

Fish Tails

“Fish Tails” includes articles that are included in field station reports that are not published in the “Conservation Briefs.” These articles are categorized by focus area and includes the article title, author and field station. The website link, where the full article can be viewed, is highlighted in blue type.

Partnerships and Accountability

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- St. Marys River Prey and Juvenile Fish Survey
 - Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FWCO

Aquatic Invasive Species

Public Use

- Sturgeon Teacher Workshop
 - Anjanette Bowen, Alpena FWCO

Cooperation with Native Americans

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Columbia FWCO Joins the Race for Space
 - Clayton Ridenour, Columbia FWCO
- Green Bay FWCO Supplies Data to Lake Michigan MSC Lake Whitefish Models
 - Dale Hanson, Green Bay FWCO
- How Many Annuli Do You See?
 - Adam McDaniel and Heather Calkins, Columbia FWCO

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- [Watershed Dam Removal Public Hearing](#)
 - Rick Westerhof, Green Bay FWCO

Workforce Management

- [New STEP Student for Green Bay FWCO](#)
 - Kevin Mann, Green Bay FWCO

April-June 2011 June 30, 2011

Iron River Hatchery Highlights

B U G F I S H A W I L D L I F E S E R V I C E

5TH GRADE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

BY CAREY EDWARDS



Above: A tiger swallowtail feeds on lilac blossoms.



Above: 5th grade students from Iron River Elementary School assist with planting perennials in the butterfly garden. **Below:** A hummingbird moth feeds on garden phlox.



It seems like the new buzzword these days is pollinator and rightly so. They are an integral part of the world's life cycle. Efforts to cultivate areas where pollinators can reproduce, feed and grow are in effect across the country. At the Iron River National Fish Hatchery (IRNFH), where it is common place to find 1.65 million fish feeding and growing, a third pollinator garden is growing. The Iron River Elementary School is located in a small town 8 miles south of the hatchery. Fifth grade teacher and avid gardener, Jay Burfield, was contacted about participating once again in the third annual gardening event. On May 9th, twenty eight students arrived by 9:30 a.m. for the first step in the gardening process: creating stepping stones for the garden path.

In an effort to put more ownership into the project, the students would not only help plant the garden but they would also make their own stepping stone. After curing, the stones would be placed in the adjoining garden to last year's garden, creating a path that would allow hatchery visitors to view their hard work up close and personal. Hatchery staff hoped that students would come back repeatedly to view the garden and show family and friends the unique stones they had made. A site connecting last year's butterfly garden was prepared in advance of the student's arrival. Plants were ordered from a local greenhouse and nursery. Rounding out the list of over 500 plants were coreopsis, larkspur, salvia, asclepias, and rudbeckia.

Once the students smoothed out their concrete mixtures, it was time to plant. Students spent the remainder of the morning weeding the connecting gardens and planting flowers in the new one. Even though the weather was not agreeable, most students agreed that a windy and rainy day in the garden beat a day in the classroom anytime. After lunch, the students toured the hatchery and decorated their stepping stones. Stones were decorated with an assortment of stamps, stones and shells. Students enjoyed light refreshments before cleaning up the work area and catching the bus back to school at the end of the day. With a little bit of elbow grease and a lot of teamwork, a very successful and rewarding project was accomplished. The students were able to learn about gardening and butterflies as well as gaining awareness of fish hatchery processes. Stay tuned for next year's addition to the Iron River National Fish Hatchery's butterfly garden with the new fifth grade class.



Flowers are in bloom at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery.