



Project F.I.S.H. Accomplishment Reports September 2006 – March 2007



Mid- September – December 06

Project F.I.S.H. staff was asked to present information about aquatic ecosystems for Annie's Big Nature Lesson at Fenner Nature Center. 78 youth and 15 parents from Holt Schools attended these 2 – 2 hour sessions. The coordinator of the ABNL will be working with Project FISH for teacher in-service training the spring/summer of 07.

Project F.I.S.H. moved from being housed in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, to the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies (C.A.R.R.S). Considerable time was spent with the physical move, becoming familiar department, meetings to discuss the future of Project F.I.S.H. in the Department of CARRS and jointly in 4H Youth Development. The transition went extremely smoothly and preliminary discussions were held for permanent funding for the program.

Project F.I.S.H. hosted a workshop for 12 pre-service teachers. These students, many seniors, were student teaching and had an opportunity to try various activities learned in the workshop and reported that they were the most fun and educational activities they had done thus far. They reported that the Project F.I.S.H. activities held the students attention and they got more from them due to the hands on nature of the activities. This workshop was structure for multiple contact with these students (help over a three week period, 3 times per week)

Staff continued to work with local schools on their continued programming spurred on by the K.A.T.C.H. Grant Program. Murphy School of Haslett applied successfully for a 10,000 grant to build a greenhouse to continue and add to their work with Kids Are True Conservation Heroes. With support and encouragement from Project F.I.S.H. and the Department of CARRS, the teachers worked with the Haslett Community to develop a curriculum to meet grades 2-5 benchmarks through outdoor related activities and linking their education to the local township parks where plants they grow will be planted.

The RISE Group on campus asked for help again (6 years) in working on the Red Cedar. This group each year introduces the students to the Red Cedar River through the macro-invertebrates that live in it. Project F.I.S.H. provides the education and equipment for this class. This introduction helps the students understand and appreciate what they have running through their campus. 46 students participated in this class.

The 4H Environmental and Outdoor Education (EOE) state planning committee met and were treated to a sample of Project FISH Activities. This was the planning meeting for statewide activities for EOE sponsored events and workshops. Staff and leaders from around the state attended and discussed everything from events, promotion and funding future programs. Project F.I.S.H. was one of the highlighted programs.

The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) held its regional conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Project F.I.S.H. presented to a group of 56 participants and 30 participants about the use of fishing in their PE programs. We presented the opportunity to apply for a \$5,000.00 grant to start fishing programs at schools through the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and AAHPERD. Since this talk 4 Michigan schools have been working with Project F.I.S.H. and starting programs even before getting/applying for the grant. Through knowledge and leadership provided by Project F.I.S.H. one group was able to procure \$4,000.00 and much community support locally to start a sportfishing club through their school and have over 250 students involved.

http://www.mlive.com/fljournal/frontpage/pdfs/O_thursday.pdf



The Gardner Middle School science department along with Project F.I.S.H. volunteer Pete Bosheff contacted Project F.I.S.H. staff about starting a Salmon in the Classroom Program as a pilot for the entire Lansing School District. With Project F.I.S.H. connections, they were able to contact Ypsilanti Public Schools Susan Bloom (Project F.I.S.H. volunteer) to procure one of their unused aquariums and chillers at no expense to start their school. Since this time, there have been a great number of partnerships created from the DNR to Culligan Water and lessons for the students provided by passionate volunteers under the leadership of Pete. Other schools in the district will be getting involved in the program next year and taking training through the DNR/Project F.I.S.H.

The National 4-H Central Curriculum System (4HCCS) contacted Project F.I.S.H. coordinator Stephens, to ask if he would serve as the coordinator of the National 4-H Sportfishing Curriculum Re-design team. After accepting this position, a series of conference calls with the revision team liaison were held to determine the design team participants who were then invited to participate and one conference call was held. It was determined that there was going to be a transition from the 4-HCCS back to the National 4-H Council so things were put on hold until after a curriculum planning summit in June of 07. This is a very positive opportunity for Project F.I.S.H. as we are now recognized as a national leader in mentor based aquatic resource programming.

Project F.I.S.H. was integral to supporting start up programs in a number of different states through the National PhysEd Boating and Fishing Initiative. We were contacted by PE Teachers, from hosting the national training in Michigan in July 06, to assist and give direction and provide low cost equipment. Some of the states include Idaho, Wisconsin, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Montana, Tennessee, Minnesota, New York, Missouri, California and Washington DC. The National PhysEd Program will be back in Michigan again the summer of 07 and 08.

January – March 2007

Project F.I.S.H. coordinator Stephens attended/presented at the National Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs coordinators meeting in Washington D.C. This conference provided an opportunity to talk face to face with other sportfishing education coordinators from across the nation as American Samoa. There was much discussion on the future of the HOFNOD program and directions as to where to take the program. It was determined that a letter would be sent to all state agencies recommending (according to research) a focus on longer term multiple contact programming as this is found to lead to more stewardship and continuation of fishing.

Stephens attended the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association annual convention in Grand Rapids, MI. Here he reconnected with many Project F.I.S.H. volunteers who work with city, county and state parks. This conference provided an opportunity to highlight and promote a National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Grant Initiative to teach Fishing and Boating in parks. This grant was announced and forwarded to many of our volunteers and potential partners through the www.projectfish.org list serve.

Project F.I.S.H. supported volunteers at a number of sportshows including The Ultimate Fishing Show, and Outdoorama in Novi, MI. These volunteers facilitated a number of activities from Fish Printing on t-shirts, creating macro-invertebrate ponds, to Fly Tying for nearly 1500 first time tiers.

Project F.I.S.H. is providing consultation in Meridian Township and Ingham County parks as they embark on creating fishing docks and stocking their small ponds for fishing. A number of conference calls and networking meetings have been called and the groups are working toward creating habitat structures under and around their docks, creating docks and fishing programs that will be successful and attract more park visitors.

A Project F.I.S.H. workshop was held on campus during the Agriculture and Natural Resources Week (ANR). This workshop was the most successful thus far during this week on campus in the 6 years we have held it. Twenty (20) participants attended that included, nature center staff, PE, Agriscience and other teachers from 5 different school districts, 4H agents and volunteers. This program was attended by the education staff of Starr Commonwealth from Albion and the COPE program from Ypsilanti, both alternative education programs for at-risk youth.