

IR3

Inside Region 3

September 24, 2004

In this issue:

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Remembering Volunteers**

New Project Leader at Ottawa NWR Selected

Doug Brewer has been selected as the new Refuge Manager at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Doug has served as the Supervisory Refuge Operations Specialist at Ottawa since 1997 and brings a wide range of skills and experiences to this new position. Doug has M.S. in biology from the University of Toledo, where he studied the effects of a managed water drawdown on a Lake Erie marsh. He also earned a Masters in Public Administration from Bowling Green University. Before coming to Ottawa he was a biologist with the Division of Endangered Species Listing and Recovery Office in Region 1. He has also worked as a biologist with the Corps of Engineers in Buffalo, New York. More recently he served as Acting Refuge Manager at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge during the Centennial Year and was instrumental in making one of the region's largest centennial events a success.

Doug's experience in Congressional relations, working with friends groups, and positive relations with the many partners and stakeholders at Ottawa make him an excellent choice for this position.

Seeking Nominations for the 2005 National Wildlife Refuge System Awards

Have you ever admired the dedication and talent of a coworker? Have you ever wanted to recognize a colleague for his/her outstanding work? Here's your chance!

The National Wildlife Refuge Association announced it is now accepting nominations for the 2005 National Wildlife Refuge System Awards.

The awards, sponsored by the National Wildlife Refuge Associa-

tion and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, honor outstanding accomplishments by refuge managers, refuge system employees, volunteers and friends groups. Recognizing the excellence of these individuals and groups not only highlights the dedication and devotion of those who support the refuge system, but also raises awareness about the diversity of the National Wildlife Refuge

Pete Fasbender Named as Acting Special Assistant to the Regional Director

Regional Director Robyn Thorson recently announced that Pete Fasbender, regional office ecological services biologist, will serve as Special Assistant in the Regional Director's office until mid-November.

Pete was one of the first people to express interest when the Special Assistant opportunity was announced last October, and it's taken many months before schedules properly matched to give him an opportunity to try the position.

System, the challenges it faces, and the innovative efforts across the country to meet those challenges.

Awards and Presentations

Award recipients will receive a commemorative plaque and a monetary award (\$1,000 for refuge manager, employee and volunteer awards; and, \$2,000 for friends group), and paid travel expenses to the award presentation. The Refuge Manager of the Year and Employee of the Year awards will be presented at the 70th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Mar. 16 - 19, 2005, in Arlington, Va. The Volunteer of the Year and the Friends Group of the Year awards will be presented at the 3rd National Refuge Friends Conference, Feb. 4 - 6, 2005, in Washington, D.C.

Nominations are due no later than November 15, 2005.

<http://www.refugenet.org/new-events/2005NWRSAwards.html> contains more information about the awards program. You can also download and print copies of the nomination form and guidelines from that web page.

About the cover:



- USFWS Photo

Volunteer banding instructor Rebecca Scott holds a wood duck that was captured, banded and released.

The Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) in Fergus Falls, Minn., partnered with the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and Fergus Falls Wetland Management District recently to complete a community-wide waterfowl banding effort.

HAPET staff presented a one-hour evening primer on "Why the Service Bands Migratory Birds and Current Waterfowl Banding Activities in the Surrounding Area," and a three-hour seminar on waterfowl capture and handling techniques. The seminar included waterfowl identification, set-up of several bait and trap sites and a practical banding session.

The banding session was presented by Rebecca Scott, our 12-year-old volunteer banding instructor. Rebecca demonstrated proper bird handling and banding procedures

The 12 local citizens who completed the training assisted HAPET staff to capture, band and release nearly 100 mallards and wood ducks on Aug. 27.

Anthony Rondeau, HAPET

\$1.26 Million Awarded to Tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin

Eight Native American tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are among 48 federally recognized tribes that will share 53 grants totaling nearly \$9 million to conserve and recover endangered, threatened and at-risk species and other wildlife on tribal lands in 22 states, Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced on Aug. 26.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding the grants under two programs initiated in 2003, the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP) and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program (TWG). These programs are similar to cost-share programs recently developed by the department to assist states, local communities, private landowners and other partners undertake wildlife conservation projects.

Last year, for example, the Service provided \$25.8 million in grants to states under the new Landowner Incentive Program to assist private landowners in conserving and restoring the habitat of endangered species and other at-risk plants and animals on their property.

“The number of grant requests coming from Indian Country was truly gratifying, far exceeding available funding,” said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams. “Still, for the first time, we are gaining a solid understanding of tribal wildlife management priorities and we hope this will make us better partners for tribes of all sizes that want to build capacity for wildlife management.”

Tribal Landowner Incentive Program grants totaling \$353,122 were awarded to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Michigan (\$110,881), the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (\$142,241) and White Earth Band of Chippewa (\$100,000) in Minnesota. Tribal Wildlife grants totaling \$910,404 were awarded to the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (\$129,261) and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (\$197,128) in Michigan, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (\$209,000) and Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians (\$249,000) in Minnesota and to the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (\$126,025) in Wisconsin.

Of the \$9 million, the Service is providing about \$3 million to federally recognized Indian tribes to help fund 25 projects under TLIP. Contributions from tribes and other partners raise the total value of these projects to \$4.4 million. The grants were chosen through a competitive process to address protection, restoration and management of habitat to benefit at-risk species, including federally listed endangered or threatened species and proposed or candidate species. The maximum award under this program is \$150,000 with a required minimum 25-percent match from non-federal funds.

Meanwhile, about \$6 million will help fund 28 projects under TWG. Contributions from tribes and other partners increase the total value of these projects to \$7.8 million. These grants are awarded to federally recognized Indian tribes to benefit fish, wildlife and their habitat including non-game species. Although matching funds are not required for these grants, they are considered to be an indicator of a tribe’s commitment. The maximum grant award under this program is \$250,000.

Additional information about grants is available on the Internet at <http://www.grants.fws.gov>.

Hail & Farewell

Region 3 is a dynamic organization. Quality employees are continuously coming to the region or leaving for new challenges.

Each month, we will do our best to publish a list of new employees, as well as those who have retired. Names are provided by the regional Human Resources Office.

This month, we welcome the following new term, temporary and student employees: **Henry K. Van Offelen**, La Crosse FRO; **Nicholas S. Adams**, Two Rivers NWR; **Damon N. Sather**, Branch of Ascertainment & Planning; **Thomas A. Thurlow**, Branch of Ascertainment & Planning; **Dylan L. Keith**, Human Resources; **John M. Finley**, Big Muddy NWR; **Heidi L. Keuler**, La Crosse FRO; **Julie A. Bohlen**, Horicon NWR; **Brian D. Harris**, Columbia FRO; and, **Larry A. Harrison**, Division of Migratory Birds.

This month we also welcome the following new permanent employees: **Joan E. Gauster**, Division of Federal Aid; **Michael J. Siefkes**, Marquette Biological Station; **Branda J. Long**, Minnesota Valley NWR; **Carolyn Rainey**, Rosemount, Ill., Law Enforcement.

We bid farewell and say thank you to the following retiree: **Scott W. Halstead**, Division of Contracting and General Services.

Have a View You Would Like to Share?

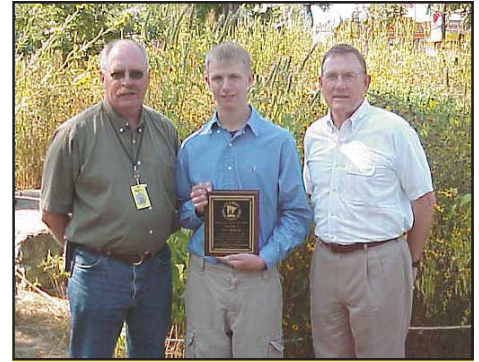
Send your articles to Chuck Traxler in the External Affairs Office. Phone: 612-713-5313 or email: charles_traxler@fws.gov

Service Employee's Son Wins State FFA Competition

Service Biologist John Braastad's son Cory has received several awards for his Future Farmers of America (FFA) Project completed at Agassiz NWR in 2002 and 2003. Cory spent about 200 hours volunteering on the refuge assisting researchers in the marshes on American and least bittern studies, collecting vegetative data, surveying in the Wilderness Area and on wetland restorations on private lands, cutting thistles from a butterfly garden, banding birds, and helping with general maintenance.

Cory's project was submitted for an award in the FFA Conservation Category and on Sept. 3, 2004, Minnesota DNR Commissioner Gene Merriam presented Cory with the 2004 DNR Commissioner's FFA Award. This statewide award recognizes an FFA youth who has demonstrated excellence in their secondary education conservation project.

Cory will now be competing at the national FFA convention in Louisville, Ky., this October. *Maggie Anderson, Agassiz NWR*



- USFWS Photo

Minnesota FFA State Director Joel Larson (left) and Minnesota DNR Commissioner Gene Merriam (right) present Cory with his award during a ceremony held at the Minnesota State Fair.

Annual Survey Shows Invasive Round Goby Increasing in Illinois River

Service representatives from eight field offices (four Fisheries, two Ecological Services and two Refuges) in Illinois and Wisconsin recently participated in the 9th annual Goby Roundup and 3rd annual Asian Carp Corral, a four-day survey to determine the range and relative abundance of these invasive fish in the uppermost one-third of the Illinois Waterway System. Other survey participants included representatives from four federal, one state, and two regional resource agencies, four private businesses, and two educational institutions. With a fleet of 12 boats, this surveillance encompassed a 105-mile continuous reach that included parts of the Calumet-Sag Channel, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Des Plaines River, and the Illinois River from south Chicago downstream to Spring Valley, Ill.

Round goby were surveyed in near shore habitats throughout the study area, primarily with smelt-baited wire-mesh minnow traps set overnight. Meanwhile, sampling efforts for Asian carp were more widely scattered in the study area

and relied mostly upon trammel, gill, and fyke nets set overnight.

Results of the 2004 survey indicated the distribution and relative abundance of round goby increased substantially in many portions of the study area during the past year. The standardized catch of round goby in minnow traps set in each of the five sample regions located furthest upstream was more than double that of 2003 and was about 10-fold greater in portions of the lower Des Plaines River near Joliet.

Round goby were also more widely distributed within these upstream sample regions in 2004 and were typically caught at more than 50 percent of the sample sites in each of these regions. In addition, several round goby were captured substantially further downstream than previously reported in past annual surveys by crews working in the Illinois River near the Marseilles Lock and Dam and near Peru. Thus, round goby are more abundant than ever before in most reaches of the Illinois Waterway survey area and now range from one end of it to the other.

The capture earlier this summer of a round goby further downstream in the Illinois River at Peoria confirms that they have moved more than 160 miles inland from Chicago in the past decade and have passed the half-way point on their way from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. Meanwhile, no Asian carp were collected in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, nor in the Des Plaines River where a bighead carp was captured near Channahon in 2002. Therefore, Asian carp still appear to be about 21 miles below an electrical fish barrier and 50 miles from Lake Michigan. Bighead carp, silver carp, and grass carp were frequently caught by crews in the Illinois River near La Salle and Peru, about 100 miles from Lake Michigan.

Results of this survey were reported to the Asian Carp Rapid Response Team and the Chicago Barrier Advisory Task Force to help guide upcoming actions to limit the continued dispersal of these invasive fishes. *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

Partnerships Key to Conserving Gray Bat Maternity Colony

The Service's Bloomington Indiana Field Office has worked with many partners to implement conservation measures to protect Indiana's only known maternity colony of the endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*). The species is listed as endangered by the state of Indiana and the Service.

The colony, first discovered in 1982, when the size of the colony was estimated at 400 bats, makes its summer home in a privately owned flooded underground quarry. Each year, female gray bats return to the site to give birth and raise their young. Maternity colonies of gray bats are extremely sensitive to disturbance, so protection of the colony from disturbance during the summer maternity period is crucial. Since the discovery of this colony, the owners of the site have worked with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, bat researchers, and the Service to protect the integrity of the quarry entrances and the bats.

In 2001, the Service provided funding to coordinate a project that

would secure additional protection for the site. Key measures implemented included: 1) a survey and mapping of the underground features of the quarry; 2) installation of event counters to determine whether or not human visitation to the quarry is occurring; 3) signs to discourage human visitation of the quarry; and, 4) planning for long-term monitoring of the quarry.

The survey enabled us to associate surface features with underground passages, which was critical information in making recommendations for development that is occurring in the area. The event counters, put in place during the winter of 2003, allowed us to determine that no unauthorized visits occurred to the quarry during the 2003 gray bat maternity season. The event counters were in place again this year, and will be downloaded after the gray bats have left the quarry for the winter. Signage was also installed in the quarry. Finally, plans are in place for the Service and Indiana State University researchers to conduct annual monitoring of the quarry of the site.

A count conducted in August 2004 estimated the current population at 6,520 bats. The landowners have been good stewards for this colony of endangered bats; their enthusiastic cooperation along with

protective measures have been key in allowing the growth of this colony.

Secondary roost sites as well as foraging habitat for this colony are located at another Clark County site, the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant. The Army, which has plans to excess the base, has worked closely with the Service to ensure that the bats are protected and ESA requirements are met during the closure process; research on the colony was funded during the summer of 2004. A large portion of the site will become part of the Charlestown State Park. The Indiana Division of State Parks is working with the Service to ensure that gray bat habitat on the property will be protected and enhanced through the park development process.

Service partners in this project were the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana State University, Indiana Cave Survey, and the landowners who own the entrance to the quarry. *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington Field Office*



- USFWS photo

Service Biologist Lori Pruitt and Indiana DNR Biologist Scott Johnson review gray bat data collected at the maternity colony site. The openings behind them are used by gray bats to access the quarry.



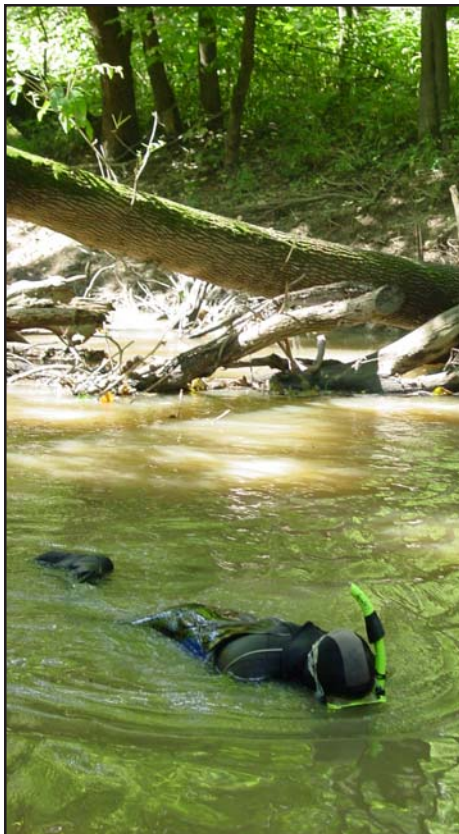
- Photo by Merlin Tuttle, Bat Conservation International

The gray bat is a federally endangered species.

Searching for Mussels in Fish Creek

Between June and August 2004, a comprehensive mussel survey was initiated along 24 miles of Fish Creek in northeastern Indiana and northwestern Ohio.

The Bloomington Indiana Field Office serves as lead administrative trustee for the Fish Creek NRDA Restoration Plan. The plan was formulated in response to a 30,000 gallon diesel fuel spill in 1993. The diesel fuel flowed from a broken pipeline and moved into a crop field in DeKalb County, Ind. The fuel then moved through the crop field and into a small drainage ditch, eventually discharging into Fish Creek. The lower seven miles of Fish Creek, including sections in both Indiana and Ohio were inundated with diesel fuel. The diesel fuel spill occurred in the most environmentally sensitive portion of



- USFWS photos

Fisheries Biologist Roger Gordon searches for mussels in Fish Creek.

Fish Creek, directly coinciding with three endangered mussel populations: the white cat's paw, the northern clubshell, and the northern riffleshell. Mussel recovery enhancement is listed specifically in the restoration plan as one of the key goals of the plan.

Previous surveys, dating back to 1988, have included all three endangered species in very limited numbers. However, these previous studies focused solely on stream sections directly adjacent to bridges. The survey completed this year involved walking Fish Creek from the headwaters to the mouth. Mussel experts from Genoa Fish Hatchery led the survey, locating potential mussel habitat and directing timed searches. Following the compilation of this year's data, a more thorough survey will be proposed encompassing quadrant sampling. Quadrant sampling will involve more thorough searches of stretches already determined to have diverse mussel populations, especially those where rare and/or endangered mussels were located.

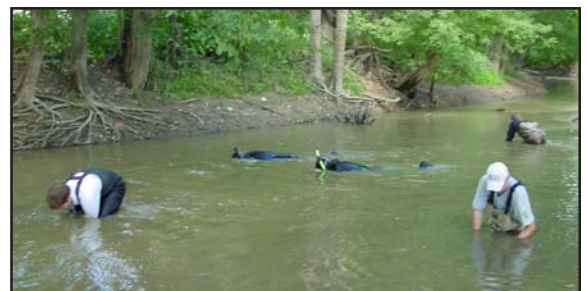
Initial results from this survey have been moderately successful. In the 64 survey areas more than 1,760 mussels were found, including three federally endangered northern clubshell mussels. Mussel species such as kidneyshell, Wabash pigtoe and spike were abundant. Ideal mussel habitat, such as riffle stretches with loose gravel, was present in stretches of Fish Creek, although there was very little connectivity. Also, sediment loading from agriculture fields and livestock was evident in much



Only three endangered northern clubshell mussels were found during the survey.

of Fish Creek, causing further infringement on mussel habitat. There were few signs of reproduction, as predominantly mature mussels were located. It should be noted, however, that young mussels are more difficult to locate because of their size, and they tend to locate deeper in the sediment than mature mussels to avoid predation. It is anticipated that the second phase of sampling will uncover more young mussels.

As results are formulated, a final report will be completed reflecting the overall mussel profile within Fish Creek. Further studies will increase our understanding of mussel abundance, diversity and reproductive activity within Fish Creek. Based upon the results, it will be determined whether or not mussel propagation and reintroduction would be appropriate in the creek. *Michael Tosick, Bloomington FO; and Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*



Service biologists worked closely with the states of Indiana and Ohio as well as the Indiana chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Earth Source, Inc., Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne and local land owners to make the survey a success.

Around the Region



Ashland FRO's Research Vessel CHUB developed a cracked hull in rough seas during a whitefish assessment survey in Lake Superior. With help from some local agencies and businesses, the CHUB was lifted out of the water and repaired.



Assistant Regional Director for External Affairs Brian Norris is presented with a plaque and pin for completing 30 years of federal service.



Green Bay FRO Biologist Stewart Cogswell inspects a recently installed bridge that replaced an old culvert. The culvert restricted fish passage along four miles of Sucker Brook. The project was funded in part by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.



Union Slough NWR Manager George Maze (right) shakes hands with Richard Bishop during a ceremony dedicating a new WPA in Bishop's name. Bishop, who spent 40 years with the Iowa DNR, is a strong supporter of the Service's WPA program.



Deputy Attorney General John Cruden (left) and Assistant Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett talk to reporters about the recent \$56 million NRDA settlement that will help restore damaged natural resources along the Grand Calumet River.



A new control method? A Lake Erie water snake eats an invasive round goby on Kelley's Island, Ohio.



Puddles keeps the Centennial spirit alive during a parade in Iowa. The float was designed by DeSoto NWR staff.

Volunteers -- Part of the Cycle of Life on the Refuge

Ann Prochowicz, Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

Recently one of our volunteers, Ken Burman, said good-bye to his deceased wife, Sandy, by mowing the refuge boat landing. This job was one they did every time they visited the refuge. It was their favorite spot. The Burmans lived in Kenosha, Wis., and twice a year they traveled the 250 miles to Trempealeau, Wis., camped at nearby Perrot Park, and volunteered on Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. They were always willing to do whatever we asked of them, even the less glamorous jobs like painting and mowing. They enjoyed doing their part. Together they contributed more than 585 hours to refuge projects.

I will personally miss Sandy. They were already regular volunteers when I started here in 1989, and they quickly befriended me. When Sandy and Ken came to visit us, it was like distant relatives coming for vacation. Ken was an avid bicycler and marathon runner. Sometimes when he was off running, Sandy and I would go to garage sales or estate sales. And they always made sure we went to lunch or dinner at least once during their stay, to catch up on all the news. Even though they weren't locals, they made a point to stay current with our small town, and they observed many details about it that I'm sure other visitors took no notice of.

Ken and I went to lunch a few days ago, and as we ate he talked about the last two years of Sandy's life, her illness and decline, and he talked about the events occurring since her death in July. It was clear he was still going through the grieving process, and that his day



Sandy and Ken Burnman, volunteers at Trempealeau NWR.

at the refuge was bittersweet. He would laugh one moment, recalling a familiar story, and be on the verge of tears the next, his sense of loss still so sharp.

As we returned to the office, we were met by two couples. They were from the Chicago suburbs, and they were visiting the refuge for the first time. One of the men in the group had called before coming to the refuge, asking about what they might see on a visit here, specifically what birds were around. As we talked on the phone, I told him about the pelicans and sandhill cranes, and the many other late summer birds. The last thing I told him was that I was sure they would love it here, and would enjoy their visit, and not be disappointed.

Well, they weren't! They were

thrilled with the variety of birds they had seen, with the beautiful panorama of the bluffs and river, and the blazing colors of the prairie wildflowers. When I asked them if they planned on coming back, all four in unison declared "Yes!" It was clear that they will become regular visitors.

At that moment, in the same way that we observe the cycles of nature and the seasons, I experienced part of the cycle of refuge life. Volunteers and visitors may pass through our refuge, and some we seldom get to know. Others come and leave a lasting impression, and become as much a part of the refuge and our lives as the changing of the seasons. What a wonder it is to behold...

Accomplishment Reports

The following accomplishments reports were processed between Aug. 15 and Sep. 15, 2004:

1. Student Earns State Award for FFA Project on Agassiz Refuge, *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*
2. National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium Becomes New Partner in Higgins' Eye Mussel Program, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*
3. Biological Surveys Completed in FY2004 at Fergus Falls WMD, *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*
4. Public Use Opportunities Enhanced by Repairs and New Access, *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*
5. National Monitoring Effort Indicates Peregrines Still Doing Well, *Phil Delphey, Twin Cities FO*
6. 2004 Kirtland's Warbler Breeding Season Summary, *Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO*
7. UMRCC Wildlife Technical Section Meeting, *Jon Dujvejonck, Rock Island FO*
8. Big Muddy Accepts Historic Donation, *Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR*
9. Squaw Creek Participates in the Oregon Fall Festival Parade, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*
10. Biannual Volunteer Workday a Huge Success at Squaw Creek, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*
11. Rural Fire Assistance Grants Awarded to Four Departments in Northwestern Minnesota, *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*
12. Northern Michigan University Students Gain Understanding of Endangered Species Act, *Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO*
13. Additional Comments Provided to FERC Regarding the Price Dam Hydroelectric Project, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
14. Indiana NAWCA Partnership Receives \$1 Million Federal Grant, *Jeff Kiefer, Indiana PLO*
15. A Banner Year for the Great Lakes Piping Plover, *Jack Dingleline, East Lansing FO*
16. Cooperative Venture with Missouri DOT Adds 40 Wetland Acres to Squaw Creek Refuge, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*
17. Barn to be Removed from Stream in Ohio, *Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*
18. Leading Creek Water Quality Assessment, *Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*
19. Removing Invasive Trees is a Key Component to Restoring Minnesota's Tallgrass Prairie, *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
20. Wetland Team Restorations Completed, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
21. East Lansing Field Office Staff Visit Detroit River Islands, *Stephanie Millsap, East Lansing FO*
22. East Lansing Field Office Participates in Context Sensitive Design Workshop with MDOT, *Jack Dingleline, East Lansing FO*
23. Coordination with U.S. Corps of Engineers Provides Fishy Results, *Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO*
24. External Affairs Supports Wolf Delisting Proposal Public Hearings, *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*
25. Lake Superior Pathfinders, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
26. Final Sturgeon Assessment on the St. Louis River, *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*
27. Cooperation Key to Success for Endangered Mussel Survey, *Michael Tosick, Bloomington FO*
28. Sea Lamprey Display on August Tour, *Terry Morse, Marquette Bio Station*
29. Genoa National Fish Hatchery Mussel Team Conducts Fish Creek Survey, *Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*
30. Alpena Fishery Office Completes 2004 Fishery Independent Lake Whitefish Survey, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
31. Preparations For Fall Aquatic Nuisance Species Work in Lake Huron Underway, *Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*
32. Tim Smigielski Gets an Education at NCTC, *Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*
33. Lake Whitefish Population Survey - Getting By With a Little Help From Our Friends, *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*
34. Lake Erie Watersnake: Progressing Towards Recovery, *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*
35. Boyne River Fish Habitat Restoration, *Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*
36. Agassiz Refuge Parade Float Well Accepted, *Gary Tischer, Agassiz NWR*
37. Knife River Bank Restoration Project Completed and Successful, *Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*
38. Carterville Fishery Office Assists Boy Scouts With Merit Badges, *colby urasse, Carterville FRO*
39. Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative Workshop Held in Grayling, Michigan, *Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO*
40. Community Waterfowl Banding Program Completed, *Anthony Rondeau, HAPET*
41. Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant Awards Announced, *Missouri To Receive \$36,000, Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
42. Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant Awards Announced, *Michigan To Receive \$60,000, Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
43. Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant Awards Announced, *Ohio To Receive \$45,000, Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
44. Reintroducing the American Burying Beetle to Ohio, *Sarena Selbo, Reynoldsburg FO*
45. Banking on Finding Solutions, *Karyn Tremper, Reynoldsburg FO*
46. La Crosse Fishery Office Projects Highlighted at Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*
47. Pre-Acquisition Contaminant Survey Fiscal Year 2004 Results, *Judy Edwards, Twin Cities FO*
48. \$1.26 Million Awarded to Tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
49. Service Approves Phase III of the Batchtown Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
50. Scoping Comments Provided to the Forest Service for Prescribed Fire Projects, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
51. Ten Acres of Wetlands Restored in Ogemaw County Michigan, *Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*
52. Vocational Outreach Services Student Hired As STEP, *Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)*
53. Partnerships Key to Conserving Indiana's Only Gray Bat Maternity Colony, *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO*
54. Lewis and Clark River Tour Docks at DeSoto Refuge, *Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*
55. Spawning Season Begins Early at Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery, *Tracy Roessner, Pendills Creek NFH*
56. Study Results on Contaminants of Moose in Northwestern Minnesota, *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*
57. Grand Calumet River Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlement, *Daniel Sparks, Bloomington FO*
58. Aquatic Nuisance Species Vessel Prepared for Fall Work, *Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*
59. MOICC Train the Trainer Course Completed, *Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO*
60. Cleanup Proposals for Contaminated Sediments Evaluated, *Stephanie Millsap, East Lansing FO*
61. Service's \$25K Will Accomplish \$400K of Stream Improvement in Vernon County Wisconsin, *Ann Runstrom, LaCrosse FRO*
62. Swan Lake HREP-EMP on Two Rivers Refuge Receives Award, *Curt McMurl, Mark Twain NWR-Brussels Dis*
63. Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Monitors Stream Restoration Project, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*
64. Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Replaces Culvert with Timber Bridge, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*
65. Development Continues for a Tribal Fish Hatchery at the Grand Portage Reservation, *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*
66. Agassiz Volunteer Produces Summer News Letter : A Wild Note, *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*
67. ELFO Participates in Detroit River International Crossing Workshop, *Barbara Hosler, East Lansing FO*
68. Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Assists with Forest County Potawatomi Stream Surveys, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*
69. Long Meadow Lake Water Control Structure, *Rick Schultz, Minnesota Valley NWR*
70. Investigating Long Meadow Lake Runoff, *Rick Schultz, Minnesota Valley NWR*
71. Fall Inspections Completed at Sullivans Creek and Pendills Creek Hatcheries, *Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*
72. Horicon SCEP Accomplishments for Summer 2004, *Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*
73. Sturgeon Assessment on the St. Louis River, *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*
74. August 2004 Issue of Inside Region 3 Completed, *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*
75. Bloomington Field Office and Partners Restore Habitat for Copperbelly Water Snake, *Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*
76. Wolf Lake, Indiana, Ecosystem Restoration Project, *Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc*
77. Annual Survey Shows Invasive Round Goby More Abundant and Widespread in Illinois River, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*
78. Spotted Knapweed Bio-Control Agents Released in Wisconsin, *Bill Peterson, Necedah NWR*
79. Service Biologists Assist in Indiana Bat Monitoring, *Jessica Hogrefe, East Lansing FO*
80. Dedication of New USGS Great Lakes Research Vessel, *Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*
81. Service Represented At R/V Sturgeon Christening/Commissioning, *Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*
82. Cooperative Conservation in the Cache River Wetlands, *Elizabeth Jones, Cypress Creek NWR*
83. 19th North American Prairie Conference, *Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*
84. Jail Bait for a Good Cause, *Debbie Jones, Pendills Creek NFH*
85. Assistant Interior Secretary Griles Visits Project Site, *Mary Knapp, Reynoldsburg FO*
86. Service Regions 3 and 6 Conduct Joint Pallid Sturgeon Coordination Meeting, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*
87. COME ONE, COME ALL!, *Angela Baran, Iron River NFH*
88. Rock Island Field Office Assists in Goby Round-up, *Jon Dujvejonck, Rock Island FO*
89. Project Links Girl Scouts to the Land at Horicon Refuge, *Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*
90. Service Participates in Planning for Spunky Bottoms Ecosystem Restoration Project, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
91. Rydell Refuge Open House a Howling Success, *Juancarlos Giese, Rydell NWR*
92. Service Sponsors Education Booth and Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Clinic, *Jim Hazelman, Michigan PLO*
93. Sullivan Creek Fish Hatchery Celebrates New Building With Open House, *Tracy Roessner, Pendills Creek NFH*
94. Jordan River Hatchery Staff Attend Sullivan Creek's Building Dedication, *Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*
95. Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Workforce Planning Team Meets, *Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*
96. 2004 Pitcher's Thistle Count at PJ Hoffmaster State Park, *Ottawa and Muskegon Counties, MI, Tameka Dandridge, East Lansing FO*
97. Biological Survey of Grassy and Mud Islands, *Stephanie Millsap, East Lansing FO*
98. Service Reviews Scott Air Force Base Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
99. New Coal-Fired Power Plant Proposed for Southern Illinois, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
100. Service Reviews Corps of Engineers Operation and Maintenance Contracts, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*
101. Reestablishment of the Service Fisheries Training Committee-First Meeting, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*
102. Shocking Discoveries at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery, *Steve Redman, Iron River NFH*
103. 2004 Marsh Bird Nesting - Squaw Creek Refuge, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*
104. Bloomington Field Office Plays Key Role in Indiana Biodiversity Initiative, *Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*
105. New Computers and Connection at Iron River Hatchery, *Laurie Guincinski, Iron River NFH*
106. Fifth Year of Field Work Completed for National Abnormal Amphibian Monitoring, *Robin McWilliams-Munson, Bloomington FO*
107. Bloomington Office Works With Local Land Trust to Restore Potential Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat, *Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*
108. Lewis and Clark Activities Held at Ft. Atkinson St. Park, *Neb, Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*
109. Sea Lampreys a Hit at the County Fair, *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*
110. Cooperators Assure Success of 2004 Sea Lamprey Population Monitoring in Great Lakes, *Jessica Richards, Marquette Bio Station*
111. Pendills Creek Hatchery Staff Provide Support for Local Kids Fishing Day, *Tracy Roessner, Pendills Creek NFH*
112. Agassiz Refuge Tree Swallow Food Study Published, *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*
113. Alpena Fishery Office Conducts 2004 Fishery Independent Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
114. Global Corps Meeting, *Mary Knapp, Reynoldsburg FO*
115. Recent Creation of CARES Mailbox, *Anita Simons, ABA (Personnel)*
116. Green Bay Field Office Assists In Surveys for Federally Threatened Northern Monkshood, *Leakhen Au, Green Bay FO*

A Tradition of Successful Partnerships with Tribes in the Midwest

The Great Lakes – Big Rivers Region began focusing on partnerships and collaborative conservation long before they became a national way of doing business. Fostering collaboration has helped us to take our limited financial resources and leverage them with our partner’s funding and expertise to increase the benefits we can provide to the fish and wildlife resources of the Midwest. I would like to highlight a few of these partnerships and the benefits they provide to the Service, tribes and the American people.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Great Lakes Regional Conference of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society to hear first hand how these partnerships are working. Tribal natural resource agencies and the Service share a variety of common interests and goals — gray wolves, eagles, lake sturgeon, lake trout, and many others. This allows us to speak the same conservation language, regardless of our personal background. A few examples of how the Service and tribes are helping each other are:

- The Service has been able to provide tribes with excess bison from Neal Smith NWR. This helps us keep a healthy number of animals on the refuge and allows tribes to establish herds of bison that are traditionally important in this region.

- The Service is working with tribes to restore native populations of lake trout and sturgeon in the Great Lakes and rivers and streams across the region. Sharing skills, resources and facilities has greatly improved these important fish resources.

- Exciting new opportunities for collaboration were recently devel-



Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley

oped with two grant programs, the Tribal Wildlife and Landowner Incentive Grants. Since their inception in 2002, a total of \$4.4 million has been granted to 19 tribes in Region 3. These programs will provide tribal agencies with funds to improve their natural resource programs. When tribes have the ability to enhance fish and wildlife on their land, it helps us accomplish our mission.

Regional Director Robyn Thorson represented Assistant Interior Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Craig Manson at the recent Executive Council meeting of the 2000 Consent Decree on commercial and sport fishing in the 1836 Treaty Areas of Lake Michigan. Although the Service is only one partner in the organization, we play several key roles by helping to determine harvest limits, by raising and stocking lake trout, and by helping to control sea lamprey. All of these issues are important to the five tribes represented by the Treaty as well as private citizens who fish in Michigan.

In addition to working directly

with individual tribes and tribal organizations, we also coordinate with other federal agencies that have tribal resource responsibilities. Robyn recently met with the new Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director Terry Virden, here at Ft. Snelling, to discuss common issues and help ensure we are working together on natural resource challenges. Meetings such as this are critical to keeping the lines of communication open between federal agencies to ensure we are presenting consistent information and services to the tribes.

Native American tribes are important partners to the Service. I want to thank all the Service employees who have worked so hard to develop and maintain these collaborative relationships and I want to encourage you to continue looking for new ways to include tribes, and all our partners, in our daily work.

**- Deputy Regional Director
Charlie Wooley**