

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ONE Voice

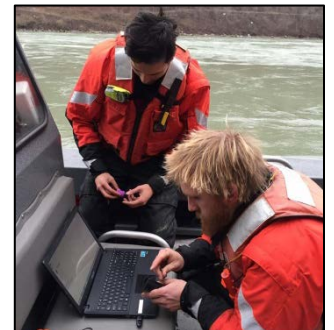
Outreach, News, and Events

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge / Lower Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

January 2017

Wishing Staff Good Luck at New Duty Stations (December-January): The Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge are wishing Robert Haltner, John Lang, Larry Balsamo and Madeline Prush good luck as they leave western New York and the Great Lakes region to continue their career with the Service on the west coast, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Robert Haltner is headed to the Central Washington Fish and Wildlife Field Office in Wenatchee, WA where he will be working in Ecological Services. John Lang will be working with pacific salmon at the Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office in Lodi, California, Larry Balsamo will be the facility manager at John Heinz at Tinicum NWR, and Madeline Prush will be helping to implement fish passage projects for Ecological Services at our Headquarters Office in Virginia. (Contact: Sandra Keppner)

Winter Field Work in the Niagara River (January): Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office biologists braved the winter weather to retrieve acoustic receivers in the lower Niagara River gorge early this January. This equipment was deployed last November and has been in ever since. They are used to monitor the movements of spawning lake sturgeon and lake trout. The receivers were tethered to shore and need to be downloaded periodically. In the picture, biologists had just completed the data download and are replacing the receiver battery (receiver not pictured). (Contact: Eric Bruestle)



Learning about Animal Adaptations at Fletcher Elementary (January 4-5): Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office biologists traveled to Fletcher Elementary School in Tonawanda, NY this month to explore animal adaptations with the entire 4th and 5th grade classes. Students learned how to investigate and analyze the clues left behind on mammal skulls that can hint at what that animal was like while it was alive. Observations such as placement of the eyes, or what types of teeth are present, helped students identify what western New York animal it belonged to. By the end of the two days, about 250 students observed, touched, and explored the animal furs and skulls. (Contact: Marcus Rosten)

Connecting with Anglers at Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo (January 20-22): The Lower Great Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office had an invasive species awareness display at the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo on January 20-22, 2017. The event is the largest freshwater “fishing” show in New York State, attracting over 2,000 visitors. Visitors can gain 1000’s of hours of “fishing” education featuring the WNY Fishing Academy. As well, over 200 exhibitors from local fishing clubs, guides and outfitters, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, kayak fishing and fishing boat manufacturers and marine electronics are available to discuss latest trends in fishing as well as conservation challenges and highlights. (Contact: Denise Clay)



Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/>
<https://www.facebook.com/IroquoisNationalWildlifeRefuge>

Lower Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/lowergreatlakes/>
<https://www.facebook.com/LGLFWCO>

Life Science Career Lab Program at the Buffalo Zoo (January 21): Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office staff spoke with 15 students ages 14-18 and 5 adult instructors and zoo docents about careers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This six week program is sponsored by a grant from the Cullen Foundation, and offers students an opportunity to learn about multiple careers in the life sciences profession. While the job of a fish biologist was the main focus of our discussions with the life science lab participants, we also talked about how we first became interested in our career, what type of schooling we went through, challenges we faced both personally and professionally, and the mission and programs of our local Fish and Aquatic Conservation office here in the lower Great Lakes. (Contact: Michael Goehle)

Friends of Iroquois NWR, Inc. Attend American Kestrel Symposium (January 28-29): On January 28 and 29, 2017, Carl Zenger. Friends of Iroquois NWR, Inc. attended a two day American Kestrel Symposium in Wilmington, Delaware. This Symposium was sponsored by the Delaware Kestrel Partnership and the American Kestrel Partnership to bring together Professional Kestrel and Citizen Scientists to review and discuss the ongoing work to reverse the 88% population decline of the American kestrel in the Northeastern States. Professionals, Doctoral Degree Students and Citizen Scientists (Including one from Iroquois NWR) made presentations and answered questions at Q/A sessions. Everyone left the Symposium excited to return home and incorporate some new ideas to improve the success of their nest boxes. (Contact Carl Zenger)



Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Hosts Ichthyoplankton Workshop (January 31): Fish are most abundant when they are still in the form of eggs and larvae- called ichthyoplankton. However, it can be difficult to identify a fish when their features are microscopic. The Lower Great Lakes FWCO hosted a workshop focused on how to more effectively study these organisms. Biologists from the U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center, brought nets, microscopes, and preserved fish to demonstrate how to catch, process, and identify fish eggs and larvae from the Great Lakes. Both LGLFWCO biologists and local college

students gained valuable information about these tiny organisms. (Contact: Jacob Cochran)