

Inside Region 3

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Regional Director Bill Hartwig addresses visitors and guests during the title exchange ceremony June 15.

Michigan's Mud Island Added to National Wildlife Refuge System

American and Canadian dignitaries joined members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and others in Ercore, Mich., June 15 to celebrate the addition of Mud Island to the National Wildlife Refuge System. The 21 acre island was donated to the Service by National Steel Corporation and will be managed as part of Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge.

The historic event was co-hosted by U. S. Congressman John D. Dingell (D-Mich.), National Steel Corporation, the Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Congressman Dingell introduced legislation March 27 to help protect the Detroit River, one of North America's greatest assets, by establishing an international wildlife refuge along the river: The cooperation and partnering of public and private sectors is the key

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National Tallgrass Prairie Refuge a Reality August Acquisitions of Nearly 300 Acres in Western Minnesota Helps Create Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR

Three years ago, Service employee Ron Cole arrived in Minnesota with a dream of establishing the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge somewhere in western Minnesota or northwestern Iowa. After dozens of meetings with landowners, county boards, mayors, and Congressmen, and countless cups of coffee in farm kitchens across the corn belt, his dream is about to be realized.

"It's taken nearly three years to identify the remaining tracts of unbroken tallgrass prairie in western Minnesota and Iowa and to secure funding for easements and acquisition," said Cole, project leader for the refuge. "But that's nothing compared to the centuries it took to create this prairie."

Cole's ultimate goal is to protect up to 77,000 acres of native tallgrass prairie in Minnesota and Iowa, half through voluntary protective easements and half through outright purchase from willing sellers. The first step begins Aug. 6, when the Service will purchase an easement on a 40-acre tract of prairie near Litchfield, Minn. On Aug. 10, a 350-acre tract near Luverne, Minn., will be added

and the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge will become a reality.

"We're going to celebrate," Cole said. "We've worked with our local Friends of Prairie group to arrange a week-long public tour of native prairie, prairie plantings, bison, birds, the whole works." Included in the tour will be dedication events for the first refuge easement and acquisition, prairie seed collecting, guided birding tours and a special gallery tour and presentation by nationally-renowned photographer Jim Brandenburg. All transportation, meals and lodging will be provided.

Tour participants will depart from the Minnesota Valley NWR, in Bloomington, Minn., on Monday, Aug. 6, then travel to Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Morris, Ortonville, and Luverne before returning to the Twin Cities on Saturday, Aug. 11. Cost for the tour is \$350 per person. Travel will be by motor coach and space is limited. Registration is due July 20. For more information contact Carole Gerber 320/273-2191 or email at: carole_gerber@fws.gov



Artwork by renowned photographer Jim Brandenburg is featured on a large color poster commemorating the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR. The artwork above is part of the poster "Dream Back the Bison, Sing Back the Swans" depicting the vision of the prairie refuge.

Muscatatuck Wildlife Society Foundation Receives \$75,000 Grant for Conservation Learning Center Project

Muscatatuck Wildlife Society Foundation will receive grants in the amount of \$75,000 to help construct the Conservation Learning Center building at Muscatatuck NWR. The grants are the result of the Build Indiana Fund allocated in the 2001 state budget and fantastic friends group activities.

State Senator Becky Skillman considers this project one of her chief priorities for this year. She received \$7.5 million in

requests from communities throughout her five county district. Fewer dollars were available from the Build Indiana Fund this year, and many requests went unfunded. The goal of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Society Foundation is to have construction of the Conservation Learning Center completed in time to celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial in 2003. *(Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR)*

Muscatatuck NWR and TNC Binkley Cave System Site Conservation Plan Nears Completion

Muscatatuck NWR recently reviewed the nearly completed Binkley Cave System Site Conservation Plan at a meeting held at the Nature Conservancy in Corydon, Ind. The plan was prepared by Nature Conservancy employee Cassie Hauswald through the aid and partnership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Binkley Cave, located in Corydon, Ind., is the largest known cave system in Indiana and contains 23 rare and ecologically important species, including the federally-endangered Indiana Bat.

The plan outlines the various threats

affecting Binkley Cave and the actions that need to be taken to preserve it. The main objective of the plan is to educate the residents of the Binkley watershed area on how to maintain healthy water quality levels by using proper agricultural practices, conscientious waste disposal systems and various other means.

Other partners include Indiana Karst Conservancy, Marengo Cave, Corydon, Ind., Natural Resources Conservation Service, Purdue University Extension and numerous volunteers. *(Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR)*

Nearly 4,000 Visitors, 2,000 Carp Highlight DeSoto Refuge Fest

Nearly 4,000 visitors enjoyed fishing and other festivities during DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's first DeSoto Refuge Fest Saturday, June 2 at Midwest Valley, Iowa. The Fest was created to highlight the many spring opportunities on the refuge and featured an adult and youth carp tournament with a grand prize of \$10,000 to the angler who caught a specially tagged carp.

Two area chambers of commerce and 20 local and national merchants supported the event with prizes and other assistance. More than 2,000 carp were caught. The longest catch measured 28 inches long, and the most caught was 29. Only one of 101 specially tagged carp was caught.

The day-long celebration was held in conjunction with National Fishing and Boating Week and Iowa's Free Fishing Weekend. In addition to the fishing contest there were family activities, special visitor center tours and video programs, a youth casting clinic, a nature walk, children's games and programs, free samples of fried and smoked carp, fly-tying demonstrations, boating safety programs and a demonstration of the refuge's deer telemetry project.

"The success of the event was a team effort by the refuge staff, volunteers, contributors and the local communities. We hope to make it an annual event." said Refuge Manager Larry Klimek.

Partners in the event included Blair Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Valley Chamber of Commerce, Midwest Interpretive Association and 20 local businesses. *(Cindy Myer, DeSoto NWR)*

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Detroit River's Mud Island Added to Refuge Roles

component to restore and protect this natural treasure. Through its donation of Mud Island, National Steel Corp. helped support this vision for the Detroit River.

Mud Island lies a few hundred feet from the shoreline of John D. Dingell Park in Ecorse. Mud Island and its associated aquatic shoals compliment the 304 acres of Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge. Large numbers of diving ducks forage on the wild celery beds found in this area during spring and fall migrations. Lake Sturgeon and wall-eye use the surrounding waters of the island.

More than 60 people participated in the event representing Canada, U.S. government agencies, federal,

state, and local governments, industry, media, and private citizens.

Admiral James Hull of the U.S. Coast Guard and Mayor James Tassis of the City of Ecorse welcomed the guests. Dr. John Hartig, River Navigator for the American River Heritage Program provided the opening remarks. Mr. John Maczuzak, President of National Steel and Regional Director Bill Hartwig provided remarks about the river and exchanged the title to the island. Congressman John Dingell, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Canadian Parliament Representative Susan Whalen, State Senator Chris Dingell and State Representative Manns also spoke. *(Doug Spencer, Shiawassee NWR)*



A worker at Ohio's Toledo Zoological Gardens prepares a lupine enclosure for Karner blue butterfly larvae.

--Photos by Megan Sullivan

Karner Blue

Endangered Butterfly in Ohio Benefits From Captive Rearing Program

Recovery efforts continue in Ohio for the endangered Karner blue butterfly. This is the fourth year of an ongoing program to reintroduce the extirpated butterfly to suitable habitat in Ohio. The Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Preserve in northwest Ohio has been the only release site so far.

Service biologists Angela Boyer and Megan Sullivan joined biologists from the Toledo Zoological Gardens in efforts to collect the butterfly from Allegan State Game Area (ASGA) in Allegan, Michigan in early June. Females collected from ASGA were taken to a captive rearing facility at the Toledo Zoo. So far this year, 31 captive females have produced 1,018 eggs, and 243 larvae have hatched. Once the larvae have matured into butterflies, most will be released at Kitty Todd, and a few will be kept for future captive breeding.

This year rivals 1999 as our most productive year, and may soon surpass our previous record! In addition to this good news, Karner blues released at Kitty Todd in past years are now reproducing and have spread to areas of the Preserve where they were not released.

Karner blues disappeared from Ohio mainly because of habitat loss. Fire suppression allowed the butterfly's prairie habitat to revert to forest, and lupine, the only food source for the larvae, disappeared. Management of Kitty Todd Preserve includes rigorous control of woody species. Burning has not occurred at Kitty Todd since the butterfly reintroduction began, but in the future it will likely be used as a management tool to

help this species recover further.

Reintroduction efforts, coupled with recent natural reproduction at the Preserve will hopefully be successful in reestablishing Karner blue populations in Ohio.

Partners in the effort include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Toledo Zoological Gardens and The Nature Conservancy. (*Megan Sullivan, Reynoldsburg FO*)



A small Karner blue butterfly at home at the Allegan State Game Area in Allegan, Mich.

Trumpeter Swan Nest on Upper Mississippi Refuge is First Since 1883

Staff at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, McGregor District recently discovered a trumpeter swan nest on the northeast Iowa refuge, the first documented trumpeter swan nest on this portion of the Upper Mississippi River since 1883.

Trumpeter swans were once common throughout most of Canada and the northern United States. However, market hunting for the feather trade decimated the trumpeter swan population to near extinction by the early 1900's. Fortunately, small populations of less than a dozen birds each were discovered in isolated areas in the western U.S. and Canada. Birds from these small populations were later used to reintroduce trumpeters east of the Rocky Mountains.

The trumpeter swans involved with this particular nesting attempt were identified from a colored neck collar attached to one of the pair by Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Although other wild trumpeter swans have nested in the Midwest during the last five years, it is still a very rare occurrence, and a first for Upper Miss Refuge, according to the Refuge's District Manager, John Lindell.

Assistant District Manager Clyde Male, who discovered the nest, said the nest contained three eggs. "So few eggs in the nest this late in the season may indicate a late nesting attempt, or problems associated with river flooding and earlier failed nesting attempts," Male said. Male indicated the nesting pair and four other trumpeter swans have used



--Photo by Clyde Male

This trumpeter swan, now nesting on the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, was identified by a neck collar placed on the bird by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

the Refuge during the last two years. At least four of the swans originated from reintroduction efforts by the Iowa DNR.

All six swans spent most of last winter on the Mississippi River in the open water around Cassville, Wis. In addition, he said "This type of success is certainly reason to celebrate. The refuge, visitors, and the country as a whole are beneficiaries of the many years of effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources".

Trumpeter swans are the largest native North American waterfowl species. They have a wingspan of more than 7

feet and can weigh up to 35 pounds.

Trumpeter swans mate for life and usually form these bonds at 3-6-years of age while on their wintering grounds. The nest of a trumpeter swan is often constructed utilizing a muskrat lodge for the base, and then adding a bullrush or cattail mound on top of it. These nests may be as large as 6 feet in diameter and are often used year after year.

For additional information on the status of trumpeter swans or other Refuge information contact the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - McGregor District Office at (563) 873-3423.

Bird Diversity and Populations Soar at Hamden Slough's Bisson Lake

Numbers of waterfowl and shorebird species and population numbers have increased dramatically this year on and around Bisson Lake on Hamden Slough NWR in northwest Minnesota. A total of 130 wetlands and 600 acres of upland were restored around Bisson Lake between 1997 and 2001. Bisson Lake itself was restored in 2000.

Waterfowl and shorebird populations have responded positively to

restorations in this historical bird viewing area. Nesting pairs of shorebirds have increased or may be nesting for the first time.

Marbled godwits have been observed to have multiple nests. A first on the refuge. Wilson's phalaropes, American bittern, and pied-billed grebes are believed to be nesting for the first time on Hamden Slough NWR. Black terns have multiple nests on Bisson Lake. Water-

fowl nesting and numbers are also impressive. Gadwalls may be nesting on Bisson Lake, which would be their first recorded nesting on the refuge. Broods of ruddy ducks, canvasbacks, mallards, pintails, blue-winged and green-winged teal are also observed on and around Bisson Lake, with a sharp increase in the numbers of broods.

Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

Service Joins Partners For Migratory Bird Day at Michigan Zoo

On-and-off rain downpours could not deter more than 1,000 visitors from joining the fifth annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) celebration at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, Mich. Rescheduled to June 2 to coincide with the Mayor's "be a tourist in your own town" promotion, the celebration featured a variety of activities to increase public awareness and understanding of migratory birds.

The celebration was co-sponsored by the Potter Park Zoological Society (PPZS), Fenner Nature Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Our docents and volunteers really enjoy being part of the IMBD celebration," said Dennis Laidler, education coordinator for Potter Park Zoological Society. "It's a great chance for us to expand our conservation message in a way that kids really enjoy." Approximately 40 people volunteered their time to help with the event.

A couple of new activities, set up in the Zoo's new Education and Discovery Center, were big hits with the crowd. An incubator with newly hatched mallards was used to deliver a message about precocial and altricial chicks. Younger visitors compared their "wingspan" against that of a life-size bald eagle silhouette, or strapped on a pair of cut-out wings to "soar" like an eagle, while learning about our national bird.

Another activity in the Center was the Michigan United Conservation Club's Birds of Prey show. Visitors were treated to an up-close look at an eagle and other live birds. Nearly all of the "bird-related" activities were geared at families with young children. "Whether learning about habitat loss while hopscotching through pretend wetlands or bird diversity by identifying cardboard bird cutouts in the 'backyard gardens,' kids were given a message," said Jeanette Bowles, of the Service's Michigan Private Lands Office. "Birds are an important part of our environment, and we need to work together to protect them!"



--Photos by Jim Hudgins

This young visitor spreads his mock wings while learning about migratory bird flight during a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day at Potter Park Zoo.



Kids were also invited to add their personalized bird artwork to the event.

Based on the smiling faces and twinkling eyes, it appears that the message was delivered. Partners in the event included the Potter Park Zoological Society, Fenner Nature Center, Ingham County Conservation District, W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Michigan Department of Natural Resources,

Michigan State University (MSU) Fisheries and Wildlife, MSU Poultry Science, MSU Zoology Dept., Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Wild Birds Unlimited and Woodcraft Kits. *Jim Hudgins, Michigan Private Lands Office*

Fishing, Families and Fun-A Winning Combination at Minnesota Valley NWR

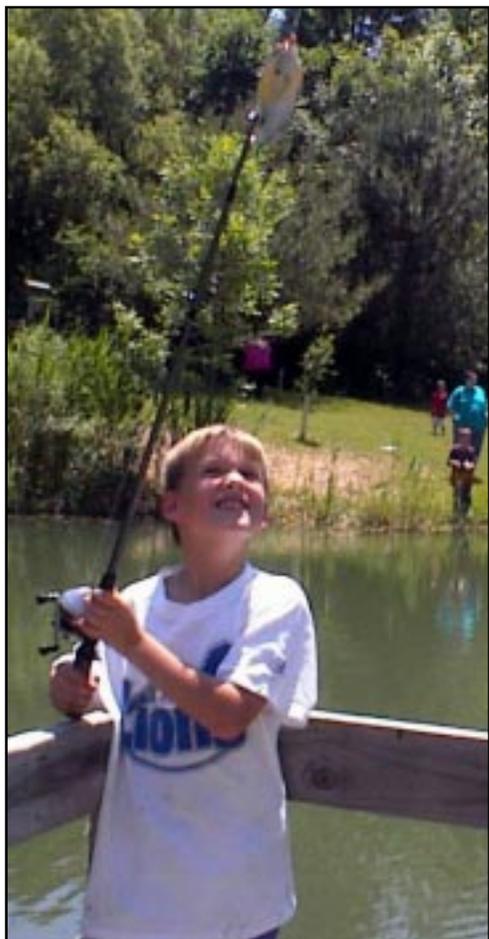
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, Minn., hosted Youth Fishing Day on June 9th in celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week. In the morning, more than 150 inner city youth and 50 parents from Hispanic and Native American cultures, learned about fish identification, lure selection, casting techniques, fish filleting, and how to tie the perfect knot. They also participated in minnow races and got the opportunity to try their newly acquired fishing skills in the freshly stocked Refuge ponds.

Each participant and more than 50 volunteers were treated to a shore lunch provided by the Red Lake Nation fry crew, Bureau of Indian Affairs and staff from the Holiday Inn. Each child took home a free fishing rod, tackle, educational literature and a Polaroid photo of their catch.

In the afternoon, the event was open to local metropolitan families. Over 300 people enjoyed the sunny day and learned about fishing techniques, water

quality issues, fishing and boating safety and ethics and also spent some time fishing. This event has been held for over 10 years at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and keeps increasing in popularity. The event receives rave reviews from the participants, and many return and bring their friends and neighbors the following year. Youth Fishing Day gives the Refuge an opportunity to educate inner city youth and the public about the joys of fishing, and highlights a great recreational activity that can be enjoyed by families on National Wildlife Refuges. The success of this event is due to the commitment of over 12 cooperative sponsors and over 65 staff and volunteers.

Partners in the event included the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Red Lake Nation, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, General Mills, Zebco, Gander Mountain, Holiday Inn, DoubleTree Hotel, Hilton Hotel, Cypress Semiconductor, American Express and Sam's Club. *(Vicki Sherry, Minnesota Valley NWR)*



--USFWS Photo
 "Got one!" a young angler at Shiawassee NWR examines his catch.

Shiawassee NWR Hosts 21st Kids Fishing Day

Shiawassee NWR sponsored a Kids' Free Fishing Fun Day Saturday, June 9, 2001, at Ojibway Island in Saginaw, Michigan. This year's event marked the 21st year for this popular fishing experience.

Three hundred and seventy children registered for the morning fishing contest. Children fished around the Island and received a ticket for each fish caught. The tickets were then placed in a drawing for prizes from board games to bicycles. Partners for this event include: the City of Saginaw, The Saginaw News, the Saginaw Field and Stream Club, Meijer Stores, Sons of Italy, McDonald's, 7-11 Stores, GKC Theaters, Saginaw County Sheriff's Posse, the Michigan Division Fishing Club of Midland, and the Refuge. Fifty-three volunteers donated 198 hours. Five Refuge staff also helped out. *(Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR)*



--Photo by Donn Waage

Funding for White Earth Conservation Projects

Members of Region 3 and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation met with members of the White Earth Tribe recently to discuss funding sources for Tribal natural resource projects and other issues. Pictured from left are John Leonard, Native American liaison, Region 3, Everett Goodwin, wildlife and wetlands manager, White Earth DNR, Greg Brown, Partners for Fish & Wildlife program, Region 3 and Barbara Pardo Joint Venture coordinator, Region 3.

Change in Status of Paddlefish Recommended to Conservation Union

Increased exploitation of Mississippi River paddlefish for caviar coupled with dwindling food and habitat caused by competition from Asian carp continue to concern state and federal fishery biologists and may be changing how the species is categorized by conservation agencies and international law. On June 28, Fishery Biologist Joanne Grady of the Service's Columbia, Mo. Fishery Resources Office (FRO) recently recommended a change to the species' status as listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), also known as the World Conservation Union. The proposed listing change reflects fishery biologists' belief that paddlefish populations will decline by 30 percent or more during the next 10 years, or three generations.

The Sturgeon Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, (largest of five IUCN commissions) asked Grady to review paddlefish due to her involvement with the paddlefish tagging project carried out by members of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA). MICRA membership is composed of



--USFWS Photo

Biologist Joel Trick holds a paddlefish captured during sampling in Wisconsin.

natural resource agencies from 28 states, 23 of which contribute data to the national paddlefish database managed by the Columbia FRO in Missouri and Carterville FRO in southern Illinois.

The paddlefish listing appears in the IUCN Red Data Book, which categorizes species as to their level of endangerment to extinction. New listing criteria were developed by IUCN in February 2000. The recommended listing will change the paddlefish's status in the "vulnerable" category to VU A3de. This listing indicates that there is a strong probability that paddlefish

populations will decline by 30 percent or more over the next 10 years (or three generations) due to expected increased exploitation for caviar and competition with exotic carp species for food and habitat. Paddlefish were previously categorized as a VU C2b, indicating that the population was less than 10,000 individuals, and subject to large fluctuations. MICRA member biologists, including Service fishery biologists, have been tagging paddlefish for five years in an effort to estimate population size and movement. Biologists now know there are well over 10,000 paddlefish in the United States.

The Sturgeon Specialist Group is reviewing the listings assigned to all sturgeon species worldwide. Listings were last assigned in 1996. The Species Survival Commission will review Grady's recommendation before making a final ruling. This listing will remain in effect for several years and will influence conservation planning strategies and CITES designations. There are several major categories for listing and lots of subcategories beneath them. The major categories are Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern, and Data Deficient. Vulnerable would be equivalent to Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

"We didn't know how many paddlefish there were in 1996, but we suspected they numbered less than 10,000 individuals. With data gathered through MICRA's tagging project, we know that isn't true," said Grady. "But, we've seen the Russian sturgeon stocks plummet and Asian carp filling up nets in the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers so we expect to see paddlefish populations drop by 30 percent or more...so they're still vulnerable." (Joanne Grady, Columbia Fishery Resources Office)

Pallid Sturgeon Project Finds Numbers Decreasing, Hybridization Increasing

Staff at the Columbia Fishery Resources Office (FRO) have completed the final project report for the MICRA (Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Research Association) multi-state pallid sturgeon monitoring project.

An extensive sampling effort was conducted on over 1,000 river miles on the Lower Missouri and Middle Mississippi Rivers. Results were compared to work conducted by Missouri Department of Conservation biologists in the late 1970s. Pallid sturgeon declined from 1 in 398 river sturgeons in the late

1970s to 1 in 647 in this study. Hybridization between pallid sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon increased from 1 in 365 river sturgeon in the 1970s to 1 in 235 in this study.

Project participants included the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, Southern Illinois University, Columbia FRO, and the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center. (Joanne Grady, Columbia Fishery Resources Office)

Minnesota Duck Survey Shows Mallard Numbers Steady, Teal Declining

The number of breeding ducks in the surveyed portion of northern and western Minnesota is estimated annually as a part of an overall inventory of North American waterfowl. This is a cooperative survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 2001 mallard population estimate (320,560) was unchanged from 2000, near the 10-year aver-

age, and 53 percent above the long-term average. The blue-winged teal population estimate (135,742) declined 24 percent from 2000 estimate. This was the lowest blue-winged teal estimate since 1983. Total ducks were unchanged (716,353) from 2000, 15 percent below the 10-year average, but 21 percent above the long-term average. (*Sean Kelly, Migratory Birds & State Programs*)

External Affairs' News Dissemination System Earns Department of Interior Information Technology Award

A development team staffed by members of Region 3's External Affairs Office recently won the 2001 Department of the Interior Information Technology Award for its design and implementation of a new Email-Fax information dissemination system.

Before the advent of the new system, External Affairs' news releases were sent through a commercial news service at an annual cost of \$18,000-25,000 and reached only 366 outlets in major media markets. This method was more costly and effectively left out many small newspapers and radio stations that are the primary source of news for rural areas, small towns and suburban areas that are often most affected by Service activities.

The new Email-Fax System, was implemented in July 2000, and now reaches a total of 2,237 media outlets in the Region. The new system ensures small weekly papers, broadcast outlets and magazines, as well as large daily newspapers, receive information of interest and impor-

tance to the communities they serve.

A valuable new feature of the Regional Email-Fax System is the ability to simultaneously send information to state and federal congressional members, Tribal representatives, and state natural resources agencies. Previously, sending information to all these groups would have required a staff member to spend hours, or days, over a facsimile machine.

In addition to saving staff-time, the Email-Fax System is expected to save the Region thousands of dollars spent using commercial news services. The Email-Fax System cost \$13,000 (contractor charges) to develop and based on projected cost-savings, it will pay for itself in less than one year.

All comments we have received from our customers and the users of the system have been favorable. External Affairs intends to implement minor improvements, as they are needed, over the next few months. (*Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*)

DeSoto Refuge Receives \$50,000 Matching Grant To Improve Visitor Center

The Iowa West Foundation recently announced that DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge received a \$50,000 matching grant to help upgrade exhibits at the refuge visitor center. The 20 year-old visitor center is upgrading and replacing faded and worn exhibits, and updating interpretive messages. The grant will help the Refuge modernize in time for two upcoming milestones, the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark, and the national wildlife refuge system centennial. DeSoto's grant was one of 57 made by the Iowa West Foundation to non-profit projects and programs. (*Cindy Myer, DeSoto NWR*)

Neil Smith NWR Publishes Refuge's First Bird Checklist

After 10 years of collecting data, staff at Neal Smith NWR has published its first bird checklist containing more than 200 bird species. The effort represents an interesting bit of biological history since the refuge is in a transition from agriculture and 'woodlots' to reconstructed prairie and open oak savannas. This change is evident when looking at the increasing number of nesting grassland species, including short-eared owls and Henslow's sparrows. (*Nancy Gilbertson, Neal Smith NWR*)

Retirees Build Accessible Ramp For Old School House at Sherburne NWR

A new 55-foot accessible ramp for the Old School House at Minnesota's Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was built June 23, by 11 members of the Minnesota Chapter of Quest Pioneers, retired employees of the Quest telephone company. The Pioneers donate their services for small construction projects. The ramp provides access to the 90 year-old school house which serves as the Refuge's visitor/education center. The school is used by nearly 5,000 visitors per year. (*Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*)

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following accomplishment reports were processed by the ARS during the period June 16 to July 5. Reports filed during this period, but with accomplishment dates occurring before June 16 are not listed here, but can be found by using Report Manager Utility on the ARS.

1. **Summer Discovery Camp for Kids Features Fishing**
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR
2. **Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) Receives "Helping Hands" Through Local Training Programs**
Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO
3. **Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle Monitoring at Fergus Falls WMD**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC
4. **Revamped Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team Website Now On-line**
Leslie TeWinkel, Great Lakes Basin EcoTeam
5. **Genoa National Fish Hatchery Gives Endangered Mussel Helping Hand in Upper Miss. Ecosystem**
Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH
6. **Iowa Geographic Alliance Tours DeSoto Refuge**
Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR
7. **Website Provides Information On Federal Wildlife Conservation Activities in the Midwest**
Scott Flaherty, External Affairs
8. **Results of the Minnesota Duck Survey Shows Mallard Numbers Steady, Teal Declining**
Sean Kelly, Migratory Birds & State Pgm
9. **Prairie Island Indian Community Prairie Restoration**
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO
10. **Rock Island Field Office Works With Peregrines Nesting on Bridge**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO
11. **Upper Mississippi Congressional Task Force Tour Planning**
Jane West, External Affairs
12. **Isle Royale/Tobin Harbor Survey for Coaster Brook Trout, June 22 - 26, 2001.**
Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO
13. **New Accessible Ramp Built for Old School House at Sherburne NWR**
Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR
14. **Missouri River Pallid Sturgeon Work Highlighted at Montana Conference**
Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO
15. **Community Vision Rises From Ashes of Wetland Wars**
Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR
16. **Congressional Fax Database Developed**
Jane West, External Affairs
17. **Vulnerable Status For Paddlefish Recommended to World Conservation Union (IUCN)**
Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO
18. **220,000 Leafy Spurge Beetles Collected, Released on Waterfowl Production Areas**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC
19. **Muscatatuck NWR Hosts National Promises Team**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
20. **Birder Impressed by Muscatatuck Refuge's Diversity of Birds**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
21. **Muscatatuck NWR and TNC Binkley Cave System Site Conservation Plan Nearly Complete**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
22. **Muscatatuck Wildlife Society Foundation Receives \$75K Grant for Conservation Learning Center Project**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
23. **Muscatatuck NWR Stanfield Lake Opens for Fishing**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
24. **Muscatatuck NWR Annual Prescribed Burns Completed**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
25. **Muscatatuck NWR Active in Intern/Volunteer Program**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
26. **Muscatatuck NWR Works With Web Wizards on Restle Unit**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR
27. **Conflict Resolution Program (CORE) Completes First Year**
Anne Shea, External Affairs
28. **Bisson Lake Bird Diversity and Populations Soaring in 2001**
Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR

Inside Region 3



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