

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

January 2012



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Tom Melius
Regional Director • Midwest Region
<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/>



As we begin the New Year,

I would like to personally thank all of you for the hard work and dedication you have shown during the past 12 months. I look forward to another exciting year to come.

We have many success stories to be proud of this year; a few examples include delisting both the Lake Erie water snake and the gray wolf, along with successfully moving the Regional office. Thanks to the efforts of many, the Lake Erie water snake reached recovery status and was removed from the endangered species list in just 12 years. Another victory is the delisting of the gray wolf in the western Great Lakes states. Again, thanks to many partners, the gray wolf has successfully recovered and no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

Almost two years ago, GSA notified us that we had to move our entire Regional Office from Ft. Snelling to a new location about 12 miles west of Ft. Snelling in Bloomington, Minnesota. Because this was a “directed” move, we negotiated for GSA to not only pay for the moving costs, but to also pay for the new furniture we would need. This allowed us to keep more than \$1 million in the field rather than using this money for RO moving expenses. We continually strive to keep our costs low by using duplicate display items from field stations for displays in the new Regional Office. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this major move a success without impacting our service to field stations.

Recently we were honored by a visit from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. While visiting the refuge, Secretary Salazar had the opportunity to visit with staff from all three of Indiana’s refuges along with their friend’s group members, the Bloomington, Indiana, ES Field Office, as well as conservation organizations and members of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He stressed how critical a strong partnership between the Service, the Indiana DNR and the public was to the success of our efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our valued employees who retired this past year. Thank you for the years of hard work and dedication you have provided to the Service. Employees like you are the reason the Service and other agencies are able to accomplish their missions.

As we welcome in 2012, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year.



Thomas D. Melius

Tom Melius
Regional Director, Midwest Region

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Secretary Salazar talks with USFWS employees from around Indiana at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. While at the refuge, Sec. Salazar had the opportunity to join in a question and answer session and encouraged members to continue doing good work and advising citizens to make their voices heard. Georgia Parham, USFWS.

Don't Forget to Make Your Duck Stamp Count!



Once again this year, the Service is hosting the Duck Stamp Challenge-- a friendly competition among regions that gives all of us the opportunity and incentive to contribute to conservation by buying a Federal Duck Stamp and to environmental education by buying a Junior Duck Stamp. At \$15 and \$5, respectively, these miniature works of art are among the least expensive, easiest, and most effective ways you can invest in wildlife conservation and support the Service's mission. The Duck Stamp Challenge runs until January 31, 2012. How it works is simple: once you have bought your 2011-2012 Federal Duck Stamp(s) or Junior Duck Stamp(s), send an email to: r3fwsnews@fws.gov with your name and the number of stamps purchased.

Any Federal Duck Stamp or Junior Duck Stamp purchased since July 1 counts toward the Region 3 total, so if you have already bought your stamp(s), please send an email to r3fwsnews@fws.gov to register them. If you bought a silk cachet or other special product that has a current Duck Stamp on it, this also counts toward our region's total.

How to Buy!

- If you are in the Regional Office, buy a Duck Stamp or Junior Duck Stamp from Margie Maldonado (612-713-5440) (cash or check only)
- Many National Wildlife Refuges also sell Duck Stamps and Junior Duck Stamps at their visitor centers!
- Call or order online from the United States Postal Service at 1-800 STAMP-24 (1-800-782-6724), or online at <http://shop.usps.com>
- Visit your local post office
- Call or order online from Amplex Corporation at 1-800-852-4897 or online at www.duckstamp.com
- Contact the Federal Duck Stamp Office at 703-358-1784 or duckstamps@fws.gov
- Finally, Duck Stamps can also be purchased at most major sporting goods stores that sell hunting licenses.

Story by Ashley Spratt

AsianCarp.us is Now Live!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an active member of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC), is pleased to announce that AsianCarp.us is the new home for up-to-date information on ACRCC actions to protect the Great Lakes from bighead and silver carp.

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, with support from federal, state, local agencies and other private stakeholder entities, was formed to implement actions to protect and maintain the integrity and safety of the Great Lakes ecosystem from an Asian carp invasion via all viable pathways. The goals and actions of the ACRCC are outlined in the 2011 Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework and the 2011 Monitoring and Rapid Response plan. To download these documents and learn more about the ACRCC, please visit AsianCarp.us today!



Electrofishing in the Chicago Area Waterway System during an Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee rapid response action, August 2011. Kevin Irons, Illinois DNR

Story by Katie Steiger-Meister

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Visits Indiana



Secretary Salazar talks with USFWS employees from around Indiana at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Georgia Parham, USFWS

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar traveled to southern Indiana November 29 to meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff from the state's three refuges and other Service programs in Indiana. Also joining the Secretary at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge were members of refuge friends groups, representatives from Indiana conservation organizations, local officials and leadership from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Secretary Salazar outlined his priorities for the Interior Department, including energy solutions, America's Great Outdoors initiative, the importance of conservation and recreation to the economy, and the department's commitment to Native Americans. Salazar praised the efforts of volunteers, who, he said, are critical to the success of Fish and Wildlife Service efforts, especially in times of budget restrictions. Salazar also acknowledged the strong partnership between the Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Salazar recognized decades of work for the Service by Donna Stanley, ranger at Muscatatuck, and Bill McCoy, refuge manager at Patoka River. The session ended with questions and answers, with Secretary Salazar encouraging Service members to continue doing good work and advising citizens to make their voices heard.

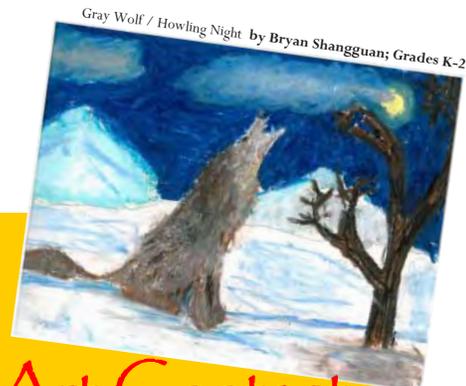
Story by Georgia Parham



Secretary Salazar talks with Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge Manager Bill McCoy. Georgia Parham, USFWS

Winners are chosen in four categories:

K- GRADE 2
GRADES 3-5
GRADES 6-8
GRADES 9-12



For Students K-12

2012 Endangered Species Youth Art Contest

Artwork should highlight one or more endangered species

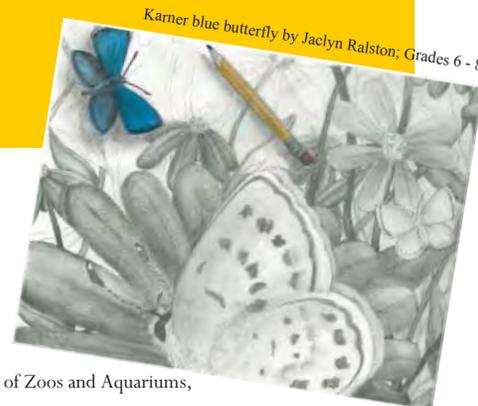
Entrants are encouraged to depict species found in their area.

See www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered

for photos and information about endangered species in the upper Midwest



For complete contest
Guidelines and
Entry Form, visit
www.endangeredspeciesday.org



Organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Endangered Species Coalition, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art/ University of New Orleans.

Endangered Species Day

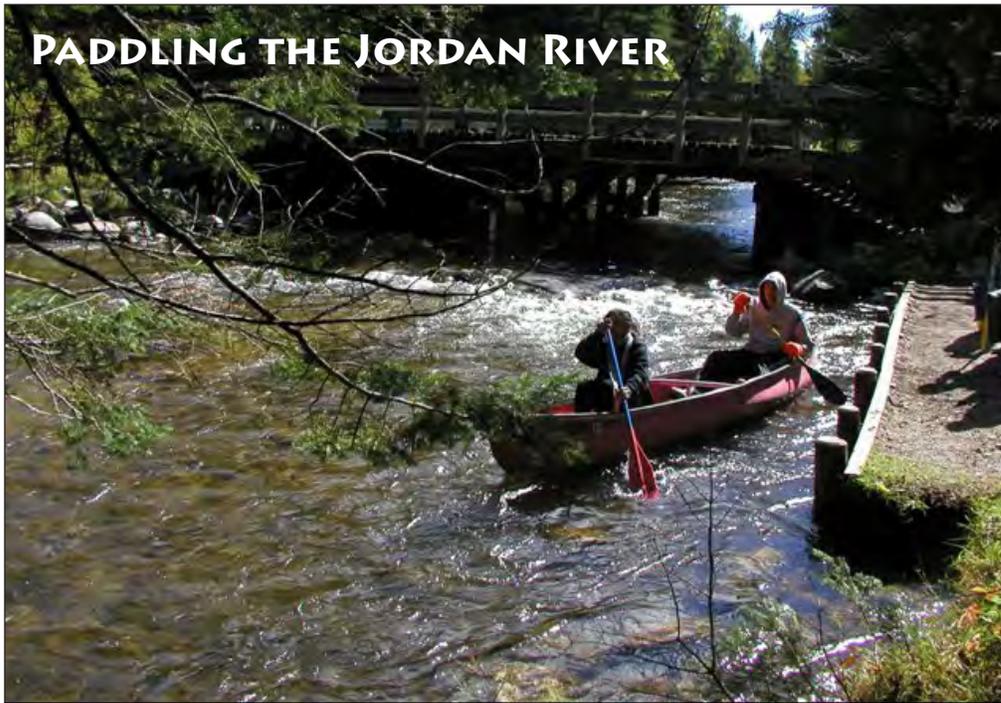
Youth Art Contest

Get the Word Out for 2012!

The Service is once again encouraging kids to learn about endangered species and enter the Endangered Species Day Art contest for 2012. Kids in grades K-12 are eligible, with entries due March 15, 2012. Help get the word out to art teachers, science teachers and youth groups. Complete details can be found at www.stopextinction.org/esd/

Story by Georgia Parham

PADDLING THE JORDAN RIVER



Spring Arbor University students regrouping below the Old State “twin tubes”.
Photo Credit: Cedar Bend Farms

Every fall, the Spring Arbor University freshman class treks north to Cedar Bend Farm near Mancelona, Michigan, to learn about the great outdoors and paddle the Jordan River from Graves Crossing to Webster’s Bridge. Biologists from the Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) based in Elmira, Mich., led one of the weekly Jordan River canoe trips this October to teach students about the Wild and Scenic Jordan River, the ecological challenges it faces, and the importance of conservation efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the river’s integrity.

With a water temperature in the upper 40s, the freshman class braved the cold weather; many for their first canoeing experience, under the wing of fish and wildlife biologist Rick Westerhof. After a paddling and safety lesson from Swiss Hideaway Canoe Livery, the students were put to the test on the fastest section of the river, known locally as the “twin tubes” between Graves Crossing and the old State Road culverts.

Westerhof explains safety always comes first before hitting the river: “The paddling lesson can range from simple steering techniques and the necessity of wearing your personal floatation device to how to react to tree limbs and debris in the paddler’s path.”

Most canoeists enjoy the challenge of the twin tubes, but this section of the river has been known to have adverse impacts on fish and wildlife. At low flows and high flows it becomes a barrier for many fish

species and is a major site of erosion and sediment entering into the river.

Once the canoeists successfully pass through the ever-imposing and entertaining twin tubes at Old State Road, they pull out and enjoy a short rest, lunch, and time to warm up before hitting the water from Old State Road to Webster’s Bridge, a wider and slower section of the river. After mastering the art of paddling through the twin tubes, this slower section of the river gives the students the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors from an on-the-water perspective, and learn about the wildlife and fish that use the river. They have a chance to see ducks, a variety of bird species, and if they’re lucky, a coho or chinook salmon on their spawning run.

“The paddling experience not only exposes the students to natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat of crucial river systems like the Jordan River, but it also gives them first-hand knowledge of the adverse impacts of undersized culverts, and the impacts of erosion and sediment on the river,” Westerhof said.

Story by Rick Westerhof

“The paddling experience not only exposes the students to natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat of crucial river systems like the Jordan River, but it also gives them first-hand knowledge of the adverse impacts of undersized culverts, and the impacts of erosion and sediment on the river.”

Rick Westerhof



Students at the start of the canoe trip at Graves Crossing. Photo Credit: Cedar Bend Farms



Service Alerts Public to Abundance of Snowy Owls in Upper Midwest this Winter

Snowy owls originating from the Arctic tundra are migrating south to winter in regions of the Great Lakes and Midwest plains, according to migratory bird biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The species' rare southerly migration may be the result of a decline in its forage base and a productive breeding season. The snowy owl migration began this October and the birds are expected to remain in portions of the United States until late winter/early spring.

Unlike many owls, snowy owls thrive in open grasslands, nest on the ground, and hunt mainly during the day. They feed on small mammals, waterfowl, birds and fish, and, their coloring, large size, unique hunting behavior and remote habitat distinguish them from other owl species.



Snowy Owl, Michaela Sagatova

“Since snowy owls tend to remain in the Arctic year-round, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to see them in the upper Midwest this winter. I encourage people to get outside and add seeing this owl in the wild to their life list,” said Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius. “However, as these birds tend to be in open areas and active during the day, please be aware and respectful so these Arctic visitors can return home in the spring.”

Story by Ashley Spratt



Black Bear Cub, Courtney Celley. USFWS

Wisconsin Bear Guide Charged with Lacey Act Violations

James L. Santelle, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced Oct. 12, 2011 that John J. Kellogg has been charged by complaint with two violations of the Lacey Act.

Count One alleges that between Sept. 8, 2009 and Sept. 11, 2009, Kellogg illegally arranged for the transfer of a bear license to another in violation of Wisconsin law. Kellogg then provided guide services to others during which a bear was killed and illegally tagged. Kellogg facilitated the out of state transfer of meat from the bear to an undercover officer participating in the hunt.

Count Two alleges that between Sept. 4, 2011 and Sept. 9, 2011, Kellogg again arranged for the illegal transfer of a bear permit to another in violation of Wisconsin law. Despite having his hunting privileges revoked, Kellogg guided others on a bear hunt on Sept. 9, 2011 during which he shot and killed a bear. The bear was illegally tagged. Kellogg then directed an undercover officer to transport the bear for processing of the bear meat and the creation of a bear rug.

The Lacey Act is a federal law that makes it illegal to knowingly transport or sell wildlife taken in violation of state, federal, tribal and foreign laws or regulations. The Act defines the sale of wildlife to include the sale of guiding services for the illegal taking of wildlife.

Kellogg appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge James Sickel on Oct. 5, 2011. He was released upon signing a personal recognizance bond with conditions including that he not hunt or engage in guide services. After appearing before Judge Sickel on Oct. 19, 2011 for a preliminary hearing, the court determined that there is probable cause and will follow up with further proceedings.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William Roach of the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Green Bay Division.

The public is cautioned that charges outlined in a complaint against an individual do not constitute evidence of his or her guilt. A person is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, as the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Story by Tina Shaw

Under the Lacey Act today, it is illegal to import, export, sell, acquire, or purchase fish, wildlife or plants taken, possessed, transported, or sold:

- in violation of U.S. or Indian law, or
- in interstate or foreign commerce involving any fish, wildlife, or plants taken possessed or sold in violation of State or foreign law.

The law covers all fish and wildlife and their parts or products, and plants protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species or State law. Commercial guiding and outfitting are considered “sales” under the Lacey Act.

Endangered Species Success: The Lake Erie Watersnake Recovers!



Local communities played a key role in the recovery of the Lake Erie watersnake. USFWS

Achieving recovery of an endangered species is a huge accomplishment, and doing it in just over a decade is unprecedented. But thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team of federal, state, local and private partners, the Lake Erie watersnake went from threatened with extinction to recovered in just 12 years.

On August 15, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had removed the Lake Erie watersnake, found on offshore islands in western Lake Erie in Ohio and Ontario, from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. The snake became the 23rd species to be delisted due to recovery.

“Today the Lake Erie watersnake joins species such as the bald eagle, the American alligator, and the peregrine falcon that have rebounded from the threat of extinction and no longer require the protection of the Endangered Species Act,” Salazar said. “These species — and the hundreds of others whose extinction has been prevented by the Act — are living testimonies to its ability to bring species back from the brink by protecting them and conserving and restoring their habitat.”

The Service listed the Lake Erie watersnake as a threatened species in 1999. Threats to the species included intentional killing and loss of its shoreline habitat on Lake Erie to development. In 2003, the Service finalized a recovery plan that called for protecting habitat and providing outreach to reduce threats to the species. In cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife and other partners, biologists worked to minimize and reduce the threats to the snake by sustaining and protecting summer and hibernation habitat and ensuring the permanent protection of shoreline habitat. “As with most conservation success stories, the comeback of the Lake Erie watersnake is the result of different groups of people working toward a common goal. Partners — from local citizens to government agencies — worked hard to address threats to this species and ensure its long-term survival,” said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe.

Critical research, including an annual intensive Lake Erie watersnake census begun in 2001, provided data that identified when the species had achieved its population goal and threats to its survival had been reduced. In addition, public outreach programs provide awareness of the snake, its plight and its role in the ecosystem.

Recovery criteria include a combined population of at least 5,555 snakes on the U.S. islands, sustained for six years, and protection of key habitat.

Through continued habitat protection and public education, the Lake Erie watersnake population grew to about 11,980 in 2009, and has exceeded the minimum recovery level since 2002. About 300 acres of inland habitat and 11 miles of shoreline have been protected for the snake since it was listed.

“Today the Lake Erie watersnake joins species such as the bald eagle, the American alligator, and the peregrine falcon that have rebounded from the threat of extinction...”

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar



Ohio Field Office biologist Angela Boyer holds a Lake Erie watersnake. USFWS

Partners in the efforts to recover the Lake Erie watersnake include the ODNR, Northern Illinois University, Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and The Ohio State University Stone Laboratory.

The Act requires that a species be monitored for a minimum of 5 years after delisting to ensure that the species remains stable after its protections are removed. The Service and the ODNR have developed a post-delisting monitoring plan to verify that the species remains secure from risk of extinction after the protections of the Act no longer apply. Lake Erie watersnakes remain listed as endangered by the state of Ohio so killing them is still illegal under state law.

Story by Georgia Parham

Sea Lamprey in the Great Lakes: The Battle Continues



The sea lamprey is a destructive invasive species in the Great Lakes that contributed to the collapse of lake trout and other native species in the mid twentieth century. Sea lampreys attach to large bodied fish, like lake trout, and extract the blood and bodily fluids from its host. It is estimated that each parasitic lamprey will kill up to 40 pounds of fish during its life time.



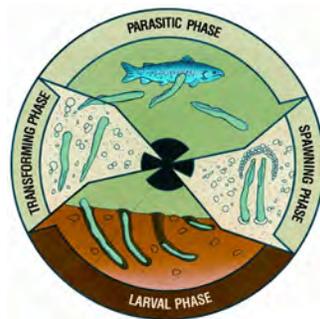
Sea Lamprey Mouth, T. Lawrence, USFWS

Although sea lampreys were first spotted in Lake Ontario in the 1830's, they were not found in the remaining lakes until the 1930's. Niagara Falls served as a natural barrier to their expansion. Once the Welland Canal was built, so that ships may bypass the falls, the sea lamprey found their way into the remaining Great Lakes. Along with the introduction of sea lamprey and over harvesting by commercial fisheries the lake trout population rapidly declined. Before lampreys were established in the Great Lakes approximately 15 million pounds of lake trout were harvested annually in lakes Huron and Superior. By the 1960's the average harvest was down to around 300,000 pounds. The lake trout fishery was almost decimated.

In 1955, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission was founded to find a way to minimize or eliminate sea lamprey populations within the Great Lakes and to organize research programs throughout the Great Lakes. The Sea Lamprey Management Program (SLMP) was then created and charged with facilitating the rehabilitation of important fish stocks within the Great Lakes by reducing mortality caused by sea lamprey. The SLMP is in turn implemented by two control agents, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are

currently three offices within the SLMP: Ludington Biological Station, Mich., Marquette Biological Station, Mich. and the Sea Lamprey Control Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

The first step in the fight against the sea lamprey was to understand their life cycle. Adult sea lamprey will swim upstream into rivers and build horseshoe shaped nests. Once a lamprey has spawned they die. Their tiny worm-like larvae bury themselves in the sand and sediment where they feed on plant material and debris for an average of 3 to 6 years. The larvae then go through a metamorphosis where they develop eyes and an oral disc with teeth. The lamprey is now in its parasitic phase at which point it will head out to the Great Lakes to begin feeding. Lamprey will spend anywhere from 12-20 months feeding before the cycle is once again started. This whole process takes on average 5 to 8 years to complete.



Scientists found that the most vulnerable stage in their life history is the larval stage. After testing over 5,000 compounds, a chemical known as TFM (3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol) was found. TFM is monitored into streams in small quantities (parts per million) and disrupts the sea lampreys ability to metabolize oxygen, thus killing sea lampreys.

With over 5,000 tributaries to the Great Lakes, of which 450 have contained sea lamprey and only 267 have been treated in the past, knowing their distribution and abundance is vital. To do this, employees use backpack electro-fishers, in shallow areas, to stimulate larval sea lamprey out of their burrows. In deeper bodies of water, assessment technicians will use a granular Bayluscide which again stimulates lamprey from their burrows. Data collected, length and frequency, is

used to decide which streams or section of streams will be treated for sea lamprey during the next field season.

Once abundance and distribution have been determined and a treatment list has been decided on the chemical control unit takes the reigns and treatments begin. Prior to treatment the streams are surveyed and data is collected on the volume of flow and the chemistry of the water. Treatment units, both US and Canadian, then apply and analyze the TFM concentration throughout the treatment. A typical treatment will typically take between 48 to 72 hours. During the 2011 field season, 96 streams throughout the Great Lakes Basin were treated for sea lamprey.

Several alternative control methods have been developed including: trapping of spawning-phase sea lamprey, release of sterilized males to reduce reproductive success, and the operation and construction of low-head barriers which block migrating lamprey. New alternative control methods are currently being investigated. These new control methods include sterile-female release, use of lamprey pheromones, and trapping technologies.

The Service and Department of Fisheries and Oceans are constantly involved in outreach activities to inform the public of the benefits and operations of the SLMP. These efforts educate the public about sea lampreys and the devastating effect they have on Great Lakes fishes. Employees frequently attend boating and sports shows where a large display and live lamprey draw the crowds. Regular visits to local schools and conservation groups inform children and adults on the need to protect the Great Lakes from all aquatic invaders.



For more information on Sea Lamprey and the Sea Lamprey Management Program please visit <http://www.glfco.org>

Story by Rebecca Gannon,
Ludington Biological Station

M. Gaden, USFWS



75 Years

IT'S YOUR NATURE

Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration – 75 Years

"It's Your Nature"

"Reforms are attained by evolution, not by prescription, of ideas. Real reforms are always homemade."

Aldo Leopold, 1930

Through excise taxes and license revenues, sportsmen have contributed more than \$12 billion to conservation through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs (WSFR), and annually provide more than 80% of the funding for most state fish and wildlife agencies. In 2012, WSFR will celebrate 75 years on the books as the engine driving the restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

It has been justly called the most successful conservation management

program in the world. America's hunters, shooters, anglers and boaters should be proud that they have held the program on their shoulders for 75 years. But WSFR is not the exclusive club of the sporting community. As Aldo Leopold, one of our country's greatest conservationists and crafters of the P-R Act reminds us: "One cannot divorce esthetics from utility, quality from quantity, present from future, either in deciding what is done to or for soil, or in educating the persons delegated to do it. All land-uses and land-users are interdependent, and the forces

which connect them follow channels still largely unknown."

So, buy a hunting license even if you don't hunt. Buy a fishing license not because you fish, but as an affirmation of what is worth saving in this great country of ours. WSFR is an American legacy, fought for by sportsmen, supported by sportsmen, but open to all. Join us and you will see why "it's your nature" to help preserve our nation's wildlife resources.

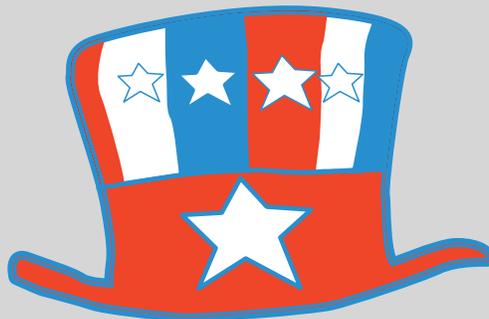
To learn more about the WSFR 75th Anniversary and ongoing conservation projects in the Midwest Region, visit wsfrprograms.fws.gov/

Story by Ashley Spratt

Hatch Act Overview

Although 2012 just began, the 2012 election cycle is already in full swing. As we head into a presidential election year, it's a good time to review the Hatch Act, which governs the types of political activity in which federal employees may engage.

Here's a brief (and non-exhaustive) overview of the types of permitted and prohibited activities that are covered by the Hatch Act: Federal employees may vote, contribute money to candidates, attend political events, volunteer for political campaigns, and participate in many aspects of electoral politics.



However, federal employees are not allowed to run for partisan office, use their position to advocate for candidates, participate in political activity while on duty, or wear or display campaign materials while on duty.

There are many nuances to the law, and not all scenarios are clearly covered by the Hatch Act and its regulations. The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is responsible for interpreting and providing guidance on the Hatch Act. For more information call Legislative Liaison Garrett Peterson or visit <http://www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm>.

Story by Garrett Peterson

Small Wetlands Exhibit Unveiled at NCTC



Deputy Regional Director Charles Wooley and Regional Director Tom Melius check out the Small Wetlands Program Exhibit during the 2011 Federal Duck Stamp Contest at the National Conservation Training Center. USFWS

What do wetlands and prairies have to do with a stamp? Simply put, everything! One of our nation's most efficient and effective conservation programs would not exist without the Federal Duck Stamp. Visitors to the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) now have the opportunity to learn how their Duck Stamp dollars have been fueling, and continue to fuel, restoration and preservation work across America's heartland.

During the 2011 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest at NCTC in Shepherdstown, WV, on October 28 and 29, the Small Wetlands Program exhibit was unveiled. 'Small Wetlands, Big Mission', a seemingly small, but rather large part, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conservation effort was unveiled during this year's contest and was a natural complement to the event.

Surrounded by exhibits that honor Service employees and programs that have changed the conservation community for the better, the Small Wetlands Program exhibit is part of the foundation of the Service. As the public celebrated the

Duck Stamp contest, it was only fitting that the Service also celebrate a program that the Duck Stamp helps to fund throughout the nation's heartland of the upper Midwest and Northern Great Plains - The Small Wetlands Program.

The vision for the Small Wetlands Program emerged in the 1940s when Waubay National Wildlife Refuge Manager Fred Staunton began documenting significant reductions in waterfowl populations. Staunton and many others believed these population losses were the direct result of massive wetland drainage programs across our prairie landscape and that something needed to be done to ebb the tide. Learn more about his efforts and other Service employees on your next visit to NCTC.

Joseph Hautman of Plymouth, MN, won this year's contest with his acrylic painting of a single Wood duck and his winning design will be made into the 2012-2013 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or "Duck Stamp," the cornerstone of one of the world's most successful conservation programs.



Joseph Hautman's acrylic painting of a single Wood duck will grace the 2012-2013 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

Check out pictures of the exhibit and Duck Stamp Art Contest: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest/sets/72157628008186528/>

To learn more about the Small Wetlands Program go to: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/smallWetlands/>

Learn more about Duck Stamps: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>

Be sure to visit the exhibit the next time you're at NCTC!

Story by Tina Shaw

Natural Resource Trustees Continue to Assess Damage Related to 2010 Spill in Kalamazoo River

More than a year after over 800,000 gallons of oil spilled into Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River near Marshall, Michigan, tribal and government agencies, acting as trustees for injured natural resources, continue to conduct studies and surveys to assess the amount of damage to fish, wildlife and habitat. The trustees' activities are part of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) that will result in restoration of the resources and resource services lost to the public as a result of the spill.

Representatives from the Service, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Attorney General, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi are working together as the Trustee Council addressing injuries from the spill.

"Clean up of the oil is still ongoing," said Stephanie Millsap, Service Contaminants Specialist, who is coordinating the Service's NRDA efforts for this spill. "We continue to identify potential injuries and collect ephemeral data as part of our assessment effort."

Natural Resource Damage Assessment is the process used by federal, state and tribal governments to jointly seek



Workers survey the Kalamazoo River following the Enbridge spill. USFWS



Biologists examine fish from the Kalamazoo River following the July 2010 Enbridge oil spill in Michigan. USFWS

compensation on behalf of the public for natural resources injured or destroyed when areas become contaminated with oil or other hazardous substances. The trustee agencies and tribes work to restore habitats and resources to pre-spill conditions, and to compensate the public for the lost use and enjoyment of the resources. Compensation is sought from the party responsible for the damage, in this case, Enbridge Energy.



The Service's Valdo Calvert served on the Incident Command Team and often provided briefings for media and other stakeholders during response to the spill. USFWS

The spill occurred in July 2010, when Enbridge Energy Partners LLP reported that a 30-inch pipeline had ruptured near Marshall, Michigan, releasing an estimated 819,000 gallons into Talmadge Creek, which flows into the Kalamazoo River. Heavy rains caused the river to overflow its banks and carried oil over 30 miles downstream on the Kalamazoo River and into adjacent floodplains.

Within days of the spill, trustees began collecting data to understand the spill's impact, and the impact of response actions, on natural resources and recreational use values in and near the creek and river. Throughout the past year, the trustees have gathered information on water, fish, mussels, invertebrates such as insects and crustaceans, vegetation, recovery and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife, and recreational closures. Collection of data continues as trustees work to identify and quantify the spill's impacts.

"As unfortunate as this spill was, it did showcase the incredible dedication of Service people in the Midwest Region and beyond," said Stephanie. "Across programs, Service employees responded to the call for help, assisting with wildlife response and recovery, field work associated with identifying potential injuries to Service trust resources, and other roles. This has truly been a team effort."

Once impacts are fully identified, trustees will begin restoration planning, identifying projects that benefit the same or similar resources that were injured by the spill. The public will have an opportunity for review and comment upon the draft assessment and restoration plan.

Story by Georgia Parham

AROUND THE REGION

Accessing America's Great Outdoors: Disabled Hunters Have the Hunt of a Lifetime

The special deer hunt for sportsmen with disabilities was held at the Lost Mound Unit (former Savanna Army Depot) of Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge on Nov. 12 and 13, 2011. Hunters and their assistants were treated to the hunt of a lifetime. Field surveys showed the deer population to be abundant and the rutting season was in high gear.

To view pictures taken during the hunt check out the Flickr photose: bit.ly/LostMound

bit.ly/LostMound

Stay tuned for an in-depth article about special hunting and fishing opportunities around the region in next month's edition of Inside Region 3.

Check out the Open Spaces blog - <http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2011/11/18/Accessing-Americas-Great-Outdoors--Disabled-Hunters-Have-the-Hunt-of-a-Lifetime/>



Disabled Hunt, Tina Shaw, USFWS

Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Chairman Stanley R. Crooks Meet to Discuss Native American Youth Conservation Initiative



This effort will prioritize getting youth outdoors; promoting success in school; and applying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in ways that foster greater interest in the environment and natural resource management. Ultimately, this initiative will provide direct benefits to Tribal youth,

schools, communities, and ultimately, to the larger conservation community. It also directly addresses the America's Great Outdoors Initiative's priority to engage young people in conservation and the great outdoors by: providing access to the outdoors; making the outdoors relevant and fun; providing opportunities

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Meeting 11-22-11, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

for environmental education; and enabling youth to volunteer and work in the outdoors.

HAPPY TRAILS!



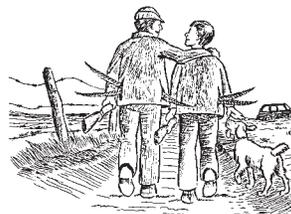
Maggie Anderson

Graduating from University of Maine at Orono in 1973, Anderson started her conservation career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a part of the Atlantic Salmon Investigations team and then went on to work as the Assistant Refuge Manager at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Maine, where she worked until 1977. Taking leadership roles across the country—from the Lansing District-Pool 9 on Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and Seney NWR on Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Lee Mecalff NWR in Montana and Petit Manan NWR in Maine—Anderson has made mentoring young biologists and investing in sound science a priority for more than three decades. In 1995, Anderson returned to the Midwest as the manager at Agassiz NWR where she continues to define the standard of refuge management today. During her tenure at Agassiz NWR, Anderson has elevated moose research and the importance of outreach in advancing the understanding and protection of moose in northern Minnesota. Partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Anderson brought the Adopt-a-Moose program to the web and area schools. Anderson has also shepherded research projects on wolves, American Bittern, Least Bittern and Franklin's Gull, as well as landscape-level projects on sedge meadow habitat and sediment studies. With an eye on the future of her profession and the wider success of the conservation community, Anderson has always placed great value on the role that volunteers and young biologists play in her research partnerships. Throughout her career, Anderson has folded volunteers and students into research projects with the broader goal of providing mentoring opportunities.



John Christian

John Christian has been a leader in the Fish and Wildlife Service for 37 years and a public servant in the federal government for more than 41 years. John began his career with the Service in the Washington Office where he served as Chief of the Branch of Policy and Legislation for Ecological Services. His team wrote the Services Mitigation Policy in the early 80s which is in use today. His next assignment moved him to Atlanta where he served as Assistant Regional Director for Endangered Species and Federal Assistance, where he dedicated his time to endangered species consultation and recovery efforts for the whooping crane, red wolf, Puerto Rican parrot, Florida panther, green pitcher plant, red-cockaded woodpecker and manatee. John also served as the Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries in Minneapolis, Minnesota and as a Geographic Assistant Regional Director for Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana. In 1999, the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership was formed under John's leadership to reintroduce a migratory flock of whooping cranes to Eastern North America. John ends his tenure with the Service as the Assistant Regional Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs in Minneapolis where he has been responsible for migratory bird conservation activities in the Midwest region and has managed fish and wildlife grant programs that provide more than \$250 million to States in the Midwest region for fish and wildlife restoration activities. In each of John's many roles within this agency, his passion, motivation, and good humor brought conservation success and growth to this agency. John concluded his service to Fish and Wildlife on December 2, 2011, and we wish him and wife Kate fair weather on their next big adventure!





Mike Perry

After working for the service for just over 13 years, Captain Mike Perry has decided to sail off into retirement. Mike began his employment with the Service in 1998, stocking more than 40 million lake trout into the Great Lakes during his career. During his time as ship's captain, Mike operated two different vessels; the M/V Togue and the M/V Spencer F. Baird. With Mike's departure, a historic reign of Perry's operating the Region's stocking vessel will be ending. Both of his brothers served as ship's captain prior to Mike assuming the duties in 1998. Mike ensured that the Region's large vessel program operated without any loss of life or property. His good judgment allowed the program to accomplish mission goals and objectives in a safe manner during his tenure. Mike concludes his service for Fish and Wildlife on December 30, 2011, and plans to travel the country, soak up the great natural wonders that reside out west, and visit family.



Charlie Scott

Charlie Scott grew up in the Cross Timbers area of Southwest Oklahoma where he developed an enduring passion for the great outdoors. Charlie's philosophy is simple: passion and collaboration drive and deliver successful conservation. Since January of 2001, Charlie has served as the Field Supervisor of the Columbia Ecological Services Field Office in Missouri where he led, among many other conservation initiatives, a management team dedicated to protecting endangered species in the Missouri River system. Earlier in his career, Charlie served as the Chief of the Recovery and Delisting Branch, Division of Endangered Species in the Service's Washington, DC headquarters. Charlie and his staff developed and managed national policies, guidance, budgets, and science support relating to the conservation of the 1,300 species listed under Endangered Species Act. From 1975 to 1999, Charlie dedicated his time to environmental contaminants and endangered species issues at the Tulsa Ecological Services Field Office, where he climbed the ladder from biologist to Assistant Field Supervisor and Endangered Species Coordinator. Throughout his career Charlie has been an exemplary mentor for countless biologists who have benefitted from his leadership and sage advice—"listen to and rely on your biological gut!" Charlie concludes his service to Fish and Wildlife on December 31, 2011 to begin a new chapter with wife Rebecca enjoying the natural resources he has worked to protect.

RECENT DEPARTURES

Mortie Berg, Bio Science Technician; Litchfield WMD, MN

Janet Brewer, Admin Officer; Ecological Services-East Lansing, MI

Joe Budzyn, Criminal Investigator; Crim. Invest-Rosemont, IL

Barry Christenson, NWR Manager; Windom WMD, MN

John Christian, FW Admin, ARD-Migratory Birds & State

Edward De Vries, Wildlife Specialist; Shiawassee NWR, Saginaw, MI

David Devault, Fish & Wildlife Biologist; Columbus, OH Field Office, OH

Patti Drager, NWR Manager; Horicon NWR, Mayville, WI

Richard Frietsche, NWR Manager; Upper Miss River NWFR

Karen Halpin, Wildlife Inspector; Supv. Wildlife Inspect, Rosemont, IL

Robert Hansen, Admin Officer; ARD-Budget & Admin

Arthur "Tex" Hawkins, Jr.; Fish & Wildlife Biologist; Upper Miss River NWFR

Stephen Jakala, Supv. Fire Mgmt Specialist; Division of Fire Management

Robert Kavetsky, Fish & Wildlife Biologist; ES; East Lansing, MI

Arthur Kitchen, Wildlife Biologist; Wisconsin State Private Lands Office, WI

George Maze, NWR Manager; Union Slough NWR, IA

Jon Parker, Fish & Wildlife Biologist; Wildlife & Sport Fish Rest. Program

Dave Prosser, Maintenance Mechanic; Cypress Creek NWR, IL

Terry Rendleman, Admin Officer; Crab Orchard NWR, IL

James Riemer, Wildlife Biologist; St Croix Wetland Management District

Michael Vanderford, Fish & Wildlife Biologist; Wildlife & Sport Fish Rest. Prg.

Teresa Woods, Fish & Wildlife Biologist; ARD, Region 3

Thomas Zellmer, Fire Management Specialist; Division of Fire Management

MUSKEGON LAMPREY BOAT



Joe Genovese (l), Marquette Biological Station, and Jason Krebill (r), Ludington Biological Station, prepare to treat the Muskegon River for Sea Lamprey. Ellie Koon, USFWS



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