



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Inside Region 3

October 2010

# Inspiration



*Grady Mann Waterfowl  
Production Area dedication.*

## Plus:

Rice Lake NWR 75th Anniversary

*Nature:* Emerson and Thoreau Spirit Through the Woods

October Ushers in **Shocking News** from Iron River National Fish Hatchery

**Editor's Note:**

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

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

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

E-mail: [valerie\\_redmond@fws.gov](mailto:valerie_redmond@fws.gov) with your Let's Go Outside! and Kids Corner articles, photos, journal entries and poems.

*On the Cover:*

*Midwest Regional Director, Tom Melius, and Lois Mann unveil plaque for the Grady Mann Waterfowl Production Area dedication, Aug 28, 2010. Photo by Tina Shaw/USFWS.*

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By Valerie Rose Redmond

## Leaders, Writers and Inspirations

It was an honor and a privilege for me to be a part of the Grady Mann Wetland Protection Area dedication ceremony in Fergus Falls, Minn. A trailblazer, pioneer and nonconformist, Grady Mann was a true inspiration (page 4). While his work earned him the title of Father of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Small Wetland Acquisition Program, there was a time where his views were not exactly popular. In the fifties, the nation's appetite was whet for business and industry. Mann's courageous writings, amid a wellspring of controversy, advocated the preservation of the wetlands and grasslands that America now knows are critical to waterfowl and other wildlife. But that's what great leaders do. They inspire us to step out of the lines of conventional thinking in order to embrace progress, even in the face of personal attacks.

Rachel Carson, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's first woman biologist, was no stranger to personal attacks. A gifted writer and leader, she too was an inspiration. The process, however, did not leave her unscathed. October marks 48 years ago that her landmark book, *Silent Spring* was selected as the *New Yorker's* Book-of-the-Month. The book's release ushered in a firestorm of controversy and a legion of fierce critics to go with it. But in the end, *Silent Spring* led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides. Carson's beam of light streamed deep into the conscious of the American psyche, and even compelled into action a grassroots environmental movement that was the impetus for the Environmental Protection Agency. Carson and

Mann were ordinary people that faced extraordinary challenges but prevailed with forward thinking, even when it was not popular. Ralph Waldo Emerson was also a forward thinking man, as reflected in his writings. But Emerson too found his intense love of nature at odds with man's quest for industrious progress. He speaks to us about that from a historical context with the words, "Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist," and then again through the contemporary voice of his great, great, great grandson, Tyson Forbes (page 12-15).

Emerson was an American icon and an inspiration, yet he was a human being, with ordinary problems and concerns. As was Theodore Roosevelt, another inspired leader. The system that he began with the designation of Florida's Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, has since grown to more than 552 national wildlife refuges. That's why I was so pleased about the 75th anniversary of the Rice Lake NWR that recently took place (page 6). The event was a wonderful success for the Service, but more, it was a unique opportunity to recognize and remember where we've come from.

Great leaders help us remember where we came from, but they also help us to see where we are going, which is why I couldn't be happier with the selection of Richard Leopold as the Midwest Region's Assistant Regional Director for Science Applications (Inside Region3, September 2010, page 22).

We can take lessons from all of these great leaders—their lives, and their enduring messages. But we would do well to remember that our foremost leaders were ordinary people, just like you and I. They both endured the mundane and faced the extreme. Life challenged them—everyday. Yet, they persevered. They remind us that not only can ordinary people do extraordinary things, but that they and (we) can inspire others to do the same. And sometimes that can even mean changing the world. It is without a doubt, an opportunity to take note. As such, I welcome any new perspectives on conservation and invite you to send them to the RD suggestion box on the Region 3 intranet.

Warm regards,

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



Above: Midwest Regional Director, Tom Melius (R), Kevin Brennan (L) and Lois Mann (C) share a laugh at the ceremony. Photo by Tina Shaw/USFWS.

# Grady Mann: A True Inspiration

## Celebrating the Father of the Small Wetlands Program

Friends and supporters of the Small Wetlands Program honored the conservation efforts of Grady Mann, the father of the Small Wetlands Program in the prairie pothole region, August 28.

When Mann arrived to Fergus Falls in 1954, wetlands were seen as wastelands—as impediments to progress and American ingenuity. As the peak of industrial farming was hitting the Midwest, when farmers were being compensated and encouraged to drain the seasonal ponds and marshes that they previously farmed around, Mann began turning the tide against great odds, one landowner at a time.

Don Kleven, current supervisory realty specialist for the Fergus Falls Wetland Acquisition Office, remembers Mann's early work in establishing the office he now runs, "He was an acquisition man and he lead the way." Mann established the FFWAO after mapping the Prairie Pothole Region, and as Kleven described, "completing ascertainment work to see what was left and what could be saved." Mann laid the foundation of the Small Wetlands Program by first naming the lands that could best use protection, then ground-truthing his delineation maps and moving through the arduous process of acquiring those lands. Kleven notes that Mann's work was thorough and accurate and that he still uses Mann's maps today.

When Congress officially created the Small Wetland Program on Aug. 1, 1958, by amending the

1934 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (commonly referred to as the Duck Stamp Act) Mann transitioned the region into the acquisition phase of habitat protection. In asking Mann if he remembered when the ascertainment office became the wetland acquisition office, Kleven recalls Mann replied without hesitation, "August 1, 1958 at four in the afternoon, because the phones were out and we didn't hear right away."

Mann gave a purpose for

*Midwest Regional Director, Tom Melius, and Lois Mann unveil plaque for the Grady Mann Waterfowl Production Area dedication, Aug 28, 2010. Photo by Tina Shaw/USFWS.*



wetlands and helped people, both locally and nationally, to see the beauty of those ephemeral pools and marshlands and understand that there was an inherent value worth protecting. Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Refuge manager, described Mann "as a leader who lead from behind...as an observer, not an interloper and a person who had a passion for wetlands, but who approached his job with humility." Meeting local farmers one-on-one at churches and schools



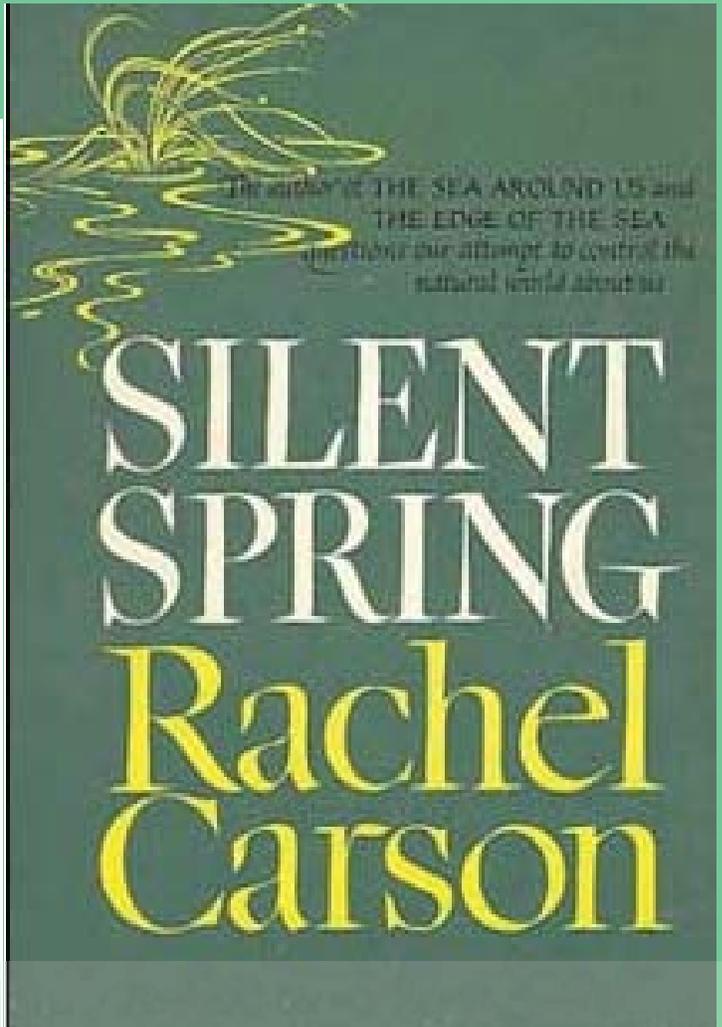
*Kevin Brennan, Lois Mann and Midwest Regional Director, Tom Melius pause for a photo. Photo by Tina Shaw/USFWS.*

across the region and helping people name their own 'sense of place' and their own value for the landscape, Mann helped people build a different kind of ownership in that land.

Mann saved and protected crucial habitats while wetlands were being drained all around him and he did so with humility, integrity and knowledge of the resource. Mann gave us the wisdom and tools to protect wetlands. We lost wetlands one acre, one landowner at a time in the old days and he taught us that to protect them here forward, we must do so in the same fashion—one acre and one person at a time. With more than three million-acres of land now protected from being drained or plowed in roughly 50 years, we can thank the work of Grady Mann. He left his mark on the land in a different way through the Small Wetlands Program.

--Tina Shaw, External Affairs

Celebrating 48 Years...



The *New Yorker's*  
Book-of-the-Month  
October 1962

*Silent Spring*  
by Rachel Carson

# Rice Lake Celebrates 75 Years and Counting!

Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge staff, Friends of Rice Lake Refuge and members of the Ojibwe band celebrated the 75th anniversary of Rice Lake Refuge on September 3.

Community came from all over the region to learn about how Rice Lake Refuge has been the crossroads of natural and cultural history via demonstrations and stories of traditional ecological knowledge, natural history and historic blacksmithing, wood-fired cooking and horse logging techniques of the 1800s.

Rick Schultz, regional chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System for the Midwest Region, was on hand to mark the event along with other past managers and staff. He noted that Rice Lake NWR was his first position with the Service and that the refuge is a special place for him both personally and professionally. Schultz remarked that Rice Lake helped him “develop an appreciation for the natural resources of the area given



Above: Rice Lake NWR Refuge Manager, Walt Ford, marks the 75th anniversary with CCC participates, Gordy Manchester and Newman Jacobson. USFWS photo by Tina Shaw.

the pristine quality of the land that seemed virtually untouched by modern day man.”

Native Americans have been coming to Rice Lake in late August and early September for centuries, so the timing of the celebration was meaningful in many ways. The Ojibwe people continue to come to gather with friends and family, socialize, and harvest a special food: wild rice. Wild rice is a staple of the Ojibwe people and harvesting wild rice is integral to their way of life in the Great Lakes region. Rice Lake NWR supports a tremendous wild rice resource for annual harvest by Native Americans and consumption by migratory waterfowl.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet tribal members and youth from the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in East Lake, Minn., as they demonstrated

traditional ways of making wild rice harvesting sticks from cedar and scorching harvested wild rice over an open fire. Traditional birch bark and leather crafts were also displayed at the event.

--Tina Shaw  
External Affairs

## The Midwest to Benefit from nearly \$4 Million under the North American Wetland Conservation Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region announced that nearly \$4 million in federal grants will support four projects to benefit wetlands and associated waterfowl habitat in the Midwest. Additional funds from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which includes proceeds from the sale of Federal Migratory Bird and Hunting Conservation Stamps (Federal Duck Stamps), and this year, a new Gulf of Mexico Commemorative Silk Cachet, will support the acquisition of waterfowl habitat as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, including 4,400 acres near the Gulf Coast where many Midwest birds winter or use along their migratory path.

Click here to read more: [http://www.fws.gov/midwest/News/release.cfm?rid=279&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+FwsMidwestNewsroom+%28FWS+Midwest+Newsroom%29](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/News/release.cfm?rid=279&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FwsMidwestNewsroom+%28FWS+Midwest+Newsroom%29)



# Necedah NWR's Rick King Receives the Biologist of the Year Award

Wildlife Biologist Rich King of Necedah NWR was named the 2009 Biologist of the Year!

The peer nominated award recognizes leadership and scientific excellence. The award underscores King's dedication and commitment to the National Wildlife Refuge System's mission, goals and objectives. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, King was recognized by Pat Heglund at ceremony on September 23 at the regional office, despite that fact that her alma mater has long time rivaled her own.

King lead a restructuring of whooping crane investigations at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and with the Whooping Crane Project. He is committed to training young biologists and has served as a mentor for SCEP biologists within the region. Rick Schultz, regional chief of the National Wildlife Refuge



Above: (L to R) Pat Heglund, Rick Schultz, Rick King and Necedah Refuge Manager Doug Staller present Rick with the award. USFWS photo by Valerie Rose Redmond.

dedication towards fish and wildlife conservation, enthusiasm for mentoring young biologists, skill in applying the results of scientific investigations to land management, ability to handle exceedingly challenging tasks and effectively work with others to tackle complex problems," he said, "has set you apart and warrants your receiving the 2009 biologist of the year."

--Valerie Rose Redmond  
*External Affairs*

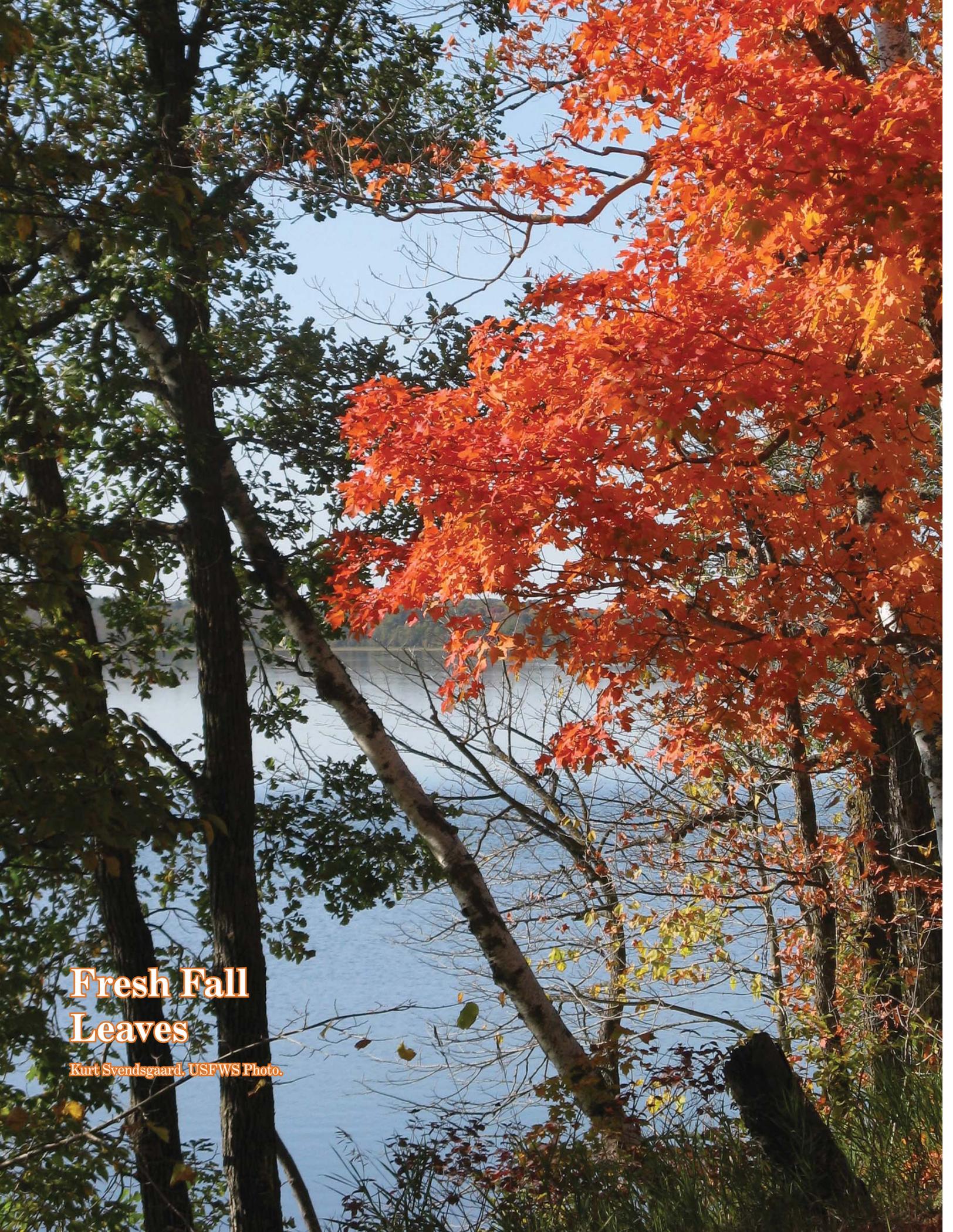


Top: Rick King expresses his happiness and appreciation upon receiving the award. Bottom: Both Ricks smile for the camera. USFWS photos by Valerie Rose Redmond.

System, Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had many words of praise for King. "Rich, your leadership and



Original plans called for the mounting of defunct binoculars on the award were scrapped when the final donation came in. Perfectly good binoculars were donated and subsequently not mounted, so that King could use them in the field. USFWS photo by Valerie Rose Redmond.



# Fresh Fall Leaves

Kurt Svendsgaard, USFWS Photo.

# Mara Koenig State Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator of the Year

Last year, 1105 students participated in the Junior Duck Stamp program in Minnesota, more than any other state in our region. Minnesota's participation was third highest in the nation!

Mara Koenig, visitor services staff member from Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, has been the driving force behind the success of this program here in Minnesota since 2003.

She has worked with teachers and students from across the state – from Pine Island to Fergus Falls, Albany, Cambridge, Bemidji, Minneapolis, Mankato, Duluth, Chanhassen, St. Cloud, Mahtomedi, Stillwater, and many others.

Not only has Mara successfully coordinated the Minnesota state contest for seven years, but this past year, she also played a critical role in the planning, implementation and overall success of the 2010 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest, held at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

She worked in coordination with the Science Museum's education staff to secure school groups from Garlough Environmental Magnet School and Pine Island Public Schools.

She interviewed teachers, shot footage, and coordinated the production of the Midwest Regional Teacher Recognition video shown during the opening ceremony of the event. She



Above: Regional Director Tom Melius congratulates Mara Koenig on her impressive achievement. USFWS photo by Tina Shaw.

developed the schedule for children's education activities, and remained in continuous contact with teachers and science museum staff to ensure the children's activities went smoothly.

Mara also led a team of volunteers during contest day to handle the artwork during the judging process, and assisted in overseeing the educational activities for students in the science museum's education center.

From the first day of contest planning to the final event day, Mara contributed her experience, resources, and vibrant personality to ensure the success of the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest, while balancing her own responsibilities in visitor services at Minnesota Valley National

Wildlife Refuge and the Minnesota State Junior Duck Stamp Contest during the very same month.

"Mara is not only an incredible multi-tasker, but is also a proven leader in her ability to work with individuals from multiple agencies, and her ability to coordinate meaningful educational opportunities for kids," said Tom Melius, Midwest Regional Director.

Mara will be an honored guest at the next National Junior Duck Stamp Contest in 2011, which will be held at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia.

Mara, Thank-you for your contribution and dedication to connecting children with nature through the Junior Duck Stamp Program!

--Ashley Spratt  
External Affairs

# Ohio Field Office Reviews 100 Wind Projects during Fiscal Year 2010

During Fiscal Year 2010, the Ohio Ecological Services Field Office provided technical assistance on 100 individual wind power projects within the state of Ohio. These included 74 single, small wind turbine projects that may be funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, or Department of Transportation. Review of single small turbine projects has been streamlined by development of two draft programmatic agreements between the Service and DOE and the Service and USDA, which is ongoing at a regional level.

Additionally, the Service has provided feedback on 26 individual large-scale wind developments within the state of Ohio this year. The Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife have partnered to develop pre-construction and post-construction wildlife survey protocols for utility-scale wind

Below: Radar unit being used to study bird migration patterns at a proposed wind facility at NASA's Plum Brook station in Ohio. The facility is an Audubon Ohio Important Bird Area but is proposing wind turbines to offset NASA's carbon footprint nation-wide by generating large amounts of wind energy. USFWS photo by Megan Seymour.



Turbines at Ohio's only operating utility-scale wind development in Bowling Green, Ohio. Three more utility scale projects have been approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board and will likely start construction in the next year. USFWS photo.

projects that satisfy both state and federal wildlife concerns. They are predictable for developers, and are scaled to the risk to wildlife based on habitat present within the project area. These include surveys for the federally endangered Indiana bat as well as migratory birds and bald eagles, among others.

By partnering with the Ohio Power Siting Board, the state agency that regulates utility-scale wind projects, the Service has provided substantive comments on three utility-scale wind projects, relative to potential wildlife impacts and post-construction monitoring in 2010. The strong partnership developed between the Service, ODNR, and OPSB has been effective in encouraging all utility-scale wind power developers in

Ohio to avoid high quality wildlife areas, conduct standardized pre-construction and post-construction monitoring, and address any wildlife issues that may arise during project development. Due to this partnership, a Habitat Conservation Plan and draft EIS for the Indiana bat at the Buckeye Wind project in Ohio is actively in development, and is expected to be published in the Federal Register at the end of October. All wind power projects in the state will be required to complete post-construction monitoring, and several projects with Indiana bats within the project area will complete HCPs in the future. The Service believes this strong partnership in resulting in benefits to federal trust resources including endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, and bald eagles, among others.

--Megan Seymour, R3-Ohio Ecological Services FO

# October Ushers in Shocking News from Iron River NFH

Northland College, located in Ashland, Wis., is a liberal arts college with a strong biology and fisheries program. For several years running, Northland College and the Iron River National Fish Hatchery have been working together to give the program a hands on side to the education of students interested in fisheries science. Derek Ogle, associate professor of mathematical sciences and natural resources, has been bringing students to the hatchery twice each fall to participate in spawning and hatchery operations.

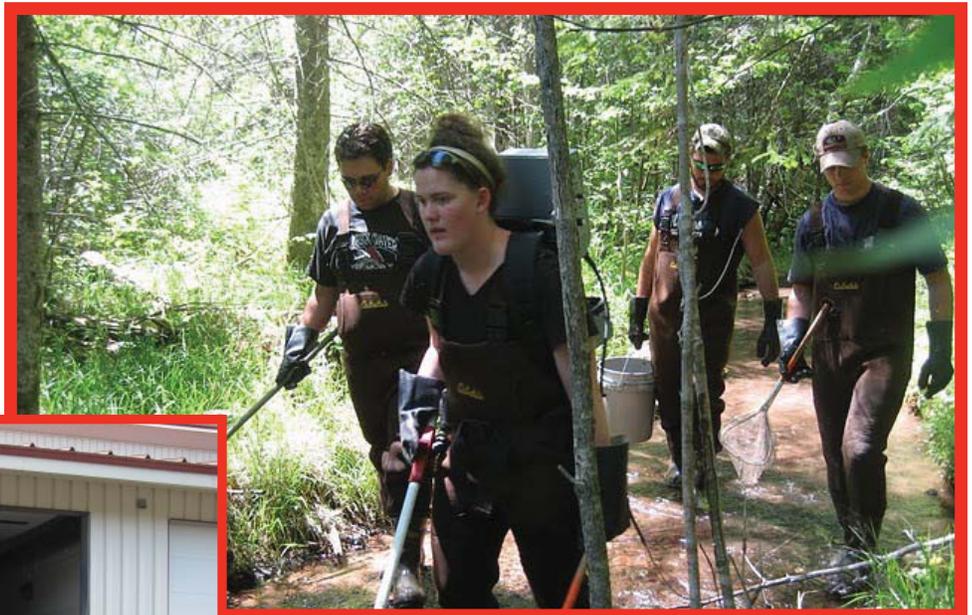
The goals were to introduce students to hatchery practices both in the classroom and at the hatchery. Students solved mathematical equations that occur every day at the hatchery while in the classroom setting. When students arrived at the hatchery, they donned rain gear and assisted hatchery staff with everyday work such as spawning, sample counts, length and weight frequencies.

This fall, Derek wanted to add another facet to the program. Students would get the opportunity

to use back pack shocking equipment to remove fish from Schacte Creek (pronounced shock-tee). Schacte Creek provides 4,000 gallons per minute to the hatchery. The head waters are collected through three different water intakes, pass through the hatchery into effluent ponds and exit back into Schacte Creek. Shortly after the water returns to the creek, it passes through a barrier that prevents large fish from entering the water supply and possibly contaminating the water and fish produced at the hatchery. Reproducing populations of native fish, such as brook trout and

slimy sculpin, reside in the areas between the intakes and barrier and reproduce. Three times a year, Service technicians remove as many fish as possible using back-pack shocking equipment. This typically coincides with one of the bi-annual fish health inspections where fish from the hatchery and creek are sampled for a variety of health parameters. The students were able to take turns using the equipment to remove wild fish and identify each species, as well as collect scientific data such as length.

The group borrowed disinfected hatchery rain gear, nets and



Above: Northland College students shock Schacte Creek for native inhabitants. USFWS Photo. Left: Students pose for a snapshot before gearing up to shock the creek. USFWS Photo.

shocking equipment and set off on their adventure. Some in the group soon realized that field work isn't as glamorous as it seems as they dodged clay sink holes, trudded through willow

Continued on last page.

# Nature: Emerson and Thoreau Spirit Through the Woods

Prior to the official start of *Nature*, an outdoor walking play staged in the Johanna Frerichs Garden for Wildlife at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum last month, two of the cast, dressed in period costumes, horsed around in the surrounding field like two rambunctious but loving brothers. The mid-nineteenth-century play produced by TigerLion Arts, a Minneapolis-based production company, tells the story of American philosophers Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, their fast friendship, and their mutual love of the natural world.

Shortly after our arrival, my friend Bev and I watched the two main characters for a while from the outskirts. After a single stem harvest from the surrounding tall field grass, Henry David Thoreau smiled at me and said, "Hello." (How many people can say that?). Watching the exchange, Bev wondered aloud, "Are we in the play?" Uncertain as to the answer to that question, we slinked sheepishly into the core of the waiting spectators. Audience members were then reminded to turn off their noise makers and treated to a nature journal watermarked with the images of the two American icons, before being transported back in time by the cast.

## I Went for a Walk Today

The artful play indulges the senses by fusing a simple nature walk with an entertaining and



Above: Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau spirit through the woods at the Minnesota Arboretum. Photos courtesy of TigerLion Arts.

intellectually stirring theatrical treat. In scenes that meandered through the Minnesota Arboretum's breathtaking gardens, young women fiddled in trees, bees whirred, birds fluttered and the kaleidoscope of wild flowers wafted in the breeze among the grand tree stands. Emerson himself, much to his dismay, stumbled into a hornet nest, even though pre-warned by his friend and partner, Thoreau.

## The World Around Them

Appropriately staged in the Weeping Trees grove, the two

converse about their passionate love of the wild, but also their mutual disdain for the injustices of slavery. Amid the clanging clatter of industry ever present in the distant background, the two friends also engage in a spirited discussion on the virtues and fallacies of progress. But the loud and persuasive voice of industrious commerce, eventually clangs its way

into the foreground, courtesy of the persistent Tigerlion troupe, whose ever watchful eyes were glued to the wallets and purses of passing audience members. Emerson and Thoreau later despair and sing a lyric-less song that leaves no mystery to their anguish and hopelessness of the state of affairs.

## The Human Condition

The script flips when the warm, encompassing friendship cools, frosts, and then ultimately freezes

Continued on next page.

# Nature: Emerson and Thoreau Spirit Through the Woods

over as Emerson invites Thoreau to live in his home and watch over his wife and children while he is in Europe on business, and Thoreau happily accepts. The company transports the audience with vivid imagery and Garrison Keillor radio style sound effects through the diversified modes of transportation that Emerson must use in order to embark on such a journey.

As one might expect, a jealous and panic-stricken Emerson rushes home to find his family, particularly his wife, very much enamored with his good friend—too much so.

The story culminates with a visibly despondent Emerson as he gives his long-time friend's eulogy, before he himself passes on.

## Inspirations in American History

Compelling on many levels, humanly tangible, and relevant, the play gives audience members a choice to relate to any one of the many hats that Emerson wore—writer, philosopher, naturalist, nonconformist, human being—or to embrace them all.

### A Writer's Perspective

But truly, what writer wouldn't want to lend a quiet ear to the casual thoughts and intimate discourse between two of America's greatest treasures—two writers that left such an indelible mark on American literature and intellectualism? As we hear and understand the everyday problems of these two American inspirations,



Above: Henry David Thoreau takes in a breath of fresh air. Below: Industry at work with the rest of Nature cast. Photos courtesy of TigerLion Arts.

we realize that they were just ordinary people after all. Although they were two of the greatest American writers that ever lived, they too were subject to the human condition. The realization makes the play all the more appealing. One would be hard pressed to find someone who would not want to pause to take note, in hopes that they would somehow glean some wisdom here to use in their own lives.

### Emerson's Contemporary Voice

Tyson Forbes, Emerson's descendent, who bears a striking resemblance even six generations later, is also the executive artistic producer as well as one of the lead

characters (Emerson). He says he's wanted to do a play about the outdoors for more than 10 years. It's eerie at times, he says, when speaking Emerson's words, as if he's speaking through him. "I didn't come up with the ideas but I definitely feel them in my bones," he says. "When

the audience is particularly receptive, it's like an out of body experience."

The play has since closed, but will more than likely be back. Markell Keifer, one of the producers, the director of the play and Forbes' wife says the play will continue to be performed. "We have plans to

share *Nature* with the rest of the country," she says, "and we hope to tour it to different communities throughout America as a way to reconnect people with their natural environment."

To read more see Forbes interview (page 14) and visit: <http://www.tigerlion.org/nature/>

--Valerie Rose Redmond  
*External Affairs* Oma, vestati, unt,

FALL  
MNRG MEETING  
November 8-9  
Bloomington, Minn.

# Ralph Waldo Emerson Whispers through the Contemporary Voice of Descendent Tyson Forbes

## In His Bones

Best known as the father of the transcendentalism movement, Ralph Waldo Emerson wore many hats. He was also a lecturer, writer, philosopher, and a naturalist. External Affairs' Redmond had the rare opportunity to chat with a direct descendent of a man who was an American icon.

**Redmond:** What exactly is your relationship to Emerson?

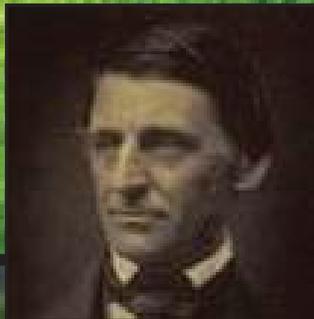
**Forbes:** I'm a sixth generation--so he's my great, great great grandfather. The line goes down through actually his wife, Lydian.

**Redmond:** And that through your mother's side?

**Forbes:** Through my mother.

**Redmond:** What was the impetus for the play? How did you get inspired to do the play?

**Forbes:** I've been wanting to do a play about the outdoors almost since I graduated from college which was about 10 years ago. The desire to do that has grown over the years. Also shortly after college the seed of an idea [grew] to do a piece about Emerson. [At first,] just [about] Emerson then eventually that morphed into a play about Emerson and Thoreau. And then I started [working] with my best friend who played Thoreau. We started working on just conversations over the phone about a show about nature. And we've also been kind of playing with that idea for years. But we started actually saying let's put together a piece. And then it sort of just kind of clicked. Who better to tell an audience about nature than Emerson and Thoreau taking



Top: Sixth generation descendent Tyson Forbes (Emerson) and best friend Sam Elmore (Thoreau), in character in the TigerLion Arts Production, *Nature*. Center: American icon, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Bottom: Emerson in the bones of Forbes. USFWS photos.

them through sort of our love and passion for nature. We merged the two ideas and it worked.

**Redmond:** Where did you say you went to school?

**Forbes:** Actually my wife, Markell Keifer, who is the director; Sam Elmore who was Thoreau, and myself all went to Middlebury College in Vermont.

**Redmond:** You share that love of nature because of Emerson and it was passed down through your family?

**Forbes:** There's definitely that

too. Having grown up in the Emerson family it's a very "outdoorsy" group. [There are] a lot of sailors, a lot of outdoors men. We spend a minimum of time under the roof when we're together. I'm sure that was a part of it. Certain individuals in our family are kind of even more drawn to

the outdoors than others and that was me in my particular family.

**Redmond:** Markell said that it took 10 years to bring your dream to fruition. Why did it take so long? What were the obstacles?

**Forbes:** Oh there weren't a lot of obstacles, really. It just wasn't the right time. We've been doing just a lot of other theater and other things in our lives. The idea of doing a show about Emerson

Continued on next page.

# Ralph Waldo Emerson Whispers through the Contemporary Voice of Descendent Tyson Forbes

Best known as the father of the transcendentalism movement, Ralph Waldo Emerson wore many hats. He was also a lecturer, writer, philosopher, and a naturalist.

just seemed really daunting to me. Having read a lot of his work and feeling kind of you know, [I felt] like the task was a little too challenging. But then as I have been practicing theater and performing all over the United States, I feel like I've gotten the craft down a lot more. And then just as a production company, we've become better at telling stories. Suddenly it just was the right time. It was going to work out scheduling wise with my best friend and so it just kind of lined up. I don't think we were, either of us, were ready to do it earlier on in life. Not that we're very old.

**Redmond:** How old are you?

**Forbes:** I'm 34 and Sam is 32.

**Redmond:** Did the two of you study acting?

**Forbes:** Yes. We're both theater majors. Sam is a huge outdoors man, as well. So we've done a ton of adventuring all over Colorado. I grew up in Colorado. And then Sam eventually moved out there. And we've just done a ton of backpacking and back country skiing, and mountaineering and stuff.

**Redmond:** What is it like to be descended from someone who has had such an impact on the country?

**Forbes:** I think it's an just an honor. Just the way, I know the way I connect. The primary way I connect is growing up in the family. I feel like a lot of those values like stewardship and conservation and knowing nature and knowing yourself and just following your passion are really strong values in my family. So that's definitely a huge way that I connect. And

then another aspect [is] having just done this play, just on kind of on a spiritual level, feeling like I have another way to just kind of share that message of being in nature and learning from nature and that I can pass that lineage on in whatever way that I can. I didn't



come up with the ideas but I definitely

feel them in my bones. **Redmond:** You said it was on a spiritual level, do you feel like sometimes when you're performing that there's some kind of transcendence or he's speaking through you?

**Forbes:** Yes, definitely. Especially [when] I am actually saying his words at a lot of points during the play. There's a few times when I am addressing the audience and it's really kind of eerie... even a few times. I mean they always almost brought me to tears. But then I was in a position speaking those words to an audience and I felt the audience... [was] at a place that they could hear his words so clearly. And that was just an amazing experience. I've read Emerson a ton. A lot of it can go in one ear and out the other just. 'Cause it can be so dense. But when you break it down it's really,

I don't know what your experience was, but when you just sort of simplify it, update it, it can be much more accessible. And [it was] at those times when I really felt the receptivity from the audience. It was just like an out of body experience kind of (laughs).

**Redmond:** Emerson was many things. He was a philosopher, a writer and a naturalist. Which is the most appealing to you? Which do you most identify with?

**Forbes:** I think as a naturalist and a nonconformist, those are probably my biggest. But I love all of the complexity in him. I think that [it's] just wonderful, in that he was able to wear all those different hats. I was just talking about this with Sam the other day. You know we all kind of have our multiple hats that we wear and they all seem normal to us. He's like a wonderful example of how you can sort of wear all these different hats in life and still be this unified whole and I love that.

**Redmond:** Was there a favorite line in the play?

There's so many. They're all sort of spinning in my head right now. "Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist."

**Redmond:** Last words?

**Forbes:** No, I don't think I do right now. Even though you've got me sort of dreaming back into the world of the play.

**Redmond:** Thank you so much. I appreciate you taking the time.

**Forbes:** Yeah, absolutely. I'm so glad you enjoyed it. Thanks for taking the time to do this. We're actually trying to turn it into a national production. Maybe this will just increase the awareness of it on the road.

# 2010 Hatch Act Reminder

As the 2008 presidential election draws near, it is important that all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees be reminded of the statutory restrictions on political activity. The Hatch Act of 1939 is a federal law designed to regulate partisan political activity by federal employees. It allows and encourages federal employees to actively participate in the nation's political processes to the extent specific activities are not expressly prohibited. Authored by Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico, the act sailed past much heated controversy to leave in its wake several failed Supreme Court appeals and proposed amendments based on accusations of free speech violation.

The number of key "battleground" states in the region and the prominence of Midwestern issues (e.g. ethanol production, wind energy, flood control measures, and agricultural policy) increase the likelihood of contact between political candidates, their campaigns and Service employees acting in their official capacity.

The Constitution provides us all with certain rights, including the right to vote. However, unlike other citizens, federal employees have an additional responsibility: we must always be aware of our role as public servants, and we must ensure that the public has the utmost confidence in their government at all times. To that end, the Hatch Act restricts political activities of government employees in certain ways. Generally, all federal employees

MAY do the following when not acting in a work capacity:

- Register to vote as they choose.
- Become candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections.
- Assist in voter registration drives.
- Express opinions about candidates and issues.
- Contribute personal funds to political candidates, parties, and organizations.
- Attend political fundraising functions.
- Join and be an active member of a political party or club.



Above: Carl Atwood Hatch: United States Senator from New Mexico  
In office  
October 10, 1933 – January 3, 1949  
Preceded by Sam G. Bratton  
Succeeded by Clinton Presba Anderson

Under the Hatch Act, most employees MAY NOT:

- Use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election.
- Solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee.
- Solicit or intentionally discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency.
- Engage in political activity while on duty.
- Engage in political activity in any government facility.
- Engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform.
- Engage in political activity while using a government vehicle.
- Run for office as a candidate in a partisan election.
- Wear political buttons on duty.

Employees who hold career positions in the Senior Executive Service (SES) are subject to additional restrictions. It is important to note that the above lists are by no means exhaustive. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of engaging in certain political activities please do not hesitate to contact Rick Greenblat, Midwest Region Ethics Officer, at (612) 713-5246 or [rick\\_greenblat@fws.gov](mailto:rick_greenblat@fws.gov), or Ryan Aylesworth, Midwest Region Legislative Affairs Liaison, at (612) 713-5311 or [ryan\\_aylesworth@fws.gov](mailto:ryan_aylesworth@fws.gov).

--Ryan Aylesworth  
External Affairs

# Around the Region

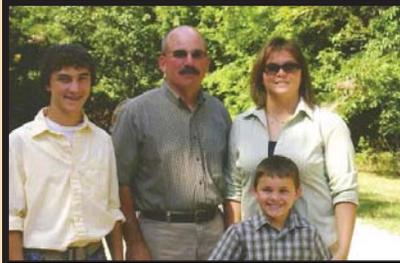
## Employee Profile: Judy Ann Plunkett

Judy Ann Plunkett began her career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March 1985 as an information receptionist. She was a senior at Puxico High School and worked in her current position until she graduated from Southeast Missouri State University. During this time, she had the opportunity to become involved in the bald eagle reintroduction program at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. She was responsible for the care and feeding of the young eagles in the hacking tower. The program is highly successful, as new bald eagle nests are being reported annually in the area.

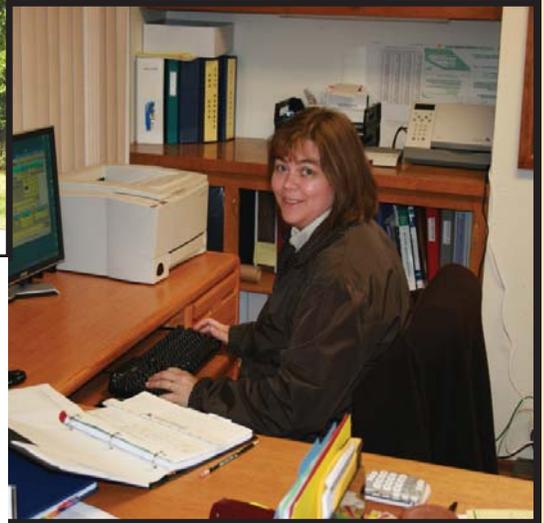
After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in biology, Plunkett became a biological aid and served in this capacity until 1996. During this time, she was involved in various types of wildlife management activities including moist soil and bottomland hardwood management, a myriad of wildlife surveys, and other refuge management projects.

In 1996 she transitioned into an administrative technician assignment. In 2002, she took yet another fork in her career path and became a public use park ranger. In this capacity, she was actively involved in all aspects of public use on Mingo NWR including school groups and other groups looking for environmental education opportunities.

In 2008 she changed career paths yet again and returned to the role of administrative technician. "I feel fortunate to have been able



Above: Judy cleaning out water control structures from beaver damage. Right: Judy working on BTS. Above: Son Jacob, Mic (Husband), Son Lucas and Judy at Monopoly Overlook on Mingo NWR. USFWS Photo.



to experience so many different jobs within the USFWS," says Plunkett. "The amazing part of my career is that I got to experience all of these different jobs on a single refuge. I believe that experiencing all of those different job responsibilities has helped me to better understand the role that each refuge employee plays in the management of Mingo." Plunkett has gone from being the new kid on the block to being the longest tenured employee at Mingo.

Mingo NWR is currently undertaking one of the largest projects to date, the replacement of the visitor center and administrative office complex with a state of the art facility. Although it will be a while before they move in, refuge staff are looking forward to the opening of this facility and the ability to share environmental education opportunities with even more individuals and groups.

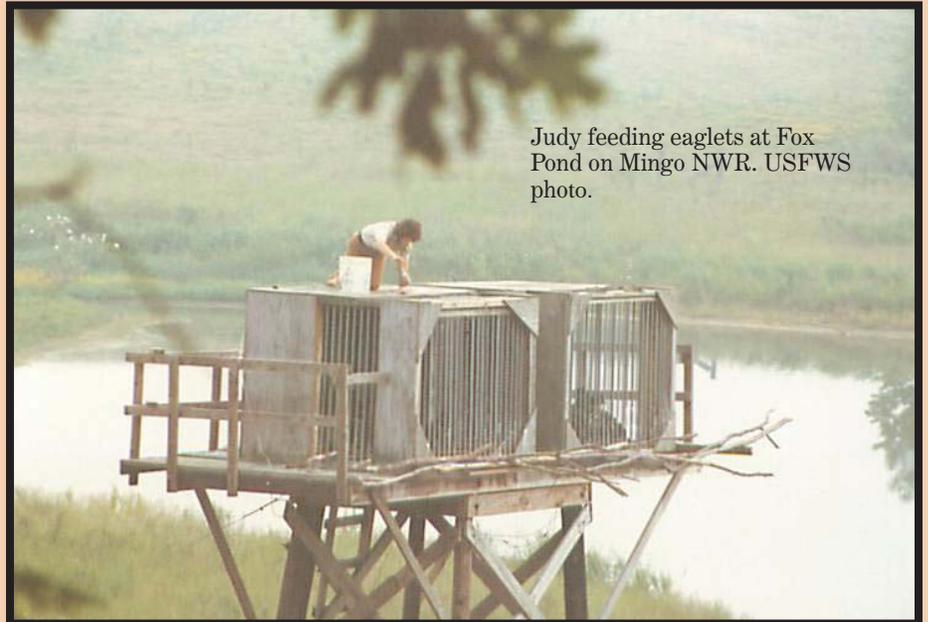
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# Around the Region

## Employee Profile: Judy Ann Plunkett

Plunkett's interest in wildlife and the outdoors plays a large role in not only her career, but also her personal life. Her husband, Mic and two sons Jacob (15) and Lucas (7) recently purchased a farm where they are involved not only in the usual crop production activities, but also wildlife management projects. Her boys have a passion for the outdoors and the farm gives them the opportunity to learn about wildlife first hand by establishing food plots, maintaining wood duck boxes, and other wildlife projects. The Plunketts also try to provide as many outdoor opportunities for people who might otherwise not have those experiences. Every year they take several new people on their first deer, turkey, and waterfowl hunts. Plunkett and her husband also coordinate several Discover Nature-Women

Below: Sons: Lucas 7, Jacob 15 with rabbit dogs and Buckshot at family farm. USFWS photo.



Judy feeding eaglets at Fox Pond on Mingo NWR. USFWS photo.

events. These events are a part of the Missouri Department of Conservation's outreach programs and are designed to introduce women to the outdoors. They currently have waterfowl, turkey, and rabbit hunting events. They use their farm for several parts of the programs, including target practice and actual hunts.

The Plunkett sons have a passion for sports and participate in organized baseball, basketball, and soccer activities. As is usually the case, between sports, band, other school activities, and their outdoor pursuits, the

boys keep their parents busy with almost daily activities. Although it may be hard to accept, they won't be small forever and they try to have them experience as many character building activities as possible.

It is clear that Plunkett has enjoyed her career at the Service. "As I look back over my career, I realize how lucky I have been to experience so many different roles within the USFWS," she says. "I am thankful for those experiences and look forward to new responsibilities and challenges in the coming years here at Mingo."

--Judy Ann Plunkett  
Administrative Technician  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge  
Puxico, MO

## Environmental Fish Day

The Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office assisted the Marinette Land and Water Conservation Department with an annual Environmental Field Day. This event is held each fall for fourth graders from over 13 public, private and home school organizations in Marinette County, Wis. A total of 460 kids and teachers participated in the event. The event was held in late September at four sites to accommodate student travel. It included a couple of city parks, a large lake, and a remote stream area.

At each location a total of eight stations were set up for each topic including recycling, forestry, fire



Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, showing students a bluegill during Marinette County Environmental Days. USFWS photo.

control, insects, birds, soils, fish, and water quality. The Green Bay FRO led the fish session which included a brief overview of basic fish biology, displaying gear used for assessments, a short discussion of typical biologist job activities, and at the end an electroshocking or fyke netting demonstration. One gear item that had high interest among the students was the remotely operated vehicle. Other highlights included working the fire hose, holding aquatic insects, touching a fish and feeling

different soils. At each location, a treat of apples and lemonade was provided for all the students.

--Office Stewart Cogswell  
R3-Green Bay FRO

## Horicon NWR Joins Forces with Wisconsin Department of Corrections

In an exciting new partnership, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge has joined forces with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Since March 2010, the Fox Lake Minimum Correctional Institution has contributed 1,200 hours doing projects on the refuge. Under the guidance of Correctional Sergeant Kurt Hein, the crew of about five men come out to the refuge two to three days a week.

Projects have included a lot of invasive species control, specifically pulling garlic mustard, pulling thistle, and cutting buckthorn. They have



Left, Bio Tech Jon Krapfl shows one of the Department of Corrections guys, right, how to sex and age the bird using the wing. Photo by Sadie O'Dell. USFWS photo.

also cleaned facilities, picked up debris and litter, formed and poured concrete, banded ducks, and placed signs. They were instrumental in the landscaping project around the office and in planting prairie plants that were started from seed at the Correctional Institution's greenhouse, which was part of a Challenge Cost Share grant. The crew has completed a number of construction projects including building a photo blind, a kiosk, a fishing platform, hunting blinds, and boardwalks. The refuge awarded the group "Volunteer Group of the Year" at the annual picnic in August.

--Office Diane Kitchen  
R3-Horicon NWR

# Regional Office 2010 Softball Picnic



Above: Regional employees enjoy some time in the September sun. USFWS photos.

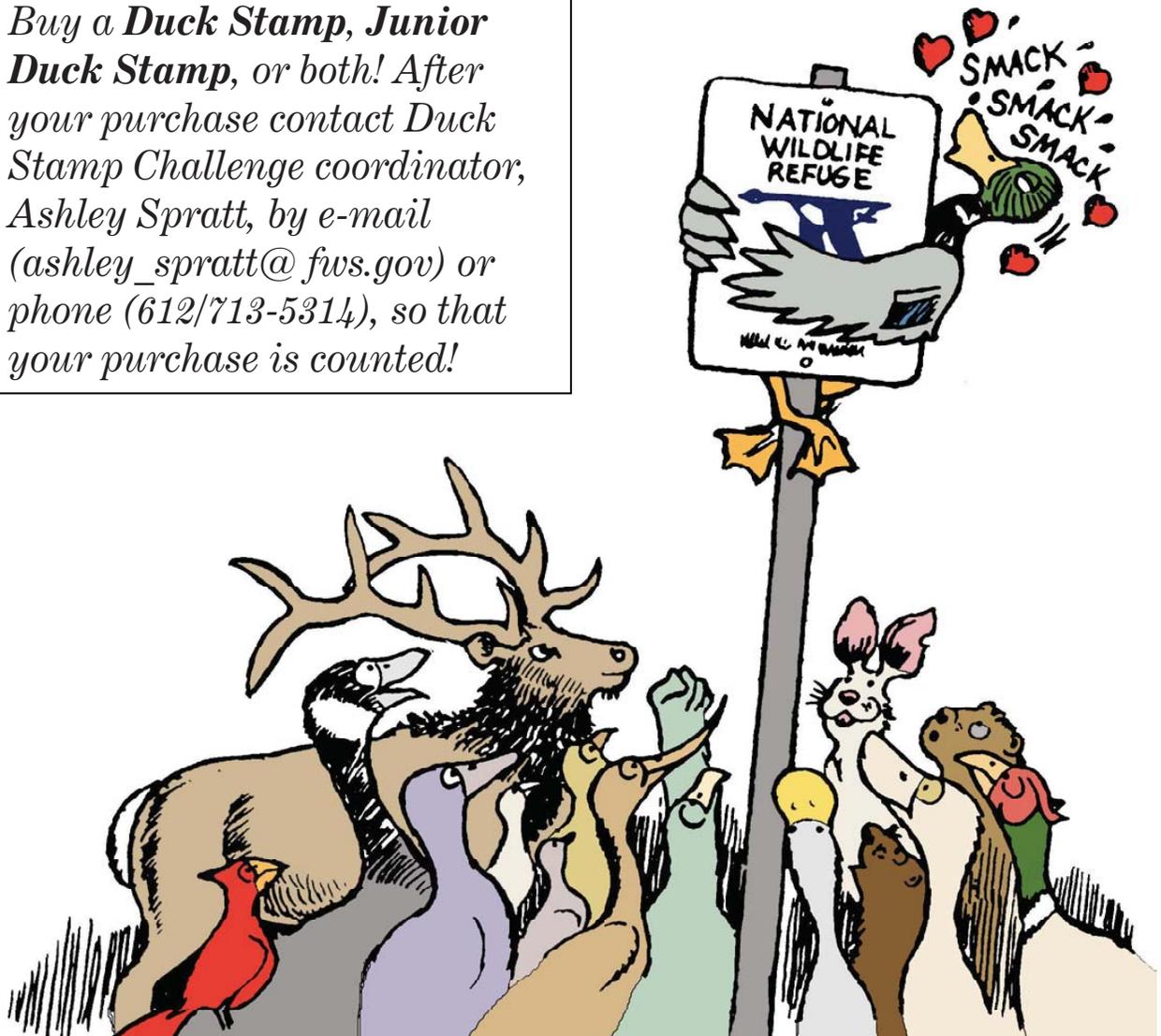


## Regional Office

# 2010 Duck Stamp Challenge

The epic challenge to see which office can sell the most Duck Stamps is back, so **BRING IT ON!** It's the **Geeksters vs. GooseFarmers vs. ShoutOuts vs. LawDogs vs. FishHeads vs. CraneTrackers vs. the Protectors!** It's no holds barred, all-against-all, every office for itself! Who will sell the most...and prevail? The deadline to purchase, and be counted, is January 31, 2011. Buy your stamp from Margie Maldonado in Visitor Services!

*Buy a Duck Stamp, Junior Duck Stamp, or both! After your purchase contact Duck Stamp Challenge coordinator, Ashley Spratt, by e-mail ([ashley\\_spratt@fws.gov](mailto:ashley_spratt@fws.gov)) or phone (612/713-5314), so that your purchase is counted!*



**10/10/10 FOR 10  
CELEBRATING  
WORKING WETLANDS**



All along the Upper Mississippi River, communities are hosting events on Oct. 10, 2010 to celebrate working wetlands as part of the area's designation as a Wetland of International Importance.

Events are open to the public,  
to find an event visit:  
<http://blt.ly/UpperMiss>.

**Don't Miss This Event!**

**10/10/10 FOR 10  
CELEBRATING  
WORKING WETLANDS**

Be part of a worldwide event. People around the world will celebrate wetlands on 10/10/10 for 10.

At a 10/10/10 event participants could:

- pick up 10 lbs. of trash
- pull 10 lbs. of invasive species
- identify 10 birds
- identify 10 plants
- list 10 reasons you love this place
- name 10 different types of wetlands
- spend 10 minutes admiring the landscape
- learn 10 new facts about wetlands
- catch 10 fish
- meet 10 new people

You may also host a 10/10/10 event.  
For more information, e-mail:  
[cindy\\_samples@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_samples@fws.gov).

**Come join in the celebration!**



## U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

October 2010

### Shocking News Continued

snags and swatted black flies and mosquitoes for eight hours. Most of the students thoroughly enjoyed a day out of doors, instead of in the classroom, and found the experience to be hard work



Connecting Kids with Nature



<http://www.naturerocks.org/>

but rewarding. This is a great partnership that gives students the opportunity to view their field in a career setting. The staff looks forwards to meeting the next

group of students this fall for spawning operations.

--Carey Edwards  
R3-Iron River NFH

### 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

“Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country,” was the first sentence many in the WWII generation learned to type. Of course we now would also specifically identify women, but the phrase is just as meaningful today, especially when speaking of any important effort. Specific to Region 3, a meaningful effort is the development and delivery of the 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff can add their names to a pool of volunteers who are willing to assist in conference delivery.

The conference is an annual event where resource professionals meet and share new research, management experiences, and valuable insight on fish and wildlife issues. As the premier fish and wildlife conference in the central U.S., it often hosts over 1,000 attendees. Each year, a different

state develops and delivers the conference as part of a 10-year cycle of conferences. This year, Minnesota will host the conference during December 12-15 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. In 2000, when Minnesota last hosted the conference, over 1,700 people participated. As you can imagine, to keep costs low, delivering the conference requires a lot of help from volunteers.

In Minnesota, three partner organizations develop the conference: the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota, and the Service. Representatives of each organization comprise a steering committee which provides leadership, and monitors and assists various working committees. Volunteers assist with registration, caring for lighting and other functions during presentations, etc. While students

are usually the largest number of volunteers, professionals often fill the gap. However, the gap may be wider than normal this year because the conference and final exams week occur during the same week.

Regional management team members and our regional director, supported the idea that each division could approve volunteer assistance by Service staff who wish to help with delivery of the conference. If you wish to help, and your supervisor approves, let the following people know by October 15, 2010: Mike Sweet (612-713-5129, [mike\\_sweet@fws.gov](mailto:mike_sweet@fws.gov)) or Lucinda Ochoada (612-713-5135, [Lucinda\\_Corcoran@fws.gov](mailto:Lucinda_Corcoran@fws.gov)).

--Mike Sweet

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