



**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

# Inside Region 3

*December 2008*

## Endings

### H. Dale Hall Bids Farewell



**Rapids Lake Ushered In**



## Beginnings

### Plus:

Joel Kemm awarded the DOI's Environmental Achievement Award  
Sea Lamprey Control Program Protects the Great Lakes Basin

## Editor's Note:

Connecting with nature does not look the same for everyone. Connecting with nature means different things to different people. For some, it's hunting and fishing. For others, it's walking in the woods or on the beach. What does your nature encounter look like? We want to know. To that end, we have added a regular section called Let's Go Outside!

We invite you to submit personal nature encounters as experienced by you and your children, as well as innovative ideas on how to connect with nature. We will run your accounts in this feature segment.

Please submit your youngsters' stories and photos to our regular section: Kid's Corner. Kid's Corner features the nature writing and photographic pieces by the children of regional employees.

E-mail: [valerie\\_redmond@fws.gov](mailto:valerie_redmond@fws.gov) with your Let's Go Outside and Kids Corner articles, photos, journal entries and poems.

On the Cover: Top Left: Prescribed fire specialist Joel Kemm taking care of business. FWS Photo. Top Right: H. Dale Hall says goodbye to the RO. Photo by Valerie Redmond. Bottom Left: Rapids Lake Grand Opening. FWS Photo. Bottom Right: Fishery biologist captures sea lampreys. FWS photo.

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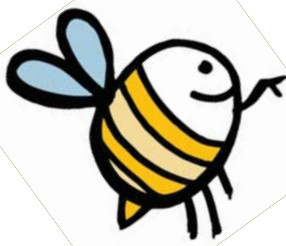
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By Ashley Spratt



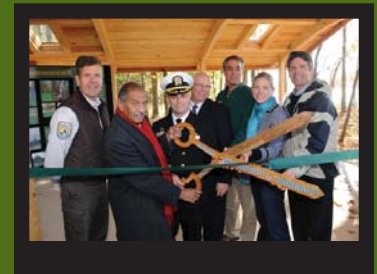
## Humbug Marsh Protected as a Place for Wildlife and Children

Last month Regional Director Tom Melius joined school children, elected officials, corporate leaders, grass roots organizations, and citizens who came together to celebrate the protection of Humbug Marsh and to realize a “dream come true” by cutting the ribbon on a brand-new environmental education shelter, trails, and a stream crossing in Humbug Marsh. In the late 1990s, Humbug Marsh was slated for residential development. Thousands of citizens spoke out in opposition to the proposed development of the last mile of natural shoreline of the Detroit River on the U.S. mainland. This grass roots opposition, in turn, led to the acquisition of Humbug Marsh as the cornerstone of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

During 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many partners created an “educational triangle” to promote environmental education and sustainability, featuring

- An environmental education shelter (32' x 20'), equipped with skylights and an enclosed storage space
- Barrier-free trails constructed out of recycled crushed concrete excavated from Old North Gibraltar Road
- Rustic trails built with wood chips by volunteers
- A wetland boardwalk made out of recycled plastic decking
- A stream crossing made with recycled utility poles, hand rails made out of dead ash trees, and mechanically stabilized earth for wing walls

These features are located adjacent and south of Wayne County's Refuge Gateway that will be the future home of the visitor center for North America's only International Wildlife Refuge. -- *John Hartig, Detroit River*



Ribbon cutting for the shelter. L to R: Gerry Anderson, Becca Sowder (DRIWR), Tom Melius, Keith Swaffar, Phil Spalding, Congressman Conyers, and John Hartig. FWS Photo.

## Midwest Region Resource Center

Welcome to the Resource Center at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge! The center was established in 1992 to provide library and information services in support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs and the 8 states of Region 3. The collection reflects the management of Minnesota Valley, the National Wildlife Refuge system, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's commitment to environmental education.

Minnesota Valley is one of a handful of urban refuges nationwide and reflects the commitment of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop an informed and involved citizenry that will support fish and wildlife conservation through recreation, scientific research, and environmental education in and near cities. The Resource Center provides an accessible workspace and professional assistance in a scenic bluff-top location.

Resources include books, periodicals, videos, photographs, displays, educational trunks and documents. Feedback and suggestions for improving and updating the collection are welcome. Services are offered to regional personnel and partners, environmental educators and the public. For information contact the Resource Librarian [judy\\_geck@fws.gov](mailto:judy_geck@fws.gov) or visit the website at [www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley).



Watch this newsletter and the Minnesota Valley calendar for featured resources and suggestions for use. The documentary Planet Earth: As You've Never Seen it Before will kick off Outside-In, a winter film-fest starting December 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Minnesota Valley NWR Auditorium. Free and open to the public.

--*Judy Geck, Region 3 Resource Librarian*

# Award Winners

## St. Croix WMD Fire Specialist Wins Department of Interior's Environmental Achievement Award

Joel Kemm, prescribed fire specialist at St. Croix Wetland Management District was awarded the Department of Interior's Environmental Achievement Award at a ceremony held in Washington on November 18. Kemm was presented the award for helping to develop an innovative way to remove invasive woody brush from WPAs and turn it into electricity, all at no cost to the Service.

The woody materials, consisting mainly of unmarketable materials such as box elder, buckthorn and cottonwood, needed to be removed in order to reestablish the native prairies that can support waterfowl and other wildlife. Over the course of

several years, Kemm worked with local contractors and developed a program that in fiscal year 2007 resulted in the clearing of a 70-acre tract on a WPA. The contractor who cleared and chipped the woody debris then sold the chips to a nearby co-generation plant which burned the chips to produce electricity. This was completed at no cost to the Service and saved the Service tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of staff hours that could be put to use on other needed habitat restoration projects.

Kemm worked with several loggers to develop the Service's role in this market and then followed through with the sharing of his experiences and knowledge with other partners. Kemm's leadership in finding this market was key to the success of this ongoing project. He continues to refine this process and is helping other field stations develop similar programs.

--Chuck Traxler  
*External Affairs*

## Rydell NWR Staff Win Award for Accessibility Innovation

The Rydell National Wildlife Refuge Staff was presented the Minnesota Council on Disability's Sports Innovation Award for 2008 at a ceremony held in St. Paul, Minn., on November 6. The staff won the award for all the work the Refuge has done for promoting and providing hunting opportunities for people with disabilities at the refuge and the work staff has done to insure its programming and facilities are accessible. The Refuge has been partnering with OPTIONS Interstate Center for Independent Living for the past 13 years to host a deer hunting weekend for hunters with disabilities. The refuge also has more than five miles of accessible trails that can be used for wildlife observation.

--Chuck Traxler  
*External Affairs*

Below: Minnesota Disability Council Member Erwin Rud, Refuge Manager Dave Bennett, Wildlife Refuge Specialist Juan Carlos Giese, OPTIONS Administrator Randy Sorenson and OPTIONS Treasurer Dave Espinoza in St. Paul on Nov. 6.



Above: (R to L) St. Croix WMD Manager Tom Kerr and prescribed fire specialist Joel Kemm talk with a contractor who is removing unwanted woody debris from a WPA and converting it into electricity. FWS Photo.



# Rapids Lake Education and Visitors Center Puts "Education First"

On a beautiful fall afternoon, hundreds of people gathered along the shores of the Minnesota River to help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dedicate the new Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's Rapids Lake Education and Visitors Center.

The Center, surrounded by restored prairies and framed by large oak trees, appears almost as natural in the valley as the river itself. It was designed so that as you approach, you can still look through and around the Center to see the river.

In addition to its natural appearance, another benefit of the Center is that it was constructed with the latest in green technology to help minimize its footprint on the surroundings. Geothermal heating and cooling systems, low water usage fixtures, rainwater gardens, native no-mow grass seed mixtures, extensive use of recycled building materials and other features help the facility use 46 percent less energy and produce 46 percent less carbon than a typical

building of its size. While the Center and the location are exceptional, it is what happens in and around this building that is truly impressive.

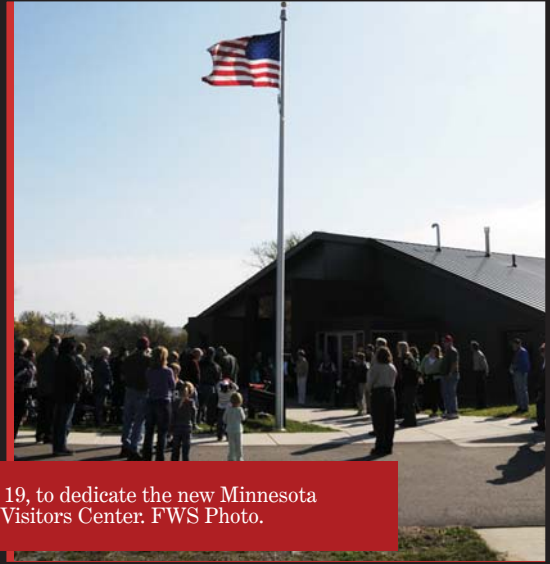
The Center's secluded location in a scenic river valley allows you to easily forget you are only about 30 minutes upriver from the nearly three million residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn. But, it is this proximity to a large metropolitan area – and specifically to a large metropolitan airport -- that not only provides the opportunity to educate a large and diverse urban audience, it is in fact the reason the Center was able to be built. The funds for the construction of this facility are the result of a trust fund established to mitigate the impact of a new airport runway that sends airline traffic directly over portions of the Minnesota Valley Refuge.

Thanks to this trust fund, and this new Center, the staff here can focus a large part of their time on environmental education, specifically elementary education. One way they do this is through their Partner Schools Program. This ambitious program is designed

to bring every K-6 grade student in the partner schools to the refuge at least three times each year. These field trips to the refuge are part of the student's curriculum and designed to provide real-life, practical exercises to support the subjects they study in the classroom. By providing this long-term exposure to the refuge, and the natural world, it is hoped the students will begin a life-long appreciation, understanding and support of science and biology, as well as our natural environment and the fish and wildlife that call it home. The Center supports this education first philosophy by providing state-of-the-art teaching classrooms, laboratories, displays and other supporting tools designed to enhance the natural classroom provided by the refuge.

With the addition of this latest education and visitors center, along with its existing visitors center and headquarters located 20 miles down river in Bloomington, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is surely one of the premier environmental education facilities in the Refuge System.

--Chuck Traxler  
*External Affairs*



Hundreds of people gathered on Sunday, Oct. 19, to dedicate the new Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Rapids Lake Visitors Center. FWS Photo.

# Award Winners

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Design Team wins the U.S. Department of Energy 2008 Federal Energy and Water Management Small Group Sustainable Design/High Performance Buildings Award

Current Ottawa Refuge Manager Doug Brewer, Landscape Architect Andrew McDermott and Visitor Services Chief Donna Stanek were presented the award at a ceremony in Washington on October 22. Past Ottawa Refuge Manager Dan Frisk and Engineering Chief Rick Frietsche were also named as award winners but unable to attend the ceremony.

The award was for the team's efforts in building the new Ottawa NWR Visitor Center which replaced the old headquarters building that was constructed in the 1940s. This new high-performance building was designed to be equivalent to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "Silver" rating. The building's 12,684 square feet are heated and cooled by a pond-loop geothermal heat pump system, with geothermal radiant floor heating on the main level. The building also incorporates high-efficiency lighting controlled by

## Leadership



*The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service expects nearly 200,000 visitors to see the Visitor Center in FY 2008 where they will experience the many benefits of whole-building design.*



The Visitor Center at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is a high performance building designed to be equivalent to the LEED Silver rating. The building foundation incorporates fly ash concrete. The building shell is "super insulated," with low "E" windows, a recyclable steel roof containing 32% recycled steel, and plank siding made from natural materials. In-floor radiant tube heating, an air-to-air heat exchanger, and a computerized energy management system take advantage of a 30-ton pond-loop geothermal heat exchanger to provide a comfortable interior environment all year round. Occupancy and daylight sensors, efficient lighting, and tinted window glazing; natural flooring, low-VOC paints and adhesives, and other eco-friendly materials provide a healthy and productive work environment.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Visitor Center at Ottawa National  
Wildlife Refuge, OH



YOU HAVE  
the POWER™

United States Department of the Interior  
Federal Energy Management Program

For more information on how you can get involved in the  
YOU HAVE the POWER campaign, visit the FEMP Web site at [www.eere.energy.gov/femp](http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp)



L to R: Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy John F. Mizroch, Doug Brewer, Donna Stanek, Andrew McDermott and Federal Energy Management Program Manager Richard G. Kidd IV in Washington on Oct. 22.

motion and daylight sensors; point-of-use hot water heaters; high efficiency, low-E tinted windows; super insulation; a reflective metal roof consisting of 32 percent recycled steel; natural linoleum flooring; carpet with a high recycled content; low light pollution; rainwater gardens and holding ponds; restoration of wetland; and native planting. The sustainable design reduced the building's energy intensity by 51 percent in 2007 from 2003 levels.

--Chuck Traxler  
External Affairs

# Wanted: Unwanted Pet Fish

## Exotic Fish Not So Exotic Anymore

Reports of large, exotic fish caught by anglers, commercial fishers, and fishery resource managers in public waters have become all too common across the country in recent years. The causes for most of these unexpected and environmentally troubling landings are hobbyists (aquarium owners and water gardeners) who can no longer care for their ornamental fish (e.g., pacu, koi) that grew to an unmanageable size and were purposely released into nearby surface waters as a quick solution. Pet owners should know that the release of these fish (and the disease pathogens that may infect them) could adversely impact native fish with serious consequences for sport and commercial fisheries. Faced with a dilemma like this, fish hobbyists need to learn of approved alternatives to the illegal abandonment of their aquatic pets in the wild. One such option, now offered in western Wisconsin, is a government-business partnership that was established in 2006 by the La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO). Several pet retailers in this region (that do not offer these frequently problematic fish for sale) have agreed to accept and quarantine large, unwanted pet fish from owners who can no longer care for them. Because there is virtually no market for these businesses to re-sell such large fish to other pet owners, the La Crosse NFWCO will accept custody of these unwanted fish and humanely euthanize them at no cost.

Due to this unique partnership with local businesses, the Marineland Pet Center in Onalaska, Wis., recently accepted five large hobby fish from owners who no longer wanted to



Oscars are native to Africa and popular as ornamental pet fish in the U.S. These oscars grew too large for their owners to maintain and were briefly sheltered at the Marineland Pet Center in Onalaska, WI. The La Crosse NFWCO later took possession of these unwanted pets to prevent their possible release into the wild. Photo credit: USFWS

care for them. On October 17, La Crosse NFWCO biologist Mark Steingraeber took possession of these tropical species which included four oscars (7 to 11 inches total length) and one tinfoil barb (12 inches total length). These fish were humanely euthanized with Finquel® (tricaine methanesulfonate), a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved anesthetic for aquatic cold-blooded vertebrates, and cryopreserved later that day. This brings the current tally of species turned-in to this program to four.

Since its inception in 2006, this unique partnership has prevented the possible release of twenty-two large, unwanted pet fish into Coulee Region surface waters. Several of these fish have been prepared by a taxidermist and are now part of an exhibit used at La Crosse NFWCO outreach events to increase awareness of potentially problematic pet fish and acceptable alternatives to the release of these animals in the wild.

--Mark Steingraeber  
R3-LaCrosse FRO

# Making Lasting Connections

Genoa National Fish Hatchery and Southern Bluffs Elementary School are well on their way to helping twenty-eight fifth graders enjoy the benefits of nature for a lifetime. These lucky students attended their first of three all-day sessions in the Outdoor Classroom, a place where nature is the teacher, wetlands are the guide, and plants, animals, and imagination become playmates. Learning about ecosystems, the water cycle, and the ecology of aquatic organisms while touching, feeling, and experiencing them first-hand make the lessons stick.

The School District's science curriculum for fifth graders includes these lessons, so making it stick with students is important. Exploring nature and discovering answers to questions on their own not only gives these kids a better understanding of science, it also benefits physical fitness, emotional health, development of social skills, problem solving strategies, spatial awareness, and increases the chances that they will acquire a love for nature that can increase overall health and well-being beyond adulthood.

Beginning in February 2007, the Service has made "Connecting People with Nature" one of its Six Top Priorities. This priority was established to help ensure the future of conservation and to help people enjoy the benefits of nature for themselves, both of which contribute to the Mission of the Service "To conserve, enhance, and protect fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the benefit of the American People". The benefits are two-fold. Teaching conservation ethics in nature ensures the health of America's natural resources as well as the health of American people. Also, healthy Americans that have grown up with a strong connection to nature are likely to make substantial, positive

contributions to nature conservation in America.

Susan Houlihan of Southern Bluffs Elementary, Darla Wenger of Genoa NFH and Jenny Walker Bailey also of Genoa have worked hard to incorporate nature experience into the curriculum for fifth graders so that these students may excel in their classes and enjoy the other benefits nature can provide.

Introducing these children to nature over a series of visits will help them connect with nature on a personal level that will stay with them as they grow into adults. Helping to create these connections is not just important for creating future conservationists in natural resource fields. It is also important for the future of conservation in new areas such as architecture, engineering, social psychology, art, law, medicine, and science. As these children grow into young adult professionals, it is hoped that with nature close to their hearts, they will become healthy, successful individuals that contribute to nature in ways that are only imagined today.



*--Darla Wenger and Jenny Walker Bailey  
Genoa National Fish Hatchery*



Above: Outdoor classroom making lasting connections with nature.



# Toledo's Glass City Marina Honored

City of Toledo's Glass City Marina Honored at SOBA Awards this October

The Ohio Division of Watercraft along with the City of Toledo this October received the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) Award at a ceremony in Norfolk, Va., to acknowledge the development of Glass City Marina for transient boaters. The Ohio Division of Watercraft and the City of Toledo received this award for its design and implementation using grant money from federal and state agencies to construct the marina. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Fund provided \$374,000. and local sponsors provided \$6,335,009 for clean up of the former electricity plant located on the site, and construction of new marina facilities.

"This award recognizes capstone projects that use sound engineering principles, innovative and cost effective designs, and provide long-term benefits for the transient boater," said Julie Morin, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The remediated site previously operated as an electricity plant, operating on refinery oils, hydraulic fluids and coal. Remediated sites take hazardous materials from environmentally contaminated sites and put them in approved (reclaimed sites) so that the site can be redeveloped for other purposes.

"Contaminated sites are detrimental to environmental quality, particularly water and air quality, so cleaning up and transforming contaminated sites has benefits for humans, wildlife and the environmental as a whole," said Morin. "The City of Toledo and the



Ohio Division of Watercraft has taken steps to revive outdoor recreational boating by providing marina facilities that can be enjoyed by the citizens of Ohio and visitors."

The grant funds were used to design and install fuel stations, restroom and shower facilities, and boat docks and utilities for transient boaters. The Ohio Division of Watercraft was awarded the grant funds in 2005, and marina construction was completed in 2008.

Authorized by Congress during the summer of 1998, the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP) is intended to provide funding for construction of facilities that will enhance boating for nontrailerable (26' or over in length) recreational boats when such boats are in transient status. The Sport Fishing and Boating Safety Act authorizes this competitive grant program. Funds come from the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. The funds result from a Federal excise tax on fishing equipment and motorboat fuels.

--Ashley Spratt, External Affairs



Pictured Above: Glass City Marina, Toledo, Ohio. Funded by the Boating Infrastructure Grant program, it won the Harbors and Marinas national award for the Ohio Division of Watercraft at the States Organization for Boating Access in Virginia this year. The grant totaling \$326,500 was used to design and develop a transient boating marina on a reclaimed contaminated site on the Maumee River at Toledo, Ohio.

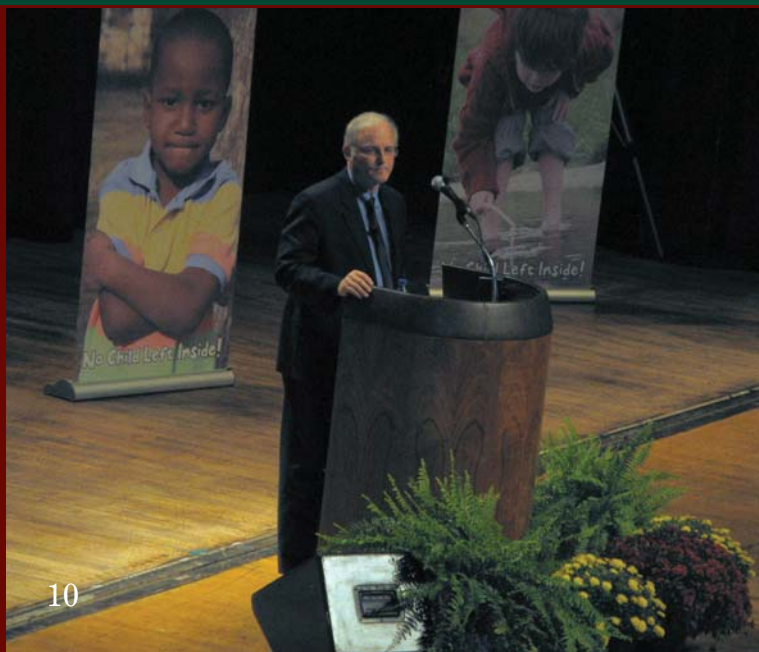
# Bird Conservation in Bogotá, Columbia

A Festival of Migratory Bird Conservation

This fall 80 participants, most from Central and South America, converged in Bogotá, Colombia, to plan for the conservation of long-distance migrants during the breeding season, particularly the Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers.

Later, 400 school children at San Vicente de Chucuri joined them to celebrate the Festival of Migratory Birds (pictured right). San Vicente is the location of the first reserve in South America dedicated to the conservation of the Cerulean Warbler. Tom Will of the Migratory Birds program helped plan the event.

--Jane West  
Migratory Birds Chief



## Last Child in the Woods' Author Richard Louv Visits Michigan

The Alpena NFWCO is continuing to develop their Children and Nature program with Wilson

Elementary School. This program involves class visits, sharing knowledge about nature and experiences in nature, and providing access to nature on the school property through a native butterfly garden. Over time, the Alpena NFWCO will continue to work with Wilson School to expand the Children and Nature program.

For more information on the growing body of knowledge and opportunities to reconnect children to nature visit: Michigan No Child Left Inside Coalition (<http://www.naturecenter.org/Home/MichiganNCLICoalition/tabid/426/Default.aspx>) and the Children and Nature Network (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/>).

--Andrea Ania, R3-Alpena FRO

# Successful Field Season Completed Searching for Sea Lampreys

The Marquette and Ludington Biological Station Larval Assessment staff recently completed 2008 larval assessment activities in many of the estimated 2,200 U.S. tributaries of the Great Lakes. A majority of the streams periodically are examined for the presence of sea lampreys. Beginning in early May and ending in late October, assessments focused in about 215 tributaries and offshore areas of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. Assessments, using backpack electrofishing gear, primarily determined where and when future control actions will be required.

In particular, the assessments identified streams that need lampricide treatment during 2009 and the effectiveness of past control actions. Additionally, information was obtained on density, age, length, weight structure and geographic distribution of sea lamprey larvae. Continuing surveys also were conducted to monitor recruitment and long-term trends of abundance in the St. Marys River through use of deepwater electrofishing gear and global positioning technology.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's



Fishery biologist captures larval sea lamprey. FWS photo, Michael Fodale.

(Service) sea lamprey control program continues to work closely with partners to control populations of sea lampreys in tributaries of the Great Lakes to protect the fishery and related economic activities in the basin (an estimated annual benefit of \$4-6 billion/year to the region). The Service delivers a program

of integrated sea lamprey control in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes as a contracted agent of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

---*Micheal Fodale, Marquette Biological Station*

## Dedicated Federal Employees Mark 30 Years of Service

Michael Twohey and Stephen Dagenais of the Sea Lamprey Management Program based in Marquette, Mich., recently celebrated 30 years of dedicated federal civil service. Dagenais, born and raised in Marquette, has dedicated his career to supporting field personnel who manage sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes by providing industrial

facilities management at the Marquette Biological Station on Wright Street. Dagenais supervises the shop facility, manages the grounds and storage facilities, maintains a substantial motor vehicle fleet and trains employees in the safe use of tools and equipment used to fabricate and repair equipment needed to control sea lampreys at remote field sites. Twohey, who earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Michigan University, currently leads a team of biological staff to implement innovative alternative control

programs that are key to reducing sea lampreys in the Great Lakes. Twohey has been previously recognized with the Albert S. Hazzard Award of Excellence in 1990 for fisheries research (Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society) and the prestigious Vernon C. Applegate Award in 2000 for outstanding contributions to sea lamprey control (Great Lakes Fishery Commission).

--*Micheal Fodale  
Marquette Biological Station*

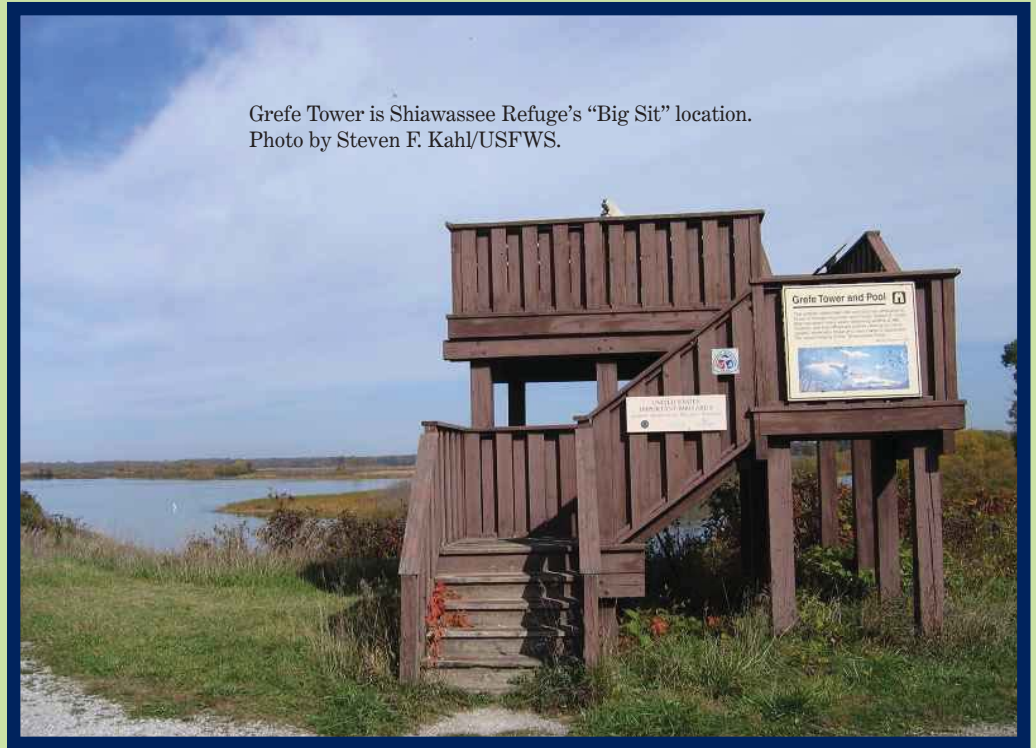
# Breaking News

## Birders Break Michigan Record for "The Big Sit!" at Shiawassee Refuge

A team of five birdwatchers called the Shiawassee Blue Geese set a new Michigan record for the most birds seen on "The Big Sit!" The team, comprised of Saginaw Valley Audubon Society members and refuge volunteers Larry Abraham, Steve Gasser, Jeff Sommer and Carolyn Szaroletta, and refuge manager Steve Kahl, were stationed atop Grefe Tower at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The team recorded 78 species, surpassing the previous record of 72. Especially noteworthy finds on the count include trumpeter swan, bald eagle, short-eared owl, barred owl, and Lincoln's sparrow.

Bird Watcher's Digest organizes this global bird count described as "birding's most sedentary event." The object is to find as many bird species as possible during the calendar day from within a 17-foot diameter circle.

Grefe Tower is an optimum location for the refuge's circle because it overlooks thousands of acres of marsh, open water, grasslands, croplands and forest. Further, it affords excellent views of the horizon and open sky.



Grefe Tower is Shiawassee Refuge's "Big Sit" location.  
Photo by Steven F. Kahl/USFWS.

**Below: Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Hooded merganser is one of 16 species of waterfowl found during the 2008 "Big Sit" at the refuge. Photo by Kim LeBlanc.**

The primary purpose of Shiawassee Refuge is "... for use as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds." The refuge is recognized as an *Important Bird Area* by the American Bird Conservancy and Bird Life International and it is a top destination for birders in the Midwest. Importantly, the refuge is not located in a flyway in which birds are concentrated into a small area because of a geographic funnel. In fact, the great diversity and abundance of birds found here is a consequence of the quality of habitat that the refuge provides. Thus, the long list of birds found on this event is encouraging to the refuge, because it demonstrates that our efforts are approved of by the birds.

--Steve Kahl  
R3-Shiawassee NWR



# DALE BIDS FAREWELL

As his retirement date looms near, H. Dale Hall visited the Regional Office on Nov. 12 to say goodbye to regional employees and to answer any burning questions that they might have. Hall answered audience question number one by saying that the thing that he was most surprised about during his tenure is the amount of travel that was required for his job. He indicated that while his previous job did require travel, it did not compare to the Director's schedule. He also told the audience that his directorship had been very rewarding and that even though his opinion was not always popular, he always told the truth. He said that he was proud of that. Director Hall gave belt buckles to Lynwood MacLean and Charlie Wooley in appreciation for their service. Hall also accepted an award himself from Regional Director Tom Melius.

--Valerie Rose Redmond  
External Affairs



Regional Director Dale Hall says goodbye to friends and colleagues at the Regional Office.

# Region 5 Leadership Pathways Graduation Week

Region 3 employees Drew McDermott, Engineer; Tim Hepola, Regional Fire Ecologist, and Stacy Salveold, Private Lands Biologist at the Morris Wetland Management District WMD, successfully completed the Region 5 Leadership Pathways program in 2008. The graduation ceremony and close-out program was held in Newport, Rhode Island, the week of December 2-4. Graduation certificates were awarded by Regional Director Marvin Moriarity, himself a former Deputy Regional Director here in R3.

The theme for the Leadership Pathways class of 2008 was "Change". The varied details of the three candidates and the growth and enrichment they each experienced will bode them and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) well into the future as they accept new challenges. All three expressed what an outstanding course it was and strongly encourage anyone interested in participating to do so.

The next Region 5 Leadership Pathways course is scheduled for 2010. There will not be a course offering in 2009.

--Tim Hepola  
Fire Ecologist - R3

Below: Drew McDermott works the crowd with his presentation. Right: Candid of McDermott. McDermott graduates. FWS Photos.



Above: Tim Hepola graduates. FWS Photo.



Above: Tim Hepola gives his presentations. FWS Photos.



Above: Candid of Stacy Salveold. FWS Photo.



Salveold giving her presentation. FWS Photo.



Above: Salveold graduates. FWS Photo.

# New Sturgeon Spawning Reef Under Construction



**SPAWNING REEF:** Matthew Child, ERCA; John Hartig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and J.D. Purvis of BASF, discuss the new sturgeon spawning reef under construction in the Detroit River near Fighting Island.

Star photo: Jason Kryk

## Partnerships benefit environment

Almost one acre of spawning habitat has been placed on the bed of the Detroit River northeast of Fighting Island to benefit lake sturgeon and other desirable fish species.

On behalf of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, we congratulate all partners who have contributed their technical expertise, funding and other resources to com-



**LETTER OF THE DAY**

plete the first-ever Canada-U.S. fish habitat restoration project in the Great Lakes.

Undertaken as part of the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan and International Wildlife Refuge and the Canadian/American Heritage River initiatives, this public and private sector partnership from two countries has improved our environment.

This project shows we can achieve more when we work together than we could working alone. Partner organizations included Environment Cana-

da, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, ERCA, BASF Corporation, DTE Energy, Landmark Engineers Inc., International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Sea Grant and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Restoring our region's natural re-

sources not only improves our local environment, but also helps to create a sustainable future, an enhanced community image and a more vibrant economy — companies want to invest in regions where people want to live.

ERCA is proud to be a part of such an endeavour and we are grateful to all partners.

**KEN SCHMIDT**  
General Manager  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Essex Region  
Conservation Authority

# Partnering in Wisconsin's Land Conservation Legacy

## Partnering in WI's Land Conservation Legacy

The Wisconsin "Public Trust Doctrine" proclaims that, "All Wisconsin citizens have the right to boat, fish, hunt, ice skate, and swim on navigable waters, as well as enjoy the natural scenic beauty of navigable waters, and enjoy the quality and quantity of water that supports those uses." At a time when most States have little money or political support for acquiring more public land to pursue such a worthy vision, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) is confidently pursuing its role in fulfilling the State's Public Trust Doctrine.

An amazing tool available to the WI DNR for acquiring public access rights is the State's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund (Stewardship), established in 1989. Stewardship is a unique state land acquisition funding program designed to secure critical wildlife habitat, conserve the best of Wisconsin's natural resources, provide outdoor recreation opportunities and access to Wisconsin's water resources. Even more amazing is that the Wisconsin Legislature re-authorized the Stewardship Fund in 2007 to continue this effort through 2020, at a level of \$86 million per year!

However, to fully employ the Stewardship Fund the WI DNR needs a little help from its friends. Complementing the State's Stewardship Fund, the Service continues to provide the DNR with Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

(WSFR) grants to help with its acquisition efforts. The Service grants provide funding for necessary DNR realty staffing and support functions for the land acquisition process. These include such critical parts as development and maintenance of real estate records, development of a GIS system for DNR acquired land, and performing normal closing procedures. The Wildlife Restoration grant has been further focused to pay for long-term habitat leasing critical to sound management of larger wildlife areas. None of these support functions can be funded by the State's Stewardship Program, which is limited to acquiring "capital assets". The Service's mission could hardly be better served in this support role to WI DNR, "Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

Through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and the WSFR Programs, Wisconsin DNR and the Service work as partners to ensure Wisconsin's anglers, hunters and citizens experience the best of Wisconsin's Land Conservation Legacy.

--Doug Haag (WI DNR), Linda Nichols (WSFR-R3), Michael Vanderford (WSFR-R3)



Land Legacy Partners: During a field review of land leased for prairie chicken restoration at the Buena Vista Wildlife Area, near Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., part of the team working on the Wildlife Restoration land acquisition grant W-142-L: (left to right) Linda Nichols, Region 3 WSR lands specialist; Cheryl Housley, DNR relocation and realty specialist; Pete Wolter, DNR regional review appraiser; Greg Dahl, DNR district wildlife manager; Jeff Walters, DNR land records specialist; John Kallas, DNR finance specialist; and Gail Fry, DNR federal aid coordinator. (Photo by Michael Vanderford, FWS)



Above: Land to Restore Trout Habitat and Provide Angler Access

During a field review we get to see the desired results of the land Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and the Sport Fish Restoration grant, F-84-L: (left to right) Dave Vetrano, DNR district fisheries manager; John Raatz, DNR regional land agent; Doug Haag, DNR real estate operations chief; and Michael Vanderford, Service grant administrator. (Photo by Linda Nichols, FWS)



# Around the Region

## *Celebrating Excellence*



Left: The Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) partnered with Wilson Elementary School second and sixth graders on October 10 to plant a 20 x 40 ft. butterfly garden on their playground.



Left: Nick Starzl, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, nets brook trout out of a fyke net in Tobin Harbor. Photo by Glenn Miller, Ashland NFWCO.



Left: A private landowner in Antrim County stands with the contractor (left) to showcase his almost-completed wetland. The slope on the earthen berm was modified, and the site was seeded and mulched the following week. Photo by Heather Rawlings,

USFWS.



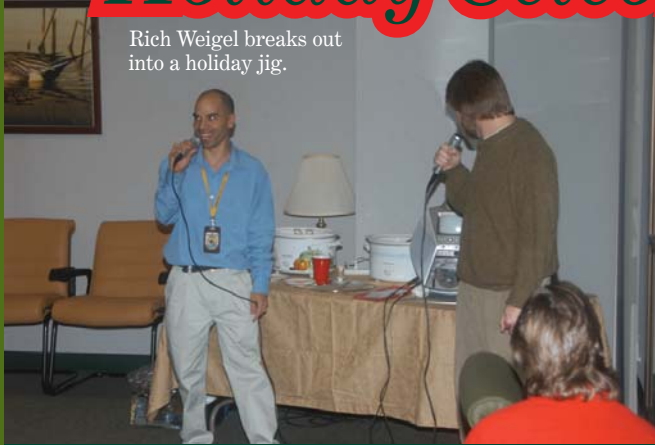
Above: Delegates from local Wisconsin fisheries offices traveled to China as part of conservation exchange. Chinese and American delegates exchange information in wrap up meeting in Beijing China. FWS Photo.



## Quotes of the Month

Only if one loves this Earth with unbending passion can one release one's sadness. ~Carlos Castenada

# Holiday Celebration at the RO



Rich Weigel breaks out into a holiday jig.



ARDs join host Brandon Jutz for holiday jeopardy.



L to R: ARD Tom Melius joins the Christmas cheer with Tammy Chacon.



L to R: Rich Weigel, Pat Percy say hello to close friend Sharon Hepper.



L to R: Mandy, Alicia and Catherine smile for the camera.



The Minnesota Valley crew joins in on the fun.

Thank you for entering your journal reports and photographs in the Fish and Wildlife Journal (aka. ARS) <http://ars.fws.gov>.