



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# ONE Voice

*Outreach, News, and Events*

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

## May 2017

**Hilbert College Green Event (May 3):** Gardening is a great stress reliever, which is why this year Hilbert College decided to make gardening the theme of their Get-a-Way DeStress Fest. Students who needed a break from the stressful end of the semester came to the event to learn how gardening can be a way to connect us to nature and our environment. At the event the Lower Great Lakes FWCO stressed the important role pollinators play in our environment and how using native plants in gardens can help pollinators like the Monarch butterfly thrive. At the booth, students made their own Milkweed Seed Ball to plant at home and grow native Milkweed plants to attract pollinators to their gardens. (Contact: Marcus Rosten)



**New York Power Authority STEAM Ahead Event (May 13):** On Saturday May 13, youngsters at the New York Power Authority Niagara Power Vista experienced the many career opportunities that exist within the world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). Kids participated in many hands-on demonstrations and activities from digging for artifacts to predicting the weather as a news meteorologist to learning the math involved in a professional culinary kitchen. The Lower Great Lakes FWCO was excited to share with students how the office uses science and technology to track Lake Sturgeon, detect invasive species, and identifies barriers that prevent fish passage. (Contact: Marcus Rosten)

**New York Forest Owners Association Walk & Talk (May 13):** About 20 members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association travelled to the Iroquois NWR on May 13 for one of their annual "Woods Walks". While here, they heard a short presentation about the National Wildlife Refuge System and also about the history, management, and wildlife of Iroquois NWR. After the presentation, the members enjoyed a guided walk on Kanyoo Nature Trail, where they encountered many of the plant and animal species that make a walk through the forests of Iroquois so enjoyable. (Contact: Paul Hess)

**Albion Elementary School 3rd Grade Field Trip (May 16 & 18):** Six classes of third graders from Albion Elementary school visited the Iroquois NWR, meeting with fisheries and refuge staff. Students from this rural school learned about a variety of topics including the importance of aquatic macroinvertebrates, mammal adaptations with skins and skulls, and enjoyed a guided trail walk. (Contact: Denise Clay)



**Kids Day Sponsored by LE Federation of Fly Fishers (May 20):** Each year the Lake Erie Federation of Fly Fishers hosts a day long workshop designed to educate and inspire the next generation of fly fishers. Throughout the day the kids rotate through stations that teach them everything they need to know about fly fishing from what gear to pack to how to identify their catch. This year the Lower Great Lakes FWCO teamed up with the NYS DEC Region 9 Bureau of Fisheries to present the Pond Life portion of the workshop, where the kids used nets to explore what animals live beneath the water's surface. The kids were excited to find scuds, isopods, mayflies, caddisflies, and especially the larvae of predaceous diving beetles called water tigers! (Contact: Marcus Rosten)

**Pollinator Presentation at Elmwood Village Charter School (May 23):** Fifth grade students at Elmwood Village Charter School in Buffalo learned about the importance of pollinators, the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and threats to our pollinators in a presentation by Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff. The students also planted Milkweed seeds that will be transplanted by the students in a pollinator garden at Silo City on June 14. The garden was originally planted by Elmwood Village Charter School students two years ago with the help of PUSH Buffalo, Silo City and Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff, and provides food and habitat for many pollinators including native bees and Monarchs. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)

**Asian Carp eDNA Patrol (May):** As fish swim through the water they leave behind traces of themselves. Scales, slime, and other bodily fluids remain in the water and contain that fish's DNA. Environmental DNA, or eDNA, is a surveillance tool used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor for the genetic presence of an aquatic species. Biologists collect water samples throughout the Great Lakes to be tested for the presences of Silver or Bighead Carp in the basin. This month the Lower Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species crew collected water samples from the Buffalo River, Cattaraugus Creek, Erie Canal, and Presque Isle Bay, and then sent these to the USFWS Whitney Genetics Lab where they will be tested for the eDNA of Asian Carp. (Contact: Sandy Keppner)



**Connecting with Students at Orleans County Conservation Field Days (May 24-25):** This field day event hosts a variety of organizations that offer a variety of topics for visiting students to learn about related to the environment from bee keeping to rabies and law enforcement to sheep shearing. The Iroquois NWR table displayed skins, skulls, scat, and tracks and instructed around 200 students each day. The students learned ways to visually identify mammals by their fur and skulls. Other aspects of mammals were discussed to assess while in nature in order to know if an animal was there such as by their scat and tracks. It poured rain all day Thursday for the event, but the students were still interested and learned a lot about their local backyard mammals while experiencing what they feel like. (Contact: Emma Miller)