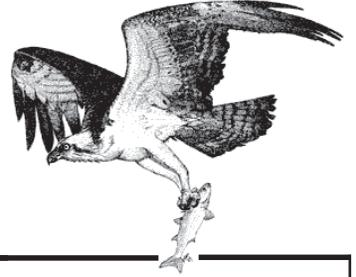




# Refuge News



Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Summer 2009

## STAFF CHANGES



Tracy Casselman has moved on to a Project Leader position at Southeast Idaho Refuge Complex. A new Refuge Manager, Mark Vaniman, has been chosen to replace him.

Mark is currently the Project Leader (Manager) at the Windom Wetland Management District in Windom, Minnesota. Prior to his position at Windom he was the Refuge Manager at Arrowwood

NWR in North Dakota and has been with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 26 years. Mark has a proven track record in managing and developing partnerships and has a keen understanding of the importance in fostering local support for refuges. Mark is originally from Illinois. He received a B.S. degree from Utah State University. He has two grown children and will be moving here with his wife Susan who is an environmental educator.



Carrie Crigier, our former seasonal "Park Ranger" moved this spring to Kalkaska Michigan (Her husband, Steve, took a job transfer with the DNR). She is currently working as a program director for the Crawford County Commission on Aging.

Ryan Isaac has recently filled Carrie's position. Ryan was a Visitor Services Intern during the 2008 season and returned to us as a Visitor Services Apprentice this spring. We were able to transfer him to the Park Ranger position through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP).



Nate Merk, Maintenance Worker, accepted a new maintenance position at Necedah NWR in Wisconsin. We have been fortunate to have the opportunity to hire two local folks to help out in his absence.

Matt Canfield, from the McMillan area, was hired this spring through the Student Temporary Employment Program and Don Gardner, who has been an active volunteer since January 2008, has recently been hired as an intermittent maintenance employee.



Dave Olson, our Biologist, has recently accepted a job in Denver with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Birds program. We are not sure when this position will be re-filled.



The vacant Visitor Services Manager position (previously filled by Marianne Kronk who left in 2004) was opened this spring. We conducted several interviews but ultimately did not make a selection. We have closed the position and are hoping to re-open it again this fall.

## PIPING PLOVERS

A pair of Piping Plovers ( a federally endangered species) successfully nested at our satellite property at Whitefish Point. The last recorded nesting attempt at this property occurred in 1985. Three of the four eggs hatched and, to date, two have survived. Four plover fledglings, raised in captivity at the UofM Biological Station have been released into the wild with these two surviving chicks.



SKULLANSWER

Northern River Otter  
*Lutra canadensis*

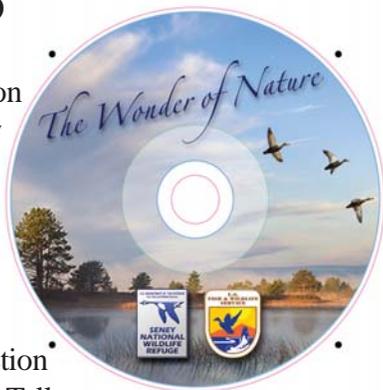
**Did You Know** . . .mosquitoes are the most important pollinators of the Blunt-leaved orchid (*Platanthera obtusata*) which inhabits wetlands throughout the boreal forest.

### EAGLE/OSPREY ACTIVITY

There have been six active osprey nests and four active eagle nests on the Refuge this season. Five of the Osprey nests have produced one chick at each nest and at least three of the eagle nests have produced eagle chicks.

### NEW ORIENTATION DVD

The Seney Natural History Association (SNHA) in cooperation with the Seney National Wildlife Refuge has produced a new orientation show, titled "The Wonder of Nature". This high definition DVD replaces the old six projector slide show. Jim Hill, of CSS Productions LLC, managed the production of the show which received two bronze Telly Awards. One for their government relations category and one for script writing. The orientation show can be viewed at the Refuge Visitor Center or purchased from the SNHA bookstore.



### WHO'S SKULL IS THIS?



Hints:

1. This animal is in the same family as the skunk.
2. This animal has a long thick muscular tail.
3. This animal's home is usually a subterranean nest chamber connected by an underwater entrance to a stream or pond.
4. This animal can swim up to 7 miles per hour, faster than many of the fish that it preys on.
5. We often think of this animal as playful as it slides over snow and muddy banks.

*Answer found on other side of newsletter*



### Bus full of "wildlife" joins local 4th of July parades

(artwork by Christine, Emma, & Lilly Casselman)



The Great Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Island **Comprehensive Conservation Plans** have been started. Early 2010 is the time targeted for completion of drafts for public review. Call or watch website for updates.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### Wildlife Wednesdays

Every Wednesday evening in August, 7pm.

#### Photo Tours

Thursday in August & September, 7am.

#### Seney Natural History Association meetings

Second wednesday of September at 1pm in headquarters conference room.

#### Scout day

Saturday, September 26.

#### Volunteer Potluck

Thursday, August 20. Hunter/Gatherer theme.

#### Art on the Lake exhibit

Saturday, September 5 - Downtown Curtis.

#### Volunteer Recognition Dinner

TBA - Thursday, September 17 or October 1

#### Fishing Ends & Fishing Loop closes

October 1.  
Visitor Center & Wildlife Drive Closed for the season starting October 16.