



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

April 2011



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Robert Elliott conducting lake sturgeon adult spawning assessment on the Fox River with the Wisconsin DNR. Service photo by Joel Trick.



Employee Appreciation 2011/3

The RD shares his thoughts on spring.

By Tom Melius



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The winners of the Midwest Region of 2011 Employee Appreciation Awards are featured.

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Midwest Region Service employees Lucinda Ochoada and Linda Nichols were among 29 recipients of the 2010 Recovery Champion Award.

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Mark your calendar for the second annual event.

By Jason Lewis

RD's Corner

Even here in the northern portion of the Midwest Region we are seeing signs that spring is approaching. Melting snow has given way to grasses that will soon begin to turn green, and a few early migratory birds have begun to arrive.

Those welcome signs of spring also bring with them the potential of flood waters that can damage property and threaten lives. Many of you have been busy developing plans and preparing equipment in order to respond to any threats to lives or property. As public servants, our equipment and training is an important piece in the overall response to protect our natural resources and our people. I hope we don't need to respond to any emergencies, but thanks to your efforts we will be ready to quickly, and safely, respond if the call comes.

A couple weeks ago the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference was held in Kansas City, Mo. As part of that conference both the Plains and Prairie Potholes and the Upper Midwest

and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperatives held steering committee meetings. As a co-chair for both these committees, I was joined by other senior executives from state and federal agencies to review what we have done so far and where we need to go in the future. Both of these LCCs are about one year into their existence and both have matured significantly in that year. In the coming years, we expect LLCs to continue their rapid development of useful tools for land managers.

While at the North American meeting I had the opportunity to travel to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge to visit with staff and see the area. Around 500,000 snow geese decided to visit the refuge at the same time and provided an amazing viewing opportunity. A short video of the snow geese is available on the Midwest Region website, I encourage you to take a few minutes and watch the video.

Below: Dr. Melinda Knutson (r) received the Science Excellence Award from John Christian (l) and Regional Director Tom Melius (c) for her work in evaluating the long-term benefits of sediment excavation on wetland restoration. Service photo.



Regional Director Tom Melius opens the show.

Service photo.

While at Squaw Creek I was able to personally present one of our Midwest Region awards to Squaw Creek's Amanda Griffin. Amanda was unable to attend the formal awards ceremony held at the Regional Office the week before. So, I was glad to be able to visit her refuge and present the award personally.

The following two pages highlight all the winners of the Annual Midwest Region Awards. I want to congratulate them all once again for their amazing work and accomplishments. Thanks to all of them, and to all of you, for your continued great work.

Let's have a great spring!

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

2011 Employee Appreciation Awards

Below: Nick Rowse received the Teamwork Award for his work in re-establishing the dive team for the region. Service photo.



Below: Carolyn Garritsen received the Internal Customer Service Award for her work in ensuring that investigative reports generated by agents and inspectors were fully reviewed and amended. Service photo.



Below: Dr. Melinda Knutson received the Science Excellence Award for her work in evaluating the long-term benefits of sediment excavation on wetland restoration. Service photo.



Below: Nick Utrup and Robert Elliott received the Fostering Partnerships Award for leadership in building partnerships for fish passage for hydropower dam blocked lake sturgeon. Service photo.



Below: Ashley Spratt received the Outreach Excellence Award for her leadership in the National Jr. Duck Stamp Contest. Service photo.



Below: Rex Johnson received the Strategic Habitat Conservation (Individual Achievement & Leadership) Award for molding the way we achieve conservation. Service photo.

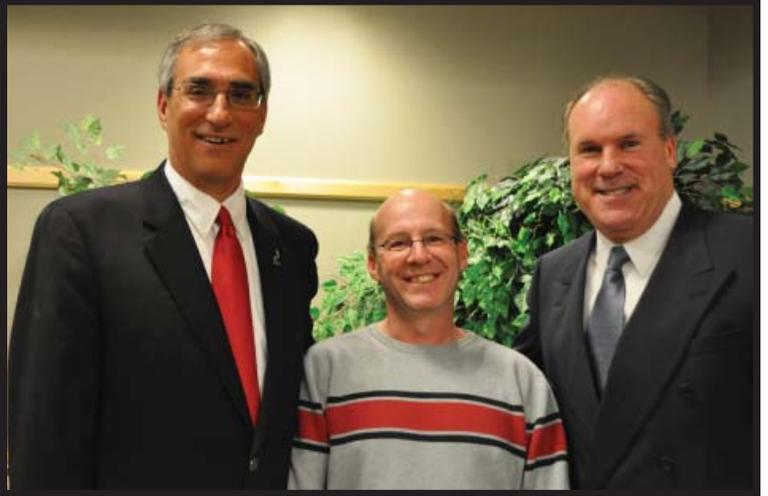


2011 Employee Appreciation Awards

Below: Lois Lawson (c) was lauded for winning the Rudolph Dieffenbach Award. Service photo.



Below: Rob McGinn received the Workplace Improvements Award for his work during the Deepwater Horizon and Endbridge oil spills. Service photo.



Below: Receiving the Region 3 Award for Strategic Conservation - Notable Projects/Team Achievement on behalf of the team was Dr. Wayne Thogmartin, USGS. Service photo.



Below: The 2011 winner of the R3 Sense of Wonder Award, and nominee for the national award, is Amanda Griffin, from Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Service photo.



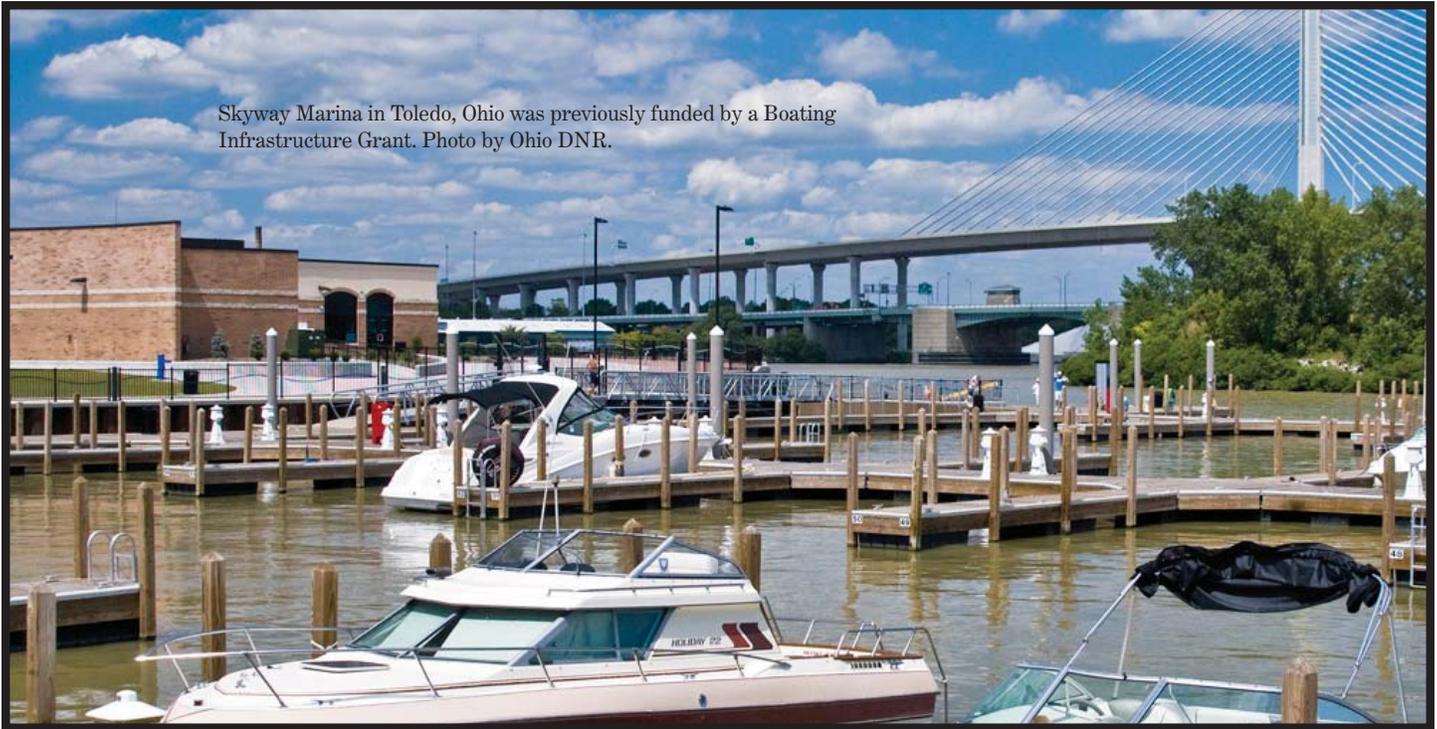
Below: Charlie Wooley (r) holds the Strategic Conservation Coin as Tom Larson (c) makes a point and RD Tom Melius listens intently. Service photo.



Below: External Affairs's Courtney Celley (l) and Tina Shaw (r) masterminded the elaborate affair. Service Photo.



More Boating Opportunities for Mississippi River and Lake Erie Communities



Skyway Marina in Toledo, Ohio was previously funded by a Boating Infrastructure Grant. Photo by Ohio DNR.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awards Boating Infrastructure Grants to support recreational boating and associated tourism activities for local communities across the Great Lakes and big rivers of our region. This year, the city of Rock Island, Ill., nestled on the Mississippi River at the midpoint between St. Louis, Mo. and St. Paul, Minn., and the city of Cleveland, Ohio, a major gateway to Lake Erie, will both receive funding for boating infrastructure projects through the Service's BIG Program.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the City of Rock Island, will receive \$1,500,000 and match that amount with \$565,000 to add a floating dock system that will accommodate 23 transient boating slips at the Schweibert Riverfront Park on the Mississippi River. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources,

in cooperation with the City of Cleveland and partners will receive \$1,450,400 and will match that with \$509,600 to build new floating docks for 53 transient boat slips at North Coast Harbor on Lake Erie.

“Rock Island is a beautiful small-town escape for folks from larger cities in the upper Midwest, while, downtown Cleveland is already home to many attractions, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, waterfront museums, entertainment and professional sports venues,” said Julie Morin, grant coordinator with the Service. “The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides the opportunity for towns like Rock Island and Cleveland to expand their capabilities to accommodate more visitors and thus provide an economic boost for communities both big and small.”

Funding for the BIG Program comes from the Sport Fishing and Boating Trust Fund, formerly known as the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, which boaters and manufacturers support through excise and other taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and boat fuels.

--Ashley Spratt
External Affairs

Midwest Region BLOG

Check out
the Midwest Region Blog,
Visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/blog/>

Honoring Outstanding Educators

These individuals have promoted the use of the Junior Duck Stamp Program curriculum in the classroom to teach children about the importance of conservation, science and America's great outdoors.

Marc Angell, Oak View Middle School, Andover, Minn.

From the first day of school, Marc Angell contributes his experiences, resources, and vibrant personality to his students. Passion for the outdoors is also evident in his teachings of science. Marc creates unique experiences for his students, including providing hands-on outdoor wood duck box building, duck banding and aquatic invertebrate sampling. He has involved his students in the Junior Duck Stamp Program for the past 7 years.

Lisa Rodammer, North Elementary, Birch Run, Mich.

Lisa Rodammer's third grade art students have been participating in the Junior Duck Stamp Program since 2006. Lisa loves the Junior Duck Stamp Program because students are recognized for their talents locally, and the state and national contests are well organized. Her main focus is teaching the students how to draw the anatomical features of the duck or goose.

Hugh Petersen, Phoenix Middle School, Delavan, Wis.

Hugh Petersen has devoted every year since 1995 to encouraging his students to participate in the Junior Duck Stamp program.

He was published in the 2005-06 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers and, since 1990, has been a contributing writer to the nation's leading art education magazine Arts & Activities. He enjoys seeing his students' artwork published frequently on Artsonia.com, the world's largest kids' online art museum.

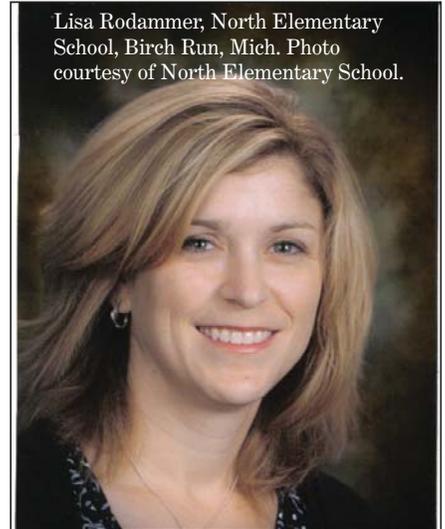
John Protos, Toledo Christian School, Toledo, Ohio

In his first year of teaching at Toledo Christian School fourteen years ago, John Protos was introduced by a student's parent to the Junior Duck Stamp Program. John uses photos taken in the local area as reference for the students. This guarantees original artwork, but it also teaches the students about local habitats and the waterfowl that use them. He enjoys the program because it allows students to use multiple artistic media, and gives the students an appreciation of nature and God's wonder.

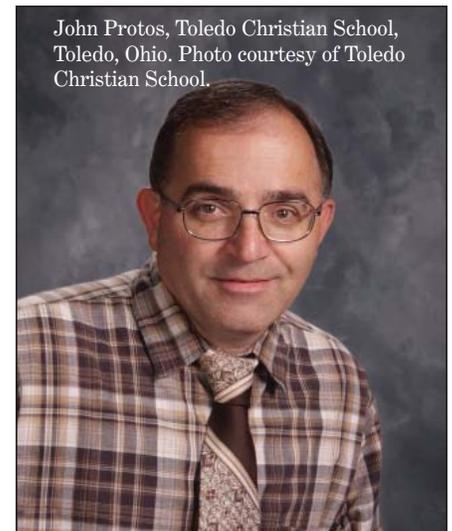
Marc Angell, Oak View Middle School, Andover, Minn. Service photo.



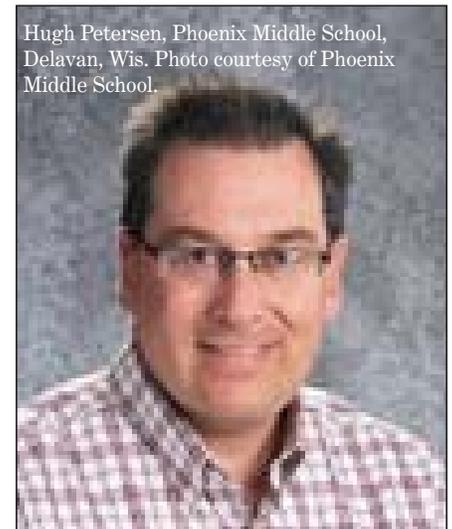
Lisa Rodammer, North Elementary School, Birch Run, Mich. Photo courtesy of North Elementary School.



John Protos, Toledo Christian School, Toledo, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Toledo Christian School.



Hugh Petersen, Phoenix Middle School, Delavan, Wis. Photo courtesy of Phoenix Middle School.



Honoring Outstanding Educators

Below: Minnesota Duck Banding with Oak View. Service photo.



**Laurel Adams, New Hebron Christian School
Robinson, Ill.**

Laurel Adams has engaged her students in the Junior Duck Stamp Program for 5 years. Not only does she motivate her students to participate in artistic competitions, but she also assists in coaching the school's track and cross country teams. She is also the coordinator for the school's annual Spring Fling event where student art and music are displayed for parents. She is not only an inspiration to her students, but she is also a great asset to both the school and community.

**Ruth Deutmeyer, Clayton Ridge High School
Guttenberg, Iowa**

Ruth Deutmeyer is in her 13th year of helping her students participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Program. Her students see ducks and geese almost every day and are not always aware of the many different species. Through their artwork, they become

aware of not only the species but their distinctions and colorings. In the classroom, they talk about the preservation of our wildlife and their habitat for future generations.

Dorlene Meneely, Chillicothe High School, Chillicothe, Mo.
Dorlene Meneely has engaged her students in the Missouri Junior Duck Stamp Program for multiple years. Her energy and promotion of creativity shows in every piece of artwork submitted by her students, many of which have been Junior Duck Stamp Contest winners in past years. The diversity in her students' artwork shows they have an understanding of the habitat needs of waterfowl, a true testament to Dorlene's enthusiasm for education.

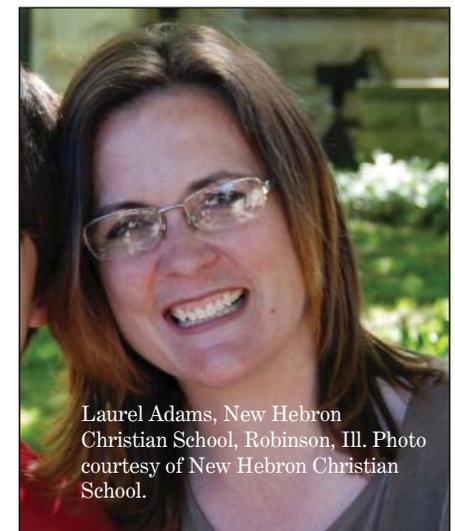
*--Ashley Spratt
External Affairs*



Dorlene Meneely, Chillicothe High School, Chillicothe, Mo. Photo courtesy of Chillicothe High School.



Ruth Deutmeyer, Clayton Ridge High School, Guttenberg, Iowa. Photo courtesy of Clayton Ridge High School.



Laurel Adams, New Hebron Christian School, Robinson, Ill. Photo courtesy of New Hebron Christian School.

Neosho Takes the Gold

The scores are in. The Neosho National Fish Hatchery Visitor Center, which opened its doors to the public in December 2010, achieves gold according to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system. Design features of the new gold-rated, LEED certified building include:

Energy Efficiency

- Building configuration and windows strategically placed to maximize natural sun light and views.
- Low-e insulated glass minimizes solar heat gain while maximizing visible light transmittance.
- Double hung, aluminum clad windows for ease of maintenance.
- Building systems and enclosures designed to achieve 30% or better energy savings over ASHRAE 90.1 requirements.
- Insulation R-values meet energy code values - exterior walls (R-19), interior walls (R-11), ceilings (R-38) and nail base insulation (R-38).
- Geothermal wells provide 60 degree glycol to HVAC heat pumps for heating and cooling of fresh supply air.
- Zoned heat pumps are controlled by individual thermostats to maximize thermal comfort.
- Mechanical ventilation treated separately by an energy recovery unit to recover energy and maximize energy savings.
- Lighting control system including occupancy sensors, time sensors and dimmer panels designed to minimize energy use.
- Operable windows utilized for

individual control of ventilation.

- Sixteen photovoltaic panels contribute up to 3.5 KW to the energy used on site.



Neosho National Fish Hatchery. Service photo.

Building Materials

- Environmentally friendly, natural materials including fiber cement siding, wood framing, metal roof, stained concrete and marmoleum flooring.
- Low VOC (volatile organic compounds) emitting materials selected to reduce indoor air contaminants and provide a healthy environment for occupants.
- Regionally extracted and manufactured materials utilized.
- Materials selected for high recycled content.
- Polished concrete floors with stainless steel fish in-lays reduce maintenance.

About the Hatchery

The visitor center at Neosho National Fish Hatchery in southwest Missouri is designed with the architectural style of the early 1900s, a tribute to the hatcheries' origins. The original hatchery and headquarters opened

in 1888, and featured similar onion dome and witches hat architectural roof styles. Beginning in July 2009, the Neosho National Fish

Hatchery headquarters and visitor center was rebuilt from the ground up, and opened its doors to the public in December 2010. The 9,500 sq. ft. facility is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program and includes photovoltaic solar panels, energy efficient building systems, geothermal wells, and was built using environmentally friendly, natural materials including fiber cement

siding, wood framing, metal roofing, stained concrete and marmoleum flooring. The new visitor center is expected to accommodate more than 100,000 visitors per year, enhance environmental education and interpretation opportunities, and generate economic benefits for Newton County and the surrounding southwest Missouri area in the form of increased tourism revenue.

Neosho NFH was established in 1888 and is the oldest operating federal fish hatchery in the country. The hatchery raises pallid sturgeon (federally endangered) for recovery efforts in the lower Missouri River and rainbow trout for stocking in Lake Taneycomo. The hatchery also supports conservation of the federally endangered Ozark cavefish and restoration of native mussels.

--Ashley Spratt, *External Affairs*

Employee Profile

Ottawa's New Refuge Manager: Jason Lewis

Jason P. Lewis, the new refuge manager at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, is responsible for planning, directing, and administering habitat management and refuge operations.

A product of the Student Career Experience Program, Lewis joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1998 as a biological science technician and spent the majority of his Service career as a wildlife biologist. The National Wildlife Refuge System and the Service's role in migratory bird conservation were two of the primary factors that attracted Lewis to the Service. His first experience working with the Service was as a volunteer at Muscatatuck NWR banding wood ducks during his formative years. Lewis says that the idea of working for an agency that was dedicated

to migratory bird conservation was inviting.

A native of Butlerville, Ind., Lewis spent the majority of his life living and working in the Midwest, primarily in Indiana where he attained his education at Ball State University. Lewis is certainly a product of his environment. Butlerville is one of the only towns in the country named after an ornithologist, Amos W. Butler. Rather apropos, given Lewis' profession and early interest in migratory bird conservation.

Ohio, however, is a new place to live and work for Lewis. "I was attracted by the multitude of partnership opportunities, the biodiversity, and the thought of working in one of the most ecologically important wetland

systems in the United States, if not the world," Lewis says. "The Lake Erie marshes which include the refuge and surrounding public and private lands collectively are one of the premier birding hotspots in the country. The avian biological diversity one can encounter on any given day during any time of the year is truly remarkable; however, the



Above: Lewis in his fire clothes at a prescribed fire debriefing at Big Oaks NWR. Service photo.

spring migration is a sight that everyone with an interest in bird conservation should experience at least once in their lives." As a passionate birder and one interested in migratory bird research and conservation, Ohio was a good fit for him, his wife, Gwen and their two aptly named girls, Willow and Wren.

Lewis is excited about an upcoming event that Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is co-hosting with Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area. "The Biggest Week in American Birding" is an event centered around "International Migratory Bird Day". The co-hosted event will be held May 5-15. For more on this exciting event, see the back page.

--Valerie Rose Redmond,
External Affairs and
Jason Lewis, Ottawa NWR

Banding Northern Saw-whet Owls on Big Oaks NWR. Service photo.



Recovery Champions Honored for Work to Save Listed Species

Midwest Region U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees Lucinda Ochoada and Linda Nichols were among 29 recipients of the 2010 Recovery Champion Award honoring Service staff members and their partners-in-mission for conserving endangered and threatened species. Service Director nominee Dan Ashe presented the awards to Ochoada and Nichols on March 17 at the 76th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference in Kansas City, Mo.

The annual Recovery Champion award recognizes Service employees and their partners for contributions to the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the United States. Also recognized from the Midwest was Dr. Marian Smith, distinguished Professor of Research at Southern Illinois University.

“Recovery Champions are leaders in the conservation of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals across the United States and beyond its borders,” said Acting Director Rowan Gould. “It is a true measure of a commitment to protect our nation’s biological heritage for future generations by working to recover our imperiled species of fish and wildlife and plants and the ecosystems on which they depend.”



Linda Nichols.
Service photo.

Ochoada and Nichols are colleagues in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program in the Service’s Regional Office in Fort Snelling, Minn. In administering the ESA grants program, the two made possible the acquisition of the last large tract—8.6 acres—of undeveloped shoreline and adjacent uplands of Ohio’s South Bass Island, a popular area that is experiencing growth pressures. This property is also key habitat for Lake Erie watersnake for breeding, feeding and sheltering. They resolved application challenges from previous years, resulting in award of a \$1.835 million Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grant to a group of partners including the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Wildlife, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and Put-In Bay Township Park District. Protecting this habitat was a decade in the making, and securing the site completed the recovery actions for the threatened species, enabling the Service to propose it for delisting—and setting aside a preserve to benefit a range of fish, wildlife, and plants. “The efforts of Lucinda Ochoada and Linda Nichols capped a 10-year effort to protect Lake Erie watersnake habitat” said Melius. “Through their combined skill and dedication, and their ability to work with partners, essential habitat for the Lake Erie watersnake will be protected, and the future of the species assured.”

Through the initiatives of Dr. Marian Smith, land managers and the Decurrent False Aster Recovery Team have accomplished seven of 11 actions for the threatened plant species that lives on moist, sandy, floodplains and prairie wetlands



Lucinda Ochoada. Service photo.

along the Illinois River. Recovery actions include completing basic research on the fugitive species, monitoring it, identifying important habitats and protecting them, and developing methods to establish new populations. During the past 20 years, Dr. Smith has become the recognized authority on the life history, management, and recovery of decurrent false aster, a species that is threatened by soil runoff that smothers seeds and seedlings, and one that relies on periodic flooding to scour away competing plants. She has initiated artificial propagation techniques, recommended beneficial land management practices, and created seed storage methods for genetic diversity. Dr. Smith, distinguished professor of research, Emerita, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, is the author of more than 16 scientific papers. She has also become the best advocate for decurrent false aster, promoting conservation through workshops and presentations.

“Dr. Smith is a pioneer in plant recovery in the Midwest,” said Tom Melius, the Service’s Midwest Regional Director. “Her expertise and dedication to plant conservation have helped all the partners make great strides toward recovering the decurrent false aster, and toward understanding other at-risk plant species.” --Georgia Parham, *External Affairs*

Creating a New Waterfront Porch for Wildlife & People

Governmental, industrial and nonprofit organizations in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario are working to make waterfront shorelines friendly to fish, wildlife and people. Indeed, these partners are rapidly becoming North American leaders in the use of soft shoreline engineering techniques.

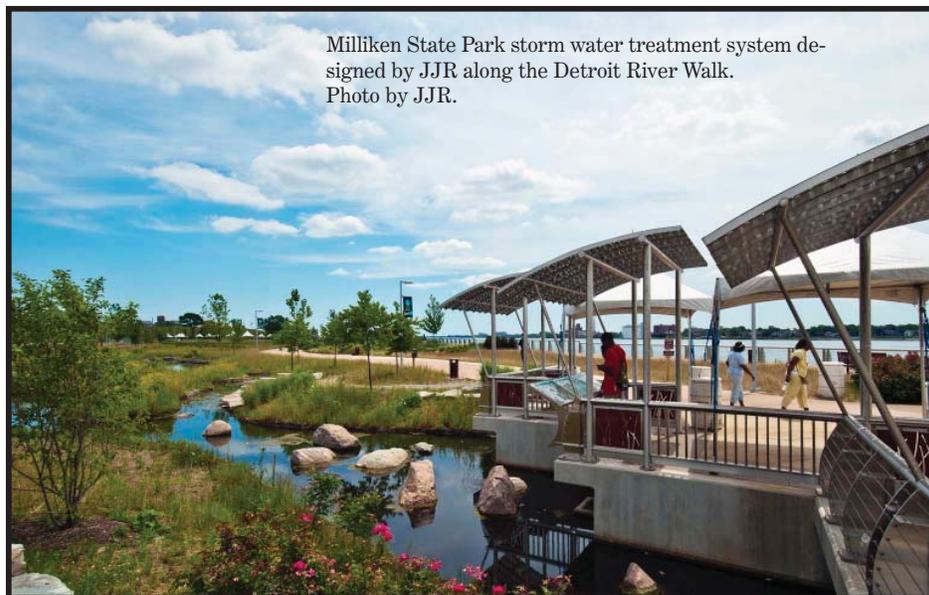
Today, cities are promoting locating both businesses and homes in walkable neighborhoods with front porches on houses that encourage talking with neighbors, keeping in touch with what goes on in the neighborhood and looking out for one another. Proponents argue that front porches are a key factor in achieving a sustainable community. Just as house porches can help promote sustainability in neighborhoods, waterfront porches can help promote sustainability of rivers in urban areas.

Historically in most Great Lakes cities, houses and businesses were built facing away from their rivers and Detroit was no exception. In fact, much of the Detroit River shoreline was developed as the back door of commerce and industry. As commerce and industry expanded in the Detroit metropolitan area, 31 of the 32 miles of the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River shoreline were hardened with concrete or steel

(hard shoreline engineering), providing no habitat for fish or wildlife. This shoreline hardening contributed to a 97% loss of coastal wetland habitats along the Detroit River. Today, there is growing interest in reclaiming urban waterfronts with new front

porches. Urban planners and developers are using ecological principles and practices to reduce erosion and achieve stability and safety of shorelines. At the same time, these practices are enhancing habitat, improving aesthetics, enhancing urban quality of life, increasing waterfront property values, and even saving money when compared to installing concrete breakwalls or steel sheet piling. Ecologists refer to this as soft shoreline engineering.

Milliken State Park storm water treatment system designed by JJR along the Detroit River Walk.
Photo by JJR.



and stronger on a larval fish's trip downstream to Lake Erie."

Not only is soft shoreline engineering important to enhance aquatic habitat and provide other environmental benefits, it is important from a social perspective because it helps reconnect people with the natural world. Soft shoreline engineering is increasingly becoming an important element in making places special or unique and in fostering a sense of belonging in urban areas like Detroit. Indeed, waterfronts are magical places where the water meets the land and people can reconnect with their watershed. Experience has shown that the creation of waterfront vistas

provides much needed habitat and can aid in flood and erosion control. "Soft shoreline engineering is particularly important in channelized rivers like the Detroit River because of the amount of shoreline hardened with concrete breakwalls and steel sheet piling," notes Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. "Soft engineered shorelines are critically important because they can provide spawning and nursery habitat for many fish and can provide shelter, resting areas, food and a chance to grow a little bigger

and stronger on a larval fish's trip downstream to Lake Erie."

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Creating a New Waterfront Porch for Wildlife & People

is an avenue to reintroducing watershed residents to river history, geography and ecology.

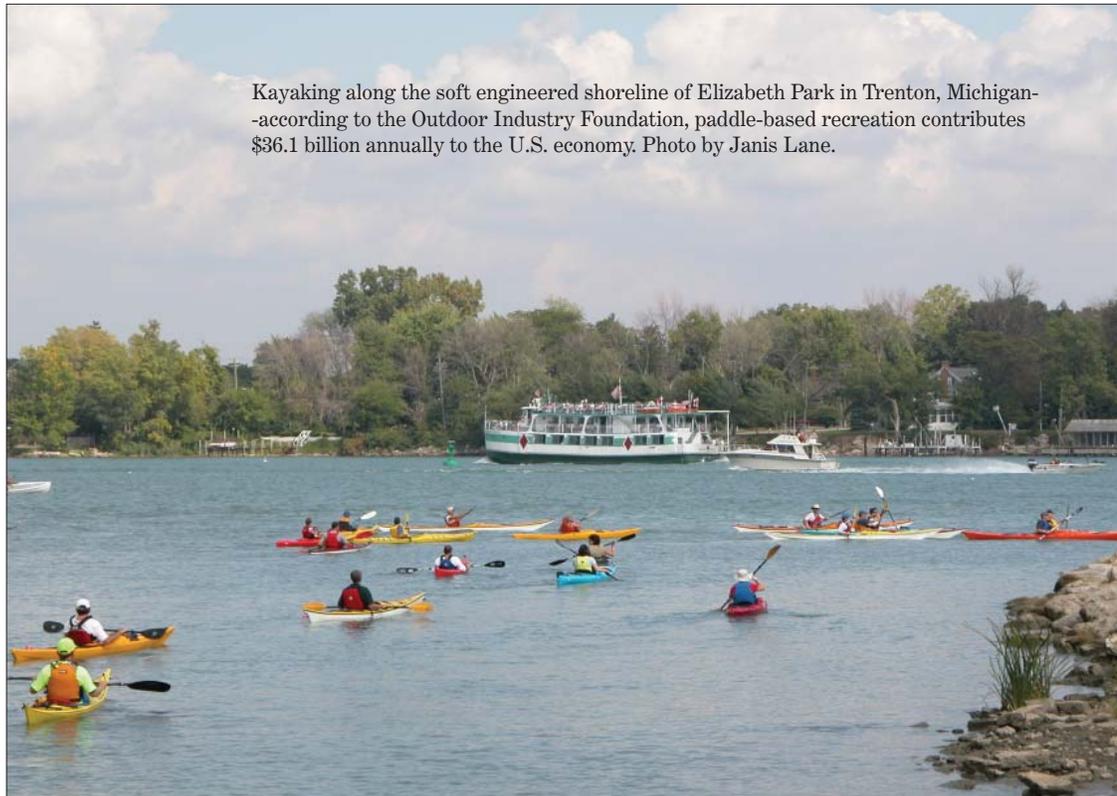
Establishing unique conservation places that are linked by greenway trails and blueways (i.e., canoe and kayak trails), promotes ecotourism and champions sustainable, green waterfront developments.

Finally, we cannot lose sight that there are economic benefits.

Environment Canada has performed economic studies of greenways, natural areas and parks on the Canadian side of the Detroit River in Windsor, Ontario. These studies show that the closer houses are to greenways, natural areas, parks and gathering places for wildlife and people, the higher the property values. These green spaces and vistas also bring benefits through additional recreational spending and increased commercial activity. The economic importance of this was highlighted in a 2006 Outdoor Industry Foundation economic

study that found that outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy and

porches on houses in cities to encourage a sense of community, soft engineered shorelines along



Kayaking along the soft engineered shoreline of Elizabeth Park in Trenton, Michigan--according to the Outdoor Industry Foundation, paddle-based recreation contributes \$36.1 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Photo by Janis Lane.

supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the United States. "All feedback we have received on the North Shore Riverwalk soft shoreline engineering project at Wayne County's Elizabeth Park has been very positive, whether it be from walkers, fishermen, kayakers, or people just seeking a quite reflective spot along the Detroit River," noted Steve Alman, Chief of the Design Section of Wayne County Parks. "We are so pleased with the results that we are now working to incorporate soft shoreline engineering into the next phase of the Riverwalk at Elizabeth Park." Much like the effort to recreate front

waterfronts in urban areas can help recreate gathering places for both wildlife and people.

Note: In the past 10 years, 38 soft shoreline engineering projects have been implemented in the Detroit River watershed.

For more information on these projects, visit: <http://web4.uwindsor.ca/units/stateofthestraight/softs.nsf/inToc/D27D2ED7AB6CBCE48525775F00726983?OpenDocument>

--Anna Cook, Detroit River IWR

Honoring the Volunteers: Banquet Recognizes Orchid Monitors

On January 22, Region 3's Chicago Ecological Services Field Office hosted the first ever End-of-Season Volunteer Appreciation Banquet to honor the work of the men and women who monitor 35 of our eastern prairie fringed orchid sites in Illinois. The majority of these people are long-time volunteers who have been with the program since the 1990s. More than 40 people were present, and each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation for their invaluable work assisting in the recovery of this species.

The evening was a huge success and many accomplishments were highlighted, including the overall increase in population numbers at multiple locations. For the 2010 field season, the program had a total of 976 blooming eastern prairie fringed orchids, up by 125 blooming plants from 2009. Some of the more noteworthy sites were:

- Grant Creek Prairie Nature Preserve – This site had 51 blooming orchids, the largest number recorded in the last 19 years. The site's previous high was 38 in 2008.
- Hildy Prairie volunteers recorded 246 blooming orchids. From 2005 through 2007, this site had no orchids. Volunteers found 26 blooming orchids in 2008, and 120 in 2009.
- Nachusa (a seeded site) had 100 blooming orchids in 2010, up from 45 in 2009, and only nine in 2005. In addition, another nine blooming



Above: Volunteer monitors joined Region 3 staff to share experiences and recognize efforts to recover the eastern prairie fringed orchid. Service photo by Jesse Oakley.

plants showed up in a fen unit. Everyone left the banquet with a sense of accomplishment, camaraderie, and excitement for the future of the eastern prairie fringed orchid.

-- Georgia Parham
External Affairs

Below: Scott Kobal of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District receives a certificate and thanks for his work with eastern prairie fringed orchid from Cathy Pollack of the Chicago Field Office. USFWS photo by Jesse Oakley.





U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

The Biggest Week in American Birding May 5-15

The 2011 theme of “International Migratory Bird Day” is “Go Wild, Go Birding,” chosen to highlight a focus on reaching out to involve youth, their families, and communities in learning about birds, bird watching, and bird conservation. Co-hosted by Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, the event is planned and coordinated by a group of partners that includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, American Bird Conservancy, and a host of local, regional, and national businesses and organizations that are dedicated to migratory bird conservation and education. This 10 day birding event was developed to promote the global importance of the area as one of North America’s finest birding hot spots and an area in need of conserving. “I am excited to be working with such a distinguished group of partners to promote migratory bird conservation,” Lewis says.

Among the myriad of events offered will be identification workshops, daily warbler workouts, field trips to local birding hot spots, and numerous talks and presentations. Renowned bird identification specialist and professional speaker, Ken Kaufman, will be on hand guiding field trips and giving talks on various subjects. For more info visit: <http://biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/>. You can also find information on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge’s website and Facebook pages.

“Events like The Biggest Week and International Migratory Bird Day are critical opportunities for the Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System to deliver our conservation message to people,” Lewis says. “During the month of May, more than 10,000 visitors will use the visitor center and navigate the numerous trails and boardwalks in search of those rare and elusive wood warblers. And this year, I will be one of the many birders walking the dikes and boardwalks with nervous excitement about the arrival of the spring migrants.”

--Jason P. Lewis
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Check out the new Office of Law Enforcement website!



fws.gov/midwest/lawenforcement

Your Opinion Matters

As a reader of Inside Region 3, External Affairs would like to get your views on the newsletter. As such, you will soon receive a survey inquiring about Inside Region 3. This survey is to provide you with an opportunity to tell us what you think of it, your expectations and your suggestions for improvement.

Our aim is to obtain a true and unbiased picture of Inside Region 3’s readership habits so that we can produce the most relevant and compelling content on Service issues for your consumption. Your responses to this survey will be an invaluable guide in helping us to achieve this goal and your contributions will help us to improve Inside Region 3 and where possible, will ultimately impact the future shape of the newsletter. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes.

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