



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services



Friends support the many functions of the local Fish and Wildlife Service offices, which include endangered mussel recovery, supporting and maintaining healthy fish and aquatic resource populations, and native fish and aquatic habitat restoration projects such as the Driftless Area National Fish Habitat Action Plan initiative.

The Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services is a nonprofit citizens organization dedicated to conserving fishery resources of the Upper Mississippi River and other Trust Lands, also to provide support for activities conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service's La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the LaCrosse Fish Health Center.

The Friends Group has assisted the three La Crosse, Wisconsin, area Fisheries offices complete many projects that could not have been accomplished without their help, such as constructing mussel culture cages, lake sturgeon tagging, wild fish collections, sample collections for fish health monitoring, and many others. They are instrumental in sponsoring the annual Kids Fishing and Ice Fishing Days, events that allow youngsters an opportunity to get outside and enjoy a day of fishing, while learning about sound conservation principles.

## Future plans:

The Friends are helping sponsor the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Day May 17<sup>th</sup> which will be at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Kids ages 5-12 will get the opportunity to fish in a stocked hatchery pond after attending 4 separate conservation stations. Last years event was attended by over 150 kids and their parents.

The Friends Group is hosting a River Cruise fundraiser on the Island Princess, a cruise ship located in LaCrosse Wisconsin, on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to the Myrick Eco Park exhibit.



-USFWS  
The Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services sponsored and helped organize the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Over 600 people attended the event.



-USFWS  
Up-Close-and-Personal at Kid's Fishing Day

The mission of the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services* dovetails the Fish and Wildlife Service Mission of **Conserving and Protecting America's Fish and Wildlife Resources and Their Habitat for the Continuing Benefit of People.**





-USFWS

**A Kids Ice Fishing Derby at Goose Island County Park in Shelby, Wisconsin, attracted over 150 kids and adults attending.**



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**A Fundraiser was held to raise money for a conservation exhibit highlighting the area's natural resources in the newly planned Myrick Eco Park in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The awards banquet/fundraiser brought in \$6,500 to go directly to this exhibit.**



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**Friends Group volunteer Al Hammes holds a egg-laden walleye that was captured in a net during the spring Mississippi River wild fish netting operation.**



-USFWS

**Friends demonstrate walleye jig-making at the Kids Fishing Day learning station.**

**Genoa National Fish Hatchery** mission is to recover, restore, maintain and enhance fish and aquatic resources on a basin-wide and national level by producing over 35 aquatic species of varying life stages, participating in active conservation efforts with our partners, and becoming a positive force in the community by educating future generations on the benefits of conservation stewardship.

**The La Crosse Fish Health Center** mission is to provide fish health services to six national and several tribal fish hatcheries to minimize the risk of disease agents impacting fish restoration, assist state and private fish hatcheries in diagnosing and controlling infectious disease agents, provide technical assistance regarding fish health and propagation, and conduct wild fish health surveys to determine and monitor the distribution of fish pathogens in free ranging fish populations.

**The La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office** mission is to restore native and inter-jurisdictional fishes, wetlands and aquatic habitats; fulfill Federal trust responsibilities to Native American Tribes; prevent the extinction of Federally endangered mussels; address the spread of invasive species; provide environmental education.

**The Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fishery Services is a public service organization dedicated to the health and preservation of natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River Region. They accomplish this through:**

- Environmental advocacy through legislative, educational and media avenues
- Increased visibility and membership expansion to establish and grow a concerned membership
- Fundraising to support and promote environmental stewardship, and
- Mentoring the next generation of environmental stewards through promotion of ecologically sustainable management and conservation.

Visitors are welcome at our offices Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fishery Services* and visitation and outreach opportunities at the area Fish and Wildlife Service offices, contact

Friends Group board members:

President - Fred Kusch	608/788-4657
Vice President - Glen Jenkins	608/782-5727
Secretary/Treasurer - Chuck Chihak	507/895-8305

Genoa National Fish Hatchery at: 608/689-2605  
or by email at [Doug\\_Aloisi@fws.gov](mailto:Doug_Aloisi@fws.gov)

La Crosse Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office at: 608/783-8431  
or by email at [Pam\\_Thiel@fws.gov](mailto:Pam_Thiel@fws.gov)

La Crosse Fish Health Center at: 608/783-8442  
or by email at [Becky\\_Lasee@fws.gov](mailto:Becky_Lasee@fws.gov)