



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Inside Region 3

*Information from the Accomplishment Reporting System for June 30 - July 31, 2002*

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## *Inside This Issue*

**Region Conducts Airboat Safety Training on Army Base  
Biological Control of Leafy Spurge Successful  
State Centennial Committee Leaders Meet**

## Regional Airboat Safety Course Gets Off to a Flying Start

Armored personnel carriers, tanks, mine sweepers, helicopters and artillery guns are an everyday sight to Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers who train at Camp Ripley in central Minnesota. What most would consider a unique sight is commonplace at Camp Ripley and barely draws a second look from the troops. However, when a caravan of white U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trucks towing five airboats rolled through the camp, it attracted the attention of most everyone.

The Service was at Camp Ripley during the week of July 15, to conduct an Airboat Safety Certification Course for Region 3 employees who operate airboats as part of their official duties. Recent changes in DOI and Service safety regulations require airboat operators to go through an initial eight-hour safety and operation certification course and have 40 hours of supervised driving time before they are allowed to operate an airboat alone. The new requirements also include a refresher

course every five years. This was the first time the Region has conducted the course and they plan to offer it as needed to ensure all operators have gone through the initial training.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District Manager Bob Drieslein, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge Assistant Manager Dave Bennett, Upper Mississippi - McGregor District Assistant Manager Clyde Male, Upper Mississippi - LaCrosse District Refuge Operations Specialist Bill Thrune, Special Agent John Decker and Genoa National Fish Hatchery Maintenance Worker Dan Kumlin developed, coordinated and instructed the course. Bennett said the Service chose Camp Ripley as the training site for several reasons. "We can't conduct this training on public water because we need to set up obstacle courses and we were concerned that recreational boaters may interfere with the training. Also, these boats are pretty loud and when you get five of them running at



- Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Army National Guard

Dave Bennett, assistant manager at Agassiz NWR, helped organize the course and acted as one of the instructors.

the same time in a small location, it can be overwhelming." Camp Ripley allowed the Service to conduct its training on a lake closed to public access. "This worked out great," said Bennett. "The camp is centrally located, so it allows people from across the Region to attend and we have the entire lake basically to ourselves."

Marty Skoglund, Camp Ripley environmental supervisor, was glad the Service and the National Guard could partner on this project. "We work with the Service to manage the Camp's wolf population and with other wildlife and environmental projects," Skoglund said. "I'm glad we could provide them with the resources and training area they needed to do their job safely."



Students practice deep water, shallow water and marsh driving techniques, as well maneuvering around obstacles and crossing small areas of dry land.

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There are 21 airboats located at field stations across Region 3. The boats are mainly used for biological surveys, research projects, law enforcement and to collect waterfowl or fish that have died.



Each student was able to spend time one-on-one with an instructor during the class. Operators must have 40 hours of supervised driving time before they can "solo" with the airboat.



Airboats can also maneuver over small areas of solid ground.

Twenty-two Region 3 employees from stations in Minnesota and Wisconsin attended the course that included a three-hour classroom session and five hours at the lake for hands-on training. "We go through all the basics of safety, maintenance, operations, loading and unloading, as well as safe trailering techniques in the classroom," said lead instructor Bob Drieslein. "Then we take the students and boats out to the lake and have them actually do it."

As part of the course, students operated the airboat while an onboard instructor evaluated their performance. Students loaded and unloaded the boat, navigated through an obstacle course, crossed over small islands, practiced shallow and deep water operations, navigated through heavy vegetation and turned in confined areas.

Region 3 has 21 airboats at various locations. The Service uses airboats for biological surveys, research projects, law enforcement, to collect waterfowl or fish that have died and even for the occasional search and rescue operation. Airboats are often the only way Service employees can access swamps, marshes and low-depth areas of rivers and lakes.

A second certification course was held July 30 - 31 in Illinois for 24 students. Additional classes will be scheduled next year. *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*



- Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Army National Guard

While the airboat training was being conducted, the National Guard also used the lake to help train helicopter pilots to load water buckets for fire fighting operations.

# State Committee Chairs Kick-off Centennial Planning Effort

Planning and organization efforts for a celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial in Region 3 took a large step forward with the recent formation of committees for each the region's eight states. Committee chairpersons kicked off the Centennial planning during a organization meeting July 31 at the Regional Office.

As part of a region-wide celebration, the state committees were formed in June to bring the Centennial celebration to the states. The committees are led by a refuge manager or refuge staff person and include members of each field office in the state, including fisheries, ecological services, law enforcement and private lands.

The regional management team showed its support for state Centennial

efforts by taking time to address the committee chairs and offering the support of their programs toward the overall success of Centennial events and projects in the states. Attendees also received tips on how to work with congressional offices and staffs from Jane West, legislative affairs specialist. Contracting guidance was provided by Bob Hanson and Clark Bartelt from the Division of Contracting and General Services.

State committees are charged with planning Centennial events for each state, including a large state-wide focus event during the Centennial year, which runs from March 14, 2003 to March 14, 2004. The committees will provide a comprehensive list of events to the Region in mid-September. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

## Fish Population Survey Conducted at Whittlesey Creek Refuge



- USFWS photo

Ashland FRO Biologist Frank Stone (left) and Wisconsin DNR Biologist Bill Blust assisted in the fish population survey on the refuge.



- USFWS Photo by Chuck Traxler

The Region 3 State Committee Leaders take a break from their planning session in the Regional Office to pose with Puddles. Back row left to right: Scott Flaherty, External Affairs; Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR (MI); Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR (MO); Lee Herzberger, Muscatatuck NWR (IN); Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR (WI). Front row: Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR (MN); Rebecca Hinkle, Ottawa NWR (OH); Puddles the Blue Goose; Nancy Gilbertson, Neal Smith NWR (IA); and Rick Frietsche, Crab Orchard NWR, filling in for Pam Steinhaus, Upper Miss. NWFR (IL).

Six days of barge shocking and backpack electrofishing surveys were conducted in Whittlesey Creek to obtain population estimates for salmon and trout species. Staff members from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ashland Fishery Resources Office and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge joined efforts to collect this important fish population information. Data collected help determine if coaster brook trout can be reintroduced into Whittlesey Creek. This survey was part of the Lake Superior restoration plan to restore coaster brook trout in Lake Superior and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Once collected, the fish were fin clipped, length data was recorded and they were returned to the creek. Additional population estimates will be scheduled again next summer. *Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

## Chicago Field Office Discovers Increase in the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Populations

The last week of June and the first week of July are when the federally threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucopaea*) typically flowers and is easiest to find. This short window of time is crucial to the staff of the Chicago Field Office, as it is the best time to collect demographic information and to hand-pollinate the orchid. Hand pollination of the orchid is conducted to increase seed production of this threatened species. Last year, two out of the three sites yielded 19 individual plants each; this year, one of those sites had 51 plants and another site had a whopping 84 plants. Needless to say, the staff could have used an extra week of

time for pollination, but they were still able to complete the task. The increase in population from 19 plants to 84 plants shows that something must be going right, but no one can say exactly what. Possibilities for the abrupt one-year increase are likely weather or pollinator related.

Along with the regularly scheduled hand pollination efforts this year, Chicago Field Office staff assessed existing habitat conditions and used a new Global Positioning System unit to plot polygons of potential orchid habitat. This information will be downloaded to create more accurate habitat location maps of federally threatened and endangered species. Currently, the office is working to plot all federally threatened or endangered species sites within the six counties surrounding Chicago.

In addition to the hand pollination



- USFWS photo by Cathy Pollack

Chicago Field Office Student Kristy Mielcarek carefully hand pollinates an eastern prairie fringed orchid.

and collection of demographic data that the Chicago Field Office conducts, June Keibler and The Nature Conservancy have organized an army of volunteers to carry out the same work on other orchid sites for the last nine years. This cooperation with the Chicago office has led to an increase in the number and distribution of the eastern prairie fringed orchid. Thanks to the commitment of volunteers, researchers, county and state partners and employees of the Chicago Field Office, recovery efforts for the eastern prairie fringed orchid continues with success.

*Cathy Pollack, Chicago FO*



- USFWS photo

The eastern prairie fringed orchid produces flower stalks up to 47 inches tall with up to 40 white flowers about one inch long on each stalk. The flower occurs in fewer than 60 sites, mostly east of the Mississippi River.

## Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, To Learn About Surface Mining We Go



- USFWS photo

Staff members from the Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Office visited an active mine to gain a better understanding of how mines can effect fish and wildlife resources.

In order to get a closer look at surface mining projects, Reynoldsburg Ohio Field Office staff along with Office of Surface Mining staff, participated in a tour of an active surface mining site near the town of Adamsville, located in southeastern Ohio.

The mining company led the group through various phases of mining, from pre-mining conditions to active mining sites to reclamation areas. Use of various machinery for mining

such as drag-lines and augers were observed, along with the techniques and machinery utilized in reclamation procedures.

The visit was educational and will lead to improved coordination regarding mining activities and the Service. *Myra Miyoshi, Reynoldsburg FO*

## Lake Erie Water Snakes Return to Green Island

Researchers and biologists have confirmed that Lake Erie water snakes, a federally listed threatened species, have returned to Green Island, the first confirmed sightings in more than 20 years. Green Island is a 17.1-acre island located one mile west of South Bass Island in Lake Erie, Ohio.

The snake is found only in the western basin of Lake Erie and resides on the limestone islands found in this area. Most of Green Island is owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife, which manages it as a wildlife refuge. Surveys of the island in the 1930s and 1940s identified the snake on the island; however, repeated surveys in the 1980s and 1990s found that the snake had been extirpated. On a visit to the island this July, researchers from Northern Illinois University and Service employees captured 10 Lake Erie water snakes and implanted them with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, and observed nine more snakes that were not captured.

The majority of snakes caught on

the island were females. Females are more likely to be basking in the sun this time of year, because they need the heat of the sun to digest their food and for growth and development of their young. Researchers can only guess why the snakes may have disappeared from the island, or why they have now returned. Small islands are highly susceptible to extinction events, meaning that one drastic event can wipe out an entire population. Recent increases in the snake's population at South Bass Island State Park could have resulted in snakes immigrating to Green Island and establishing a

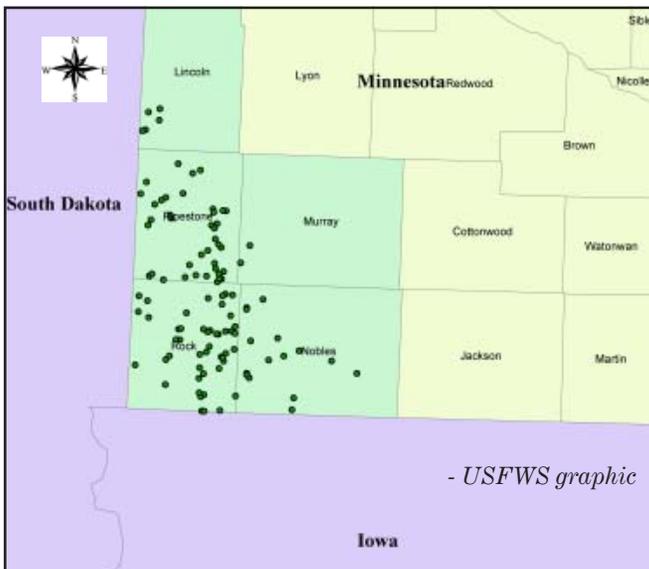
reproducing population. Although we do not always understand the snakes' behavior, one thing is certain, the snakes have returned to Green Island. *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*



- USFWS photo

Reynoldsburg Field Office Biologist Megan Seymour (right) holds a water snake while a researcher from Northern Illinois University injects it with a PIT tag. The tag allows researchers to study the snake's movement.

## Twin Cities ES Biologists Discuss Topeka Shiner Critical Habitat Proposal



Twin Cities Field Office's Field Supervisor Dan Stinnett and Endangered Species Coordinator Phil Delphey conducted a two-day, six-county tour of southwest Minnesota, July 22-23, to meet with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil

Minnesota counties with existing Topeka shiner populations.

and Water Conservation District staff to provide information about the pending proposal of critical habitat for Topeka shiner.

During these meetings, Stinnett and Delphey provided information about the regulatory effect of critical habitat designation, what this would mean to private landowners, and provided some details regarding the proposal, which is slated for August 2002. They also discussed specific actions that landowners and agencies could pursue to conserve this endangered prairie fish. *Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities FO*

## Wisconsin Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Monitoring Indicates Success

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program began in Wisconsin in 1987 and to date has completed more than 5,000 grassland and wetland restoration projects on more than 21,000 acres of private land. Monitoring of project success has been conducted as time permitted by project biologists, but a systematic statewide evaluation has not been undertaken until recently.

This report summarizes the results of a monitoring and program assessment project that used both landowner surveys and field visits to evaluate habitat quality and landowner acceptance of the Partners Program.

In 2001, 351 program participants were randomly selected from throughout the state and were sent a landowner survey.

Eighty percent of the surveys received by landowners were completed and returned. Site visits were conducted from May to November for those landowners indicating an interest in participating in the study. Project sizes in the study ranged from 0.5 acres to 41 acres, with the majority of projects in the one-to-10 acre range.

Site specific variables that were evaluated included: number of failed

projects and their causes; floristic diversity; vegetative quality; wildlife use; wetland class and hydrology; adjacent land use; and, practices applied.

Sixty-eight percent of the landowners responded that they were fully satisfied with their participation in the Partners program. Eleven percent were not satisfied, many of these involved wetland restorations that seasonally dry out or prairie plantings that failed to establish. Eighty-nine percent of respondents plan to maintain their projects beyond the expiration of the project agreement. Fifty-eight percent believed they had additional habitat restoration opportunities on their land. Grassland projects had a success rate of 58 percent with the primary cause of failure being competition from non-native grasses and legumes or invasive weed species. Wetland projects showed significantly higher success with 81 percent fully or partially successful.



Damage and failure was due to four causes in roughly equal proportion:

1. structural failure from muskrat or beaver damage;
2. poor design or construction methods;
3. soil structure and permeability that yields weak or absent wetland hydrology; or,
4. management influences such as excessive grazing/trampling, conversion to deep pond, etc.

Wetland projects were categorized as either restoration, enhancement or type conversion. Approximately 28 percent of the projects were restoration only, 64 percent restoration and/or enhancement and eight percent conversion of wetland type. Completed wetlands were shallow emergent or deep-water marsh (74 percent), wet meadow or low prairie (18 percent) and shrub or forested (eight percent). Landowners reported high wildlife use, especially for migratory birds. Waterfowl broods were observed during the survey on 21 percent of all wetlands, one acre or larger, during the brood-rearing period (May -August) and a total of 33 bird species were recorded on all monitored sites. *James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Office*



- USFWS photo

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologists work directly with landowners to develop management plans that meet the needs of the landowner and wildlife. The land remains in private ownership.

## Minnesota Celebrates Latest Winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Content

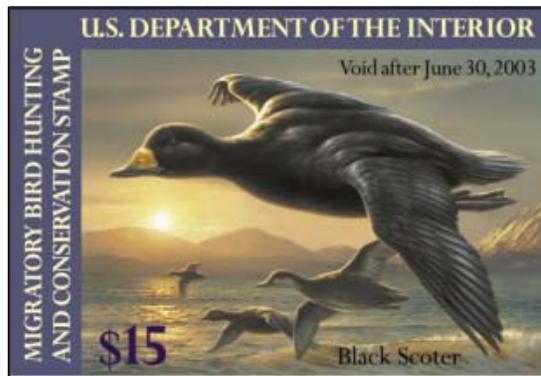
The Home State Ceremony for Minnesota resident Joe Hautman, winner of the 2002-2003 Federal Duck Stamp contest, was held July 10, at the Wild Marsh Golf Club near Buffalo, Minn.

The Home State Ceremony traditionally follows the annual First Day of Sale, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is held July 1 in Washington, D.C., to honor the Federal Duck Stamp artist.

The Minnesota Home State Ceremony for Hautman consisted of a golf tournament, a silent auction, dinner and a ceremony to recognize his accomplishment in winning the Federal Duck Stamp design contest.

The Home State Ceremony, in cooperation with conservation partners, also generates funds for a habitat project chosen by the artist.

Hautman carries on a tradition of excellence for Minnesota wildlife artists. Artists born or raised in Minnesota have now won 18 times, including 12 times in the past 23



2002-2003 Federal Waterfowl Stamp.  
Joseph Hautman Artist

years, in this highly competitive national contest. Joe, along with two of his brothers, Bob and Jim, have contributed significantly to this record: All are multiple winners, and between them they have won seven of the last 13 contests.

Partners who contributed to this

successful event included the Hautman Brothers, Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Turn in Poachers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Providing gifts for fund-raising were Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Pheasants Forever and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Duck Stamp Office.

The event attracted 62 golfers, and almost 120 guests attended the dinner and ceremony. Funds raised during the event will be matched by partners, then submitted for a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant to assist the Joe Hautman Habitat Restoration Project.

Mike McGinty, executive director of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, was the master of ceremonies for the evening's program. Speakers included Bill Hartwig, regional director of the Service; Fred Naaktgeboren, mayor of Buffalo; Vaughn Collins, newly appointed chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office; Bill Anderson, president of the Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club; and Mark Chase, manager of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District.

The evening closed with the artist thanking the committee for such a wonderful celebration along with the numerous contributions made, as well as autographing stamps cancelled that evening by the U.S. Postal Service.

The Joe Hautman Federal Duck Stamp Ceremony and Golf Tournament will assist in the restoration of land purchased by the Service. During the presentation by Chase, he explained how the restoration project will be conducted.

The 350-acre federal tract will be



- USFWS photo by Scott Flaherty

Winning artist Joe Hautman talked about his appreciation of waterfowl and thanked guests for attending. Funds raised by this event will help restore waterfowl habitat in Minnesota.

managed as a waterfowl production area (WPA) after it is restored. Located in Becker County, the WPA will be open to public recreation, including hunting, wildlife observation, hiking and photography.

An estimated 25 wetlands and approximately 300 acres of native grassland will be restored on the WPA to enhance habitat for waterfowl, ground-nesting birds and resident wildlife.

The Joe Hautman Habitat Restoration Project, one-half mile from the Jim Hautman Habitat Restoration Project, links a habitat corridor from Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge, on the south, with Helliksen Prairie WPA, on the north, to other waterfowl production areas and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife management areas.

Since the 1780s, approximately 42 percent (6.4 million acres of wetlands) of Minnesota's original 15-million-plus acres of wetlands have been drained. Lands purchased by the Service using Federal Duck Stamp revenues generally require extensive construction to alter man-made drainage and development impacts. *Anne Shea, External Affairs*

# Biological Control of Leafy Spurge Successful at Fergus Falls WMD

No leafy spurge was sprayed this year on Fergus Falls Wetland Management District lands!

Refuge Manager Kevin Brennan said that in the past 26 years that he has been in refuges, he does not recall one year that the refuge he was on did not spray leafy spurge. He also stated that 20 years ago he would not have believed this possible.

All previously sprayed sites and all previous bio-control sites were monitored. Nearly 140 sites were checked, evaluated and ranked for spurge beetle releases. Fifty-eight of the sites monitored were prior releases, and four of those sites were supplemented with more beetles. Sixty-one new releases were made including the four supplemental sites. A total of 199,500 beetles were released on those 61 sites.

Sixteen more sites were evaluated for future releases; right now, the patches of spurge were not large enough to sustain a population of beetles.

These patches for future release will be allowed to grow over the next couple years and, when large enough, beetles will be released on them.

All of the beetles released were harvested from five former release sites and many of those sites will be harvested again next year. Another 71,000 beetles were collected and given to Wilkin County via a cooperative agreement.

Staff put great effort into the leafy spurge monitoring and releases this year. “We have successfully become self-sufficient for biological control of leafy spurge, said Brennan. “We produce our own beetles, harvest our own beetles and relocate our own beetles to new spurge sites and are doing enough of it that we can discontinue spraying this highly invasive noxious weed.”

Many release sites that were filled with leafy spurge no longer have any spurge on them at all. Staff will continue to monitor these sites to determine what happens after the spurge is gone.

Although this seems like a great success, many questions still remain. Can a site sustain a small population of beetles and then explode after



- USFWS photo by Stacy Salvevold  
These before (top) and after photo show how beetles can effectively eliminate leafy spurge.



- USFWS photo  
Hungry, Hungry Beetles

seeds begin to germinate again? Do beetles survive at all after they wipe out a patch of spurge?

The Service hopes these sites will provide answers. For now, the district is not spraying leafy spurge, and the weeds are slowly being eradicated from Service land by tiny flea beetles

Brennan added, “Flea beetles are truly a spectacular success story for noxious weed biological control.”  
*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD*

## A Family Tradition -- Other Winning Federal Duck Stamps by The Hautman Family



1990-1991 Stamp by James Hautman



1992-1993 Stamp by Joseph Hautman



1995-1996 Stamp by James Hautman



1997-1998 Stamp by Robert Hautman



1999-2000 Stamp by James Hautman



2001-2002 Stamp by Robert Hautman

## Two Rivers Refuge Begins Initial Swan Lake Drawdown

A wildlife habitat enhancement project is underway at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge that will improve future conditions for fish and wildlife at Swan Lake in Calhoun County, Ill. As one of the largest backwater lakes along the Illinois River, Swan Lake was historically a haven for resident fish and wildlife as well as a valuable stopover for wetland-dependant migrating birds.

Construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the lock and dam system on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers resulted in the flooding of many shallow water areas, including the Swan Lake wetland complex, and changed the area from a diverse mosaic of wetlands to one continuous deep water lake. This project will allow Refuge staff to recreate the historic shallow water conditions on 2,600 acres in the heart of the Mississippi River flyway.

“We are attempting to restore a habitat condition that hasn’t existed for at least a few decades. No one has seen the bottom of Swan Lake since the original lock and dam #26 was completed in the late 1930s,” said Refuge Manager John Mabery.

Long term benefits of this en-

hancement project should include vast improvement in the Lake’s fishery resources, which currently supports almost entirely rough fish like Asian carp, shad and gar. Through consolidation of the sediments in the lake bottom, the increased emergent vegetation, and improved water quality, this project should make the area more attractive to a variety of fish species including sport fish such as bass, bluegill and crappie. Once reconnected, the lake’s fish population will be replenished by fish re-entering from the Illinois River.

One of the short-term benefits is the thousands of acres of shallow water and mud flats created during the drawdown. These mud flats have attracted large numbers of wading birds and shorebirds like herons, egrets and sandpipers.

This drawdown effort follows



- USFWS photo

Large pumps are installed to allow the refuge to control water levels

completion of a joint project between the Service, Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that will allow managers to control water levels in Swan Lake and the adjoining Fuller Lake and reduce sedimentation entering the Illinois River. Using water control structures installed as part of the project, seasonal variations in water levels which no longer occur naturally can be imitated. Periodic drawdowns of lake levels will solidify the lake bottom, improve aquatic plant production and reduce turbid water conditions.

*Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR*



- USFWS photos



Controlling the water level allows managers to restore 2,600 acres to natural shallow water and mud flat conditions.

Only a few weeks after the initial drawdown, native vegetation began to grow and large numbers of wading and shorebirds moved into the area.

## First-Ever Region 3 Visitor Services Workshop Held at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Visitor services professionals from every state in Region 3 gathered at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, in Fergus Falls, Minn., during the last week of June for the first Visitor Services Workshop held in the Region. More than 65 representatives from refuges and wetland management districts attended presentations and participated in small group discussions all focused on how to better the visitor experience on Service lands.

Sessions on volunteers, friends groups and other partners, special events, environmental education, interpretation and how to work with

law enforcement were enthusiastically received and generated many small-group discussions to share successes and solve problems. The attendees consisted of project leaders, park rangers, outdoor recreation planners, volunteers and regional office staff – each bringing a unique perspective to the group.

Regional Chief of Refuges Nita Fuller led a motivating discussion on the Centennial and had the entire group fired up to make 2003 a year full of special programs and events to raise the profile of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Regional Chief of Visitor Services Donna Stanek presented a practical session on career paths for visitor services

professionals. And George Hoffman -- long-time “friend” of Region 3 -- gave an update on the progress of Friends Groups on a



- USFWS photos

Refuge Supervisors Don Hultman (left) and Jim Leach thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed that visitor services are more important than ever as the Centennial approaches.



Refuge Chief Nita Fuller had a chance to talk one-on-one with Charlie Marshall, Squaw Creek NWR, and many other visitor services professionals during the workshop.



Of course there was time for a little fun too.

local, regional and national level.

Perhaps the most productive aspect of the entire workshop was the opportunity to share successes and problem solve with such a diverse group. Between regional office staff volunteers and field personnel, the entire group left with a renewed enthusiasm and commitment to enhancing the visitor experience in the National Wildlife Refuge System.  
*Ken Garrahan, PWLC*

## Where's Puddles?



- USFWS photo

Rice Lake NWR recently had Puddles attend the Aitkin, Minn., County Fair. *Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR*



- USFWS photo

Puddle also oversaw the July 23 “Jr. Refuge Manager Academy” graduation held at Shiawassee NWR. *Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*



- USFWS photo by Cindy Myer

Puddles even managed to find some quiet time and took a walk with DeSoto NWR Volunteer Steve Tyler (left) and a visitor during the refuge's 2nd Annual Refugefest. *Cindy Myer, DeSoto NWR*

## Maryville University Students Study "Life on the Mississippi"

Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge was one of many stops for Maryville University environmental education students studying "Life on the Mississippi." Course instructor Nadine Ball arranged a 10-day, 83 river-mile canoe trip down the Mississippi River to show the complexities of environmental issues with an emphasis on the interactions between social/cultural, economic and ecological needs along the river. As part of the trip, students had the opportu-



- USFWS photo

Assistant Refuge Manager Candy Chambers (right) talks about the issues facing the Clarence Cannon NWR.

nity to visit and tour communities, businesses, conservation areas and other sites to learn about their history, purpose and impact related to the Mississippi.

Assistant Manager Candy Chambers presented information about the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Great River/Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuges. Information presented included the impacts and management of the refuge as it relates to the Mississippi River, in addition to an overview of the current studies conducted at the refuge. Florence Cocayne, student intern for the study of secretive marshbirds on the refuge, provided a demonstration of the call broadcast survey technique and took the group into a moist soil unit in search for nests. The group had the opportunity to view a king rail, red-winged blackbird and sedge wren nest, but was unsuccessful in finding the nest of a least bittern which flushed from a clump of common bur-reed.

*Candace Chambers, Great River NWR*

## Seney Refuge Celebrates Two Birthdays on One Day



- USFWS Photo

Seney National Wildlife Refuge helped celebrate America's birthday and promote the upcoming National Wildlife Refuge System birthday at three separate 4th of July celebrations.

Refuge staff, volunteers and interns, as well as members of the Seney Natural History Association, helped make a Centennial float that was shown in the three parades. Staff also had the chance to talk with local residents about the refuge system.

The float was seen by an estimated 9,000 people. *Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*

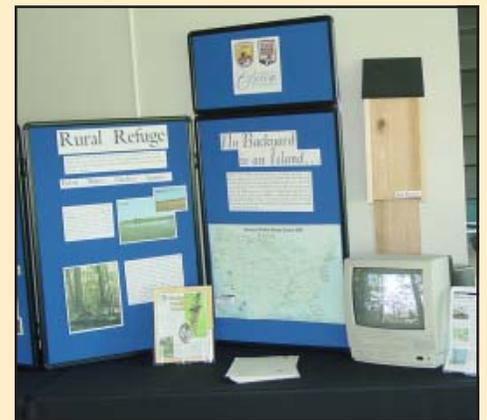
## Backyard Wildlife Exhibit on Display at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

A backyard wildlife exhibit was recently completed at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Wis. The Service, a partner at the center, developed the display for the center. The display encourages people to create wildlife habitat in their backyard, no matter the size, and ties backyard wildlife habitat to our system of national wildlife refuges. A refuge system Centennial message is included. Service student employee, Frank Nebenburgh, developed the display.

More than 100,000 people visit

the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center each year. Most are tourists who are seeking information about Lake Superior and recreational opportunities in and around the region -- a unique opportunity for the refuge to educate a sector of the public we often cannot reach.

The center also provides natural and cultural history about the upper Great Lakes. The Service's headquarters for Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge is located at the center. *Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*



- USFWS photo

A new display and Whittlesey Creek NWR encourages visitors to turn their backyard into a refuge.

## Fishery Survey Conducted at Big Stone Refuge Finds Increased Fish Populations

Heidi Roesler and Scott Yess of the La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office assisted Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Manager Brett Wehrle with a fishery survey conducted on the refuge.

The refuge's east pool was electrofished and both gill and trap nets were also deployed. Results indicated a noticeable increase in the number and size of game species such as walleye, largemouth bass and northern pike. This increase could be attributed to the mild winters southern Minnesota has experienced over the last few years.

Additional sites were added on tributaries to the east pool for this survey and will remain as part of the long-term monitoring program. The survey is part of an effort to monitor non-game species population trends on the refuge to help form management options. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*



- USFWS Photo

Heidi Roesler and Scott Yess of the LaCrosse FRO display one of the walleye's captured, assessed and released at Big Stone NWR.

## Big Oaks Refuge Completes Butterfly Survey - Record High Numbers Reported

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge completed a North American Butterfly Association count on July 20th.

The North American Butterfly Association organizes the July count to monitor population size and geographical distributions of specific butterfly species. Count methodology requires a 15-mile diameter circle to be used as the count area. Refuge staff and 15 volunteers braved the extreme heat to count butterflies on the refuge.

A record number of 47 species and 2,915 individual butterflies were found. The number of individual butterflies found during the refuge survey almost doubled the number of butterflies counted by another Indiana survey group.

The abundance of butterflies on the refuge is a reflection of the high quality habitat and sound management practices utilized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR*



- USFWS photo

Big Oaks NWR in southern Indiana counted a record number of butterflies during a July 20 North American Butterfly Association count.

## A Message From the Inside Region 3 Editor

I would like to thank all the dedicated field staff who continue to send in timely reports and high quality photos. I wish I could highlight every story and every photo sent in, unfortunately there just is not enough room.

I use as many reports and photos as I can in order to highlight a wide variety of programs and field stations in each issue.

If you send in a report or photo and it does not get used for the Inside Region 3, remember that accomplishment reports are still maintained in the system. These reports are used by supervisors, managers and Regional Office staff for many different reports and informational products distributed within the Service as well as to our friends, partners and members of Congress. The photos are also maintained in a library and used for many purposes.

So, keep entering reports and sending me photos...they will help us succeed in our mission of conserving fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.

### Inside Region 3 Tip:

Reports must be timely to be included in the Inside Region 3. Each issue runs about one month behind. i.e., This issue includes only those reports with an accomplishment date (not the date you submit the report) from June 30 - July 31. The next issue will include reports with accomplishment dates of July 31 - August 31. *Reports outside these time frames are less likely to be included.*

## Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between June 30 and July 31, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

### **DCR Staff Provides EEO Training to Mingo Job Corps and Mingo Refuge**

*Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)*

### **Financial Training for Administrative Professionals**

*William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

### **July Diversity Report**

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

### **Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, Service and Office of Surface Mining Hit the Mines**

*Myra Miyoshi, Reynoldsburg FO*

### **Service Helps Coast Guard Keep Lake Huron Sport Fishers Safe**

*Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO*

### **State Committee Chairs Kickoff Centennial Planning Effort**

*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

### **Fish Population Estimate Conducted for Whittlesey Creek**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### **Park Opening and Habitat Restoration Completed in Saginaw Bay Watershed**

*Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO*

### **Centennial Celebration Eyeing 'Wild Night at the Wild'**

*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

### **Design for New Stocking Vessel Reviewed**

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

### **Alpena FRO Staff Present to Exchange Club**

*Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO*

### **Diversity Report**

*Dale Bast, Iron River NFH*

### **Maryville University Students Study "Life on the Mississippi"**

*Candace Chambers, Great River NWR*

### **Kids' Fishing Clinic Held at Green Point Environmental Learning Center**

*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*

### **Mosquito Run at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center**

*Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

### **Chicago Field Office Discovers Increase in the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Populations**

*Cathy Pollack, Chicago FO*

### **External Affairs Upgrades News Dissemination System**

*Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

### **Inside Region 3 Continues to Inform Public, Partners and Congress**

*Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

### **Malformed Frog Surveys Conducted at Fergus Falls Wetland District**

*Judy Edwards, Twin Cities FO*

### **Lake Erie Water Snakes Return to Green Island**

*Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*

### **First-Ever Junior Refuge Manager Academy at Shiawassee Refuge Graduates Nine Students**

*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*

### **Twin Cities ES Biologists Discuss Topeka Shiner Critical Habitat Proposal**

*Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities FO*

### **Fish Collection on Shacte Creek Helps Maintain Healthy Fish Stocks**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

### **Big Oaks Refuge Completes Butterfly Survey - Record High Numbers Reported**

*Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR*

### **Wisconsin Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Monitoring Indicates Success**

*James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*

### **Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts Earth Stewards Workshop**

*Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

### **Fishery Survey Conducted at Big Stone Refuge Finds Increased Fish Populations**

*Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

### **EA Helps Coordinate Press Conference, Logistic Support During Director's Visit to Minnesota**

*Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

### **Backyard Wildlife Exhibit on Display at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center**

*Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*

### **Regional Airboat Safety Course Gets Off to a Flying Start**

*Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

### **Upward Mobility Position**

*William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)*

### **Service Joins Black River Falls Community for Karner Blue Butterfly Festival**

*Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*

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**Metzger Marsh is the Focus of "Wild Ohio"**

*Susan Wells, Ottawa NWR*

**Outreach - Asian Carp Press Event in Chicago**

*Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Hosts Take A Kid Fishing Event**

*Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Friends of Horicon Refuge Celebrate Their First Birthday**

*Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*

**Muscatatuck and Big Oaks Refuges Host Centennial Exhibit at Jennings County Fair**

*Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Biological Control of Leafy Spurge Successful at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District**

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

**Congressional Representatives Briefed on Habitat Conservation Planning on Kelleys Island, Ohio**

*Mary Knapp, Reynoldsburg FO*

**ABA Establishes Team to Address Workplace Concerns**

*Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)*

**Home State Ceremony Celebrates Minnesota's Latest Winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Content**

*Anne Shea, External Affairs*

**Kids Learn Sea Lampreys Suck"**

*john heinrich, Marquette Biological Statio*

**Horicon Refuge American White Pelican Colony Growing**

*Diane Penttila, Horicon NWR*

**First Successful Eagle Fledgeling at DeSoto Refuge**

*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Holds Migratory Bird Festival**

*Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Holds May Day Bird Count on International Migratory Bird Day**

*Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR*

**Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Releases Lake Trout Into Lake Michigan**

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

**Safe Travel For Lake Trout Distribution Vehicles**

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

**Muscatatuck Refuge Hosts Conservation Field Days**

*Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR*

**DeSoto Refuge Commemorates Lewis and Clark**

*Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR*

**Lake Trout Released in Lake Huron by Jordan River National Fish Hatchery**

*Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH*

**Ashland Fisheries Resource Office Challenge Cost-Share Program**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**New Missouri River Trawl Research Vessel Completes First Voyage**

*Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO*

**Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Featured in Otter Tail Power Newsletter**

*Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

**More Than 100 Canada Geese Banded at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge**

*Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR*

**Two Rivers Refuge Begins Initial Swan Lake Drawdown**

*Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR*

**Mussel and Fishery Surveys on the Sherburne Refuge**

*Frank Stone, Ashland FRO*

**Meadows WPA/Manston Slough WMA Hydrology Researched for Possible Restoration**

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Share Successes With North American Prairie Conference**

*Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*

**No New Sightings of Ruffe Reported in Lake Superior During Spring 2002**

*Gary Czynpinski, Ashland FRO*

**Ashland FRO Expands Private Lands Habitat Restoration Coverage**

*Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

**Cub Scouts Work Toward Earning Conservation Badge**

*Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc*

**Service and Bay Mills Indian Community Conduct Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron**

*Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO*

**Shiawassee Refuge Hosts Annual Summer Discovery Camp**

*Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*

**Lake Trout Broodstock Retired To Bluer Waters**

*Donald Wiley, Pendills Creek NFH*

**Rice Lake Refuge Site of Search and Rescue Effort**

*Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR*

**Region 3 Visitor Services Workshop Held at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center**

*Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC*



**Inside Region 3  
August 2002**

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