



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# ONE Voice

*Outreach, News, and Events*

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

## May 2016

**Urban Schoolyard Habitat Project Classroom Pollinator Presentation (May 3):** Lower Great Lakes FWCO Biologist Betsy Trometer discussed stream habitat restoration program, pollinators and monarch butterflies with 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at the Elmwood Village Charter School (Buffalo, NY). After the presentation, students planted native milkweed seeds. In June, the seedlings will be planted in a pollinator garden at Silo City, a historic grain elevator site in downtown Buffalo, NY. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)



**SNAP! Program Growing in Buffalo NY and at the Iroquois NWR (May 5 and 24):** Over 65 third grade students from North Tonawanda's Ohio Elementary School participated in the Students, Nature and Photography program (SNAP!) at Pinewood Park near their school. This was Ohio Elementary's first time participating in the program, but hopefully not their last! We had great weather for walking trails and learning about mammal tracks, skulls and pelts. SNAP! is popular with the younger kids, but high school kids like it too. Students from Buffalo Public High School #197 Math & Science Technologies learned about careers in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and then participated in SNAP! at

the Iroquois NWR. They enjoyed taking photos on the Kanyoo Trail and bird watching at the Cayuga Overlook, (Photo credit: Denise Clay)

**Grass Roots Celebration of Spring with Boom Days at Silo City (May 7):** Boom Days Festival 2016 was a great success with over 1,300 people attending the free family event celebrating the removal of the Lake Erie/Niagara River Ice Boom and the start of spring in western New York. Activities included environmental displays, live animals, food trucks, music, entertainment, Silo City and USS Columbia tours and a visit from the E.M. Cotter Fire Boat. The event concluded with fireworks by putting the "boom" in Boom Days. (Contact: Denise Clay)



**Area Students Participate in Great Lakes Student Summit (May 9):** Lower Great Lakes FWCO biologists led a discussion with 60 students on stream processes, the importance of streams to wildlife and how to keep our streams and watersheds healthy during the Great Lakes Student Summit at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Students used the Museum's stream table to observe and manipulate water flow and sediment movement. Students from area districts including homeschoolers, Brocton Schools, Gowanda Schools, Buffalo Academy of Science Charter and Elmwood Village Charter School attended the Summit. The event was co-hosted by the Buffalo Museum of Science, New York Geographic Alliance and New York Sea Grant. (Contact: Denise Clay)



**Collaboration with USGS Scientist (May 11-12):** Biologists from the Aquatic Invasive Species Program assisted USGS research scientist Dawn Dittman with the collection of round gobies in the Cayuga-Seneca Canal near the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Biologists spent two days setting and retrieving fyke nets in an effort to capture round gobies. Biologists also assessed all lake sturgeon caught incidentally. Dawn is assessing round goby predation on lake sturgeon eggs in the Canal area to evaluate the area's suitability for habitat restoration and creation. (Contact: Heidi Himes and Stacy Furgal)

**Area Educators Experience WNY STEM Learning Tour (May 16):** In partnership with the WNY STEM Hub, a group of educators joined Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for the "Ecosystem Experience Meets the Arts" workshop. As part of STEM/STEAM month, attendees learned about the opportunities and resources that their local USFWS offices can offer and were able to enjoy an outdoor demonstration of the Students, Nature and Photography (SNAP!) program. (Contact: Denise Clay)



**Presentation at Trout Unlimited Conservation Community Networking Night (May 18):** Lower Great Lakes FWCO Biologists Betsy Trometer and Tom Hoffman from the Habitat Restoration Program presented information about the office programs to approximately 35 members of the Seth Green Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Opportunities for partnerships on aquatic habitat restoration projects were shared with the group. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)

**Got Flat Fish?** May 21, 2016 was World Fish Migration Day which is a day for creating awareness on the importance of migratory fish and keeping rivers open so fish can move freely. This year, the Fish and Aquatic Conservation's (FAC) National Conservation and Education Team elected to shepherd a major outreach campaign, centered around an activity called Flat Fish Migration by snapping a selfie with a fish and help them "migrate." Flat fish is modeled after the Flat Stanley children's literacy project. Staff also created some fun, education materials for everyone to use to learn or teach about migratory fishes. And these can be used anytime, not just on World Fish Migration Day (WFMD). You will find all of the below materials and instructions on playing Flat Fish Migration at [www.fws.gov/fisheries/fishmigration](http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fishmigration), #fishmigration, #WFMD2016. (Contact: Catherine Gatenby)

**Welcome New Staff (May 23-31):** The Lower Great Lakes FWCO is pleased to welcome five new staff members this spring: two Fish Biologists - Ted Lewis and Jacob Cochran, two Biological Science Technicians - John Lang and Matt Paufve, and a Maintenance worker - Shawn Grube. All will be working under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), assisting the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program with field, laboratory and maintenance duties. Ted comes to us from the State University at New York - Brockport where he was a researcher and professor. He will be the lead fish biologist for coordinating GLRI field activities for the AIS Program. Jacob and John come to us from Buffalo State College. Matt comes to us from Cornell University. And Shawn comes to us from Montezuma NWR as a pathways Program graduate; Shawn will assist the AIS Program with gear and boat maintenance. We're excited to have these talented new staff join our team! (Contact: Sandy Keppner)

