



## USDA Forest Service

WATERSHED – FISH – WILDLIFE – AIR – RARE PLANTS ::: WFW

## MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

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**Federal job announcements can be found at:**  
[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp)

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**Submit your information; Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination Statement**

## National in Scope:

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- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

### **eAuthentication - Now, Not Later**

It is important for every FS employee to go through the eAuthentication process. eAuthentication is the USDA "firewall" to numerous federal online services - that is, you have to go through eAuthentication before accessing other programs (e.g., AgLearn and FedTraveler). Come this fall, PAYCHECK will require eAuthentication. We recommend dealing with eAuthentication now rather than dealing with eAuthentication and lost paychecks later. <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>

Contact the ITS Service Desk at eAuthHelpDesk@usda.gov or 800-457-3642. The eAuthentication Help Desk staff are great! They have helped people sort out disconnects between their actual SS#s and what eAuthentications thinks it is. They have also helped sort out passwords -- even if you forgot your PIN! Have no fear of working with this group of people. And it is FREE! No ticket charges.

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- **AQUATIC/FISH**

### **Public beta version of FishXing 3.0 available.**

(Software and learning systems for aquatic organism passage through culverts.)

Pronounced "Fish Crossing", this application is designed to assist engineers, hydrologists and fish biologists in the evaluation and design of culverts for fish passage. It is free and available for download at the following web address:

<http://stream.fs.fed.us/fishxing/V3publicbeta/>

The software models organism capabilities against culvert hydraulics across a range of expected stream discharges. Water surface profiles can be calculated for a variety of culvert shapes using gradually varied flow equations. The program then compares the flows, velocities and leap conditions with the swimming abilities of the fish species of interest. The output includes tables and graphs summarizing the water velocities, water depths, and outlet conditions, then lists the limiting fish passage factors and flows for each culvert.

The application has been redesigned and rewritten from the ground up, incorporating the many suggestions we've received since the first public version (2.1) in 1999. The hydraulic routines from version 2 are intact, but are expanded for much greater functionality. Everything else has been redesigned and rewritten.

Your .XNG files from previous versions will load and work in the new version.

An extensive interactive user manual details all calculations and assumptions used by FishXing and provides detailed background on fish locomotion, passage

considerations, and hydraulic theory. The manual, in draft form, is compiled with the software and is also available on the web at

[http://stream.fs.fed.us/fishxing/help/FX3\\_Help.html](http://stream.fs.fed.us/fishxing/help/FX3_Help.html), and as a PDF.

(Try the Manning's Equation Demo in the Hydraulic Reference area. (Flash required))

- **WILDLIFE**

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### **Norton Names 12 To New Sporting Conservation Council; Will Advise Interior On Hunting, Wildlife Resource Issues**

Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton today announced the creation of a new Sporting Conservation Council that will advise the Department of the Interior on resource conservation issues of interest to the hunting community. Norton also named the initial members who will represent various parts of the community.

The council will provide important input in the areas of habitat restoration and protection; the impact of energy development on wildlife resources; forest and rangeland health; hunting access to federal lands; and other issues in which the sporting and conservation community can provide a valuable perspective to resource managers and senior leaders throughout the department.

Norton made the announcement at the annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Columbus. "Dating back to Teddy Roosevelt, hunters have been the pillar of conservation in America, doing more than anyone to conserve wildlife and its habitat," Norton said. "This new advisory council will provide a formal mechanism for the department to benefit from the expertise of sportsmen and – women as well as become aware of their concerns as we develop federal policies."

Norton noted that sportsmen and –women have contributed billions of dollars in license fees, excise taxes and conservation stamp revenues to finance federal and state wildlife conservation efforts, including the expansion of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

"Many hunters also volunteer countless hours for conservation causes and raise additional money for habitat improvements and acquisitions across the country," she said. "The creation of this council recognizes their vital contribution to our nation's conservation ethic. It is a way of institutionalizing the role of sportsmen and -women in advising the decision-making process at Interior."

To learn more, read the Department of Interior's full release at:

[http://www.doi.gov/news/06\\_News\\_Releases/060323b.htm](http://www.doi.gov/news/06_News_Releases/060323b.htm)

### **National Wildlife Week.**

To support a greater public connection to wildlife, we need your help spreading the word about National Wildlife Week 2006 (April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>).

Please share and the news in your newsletters, websites, web logs, and other links. Here is the main link: <http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/>

Our main NWW projects this year are:

- Wildlife-related volunteer work a collaboration with National Youth Service Day (by: Youth Service America) on April 22 (Earth Day) and April 23. We are calling it "Rebuild places for wildlife."  
<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/rebuild.cfm>
- A nationwide week long literacy and reading program we are calling "Read with Ranger Rick."  
<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/reading.cfm>
- A nationwide event to monitor and record spring wildlife species (April 29 and April 30) called "National Wildlife. Watch"  
<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/watch.cfm>

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### **National Wild Turkey Federation support season burns.**

More and more we are learning the benefits of growing season burns. However, as we all know, this is not without controversy and one of the most concerned groups is turkey hunters. We have prepared a press release that will help explain the benefits of growing season burning and will give the endorsement of the National Wild Turkey Federation to these efforts. This is an effort to help explain to the public, especially turkey hunters, the benefits of this type of prescribed fire.

Over the years the National Wild Turkey Federation has supported growing season burns. Hopefully this effort will get us in front of the issue this spring and reduce the amount of concern we all receive from spring turkey hunters.

[http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf\\_newsroom/press\\_releases.php?id=11800](http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=11800)

Mark A. Hatfield, Wildlife Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation

### **2006 National Wetlands Winners Announced.**

Six wetlands educators, scientists, and conservationists were selected as recipients of the 2006 National Wetlands Awards for exemplary contributions in conserving or restoring the Nation's wetlands. They will be honored at a Capitol Hill presentation in the Cannon Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building on May 10, 2006 in Washington, DC. This year's awardees are:

Royal Gardner (Florida) – Education and Outreach

Curtis Richardson (North Carolina) – Science Research

Alan Ammann (New Hampshire) – Conservation and Restoration

The Higel Family (Colorado) – Landowner Stewardship

Francisco Abarca (Arizona) – State, Tribal, and Local Program Development

Chester McConnell (Alabama) – Wetland Community Leader

The National Wetlands Awards Program celebrates individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, innovation or excellence in wetlands conservation. Their work covers programs or projects on the regional, state, and local levels, and their efforts to educate the public and surrounding communities about the value of wetlands, the programs that are available to protect and restore wetlands, and the value of cooperation among grassroots organizations, educational organizations, private landowners, and government agencies lead to the successful protection of wetland resources. National Wetlands Awardees show how individuals can and do make a difference.

The National Wetlands Awards Program is co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the Federal Highway Administration.

For more information about the National Wetlands Awards, please contact **Roxanne Thomas, Wetlands Program, (202) 939-3827.**

## Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

- **WATERSHED**

**Upcoming Water Quality Trading Conference.**

On May 23-25, 2006, the EPA and USDA are co-hosting the 2nd National Water Quality Trading Conference in Pittsburgh. The conference theme is *Water Quality Trading - Implementation at the Watershed Scale*. Approximately 300 attendees from diverse backgrounds (local and state government, consultants, academia, industry) are expected to attend. The conference will highlight the economic and environmental benefits of trading, explore the opportunities and challenges associated with developing and implementing programs, and encourage discussion on the future of trading. In addition, EPA is offering a free pre-conference workshop, *Learn the Basics of Water Quality Trading*. This workshop is limited to the first 100 registrants. For additional information and to register for the workshop and the conference, visit <http://www.farmfoundation.org/projects/06-30WQTHomepageTWO.htm>.

- **WILDLIFE**

**Save the date: Bird Education!**

You're invited to a national gathering for BIRD EDUCATION hosted by the Council for Environmental Education and Flying WILD  
February 6 – 10, 2007

- Strategic Planning for Bird Education
- National, State, and Local Bird Education Efforts
- Bird Education Resources and Training
- Reaching Teachers with Science-based Bird Education efforts
- Avian Influenza Education and Information
- International Bird Education
- Celebrating Birds – The Power of Festivals

Join us at The Crossings Adjacent to the Balcones Canyonland Preserve 20 minutes North of Austin.

[www.thecrossingsaustin.com](http://www.thecrossingsaustin.com)

For more information about the 2007 Conference, contact Marc LeFebre: 713-520-1936 or email: [marclcee@aol.com](mailto:marclcee@aol.com)

To learn more about Flying WILD, please visit the website: [www.flyingwild.org](http://www.flyingwild.org)

## Technical Information & Publications:

## Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

**Natural Resource Policy, Values & Economics Workshop.**

Working on 'ecosystem services' in your various documents or law suits?  
This is the workshop for you! Learn a lot of other valuable information too.

**May 1-5 in Portland Oregon.**

[www.fs.fed.us/biology/education/workshops/RPVE/index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/education/workshops/RPVE/index.html)

Register in AgLearn. If you can't access AgLearn, **contact Shelly Witt (switt01@fs.fed.us; switt@cc.usu.edu; 435-881-4203)**

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

**Two river-related workshops.**

"Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification" and "Stream Assessment and Monitoring", will be offered this year by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Details are at

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/streamhab/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/streamhab/index.html).

Please note that the first course (or another that teaches the Rosgen system of stream classification) is a prerequisite for the second course.

- **WILDLIFE**

**Designing Natural Resource Monitoring Surveys Shortcourse.**

For those of you who have expressed interest in the development of monitoring programs, I'd like to pass along information on a "Short Course on Designing Natural Resource Monitoring Surveys" offered for free by USGS. This course will be conducted through conference calls and over the web, April 24 - 28, 2006. For a course description, agenda, list of instructors, as well as the content of last year's session of the course, point your browser to:

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/brd/SamplingCourse.htm>

To register for the course or for more information, **please contact Paul Geissler at Paul\_Geissler@usgs.gov or 301-497-5780.**

## Regional Round-Ups:

- **REGION 4**

### 15th Annual Ice Fishing Derby, Salmon, ID January 28, 2006.



The 4 Big Fish Winners  
left - right: Melissa  
Leifeste, JJ Bennett,  
Chance Fortenberry, and  
Pearce Day

The 15th Annual Kids' Ice  
Fishing Derby, held

Saturday, January 28th at Hyde Creek Pond, was a great success. The weather was good for ice fishing, a blistering 16 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind-chill factor making it feel like 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Braving the cold weather were 96 kids, 56 boys and 40 girls. Rest of story ([http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/news/2006/ice\\_fish\\_derby.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/news/2006/ice_fish_derby.shtml))

- **REGION 9**

### Mark Twain Forest Supervisor Named 2005 Conservation Partner of 2005.

ROLLA, Mo. – Mark Twain National Forest Supervisor Ronnie Raum was recognized for his extraordinary efforts and significant contribution to save Missouri's natural heritage and elected 2005 Conservation Partner of the Year by The Nature Conservancy in Missouri.

Conservation Partner of the Year is an honor given annually to individuals outside The Nature Conservancy who have demonstrated a genuine commitment to working in partnership with the Conservancy to protect and restore Missouri's natural heritage.

"Ronnie has taken a visionary approach to forestry planning that is truly ecosystem-based," said Doug Ladd, director of conservation for the Conservancy in Missouri. "His unique background in civil engineering rather than forestry brings a data-based approach to his management plans – he has made incredible strides in building fire management into the Forest's management plans."

"This award is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of Mark Twain National Forest employees and encourages everyone to continue working to restore Missouri's ecosystems with our many partners," Raum said.

For the complete story, access the following website: <http://ssrs.r9.fs.fed.us/>  
Mark Twain NF website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/>

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## Ottawa Eco Team Active in Community Education.



The Ottawa National Forest's Ecology (Eco) Team has been very active in community education in the past, and this year will be no exception.

On January 12, Forest Botanist Sue Trull brought thoughts of spring to the 46th Parallel Planters, a local group of master gardeners and flower enthusiasts. Trull gave an excellent power-point presentation on wildflowers of the Western Upper Peninsula and particularly the Ottawa National Forest.

The hour-long presentation included slides of flowers and viewing locations. Many of those attending the presentation had never seen some of the flowers and are now planning on trips to the Forest once the snow is gone and the flowers are up.

On February 9, the 46th Parallel Planters were fortunate to have another Ottawa Eco Team member speak at their monthly meeting. Forest Fisheries Biologist Jerry Edde, who has developed a real interest in birds and is highly knowledgeable about them, entertained about 18 attendees with a program of birds of the Ottawa.

Edde explained how birds offer a unique opportunity to monitor just what is going on in the forests regarding habitat and habitat quality. Edde showed slides, told entertaining bird stories, and also demonstrated a computer program that enables a person to go in, select a particular bird and then, by clicking on the picture of the bird enables one to hear the sound that that particular bird makes.

For the complete story, access the following website: <http://ssrs.r9.fs.fed.us/>

## **WFW Newsletter Contact Information – Disclaimer – Non Discrimination Statement:**

*WFW Newsletter* is a monthly newsletter without a clever name and is provided by the National Forest System Watershed-Fish-Wildlife-Air-Rare Plants staff (including Soils) of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Netta Grant at [agrant@fs.fed.us](mailto:agrant@fs.fed.us) or your favorite Program Leader no later than the 20th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity. Emphasis on brevity. Links to detailed URLs or documents are great – include them in your information contribution. If brevity and clarity are a struggle for you, we recommend the “[Plain & Simple! Document Writing](#)” workshop instructed by Dr. Jud Monroe.

Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the forests referenced or consult the [USAJOBS website](#).

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