

The UMRCC Newsletter



Winter 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. Phone: (608) 783-8432. E-mail Coordinator at umrcc@mississippi-river.com. Visit our website at <http://www.mississippi-river.com/umrcc>.

Chairman's Letter

As the winter's icy blast covers the north it's time to write my chairmen's letter. We all look forward to spring and the 72nd UMRCC annual meeting in St Louis. This meeting is in conjunction with the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society meeting. The spring meeting is the time we take stock in the previous year's activities and discuss up and coming issues. For us as states, the next few years may be the most challenging time we have faced. When you're at our meeting, look at our age structure. I hate to break it to you but we are not getting any younger and we don't seem to have a strong year class to replace us. For states, the workforce is shrinking, which mean some of us will not be replaced. We need to come up with strategies to pass along the experience we've learned so that the new group of biologists and managers can improve on our work and not re-learn it.

We manage one of the most fantastic resources on the continent. There is probably no other river system that has the wealth of experience we've acquired over the 70 + years of our organization. We want to make sure we don't go backwards, so future generations have a bright future.

Ron Benjamin

Cerulean Warbler Surveys - Pool 10

By Jon Stravers, Driftless Area Bird Conservation

Surveys for Cerulean warblers along the Upper Mississippi River in Pool 10 produced a surprising number of active territories for this species during surveys conducted in 2009 through 2014.

Ceruleans are one the cool birds along the river. They are also one of the rarest nesting warblers in the United States. They spend the best part of their year (7 months) in the tropical rain forests in deep



mountainous canyons in Venezuela, Peru and Boliva, and each year they make the long distance flight to return to these nesting areas in the Driftless Region of the Upper Midwest.

These surveys were co-sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACOE) Environmental Section in La Crescent (MN), the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (UMRNW&FR), and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Yellow River State Forest. Several other conservation organizations including Driftless Area Bird Conservation and various Audubon Chapters throughout the region also contributed to this project.

In addition to finding some unexpectedly high densities of Ceruleans, we also found that a high percentage of territories initially located were active in subsequent years. Reports of declining populations have persisted throughout the Cerulean range in North America during the past 20 years and this species has become a species of focus in the bird community.



UMR floodplain forests provide key habitats for Cerulean warblers.

The purpose of the surveys is to better understand how these floodplain forest habitats are being used by species of conservation concern, and hopefully, how to manage the forest to maintain or improve habitat for these species.

The highest concentrations of Ceruleans were found along Paint Creek within Yellow River State Forest near its confluence with the Mississippi River. We also found a cluster of Ceruleans in an island complex with a strong oak component in the Sny Magill/Norwegian Island area of the UMRNW&FR and Effigy Mounds National Monument in middle Pool 10.



The confluence of small creeks, like Sny Magill with the UMR, appears to provide important habitats for Cerulean warblers.

The results of these Cerulean surveys were a critical factor in the Effigy Mounds/Yellow River Bird Conservation Area, which includes portions of the UMRNW&FR, being designated as the first "Globally Significant" Important Bird Area in Iowa. This designation is part of an international program to help protect important habitat for critical species by Birdlife International and the National Audubon Society.

The field work was conducted by Jon Stravers and Dr. Paul Skrade with assistance from Rich King and Lisa Maas of the UMRNW&FR-McGregor District. Randy Urich and the staff from USACOE - La Crescent office assisted with field reconnaissance and were especially important in getting this project initiated.

We hope to continue these surveys in 2015. Plans are also being made to have special "Cerulean Warbler Tours" with Robert Vavra on his boat the "Maiden Voyage" out of McGregor, Iowa, in May and June of 2015.



Conservationists Fund Partnership Science Coordinator

By Heidi Keuler, Fishers & Farmers Partnership Coordinator, USFWS

Fishers & Farmers Partnership thanks the Midwest Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), State Conservationists for their recent contribution of \$28,000 to support the Fishers & Farmers GIS Specialist/Science Team Coordinator. This position is critical for demonstrating science-driven development of fish habitat conservation and restoration benefits to the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Coordinator will lead the Science Team in the measurement of results or outcomes, at both project and downstream scales, to enable continued learning that will strategically target the placement of projects for funding and regular accountability. The Fishers & Farmers Partnership has learned a lot from the NRCS staff in each of the states and hopes to improve the partnership even more so through the Science Coordinator. With continued support we will be able to collaborate with even more farmers and ranchers to keep soil and nutrients on the land and protect or restore our streams in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Many of NRCS's Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Conservation projects have been inclusive to benefiting fish habitat efforts throughout the years. We hope to help capture these outcomes to show the great progress that is happening on the nation's working lands. NRCS's commitment to the National Fish Habitat Partnership through support for the Fishers & Farmers Partnership and other partnerships is laudable. Through implementation of NFHP, we are collectively moving forward in protecting and restoring aquatic environments in many habitats across the Midwest and the Nation.

Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin supports landowner-led, voluntary conservation projects that add value to farms while restoring aquatic habitat and native fish populations in the Upper Mississippi River watershed. It is directed by individuals from both agricultural and natural resource fields, and is a partnership of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.



Landowner leadership and strong collaboration by supporting agriculture and conservation partners distinguish Fishers & Farmers' strategy. On-the-ground projects may include: stabilization of eroding stream banks, reconnection to floodplain, construction of instream habitat, installation of prairie and forest buffers, exploration of alternative land uses, optimization of fertilizer application rates, enhanced grazing rotations, fenced creeks, or better watering systems.

Learn more about the partnership at:

Fishersandfarmers.org

Note: Fish Habitat Partnerships consist of state, federal, and tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations, corporations and private individuals. They are self-identified, self-organized, and self-directed communities of interest formed around geographic areas, keystone species, or system types. There are five that focus their efforts all or in part in the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These include the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, and the Fishers and Farmers Partnership of the Upper Mississippi River. Fish Habitat Partnerships are the working units of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

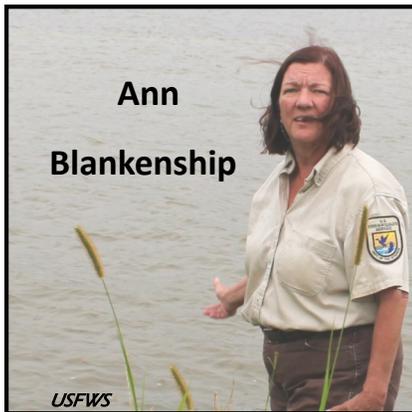


Recent Articles

C.H. Theiling, J.A. Janvrin, and J. Hendrickson. 2014. Upper Mississippi River restoration: implementation, monitoring, and learning since 1986. *Restoration Ecology*. DOI: 10.1111/rec.12170.

River Resource News

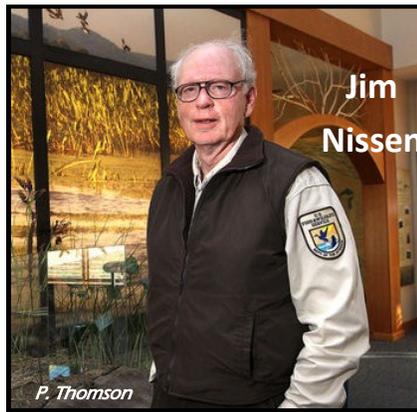
Recent UMRNW&FR Retirees - CONGRATULATIONS!



**Ann
Blankenship**

USFWS

**McGregor District
Visitor Services Specialist
Ann Blankenship
30 Years of Service**



**Jim
Nissen**

P. Thomson

**La Crosse District
Refuge Manager
Jim Nissen
40 Years of Service**



**Lisa
Reid**

USFWS

**Winona District
Wildlife Biologist
Lisa Reid
30 Years of Service**

Blue Crab Discovered a Long Way from Home^{*}

A Chesapeake blue crab — native to the western Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico — somehow found its way into the cool, northern waters of the Mississippi River this fall.

Several University of Wisconsin-La Crosse students found the crab in mid-November on French Island while doing a video project for a science methods class.

The students: Abbey Johnson and Brittany Kujath, both senior education majors; and Katie Mabery, a graduate student in Therapeutic Recreation, were at Airport Beach on French Island when they spotted the crab moseying along the shoreline. They decided to name the crab “Brabbie,” a combination of their names.

How the crab made it more than 1,000 miles through river dams well outside its native habitat is a bit of a mystery, says their instructor Carol Witt-Smith, academic instructional staff member in Educational Studies. Both she and her students agree the most likely scenario is that Brabbie hitched a ride north on a barge. It also could have been released as an unwanted pet.

Regardless of how it arrived, Witt-Smith is curious to know if others have spotted blue crabs in the area.

Brabbie was alive when the students found it. Not realizing the crab was so far from home, they left it and told Witt-Smith about it the next day. When she returned to the beach, the crab had not survived the night. Witt-Smith brought the crab to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where it is being held for further identification.

The Chesapeake blue crab produces a sweet, tender meat which makes it one of the most heavily harvested creatures on the planet, according to a National Geographic description. According to the website, many populations of Chesapeake blue crabs have experienced severe declines and over-harvesting has had a negative effect on the ecosystems where they live.



^{*}Originally published 11 Dec 2014 in the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse *Campus News*— <http://news.uwlax.edu/blue-crab-discovered-a-long-way-from-home/>; republished here with permission from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.



Nissen Steps Down as Local Refuge Manager

*By Betsy Bloom, La Crosse Tribune**

The “king of ducks” helped lead Jim Nissen to spend a quarter-century working on the Upper Mississippi River. “I like rivers and canvasbacks and people,” Nissen said. “So it was a good fit.”

Nissen, 63, will retire today after 25 years as La Crosse district manager of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and 40 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though not a native of the region, “no one knows this refuge better than he does,” said Kevin Kenow, a wildlife biologist at the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center on French Island. “He really knows what’s going on.”

Nissen came to the La Crosse District in 1989 after two years overseeing the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge on the other side of the state. That Horicon posting marked his return to Wisconsin; he’d been there in 1976 for Canada goose dispersal studies (and met his wife, Ruth, in the process).

The La Crosse job offered the chance to get back to a river-based assignment, in a refuge he’d worked in for a short period in the Savanna, Ill., district in 1974. But when he accepted the position, Nissen didn’t think he’d stay long in the La Crosse area, much less finish his career here. His previous stints – Horicon, the Ruby Lake refuge in Nevada and Missisquoi on Lake Champlain in Vermont – had all been only a few years.

Yet the La Crosse area offered those regal canvasbacks, a species that long had fascinated Nissen. He grew up in a duck hunting family in northeastern Nebraska, not far from the Platte River and among the prairie pothole country that produce much of the continent’s canvasbacks. The Ruby Lake refuge was a prime production site for the large diving ducks as well. But the Upper Mississippi allows Nissen each fall to see more than half of the canvasback population virtually pass by his window during migration.

Some of the major changes done in the refuge under Nissen’s tenure — habitat and island restoration, pool drawdowns to foster aquatic plant growth, voluntary avoidance areas for boaters during migration — were aimed at benefiting canvasbacks and other key species on the river such as bald eagles and tundra swans.

Kenow and now-retired biologist Carl Korschgen worked with Nissen in 1991 and 1992 to record illegal shooting of canvasbacks in Pools 7 and 8, at a time when low numbers prohibited hunting. They would have a number of collaborations after that.

“I always admired Jim’s professional way of meeting the challenges of managing the wildlife and habitat entrusted to his position,” Korschgen said. “... It was indeed a pleasure to work with Jim and also have him as a true friend.”

Kenow had done telemetry studies with red-headed ducks at Horicon a few years before Nissen took over there, and Nissen said he based some of his management practices on that research. That pattern would be repeated on the Upper Mississippi. “The great thing about working with Jim from a researcher’s standpoint, it was gratifying that he was always hungry for the information, he would take the information and apply it immediately,” Kenow said.

The canvasback study pointed up the need to boost the wild celery and other vegetation the ducks relied on to fuel their migration. The deeper river levels maintained for barge traffic in Pool 7 and 8 had limited the areas where these shallow water plants could thrive, driving the canvasbacks to backwaters where they could come under the gun, even by accident. The island restoration in Pool 8 between Stoddard and Brownsville, Minn., coupled with the drawdown in 2001, created stands of arrowhead that now lure in thousands of tundra swans in November that might stay for weeks on the river feeding on arrowhead tubers.

That, in turn, allowed the refuge to secure money for overlooks – on Hwy. 26 south of Brownsville and the Shady Maple stop along Hwy. 35 on the Stoddard side – that have become a tourism attraction. “It really created a world-class spectacle,” Nissen said.

Kenow, Korschgen and local conservation leader Marc Schultz also praise Nissen for navigating all the different local, state and federal factions that have a stake in one of the most-visited national refuges. Perhaps the most recent example is the \$6 million visitors center that opened on Brice Prairie in August 2012.

“It’s quite complex, dealing with all those folks, and he seemed to do it so well,” Kenow said.

“Jim was a great wildlife biologist, a wonderful scientist,” Korschgen said, “and an extremely effective people person.”

But Nissen quickly defers credit to the volunteers who assist in the refuge, the public that turned out last decade to help shape the comprehensive conservation plan that set priorities and goals for future projects.

“Having a good game plan,” Nissen said, “so when funding opportunities arise, you can be strategic with it.”

Assistant District Manager Kendra Niemec will be acting manager until the FWS decides who will officially succeed Nissen.

“Nobody is irreplaceable,” Schultz said, “but some are harder to replace than other. Jim’s going to be a hard one to replace.”

But Nissen said he won’t be far away. He expects to remain involved in the refuge as a volunteer.

“This,” Nissen said, “is just a great place to be.”



*Originally published 30 Dec. 2014; republished here by permission of the La Crosse Tribune.

Seasonal Reflections

Spend Winter Outside This Year

By Tim Gillman, Natural Resources Program Director, River Action, Inc.



Midwesterners tend to share a love/hate relationship with winter. Sometimes we enjoy the snow, the holidays, and the festivities, but often enough we find ourselves left bitter from the cold. We retreat inside to our warm homes and wait impatiently for spring's arrival. It's easy to forget that people from a variety of cultures have spent much longer times outside in even harsher climates. It doesn't make sense to just 'wait it out' and spend a good portion of the year anticipating spring.



Some of the best ways to get outside during the winter are to get active. There have always been the old standby winter sports such as downhill skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating. Those with a sense for adventure may take up snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or cold-weather hiking. Whichever activity you choose, picking a new winter hobby will be sure to entice you outside during your free time.



If you work inside all day, it might be hard to convince yourself to get outside during the winter. Some intrepid workers have made the choice to commute by bike - despite the snow and sleet. A



relatively recent phenomenon in the Midwest has been the introduction of the "fatbike". They have become a fairly common sight around town (Quad Cities) and on the trails. These beefed-up mountain bikes are a

godsend for riding on snow and gliding over obstacles such as bogs, mud, and sand. They make cold-weather bike commuting much more accessible.

Skis, bikes, and snowshoes are fun, but they aren't necessary to fend off the winter blues. A simple outdoor walk can do a lot to brighten a gloomy winter day. Avoid the snow piles and obstacles along the sidewalks, and hike through the woods. Better yet, do it with a group of friends. A recent study done by researchers at the University of Michigan found major links between social nature walks and reduced stress and improved mood. Nature areas aren't crowded during the winter, and the snow and leafless deciduous trees provide a truly different landscape. Go for a long walk with friends and top it off with some coffee, tea, or hot chocolate!



While you're on a nature walk, keep your ears open for some new bird songs. Birding can be an especially rewarding experience in the colder months. While many migratory birds fly south during the winter, others flee the snow cover and cold temperatures to our north. These birds provide sights and sounds that you simply can't experience during the warmer months. Your local chapter of the Audubon Society can be a great resource for information, group walks, and bird counts.



Winter is also the perfect (and often the only) time to take to the ice. While indoor ice rinks have become ubiquitous in the Midwest, they don't come close to the fun of a glazed-over pond or a flooded field. The snow, wildlife, and open air make for a complete outdoor experience. Regardless of the activity, a little fresh air can go a long way to boost your mood this winter. So bundle up, and get outside!



Coordinator's Comments

UMRCC CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

DUE DATE: 13 February 2015

The UMRCC recognizes outstanding contributions made to the conservation of Mississippi River natural resources. The award is usually given at the UMRCC Annual Meeting. If you know of someone you think is deserving of recognition, please prepare a nomination following these guidelines:

- 1) The Conservation Award is intended to recognize individuals for their contribution to preservation, development, and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River bordering the 5 UMR states. Selection will be based on a single outstanding contribution or several significant contributions made over a period of time. *The contribution(s) must be of interstate significance.*
- 2) Any members of the UMRCC Executive Board or members of any of the 5 Technical Sections are eligible.
- 3) Nominations may be made by a UMRCC officer or anyone currently serving on one of the standing or ad hoc committees as defined in the UMRCC Constitution.
- 4) The letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, office of employment, address, and other pertinent personal history. The nomination should clearly describe contributions made by the nominee in pursuit of the intended purpose stated above. Contributions may be a single effort or multiple contributions over a period of time. The nominee's activity must have river-wide interest however. The nomination should not exceed 2 pages.

Nominations should be sent to: Chairman, C/O UMRCC Coordinator, 555 Lester Ave. Onalaska, WI 54650. Or email scott_yess@fws.gov

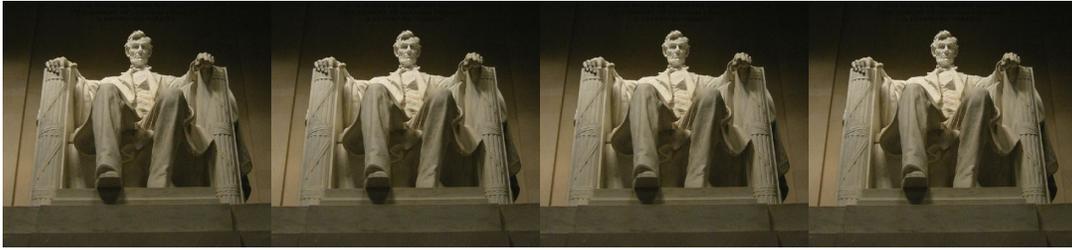
The UMRCC Executive Board will consider all nominations received by Friday, 13 February 2015. Any questions, call Scott Yess at 608-783-8432.

PAST UMRCC CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

1989 - George Fleener – 1 st Award Presented	2007 - Kevin Szcodronski
1990 - Willie Fernholtz	2008 - Tom Boland
1991 - Jerry Rasmussen	2009 - Marion Conover
1995 - Bill Dieffenbach	2010 - Gary Wege
1997 - Jack Skrypek	2011 - John Pitlo
1998 - Bill Bertrand	2012 – Heidi Langrehr
2000 - Gordon Farabee	2013 – Dan Sallee
2001 - Bill Aspelmeier	2014 – Gary Swenson
2005 - John Sullivan	2015 – ??????????????



UMR-Related Congressional Legislation



Climate Change

Bill H.R. #383, Sponsor: B. Luetkemeyer (MO-3)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to prohibit United States contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Green Climate Fund during fiscal year 2016 and subsequent years. *Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs (14 Jan 2015).*

Endangered Species

Bill S. #112, Sponsor: Sen. Heller (NV)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published. *Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (7 Jan 2015).*

Bill S. #292, Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn (TX)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. *Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (28 Jan 2015).*

Invasive Species

Bill S. #3002, Sponsor: Sen. Stabenow (MI)
UMR Co-sponsor: Sen. Baldwin (WI)

A bill to control the spread of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River basin, and for other purposes. *Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (11 Dec 2014).*

Water Resources

Bill H.R. #198, Sponsor: A. Sires (NJ-8)
UMR Co-sponsor: None

A bill that, in part, directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national freight network for efficient movement of freight on highways, railways, and navigable waterways, as well as into and out of inland ports, seaports and airports; and re-characterizes the primary freight network as multimodal. *Referred to House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment (8 Jan 2015).*

Bill H.R. #578, Sponsor: B. Gibbs (OH-7)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to protect the right of individuals to bear arms at water resources development projects administered by the Secretary of the Army, and for other purposes. *Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (28 Jan 2015).*

Wildlife

Bill S. #27, Sponsor: Sen. Feinstein (CA)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to, in part, make wildlife trafficking a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes and the Travel Act, and to provide for the use for conservation purposes of amounts from civil penalties, fines, forfeitures, and restitution under such statutes based on such violations. *Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (6 Jan 2015).*

Bill S. #90, Sponsor: Sen. Vitter (LA)
UMR Co-sponsors: None

A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to authorize hunting under certain circumstances. *Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (7 Jan 2015).*

Calendar

Meetings, Conferences, and Events

75th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

- 8-11 Feb 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
- *Early-Bird* (reduced-rate) registration deadline is 19 Dec 2014
- Visit <http://midwestfw.org> for complete schedule & registration information

Annual Mussel Coordination Team Meeting

- USGS - Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, La Crosse, WI
- Tuesday, 17 February, 12:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 18 February, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- No Registration or Fees Required
- Contact Dan Kelner (danile.e.kelner@usace.army.mil or 651-290-5277) for more information or to schedule a presentation



Midwest Wildlife Fur School Training

- WI DNR Fur Resources Training Center, Madison, WI
- 16-20 March 2015, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & 8 - 10 p.m.
- Anything & Everything You May Want to Know About Furbearers & Trapping
 - Trap ID
 - Trapping Regs
 - Trap Setting
 - Skull Boiling
 - Trapping BMPs
 - Fur Auctions/Marketing
 - Furbearer Diseases
 - Furbearer Surveys
 - Lacey Act & CITIES
 - Trapper Education
 - Fur Handling
 - Brain Tanning
 - Research
 - Wildlife Rehab
 - Fur Grading
- All This and More Awaits You in the Badger State's Capitol City
- Space is Limited ... Filling Quickly ... First Come, First Served!

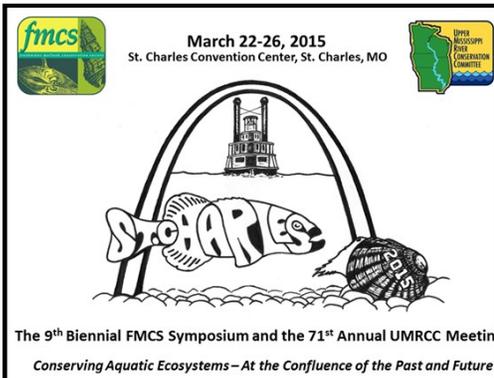


For **FUR**ther Details: Contact Gerianne.Albers@wisconsin.gov or Call 608-261-6452

Calendar

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS FEBRUARY 13, 2015

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE JOINT 2015 ANNUAL UMRCC MEETING AND BIENNIAL FRESHWATER MOLLUSK CONSERVATION SOCIETY (FMCS) SYMPOSIUM



To celebrate the connection between the UMRCC and the FMCS, this year's annual UMRCC Annual Meeting is being held jointly with the FMCS Symposium in St. Charles, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. The meetings run from March 22 – March 26, 2015, at the St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Missouri (<http://www.stcharlesconventioncenter.com>).

This joint meeting is arranged with an overlap day on Wednesday, March 25, in the event you cannot attend the full extent of the joint meeting. On Wednesday, we will have a joint plenary session focusing on the history, successes, and visions of the two societies, and a joint

session on Big River and Landscape Ecology. Concurrent paper sessions are scheduled for the afternoon. A joint social mixer and auction will be held on Wednesday night. UMRCC Technical Sections, Executive Board and Business meetings, and banquet with awards will be held on Thursday, March 26. Please see the following table that shows the different sessions and activities for both meetings. The full meeting agenda will soon be available on the FMCS website. (http://molluskconservation.org/2015Symposium/2015_FMCS-Symposium.html)

Please note that you may register to attend both meetings, or to attend only one of the meetings. There is also an option for single day registration for Thursday, March 26, if you can only attend the UMRCC Technical Sections. Meeting registration and hotel registration information are provided below with a link to the online registration page. Credit cards are accepted this year. Hotel information is also provided below. **EARLY REGISTRATION RATES END ON FEBRUARY 13, 2015.** After March 13, registration is only available on-site.

Meeting Registration: Registration categories are listed below. Visit the FMCS website to register: http://molluskconservation.org/2015Symposium/2015_FMCS-Symposium.html. Select "Meeting Registration" and then the appropriate society's link. If you have any questions on registration or need to pay by some other method, please contact Heidi Dunn (hdunn@ecologicalspecialists.com). Janet Sternburg (janet.sternburg@mdc.mo.gov; 573-522-1445, ext. 3372) may also be contacted for registration information.

LODGING INFORMATION AND LINK:

Discounted lodging is available at the Embassy Suites St. Louis – St. Charles/Hotel & Spa, which is directly adjacent to the convention center. Lodging consists of a two-room suite with separate living and sleeping areas. Hotel rooms are \$118/night for 1-2 people and \$128/night for 3-4 people (+ tax), and include a complimentary full breakfast and evening reception with adult beverages (Yes, complimentary as in Free...). The discounted room rate for our joint meeting will be available from March 21, 2015 to March 27, 2015. Reservations can be made online at http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/S/STLEMES-FMC-20150321/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG or by phone (636-946-5544), using the Group Name FMSC/UMRCC and Group Code FMC. **THESE RATES ARE ONLY GOOD TILL FEBRUARY 13, 2015, SO RESERVE YOUR ROOM EARLY.**

Calendar

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE JOINT 2015 ANNUAL UMRCC MEETING AND BIENNIAL FRESHWATER MOLLUSK CONSERVATION SOCIETY (FMCS) SYMPOSIUM

UMRCC MEMBERS – MEETING REGISTRATION FEES AND OPTIONS

Both UMRCC and FMCS Meetings: March 22 thru March 26, 2015

Includes: Sunday FMCS Welcome Reception; Monday/Tuesday Concurrent Sessions; FMCS Executive Board, Committee and Subcommittee meetings; FMCS Banquet; FMCS Mixers; Wednesday - joint Plenary and joint Concurrent Sessions, joint Social/Mixer/Auction on Wednesday; UMRCC Executive Board Meeting; UMRCC Technical Section meetings; UMRCC Business Meeting; UMRCC Banquet/Awards; Lunches and Breaks

Early Registration through February 13, 2015

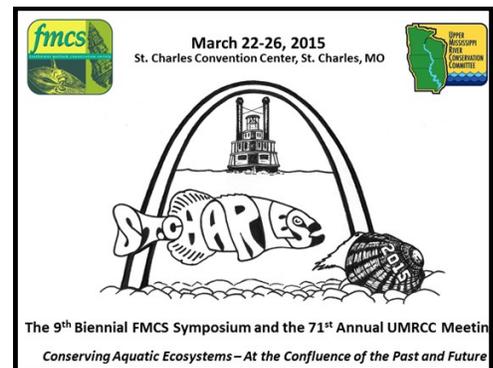
UMRCC or FMCS Members - \$450.00

Student Member - \$360.00

Late Registration February 14 through March 13, 2015

UMRCC or FMCS Members - \$500.00

Student Member - \$400.00



UMRCC Meeting Only: March 25 through March 26, 2015

Includes: Joint Plenary and Concurrent Sessions; joint Social/Mixer/Auction on Wednesday; UMRCC Executive Board meeting; UMRCC Technical Section meetings; UMRCC Business Meeting; UMRCC Banquet/Awards; Lunches and Breaks

Early Registration through February 13, 2015

UMRCC Member - \$175.00

Student Member – \$100.00

Late Registration February 14 through March 13, 2015

UMRCC Member – \$225.00

Student Member - \$120.00



UMRCC Meeting – Thursday Only Option: March 26, 2015

Includes: UMRCC Technical Sections; UMRCC Banquet/Awards; Lunch and Breaks/Thursday

Early Registration - \$90.00

Late Registration - \$100.00

For more information on the joint meeting, its content, special events, workshops and other items, contact Steve McMurray (Stephen.McMurray@mdc.mo.gov), Travis Moore (Travis.Moore@mdc.mo.gov) or Janet Sternburg (Janet.Sternburg@mdc.mo.gov).

LASTLY - UMRCC Raffle Items - If you have an item you would like to donate to this year's UMRCC Raffle or the FMCS Auction, please let Janet Sternburg know (janet.sternburg@mdc.mo.gov).

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MARCH!

Calendar

FMCS & UMRCC ST. CHARLES JOINT MEETING GENERAL SCHEDULE – MARCH 22 – 26, 2015

SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2015	MONDAY MARCH 23, 2015	TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2015	WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2015	THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2015
7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. PRE-FUNCTION AREA <i>Registration Presentation Loading</i>				FMCS DAY TRIPS (Optional) 6:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. TRELOR ROOM (EMBASSY SUITES) UMRCC Executive Board Meeting
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MEETING ROOM 104/105 <i>Mussel Propagation Workshop (Lunch Provided)</i>	8:00-10:00 a.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Status, Trends, and Monitoring of Molluscan Resources I</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Contaminants & Ecotoxicology I</i>	8:00-10:00 a.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Genetics & Phylogeny I</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Conservation I</i>	8:30-10:00 a.m. GRAND BALLROOM A/B <i>Joint Plenary Session I</i>	8:00-10:15 a.m. BALLROOM D1 <i>UMRCC Technical Sections Mussel</i>
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MEETING ROOM 104/105 <i>Mussel Propagation Workshop (Lunch Provided)</i>	10:20-12:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Status, Trends, and Monitoring of Molluscan Resources II</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Contaminants & Ecotoxicology II</i>	10:20-12:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Genetics & Phylogeny II</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Threats</i>	10:20-12:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A/B <i>Joint Plenary Session II</i>	10:30-12:00 p.m. <i>Water Quality – Conf. Room Fisheries – D1 Wildlife – D2 Law Enforcement – D3 OREIT – PFP BOARDROOM</i>
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. PFP BOARDROOM <i>Mollusk Names Subcommittees Joint Meeting</i>	12:00-1:40 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C/D <i>Boxed Lunch FMCS Committee Meetings</i>	12:00-1:40 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C/D <i>Boxed Lunch FMCS Committee Meetings</i>	12:00-1:40 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C/D <i>Buffet Lunch</i>	12:00-1:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C <i>Boxed Lunch</i>
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. CONFERENCE ROOM <i>Symposium Committee</i>	1:40-3:20 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Relocation & Reintroduction</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Propagation I</i>	1:40-3:20 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Life History & Ecology I</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Conservation II</i>	1:40-3:20 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Large River Management Issues</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Conservation III</i>	1:00-3:30 p.m. <i>Water Quality – Conf. Room Fisheries – D1 Wildlife – D2 Law Enforcement – D3 OREIT – PFP BOARDROOM</i>
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. REGISTRATION DESK <i>Student Worker Training</i>				
5:00-7:00 p.m. PFP BOARDROOM <i>FMCS Executive Board Meeting</i>	3:40-5:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Status, Trends, and Monitoring of Molluscan Resources III</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Propagation II</i>	3:40-5:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Status, Trends, and Monitoring of Molluscan Resources IV</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Life History & Ecology II</i>	3:40-5:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM A <i>Outreach in Natural Resources</i> GRAND BALLROOM B <i>Back to the Future: Using Archaeological Resources for Conservation of Freshwater Mollusks</i>	3:45-5:30 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM D1 <i>UMRCC Business Meeting</i>
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. BALLROOM C/D <i>Joint Meeting Welcome Reception</i>	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C/D <i>Joint Mixer/Poster Session</i>	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C/D <i>FMCS Banquet, Bus. Mtg., Awards</i> 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. <i>Joint Mixer Music by THE DIVA & THE DUDE</i>	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C/D <i>Joint Mixer/Auction</i>	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. GRAND BALLROOM C <i>UMRCC Banquet, Awards</i> 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. <i>Joint Mixer</i>

Plan now to Attend!



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Coordinator's Quiz

The Fall Newsletter quiz question was – In the early 1900's near St. Louis, there were several Hunting, Fishing, and _____ Clubs. Fill in the blank. Hint: this allowed the clubs to be incorporated under the education law.

Answer: Literary Karen Hagerty sent in the first correct answer



The Quiz Question for the Winter Newsletter is – **From Red Wing to Dubuque, what was the average number of winter anglers on the river in the late 1940's per winter season?**

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



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