

# IR3

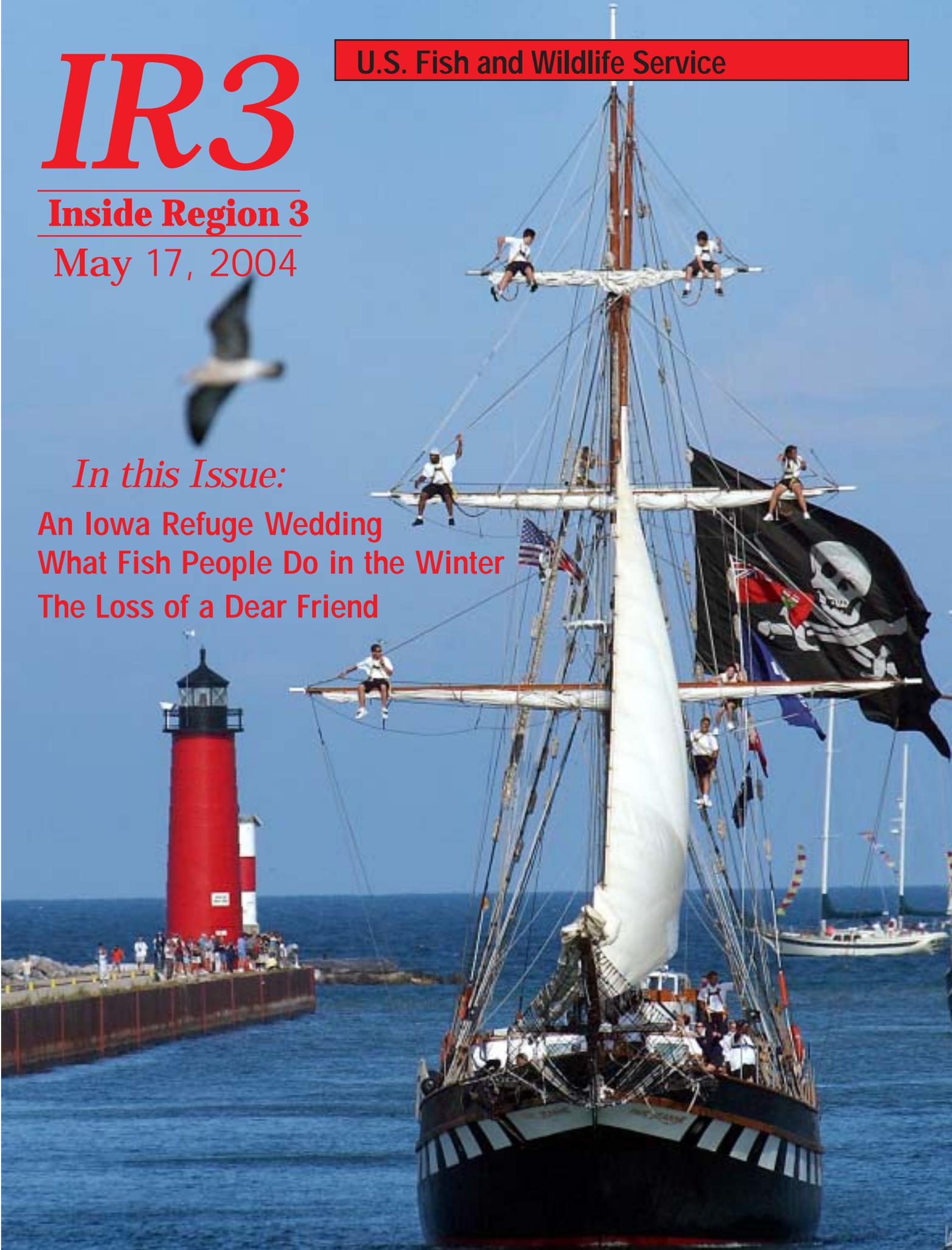
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Inside Region 3**

May 17, 2004

*In this Issue:*

An Iowa Refuge Wedding  
What Fish People Do in the Winter  
The Loss of a Dear Friend



# Regional Director Goes “On the Road Again”

This past month I have started making field visits again, with the onset of hospitable weather and numerous invitations to visit our field stations and attend gatherings associated with our work. It’s wonderful – I’m happy to be on the road again. In the last 30 days, I’ve been to Cleveland, Middle River NWR, Chester, Il., Ottawa NWR, Sioux City, Iowa and downtown St. Paul, Minn.

Why do I invest time and energy in traveling so much?

Because there’s nothing better than personal experience in order to learn about a place, its people, and its issues. When I have the opportunity to visit with you, it helps me be better equipped to provide support for our operations, and it also makes me a more knowledgeable advocate for Region 3 and FWS efforts. In short, I am better informed, and better equipped to do my job, from time spent with you in the field. And in addition to knowledge and skill, visiting with you provides inspiration: when I see what you are doing for natural resource conservation, I increase my commitment to advocacy and support for your work. I am proud to be associated with you.

What does the field get out of these visits? I can’t answer for field stations and staff, but I hope the opportunity to meet with me allows for open dialogue and questions, and to show me what you do and how you do it. I also hope that it provides each of you the chance to arrive at your own answer to the question of “does the Regional Director care about what I do?” Whatever you decide in answer to that question, at least it can be based on interaction,



-USFWS Photos

Regional Director Robyn Thorson gets friendly with an oriole during a recent visit to Ottawa NWR in Ohio.

and not just on rumor or writings from a corner office.

Visiting isn’t limited to field stations. Regional Office programs have generously offered briefings, discussions and interaction that helps me know staff and how we deliver customer services. This past month I have had additional reason to be proud of the Regional Office and field station employees in the Twin Cities who are helping build a Habitat for Humanity house in St. Paul. The generosity of employees in this totally voluntary endeavor has been extraordinary, heart-warming, and important. Sometimes these types of shared, volunteer activities provide the best situations for getting to know the fine people you work with daily at the office. I am proud of this project, and of my colleagues.

It concerns me that having a visit from “the boss” could be an imposition on a station, and an added burden. This led me to ask External Affairs to conduct an informal survey of all field units that I visited last year. Comments were anonymous so that criticism was protected, and in spite of that we still got positive responses! Based on this feedback, employees at

field stations encourage visits by the RD and other Region 3 leaders. I think this is probably due to the pride that you have in the work that you do – rightfully, you want to “show it off.” And I love it! But don’t only show it off to me — show it off to the communities you are in, to the local news media, to your partners. I encourage you to look for every occasion to tell our great FWS story.

The names and faces of people I visit during my Region 3 travels remain bright in my memory, although I admit to having the added help of a journal that I ask all of you to sign when I visit with you. I treasure that journal because it reflects time spent with you – an entire book of names and places (I’m almost ready to start Volume Two). Thank you for the time and effort you contribute to my time on the road. I look forward to seeing you on upcoming visits (and yes, Indiana, I promise to get there this year)!



-USFWS Photo

As he retires, Faber Bland is “blown away” by his retirement party.

### USGS, NPS and FWS Meet in Minneapolis

On May 13, leadership teams from Central and Eastern US Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and Regions 3 and 5 of the Fish and Wildlife Service met in Minneapolis to discuss conservation research needs. Region 3 Regional Director Robyn Thorson provided opening comments. She set the stage for a presentation by Teresa Woods and an in-depth discussion about Region 3's approach for developing a field-driven, comprehensive research agenda. The meeting has paved the way for increased interactions between USGS Science Centers and Fish and Wildlife Service field stations.

### New Engineering Chief Appointed

Rick Frietsche will be the new R3 Chief of the Division of Engineering. He transferred from the Crab Orchard NWR. He finishes his Advanced Leadership Development Program developmental assignment and will be in the Division of Engineering starting May 17.

### About the Cover

This month's cover shot features an images from last year's South-eastern Wisconsin Ecosystem Education Program (SWEEP) during the Kenosha Days of Discovery in Kenosha, Wis. The SWEEP is supported by the Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program, and focuses on youth coastal resource and environmental education for 7-12 year-olds. The photo is of one of eight "tall ships," the *Fair Jeanne* which participated in the program. Photo by Patrick L. Pyska, Kenosha News.

### Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser Rescheduled

For those of you in the Regional Office - don't forget that the Habitat for Humanity walk is scheduled for Thursday, May 20! Be there in your limited edition Habitat Supporter T-shirt and show your support for this worthy cause!

### Windom WMD Gets New Project Leader

Mark Vaniman is the new Project Leader for the Windom Wetland Management District (WMD), in southern Minnesota. Mark is currently the Deputy Project Leader at Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota, and will be relocating to Region 3 with his family during late July. Mark is a graduate of Utah State University and has significant refuge/WMD experience from across the country. In addition to his professional experiences, Mark brings to Windom excellent people/management skills and significant experience working in an agricultural environment with private farmers/ranchers. These attributes coupled with his passion for the resource, make him a great match for the project leader position at Windom WMD.

### Short Takes - Finance, Travel and Administrative News

Omega Travel has informed FWS that, effective May 1, the 877 numbers we were using as alternatives when calling to make reservations will no longer be used. The only number available for Region 3 users is 866-348-9525 (fax 910-989-0990).

The Divisions of Financial Management and Contracting and Facilities Management have worked with Regional financial management and acquisition staffs to develop a supplemental guidance on obligation accounting. All financial actions which will require a future expenditure of Service funds must be obligated during the month in which a legally binding agreement is reached. The guidance can be found at <http://policy.fws.gov/m0240.html>.

### Hail & Farewell

Region 3 is a dynamic organization. Quality employees are continuously coming to the region or leaving for new challenges. Twelve employees have retired since January 1. Each month, we will do our best to publish a list of new employees, as well as those who have retired. Names are provided by the regional Human Resources Office.

This month, we bid farewell to the following retirees: **Faber Bland**, Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery; **Jay Johnson**, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge; and, **Jim Mattsson**, Refuges.

Also this month, we welcome the following new employees: Refuge Ranger/Law Enforcement Officer **John Megan** came to Minnesota Valley NWR April 18 from Region 5.

# Taking Partnership to a New Level

By Scott Ford

Many refuges have friends groups. In one recent instance, the ties that bind the two groups ideologically were taken to lofty new heights.

On a beautiful, sun-drenched early April morning, Nancy Gilbertson and Tom Prall were united in marriage. But it wasn't just any wedding.

Nancy is refuge manager at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, and Tom is the recent past president and still-active board member of the Friends of the Prairie Learning Center. On April 4, the two brought their re-



*Photos courtesy Nancy Gilbertson and Tom Prall*  
Nancy Gilbertson and Tom Prall at their wedding at the Prairie Learning Center.

spective organizations much more closely together.

The Sunday morning gath-

ering was attended by approximately 120 guests, and was held in the Prairie Learning Center. George Scheil, past president of the Friends of Squaw Creek NWR, escorted the bride-to-be down the aisle through the assembled throng of Friends members, refuge volunteers, staff from several refuges, and relatives. Uniting the couple in the civil ceremony was a job entrusted to current Friends President Dave Penning. Penning began the nuptial by welcoming everyone to "the first wedding ever held in the Prairie Learning Center."

After Penning delivered his message to the couple, long time refuge volunteer Ed Wade serenaded them with a rendition of Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender." But the singing did not end there. The bride took center stage and wowed all those in attendance with a stunning solo performance of the upbeat 1954 song "Just In Time" written by Jule Styne. "I wanted to sing something humorous, something that people would enjoy," noted Gilbertson. "The words really reflected how I felt about meeting Tom...I found him just in time!"

The marriage between these two "friends" seemed headed for bigger things, almost from the very beginning. "Tom and I first met three years ago at a Friends board meeting," Gilbertson recalled, "and it just seemed the perfect collaboration between Refuge and Friends."

As the couple begins their transition into married life, the Refuge/Friends "theme" will continue to be an integral part of their daily routines. Their rural Prairie City, Iowa home is directly adjacent to Refuge property.



What's a wedding with a bison? Due to limited seating, all live bison were kept out of the Prairie Learning Center during the ceremony and reception.

# Fisheries Tech Turns Wolf Tracker

By James Anderson and Georgia Parham

James Anderson's regular duties at Sullivan Creek NFH in Michigan's Upper Peninsula don't include traipsing through the snow looking for wolves. But that's how he spent some of this past winter, after Sullivan Creek became part of the Michigan DNR's 2003-2004 wolf survey.

The idea of the hatchery's involvement in the survey was spawned when ES biologist Christie Deloria, helping out at Sullivan Creek last October, noted the hatchery's remote location in Hiawatha National Forest made it a great place to gather wolf information. A few calls among the hatchery, the DNR and Deloria were made, and within a couple of weeks, Sullivan Creek was officially part of the survey.

A former Forest Service Hatchery that raises lake trout, Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery sits five miles down a dirt road in the middle of Hiawatha National Forest, adjacent to the vast Delirium Wilderness Area. The wilderness, accessible only on foot, is a dense network of forest and swamp and is home to fishers,



-USFWS Photo

According to the Michigan DNR, gray wolves are thriving in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Still, catching a glimpse of one is rare.

moose, bobcats, coyotes and bears, and – it turns out – an occasional wolf.

Armed with a packet of maps and information, Anderson, a fisheries technician, spent off-duty winter hours scouting the woods around the hatchery and along the border of Delirium Wilderness Area looking for signs of wolves. From a 4x4 truck, snowmobile, and

on snowshoes, Anderson gathered data on wolf tracks, scat and sightings from November through March, and actually spotted a wolf early on in the survey, which he characterized as “a hair-raising experience.” Anderson's data will be incorporated into Michigan's survey, aimed at gaining a firmer idea of the number of wolves in the UP (the 02-03 estimate was 321).

## DeSoto Hosts Turkey Hunt for Young and Disabled Hunters



-USFWS Photo

Successful turkey hunters show off their birds.

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge held its first wild turkey hunt for youth and disabled hunters. Thirty-five youth and 12 disabled hunters came to the refuge for a weekend hunt April 17-18. The entire refuge was available to the youth hunters. Special handicapped accessible blinds were constructed by the refuge staff and placed for the disabled hunters to use. Lunch was provided for all the hunters on Saturday. In preparing for the hunt, groups such as the Paralyzed Veterans of America and local rehabilitation centers were contacted to make disabled hunters aware of the upcoming hunt. The hunters were extremely excited about the opportunity. Some wheelchair-bound hunters had not been able to hunt since their paralysis due to accessibility problems. The refuge staff really enjoyed having this opportunity to help these hunters along, with many young hunters bagging their first turkey.

# Freaky Frogs Subject of Survey

By Georgia Parham

No, not “Frog Boy” from the cover of the latest newspaper tabloid (Headline: “Frog Baby Chokes on Dragonfly – Mother Says Son Almost Croaked”). These frogs are found in our own back yard – frogs with abnormalities that have prompted a multi-year investigation on refuges and other Service lands nationwide.

Beginning with preliminary surveys in 1997 in Regions 3 and 5, the Service has developed a nationwide survey to collect data on abnormal amphibians at every refuge for at least two years. Region 3’s coordinator for the project, Robin McWilliams Munson in the Bloomington, Indiana, ES office, says the alarm bell on abnormal frogs sounded in 1995 with the now-famous discovery by Minnesota school children of a pond populated by leopard frogs, some of which had extra or missing limbs or other abnormalities. “Some of these were really bizarre-looking animals,” she says. “What we’re looking for in our surveys are any frogs that show any kind of abnormality – extra or missing limbs or toes, or missing eyes, for example.”

In Region 3 over the past four years, the monitoring project has examined frogs on 13 refuges and wetland management districts. Ranids are the primary target, especially leopard frogs, but green frogs and mink frogs may also be studied. ES and Refuge staff, volunteers and interns check frogs in spring and early summer, just as they complete metamorphosis.

Frogs are collected, and any with observable abnormalities may be further analyzed. Some are examined for parasites; others may be x-rayed to determine whether the abnormality was caused by trauma (a predator, for example) or was the result of improper development. Some are checked for potential repro-

ductive affects. Each year 1,500 to 2,000 frogs are examined in the Midwest Region.

“We’ve found abnormal frogs at every Region 3 refuge we’ve checked, and they’ve been found in every region,” Munson said. “We consider a prevalence of greater than three percent to be above what we would



A frog with a disturbing deformity on the underside of its head.

expect to occur in wild populations.” At that level, sampling for an additional year is considered, depending on the abnormalities. If a large number of abnormal frogs is found, a special study may be developed to examine water or sediment quality at the site.

What’s causing the abnormalities? Munson explained that many of the abnormalities are the result of injuries, pigment aberrations, parasite infections, bruising, or other factors, and the presence of abnormal animals (those that aren’t perfect-looking specimens) doesn’t necessarily mean there’s a problem. But there are other factors that might be having an effect: exposure to pollution and contaminants, or climate change, such as acid rain, increased UV light or drought. While there is a focus on determining whether contaminants are playing a role in the apparent increase in abnormal amphibians, Munson says further study is needed. “It’s likely,” she said, “that we’ll find a number of different factors contributing to the problem.”

Munson is eager to involve more refuges in the monitoring project. She says assistance of Refuge personnel has been invaluable in identifying sites to examine as well as monitoring progress of developing frogs. Anyone interested in learning more about the study can contact her at 812-334-4261.



-USFWS Photos

A frog missing a leg - one of the many abnormalities researchers look for.

# Piping Plovers Return to Nest on Great Lakes Beaches; *Beach Users Asked to Help Protect this Endangered Bird*

Piping plovers, the Great Lakes' most endangered birds, have returned from wintering grounds to nest on beaches, and once again, beach users are being asked to help protect this rare species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency responsible for guiding recovery efforts for the plover, is calling on the public to be on the lookout for the piping plover and to take steps to ensure the safety of its eggs and young.

"We and our partners need the public's help to ensure the piping plover is an annual spring visitor and continues to nest on the shores of the Great Lakes," said Jack Dingledine, wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Beach users and others interested in helping the plover can play an integral part in staving off extinction for this bird and helping it move toward recovery."

Piping plovers nest along shorelines of the Great Lakes, and young plovers will be hatching soon. The small, sand-colored chicks hop and run along the shore searching for food. Eggs and newly hatched, flightless chicks are at risk from dogs or beach walkers who may accidentally step on them.

Dingledine said beach users should watch for signs along beaches signaling the presence of piping plovers and comply with any temporary restrictions around nests. He said these may be in place from now through August to give the young a chance to fledge. Those who live along or enjoy Great Lakes beaches should also make sure dogs are under control in areas where plovers may be nesting.

"With only 50 nesting pairs in the Great Lakes area, any accidental losses of eggs or chicks can be devastating for the piping plover," Dingledine said. "That's why we need lots of help from those who live and recreate in this region."

Dingledine said that in addition to taking care not to damage eggs and young, those interested in helping the piping plover can join local volunteer programs to help piping plovers, learn more about other plover recovery efforts, and encourage others to participate.

Piping plovers once nested on the wide beaches of sand and cobble along the shores of all the Great

Lakes. However, because of habitat loss to development and other activities, plovers are now limited primarily to undisturbed shorelines in Michigan and Wisconsin, although they may be spotted in other Great Lakes states during migration. In 2003, wildlife managers counted just 50 nesting pairs. Although plover numbers have increased in the Great Lakes in recent years, the species remains critically imperiled. Recovery efforts focus on maintaining suitable habitat in Great Lakes states in hopes of attracting breeding pairs.

For more information piping plovers and how to help them, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's website at <http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered/>.



-USFWS Photo

Someone, somewhere, is thinking about driving through this piping plover nesting area. When they do, they'll be surprised when they come face-to-face with...JACK DINGLEDINE, Defender of Endangered Shorebirds! Dingledine, a biologist with the East Lansing Field Office, teamed up with External Affairs to produce this press release, educating the public about piping plovers nesting on the Great Lakes shoreline. Immediately following the press release, several media outlets called seeking more information on the piping plover.

# To Honor the Memory of Marlys Bulander.... Big Bertha Flies Again

Big Bertha, a bald eagle that suffered a hair-line fracture to her left wing after striking a power line in February, was released back into the wild near Princeton, Ky., on Saturday, April 24.

Twenty three people attended the ceremony to release Big Bertha and to honor the late Marlys Bulander, a Fish and Wildlife Service employee who dedicated 36 years to educating the public and rehabilitators about proper care for injured birds. Bulander worked in the Fort Snelling, Minnesota (Great Lakes – Big Rivers Region) Migratory Bird Permit Office and recently lost a two-year battle with cancer.

The recovery of Bertha involved the cooperative efforts of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Murray State University's Breaditt Veterinary Center, Louisville, and Eileen Wicker and her staff at the Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky. In addition to the wing fracture, Big Bertha was successfully cured of Asper, a disease or fungus in the air sacs of her lungs.

When Big Bertha was removed from her cage at 11:30 a.m. after a four hour drive from the rehabilitation center, she flew beautifully across the field where she had been initially rescued by Kentucky Conservation Officer Sgt. Ron Haywood, U.S. Fish and Wild-



Eileen Wicker supervises as Bertha is prepared for her release.

life Service Special Agent Gene Moore, City of Princeton Animal Control Officer Kristen Watson, and Jerry Farless, who reported the injured bird in February. After flying approximately 800 yards, she rested until about 1 p.m. and then took flight again, circling the area at approximately 200 to 300 feet. Big Bertha was last seen flying toward the U.S. Forest Service's Land Between the Lakes (LBL) where several known bald eagle nests are located.

During the 1970's and early 1980's LBL was a pioneer site for the re-introduction of endangered bald eagles into the Southeastern United States through the technique of "hacking," which uses man-made nests and feeding (disguised as wild parenting) to raise and release captive bred eagle chicks in a natural manner. Big Bertha may have been a descendant of those hacked birds.

"Today, Big Bertha was

majestic and strong in flight, a true symbol of our great Nation" said Gene Moore, Special Agent for the Service's Office of Law Enforcement in western Kentucky. "Big Bertha's release was a success that would have pleased Marlys, who dedicated her life and career to helping birds, especially raptors of all types."

*This story is taken from a Region 4 press release.*

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***Marlys was a great person with a huge heart who always tried to help other people and to protect the birds. She loved her job. We loved her. We will miss her terribly.***

**-Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds Chief, Region 3**

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*-USFWS Photos by Gene Moore*

Bertha heads for the trees after her release.

## Accomplishment Reports

The following reports were processed between April 15 and May 15, 2004:

**End of the Rainbow Found at Fort McCoy (WI) Army Base**, Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

**Minnesota Valley Refuge Initiates Contaminant Investigation**, Vicki Sherry, Minnesota Valley NWR

**Financial Indicators**, William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

**Enhanced Access to Financial Data Through DataMart**, William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

**Division of Budget and Finance Using the Budget Tracking System**, William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

**Faber Bland Retires After 30+ Years With USFWS**, Crystal LeGault, Pendills Creek NFH

**A Howling Good Time At Sullivan Creek NFH**, James Anderson, Sullivan's Creek NFH

**Thunder Bay Junior High School Career Daze**, Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

**Our (Sky) Dance Card Was Full**, Ron Knopik, Minnesota Valley NWR

**400 Assist In Spring Clean-up At Sherburne NWR**, Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

**Help Stop Great Lakes Invaders**, Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

**Union Slough Celebrates IMBD 2004**, Rebecca Rasmussen, Union Slough NWR

**Friend of Big Muddy Refuge Install New Kiosk**, Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

**Eagan Wildfire Threatens Minnesota Valley NWR**, DJ Rieger, Minnesota Valley NWR

**Earth Day at Neal Smith Refuge**, Scott Ford, Neal Smith NWR

**Hollerich to Receive State Recognition**, Scott Ford, Neal Smith NWR

**Wisconsin Junior Duck Stamp Places in National Top 10**, Molly Mehl, Necedah NWR

**Consultation Begins on Minnesota National Forests' Revised Forest Plans**, Susan Rogers, Twin Cities FO

**FWS Fish Health Centers gather to Advance Science and Technology at NCTC**, Richard Nelson, LaCrosse Fish Health Center

**Youth Hunt Wild Turkey on Refuge Lands**, Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR

**Every Acre Counts!**, Ron Knopik, Minnesota Valley NWR

**Ohio Grizzled Skipper Survey**, Angela Zimmerman, Reynoldsburg FO

**Big Muddy Refuge Completes Missouri Junior Duck Program**, Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

**University students learn about restoration and natural resource damage assessments**, Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

**First Wild Turkey Hunt held on DeSoto Refuge for Youth and Disabled Hunters**, Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

**SITE Demonstration for Dioxin Testing Held at Green Point**, Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

**Partnering for Great Lakes Sustainability**, Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO

**Ashland FRO Assists External Affairs with Processing Tribal Grants**, Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

**Biologists Cast Longer Shadows**, Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO

**Green Bay Fisheries Office Processes Lake Trout Recaptured from Lake Michigan**, Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

**Students of 'Service Learning' Help Complete Steamboat Bertrand Records**, Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

**Two New Links Added To The Ashland FRO Web Page**, Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

**Enlighten the Shadows**, Heidi Keuler, LaCrosse FRO

**Rydell Refuge Volunteers Attack Invasive Species**, Juancarlos Giese, Rydell NWR

**Students Held Captive by River Fauna**, Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO

**Great Lakes Legacy Act Cleanup Proposals for Contaminated Sediment Evaluated**, Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

**Protocol Implemented to Minimize the Effects of Lampricide Treatments on Rare Organisms**, John Heinrich, Marquette Bio Station

**Chamber After Hours Held at DeSoto NWR**, Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

**International Migratory Bird Day Celebrated at Sherburne NWR with Guided Bird Tours**, Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

**Technical Fisheries Committee Provides Final Harvest Limits for Lake Whitefish and Lake Trout**, Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

**Alpena FRO Gears up for Field Season**, Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO

**Career Day - Cooke Elementary School, Detroit, MI**, Tameka Dandridge, East Lansing FO

## Marlys Bulander: A Tribute from the Office of Law Enforcement

*By Kevin R. Adams, Chief of Service Law Enforcement*

Those of us in the Office of Law Enforcement who had the privilege to work with Marlys Bulander know firsthand the depth and endurance of her commitment to protecting migratory birds and the passion and professionalism she brought to her work with the Fish and Wildlife Service. She was a knowledgeable and effective representative of the Service, and exemplary public servant, and a dedicated and tireless advocate for conservation.

For years, Marlys worked as a member of our regional office team responsible for upholding the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other U.S. wildlife laws and regulations in the states of the Great Lakes and Big Rivers region. Although the migratory bird permit section and her position were eventually realigned on the Service's organization chart, she nonetheless remained a valued and highly respected member of the Law Enforcement family.

Year after year, decade after decade, Service special agents dealing with falconers, rehabilitators, and others with birds entrusted to their care were able to turn to Marlys for her expertise and advice. Her thorough understanding of the Service's permitting regulations, her love of migratory birds, and her appreciation of the need for effective enforcement to protect and preserve these national treasures supported our efforts to uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and safeguard avian species that range from raptors to shorebirds.

Our officers in the Midwest long considered Marlys a true advocate for law enforcement and the "heart and soul" of the region's migratory bird permit operation. She fully appreciated the need to regulate the activities of individuals and groups who enjoyed

the privilege of possessing and caring for birds that belong by right to the American people. Her successful efforts to improve and strengthen the Service's permitting standards and regulations made our job as enforcement officers easier and helped the agency better uphold its trust responsibilities.

Marlys will be much missed and long remembered by the many Service special agents who were fortunate enough to call her friend and co-worker. Her legacy lives in the yearly migration of the hundred of bird species that traverse the North American continent. It soars on the wings of eagles, takes flight with ducks and geese in the fall, and echoes in the chorus of the songbirds that return each spring. It lives in the enduring respect and gratitude of those of us in Service Law Enforcement who worked with her side by side to protect the nation's migratory bird resource.

### Have a story or opinion to share?

If so, we want to hear from you. The region has some talented writers, each passionate about what they do for the resource. Each month, IR3 wants to publish letters, essays or opinion pieces from regional employees. Submissions should be no longer than two typed pages and will be subject to editing for clarity and space considerations. Write about anything you feel strongly about, but please know that letter should be appropriate to our audience and in good taste. Email your submission to Scott Flaherty in External Affairs.