

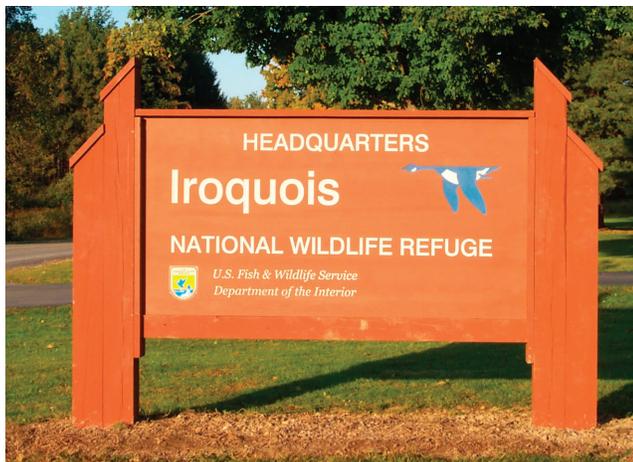
# Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

*Planning Newsletter - April 2008*

## Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) is starting work on a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. Wildlife, habitat, land protection, and visitor services programs will all be evaluated during the planning process.

This planning project provides a unique opportunity for the Service to involve all of those interested in the long-term management of the refuge. You can play a significant role in the development of this far-reaching plan!



USFWS

*Refuge Sign*

## Who will be involved in developing the plan?

Our local refuge staff, headquartered in Alabama, New York will lead the effort with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Northeast Regional Office. We will invite other Service experts, as well as representatives from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and Native American Tribal governments in New York, to serve on our core planning team.

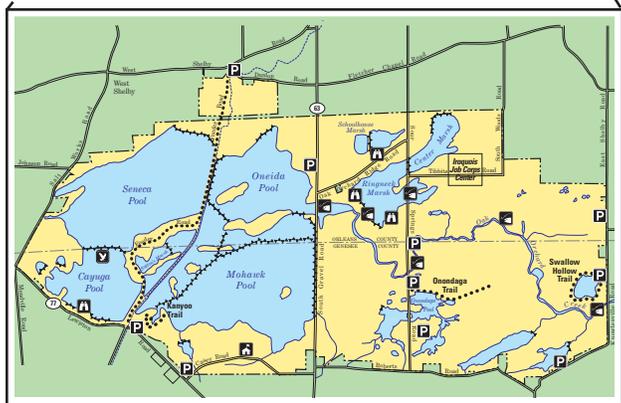
We will also engage local residents and community leaders in discussing ways the refuge could become an integral part of the community. Below is a list of forums we may use. Do you have any other suggestions for reaching out to the community?

- Hold open houses
- Give presentations at community meetings
- Develop informational newsletters
- Hold working group sessions and technical expert meetings
- Write feature articles
- Participate in civic and professional group events
- Continue partnerships

## Want to get involved?

Help us evaluate current management, propose future desired conditions for wildlife and habitats, plan the future of our public use programs, and identify other important refuge issues.

We hope you will also consider participating in our public scoping meetings (see next page). In addition, you are welcome to contact us at any time or provide written comments.



*Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge*

# Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, 1101 Casey Road, Basom, NY 14013

## Upcoming Public Scoping

*Date:* April 8, 2008

*Location:* Batavia Days Inn  
200 Oak Street  
Batavia, NY

*Date:* April 9, 2008

*Location:* Trolley Building  
Orleans County 4-H Fair  
Grounds  
Route 31  
Albion, NY

*Date:* April 10, 2008

*Location:* Iroquois National Wildlife  
Refuge Headquarters  
1101 Casey Road  
Basom, NY

### *Schedule:*

*The forum will be similar for all three locations.*

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Open House

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Meeting format

You do not need to be present to comment. Written comments can be sent to the refuge by April 30, 2008. Please send them to the refuge address above or email to: [northeastplanning@fws.gov](mailto:northeastplanning@fws.gov).

## About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior, is the principle federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

The Service also manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Refuges in all 50 states provide important habitats for native plants and animals, facilitating the preservation of threatened or endangered species. Refuges also offer a wide variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, and many have visitor facilities, interpretive trails, and environmental education programs.

## What should I know about Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge?

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge lies within the rural townships of Alabama and Shelby, New York, midway between Rochester and Buffalo. The refuge was established in 1958 under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (the Duck Stamp Act) as an "inviolate sanctuary and for any other management purpose, for migratory birds". The refuge's 10,828 acres encompass part of the ancient Oak Orchard Swamp. Its varied habitats serve as a nesting, resting, staging and feeding area for 268 species of migratory birds, including many state threatened and endangered species. The refuge is also a year round home to hundreds of species of birds, mammals, amphibians, fish and reptiles.

In accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, refuge management goals seek to maintain the biological integrity, diversity and environmental health of the refuge for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. This is accomplished through active management of refuge habitats.

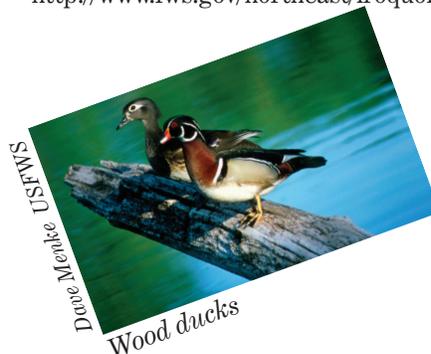
On 3,100 acres of emergent marsh a system of dikes (man-made barriers) and water control structures regulate water levels to mimic the flood and drought cycles in a healthy, undisturbed marsh and reduce flooding of surrounding areas. Forested wetlands provide another 3400 acres of habitat. The water of Oak Orchard Creek feeds, and is filtered by, many of these wetland areas.

Grasslands provide nesting habitat, food and cover for many species of wildlife. To keep grassland open the refuge employs a combination of mowing, prescribed fire, spraying and haying.

Much of the nearly 2,000 acres of forest is in second growth (re-grown after the original forest was harvested). Forest management aims to create open spaces interspersed with thickets of dense, young shrubs and trees.

While wildlife and habitat conservation come first on refuges, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, hunting, and fishing opportunities can be enjoyed on the refuge. Iroquois has three nature trails, four overlooks and public roads that give insight into the refuge's wildlife and habitat management programs. Refuge staff offer programs including Spring Into Nature in April, the Youth Fishing Derby in June, and nature programs in the spring and fall. Opportunities for hunting begin in October, coinciding with most State of New York hunting seasons with a refuge permit. The refuge hosts youth hunts for waterfowl and turkey. Fishing areas are open year-round. Trapping is permitted with a refuge permit. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter and canoeing on Oak Orchard Creek in the warmer months are also available.

The refuge Headquarters/Visitor Contact Station is located at 1101 Casey Road, one mile north of the Alabama Center traffic light. The building is open from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Friday, except holidays, year-round and weekends, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm spring and fall. Please visit or contact refuge staff for additional information at 585/948-5445. Or visit our web site: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/iroquois>.



Wood ducks



Kids on trail walk