
THE COMMUNICATOR

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE FISH & WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT

Volume 11, Issue 1

April 2015

New and Changing Faces

We welcome **Maria Baglieri** to the NE Coop Unit.

Maria grew up in Queens, New York. She has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from University at Buffalo and a master's degree in environmental science from Pace University, where her research focused on Red Fox diet and interactions with Piping Plover. Maria developed a deep appreciation for wildlife and conservation while working with the National Audubon Society, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Park Service. She has also spent time working in environmental education. She was a past hunter survey technician for the Nebraska Coop Unit and looks forward to continuing her work here. Her primary focus will be assisting the Hunter Survey specialist on the Hunter Survey Project and assisting on several other projects within the Unit. Maria enjoys hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife rehabilitation in her spare time. ❖



Research Highlight

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Developments in Nebraska

A new law protecting Nebraska from aquatic invasive species was passed in March. The law creates a formal aquatic invasive species prevention program at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The program will be funded through a new motorboat registration aquatic invasive species prevention fee. Residents will pay \$5 for the new program in addition to the cost for their motorboat registration fee (which is for three years). Non-residents will be required to purchase a \$10 aquatic invasive species stamp for their motorboats each year.

Nebraska is one of the few states in the Midwest with a motorboat registration fee of this type dedicated to funding an aquatic invasive species prevention program. Passage of this law is timely due to the increasing number of surrounding states with aquatic invasive species including zebra and quagga mussels, and Eurasian watermilfoil. The motorboat registration fee will go into effect in early 2016 and will fund a full time program coordinator, boat inspections and technical guidance for the public and stakeholders.



Zebra mussels found on a boat at Harlan Reservoir during a boat inspection in 2014.

The Nebraska Invasive Species Program (NISP), which is a grant funded program within the Nebraska Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit, has been conducting boater surveys since 2010 to gauge public knowledge of aquatic invasive species and analyze aquatic invasive species pathways. Surveys collected in 2014 indicated that 90% of surveyed boaters supported a fee to fund an aquatic invasive species program. These results were presented to the Legislature to support the passage of this law. NISP will employ technicians this summer to conduct boater

Research Highlight continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 New and Changing Faces
Research Highlight
- 2 Research Highlight, continued
Training
Outreach Activities
Honors and Awards
- 3 Honors and Awards, continued
Announcements
- 4 Announcements, continued
Conferences/Meetings/Workshops

surveys and offer voluntary boat inspections at high risk waterbodies. NISP will continue to coordinate the Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council and conduct invasive species outreach and research after the new prevention program goes into effect in early 2016.

For more information on invasive species in Nebraska, visit: NEINVASIVES.COM.

GOALS: Secure a funding source to institute a formal aquatic invasive species prevention program in Nebraska to protect our limited water resources.

CURRENT STATUS: The new boater registration fee will go into effect in early 2016. NISP will employ technicians during the summer of 2015 to conduct boater surveys and provide voluntary boat inspections.

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Allison Zach

FUNDING: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The new prevention program will be run by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and funded by boater registration fees. ❖

Training

A Creel Survey Workshop was held March 25-27 in Lincoln, NE for the 2015 creel clerks. Beginning in April, the creel clerks will spend seven to eight months interviewing anglers at Nebraska reservoirs (Branched Oak, Calamus, Harlan, McConaughy, Merritt, Ogallala, Pawnee, Prairie Queen, and Sherman) to help understand how participation patterns of anglers influence fish populations.

At the workshop, trainees completed required safety courses, and became familiar with university processes for collecting and transferring data.

The 2015 state-wide creel clerks are: Rhonda Lawing, Brian McCue, Gerald Ryschon, Luke Schalekamp, Dennis Thompson, and Jon Yates. Graduate students Nick Cole, Alexis Fedele, and Brian Harmon are also assisting to interview anglers at area reservoirs. ❖

Outreach Activities

Kent Fricke and Dan Uden continue to participate in the UNL chapter of Upward Bound Environmentors program. They are serving as mentors for a high school student and assisting the student with conducting a science project.

Caroline Jeziarski had a booth at the Nebraska chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Ogallala, NE, February 26 to educate the public about Wind and Wildlife in Nebraska. Caroline also was an event organizer and executor of the Spring Migration Event in Wood River, NE on March 4. The event educated wind energy stakeholders as to why some areas in Nebraska are more important to wildlife and less suited to wind energy development.

Allison Zach and her technicians had several booths and presentations in and around the Lincoln area to educate the public about invasive species in Nebraska including: Nebraska Power Farmer indoor show in January; Cornhusker Fly Fishers, January 21; Nebraska Weed Control Association spring training in February; Zoestis-Lincoln Public Schools Science Fair on March 5; 5 Rivers Weed Management Area on March 11; Nature Nights-Lower Platte South NRD; and M.O.R.E. Nature Lights-Papio Missouri River NRD. ❖

Honors and Awards

In February, **Kent Fricke** was elected as treasurer of the Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society.



Caitlyn Gillespie received a presentation award for her poster presentation “Shorebird migration in Nebraska: Stopover habitat decisions in a vanishing landscape” at the Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Ogallala, NE.



Honors and Awards, continued on Page 3

Editor, Caryl A. Cashmere

Welcome to the Nebraska Coop Unit newsletter! The newsletter will be distributed two or three times a year.

Questions or newsletter ideas can be directed to ccashmere2@unl.edu, or 422 Hardin Hall, 3310 Holdrege, Lincoln NE 68583-0984.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE FISH & WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT
 University of Nebraska–Lincoln
 422 Hardin Hall, 3310 Holdrege Street
 Lincoln NE 68583-0984
 402-472-0449, FAX 402-472-2722
<http://snr.unl.edu/necoopunit/>

Craig R. Allen Leader 402-472-0229 allencr@unl.edu	Kevin L. Pope Assistant Leader 402-472-7028 kpope2@unl.edu	Joseph Fontaine Assistant Leader 402-472-0339 jfontaine2@unl.edu
Valerie Egger Admin.Asst. 402-472-0449 vegger1@unl.edu	Caryl Cashmere Staff Assistant 402-472-0559 ccashmere2@unl.edu	Maria Baglieri Research Tech mbaglieri2@unl.edu
Allison Zach Program Coord. Invasive Species 402-472-3133 invasives@unl.edu	Caroline Jezierski Project Coord. Wind and Wildlife 402-472-8188 cjezierski2@unl.edu	Chris Chizinski Project Coord. Creel Project 402-472-8136 cchizinski2@unl.edu

Honors and Awards continued from Page 2



Amanda Lipinski received second place in the Doctorate category in the UNL School of Natural Resources Elevator Speech contest held on March 30. Undergraduates and graduate students gave a three to four minute speech about their research project.

Danielle Haak received the Peccei Award for her paper “Coupling ecological and social network models to assess ‘transmission’ and ‘contagion’ of an aquatic invasive species.” The paper was a product of Danielle’s three month participation in IASA’s Advanced Systems Analysis Program. IASA is the International Institute for Applied Systems



Analysis located in Laxenburg, Austria. The award gives Danielle the opportunity to return for six months of research. Danielle will graduate in May with a Ph.D. in fisheries.



Nathan Stewart received the best paper award for his presentation titled “Effectiveness of low-dose-rotenone application for controlling white perch and gizzard shad” at the Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, February 17-18 in Nebraska City, NE.



Lyndsie Wszola received fourth place in the Master’s category in the UNL School of Natural Resources Elevator Speech contest held on March 30. Undergraduates and graduate students gave a three to four minute speech about their research project. ❖

Announcements

Congratulations to current Nebraska Coop graduate student, **Nathan Stewart** who was hired as a natural resource specialist in fisheries with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Nathan will be monitoring and managing cold, cool, and warmwater fish populations within 450 lakes and 1000 miles of streams in northeastern Minnesota. Nathan will graduate in May with a master’s in fisheries.



Congratulations also goes to Nebraska Coop alumni, **Kelly Turek**, who was hired as an aquatic biologist with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in the Water Resources Division.



Kelly will be responsible for designing and conducting water quality monitoring studies to assess the impacts of pollutants and habitat changes on aquatic life, wildlife, and public health,

Announcements, continued on Page 4

as well as for providing aquatic biological technical support for water resource protection, restoration programs, and site remediation programs. ❖

Conferences/Meetings/Workshops

“The state of pheasants and pheasant hunters in Nebraska” was the title of TJ Fontaine’s presentation in January at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Public meeting in Lincoln, NE.

Caroline Jezierski was a guest presenter at two wind meetings: January 27 at the Hallam wind farm informational meeting in Cortland, NE, and February 15 at the Saline County wind association annual meeting in Saline Center, NE.

February 4, Lindsey Messinger attended the Nebraska Game and Parks State Habitat Meeting in Kearney, NE. Lindsey’s presentation was titled “A brief history of pheasant ecology in Nebraska.”

“Shorebird migration in Nebraska: Stopover habitat decisions in a vanishing landscape” was the title of the presentation Caitlyn Gillespie gave at the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar in February in Hastings, NE.

February 8-11, Chris Chizinski, Nick Cole, Alexis Fedele, Caroline Jezierski, and Nathan Stewart attended the 75th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, IN. Caroline had a poster titled “Developing mitigation guidelines for wind energy in Nebraska.” “Diel distribution of superabundant fish in Great Plains flood-control reservoir” was the title of Nathan’s presentation.

Dana Varner attended the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Science Support meeting in Memphis, TN, February 10-12.

“Effectiveness of low-dose-rotenone application for controlling white perch and gizzard shad” was the title of Nathan Stewart’s presentation at the Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, February 17-18 in Nebraska City, NE.

February 26-27, Lucía Corral, Kent Fricke, Caitlyn Gillespie, Lindsey Messinger, and Vicky Simonsen attended the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting in Ogallala, NE. Lucía’s presentation was titled, “Canid community distribution in western Nebraska.” “Unwanted plant management in Nebraska” was the title of Kent’s presentation. “Shorebird migration in Nebraska: Stopover habitat decisions in a vanishing landscape” was the title of Caitlyn’s presentation. Lindsey’s presentation was titled, “Should we care about fear in wildlife populations?” Vicky’s presentation was titled “Examining the influence of landscape context on nest survival.”

“Developing mitigation guidelines for wind energy in Nebraska” was the title of the poster presentation Caroline Jezierski gave at the American Wind Energy Association Project Siting Seminar, March 11 in Austin, TX.

April 7-10, Dana Varner attended the Partners in Flight Science Committee/Tri-Initiative Science Team meeting in Lake Jackson, TX.

April 14-15, Sarah Spier attended the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Research Fair in Lincoln, NE. Sarah’s presentation was titled “The effects of urbanization on fear.”❖

Our Mission

*Train graduate students for professional careers in natural resources
research and management*

*Conduct research that will create new information useful for
management of natural resources*

Provide technical assistance to cooperators

OUR COOPERATORS

