



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ONE Voice

Outreach, News, and Events *November 2017*

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

Friends Annual Meeting Held at Iroquois NWR

The Friends of Iroquois NWR, Inc. full membership Annual Meeting took place on November 4, 2017. Forty-five people attended at the Refuge Headquarters. Four outgoing Board members were thanked for their service and three new Board members were appointed. The annual budget was presented and a review of Friends accomplishments along with this year's projects were also presented. For 2018, the Friends have committed over \$20,000 to collaborate with the refuge on projects for education, interpretation, habitat restoration and special events. Refuge Manager Tom Roster presented a review of the structure of the NWR system historically and currently. A *Cavity Nesters on the Refuge* program was presented. Photo Contest winners in three categories accepted their awards and election results were announced. Refreshments were served along with a movie showing the undersea life at the new Seamounts and Canyons NWR, filmed during a submersible dive. The meeting provided a satisfying end to a year's hard work! (Contact: Celeste Morien)

Presentation to Niagara University Intro to Environmental Studies Class

On November 7, Lower Great Lakes FWCO staff spoke with 20 students in Niagara University's fall Environmental Studies class. We discussed careers with the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service and specifically the Lower Great Lakes FWCO, and academic training for careers in natural resource management. A summary of each of the office's programs was presented along with opportunities for internships and volunteering. (Contact: Mike Goehle)



Bathymetry mapping at Tiff Nature Preserve

Lower Great Lakes staff conducted bathymetry mapping of Lake Kirsty, the largest lake on the Buffalo Museum of Science Tiff Nature Preserve, located in South Buffalo on November 7-8. They will use the map to help design of a living shoreline, which will be constructed in 2018. The bathymetry map also will help identify future habitat restoration plans in and around the lake. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)

Iroquois NWR Hosts New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Conference Field Trip

Friends of Iroquois, Inc. (FINWR) volunteers created and displayed tables at the NYSOA Annual Conference held on November 10-12, 2017 in Niagara Falls. Displays highlighted the Friends Organization and current projects. This year's event was hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society. In conjunction with the NYSOA Conference Iroquois NWR hosted a field trip led by Refuge Biologist Paul Hess and FINWR President Celeste Morien. The field trip consisted of an overview of INWR history, mission and importance to birds on the Atlantic Flyway. Thirty-one participants were treated to views of Cayuga Pool, Feeder Road Trail, the Forrestral Flats grassland, Ringneck Marsh and Sour Springs Road trail. Participants spotted thirty-eight species of birds, despite marshes being iced over. (Contact: Paul Hess)

Pennsylvania Mock Rapid Response Drill

On November 16th, biologists from the Lower Great Lakes Invasive Species team participated in a mock rapid response drill - a table top exercise that worked through Pennsylvania's Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan, at the Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA. Rapid response plans give agencies within a state a framework to use if they find a new invasive species. The plan identifies whom to notify, technical experts, how to evaluate the risk and steps to take for control or eradication of the species. Representatives from local, state, and federal agencies participated in the day-long workshop. Everyone became familiar with how the plan works and then made suggestions to improve it. (Contact: Heidi Himes)



AIS Team Transitions from the Lakes to the Lab

This month marked the end of the field season for the Aquatic Invasive Species Team. From June to November, we caught over 30,000 adult fish, representing 63 species, at a total of 300 sites. This year we added Cleveland, Ohio as a new study area to our Early Detection Monitoring program, which increased our survey range to stretch from Cleveland to Oswego, NY. Two native fish species were detected for the first time by our program; we caught Spotted Suckers in Cleveland Harbor, Lake Erie and Lake Sturgeon in the Genesee River, a tributary to Lake Ontario. No new non-native species have been discovered so far this year, however we are still processing

ichthyoplankton and benthic invertebrate samples. (Contact: Theodore Lewis)