



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

Information from the Accomplishment Reporting System for March 1-31, 2003

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It all began with one man and one boat, protecting pelicans on a tiny five-acre island in Florida. From that humble beginning arose the world's largest and most diverse network of lands dedicated to the protection and management of a vast array of wildlife. America's National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses over 95 million acres on more than 540 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. **It all began with one man and one boat**, protecting pelicans on a tiny five-acre island in Florida. From that humble beginning arose the world's largest and most diverse network of lands dedicated to the protection and management of a vast array of wildlife. America's National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses over 95 million acres on more than 540 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. **It all began with one man and one boat**, protecting pelicans on a tiny five-acre island in Florida. From that humble beginning arose the world's largest and most diverse network of lands dedicated to the protection and management of a vast array of wildlife. America's National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses over 95 million acres on more than 540 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas.

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"Celebrating a Century of Conservation"

Centennial celebrations from around the region (continued on page 5)

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge's Centennial celebration was a great success. The refuge celebrated the Centennial with a three-day event. On March 14, the refuge had an open house, auto tour, time capsule interment, a cutting of Centennial birthday cake and reception. A total of 59 people attended the activities.

Recently, Congress appropriated funds for an Ottawa NWR visitors' center. This new center was celebrated during this event by conducting an official ground breaking ceremony. The theme of the new center will incorporate the design of the duck hunting club house at the Little Cedar Point unit of the refuge. The media came out in full force – three different television reporters and one newspaper reporter attended.



- USFWS photo

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur enjoys a historical display at Ottawa NWR's Centennial celebration.

Representative Marcy Kaptur, Sens. George Voinovich and Mike DeWine all presented letters of commendation to the refuge to place in the Centennial time capsule. *Sarah Mason, Ottawa NWR*



- USFWS photo

Period costumes and historical presentations were a highlight of Rydell NWR's Centennial celebration.

well as an explanation of the roles and benefits that volunteers and volunteer organizations have to give to the future of Rydell and the entire refuge system.

The Centennial time capsule and its contents were also displayed for the crowd. Pictures, publications and a variety of information on area history and refuge management were set aside to be placed in the capsule.

Many in attendance chose to take advantage of the refuge's trail system on one of the first beautiful days of spring in northern Minnesota. The remainder of the day was spent playing games, making bird treats, handing out door prizes and having fun! *Juancarlos Giese, Rydell NWR*

Rydell National Wildlife Refuge celebrated the Centennial with a menagerie of events for the entire family. Interim Refuge Manager John Braastad joined members of the Grand Forks Boone and Crockett Club and others to start the day off with an old-time fur trader/black powder enthusiast program that enlightened the audience to the tools, weapons and everyday lifestyle of pre-settlement mountain men and their effect on the local landscape.

Juancarlos Giese, refuge operations specialist, gave the audience a synopsis of refuge system history and the policies and practices that shape, and will continue to shape the way the system is managed for wildlife, habitats and the people who appreciate national wildlife refuges. Wayne Goeken, Friends group member, gave those attending a presentation on the Friends of Rydell Refuge Association. Details about the history and goals of the group were given as

A Message From the New Regional Director

I am pleased to join the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region as Regional Director. I have already had the opportunity to meet some of you, and my goal is to meet every person and visit every field station in the region. It can't happen instantly, but I look forward to applying myself to this goal — to seeing the projects and places of the region, and to personally hearing from you about the work you are doing in support of the Service's mission.

Until we meet, this message extends my warmest greetings—and my sincere appreciation and respect for your achievements.

The Service's mission is to conserve, protect and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. It is through *your* efforts and dedication that future generations will be able to enjoy the nation's natural resources on public and private lands throughout the Midwest.

Fortunately, we are not alone in carrying out this mission. Partners inform us and help us to better carry out our obligations to natural resources. They are critical to fulfilling our mission. I am grateful to our many partners – states, tribes, nongovernment organizations, Congressional offices and private citizens — for their shared dedication to conservation. I look forward to meeting and working with our valuable partners alongside Service employees.

Even though the Service is a scientific agency, communication and outreach are integral parts of our work. We need to tell our story. So much of the time it seems we are reacting; we need to spend more time being proactive and sharing our good news and good work. When people know who we are and what we accomplish, they can better share in our conservation mission. I will be placing a high priority on communication as an essential component of our public service function.

More importantly than information sharing, we also need to listen. Hearing from the public, from partners or from our critics helps us address our public service role more effectively. Personal contact with local citizens, conservation groups and Congressional members is an excellent way for you to do this.

Similarly, personal contact with you, the dedicated employees of Region 3, is an excellent way for me to be more informed and more effective. I welcome your messages, questions and comments,

whether in person when I visit your office or station, or via e-mail.

I am honored to be Regional Director. I look forward to applying my experience from three other regions, and from the Washington office, to provide support, advocacy and enthusiasm for the people and programs of the Great Lakes - Big Rivers region.



Regional Director Robyn Thorson.

Robyn Thorson was most recently the Assistant Director for External Affairs in Washington, D.C. In that position, she supervised the national programs for Public Affairs, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Native American Liaison and Research Coordination. She also oversaw NCTC.

Thorson's federal career began in 1985. It has taken her to three regional offices and twice to the Washington Office. Prior to her appointment as Assistant Director she worked 18 months for USGS in Seattle, serving as Associate Regional Chief Biologist for the USGS Biological Resources Division from January 1999 until August 2000.

From 1995 to January 1999, she was the Deputy Regional Director for Region 7, and she also worked in Alaska from 1989 to 1993 as Associate Regional Director, responsible for issues related to the coastal plain of Arctic NWR. In between these Alaska assignments, from 1993 to 1995, Thorson served as the ARD for Budget & Administration for Region 2. She was the Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Service in 1988 and 1989, and before that she worked in the Region 1 RO, in the Endangered Species program and in Contracting.

A Seattle native, Thorson received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Colorado Women's College and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law. She was an attorney for the State of Washington before her federal career and maintains her license to practice law in the State of Washington.

Thorson also has roots in the Midwest; her father was born and raised in Gully, Minnesota, in Polk County, and she still has relatives in that area.

Outstanding Individuals and Achievements

During a patrol on March 13, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Rod Hansen saw smoke that appeared to be coming from near the refuge boundary. He investigated, finding that the smoke was from a grass fire on private property less than two miles from the refuge.

The fire was burning unattended approximately 200 yards from a private residence. Hansen stopped in the residence to inquire about the fire so close to the house.

A woman who answered the door appeared to be very confused and somewhat in shock. She said that her husband has been burning trash but passed out in the house. Hansen assisted her to a bench and obtained consent to enter the house where he found an elderly man in a bath tub. The man had second and third degree burns from his waistline to the upper part of his face. The man

stated he had passed out, fallen in the flames and made his way back in the house. He had not called 911.

Hansen immediately contacted the Harrison County Communications Center and requested emergency medical assistance and the Missouri Valley Fire Department. Life Flight was also requested. Hansen assisted the man out of the tub and began first aid.

While working on the burn victim, Hansen was contacted by refuge staff that a child had gone into seizures at the visitor center. Hansen could not leave the burn victim, but he contacted emergency services to ensure they dispatched assistance to both locations.

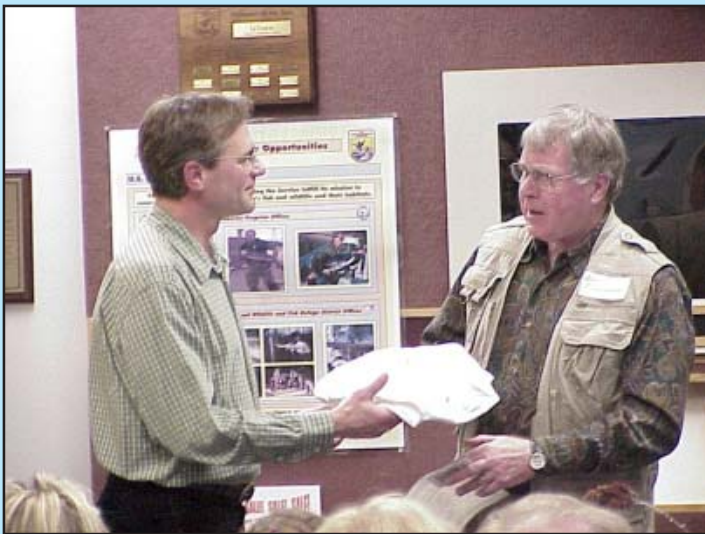
About 10 minutes after the call, emergency medical technicians arrived. Hansen then assisted local law enforcement to block Highway 362 so the hospital helicopter could land and transport the victim to



- USFWS photo

Desoto Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Rod Hansen

Omaha. The physician told the victim's family that if they had waited another two hours before getting treatment the man probably would not have survived. *Cindy Meyer, Desoto NWR*



- USFWS photo

Scott Yess (left) congratulates Don Schroeder, LaCrosse FRO's Volunteer of the Year.

LaCrosse FRO Recognizes Volunteers

Fishery volunteers contributed more than 1,300 hours to the LaCrosse Fisheries Resource Office in fiscal year 2002; assisting in lake sturgeon and paddlefish netting, endangered mussel propagation, exotic species monitoring, lake sturgeon tagging, fish collections for the wild fish health survey and several general fishery surveys.

LaCrosse FRO recognized Don Schroeder of Onalaska as the volunteer who contributed the most hours, with 390. Schroeder is a huge asset, and is experienced with field work, has fantastic shop skills and has conducted a shop safety course.

LaCrosse FRO also recognized LaVerne Schaller, from Bangor, Wis., the 2002 Volunteer of the Year. Better known as "Vern" to staff, he would always be there when called on. During Vern's volunteer career, he contributed more than 200 hours and never had a

bad word to say about anything or anybody. Vern always came to work with a great attitude.

A new award was established this year -- the Volunteer Hall of Fame. Three volunteers were inducted in 2002. The first is Jerry Schotzko, a former Service employee. Jerry volunteered for paddlefish surveys during the early 90s, and weathered many a lousy day during the early spring to help. Jerry died in 1998 and is missed. The second inductee, also deceased, will be fondly remembered as an expert electrician and a rare gem who could work on electrofishing boats and actually fix them. We thank Chuck Lawton for all he contributed. Our third inductee is our "do all and know all" volunteer, Don Schroeder. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

Centennial Celebrations from Around Region 3 (continued from page 2)

Shiawassee NWR celebrated the National Wildlife Refuge System's Centennial on March 15. The Centennial celebration was held at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center in Saginaw, Mich. Two hundred seventy-five people participated in the day's various activities.

The U.S. Postal Service sold 350 Pelican Island NWR stamps at the second day of issue cancellation held on-site. Collectors had their choice of cachets, including one featuring a special Shiawassee NWR design.

Featured speakers included: Cherri Allen of Cherri's Feed 'n' Seed in Auburn, who did a presentation on bird feeding tips; Joe Rogers of Wildlife Recovery Association, who did two live bird presentations; Jeff Sommer, archaeologist for the Historical Society of Saginaw County, who did a presentation on the archaeological studies he has been doing on the refuge; and Denny Brooks, a refuge volunteer, who did a presentation on the butterflies.

Refuge volunteers Bob Grefe, Carolyn Szaroletta, Larry Abraham and Sybil Paquette set up a mist net to capture songbirds for banding. The Central Michigan Hunting Retriever Club held two dog retrieval demonstrations on Green Point's frozen pond. Tonya Szornyi of Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission helped children tie decorative and work-



- USFWS photo

Refuge Volunteer Bob Grefe shows a songbird to a young refuge system enthusiast during the Centennial celebration.

The Friends of Shiawassee NWR sold Centennial items and refreshments.

Puddles flew into Saginaw for the Centennial celebration and had many pictures taken with children and adults during the day. Puddles also helped Refuge Manager Doug Spencer and Park Ranger Becky Goche with the time capsule dedication. State Rep. Jim Howell presented a special tribute during the time capsule dedication. This tribute was signed by State Sen. Mike Goschka, Governor Jennifer Granholm and Howell, commemorating the Centennial. Several children who had contributed art for the time capsule were on hand and recognized.

Park Rangers Becky Goche and Michelle Vander Haar planned this historic event, but could have not done it without the help of other staff and volunteers, including Boy Scout Troop 321. The Friends of Shiawassee NWR and the Saginaw Valley Audubon Society helped sponsor the event. *Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*



- USFWS photo

Refuge visitors build bird boxes at Litchfield WMD's Centennial celebration.

Litchfield WMD Builds Centennial Enthusiam

Sunshine and warm temperatures were welcome guests at the Litchfield Wetland Management District's Habitat Day Centennial celebration, March 15. The event offered the public an opportunity to build wood duck and bluebird boxes to take home. A cost-share grant and several partners, including two local lumber companies, Ducks Unlimited, Willmar Sportsman's Club and Minnesota Waterfowl Association, helped fund the event.

Staff and volunteers were on-hand to help build the boxes and provide information about their placement and maintenance as well as to answer any other questions. Displays, videos, brochures, posters and refreshments were also available.

This was the first time such an event was held at the district and the response was very positive, with more than 150 people attending. A second day of issue cancellation of the Centennial stamp was also available. A local welder from Litchfield crafted a brand which included "NWRS," the dates "1903-2003," and an image of the blue goose. He also volunteered at the event to brand each person's completed wood duck or bluebird box with this special emblem. *Mary Soler, Litchfield WMD*

Sea Lamprey Star of the Show at Canadian Sports Expo



- USFWS Photo by Ellie Koon

Toothy monsters from the Great Lakes fascinate visitors to Toronto's Sportsmen's Show.

Staff from the Marquette and Ludington Biological Stations teamed with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to represent the Great Lakes Sea Lamprey Management Program at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show in March.

The agencies worked together to emphasize the cooperative nature of the program. More than 125,000 people viewed the exhibit that included an aquarium full of sea lampreys. Visitors reacted to the squirming, toothy lampreys with fascination and disgust. Staff reassured visitors that lampreys do not attack humans.

Staff provided information about the sea lamprey invasion and the control program, as well as information about other aquatic invaders and Great Lakes fish populations. *Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

Twin Cities ES Biologist Assists in Capture of "Missing Lynx"

On March 14, two Canada lynx were captured as part of a multi-agency research project in northeastern Minnesota. The lynx, live-trapped near Isabella, were fitted with radio tracking collars.

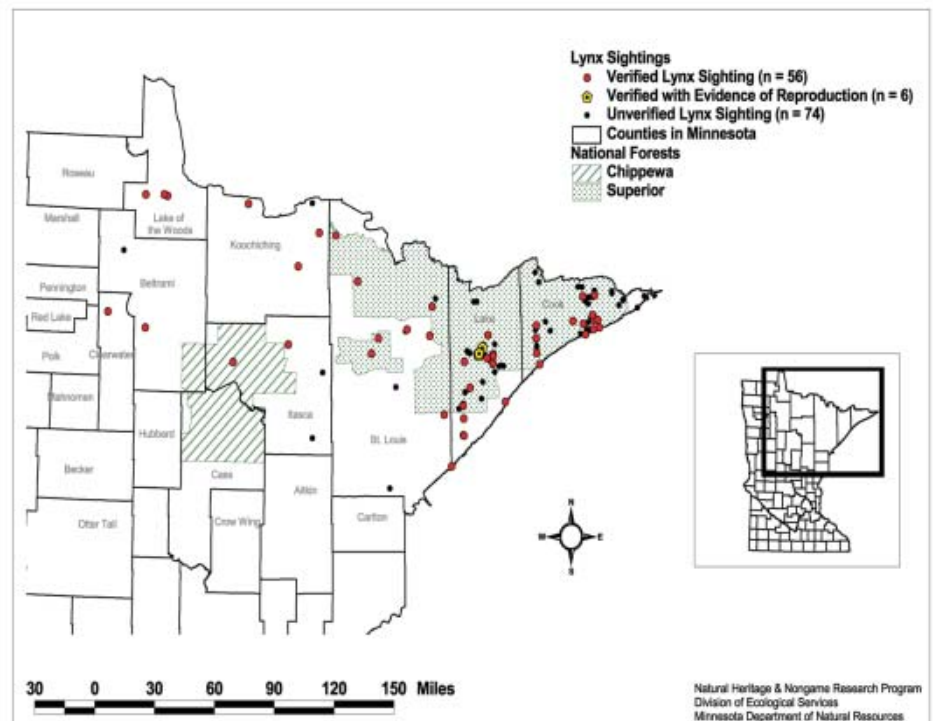
They are the first to be live-trapped as part of a study to learn more about lynx habitat relationships, movements, survival and reproduction. The radio collars will allow biologists to collect data on the threatened cat.

The live-trapping phase of the research began on March 1 and will continue into the spring and, if needed, the summer to garner a larger sample of lynx.

This cooperative venture is led by the University of Minnesota - Duluth and the Natural Resources Research Institute. Assistance and funding for the project is also provided by the Service and USGS, and support from the U.S. Forest Service and Minnesota DNR. *Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO*

Minnesota Lynx Database Records

March 2000 - February 20, 2003



The Service works with states, tribes and other partners to monitor lynx populations in Minnesota and across the country.

Ashland Fisheries Office Awaits Arrival of New Lake Superior Vessel

Staff from Ashland Fisheries Resource Office went to Clayton, N.Y., in early March to meet with staff from American Metalcraft Marine (AMC) Inc.

Ashland FRO staff inspected the new 27-foot gill net assessment research vessel being built by AMC. The vessel has a welded aluminum hull with a fully enclosed cabin capable of holding six people. Details for placement of the electronic gear and manufacturer recommendations for designs were considered and decided upon during the visit.

The boat will be used primarily for lake trout and lake whitefish studies on Lake Superior. The boat is approximately 80 percent complete, with a completion date of early April. The Ashland FRO will return to Clayton for a sea trial on the St. Lawrence Seaway and then transport the vessel back to Wisconsin. The christening of the vessel will take place when she is launched in Lake Superior. *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*



- USFWS photo by Glenn Miller

AMC employees stand in front of the 27-foot vessel they are building to help Ashland FRO conduct lake trout and whitefish studies on Lake Superior.

Paddlefish Wild Fish Health Survey Takes Place in Missouri



- USFWS photo

Corey Puzach of the La Crosse Fish Health Center takes fish health tissue samples from a paddlefish snagged on the Black River, near Piedmont, Mo.

gray on the top half and white to gray on the bottom. They can live more than 30 years and weigh up to 200 lbs. Most fish caught ranged between 10 and 40 lbs.

Two separate sites were sampled, and 32 fish were examined. The first site was on the Black River, just below the Clearwater Lake Dam near Piedmont, Mo., where 26 fish were examined. The second was the Osage River, approximately one mile below the Bagnell Dam. Due to low water conditions at this site only six fish were sampled. This population was last sampled in the late 1990s.

A kidney swab was taken to screen for the bacterial pathogens, *Aeromonas salmonicida*, *Yersinia ruckeri*, *Citrobacter freundii*, and *Edwardsiella ictaluri*. A second kidney sample was taken to be later screened for *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, the causative agent of Bacterial Kidney Disease. Kidney and spleen samples were collected and screened for the virus Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis. Pectoral fin clips were taken and fixed in Davidson's Fixative. Histological methods will be used for the detection of Irido-like viruses. *Corey Puzach, LaCrosse FHC*

On March 15, four members of the La Crosse Fish Health Center teamed up with members of the Missouri Department of Conservation to inspect the overall health of the local populations of paddlefish.

At midnight on March 15, Missouri's paddlefish snagging season opened and will run until April 30. Anglers have a daily bag limit of two, and an overall possession limit of four.

The MDC was taking lengths and weights and was also checking for coded wire tags from previously stocked fish.

Paddlefish have a long paddle-shaped snout called a rostrum. This appendage has dual purposes for this ancient fish. It not only used to hold their position in the water column, but it is also loaded with nerve endings and is an important sensory organ used to navigate and search for food. Paddlefish feed primarily on zooplankton which they filter out of the water with their gill rakers. Their scaleless skin is blueish-gray

Centennial Exhibit Reaches More Than 24,000 Visitors at Missouri Botanical Garden

Seeking refuge from the cold winter weather, many visitors from across the U.S. and the world are often attracted to the Grigg Lobby of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Here, during the winter months of January, February and March, they attempt to find solace, healing, knowledge and comfort in this place.

This year, those who braved the elements noticed something new. Out of the corner of their eye appeared photographs of wildlife and habitat. Present were the American bison, Karner blue butterfly, blue-winged teal, bald eagle, and scenes of various wetlands, just to name a few.

Enduring! Impressive! Captivating! No single word could best describe this extraordinary experience. Of course, this was nothing new for anyone who had previously encountered the work of nationally renowned freelance photographer Karen Hollingsworth. First impressions varied for children and adults visiting from all walks of life. But all who came into contact with the exhibit left with a greater understanding and appreciation of the system.

Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, in cooperation with Three Black Ducks, Inc., Hollingsworth's company, arranged to have this photographic art exhibit on display at the Botanical Garden from Jan. 20 through March 7. This proved to be a wonderful venue and provided access to a new audience for our Centennial message. According to John Grass, visitor services manager for the Missouri Botanical Garden, more than 24,000 visitors traveled through the Grigg Lobby during the time the exhibit was on display.

The art exhibit featured 16 photographs that highlighted the harmony existing between flora, fauna and scenic landscapes found on the Great Lakes and big rivers of Region 3 refuges. This Centennial exhibit will continue to travel throughout the year and is currently on display in the visitor center of Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, located near Brussels, Ill. *Michael Dixon, Mark Twain NWR-Riverlands*



- USFWS photo

(l-r) Mark Twain Refuge Complex Manager Dick Steinbach, Missouri Botanical Garden Director Dr. Peter H. Raven and Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex Park Ranger Michael Dixon at the Hollingsworth photo exhibit.

Multiple Generations Celebrate Centennial at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

On a peninsula of land, shrouded in fog and surrounded by two major waterways, multiple generations gathered to celebrate a long legacy of protecting lands, waters and wildlife.

Two days of events were held on March 14 and 15 at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Even though warm weather was predicted for March 14, a chill remained in the air as the sun did its best to burn through the fog. This did not dampen the spirits of more than 130 students and teachers from area schools who traveled to the refuge in anticipation of fun-filled outdoor education activities. Representatives from the Illinois DNR, the Center for American Archeology, the Illinois Natural History Survey and the World Bird Sanctuary worked closely with refuge staff to make the day a huge success.

On March 15, about 120 visitors continued the celebration, starting with a raptor program presented by the World Bird Sanctuary. The audience was fascinated to see birds such as the peregrine falcon, great horned owl, turkey vulture and red-tailed hawk.

Local officials placed contents in the time capsule, while Larry Reid, a local radio personality and outdoor enthusiast, shared his personal insights on growing up in Calhoun County. He placed an emphasis on the positive impact of the refuge and how it has helped wildlife in the local area. *Michael Dixon, Mark Twain NWR-Riverlands and John Mabery, Two Rivers NWR*



- USFWS photo

Raptors such as this great horned owl were on display to help visitors understand the importance of conserving migratory birds.

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Adopts a Highway



- USFWS photo

Long time hatchery volunteer Dan Sutherland (left) and Fishery Biologist James Anderson (right) stand along side the Adopt A Highway sign with the USFWS name on it.

The Jordan River National Fish Hatchery has joined the Michigan Adopt-A-Highway program. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation and works with groups that are interested in cleaning up roadsides that are littered with trash. Jordan River NFH has adopted a two-mile section of U.S. 131 which runs perpendicular to the hatchery entrance road. The program has three slated pickup times during the year - spring, summer and fall. The hatchery staff is excited about the program, and can't wait for the spring clean-up. *Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

Joint Venture Program Presents Check to Pheasants Forever

On March 22, Joint Venture Coordinator Barbara Pardo presented a check for \$10,000 to the Stearns County, Minnesota Chapter of Pheasants Forever. The presentation was made on behalf of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, part of a matching grant program for partners who raise private funds for habitat projects in the Joint Venture area.

During the previous two years of the matching program, the Stearns County Chapter acquired or restored nearly 700 acres of wetland and prairie habitat. All projects were completed on public lands, or on private lands under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In 2003, the Pheasants Forever partners will concentrate their efforts on revitalizing more than 100 acres of grasslands on four existing waterfowl production areas in the county with native grass and forb seedings.

Earlier this year, Pheasants Forever celebrated their 20th anniversary as a grassroots conservation organization. Much of their success has been attributed to their practice of spending their conservation dollars within the local area where they are raised. The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture is looking forward to continuing the tradition of this valuable conservation partnership. *Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture*



- USFWS photo

Joint Venture Coordinator Barb Pardo presents a check for \$10,000 to partners from the Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter.

Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa Partnerships Receive Wetland Conservation Grants

On March 19, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved a \$1 million North American Wetland Conservation Act grant for Wisconsin and a \$999,944 grant for Nebraska and Iowa.

The NAWCA Grants Program requires, at a minimum, the grant amount be matched with non-federal contributions typically made by

state, tribal and non-governmental partnerships. For these two grants, the federal dollars were matched by a total of \$3,965,644 from partners.

The projects will protect, restore and enhance 7,063 acres of wetlands and uplands in the three states.

The projects are in the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture areas. The

acquisition and restoration of wildlife habitats associated with these projects will advance the goals identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Implementation Plan. *Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Programs*

Employees, Partners and VIPs Join 18,560 "Wild" Fans to Celebrate Refuge System's Centennial

Start with more than 18,000 people geared up for a special hometown event. Add lots of special birthday cake, blue goose beanie babies, spectacular wildlife videos, eager Service employees and dedicated volunteers and you have the elements of Region 3's 100th birthday bash for the National Wildlife Refuge System, March 14, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn.

The Regional Office partnered with the NHL's Minnesota Wild and others to celebrate a "Wild Night at the Wild" during the Wild's home game against the Nashville Predators. Eighty-five Service employees, special guests and conservation partners were among the sellout crowd of 18,560.

The "Wild" event was one of numerous Centennial events in the region that attracted thousands of visitors, student, partners, Members of Congress and news media.

"The refuge system scored a 'hat trick' during this event," said Refuge Area Supervisor Jim Leach, borrowing a hockey term for three goals scored in a game by a single player. "We celebrated the 100th birthday of the refuge system, we promoted our refuges and wetland management districts to thousands of outdoors-oriented Minnesotans, and we were able to join with our partners and other VIPs in a fun, social setting to talk conservation."

The Service's conservation partners figured prominently in the event. More than 3,000 blue goose beanie babies — each tagged with a 4 x 6-inch card containing a Centennial message and a map showing locations of refuges in Minnesota — were distributed by Service employees and volunteers to youngsters 12 and under as they entered the arena. The wildly popular beanies were purchased by

Pheasants Forever. Media Source, the blue goose beanie vendor, picked up the tab for express air freight in order to have the promotional items on-hand in time.

Puddles the Blue Goose waddled through the crowd, distributing outreach materials, blue goose beanies and providing hugs, "high-fives" and a few photo ops for adults and kids alike. More than 1,000 pieces of specially decorated Centennial birthday cake were served to visitors to the Centennial display. Cakes were provided at no charge via the Minnesota Bakers Association and Rainbow Foods, a local grocery chain. Refuge system video clips and Centennial PSAs were broadcast on the arena's giant video screen during the evening.

The Wild made 63 seats available (at cost) to Service employees, plus donated 10 VIP seats in the owners suite. Acting Regional Director Marvin Moriarty and Jim Leach joined with partners and legislative representatives in the Wild owner's suite before and during the game. The list of VIPs included Ron Nargang, state director, The Nature Conservancy; Roger Pederson, state director, Ducks Unlimited; Joe Duggan, vice president, Pheasants Forever; Tim Bremicker, chief, Wildlife Division, Minnesota Department Natural Resources; Jim Gelbmann, state director for Senator Mark Dayton;



- USFWS Photos by Scott Flaherty

Young fans of the Minnesota Wild are all smiles after receiving complimentary Blue Goose beanies and Refuge Centennial birthday cake March 14 at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn. Approximately 3,000 blue geese were distributed.

Patrick Connolly, regional representative for Senator Norm Coleman; Chris Swedzinski, staff representative of Representative Mark Kennedy; and, Steve Messick, staff representative for Representative John Kline. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*





- Photo by Mike Redmer

Mike Redmer of the Chicago Field Office recently presented a program on "Amphibians and Reptiles of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie." The Service works with staff at the national tallgrass prairie to inventory and manage fish and wildlife. This Blanding's turtle is just one of the 27 species of amphibians and reptiles documented on the site.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between March 1 and March 31, 2003. Employees can search all reports using the ARS's Report Manager.

Managing Charge Card Delinquencies

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

DCR and HR Provide Work Experience for Job Corps Students

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Thunder Bay Power Working Committee Meeting

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Service Staff Contributes to Annual Lake Committee Meetings Hosted by Great Lakes Fishery Commission

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Community Learns about Aquatic Invaders

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Ashland Fishery Office 2003 Circle of Flight Partnerships

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Reynoldsburg Field Office Gets a New Fish Shocker

Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO

Workers' Compensation Information Posted on Human Resources Website

Linda Krupinski, ABA (Personnel)

Customer Service Award

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Financial Indicators - 2nd Quarter

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Agreement Brings Alternative Sea Lamprey Control Closer

John Heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Career Pathway Night at Alpena Community College

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Hatchery Residence Gets a Facelift

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Begins Spring Fishery Operations

Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH

Winter Sampling for Lake Sturgeon in Green Bay Successful

Brian Gunderman, Green Bay FRO

Rice Lake Refuge Assists with First Wildfire of the Season

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Rice Lake Refuge at Aitkin Area Sports Show

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Program Presents \$10,000 Check to Pheasants Forever

Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture

350 Attend Habitat Day/ Centennial Celebration at Crane Meadows Refuge

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Scouts Travel Far to Complete Merit Badge

Lisa Chittim, Crab Orchard NWR

Lake Trout Were a Hit at the Traverse City Hunting and Fishing Expo

James Boase, Alpena FRO

Technical Assistance Reaches Canada

Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO

Green Bay Fisheries Office Participates in Annual Lake Michigan Committee Meeting

Mark Holey, Green Bay FRO

US and Canadian Partners Work to Create Lake Sturgeon Spawning Habitat

James Boase, Alpena FRO

Ashland FRO inspects new Lake Superior vessel.

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Exemptions from State Sales Tax

Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS

Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Meeting held in Miles City, Montana.

Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

Green Bay Fisheries Office Summarizes Sport Fishery Catch and Effort in Lake Michigan, 1974 - 2001

Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

Conservationists and Stamp Collectors Celebrate Centennial at Hamden Slough Refuge

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

East Lansing Field Office Hosts Endangered Species Agreements Workshop

Carrie Tansy, East Lansing FO

Out of Date Computers Disposal

Debra Turner, Alpena FRO

Wisconsin Partnership Receives \$1 Million Wetland Conservation Grant

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Adopts a Highway

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Nebraska and Iowa Partnership Receives \$999,944 Wetland Conservation Grant

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Distinctive Refuge Centennial Day Celebrated At Rydell Refuge

Juancarlos Giese, Rydell NWR

Air Supported Domes to be Replaced at Iron River Hatchery

Marianne Dahl, ABA (Engineering)

Ashland Fishery Office Assists with Refuge Centennial Activities

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

New Reports Added To The Ashland Fishery Office's Web Page

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Spring Fish Health Inspection Completed at Pendills Creek and Hiawatha Forest Hatchery's

Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

National Finance Conference

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Endangered Mussels Arrive at Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH

Ludington Helps Makes Jordan River Hatchery Drivers Safer

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

College Students Visit Pendills Creek NFH

Tracy Walters, Pendills Creek NFH

Zoology Class Learns About Natural Resource Damage Assessments

Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

Great Lakes Fishery Commission Meetings Held in March

James Boase, Alpena FRO

Partners for Fish and Wildlife State of Michigan Coordinators Meeting

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Whooping Crane Sighted Near Muscatatuck Refuge

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Lamprey Control Accord Reached Between Service, GLFC and State of Michigan

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Coaster Brook Trout 2003 -The New Generation

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

Two Canada Lynx Captured, Radio Collared and Released in Northeastern Minnesota

Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO

Sea Lamprey Display Amazes Canadians

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Horicon Refuge Centennial Celebration a Success!

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Second Day Centennial Postage Stamp Cancellation at Sherburne Refuge a Success

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Union Slough Refuge Centennial Celebration a Success!

Rebecca Rasmussen, Union Slough NWR

Shiawassee NWR Centennial Celebration a Success

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

2003 National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium

Robyn Flaherty, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Paddlefish Wild Fish Health Survey Takes Place in Missouri

Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

Army Corps Donates 168 Wetland Acres to Detroit River

International Wildlife Refuge
Douglas Spencer, Shiawassee NWR

Wild Night at the Wild

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Indiana's National Wildlife Refuges commissioned Centennial poster

Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR

Participation in Northeast Wisconsin Teacher's Convention

Catherine Carnes, Green Bay FO

Living History Character Adds Spirit to Whittlesey Creek Refuge

Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR

Major Range Expansion Documented in 11th Annual Ruffe Surveillance Report

Gary Czynpinski, Ashland FRO

Rice Lake Refuge Celebrates Centennial with Open House

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Ottawa Refuge Celebrates Refuge System Centennial

Sara Mason, Ottawa NWR

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates Centennial with Time Capsule Dedication

Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR

Budget and Finance Supports National Wildlife Refuge System

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Rifle River Sturgeon Project

Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO

Great Lakes Fish Stocking Database Updated and Online

Jessica Richards, Green Bay FRO

Multiple Generations Celebrate Centennial at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

John Mabery, Two Rivers NWR

A Successful Habitat Day Centennial Event at Litchfield Wetland Management District

Mary Soler, Litchfield WMD

Big Muddy Refuge Celebrates the Centennial

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Chicago Field Office Provides Speaker for New Lecture Series at Midewin

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

Volunteer Banquet a Huge Success

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Centennial Activities at Boyer and DeSoto Refuges

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Service, Partners, teach unprecedented 4-State Lake Michigan Watershed Academy

Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO

Assessment of Injury to Human Uses of Fishery Resources Completed for the Grand Calumet River

Daniel Sparks, Bloomington FO

Muscatatuck Refuge Centennial Celebration

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Full House at Time Capsule Dedication at Sherburne NWR

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Region 3 External Affairs Lends a Hand at Pelican Island Centennial Celebration

Rachel Levin, External Affairs

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Celebration

Susan Wells, Alpena FRO

Early Inter-Agency Coordination on Minnesota Forest Plan Revisions

Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO

DeSoto Law Enforcement Officer Helps Burn Victim

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Northwest Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers Tour the Fish Health Health Center

Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

East Lansing Field Office To Open Detroit Area Suboffice

Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

Volunteer Brings Outreach Skills to Columbia Fisheries Office

Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO

Service Biologist Co-Chairs Modeling Subcommittee Meeting for 1836 Treaty Waters

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Chicago Office Announces Availability of the Mead's Milkweed Draft Recovery Plan

Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO

Assessment Models Updated for 1836 Treaty Waters of the Great Lakes

John Netto, Green Bay FRO

Genoa National Fish Hatchery hosts March Friends Group meeting

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Career Day at Fairview High School

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

The Green Bay Fisheries Office develops sampling plan for ruffe monitoring in Lake Michigan.

Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Refuges Partner With Local Post Offices For Commemorative Stamp Cancellation Events

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Refuges Partner With Local Post Offices For Commemorative Stamp Cancellation Events

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

NWR Centennial Open House

Tameka Dandridge, East Lansing FO

Sea Lamprey Control Office Participates in Centennial Celebration

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Appreciation Dinner for Commercial Fishers

Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO

DeSoto Refuge Hunting Reciprocity Agreement

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Hires Mussel Propagation Biologist

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Centennial Art Exhibit Reaches More Than 24,000 Visitors at the Missouri Botanical Garden

Michael Dixon, Mark Twain NWR-Riverlands

East Lansing Biologists Attend National Section 7 Workshop

Carrie Tansy, East Lansing FO

Network Fileserver Upgrade at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District

Loyd Mitchell, ABA (CSG)

New Network Fileserver Installed at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Loyd Mitchell, ABA (CSG)

Upper Peninsula Sub-Office Meets with Congressional Staffers

Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO

Another Edition of the MTAN Goes to Print

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

National Service Fish Health Biologist's Meeting in Tucson

Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

Wisconsin Centennial Safari, an Internet Treasure Hunt Is On The Web!

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

East Lansing Field Office Staff Attend Annual Partners in Flight Meeting

Jack Dingleline, East Lansing FO

Information Provided for Great Lakes Strategy 2002

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Semi-Annual Report Completed for Lake Sturgeon Genetics Project

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Lake Sturgeon Priority Research and Assessment Needs Data Analyzed

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Eastern Whooping Cranes Flying High

Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

RPI Corrective Action Team

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

**Green Bay Fishery Office
Produces Mortality and Survey
Catch Estimates for 1836 Treaty
Models**

John Netto, Green Bay FRO

**Sherburne Refuge Honors 546
Volunteers**

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

**Special Refuge Centennial Events
Planned for Iowa**

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

**Refuge System Marks 100th
Birthday; More than 60 Special
Events Planned For Minnesota
Refuges**

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

**Focus on Fish and Wildlife
Newsletter – March 2003**

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

**Technical Fisheries Committee
Approves Coho Stocking Proposal**

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

**Minnesota Governor Proclaims
2003 “Year of the Refuge System”
in Minnesota**

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

**Service Exhibit at Michigan
Outdoorama a Crowd Pleaser**

*Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio.
Station*

**Students Learn the Rewards of a
Career in the Service**

*John Heinrich, Marquette
Biological Station*

**Sea Lamprey Assessment
Continues to Advance Procedures**

*John Heinrich, Marquette
Biological Station*

**Chicago Illinois Field Office
Highlights Orchids at Zoo Event**

Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO

**Congressional Briefing Books
Completed**

Abby Rodriguez, External Affairs

Congressional District Report

*William Andersen, ABA (Budget
& Finance)*

**Bloomington, Indiana Field Office
Hosts Open House to Celebrate
Centennial**

*Robin McWilliams-Munson,
Bloomington FO*

**Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge
Takes Part in Community Open
House**

Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR

Diversity Report

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

**New Satellite Internet Connection,
Network, and Fileserver Installed
at Tamarac NWR**

Loyd Mitchell, ABA (CSG)

**New Network Fileserver Installed
at Windom Wetland Management
District**

Loyd Mitchell, ABA (CSG)

**Diversity Report for December,
January, and February**

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls
WMD/PWLC*

**Region 3 Assumes Co-Leadership
of Whooping Crane Outreach
Effort**

Rachel Levin, External Affairs

**Owner of Chicago Area Meat
Market Pleads Guilty to
Purchasing Meat of Protected
Spotted Leopard**

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

**Agreement Co-Locates Service
Employee at Forest Service Office**

*John Heinrich, Marquette
Biological Station*

**Chicago Ecological Services Shares
Success of Working with
Stakeholders**

Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO

**Alpena Fishery Resources Office
on Track with Safety Training**

Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO

**Detroit Lakes Wetland
Management District Honors
Volunteers**

Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD

**Service’s East Lansing Field Office
Opens New Suboffice in Michigan’s
Upper Peninsula**

Craig Czarnecki, East Lansing FO

**Private Lands Biologist Receives
Minnesota Conservation Award**

Lori Wolff, Private Lands

**Chicago Field Office Hosts
Recovery Team Meeting for
Endangered Dragonfly**

Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO

**Marquette Biological Station Hires
Two New Employees**

*John Heinrich, Marquette
Biological Station*

On the Cover:

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge celebrated the Centennial with a three-day event that included 33 partners and raised awareness of the refuge system to more than 2,500 people. As part of the event, Puddles the Blue Goose made several appearances, delighting children by handing out American flags, riding on a St. Patrick’s Day float and walking with people along the refuge’s trails.

- USFWS photo by Molly Stoddard



**Inside Region 3
April 2003**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Ft. Snelling, MN 55111**

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