

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jordan River NFH Accomplishment Report

Partnerships and Accountability

Jordan River Hatchery Friends Hold Executive Committee Meeting

On April 19, 2006, the Friends of the Jordan River NFH met in order to finalize by-laws, decide on dues, brainstorm on membership drives etc. Friends Group President Bob MacCord brought the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Treasurer Peg Myers put forth a motion to adopt a 2.5 mile section of the North Country trail adjacent to the hatchery grounds for clean up and care. The motion was passed unanimously. This was their first real action as a group, and forming a partnership with the North Country Trail Association seems like a great way to start. The next meeting is set for May 24 at 6:30pm at the hatchery.



Friends of the Jordan River NFH president Bob MacCord and Hatchery Manager Rick Westerhof signing the declaration of the organization and memorandum of understanding
-Photo by Tim Smigielski

-Tim Smigielski

Inaugural Project for the Friends of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Friends of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery teamed with East Jordan Cub Scout Pack 17 to clean up a section of the North Country Trail on Earth Day 2006 (April 22). The 2.5 mile trail section in the Jordan Valley was adopted by the recently formed Friends Group as a stewardship project. The Friends and Scouts worked hard clearing the trail of downed trees, branches and litter, in addition to hiking 5 miles! Their efforts did not go unnoticed by passing backpackers who gratefully offered handshakes and words of thanks. The hike ended back at the hatchery where a warm meal awaited the tired and hungry crew.



The Friends of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery partnered with Cub Scout Pack 17 of East Jordan, MI to do some trail maintenance on Earth Day.

Special thanks to the Scouts and parents for their stewardship and hard work, to the Cub Master for his famous beans and hobo stew, to the hatchery staff for their participation and support, and to the North Country Trail Association. Persons interested in knowing more about the Friends of the Jordan River

National Fish Hatchery may call the hatchery at 231-584-2461. The group is all about fish and conservation and welcomes new members.

-Peg Myers, Treasurer, Friends of the Jordan River NFH

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Beginning of Lake Trout Distribution

Our first fish releases of the spring were done on April 19 in Lake Huron's Drummond Island Refuge. By the end of April, we had released about 523,000 lake trout averaging approximately 6-¹/₄ inches total length. All were released offshore via the M/V *Togue* into northern Lake Huron.

-Wayne Talo



The M/V Togue

-Photo by Rick Westerhof

Public Use

Boy Scouts Visit the Jordan River NFH

Wayne Talo provided a facility tour to a group of Boy Scouts on April 22. The group consisted of 25 to 30 people (including chaperones) from troops out of Traverse City and Okemos, MI. They stopped here during their hike along the Jordan River Pathway to learn about the hatchery and take a lunch break. There was a brief rain storm at the end of the tour, so we set up some empty garage bays for their lunch break. After lunch, Rick Westerhof talked to them about careers in fisheries and various aspects of hatchery administration.

-Wayne Talo



Rick Westerhof and the Boy Scouts after their tour and lunch break in the garage bays at the Jordan River NFH.

-Photo by Wayne Talo

Adopt-a-Highway

We completed our first-of-the-season Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup on April 27, with the help of six students from Concord Academy Antrim, four members of the East Jordan Snowmobile Club, and three members of the Friends of the Jordan River NFH. We collected 20 bags of trash from both sides of two miles along US 131. Thanks very much to the following people for their assistance:

- Concord Academy Antrim students: Nicole, Jenny, Erin, Stephanie, Mike, and Amanda
- East Jordan Snowmobile Club members: Jim, Marilyn, Gary, and Thad
- Friends of the Jordan River NFH members: Dan and Peg
- Hatchery Volunteers: Andy and Dan



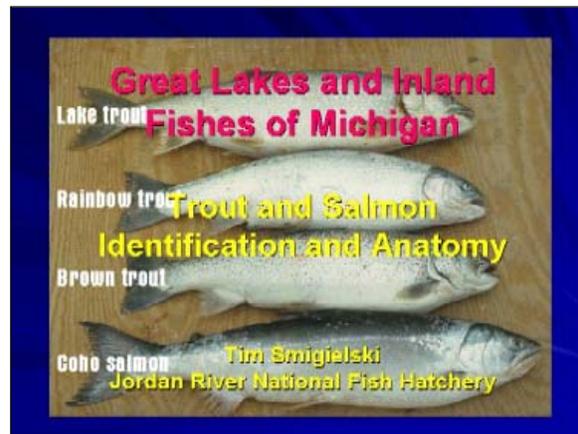
April 27, 2006 Adopt-a-Highway cleanup crew.

-Photo by Wayne Talo

-Wayne Talo

Mancelona Schools Students Tour Jordan River Hatchery

On a sunny Tuesday in April, 66 fifth graders from the Mancelona Middle School toured the hatchery. The students were on site for an hour and a half learning about cold water fish culture, Lake trout restoration, fish identification, and fish anatomy. The students from three fifth grade classes were led by biologists John Johnston and Paul Haver. Biologist Tim Smigielski did a PowerPoint presentation on Great Lakes trout and salmon identification. Connie Brigham, a chaperone and organizer of the trip, was impressed and urged the students to return to the hatchery another day with family and friends.



-Tim Smigielski

Opening Day of Trout Season a Great Success for Jordan River NFH and Partners

Of course the wind blew hard and it was cold, but April 29th will live in the memories of the many children who participated in the annual Opening Day event at the improved Johnson's Pond site in Mancelona, Michigan. Well over 100 kids fished there that Saturday. The opening ceremonies were led by Jordan River lead biologist Tim Smigielski, who spoke briefly to the crowd about partnerships and protection and enhancement of natural resources. Michigan State Senator Jason Allen and Michigan State Representative Kevin Elsenheimer were in attendance to help kick off the day. There were lots of kids eating hotdogs, catching trout, bluegills and bass, and they had a whole lot of fun. The partners and supporters of the pond improvement project were in attendance to witness the fruits of their labor.



-Tim Smigielski

Cooperation with Native Americans

(Nothing to report).

Leadership in Science and Technology

(Nothing to report).

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Jordan River NFH discharge monitoring compliance inspection completed

In September of 2004, the Jordan River NFH began reporting monthly online at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Electronic Discharge Monitoring site (eDMR). Prior to this, the reports were sent through snail mail on a carbon copy report form. Welcome to the 21st century! Jordan River reports monthly on its average water temperatures, total suspended solids, and total phosphorus coming into and leaving the facility. In April, a representative from MDEQ, Water Division, performed a compliance inspection at the hatchery. The initial results of the inspection revealed no major problems with Jordan's current effluent management and reporting practices. A formal response from MDEQ is

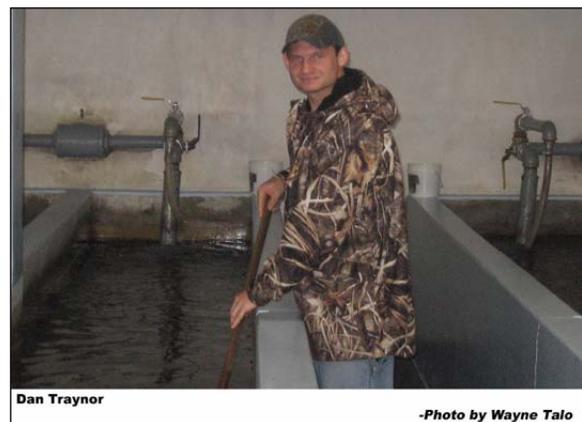
pending. Jordan River NFH expects to upgrade the current settling basins with a more efficient and more modern version for treating the hatchery's discharge water in 2007.

-Tim Smigielski

Workforce Management

Interagency Cooperation

Dan Traynor, a 23 year old man from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, began volunteering at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery on April 10. Dan, a Goetville native, was a student at Pickford High School then went on to receive a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University. Dan chose fisheries and wildlife as his area of study because he grew up in the country and loves working in the outdoors. His favorite hobbies include hunting, fishing, cutting firewood, and farming.



Dan's work experience reflects his love for working with fish and wildlife. His first job in this field was working for the Lake Superior State University Aquatic Research Laboratory raising Atlantic salmon and working on various fisheries research projects, including lake sturgeon and chinook salmon studies. Dan has since conducted fisheries and wildlife research with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR) Hunt Creek Fisheries Research Station, the University of Wisconsin, Steven's Point, Michigan State University, and he currently works for MDNR's Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station. His career goal is to obtain a permanent position with the MDNR Fisheries Division.

Dan volunteers as part of a cooperative effort between the MDNR Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station and the USFWS Jordan River NFH to provide cost effective housing for short term workers. In return for volunteering Dan is allowed to live in one of the hatchery's on-site houses free of charge. This is an exceptional deal for Dan because he enjoys living in the Jordan Valley, as well as working with the crews from the Charlevoix DNR Station and the Jordan River Hatchery.

-Dan Traynor