



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ONE Voice

Outreach, News, and Events

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

June 2016



Restoring Forested Wetland Habitat at Iroquois NWR (June): This month, Iroquois NWR and its partners completed an enhancement of the 1000-acre Seneca Pool by removing an old berm and water control structure and planting trees to restore 10 acres of forested wetland habitat. The refuge, Ducks Unlimited (DU), and Friends of Iroquois NWR (FINWR) teamed up to provide funding and assistance to complete this important project. Additional funding was received through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. After all the berm material was removed, trees were planted to jumpstart

reforestation of the old berm area. Our call for help was answered by 55 volunteers from the refuge, FINWR, DU, and local boy and cub scouts, who came out to the refuge and planted over 1,500 trees! The enhancement and restoration of Seneca Pool will benefit a diversity of wildlife, such as, wood ducks, mallards, black ducks, great blue herons, warblers, woodcock, wood frogs, and many other reptiles and amphibians, and refuge visitors will also benefit from this project for years to come. (Contact: Paul Hess)

Connecting Urban Students to Nature through SNAP! (June 2-3, 7-8): Over 300 students from North Tonawanda City Schools' Meadow Elementary School and Batavia City Middle School participated in the Students, Nature and Photography program (SNAP!) at Pinewood Park and at the Iroquois NWR during the first two weeks of June. Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff hiked with the students and taught them about some of the bugs, mammals, and other critters found on the Refuge and across western New York. As part of the program, students received a copy of their favorite photo framed with reflections from the day to share with their families. (Contact: Denise Clay)



INWR Fishing Derby (June 4): This year Iroquois NWR celebrated its 25th annual Youth Fishing Derby. The nice weather helped to bring out 65 people to the event. The fishing went so well this year that we ran out of worms to give away. Age groups were broken into three categories; 7 and under, 8-12 and 13-17. The first, second and third place winners in each category all went home with prizes, trophies and certificates. Some of the biggest fish caught were an 11" Bullhead and a 10" and 11" Perch. Every child who came out to celebrate with us received a gift of their choosing. Congratulations to all the winners, we hope to see all our young outdoors men and women again next year. (Contact: Madeline Prush)

Niagara County and Newfane Environmental Field Days (June 7 & June 15): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO and Iroquois NWR had the pleasure of working with more than 250 middle school students at two Environmental Field Days held at Roylton Ravine Park in Gasport, NY and Fisherman's Park in Newfane, NY. The students learned about aquatic bugs, water quality, and mammal furs, skulls and tracks. Students enjoyed exploring hands-on displays and asking questions about conservation. (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>



Refuge and Fisheries Staff Receive Regional Awards (June 29): Congratulations to four of our staff for their dedication and contributions to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Chris Castiglione (Eagle Award), Tanya Preish (Unsung Hero Award) and Betsy Trometer and Larry Balsamo (Safety Award). They were presented their awards by Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and Northeast Regional Director Wendi Weber in Hadley, MA.

Erie Canal AIS Early Detection Surveys (June 13-16; 20-23): Biologists spent several weeks traversing the Erie Canal, from Buffalo to Albany, looking for new invasive fish and plant species. Fish surveys are conducted using electrofishing and rake tosses are used to collect aquatic plants. Early detection of invasive species is critical to successful management and control. Biologists record information on all species collected so that if a new invasive species is found, changes and trends in the native community can be detected. No new invasive species were found. (Contact: Heidi Himes)



2nd Annual Urban Pollinator Garden Planting (June 14 & 16): For the second year in a row, 5th grade classes from Elmwood Village Charter School helped grow our pollinator garden at Silo City in Buffalo, NY. The students planted some native Joe Pye weed and milkweed seeds in the garden next to a metal structure designed for a bee colony and were treated to tours of the silos and the Push Buffalo compost facility. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)

Erie NWR Summer Fest (June 25): This year, Iroquois NWR and the Lower Great Lakes FWCO participated in the Erie NWR's 9th Annual Summer Fest in Meadville, PA. There were displays from many local vendors including Audubon PA, French Creek Valley Conservancy, the PA Game Conservancy and more. It was a great way for families to get out and enjoy their local Refuge with crafts, archery and casting practice. (Contact: Madeline Prush)



LGLFWCO Welcomes New Staff (June 27): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO welcomed five new staff members in June including one Fish Biologist and four Seasonal Biological Science Technicians. They will be working under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and other habitat and outreach programs. Eric Bruestle comes to us from Buffalo State College where he is finishing up his Master's Degree. As a Fish Biologist, he will assist with lake sturgeon and other native species projects. Amanda Macek, seasonal Biological Science Technician, will work on field surveys of the native species program. Holly Trombetto and Mandi Caldwell will be providing assistance with fish habitat projects such as culvert assessments through the late fall.

Marcus Rosten will assist with our many outreach programs but will also contribute to field projects including aquatic invasive species. We're very excited to have so many talented employees assisting us with all of our work. (Contact: Michael Goehle)