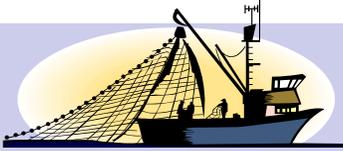




# Making Waves

Volume 13, Issue 4 August 2015



## A River Full of Life

By Bill Lamoreux



Be it netting or electrofishing, our fishery crews come across many amazing creatures while conducting surveillance for Asian carp.

Never expect a dull day working in the fisheries field. The Upper Miss always seems to amaze and impress.

The variety of life we encounter keeps this job ever interesting.

One day you might have close to 40 turtles in a mini-fyke net, and the very next net has over 5,000 one-inch long baby bluegills. Some fish have such bright coloration, one might think they exist only in the Amazon River, a coral reef, or other distant location.



Freshwater shrimp USFWS



Fox snake USFWS

Turtles and snakes are a common occurrence when sampling for fish in the shallow backwaters. The red ear, map and painted turtles provide some safe entertainment.



Map turtle USFWS

On the other hand, a snapping turtle makes you diligent of where your fingers are at all times. Late in August, we set one of our larger fyke nets in a backwater of Pool 19 in search of Asian carp. With a

larger net like this you tend to target larger fish ....



Northern pike USFWS

and larger turtles too! When we retrieved this net, it was quickly apparent that we had very few fish, but multiple large snapping turtles. In general, snapping turtles don't like to be bothered.



Snapping turtle USFWS

One of them in this net was the biggest I'd ever seen and had an attitude to match its size. After some careful planning we safely got him and his buddies out and back home in the river.

The Mississippi River basin contains 260 species of fish ... nearly 25% of all fish species in North America! Learn more facts about the Mississippi River and its diverse natural resources by clicking on these Waves.



Orange spot sunfish USFWS



Warmouth K. Lieder

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# Annual Goby Surveillance

By Nick Bloomfield

Staff from the La Crosse FWCO and the Columbia (MO) FWCO teamed up the week of August 24 for our annual sampling excursion formerly known as the "Goby Roundup".

The goal of this sampling is to monitor the leading edge of the round goby as this invasive species expands its downstream range in the Illinois River and approaches the Upper Mississippi River.

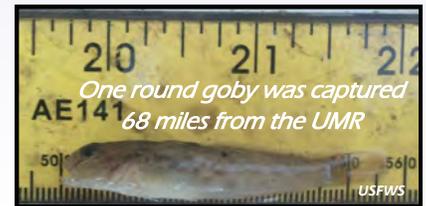
In years past, this sampling was primarily conducted using minnow traps that were set by several crews. After trials with a bottom trawl in 2013 proved a success, annual sampling has since been done by trawling alone.



gears in past years. However, our trawling efforts last year also detected round goby at several sites further downstream than previously reported. These locations ranged as far downriver as RM 75.5 in the Alton reach, the final stretch of the Illinois River leading to Pool 26 of the Upper Mississippi River. Introducing trawling to the equation proved successful in finding these little critters!

Fast forward to 2015, our goal was to begin near our site of last capture and move as far downstream as possible in three days of sampling effort. We used a bow-trawl while the Columbia crew ran their push-trawl boat.

Our trawl samples in 2014 found a low abundance of round goby at several locations in the 75-mile long La Grange reach of the Illinois River. These observations largely confirmed the presence of goby upstream of river mile (RM) 108.5 that was noted by Illinois River Biological Station staff during Long-Term Resource Monitoring Program efforts with a variety of



On our third trawl, we picked up a round goby at RM 68.1, documenting a 7.4-mile expansion of its known range in the Alton Pool. Much to our surprise, we were unable to capture another round goby throughout the rest of the trip.



Most trawls were loaded with small channel catfish which are nothing but spines!

The good news is that invasive round goby do not appear to be abundant on the lower reach of the Illinois River... yet. We completed 25 push-trawls and 21 bow-trawls covering any habitat that would appear enticing to round goby downstream to RM 20. A scouting trip over the last 20 miles indicates we may need to change gears in the coming years, as the stump-filled, mud-flat habitat here is unfriendly to trawling. Back to the drawing board!



## Welcome Aboard!

### New Center Director Leads Three Fishery Offices

The La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, the La Crosse Fish Health Center, and the Whitney Genetics Laboratory in Onalaska were administratively combined this summer into what is now recognized as the Service's Midwest Fisheries Center (MFC).



Dr. Teresa Lewis, Midwest Fisheries Center Director.

Teresa Lewis reported for duty here on July 27 as the first MFC Director. She transferred from the Service's Southwest Region where she served since 2008 as Project Leader for the Southwestern Fish Health Unit, part of the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center in Dexter, NM.

Teresa earned her doctorate at the College of William and Mary in the School of Marine Science, Department of Environmental Sciences (now Aquatic Health Sciences).

Her arrival in Onalaska marks the final administrative action combining the three existing fishery program offices into the new MFC.

Teresa is a well respected and published scientist with a strong managerial background who promotes collaboration with diverse partners. With an emphasis on scientific rigor and quality assurance, she is passionate about building the

MFC into a regional leader focused on aquatic species management solutions.

When not at work, Teresa enjoys gardening, sports, and road tripping on her Harley-Davidson motorcycle.



WELCOME ABOARD TERESA!

### Editor's Note

Round goby were recently confirmed in Wisconsin's Lower Fox River; learn more by clicking on these Waves.



# Outdoor Fest Hits the Target



*By Sandy Turner*

July 11th marked the day for the 7th Annual Youth Outdoor Fest. Hosted by the City of La Crosse, the Friends of the Upper Mississippi, and the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, this free event was held for the second



consecutive year at Veterans Memorial Park in La Crosse. Located along the Black River,

this site accommodates throngs of visitors and the many exhibitors who come to engage youth in a diverse range of outdoor activities.

Other Service offices participating included the La Crosse Fish Health Center, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and both the La Crosse and Winona District Offices of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

This year's event was huge success. The crowd exceeded 2000 attendees and included more than 650 children who each brought as many as four adults (typically parents or grandparents).

There were enough hands-on activities to entice even the biggest couch potato to get up and venture out of their comfort zones.

These ranged from aquatic experiences like canoeing, kayaking, pontoon boat rides, motor boat driving, electro-fishing, and fish identification/ dissection skills to terrestrial pursuits

like archery, hatchet throwing, target shooting (sling shot, BB guns) birding, trapping, geocaching, dog training, honey bee keeping, outdoor survival skills, and much more. There was something for everyone. As an added benefit, not only did the participants come away learning something new, but it was also a great time for all who worked at the event.



Trout Unlimited member Rick Kyle demonstrates the art of tying flies.

It was wonderful to see the children smile as they encountered something new for the first time such as hitting a target at the archery range, maneuvering a kayak without tipping over, or getting their hands dirty while helping with fish dissection.

The surprise on some parents' faces as they realized their child liked getting their hands dirty exploring the insides of a fish, or



Kyle Mosel (left) helps to identify aquatic invertebrates; Jenny Bailey (below) leads a fish anatomy lesson.

getting involved in many of the outdoor activities offered that day, was well worth all the effort and people it took to put on an event of this size. We are already looking forward with anticipation to next year's event.



With that said ... Come on everybody ... Let's go explore the great outdoors!



# Mississippi River Adventure Days



*By Mark Steingraeber*

Following its cancellation the past two years due to unusually high river levels, Mississippi River Adventure Days returned to Upper Mississippi River Pool 9 in 2015.

Sponsored by local civic organizations, these day-long outings provide vacationing children and their parents with fun-filled opportunities to learn more about the rich diversity of fish and wildlife that inhabit the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

The first event took place July 14 near Lansing (IA) and was organized by the Friends of Pool 9. Children were first divided into two age groups (5 to 8 year olds and 9 to 13 year olds) before they boarded pontoon boats with their parents for a short trip to an upriver island. Here a variety of hands-on adventures awaited them. For the younger children, these included birding by boat, seining for fish,

wading for mussels, identifying furbearers, and swimming. Meanwhile, older children went hunting for natural treasures on the island using global positioning system receivers and exploring a backwater nature trail by canoe.



I led the younger children through the cool, clear water here to seine fish along a firm, sandy stretch of shoreline. Given the mid-summer heat and humidity we were experiencing, this was the perfect spot to work for the day!

The second River Adventure event took place August 3 in Prairie du Chien (WI) and was organized by the local Rotary International Club.

Although I used much the same script that I had followed at the earlier event, the surroundings on this stage (i.e., murky waters hiding an irregular terrain covered with razor-sharp zebra mussel shells) provided physical challenges I hadn't anticipated. Despite these sampling difficulties however, my gung-ho crews found the community of fish was more diverse and abundant here than at the more tranquil site I visited near Lansing several weeks earlier.

For those who attended these events (from as far away as Montana), the day proved to be quite the river adventure for children, parents, and leaders alike!



# Give Your Medicine Cabinet A Fall Cleaning

By Mark Steingraeber



On September 26, 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 SMAR<sub>x</sub>T 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**  
**September 26th**  
Visit **dea.gov** for location information



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's planned nationwide effort to collect unwanted medications for safe disposal on September 26 compliments the Service's collaborative SMAR<sub>x</sub>T DISPOSAL campaign to educate consumers 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, September 26.

More than 2,411 tons of unwanted meds were collected nationwide during nine earlier DEA-sponsored disposal events, protecting both human and environmental safety.

Many collection sites located within a 150-mile radius of La Crosse (WI) are listed on page 7. A regularly

updated list of collection sites in or near your community is available on the Internet by clicking on these Waves. ↩

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



# Pollinators Populate Prairie Plot

By Mark Steingraeber



We often overlook creatures like bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, flies, and hummingbirds that carry pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. Yet without them, other wildlife would have fewer nutritious berries and seeds to eat. We too would miss many fruits, nuts and vegetables (not to mention chocolate and coffee) which all depend on pollinators.

Hard-working animals like these help pollinate over 75% of our flowering plants and nearly 75% of our crops.

Prime threats facing pollinators include habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. As native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured lawns, crops, and non-native gardens,

pollinators lose the food and nesting sites that are necessary for their survival.

Migratory pollinators face special challenges. If the distance between the suitable habitat patches along their migration route is too great, smaller, weaker individuals may die during their journey.



The monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species of wildlife in all of America. They undertake one of the world's most remarkable and fascinating migrations, traveling thousands of miles over many generations from Mexico, across the United States, to Canada; and then back to Mexico!

However, this species is now in trouble across North America. The loss of milkweed habitat needed for them to lay their eggs and for caterpillars to eat is having a devastating impact on monarch populations and the migration phenomenon.

To help reverse local declines of monarchs and other pollinators, the Friends of the Upper Mississippi



planted a variety of native flowering prairie plants this spring near the

main entrance to our office building in Onalaska.

*Continued on Page 6*



## What Others Say ...

### *Barge Trip Ends an Era*

*By Steve Brandt, Minneapolis Star Tribune - 15 Aug 2015\**

With a single toot that reverberated through the cavernous Upper St. Anthony Falls on Monday afternoon, where minutes before 10 million gallons of water floated her 50 feet higher, the towboat Becky Sue nudged twin barges filled with 2,400 tons of scrap steel downriver. In that same moment, Becky Sue ushered out a historic era of Minneapolis river navigation ....



B. Peterson

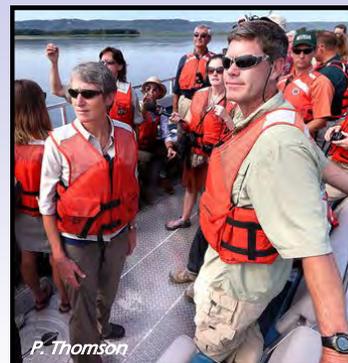
Read the full article by clicking on these Waves.

[The last barge at St. Anthony Falls.](#)

### *Interior Secretary Tours River*

*By Chris Hubbuch, La Crosse Tribune - 15 Aug 2015\**

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, whose department manages about a fifth of all U.S. lands, toured part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (UMRNWFR), which she called one of the nation's most important pieces of public land ....



P. Thomson

Read the full article by clicking on these Waves.

[Interior Secretary Sally Jewell \(left\) and U.S. Representative Ron Kind \(WI-3; right\) tour part of the UMRNWFR.](#)

### *WI Microbead Law on Books*

*By Amanda Wegner, Clean Wisconsin - 1 Jul 2015\**

MADISON — Several months after unanimously passing through the Wisconsin State Legislature, Gov. Scott Walker signed the microbeads bill into law today, ushering in new protections to keep microplastics out of Wisconsin's waters and our cherished Great Lakes.



"We're elated to finally have the microbeads bill signed into law," says Amber Meyer Smith, director of government relations of Clean Wisconsin, the largest state-based environmental organization in Wisconsin. "This is the kind of bipartisan legislation we need to ensure our environment remains clean now and for generations to come, and we'd like to thank the authors for their attention on this topic." ....



Read the full news release by clicking on these Waves.

### *Green Bay Receives UMR Mayflies*

*By Paul Srubas, Green Bay Press-Gazette - 18 Aug 2015\**

The return of masses of Green Bay flies, also known as mayflies, would be a potential environmental success story Pat Henry can live without.

"Oh, my God, it was like your worst nightmare," said Henry, 77, of Suamico, who remembers the days when mayfly bodies were so thick on the streets they had to be plowed clear." ... It's been decades since the lower portion of the bay has seen mayflies on that level, but a Milwaukee researcher is working to change that ...



M. Hooper

Read the full article by clicking on these Waves.

[Dr. Jerry Kaster gathers UMR mayflies to restore the insects' population in Green Bay.](#)

### *MN Senate Bans Microbeads*

*Personal Care Products & Soaps Targeted*

*By Elizabeth Dunbar, Minnesota Public Radio News - 5 May 2015\**



Plastic microbeads in a personal care product

MPCA

Read this article by clicking on these Waves.

### *Mussels Making a Comeback*

*Twin Cities a Focus Area*

*By Elizabeth Dunbar, Minnesota Public Radio News - 17 Aug 2015\**



USEFWS

Read this article by clicking on these Waves.

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*Continued from Page 4*

With tender loving care provided by the Fish Health Center's Jenny Bailey, this pollinator garden has thrived. This small plot has also provided critical milkweed habitat, used by monarchs to lay their eggs on and caterpillars to eat, that would otherwise not have been available in our highly developed commercial neighborhood.

Planning and site preparation is already underway to convert a larger area of turf grass here to a pollinator garden in 2016. Learn more about monarch butterflies and how you can help these pollinators by clicking on these Waves. ➡ 



16 May 2015

USFWS

## Midwest Fisheries Center Pollinator Garden



Monarch caterpillar on

common milkweed

USFWS



Cardinal  
flower.

USFWS



7 Aug 2015

USFWS



*Happy Oktoberfest from your*

*FWCO Friends in La Crosse!*

*Ann, Bailey, Bill, Erin, Heidi, Katie,*

*Kyle, Louise, Mark, Nick, Sandy,*

*Sarah, Scott, Taylor, Travis & Tyler*



# Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

**Saturday, September 26th**

Visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or call 800-882-9539 for a collection site near you



LOCAL PARTICIPANT	COLLECTION SITE STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE
SPARTA POLICE DEPT	121 E OAK ST	SPARTA, WI
JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT	115 HARRISON ST	BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
RICHLAND CENTER POLICE DEPT	470 MAIN ST	RICHLAND CENTER, WI
MUSCODA POLICE DEPT	206 N WISCONSIN AVE	MUSCODA, WI
FENNIMORE POLICE DEPT	860 LINCOLN AVE	FENNIMORE, WI
REEDSBURG POLICE DEPT	200 S. PARK ST	REEDSBURG, WI
MANCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT	220 EAST MAIN ST.	MANCHESTER, WI
DUBUQUE DRUG TASK FORCE	4400 ASBURY RD.	DUBUQUE, IA
PLATTEVILLE POLICE DEPT	165 N FOURTH ST	PLATTEVILLE, WI
PORTAGE POLICE DEPT	2700 NEW PINERY RD	PORTAGE, WI
BUCHANAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	1600 FIRST STREET EAST	INDEPENDENCE, IA
BLUE MOUNDS POLICE DEPT	11011 BRIGHAM AVE	BLUE MOUNDS, WI
BREMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	303 SOUTH MAIN	TRIPOLI, IA
GALENA POLICE DEPARTMENT	312 N. MAIN STREET	GALENA, IL
TAYLOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	224 SO 2ND ST	MEDFORD, WI
PIERCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE	707 N MAPLE ST	ELLSWORTH, WI
CHARLES CITY POLICE DEPT.	105 MILWAUKEE MALL	CHARLES CITY, IA
CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	301 N MAIN ST.	MOUNT CARROLL
JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	401 BROAD STREET	SABULA, IA
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DISTRICT 1	3107 E. LINCOLNWAY	STERLING, IL
GENESEO POLICE DEPARTMENT	115 SOUTH OAKWOOD AVE	GENESEO, IL
FORRESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	102 N. WALNUT	FORRESTON, IL
MOUNT MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT	105 W. LINCOLN	MOUNT MORRIS
JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	301 STATE STREET	BELLEVUE, IA
OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	501 W. WASHINGTON STREET	OREGON, IL
GUTTENBERG POLICE DEPT.	200 MAIN ST	GUTTENBERG, IA
WINN. COUNTY SHERIFF & DECORAH POLICE DEPT	702 MONTGOMERY STREET	DECORAH, IA
ELKADER POLICE DEPT	207 NORTH MAIN ST	ELKADER, IA
FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT	220 N. INDUSTRIAL PKWY	WEST UNION, IA
WAUKON POLICE DEPT	565 11TH AVENUE S.W.	WAUKON, IA
CLAYTON CO SHERIFF OFFICE	22680 230TH ST	ST. OLAF, IA