

# Inside Region 3

An information product from the Accomplishment Reporting System

Volume 3, No. 7

External Affairs Office

June 12, 2001

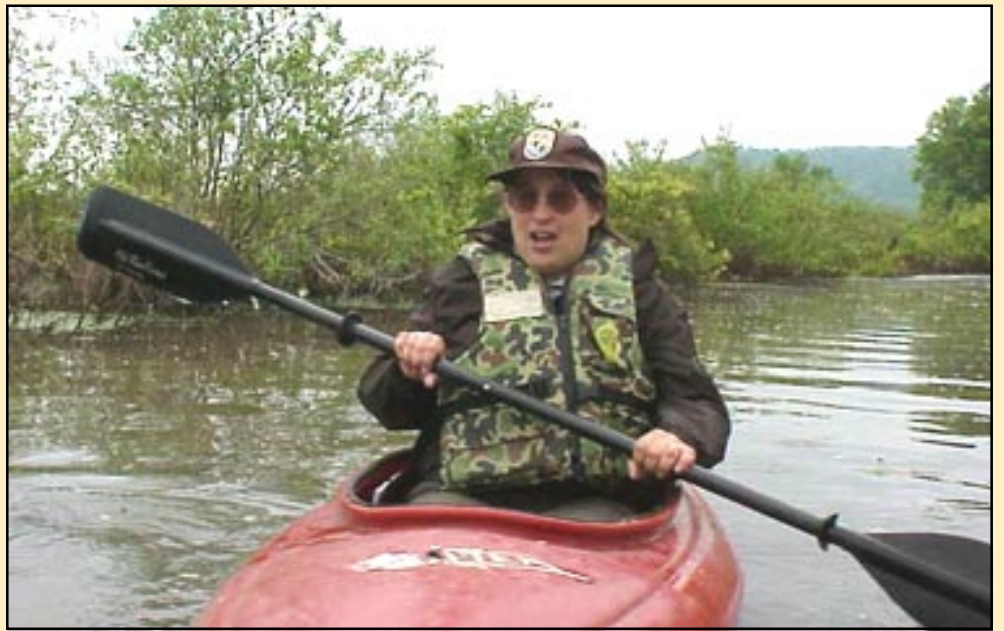
## Fall Study to Examine Impact of Hunting on American Woodcock in Minnesota

The Service is participating in a new study to help determine the impacts of hunting on American woodcock in Minnesota. The study is a cooperative venture between the Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and the U. S. Geological Survey.

The study begins this fall and will compare the survival of woodcock on two similar study areas, one of which will be hunted and one which will be closed to woodcock hunting. American woodcock numbers have been declining since the Woodcock Singing Ground Survey was initiated in 1968. Though managers believe habitat changes and loss are the primary culprits in the woodcock decline, they have not been able to unequivocally rule out hunting as a contributor to the decline.

Though this research is not expected to answer all questions about the potential impact of hunting on woodcock survival, it will provide managers with additional information to use during their deliberations on woodcock hunting regulations.

Similar research is expected to be started in Wisconsin in 2002. Other partners in the study include Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Ruffed Grouse Society. *Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Programs*



--Photo by Cindy Samples

## Refuge Bird Surveys Continue Despite High Water

High water levels on the Mississippi River continue to alter activities on the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Cindy French, refuge biology technician, is now using a kayak to conduct morning waterfowl and marsh bird surveys. The kayak allows French even more opportunities to observe swim-

ming snakes, black tern skimming the water surface and plenty of flying pelicans. As for waterfowl, French notes that the higher water levels have resulted in fewer goslings compared to previous years. Because of continued high water levels, French estimates she'll be using the kayak until mid June.

## Wetland Restoration Handbook Earns Wisconsin Government Document Award

The Wetland Restoration Handbook for Wisconsin Landowners recently received the Wisconsin Distinguished Government Document Award for 2000 from the Wisconsin Library Association. The publication was produced by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association with technical assistance, photographs and funding provided by the Service's Wisconsin Private Lands Office.

The handbook will now be sent to the American Library Association Government Documents Services Round Table

for possible national recognition. The Handbook is full of information for landowners interested in restoring wetlands on their property and helps them plan appropriate wetland restoration projects. Copies of the handbook are available from:

Wisconsin Wetlands Association  
222 South Hamilton St., Suite 1  
Madison, WI 53703

or by calling (608)250-9971.

*James Ruwalddt, Wisconsin Private Lands Office*

## 2,700 Attend Upper Mississippi River Refuge's First River Festival

"Celebrating a River of Life," was the theme of the First Annual Upper Mississippi River Festival May 17-19 at the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The first two days of the festival were exclusively for school groups and held at Effigy Mounds National Monument, about five miles north of McGregor, Iowa. Over 700 students and teachers from nine separate school districts participated in the event.

The festival focused on issues influencing the past, as well as the future health of the Mississippi River, its tributaries and blufflands. Students had an opportunity to explore and investigate these issues, draw conclusions from their findings and consider how their actions or personal choices affect the environment. Presentations were geared toward the seventh and eighth grade levels.

During their visit, students had an opportunity to visit four separate stations. The educational themes of these stations were "History and Culture," "Aquatic Resources," "Watersheds," and "Wildlife." Up to eight separate programs were given at each station with individual students participating in two-three programs per station.

On late-Friday afternoon the entire festival infrastructure was moved to the Cabela's in Prairie Du Chien, Wis., to accommodate a larger crowd on Saturday, when more than 50 organizations 2,000 visitors participated.

Saturday's program highlights included presentations on raptors, prairie restoration, native mussels, kayaking, rocket netting, fish identification and habitat preferences, electrofishing, and more.

Partners in the event included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey, Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development/Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wisconsin



--USFWS Photo

*Refuge Operations Specialist Cathy Henry enlightens students on the role of the area's native snakes during the Upper Mississippi River Refuge's River Fest May 17-19, 2001.*



--USFWS Photo

*Iowa DNR Fisheries Biologist, Karen Aulwes explains fish identification and habitat preferences.*

Historical Society, IOWATER, Crawford County Conservation, University of Minnesota Extension Service, National Audubon Society, Northeast Iowa Audubon Society, Clayton County Conservation, Country Community Heritage, Isle of Capri, Prairie Du Chien Tourism Council, Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges, Cabela's Inc., Captain Ron Larson, Dycie Madson,

Iowa Public Television, Izaak Walton League, Ion Exchange, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Blufflands Alliance, Old Man River Band, Lady and the Tramp, NE Iowa Whitetails, University of Minnesota Raptor Center, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and Coulee Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. *Tim Loose, UMRNW&FR-McGregor District*



--USFWS Photo

Standing with Squaw Creek's new trumpeter swan display are, from left; Rick Speer, assistant refuge manager; Kendall Compton, husband of Donna Compton; Madeleine Linck, Trumpeter Swan Society; Harold Burgess, former refuge manager and Barbara Burgess-Hendrick, daughter of Harold Burgess.

## New Refuge Trumpeter Swan Display Represents a Conservation Legacy

### Woman Who Banded Swan in 1989 Leaves Memorial to Society That Helped Fund Display

A new trumpeter swan display was unveiled during a ceremony April 21 at the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. The ceremony concluded 12 years of history that connected a former Minnesota wildlife technician, a migrating trumpeter swan and Squaw Creek NWR.

The display features a swan killed last year when it flew into a power line near its breeding grounds at Buffalo, Minn. The swan had been captured, banded, and fitted with a numbered neck collar (59NC) in 1989 by Donna Compton, a wildlife technician for Hennepin County Parks Department in Minneapolis, Minn. The swan was later observed at Squaw Creek NWR in 1994, while on its way to wintering grounds in eastern Oklahoma.

Refuge staff was contacted last summer by the Trumpeter Swan Society (TSS) about using the swan to create an educational display. In August of last year, Donna

Compton died of cancer. Before she died, she asked that some of her memorial fund go to the Trumpeter Swan Society.

Some of Compton's memorial funds were used to assist the Refuge with taxidermy costs and to purchase a display case.

The TSS also developed and paid for the printing of interpretive signs for the display. The signs indicate the history of this swan, a map of its migration route, and a description of restoration efforts of trumpeter swans. The Friends of Squaw Creek purchased a table for the display.

The trumpeter swan is displayed beside a tundra swan to interpret different identifying characteristics of the two species.

The unveiling ceremony ceremony was attended by 65 people, including Kendall Compton, the husband of Donna Compton, who appreciated that his wife's memorial fund was used for this display. Rick Speer, Squaw Creek NWR



## New Project Leader at Crab Orchard NWR

Richard 'Rick' Frietsche has been named manager of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge west of Marion, Illinois. Frietsche, a 23-year Service employee currently manages the 6,200 acre Trempealeau NWR on the Mississippi River near Trempealeau, Wis., a post he has held since 1990.

Frietsche replaces former Crab Orchard NWR Manager Daniel Doshier, who retired in January.

As manager at Crab Orchard NWR, Frietsche will manage 28 employees and oversee all management activities on the 43,890 acre refuge. One of 535 national wildlife refuges nationwide, Crab Orchard is unique in that the refuge property includes resident youth camps, marinas, campgrounds, a private boat and yacht club, and several industrial sites — facilities not normally found on a national wildlife refuge. The refuge is also a popular recreation spot for residents of southern Illinois, hosting 1.2 million visitors annually.

Frietsche previously served as the assistant refuge manager at the 200,000 acre Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, another popular recreation site. Prior to moving to the Midwest he was a wildlife biologist in the Washington, D.C., Division of Refuges. He began his career with the Service as a fishery research biologist working on reservoirs and their tailwaters in Arkansas and Oklahoma. He holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degrees in Zoology from the University of Arkansas and is a native of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Dan Sobieck, External Affairs

## Midwest States Sharing in New Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Grant Program

All eight Region 3 states are now eligible to participate in a new Federal Aid grant program that promotes wildlife conservation, wildlife associated recreation and wildlife conservation education. States now are in the process of developing and submitting proposals for funding projects associated with one or more of the program's three elements.

During the last session of Congress, a special title was added to the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations bill, Title IX. Named Wildlife, Ocean and Coastal Conservation, the Title amended the existing Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson (PR) or Wildlife Restoration Program. The amendment established the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Grant Program (WCRP) as a new subprogram and appropriated \$50 million for one year. The legislation incorporated the essence of one initiative from the proposed, but failed, Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) bill (H.R. 701). Future funding may be made through annual appropriations. The amount of WCRP money apportioned to each State and territory is determined by a formula where two-thirds is based on its population and one-third on size of the State, in proportion to the population and size of all other states, respectively.

The primary purpose of the WCRP is to financially assist States in order to fulfill the unmet needs of a wide array of wildlife species. "Wildlife" is defined as all wild, free-ranging fauna. Other purposes include assuring the development of sound conservation policies, encouraging cooperative planning with other public agencies and conservation organizations, and encourage public involvement in the development and implementation of the State Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program.

States are eligible to participate in the WCRP after submitting a "Comprehensive Plan". The Plan must include:

- 1) Provisions which vest the State fish and wildlife agency with overall responsibility for the State WCRP; 2) Provisions for the development and implementation of projects which address the three elements of the program; 3) Provisions that ensure ensures public participation in the identification and selection of projects. Also, the State must agree to develop and begin implementation of a Wildlife Conservation Strategy within five years. The Strategy must be based on the best available and appropriate scientific data and include coordination with other state and federal agencies, as well as Indian tribes and the general public, when priorities are developed for wildlife conservation projects.

The State WCRP Comprehensive Plans were submitted to the Washington Office of the Federal Aid Division of Migratory Birds and State Programs for review by an Eligibility Determination Team. The Team consisted of representatives from Regional and Washington Federal Aid offices, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and State agencies. The Plans for all Region 3 states were approved and letters have been sent to State agency directors confirming approval.

States are now working with the Region 3 Federal Aid Division to develop grant documents. Grants may fund a wide range of projects varying from population surveys to habitat management, wildlife observation platforms to habitat acquisition, education videos to trail development, and reintroduction to access development.

The benefits of these early projects may well determine the future of the WCRP, its administration, level of funding and even continued existence. The States know this, and will select projects that confirm the need for the WCRP and how it benefits wildlife and the public, which so enjoys our wildlife resources.

*Mike Sweet, Federal Aid*



--USFWS Photo

*Outgoing Team Leader Kelly Srigley-Warner receives an award for her leadership accomplishments from John Christian, assistant regional director for Migratory Birds and State Programs*

## Ozark Ecosystem Team Sets Priorities For Fiscal Year 2002

The Ozark Plateau Ecosystem Team met May 15-17 at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in Puxico, Mo., to discuss a number of issues, including the funding of team projects in Fiscal Year 2002. Over \$200,000 will fund on-the-ground projects to protect endangered species, conserve precious karst habitat and educate the people in the Ozarks about the unique treasures found in their back yard.

In addition to discussing its priorities for the coming year, the Team recognized departing Team Leader, Kelly Srigley-Werner for her success in gaining recognition for the Ozark Ecosystem Team. Next year's team leader will be Roderick May, assistant manager at Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

The Ozark Ecosystem Team includes three Ecological Services Field Offices, four National Fish Hatcheries, two Law Enforcement Offices, two National Wildlife Refuges, a Migratory Birds field representative and the Missouri Private Lands Coordinator. The Ozark Plateau Ecosystem covers an area that includes Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, and administered by three Service regions. At least 35 conservation partners work in concert with the Ecosystem Team to benefit fish and wildlife resources in the Ozarks. *Lisa Mandell, Ozark EcoTeam*

# Detroit Lakes WMD Burns 2,786 Acres to Improve Habitat

Persistence, planning and professional personnel were the ingredients needed to complete prescribed burning at the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD) in Detroit Lakes, Minn., during April and May.

Unfavorable weather—including a snow storm in late April—caused the typical burning season “window” to be set back by at least one week. A week of rain and wind during the middle of May further hampered opportunities for burns.

By taking advantage of every possible burning opportunity, receiving help from fire personnel from other Waterfowl Management Districts and National Wildlife Refuges, and long days on the fire lines, the burn crew at the Detroit Lakes WMD completed 23 prescribed burns to improve 2,786 acres of habitat on 21 Waterfowl Production Areas this spring.

Staff at Detroit Lakes WMD got



--Photo by Les Peterson

*A fire crew from Detroit Lakes WMD establishes a fire line during spring prescribed burning activities May 17 at the Squirrel Lake Waterfowl Production Area.*

help from 15 fire personnel from Leopold WMD and Horicon NWR in Wisconsin; Agassiz, Hamden, Rice Lake, and Tamarac refuges in Minnesota; Klamath Basin Complex in California; Quivira NWR in Kansas; and

Rain Water Basin NWR in Nebraska provided much needed assistance to the Detroit Lakes WMD fire crew. *Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*

# Service Joins Fond du Lac Chippewa For Sturgeon Assessment

The restoration of lake sturgeon to historic areas is a high priority to the people of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The lake sturgeon population on the Upper St. Louis River near Cloquet, Minn. is currently being restored as a team effort by the Fond du Lac Natural Resources Program and the Service’s Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO).

A unique egg stocking method which places fertilized sturgeon eggs in “nest boxes” directly into the river current has been used in 1998, 1999 and 2000 to stock approximately 90,000 eggs. These boxes will provide an extra level of protection to the eggs during their early developmental stages. Unfortunately, eggs were not able to be collected during the 2001 spawning season.

Using set lines and Windemere trap nets, staff from Ashland FRO are assisting the Fond du Lac Band in assessing the recruitment of these fish



--USFWS Photo

*Service Biologist Frank Stone (right) and Fond du Lac biologist Terry Peralt use windemere trap nets to capture lake sturgeon on the St. Louis River.*

and determining the relative abundance of lake sturgeon within this river system.

The goal of the project is to restore and maintain a self sustaining river resident population of the lake sturgeon by 2025, in the Upper St. Louis River system. The assessment program began in May with the first of several monthly surveys. Although only catfish were

collected during this first assessment, the crew is optimistic that they will soon be able to locate juvenile sturgeon.

This study will document the survival, recruitment, and growth for lake sturgeon within the Upper St. Louis River System. The Lake Sturgeon Subcommittee has stressed the importance of monitoring lake sturgeon rehabilitation efforts. Lake sturgeon is a priority for Native Americans, and the value of this research will help guide future lake sturgeon restoration projects in the Great Lakes Basin.

Information on the habitat, movements, and range of juvenile sturgeon will be helpful for long-term population monitoring, and to understand their use of this riverine environment. The success of the various capture methods will also assist in developing an efficient monitoring program to assess this long term sturgeon stocking program. *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

## Chicago Field Office Trains Volunteers, Provides Instruction For Audubon Sponsored Survey of Frogs and Toads

The Chicago Field Office helped train volunteers and developed instructional materials for a regional frog and toad survey May 25 coordinated by the Chicago office of the National Audubon Society ("Habitat Project").

Service staff contacted Mr. Lang Elliot (Nature Sound Studios) to negotiate use of his copyrighted recorded frog sounds, and helped the Habitat Project raise funds through partners of "Chicago Wilderness," a coalition of over 100 local science, land management and educational agencies and organizations.

Service staff also provided expertise for developing an instructional audio program on local frog calls (available in audio cassette and CD), led frog identification workshops and volunteer training sessions at two of the six participating Chicago area



--Graphic courtesy Chicago Field Office

counties.

The volunteer-based frog survey project is now in its second year. It is hoped that the project will be expanded to include other amphibians (salamanders) and reptiles. Data on local amphibian and reptile distributions will be used to determine where important habitats occur, and will be provided to local land-managers to

help them in developing preserve master plans and management programs.

The following Chicago Wilderness Partners all contributed to the completion of this project, or are current participants in the frog monitoring program: National Audubon Society, Chicago Herpetological Society; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Lake County Forest Preserves; St. Charles Park District; Forest Preserve District of Will County; McHenry County Conservation District; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; U.S. Forest Service-Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Heritage. *Michael Redmer, Chicago Field Office*

## Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts 350 Students, Parents For Earth Stewards Event

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) in Fergus Falls, Minn., hosted its annual Earth Stewards Gala May 22. More than 350 seventh grade students and parents attended the event which featured student displays from their year-long environmental inquiry projects at the PWLC.

Seventh grade students from Fergus Falls Middle School visited PWLC six times over the course of the school year to conduct student-based investigations of the prairie pothole region. Working in teams, the students investigated various habitats using digital cameras, and portable computers, create hyperstudio presentations and videos, and table-top displays. Mid-way through the year, the students formulate a hypothesis and conduct observations and experiments at the PWLC using the scientific method to confirm or disprove their hypothesis.

The culmination of the program is the

Gala, during which students explain their projects to parents, teachers and Service staff in an evening event. Parents can also view the hyperstudio and video presentations.

The 2001 Gala is the third year of the Earth Stewards program conducted by the PWLC in cooperation with the Fergus Falls Middle School. The program also includes a monthly public access television program hosted by PWLC Environmental Education Specialist Teresa Jaskiewicz and the students.

This program is a valuable partnership with the Fergus Falls School System, exposing middle school students to the Service message and benefits multiple times, as well as bringing parents to the PWLC in a festive and educational atmosphere. Student visits from this program alone total over 400. *Keneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

## Restored Bisson Lake Hosts Shorebirds and Birders

Sixteen species of shore birds, including Hudsonian godwits, Wilson's phalaropes, dunlin, and Marbled godwits began feeding in Bisson Lake May 17, one day ahead of the Festival of Birds in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Participants in a shorebird workshop on May 18 were delighted with species, numbers, and diversity. Shorebird workshop birders included Ken Kaufman, internationally known birder and writer. Tours for the Birding Festival continued to see good numbers of shorebirds on Bisson Lake through the weekend. Many visitors observed one or more 'life list' birds on Bisson Lake.

Bisson Lake was restored in the fall of 2000. This spring marked the first year the lake has held water in 95 years. Restoration of 100-acre Bisson Lake was completed Sept. 22, 2000, and was the 130th wetland restored as part of the North Star 2000 project. *Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

## Bird Banding Highlights 'Learning at the Lakes' Event at Rydell NWR

More than 50 visitors attended 'Banding Songbirds,' the season's first "Learning at the Lakes" program June 3 at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge.

The program, sponsored by the Friends of Rydell Refuge Association, was presented by a U.S. Geological Survey research team conducting a prairie bird-nesting research study on native prairie parcels on the west of the refuge. The Team explained the purpose of its study, identified the species of birds they have been banding on the prairie, and some of the results they have achieved to date, such as the recapture of a bobolink for three years in a row at the same nesting area. These birds migrate to Argentina each winter.

The team then demonstrated bird monitoring techniques such as capturing birds using mist nets and the banding of birds to help identify their migratory patterns. The main emphasis was on the bird banding system: sizes of bands and how they are attached, how it works and what information it gives back to us. Everyone was able to see first and learn about how each band is unique and how the system is used to register and track banded birds. Monitoring migratory patterns and numbers and diversity of species helps assess the relative health of our environment.

During the hour long presentation, mist nests were set outside the visitor center window in full view of all the visitors. The birds could be seen flying into and avoiding the nets as they flew past. When birds were captured, a few of the



--USFWS photo

*Visitors watch a member of the USGS research team gently remove a grackle from a mist net in preparation for banding.*

visitors were allowed to accompany the field team to the nets and observe the removal techniques in action.

Fourteen birds, representing eight species were captured and banded as necessary. Two of the birds captured had been previously banded. Both birds, a male hairy woodpecker and a male rose-breasted grosbeak, were banded at last year's program. The grosbeak spends its winters in Mexico, while the hairy woodpecker spent its winter at the visitor center feeder; along with banded white-breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers and chickadees.

The only female birds collected were goldfinches, as they have not started their nesting season.

Following the program most visitors took time to tour a portion of the refuge using the accessible trail system and self-guided tour information.

The Rydell visitors center is open Thursday through Sunday from 12-8 p.m. during the summer. Guided tours will be scheduled on Sunday afternoons. Persons with mobility disabilities can call the Refuge to schedule guided riding tours.  
*Rick Julian, Rydell NWR*

## Service Advocates Habitat Conservation For Migratory Birds, Endangered Species at Minnesota Forest Summit

Steve Wilds of the Region's Migratory Bird office participated in the recent Minnesota Forest Summit in Grand Rapids, Minn. The purpose of the Summit was to better define the concerns related to Minnesota DNR Commissioner Alan Garber's vision for forest management in Minnesota. Commissioner Garber's vision for Minnesota forests is to have more

pine and other conifers, more saw timber, and less clear-cutting in northern Minnesota.

The Service's interest in this issue revolves around migratory birds and endangered species in northern Minnesota. The Service wants to ensure adequate habitats are available to support all migratory bird species and endangered species which are na-

tive to the area at viable population levels. The Service is committed to assisting with development of monitoring protocols and helping fund some of the bird monitoring. Participation in evaluation of the Commissioner's vision will be an ongoing activity for the foreseeable future. *Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Programs*

## Horicon NWR Joins Partners to Orchestrate 'Marsh Melodies'

Horicon NWR recently orchestrated its first-ever spring series of special events. "Marsh Melodies" was a unique partnership effort conducted with various marsh stakeholders to promote our spring "shoulder" season to tourists April 14 to May 27.

The seven-weekend series of events emphasized the various sights and sounds, natural events and moods of the Horicon Marsh that occur throughout spring. A multitude of marsh communities and organizations (including the Refuge) united last year to obtain a \$40,000 reimbursable matching grant from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's Joint Effort Marketing Program. The Marsh Melodies Committee developed coordinated themes and events for each weekend, a brand image for the marsh and a slogan – "Horicon Marsh, Where People and Wildlife Come Together." Weekend themes included: Back to the Future of Horicon Marsh - A History of Change, Those That Came Before Us - Native American Heritage, Wetlands By Water, The Splendor of Wildflowers and Spring Flora, Horicon Marsh Bird Festival, Wheeling the Wetlands, and Bats, 'Rats, and Habitats.

A full range of visitor activities included tours of effigy mounds, spear-throwing contests, guided canoe tours, guided woodland wildflower hikes, bird watching, a circle tour guided bicycle ride, and a multi-media production and display of Marsh Melodies murals in downtown shop windows.

The grant also helped fund promotional efforts such as developing a Horicon Marsh logo; advertising in five



--Photo courtesy Wisconsin DNR

*In an April program, "Back to the Future of Horicon Marsh--A History of Change," visitors learned about modern settlement in the area and how the marsh was saved for wildlife. This photo, taken in 1927, shows a group of early conservationists at Horicon Marsh.*

major regional magazines; producing and two television broadcasts of "A Natural Experience - Horicon Marsh" by Discover Wisconsin Productions to 1.4 million viewers; website design, hosting and maintenance; producing and distributing 150 print media kits and 50 radio public service announcement kits; printing and mailing of 50,000 Marsh Melodies brochures and 20,000 bird festival booklets; research and tracking of requests for information by visitors, and the opportunity to re-apply for two more years of funding.

The partnership effort was recognized by former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson. Thompson signed a Certifi-

cate of Commendation that was presented to the partnership at the Discover Wisconsin premiere party. Future spin-offs include a Discover Wisconsin episode on the Refuge System Centennial at Wisconsin's national wildlife refuges.

Marsh Melodies partners include Chambers of Commerce from Mayville, Waupun, and Horicon, Wis.; Fond du Lac Convention and Visitors Bureau; Waupun Tourism Committee; Dodge County Tourism Association; Horicon Marsh Bird Club; Rock River Archaeology Society; Marsh Haven Nature Center; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Friends groups. *Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*

## Coast Guard Officer Lauded For Role In Service Fisheries Case

A U.S. Coast Guard officer whose help was instrumental in convicting a Canadian fisherman on U.S. wildlife laws was recognized May 25 by Service Law Enforcement officials. Special Agent Daniel LeClair presented Lt. Joshua Wittman, Asst. Cmdr., United States Coast Guard, in Cleveland, Ohio, with a Certificate of Appreciation for his help in coordinating assistance from Coast Guard land and air

assets during Operation Kingfisher; an international, multi-agency investigation into commercial fisheries.

The investigation, led internally by Special Agent LeClair; yielded the first felony Lacey Act criminal conviction of a Canadian commercial fisherman/corporation for illegally fishing in United States waters of the Great Lakes. Participating agencies included the U.S. Coast Guard,

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and the Service's Law Enforcement Division. The certificate of appreciation was endorsed by the Service's Assistant Director of Law Enforcement, Kevin Adams. Lt. Wittman will be transferring to a new command in San Diego, Calif., in June. *Daniel LeClair, Sandusky Law Enforcement Office*



## **Stream Sweep Mining Company Settlement Helps Fund Volunteer Cleanup of Leading Creek in Southeast Ohio**

Approximately 65 people combed portions of Leading Creek and Little Leading Creek in southeast Ohio Saturday, April 28 collecting enough refuse from in and around the creeks to fill a dump truck and dumpster. The Leading Creek Stream Sweep was the inaugural activity for the Leading Creek Watershed Committee, an informal citizens group formed last year to promote long-term improvement to Leading Creek and its tributaries in Meigs County.

Stream Sweep participants included Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H members, church groups and others. Youngsters, who sometimes avoided admonitions to stay out of the water, hauled out a variety of items including a truck door, a plastic sled, trailer steps, and even a satellite dish.

Participants "swept" portions of Leading Creek and Little Leading Creek along Leading Creek Road, Little Leading Creek at the Rutland Firefighters Park and Leading Creek along state Route 124 at Langsville.

"This is a historic moment because for more than 200 years, people have considered Leading Creek as nothing more than a drainage ditch,

until today," said Sweep Coordinator Jim Freeman.

The Stream Sweep was sponsored by the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District and was assisted by the Meigs County Recycling and Litter Control Office, which provided work gloves and garbage bags, the Rutland Volunteer Fire Department, which offered the use of its park, and Rutland Township, which provided a dumpster and dump truck.

Freeman's position is partially funded by the Service through the Southern Ohio Coal Company court settlement that resulted when acid water from the 1993 mine disaster was pumped into Leading Creek. Money from that settlement was also used for the watershed logo contest and T-shirts for "Stream Sweep" participants.

Organizers had expected perhaps 30 to 35 people to attend, but were pleasantly surprised when twice that number showed up ready to work. For their efforts, participants received plenty of fresh air and sunshine, and a Stream Sweep T-shirt and refreshments afterwards at the park. *Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*

## **Green Bay Fishery Resources Staff Sponsors Kid's Fishing Day For Onieda Nation**

The Second Annual Kid's Fishing Day for the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin was held May 19 at Osnu'hsa Lake in Oneida, Wis.

The Service's Green Bay Fishery Resources Office co-sponsored the event with the Oneida Nation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Nearly 200 kids, adults and elders fished for largemouth bass, rainbow trout, brook trout, and bluegills and most importantly, participated in a recreational activity together.

The most popular site among the kids

was the Wisconsin DNR's aquarium, which contained fish species from the area including many that most people at the event had never seen. The Oneida Nation and the Service also displayed sampling equipment and the Oneida Environmental Department provided an educational display for the preservation of Osnu'hsa Lake.

Other highlights of the day included T-shirts and fishing kits for the participants, food, ice cream, and prizes provided by local businesses. *Pauline Schuette, Green Bay FRO*

## **Report Details Program Obligation by State and Congressional District**

The Division of Budget and Finance coordinated input for the Region 3 the Fiscal Year 2001 State and Congressional District Report. All programs participated in developing the report that provides information on the distribution of program obligations by Congressional District and by State for Fiscal Years 1999 (actual), 2000 (estimates), and 2001 (planned).

The completed Region 3 report is available by contacting Carol Johnson, Division of Budget and Finance, (612) 713-5239. *William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

## **Removing Wild Trout From Shacte Creek Helps Protect Hatchery Stocks**

Fishery biologists Frank Stone and Glenn Miller of the Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) provided technical assistance to the Iron River National Fish Hatchery to help remove wild trout (via back pack shocking) from above the hatchery's intake structure on Shacte Creek. By keeping the waters near the intake free of wild trout, the hatchery reduces the possibility of these wild fish transmitting pathogens throughout the hatchery.

This wild fish removal practice will be repeated during the summer, and will hopefully lessen the number of fish that could potentially pass on pathogens to the lake trout and brook trout broodstock being reared at the hatchery. *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

## **Morris WMD Hosts 9th Annual Wetlands Field Day**

The Morris Wetland Management District hosted its Ninth Annual Wetland Field Day for 224 second grade students May 17 and 18. Students participated in a wide range of learning events involving wetland ecology, fire ecology, waterfowl and neotropical birds and natural history of Minnesota. *Darrell Haugen, Morris WMD*

## Accomplishment Reports Received

The following accomplishment reports were processed by the ARS during the period May 18-June 5. Reports filed during this period, but with accomplishment dates occurring before May 5 are not listed here. Those reports can be found by using Report Manager on the Accomplishment Reporting System.

**1. Bird Banding Demonstration at Rydell Draws 50 Visitors**

*Rick Julian, Rydell NWR*

**2. Fund Managers Meet With White Earth Tribe DNR**

*Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture*

**3. Service Advocates Migratory Birds, Endangered Species During Minnesota Forest Summit**

*Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

**4. Fall Study Will Examine Impact of Hunting on American Woodcock in Minnesota**

*Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

**5. Field Trial Review Will Benefit Habitat, Hunters at Some Indiana Fish and Wildlife Areas**

*Brad Johnson, Federal Aid*

**6. FY 2001 State and Congressional District Report**

*William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

**7. Detroit Lakes WMD Staff Mentors Fourth Grade Students**

*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*

**8. Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey Completed, Results Due in Late June**

*Sean Kelly, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

**9. American Woodcock Singing-Ground Survey**

*Sean Kelly, Migratory Birds & State Pgm*

**10. News Release - Saving the Higgins' Eye**

*Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

**11. Horicon NWR Orchestrates 'Marsh Melodies' With Partners**

*Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*

**12. Service Assists Fond du Lac Chippewa With Sturgeon Assessment on the St. Louis River**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**13. 2700 Attend Upper Mississippi River Refuge's First River Festival**

*Tim Loose, UMRNW&FR-McGregor Dist.*

**14. Wetland Restoration Handbook for Landowners Earns Wisconsin Distinguished Government Document Award**

*James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*

**15. Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts Students, Parents For Earth Stewards Gala**

*Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

**16. Detroit Lakes WMD Participates in 34th Annual Conservation Tour**

*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*

**17. 2001 Migratory Bird Day**

*Pam Steinhaus, UMRNW&FR - Savanna District*

**18. New Project Leader at Crab Orchard NWR**

*Dan Sobieck, External Affairs*

**19. Despite High Water Waterfowl Surveys Continue**

*Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ*

**20. Detroit Lakes WMD Prescribe Burns 2,786 Acres of Habitat, Despite Uncooperative Weather**

*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*

**21. Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Sponsors Kid's Fishing Day For Onieda Nation**

*Pauline Schuette, Green Bay FRO*

**22. Mississippi Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem Web Page Is Finalized**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**23. Chicago Field Office Assists With Local Frog and Toad Survey**

*Michael Redmer, Chicago FO*

**24. Region 3 States Participating in New Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Grant Program**

*Mike Sweet, Federal Aid*

**25. Service Recognizes Coast Guard Officer For Role In Great Lakes Fisheries Investigation**

*Daniel LeClair, Sandusky Law Enforcement*

**26. Service Collects Fish For Aquarium Exhibit at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**27. Removing Wild Trout From Shacte Creek Helps Protect Hatchery Stocks**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**28. Fish Friendly Stream Crossings**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**29. Service Joins Partners For Leading Creek Clean-up in Ohio**

*Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*

**30. Ozark Ecosystem Team Sets Priorities for FY 2002**

*Lisa Mandell, Ozark Watershed EcoTeam*

**31. Coordination With U.S. Congressional and Wisconsin State Senate Offices.**

*Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO*

**32. 9th Annual Wetlands Field Day**

*Darrell Haugen, Morris WMD*

**33. Big Muddy Refuge Joins Monitoring Discussion Concerning Overton Bottoms Unit**

*Barbara Moran, Big Muddy NWR*

**34. Restored Bisson Lake Hosts Shorebirds and Birders**

*Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

- 35. Ashland FRO Sponsors Course on Fish Friendly Stream Crossings**  
*Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*
- 36. Status of Region 3 Radio Conversion Projects**  
*Bryce Shimmon, ABA (CSG)*
- 37. Refuge Mosquito Control Policy—A Natural Balance**  
*Dan Sobieck, External Affairs*
- 38. Partners for Fish and Wildlife/Private Lands Tour of Northern Michigan**  
*Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*
- 39. Piping Plover Return to Great Lakes Beaches**  
*Georgia Parham, External Affairs*
- 40. Service Seeks Public Comment on Proposed South Fox Island Land Exchange**  
*Georgia Parham, External Affairs*
- 41. Environment Day at Youngstown Air Base**  
*Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*
- 42. More Than 200 Students From Five Schools Visit Rydell NWR for Environmental Tours**  
*Rick Julian, Rydell NWR*
- 43. EEO Training for Region 3 Supervisors and Managers**  
*Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)*
- 44. Service Helps Indiana Middle School Teachers Learn About Biodiversity**  
*Barbara Hosler, Bloomington FO*
- 45. Media Contact: Contaminants Investigations and the Human Genome Project**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

- 46. Critical Habitat Designated for Great Lakes Breeding Piping Plovers**  
*Laura Ragan, External Affairs*
- 47. Volunteer Orientation Held at Seney NWR**  
*Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*
- 48. 50 Birders Participate in Migratory Bird Day Events at Sherburne NWR**  
*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*
- 49. Service Joins State and Federal Agencies to Examine Performance Based Management Systems**  
*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*
- 50. Great Lakes Ecosystem Team Funds Four Projects Supporting Sturgeon Restoration, Island Protection**  
*Leslie TeWinkel, Great Lakes Basin EcoTeam*
- 51. Birds Help the Service Reach the Local Community of the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge**  
*Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*
- 52. Muscatatuck NWR Expands Survey Work in Seep Springs Area**  
*Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*
- 53. Ride for the Birds to Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day**  
*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*
- 54. Detroit Lakes WMD Staff Contribute to Multi-faceted Red River Valley Flood Reduction Planning**  
*Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD*
- 55. Local Student Gets Job Shadowing Experience**  
*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

- 56. IMBD 2001: Winning Warblers at the Zoo**  
*Ed moyer, Minnesota Valley NWR*
- 57. Summit Elementary Celebrates Earth Day at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge**  
*Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR*
- 58. Prescribed Burns at Port Louisa NWR**  
*Sally Jack, Port Louisa NWR*
- 59. Teaching With the Outdoors Workshop Sponsored by Seney NWR**  
*Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*
- 60. Wetland Restoration in Praire Pothole Region**  
*Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO*
- 61. DeSotoRefugeFest: \$10,000 Prize and Family Fun At DeSoto**  
*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

## Inside Region 3



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