

The UMRCC Newsletter

Summer 2015



This Newsletter is a publication of the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) but does not necessarily represent the official views of the UMRCC. Suggestions or comments regarding its content should be directed to the Chairperson, 555 Lester Avenue, Onalaska, WI 54650. Please contact the Coordinator by e-mail (umrcc@mississippi-river.com) or phone (608.783.8432) and visit our website at <http://www.mississippi-river.com/umrcc>.

Chairperson's Letter

News travels quickly up and down the River. Most of you probably know that Ron Benjamin resigned from the Wisconsin DNR and is now working for the Minnesota DNR. When I was appointed as the Iowa UMRCC Executive Board delegate, Ron was one of those I could turn to for institutional knowledge in how the UMRCC functioned. Ron's absence will surely leave a void that will be felt for some time and until the next Wisconsin delegate becomes well versed in UMR issues. Thank you Ron for your dedication and the contributions you made to the UMRCC and the UMR.

And how many have heard that Bernie Schonhoff retired on August 13, 2015? Bernie first rafted the River a year before Congress authorized the Environmental Management Program. All of Bernie's thirty plus years with the Iowa DNR has been at Fairport working tirelessly on UMR issues. Bernie contributed to a number of UMRCC publications during his career; some of the most notable ones include the 1993 UMR Fisheries Plan, the 1995 Distribution and Relative Abundance of UMR Fishes, and the 2004 UMRCC Fisheries Compendium. He spent countless hours in Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program meetings championing the cause for restoring, protecting, and enhancing the River's environment. As a UMRCC member, he held countless positions that included Fish Technical Section Chair, Co-chair of the Education ad hoc Committee, and contributed major rolls in hosting all of Iowa's spring annual meetings and fall fish technical section meetings. Last, Bernie has been UMRCC Treasurer for the past three years. His steadfast commitment and tenacity to tackle river issues brought credibility to the Iowa DNR and UMRCC. Congratulations Bernie; we all wish you a long and enjoyable retirement that will include many recreational trips on the UMR.

UMRCC Executive Board delegates recently voted Adam These as our next Treasurer. Adam has been Bernie's technician for the past 8 years and has gained extensive knowledge of the UMR. Adam has worked on the evaluation and aging of white bass on the river. Recently he has been involved with collecting shovelnose sturgeon on Pool 18 in collaboration with sturgeon research on the lower Cedar River. In the past two years he has also helped collect sturgeon to evaluate the importance of the Des Moines River to the UMR sturgeon population. Adam is also quite active with the Iowa mussel team by assisting in some of the mussel blitzes and the Higgins eye mussel work at Cordova Nuclear Plant. Thank you Adam for your willingness to accept the UMRCC Treasurer responsibilities.

Martin Konrad

River Resource News

Interior Secretary Tours River

By Chris Hubbuch, La Crosse Tribune*

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, whose department manages about a fifth of all U.S. lands, toured part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which she called one of the nation's most important pieces of public land.

With 4 million visitors each year, the 240,000-acre expanse of river and wetlands is one of the country's most heavily used public lands, outdoing even iconic national parks like Yellowstone.

"This is a great example of very accessible public land that can bring the outdoors and nature into people's everyday lives," Jewell said. "It's accessible. It supports a desire that visitors to Wisconsin and community members here have to connect with nature."

Jewell cited a Kaiser Foundation study finding that American children spend an average of 56 hours a week in front of screens but just half an hour in unstructured outdoor play.

"Facilities like this, close to population centers, are really, really important to help children understand what's out here — what a mayfly is, what a trumpeter swan is, how they migrate," Jewell said.

In her first visit to the region as secretary, Jewell spent part of the day on a pontoon boat loaded with scientists from the many agencies responsible for managing competing uses on the Mississippi River.

Jewell saw some of the first islands built with dredge spoils as part of a 30-year effort to restore habitat lost as the river was modified to accommodate barge shipping.

She heard about a 20-year multi-agency monitoring program that has built a potentially one-of-a-kind database in its geographic and temporal breadth, which Marvin Hubbell, regional manager of the Army Corps of Engineers Restoration Program, said shares resources over a 1,200-mile area in six states and increases understanding of the ecosystem to better meet future challenges.

From the U.S. Geological Survey, Jewell learned of a pilot study on the Missouri River examining the possibility of using dredged

sands for hydraulic fracturing, which Regional Director Leon Carl called an ideal "two-fer" — eliminating unwanted sediment on the river bottom while providing valuable material without changing the landscape.

Jewell, who worked as a banker and CEO of the outdoor retailer REI before her cabinet appointment, asked about economic activity on the Mississippi and the jobs it supports.

Onalaska Mayor Joe Chilsen said he credits the river with an 80 percent occupancy rate at his city's hotels.

"You can't build something like this," Chilsen said.

Jewell was in La Crosse to promote the embattled Land and Water Conservation Fund, which uses revenues from offshore gas and oil leases for the purchase and preservation of land by federal, state and local governments.

Since 1964, Wisconsin has received about \$211 million for national parklands like the Upper Mississippi River refuge and Chequamegon National Forest. La Crosse County has received about \$636,000 for parks and school playgrounds, although the last grant to the county was made in 1991 for acquisition of parkland in Onalaska.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell (left) and U.S. Representative Ron Kind (WI-3; right) recently toured part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Federal agencies use a larger share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy and develop land in national parks and refuges, such as the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which used it to purchase land for a new visitors center on Brice Prairie.

On Thursday (13 Aug 2015) the department announced \$42 million in 2015 grants to states, including about \$750,000 to Wisconsin. Though authorized at \$900 million a year, Congress has typically released only about a third of that, using the balance for other purposes. Set to expire in September, the 50-year-old law is under fire from Republicans who want to curtail spending by federal agencies.

Calling the fund "one of the most effective pieces of legislation we've had in the last 50 years," Jewell said the acquisition of new land — whether through purchase or easements — is crucial to filling in patchworks of public parks and refuges and to providing

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**Published 15 Aug 2015; reprinted by permission of the La Crosse Tribune.*

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access to popular sporting grounds cut off by private land.

“Access to hunters and anglers is a very significant part of how the money’s often spent,” Jewell said. “We need to step up and support the facilities that the American people value.”

Jewell said the outdoor recreation



industry, which generates an estimated \$12 billion and employs more than 100,000 workers in Wisconsin, needs to do a better job of telling Congress about the importance of access to public lands.

“This is good for jobs. It’s good for the economy,” Jewell said. “It’s sustainable.”



Minneapolis Notches its Last Barge Trip as an Era Ends

*By Steve Brandt, Minneapolis Star Tribune**

With a single toot that reverberated through the cavernous Upper St. Anthony Falls on Monday afternoon, where minutes before 10 million gallons of water floated her 50 feet higher, the towboat Becky Sue nudged twin barges filled with 2,400 tons of scrap steel downriver. In that same moment, Becky Sue ushered out a historic era of Minneapolis river navigation.

The commercial lock closed for good Tuesday at midnight, marking the end to 150-year-old dreams of creating a port that would rival St. Paul. But the closure now brings new hopes of transforming the city’s upper river with more parks, housing and office buildings.

“Personally, I understand why it’s being done and support the validity of that, but it feels bittersweet, poignant because it is the end of an era,” said Ann Calvert, the city’s point person on river issues for decades.

Congress mandated the shutdown in hopes of blocking the migration of invasive carp, which experts warned could tag along in the lock and then continue north and threaten sport fish populations in Minnesota’s lake country.

Lee Nelson, who said he tried and failed to negotiate a compromise between politicians and the barge industry, took Becky Sue’s helm for its final lockage. He has been a towboat captain since 1983, but he is now president of Upper River Services, which shuttles most of the barges on Twin Cities waterways.

His administrative duties keep him off the river most of the time, but he successfully nosed the 400 feet of barges strung out in front of him into the lock.

“He’s not standing up, so he’s not nervous,” quipped Tom Fleming, who piloted the rest of the trip, a journey he estimates he’s made a couple hundred times. Nelson feigned wiping his brow, then added: “Our job is to make it look easy.”

The lock never achieved the level of tonnage that advocates predicted when it opened. The lock handled just 711,000 tons of cargo in 2014, far below the 3 million tons the corps projected in the 1950s.

When the first barge cleared the locks and entered the upper harbor in 1963, it was mostly for show because there was no place to unload. The tow returned to Savage to offload its 24-inch water pipes. Tuesday’s scrap cargo came from Northern Metal Recycling’s North Side yard, bound for mills in the South.

The closure polarized advocates of revitalizing the city’s upper river and businesses that make their living on the river.

“We did something big here,” mayoral aide Peter Wagenius said Friday as a coalition gathered to celebrate the closure of the lock. “We fought on the biggest possible stage of the industrial want versus the environmental need.”

Shippers saw it differently, successfully lobbying the Corps of Engineers to keep the lock open until the last possible day allowed by Congress.

“This thing got closed under an ulterior motive,” said Nelson, whose firm operates six towboats that shuttle barges among Twin Cities area terminals. “I think the carp is an emotional hook.”

Story continues on-line.



Last barge load through St. Anthony Falls Locks.

**Published 10 Jun 2015; reprinted, in part, with permission of the Minneapolis Star Tribune.*

Click on this UMRCR logo to read the full article →.



Feds Recruit Citizen Scientists to Track UMR Phenomenon

By Chris Hubbuch, La Crosse Tribune*

Federal wildlife officials are asking the public to help count mayflies, the ubiquitous and stinky bugs that swarm the banks of the Mississippi River each summer. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is recruiting “citizen scientists” to gather field data in an effort to better predict the annual emergence, when millions of the insects hatch and take to the air.

The agency has partnered with the USA-National Phenology Network, a partnership of federal agencies, universities and nonprofit organizations based in Arizona that monitors the influences of climate on



the life cycles of plants, animals and the landscape. “It’s things like when do plants put on their leaves, or when do their leaves change color; when do birds migrate,”

said Theresa Crimmins, partnership and outreach coordinator for USA-NPN.

USA-NPN has developed a website and smart phone apps – dubbed Nature’s Notebook — that allow volunteers to gather and submit field observations on everything from feeding habits of the Acadian flycatcher to the blooming of Yoshino cherry trees. Using this relatively new technology, regular folks with just a little training can record standardized observations that are uploaded to public databases available to scientists like Mark Steingraeber, a fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Onalaska.

The approach serves a two-fold purpose, said Cindy Samples, chief visitor services manager for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: gathering data and getting people out on the 240,000-acre refuge. “We want to connect people to nature,” she said. “What better way than some critter people wonder about?”

Hatch, Mate, Die

Mayfly hatches are a common – and at times apocalyptic – phenomenon on the Upper Mississippi River. Swarms show up on radar. A well-lighted gas station near the river can quickly become a seething mass of the winged creatures. Last year they were even blamed for a three-car crash in Pepin County.

The insects spend most of their lives as larvae, burrowed in the mud of the riverbed. Once mature, they emerge with wings and fly upstream in a mass mating ritual.



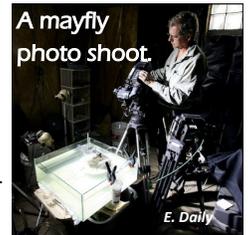
Service staff held three Mayfly Watch workshops during June to inform citizen-scientists how to report mayfly emergence events on the UMR National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

They have no mouth and only hours to live. “Hatch, mate, die,” Samples said. “That’s it.”

Steingraeber said much of what is known about the Mississippi River species, known as *Hexagenia bilineata*, is a result of research by the late Cal Fremling, a professor of biology at Winona State University. When Fremling began his research in the 1950s, Steingraeber said,

mayflies were so abundant there was talk of eradicating them. His research helped head that off.

“He really keyed in on the fact that these mayflies are good indicators of water quality,” Steingraeber said. “They don’t bite. They don’t sting. They’re great fish food.”



Over the years, Steingraeber has been a go-to source for people interested in the flies – from brides planning riverside ceremonies to photographers and filmmakers from around the world who want to document the annual swarms. Every year they ask, when should we show up?

Generally he tells them the Fourth of July – plus or minus 10 days, but an early hatch in 2008 prompted him to wonder if there was a better way to forecast the big hatch. He found a model developed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory that relies on cumulative growing-degree days to predict when they will emerge. Steingraeber said the model was accurate to within one day in three years, but in others it was off. He hopes data provided by citizen scientists will help him refine the model.



A male mayfly in search of a mate.



Rise of the Citizen Scientist

Citizen scientists aren’t new. Fremling relied on tow boat pilots and lock and dam operators for some of his data.

“The concept of citizen science has been around for centuries, if not longer,” Crimmins said. “People who weren’t formally trained were the first citizen scientists,” Crimmins said. But there’s been exponential growth in the opportunities in the past decade, Crimmins said.

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*Published 18 Jun 2015; reprinted by permission of the La Crosse Tribune.

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Researchers have become more sophisticated in how to best use volunteers, and advancing technology has made data collection easier. Last year volunteers reported more than 3.1 million bird observations through eBird, an online data collection program launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in 2002.

Nature's Notebook was launched in 2009 in response to a report by the Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change. Crimmins said changes in plant and animal life cycles is one of the simplest ways to document how species are responding to climate change. More than 15,000 people have registered with the site; about a third have submitted observations.

Sue Anderson had never considered herself a citizen scientist, but on a whim she attended a meeting on the mayfly watch in Winona and decided to give it a try. A retired teacher, Anderson said she first encountered mayflies when she moved to Winona in the 1970s. Now she's got the app on her phone and has alerted a friend who lives on the river to call her as soon as she sees one.

"It sounds like fun," she said. "I'm excited."

Crimmins said data gathered by citizen scientists is used increasingly by land managers and policy makers who need to make decisions on timing.

A recent project run by the University of Minnesota (U of M) enlisted 40 volunteers in an effort to study how best to keep leaves out of Twin Cities lakes. U of M scientist Chris Buyarski

hypothesized that – since phosphorous-based fertilizers are illegal in Minnesota – the water was being polluted by nutrients from decaying leaves that washed into storm sewers.

Buyarski had residents track their boulevard trees, documenting leaf out, flowering, leaf coloring and leaf fall, among other variables. His hope is that the city could eventually use that data to put street sweepers in neighborhoods once the leaves have fallen.

Steingraeber said there are practical applications for mayfly prediction too. Last year – during a particularly thick emergence – he got calls from transportation officials, who've used everything from street sweepers to snowplows to remove insect carcasses from the roadway. "It really slicks things up," said Mike Dougherty, a spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

While crews can turn off lights that attract the insects on key stretches of freeway, Dougherty said that also presents a hazard. Having an accurate hatch prediction would minimize the amount of time the lights were off. "It would be helpful to make sure we've got folks on point," he said.

So when will the mayflies hatch this year? "It's a little bit too early to tell," Steingraeber said.

Editor's Note: A synchronous mayfly emergence occurred over much of a 350-mile UMR reach on July 3-4, 2015.



UMR Mayflies Used for Green Bay Restoration

*By Paul Srubas, Green Bay Press-Gazette**

The return of masses of Green Bay flies, also known as mayflies, would be a potential environmental success story Pat Henry can live without.

"Oh, my God, it was like your worst nightmare," said Henry, 77, of Suamico, who remembers the days when mayfly bodies were so thick on the streets they had to be plowed clear.

"They were nasty," she said. "They didn't bite, that wasn't the problem. You just couldn't help be covered with them. And you had to walk on them, walking on squishy flies. Anybody with cottages — they'd just cling onto the screens. You couldn't escape them."

It's been decades since the lower portion of the bay has seen mayflies on that level, but a Milwaukee researcher is working to change that. The flies historically played a crucial role in the health of the bay and provided a major source of protein for

walleye and other fish, according to Jerry Kaster of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Restoration of the flies could restore the bay as a world-class fishery that would have a huge economic boost on the area's economy, Kaster says.

Poor water quality is what drove the flies away, but Kaster thinks conditions have improved enough to support a repopulation. He and student volunteers have been collecting mayfly eggs for the past few years and dumping them in the shallows in Green Bay. If he's right about the water quality, Green Bay area residents could start seeing the flies again.



"It won't be huge in the next two or three years," Kaster said. "But I think it'll be big enough where people start calling me up and saying, 'Hey, look, we found a few hundred on our building.'"

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***Published 18 Aug 2015 in the Green Bay Press Gazette ; reprinted, in part, with permission of the Press Gazette.**

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Clouds of Flies

At one time, mayflies were unbelievably common. Back in the first quarter of the 19th century, when Green Bay was still part of Michigan Territory, a visitor to Fort Howard described skies blackened with clouds of the flies, according to the Green Bay Historical Bulletin.

“Trees are covered, and the branches bent and broken down,” the anonymous writer claimed. “The barracks and buildings in the vicinity, at the ends and sides not exposed to the sun, are entirely black, the insects piled one upon another.” The air was so thick with them, it was difficult to breathe, the author wrote.

About 100 years later, the flies were still so thick that a civic organization launched a contest, awarding cash prizes of up to \$5 to the children collecting the largest number of fly corpses, according to the June 14, 1915 edition of the Green Bay Gazette.

Industrial pollution ended all that, with the last fly being “formally collected” in 1955, Kaster said. Since then, a lot of effort has been put into cleaning the bay and river. Despite the presence of a large dead zone, presumably from phosphorus runoff, water quality in the bay has improved greatly, Kaster said.

Kaster and his helpers have been collecting and distributing eggs from flies caught on Lake Erie in Ohio and the Mississippi River in La Crosse. Mayflies are so numerous on the Mississippi in late June and early July that they show up on weather radar.

Kaster and his helpers catch the flies off buildings, neon lights and windows by using a Shop-Vac, squeeze out the eggs and then take them in a cooler up to Green Bay.

The eggs hatch into nymphs that live in the sediment about two years. After a robust larval lifespan, they emerge as flies with a wingspan of at least 2 inches, mating in midair and dropping their eggs into the water, Kaster said. The flies are really just breeding machines with lifespans so short that they don’t even have mouths by which to feed, he said.

They reproduce and die within a day or two on or near the street lights they are attracted to by the millions. And that’s what it’ll take to bring them back, Kaster said.

“One of the problems with animals that need those mass numbers to be successful is it takes a very, very long time for them to re-establish once they’re locally extinct,” he said. “A few hundred or even a few thousand is probably not going to get the population off and running.” Kaster estimates that he and his helpers have planted about 400 million eggs in the lower bay. “And we know they’re hatching.”

Story continues on-line.

Click on this UMRCC logo to read the full article. →



WI Microbead Law on Books 7th State to Tackle Micoplastic Pollution

*By Amanda Wegner, Clean Wisconsin**

MADISON — Several months after unanimously passing through the Wisconsin State Legislature, Gov. Scott Walker signed the microbeads bill into law today, ushering in new protections to keep microplastics out of Wisconsin’s waters and our cherished Great Lakes.

“We’re elated to finally have the microbeads bill signed into law,” says Amber Meyer Smith, director of government relations of Clean Wisconsin, the largest state-based environmental organization in Wisconsin. “This is the kind of bipartisan legislation we need to ensure our environment remains clean now and for generations to come, and we’d like to thank the authors for their attention on this topic.”

Introduced by Sen. Rob Cowles and Rep. Mary Czaja in January, Wisconsin’s law will phase out the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing microbeads, small pieces of plastic added to products like body scrubs and toothpastes. These tiny particles end up in our waterways where they can threaten ecosystem health and human health. Wisconsin is the seventh state to sign a microbeads bill into law; Illinois, Maine, New Jersey, Colorado, Indiana and Maryland have already enacted microbeads laws. Several other states are considering microbead bans, and legislation has also been introduced federally.

“It’s great to see Wisconsin ahead of the curve on this issue,” says Smith. “Given the potential danger microbeads represent, and the cost-effective replacements for these plastic particles, it’s crucial we do all we can to get these microbeads out of our products and our waters.”

More than an estimated 10,000 pounds of microbeads are washed down Wisconsin drains each year. Due to their small size, microbeads can move through water treatment systems and into our waterways. Once there, the microbeads continue to accumulate as they don’t easily break down in the environment. In addition, these plastic particles can find their way into the fish we catch and accumulate in greater amounts as large fish eat smaller fish, a process called biomagnification. Wisconsin’s law bans the manufacture of microbeads for many products by 2018 and gets those products containing microbeads out of retail stock by 2019.

“Clean Wisconsin is proud to be part of this important movement,” says Smith. “Reducing microplastic pollution in our waterways not only protects our beloved waters, but our wildlife, our drinking water and the health of our families. We hope that more states will soon follow suit and pass laws addressing microplastics.”

** 1 Jul 2015 news release; reprinted by permission.*



Monarch Conservation Receives \$4 Million Annual Boost* *USFWS & Partners Pledge Continuing Support for Iconic Species in Dramatic Decline*

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe joined forces to show their support for monarch butterflies, announcing the Service will dedicate \$4 million in funding for monarch conservation in the next year.

“This funding will allow us to work with partners to conserve monarch breeding and migration habitat in priority areas throughout the country,” said Ashe. “We will also focus on increasing the availability of seed for native milkweeds and nectar plants, education programs and other large-scale efforts across the range of the monarch.”



Ashe said the Service will focus on first-generation spring breeding areas in Texas and Oklahoma, summer breeding habitat in Minnesota and other Midwest states, and areas west of the Rocky Mountains important for the western monarch population.

“From small business owners to elementary school students, everyone can play a part in helping preserve the monarch butterfly,” Klobuchar said. “With the butterfly rapidly disappearing, it was great to join committed Minnesotans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to further our collaborative effort to protect the butterfly from extinction.”

Senator Klobuchar is a longtime monarch advocate, encouraging federal agencies to build on and strengthen public-private partnerships to preserve monarchs. She supports efforts such as the collaborative work among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Federation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to reverse the decline.

The announcement came as Senator Klobuchar and Director Ashe hosted a Monarch Conservation Celebration at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, Minnesota. The event featured Dr. Karen Oberhauser of the University of Minnesota’s Monarch Lab, and included a monarch tagging demonstration. Participants took part in fun, hands-on activities for families and young conservationists focusing on monarch biology, migration and habitat.

Monarch butterflies travel thousands of miles over many generations during migration, from Mexico, across the United States, to Canada. Monarch populations have dropped from a 1996 wintering population of more than 1 billion to an estimated 56.5 million this year. Loss of prairie habitat and declining numbers of milkweed, which sustains monarch caterpillars, are among the causes.

Director Ashe has pledged to restore and enhance more than 200,000 acres of monarch habitat on public and private lands this year, along with supporting more than 750 schoolyard habitat projects and pollinator gardens across the country.

**For more information on monarch conservation, click on this →
UMRCC logo or visit
www.fws.gov/midwest/monarch**



*20 Aug 2015 USFWS news release.

MN Senate Bans Microbeads *Personal Care Products & Soaps Targeted*

By Elizabeth Dunbar, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) News†



†Published 5 May 2015.

Click on this UMRCC logo



to read the full article.

Mussels Making a Comeback *Twin Cities a Focus Area*

By Elizabeth Dunbar, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) News†



†Published 17 Aug 2015.

Click on this UMRCC logo



to read the full article.

River Resource News

New to the UMR



Dr. Teresa Lewis

USFWS

Director

Midwest Fisheries Center

Onalaska, WI

WELCOME!



Recent Retirees - *CONGRATULATIONS!*



**36 Years
of Service**

Jon Duyvejonck

USFWS/USACOE

Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Rock Island, IL

UMRCC Coordinator

1991 - 2006

COME CELEBRATE!

SEP 4, 3 P.M. - ?

RADICLE EFFECT, ROCK IS.



**30 Years
of Service**

Bernie Schonhoff

IA DNR

Fishery Biologist

Fairport, IA

UMRCC Jack-of-all-

Trades

COME CELEBRATE!

SEP 19, 1 P.M. - ?

LACMRERS, FAIRPORT

Calendar

Meetings, Conferences, and Events

Floodplain Forest Workshop

September 15-17, 2015 Dubuque, IA

- Focus on Bottomland Forest Issues Pertinent to

- Research
- Management
- Restoration Opportunities

- Field Trip Included

- Contact Tim Schlagenhaft (651-764-4242; tschlagenhaft@audubon.org) for details



Calendar

Freshwater Mussel Workshop

Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity

September 28 - October 1, 2015 Columbus, OH

- OSU Division of Molluscs - Worlds' Largest Freshwater Mollusc Collection
- Focus on Upper Ohio River and Great Lakes Species
- Identification • Permitting Issues
- Sampling Protocols • Two Field Trips
- Visit www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~molluscs/OSUM2/ for details



Freshwater Mussel Propagation for Restoration Training

Bozeman Fish Technology Center

September 28 - October 2, 2015 Bozeman, MT

Contact Matthew_Patterson@fws.gov (304/876-7473) for details



UMRCC Fall Technical Section Meetings

Fish, Wildlife, and Mussel Sections - September 22-24

Pine Creek Cabins, Decorah, IA

Water Quality Section - October 27-28

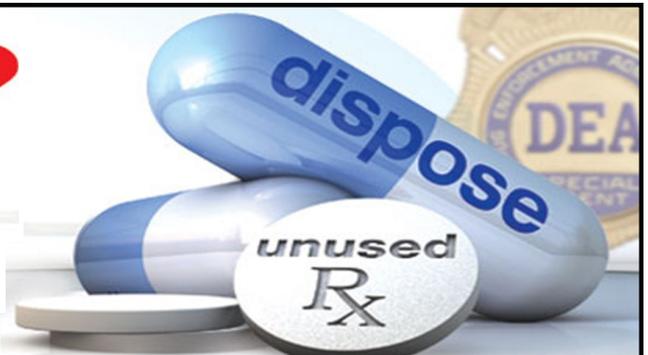
LACMERS, Fairport, IA

Got Drugs?

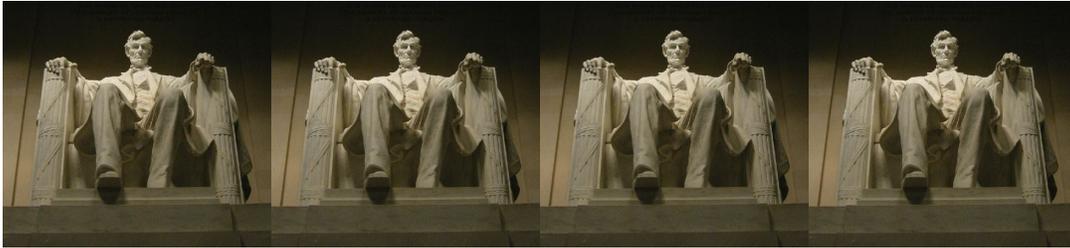
Turn in your unused or expired
medication for safe disposal

September 27th 10 am - 2 pm

Visit www.dea.gov or call 800-882-9539
for a collection site near you



UMR-Related Congressional Legislation



Water Resources

Bill H.R. #1321, Sponsor: F. Pallone Jr. (NJ-6)
UMR Co-sponsors: C. Bustos (IL-17), K. Ellison (MN-5)

A bill to amend Section 601 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 361) to prohibit the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads. *Introduced (6 Mar 2015); referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (4 Mar 2015) and the Subcommittee on Health (6 Mar 2015).*

Bill H.R. #2028, Sponsor: M. Simpson (ID-2)
UMR Co-sponsor: None

A bill that, in part, provides appropriations for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects, including for Investigations, Construction, Mississippi River and Tributaries, Operation and Maintenance, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies, Expenses, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. *Introduced (24 Apr 2015); referred to, received in, and read (twice) at the Senate Committee on Appropriations (5 May 2015); placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (21 May 2015).*

Bill S. #1935, Sponsor: Sen. T. Baldwin (WI)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency. *Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (4 Aug 2015).*

Wildlife & Endangered Species

Bill H.R. #2957 Sponsor: R. Kind (WI-3)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. *Introduced and referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands (7 Jul 2015).*

Conservation

Bill H.R. #3121, Sponsor: R. Kind (WI-3)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to improve Federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection, and use of Federal property, and for other purposes. *Introduced (21 Jul 2015) and referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal lands and the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources (4 Aug 2015).*

Outdoor Recreation

Bill H.R. #2014, Sponsor: R. Kind (WI-3)
UMR Co-sponsor: T. Walz (MN-1)

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs and activities that connect Americans, especially children, youth, and families, with the outdoors. *Introduced and referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands (26 May 2015).*

Bill H.R. #528, Sponsor: D. Benishek (MI-1)
UMR Co-sponsors: R. Davis (IL-13), J. Kline (MN-2)

A bill to require federal public land management officials to facilitate the use of, and access to, federal public lands for fishing, sport hunting, and recreational shooting with specified exceptions. *Introduced and referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands (2 Mar 2015).*

Bill H.R. #3173, Sponsor: T. Walz (MN-1)
UMR Co-sponsors: R. Kind (WI-3)

A bill to promote conservation for the purpose of enhancing hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities. *Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources (23 Jul 2015).*

Coordinator's Comments

Wow! What a whirl wind of a summer ... there have been so many new developments and personal changes. I to want to congratulate Jon Duvejonck and Bernie Schonhoff on their retirements. As most of you know Jon was UMRCC coordinator prior to my term. He was a fantastic mentor for this position and gave me wonderful guidance and was always willing to field my questions. Jon has given so much effort into the Mississippi River and the UMRCC over the years. His knowledge and wisdom will be sorely missed but he has assured me



that he will have a presence on river issues. Martin gave a great description of Bernie's commitment to the UMRCC and his love for the river. I have enjoyed the last two plus years working with Bernie as Treasurer. His attention to detail and prompt way of doing business made my job much easier. Thanks to both of you and all the best!!!!

As did Martin, I want to thank Ron for his 30 plus years as a UMRCC River Rat. He was the Wisconsin delegate for my term as coordinator and will be missed. Ron also assured me he would keep an eye on the river and keep in touch. We are still waiting to hear from Wisconsin regarding who will step in as the Wisconsin delegate to UMRCC and hope to hear soon. As for the Treasurer position I am pleased to announce that Adam Thiese from Iowa DNR has accepted the position. Adam had a chance to transition with Bernie so things will continue to run smoothly. Thanks Adam!!

The first version of the UMRCC Economic Profile is nearly complete thanks to Jim Caudill from FWS. When this product is finalized I will be sending it out and we will get a copy on the website.

Vegetation sampling went extremely well in Pool 9 again this year lead by Mike Griffin! Thanks to all who participated in that huge effort and special thanks to Brenda Kelly for her extra effort in the event. The Wildlife Tech Section has developed a plan to have the data analyzed which we will hear more about at the Fall Meeting. Speaking of the Fall meeting please contact Mike Griffin or Scott Gritters ASAP if you are planning on attending and they also need to know if you are participating in the scheduled field events. This year the Fish, Wildlife and Mussel Tech Sections are combining forces and holding the meeting from September 22-24th near Decorah, Iowa. The Water Quality Tech Section will hold their Fall meeting Oct. 27-28 at Fairport, Iowa. That's all for now but I hope to see you all at the Fall meetings.

Scott Yess



Coordinator's Quiz

The Spring Newsletter quiz question was – By what year did lumber camps on the St. Croix River send logs to the Mississippi River?

Answer: 1839 Brian Bartos sent in the first correct answer.



Logs float through the Gap of the St. Croix Boom
John Runk, MN Historical Society



The Quiz Question for the Summer Newsletter is – **Common carp were first caught by angling in the Upper Mississippi River in 1880; where did this occur?**

The first correct answer emailed to Scott_yess@fws.gov wins a prize!

UMRCC Chairperson

Martin Konrad - Iowa Delegate - Iowa DNR - Des Moines, IA

UMRCC Board Members

Janet Sternburg - Missouri Delegate - Missouri DOC - Jefferson City, MO

Bradford Parsons - Minnesota Delegate - Minnesota DNR - St. Paul, MN

Kevin Irons - Illinois Delegate - Illinois DNR - Springfield, IL

Vacant - Wisconsin Delegate - Wisconsin DNR - La Crosse, WI

Adam Thiese - Secretary & Treasurer - Iowa DNR, Fairport, IA

Scott Gritters - Fish Section Chairperson - Iowa DNR - Bellevue, IA

Mike Griffin - Wildlife Section Chairperson - Iowa DNR - Bellevue, IA

John Olson - Water Quality Section Chairperson - Iowa DNR - Des Moines, IA

Randy Schnoebelen - Law Enforcement Chairperson - Missouri DOC - Kirksville, MO

Travis Moore - Mussel Section Chairperson - Illinois DNR - Springfield, IL

Vacant - OREIT Section Chairperson

Sabrina Chandler - Refuge Observer - USFWS - Winona, MN

Scott Yess - Coordinator - USFWS - Onalaska, WI



The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) was established in 1943 with the goal to: "Promote the preservation and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River and to formulate policies, plans, and programs for conducting cooperative studies".