Increase Environmental Performance While Benefiting Communities & Wildlife Habitat—*page 4*

Wildlife Habitat

A PUBLICATION OF THE WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL SPRING 2003 VOL. 15 NO. 2

photo courtesy of BASF Corporation

A northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) perches in a tree to survey its surroundings in search of rodents and other small prey at BASF Corporation's Fighting Island in Ontario, Canada. Read more on page 3!

WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL™

Wings of Wonder* Takes Flight to PPG's San Juan Del Rio Plant in Mexico—*page 6

Wildlife Habitat is a quarterly publication of the Wildlife Habitat Council.

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The Wildlife Habitat Council works to increase the amount of quality wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands.

President's Welcome

Bill Howard, President

photo © Lynda Richardson

How about this for a mouthful: The NAPPC/Rasmussen/Wildlife Habitat Council Pollinator Protection Award. Really, the importance of the idea behind it is even larger than the title. In WHC's winter newsletter Marcia Maslonek, WHC's Director of our Tri-State Regional Office, based in Pittsburgh, wrote about new opportunities for WHC member habitat sites to earn additional recognition for introducing pollinator-friendly practices at their locations. To refresh your memory on the nature of shrinking pollinator populations and the importance of that to us humans, you may want to take another look at that article.

This new award further introduces some new allies for WHC and our members. The NAPPC is the North American Pollinator Campaign, an organization with which we share many goals and partners. Rasmussen is the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation in Boston, which played a key role in the start up of the NAPPC and also shares many of our environmental ideas. We will present the first award for the most substantive pollinator project, among our hundreds of sites at the Annual Symposium this fall, November 17-18. We've looked at early concepts for the award trophy being designed and created by renowned artist James Randolph and when we are able to show the actual trophy on our Web site, I'm sure you'll agree it is a very desirable addition to the recognition your site has received.

Another recognition of the importance of corporate and business roles in national and even international conservation work has come in the form of my appointment to the Waterbird Conservation Council. The waterbirds of particular focus for this group include such well-known species as puffins, sandhill cranes, loons, various terns, albatrosses, great blue herons and brown pelicans. Some are pelagic species that live their lives basically at sea and others are familiar in our marshes and inland wetlands as the gulls and egrets we may see on our Sunday morning bird walks. Many are poised on the brink of becoming threatened or endangered while we simply don't know what is the status of many more.

The Waterbird Conservation Council will advise and assist the fish and wildlife professionals from the U.S., Canada, and Central and South American countries in creating partnerships between government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, including corporations. WHC's member companies are uniquely positioned to be an important part of this because of the properties they own and important roles they can play with their local partners. Many examples of how this can work already exist in the U.S. and more and more are developing in Canada as well as in the countries to the south. We'll be reporting more on this as things move along. Don't forget to visit us online as we continue to provide important news as it breaks. www.wildlifehc.org

Learn more about WHC's Pollinator Practices:
www.wildlifehc.org/apply/index.cfm
Find out more about waterbirds and initatives:
www.nacwcp.org/initiative/Council.cfm

This issue of Wildlife Habitat is printed courtesy of AT&T

BASF Protects Rivers Uniting International Communities

by Chanda N. Dawson

The Detroit River is an invaluable resource that serves as the foundation of national and international economies, provides ecological values and enhances the "quality of life" for the 5 million people that live within the river's watershed. As one of North America's greatest rivers in the heart of the Great Lakes, the Detroit River contains shipping channels for cargo and recreational vessels and its shoals and islands serve as habitat for hundreds of wildlife species. An estimated 3 million coots, ducks, geese, and swans pass through this region during their annual migration. In appreciation of the region's exceptional biological diversity, BASF Corporation engages employees and communities in wildlife habitat management plans at corporate sites in this extremely important migration corridor.

In 2002, BASF, the world's leading chemical company, partnered with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) to enhance Fighting Island's wildlife habitat program. Located on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, the on-site wildlife habitat programs increase environmental awareness and sustain both native and non-native species populations. The site achieved WHC certification in fall 2002.

Habitat management efforts on Fighting Island facilitate new working relationships with federal and state agencies and provide unique educational opportunities that will benefit resident and migratory birds. The U.S. EPA's American Heritage Rivers initiative (www.epa.gov/rivers) recognizes BASF as one of the leading corporate partners in the challenge to restore and conserve the Detroit River: "BASF Corp. has implemented soft engineering practices on their property along the Detroit River shoreline. This was an excellent example of demonstrating multiple benefits of soft engineering, including habitat enhancement."[1]

To date, efforts have included the planting of over 140,000 trees and seedlings, placing thousands of bales of straw, hay and alfalfa, and scattering seven years worth of leaves from the town of LaSalle in Ontario, Canada. They also raised and fed 300 wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) that nourish themselves on the 40 acres of food plots. Every year, employees introduce approximately 5000 ring-necked pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) to the island. It's clear why this site was a nominee for one of WHC's prestigious national conservation awards: The 2002 *Rookie of the Year* award.

Above: A flock of dowitchers are seen flying over BASF's Fighting Island site.
Below right: Standing 8 inches tall, an adult male northern cardinal perches on a branch while searching for prospective food stores.
photos courtesy of BASF Corporation

As another part of BASF's sustainability practice, employees at the Fighting Island facility manage on-site habitat programs to protect and manage land in a region that has one of the highest diversities of wildlife in all of the Great Lakes. BASF's goal for Fighting Island is to provide vegetative cover that eliminates dusting concerns, prevents erosion on the surface of the dikes and beds while providing habitat for wildlife and enhancing the community. The project area is within a major waterfowl migration corridor, therefore, the completion of project objectives has an immediate positive effect on wildlife populations.

Employees are thrilled to participate in this unique opportunity to protect the Detroit River. The diverse array of wildlife offers a number of research and educational opportunities during the implemen-tation of habitat projects. "Each year we have over 2000 visitors come to the island. While they have an opportunity to see some of the wildlife, visitors are encouraged to record any wildlife they have seen as well as read what other others have seen," said Fred DeLisle, Fighting Island Superintendent. DeLisle oversees the *Wildlife at Work*℠ program on the 1,200-acre island.

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WHC & EPA: A Partnership for Conservation & Economic Growth

Receive Regulatory Benefits While Conserving Wildlife Habitat

by Chanda N. Dawson

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are exploring alternative ways to protect wildlife habitat, reduce the environmental footprint, and promote greater environmental stewardship at corporate facilities nationwide. A primary vehicle for navigating these alternative pathways is the EPA *National Environmental Performance Track Program*.

Currently, the program has over 300 members, and several of these are WHC sites (10 certified, 22 total).

photo courtesy of IBM Corporation

The IBM RTP wildflower meadow during its first year of growth.

To qualify for EPA's most comprehensive voluntary program, WHC sites must have:

- Adopted and implemented an environmental management system (EMS);
- Demonstrated specific environmental performances and commit to continued improvement;
- Committed to engaging in public outreach and performance reporting; and
- A record of sustained compliance with environmental requirements.

As part of their membership in Performance Track, program participants receive a range of incentives to motivate further improvements, including an EPA policy that calls for placing a low priority for routine inspections involving Performance Track facilities.

Recently, WHC elected to join the Performance Track Network, a voluntary partnership consisting of trade associations and other membership-based organizations striving for environmental excellence. From a wildlife habitat preservation perspective, one primary benefit of this innovative WHC-EPA partnership is the opportunity to collaborate on voluntary activities that strengthen corporate participation in the protection and restoration of on-site natural resources. Management of corporate properties for a variety of native species can provide a return on investment that many might not expect. It's simple: Managing company sites for wildlife habitat is literally an "on-the-ground" demonstration of corporate environmental principles in action.

National Environmental Performance Track Program

Performance Track is designed to recognize and encourage top environmental performers—those who go beyond compliance with regulatory requirements to attain levels of environmental performance and management that benefit people, communities, and the environment. Performance Track also recognizes innovation, motivates others to improve, and complements existing regulatory activities with a goal of achieving continuous improvement and environmental excellence – all while saving money and increasing productivity.

National Environmental Performance Track Program

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One activity gaining momentum is WHC's Wildlife at Work program at corporate sites. As responsible corporate citizens, more and more companies are developing strategic environmental plans to prevent habitat loss and educate others about conservation practices. An increase in wildlife is just one of the many benefits of the well-received habitat management program. Government agencies, such as the U.S. EPA, recognize Wildlife at Work projects as an example of environmental excellence. Certified WHC sites are in a unique position to participate in the U.S. EPA's National Environmental Performance Track and receive the benefits afforded these facilities.

Numerous opportunities, which range from economic to scientific, arise for sites that are involved in both Wildlife at Work and Performance Track. In general, proactive management is cost effective, creates community good will, enhances regulatory relationships, and improves employee

continued on next page

morale and benefits wildlife. One site that is benefiting from both programs is IBM Corporation's Research Triangle Park (IBM RTP) campus in North Carolina.

Over 300 acres are managed for wildlife habitat on the 760-acre site. Different types of habitats, including woodlands and wetland areas, are stopovers for hundreds of wildlife species, including birds, insects and mammals.

WHC certified since 2001, the IBM RTP campus has seen a number of changes as a result of wildlife habitat enhancement efforts. For example, landscaping improvements include a one-acre meadow at the employee fitness center and a nascent butterfly garden in the highly visible courtyard. The wildflower garden, a former fescue lawn, is a thriving habitat for pollinators. Last fall, employees observed many bird species, including eastern bluebirds, feeding in the meadow. Birds are not the only type of winged creatures that find food and cover on-site. Over by the courtyard, butterflies and other pollinators satisfy their nutritional needs on the nectar of native plants and flowers. Constructed entirely by employees, the butterfly garden will flourish with wildlife this spring.

> "IBM is especially pleased to partner with the Wildlife Habitat Council on this program since it gives our employees and community partners an opportunity to get involved in enhancing our natural surroundings for the benefit of wildlife."
>
> *—Karen Kavanagh, IBM RTP Wildlife@Work Program Owner*

Without a doubt, spring 2003 promises to be a thrilling experience for IBM RTP employees. In addition to habitat improvements, the wildlife team implemented a number of nesting projects in 2002. They installed 20 bluebird nest boxes, eight bat boxes and six wood duck boxes throughout the campus and in the wetlands area. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. donated the wood duck boxes and assisted the wildlife team members in their installation. Visitors and employees can grab a pair of binoculars and discover the wildlife that travels to and from the site. As a first-year participant in WHC's *Nest Monitoring Program*, IBM RTP fledged over 100 birds last year. The sightings of native species are vital indicators of their program's ability to address the needs of wildlife and maintain the natural state of their ecosystem.

The results from IBM RTP's habitat management plans contribute to the success of their *Performance Track* goals. Where *Wildlife at Work* focuses on wildlife habitat, *Performance Track* focuses on a site's ability to reduce its environmental footprint. Working to reclaim lands through habitat enhancement not only helps to meet'*Performance Track* requirements, but also restores native flora and fauna to the site.

Activities such as the planting of native wildflower seeds and the enhancement of wetland areas indirectly affect a site's ability to fulfill'*Performance Track*—requirements. Native grasses have deep root systems that reduce runoff

photo courtesy of IBM Corporation

At the IBM RTP campus, the yellow coreopsis is a food source for pollinators.

and sedimentation. Wetlands, one of the earth's most diverse ecosystems, trap sediment and nutrients to keep pollutants from spreading. Suspended soil particles will settle out of the water and bind to the stems and roots of plants. Studies have shown that as much as 80-90% of sediments in the water column may be removed as they move through wetlands! [1]

Less complicated habitat enhancement efforts such as rotational mowing provide very useful benefits. Rotational mowing reduces the use of diesel fuel while creating niches that provide resources for wildlife throughout their life stages. Closely mowed lawns are of little use to most wildlife. Additionally, mowing once a year cuts down on labor and maintenance costs. A study by the Applied Ecological Services (Brodhead, WI) of larger properties estimates that over a 20 year period, the cumulative cost of maintaining a prairie or a wetland totals $3,000 per acre versus $20,000 per acre for non-native turf grasses.[2] To improve wildlife habitat and save on landscaping costs, mowing ceased on approximate 27 acres of lawn at the IBM RTP campus.

The wildlife enhancement activities at IBM Corporation's RTP campus demonstrate how the industry, government and wildlife can effectively coexist. The most important aspects of the *Wildlife at Work* and *Performance Track* programs are their abilities to engage corporations in conservation. When your corporation considers habitat management, think about the environmental and economic rewards that your site can achieve.

<u>*Endnotes:*</u>

[1] A World in Our Backyard. Chapter III: Wetland Functions.

[2] United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Landscaping with Native Plants*. March 1999.

Butterflies as Bridges:

A Migration of Teachers Unites Two Cultures on Behalf of Monarchs

by Marcia Maslonek & Thelma Redick

After over three years of planning and work, a group of six teachers, two corporate representatives, a biologist and an educator arrived in Mexico to unite two cultures for conservation and education. Two principles were driving this team from the Three Rivers Habitat Partnership (TRHP) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The belief that students and teachers play a significant role in the conservation of pollinators, and a commitment to providing the best hands-on, minds-on education for all students.

Looking back…

The planning for the weeklong trip began three years ago when *Wings of Wonder* emerged as an international conservation program. When TRHP approached PPG Industries, Inc. about the program, the wildlife team at the PPG Monroeville Technical Center, in Pennsylvania, enthusiastically supported the vision to protect the migratory eastern monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) through a multicultural partnership.

With the hopes of contributing to pollinator conservation and education, employees, teachers and students planted *Monarch Meadows* in the summer of 2001. WHC and PPG worked closely with ASSET Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving science education to establish inquiry-based programs at the site and to train teachers to effectively use the meadow to teach standards-based science. In just another year, they would follow the monarchs' path to experience a new culture and gain an understanding of the global ecosystem through an educational trip called "Teacher Migration." TRHP asked ASSET and PPG to initiate the Mexico-America relationship that hinged on the migration of one butterfly species and invited Pittsburgh teachers from pilot school districts Gateway and Franklin Regional.

photo by Marcia Maslonek

The U.S. and Mexican team of teachers along with PPG employees visited one of the monarch reserves in El Chincua, Mexico.

The success of Monarch Meadows at Monroeville inspired employees at the PPG San Juan Del Rio Plant, in Mexico, and teachers from three local schools to begin their own pollinator garden on-site. *Wings of Wonder* is about employees and teachers in two countries and two cultures coming together to work the land, improve our children's education, and learn more about one another. "It is also a gift to the community," shared Tere Maldonado, Administrative Assistant, PPG, San Juan Del Rio Plant, when speaking about the program.

Looking ahead…

The first days of the Teacher Migration were spent at the San Juan Del Rio Plant, where the U.S. team witnessed the Mexican team's progress on their own pollinator-friendly habitat. Employees, such as Naomi Suss, Technical Manager, PPG, San Juan Del Rio, participate in site enhancement activities such as rescuing native plants while local students start seeds. Each plant that becomes a part of this garden is associated with an adult or child that participates in the habitat project. Together, adults and children, weave a new community connection by interlacing schools with the corporate facility. This connection then supports learners through the protection and study of pollinators and plants.

To introduce the U.S. teachers to the Mexican teachers, they visited three local private schools and toured the facilities. The day's activities were an important aspect to building a relationship since the U.S. team was unfamiliar with the conditions, resources and issues for teachers and students in the region. Moreover, each school was unique from the other, allowing the team to witness a small sampling of the Mexican education system.

After visiting the schools, both teams of teachers participated in a brainstorming session at the San Juan Del Rio Plant. The teachers shared their expectations and areas of interest in a student exchange. Many of the Mexican teachers instruct English and wished to correspond with English-speaking students to hone their skills. Others wanted to exchange "nature boxes" of items from each country, such as leaves, rocks, photos and journal entries, plus much more. Patricia Jacobs, Bayer Corporation, who also participated in the trip, commented, "I was pleased to watch the teachers come

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Watershed Partnerships: Collaborations for Environmental Decision-Making

by Stefanie Kroll

The Wildlife Habitat Council knows that one of the most important concepts for making decisions on environmental issues is the willingness to operate within partnerships for the planning and management of natural resources. With so many organizations and agencies working to achieve the same environmental goals, it makes sense to manage projects with the input of others.

This fall, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are offering a seminar to provide ideas and sound solutions to watershed management. *Watershed Partnerships: Collaboration for Environmental Decision Making*, the theme of the two-week long conference, September 29-October 10, 2003, will encourage environmental leaders to think collaboratively about effective decisions regarding watersheds and associated wildlife, such as the wood duck. An added bonus is the opportunity to win an EPA scholarship for the interactive conference that takes place in Shepardstown, West Virginia.

photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Seminar sessions will offer techniques to protect wildlife such as this pair of wood ducks.

Starting May 15, 2003, interested individuals can apply for the EPA scholarship that will cover the cost of travel to and from the seminar (up to $700), as well as the seminar registration fee, course materials, lodging and meals. Applicants must fulfill criteria for eligibility based on specific criteria.

Join other environmental leaders and explore common pitfalls as well as critical skills in successful watershed management. In small groups, attendees have the opportunity to go into the field and examine current community-based projects that parallel with the seminar's theme. Experts will speak about ecological principles related to watershed planning and present ideas on ways in which representatives with different environmental goals can work together to develop wildlife habitat. Session topics will focus on interactions with partners on a local level as well as national federal agencies and non-government organizations within a wide range of potential collaborators.

As part of OPM's continued mission to improve inter- and intra-office relations, the upcoming seminar serves to strengthen the professional skills of leaders and managers nationwide. Their courses focus on Leadership and decision-making, the foundations of effective business and project management. In partnership with EPA, OPM raises the level of cooperation in watershed management through educational and interactive forums. This alternative approach has been proven to augment OPM policies and will further shape the field of watershed management and the nation's ability to protect vital natural resources.

WHC supports our members—corporate, conservation, and government—in their efforts to further development of watershed conservation practices and tools. The seminar activities offer excellent opportunities for members to partner and exchange resources in the enhancement of wildlife habitat on private and public lands. Most importantly, it will strengthen skills for policymaking and offer new ideas for projects in conjunction with those who share goals for preserving water quality.

For more information, contact Stefanie Kroll, Special Programs Coordinator, at skroll@wildlifehc.org or visit www.wildlifehc.org/managementtools/watershedpartners.cfm.

The mission of the U.S. OPM's *Great Leaders for Great Government* is to develop career leaders for the federal government by:

- Creating, sharing and applying knowledge and skills to address challenges faced by public sector organizations;
- Developing the values and competencies that are the foundation of public service, transcending individual professions and missions; and
- Offering state-of-the-art learning experiences in world-class learning environments.

Conservation *at Work*

Revitalizing Communities and the Environment

by Heloisa Schmidt

The Wildlife Habitat Council has entered in a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) and Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST). Under the agreement, WHC will develop information about the latest understanding of applying ecological enhancements in site remediation. The goal is to demonstrate how federal, state and local agencies, industry and community groups can use ecological enhancements at contaminated sites. These ecological enhancements will prepare the sites for a variety of reuses, including wildlife habitat.

These cooperative agreements stemmed from the highly successful series of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) conferences over the past 3 years. WHC will now focus on expanding this program by implementing the *Objectives and Action Agenda for Implementing Ecological Enhancements*, which was developed during the 2002 conference, *Restoring Green Space: Using Ecological Enhancements at Superfund, RCRA and Brownfields Sites*. In order to fulfill this agreement WHC has developed three-year Comprehensive Plans to address the different components of the Action Agenda. In addition, regional Workshops will be planned over the next three years. A Steering Committee will be assembled during the next month to aid in developing the content and agenda for the workshops.

Explore more online with the newly developed section "Land Restoration" via www.wildlifehc.org/brownfields/index.cfm. Explore the resource directory, event section and newsletter. The newsletter will focus on the incorporation of ecological enhancements at waste and Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites. Members and other stakeholders can sign-up online to receive it via e-mail.

On May 15-16, WHC hosted a Technical Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland. WHC coordinated the meeting in partnership with Interstate Regulatory Technology Council, EPA Technology Innovation Office, Environmental Council of the States and Association of State, Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials and various WHC members. This small group of recognized experts will produce a white paper presenting the best scientific consensus of the latest innovative/alternative remediation technologies and success stories. The paper, available online after the conference, will present legitimate alternatives to traditional remediation processes, allowing the incorporation of ecological enhancements as integral components of the remediation process.

In order to encourage the reuse of abandoned properties contaminated with petroleum from underground storage tanks (USTs), EPA OUST created the USTfields Initiative in 2000. WHC will be selecting three waste sites and three USTfields over the next nine months to serve as pilot sites for this project. USTfields are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial properties where revitalization is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination from underground storage tanks.

The purpose of the pilots is to demonstrate the alternatives that will be presented in the white paper from the May technical meeting. In addition to the pilots, WHC will also be posting case studies of sites that have incorporated or are planning to incorporate ecological enhancements as part of the land restoration design.

WHC encourages all of its members to participate in this new program. If you have any questions, would like more information or would like to become involved, please contact Heloisa Schmidt at hschmidt@wildlifehc.org. We are particularly looking for key corporate contacts who would participate in the project sharing-committee and help shape the content of the Regional Workshops.

Save this date! Restoring Greenspace at the Regional Level: Using Ecological Enhancements at Region 5 Contaminated Sites on September 15-17, 2003, in Merrillville, Indiana. This conference will present findings of leading technical experts on benefits and lessons learned from specific case studies where ecological enhancements have been implemented as interim remediation measures and end uses. Take a first-hand look at projects in the area where ecological enhancements have been successfully incorporated as part of site restoration efforts. Landowners and regulators will learn tools to implement ecological enhancements by identifying contaminated sites where natural technologies can be implemented. Learn more at: www.wildlifehc.org/events/restoringgreenspace.cfm.

THE PROUD, THE ELITE, THE WHC CERTIFIED

WHC's *Corporate Wildlife Habitat Certification/ International Accreditation Program* formally validates wildlife habitat management and environmental education programs at corporate sites. Accreditation through WHC provides third-party credibility and an objective evaluation of projects. Since its inception in 1990, the program has grown to over 300 WHC certified sites around the world. The WHC Certification deadline is July 31, 2003. *Visit www.wildlifehc.org/apply/index.cfm for more information!*

Working together for real solutions to protect the Earth's environment.

photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Butterflies As Bridges

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together, to see what can happen when a corporation can help make something like this possible."

During discussions, it was discovered that both teams shared a common desire to develop assessment techniques that determine what and how students learn from the field studies. Annette Morris, Ramsey Elementary (Gateway district), shared,""There are so many differences between us—climate, language, food—but we have more in common than we have different. We love children and we love nature, and that's why we are here." Victor Quintanar, teacher from LaSalle Academy added, "It's important to give our students the basis of science methodology through studying the Monarch butterfly—but I also am excited about the idea of shaping a deeper thinking student through this program." During the visit, the corporate partners, WHC staff and teachers created a Mission Statement.

Wings of Wonder Mission Statement: When Learning Takes Flight

Our Mission is to create a Global Educational Partnership to promote the exchange of scientific knowledge, culture and literacy with a conservation focus. Bridging grade levels and geographical boundaries by studying migratory wildlife, we seek to increase our students' motivation to explore and question the natural world around them through the use of scientific techniques, inquiry, technology, and interdisciplinary study.

After this productive time at the PPG Plant, both teams of teachers visited one of the monarch reserves, El Chincua. Due to the remoteness of the colony, the teams rented horses and trekked several hours to a "secret spot" with millions of monarchs. Over 300 million monarchs migrate to a small band of transvolcanic mountains in the state of Michoacan, Mexico. During the fall migration, monarchs can be seen en masse over the PPG Plant as they work their way to these mountains. The monarchs seek out specific areas at 12,000 feet elevation where they cling in huge clusters to oyamel fir trees (*Abies religiosa*), such as the El Chincua colonies. Winter is spent conserving their valuable fat stores, only moving about when needed or disturbed for most of the season.

In February, when we arrived, the monarchs were growing more active in preparation for the spring migration. Breeding had also begun, as evidenced by the thousands of weakened males fluttering on the ground. The females would soon be moving northward to Texas to lay their eggs and then die, leaving the expansion north to Pittsburgh to future generations that spring. But for that moment, the monarchs transformed the mountains into a magical forest. Each time the sun's rays beamed through the towering firs, thousands of orange wings took to the cool air in such quantity that the sound of their beating wings filled the forest. Kathy Samson, University Park Elementary (Gateway district) explained, "It was like standing in the middle of a giant black and orange snow globe." The experience transcended cultures as a fifth grade teacher from San Juan Del Rio, Rocio Rodriguez (Colegio Real de Querenda), also shared, " It brought tears to my eyes to hear the whisper of millions of wings."

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SAVE THE DATE!

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15th Anniversary Symposium
November 17-18, 2003

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The Wildlife Habitat Council would like to thank:

Ford Motor Company Fund
PPG Foundation
U.S. EPA EE Grants Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

for their generous contributions in support of the Wings of Wonder program & "Teacher Migration."

waytogo!

The Wildlife Habitat Council and the USDA Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us/) are pleased to announce the renewal of their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which has been ongoing since 1998. The MOU outlines the important cooperative programs and efforts that the two organizations will continue to foster together. The MOU also efficiently outlines opportunities and goals based on mutual shared interests. *The following items are included:*

- Enhance and restore wildlife habitat on private and corporate lands, and National Forest System lands, where linkages of mutual benefit are clearly demonstrated.
- Advance public awareness and appreciate of wildlife species, their habitats and the issue and challenges associated with conservation, preservation and management. Provide information on invasive species and on how to control this growing issue.
- Work with private industry to encourage their participation in this effort, including coordination efforts with local communities. Engage the Forest Service in WHC initiatives in urban/suburban brownfields restoration, and opportunities in the northwest Indiana area.
- Develop opportunities for partnering Forest Service programs, activities and facilities with WHC programs. Integrate our efforts through the *Corporate Campaign for Migratory Bird Conservation* and help focus efforts on critical habitat areas.
- Work on riparian improvements, focusing on reforestation. Engage the Forest Service on workshops in the Pittsburgh area in cooperation with the Three Rivers Habitat Partnership.
- Assist the Forest Service with public outreach and environmental education opportunities targeted toward an industry audience. The Forest Service accepted two speaking spots at the 2003 Anniversary Symposium.

In attendance with WHC staff, Bill Howard, President, and Bob Johnson, Exeutive Vice President, were the following Forest Service leadership: Dale Bosworth, Chief, Sally Collins, Associate Chief and Gail Kimbell, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System. Also present were: Larry Payne, Director, Cooperative Forestry Staff, and from the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff were Jim Gladen, Director, Chris Iverson, Assistant Director, and Debbie Pressman, National Wildlife Program Leader. Visit WHC online, www.wildlifehc.org, to view photos from the signing.

WHC WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Hanson Building Materials America

International Sleep Products Association

BASF: Protecting Rivers

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Projects range from applying soft engineering to building birdhouses.

As a result of thriving habitat projects and ecosystems, everyday is adventurous at Fighting Island. The day's journey begins with a short boat ride where invited employees and guests can view the beauty of the river and the island from afar. Other than BASF personnel and customers, access to the island is limited, which further helps to protect the ecosystem's stability. While departing from the boat, individuals can hear the sound of nature. Glorious sounds, like the northern flickers' (*Colaptes auratus*) loud "wicka-wicka-wicka" and sandhill crane's (*Grus canadensis*) voluble, rattling "kar-r-r-r-o-o-o" echo throughout the site.

A variety of wildlife species, including birds, reptiles and amphibians, are benefiting from one of the site's more recent large-scale habitat projects: 1,200 feet of soft engineering. Soft engineering includes a wide range of practices that focus on the reduction of erosion and restoration of native aquatic habitats. No matter how simple or complicated the project, the wildlife team provides a biologically sound basis for establishing habitat objectives. BASF partnered with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) to design and gather materials for the shoreline project. ERCA is committed to the protection of water through proper watershed management.

BASF strayed from the traditional approach for shoreline restoration at Fighting Island. For the first time, the site used granite instead of limestone as an erosion control material along the shoreline. The granite offers better habitat for fish eggs by providing interstitial (in between) spaces that protect eggs that settle in the sediment beds. In addition to protecting the island's native shoreline, soft engineering is a scientifically sound solution to global concerns of environmental change to degradation of aquatic habitats.

Part of what makes Fighting Island a successful *Wildlife at Work* project is the ability to provide habitat for wildlife while involving the community in the process. The site hosts special community events that coincide with the island's theme: Conserve native habitat along the Detroit River. For instance, attendees of the 2002 *American Heritage River National Conference* explored the island's landscape and caught glimpses of the island's wildlife residents. The feedback from the community has been positive. "They are also very surprised that such a jewel exists so close to major cities in North America," stated DeLisle.

"As a big corporation…you don't expect BASF to be sensitive to the local issues that they are. They are certainly considered, in LaSalle, as a model corporate entity and one that cares about the community. The initiatives that they introduced by attempting to reclaim the island are remarkable. You would expect this island to be up north somewhere, not in the middle of the Detroit River."

—Ken Antaya, Chief Administrative Officer
The Town of LaSalle

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Butterflies As Bridges

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Each teacher came with their own unique perspective and expectations, as well as needs for their students. Tom Pearson, Sloan Elementary (Franklin Regional district), is a gifted naturalist who has spent 30+ years combining teaching and his knowledge of the natural world. Tom shared, "I need to have it all make sense to me; I need to be able to classify everything." But surprises were a daily

photo by Marcia Maslonek

Eastern monarch butterflies pollinate flowers.

occurrence on the migration. After his experience in the monarch reserves, as thousands of monarchs fluttered in the dim light of the forest, he added, "On a personal basis what I'll never forget is the feeling of standing within that cathedral of levitating sparks of light—it was unforgettable."

The PPG employees experienced similar emotions and benefits. Butterflies served as bridges between the teachers of Pittsburgh and San Juan Del Rio, between the students, and between the employees. Colleen explained that when the teachers started the project, they "were focused on lesson plans and weren't thinking about a 'cultural exchange'—but I think that turned out to be the biggest part of the trip." The monarchs also served as bridges between conservation and a new brand of corporate responsibility and possibility.

For more on Wings of Wonder, pollinator habitat and other useful resources, visit the Three Rivers Habitat Partnership at www.wildlifehc.org/threerivers.

"This trip proved to me that corporate America can be much more effective on the ground when they work together. There are so many more ways to work together, and we have to begin to find them all. We have to make the connections."

—Rick Jacobs, Manager of Environmental Projects
PPG Industries, Inc.

WHC would like to introduce Thelma Redick as the new Education Program Manager, who joined the WHC team after helping to coordinate this project. We welcome Thelma and her many years of experience in education and conservation, which will be an asset to both WHC and its members.

BASF: Protecting Rivers

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During former President William J. Clinton's administration, the Detroit River was designated as an American Heritage River, which entitles it to special stewardship. Recently, President George W. Bush designated the first International Wildlife Refuge. When examining the all-encompassing conservation practices of BASF Corporation, the general public can see how a corporation's environmental strategies to protect natural resources is a win-win situation for all. Employees at corporate sites, such as Fighting Island, are open to the exploration of "green" ways in which the environment, education and business go hand-in-hand. BASF's innovative environmental progress, such as the implementation of *Wildlife at Work* projects, will continue to change the face of conservation in the years to come.

"I find it very rewarding to work on Fighting Island. With each visit, I see a new color of flower, a new insect, more wildlife and unusual prints in the snow. The Fighting Island Wildlife Habitat Team is dedicated to improving the environment where they work and providing a terrific habitat for our wildlife," said DeLisle. "Working with the community has given BASF the opportunity to share the beauty of the island; and gain first-hand information from our visitors about what they think of this private island."

Endnotes:

[1] U.S. EPA, American Heritage Rivers, *Navigator News*, January 2002, Vol. 4, #8.

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