



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

October 2008 Station Activities

The Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) is located in Alpena, Michigan and works to meet the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fishery and Ecosystem goals within Lake Huron, Western Lake Erie, and connecting waters of the St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River. Activities include Aquatic Species Conservation and Management, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management, Aquatic Invasive Species, Cooperation with Native Americans, Leadership in Science and Technology, Partnerships and Accountability, Public Use, and Workforce Management – all of which are conducted in alignment with the Service Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future. The station is one of many field offices located within Region 3, the Midwest Region.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Early Detection and Monitoring for Aquatic Invasive Fish Species on Lake Huron and the St. Marys River

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*



During October, the Alpena NFWCO conducted an annual survey to detect new populations and to monitor existing populations of invasive fish species. Bottom trawling gear is used during the survey to detect new populations of Eurasian ruffe and round goby, and to monitor existing populations of round goby at twelve shipping ports and rivers in US waters of Lake Huron and the St. Marys River. No new populations of the invasive species were discovered; however, round goby continue to persist at seven of the twelve sampling locations.

Biologist Bowen retrieves a trawl during AIS monitoring activities in Tawas, Michigan. Photo by Jim McFee, USFWS.

Eurasian ruffe and round goby are two invasive fish species that are thought to compete with native species for food and habitat resources. They are native to Eurasia and have invaded the Great Lakes area of North America. Eurasian ruffe have been found in Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan, but are thought to be extirpated from Lake Huron. Round goby have been found in each of the five Great Lakes and are also in the Mississippi River system. Although both species have been found in the upper Great Lakes, only round goby has been detected in the St. Marys River, the connecting waterway between Lake Superior and lakes Huron and Michigan. Round goby were captured in the St. Marys River for the first time during the summer of 2008 by anglers.

This survey provides early detection and monitoring for aquatic invasive species at twelve locations in Lake Huron and the St. Marys River. This effort is consistent with the Service's "Aquatic Invasive Species" and "Aquatic Species Conservation and Management" priorities of the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

Students Learn About Zebra and Quagga Mussels

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

Students in Alpena Public School's Sandborn Elementary 5th/6th grade Science class learned about zebra and quagga mussels during a presentation provided by Anjanette Bowen on October 2.

Zebra and quagga mussels are two invasive mollusk species that invaded the Great Lakes area of North America. They disrupt the ecology of areas they colonize. Students learned about where they are from and how they arrived here and are spread. They also learned about their lifecycle, the similarities and differences between the two species, problems associated with the species, and how adaptations give them an advantage to colonize new areas. What is being done to combat them was also discussed.

The students were very interested and educated about zebra and quagga mussels, and have been studying them in their classroom. Approximately 25 students attended the presentation.

This effort is consistent with the Service's "Aquatic Invasive Species", "Partnerships and Accountability" and "Public Use" priorities of the Fisheries Vision for the Future.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

The Scramble Before the Snow Flies

*Submitted by Heather Rawlings
Fish and Wildlife Biologist*

The fall months are typically the busiest for the Partners for the Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program at the Alpena NFWCO, and this year was no exception. October flew by with the final construction projects of the year wrapping up, landowner site visits for potential 2009 projects, and the scramble to



An Antrim County wetland under construction and almost finished. Pictured are the contractor, Mel Guntzville (left), and the landowner, Jim King (right). Work needs to be completed on the front slope of the wetland, and the site needs to be seeded and mulched. Photo by Heather Rawlings, USFWS.

get all potential projects surveyed before winter got serious about piling up snow. Six potential 2009 wetland sites were surveyed in Emmet, Cheboygan, Otsego, and Alpena counties, and two visits were made to potential stream restoration sites in Antrim and Emmet counties. Four inspections were made to wetland sites that were either in the construction process or had been completed.

In addition to fieldwork, Biologist Heather Rawlings assisted station Fish Passage Coordinator Andrea Ania in writing two fish passage proposals submitted for work in the Upper Black River watershed (Montmorency County, MI), and began preparing proposals for the PFW Program's Fish Habitat Restoration request for proposals due in November.

Completion of aquatic habitat restoration projects such as these are consistent with and supportive of the "Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management" priority of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future.

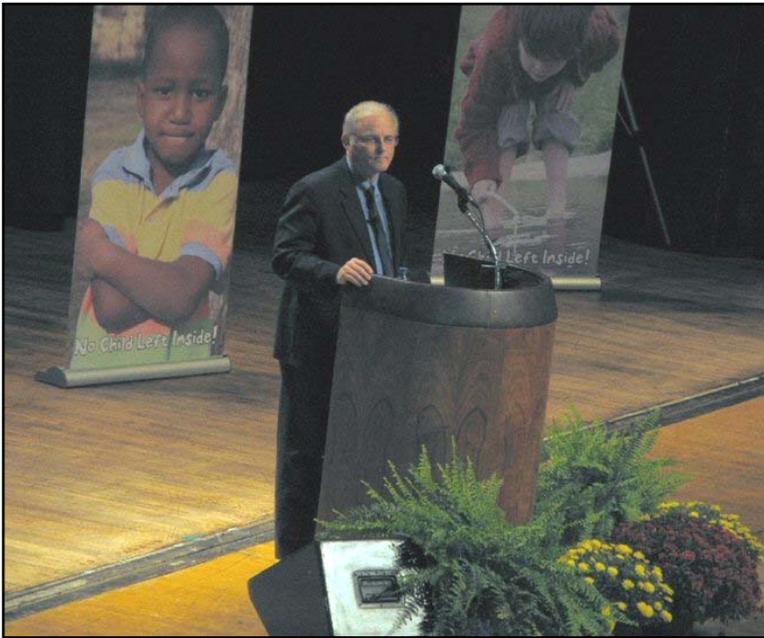
Public Use

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

*Submitted by Andrea Ania
Fishery Biologist*

On October 22, 2008, Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) Biologists Anjanette Bowen, Heather Rawlings, and Andrea Ania attended a special presentation by nationally acclaimed author Richard Louv. The event was held at Michigan State University and hosted by the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Louv used examples from his book, "Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from nature-deficit disorder" to illustrate how children benefit mentally and physically from exposure to nature. The event was well attended (1,000+ people), which can be attributed to the galvanizing effect his book has had on educators, parents, health care providers, and natural resource professionals.

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



Author Richard Louv presenting at Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan. Photo by Heather Rawlings, USFWS.

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/>).

Service attendance at the Richard Louv presentation is consistent with the "Public Use" component of the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future and contributes to the Service's "Let's Go Outside!" children in nature initiative.

Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education Annual Conference

*Submitted by Anjanette Bowen
Fishery Biologist*

On October 11, Biologists Andrea Ania and Anjanette Bowen attended the Saturday session of the 19th Annual Conference of the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) held in Clare, Michigan. The "MAEOE is a professional association supporting and advancing environmental education in a variety of settings, including (but not limited to): K-12 classrooms, nature centers, camps, youth programs, government agencies, as well as for-profit and non-profit organizations." The conference was held from October 10-12, 2008.

The MAEOE conference provided an opportunity for Alpena office staff to learn hands-on environmental educational activities that can be used for in-school curriculum within the Alpena Public School District. Conference break-out sessions that were particularly interesting and useful included: Logistics of Outdoor Field Trips, The Wonder of Weasels, and Flying Wild. These topics provided activity based environmental education examples to help students learn about the outdoors, animal identification and life history characteristics, and migration obstacles. It also provided valuable contact and resource information to assist with teaching the activities presented.



This event provided information that will be useful in teaching students about animals and engaging them in environmental education. This event supports the Service's commitment to the Children and Nature program and the "Public Use" priority of the Fisheries Vision for the Future.

For more information about Alpena NFWCO programs and activities contact us at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
145 Water Street, Federal Building Rm. 204
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: 989-356-5102
Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/>