



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Inside Region 3**  
*January 2007*



*Inside This Issue:*

**Secretary Kempthorne Visits Neal Smith and Crane Meadows NWRs  
New Stocking Vessel on the Great Lakes  
Awards and Recognition**

## Nineteen New Congressional Members Elected in Midwest Region

The final election results are in and the Midwest Region has 19 new congressional members. Of these 19 new members, there are three new Senators (Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio) and 16 new Representatives: Michigan (1), Wisconsin (1), Illinois (2), Iowa (2), Indiana (3), Minnesota (3) and Ohio (4). These new congressional members will be sworn in on Capitol Hill on Jan. 4, 2007.

The table (right) provides additional details about the election results in our Region. *Jane West, External Affairs*

District	Previous Member	New Congressional Members
IL-6	Rep. Henry Hyde (R)	Rep. Elect Peter Roskam (R)
IL-17	Rep. Lane Evans (D)	Rep. Elect Phil Hare (D)
IN-2	Rep. Chris Chocola (R)	Rep. Elect Joe Donnelly (D)
IN-8	Rep. John Hostettler (R)	Rep. Elect Brad Ellsworth (D)
IN-9	Rep. Mike Sodrel (R)	Rep. Elect Baron Hill (D)
IA-1	Rep. Jim Nussle (R)	Rep. Elect Bruce Braley (D)
IA-2	Rep. Jim Leach (R)	Rep. Elect Dave Loebsack (D)
MI-7	Rep. Joe Schwarz (R)	Rep. Elect Tim Walberg (R)
MN	Senator Mark Dayton (D)	Senator Elect Amy Klobuchar (D)
MN-1	Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R)	Rep. Elect Tim Walz (D)
MN-5	Rep. Martin Olav Sabo (D)	Rep. Elect Keith Ellison (D)
MN-6	Rep. Mark Kennedy (R)	Rep. Elect Michele Bachmann (R)
MO	Senator Jim Talent (R)	Senator Elect Claire McCaskill (D)
OH	Senator Mike DeWine (R)	Senator Elect Sherrod Brown (D)
OH-4	Rep. Michael Oxley (R)	Rep. Elect Jim Jordan (R)
OH-6	Rep. Ted Strickland (D)	Rep. Elect Charles Wilson (D)
OH-13	Rep. Sherrod Brown (D)	Rep. Elect Betty Sutton (D)
OH-18	Rep. Bob Ney (R)	Rep. Elect Zack Space (D)
WI-8	Rep. Mark Green (R)	Rep. Elect Steven Kagen (D)

## Secretary Visits Two Refuges in Region

On the Cover



USFWS photo

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne takes a walk through the prairie at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge with Refuge Biologist Pauline Drobney.



USFWS/Jason Holm

Secretary Kempthorne talks with Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Maintenance Worker Ron Beam during a tour of a private land restoration near the refuge.

## Midwest Region Christens New Stocking Vessel

In one of the most important conservation events of 2006, the Service christened and commissioned the M/V *Spencer F. Baird* — a one-of-a-kind vessel that will stock millions of native lake trout in the Great Lakes — at a Sept. 7 ceremony in Traverse City, Mich.

The 95-foot *Baird* will annually stock nearly 4 million lake trout into lakes Huron and Michigan, furthering a four-decade effort by the Service and its partners to restore depleted lake trout in the Great Lakes and establish self-sustaining populations of this native fish, which was nearly wiped out in the late 1950s due to invasion of sea lampreys, overfishing and pollution.

On a beautiful late summer morning, some 200 invited guests and members of the public gathered for the outdoor ceremony.

Region 3 Regional Director Robyn Thorson, serving as Master of Ceremonies, kept the program moving briskly, welcoming to the stage partners from state and federal agencies, tribes, the Canadian government, and the offices of several members of Michigan's Congressional delegation.

After Director Dale Hall read the official Orders to Commission, Thorson and Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Mamie Parker each broke a champagne bottle to officially christen the *Baird*.

"This is a proud day for the Fish and Wildlife Service," Thorson said. "The newly-dedicated, ultra-modern M/V *Spencer F. Baird* is a welcome addition to the Service's conservation efforts in the Great Lakes, and we are pleased to celebrate the ship's dedication with

our fisheries partners.

Staff from every Region 3 Fisheries field office participated, pitching in wherever needed in ways large and small to make the event a success. Staff from the other program areas attended as well, making this a true "Service" event.

Of some 90 science vessels on the Great Lakes, the *Spencer F. Baird* is the only hatchery fish distribution vessel, distributing fish reared at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin and Pendills Creek and Jordan River hatcheries in Michigan.

In addition to its stocking duties, the *Baird*—with a crew of three led by Captain Mike Perry—will evaluate the performance of stocked lake trout and measure the abundance and distribution of other fish species, which will help meet the information and research needs of the Service and its state, tribal, provincial and federal partners.

After decades of restoration work, self-sustaining populations of lake trout are established in Lake Superior, and Lake Huron is showing signs of rehabilitation.

The M/V *Spencer F. Baird* is named for a prominent zoologist associated with the Smithsonian Institution, appointed in 1871 by President Ulysses S. Grant as the first head of the U.S. Fish Commission, a forerunner agency to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/Baird/>. *Rachel F. Levin, External Affairs*



USFWS Photo by Karla Bartelt

(left to right) Midwest Regional Director Robyn Thorson, Director H. Dale Hall, Midwest Region Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Gerry Jackson and Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Mamie Parker in front of the newly christened *Spencer F. Baird*.

## Midwest Region Website Provides ESA “How To”

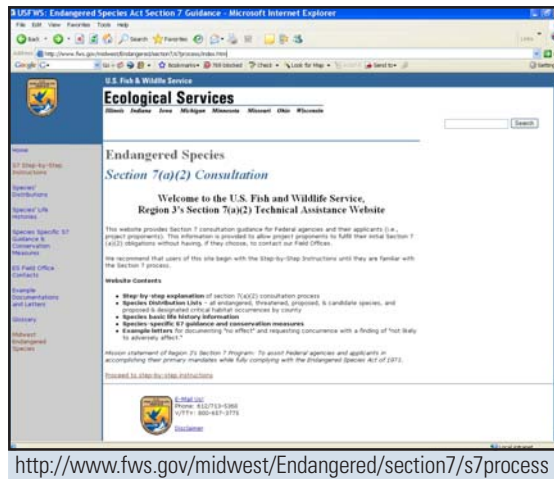
Navigating the sometimes confusing language of the Endangered Species Act can be a daunting prospect for other federal agencies and their constituents. A new self-help Website posted by the Service’s Midwest Region guides agencies and their applicants through the Section 7 informal consultation process, one step at a time. The idea is to give agencies and applicants the opportunity to fulfill the preliminary ESA Section 7 obligations without having to contact a field office, if they prefer. If there are no species or critical habitat in the project area or no effects, the agency or applicant can actually complete the Section 7 consultation.

The website explains the Section 7 consultation process, including a step-by-step walk-through of the informal consultation process. Species distribution lists featuring all endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species, and proposed and designated critical habitat by county are available, along with basic life history information on all featured species. Sample letters for documenting “no effect” and requesting concurrence for “not likely to affect” findings are also provided. Although a work-in-progress, species-specific Section 7 guidance and conservation measures are being added to the site.

Visitors to the website can see a schematic explaining the process, and then work their way through three steps to complete informal consultation. At each step, visitors can link to other useful pages, including ES field offices, additional

Section 7 guidance, and sample letters and templates. Unusual terms are highlighted, and visitors can click on these for explanations and additional information. At any point, users can contact an Ecological Services field office for direct assistance.

Certain projects nearly always warrant a “No Effect” determination, particularly pipeline maintenance, telecommunication, and HUD projects. So the website also



has a decision tree for those types of projects. That decision tree allows applicants to make a valid “no effect” determination and provides a means of documenting that determination for their administrative record.

The Midwest Region is planning to expand this self-help website by providing guidance on making “effect” determinations for specific species like the Karner blue butterfly, Indiana bat, and bald eagle. Site managers expect high use, once the site is advertised to potential users. This is the first of its kind among regional offices, but a national system similar to this one is in the works in Washington. *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

## Whooping Cranes Arrive at Florida Wintering Grounds

Seventeen endangered whooping cranes and their surrogate parents—three ultralight aircraft—reached Florida’s Gulf coast on Dec. 19 after a trek of more than 1,100 miles through seven states.

At 9:30 a.m., the cranes and ultralights arrived at their final destination in Marion County, first flying over a crowd of more than 800 enthusiastic spectators gathered at the Dunnellon Municipal Airport.

These cranes—the “Class of 2006”—are the sixth group to be guided by ultralights to Florida from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin. The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), an international coalition of public and private organizations, is conducting this ultralight-led reintroduction project in an effort to return this highly imperiled species to its historic range in eastern North America.

Thanks to WCEP’s efforts there are now 65 wild migratory whooping cranes in eastern North America. Once the birds from the ultralight-led Class of 2006 migrate north next spring, the reintroduced eastern population will contain 83 cranes.

“Yet another successful ultralight migration comes to an end. This winter season is especially extraordinary with the migration of the first wild-hatched, parent-reared whooping crane chick. It’s inspiring to be part of such a successful collaborative conservation effort,” said Chassahowitzka NWR manager Jim Kraus. *Rachel F. Levin, External Affairs*

## Indiana Bats Benefit from Cooperative Effort

A cooperative project between the military and the Environmental Contaminants Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is helping to recover the endangered Indiana bat. Summer populations of Indiana bats at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant are at risk from exposure to hazardous substances, including heavy metals and explosive compounds released into the environment during site operations. After the installation was listed for clean-up and restoration, a coordination team was formed of scientists from the Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure clean-up activities were not going to harm the site's summer Indiana bat population.

Adult bats and their young feed on insects from the streams and open fields within the installation property. Insects that come from soil and sediments containing hazardous substances can accumulate contaminants in their tissues. Bats may be harmed through the ingestion of the contaminated food.

The team decided to develop protective clean-up criteria when Indiana bats were found using the old-growth forests on the installation. The team generated food chain exposure models for the Indiana bat, and the results were used to help come up with soil clean-up concentrations that protect the bat's food resources in addition to protection of human health. These thresholds are being used to design how much contaminated soil needs to be removed for the clean-up action. The agencies are also coordinating to avoid cutting down certain trees in the soil clean-up areas which are used by the bats as roosts during the summer months.

The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, built in 1941 southeastern Iowa to load, assemble, and pack various ammunition and fusing systems, is still very active today. However, over

the years, industrial wastewaters and by-products were disposed of at the installation. In 1989, the plant was listed under CERCLA's National Priorities List for remediation and environmental restoration. In the late 1990s, the Army and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate the remediation processes, and contaminants biologists stationed at the Rock Island, IL Ecological Services Field Office responded. Coordination team activities started in about 1997 and lasted through 2006 to cover all of the areas and habitats in this large Army installation. The Indiana bat is found in Iowa only during the summer months, when females form small maternity colonies in cavities or under loose bark of mature trees for rearing their single pup. Most of the Indiana bats from Iowa are believed to hibernate within caves in the State of Missouri during the winter months. *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*



*Indiana DNR Photo by Rich Fields*

Indiana bat



*USFWS Photo by Lori Pruitt*

Service biologists use radio telemetry to track the bats.

## Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Volunteer Program Flourishes

This is for those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting Rick Westerhof, Project Leader at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in northwest Michigan. Please bear with me while I dispel some myth and add to the legend. Prior to join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rick worked with National Marine Fisheries Service in Portland, Oregon. Rick and his wife, Sigrid, were both born and raised in Michigan and decided to move their family back home.

Due to his experiences, training, mentors, character and personality, Rick has all of the qualities that are suitable to lead people. Also, Rick is a “nice guy,” a real people person. His innovations to an already existing volunteer program have created an environment of team work and success. Rick will be the first to admit that he is a risk taker. There is no question that most of us have at one time or another raised our eyebrows when it comes to “Rick’s people.” However, Rick’s ability to read a person’s character is uncanny.

More than 70 volunteers have done the work of the Service at

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery since 2000. Many of them volunteer annually or for years at a time. One man has been working once or twice per week for the past 10 years. The volunteer program at Jordan River, without question, is a model for all. It seems that the word has spread like wildfire. Jordan River NFH is a desirable work environment, provides great experience and the permanent staff are an incredible collection of resource professionals, who are, indeed, the lifeline of the program.

Potential volunteers contact Rick or other staff via email, telephone, personal meetings, or many times, by word of mouth. Rick spends time exploring the potential volunteer’s needs and personal situations. Then staff members meet the candidate(s) informally when they come to the hatchery for a tour. Together staff tailor a plan for a productive volunteer experience, which emphasizes benefits to the Service. Rick then seeks out a staff member for a sponsor assignment. The staff member acts as a mentor and sounding board during the tenure of the volunteer’s assignment.

There are many reasons why Jordan



Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Project Leader Rick Westerhof takes time to pose for a photo with Andy Pavalek one of the valuable volunteers at the hatchery.

River National Fish Hatchery has such an incredibly strong volunteer program. However, the biggest reason for the success is the philosophical principle behind the program. Rick’s philosophy is that “you take care of people.” We adhere to the simplest rule of all: *treat others as you would have them treat you*. Volunteers become part of the family. We all stick to the plan too. The volunteers get the chance to be involved in many diverse experiences. We don’t dump work on the volunteers, and they in turn, perform far above and beyond expectations. Work experiences are often coordinated with other Service offices or even other resource agencies. The program continues to work well for us.

For more information about the volunteer opportunities at Jordan River Hatchery visit us on the web at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/jordanriver> or contact Rick Westerhof at 231-584-2461. *Tim Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*



*USFWS Photos courtesy Jordan River NFH*

Rick Westerhof presents volunteer Dan Sutherland with the President’s Award for more than 4000 hours of volunteer service at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

### Midwest Volunteers Fill Crucial Role in Field Operations

The spirit of volunteering was again strong in the Midwest Region this year; according to a report compiled by the National Wildlife Refuge System. With volunteers embedded in all aspects of field station operations, 183,510 hours of time was contributed to national wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, fisheries resource offices and Ecological Services offices across the region.

According to Lauri Munroe-Hultman, Region 3 volunteer coordinator, the hours represent a value of \$3,310,520.40, using a rate of \$18.04 per volunteer hour. The savings enhances conservation operations throughout the region, while solidifying partnerships with volunteer and Friends groups.

“Our volunteers bring an outstanding ability to deal with the public,” said Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley, “and a contagious sense of excitement, energy and expertise. They set a great example in fostering relationships and are crucial in enhancing our external communications.”

#### **Some 2006 highlights include:**

Volunteers at the East Lansing Field Office (Michigan) assisted with recovery activities for the endangered Mitchell’s satyr butterfly. Two helped with a mark-release-recapture study, and a third collected survey and observation information to examine the effects of habitat management.

Shelley Simmonds, a volunteer at the Carterville Fisheries Resource Office (Illinois), contributed 1,530 hours in FY06. She completed a wide range of administrative duties, including answering the phone, greeting visitors, providing computer technical assistance, and completing daily paperwork. She acted as an extra hand and a source

of information for everyone in the office. She also assisted with locating references and preparing and updating tables to help with the completion of the draft plan for Management and Control of Asian Carps in the United States.

Volunteers at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (Iowa) continued work on the refuge’s butterfly garden. They cultivated native plants in the stewardship greenhouse, then added them to the 60 species already in the garden. The butterfly garden is a registered way station with the University of Kansas Monarch Watch program. Volunteers tagged 490 monarch butterflies this year.

The Friends of Sherburne (Minnesota) worked as an independent advocate for natural resources by purchasing 40 acres of wetland habitat in Morrison County, Minnesota, and donating the land to the Fish and Wildlife Service to become part of the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Following this purchase, the Friends applied for a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant and received an additional \$100,000 of matching money to purchase more land for the refuge.

The Friends of the Morris Wetland Management District (Minnesota) applied for and received a \$58,000 private stewardship grant to remove invasive trees from large blocks of native prairie in western Minnesota. The Friends hired contractors to remove invasive trees on four sites, restoring natural, open landscapes on over 750 acres of grassland. These grasslands are



*USFWS Photo*

Refuge volunteer Nancy Hall leads students in a learning activity about the Rock River near Horicon NWR.

generally large tracts of native prairie and support rare and declining species such as Dakota skipper butterflies, greater prairie chickens, and marbled godwits.

The Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, Minnesota) lobbied the Minnesota State Legislature and played a key role in securing \$2 million in bond funds to expand the Center. Through the Center’s highly acclaimed environmental education program, the Prairie Science School, local 5<sup>th</sup> grade students spend half of each day at the Center learning about wildlife, habitat, and the work of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The building addition will allow the Service to accommodate increased demand for this and other environmental education programs. *Donna Stanek, NWRS- Visitor Services*

### Prairie Wetlands Learning Center to Upgrade With Help of State Funds

The City of Fergus Falls recently received bonding funds totaling \$2 million from the state of Minnesota that will be used to expand the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC), a premier site for environmental education in the Midwest Region since 1994.

Since 2003, the PWLC's Prairie Science Class has worked cooperatively with the Fergus Falls Independent School District 544 to provide environmental learning opportunities to both students and the general public.

According to PWLC Director Ken Garrahan, one factor that pushed state legislatures enough to pass the bond measure was the tendency of students enrolled in the Prairie Science Class to score well above average on nationally administered standardized tests. Additionally, these students often score above average for the state of Minnesota, which is no small feat considering the high academic achievement of the state as a whole.

But test performance was only one of the reasons.

Although the bonding funds will be managed by the City of Fergus Falls—which actually owns the PWLC building—the Service can be assured that the funds will be put to good use to meet our own conservation mission. The money will be used to build four classrooms and a greenhouse, expand office space, and construct an auditorium that will hold 200-plus students.

Dean Monke, principal of the Fergus Falls Middle School, said he would like to see the current classrooms go back to the primary use by the Service.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been so kind for letting us use the classrooms,” Monke said.

He would like the four classrooms to be about 900 square feet each, which would be enough space to free up the current classrooms.

Monke said the Prairie Science Class program currently has 100 students; 50 in the morning and 50 in the afternoon.

“This extra space would make it possible to increase the enrollment by one hundred percent,” Monke said.

Moreover, the structural expansion will be an enhancement to the “real-life” learning approach of the program. According to Garrahan, the students spend much of their time in the field gaining hands-on experience; a method of learning called “authentic-learning.”

“They are out in the field year round, even in the winter,” Garrahan said.

The additions will also be used to solve logistical challenges. For example, the new auditorium will free a sod room currently used as a theater. Also, the auditorium will make it possible to provide simultaneous activities that do not conflict with one another. This will be a much appreciated addition because there are many “moving parts” at the Learning Center that include both student and visitor activities such as workshops, meetings and talks.

Also, since the PWLC houses employees including a Park Ranger, Environmental Education Specialist, Instructional Systems Specialist, and two middle school teachers, the expansion will improve the tools available not only to students but also to the professionals who are the backbone of the learning center.



- USFWS Photo  
Students in the Prairie Science Class study in the outdoor classroom of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.

In addition to the Service and the State of Minnesota, other contributors to and volunteers at the PWLC include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Toshiba Corporation and other private foundations.

A prominent contributor is The Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, a non-profit organization of conservation enthusiasts that provides grants and donations and manages a store on the premises called the Bluestem Store that grosses upwards of \$14,000 in sales. The PWLC receives a percentage of these gross earnings. And if that weren't enough, the Friends group organizes and staffs fund raising events year round.

The \$2 million upgrade will help the PWLC to continue to prosper and reap great rewards for the community and the Midwest Region. The PWLC is a great example of what can be accomplished when state and federal governments, along with volunteers and enthusiasts, join forces in the name of education and conservation.

To learn more about the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and the Prairie Science Class, log onto <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/pwlc/>.

*Jason Mercado, Migratory Birds*



## Awards and Recognition

The employees of the Midwest Region continue to excel in their efforts to support the Service's mission. There have been numerous awards and recognition for these efforts over the past year.

In an effort to shed some light on the good work we are all doing, here are a few examples of the accolades our employees have received in 2006.

### June 2006

**Megan Seymour** of the Reynoldsburg Field Office received a plaque from the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team in recognition of her dedicated service and contributions towards the protection of Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources as a Steering Committee Member and organizer of the Toledo, Ohio conference *Towards Wildlife Friendly Wind Power: A Focus on the Great Lakes*.

The Minnesota Chapter of Ducks Unlimited recognized the **Fergus Falls Wetland Management District** as their 2006 Conservation Partner. Over the past 20 years the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and Ducks Unlimited have cooperated in the implementation of 34 projects restoring and enhancing thousands of acres of critical waterfowl breeding habitat.

### September 2006

**Scott Yess** of the LaCrosse FRO was recognized by the White Earth Tribal Council and Department of Natural Resources for his outstanding contributions to the restoration of lake sturgeon in the waters of the White Earth Reservation. Scott has worked on this project since its inception seven years ago.

**Dave Wedan** of the LaCrosse FRO was recognized by the Regional Division of Safety for his outstanding work as the Regional Motorboat Operation Certification Course (MOCC) Coordinator. Dave continues to maintain our program as one of the top programs in the country.

## “Let’s talk about us!”

In my travels during my first months in the Midwest Region, I became aware of a common theme among employees. There is a disconnection between the heroic deeds performed daily by our personnel, and in the extent the public is aware of these deeds.

This theme plays out consistently in different venues. Service employees would share detailed, passionate stories about the work going on at their station. They provide me anecdotes, goose-bumps, and even some misty eyes. When I would compliment them on their rendition, and ask them to tell it to a newspaper, congressman, or classroom, they would look quizzically and ask—“isn’t that what you guys do?”

Region 3 is a fluid, multi-faceted, geographically diverse organization. The External Affairs staff is only part of this “machine.” We all need to engage in outreach. Outreach isn’t a task—it is a sum of many fast-moving parts. It is a way of thinking, and it is vital for the future of the Service and the future of conservation.

As a public conservation agency, we are assigned to conserve what people care about conserving. If we don’t connect with the public—particularly with

young people—we risk becoming a marginalized novelty. Bluntly, novelties have difficulty competing for attention in appropriation.

The good news is that Region 3 already has the solution. Continue to protect fish and wildlife, restore habitat, and personify conservation in action. And in addition—all of us—**talk** about what we do. When you wear the Service uniform in town—tell your barber what you are doing that week. Talk to fellow parents at your child’s ballgame. Bend the local newspaper writer or city councilman’s ear in church. Take what you like to do and what you are good at, and **talk** about it.

If you like to write stories—write them. If you have staff members who can shoot pictures—encourage them. External Affairs is here to help you, and to facilitate outreach. But the 1,110 members of Region 3 are the Outreach Army who serve as the amplified voice (and future) of the Service.

In my new job as head of External Affairs for Region 3, I would like to “deputize” all of you as spokesmen and women for the Service. As a strong voice with the strength of geographic diversity, we have the ability to reach a huge audience. Let’s tell our story—I’m excited to help!

*Jason Holm, External Affairs*

## Awards and Recognition

**Kurt Waterstradt**, USFWS Ohio State Private Lands Coordinator for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, received the Outstanding American Conservationist Award from Ohio's USDA Farm Service Agency in recognition of his outstanding teamwork, leadership and technical and programmatic support of the Ohio Conservation Reserve Program resulting in enhanced air and water quality, wildlife habitat and conservation of Ohio's soil and natural resources.

### October 2006

The U.S. Department of Energy recognized five Region 3 employees – **Dan Frisk** and **Terry Rendleman** of Crab Orchard NWR, **Marie Niesen** and **Rick Frietsche** in Engineering, and **Patrick Peine** in Contracting & Facilities Management – for their efforts and innovation to design and construct a project at Crab Orchard which converted the old HVAC system to a new geothermal, energy efficient one. Receipt of this award is such treasured recognition for contracting and engineering professionals because it is peer-based. It is also somewhat extraordinary for this type of recognition to be given to an agency other than Department of Defense.

Regional Native American Liaison **John Leonard**, **Doug Aloisi** and the staff at the **Genoa NFH** and **Scott Yess** of the LaCrosse FRO were recognized by the White Earth Tribal Council and Department of Natural Resources for their outstanding contributions to the restoration of lake sturgeon in the waters of the White Earth Reservation.

### November 2006

**Brian Winters**, Prescribed Fire Specialist at Big Oaks NWR, was awarded the Fuels Management Excellence Award for the Midwest Region at the Service's National Fire Management Workshop held at NCTC. Through his dedicated commitment to meeting the land management objectives at Big Oaks, Brian developed an exemplary hazard fuels reduction program fully integrating the fire program with everyday refuge operations on the 50,000 acre former military weapons range. The complexity of operating in a former weapons range is compounded by the presence of unexploded ordnance. Brian has established an excellent partnership with the Indiana Air Guard operating an active bombing range within the refuge boundary. His innovation, safety consciousness, and strict adherence to Service policy has enabled Brian to consistently effect an efficient, safe, and highly successful prescribed burn program. He has been instrumental in strengthening the ties between the Service and other fire management organizations within the State of Indiana.

**Clifford J. Berger** from the Mark Twain NWR Complex, was awarded the National Fire Management Leadership Award for the Midwest Region at the Service's National Fire Management Workshop held at NCTC. For the past four years, Cliff has been instrumental in building the Service's fire management program within the states of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Through his leadership and dedication to the Service's mission, Cliff developed a collaborative fire management program between the Service and the states of Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. He moved the Service into the leadership position with other federal fire management organizations in these states. Cliff is a tireless and enthusiastic advocate of cooperation with non-government organizations advocating the use of prescribed fire for hazard fuel reduction and habitat management. His positive attitude and enthusiasm has bridged many barriers to cooperation between fire management organizations within this three state area.

**Jennifer Lilla**, park ranger at Trempealeau NWR, was Region 3's nominee for the 2006 Sense of Wonder award and she attended the award reception held at the National Interpreters Workshop in Albuquerque, NM. This award honors Service employees who use the principles of interpretation and environmental education to create original and innovative methods of connecting public audiences with the resources and programs of the Service. Jennifer was chosen for her work on River Education Days, an annual event drawing hundreds of students and teachers to Trempealeau each spring.



USFWS Photo

John Leonard (right) receives his award from Scott Yess of the LaCrosse FRO on behalf of the White Earth Band.

## Awards and Recognition

Since July 2004 **Shelley Simmonds** has volunteered more than 2,500 hours of service at the Carterville FRO. Shelley has taken responsibility for many secretarial, administrative, and local computer support functions at the office, allowing staff biologist to focus on field projects. Shelley also contributed directly to completion of station projects such as the draft *Management and Control Plan for Asian Carps in the United States*. Shelley's dedication and selfless donation of time and skills have directly contributed to the office's accomplishments and ability to fulfill the Service's mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing the Nation's fish, wildlife, and habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

### December 2006

Wildlife Biologist **Gary Huschle** of Agassiz NWR received the Director's Award of Honor for 30 years of service as a Department of Interior aircrew member. Gary began his career with the BLM in the desert southwest in 1975. In 1977 he accepted a position with the USFWS where he proceeded to rack up hundreds of hours flying as an aircrew member in Montana and North Dakota before finding his way to Agassiz NWR.



USFWS Photo

Gary Huschle (right) receives his award from Regional Pilot Brian Lubinski.

### Other Awards

**Dan Sutherland** of Jordan River NFH, with over 4,000 hours of service this year, received the Presidential Volunteer Award (Take Pride in America). Dan began working for Jordan River on March 1, 1996. After suffering a serious work-related head injury, his therapists wanted him to be reintroduced to the work force gradually so Dan usually spends 1-2 days a week at the hatchery and has become a very important part of Jordan River's crew. Staff say Dan is a joy to be around because of his upbeat and positive attitude – he is a true inspiration!

**Andy Pavelek**, this year's Regional Director's Volunteer Award recipient, has been a Jordan River NFH volunteer since February 2006, logging over 1,000 hours of service assisting staff with fish culture, maintenance, and public outreach activities. Andy is "awesome" and a great asset to Jordan River. Only four years ago, Andy suffered a traumatic head injury and had to learn how to walk and talk again. His zest for life is contagious and Jordan River staff are honored to have Andy at the hatchery.

**Dan Myers**, a senior at Charlevoix High School and Jordan River NFH weekend volunteer since April 2005, wrote an article about his volunteer service at Jordan River that appeared in the Department of Interior's *People, Land & Water*. Dan is a "special kid" that has given Jordan River staff faith in the younger generation and hope for the conservation of natural resources through his efforts to rehabilitate lake trout in the Great Lakes.

Fish and Wildlife Biologist **Michelle Vander Haar** of Shiawassee NWR was presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the Rifle River Watershed Restoration Committee in recognition of distinguished and dedicated service to restore, enhance and preserve the Rifle River watershed. Michelle has collaborated with the Committee through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to implement projects that improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the watershed. These projects included riparian restoration and stabilization of stream banks to reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff; improvement of road-stream crossings to increase fish passage and installation of log structures to enhance fish habitat.

The Service stations located in the Winona, MN Area (**Upper Mississippi River NW&FR**, **Trempealeau NWR**, and the **Regional Sign Center**) were given the 2006 Worksite Company of the Year Award by the American Red Cross, Winona County Chapter, for their commitment to health and safety preparedness in our company and in Winona County.



USFWS Photo

In his volunteer work, Dan Meyers works in aquaculture and serves as a board member of the Friends of Jordan River NFH.

## Awards and Recognition

**Mike Belsky**, Supervisory Range Technician at Necedah NWR, was presented with a limited edition Joyce Kilebrew wildland firefighter sculpture for his operational and administrative oversight for Necedah's fire and fuels programs from July 2004 to March 2006 when the refuge was without a Prescribed Fire Specialist and/or a local Fire Management Officer. Under Mike's guidance, Necedah not only exceeded all hazardous fuels targets and contributed greatly to the Zone's success; he ensured operations were conducted efficiently, effectively and safely.

### **Ross Grimwood receives the 2006 Rudolph Dieffenbach Award**

**Ross Grimwood**, Supervisory Realty Specialist for the Midwest Region, is the recipient of the 2006 Rudolph Dieffenbach Award recognizing significant contributions to the systems, operations, or mission of the Division of Realty by a FWS Realty employee. This prestigious award was to be presented to Ross by Eric Alvarez, Chief, Division of Realty, Washington Office at the November Regional Office All Employee Meeting. However, due to a run in with the "law" members of the Realty Management Branch accepted the award for Mr. Grimwood in absentia.

A funny thing happened on the way to the Regional Office All Employee Meeting – after months of planning, coordination, and secrecy – Ross got called to jury duty on the day of the meeting. For the results of the trial you will have to talk to Ross, but to capture some of the reasons why Ross was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Rudolph Dieffenbach Award, here are a few excerpts written by his fellow employees, and thus, the rest of the story . . .

**Ross the sage** – Ross is a special person with a great appreciation for the conservation of natural resources balanced with a practical application of Federal and state real estate principles and practice. He is responsible for all donations and land exchanges in Region 3. In the past several years Ross personally facilitated several very complex land donations resulting in the protection of nearly 4,000 acres of valuable natural resource habitat at Chautauqua NWR, Cypress Creek NWR, Detroit River IWR, Glacial Ridge NWR, Middle Mississippi River NWR, Minnesota Valley NWR, Savanna Army Depot, Sherburne NWR, Upper Mississippi River NW&FR, and Neosho NFH. In addition, in the past several years Ross has personally facilitated numerous complex land exchanges. He has the patience and tenacity necessary for dealing with the wide variety of rules, regulations, properties and individuals involved in land exchanges. Ross' wealth of experience, acquisition skills and mentoring capabilities makes him an outstanding resource in the Region 3 Realty Office and to other offices both in and outside of the Service. He has an exceptional knowledge of realty policies, land acquisition and negotiation principles. His advice and counsel is constantly sought by individuals both within and outside of the Service as a resource for technical and historical knowledge and information. Vision, leadership, organizational skills, teamwork, trust, and personal commitment to staff are Ross' trademarks.

**Ross the indomitable spirit** – Ross was directly responsible for all aspects of a donation of 2,306 acres from The Nature Conservancy which helped to establish the Glacial Ridge NWR in northwestern Minnesota as the 545th National Wildlife Refuge. While the project was many years in the planning and approval stages, when it became necessary to establish the Refuge, Ross was tasked with initiating and completing the donation in an extremely short period of time. This was requested in order to announce the establishment during the celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week. The Secretary of the Interior, through a formal press conference, created the Refuge on October 12, 2004, and projected the date of establishment as October 26, 2004. The level of difficulty was considerable as there was no margin for error or delays. Ross accomplished the task in just two weeks with the acceptance of the donation on the target date. The Refuge eventually will encompass 35,000 acres and will be the largest tallgrass prairie and wetland restoration project in our Nation's history.



*USFWS Photo*  
**Ross the absent** -- Staff members from Realty accept the award from National Realty Chief Eric Alvarez.

## Awards and Recognition

### **East Lansing Field Office receives Department of Interior's Diversity and Civil Rights Award**

The *East Lansing Field Office* received the Department of Interior's Diversity and Civil Rights Award by actively addressing under-representation issues of women, minorities and individuals with disabilities, along with taking part in myriad opportunities to support Service efforts in the area of diversity and civil rights. ELFO staff members seek out opportunities to assist community efforts, support ideas and actions of others, always keeping an eye out to encourage and engage in dialogue with all citizens regarding our fish and wildlife heritage and our role in the Service.

From October 2004 to April 2006, members of the ELFO staff visited with elementary school students in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan, discussing career options and wildlife and habitats, including endangered species. Staff members also participated in an Eco-Explorers After-School Science Program directed at second and third grade students in predominantly African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods in Lansing. The Eco-Explorers program, administered by the Michigan State University Chapter of Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources, teaches science through games and kid-friendly experiments.

Staff members also had the privilege of mentoring college-bound students from several Detroit high schools, who are members of the National Wildlife Federation's Earth Tomorrow Program. Earth Tomorrow is the Foundation's environmental education and leadership program building environmental literacy, problem solving skills and civic participation and motivating

teens to improve their local environment through service projects and development of lifelong habits of environmental stewardship and community service. An ELFO biologist first became involved with Earth Tomorrow in 2005 while serving as a panel member at the Foundation and University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environmental sponsored Conservation in Black & White Program in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday.

ELFO staff members also attended and participated in the Annual National Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Career Fair and Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. This event allows students to interact with professionals in their perspective fields. In addition, ELFO participated in Detroit's Ninth Annual City-Wide Historical Black College Fair. This growing, faith-based effort brings together parents, community leaders, Historical Black College and University recruiters, youth education organizations, after-school programs and vendors to benefit over a thousand 8-12 grade students from as far away as Chicago. An ELFO biologist set-up and staffed a booth focusing on the mission of the Service, which was co-located with the Forest Service. Information about the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and careers in natural resources was provided to students and parents.

ELFO also participated in the First Annual Black Family Festival in Detroit. For this inaugural event, the Service received a direct invitation to help kick off the festival by communicating what we do and how others can participate. The event celebrates the Black family through music, food and

education.

Staff members at ELFO are interested, active and involved within their community and with each other. Dialogue and learning occur at every step of the way.

Earlier in the year the Minnesota Chapter of Ducks Unlimited recognized *Stacy Salvevold*, Wildlife Refuge Specialist at the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District with the Beyond the Call Award for 2006. This award is presented to individuals who go beyond the call of duty in conservation of waterfowl and habitat. Stacy has worked with Minnesota's Ducks Unlimited staff over the past 3 years to put in place 12 wetland restoration and water management structures covering a total of 465 acres of habitat through out Fergus Falls WMD's five-county district.

*Steve Lenz*, District Manager of the Leopold Wetland Management District was also honored as the Wisconsin Chapter of Ducks Unlimited's Conservationist of the Year. Each year the award is presented to a natural resource professional that has made substantial contributions to the waterfowl and wetland resource in Wisconsin. This past year Ducks Unlimited and the Service completed restoration work on Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area; Steve was instrumental in securing a \$75,000 Fox River Natural Resource Damage Assessment grant for this work.

**Congratulations to the entire Midwest Region for another great year in conservation achievements.**

## Far and Away

On an October visit to the far northwest corner of Minnesota, I climbed the fire tower at Agassiz NWR. Agassiz's tower might be the tallest structure for many miles in any direction, and the constant wind at that height kept the platform icy and made my eyes water. But it was worth the climb and the cold to enjoy the glorious view — marshes, cattails, and levees, refuge and farmland, stretching as far as the eye could see.

I was visiting Agassiz as part of a Minnesota road trip orchestrated by the Refuge program. Our first stop was Fergus Falls, where the Service office is shared by Realty, Migratory Birds and the Wetland Management District.

As WMD Manager Kevin Brennan drove me around the county he pointed out restoration on acquired lands, easements, neighboring properties and Partners for Fish and Wildlife program projects — he was looking at conservation possibilities and accomplishments across the landscape. His efforts exemplify the value of the small wetlands acquisition program at the heart of WMDs. Then we joined Realty's Don Kleven at the Otter Tail County Commissioner's meeting where Don's respectful dealings help assuage concerns about growth of public lands. Kevin, Don and their colleagues at Fergus have a deep understanding of the land and the communities in the WMD counties that makes their work look easy, but I saw first-hand that it's not.

Sharing the WMD office at Fergus Falls is a crackerjack team from Migratory Birds that applies the best of wildlife science and technology. Dubbed HAPET

(Habitat Assessment and Population Evaluation Team), Rex Johnson and his associates are famous for their "thunderstorm" maps that help the Service and partners strategically address landscape conservation. And also at Fergus is an innovative partnership between the Service and the school district to provide prairie-based education for 5th graders, with documented academic and behavioral benefits. Because of the growing concern for the "nature deficit disorder", experts from across the nation are contacting Ken Garrahan and his colleagues at the WMD's Prairie Wetland Learning Center to understand this remarkable program.

From Fergus we headed north almost to the border of Canada, where Refuge Manager Maggie Anderson and her team at Agassiz NWR moved us through our paces to learn everything we could about this special place: water management, moose, new quarters, re-routing canals, cattail studies, remnants of homestead structures, and (especially) fire. As with Fergus Falls, we were provided terrific briefings and field tours (including a ride on the Marsh Master), and folks at both places extended hospitality (and food and beverage) for evening gatherings so we could get to know each other better.

The last stop on the way back to the Twin Cities was within the Litchfield WMD. As Manager Scott Glup pointed out large swaths of rolling prairie improved by removal of trees I could clearly see the difference that his efforts are making, and I better understood the scale of the challenges he faces.

These short sentences hardly do justice to all I saw and learned on



USFWS Photo

Regional Director Robyn Thorson and Agassiz ROS John Braastad take in the view atop the fire tower at Agassiz NWR.

this trip — it was impressive and I'm very grateful to have visited. My travel itinerary is usually dominated by meetings and airplane flights so it was a unique pleasure for me to have that week at field stations. If I had my choice in the matter, every week would be spent with employees, learning about your operations.

I thought about that while standing in the fire tower at Agassiz Refuge. I sometimes see first-hand the special places and people delivering our Service mission and I value those opportunities. But when I can't get there in person, I "see" you through e-mail, reports, a newsletter, or by hearing your voices on the phone. It helps me stay connected with the good work and the good people of the Midwest Region. From a fire tower, an airplane window, or from my desk at Ft. Snelling, I treasure that view. *Robyn Thorson, Regional Director*

## Accomplishment Reports

The following accomplishments reports were processed between October 1, and December 15, 2006.

1. Tuesdays with DCR Features the Benefits of ADR in the Workplace, *Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)*
2. DCR Hosts 'The Multi-Generational Workplace: Challenge for Today and Tomorrow', *Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)*
3. Alpena Fishery Office Provides Technical Assistance to U.S. Geological Survey, *Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*
4. Thunder Bay Project Implementation Working Committee Meeting, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
5. Alpena FRO Tags Lake Whitefish One More Time (Year 3 of 3), *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
6. Alpena FRO Biologist Attends Leadership Training, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
7. Alpena FRO Staff Conduct Coded Wire Tag Extractions, *Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO*
8. Alpena FRO Project Leader Meets with Congressional Staffer to Discuss Outlook for Alpena Federal Building, *Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*
9. Lake Trout Surveys Provide Maiden Assessment Cruise on the M/V Spencer F. Baird, *Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*
10. Alpena FRO Biologist Completes Detail, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
11. Alpena Biologist Offers Michigan Stream Team Presentation, *Heather Rawlings, Alpena FRO*
12. Alpena Hosts Successful Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival, *Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*
13. Prey Fish Collections Made for Study of Salmon and Trout Response to Declining Prey Abundance in Lake Huron, *Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*
14. Lake Huron and St. Marys River Ports Surveyed for New Populations of Invasive Species, *Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*
15. Alpena FRO Partners for Fish and Wildlife 2006 Wetland Construction Complete, *Heather Rawlings, Alpena FRO*
16. Alpena FRO Biologist Participates in Naturefest, *Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*
17. Alpena FRO Participates in Scoutfest 2006, *Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*
18. Fish Passage Restoration Along the Potagannassing River on Drummond Island, *Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*
19. Alpena FRO Assists Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority with Walleye Assessments in 1836 Treaty Waters, *Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*
20. Service Biologist Chairs Modeling Subcommittee Meeting for 1836 Treaty Waters, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
21. Wetland Construction Wraps Up, *Heather Rawlings, Alpena FRO*
22. Biologists Meet to Discuss Mussel Recovery Efforts in the Huron Erie Corridor at Walpole Island, *James Boase, Alpena FRO*
23. St. Marys River Fishery Task Group Conducts Fish Community Assessment of St. Marys River, *Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*
24. Lake Sturgeon Research Highlighted at DTE Energy Event at Purdy Fisheries, *James Boase, Alpena FRO*
25. Summer Work Crews Wrap Up the Season at Alpena FRO, *Heather Rawlings, Alpena FRO*
26. Rifle River Survey, *Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*
27. Tag Identification Database Contains Over 11,000 Tag Numbers, *Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO*
28. Congressman John D. Dingell Hosts News Conference to Announce New Funding for Humbug Marsh, *James Boase, Alpena FRO*
29. St. Marys River Lake Sturgeon Telemetry Project a Success, *Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*
30. Alpena FRO Biologist Joins Aquatic Habitat Restoration Tour in Ohio, *Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*
31. Near Shore Fish Study Continues at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, *James Boase, Alpena FRO*
32. Alpena FRO Participates In Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources Event, *Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*
33. Alpena FRO Hosts Booth at 'Friday Night Downtown' Event, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
34. Alpena FRO Staff Hosts Outreach Event at Purdy Fisheries During the Annual Port Huron to Mackinaw Sailboat Race, *James Boase, Alpena FRO*
35. Alpena FRO Completes Preparation For Commercial Fishers Appreciation Dinner, *Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO*
36. Alpena Staff Participates in 'Friday Nights Downtown' Event, *Heather Rawlings, Alpena FRO*
37. 2006 MOCC Course—Ludington, MI, *Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*
38. Alpena FRO staff participate in Great Lakes VHS Conference Call, *Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*
39. Ashland Fishery Resources Office Highlights 2006 SOLEC Participation, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
40. Ashland FRO 2006 Accomplishment Reports Are Now On the Internet, *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*
41. Trout Brook Fish Passage Barrier Removal, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
42. Hopkins Wetland Restoration Project Complete, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
43. 2007 Tribal Wildlife Grant and Tribal Landowner Incentive Grant Programs, *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*
44. Abundance of Invasive Ruffe Continues to Increase in Thunder Bay Harbor, Lake Superior, *Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*
45. Lake Superior Sturgeon Sampling Ontonagon, Michigan, *Jonathan Pyatskowitz, Ashland FRO*
46. No Ruffe Captured in Eastern Lake Superior, *Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*
47. Service Highlights Coastal Program-Great Lakes Accomplishments for 2006, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
48. Ashland FRO Highlights 2006 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Accomplishments, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
49. Ashland FRO Staff Conducts Fall Walleye Surveys with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*
50. Ashland FRO Staff Complete Fall Sampling of Four Invasive Ruffe Populations, *Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*
51. Whittlesey Creek Surveys Usher in Fall, *Jonathan Pyatskowitz, Ashland FRO*
52. Ashland FRO Staff Assists EPA with Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection Case Study, *Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*
53. Four Mile Creek Culvert Replacement Results in Seven Miles of Fish Passage, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
54. Ashland Staff Helps Complete Fiorio Wetland Restoration Project, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
55. The Deep and Shallow of Lake Trout Diversity in the Great Lakes, *Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO*
56. Ashland FRO Assists with Bald Eagle Monitoring and Banding, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
57. Farcus Creek Project Completed, *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*
58. Ashland FRO Staff Attend GIS Workshop, *Jonathan Pyatskowitz, Ashland FRO*
59. Ashland FRO Completes Second Culvert Replacement on Billy Creek, Poppe Road, *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*
60. Ashland FRO Staff Conduct Lake Whitefish Population Assessment in Grand Marais, Michigan, *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*
61. Ashland FRO Staff Complete Summer Sampling of Four Invasive Ruffe Populations, *Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*
62. Bloomington Indiana Field Office Presents 4th Quarter Report, *Michael Litwin, Bloomington FO*
63. Service Helps Indiana DOT Protect Bridge-Roosting Bats in Indiana, *Andy King, Bloomington FO*
64. Bloomington Field Office Provides Supporting Role in Filming of Cave Biota "Webumentary", *Andy King, Bloomington FO*
65. Bloomington Field Office Makes Endangered Species Presentation During the Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation/Environmental Field Days, *Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*
66. Contaminant Assessment Process Update Complete for Muscatatuck NWR, *Robin McWilliams-Munson, Bloomington FO*
67. Service and Indiana DOT Step Closer to Making Proposed I-69 A More Bat-Friendly Interstate, *Andy King, Bloomington FO*

-- Reports continued next page.

## Accomplishment Reports

### -- Reports from previous page.

68. Ongoing Restoration Partnership Results in More Than 700 Acres of Reforestation Within Fish Creek Watershed, *Michael Tosick, Bloomington FRO*

69. 2006 Abnormal Amphibian Monitoring Project Field Work Complete, *Robin McWilliams-Munson, Bloomington FO*

70. Bloomington Field Office Works With The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service to Provide Habitat Restoration Information, *Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*

71. Bloomington Ecological Services Field Office Signs Safe Harbor Agreement, *Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*

72. Outdoor TV Program Features Biologists Working for the Abnormal Amphibian Monitoring Project at Minnesota Valley NWR, *Robin McWilliams-Munson, Bloomington FO*

73. BFO Third Quarter FY06 Quarterly Report, *Michael Litwin, Bloomington FO*

74. Annual Fall Fish Survey for Crab Orchard Lake, *colby wrasse, Carterville FRO*

75. Public Comment Period for Draft National Management and Control Plan for Asian Carps in the United States Announced in the Federal Register, *Greg Conover, Carterville FRO*

76. Largemouth Bass Harvested and Stocked into Crab Orchard Lake, *colby wrasse, Carterville FRO*

77. Workshop Focuses on Coordinating Carp Control Efforts in the United States, *Greg Conover, Carterville FRO*

78. Service, Partners Team Up to Provide Fish Passage on Big Rock Creek, Illinois, *Nathan Caswell, Carterville FRO*

79. Carterville FRO Celebrates Our Hunting and Fishing Heritage, *colby wrasse, Carterville FRO*

80. A Safer Way to Preserve Fish, *colby wrasse, Carterville FRO*

81. Columbia FRO Staff Complete Harlow Island Fisheries Monitoring, *Patricia Herman, Carterville FRO*

82. Carterville Fishery Resources Office Helps Organize, Participates in International Symposium on Asian Carps, *Greg Conover, Carterville FRO*

83. Service Staff Gather Data for Swan Lake Fish Community Age Estimation, *Patricia Herman, Carterville FRO*

84. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Discuss Asian Carp Issues on Capitol Hill, *Greg Conover, Carterville FRO*

85. Carterville FRO Proposes Acoustic Array in Upper Illinois River for Early Detection of Asian Carps, *Greg Conover, Carterville FRO*

86. Service's Fish Passage Program Provides Funding for Brewster Creek in Northeastern Illinois, *Nathan Caswell, Carterville FRO*

87. Carterville FRO Completes First Year of Sampling for Stone Dike Alteration Project, *colby wrasse, Carterville FRO*

88. Middle Mississippi River Partnership Holds First Summit, *Rob Simmonds, Carterville FRO*

89. Improving Ecological Sustainability Within Ohio River Mainstem System, *Greg Conover, Carterville FRO*

90. Scientists from China See the Middle Mississippi River, *Rob Simmonds, Carterville FRO*

91. Chicago Field Office Provides Teacher Training In Wetlands, Watersheds, and Water Quality, *Cyndi Duda, Chicago FO*

92. Chicago Field Office Assists Students with Environmental Field Studies, *Cyndi Duda, Chicago FO*

93. Watershed Stakeholders Inspired at Fox River Watershed Summit, *Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO*

94. Chicago Field Office Participates in Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, *Cyndi Duda, Chicago FO*

95. Green Bay Ecological Services Staff Assists in Phragmites Control in Green Bay Coastal Wetlands, *Louise Clemency, Chicago FO*

96. Chicago Field Office Assists Morton Arboretum with Naturalist Certification Program, *Cyndi Duda, Chicago FO*

97. Service Honors Lifetime of Achievements of Two Private Landowner-Partners, *Michael Redmer, Chicago FO*

98. Service Announces Completion of 5-Year Reviews for 12 Species in California, *Scott Flaherty, CNO-External Affairs*

99. Columbia Field Office Completes Biological Opinion for Bagnell Dam Wrapping Up a 6-year Relicensing Process., *Andy Roberts, Columbia FO*

100. Columbia Ecological Services Office Works with Missouri Department of Transportation to Benefit Three Federally Listed Species, *Paul McKenzie, Columbia FO*

101. Columbia Ecological Services Field Office Sponsors Day With Wildlife for Inner-City Youth, *Paul McKenzie, Columbia FO*

102. Columbia FRO Biologist Completes CSA MultiSearch Training, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

103. Columbia FRO Staff Joins Wonders of Wildlife Educational Outreach Event, *Wyatt Doyle, Columbia FRO*

104. University of Missouri Fisheries Techniques Class Revisits the River, *Jeff Finley, Columbia FRO*

105. Habitat Assessment and Monitoring Project (HAMP) Partners Meet in Lincoln, Nebraska, *Andrew Starostka, Columbia FRO*

106. Assistant Secretary Woodley Visits Columbia FRO, *Jeff Finley, Columbia FRO*

107. Columbia FRO Assists with Fall Sampling at DeSoto NWR, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

108. Columbia FRO Visits Ft. Leonard Wood, *Jeff Finley, Columbia FRO*

109. SEI Conducts Independent Science Review of HAMP, *Andrew Starostka, Columbia FRO*

110. Columbia Staff Join Last River Relief Event for 2006, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

111. Columbia FRO Improves Fishery at Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, *Cliff Wilson, Columbia FRO*

112. An 'Eco-Friendly' Experience at Coopers Landing, *Nicholas Utrup, Columbia FRO*

113. Columbia FRO's Mitigation Field Season Ends, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

114. Columbia FRO Staff Attend 2006 North American Native Fishes Association National Convention, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

115. Big River Trawling Demonstration for Native Fish Association, *Andrew Plauck, Columbia FRO*

116. Columbia FRO Staff Attend Missouri River Agency Coordination Team Meeting, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

117. Region 3 Publication Artwork Approved, *Jeff Finley, Columbia FRO*

118. Columbia Biologists Attend Asian Carp Symposium in Peoria, Illinois, *Andrew Plauck, Columbia FRO*

119. Columbia FRO Welcomes New Biologist, *Derek Eisenbrei, Columbia FRO*

120. Columbia FRO Staff Attend Spring Rise Monitoring Meeting, *Tracy Hill, Columbia FRO*

121. Columbia FRO Welcomes Student Volunteer, *Jennifer Johnson, Columbia FRO*

122. Fisheries Staff Attend International Conference on Rivers and Civilization, *Tracy Hill, Columbia FRO*

123. Columbia FRO Assists in a Teachers Field Trip Day on the Missouri River, *Andrew Plauck, Columbia FRO*

124. Midwest Driftless Area Restoration Effort Poster Presentation at the International Large Rivers Conference, *Louise Mauldin, Columbia FRO*

125. Bald Eagle Visits for Crab Orchard NWR Veteran's Day FUN Program, *Karin Magera, Crab Orchard NWR*

126. Visitors Enjoy Spooky Happenings at Crab Orchard NWR, *Karin Magera, Crab Orchard NWR*

127. Crab Orchard NWR Friends Host 5th Annual Refuge Photo Contest, *Karin Magera, Crab Orchard NWR*

128. Environmental Detectives Crack the Case, *Karin Magera, Crab Orchard NWR*

129. Loyal Webelos Plant at DeSoto NWR, *James Murcia, Desoto NWR*

130. A Fruitful National Public Lands Day at DeSoto NWR, *James Murcia, Desoto NWR*

131. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Partners with Bass Pro Shops at Kid's Week, *James Murcia, Desoto NWR*

132. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Sails Through Local Parade, *James Murcia, Desoto NWR*

-- Reports continued next page.



## Accomplishment Reports

### -- Reports from previous page.

133. Wetland Reserve Program Right-of-Way Completed on DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, *Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

134. Wildfire Burns Portion of Jason Barker WPA, *Steve Schumacher, Detroit Lakes WMD*

135. Wildland Fire Severity in Northwest Minnesota, *Steve Schumacher, Detroit Lakes WMD*

136. Lake Whitefish Released in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, *John Hartig, Detroit River*

137. \$1.5 Million Project Will Restore Wetlands at Refuge Gateway, *John Hartig, Detroit River*

138. The Nature Conservancy Helps Double the Size of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, *John Hartig, Detroit River*

139. Metropolitan Affairs Coalition Releases Detroit Heritage River Water Trail Plan, *John Hartig, Detroit River*

140. \$20,000 Secured for Restoring Natural Shoreline at the Kayak Landing Being Created Along the Elizabeth Park Canal, *John Hartig, Detroit River*

141. Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and International Wildlife Refuge Alliance Issue Annual Progress Report, *John Hartig, Detroit River*

142. East Lansing Field Office Participates in Indiana Bat Workshop, *Jack Dingledine, East Lansing FO*

143. East Lansing Field Office Staff Makes Presentation to Regional Audubon Society, *Jack Dingledine, East Lansing FO*

144. East Lansing Field Office Staff Attends Great Lakes Restoration Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, *Jack Dingledine, East Lansing FO*

145. Michigan Ornithological Congress Meeting includes State Action Plan and Joint Venture Planning Discussion, *Gregory Soulliere, East Lansing FO*

146. 2006 Kirtland's Warbler Nesting Season Sets Population Record, *Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO*

147. Partnership Uses Conservation Design To Implement State Action Plans For Priority Bird Species in the Region, *Gregory Soulliere, East Lansing FO*

148. Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Maps the Abundance and Distribution of Breeding and Migratory Waterfowl Species Included in State Wildlife Action Plans, *Bradly Potter, East Lansing FO*

149. Science Support and Joint Ventures Assessment Teams Meet, *Gregory Soulliere, East Lansing FO*

150. East Lansing Staff Conduct Pitcher's Thistle Count at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park., *Tameka Dandridge, East Lansing FO*

151. Kirtland's Warbler Sighting Spurs New Partnership, *Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO*

152. Bureau of Indian Affairs Staff Learn About Imperiled Species and Endangered Species Act, *Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO*

153. U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TAKES ACTION TO ENHANCE MANAGEMENT OF WILD BISON ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge Will Move Existing Bison Herd and Receive New Animals - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

154. Copies of Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Available — Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

155. Hunting Incident at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

156. CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATED FOR CANADA LYNX - Designation Includes Portions of Voyageurs National Park - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

157. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Makes Decision on Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

158. Sixth Group of Endangered Whooping Cranes Depart on Ultralight-guided Flight to Florida — Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

159. Grassy Island Forum to be Held October 12, 2006 in Wyandotte - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

160. Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 8-14; Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

161. Boyer Chute and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuges Combine Resources to Manage Wildlife Habitat and Public Use Opportunities - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

162. Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 8-14; Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

163. Writing/Editing for Ecological Services and ABA, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

164. DOI Listening Sessions, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

165. Secretary Kempthorne Announces \$67 Million in Grants to Support Land Acquisition and Conservation Planning for Endangered Species - Four Midwest States Receive \$1.35 Million - Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

166. FWS Director Dale Hall Joins Partners as New Great Lakes Fish Stocking Vessel is Christened, *Rachel Levin, External Affairs*

167. Region 3 Speeches/Talking Points for Ecological Services/Admin, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

168. For the Record - Outreach Tool for Region 3 ES, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

169. Communications Planning for R3 Ecological Services, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

170. News Releases, Media Advisories for R3 Ecological Services and Administration, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

171. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces \$563,915 in Grants for Great Lakes Restoration Projects- Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

172. Draft Economic Analysis of Critical Habitat Designation for the Canada Lynx Released- Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

173. New Workhorse for Great Lakes Fisheries Conservation Christened- Congressional Notification, *Jane West, External Affairs*

174. Silver and Largescale Silver Carp Subject of Proposed Rule by Fish and Wildlife Service, *Jane West, External Affairs*

175. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, *Jane West, External Affairs*

176. Service Makes Decision on Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, *Jane West, External Affairs*

177. State Wildlife Management Plan Test, *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

178. Visual Inspection Finds Grassy Island Dikes Sound; Inspection Report Available Online, *Jane West, External Affairs*

179. Federal Agencies Release Amended Environmental Assessment on Double-crested Cormorant Damage Management in Michigan, *Jane West, External Affairs*

180. State Wildlife Agencies Receive Grants to Work With Landowners to Conserve At-risk Species, *Jane West, External Affairs*

181. Final Environmental Assessment Approved for Toledo's Glass City Marina, *Jane West, External Affairs*

182. Outreach Planning - Hine's emerald dragonfly critical habitat proposal, *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

183. Critical Habitat Proposed for Hine's Emerald Dragonfly, *Jane West, External Affairs*

184. Service Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, *Jane West, External Affairs*

185. Regional Director Dedicates Indiana State Fair Fishing Pond, *Robert Bryant, Federal Aid*

186. Service, Minnesota DNR Cooperate on Pilot Project to Improve Waterfowl Habitat, *Stacy Salvevold, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

187. Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Celebrates National Public Lands Day, *Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

188. Return to Prairie Day A Huge Success for the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, *Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

189. Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Youth Volunteers Release Weevils to Combat Spotted Knapweed, *Stacy Salvevold, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

-- Reports continued next page.

## Accomplishment Reports

### -- Reports from previous page.

190. Genoa National Fish Hatchery Provides Volunteer Opportunities for Winona State University Students, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

191. Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Viterbo University Partner to Enhance Resource Conservation, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

192. Swimming at the Deep End of the Gene Pool — Important Strain of Lake Trout finds New Home at Genoa, *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

193. Fall Fingerling Distribution Wraps Up at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, *Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH*

194. Genoa, Warm Springs NFHs Meet in the Middle for Lake Sturgeon Restoration, *Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH*

195. Genoa Staff Assists With Cabela's Masters Walleye Championship, *Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH*

196. Winged Mapleleaf Production at Genoa National Fish Hatchery Completes Third Year, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

197. Lake Sturgeon Restoration Continues to be a Priority for Genoa National Fish Hatchery, *Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*

198. Lake Sturgeon Restoration, Endangered Mussel Recovery Featured at American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

199. Federal, State Partners Make Large Strides Toward Endangered Mussel Recovery in Upper Mississippi River, *Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*

200. Mussels make new home in Iowa City, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

201. Service Talks Mussel Restoration With Walpole Island First Nation., *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

202. Genoa Intern Project Provides Hatchery with Depths of Understanding, *Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH*

203. Volunteers Put Mussels To Bed in the Cedar River, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

204. Local Scout Earns Eagle Scout Status Assisting Hatchery Outreach Program, *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

205. Genoa Hatchery assists Corps of Engineers Blackhawk Park with Kids Fishing Day, *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

206. Genoa NFH Helps Sportsman Association 'Make a Wish', *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

207. Genoa NFH Staff Survey Aquatic Plants in Pool 9 of the Mississippi River, *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

208. Genoa National Fish Hatchery Freshwater Mussel Program Not Just For Restoration, *Tony Brady, Genoa NFH*

209. FWS River Offices Supply Fish to Discovery World Museum, *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

210. Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office Establishes Native Grassland in Door County, *Gary VanVreede, Green Bay FO*

211. Service Teaches Audubon, Interested Citizens About Wildlife Impacts of Wind Energy at No Bird Left Behind Conference, *Leakhena Au, Green Bay FO*

212. Three New Partners Join the Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly HCP Bringing the Partnership Total to 41, *Catherine Carnes, Green Bay FO*

213. Karner Blue Butterfly Monitoring Workshop Held at Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, *Catherine Carnes, Green Bay FO*

214. Green Bay Staff Works Toward Piping Plover Habitat Improvement, *Gary VanVreede, Green Bay FO*

215. Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Habitat Improvement, *Gary VanVreede, Green Bay FO*

216. Green Bay Field Office Assists in Lake Michigan Birding and Nature Trail Guide Development, *Joel Trick, Green Bay FO*

217. Service Provides ESA Section 7 Guidance to Biologists, Project Managers from EPA and Corps Districts, *Leakhena Au, Green Bay FO*

218. Green Bay Field Office Staff Hosts Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Outreach Event in Door County, Wisconsin, *Catherine Carnes, Green Bay FO*

219. Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Volunteer Receives Service Award, *Catherine Carnes, Green Bay FO*

220. Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Collects Lake Trout Eggs During Fall Spawn Survey in Lake Michigan, *Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO*

221. Green Bay FRO Contributes To Messenger Creek Bridge Replacement Project., *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

222. Carp Lake River Culvert Replacement Project., *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

223. Hunting Club Assists With Stream Restoration Project, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

224. Service Works With Partners and Dam Owner to Develop Fish Passage at Menominee River Hydroelectric Facilities, *Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO*

225. Service, Army Corps, Wisconsin DNR, and Hydro Owner Develop Plan for Adequate Water Flow to Protect Lake Sturgeon Spawning and Reproduction in Lower Fox River Tributary to Lake Michigan, *Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO*

226. Green Bay FRO Reports On Lake Sturgeon Status, Trends and Initiatives to Great Lakes Organizations, *Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO*

227. Interagency Team Initiates Reintroduction of Lake Sturgeon into Lake Michigan Tributaries Using Streamside Rearing Facilities, *Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO*

228. Mortality and Recruitment Mechanisms Affecting Early Life Stages of Lake Sturgeon, *Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO*

229. With Help of Green Bay FRO, the Red River is Restored in Northern Wisconsin, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

230. Green Bay FRO Continues Butterfly Creek Culvert Replacement Project, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

231. Service Assists Minnesota DNR with Database Development, *John Netto, Green Bay FRO*

232. Green Bay Fisheries Office Assists with Stock Assessment of Lake Trout in 1842 Treaty Waters, *John Netto, Green Bay FRO*

233. Green Bay Yellow Perch Stock Assessment Model Updated for 2006, *John Netto, Green Bay FRO*

234. Green Bay FRO Assists Private Landowner With Habitat Restoration, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

235. Woody Debris Added to Trout Creek, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

236. Service Biologist Presents Results of Yellow Perch Analysis to Wisconsin DNR, *John Netto, Green Bay FRO*

237. Conservation Campers Learn About Fishery Management., *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

238. Green Bay FRO Hosts Open Water Boat Safety Course, *Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO*

239. NWR Week Tours Conducted on Hamden Slough and Tamarac Refuges, *Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

240. A Landscape Approach to Grassland Bird Conservation in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Northern Great Plains, *Anthony Rondeau, HAPET*

241. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Hosts Successful Youth Waterfowl Hunt, *Diane Kitchen, Horicon NWR*

242. Iron River Hosts Diversity Event, *Laurie Gucinski, Iron River NFH*

243. Service Biologist Completes Coaster's Six Month Checkup, *Angela Baran, Iron River NFH*

244. Iron River NFH Helps Coasters Find a Home, *Steve Redman, Iron River NFH*

245. Iron River NFH Hosts Open House, *Angela Baran, Iron River NFH*

246. Fish Distribution Gets A Face-Lift, *Kurt Schilling, Iron River NFH*

247. Iron River NFH Hosts SCEP Student for Tour, *Laurie Gucinski, Iron River NFH*

248. Iron River NFH Takes Part in Local Parades, *Kurt Schilling, Iron River NFH*

249. Joint Venture hires GIS expertise for landscape conservation planning, *Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture*

250. Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Staff Assist with Lake Trout Spawning, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

251. Hatchery Volunteer Moves on to Permanent Employment with Michigan DNR, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

252. Jordan River NFH and Alpena Fishery Resource Biologists complete Annual ANS Surveillance, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

253. 4H Conservation Tour Held at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

-- Reports continued next page.

## Accomplishment Reports

### -- Reports from previous page.

254. Jordan River Staff Move Lake Trout, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

255. Partners Assist with Fall Adopt a

Highway Project, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

256. Jordan River Staff Joins in 11th Annual Northland Sportsmans Family Hunting and Fishing Expo, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

257. Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Staff Play Key Roles in Vessel Dedication, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

258. Inland Seas Invites Jordan River NFH Biologist to Present During Invasive Species Awareness Weeks, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

259. Senior Honor Student in Fish and Wildlife Biology Volunteers at Jordan River NFH, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

260. Jordan River NFH Biologists Attend Genetics Training at the Regional Office, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

261. Jordan River NFH Hosts Preschool Tours, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

262. Service Receives Delivery of the Spencer F. Baird, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

263. Tim Smigielski Represents Jordan River NFH at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Fish Fest, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

264. Jordan River NFH Staff Provides Lake Whitefish Survey Assistance, *Timothy Smigielski, Jordan River NFH*

265. VHS Sampling Conducted on Lake Erie, *Eric Leis, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

266. La Crosse FRO Staff Survey for Specific Fish Pathogens in Fish from Devil's Lake, Sheyenne and Red Rivers in North Dakota

, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

267. Service Staff Dedicate the M/V Spencer F. Baird in Traverse City, Michigan

, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

268. Fish Health Inspection Conducted at Jordan River NFH, *Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

269. Fish Health Overview presented to Michigan Aquaculture Association, *Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

270. Service Staff Tag Lake Sturgeon at Genoa NFH

, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

271. Fall Health Inspection Completed At Genoa National Fish Hatchery, *Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

272. Minneapolis Symposium Focuses on VHS Fish Virus, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

273. Future Scientist Enjoys Job Shadow Assignment at the La Crosse Fish Health Center, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

274. Fish Health Survey Conducted on Videan's Creek, *Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

275. Fish Health Inspection Completed at Iron River National Fish Hatchery, *Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

276. La Crosse Fish Health Center Conducts Fish Health Inspections at Pendills and Sullivan Creek NFH's., *Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

277. La Crosse Fish Health Center Assists Fort McCoy In Fish Transfer, *Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

278. La Crosse Fish Health Center Intern Attends ECO Conference, *Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

279. Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee Holds Fall Meetings, *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

280. Fishery Management Surveys Completed on Menominee Indian Reservation, *Ann Runstrom, LaCrosse FRO*

281. Diving Activities Contribute to Restoration of Federally Endangered Winged Mapleleaf Mussel, *Ann Runstrom, LaCrosse FRO*

282. La Crosse FRO Shows 'What it Takes to Be a Biologist' at La Crosse Area Career Expo, *Heidi Keuler, LaCrosse FRO*

283. CSA Literature Search Training Completed, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

284. La Crosse FRO Drafts Invasives HACCP Plans, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

285. La Crosse FRO Staff Join In Rydell Walleye Production Harvest, *Heidi Keuler, LaCrosse FRO*

286. La Crosse FRO Answers the Question, 'Can These Fish Really Fly?' at Trempealeau County's Annual Environmental Day, *Heidi Keuler, LaCrosse FRO*

287. U.S., China and Russia Meet on Large River Issues, *Heidi Keuler, LaCrosse FRO*

288. UMR Cooperative Conservation Highlights Open House, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

289. Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee Directory Updated, *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

290. Watercraft Safety Training Completes Successful Year, *Dave Wedan, LaCrosse FRO*

291. Assistant Director for International Affairs Tours Upper Mississippi River Refuge and Hatchery, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

292. Outreach Efforts Prevent Release of Pet Fish, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

293. La Crosse FRO Completes Asian Carp Surveillance, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

294. Dive Team Members Learn Search and Recovery, *Ann Runstrom, LaCrosse FRO*

295. UMRCC Library Moved to FWS Office in Onalaska, Wisconsin, *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

296. Endangered Winged Mapleleaf Collected on the St. Croix River, *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

297. Fisheries Program Represented at International Conference on Rivers Civilization, *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

298. Service, Cooperators Participate in Pere Marquette River Sea Lamprey Symposium, *Jeff Slade, Ludington Bio. Station*

299. Educational TV Show Features Sea Lamprey Control, *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

300. Canadian-American Team Destroys Rifle River Sea Lampreys, *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

301. Sea Lamprey Control Program Staff Destroy Lampreys to Save Lake Trout, *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

302. U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys Lampreys to Save Lake Trout, *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

303. Ludington Biological Station Hosts MOCC Participants, *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

304. Biological Opinion Completed for the Crab Orchard NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*

305. Marion ES Staff Produce Habitat Maps for the Army Corps of Engineers and Commercial Sand/Gravel Dredgers, *Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO*

306. Successful Field Season Completed In Ongoing Search for Sea Lampreys, *Michael Fodale, Marquette Bio Station*

307. Alternative Sea Lamprey Controls Reduced Reproduction in the St. Marys River, *Michael Siefkes, Marquette Bio Station*

308. Sea Lamprey Management Personnel Provide Expertise at SuperFund Site, *Michael Fodale, Marquette Bio Station*

309. Sea Lamprey Control Staff Hosts Journalists, *Michael Siefkes, Marquette Bio Station*

310. Service Consulted and Protocol Implemented to Minimize the Effects of Granular Bayluscide Assessments on Rare Species, *Gregg Baldwin, Marquette Bio Station*

311. Sea Lamprey Staff Participate in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Festival, *Gregg Baldwin, Marquette Bio Station*

312. Migratory Bird Permits Examiner Deanne Endrizzi Offers a Presentation on Waterfowl to Burnsville Second Graders, *Jason Mercado, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

313. Educator and Bird Enthusiast Dianne Moller Makes Presentation at Regional Office, *Jason Mercado, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

314. Science Support Research Projects funded in FY 2007, *Jason Mercado, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

315. Quick Response Research Projects funded in FY 2007, *Jason Mercado, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

-- Reports continued next page.

## Accomplishment Reports

### -- Reports from previous page.

316. Migratory Birds Staffs in Regions 3 and 5 Partner with Cornell Lab of Ornithology to Produce Priority Migrant eBird, *Tom Will, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

317. Update on Double-crested Cormorant Management in FWS Region 3, *Steve Lewis, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

318. Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership Reaches Milestone, *Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

319. Region 3 Migratory Birds Participates in First Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop, *Tom Will, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

320. Iowa DNR, Partners Receive \$1 Million NAWCA Grant, *Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

321. Missouri DOC, Partners Receive \$1 Million NAWCA Grant, *Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

322. Minnesota DNR, Partners Receive \$1 Million NAWCA Grant, *Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

323. Pheasants Forever, Partners Receive \$1 Million NAWCA Grant, *Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

324. Region 3 Migratory Birds Hires Tom Cooper to Coordinate Completion of Focal Species Action Plans for Henslow's Sparrow and King Rail, *Tom Will, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

325. Migratory Birds Staff Attends Wisconsin Rehabilitators Advisory Meeting, *Jason Mercado, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

326. Migratory Birds and National Wildlife Refuge Biologists Partner with the Chippewa National Forest to Define Habitat Requirements for Priority Birds, *Tom Will, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

327. National Accredited Interpretive Training Workshop held at Minnesota Valley NWR, *Mara Koenig, Minnesota Valley NWR*

328. Young Waterfowlers Program at Minnesota Valley Refuge Continues to Please, *Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR*

329. 18 Ultralight Led Whooping Cranes Make Muscatatuck NWR Stop Before Resuming Their Journey South, *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

330. Muscatatuck and Big Oaks NWR staffs, NCTC Host a Career Booth at the 79th Annual Career Convention in Indianapolis, *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

331. Muscatatuck NWR Participates in Internship Fair at Franklin College, *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

332. Muscatatuck NWR Participates in Career Fair at Purdue University, *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

333. Muscatatuck NWR hosts a Wildlife Habitat Management Workshop for Foresters, *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

334. 'Elmo' Makes His Debut, *Scott Ford, Neal Smith NWR*

335. Secretary Kempthorne Visits Neal Smith NWR, *Scott Ford, Neal Smith NWR*

336. Necedah NWR West Boundary Wetland Restorations, *Bill Peterson, Necedah NWR*

337. Necedah NWR Partners With Ho-Chunk Nation to Restore Billings Creek, *Bill Peterson, Necedah NWR*

338. Update on Endangered Pallid Sturgeon Building Construction at the Neosho NFH, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

339. Neosho National Fish Hatchery Manager Appears On Outdoor Fishing Radio Show, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

340. Pre-Construction Meeting Held at Neosho NFH, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

341. A Historic Moment for Neosho National Fish Hatchery, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

342. Neosho NFH Participates in Annual Barnyard Days Celebration for Newton County Missouri, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

343. Missouri Southern State University Intern Volunteers at Neosho NFH, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

344. Neosho NFH Participates in National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration at Wonders of Wildlife and Bass Pro in Springfield, Missouri, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

345. Regional and Washington Visitors Tour Neosho National Fish Hatchery During National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

346. Senator Kit Bond Visits Neosho National Fish Hatchery, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

347. Update: Endangered Pallid Sturgeon Building at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

348. Senator Kit Bond's Senior Legislative Staffer from Washington D.C. Visits Neosho National Fish Hatchery, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

349. Neosho NFH Participates in Emancipation Park Day Celebration, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

350. Neosho NFH Partners With Missouri Department of Conservation to Monitor Water Quality for Endangered Ozark Cavefish, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

351. Neosho NFH Staff Member Attends 'An Introduction to Mussels Workshop', *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

352. Neosho NFH Staff Participated in Fish Genetics Course in Minneapolis, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

353. Ozark PBS TV Films at Neosho NFH, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

354. Neosho NFH Participates in Carver Day 2006 at George Washington Carver National Monument, *David Hendrix, Neosho NFH*

355. Northern Indiana Office Biologist Speaks About Service Reports on Status and Trends of Wetlands, *Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc*

356. Design of Mitigation Plan Begins for Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project, *Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc*

357. Service Staffs Booth at 161st LaPorte County Fair, *Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc*

358. Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery Meets Quick Turn-around 'Fall Fingerling' Goal, *Curtis Friez, Pendills Creek NFH*

359. Lake Trout Fry Return to the Upper Peninsula, *Jenny Walker, Pendills Creek NFH*

360. Pendills Creek NFH Hosts Protectors of the Earth Youth Camp, *Jenny Walker, Pendills Creek NFH*

361. Pendills and Sullivan Creek Staffs Welcome Student Volunteer to Lake Trout Program, *Jenny Walker, Pendills Creek NFH*

362. Hatchery Participates In Local Parade, *Curtis Friez, Pendills Creek NFH*

363. Local Friends Group Sponsors Hatchery Open House, *Curtis Friez, Pendills Creek NFH*

364. Conservation Planning Chief Briefs Managers on Conservation Focal Area Project, *Jane Lardy-Nelson, Refuges&Wildlife*

365. Public Scoping Open House Events Held for Seney NWR and Kirtland's Warbler WMA Comprehensive Conservation Plan, *Jane Lardy-Nelson, Refuges&Wildlife*

366. Open House Events Held for Draft Horicon and Fox River NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), *Jane Lardy-Nelson, Refuges&Wildlife*

367. Discovery Channel's "Dirty Jobs" Features the Island Snake Lady and the Lake Erie Watersnake!, *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*

368. Federal Assistance and Ecological Services Partner to Protect Snake, *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*

369. Ohio Edison, Corps of Engineers, and Service Protect Federal Trust Resources, *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*

370. Ohio Field Office Hosts Consultation Workshop for Ohio Energy, *Sarena Selbo, Reynoldsburg FO*

371. GLBET Committee Hosts Public Workshops on Islands Plan, *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*

372. Study to evaluate impingement impacts to freshwater mussels in Ohio begins, *Jeromy Applegate, Reynoldsburg FO*

373. Service provides Corps of Engineers with important planning information for the upper Ohio River., *Jeromy Applegate, Reynoldsburg FO*

374. Local Community Outreach Education by Rock Island Field Office, *Kelly DeGrandchamp, Rock Island FO*

375. Rock Island Field Office Private Lands Staff Lists Topeka Shiner Recovery Projects, *Kelly DeGrandchamp, Rock Island FO*

376. Rock Island Field Office Staff Work to Streamline Technical Assistance For Better Customer Service, *Kristen Lundh, Rock Island FO*

-- Reports continued next page.

## Accomplishment Reports

### -- Reports from previous page.

377. Rock Island Staff Assists in Asian Carp Monitoring in Pool 16 of the Upper Mississippi River, *Kelly DeGrandchamp, Rock Island FO*

378. Rock Island Staff Assist in Mississippi River Pool 19 Aquatic Vegetation Survey, *Kristen Lundh, Rock Island FO*

379. River Partners Plan for Fish Passage at Mississippi River Lock and Dam 22, *Jon Duyvejonck, Rock Island FO*

380. Two Savanna Army Depot Parcels Ready to be Transferred at the Lost Mound Unit, *Ginger Molitor, Rock Island FO*

381. Rock Island Field Office Hosts Net Environmental Benefit Analysis Workshop on Upper Mississippi River Spills and Natural Resources, *Ginger Molitor, Rock Island FO*

382. RIFO, River Action of the Quad Cities Hold Courses on Pool 15 of the Mississippi River, *Kraig McPeck, Rock Island FO*

383. Rock Island Field Office Staff Conduct Copperbelly Snake Survey, *Jon Duyvejonck, Rock Island FO*

384. Service Hosts Grewe Tract Land Dedication at Crane Meadows NWR, *Paul Soler, Sherburne NWR*

385. Attendance at Sherburne NWR Wildlife Festival Exceeds 1600, *Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*

386. Sherburne NWR Hosts Area 3 Soil and Water Conservation Tour in Isanti County., *Paul Soler, Sherburne NWR*

387. 376 Students Attend Morrison County Water Festival, *Paul Soler, Sherburne NWR*

388. 323 Students Attend Environmental Education Days at Sherburne NWR, *Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*

389. Shiawassee Refuge Partners with Saginaw Valley Audubon Society to Provide Short-eared Owl Tours, *Steve Kahl, Shiawassee NWR*

390. Shiawassee Refuge and Friends Grow Butterfly Garden, *Steve Kahl, Shiawassee NWR*

391. Shiawassee Refuge Provides Guided Horseback Tours, *Steve Kahl, Shiawassee NWR*

392. Teal Pool Development Gets National Attention, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

393. Squaw Creek Has New and Improved Web Site, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

394. Sunday Wildfire at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

395. Squaw Creek Staff Works With Wisconsin DNR in Avian Influenza Monitoring, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

396. YCC Completes Extension of Loess Bluff Hiking Trail, *Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR*

397. Service Staffs Booth at Minnesota Zoo Wild Things Program, *Nick Rowse, Twin Cities FO*

398. Service Staff Inspect Winged Mapleleaf Propagation on St. Croix River, Minnesota, *Nick Rowse, Twin Cities FO*

399. Twin Cities Ecological Services Staff Complete 101 Preacquisition Contaminant Survey Activities in Fiscal Year '06, *Judy Edwards, Twin Cities FO*

400. St. Croix River Crossing Project Stakeholder Process Completed, *Nick Rowse, Twin Cities FO*

401. Wildlife Viewing Enhanced by Two Rivers NWR Partners, *John Mabery, Two Rivers NWR*

402. Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Receives Grant for Floating Classroom, *Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

403. Upper Miss Refuge is Growing, *Sharonne Baylor, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

404. Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Staff Earn Exemplary Act Citations For Assistance Rescuing Potential Drowning Victim, *Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

405. Swallows Invade Weaver Bottoms, *Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

406. Public Gathers at Upper Miss Refuge Observation Deck to Celebrate Returning Migratory Birds, *Ann Blankenship, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse*



<http://midwest.fws.gov>

### Inside Region 3 January 2007

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Midwest Region, Office of External Affairs  
1 Federal Drive  
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111**

**Inside Region 3** is produced by the Office of External Affairs, Region 3, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minn. Items included are selected from reports submitted by Region 3 offices via the Accomplishment Reporting System.

Photos included are used by permission and may be copyrighted.

Questions concerning **Inside Region 3** or the Accomplishment Reporting System should be addressed to Chuck Traxler, 612/713-5313 or email at [charles\\_traxler@fws.gov](mailto:charles_traxler@fws.gov)

Federal Relay Number: 1 800/877-8339

Available in alternative formats upon request

Equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, status as a parent and genetic information. For information contact the U.S. Department of Interior, Office for Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, DC 20240