



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ONE Voice

Outreach, News, and Events

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

August 2015



Welcome Aboard New Staff (August): The Iroquois NWR and Lower Great Lakes FWCO are pleased to welcome three new staff members this summer including a new Maintenance Worker, Mike Senske on July 27. Mike will be working under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), assisting with many important maintenance duties for the office including seasonal repair and upkeep of the station's eight research vessels, motor vehicle care, and general repairs and maintenance for the

station. Mike is a veteran of United States Air Force, Air National Guard where he served as an Aircraft Metals Technology Technician. Stacy Furgal also started as a term Fish Biologist for the Aquatic Invasive Species program. Stacy will be assisting with review of GLRI AIS risk assessments and will participate in the office's early detection and monitoring program. Stacy comes to us from the USGS, Great Lakes Science Center - Lake Ontario Biological Station, where she worked as a contract employee. Curt Karboski began as a term Fish Biologist with the native species program under the GLRI. Curt is helping with lake trout and lake sturgeon projects in the lower Niagara River. (Contact: Mike Goehle)

Fish Passage Restored in Tributary of Sixmile Creek in Tompkins County (August):

Fish passage was restored to 2 miles of high quality fish habitat this month when an undersized culvert was replaced with a 12' wide elliptical culvert. The new culvert was counter-sunk to promote deposition of natural substrate, reduce water velocities and eliminate the perched outlet conditions. This project benefits brook trout and other native fish. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)



Fighting Invasives in Western New York (August 4): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff found water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) in the Genesee River in late July, which immediately triggered our rapid response protocols. Twenty-two people from seven different organizations including Finger Lakes PRISM, Genesee Valley Audubon, Huggers Ski Club, Seneca Park Zoo, Genesee Land Trust, SUNY Brockport, and Adirondack Mountain Club, Genesee Valley Chapter helped us search and remove these invasive plants. Special thanks also go out to Gibbs Marina who allowed access to their launch for the event. In a few hours, all of the plants were removed from the area. Large of the "target" area also sections of the river upstream and downstream of the "target" area also were scouted for water chestnut. No additional plants were found. The plants were pulled before they could drop seeds for next year, increasing the chances of long term control or eradication of this population. (Contact: Heidi Himes)

Assisting Partners with Invasive Species Removal (August 12): Biologists from the Lower Great Lakes FWCO assisted staff from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management with the removal of water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) from Braddock Bay (Greece, NY). These efforts aid in preventing the invasive floating plant from further spread in our waterways. (Contact: Robert Haltner)



Celebrating 176 Years of the Erie County Fair (August 12-23): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO and Iroquois NWR were awarded honors for participating in this at this year's Erie County Fair held in Hamburg, NY August 12-23, 2015. The offices received a red "Second Premium" Ribbon in the category of Local Affiliate of a National Organization. The offices competed with other government and non-government organizations in the Conservation Building. As one of the largest county fairs in the nation, this event is an opportunity to raise awareness about emerging environmental and conservation issues in the lower Great Lakes region. Approximately 20,000 people entered our display. (Contact: Denise Clay)

Wishing Pathways Student Another Great Year (August 19): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff would like to thank Kwamina Otseidu and wish him well in his junior year at Michigan State University. Kwamina joined the staff as a Pathways Student while still in high school, and has returned every summer since 2010?. Kwamina worked mostly with the Aquatic Habitat Restoration Team, however he provided assistance in native species and invasive species monitoring, as well as outreach!. Thanks Kwamina, and good luck! (Contact: Sandra Keppner)



Great Lakes Awareness Day at the Aquarium of Niagara (August 26): The New York Sea Grant and The Center for Great Lakes Literacy sponsored Great Lakes Awareness Day at the Aquarium of Niagara. The event featured exciting hands-on exhibits focusing on the Great Lakes and the Niagara River. The Lower Great Lakes FWCO, New York Sea Grant, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and the Western New York Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM) were just a few exhibitors at this year's event. The Lower Great Lakes FWCO delivered education on native fishes- ecology and biology. As well, they educated the public on how to identify and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species that are rapidly invading the Great Lakes. Approximately 900 people visited the aquarium during the event. (Contact: Mike Goehle)