



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

October 2008

The Hatch Act:

7

Things You Can Do

9

Things You Can't

Plus:

Duck Stamp

Calendar of Events



Inside:

Prairie Wetland Grand Opening

Cycle of Success

DOI Deputy Secretary Visit

Meritorious Service Award

The Future of Conservation





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 with your Let's Go Outside and Kids Corner articles, photos, journal entries and poems.

On the Cover: Cub Scouts from Pack 17 present check for Jordan River NFH to Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley. Photo by Joan Moore, Friends of Jordan River NFH.

Departments

The Click /3

Kids Corner: Tender Buds/ 16

Around the Region / 22

Quote of the Month / 23

Features



Scouts Support Baby Brookies / 14

Scout Contribution Marks the First in US FWS History

By Ashley Spratt



DOI Deputy Secretary Visit / 18

Lynn Scarlett Visits Clarence Cannon NWR

By Candace Chambers



Duck Stamp Calendar of Events / 7

What's Going On and When

By Ashley Spratt



Employee Profile/ 20

Juancarlos Giese

By Valerie Rose Redmond





Celebrating Prairie Funday! The Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District and its friends organization hosted a celebration of the prairie on Saturday, September 6, 2008 on the Hoykens Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), located in Clay County, Minn. Left: Youth collects wildflower seeds during Prairie Fun Day. Staff photo;



Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Education Wing Grand Opening

The Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) held the ribbon cutting and grand opening for its new Education Wing on Wednesday, August 6. Over 120 members of the public attended, including local and state elected officials, local business and civic leaders, and of course - students!

The 12,000 square foot addition was funded with Minnesota Bond funds, and provides four new classrooms, office and exhibition space for the PWLC's very popular Prairie Science Class. In the coming school year, this partnership with the Fergus Falls Public Schools places 200 fourth and fifth graders at the PWLC every school day, with each student in the program spending a half day exploring the prairies and wetlands to learn math, science, language arts and health.

Started with 50 students six years ago, this unique program is the only one of its kind in the nation. It has demonstrated lasting results for both students and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Besides the Prairie Science Class, many other groups will utilize the space including local and regional groups, the Minnesota Waterfowl Association and teachers. More details are available by contacting the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.
--Kenneth Garrahan



Above:
Release of Immature Bald Eagle August 9 at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Staff Photo

Rehabilitated Eagles Released

The release of three rehabilitated bald eagles by Raptor Recovery Nebraska took place on Saturday, August 9 at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The release of one immature and two mature eagles provided a spectacular view for approximately 55 visitors. Raptor Recovery Nebraska Executive Director, Betsy Finch of Elmwood reported that the organization takes in injured and orphaned raptors. Two of the three eagles released had suffered broken wings, the other a gunshot wound. --Cindy Myer, R3-



Shiawassee Connects

For years, staff at Green Point Environmental Learning Center, part of Shiawasse National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), have wanted to connect with neighborhood children. We wanted to teach them about nature and instill a sense of pride and ownership into the resources that are available to them here. Working with neighboring schools touched upon this, but we wanted to reach a broader audience. The Boys & Girls Club just up the street from Green Point offered us an avenue to do this. Children from the nearby Boys & Girls Club visited Green Point Environmental Learning Center one day a week for eight weeks. One of their activities included catching and studying aquatic insects from Green Point's pond.

A special ceremony for the participants took place on August 13 at the Boys & Girls Club. Certificates were handed out and one lucky youth went home with a bicycle that refuge park ranger Tom Horb donated to the cause. These same kids that participated in the summer program now visit Green Point on their own with their families to show them all the neat stuff here...exactly what refuge staff hoped for! Photo by Bonnie Prestin. --Becky Goche, R3-Shiawasse NWR

Bats!

Second Annual Bat Festival draws a crowd in Indiana

Bats of all shapes and sizes invaded Indiana State University (ISU) in Terre Haute, Indiana on Saturday, September 13, 2008. No, there's no need to call an exterminator. It was all part of an annual bat festival where experts from around the Midwest join forces to promote bat education and conservation. Aside from showing off numerous live bats from the United

fact sheets, coloring pages, posters, a Service-sponsored Indiana bat activity book for teachers on CD (available for downloading at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/index.html>), and other educational materials. Mr. King also had an opportunity to answer numerous questions posed to him about the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and gray

much about bats and are afraid of them when they shouldn't be."

At this year's bat festival, educational and environmental exhibits were presented by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation, Indiana Karst Conservancy, the Service, ISU, Organization for Bat Conservation, Indiana State Museum, Bat Conservation International, Boy Scouts of America, Ouabaches Land



States and around the world, bat experts educated festival participants about global and regional bat species diversity and the important ecological roles they play in nature. Speakers also took time to debunk many popularly held myths about bats such as they're blind; all bats have rabies; they get caught in people's hair; and they're dirty. Festival attendees of all ages left knowing a little more about these often misunderstood nocturnal creatures.

Andy King, endangered species biologist with the Bloomington, Indiana Ecological Services Field Office, represented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) at this year's bat festival while distributing bat

bat (*Myotis grisescens*) throughout the day. Both species occur in Indiana. The Bloomington Field Office coordinates recovery efforts for the Indiana bat throughout the species' 20-state range.

According to Dr. John O. Whitaker Jr., Director of ISU's Center for North American Bat Research and Conservation, about 1,250 people attended last year's bat festival and approximately 2,000 people attended this year's events. "It's a great way to educate the public," Whitaker said when asked why the event is important. "People don't know

Conservancy, and Indiana-based "bat" artist, Paula Warfield.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. They often live between 20 to 30 years, can eat between 2,000 to 5,000 insects a night. Some pollinate plants and spread fruit seeds in tropical rain forests. World-wide, there are more than 1,100 species of bats, but many species' populations are declining. Nine bat species are currently listed by the Service as federally threatened or endangered in the United States and its territories

--Andy King, R3-Bloomington FO

Butcher Knives!

Butcher Knife Habitat Restoration Project

The Butcher Knife Stream and wetland complex cuts across the remote southwest corner of the Red Lake Indian Reservation in

numbers of migrating and breeding waterfowl due to abundant stands of wild rice and adjacent upland grassland nesting cover.

Channelization of the

hydrology in the lower reaches of the creek and associated wetlands, and restored local habitats in an effort to increase use by waterfowl. Restoration efforts were undertaken in the stream channel along the lower

2.5 miles of the drainage, restoring a more natural water regime to approximately 200 acres of riverine-wetland habitat. Natural strain wild rice was seeded into select sites, and 50 waterfowl nesting structures were built, placed and will be monitored. Approximately 25 acres of upland were cleared and restored to an appropriate grassland mixture, and public access to select areas was improved.

Working in partnership with the Red Lake Tribe and the Bureau

Part of the Butcher Knife Waterfowl Habitat Restoration Project on the Red Lake Indian Reservation; Photo Credit: Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians;



northwest Minnesota. It outlets into a channelized portion of the Clearwater River, which forms the southwest boundary of the Reservation. The lower four to five miles of Butcher Knife Creek includes four shallow lakes 15 to 100 acres in size, which are referred to as the Butcher Knife Chain.

Historical accounts suggest that habitats associated with this drainage attracted large

Clearwater River in the 1960's, extensive beaver activity, and lack of fire and other natural disturbance have altered the hydrology of this portion of the drainage and allowed upland sites to become over-mature. These factors reduced the capacity of the drainage to support natural stands of wild rice, as well as the overall utility and attractiveness of the site to waterfowl and other wildlife.

This project restored the natural

of Indian Affairs – Circle of Flight Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ashland National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office was involved in the project through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The restoration and enhancement efforts undertaken by this project have improved a large amount of habitat for the benefit of Service trust resources such as migratory waterfowl and songbirds. --Ted Koehler, R3-Ashland FRO

2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest: Put Your Stamp on Conservation

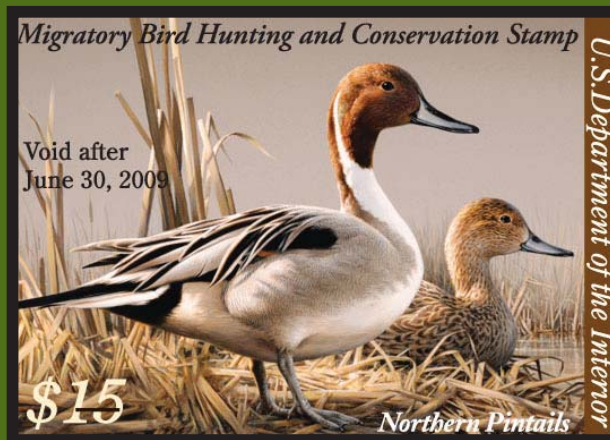
After 75 years of supporting wetlands acquisition throughout the United States, the Federal Duck Stamp Program continues to be a conservation success story, providing funds used to protect millions of acres of irreplaceable waterfowl habitat. For ducks, geese and other wetland-dependent wildlife across the Upper Midwest, Federal Duck Stamp revenue has been a lifesaver, thanks in part, to the little-known, but hugely important Small Wetlands Program.

From its beginning as an amendment to the Duck Stamp Act in 1958 and fueled by the sale of tens of thousands of duck stamps annually, the Small Wetlands Program is today one of this country's most cost-effective conservation efforts, protecting nearly three million acres of prairie wetlands and uplands to support migratory birds. This includes the Prairie Pothole region, a 100,000 square mile area covering parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Montana.

Affectionately known as the "duck factory," this area supplies the breeding grounds for 50 percent of our country's waterfowl. Without the funds raised each year from Federal Duck Stamp sales to hunters, birders, conservationists, stamp collectors and wildlife art lovers, this factory would not be nearly as profitable or productive.

A place of amazingly beautiful scenery, abundant bird populations, and strong and cherished hunting traditions, it is no wonder that the Prairie Pothole Region is home to so many Federal Duck Stamp artists. In fact, Minnesota has yielded more winning Federal Duck Stamp artists than any other state.

For the first time in its history, the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest will be held in the Midwest. Run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the contest will take place on October 17 and 18 in Bloomington, Minnesota at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. During the only federally sponsored art competition, a panel of five judges will select the art to grace the 2009-2010 Federal Duck Stamp.



Above: Winning Art for 2007; Pintails in acrylic by Joe Hautman, Plymouth, MN

The two-day contest is free and open to the public.

Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland that specifically targets vital breeding habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System. When you buy a duck stamp, you are doing your part to help ensure a bright future for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

"Our ability to acquire, protect, and manage critical migratory bird habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region is under tremendous pressure. In order to sustain the migratory bird populations, we need to raise awareness of this vital program and the best way to achieve our goal is to encourage people to buy duck stamps,"

said Service Director Dale Hall. "Buying a duck stamp is easy and yields a great return on your investment- helping to protect irreplaceable migratory bird habitat."

In addition to producing most of our nation's duck populations, prairie pothole lands acquired with duck stamp dollars are home to many other birds, including pelicans, herons, rails, gulls and wrens, to name a few. Obviously, the Federal Duck Stamp Program, which was created by hunters in 1934 to preserve wetlands, benefits more than just ducks.

Those who enjoy the benefits of the National Wildlife Refuge System include birders, conservationists, outdoors men, and clearly, wildlife that depend on wetlands. Moreover, with a growing body of evidence showing the health benefits to children of connecting with their natural world, buying federal duck stamps is not only good for ducks, but for people too.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Small Wetlands Program and prepare to choose a new Federal Duck Stamp design, it is time to "put our stamp on conservation" by putting Federal Duck Stamps in our pockets.

For more information about the 2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest and purchasing duck stamps, visit <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/2008contest.html>.

For more information about the Small Wetlands Program, visit <http://www.fws.gov/Refuges/SmallWetlands/>.

The Bloomington Art Center is a nonprofit community art center whose mission is to stimulate creativity by making high quality arts programs accessible to people of all ages, skills and abilities. For more information, visit <http://www.bloomingtonartcenter.com>.



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest

Calendar of Events

Features:

- Joe Hautman Poster Signing!
- Kids and Nature Day!
- Prairie Wetland Photo Contest
- Stamp Show
- Dudley Edmondson
- Bev Anglum



Above: 2007-2008 Duck Stamp Contest
Joe Hautman of Plymouth, Minnesota
won the 75th Anniversary Federal Duck Stamp Contest
with his elegant depiction of a pair of northern pintails.

Visit:

<http://duckstamps.fws.gov>

Bloomington Center for the Arts
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota

Calendar of Events

2008 Duck Stamp Contest - Week of October 5, 2008

Times are approximate

Saturday, September 20		Tuesday, October 7	
Sponsor	Event	Event	Sponsor
MWA	Youth Waterfowl Hunt @ MNVNWR (Advance registration required)		
		“Art of the Wild” w/Bill Webster & Joe Hautman @ Bell Museum – 7 p.m.	Bell Museum
Friday, October 10		Thursday, October 9	
Sponsor	Event		
FWS	Bird Walk at MNVNWR Bob Russell 7:00 & 9:00 a.m.		
FWS/COB	Unveiling of artwork @ Bloomington Art Center (BAC) 9 a.m.		
FWS/COB	Artwork on Public Display @ BAC 9 a.m.		
Saturday, October 11		Sunday, October 12	
Sponsor	Event	Event	Sponsor
FWS	Bird Walk at MNVNWR Bob Russell 7:00 & 9:00 a.m.		
Maplewood Stamp Club	Stamp Show – Century College in Maplewood 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Stamp Show – Century College in Maplewood 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Maplewood Stamp Club
FWS/COB	Artwork on Public Display @ BAC 9 a.m.—10 p.m.	Artwork on Public Display @ BAC 1-10 p.m.	FWS/COB
Beverly Anglum	Families, Nature, and Photography – Creating Lifelong Connections 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. @ BAC		
Bell Museum & U of M	Duck Art and Waterfowl Wonders Family Event 1:00-3:00 p.m. (\$5 adult/\$3 kids)	Family Walk For Wetlands @ MNVNWR – open to public 1:00-4:00 p.m. *Register on-line*	DU & Audubon Minnesota

Calendar of Events

2008 Duck Stamp Contest - Week of October 12, 2008

Times are approximate

Monday, October 13		Tuesday, October 14	
Sponsor	Event	Event	Sponsor
	COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY		
		Artwork on Public Display @ BAC 9 a.m.-10 p.m.	FWS/BAC
FWS/ COB	Artwork on Public Display @ BAC 9 a.m.—10 p.m.	Dudley Edmondson Wildlife Photography Photo Program @BAC 10-11:00 a.m. Public Event	Dudley Edmondson
		Kids And Nature Day – various activities all day including Photo Clinic, Bird Banding, Wildlife Art Clinic, Waterfowl & Hunting Heritage 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.	PF, MN DNR Cabela’s Refuge Friends Inc. USFWS Dick’s Sporting Goods
		Beginning Bird Watching Class (Open to Public) MNV NWR 4:00-5:30 pm	Audubon & MRVAC
Wednesday, October 15		Thursday, October 16	
Sponsor	Event	Event	Sponsor
Audubon	Padelford Boat Birding Trip on Mississippi River 9:00-11:00 a.m. \$25 (reservations required)		
FWS/COB	Artwork on Public Display @ BAC 9:00 a.m.—10 p.m.	Artwork on Public Display @BAC 9:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	FWS/COB
		Prairie Wildlife Photo Contest @BAC 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Free	TNC
		Youth & Family Hunting Expo@ Horse and Hunt Club (Prior Lake) 11:00-3:00 p.m. - Free event	Horse & Hunt Club MN Waterfowl Assn.

Calendar of Events

2008 Duck Stamp Contest - Week of October 12, 2008

Times are approximate

Wednesday, October 15		Thursday, October 16	
Sponsor	Event	Event	Sponsor
Wildlife Forever	Meet the Artists Night w/previous winners, current entrants, and former judges – open to public @ BAC \$35 fee		
	FWS field staff arrive to support activities 10/16-18	Judge's Reception @MNVNWR (by invitation) 6:00 p.m. start	Delta WF & MN NWRS Friends Groups
		Waterfowl Hunters Party @ BAC \$25 entry fee 6:00-9:00 p.m. Limited to 150 attendees	Ducks Unlimited Avery Outdoors Sportsman's WH
Friday, October 17		Saturday, October 18	
Sponsor	Event	Event	Sponsor
Friends of Rice Lake NWR	Artist Joe Hautman Poster Signing Event @ BAC (Posters \$10/each) 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m./afternoon	Artist Joe Hautman Poster Signing @ BAC (\$10/each) 9:00-10:00 a.m./afternoon	Friends of Rice Lake NWR
MN Fed. Of Stamp Clubs	Stamp Cachet sales/cancellation etc. @ BAC 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.	Stamp Cachet Sales/Cancellation etc. @ BAC 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	MN Fed. Of Stamp Clubs
MN Decoy Foundation	Vintage Minnesota Waterfowl Decoy Display 9:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. @ BAC	History of Wildlife Art 8:45-9:30 a.m. @ BAC Vintage Minnesota Waterfowl Decoy Display 9:00 am-10:00 p.m. @ BAC	David Wagner MN Decoy Foundation
FWS/BAC	Opening Ceremony 10:00 a.m. Judging begins – Round 1 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Judging continues – Round 2 @ BAC Contest winner announced 1:00 p.m.	FWS/BAC
Ducks Unlimited Wild Wings	Duck Stamp Gala @ Holiday Inn Select in Bloomington. On-line registration; 5:30-10:00 p.m. (\$195 fee)		



We Need Duck Stamps



See the new duck stamp video at:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/smallwetlands/video.html>

Duck stamps aren't just for duck hunters or stamp collectors. And the wetlands that duck stamps buy aren't just for ducks. We all need duck stamps - more than people think. Wetlands catch water, lessening the impact of floods and droughts. They naturally purify the water, allowing it to seep back into the soil, replenishing underground reservoirs. Wetlands are for water-loving plants, wildlife and people. Since 1934, people who care about the environment have invested in wetland preservation by buying duck stamps. Nearly 690 million dollars

of duck stamp revenue has been used over the past 70 years to buy or lease over five million acres of precious wetlands. But that's not enough. Millions of acres of life-rich marshes, swamps and estuaries are still being destroyed each year.

So, the next time you're in the post office or sporting goods store, buy a duck stamp. It won't mail a letter, but it will preserve a vital link in the chain of life!

For more information, check out our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/2008contest.htm>

Videos



Visit:

[Http://duckstamps.fws.gov](http://duckstamps.fws.gov)

Seeking Volunteers!

Interested in helping with some of the many tasks associated with Duck Stamp and Retiree Reunion events? Visit: <https://intranet.fws.gov/region3/aba/duckstamp.html>.

RICE LAKE NWR BUILDS NEW DECK WITH THE HELP OF A YCC CREW

Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in McGregor, Minn. has been working hard to create all types of outdoor recreational activities that everyone can enjoy. One of the new goals of the Refuge is to try and make more of these recreational activities handicapped accessible. The most recent project that accomplished this goal was the addition of a wheelchair accessible observation deck and scope located on Rice Lake. The staff and Friends of Rice Lake Refuge wanted this addition to the existing observation tower because they felt as if the many steps to get to the top deterred a lot of people, handicapped or otherwise, from viewing the lake and the wildlife that occupies it. This lower deck to the observation tower would allow for much easier access to a wheelchair-friendly scope to view the magnificent lake that gives the wildlife refuge its name.

The building of

the observation deck started on Monday, July 28, and the staff got a pleasant surprise when they found out that the YCC crew from Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was scheduled to assist with the project. The crew consisted of four high school students and their crew leader. Along with the YCC crew, the staff also



Above: A view looking out from the platform at the Disabled Access viewing scope with Rice Lake in the background. Photo by Peter Rea;



Above: The Sherburne YCC crew standing on the completed disabled access viewing platform along with the viewing scope that they helped the staff of Rice Lake NWR build. Photo by Peter Rea;

results. Further more, the staff really enjoyed working with a group full of young adults who were so gung-ho on building the deck. At the end of the week, the staff provided the YCC crew with a lunch of burgers, beans, and ice cream with freshly picked blueberries to show their appreciation. Their hard work helped to make the project go much faster and their enthusiasm pleased everyone at Rice Lake NWR.

This is just one example

got help on the construction from Chad Lawson, a STEP employee from the RO. With all of this help, the project was completed in only four days and the staff couldn't be more pleased with the final

of the steps that Rice Lake is taking to make their refuge a place where everyone can come and visit. Just recently the refuge added an extension to the dock on one of the lakes to allow more room for wheelchairs to maneuver and view the lake. Hopefully Rice Lake and other refuges will continue to look for ways to accommodate to all people so that the beauty of our environment can be shared to everyone.

--Peter Rea, Intern Park Ranger, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Above: YCC crew putting up the railings for the disabled access viewing deck at Rice Lake NWR. Photo by Peter Rea;

Heads Up! Election Year Hatch Act Reminder

As the 2008 presidential election draws near, it is important that all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employees be reminded of the statutory restrictions on political activity. The Hatch Act of 1939 is a federal law designed to regulate partisan political activity by federal employees. It allows and encourages federal employees to actively participate in the nation's political processes to the extent specific activities are not expressly prohibited. Authored by Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico, the act sailed past much heated controversy to leave in its wake several failed Supreme Court appeals and proposed amendments based on accusations of free speech violation.

The number of key "battleground" states in the region and the prominence of Midwestern issues (e.g. ethanol production, wind energy, flood control measures, and agricultural policy) increase the likelihood of contact between political candidates, their campaigns and Service employees acting in their official capacity.

The Constitution provides us all with certain rights, including the right to vote. However, unlike other citizens, federal employees have an additional responsibility: we must always be aware of our role as public servants, and we must ensure that the public has the utmost confidence in their government at all times. To that end, the Hatch Act restricts political activities of government employees in certain ways.

Generally, all federal employees MAY do the following when not acting in a work capacity:

1. Register to vote as they choose.
2. Become candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections.
3. Assist in voter registration drives.
4. Express opinions about candidates and issues.
5. Contribute personal funds to political candidates, parties, and organizations.
6. Attend political fundraising functions.
7. Join and be an active member of a political party or club.



Above: Carl Atwood Hatch: United States Senator from New Mexico
In office
October 10, 1933 – January 3, 1949
Preceded by Sam G. Bratton
Succeeded by Clinton Presba Anderson

Under the Hatch Act, most employees MAY NOT:

1. Use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election.
2. Solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee.
3. Solicit or intentionally discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency.
4. Engage in political activity while on duty.
5. Engage in political activity in any government facility.
6. Engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform.
7. Engage in political activity while using a government vehicle.
8. Run for office as a candidate in a partisan election.
9. Wear political buttons on duty.

Employees who hold career positions in the Senior Executive Service (SES) are subject to additional restrictions. It is important to note that the above lists are by no means exhaustive. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of engaging in certain political activities please do not hesitate to contact Rick Greenblat, Midwest Region Ethics Officer, at (612) 713-5246 or rick_greenblat@fws.gov, or Ryan Aylesworth, Midwest Region Legislative Affairs Liaison, at (612) 713-5311 or ryan_aylesworth@fws.gov.

Additional resources on this subject are available at the DOI website at <http://www.doi.gov/ethics/index.html>, or at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel website at <http://www.osc.gov/>.

--Ryan Aylesworth, External Affairs

Scouts Support Baby Brookies Program at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) accepted a donation dedicated to the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) from the Cub Scouts of East Jordan in a ceremony at the hatchery on August 13 in Elmira, Mich. The ceremony marked the first donation from a non-federal organization to a federal hatchery since the instatement of the National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006. The monies will be dedicated to Baby Brookies, an educational program on the life cycle of brook trout. Midwest Region Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley accepted the \$467 donation at the ceremony.

“We have a group of young conservation heroes with us today – 32 members of the Cub Scout Pack 17,” Wooley said at the ceremony. “You share a unified interest to conserve our fishery resources.”

The National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006 was instated to encourage the use of volunteers to assist in hatchery management, to promote public awareness of resource

conservation, and to encourage donations and contributions by non-federal individuals and organizations. The donation by the Cub Scouts to Jordan NFH is the first contribution by a non-federal organization to the Hatchery System.

The Baby Brookies program is part of a Jordan River NFH initiative to connect people with nature called Imaginature. Imaginature is an after school collaboration with Mancelona Public Schools and is designed to provide children with an opportunity for unstructured and structured time outside. The Baby Brookies program allows fifth and sixth grade students to monitor and analyze the growth

of brook trout at the hatchery. When the trout have grown to catchable-size, they are stocked in area ponds for youth fishing events.

The 32 members of Cub Scouts of East Jordan Pack 17 raised the money by hosting a bake sale in their local community. Roger Gordon, Jordan River NFH project leader said the contribution will help fund a tank to hold brook trout in their early life stage for the Baby Brookies program. The scouts presented their donation to the Service at the ceremony.

Wooley praised the work of the scouts

and hatchery volunteers who attended the ceremony, “You are strong, dedicated and supportive of the conservation message of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and you exemplify the meaning of the word ‘volunteer.’”

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery is one of more than 60 federal hatcheries in the National

Fish Hatchery System. The hatchery rears lake trout as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Program.

For more information on the National Fish Hatchery System, visit <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/nfhs/>. --Ashley Spratt, External Affairs



Above Top: Cub Scouts from Pack 17 present check for Jordan River NFH to FWS Assistant Regional Director Charlie Wooley. Photo by Joan Moore, Friends of Jordan River NFH. Above Left: Cub Scout Leader John Sumner stands beside the fiberglass tank partially funded by the Cub Scout contribution. The tank will be used to raise brook trout as part of the hatchery's Baby Brookies program. Photo by Joanie Moore, Friends of Jordan River;

The Birds!

Central Ohio's Black Duck Initiative

The Ohio Private Lands Office will receive \$75,000 in habitat restoration funds to restore wetlands in three central Ohio counties as part of a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant. This region of Ohio is part of the glaciated Allegheny plateau with rolling topography, fertile soils, and thousands of drained wetlands. This area is on the edge of the Mississippi Flyway and these wetlands (or what remains) are critical during spring and fall waterfowl migration.

Drive the roads of central Ohio in April and you can see a plethora of dabblers and divers making their way north. Ring-necked ducks in numbers can be seen on every wetland, pond, and depressional water holding area that time of year. Likewise, during the fall migration, these wetlands are used by numerous waterfowl species.

In particular, American black ducks use this area. As Lake Erie

freezes, the black ducks move inland, using these wetlands as they venture to their winter roosting grounds further south. As a declining waterfowl species, restoring wetlands in this area provides the needed food resources black ducks need during critical times in their life cycle and that is what the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program is all about.

Pieces of the puzzle began to fall into place in 2007. The first being early success with wetland restoration in the area with willing land owners through the Partners program and a need for additional funding. Second, central Ohio's thriving economy (Columbus, Ohio at the center) has led to recreational land owners wanting and able to do what is right for the land and wildlife; some of us would call it a "good land ethic." And lastly, pulling the right people together to build synergy and momentum to bring the idea to fruition.

The Partners program teamed up with five conservation organizations: The Dawes Arboretum; Licking Land Trust; Ducks Unlimited Knox County Chapter; and Morrow and Knox County Park Districts to secure the required matching contributions for this successful grant application.

In addition, Audubon Ohio and The Ohio State University were instrumental during the development of this grant application. Acres (301) of wetlands and uplands will be restored and protected in this focus area, which works towards the goals of Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Waterfowl Management Plan.

Many other waterfowl species will benefit including mallards, wood ducks, blue-winged teal and sandhill cranes, which have recently moved into the area and have fledged chicks the last few

years.

Heavy rains this spring flooded these depressional areas, making it easy to see where wetlands could be restored. Now the task is up to us, the conservation community, to work with private landowners and engage them to improve their land for wildlife, for recreational opportunities, and to keep the rural and natural aesthetics of this area for future generations to use and cherish.

--Kurt Waterstradt, R3-Ohio PLO

Celebrating Warblers



Above: Kim Grveles of Wisconsin DNR gives Kirtland's warbler hats to retired FWS biologist Ron Refsnider and USDA-Wildlife Services State Director Jason Suckow. UWFWS photo by Joel Trick.

Participants in Kirtland's warbler conservation efforts in Wisconsin in 2008 gathered at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate the accomplishments and success of the recently completed field season. Joel Trick of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office, and Kim Grveles, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, who jointly coordinated the volunteer efforts, gave presentations on Kirtland's warbler banding, monitoring and nesting activities, outreach efforts, and statewide survey efforts in 2008. The gathering provided an opportunity for each volunteer to be recognized for their contribution to the project. --Joel Trick, R3-Green Bay FO

Below: Richard "Doc" Ramseyer's restored wetland in Licking County, Ohio as part of the Central Ohio Black Duck Initiative. - USFWS Photo by: Kurt Waterstradt, 7/3/2008



Solitude



LET'S GO OUTSIDE: Dragonfly at Minnesota Valley. Photo by Samantha Elayne.

An Inside Region 3 publication credit is worth gold to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employees and their children when seeking career and other opportunities.

Are you seeking to help your child attain entrance into a prestigious university, a competitive scholarship, a job with the Service? Are you seeking to attain a promotion or a new job for yourself? A Service publication credit is a huge resume builder. More than that, in this hugely competitive world that we live in, it will set you or your child apart from the rest.

Resume categories that generally appear at the bottom--you know the ones--*Awards, Recognition, Honors, Publications*--can make the difference between being selected and watching someone else walk away with the opportunity that you wanted. Published in Inside Region 3, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Publication--that's a statement that is eye-catching and memorable. It's a unique detail that can make your resume or biography resonate with creativity.

Do you know a budding young writer, poet or photographer? Are you a writer, poet, or photographer? Would you like to take advantage of this opportunity? Send us your children's stories and photographs for our Kids Corner segment. Send us your own stories and photographs for the Let's Go Outside! segment.

--Valerie Rose Redmond, *External Affairs*

Solidarity



DOI Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett Visits Clarence Cannon NWR

On August 14, 2008, Department of Interior, Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett took time out of her busy schedule for a leisurely birding trip at Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge. During her visit she met with refuge personnel and installed the blue goose sign on the newly renovated headquarters office/visitor center.

Shorebirds, herons, egrets, and pelicans were just some of the



Above: DOI Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett with Clarence Cannon NWR staff. Photo by Candy Chambers;

species in abundance for viewing as receding floodwaters from the spring and early summer left behind expanses of mudflats and shallow water wetlands. She was impressed by the abundance of colonial wading birds and crayfish on the refuge and enjoyed close-up views of mature bald eagles. Even though her time at the refuge was short, we thoroughly enjoyed her visit. -- Candace Chambers, R3-Great River NWR

GREAT DISCOVERY

Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) held their annual Fishing Clinic in May. Approximately 130 children showed up for the event with their parents. The event was run by Genoa NFH with the help of members from the La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO), the La Crosse Fish Health Center, Wisconsin DNR (WI DNR) and members of the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fishery Services (FUMFS). The Fishing Clinic had four stations where the children learned about animal fur identification, fish identification and habitats, fish anatomy and jig making. The children were very enthusiastic and inquisitive at each station. To the right, a young angler takes a break from fishing to develop his sense of wonder next to one of Genoa's fish culture ponds.



A young angler takes a break from fishing.

nature for students studying ecology, nature conservation and scientific theory. Being in nature and experiencing its processes first-hand is how fifth grade teacher Susan Houlihan believes her students learn best. On May 15, 2008, Houlihan and 22 Southern Bluffs Elementary fifth graders visited the outdoor classroom in Genoa National Fish Hatchery's Sense of Wonder Discovery Wetland to learn about wetlands, get in touch with nature, and make a lasting impression on students. The outdoor classroom at Genoa was developed from a partnership between the

Southern Bluffs Elementary and Genoa NFH to get kids out in nature and make experiencing nature part of daily life for students. Connecting with nature has been proven to increase performance in school, provide emotional stability, and increase overall health for children. Helping make these connections has become a top priority of the Service. Students enjoying the outdoor classroom benefit from nature experiences while fulfilling fifth grade curriculum science and health standards.

-- Jenny Walker, Fish Biologist, Genoa National Fish Hatchery

ENCOURAGING A SENSE OF WONDER

Outdoor classrooms are important for creating a lasting connection with



Great Discovery! A shy garter snake was gently captured and released. (photo 5/08 Darla Wenger)

Cycle of Success Comes Full Circle at Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were joined by Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle to celebrate the renovation of Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery in central Wisconsin on August 18, 2008. The Service's Sport Fish Restoration Program worked with Wisconsin DNR and the Fox River/Green Bay Trustee Council to fund the renovation work with a common goal of expanding sport fishing and aquatic education opportunities for the citizens of Wisconsin.

"The Sport Fish Restoration Program funds projects that on a daily basis restore habitat for sport fish, restore streams and lakes, fund cutting edge fisheries research, provide fishing and boating opportunities and communicate with citizens about conservation issues affecting their state," said Charlie Wooley, the Midwest Deputy Regional Director.

Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery is critical to Wisconsin's \$2.3 billion sport fishery, and more than 94 percent of fish raised at Wild Rose are stocked in Lake Michigan. A combination of Sport Fish Restoration

Program funds, angler licensing dollars and NRDA environmental restoration agreements are funding the three-phase renovation project.

Service biologist David Pederson said, "What was needed was a facility to meet the needs of the 21st century – needs that recognize the genetic diversity of fish populations and needs that must cope with emerging disease issues like viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)."

After the project is completed in 2011, Wild Rose State Hatchery will have a cold water hatchery for trout and salmon and a cool water hatchery for northern pike, spotted musky, walleye and lake sturgeon.

The first phase of renovation at the hatchery was completed in spring 2008, which included construction of a cold water nursery building for egg incubation and early rearing, a broodstock building, four covered production raceways buildings, new water supply, distribution and water reuse systems, and a fish rearing wastewater treatment system. The second construction phase began in June 2008, and is estimated to be ready for cool water fish production in 2010. The third phase of renovation will restore the wetlands, springs and headwaters

of a stream that was on the site before the century-old hatchery was built. For more information on the Wild Rose Hatchery Renovation project, visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/fish/wildrose/wrrenovation.html>.

"Understanding the success of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program does not come from seeing tax figures, dollar amounts or price tags. Rather, understanding and appreciating the success of this program comes directly from seeing this on-the-ground action by state agencies, like Wisconsin DNR," Wooley said.

Taxes paid by anglers and recreational boaters on recreation fishing equipment and boat fuel are distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies through the State Fish and Restoration Program for conservation projects. Through this "Cycle of Success" the Sport Fish Restoration Program helps protect, manage and restore aquatic habitat, educates people about aquatic resources, and provides boating and fishing opportunities to anglers and recreation boaters.

Wooley said, "Because of the Sport Fish Restoration Program and the efforts of states agencies like Wisconsin DNR, the anglers – men and women, teenagers and children – that fish the waterways of Wisconsin are able to give back what they take from these waters."

The Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs efficiently and effectively administer grant programs and work with fish and wildlife agencies in a mutually responsible, cooperative and creative grant partnership to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and habitat resources for present and future public benefit. The Midwest Region's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs administer more than \$183 million in grants to the states and tribes in the region. To learn more about the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/FederalAid/>.

--Ashley Spratt, External Affairs



Governor Jim Doyle leads ribbon cutting for the new Wild Rose Fish Hatchery. (L-R Charlie Wooley, Deputy Regional Director, FWS; DNR Secretary Matt Frank; Governor Doyle; State Senator Luther Olsen)

Employee Profile: Juancarlos Giese

Below: Juancarlos in action.



Wildlife Refuge Specialist Juancarlos Giese views outreach and education as integral to the effort to protect our natural resources. A product of DNR outreach programs himself, Giese advocates the idea that “it takes everyone working together and creating future stewards of the environment, in order to protect and appreciate [our] national wildlife refuges (NWRs) and associated public lands.”

As the assistant project leader at the Rydell and Glacial Ridge NWRs, Giese assists the project leader in all aspects of refuge management. He handles many of the day to day activities including habitat restoration, exotic species control, and environmental education as well as working with hunting and fishing programs.

At age 16 Giese spent summers working with the DNR in their Hispanic Outreach Program. “I traveled throughout rural Minnesota presenting programs to

migrant farm worker children about fishing, fishing regulations and the ecosystems of different watersheds found throughout Minnesota,” he says. Giese also provided Minnesota DNR information to Hispanic communities throughout the Twin Cities metro area. He says it was a great way to observe dedicated natural resource professionals in action. “It also gave me a unique perspective on how little outreach has been done to underrepresented communities that are continuously growing and making up a huge percentage of the demographic within Minnesota,” he explains. The discontinuation of the program, a casualty of budget cuts, saddens Giese. “[It] is extremely unfortunate, especially since many underserved communities and people have an intense interest and cultural ties to natural resources,” he says.

Giese’s passion for natural resources began early. “I have a great family who has been very supportive of my decisions and dreams throughout my life,” Giese recalls. “Early on in my life I was encouraged to follow my dreams. My mother and father have varied backgrounds, but both have a strong work ethic.” Giese’s mother and her family immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico when she was young. His grandfather was always a believer in the American dream and worked hard at building the railroads through the Southwest, in order to provide his children with a quality education. Giese gleaned much of his knowledge about natural systems from his father who grew up in St. Paul. “They saw in me an interest in nature early on,” he explains. His parents encouraged his interest in natural resources by enrolling him in the Battle Creek Environmental Magnet school in east St. Paul. Battle Creek’s environmental curriculum urges students to correlate the environment and environmental issues in all aspects of life.

Giese joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) ten years ago as a SCEP student. The summer prior, he worked in the Fort Snelling State Park. This is where he had the opportunity to work with Vicky Sherry. Sherry invited him to be part of the SCEP



Juancarlos and family;

program with the Minnesota Valley NWR.

Giese was thrilled. “I have always firmly believed that it is our role as conservationists to speak for those without a voice and work for those without hands, as well as making our fellow Americans appreciate the importance of native wildlife and habitats that enrich our lives,” he says.

Giese says the biggest challenge of his career was the move from the Twin Cities to the rural communities of NW Minnesota. His foreign background made people in the area somewhat apprehensive, especially because he was responsible for outreach, community programs and volunteers. Eventually, people warmed to him as they saw his honesty and passion for wildlife and natural resources. “...now we are very much looked at as the benefit to the community that we strive to be,” says Giese.

Giese credits his mentors for his success. His future aspirations are in the refuge management series. “I hope to have a new position as a deputy project leader in another region in order to get a feel for how refuge management objectives are carried out in other diverse areas of the country,” he says. His ultimate goal in ten years is to manage a NWR in an area of the country were his strengths, interests, and goals would be most effectively utilized. --Valerie Rose Redmond, *External Affairs*

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



ROBERT C. BRYANT

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Bryant's career with the Service includes 34 years of accomplishments that have spanned across three regions, two programs, and land acquisition for numerous National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). In the Northeast Region he negotiated the acquisition of the first tract of land to establish the Stewart B. McKinney and Sunkhaze Meadows NWRs. He acquired major holdings at the Great Swamp, Great Dismal Swamp, Trustom Pond and Blackwater NWRs.

As the Realty Management Branch Chief in the Pacific region, Mr. Bryant had a leadership role in the establishment of the Sacramento River, Tualatin, and Grays Harbor NWRs. He acquired major additions to California's San Pablo Bay and San Joaquin River NWRs. His involvement in the acquisition of the Willow Creek-Lurline, Butte Sink, Colusa and Delevan Migratory Bird wintering areas required presentation of those tracts to the Migratory Bird Commission. He also acquired the first water rights at Stillwater NWR to provide irrigation water to wildlife.

While in the Midwest Region Division of Realty, Mr. Bryant established the Whittlesey Creek and the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWRs, purchased the first property at the Detroit River NWR, and made significant additions to Patoka River, Cypress Creek, Ottawa and Big Muddy NWRs. Using Duck Stamp funds, he also directed land acquisition for the migratory Bird Acquisition Program in Region 3's waterfowl Production Area that required approval of the Minnesota Land Exchange Board—consisting of the Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor.

As Division Chief of the Midwest Region's Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR), Mr. Bryant resolved several longstanding Office of Inspector General audit findings pertaining to the State WSFR Grants Program. He supported the innovation of using Sport Fish Restoration funds to buy out commercial fishermen licenses in Ohio's portion of Lake Erie, thus allowing more recreational angling. He instituted a \$1,000,000 procedural change in the grant-in-aid appraisal process which allowed for the States to resume acquiring land via the WSFR grant program. Notable in this effort was Indiana's acquisition of the 8,000-acre Goose Ponds for waterfowl hunting and Ohio's acquisition of 8,000 acres of former Owens-Illinois forest for turkey hunting.

For his excellence and outstanding contributions, Robert C. Bryant is granted this Meritorious Service Award of the Department of Interior.

Secretary of Interior

Note: Bob was presented with this award by Regional Director Robyn Thorson at his retirement celebration on September 30.

Around the Region

Celebrating Excellence



Left: Wisconsin partners celebrate a successful year of Kirtland's warbler conservation. Photo by Patti Trick.

Below: Visitor Services Manager Cheryl Groom helps a girls scout from Troop #25 tag a monarch butterfly during the Neal Smith NWR's Monarch Madness event. Photo by Alice Pareti, Girls Scout Troop #25. Taken on 9/14/1008.



Left: Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge; USFWS biologists identify collection of mussels. Photo by Edward De Vries;



Left: Youth from Blair Community School learn about prairies at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. - USFWS photo.

Monarch Madness

The 65 people who arrived at Neal Smith NWR on Sunday, Sept. 14 had to be mad! The wind was howling, the sky threatened rain, the temperature was dropping, yet these families and girl scout troops braved the elements (and the rescheduling of the event due to rain on Saturday) and turned out to help staff catch and tag monarch butterflies!

The monarchs were hard to find. They were either on the move--and catching the 25 mph winds to head south or they were clinging to the wildflowers and not moving. Despite the challenges, 77 monarchs were caught, tagged and released. The girl scouts who participated were given a badge provided by the Des Moines Girl Scout Council.

Everyone had fun stalking the butterflies and exploring the prairie!

--Cheryl Groom, R3-Neal Smith NWR

Columbia NFWCO Teams with University

For the past three years Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) has teamed up with Dr. Douglas Noltie and the University of Missouri (MU) every October to complete his Fisheries Techniques course with a river component. Dr. Noltie's Fish Tech class is largely focused on small impoundment management. Realizing riverine fisheries management is a growing component of fisheries sciences in the United States, Dr. Noltie has enlisted the help of the Columbia NFWCO to assist in teaching the class. A group of 14 "would be biologists" met NFWCO staff at the boat ramp ready to work on the Big Muddy. Students were divided into four teams to get hands-on training in stern trawling, set lines, hoop nets and drifting trammel nets. Fish Biologists Nick Utrup, Andy Plauck and Jeff Finley and Branch Chief Wyatt Doyle rotated groups of students through each of the stations. Objectives of working on the river were discussed as well as the different projects the Columbia NFWCO works on. The students enjoyed experiencing a different aspect to fisheries management and a change in scenery from the ponds they had been working on all semester. A change in fauna from bass, bluegill and channel catfish to sturgeon, flathead catfish, drum, buffalo, blue suckers and Asian carp was refreshing to the students as well.

--Jeff Finley, R3-Columbia FRO



Quote of the Month

I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown,
for going out, I found, was really going in. --John Muir

Tracking Cranes

The Services' Green Bay, Wis., and Jacksonville, Fla., field offices recently collaborated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop a network of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and State Natural Resource agency contacts to assist in tracking whooping cranes in eastern North America. This effort established key contacts in all of the states within the eastern U.S. Nonessential Experimental Population area, which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The Whooping Crane Eastern



Above: Whooping crane pair at International Crane Foundation, September 2003. USFWS photo by Joel Trick

Partnership (WCEP) has been releasing young whooping cranes since 2001, as part of an ongoing project to reintroduce a migratory population to eastern North America. WCEP currently has an active tracking program with biologists monitoring reintroduced whooping cranes through the use of radio transmitters that all birds carry. Increasingly, however, valuable information about crane

locations is being received from members of the public. Enlisting the aid of resource agency personnel in receiving this information and passing it on to the appropriate contact in a timely fashion will help to make these whooping crane observations more valuable to the biologists in the field. As the eastern migratory whooping crane population continues to increase, there is an increasing need to use all available information sources to monitor the population. Engaging and encouraging participation by the public can

also be expected to build a stronger constituency and support for this reintroduction project. Data collected through our network of agency contacts will contribute towards the success of the reintroduction, and may help us to identify important migratory habitat that can be targeted for conservation efforts.

--Joel Trick, R3-Green Bay FO

Environmental Assessments

The Final Environmental Assessment for Augmentation and Reintroduction Plan for the Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) and Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) in Illinois was completed in August 2008 by the Rock Island Field Office. Both mussels were listed as endangered in 1993 and were believed to be gone from Illinois until discovery of a live clubshell in 2000. The Service with its partners and the State of Illinois explored options for releasing clubshells and riffleshells into suitable habitat as

one of a number of ongoing efforts to recover the two species.

The clubshell was once found from Michigan to Alabama and from Illinois to West Virginia. The northern riffleshell occurred throughout the Ohio River Valley and north into Michigan. Both species' populations have declined dramatically throughout their range due to declining habitat quality.

Because of the mussels' rapid decline and highly isolated populations, the Service believes the augmentation and reintroduction of the clubshell and riffleshell will be an essential tool in

upgrading their status to threatened, and eventually, in recovering the two species.

--Jody Millar, R3-Rock Island FO

Whooping Crane Hero

Nominated by Togethergreen, John Christian was honored for his whooping crane recovery efforts. TogetherGreen is an Audubon program funded by Toyota that inspires people to improve our environment. The organization honors those doing extraordinary things for the environment.

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