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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Inside Region 3

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



- USFWS Photo

Mike Belsky (far right) and Jennifer Rabuck (second from right) pose with President Bush in the East Garden of the White House May 20.

## Wisconsin Firefighters go to Washington, Meet with President Bush

Two Region 3 wildland firefighters helped President Bush highlight the importance of using fire to improve and protect wildlife habitat, as well as the challenge of preventing damage to private property.

Jennifer Rabuck from Leopold Wetland Management District and Mike Belsky from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge met with the President in the East Garden of the White House May 20 to talk about the upcoming fire season. They joined wildland firefighters representing other federal land management agencies.

"It was one of those 'lifetime experiences'," said Rabuck, a Crivitz, Wis., native. "It's not something I ever expected to get to do."

Last year, wildfires raged through millions of acres, mostly in western states, causing billions of dollars in damage and destroying habitat for hun-

dreds of species. In the Midwest, fire is most often used on national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts as a tool for wildlife professionals. Through a program of "prescribed burning," managers can simulate the natural wildfires that have for centuries removed dead vegetation, returned nutrients to soil and encouraged new growth. Prescribed burning also helps prevent buildup of fuels that can contribute to uncontrollable wildfires.

Service firefighters like Rabuck and Belsky plan and conduct prescribed burns on Service lands. In Wisconsin, most of their work centers around these planned fires, but wildfires also occur there on a regular basis. Fish and Wildlife Service firefighters are also considered a national resource, and may be mobilized anywhere in the country to assist in wildland fire suppression actions. *Abby Rodriguez, External Affairs*

## Bloomington Field Office Forges Unique Partnership with Agape

Agape is a non-profit organization committed to helping people with special needs heal and succeed through therapeutic horseback riding and horse husbandry. Agape is committed to positively affecting the physical, mental, behavioral and social challenges of special needs individuals. The organization operates a program with the Indianapolis Public Schools involving 30 special-needs and at-risk students from two middle schools. The program will serve four times as many students next year, and it is expected that thousands of school children will eventually be exposed to the program.

Agape's program is conducted at Black Creek Stables, which is owned by the Indianapolis Airport Authority and falls within a 2,000-acre conservation management area. As the result of a Habitat Conservation Plan developed by the IAA and other members of an interagency task force, most of the area is managed for conservation of the endangered Indiana bat, as well as other natural resource values. The HCP minimizes and mitigates impacts to Indiana bats as the result of ongoing development activities by task force members. The HCP was designed to ensure that the project area and adjoining areas used by Indiana bats will continue to support suitable habitat for the species, while allowing for incidental take of Indiana bats that may occur as the result of development activities.

Debbie Anderson, director of Agape at Black Creek Stables, contacted the Bloomington Field Office for information on how to incorporate information and activities related to the Indiana bat HCP into the Agape curriculum. Staff from the Bloomington FO and External Affairs visited the Agape facility and discussed opportunities with Anderson. Bloomington FO provided Agape with resource materials related to bats, and to the Indiana bat HCP specifically. The field office is working with Agape to provide additional materials and pursuing funding opportunities to expand the environmental education program on bats, as well as other native fish and wildlife, into the Agape program. Not only does the Agape staff want to provide classroom and outdoor environmental education on site, but they also plan for students to become part of implementing the bat HCP. For example, the students may assist in tree planting required under the HCP, and accompany researchers conducting monitoring. *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington Field Office*



- USFWS Photo

Agape matches children with special needs with horses, a combination that has proved beneficial for both.



Frank Stone displays the May tally of hits for Ashland's website, which includes the MTAN. The number of hits the site receives is an indication of public interest.

## Ashland Highlights Portable Raceways

The most recent addition of the Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network has been completed by the staff at Ashland Fishery Resources Office and is now available on the Internet. This quarter's newsletter discusses Floating or In-ground - Portable Raceways and Wind Powered Aeration for Remotely Located Ponds.

The MTAN has been assisting tribal fish hatchery programs for nine years. The reward for this is knowing Ashland is providing information that enables hatchery programs to better provide a healthier product for the fishery. The MTAN has also helped to educate fish hatchery workers and direct them to other areas of opportunity so they can better research their specific needs.

Information from previous issues of the MTAN plus tribal hatchery stocking information is accessible from the Ashland FRO web page: <http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland/mtan/mtanhome.html> *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

## Tomah Fishing Tourney Benefits Veterans and Students

For more than 50 years, Service employees at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery have annually raised a variety of game fish species for stocking in public waters, including the American Legion Fishing Pond at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tomah, Wis.

Angling is a popular activity that provides Tomah VA clients with many hours of therapeutic outdoor recreational opportuni-



A successful angler shows off the bass he snagged during the VA fishing tourney.

ties. Since 1991, Service staff and volunteers from the Genoa NFH, the LaCrosse FRO, and the LaCrosse Fish Health Center have helped sponsor a hospital-wide fishing tournament at the pond.

The 2003 tourney was held May 21 under sunny blue skies with a stiff westerly wind that aided the casts of anglers on the handicap accessible fishing pier. Tomah Middle School students were also on hand to aid veterans who needed some assistance. Successful anglers registered their catch to win prizes awarded by the Tomah American Legion. By all accounts, there was a lot of exciting action during this year's event as many more



-USFWS Photos

Dan Kumlin, a Navy veteran, prepares fillets for the fish fry at the VA fishing tournament.

larger fish (rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill) were caught than at any past tourney, making for some memorable moments.

This popular annual event, complete with a lunchtime fish-fry prepared and served by Service staff, has grown into a highly anticipated and rewarding spring-time event. *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

## Rains Can't Dampen Potter Park Zoo's IMBD/Centennial Celebration



-USFWS Photo

Puddles shakes hands with an admirer at Potter Park Zoo during a combined International Migratory Bird Day/Centennial celebration.

On and off rains and gray skies couldn't stop nearly 1,100 visitors from enjoying a combined International Migratory Bird Day/National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial celebration May 31 at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, Mich. Egged on by Puddles the Blue Goose, zoo visitors were treated to a variety of activities and displays to increase public awareness and understanding of migratory birds and the refuge system.

"Build-a-bird," a popular new activity, allowed children to build birds for our "refuge" using felt pieces. Paper cut-outs of the NWRS's blue goose with a printed centennial message were distrib-

uted by Puddles to visitors of all ages. Children also decorated a blank version of the goose as they learned more about the Centennial and the conservation efforts of the Service. Three cakes from Meijer, a local retailer, provided a treat for visitors.

Staff from the Service's Michigan Private Lands Office, East Lansing Field Office, and the Regional Office joined with more than 30 volunteers to lead the celebration. This seventh annual event was co-sponsored by the Service, Potter Park Zoological Society and Fenner Nature Center. *Jim Hudgins, Michigan Private Lands Office*

## Coon Valley Kindergarten Class Learns About Fish

Ken Phillips of the LaCrosse Fish Health Center traveled to Coon Valley, Wis., May 14 to meet with kindergarten students at the Coon Valley Elementary School. During his presentation, Ken talked to the students about basic fish biology, including how fish are different from people (gills, fins, scales, etc.), the different types of fish, different fish habitats, and the different things fish eat. The students asked numerous questions about fish and also shared their own experiences with fish.

Numerous posters, fish models and a paddlefish mount were available for the students to observe during and after the presentation. But the most popular display was an aquarium containing a small lake sturgeon, a channel catfish, a largemouth bass and a rainbow trout. At the end of the presentation, each student received a copy of the Fishing ABC's coloring book. *Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse FHC*



-USFWS Photos  
Elementary students check out an aquarium full of fish during a presentation by LaCrosse Fish Health Center May 14.

## Can We Keep Breeding Kirtland's Warblers in the U.P.?

Christie Deloria, biologist at the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) Ecological Services sub-office, recently met with biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and Seney National Wildlife Refuge to discuss future efforts and needs for Kirtland's warbler management in the U.P.

The number of singing males detected in the U.P. from 1978 to 2002 has varied annually from one to 19. These birds have mostly been found in jack pine stands regenerated after wildfire. These wildfire-created stands are aging and soon will be unsuitable for Kirtland's warbler occupancy. In order to maintain a peripheral Kirtland's warbler population in the U.P., man-made plantations are needed. Although there are several large areas of glacial outwash sand which support jack pine in the U.P., jack pine stands in these areas are not regenerating in large enough blocks or with proper tree densities to support Kirtland's warblers.

This first meeting of U.P. Kirtland's warbler managers comes at a pivotal time for several reasons. First, the Kirtland's warbler recovery team recently announced the need for additional acreage to reach and sustain recovery goals. Some of this additional acreage could come from managed jack pine areas in the U.P., and thus the U.P. could play a role in the long term recovery of the Kirtland's warbler. Second, both the Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forests are beginning their Forest Plan Revision process. The new Forest Plan may identify areas for large-scale jack pine management and may promote jack pine regeneration techniques

which would encourage warbler occupancy. Third, the Michigan DNR has begun a new program of cross-division ecosystem teams. With this new focus on ecosystem management it is possible that large-scale jack pine ecosystem management will be implemented. This would not only support Kirtland's warblers, but also provide habitat for other species such as sharp-tailed grouse, northern harrier, upland sandpiper and clay-colored sparrow.

The meeting was also critical in helping coordinate 2003 Kirtland's warbler census activities in the U.P. Sites where warblers have been located in the recent past are key areas to census. The group also wanted to expand from known warbler locations to potentially "new" habitat. An effort to map other suitably aged jack pine stands for future census efforts has begun as a result of this meeting. *Christie Deloria, U.P. ES sub-office*



A male Kirtland's warbler.

- USFWS Photo

## Centennial WPA Dedicated; Student Project Links Them to TR Legacy

A bronze monument unveiled in May along County Road 6 in western Minnesota's Big Stone County does more than mark the location of one of the National Wildlife Refuge System's newest wetland restoration projects. The marker stands as living proof that good things can happen for conservation when farmers, government and non-government agencies, and local citizens get together for a common purpose. But bronzed inscriptions don't always tell the whole story of how such good things come to be.

About 120 people, including 80 students from Ortonville Elementary School, gathered at a former soybean field five miles east of Clinton, Minn., on May 2, to dedicate the Centennial Waterfowl Production Area, a 596-acre restored wetland that, when filled with water, will be a rich nesting ground for migratory waterfowl. The lack of winter runoff and spring rains made the project area appear more like a desert than a wetland haven for breeding migratory waterfowl. But that didn't matter to those present, most of whom had a part in making the project a reality.

"While we certainly would have preferred to have water and thousands of ducks out there for people to see, it's also fitting for all of us to see the beginnings of this project, which over the years will provide nesting habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife for generations to come," said Steve Delehanty, manager of Morris Wetland Management District. Delehanty and his staff oversaw the project, which was made possible by area landowners, Ducks Unlimited, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Big Stone County, North American Wetland Conser-

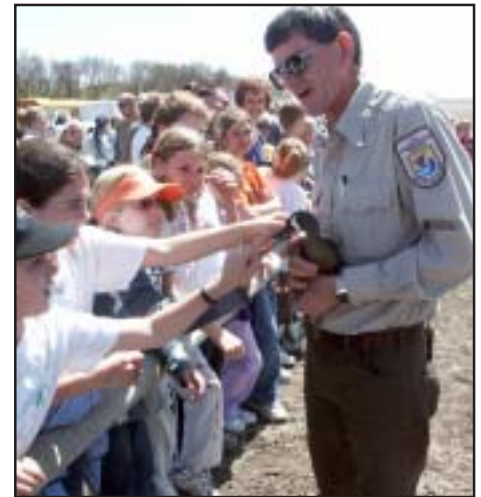
vation Council, Upper Minnesota River Watershed District and, of course, the fourth graders at Ortonville Elementary.

There were speeches by staffers representing Sen. Norm Coleman and Rep. Collin Peterson, by an official from Ducks Unlim-

ited and by Robyn Thorson, Region 3 director. But none got the rousing reception served up for Kyle Kirkeby. Kirkeby, a fourth grade teacher at Ortonville Elementary, incorporates wetland education into his conservation curriculum. His students not only learn about wetlands, they raise money for area wetland restoration projects. "We learn about habitat loss and the planet's diminishing rain forests, but we can't really do anything here for those far away places," Kirkeby, a waterfowler, said. "We chose to do something right here."

The students raised money by selling passes for school privileges like chewing gum. After two years, the fourth graders had amassed \$4,386, not a lot of money in the world of wetland restorations. But this is where the students learned another lesson - the magic of matching grants. The students' money was matched with \$4,000 by the Citizens for Big Stone Lake, and \$4,000 from the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District. The savvy students had amassed \$12,386 for their project, and weren't finished yet. Big Stone County added another \$12,500. Another \$34,000 from Ducks Unlimited; \$49,750 from a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant and \$171,982 from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Centennial WPA project had its bankroll.

During upcoming seasons, the Service will begin seeding the upland portions of the Centennial WPA with a mixture of 13 types of wildflowers and nine types of grasses including purple prairie coneflower, wild bergamot, smooth blue aster, blue grama and little bluestem. The native plants not only attract waterfowl, but an abundance of songbirds and other wildlife. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*



- USFWS Photos by Scott Flaherty  
Children at the dedication of Centennial WPA get up close and personal with a blue-winged teal.



Posing by the Centennial WPA dedication plaque are: From left (back row) David Torgerson, Big Stone County Commissioner; David Sturrock, representing Sen. Coleman; Robyn Thorson, Service Regional Director; Mike Appel, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Diane Radermacher, Upper Minnesota River Watershed District; Tom Meium, representing Rep. Peterson; Bob Usgaard, Ducks Unlimited; Puddles (aka Vicotr Gades, Morris WMD). Front row, from the left, Andy Strei, 5th grade student; Kevin Berdan, 5th grade student; Kyle Kirkeby, Ortonville Elementary.

## Aquatic Nuisance Species Summit Held in Chicago

The City of Chicago and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service convened a two-day summit May 14-15 to develop an array of potential means of stopping the free and easy interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance species between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes Basins.

These drainage basins are linked by the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Approximately 170 aquatic nuisance species have been introduced into the Great Lakes, and about 163 have been introduced into the Mississippi River Basin. The canal provides a conduit for swimming species to move freely in either direction, and allows free-floating forms to move from the Great Lakes into the Mississippi River Basin.

Thus far, adult zebra mussels attached to barges and other vessels have been carried from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Basin. Round gobies are gradually expanding their range and will likely make it to the Mississippi River. Asian carp have escaped from aquaculture facilities along the Mississippi River and are expanding their ranges toward the Great Lakes.

The consequences of these invading species cannot be overstated. The costs associated with removing zebra mussels from water intakes, pipes and other surfaces amounts to about \$250 million per year. If the Asian carp reach the Great Lakes, a fishery valued at \$4.5 billion per year will be threatened.

The summit opened with presentations by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Service Regional Director Robyn Thorson, Col. Mark Roncoli of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Dennis Schornak, Chair of the U.S. section of the International Joint Commission. Each asked participants to think of potential solutions, that costs of solutions not be a factor, and that changing current operations also not be a factor.

After the introductory remarks, local experts delivered a series of presentations to give invitees an understanding of the problem, and the operation and uses of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

After these overviews, the 63 participants were divided into breakout sessions. Each was given the same charge: "How can we prevent the exchange of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi Basins?" The sessions resulted in many ideas that were listed, and then grouped into similar conceptual approaches.

On the second day all the ideas submitted in the breakout sessions were discussed further. The main ideas presented were:



-USFWS Photo

Zebra mussels like these are one of the harmful invasive species have been transferred the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

- Physical barriers at one or more locations in the Chicago Waterway System to physically separate Lake Michigan water from canal water;
- Technological barriers, using electrical or acoustical technologies for instance, to deter fish and other aquatic life from advancing;
- An eradication zone, which would be a stretch along the canal where methods such as removing oxygen from the water or other technologies would eradicate aquatic life from the water;
- A filter or bypass system, which would either filter aquatic life from the water or divert the organisms into a chamber where they would be eradicated.

The summit was supported financially by the City of Chicago Department of Environment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. Additional sponsors and contributors included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Chicago District and Waterways Experiment Station, the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Commission.

The Steering Committee is working to produce proceedings of the summit to carry some of the ideas presented forward to evaluate their feasibility and effectiveness.

Convening the summit provided great service to the American people by highlighting the urgency and magnitude of the problem and by developing a strategy to initiate a solution to the problem of the interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance species.

*Karla Kramer, Chicago ES Field Office*

## Missouri Largemouth Bass Virus Sampling Completed For 2003

On May 12 and 13, Ken Phillips of the LaCrosse Fish Health Center worked with electro-fishing crews from the Missouri Department of Conservation to collect fish health samples from largemouth bass at Lake Thunderhead, Lake Paho and Mozingo Lake in Missouri. Thirty largemouth bass were sampled from each lake as part of an ongoing effort between the MDC and the Service to monitor largemouth bass virus in Missouri. In addition to screening the fish for LMBV, samples were also collected to test for bacterial pathogens and infectious pancreatic necrosis virus as part of the National Wild Fish Health Survey.

Largemouth bass virus appears to affect the swim bladder of infected fish and their ability to swim; external lesions, hemorrhaging, and other signs usually associated with fish diseases are not observed. Most bass that are carriers of LMBV are not affected by the virus and do not show any disease signs. Usually a stressor, such as poor water quality or excessive handling, is necessary for an outbreak of LMBV disease to occur.



- USFWS Photo

Ken Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center, samples largemouth bass from Lake Paho in Missouri.

The sampling during May 12 and 13 completed LMBV surveillance efforts in Missouri for 2003. In 2003, LFHC and MDC staff sampled 355 largemouth bass and 19 spotted bass from 13 Missouri lakes. Since 1999, LFHC and MDC personnel have cooperated to sample largemouth and spotted

bass from more than 26 lakes and streams in Missouri. Largemouth bass virus has been isolated in bass collected from at least seven sites in Missouri. *Ken Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

## Day of the Gulls

Hitchcock's "The Birds" is a thriller - but it doesn't begin to prepare one for the total sensory experience of counting nests at large gull colonies!

Indiana has major gull colonies at two steel mills in East Chicago, along the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Every five years, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources conducts statewide counts of colonial nesting birds, including herons, terns and gulls. On May 12, Service Biologist Elizabeth McCloskey of the Northern Indiana Ecological Services Suboffice joined the DNR's non-game bird biologist John Castrale and volunteers to count nests on two steel mill properties.

Both ISPAT Inland Steel Inc., and ISG Indiana Harbor Inc., have Migratory Bird permits to manage the thousands of gulls that nest on their properties, trying to keep them from interfering with operations or causing safety problems.

Hard hats, safety glasses and plastic rain coats

were the uniform of the day as 10 people braved strong winds and the wrath of thousands of gulls to count the nests on old landfill sites, unused parking lots, slag dumps and rocky breakwaters. On large areas, walk through transects were used, with each person counting to his right or left, using a hand-held "clicker." In rougher terrain each person was given a specific area to cover. The screeches of the gulls against the noise of the steel mills was overwhelming.

Although counters couldn't get to some areas on steep slag piles, they believe they made some accurate counts, coming up with approximately 26,000 ring-billed gulls and less than 100 herring gulls at ISPAT Inland, and more than 17,000 ring-bills and about 500 herring gulls at ISG. The counts at ISG in 1998 were comparable, but ISPAT Inland has about 8,000 more birds now than five years ago. *Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES suboffice*

## Region 3 Deputy Regional Director Out and About in the Refuge System

Deputy Regional Director Marvin Moriarty ventured beyond the boundaries of the Great Lakes-Big Rivers region recently when he visited Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah.

During the visit, Moriarty and Refuge Manager Al Trout toured the refuge in airboats.

Bear River was severely damaged in the '80s when flooding from the Great Salt Lake, combined with historic levels of rain, inundated the refuge's marshes with salt water. Beyond the ecological damage, many of the refuge's facilities were destroyed. The flood waters didn't recede until 1989, and rebuilding continues today with the help of many dedicated volunteers and refuge staff.

The refuge encompasses more than 41,000 acres of freshwater wetlands in a series of 25 impoundments captured from the Bear River. It provides habitat for the American avocet, black-necked stilt, snowy plover sand tundra swans, both year 'round and during migrations. *Abby Rodriguez, External Affairs*



-USFWS Photo by Al Trout

Want to be a Deputy RD some day? Start by putting on your PFD - required by the Service under Chapter 241 FW1 in the Service Manual. "I always wear my life jacket," says Marvin Moriarty. "There are no second chances out there." An avid canoeist, the DRD says he often paddles solo in the Boundary Waters and other remote areas where proper use of safety equipment can save a life.

## Accomplishment Reports Received

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

### **NWRS Centennial Event- Patoka River NWR**

*William McCoy, Jr., Patoka River NWR*

### **Students Learn Importance of Biodiversity**

*John Heinrich, Marquette Bio Station*

### **Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge hosts first 'Take a Kid Fishing Day'**

*Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR*

### **Rains can't dampen Potter Park Zoo's IMBD/Centennial Celebration**

*Jim Hudgins, Michigan PLO*

### **Fish Relocation at Shacte Creek**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### **Independent Lake Whitefish Survey**

*Scott Koproski, Alpena FRO*

### **Lake Whitefish Assessment Preparation**

*Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO*

### **Ashland FRO Leads Two GLNPO Grant Review Teams**

*Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

### **U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys Lampreys to Save Lake Trout**

*Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

### **Chequamegon Bay Surveyed for Coaster Brook Trout**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### **Regional Office Employees Attend Diversity Day 2003**

*Arlene White, ABA (DCR)*

### **Senator Grassley of Iowa visits DeSoto Refuge**

*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

### **Missouri Wetland Review Team Visits Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge**

*Candace Chambers, Great River NWR*

### **Fourth Annual Youth Fishing Day Event Held at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge**

*Brett Wehrle, Big Stone NWR*

### **Sixteen Releases Sent In One Afternoon**

*Abby Rodriguez, External Affairs*

### **Chicigamee Learning Camp**

*Susan Wells, Alpena FRO*

### **Woodcock Singing-Ground Survey - 2003**

*Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

### **Region 3 Fisheries Publication Policy Development**

*Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*



**Bloomington Field Office makes endangered species presentation to 90 eighth graders**

*Forest Clark, Bloomington FO*

**Joint Service-Corp Editorial on Great Lakes Wetlands Published in Local Paper**

*Craig Czarnecki, East Lansing FO*

**Wood Duck Eggs Collected for Dioxin Study**

*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

**Teamwork is Key for Lake Sturgeon Recovery Effort**

*Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Assists Michigan Department of Natural Resources with Walleye Study**

*Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*

**Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Fin Clips 1.42 Million Native Lake Trout for the Great Lakes**

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

**Eurasian Ruffe Control in Lake Huron Waters of Michigan**

*Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*

**Bird Censuses for Saginaw Bay and West Nile Virus**

*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

**ELFO Attends USDA Healthy Forest Initiative Press Conference**

*Mike DeCapita, East Lansing FO*

**Streamlined Implementation of Procurement System**

*Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS*

**Tomah Fishing Tourney Benefits Veterans & Students**

*Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

**Rock Island Field Office Outreach**

*Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO*

**Service Assists with VA Hosiptal Fishing Tournament**

*Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

**Higgins' Eye Pearlymussel Recovery Plan is "Hosted" in Spring Lake of the Upper Mississippi NWR**

*James Murcia, Rock Island FO*

**Warmwater Fish Health Inspection completed at the Genoa NFH**

*Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

**Assistant Secretary and Regional Director Observe Sea Lamprey Control Activities**

*Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

**Wind Farms and Migratory Birds in Illinois and Iowa**

*Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO*

**State Transportation Development and the Topeka Shiner**

*Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO*

**Centennial Forest Planted at Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge**

*Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*

**Can we keep breeding Kirtland's warblers in the U.P.?**

*Christie Deloria, East Lansing FO*

**EAGLS Basics Class**

*Debra Turner, Alpena FRO*

**CITES Symposium Draws Tribal Interest at Native American Fish And Wildlife Society Conference**

*John Leonard, External Affairs*

**Endangered Higgins-Eye Mussel Project Expanded.**

*Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*

**Service Director and Regional Director Speak at Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Meeting**

*John Leonard, External Affairs*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Has Successful Bald Eagle Nest**

*Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Region 3 Explores e-Mentoring**

*Arlene White, ABA (DCR)*

**Birding Tour Highlight IMBD and Refuge System Centennial Celebration**

*Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

**Mississippi River Pool 16 Seeded with Wild Celery**

*James Murcia, Rock Island FO*

**American Avocets Return to Nest on Refuge**

*Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

**Water Quality Restoration and Endangered Species Recovery Partnership**

*Mike Coffey, Rock Island FO*

**Muscatatuck NWR helps coordinate Arbor Day program at Scottsburg Middle School**

*Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

**East Lansing Field Office Participates with Michigan DNR Fisheries Management Team Meeting**

*Craig Czarnecki, East Lansing FO*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Helps with ArborDay/Earth Day Week Activities**

*Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Isle Royale Fish Managment Plan Progresses**

*Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO*

**Bloomington Field Offices Forges Unique Partnership with Agape**  
*Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO*

**Endangered Snake Conservation**  
*Mike Coffey, Rock Island FO*

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Summit Held in Chicago**  
*Karla Kramer, Chicago FO*

**Another Edition of the MTAN Goes to Print**  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**Focus on Fish and Wildlife Newsletter – June 2003**  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**Second Year of Study to Examine Round Goby Predation on Lake Trout Begins**  
*Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*

**Coon Valley Kindergarden Class Learns About Fish**  
*Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Holds Migratory Bird Festival**  
*Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Lake Sturgeon Assessment in the Rifle River**  
*Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO*

**Inland Lake Surveys for Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Completed**  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**Technical Assistance Provided for Raptor Nest on Utility Pole**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

**Technical Assistance Provided for Dead Bald Eagle at Nest**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

**Prescribed Fires Completed at Hamden Slough NWR**  
*Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

**Round Goby Stomachs Processed For Lake Trout Eggs**  
*Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO*

**Missouri Large-Mouth Bass Virus Sampling Completed For 2003**  
*Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

**Sea Lamprey Display Goes West For The Environment**  
*Terry Morse, Marquette Bio Station*

**Annual Piping Plover Training Event held at Wilderness State Park**  
*Jack Dingleline, East Lansing FO*

**La Crosse FRO Gave a Shocking Presentation at Mississippi River Festival**  
*Heidi Keuler, LaCrosse FRO*

**Drawings Completed for the Grand Portage Fish Hatchery**  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**Day of the Gulls**  
*Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc*

**Minnesota Valley Time Capsule – One for the Ages**  
*Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR*

**Rice Lake NWR a Birding Success**  
*Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR*

**International Migratory Bird Day Celebrated at Sherburne Refuge**  
*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*

**Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC) Website Created**  
*Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO*

**East Lansing FO staff help during Detroit River Clean-up**  
*Stephanie Pastva, East Lansing FO*

**Service to Participate in Detroit River Clean Up Event**  
*Stephanie Pastva, East Lansing FO*

**Shiawassee Refuge Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day**  
*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*

**Sea Lamprey and Great Lakes Fish Were Catch of the Day at ScoutFest**  
*Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*

**Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Celebrates IMBD**  
*Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Presentation at Wild Turkey Federation Field Day**  
*Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO*

**Region 3 Earns Minnesota Governor's Safety Award for 2002**  
*Patrick McDermott, ABA (Engineering)*

**Service Biologist Attends MOICC Training**  
*Aaron Woltdt, Alpena FRO*

**Ohio Private Lands Coordinator Receives Award**  
*William Hegge, Reynoldsburg FO*

**Ashland Fishery Office Assists Tribes With Spring Walleye Surveys**  
*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**Coasters Migrate to Genoa National Fish Hatchery**  
*Nick Starzl, Genoa NFH*

**ELFO Provides Hearing Officer for Michigan DNR Proceedings**  
*Craig Czarnecki, East Lansing FO*

**Indiana Refuges showcased during International Migratory Bird Days at the Cincinnati Zoo**  
*Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR*

**Students Learn Wetland Basics**  
*Wayne Fischer, Illinois Private Lands Ofc*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Spreads the Word During Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species Week**

*Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*

**Saginaw Restoration Success Celebrated with Citizen Group**  
*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

**Wild Fish Health Survey takes place in Missouri**

*Corey Puzach, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

**East Lansing Biologist Attends Transportation Streamlining Workshop**

*Barbara Hosler, East Lansing FO*

**Service Assists U.S. Army Corps With Shoreline Stabilization Projects**

*Elizabeth McCloskey, Northern Indiana ES Sub Ofc*

**Alpena FRO Partners Program Project Prioritization and Selection**

*Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*

**Crews Experience Calm Waters on the Mille Lacs Lake Walleye Tagging Project**

*Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

**Trash Relief Provided on 20-Mile Stretch of Missouri River**

*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*

**Ludington Staff Receive Training**

*Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*

**Centennial Waterfowl Production Area Dedication**

*Katherine Goodwin, Morris WMD*

**Motorboat Operators Course Held in Marquette**

*Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO*

**Centennial Waterfowl Production Area Dedicated; Student Project Links Them to TR Legacy**

*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

**Students Sharpen Endangered Species Knowledge**

*Wayne Fischer, Illinois Private Lands Ofc*

**Environment Day at Youngstown Air Force Base**

*Bill Kurey, Reynoldsburg FO*

**Ashland Fishery Office Completes Pictured Rocks Fish Species Inventory**

*Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*

**National Wild Fish Health Survey Continues in Missouri**

*Kenneth Phillips, LaCrosse Fish Health Center*

**Alpena Federal Building Security Program**

*Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*

**Chicago Office Conducts Habitat Assessment and Provides Technical Assistance**

*Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO*

**Grand Portage Fish Passage Structure Working!**

*Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*

**News and Views Created for Refuge Program**

*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

**Chicago Field Office Meets with Partners to Coordinate Orchid Recovery**

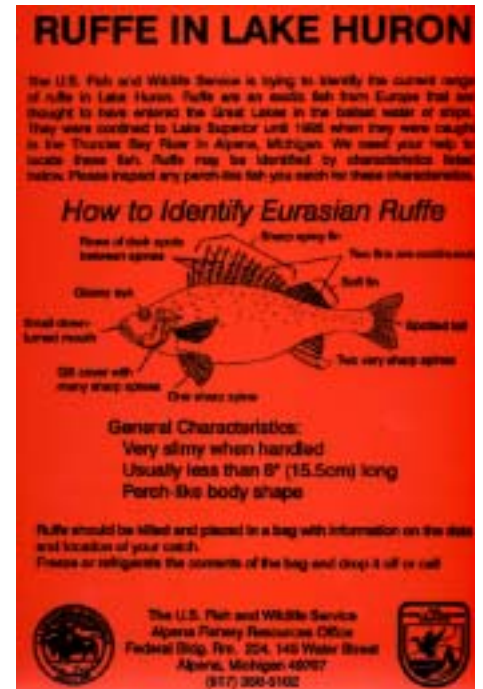
*Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO*

**The Lake Sturgeon are Spawning! Genoa Hatchery Begins Lake Sturgeon Egg Collections**

*Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

**Vernal Ponds Constructed at Local Refuge**

*Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR*



**"Slimy when handled..."**

Fishery Biologist Anjanette Bowen lead the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) in an annual effort to remove spawning phase adult Eurasian ruffe from the Thunder Bay River in Alpena. The Thunder Bay River is the only known ruffe infested area in Lake Huron and hopes are that removal of adults before spawning will not only reduce the numbers of ruffe offspring, but prevent their spread to other areas of the lake.

Fliers like the one above help fishery biologists raise awareness of the ruffe problem.  
*Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FRO*



**Inside Region 3**  
**June 2003**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Region 3**  
**Office of External Affairs**  
**1 Federal Drive**  
**Ft. Snelling, MN 55111**

**Phone: 612/713-5360**  
**Federal Relay: 1 800/877-8339**

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Federal Relay Number: 1 800/877-8339  
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