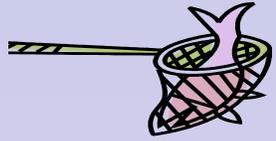




Making Waves

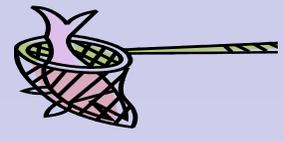


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Sampling Season Begins ... Finally!

By Nicholas Bloomfield



After a long winter of moving gear and furniture over and over, our sampling season finally kicked off on April 15th when Kyle Mosel and I left for the upper Des Plaines River in south suburban Chicago to search for Asian Carp that may have moved here from the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC).

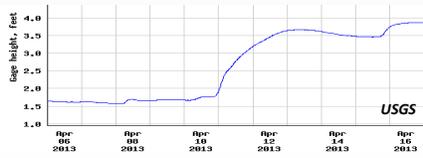
This trip began our third year of monitoring this river reach for Asian Carp in accordance with annual monitoring and rapid response plans. To date, no bighead or silver carp have been captured above the river's confluence with the canal, although a bighead was seen at the confluence in 2012. Thus, it is critical to know whether a population exists here in order to make informed management decisions.

In 2010 for example, due to the possibility that Asian carp might bypass the electrical barriers in the CSSC near Romeoville while en route toward Lake Michigan by swimming unimpeded into the upper Des Plaines River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers installed a series of physical barriers near Lemont to help prevent Asian carp from being washed from the river and into the canal during floods.



A combination of 1/4-inch steel mesh fencing (top left) and concrete Jersey barriers (top right) form a 13-mile physical barrier to help prevent the movement of Asian carp from the Upper Des Plaines River to the CSSC during flood events (bottom)

Based on the results of surveillance efforts here during the past two years, a decision was made to sample the upper Des Plaines River only during periods of increased flow in 2013 because these conditions: allow improved access to sampling locations; increase the size and availability of habitats attractive to fish; and encourage fish to move, promoting capture.



The week of April 15th fit that bill, with water levels almost 3 feet above normal

We had a few main areas in mind to sample intensively by electrofishing and gill netting, some of which likely had not been sampled for years, if ever. To increase our effort, we called on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to help us electrofish two of those areas.

We were able to sample the deep pooled area near Willow Springs, a couple of backwater lakes above Lemont, and a large backwater with limited connectivity just below Lemont called Goose Lake. No bighead or silver carp were captured or seen. However, we did capture two previously undocumented species here in the upper Des Plaines. This included three grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) taken in one of the backwater lakes above Lemont, now referred to as *Lake Idella*.



These grass carp were taken to the La Crosse Fish Health Center's Whitney Genetics Lab for ploidy testing to determine whether each was fertile or sterile

Continued on Page 3



Give Your Medicine Cabinet A Spring Cleaning

By Mark Steingraeber



On April 27, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will coordinate a collaborative effort with participating state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide to safely remove potentially dangerous pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications from our nation's medicine cabinets.

This initiative compliments the Service's continuing SMARxT DISPOSAL campaign program, a collaborative effort with the American Pharmacist's Association and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, to educate consumers how to dispose of unwanted medications in a responsible manner that safeguards lives and protects the environment.

Turn in your **unneeded Rx medications**
April 27th
Visit dea.gov for location information



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's planned nationwide effort to collect unwanted medications for safe disposal on April 27 compliments the Service's collaborative SMARxT DISPOSAL campaign to educate consumers how to dispose of unwanted medications responsibly.

The public is encouraged to take their expired, unused, and unwanted medications to one of the hundreds of sites around the country where they will be collected for destruction, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. local time, on Saturday, April 27.

Collection sites located within a 60-mile radius of La Crosse (WI) are listed on page 3. A continuously updated list of collection sites in or near your community can be found on the Internet by visiting www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback

More than 1,018 tons of unwanted meds were collected nationwide during five earlier DEA-sponsored disposal events, protecting both human and environmental safety. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



Dive Training Reaches New Depths

By Scott Yess



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Dive Control Board (NDCB) meets every two years to discuss SCUBA diving issues, review and make changes to the SCUBA dive safety chapter, and conduct required training.

The NDCB was hosted by the Service's Region 2 Dive Officer, Patricia Caccavale. Through Patricia's tireless efforts, the NDCB went where no other federal dive team has gone before: the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL) at the National Aeronautic and Space Administration's (NASA) Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. NASA typically trains astronauts here to conduct space walks while making repairs on the international space station.

Patricia spent four months working with NASA to get the clearance needed for the NDCB to gain access to this >200 feet long, 40 feet deep training facility. The depth of the NBL and mock-up of the space station here added unique dimensions to the training exercise that are found in no other closed-water (pool) situation. This allowed the dive team to review practical skills needed to rescue an unconscious diver at great depth and with obstructions like those that Service divers may face while completing our underwater duties.



NASA



Patricia then lead us to Spring Lake, the spring-fed headwaters of the San Marcos River near San Marcos, Texas. Here we assisted Region 2 divers who were collecting endangered San Marcos salamanders for study in refugia at the Service's San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center.

The Service's regional dive officers from across the country thank Patricia and her co-workers for their efforts in hosting such a fantastic and memorable meeting.



Earth Day Déjà Vu

by Mark Steingraeber



So far this year, spring in Wisconsin has largely been a delusion ... but *this* was no illusion. I awoke early Sunday morning, looked outside, and had a feeling of Déjà vu ... all over again!



Here I was, on my way to the annual Earth Day Fair in La Crosse and it was snowing to beat the blazes ... just like two years earlier during the 2011 fair.

Held this year on April 21 at the Myrick-Hixon EcoPark, event organizers, exhibitors, and attendees awakened that morning to an overcast scene more reminiscent of Ground Hog's Day: a two-inch blanket of snow.

Representing the Service at this year's event and feeling somewhat like a bear



was nevertheless content to spend the remainder of my day within the cool but dry confines of a large, walled tent pitched here as a hedge against such weather.



Here I felt a warm sense of camaraderie among the many



other representatives from non-profit organizations, cooperatives, community supported agriculture, nature centers, and diverse businesses who gathered under a *Big Top* here to inform fair-goers of sustainable practices, products, and services available in the Coulee Region.



This year's FWCO exhibit promoted greater awareness of environmentally friendly actions that individuals can take at home and while recreating outdoors to help safeguard the quality of nearby surface waters.

These include: safely disposing of unwanted medications; reducing the use of cleaning agents that contain anti-microbial drugs; applying fertilizers and pesticides selectively; and encouraging the use of low-toxicity sealants by paving contractors.



This Earth friendly information was well received by hundreds of attendees who braved the winter-like spring weather and expressed warm gratitude for promoting individual actions to improve local environmental quality.



Who Let the Dogs In?

By Mark Steingraeber



I did. But how could any one say no to a request from Wisconsin State Patrol K-9 officers looking to put their better half's nose to the test in a training exercise to sniff out planted contraband items from among potentially distracting odors of fish, mud, sawdust, and algae found here at the FWCO?



These law enforcement officers are always welcome to return here for training with man's best friend.

In the mean time, thanks to all of these closely bonded teams for helping to keep our highways and byways safe for travelers throughout the year.

Sampling Starts

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, seven black buffalo (*Ictiobus cyprinellus*) were captured in Goose Lake, marking the first of this species and completing the species trio for buffalofishes in the upper Des Plaines River.



Black buffalo

Buffalos have not been reported here in recent stream surveys, likely because they are difficult to catch while electrofishing. This provides evidence that large filter feeders can persist here.



Catch & release northern pike

Hopes to sample near Riverside and Romeoville were thwarted to due areas of Chicago receiving over seven inches of rainfall between Wednesday and Thursday. More on that later!

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar!

Unwanted Medication Collection
April 27, 10 am - 2 pm
Nationwide
(see page 4 for Coulee Region sites)

Children's Fishing Clinic
May 18, 9 am - 12 pm
Genoa National Fish Hatchery
(see page 5 for details)

Hope to See You!

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 27, 10am – 2pm

Visit www.dea.gov or call 800-882-9539
for a collection site near you



COLLECTION SITE	ADDRESS	CITY
VITERBO UNIVERSITY	900 VITERBO DR	LA CROSSE, WI
COON VALLEY POLICE DEPT	205 ANERSON ST	COON VALLEY, WI
CESA 4	923 E GARLAND ST	WEST SALEM, WI
ONALASKA CITY HALL/POLICE DEPT	415 MAIN ST	ONALASKA, WI
GENOA DIRE DEPT	126 MAIN ST	GENOA, WI
WESTBY POLICE DEPT	200 MELBY ST	WESTBY, WI
VIROQUA POLICE DEPT	702 EAST BROADWAY	VIROQUA, WI
BASEMENT OF LIBRARY	313 MAIN ST	ONTARIO, WI
SPARTA POLICE STATION	121 E OAK ST	SPARTA, WI
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	20448 JUNCO RD	SPARTA, WI
RUSHFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT	405 SOUTH ELM STREET	RUSHFORD, MN
HARPERS FERRY LIBRARY	234 N. 4TH STREET	HARPERS FERRY, IA
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY SHERIFF	36245 MAIN ST	WHITEHALL, WI
MABEL CITY HALL	201 SOUTH MAIN	MABEL, MN
WAUKON FIRE DEPT.	11 1ST ST NE	WAUKON, IA
TOMAH POLICE DEPARTMENT	805 SUPERIOR AVE	TOMAH, WI
MONONA POLICE DEPT.	104 EAST CENTER STREET	MONONA, IA
HILLSBORO POLICE DEPT	836 PRAIRIE AVE	HILLSBORO, WI
CHATFIELD CITY HALL	21 2ND STREET SE	CHATFIELD, MN
UNION CENTER POLICE DEPT	339 HIGH ST	UNION CENTER, WI
MEDICAP PHARMACY	702 MONTGOMERY ST.	DECORAH, IA
WAL-MART	1798 OLD STAGE RD	DECORAH, IA
CITY HALL	147 NORTH LAWLER	POSTVILLE, IA
BOSCOBEL PHARMACY	1028 WISCONSIN AVE	BOSCOBEL, WI
FILLMORE COUNTY SHERIFF	901 HOUSTON STREET NW	PRESTON, MN
RICHLAND CENTER POLICE DEPT	470 MAIN ST	RICHLAND CENTER, WI
BUFFALO COUNTY COURTHOUSE	407 S 2ND ST	ALMA, WI

GENOA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY ANNUAL FISHING CLINIC

Saturday, May 18, 2013

9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

FREE

Ages 6 years to 12 years

FREE

Fishing poles available as needed.

Lunch will be provided.

For more information call: 689-2605

Children must attend the Fishing Clinic in the morning to attend the Fishing Session at Pond 5 at the Hatchery at 10 am.

Fish ID/Habitat, Fish Behavior, and Jig Making Instructions will be part of the morning session. Fishing in Pond 5 on the Hatchery will be part of the morning session

The following is the itinerary for our Annual Fishing Clinic/Derby for children 6 to 12 years old, which will be held at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Morning Session

	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4
8:45 to 9:00 am Registration	Fish Cleaning	Fish Health FHC	Wetlands and Fish	Jig Making
9:00am to 9:15am	" "	" " "	" "	"
9:15am to 9:30am	" "	" " "	" "	"
9:30 am to 9:45 am	" "	" " "	" "	"
9:45 am to 10:00 am	" "	" " "	" "	"

Children will rotate every 15 minutes to another station.

Lunch will be provided at noon for the children, volunteers and employees on the Hatchery office parking lot.

Fishing pole loaners can be made available by the Genoa National Fish Hatchery in cooperation with the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Fishery Stations and the LaCrosse National Wildlife and Fishery Conservation Office.

Recreational Fishing Session

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Fishing at Hatchery Pond 5.

Everyone will be dismissed at approximately 1:00 pm.