

SUBJECT: Presentation of American Fisheries Society Award for Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center

FOR: OCTOBER, 2009 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Michael Staggs and Don Gablehouse, American Fisheries Society

SUMMARY:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources program has been selected to receive the 2008 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award from the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The award is in the Aquatic Education category and is for the new Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center. Don Gablehouse, who is the Fish Chief for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and President of the AFS Fisheries Administration Section will attend the October, 2009 Natural Resources Board meeting and present the award to the Board, the Secretary, and key Fisheries Management staff responsible for the project.

The American Fisheries Society was founded in 1870 and is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists. Their annual Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project awards are intended to highlight the importance and effectiveness of the Sport Fish Restoration program, and to recognize excellence in fisheries management, research, and education. Wisconsin annually receives almost \$14 million in Sport Fish Restoration funding.

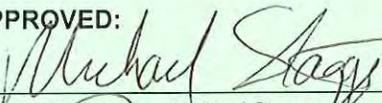
As part of the ongoing renovation of the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery, the \$1.5 million, 2,500 square foot Education Center was completed in 2008 and already incorporates four historic buildings from the old hatchery, live aquariums, video and extensive exhibits to share the story of Wild Rose and fisheries management. Still to come are an interactive area for children, an exhibit on Lake Michigan, and user-controlled videos that will guide visitors through the hatchery and fish production processes. More information about the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/wildrose>.

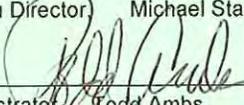
RECOMMENDATION: Accept the 2008 AFS Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project award for the Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:


 Bureau Director, Michael Staggs


 Administrator, Todd Ambs


 Secretary, Matt Frank

9/29/2009
 Date

9/29/2009
 Date

10-6-09
 Date

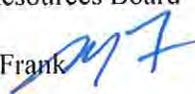
- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8 | John Nelson - Oshkosh Asylum Bay | Theresa Stabo - FH/4 |
| Todd Ambs - AD/8 | Steve Fajfer - Wild Rose SFR | Don Gablehouse - NE Game and Parks |
| Ron Kazmierczak - NER | Mike Staggs - FH/4 | Box 30370, Lincoln, NE, 68503-0370 |
| Charlie Verhoeven - NER | Dennis Schenborn - FH/4 | |
| George Boronow - NER | Al Kaas - FH/4 | |

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2009

FILE REF: 3600

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew Frank 

SUBJECT: American Fisheries Society Award for Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center

I am pleased to report that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Management program has been selected to receive the 2008 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award from the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The award is in the *Aquatic Education* category and is for the new Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center. Don Gablehouse, who is the Fish Chief for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and President of the AFS Fisheries Administration Section will attend the October, 2009 Natural Resources Board meeting and present the award to the Board, the Secretary, and key Fisheries Management staff responsible for the project.

The American Fisheries Society was founded in 1870 and is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists. The mission of the society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and development of fisheries professionals. AFS promotes research and science-based management of resources for optimum use and enjoyment by the public, sponsors comprehensive education for fisheries scientists and continuing on-the-job training, and produces a variety of books, journals and other special publications covering the full range of fisheries science. More than 100 chapters, divisions, sections and student subunits carry out the mission of the Society from local through international levels.

The annual Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project awards given by the AFS Fisheries Administration Section are intended to both highlight the importance and effectiveness of the Sport Fish Restoration program, and recognize excellence in fisheries management, research, and education. The Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFR), also known as the Dingell-Johnson or Wallop-Breaux program after its primary Congressional sponsors, is an excise tax collected on fishing tackle, boats, and motorboat fuel. Revenues are returned to the states to enhance fisheries and boating activities. The program was first created in 1950 and has provided nearly \$3 billion toward better fishing and boating. Wisconsin annually receives almost \$14 million in SFR funding.

The AFS Fisheries Administration Section recognizes the critical importance of this program for state fisheries agencies, but also knows that the program is subject to periodic reauthorization by Congress and ongoing scrutiny from the users who pay the excise tax. This annual awards program helps identify and showcase outstanding fisheries projects from across the country and hopefully generates continued support for the Sport Fish Restoration Program. For the 2008 awards, Wisconsin is recognized in the *Aquatic Education* category for Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center.

As part of the first phase of a three phase plan to renovate the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery, the \$1.5 million Education Center was completed in 2008 and incorporates four historic buildings from the old hatchery, live aquariums, video and extensive exhibits to share the story of Wild Rose and fisheries management.

Wild Rose has a rich history dating back to the early 1900's. Local citizens and visitors alike used to stroll the hatchery grounds and even stop and have a picnic. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has made sure that Wild Rose continues to be a local attraction for residents and visitors in the area and that it provides an educational experience for all visitors to the hatchery – from the general public, to university students and school groups. Visitors to Wild Rose can still enjoy a picnic lunch on the historic hatchery grounds, but now they can also immerse themselves in the 2,500-square-foot Education Center which is filled with interactive displays for all ages that tell the story of the hatchery and fish production, from past to present.

Currently center favorites include the two large, free-standing aquariums that house fish species raised right at Wild Rose, the fish identification wall, the historic buildings and raceways from the old hatchery, the meeting room available for staff or public use, and the many informational exhibits. And there's more to come! In the making are an interactive area for children, an exhibit on Lake Michigan, and user-controlled videos that will guide visitors through the hatchery and fish production processes.

The Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery is a reliable workhorse that's been delivering fishing fun and enhancing and restoring fish populations in Wisconsin for more than a century. Wild Rose grows more trout and salmon than any other state hatchery and upon completion of the second phase of renovation – new cool water fish production facilities – Wild Rose will once again be producing musky, sturgeon, northern pike and walleye to test anglers statewide.

More information about the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery can be found at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/wildrose>.