



SUCCESS STORIES

REPORTING EXAMPLES OF OUR PROGRESS IN CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE



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Woodtick Trails and Wetland Tales



Improvements made to the Woodtick Trail were made possible by the 10% fund and Cass County.

People don't automatically pair biologists with engineers, or hydrologists with road building equipment; but on the Chippewa National Forest, it's a match made in...water.

In 2003 and 2004, Forest fisheries and hydrology staff teamed up with Forest engineers on at least 15 different hydrology-related projects—from shoreline stabilization to bridge and culvert replacements.

One of the larger projects involved the Woodtick Trail reroute near Walker, Minn. The "Trail" is actually a 15-mile long gravel road that paralleled a major highway on the Forest. Built along an 1890's railroad grade, the original entrance to the trail went through a wetland.

In 2002, a decision was made to relocate the road entrance to an upland area 1000 feet north of the original entrance site. The new section consists of just 3500 feet of new road, but the benefits far outreach that. Relocating the road reduced long-term maintenance

costs, improved safety for visitors and, completion of the second stage in 2004, restored water flow by reconnecting wetlands near the old road bed.

Design of the new section incorporated traffic safety concerns, erosion control, top soiling requests and native seed planting. Hydrologists and engineers agreed that the Woodtick Trail project really reflects the goals of the 10% fund, which allows 10% of the previous year's receipts to be spent on road improvements with a focus on wetland rehabilitation.

The project also contributes to wetland mitigation requirements for the Migizi Bike trail and an area County Road.

The second phase of the project began this June with the pulling of the old road from the entrance for a distance of 3500 feet resulting in the removal of fill from wetlands. Cass County selected an excellent contractor for the restoration work.

Forest Service Engineering and watershed staff staked the project on June 24, and work was completed in a little over a week. In addition to wetland restoration, natural contours in uplands were restored and Blandings turtle habitat was created in three locations.

The Woodtick Trail project is a winning situation for the Forest and Cass County in restoring wetland and aquatic resources. Cass County, which absorbed most of the project cost, will have a bank of wetland credits for future projects that involve National Forest wetlands.

Partnership with Cass County will assure that wetland loss will be replaced within the same geographic area. For the Chippewa, with nearly 400,000 acres of wetlands within the Forest Boundary, every activity has the potential to impact wetlands, and every activity has the potential to be a great model for all National Forest System lands.

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For more information contact Kay Getting at (218) 335-8673



Chief Bosworth Visits the Shawnee



Forest Supervisor Allan Nicholas (left) with Chief Bosworth and Randy Moore.

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth visited southern Illinois in August and spent his time touring the Shawnee National Forest. Chief Bosworth is responsible for the management of public lands on 155 national forests and 20 grasslands across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, along with the largest forestry research organization in the world.

This was Bosworth's first visit to southern Illinois. The Shawnee NF is one of the smaller forests in the nation, with approximately 280,000 acres of public land. The focus of the visit was for the Chief to see the benefits of designating an additional Shawnee purchase unit and the potential to create wetland habitat along the Mississippi River in the United States.

The experience altered the Chief's previous thoughts of Illinois consisting of only flat farmland. During the visit, Bosworth saw first hand the rock bluffs, rolling terrain, wildlife and unique flora of the Shawnee .

He also had lunch with Forest employees, giving him an opportunity to share his thoughts on the four threats to public lands.

Chief Bosworth was accompanied by Greg Smith, Acting Director of Lands, Washington Office; Randy Moore, R-9 Regional Forester; Paul Stockinger, R-9 Regional Director of Air, Water, Lands Soils and Minerals; Skip Starkey, R-9 Regional Director of Planning, Forest Management, Resource Information and Ecology, currently Acting Regional Forester; and Michael Prouty, State and Private Forestry.

For more information contact Becky Banker at (618) 253-7114

Forest Plays Role in Festival of the Hills

The 18th Annual Festival of the Hills was held on September 11 and 12 in Ironton, Ohio, on the campus of Ohio University Southern. On these two days, Ohio University celebrated the cultural heritage of Lawrence County, Ohio, and 200 years of Ohio University history.

The Ironton District was well represented at the Festival.

Zac Allen, Jason Simms, Scottie Kiser, and Tamara James staffed a "house" to distribute fire prevention materials and talk to fair-goers about fire management. David Bostic, Fire Management Officer for the Ironton District of the Wayne National Forest, said, "Smokey is celebrating 60 years of fire prevention, and the Festival of the Hills was the perfect place for Smokey to get his message out."

Saturday was "Kids' Day" at the festival. The children and their parents enjoyed food, exhibits, a petting zoo, and entertainment. Each child was given a free pony ride and popcorn.

Smokey Bear made two appearances at the festival on Saturday. Young and old fair-attendees alike enjoyed Smokey's visit as many photo opportunities were provided.

Bob Rader, employee of Ohio University Southern, stated that the attendance was between 2,500 and 3,000 for the 2-day event.



Wayne employee Jason Simms escorted Smokey.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579



New Trail Built at Morgan Falls



The new trail enables visitors of all abilities to enjoy Morgan Falls.

Morgan Falls, a 70-foot high waterfall cascading down canyon walls, was once a secluded water feature with a narrow footpath that saw few visitors. Over time, the popularity of the area on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has increased drastically.

What was once a narrow path was widening to nearly five feet by the mass of people hiking the trail. A portion of the trail located in the streambed of Morgan Creek was turning into multiple trails affecting sections of the flood plain that is home to numerous sensitive plant species. The existing parking area for the trail was becoming inadequate, especially during the peak of fall season, where people had to park along the town road. One portable toilet in the area was also not capable of handling the number of visitors to the trail.

The Great Divide District conducted an environmental analysis to determine what could be done to improve the situation. It was determined that the terrain between the parking area and Morgan falls was fairly moderate suggesting it would be appropriate to make the trail to the Falls accessible to people with disabilities. The parking lot is a fee demo site and receipts from visitors were available to provide funds needed to make repairs and

enhancements to the site.

The forest Construction and Maintenance crew installed an accessible toilet at the parking lot and reconfigured it nearly doubling the parking capacity. The Great Divide Ranger District relocated the trail to Morgan Falls and made it accessible. The new trail location is comprised of four bridges that span streams, and an additional three that cross intermittent drainage, all of which maintain the trail grade for accessibility.

A helicopter delivered the stringers for the three bridges by using a 100-foot long line to lower them through the forest canopy. Wisconsin Conservation Corps crews hauled additional bridge materials into the sites and constructed the bridges in advance of the trail construction. A walk-behind trail loader was used to remove rock from the trail tread and do side hill bench cuts for the new trail. Two inches of crushed granite were placed on the trail.

The change has been dramatic. Now, the trail to Morgan Falls is an easy 1.2-mile round trip walk on a dry, firm accessible trail. Visitors no longer have to blaze their own trail to see the Falls.

For more information contact Holly Kulinski at (715) 362-1354

Carpenter Named FMO of the Year



Lyn Carpenter with Forest Supervisor Ronnie Raum.

Mark Twain National Forest Fire Management Officer Lyn Carpenter was recently named Fire Management Officer of the Year for 2004.

Regional Forester Randy Moore, formerly of Rolla, said “with 156 national forests in the National Forest System, being chosen by his peers for this award is indeed an honor.”

Carpenter was nominated by his peers and co-workers for his demonstrated leadership in enhancing program professionalism; leading the development of the Missouri-Iowa inter-agency coordination center; leadership in developing a regional helicopter program: developing and strengthening external relationships and agreements; developing an inter-agency training academy; and coordinating the Forest’s fuels management program.

Carpenter has worked for Mark Twain National Forest for 26 years. He has been the fire management officer for the last 8 years.

For more information contact Charlotte Wiggins at (573) 341-7405



Kids Aid in Native Garden Planting

Bahwething Elementary Schoolchildren helped Deb Le Blanc of the Hiawatha National Forest's Munising Ranger District transplant over 350 native plant seedlings into the new Clear Lake Education Center's native garden.

The garden work was done over the course of three days in mid-September.

The children were highly enthusiastic and did a wonderful job. Not only did they plant the young seedlings, but they also cared for them during their three day stay at the Clear Lake Education Center (CLEC).

All the native seedlings came from the Munising Ranger District native plant garden, which functions both as a Watchable Wildlife viewing site, and also as a major seed orchard and seedling source for forest restoration activities.

The CLEC Native Garden is an off-shoot from the Munising RD native plant gardens and is being constructed and maintained by school-children. Clear Lake Education Center serves as an outdoor "living classroom" in a camp environment, and operates in partnership between the Delta-Schoolcraft ISD, the Marquette-Alger ISD and the Hiawatha National Forest.



Elementary school pupils played a vital role in transplanting 350 native plants.

For more information contact Lee Ann Loupe at (916) 253-7114

Bat Maternity Colony Discovered on the Hoosier



A pair of Third Rock consultants measure and weigh a brown bat.

After two weeks of late nights and little sleep, the bat surveys on the Hoosier National Forest paid off. We finally caught a female Indiana bat.

The bat surveys started in the middle of July and ran for approximately 30 days. The Forest performed the surveys to determine what species of bats were present and to evaluate the use of potential project areas by the Indiana bat. The surveys were performed by Third Rock Consultants, based out of Lexington, Ky., and biologists from the Forest. All of the surveys took place on the Tell City District.

"During the surveys, we captured 313 bats," explained the Hoosier's Steve Harriss. "The most exciting night was when we caught an Indiana bat and then got a gray bat 20 minutes later. Two federally endangered species in one night!"

All of the trapping was performed with mist nets in upland and riparian sites.

Most of the species that were captured were red bats, northern bats, and eastern pipistrelles. We also caught the one gray bat and six Indiana bats.

One of the Indiana bats was a female, so a transmitter was placed on her back and be tracked to her maternity roost. The signal strength and batteries usually last about two weeks. "The first night we tracked her to a live shagbark hickory," explained Clark McCreedy. "The second night, she chose a beautiful American elm snag. The snag had a lot of sloughing bark and we believe this to be her main roost. We have caught Indiana's and grays in the past, but this was the first time, for the Hoosier National Forest, we tracked an Indiana bat back to her roosting tree."

After finding the main roost tree, Forest employees performed emergence counts almost every night at the snag. "Our highest count was 89 bats emerging from the snag," said Cindy Basile, one of the Hoosier's wildlife biologists. "It was a great night and hopefully we can learn more about how late into the year the bats are still using this roost."

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579



PIT Project Excavates Miller Grove

This summer marked the sixth year of archaeological excavations at Miller Grove on the Shawnee National Forest.

In the past, these excavations have been aimed at uncovering bits and pieces of past life in this ante bellum, Black ghost town. This year, Forest Service staff and nine Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers continued to excavate in and around the foundation remnants of Bedford and Abby Gill Miller's farm.

We also began a new project researching the Miller Grove School and church. As with many rural communities, life at Miller Grove revolved around the Mt. Gilead African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The church and school were housed in the same building. The first church was built of log and later replaced by a frame structure. In 1918 the frame building was burned as a result of arson, but it was reportedly rebuilt nearby. It was named for the Biblical Mt. Gilead.

According to the Book of Genesis, Mt. Gilead is a hilly or mountainous country between slavery (for Jacob) and Canaan. That is a very accurate description of Miller Grove in the Shawnee Hills between slavery in the South and freedom in Canaan land, an Underground Railroad code word for Canada.

Education was also very important to these African American settlers. Their first priority was to set up a school within their community. Learning how to read was of primary importance. It was not only necessary to become financially successful, but it was a privilege that had been withheld by owners out of fear of slave insurrections. At Miller Grove, Julia Singleton was listed in the 1860 Census as a Black schoolteacher!

We thought it was appropriate to celebrate this 50th anniversary of the landmark decision by the Supreme Court in the Brown vs. the Board of Education case to begin archaeological explorations into the school system here at Miller Grove and uncover a little bit more of our African American heritage.



Passport in Time volunteers sift through Miller Grove's history.

For more information contact Becky Banker at (618) 253-7114

TIM Training Benefits Frontliners



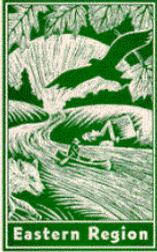
Tamara James, Karla Deak-Ward and Jessica Magota on MTNF.

The Mark Twain National Forest was the location for the recent Frontliner training in the Timber Information Management (TIM) database. Employees from several forests, including the Mark Twain, Shawnee, Hoosier, and Wayne NFs, gathered to learn about entering information into INFRA's updated version.

Frontliners have the responsibility to sell personal fire wood and plant/root digging permits for their forest. On September 14 and 15, frontliners explored the database through a training module and controlled situations for the purpose of inputting data. The training module is an invaluable tool as it allowed the participants to practice without fear of damaging the actual database. TIM has always been one of the more challenging duties of the frontliner. The database is less than user-friendly and at times, "inTIMidating."

The Wayne frontliners agreed that this training was priceless as a tool to familiarize them with the database. The training also gave the frontliners the opportunity to share information and knowledge about the practical and actual performance of the database. This was a great step toward accountability and consistency in relation to the TIM permit system.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579



Rider Rescued in Wilderness

Hoosier National Forest Law Enforcement Officer Lafayette Chamberlain rarely has a dull day, but September 9 was even more eventful than usual.

He got a radio call about 5:15 in the afternoon from the Conservation Officer's dispatch center reporting that someone had found a mule in the middle of Tower Ridge Road wearing a saddle. Unlike most Wilderness areas, the Hoosier's Charles C. Deam Wilderness has a gravel county road through the center, and today, there was a lone mule in the road. Fortunately, the first person down the road had stopped, reported the situation, and waited with the mule until Chamberlain arrived.

"He'd tied up the mule, and told me what he knew—which wasn't much," said Chamberlain. The mule was near a place where the trail crossed the county road. Unsure which way the mule might have come from or where the rider might be, Chamberlain said he knew only that "we suspected right off that someone was injured and the mule represented a red flag. We decided I'd go down the trail one way and another guy that stopped would go the other way until we found the rider."

Fortunately, they'd barely left the road when another person stopped them and said he'd found the rider.

"Apparently the mule had run down the road about a half mile from where the rider had been thrown so we were in the wrong place altogether," said Chamberlain. The person said they'd stopped because they'd seen a dog in the road. The dog had been dashing back and forth to something right over the embankment so they stopped to look and found the woman.

Chamberlain said by the time he got to her she was trying to get up and was talking but was not totally lucid. He immediately called dispatch and had them call for an ambulance. Chamberlain said the 49 year-old woman, who had been riding alone, was in extreme pain and had blood on her head and face. She didn't know what had spooked her mule. The ambulance crew arrived and had considerable difficulty getting her on the stretcher because of the pain she was in every time they moved her and then trying to get her up the steep bank.

"She told me where she'd parked her truck and trailer and told me how to reach her family," said Chamberlain. "So I called them, but they said they couldn't come down until the next day."

Chamberlain then called Forest Engineer Brad Lidell and together they got her mule and dog loaded up, and took them to the Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. John and Kitty Clarahan had also heard about the accident and came to help. John is the IT Specialist on the Hoosier and raises horses along with Kitty. The mule also had several lacerations and cuts on its leg and around its mouth, so they cleaned up the animal and put the mule in the pasture with the Hoosier's mules, and the dog was left in the horse trailer with food and water.

"I checked on the dog on my way to work this morning," said Chamberlain. "I stopped and got him some dog food and refilled his water. He seems to be doing fine. Hopefully her family will come get him today."

Chamberlain said he checked at the hospital and learned that the woman had suffered three fractured vertebrae, a broken pelvic bone, had internal bleeding and a concussion, in addition to the lacerations to her head and face he'd observed. The doctor said she would likely be hospitalized several days and was lucky to have been found so quickly.



This Labrador retriever directed the search party to the injured woman's location in the Wilderness.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579





Goods From the Minnesota Woods



Chippewa employee Dave Roerick works the Forest booth at the event.

A glance down any of the aisles at the 2nd Annual Goods from the Woods Marketplace was all it took to understand the scope of this event. More than 100 artists from across northern Minnesota shared their talents and knowledge on everything from birchbark gathering and pine needle baskets to hand-carved sculptures and maple syrup.

The real success story, however, lies behind the scenes.

Partners involved in Goods from the Woods are a diverse group with common goals. The Chippewa National Forest is just one of more than 20 partners, including BetterFORESTS magazine, the Blandin Foundation, Itasca County Woodlands committee, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Northeast Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and the Reif Arts Council.

Organizers created the Goods from the Woods program to celebrate Minnesota's northern forests and promote a vibrant forest-based economy. In 2004, the program expanded significantly and provided educational workshops on natural resource management; hands-on presentations on crafting Goods from the Woods products such as black ash baskets and birch bark items, and opportunities for agencies and industry to connect with the community to talk specifically about gathering, sustainability and forest products.

For the Chippewa National Forest, Goods from the Woods offers an amazing "in" with the surrounding communities. Informational booths at the Marketplace focused on gathering on National Forest system lands, the permit system and access to the Forest.

It was an opportunity to get information out on new Forest Service ATV rules. Naturalists at the Forest visitor centers attended many of the Goods from the Woods workshops and then passed information and their new skills on to our Forest Visitors. A great connection!

The Goods From the Woods Marketplace was the culmination of a very successful year for all the partners.

For more information contact Kay Getting at (218) 335-8673

Volunteers Assist on Garlic Mustard Pull

For the second year in a row, volunteers from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) offered a week of their summer to help the Hiawatha National Forest in non-native invasive species (NNIS) management.

The TNC volunteers returned this year to donate over 168 hours of time. During their efforts, the group manually removed garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, and white sweet clover from selected areas where past NNIS management has occurred.

The Forest appreciates the efforts of these (and other volunteers) who have become an integral part of the Forest's non-native plant program and their contribution toward treatment of NNIS and work accomplishment(s).

This work was accomplished between June and August 2004 at a number of highly used recreational sites on the Forest.



Volunteers lent a hand uprooting garlic mustard on the Hiawatha.

For more information contact Lee Ann Loupe at (916) 253-7114



Helping the Visually Impaired “See” on the White Mountain

White Mountain National Forest Conservation Education Specialist Clare Long recently spent a day with 28 visually impaired youths and camp staff, including high school aged visually impaired counselors-in-training, on a hike up a local mountain.

Inter-Actions is a non-profit organization that provides summer camping and recreational programming for children who are visually impaired at the Deer Hill Camp in Center Harbor, NH. Deer Hill Camp offers youths ages 9-14 the opportunity to experience new people, learn new skills, and develop self-confidence and independence through outdoor activities such as hiking, boating, swimming, music, arts and crafts and daily living skills.

Long brought mammal skins and skulls to share with the group along the way to show the different types of animals that can be found in the forest, their adaptations to the environment, and how we are all connected.

The subtle nuances of black bear fur compared to red fox, the flat top to the beaver skull compared to a bobcat, and overall size and shapes of the animals to each other were deftly discovered by the hiker's hands. Trees leaves and shapes, their adaptations, and how they affect the animals in the forest were also highlighted.

The hikers quickly picked up the differences in drip tip shapes and needle bundle sizes. All the senses were brought into play as the smell and feel of the different parts of a forest were noticed, especially as the hikers went from deep woods to open area. While hiking down the trail one member of the group quickly noticed a smoky smell and it took the "sighted" individuals several minutes to pick up on the yard waste burn happening off in the distance.

In a thank-you letter, Debbie Gross, Deer Hill Camp and Inter-Actions Director, wrote, "The nature hike on Red Hill was one of the highlights for the campers. Everyone enjoyed the information, and especially the pelts and skulls you brought for them to check out. Your time and expertise is greatly appreciated."

Long quipped, "I enjoyed the chance to help these visually impaired hikers "see" the forest in a different way today, and they also taught me a thing or two about seeing with my other senses when I'm in the forest."

Plans are underway to provide this type of activity again next year.



*Clare Long helps these young campers
"see" the Forest in a whole new way.*

For more information contact Colleen Mainville at (603) 528-8796

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