from the state of Colorado. Johnston paid a total of \$1,712.30 in fines and court costs. Guffey paid a total \$411.25 in fines and court costs and Bonham paid a

total of \$342.25 in fines and court costs. All three defendants cooperated with the investigation.

Lawing and Murphy were both arrested in Missouri and had initial court appearances in Colorado. On July 26, 2002, Lawings accepted a plea agreement from the state of Colorado. He pled guilty to a felony count of willful destruction of big game, and was sentenced to 90 days detention, three years probation, 200 hours community service, \$3,500 in restitution and \$1,755 in fines and court costs.

On Oct. 21, 2002, Murphy pled guilty to a misdemeanor count of illegal possession of wildlife, three or more animals. Murphy was sentenced to 30 days detention, two years probation, 200 hours community service and \$6,700 in fines, restitution and court costs.

The Illinois man was not charged during this investigation. Dan Burleson, St. Peters LE

The Votes Are In: Longnose Dace Named Official Fish of Chicago

After two weeks of voting, the city of Chicago selected the longnose dace as its official fish. During the campaign, the longnose dace was described as “A native North American minnow that lives on the beaches throughout Chicago. These minnows ride the waves, so to speak, amidst thousands of bathers each summer and nobody seems to even notice them. Grab a pair of goggles or a mask and watch them surf!”

Similar candidate information was given for each of six species running for the title of Chicago's Official Fish. The public election was held between Sept. 14 and 29. A total of 10,447 votes were cast and the order in which nominees were chosen is as follows: (1) Longnose Dace; (2) Yellow Perch; (3) Lake Sturgeon; (4) Bluegill; (5) Banded Killifish; (6) Lake Trout.

Staff from the Service's Chicago Field Office served on a panel of



Photo by Konrad Schmidt, University of Minnesota

The longnose dace (pictured above) was recently voted the official fish of Chicago.

experts (which also included biologists from the Chicago Department of Environment, Chicago Park District, US Army Corps of Engineers, The Shedd Aquarium, Lake Michigan Federation, as well as outdoor writers from the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun Times) that nominated the six

species for the election.

The event is part of a program designed to educate Chicago residents about a range on issues concerning local bird and fish species. The city previously selected the peregrine falcon as its official bird. *Michael Redmer, Chicago FO*

Whooping Crane Partnership Lands on Front Page of Chicago Tribune

Media relations efforts by Region 3 External Affairs during this

year's whooping crane migration resulted in numerous stories in regional news media.

Among the most notable stories was a page 1 article in the Nov. 1 edition of the Chicago Tribune. The “last minute” nature of the migration made media involvement quite a challenge. The decision to fly or not fly was made at 6 a.m., each day by pilots from

Operation Migration. As such, media members were reluctant to agree to drive lengthy distances to cover an event that was “iffy” at best.

Prompted by a promising weather forecast for Oct. 31 in the area south of Chicago, Scott Flaherty made phone calls to numerous members of the Chicago media. Amy Nevala, a reporter with the Chicago Tribune travelled south to Bourbonnais, Ill., to report on the morning's flight.

A weather delay of two hours allowed her and her photographer to interview and photograph nearly all aspects of the migration and key WCEP team members.

After a 49-day migration, the whooping cranes reached Chassahowitzka NWR on Nov. 30. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*



- USFWS photo by Scott Flaherty

The partnership effort to restore a migratory flock of whooping cranes in the eastern U.S. continues to draw national media attention.

Lake Huron Fall Lake Trout Spawning Surveys Completed for 2002

Full lake trout spawning surveys were completed at two offshore reefs, Six Fathom Bank and Yankee Reef, in Lake Huron, Oct. 17-24.

These annual surveys are conducted by the Alpena Fishery Resources Office with the crew of the M/V Togue to evaluate spawning stocks at these important Lake Huron reef complexes.

The Six Fathom Bank Refuge is one of only a few locations in Lake Huron where natural reproduction has been documented. Catch rates at these two sites are among the highest in the lake and have the



- USFWS photo

Service biologists use the M/V Togue to gill net lake trout at locations around the Great Lakes.

potential to serve as epicenters for lake trout rehabilitation in Lake Huron.

Six Fathom Bank was surveyed Oct. 17-18 with three sets of 4.5-6-inch graded mesh gill nets. Yankee Reef was surveyed with two sets of 4.5-6-inch graded mesh gill nets, Oct. 23-24. Total catch per unit of effort for Six Fathom Bank and Yankee Reef was 123.3 and 110 lake trout per 1,000 feet of net, respectively.

In addition to standard spawning assessment, tissue and egg samples were collected to assist with research projects associated with Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) and contaminant loads.



- USFWS photo by Emily Zollweg

Project Leader Jerry McClain, Biologist Adam Kowalski and Biologist Anjanette Bowen (left to right) assess lake trout on the deck of the Togue.

Researchers from the USGS - Wellsboro Lab and Lake Superior State University were provided eggs from mature female lake trout for the EMS studies and gill and liver tissues were provided to a graduate student at Michigan State University for the contaminant testing. *Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*

Service Helps Educate Michigan Legislators on Aquatic Nuisance Species

On Oct. 2, Craig Czarnecki, Chris Mensing and Bob Kavetsky of the East Lansing Field Office, as well as Anjanette Bowen of the Alpena Fishery Resources Office, joined about 75 Michigan legislators, managers and stakeholders participating in Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention Day at the State Capitol.

The Governor declared this day to raise awareness of current and impending threats to Michigan's ecosystems from non-native species.

With the help of the Michigan Private Lands Office and the Onalaska Fishery Resources Office, living and preserved materials

were displayed in the north wing of the Capitol, including a 25-pound bighead carp captured at this summer's round goby round-up in Illinois.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality held this one-day event to provide information to the legislature and to celebrate updating the ANS Management Plan for the first time in seven years.

Czarnecki and Kavetsky serve on the ANS action team that updated the plan.

Follow-up activities are expected from this event, with further opportunities for other Service involvement. *Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO*



- USFWS photo

East Lansing Field Office Biologist Chris Mensing explains aquatic nuisance species prevention activities to the Michigan Sea Grant's mascot "Zelda the Zebra Mussel" at the Service's display in the Michigan Capitol.

Fall Fun Day at Upper Mississippi River Refuge Brings Big Rewards

Jackie Vick was impressed, asking, “could you have planned it any better?” Vick, a consulting teacher for the Hiawatha Valley Education District was referring to a fishing demonstration by Upper Mississippi River NWFR Biological Technician Jennifer Lilla. During the demonstration, Lilla explained how to use the spin cast reels and said, “You’ll catch a fish, just like this.” Lilla cast into the water and immediately reeled in a sunfish. The kids, from the district’s developmental adapted physical education program, screamed with delight.

The Fall Fun Day event was organized to provide activities for children with special needs.

The day was made possible with the help of the refuge’s Friends group, Cabelas and flex-funding. This year, the fishing rods and reels were purchased with the funds from the Friends group and flex-funding. The Prairie du Chien Cabelas’ store provided the poles at their cost.

The many smiles after the kids caught their first fish were the only rewards need for all the effort. *Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*



- USFWS photo by Cindy Samples

Jennifer Lilla, Upper Mississippi River NWFR, helps a child take a fish off his hook.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between Oct. 1 and Nov. 1, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

Media Outreach Success — Whooping Crane Story Lands on Front Page of Chicago Tribune
Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Service Biologist Learn about Japan’s Invasive Largemouth Bass
Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

Watercraft Safety Training (MOCC) Has A Record Year
Patrick McDermott, ABA (Engineering)

The Bat Box, Bird Box Boys
Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

Winona Senior High Students Discover Service/Fishery Management
Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Remote Data Entry Training Offered
William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Regional Office Employees Participated in the Annual Eyeglass Drive
Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

Fall Seed Cleaning Completed at Fergus Falls
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Alpena Fishery Resources Office Provides Fish Specimens for Notre Dame Diet Study
Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Green Bay Fishery Office Monitors Lake Trout Restoration in Lake Michigan
Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

October Diversity Report
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Diversity Report
Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

DCR Coordinates Wellness Training for Regional Office Employees
Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

Metzger Marsh Research Planning Meeting
Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Ashland Private Lands Program - FY 2002 Accomplishments
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Alpena Fishery Resources Office Involved with Fishery Issues in the St. Marys River
Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Planning Continues for Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Meeting
Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

A Record Year for the Great Lakes Piping Plover
Jack Dingleline, East Lansing FO

South Dakota State University Students Learn About Minnesota Prairie Chickens

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Rice Lake Refuge Honors Volunteers

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Alpena Fishery Resources Office Conducts Surveillance for Aquatic Invasives in Lake Huron

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Walleye Surveys With The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Ashland FRO Provides Fisheries Training for Journalists

Lee Newman, Ashland FRO

Friends of Rice Lake Refuge Get Organized

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Frechette Pine/Oak Barrens Restoration Project

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Lake Huron Lake Trout Spawning Surveys Completed

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Big Walleye Harvested at Rydell Refuge

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Two Bridges Repaired at Agassiz Refuge

Dave Bennett, Agassiz NWR

Volunteers Aid Paddlefish Survey on 'Old Man River'

Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO

Ongoing Efforts Support Lake Superior Binational Program

Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

Saving the Higgins' Eye Pearly Mussel From Extinction

Gary Wege, Twin Cities FO

Sea Lamprey Control Environmental Risk During 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Sea Lamprey Assessment for Spawning and Parasitic Phase During 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Sea Lamprey Control Diversity Accomplishments During 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Sea Lamprey Control Participation in International Symposium during 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Integrated Sea Lamprey Control in the St. Marys River During 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Planning Continues

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Radio Telemetry Aids in Trapping More Sea Lampreys in the St. Marys River During 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Sea Lamprey Assessment for Larval Phase During 2002

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

First Year of Round Goby Predation Study Completed in Lake Huron

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Zebra Mussel Sampling Completed on Lake Metonga

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Neal Smith Refuge Participates in Iowa State University Career Fair

Christy Smith, Neal Smith NWR

Refuge Float Earns First Place Honors at Local Parades

Candace Chambers, Great River NWR

Building Habitat Together at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR

Ecological Services Consults with DCR Staff on EEO Training Needs

Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

Service Presents Lake Michigan Biological Integrity Report at SOLEC 2002

Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO

Paddling Partnership Promotes Awareness of the Red River of the North

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

DCR Staff Arrange for Emergency Evacuation Presentation by Fire Department

Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

Refuge System Centennial is Service Focus at Watchable Wildlife Conference

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Celebrating a Century of Conservation on board the American Queen

Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

Aquatic Nuisance Species Control Techniques Demonstrated to Fish Managers and Researchers

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Surveys for Coaster Brook Trout Conducted on Isle Royale National Park

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Sherburne Refuge Hosts Tour For Nature Conservancy Trustees

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Celebrates Refuge Week

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

400 Attend Wildlife Festival at Sherburne Refuge

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts National Public Lands Day — Twice

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Additional Ruffe Captured in Lake Michigan

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

7th Annual Lighthouse Festival a Success

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Partners Program Plants Wild Rice at Beaver Lake

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Rice Lake Refuge Headquarters Gets New Look

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Fourth Grade Students Learn about Native Prairie

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Hamden Slough Refuge Reports Unusual Sighting of Ibis

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

A Wild Refuge Week at Horicon Refuge

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Wetland Restoration Work Continues On and Off Hamden Slough Refuge

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

Green Bay Fishery Office Assists With Environmental Field Day

Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Agassiz Refuge Receives New Semi and Lowboy

Dave Bennett, Agassiz NWR

Big Muddy Supports Missouri Master Manual Public Meeting

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Two Men Sentenced in Connection With Illegal Trade in Tigers and Leopards

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

High School Students To Assist in Monitoring Aquatic Nuisance Species in Lake Michigan

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Divers Continue to Search for Endangered Winged Maple Leaf Mussels

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Ashland Fisheries Office Assists Tribes With Fall Walleye Surveys

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Nearly Ten Percent Increase in Public Attendance at Minnesota Valley Refuge

Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

Dive Team Locates Leading Edge of Zebra Mussels in the St. Croix River

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

DCR Employee Attends Special Emphasis Program Manager's Training

Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

Chicago Makes Final Selection of Official City Fish

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

Focus Events Highlight Plans For State Centennial Celebrations

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Alpena Fishery Resources Office Participates in Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention Day

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

Michigan and Wisconsin Offices Team-Up for Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention Day

Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO

Addition to Visitor Center and Other Work-in-Progress at Rydell NWR

Marie Niesen, ABA (Engineering)

Fall Fun Day at Upper Mississippi Refuge

Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

Service Working with University of Minnesota on Status Assessments of Four Species

Laura Ragan, Ecological Services



**Inside Region 3
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