



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

December 2009



Year End

USFWS Photo by Walt Ford.

Editor's Note:

Connecting with nature does not look the same for everyone. Connecting with nature means different things to different people. For some, it's hunting and fishing. For others, it's walking in the woods or on the beach. What does your nature encounter look like? We want to know. To that end, we have added a regular section called Let's Go Outside!

We invite you to submit personal nature encounters as experienced by you and your children, as well as innovative ideas on how to connect with nature. We will run your accounts in this feature segment.

Please submit your youngsters' stories and photos to our regular section: Kid's Corner. Kid's Corner features the nature writing and photographic pieces by the children of regional employees.

E-mail: valerie_redmond@fws.gov with your Let's Go Outside! and Kids Corner articles, photos, journal entries and poems.

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Title of Photograph: Long Winter
Photo by: Walt Ford, Refuge Manager, Rice Lake NWR

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A Year in Review

The year's end is a perfect opportunity to pause, reflect and remember. If we don't take a moment to look at where we've been and what we've done, milestones, challenges and victories can soon fade from memory. On December 10, we'll spend some time as a Region to broadcast a Year in Review presentation, where we'll highlight the many accomplishments that you have made over the past year to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and its mission. It's a chance to recognize and congratulate you for a job well done.

As we approach the end of 2009 and I complete my first full year as your Regional Director, I want to personally thank you for your many contributions and hard work,

particularly your ability to rise to meet ongoing challenges. This has been a notable year for the Service and for the country. In January, we ushered in a historical presidency. We welcomed Sam Hamilton, a 30-year Service veteran as our new Director. A friend of the Service, Ken Salazar, was confirmed as Secretary of the Interior. We've enjoyed one of our strongest years ever in the face of significant challenges. We have weathered fire, flood and transition storms. We've capitalized on our existing partnerships and established new ones. We distributed recovery act dollars, and improved our infrastructure dramatically. We've celebrated recovery champions. We've identified Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) as top priorities, underscoring our focus on a foundation of strong



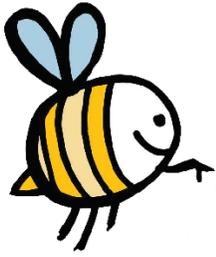
science. And we've demonstrated compassion and professionalism across the Midwest as we led, partnered, and supported the conservation community. I've begun to hear from you through the new RD suggestion box, located on our intranet at <https://intranet.fws.gov/region3/web-comment.cfm>. I look forward to hearing more of your valuable ideas and proposals, as we build on this year's successes. During this holiday season I hope that you too will pause, reflect and remember what is truly important to you. Among many blessings, I am thankful for you--the professionals of the Midwest Region, F&WS. Have a safe and happy holiday, and again, I thank you for your many efforts. I look forward to seeing you in the field in the new year.

Warm Regards,

*--Tom Melius
Regional Director,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Midwest Region*



Above: Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and Wisconsin DNR Secretary Matt Frank embark on an airboat tour of Horicon Marsh. USFWS Photo.



The New Buzz

A Swarm of Pollinator Accomplishments

A swarm of goals and objectives took off in fiscal year 2009 to form a colony of pollinator accomplishments over U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service's) region 3, including but not limited to the following:

1. Butterfly Gardens were installed at Iron River National Fish Hatchery (NFH), Genoa NFH and Neosho NFH.
2. Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) worked with a local school to develop a butterfly garden on the school grounds.
3. Big Muddy NFWR completed the first season of field survey for native bees and wasps. Partners included the Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri-Columbia and Boone's Lick chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists.
4. Friends of Big Muddy and Missouri River Relief monthly meeting hosted a presentation by Mike Arduser from MDC "Native Bees of Missouri".
5. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) held a "Butterfly Round-up" in September as part of Monarch Watch.
6. Whittlesey Creek NWR established a rain garden at the Coaster Classroom EE building.
7. The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District's Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) hosted a Monarch butterfly tagging program, where 180 Monarchs were tagged.
8. In FY 2009 the PWLC obtained funds and planted a rain garden with specific forb species intended for pollinators. Staff also worked

- with the city of Fergus Falls to install a second rain garden at Gotto Park using many plants designed to support pollinators.
9. Five to seven "nature nuggets" or small facts or management tips on pollinators including bees, butterflies and bats were broadcast on a radio show every Saturday. Volunteer beekeepers maintained the live, bee hive exhibit at Green Point ELC. A program on butterfly gardening was hosted on May 6. The refuge hosted a butterfly count in July. Six groups (preschoolers, elementary grades, youth from the Boys and Girls Club, and a senior citizen group) on a hike through the restored grassland at Green Point ELC to look for butterflies and other insects.
 10. East Lansing Field Office (ELFO) hosted the annual Mitchell's satyr butterfly working group meeting and the Michigan Karner blue butterfly recovery team meeting and surveyed Mitchell's satyr butterflies at a site owned by The Nature Conservancy.
 11. The ELFO received Preventing Extinction funding for Mitchell's satyr butterfly genetics studies.
 12. Funding was also given to Michigan State University from the FWS to test an interactive groundwater modeling tool for its effectiveness in identifying contributing areas to two prairie fens. The Mitchell's satyr is a fen habitat specialist and this model will assist the Service, habitat managers and other stakeholders.
 13. The Ohio Private Lands Office (PLO) worked with a school in

- Belmont Ohio to plant a butterfly garden.
14. Illinois Ecological Services – SCEP masters thesis on pollinators.
 15. Big Stone NWR conducted a rare and endangered butterfly survey and distributed pollinator posters to local schools for pollinator education.
 16. The Ohio Ecological Services Office placed nectar plants in the Toledo area metroparks for Karner blue butterfly and gave out 4,000 wildflower seed packets (obtained through Pheasants Forever).
 17. The Illinois River NWFR had approximately 40 third graders and 40 eighth graders at the refuge to learn about butterflies.
 18. Windom Wetland Management District, through the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program, worked with the City of Luverne, Minn. on two rain and butterfly garden projects.
 19. Big Oaks NWR planted a wildflower garden at the refuge office and conducted a refuge North American Butterfly Survey in July.
 20. Marquette Biological Station is presently developing three native plant gardens on the station's grounds.
 21. Rydell NWR provided the 2009 Pollinator Poster to 100 grade school students. The Rydell Visitor Center initiated a children's reading corner this year. Books about bees and butterflies, and pollination were part of the collection.

Continued on page 14.

Recovery Champion Cathy Carnes

Recovery Champion Cathy Carnes

On November 5, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) honored Endangered Species Coordinator Cathy Carnes from the Green Bay Field Office with an award letter and a plaque for her Karner blue butterfly recovery efforts. Deputy Director Charlie Wooley of the Service's Midwest Region who presented Carnes with the award said that her efforts are a model and a standard for others.



The Karner blue butterfly is an endangered species. Endangered Species are animals and plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. Threatened species are animals and plants that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Identifying, protecting, and restoring, endangered and threatened species are the primary objectives of the Service's endangered species program.

Cathy Carnes' interpersonal
5 skills and energy resulted in the

Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for the Karner blue on 7 million acres in Wisconsin. This HCP is a national model for planning and partnerships, and pioneers a flexible approach that protects small private landowners through commitments by private timber companies, utility companies, county forests, and conservation organizations.

Biologist Mike Engel of the Wisconsin Private Lands Office was also a winner. By engaging

Above: Deputy Director Charlie Wooley (R) gives Cathy Carnes (L) an award for her recovery efforts of the Karner Blue butterfly. USFWS Photos.

private landowners, Engel completed more than 200 projects that restored 6,500 acres of habitat for the species.

--Valerie Rose Redmond
External Affairs

Commuting Through a Waterfowl Production Area

What do you see on your commute? Most people probably observe cars, gas stations, buildings, street signs, and joggers. This is not the case for commuters in the Willmar, Minn. area. This summer's road construction on a major highway north of the town has changed the commute for a large part of the

"Now that my regular route to work is not available, I have been coming into work via Little Crow Trail (County Road 5) and this brings me pass the beautiful Weber Wetlands," stated Jan Saulsbury, a local resident.

Litchfield staff and volunteer

assisted Boy Scout Troop #224 toward receiving two 50-mile awards, which require ten hours of conservation work per badge. In addition, an Eagle Scout project by Scott's son, Matt, restored the Weber sign and produced three new interpretive signs, a cement walkway, and a bench.

Litchfield Wetland Management District staff and volunteer restoration efforts on the Weber Waterfowl Production Area have made the community in Willmar, Minn. notice and enjoy its beauty.
Photo by Janet A. Saulsbury.



community. The detour has people observing ducks feeding, frogs calling, and bird singing. They are viewing the Weber Waterfowl Production Area (Weber) within the Litchfield Wetland Management District (Litchfield).

restoration efforts on the Weber have made the community in Willmar notice and enjoy its beauty. Through a connection with the local Boy Scout troop, District Manager Scott Glup used youth and multiple grants over several years to restore the Weber back to

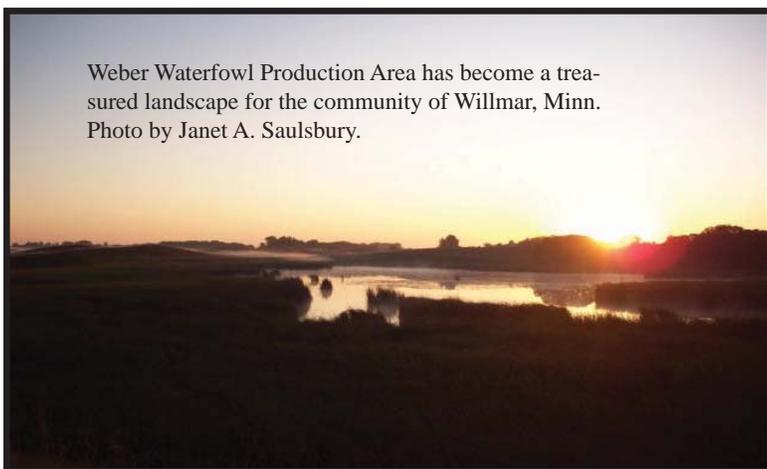
pristine habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Tree removal and native prairie seed collecting projects

Glup states that, "Weber is our most visible waterfowl production area in Kandiyohi County. The public has been watching the restoration of the Weber." Numerous community members have commented on the beautiful view and how it has improved their commute. The Weber has become a treasured landscape for the community of Willmar, Minn.

Want to find a waterfowl production area near your house? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers an on-line mapping tool to help you locate a WPA near you. Visit the site at: http://gis.fws.doi.net/WPA_Mapper/.

--Mara Koenig

Weber Waterfowl Production Area has become a treasured landscape for the community of Willmar, Minn.
Photo by Janet A. Saulsbury.



It's a crisp calm autumn morning. I gather program materials for a class of inner-city first graders. They eagerly await their morning field trip to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). This will be their first visit this school year. Their program is on the scientific study of changes in nature-phenology. Phenology, as defined by dictionary.com, is the science dealing with the influence of climate on the recurrence of such annual phenomena of animal and plant life as budding and bird migrations.

I went into their classroom with myriad of items that signify change; snow pants, colored leaves, umbrella, nuts, a picture of a snowflake, sunglasses, and a model of emerging green grass. The students grouped the items into three categories: plant, animal, or weather; and then reorganized the items into the seasons. Change is inevitable in nature. It is how our ancestors were able to gather and hunt for food and keep track of time. These days, climate change is a hot topic. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines climate change as "any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer)." Climate change may result from: Natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity. Natural processes within the climate system, such as changes in ocean circulation. Human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (e.g.

through burning fossil fuels) and the land surface (e.g. deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, etc.) Scientists are tracking changes in the environment at an astounding rate. They are researching the widespread melting of glaciers, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and changes in rain and snowfall patterns. Still there are people who question climate change. Is it happening? How can we stop it? What is going to happen? Who is responsible? These questions are what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) along with numerous other agencies and non-profit organizations are trying to answer.

Information on climate change is being inundated every second due to our profound connection to technology. As an educator, I am challenged with the question of how to teach this topic to students without leaving a "doom and gloom" image. A study conducted by Yurki Hirsoe concluded that knowledge of stories aid children

Below: Students recording their observations in nature. USFWS Photo.



Above: First grade students exploring the forest floor at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. USFWS Photo.

in becoming aware of the factual information contained in a sentence.

Stories are used throughout the world to convey messages of culture, values, and traditions. Nature provides stories everyday about the coming and goings of plants and animals. People of all ages can actively observe and learn about the seasonal changes of the ecosystem around them. This is a perfect solution for elementary students to learn about changes in the environment-climate change. While preparing for the first graders, I ensure that nature is ready to unveil her stories. At the refuge, students will record the phenological events they observe during a hike and discover how scientists use phenology to track the impact of changes on the behavior of plants and animals. In winter, they will come out again to observe and learn about changes animals perform to survive our harsh, cold Minnesota weather.

--Mara Koenig

Frank Stone AFWS Family Story

Frank Stone grew up surrounded by skyscrapers and pavement - a city boy born and raised in Los Angeles, Calif. But his father had a passion for the outdoors, and would take Frank camping, hunting and fishing. "I'm the prodigy of a family that just liked to get outside," he said. "I recall I got my first rifle for my seventh birthday - a 22-rifle single shot." Frank accredits his interest in conservation to his family, but also to the generation in which he grew up on the West coast. A teenager in the 1960s, Frank was immersed in an unprecedented conservation movement. "It was a time when more and more kids were becoming attuned to natural resources," he said.

After spending two years in the army in the early 1970s, Frank took the opportunity provided by the GI bill to enroll in Cal Poly State University to major in natural resources. He joined the California Division of Fish and Game part time during college, repairing "galvenatious guzzlers" - tanks used to collect rain water for storage in arid areas.

"The Western landscape provides a lot of good habitat for a variety of species, but the one thing the West lacks is water," he said. "I would travel from one guzzler to the next across the region, fixing the storage tanks so they remained in working order for galvenatious birds, like quail."

Frank earned his natural resources degree from Cal Poly in 1976. "Just prior to graduation, I sent out about 70 resumes, determined to have a job right out of college." Frank recalls the



Above: Frank Stone on the job. USFWS Photo.

dismay he felt as the rejection slips rolled in. "I would paste the letters on the wall of my bedroom, I used them as a source of motivation to keep me going. " For Frank, his persistence paid off.

He accepted a job offer with the Bureau of Land Management in Casper, Wyoming, working in the Big Horn Mountain Range for six months. Lucky for the Fish and Wildlife Service, the West Coast lured Frank back to California, where he entered the world of Fisheries. "I was always most interested in wildlife conservation, but I thought I would give Fisheries a try."

In the spring of 1977, Frank joined the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery crew as a Fisheries biologist, raising rainbow and cutthroat trout, but the hatchery was struck with a virus, and production came to a halt. So Frank transferred to Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery to raise steelhead, Coho and Chinook salmon. During the same time, Frank also spent time

working for the Vancouver Fish Resources Office collecting fish for genetic testing. "This was a time in fisheries conservation when electrophoresis and genetic identification was becoming popular in the scientific world."

In his early career, Frank gained experience from Kooski and Dworshak National Fish Hatcheries before packing his bags with his wife, Sherry, and heading for the Midwest. Little did Frank know that he would spend the next 30 years conserving, protecting and managing fisheries careers in the Big Rivers-Great Lakes region. He spent his first nine years in the Midwest Region at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin, a full Service lake trout rearing facility. There, Frank was part of team that initiated offshore stocking of lake trout on spawning reefs. "We partnered with the Coast Guard - their ship allowed us to take specially built tanks full of fingerlings offshore to established spawning reefs in Lake Superior. "I'm convinced it was this stocking effort that led to the natural reproduction that is taking place now in Lake Superior. It greatly increased the survivability of these fish."

In 1991, Frank moved eastward along Superior's coast to become the Assistant Project Leader at the Ashland National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO), where he worked with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and tribal natural resources program across the region. At that time the tribes were beginning to build up their natural resources programs with

New Fish Cleaning Station Open for Business Montauk State Park

Montauk State Park is a little over 2,000 acres in size and it is one of Missouri's four trout parks. Established in 1927, the waters within the park, about 3.0 miles of the spring branch and Current River; have been intensively managed for trout fishing since 1937 by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

During the March 1 through October 31 put-and-take fishing season, the stream reaches in Montauk State Park are stocked daily. Stocked trout average 12.5" in length, and are mostly rainbow



Above: New fish cleaning station. USFWS Photo.

trout. Anglers must purchase a daily fishing permit in order to fish in the trout park during the put-and-take season. During the catch-and-release season that runs from the second Friday in November through the second Monday in February, anglers must have a regular statewide trout permit to fish in the park. About 89,500 daily permits have been sold annually in the park over the last five years, and over the same period, an average of about 210,000 trout per

year have also been stocked.

State park managers, MDC fisheries management staff, and area users have long recognized the need to provide anglers with better methods and facilities for cleaning fish and properly disposing the wastes from fish cleaning. In the past, many of the fish caught in the park were cleaned along the streams or in the parking lots, campgrounds, and picnic areas. At general public meetings held at the state park, attendees have frequently asked why a fish cleaning station has not been provided. The new fish cleaning station, funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Sport Fish Restoration program, will be welcomed and greatly appreciated by trout park anglers, other park visitors, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and MDC staff responsible for managing the park and fish hatchery.

The major working components of the fish cleaning station are a sink, grinder, two two-person cutting boards, two spray wash systems, four receptacles, a stainless steel cabinet, and associated electrical and plumbing components. This unit is housed under a 24' x 24' pavilion with a concrete floor, large, lockable storage room, floor drains and lights. A 10' wide concrete walkway connects the pavilion to the existing asphalt parking lot to the north, and a 3' wide concrete walkway connects the pavilion to the existing privy and asphalt parking lot to the south. The

fish cleaning station, pavilion, and concrete walkways meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Fish wastes drain into two, 2,000-gallon septic tanks, and the liquid portion of the wastes empty into the park's existing domestic sewage treatment system. Solid wastes will be removed by pumping, as needed. This fish cleaning station and waste disposal system are designed to handle an estimated 62,475 pounds of fish wastes and 220,500 gallons of cleaning water annually. For design purposes, we assumed that 70% of the fish stocked in the trout park would be cleaned at the fish station. We also assumed that about 50% of the fish's weight would be discarded as waste and that 1.5 gallons of water would be used in cleaning each fish.

The Park is owned by the MDNR, Division of State Parks. Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding between the MDNR and the MDC, Montauk Fish Hatchery is the property and responsibility of MDC. The hatchery residence in Montauk State Park is also owned by MDC, as is the new fish cleaning station. Operation and routine maintenance of the new fish cleaning station and the land immediately surrounding it will be the responsibility of MDC Montauk Fish Hatchery staff. The estimated project cost was \$200,675.90 (MDC's share was \$50,168.97 and the federal share was \$150,506.93).

--Daniel Zekor, Missouri Department of Conservation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Matt Frank joined staff from Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Wisconsin DNR's Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area on a recent fall morning to tour Horicon marsh and discuss ways their two agencies could help each other.

Horicon marsh is the largest freshwater water cattail marsh in the United States, as well as an officially designated Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area. The marsh is managed jointly by both the Service and the Wisconsin DNR. The Service manages the northern two-thirds of the area as Horicon National Wildlife Refuge,

and the southern portion is managed by the State of Wisconsin as the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.

While these designations mean that the two sections of the marsh are subject to different rules, regulations, management priorities and funding sources, it does not mean that the two sections don't work closely together. In fact, it is because of the need -- and desire -- to work closely together that these two senior natural resources management executives decided



Above: Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and Wisconsin DNR Secretary Matt Frank embark on an airboat tour of Horicon Marsh. USFWS Photo.

to make the time to meet at this unique resource and share ideas.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Manager Patti Meyers and Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area Biologist Brenda Kelly started the tour by leaning an aerial photo of the entire 32,000-acre marsh against the side of truck and highlighting a few of the joint management projects the two agencies have worked on together.

Water flows generally north to south in this area of Wisconsin, so any water-level management decisions made on the refuge impact the State area, as well as public land farther south. "Looking at the hydrology of this area it is clear that we need to be working closely together, as well as with the surrounding private landowners, to ensure we understand how we impact each other," said Regional Director Tom Melius. "What a farm north of here

Secretary Frank and RD Melius tour Horicon Marsh. USFWS Photo.



does impacts the refuge, which can impact the State area, which can impact land south of the marsh. It is all interconnected.”

The small group then donned warm clothes and life jackets before boarding two waiting airboats to get an up-close view of the marsh. The first stop was at a recently completed restoration project designed to help restore a portion of the marsh to a more natural state. Drainage projects and other attempts to alter the marsh resulted in the loss of native vegetation, and a significant influx of non-native carp. The restoration effort was designed to help create areas of varying water levels to provide favorable conditions for a variety of native plants, fish and wildlife.

Another stop on the tour was at a recently completed water control structure on the southern edge of the refuge that provides greater control over water levels. “This new structure allows us to help both the refuge and the state area maintain optimum water levels for waterfowl management,” said Horicon NWR Biologist Wendy Woyczik. “In addition, it also allows the refuge to store more water during flood events, to help protect lives and property farther down the watershed.”

Several other stops during the tour; and during a long discussion with staff from both the Refuge and State Wildlife Area after the tour; highlighted how important, and beneficial, it is for federal and state agencies to work closely

together when managing natural resources.

DNR wildlife biologist Brenda Kelly mentioned that she had been able to attend a Service training to learn how to safely operate an airboat. The training was something the DNR didn’t offer, as they don’t have many areas that use airboats as habitat management tools. In contrast, the Service has many locations that use airboats, and hosts several training events each year. Regional Director Tom Melius committed to DNR Secretary Frank that the Service would continue to offer that training to Wisconsin DNR employees.

In addition to the cooperation with water-level management and training, the agencies coordinate to help the public understand the difference between the areas, as well as the unique resource they have in Horicon marsh. Each agency has different public-use rules. Hunting opportunities, in particular, are different between the two areas. In order to help make it easier for the public to understand these differences, the agencies worked together to develop a joint hunting regulations brochure.

“It really is a great benefit, and such a pleasure, to work this



Above: Horicon NWR biologist Wendy Woyczik describes to Secretary Frank and RD Melius how a recently upgraded water and fish control structure allows the Refuge and State areas of the marsh better control water levels and invasive carp populations. USFWS Photo.

closely with the Wisconsin DNR staff here at Horicon marsh,” said Meyers. “We certainly have some differences in our missions, priorities and resources. But, when you get right down to it, we all are here to manage this resource for us, and future generations. With that first and foremost in our mind, the differences really seem small.”

--Chuck Traxler
External Affairs

Fred Maulson Visits for National Native American Heritage Month

On November 16, Fred Maulson, Chief Warden of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) delivered a presentation at the regional office, as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service's) celebration of Native American Heritage Month. President Obama proclaimed November 2009 as National Native American Heritage Month—a time for us all to “celebrate the ancestry and time-honored traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives”. Fred is a member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. He discussed the importance of the resource to Native American culture and shared stories of his family's experience exercising fish and wildlife treaty rights in northern Wisconsin. Fred's presentation was attended by over 40 Service and

Bureau of Indian Affairs employees.

As part of Fred's visit, Deputy Regional Director, Charlie Wooley presented an award to GLIFWC in recognition of their 25th anniversary of fish and wildlife conservation in the Great Lakes and in appreciation of our long-standing partnership. GLIFWC has 11 member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota and is committed to the implementation of off-reservation treaty rights on behalf of its tribes. GLIFWC's mission is to help ensure significant, off-reservation harvests while protecting the resources for generations to come.

--Tim Patronski
External Affairs

Frank Stone Continued.

personnel and equipment, Frank helped them do just that. During spring and fall, GLIFWC partnered with the Service to conduct walleye surveys, information that was then used by tribes and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to set tribal harvest limits for spearing walleye.

“When you consider the trust responsibilities the Service has with these tribes and the diverse resources they manage, developing these partnerships is a natural fit for the the Service.” Frank was also part of a team that established the Service's Tribal Wildlife Grant Program. “We started the program about eight years ago, with the intent of making funds available to help tribes build their program; not only to fund staff and supplies, but also on the ground habitat development work.” Through this program, \$250,000 in grant funding goes directly to tribal natural resources programs across the Region each year.

Note: “Each” tribe that receives a TWG grant can receive 250K. for the total funds awarded through this program contact Tim Patronski (Region 3 NAL).

“In my nineteen years at Ashland NFWCO and in working with the tribes, I saw their natural resources programs grow to what they are today. I'd like to think I had a hand in helping them get there.”

“The Pacific Northwest is where I fell in love with my wife Sherry, where I became a father, and where I started my career;” Frank said. Although Frank's heart has returned to the Pacific Northwest (He currently is retired, living with his wife Sherry in northern southern Idaho), his career with the Service has left a lasting impression on the natural resources of the Great Lakes and Midwest Region. See page 14 for Frank Stone's advice.



Above: Deputy Regional Director, Charlie Wooley presented an award to GLIFWC in recognition of their 25th anniversary of fish and wildlife conservation in the Great Lakes and in appreciation of our long standing partnership. USFWS Photo.

--Ashley Spratt, *External Affairs*

Around the Region



Refuges recently hosted an appreciation breakfast for contracting.



Follow Frank Stone's Advice:

Seek motivation from within.

"We can be motivated by people, places, and events, but the real motivation that it takes to persevere is belief in yourself. I must thank all of my previous project leaders and opportunities they gave me. I'm a self motivated person and when people see that, they've given me the training and direction I needed. Seek motivation from within."

Be geographically mobile.

"Living and working in different locations builds your problem-solving ability. By being geographically mobile, you can see and learn from others how to accomplish similar tasks different ways."

Be open to different points of view.

"Be ready to work with people of different backgrounds and different interests, and be understanding of the way other people approach problems. The right/best way is not always your way."

Invent your own future.

"Don't be timid about trying something different to invent your own future. I'm a photography bug, so I'm usually the one behind the camera. Memories captured in pictures mean a lot, so don't always be caught behind the camera, get out in front of it."

--Ashley Spratt, *External Affairs*

Pollinators Continued.

22. Shiawassee NWR completed a 43 acre prairie restoration, with a 60:40 ratio of forbs to grasses and conducted the annual Fourth of July butterfly count.

23. Squaw Creek NWR. Junior Naturalists tagged 496 monarch butterflies with 12 recovered in Mexico.

24. Seney NWR had a booth with a pollinator activities and handouts at a local community picnic. The refuge created three "bathroom blurbs" (posters we used for bathroom stall walls) with pollinator themes during 2010 pollinator week.

25. Neal Smith NWR started a monarch monitoring program in conjunction with the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (www.mlmp.org).

26. Smith also did a number of school sessions of monarch tagging during their migration to Mexico and hosted an event called "Monarch Madness" where over 50 people came to help tag monarch butterflies.

27. Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD) hosted Prairie Fun Day that featured prairie insect sweeps, colored pictures, nature photography of wildflowers and insects, the plantation of a manicured wildflower garden and interpretive forb and mixed plots and restored 366 acres of native prairie on public and private lands.

28. 24. The Upper Mississippi NWR, Winona District took over 50 kids on hikes to a restored bluff prairie and accompanied over 115 kids to Great River Bluff State Park where there

are many restored prairies. Winona also built a garden with native plants at Madison elementary school Winona Minn. Winona District helped with a \$500 challenge grant.

29. Michigan Private Lands Office (PLO) planted 300 acres with a mix of native grass, forbs and wildflowers and constructed and placed four hive structures for native mason bees.





U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>

December 2009

Thank you for entering your journal reports and photographs in the Fish and Wildlife Journal (aka. ARS)
<http://ars.fws.gov>.