



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Midwest Region

Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program

Fish Lines

**La Crosse Area Fisheries
Offices Recognize
Outstanding Volunteers**

**"When I grow up,
I want to be a..."**

**Northern Pike and Walleye
for the Genoa NFH**

**Crossing Regional Boundaries to
Conserve Native Mussels**



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Fish Lines

Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Program - Midwest Region

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The vision of the Service's Fisheries Program is working with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and to support Federal mitigation programs for the benefit of the American public. Implementing this vision will help the Fisheries Program do more for aquatic resources and the people who value and depend on them through enhanced partnerships, scientific integrity, and a balanced approach to conservation.

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-Kay Hively
Assistant Director Gary Frazer (Lt.) poses with hatchery manager David Hendrix in the new pallid sturgeon culture building at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

To view other issues of "Fish Lines," visit our website at:
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/fishlines.htm>

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Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office staff participate in the annual Bass Pro Clinic.

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La Crosse Area Fisheries Offices Recognize Outstanding Volunteers

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

Genoa National Fish Hatchery, La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and the La Crosse Fish Health Center honored volunteers and members of the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fishery Services* this month with awards for their contributions to conservation in 2008. Volunteers enable offices to accomplish much more than would be possible by just relying on existing staff and resources. Friends and volunteers also help lead through example by spreading a conservation stewardship message throughout their community. Their accomplishments make a difference through grassroots efforts that anyone can participate in. The fishery offices honored Friends Group members and volunteers, including Alan Hammes, Susan Hooligan and Fred Kusch.



Alan Hammes of Stoddard, Wis., or “Al” as he is known to the crew at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), recently retired with more than 35 years of service as a rural mail carrier in the

Genoa area. He has delivered the hatchery mail for years, and he also takes one week of vacation time off every spring to help with spring wild brood stock collection efforts on the mighty Mississippi River. Al has also been very active and involved with the station’s “Kid’s Fishing and Ice Fishing Days.” Al hopes to be able to spend more time at the station in the springtime, doing what he loves out on the river. Al is truly deserving of a “Volunteer of the Year” award.

Susan Hooligan, middle school teacher at the Southern Bluffs Middle School in La Crosse, was honored with the “Conservation Steward” award for her work in

developing an outdoor classroom curriculum using the wetland area at the Genoa NFH as a learning center. This 20+ acre wetland is used as a place where concepts and fundamentals of wetland ecology can be taught, and unstructured playtime in the outdoors can also be incorporated as part of the experience. Through her efforts, the station hopes to be able to pass the torch to the next generation of conservation stewards.

Friends Group President Fred Kusch also received a “Volunteer of the Year” recognition for his dedicated service to the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fishery Services* for the last several years. Many other Friends and volunteers were also honored for their dedication to the area’s fish and wildlife resources. We truly can’t do it without them!

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

For further info about the La Crosse FHC: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/LaCrosseFishHealthCenter/>

For further info about the La Crosse NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/lacrossefisheries/>

“When I grow up, I want to be a...”

BY MARK CORIO, COLUMBIA NFWCO

Almost every child dreams about what they want to do with their lives and what profession they would like to pursue. Frequent choices we hear, and may have dreamt of when we were younger, include astronaut, fire fighter and president of the United States of America! In the six years I worked for the Boy Scouts of America summer camp program, before starting with the Fish and Wildlife Service, I don't think I ever heard a child say, “I want to be a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician!” Because of this, I jumped at the opportunity to visit my old high school and speak to them about what I do with GIS for the Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO). GIS is an extremely versatile and useful mapping and spatial analysis tool that can be applied to nearly every project - the only downfall is the education and experience required to become proficient with the program.



-USFWS/MarkCorio

This aerial image of Grandview High School was produced by Mark Corio of the Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office for use at a career day presentation at the school. Most students had no idea what a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technician does and were fascinated with the aerial image of their school.

to obtain the most accurate results more efficiently and more economically. But more importantly, instilling in young people an interest in working with and conserving the outdoors ensures that our natural resources will be around for their children and their grandchildren to enjoy as well.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

While at the high school, I spoke with approximately 120 students about the education requirements, job roles, salary potential and benefits of working with GIS, and also of working with the Fish and Wildlife Service. There was a little bit of confusion when I told them I didn't work directly with fish, nor did I spend my days managing wildlife but the interest was high, as GIS is something many of the students had never heard of before. Even a few teachers sat in with the students to come away with a better understanding of the program. The students were most interested in the map I made of their school using satellite imagery, and I heard some “oohs and ahs” when I displayed the infrared image of their football field.

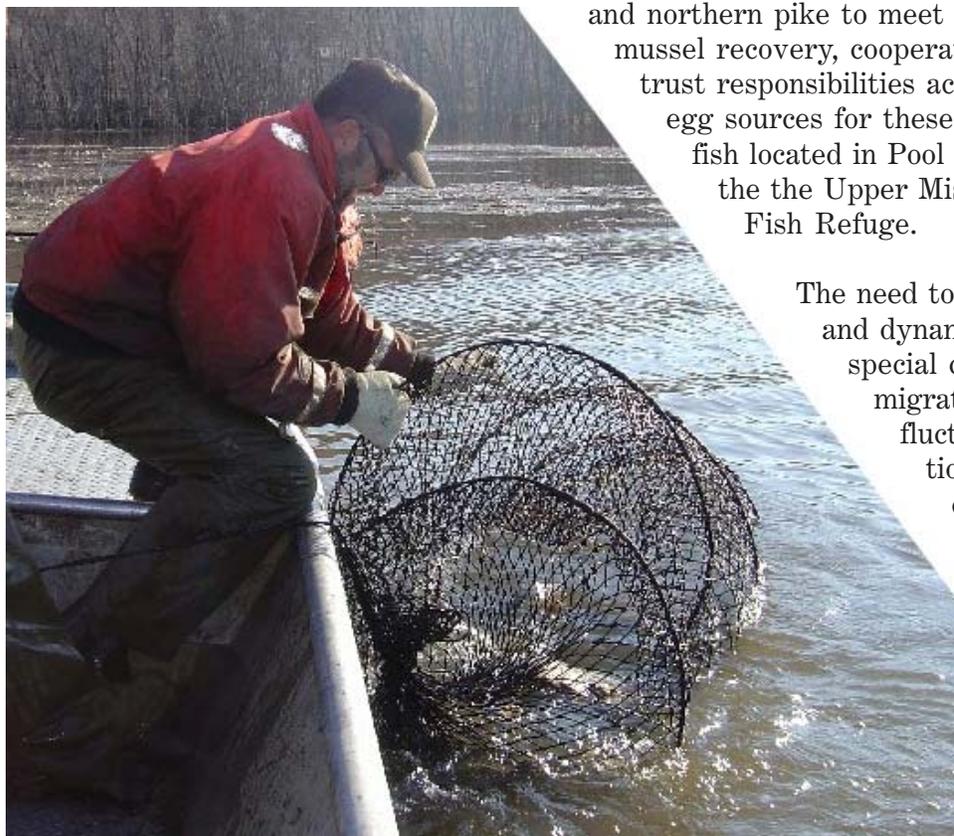
Explaining to the public how the Fish and Wildlife Service integrates technology with field survey methods shows that we are trying

Northern Pike and Walleye for the Genoa NFH

BY JAMES LUOMA, GENOA NFH

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) produces a wide range of fish, amphibian and freshwater mussel species to support multiple aquatic resource management goals. These goals include producing animals for endangered species recovery, restoration of imperiled populations, supporting cooperative management initiatives with tribal, Federal and state cooperators and providing and enhancing recreational fishing opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or other Federal lands.

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) produces walleye, sauger and northern pike to meet management objectives for endangered mussel recovery, cooperative management programs and tribal trust responsibilities across much of the United States. The egg sources for these ongoing programs are wild stocks of fish located in Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River within the the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.



-USFWS

Jeff Lockington of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery lifts a hoop net that targets walleyes, to provide eggs for the hatchery production program.

The need to collect wild fish in a system as large and dynamic as the Mississippi River offers special challenges to hatchery crews. The migratory nature of riverine fishes, highly fluctuating river levels and natural population variability all affect the annual success of this operation. Despite these and other challenges, the hatchery crew annually collects millions of northern pike, sauger and walleye eggs to support fishery management programs. When the last of the ice left the mighty Mississippi toward the end of March, the hatchery crew began the annual tradition of setting about 60 fyke and hoop nets for collecting brood fish. The nets are tended, repaired and repositioned as needed on a daily basis for about 30 days.

The resulting eggs and fish from these operations will be transferred to other cooperators in five states over the coming year to meet a wide range of fishery and research needs. Every year, to ensure that healthy populations of walleye, sauger and northern pike remain in the Pool 9 egg collection areas, ten percent of the total egg take that Genoa NFH processes returns to the river in the form of newly hatched fry. The hatchery typically has a hatch rate of over 60 percent, while wild fish eggs typically hatch out in percentage rates of much less than 10 percent. The resulting increase in fry survival ensures that the station is not harming wild populations through its collection efforts. Additionally, since 2003 the eggs taken have been subject to a strict and robust bio-security and disinfection procedure to limit any potential disease transmission from the wild stocks into the hatchery. The dedicated staff at the Genoa NFH uses their skills and the mighty Mississippi River to bolster America's fisheries at the regional and national levels.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

Crossing Regional Boundaries to Conserve Native Mussels

BY TONY BRADY, GENOA NFH

Over the past 75 years, Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) has formed partnerships with state and Federal agencies from coast to coast (Virginia to Washington) and border to border (Minnesota to New Mexico), providing fish eggs, fish, mussel larva and mussels for various stocking and research needs.

For the past three years, the Genoa staff has provided mussel culture techniques and technology to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist with mussel conservation activities for the Ohio River.



-USFWS

Mussel culture cages are made by staff at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The cages protect mussels from predators during their juvenile development.

This partnership began in 2006 when biologists from the West Virginia DNR spent a week with the hatchery staff, observing the process used to propagate the Federally endangered Higgin's eye pearl mussel. After seeing the process and the results of the tens of thousands of mussels produced in our culture cages, West Virginia DNR staff wanted to use the same technique to produce mussels to restore an Ohio River mussel bed that was lost due to a chemical spill. Working as a member of the Ohio River Aquatic Restoration Team, Genoa NFH has constructed mussel culture cages with suspension racks so the cages can be hung under an existing marina dock. In March 2009, Scott Morrison from the DNR traveled to Genoa to pick up the second installment of cages to be used in West Virginia.

In the past two years, Genoa NFH has produced a total of 53 cages and 13 racks for our partners in West Virginia. With partners like the West Virginia DNR and the Ohio River Aquatic Restoration Team, the future looks bright for freshwater mussel recovery and restoration programs in the Ohio River.



-USFWS

Scott Morrison of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources picks up mussel culture cages from the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The cages will be used for mussel conservation activities in the Ohio River basin.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

Hatchery's Friends Group Visits Washington D.C.

BY DAVID HENDRIX, NEOSHO NFH

Hatchery manager David Hendrix and vice president Jerry Christian of the *Friends of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery* participated in the National Friends Meeting for Fisheries in Washington D.C., to meet



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Members of Fisheries Friends Groups and Fish and Wildlife Service staff met for a national meeting in Washington D. C. in March.

with project leaders, presidents and vice-presidents of Fisheries Friends Groups from across the country. The meeting was held March 9-12 at the Fisheries office in Arlington, Va. The National Fisheries Friends Partnership (NFFP) board of directors came together to cover a range of issues including the review of by-laws, election of officers, structure, membership and legal standing, and initiate discussion about the financial relationship of the National organization, Fish and Wildlife Service, local Friends Groups and potential third parties. The meeting allowed time for various introductions by Fish and Wildlife Service participants, NFFP board of directors and Fisheries Friends Group members. Additional discussion topics included the National Hatchery System Volunteer Act, the Fisheries Program and discussion about implementing the NFFP. Time was also made for a quick visit with the Capital Hill Legislators and staff.

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

Missouri Natural Resources Conference

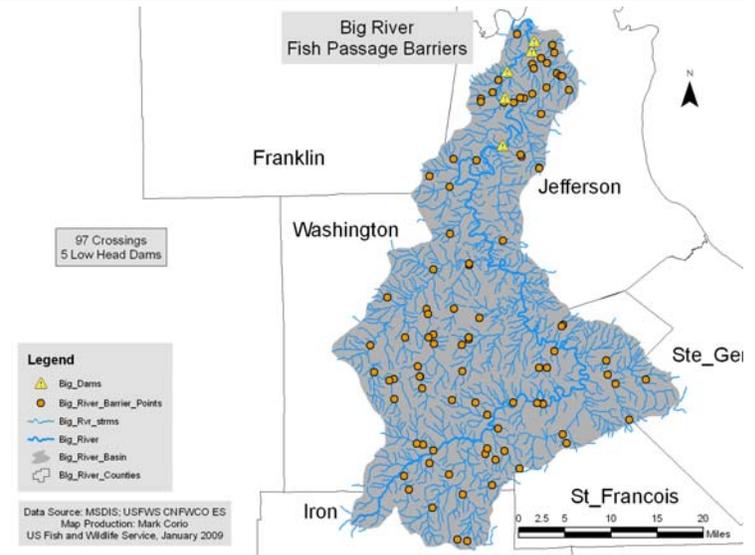
BY MARK CORIO, COLUMBIA NFWCO

On February 4-6, I attended the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at the Tan-Tar-A resort at the Lake of the Ozarks in south-central Missouri. As a University of Missouri - Columbia student studying Parks, Recreation and Tourism as well as GIS technology, this is the big conference of the year where I can meet with natural resource professionals from the State of Missouri. As a Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) participant, this conference gave me the opportunity to present the research I assisted Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) with during the summer of 2008. The research was conducted on stream crossings in the Big River watershed southwest of St. Louis, Mo. It consisted of using GIS to locate stream crossings that were barriers to fish passage within that watershed. Once these barriers were located, field crews measured each crossing so that calcula-

Partnerships are essential for effective fisheries conservation. Many agencies, organizations, and private individuals are involved in fisheries conservation and management, but no one can do it alone. Together, these stakeholders combine efforts and expertise to tackle challenges facing fisheries conservation. The success of these partnerships will depend on strong, two-way communications and accountability.

tions could be performed to determine whether or not the crossing was a barrier. Further analysis identified fish passage barriers that are also serving as sediment catches, holding contaminated sediments from upstream sources. The majority of my time at the meeting was spent as a regular student, visiting informational booths and talking with professionals about ongoing research, projected studies, where to go fishing and whether or not the groundhog had lied about the six more weeks of winter (the weather was a warm, breezy 70 degrees in early February!). But on the last day of the convention, I switched gears from student to bio-science aide as I prepared for my presentation of the work the Fish Conservation crew at Columbia NFWCO had worked so diligently to complete. After some very interesting and informative presentations on alligator gar and shovelnose stur-

geon, it was my turn to take the stand. I explained the reasons for our research and the threatened and endangered species that were benefiting from our studies, such as the Federally endangered pink mucket and the state-listed crystal darter. I also explained how the implementation of the small span bridges we recommended, as opposed to the commonly used pipe and box culverts, saved the road crews money in the long run because of the span's ability to withstand floods. The conference was a great experience for me as a student, because there are few places where a larger number of natural resources professionals from a wide array of Federal, state and local agencies can be found. As an employee of the Fish and Wildlife Service, I was able to communicate with the public and cooperating agencies about the work we have been doing to benefit fish and people, and more importantly the progress we have made.



-USFWS/MarkCorio

This map illustrates the stream and river crossings within the Big River basin that were found to be barriers to fish passage. This basin is located southwest of St. Louis, MO.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

Boy Scouts Learn About the Missouri River

BY ANDREW PLAUCK AND CHRIS MCLELAND, COLUMBIA NFWCO

The Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) has interacted with local Boy and Girl Scout of America organizations many times. We were excited about the chance to meet with them again when contacted by a scout master in nearby Jefferson City, Mo. We told the scout master that we could talk about the Missouri River and show the scouts some live fish and the gears we use to catch them.

Before the event, we were able to collect a few shovelnose sturgeon from the Missouri River and transport them to their meeting location. We parked our boat trailer near the building and set up a few nets for a demonstration. After the scouts went through their greetings, we began telling the boys about the Missouri River. Some of them had fished the river which flows through the state's capital, but no one knew that the river had been changed from its natural state. We explained how dams and channelization have affected the river and its aquatic life. We discussed our office's role in monitoring fish in the Missouri River, particularly the Federally endangered pallid sturgeon. The scouts and their leaders had many questions about fishing on the Missouri River. When the questions ran out, we went outside to see the fish.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

When all of the scouts had surrounded the boat, we pulled out the nets and explained how the fish are entangled in the different sizes of gillnet mesh. Their interest peaked when the cover was lifted off the hauling tank. They had all fished and seen bass and catfish, but the ancient looking sturgeon was definitely a new face for them. It was a great opportunity to talk about the differences and similarities between species of fish. Even the parents asked great questions about the fish we catch and the work we do on the Missouri River. To round off the evening, technician Chris McLeland gave a short lecture on the upcoming Wonders of Wildlife event occurring in May. Given that some of the classes would qualify these young scouts to earn different merit badges, they were eager to listen.

Overall, this was another great opportunity to interact with people who will be using the local natural resources. Columbia NFWCO is glad to partner with the Boy Scouts of America to educate children about the land and creatures around them. Action 3.3.2 in the Public Use component of the Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future states a need for outreach and education concerning recreational fishing.

Agency Coordination Team Meets in Papio-Missouri River NRD

BY CLAYTON RIDENOUR, COLUMBIA NFWCO

Clayton Ridenour and Joe McMullen traveled to Wherspann Lake in the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) near Omaha, Neb., for a meeting of the Agency Coordination Team (ACT) about Missouri River mitigation. Formation of the ACT was provided as an essential element of an Adaptive Management driven reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA). It was listed in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on their operation and maintenance of the main-stem Missouri River, to reduce jeopardy to Federally endangered pallid sturgeon. The ACT includes biologists, engineers and

real estate experts from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps and state agencies, as well as representatives from Tribes and non-governmental organizations.

The goal of the ACT is to identify and implement the goals of the Biological Opinion. They meet at least twice per year to develop targets and/or evaluate the Corps' progress towards avoiding jeopardy, increasing species status or habitat conditions, or implementation of effective conservation actions. Participants at the January meeting provided updates to mitigation efforts (e.g., habitat restoration, land acquisition) and species status and the ACT developed an agenda for their next meeting in March.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

Biologists Participate in Science Olympiad Tournament

BY ANDRA ANIA, ALPENA NFWCO

Michigan's Region 2 Science Olympiad Tournament was held at Alpena Community College on Saturday, February 28 in Alpena, MI. Biologists

Anjanette Bowen and Andrea Ania of the Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) were

judges for Division B (grades 6-9) and C (grades 9-12) Ecology events. Bowen and Ania developed, adminis-

tered and scored ecology tests for six junior high and five high school teams.

The tests covered ecological principles applied to North American Desert and Prairie biomes (~50%), and general principles of ecology (~50%). Medals were awarded for each event (1st through 3rd place), and trophies were awarded for Division B and C school teams earning the most points in the tournament. This year Science Olympiad celebrates their 25th year as a national non-profit organization committed to improving science education for grades K-12.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

Genoa News and Notes gets a New Look for the New Year

BY TONY BRADY, GENOA NFH

Since July 2003, Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) staff has compiled their monthly accomplishment reports into a newsletter known as the *Genoa News and Notes*. To date, a total of 56 *News and Notes* have been published and distributed via email to an ever growing list of recipients across the nation. In order to keep our newsletter recipients interested in the activities of the hatchery, we decided to give our newsletter a fresh look for the New Year using desktop publishing software.

In addition to the new look, the publication can now be found at the La Crosse Library in La Crosse,

WI. Thanks to members of the *Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fisheries Services* speaking at different events and informing the public about the activities from three local Fisheries offices (Genoa NFH, La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and the La Crosse Fish Health Center), the La Crosse Library has added the *Genoa News and Notes* to the collection of information about the Upper Mississippi River. Employees from the Library feel that our newsletter gives a great local feel to the growing collection.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

Genoa NFH bridges the Generation Gap

BY NICK STARZL, GENOA NFH

As the late winter sun slowly thinned the remaining ice from the ponds of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), the 2009 pond production season commenced by draining two of the hatchery's 19 ponds designated for overwintering its primary broodstock, future broodstock and



-USFWS

Largemouth bass brood stock are stocked into a culture pond at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Fish will spawn naturally and then ponds drained to remove the adult and young fish.

yearling production fish for endangered mussel recovery. To save time, space and draining costs, the fish are sorted in the fall by size and placed in one of two ponds during the cold six month stretch between October and March. Each pond is a mix of species containing largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, walleye, bluegill, sauger, black crappie and of course lots of fathead minnows for forage. Drawdown began in mid-March in order to sort all of the broodstock into individual ponds prior to spring spawning season. Yellow perch has the earliest spawning season, and usually begins by April. The drawdown is also timed to coincide with the hatchery's bi-annual fish health inspection which takes advantage of each species' accessibility during the harvest.

These broodstock are annually used to produce hundreds of thousands of young fish in order to meet fishery requests on National Wildlife Refuges, military installations, tribal governments and cooperative management projects with states and universities. The endangered mussel recovery program at Genoa NFH also relies heavily upon overwintering of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye and sauger for their use as host fish for native mussels. These species need to be harvested in March as well, where they are sorted by species and held in indoor rearing tanks until the endangered Higgin's eye pearl mussel infestation program begins in April. Some of the yearling fish are reared for another year or two, depending on species, in order to perpetuate the brood lots at the hatchery. Enough of each species are needed in order to maintain genetic diversity and offset natural predation throughout the year from birds and piscivorous mammals (i.e. otters and minks). By developing and caring for these "captive broodstock," the hatchery strives to maintain healthy and viable parental fish for years to come in order to fulfill fishery management goals throughout the nation.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

The Fisheries Program maintains and implements a comprehensive set of tools and activities to conserve and manage self-sustaining populations of native fish and other aquatic resources. These tools and activities are linked to management and recovery plans that help achieve restoration and recovery goals, provide recreational benefits, and address Federal trust responsibilities. Sound science, effective partnerships, and careful planning and evaluation are integral to conservation and management efforts.

New Fish Culture Raceways at Pendills Creek NFH

BY JAIME MASTERSON, PENDILLS CREEK NFH

Biologist Robert Deems and volunteer Randy Obermiller moved fish from old raceways to new ones on March 10 at the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH). This was a long awaited split for the fish that have been over-crowded due to having the normal complement of 950,000 production fish in half the number of raceways. A little breathing room is just what they needed. The fish will now excel in growth to produce quality lake trout for the spring stocking program, as part of the Upper Great Lakes lake trout rehabilitation program.



-USFWS photos

Biologist Robert Deems (Lt.) and volunteer Randy Obermiller transfer fish from the old set of raceways to the newly constructed raceways (Rt.) at the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery. Raceway replacements are being phased in over two years to allow the production program to continue at the facility.

For further info about the Pendills Creek NFH/Sullivan Creek NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/pendills.pdf>

Broodstock Sturgeon Update

BY MELISSA CHEUNG, NEOSHO NFH

The broodstock pallid sturgeons being held at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) were visited by Janice Bryan of U.S. Geological Survey to determine if any of our adult fish were ready to spawn this year. Equipped with ultrasound and endoscopy equipment, Janice determined that we currently have 8 females and 7 males on station. Unfortunately, none of these 15 adult pallid sturgeons is ready to spawn this year.

We are currently waiting to see if we will keep any of these adults on station until the next spawning season or return them to the Missouri River. To view video footage of the ultrasound and endoscopy, visit our hatchery blog at:

www.NeoshoNFH.blogspot.com.



-USFWS

An endoscopy is being performed on a pallid sturgeon to determine if the fish will spawn this spring.

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

Implementation of the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States*

BY ROB SIMMONDS, CARTERVILLE NFWCO

The *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (Plan) was approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 2007 with the recommendation that implementation of the 133 actions in the Plan begin immediately. While many management and research projects and actions related to Asian carp and the Plan have been taking place, turnovers in key staff have delayed implementation. Key staff is now in place and implementation of the Plan is beginning. The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force requested that the Fish and Wildlife Service lead implementation of the Plan, and Fish and Wildlife Service staff from across the country agreed that the Midwestern Region should lead the effort. Legislation from both the United States Congress and Illinois State Congress indicates that the Asian carp problem is on the political radar. Findings of Asian carp near La Crosse, Wis., and issues with activation of the electrical separation barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal (barrier that prevents Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan) are further bringing the issue to the political forefront.

Next steps for implementation include forming an implementation team of key partners and stakeholders and prioritizing the 133 recommendations to decide which actions are to be implemented first. Several models of the implementation are being evaluated and a decision on the structure for this team is expected in the near future. The implementation team will determine available resources to complete priority recommendations, and develop funding initiatives and budget planning to address unmet needs. Some recommendations will be implemented immediately using existing agency staff and fiscal resources; where other recommendations will be implemented when additional resources are allocated.

The *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* can be viewed at:

http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Carps_Management_Plan.pdf

For further info about the Carterville NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/library/StationFactSheets/carterville.pdf>

Huron Pines Annual Meeting

BY ANDREA ANIA, ALPENA NFWCO

Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) biologist Andrea Ania attended the Huron Pines annual meeting held at the K of C Hall in Gaylord, Mich. The meeting was well attended with approximately 100 governmental, non-governmental and local citizens. The focus of this year's meeting was invasive species. Presentations were made by the National Park Service, Michigan Nature Conservancy and Michigan Department of Natural Resources to showcase current invasive species management projects in northern Michigan.

The Alpena NFWCO and East Lasing Field Office have recently contributed to several invasive plant

control projects in northern Michigan through the Coastal Program, including Lake Michigan Islands Phragmites Control (Beaver Island archipelago), and Grassland Restoration and Invasive Species Removal on Lake Michigan Coastal Property (Acadia Dunes).

Alpena NFWCO is working closely with Huron Pines on numerous projects for the 2009 field season including their Invasive Species Program. This project will focus on inventorying, monitoring and removing key non-native species (i.e., purple loosestrife, buckthorn and phragmites) in northeast Michigan.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are one of the most significant threats to fish and wildlife and their habitats. Local and regional economies are severely affected with control costs exceeding \$123 billion annually. The Fisheries Program has focused its efforts on preventing introductions of new aquatic invasive species, detecting and monitoring new and established invasives, controlling established invasives, providing coordination and technical assistance to organizations that respond to invasive species problems, and developing comprehensive, integrated plans to fight aquatic invasive species.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

Hard Water Fishing Rules! Kids Enjoy a Great Day Out on the Ice

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

Local area youth ages 6-12 and their parents enjoyed a great day of ice fishing at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in February.



-USFWS

This child caught her fish during an ice fishing event held at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery.

After a cold January, 183 people assembled at the hatchery to hit the ice, trying to catch some fish and break out of the winter doldrums. The event was sponsored by the Friends Group of the three La Crosse area Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries offices: the La Crosse National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO), Genoa NFH and La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC). The *Friends of the Upper Mississippi River*

Fisheries Services (FUMFS) supplied ice fishing expertise, volunteer help and a light lunch out on the ice for the participants. This was the first time the event was held at the hatchery, and in mid-January, 1,000 (9-inch) rainbow trout were stocked in Pond 9, which had been filled and allowed to freeze. This set the stage for a wild time of fishing for the kids, as over 300 fish were caught in the four-hour event. Experts in fish finding equipment and underwater cameras were also on hand to show the latest advances in ice fishing technology.

It was a beautiful winter day, sunny and with high temperatures over 40 degrees, a great day to be out of the living room and recreating in the great outdoors. A short primer on ice safety was given in the packed warming tent, and kids were let loose to enjoy fishing on the "hard water." Fun was also had on the pond slopes, with a tobogganing trail resembling a gigantic otter slide being formed before the day was through.

As the population in the United States continues to grow, the potential for adverse impacts on aquatic resources, including habitat will increase. At the same time, demands for responsible, quality recreational fishing experiences will also increase. The Service has a long tradition of providing opportunities for public enjoyment of aquatic resources through recreational fishing, habitat restoration, and education programs and through mitigating impacts of Federal water projects. The Service also recognizes that some aquatic habitats have been irreversibly altered by human activity (i.e. - dam building). To compensate for these significant changes in habitat and lost fishing opportunities, managers often introduce non-native species when native species can no longer survive in the altered habitat.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

Baby Brookies Tanks are on Deck at Jordan River NFH

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

Out with the old and in with the new," was the game plan for the former incubation stacks at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH). Last summer two round rearing tanks were temporarily placed in the tank room to rear early life stage brook trout for the Baby Brookies outreach program. A local Cub Scout pack that is involved in the program helped raise money to purchase the tanks. Their permanent home will be an area once used for incubating lake trout eggs. Jordan River NFH no longer incubates green eggs or eggs that are close to hatching - the hatchery receives the eggs "eyed" from brood stock facilities supplying eggs for the Great

Lakes lake trout rehabilitation program. Jordan River NFH produces nearly two million yearlings annually for the program. So now the available space is being used to support a new program, rearing about 5,000 catchable brook trout for natural resource education and children's fishing events. Biologist Paul Haver constructed a deck in this space and plumbed the tanks into it. The deck is large enough for visitors to approach the tanks and view the sac fry and fingerlings, which is a great setup for tourists, visitors and program participants.

Thanks Paul!

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>

No More Trash!

BY COLBY WRASSE AND PATTY HERMAN, COLUMBIA NFWCO

While boating on your favorite river, have you ever been disgusted by the trash littering the shoreline and thought, “Someone should clean this up?” That “someone” happens to be Missouri River Relief (MRR). This grassroots organization of dedicated and highly motivated volunteers cleans miles of shoreline in Missouri and beyond. Along the way, they also raise awareness and educate anyone who is willing to listen.

Patty Herman and Colby Wrasse from Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) assisted MRR on March 7 with a clean-up on the Osage River. One of the logistical issues of a river clean-up is getting volunteers safely to and from sites along the river. Our office assists with the effort by providing safe and educational boat rides for volunteer groups. Patty and Colby couldn't resist getting in on the fun and filled many bags with trash.

The picturesque Osage River is one of Missouri's largest and most popular waterways; but unfortunately, it has a lot of trash lining its banks. The March clean-up focused on a dumpsite directly across from the Mari-Ova public access. For decades careless people have used a high bluff overlooking the river as a community dump. Over the years this trash heap has grown enormously and has gradually slid down the hillside towards the river – an incredible eyesore! The acres of trash here included almost anything one could imagine: refrigerators, washing machines, jars, bottles, tires, toys and even the proverbial kitchen sink. Cleaning up this mess was going to be quite a



-USFWS/PattyHerman

Missouri River Relief and a host of volunteers tackle a massive illegal dump site on the Osage River. A flume was constructed from a culvert recovered from another clean-up event, to slide trash and debris down the river bank to a boat that will haul the trash to a dock for disposal in a landfill.

chore. Luckily we had more than 160 enthusiastic volunteers who were ready to roll up their sleeves and do some dirty work. During this one day clean-up we removed an amazing 13 tons of trash, but still barely made a dent in the huge dump.

This is the ninth year of operation for MRR. Thus far MRR has organized 46 clean-ups, and with the help of more than 10,000 volunteers has removed 480 tons of trash. Columbia NFWCO looks forward to helping MRR beautify Missouri's rivers. To learn more about Missouri River Relief visit their webpage at: <http://www.riverrelief.org/>.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

1st Annual Kids Fishing Day

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and the *Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery* are preparing for the first Kids Fishing event to be held June 20th. Recently, a fish cleaning station was constructed by maintenance mechanic John Shuman and volunteer Randy Obermiller. With the help of donations from area businesses and groups, the event will also include educational information, food, prizes and a few special guest appearances for the kids.

Alpena NFWCO presents Lake Trout Data at the Lake Huron Meeting

BY SCOTT KOPROSKI, ALPENA NFWCO

During the month of March, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) held their annual Lake Committee Meeting in Ypsilanti, Mich. The Lake Committee meetings bring together state, tribal, provincial and Federal researchers and managers who have a vested interest in the Great Lakes. The week-long meeting began on March 23 and started with a Joint Common Session followed by breakout sessions of the individual lakes for the remainder of the week.

Biologist Scott Koproski attended and presented at the Lake Huron Committee Session. He presented data from Alpena National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office's (NFWCO) lake trout spawning surveys conducted at two offshore reefs in Lake Huron: Yankee Reef and Six Fathom Bank Refuge. Alpena NFWCO has attempted to conduct annual spawning surveys at these two mid-lake reefs since 1993; however, both reefs have not been sampled each year due to gale force winds and high seas that are characteristic of Lake Huron during late October and early November when sampling occurs.

Recently, survey data has revealed an increase in catch rates of wild lake trout utilizing these two reef complexes for reproduction. Catch-per-effort (CPE) of wild lake trout has been slowly rising since 2002 at both Six Fathom Bank and Yankee Reef. The most recent surveys of each reef resulted in the highest CPE of wild lake trout since the surveys inception, nearly doubling previous highs. CPE of wild lake trout caught at Six Fathom Bank in 2007 was 38.3 fish/1000' and Yankee Reef in 2008 was 27.5 fish/1000' of net.

Alpena NFWCO will continue to conduct spawning surveys at these two offshore reefs and the staff is hopeful that the promising upward trends in wild fish CPE will continue. The increase in wild fish CPE encourages staff and further justifies the Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to rehabilitate and restore lake trout in Lake Huron.

For further info about the Alpena NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/alpena/index.htm>

Conserving this Nation's fish and other aquatic resources cannot be successful without the partnership of Tribes; they manage or influence some of the most important aquatic habitats both on and off reservations. In addition, the Federal government and the Service have distinct and unique obligations toward Tribes based on trust responsibility, treaty provisions, and statutory mandates. The Fisheries Program plays an important role in providing help and support to Tribes as they exercise their sovereignty in the management of their fish and wildlife resources on more than 55 million acres of Federal Indian trust land and in treaty reserved areas.

Mississippi River Mussels go to Washington State

BY TONY BRADY, GENOA NFH

Over the past five years, freshwater mussels have been drawing the attention of research facilities, both Federal and private, for use in testing the toxic effects of a variety of chemicals. The early life stages of



-USFWS

These are glochidia or larval mussels viewed under a microscope. They must undergo a metamorphosis on a host fish to complete their life cycle.

tests. While a partnership between a Federal facility like Genoa NFH and a private corporation such as NCASI is not an everyday occurrence, Genoa NFH's ability to produce a reliable source of early life stage mussels makes this out-of-the-box cooperation possible.

On March 23, glochidia from four female plain pocketbook mussels were harvested and shipped overnight to NCASI where testing could be started within 24 hours of their collection. Since then, two additional glochidia shipments have been made with six more shipments planned through August 25. Genoa NFH SCUBA divers will collect a dozen or more plain pocket-book mussels in April and will hold them over the summer on 53°F water which will prolong their brooding season throughout the summer, allowing the hatchery staff to harvest glochidia well into the summer. While the materials being tested are unknown to the hatchery personnel, any toxic effects discovered will help provide information that will make the environment safer for us all.

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

Dynamics of Wind Power for Passive Integrated Transponder Tags

BY GLENN MILLER, ASHLAND NFWCO

Ashland National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) biologist Glenn Miller recently attended a training session on Introductions to Wind Systems, sponsored by Midwest Renewable Energy Association. The training introduced students to the basic concepts of wind generation and how to assess sites for wind power generation and possible designs and configurations for the sites.

The Ashland NFWCO is looking at using wind to complement solar power generation that is currently

used at the passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag detection stations located on the Lake Superior shorelines. All of the sites are remote locations with no power source available except solar and wind generation. By using these two alternative energy sources, it is hoped that the PIT tag stations will be able to run year round gathering data on tagged brook trout and other salmonid species.

Science and technology form the foundation of successful fish and aquatic resource conservation and are used to structure and implement monitoring and evaluation programs that are critical to determine the success of management actions. The Service is committed to following established principles of sound science.

For further info about the Ashland NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ashland/>

Poster Palooza: Columbia NFWCO claims 1st Place at Conference

BY CLAYTON RIDENOUR, JOE MCMULLEN, COLBY WRASSE, JOSHUA SCHLOESSER, ANDY STAROSTKA AND ANDREW PLAUCK, COLUMBIA NFWCO

Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) took top honors for the second straight year for best science poster presentation at the Missouri River Natural Resources Conference in Billings, Mont. Biologist Clayton Ridenour was lead author and Joe McMullen and Tracy Hill were co-authors on the award-winning poster titled *Shallow-water Habitat According to Young Sturgeon in Lower Missouri River*. Their findings will provide significant guidance to biologists and managers working to restore habitat for endangered pallid sturgeon.

The Columbia NFWCO presented on six other topics at the conference. Andy Starostka provided a presentation on Humminbird® sidescan sonar to demonstrate their off-the-shelf utility in big river research and monitoring. This sonar is affordable and simple to use, and produces high resolution digital images that can be used to study the river bottom. Colby Wrasse presented *Use of Near Channel Floodplain Habitat by Small-bodied and Young Fishes*. His poster was important to the scientific community because it shared findings from a rare opportunity to examine the fish community composition and relative abundance on floodplains during the summer floods of 2008 on lower Missouri River. Andrew Plauck presented *Dispersal and Recapture Success of Hatchery*

Reared Pallid Sturgeon in the Lower Missouri River. The poster documented recapture of marked pallid sturgeon and the distance they traveled from their stocking location. Joe McMullen authored two posters: *Fish Assemblages and Habitat Use in Side Channels on the Lower Missouri River*, and *Assessment of Side Channels as Habitat Restoration for Age-0 Sturgeon in the Lower Missouri River*. His presentations were aimed at providing biologists and engineers with information on how mitigated river habitat functioned, and provided recommendations for improving habitats for fish.

Joshua Schloesser presented a summary on how to allocate trotline effort in a standardized protocol to monitor pallid sturgeon populations. This critical study design component prevents under- or over sampling study sites and will improve monitoring efforts to detect change in pallid sturgeon abundance.

Communicating results of studies is a critical final step in the scientific process. Studies like those presented by Columbia NFWCO summarize the effort of significant resources in many field offices and represent an important tool to help accomplish the Fish and Wildlife Service's mission. Exchanging ideas and results supports Adaptive Management to guide new research and management decisions.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

STEP Enrollee Earns Honors at Undergraduate Research Symposium

BY DOUG ALOISI, GENOA NFH

Jorge Buening, Genoa National Fish Hatchery's (NFH) Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) enrollee and natural resource major at the University of Wisconsin - Steven's Point (UWSP) recently won a prestigious award for a research project completed at the Genoa NFH. The hatchery works with professors at the University to sponsor projects of interest for natural resource majors to complete their off campus research intern projects. These projects also attempt to answer an applied research need to assist in the operation and productivity of the Genoa NFH, usually to either further Endangered Mussel Recovery or enhance lake sturgeon restoration efforts, two high priority projects.

Jorge recently completed a study to examine various fry starter diets on the survival of lake sturgeon reared for restoration efforts throughout the Midwest. His report and resulting poster submission earned him high honors at a recent Undergraduate Research Symposium at UWSP. This year, in a continuation of Jorge's past study, a research project will examine the familial effects of rearing lake sturgeon on prepared diets as opposed to natural feeds. This extensive study will involve two of our STEP enrollees in the summer of 2009, and we are hoping to determine whether feeding artificial diets is applicable in long term restoration efforts to conserve lake sturgeon populations. Congratulations to Jorge on his accomplishments to date!

For further info about the Genoa NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa/>

HAMP completes Annual Report

BY COLBY WRASSE, COLUMBIA NFWCO

Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office's (NFWCO) Habitat Assessment and Monitoring Program (HAMP) recently completed the 2008 annual report. This 300-page document lists analysis results from the 2008 field



-USFWS/Colby Wrasse

Technician Adam McDaniel displays a shovelnose sturgeon collected during the Habitat Assessment and Monitoring Program (HAMP) field season on the lower Missouri River.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

Loss and alteration of aquatic habitats are principal factors in the decline of native fish and other aquatic resources and the loss of biodiversity. Seventy percent of the Nation's rivers have altered flows, and 50 percent of waterways fail to meet minimum biological criteria.

season and includes between-year comparisons. This was the fourth year of fish sampling for HAMP which monitors the fish community's response to in-stream channel modifications. The overall goal of HAMP is to monitor fish response to shallow water habitat creation within the lower Missouri River. When the river was modified for navigation and flood control, much of the natural shallow water habitat was lost as the river became deeper, straighter and swifter. With the loss of critical shallow water habitat came declines in many species of fish and wildlife. It is hoped that modifications to dikes within the river will recreate shallow water habitat that will benefit native fishes.

While we have learned much over the four years of HAMP, many questions remain. The project continues to evolve to meet these challenges. Columbia NFWCO works with the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers and Nebraska Game and Parks on HAMP.

Fish “Geeks” Tour Neosho NFH

BY KAY HIVELY, NEOSHO NFH

Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) was like a big fish pond the last day of March with the invasion of some 40 fisheries personnel from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The group represented fish hatcheries, laboratories and fish and wildlife conservation offices from Region 3. They made the visit to Neosho NFH as part of a training session held at Bass Pro in Springfield, Mo. The three-day session included seminars and lectures, and a trip to Neosho to visit the oldest Federal fish hatchery in the United States.

In addition to fisheries people throughout the region, which includes eight Midwestern states, there were officials from the regional office in Minnesota, and Assistant Director Gary Frazer who came in from Washington, D. C.



-USFWS

The FY2009 Fisheries Project Leaders meeting was held at Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, MO. The highlight of the meeting was a tour and Friends Group sponsored barbeque at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

The first order of business upon arrival was a tour of the Neosho NFH which was given by the local staff. Then it was picnic time. Hatchery employee Jeff Messens and volunteer Russ Hively manned the barbeque pit and a large cast of other volunteers served food and dished up desserts. This gave the guests a chance to sit back and relax after a day of lectures and training.

One of the most widely heard comments was how happy so many were about their visit to the oldest hatchery in the system. The Neosho hatchery is legendary in the Fish and Wildlife Service, and many are the stories which circulate about its history.

One biologist from La Crosse, Wis., expressed her joy at being in Neosho. “I’ve always heard about Neosho,” she said. “But this is my first visit and I’m really impressed.”

Noting that many of the visitors were more than biologists, this same lady said many were true “fish

geeks.” She also mentioned that most of the “geeks” were employees who don’t get to work directly with large fish populations each day. Most do office or lab work, and they thoroughly enjoy getting to visit one of the hatcheries.

Because of cool weather and high winds, the picnic was held in the new sturgeon building on the hatchery grounds. This building is home to hundreds of young endangered pallid sturgeons and a handful of mature

The Fisheries Program relies on a broad range of professionals to accomplish its mission: biologists, managers, administrators, clerks, animal caretakers, and maintenance workers. Without their skills and dedication, the Fisheries Program cannot succeed. Employees must be trained, equipped and supported in order to perform their jobs safely, often under demanding environmental conditions, and to keep current with the constantly expanding science of fish and aquatic resource management and conservation.

sturgeons which the local hatchery is working with in a breeding program.

The big blue raceways where the sturgeon are held were the center of attention as the “fish geeks” and other fisheries personnel took advantage of seeing a pallid sturgeon, some for the first time. Seeing that many in one place are something few people in the entire world have experienced. Neosho, and all of Southwest Missouri, is actually quite fortunate to be home to the

hatchery and especially since it is the oldest and probably most famous in the nation.

Plans call for a groundbreaking ceremony, tentatively scheduled for June, for a new headquarter/visitor center at the hatchery, and many at the picnic expressed an eagerness to return for the ceremony. So Neosho NFH can look forward once again to a visit from the “fish geeks.”

The picnic was made possible because of donations from John and Betty Wright, Betty Marty, Harlan Stark, Jerry and Lucy Christian, Russell and Kay Hively, Kenneth and Anne Cope, Bea Nodler, Chuck Nodler, Russ and Sabra Hively, WXY Sporting Goods, Jim and Cathy Sheehy, Monark Springs Baptist Church, Charlene Reber, Dick Keezer, Larry and Linda James, Debbie Kruse, Don and Nina Johnson, Mary Jean Barker, Karen Kleiboeker, Gary and Susie Smith and the personnel at the Missouri Department of Conservation office in Neosho.

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

Another Helping Hand

BY DYLON BRILEY, NEOSHO NFH

Sixteen-year old Dylan Briley started work with the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) at the end of February through the Division of Youth Services Job Program. Funded by the state of Missouri, this program matches young adult's interest with a job placement to help them acquire job skills.

From Dylan's perspective, "The job program is designed to help kids get a head start in the working world and get an idea of what working is all about. It

also shows what responsibilities you have in order to obtain and hold onto a job."

Dylon will work with the hatchery crew for a total of three months. Thus far, he thinks the program matched him with an appropriate job placement. Since his two months of work with the Neosho NFH, he has enjoyed working outside and appreciates the wide range of job responsibilities.

For further info about the Neosho NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho/>

One of the Leaders and Best Retires after 37 ½ Years

BY TIM SMIGIELSKI, JORDAN RIVER NFH

Hail to the Victors valiant Hail to the conquering Heroes; Hail, Hail to Clarice Beckner," one of the champions of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Clarice Beckner was the administrative technician at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in northwest Michigan until she retired on March 3rd, with 37 ½ years with the Fish and Wildlife Service. As you may have guessed by the lyrics, Clarice is a "staunch" fan of the University of Michigan sports.

Her dedication and love for sports is exactly how she treated her work and career. She staunchly supported the hatchery programs and her work supported the lake trout rehabilitation program in the Great Lakes.

Clarice has been the go-to person in this region for years. She developed a skill set that will be hard to replace. More importantly, her communication and interpersonal skills made people feel comfortable when approaching her with questions and ideas.

Clarice is just a great person and a classy lady, although she would kick you in the shin if you told her so! Her modesty, friendly spirit and loyalty to her work and the Fish and Wildlife Service family will be missed. Hail, Hail to one of the leaders and best! Good Luck in retirement, Clarice!



-USFWS

Clarice Beckner poses with her husband Bob at her retirement dinner where she celebrated over 37 years of service at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.

For further info about the Jordan River NFH: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/JordanRiver/>

What I Did on My Spring Break...

BY ANDREW PLAUCK, COLUMBIA NFWCO

Many college students choose spring break destinations with beaches, oceans and sun tans. Some are a little more devoted to their career development. Spring break for several University of Missouri - Columbia (MU) students involved torrential downpours, thirty mile-per-hour winds and long days on the Missouri River.

The university's Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Society (FASS) as well as The Wildlife Society (TWS) programs give students an opportunity to become involved in the natural resources field. The programs encourage members to volunteer with different natural resource agencies in order to gain some hands-on field experience. This year, technician Chris



-USFWS/Andy Plauck

Volunteer Tony Overman of the University of Missouri gets the opportunity to pose with a shovelnose sturgeon captured as part of an assessment on the Missouri River.

McLeland from Columbia National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NFWCO) participated in several FASS and TWS meetings at MU. Chris gave short presentations on Columbia NFWCO's current Missouri River projects. Chris was successful in recruiting eight students from FASS and TWS to help our office with Missouri River sampling. These partnerships have been beneficial to us in the past. Two of these students were already seasoned "river rats" after helping out with last year's pallid sturgeon broodstock collection effort.

The original intent was to add a crew to specifically collect pallid sturgeon broodstock. Strong storms, rising water levels and river temperatures put sampling crews into high gear. We decided to double up on sampling effort so we could finish our gill net sampling before the water reached our temperature limit of 55 F°, above which may cause excessive handling stress. During the first day of sampling with the students, a Federally endangered pallid sturgeon was captured. This was a great opportunity for the students to experience a work-up of the rare fish. When a pallid sturgeon is captured, the field crew has to take measurements for morphometrics, check for hatchery-placed tags and photograph the fish. While only two of the students were able to see the captured pallid sturgeons, all of the volunteers were able to handle the more common shovelnose sturgeon.

Unfortunately, several inches of rain in portions of the Missouri River basin caused river levels to rise rapidly and subsequently only three days of field work occurred. A few of the volunteers accepted the invitation to clean gillnets when crews were flooded off the river. This dedication shows that these students truly are interested in a career in the natural resources field. This experience will give all of these students a reference that will look great on their resume. In return for their help, we are planning a "Thank You" cookout when the weather gets warmer. Partnering with this group allowed our office to double their effort during a week when help is hard to find.

For further info about the Columbia NFWCO: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/columbiafisheries/>

Congressional Actions

[111th CONGRESS House Bills]
[From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access]
[DOCID: h51ih.txt]
[Introduced in House]

111th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 51

To direct the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a study of the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes and their tributary and connecting waters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
January 6, 2009

Mr. Kirk introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a study of the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes and their tributary and connecting waters.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Eradicating Asian Carp in the Great Lakes Study Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. ASIAN CARP ERADICATION STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) In General.—The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall conduct a study to—

(1) identify methods to eradicate Asian carp from the Illinois Waterway System, including methods for harvesting Asian carp; and

(2) evaluate the feasibility and costs of each such method.

(b) Consultation.—The Director shall conduct the study under subsection (a) in consultation with—

(1) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(2) at least two interstate bodies representing the Mississippi River and Great Lakes States.

(c) Contents.—The study shall include, at a minimum, an evaluation of the feasibility of temporarily harvesting Asian carp as a method for eradicating the carp from the Illinois River. Such evaluation shall include evaluations of—

(1) species biomass and distribution for all fish species in the Illinois River, including a comparison with historical biomass and distribution data if such data is available;

(2) possible harvesting methods for Asian carp;

(3) possible products that could be generated from Asian carp;

(4) available types of temporary processing locations for harvested Asian carp;

(5) the environmental effects of constructing and operating temporary processing facilities at such locations;

(6) methods to repopulate the Illinois River ecosystem with native species; and

(7) the effect of Asian carp on the Illinois River ecosystem if temporary harvesting of Asian Carp is not conducted.

(d) Report.—

(1) In general.—The Director, in consultation with the Administrator, shall submit to Congress a report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the study under subsection (a).

(2) Contents.—The report shall include recommendations concerning—

(A) regulatory and other mechanisms to ensure—
(i) expeditious action to address the Asian carp problem;

(ii) effective eradication of such carp;

and

(iii) that an appropriate deadline is set for the completion of harvesting of such carp;

(B) preferred harvesting methods for Asian carp;

(C) the ideal quantity and distribution of—

(i) temporary processing locations for harvested Asian carp; and

(ii) temporary buying stations for harvested Asian carp; and

(D) methods to repopulate the Illinois River ecosystem with native species.

(e) Deadlines.—The Director shall—

(1) begin the study under subsection (a) not later than three months after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) complete the study not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(3) submit the report under subsection (d) not later than three months after the date of completion of the study.

Source is <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html>
Searched database by keyword = “fish”

Midwest Region Fisheries Divisions

National Fish Hatcheries

The Region's National Fish Hatcheries primarily focus on native fish restoration/rehabilitation by stocking fish and eggs, such as pallid and lake sturgeon and by developing and maintaining brood stocks of selected fish strains, such as lake trout and brook trout.

Hatcheries also provide technical assistance to other agencies, provide fish and eggs for research, stock rainbow trout in fulfillment of federal mitigation obligations and assist with recovery of native mussels and other native aquatic species.

National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices conduct assessments of fish populations to guide management decisions, perform key monitoring and control activities related to invasive, aquatic species; survey and evaluate aquatic habitats to identify restoration/rehabilitation opportunities; play a key role in targeting and implementing native fish and habitat restoration programs; work with private land owners, states, local governments and watershed organizations to complete aquatic habitat restoration projects under the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Great Lakes Coastal Programs; provide coordination and technical assistance toward the management of interjurisdictional fisheries; maintain and operate several key interagency fisher-

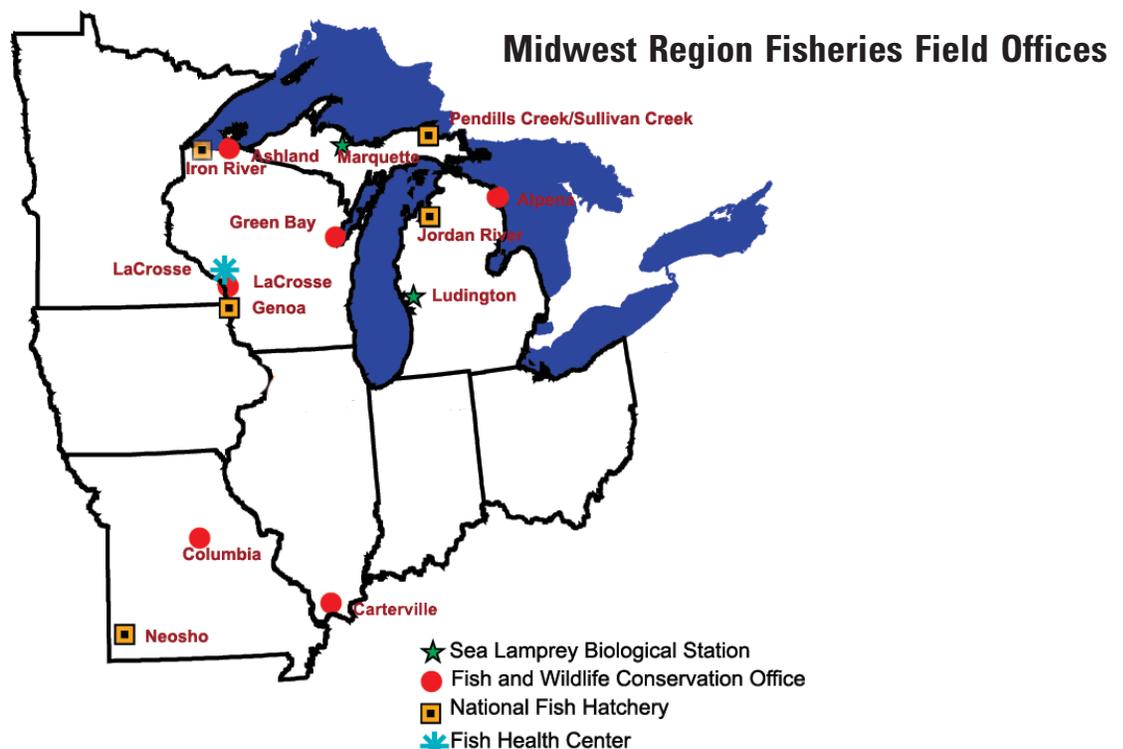
ies databases; provide technical expertise to other Service programs addressing contaminants, endangered species, federal project review and hydro-power operation and re-licensing; evaluate and manage fisheries on Service lands; and, provide technical support to 38 Native American tribal governments and treaty authorities.

Sea Lamprey Biological Stations

The Fish and Wildlife Service is the United States Agent for sea lamprey control, with two Biological Stations assessing and managing sea lamprey populations throughout the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission administers the Sea Lamprey Management Program, with funding provided through the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Fish Health Center

The Fish Health Center provides specialized fish health evaluation and diagnostic services to federal, state and tribal hatcheries in the region; conducts extensive monitoring and evaluation of wild fish health; examines and certifies the health of captive hatchery stocks; and, performs a wide range of special services helping to coordinate fishery program offices and partner organizations.



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Fish Tails

“Fish Tails” includes articles that are included in field station reports that are not published in the “Conservation Briefs.” These articles are categorized by focus area and includes the article title, author and field station. The website link, where the full article can be viewed, is highlighted in blue type.

Partnerships and Accountability

- Lake Huron Technical Committee Meeting
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Fish Health
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH
- Fish Health Inspection Time
 - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH
- Fry Babies Hatch
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH
- [Rainbow Trout - a Valuable Resource at Genoa NFH](#)
 - Jenny Bailey, Genoa NFH

Aquatic Invasive Species

Public Use

- Science Night at White Rock Elementary and Middle School
 - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH

Cooperation with Native Americans

Leadership in Science and Technology

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Workforce Management

- Annual Business and Industry Fair
 - Heather Williams, Neosho NFH
- Career Day at Neosho Middle School
 - Jaime Pacheco, Neosho NFH
- [“Don’t Move a Mussel” Comes to Missouri](#)
 - Brian Elkington, Columbia NFWCO
- FEMA Trailers
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH
- Job Shadow Program
 - Melissa Cheung, Neosho NFH
- New Administrative Technician
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH
- [Region 3 Fisheries Program Project Leaders Meeting](#)
 - Tracy Hill, Columbia NFWCO
- Spring Cleaning
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH
- Training
 - Jaime Masterson, Pendills Creek NFH



-Wildlife Forever

Judges hold winning paintings for the 2009 State Fish Art Contest (Lt. to Rt.) Mike Weimer (Fish and Wildlife Service), Michelle Kelly (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), Joe Hautman (wildlife artist), Scott Grieve (chairman of the board of Wildlife Forever), Kurt Beckstrom (editor, North American Fisherman Magazine).