



# Making Waves



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## Old Man Winter is Here!

By Bill Lamoreux

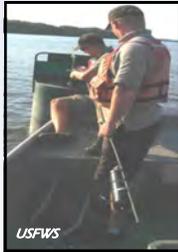


When the air and water temperature don't add up to at least 100 degrees, safety policies require field crews to wear full body float suits on the water. Therefore, our cold weather gear was a welcome requirement during Upper Mississippi River (UMR) outings in November. Wearing this personal protective equipment can be a hassle on some occasions, but when the water and air temperature barely adds up to 40 degrees, the suits go on without a second thought.

After learning of the rapid icy advancement, we changed tactics. We would start midway down the line in Pool 14 near Le Claire, IA. As we drove crossing subsidiary streams on our way to Pool 14 we noticed the ever more increasing occurrence of ice covered waterways.



Due to the arctic blast chilling the region last month, we were forced to try and recover our telemetry receivers earlier than planned in 2014. This equipment was deployed earlier in the year to help monitor the movements of Asian carp in the UMR and many of its tributaries (see the March 2014 issue of *Making Waves* for details).



Receivers are commonly deployed on channel markers, bridge abutments, and lock walls to track the main channel movements of

Finally arriving at a thawed boat launch, work was on our minds, only to have the cold deal another blow. The steering cable line in our boat had frozen: we had no usable boat. Luckily the USFWS is a large organization and full of helpful souls. We were able to borrow a boat from the Rock Island (IL) Ecological Services Field Office. Big thanks to Fish and Wildlife Biologist Drew Becker for his help.



We planned the retrieval using 2 crews: one north and one south. Jenna Merry and I were the southern crew. While en route to Pool 19 south of Burlington (IA), we received word that the ice conditions were preventing the northern crew from attempting to recover receivers at most of its sites.

The average air temperature hovered around 15 degrees while we were on the river. On some trips, the waves were big enough to splash over the side of the boat and coat our float suits with a nice layer of ice. Water dripping from the ... *Continued on Page 3*

Jenna Merry gives a thumbs-up, happy to finally be on the water.

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# What Others Say ...

— Heidi Keuler: We Couldn't Do It Without You! —

## ★ Fish Partnership Lauds Service of La Crosse FWCO Biologist ★

By Steve Sodeman and Jack Lauer

"On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Fishers & Farmers Fish Habitat Partnership (FFP), we present you this letter in recognition and appreciation of your services as coordinator for FFP.

Your leadership and professionalism have been an invaluable asset to the development, function and motivation of a rather unique partnership.

FFP was created to address the needs of both farmers and fishes across the Upper Mississippi



River Basin—

farmers because of the significance of agriculture in shaping our landscape and our communities, and fishes because of their importance as both a natural resource and an indicator of the ecological health of the Basin.

To make the Partnership relevant and representative we include a diversity of stakeholders representing state

natural resource agencies, non-governmental organizations working on behalf of environmental issues, and—perhaps most importantly—agricultural landowners and organizations that work and speak on their behalf.

Agricultural representation in FFP is so important because nearly all our projects are on private lands, requiring landowner cooperation and engagement as a prerequisite for success.

It is these characteristics of the Partnership and the Basin that present an organizational challenge and need for a skilled coordinator.

Our successes to date as a Partnership are in no small part attributable to your guidance as coordinator.



Partnership Co-chairs Jack Lauer (left) and Steve Sodeman (center) present La Crosse FWCO biologist Heidi Keuler with a beautiful plaque and jacket in recognition of her excellent service as the Partnership Coordinator.

*Simply put, we couldn't do it without you.*

The accomplishments you have achieved as coordinator are many and varied. To list but a few, you have:

- Exhibited an attention to detail, organization, and timely guidance to ensure the successful funding and implementation of farmer-led projects;
- Expanded the reach and representation of FFP with your efforts to bring in new members;
- Secured multi-state grant funds to support stakeholder engagement training in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin;
- Engaged other partnerships and Fish Habitat Partnership staff at the national level, and in doing so have helped to attain a high profile for FFP;
- Earned the respect of all interests on the Steering Committee with your cooperative spirit and skill at bringing together partners from diverse backgrounds and helping them to work together on common goals.

Heidi, we have been pleased and rewarded with your leadership in FFP. You play an invaluable role in keeping us on task and in making the most out of what each of us can contribute to FFP. Thank you for your service as FFP



Partnership coordinator and La Crosse FWCO biologist Heidi Keuler is widely recognized as "Outstanding in her Field"

coordinator. We look forward to continuing to work with you to further build upon the successes FFP has achieved with your leadership, service, and professional support."

*Editor's note:* These remarks, written by Fishers and Farmers Partnership (FFP) Co-Chairs Steve Sodeman (United Ag Tech, Inc.) and Jack Lauer (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), were delivered 28 October 2014 at the FFP Steering Committee meeting held at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. Heidi Keuler has served as the FFP Coordinator since 2010.



# Winter is Here

*Continued from Page 1*

motor and trailer froze almost instantly when it landed on the launch ramp causing slick situations, but nothing a little sand couldn't fix.



Even after all the trouble caused by the weather we were able to recover over half of the deployed receivers in just 3 days. One receiver in the Skunk River had to be left for later. The river was completely frozen over and the receiver was 5 miles upriver from the boat launch. The remaining receivers, which at this



very moment are chilling out in ice cold waters, will be recovered by air boat later this winter.

# SEASONS' GREETINGS!

Scott Nancy  
 Louise Heidi  
 Ann Nick  
 Mark Kyle  
 Ashley Jenna  
 Trevor



## Cabin Fever Relievers - Mark Your Calendars Now!

Relieve your seasonal symptoms at one or more of these upcoming events

*Friends of the Upper Mississippi & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*



**February 7th - Kids Ice Fishing Clinic - Genoa NFH**



**Equipment Available**

**8:30 am — 12:30 pm**

**Lunch Provided**

*Details on Page 5*



Come to the Boat, Sports, Travel, RV and Hunting Show, Thursday through Sunday, February 12 - 15, at the La Crosse Center



Visit us at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service booth at the main entrance



**Driftless Area Symposium**  
February 3 - 4  
Radisson Hotel, La Crosse  
*Details on Page 4*



**Making Waves TOGETHER!**



**Unwanted Medication Collection**  
February 21, 9 am - 12 pm  
County HHM - Hwy 16 La X  
*Details on Page 6*



# H A P P Y H O L I D A Y S



# Register Now!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Driftless Area Symposium

Tuesday, February 3rd, and  
Wednesday, February 4th, 2015

Radisson Hotel  
200 Harborview Plaza  
La Crosse, WI

### Join Us!

This is a great opportunity to network,  
learn and connect! Two separate tracks  
will be offered.

Managing the Driftless Landscape:  
watershed projects, water quality  
monitoring, riparian management and Karst  
feature mapping.



More information coming soon on registration & agenda to:  
<http://www.darestoration.com/Symposium.html>



# Friends of the Upper Mississippi and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Kids Ice Fishing Clinic



*Genoa National Fish Hatchery, La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, La Crosse Fish Health Center*

*Conserving America's aquatic resources for the continuing benefit of people  
(608) 689-2605*

The following is the itinerary for our Annual Ice Fishing Day **for children 6 to 12 years old**, which will be held at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Genoa, WI on **Saturday February 7, 2015.**

This event will be held at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, 55631 State Hwy 35, Genoa, WI, on the east side of the highway at Pond 11. Travel on Hwy 35 South of Genoa, WI. Drive past the office and take a left by the rearing buildings on the east side of Hwy 35. Follow the signs and please park in the designated areas.

## Schedule



8:30am to 9:00am	Registration
9:00am to 9:15am	Ice Safety & Ice Fishing Tips
9:15 a.m. to 12:00	Open Fishing
12:00 to 12:30	Lunch/Dismissal

A light lunch will be provided for the children, parents, volunteers and employees in a heated tent. Fishing poles, bait and tackle will be provided by the La Crosse Area Fisheries Offices in cooperation with the Friends of the Upper Mississippi

**Holes in the ice will be drilled prior to the event**

**Everyone will be dismissed at approximately 12:30 pm.**

The event is weather dependent. We will announce the cancellation of this event on local radio stations WVRQ, 98.3 and Cow 97.1 by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the event if the weather turns extremely cold or unsafe driving conditions exist in our area.

**Due to the Chance of Introducing Fish Diseases, No Outside Bait will be allowed on the premises.**

**Due to spaces concerns and other reasons, no portable ice fishing tents are allowed for this event.**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult.**



# Medication Drop Off



**Saturday,  
February 21, 2015  
9:00AM—12:00PM**

**Accepting ALL Medications  
Including Controlled Substances**

## **La Crosse County HHM**

6500 State Road 16, La Crosse

**ONE SITE ONLY**

### **YOU CAN BRING:**

- Prescription Medications
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Tablets and Capsules
- Liquids
- Creams
- Ointments
- Inhalers, Patches
- Needles/Sharps

## **Also Accepting Household Hazardous Waste**

- Mercury Thermometers
- Fluorescent Lamps and Electronics
- Paint, Solvents, etc.
- Oil, Antifreeze, Oil Filters
- Aerosols
- Pesticides and Yard Chemicals
- Cleaners and Pool Chemicals

**Businesses Call 785-9999 for  
details regarding disposal of  
business wastes.**

**Permanent Medication Drop  
Boxes are now available in  
seven La Crosse County law  
enforcement offices. Call  
your local agency for more  
information.**

**Visit [www.lacrossecounty.org/HHM](http://www.lacrossecounty.org/HHM) or call 785-9999  
for more information and for future drop off dates.**

