



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Neosho National Fish Hatchery Newsletter

### JAN, FEB, MAR, 2013

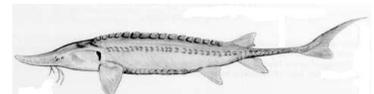
## ANNUAL VETERANS FISHING DAY HELD MARCH 9TH





# FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 300 veterans fished March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Fishing Day. An additional 300 attendees and about 100 volunteers participated in the event. Many thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors who worked hard and donated much to make this a special day for our beloved veterans. Without our "Friends of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery" support group helping sponsor all of our events, none of these wonderful outreach programs would be possible.





## FISH CULTURE



**Biologist Janice Albers** from the Columbia Environmental Research Center in Columbia MO arrived March 13<sup>th</sup> to perform ultrasounds and endoscopes on several pallid sturgeons. Ultrasounds are necessary as it is the only method to determine the sex and reproductive capabilities of the sturgeons without harming them. Sonograms also reveal if they carry eggs and the ovary size of females. Endoscopes reveal the stage of the eggs.

Four of the seven fish were holdovers from last year which did not spawn but were hopeful candidates for this year. The bad news is . . . one fish was determined to be a hybrid male, one was a hatchery raised female and another was a non-reproductive female that in between spawns.

The good news is . . . of the four remaining holdover sturgeons from last year, three were in reproductive states. The next step will be to take egg samples and at the appropriate time, inject the three with a hormone much like the labor-inducing hormone used with human females. The hormone is necessary to provide a controlled and safe environment for the spawning to ensure success. Last year the hatchery was the only hatchery in this half of the United States with an egg carrying female. Her eggs became our year's production and the yearlings are currently still housed at the hatchery. These will be released in the Missouri River in late spring/early summer. Hopefully the upcoming spawning will be a bountiful one for these endangered creatures.



Hatchery staff harvests fish to be distributed to Lake Taneycomo in Branson.





## NATIONAL NEWS



**Manager David Hendrix, pictured above, was interviewed by columnist Bob Robinson. Bob is director of sales and marketing at Kasco Marine Inc. He is also a writer for the Fish Farming News publication out of Deer Isle, ME. During a recent visit to the area he stopped by to tour the hatchery and was so impressed that he dedicated a magazine cover, four pages and nineteen photos of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery in the aquaculture national magazine's February issue.**

*Excerpts from his article include:*

*“Nestled into this scenic southwest corner of Missouri in the heart of the Ozarks is a shining star. A landmark US Fish and Wildlife Service facility known as the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. This facility is the oldest continuously operating national hatchery in the entire US, providing fish and supporting services to the Midwest region since 1888.”*

*“While the hatchery is an old and venerable establishment, it is by no means antiquated. Neosho is considered the “greenest federal fish hatchery” and recent renovations here included improvements to the hatchery production systems and visitor center.”*

*“Both a working hatchery and a popular tourist destination, Neosho is actually not far from the tornado-devastated community of Joplin.”*

*“One of the highlights of my visit to Neosho NFH this past September was being able to meet David Hendrix who is the hatchery manager. Here’s what I will absolutely take with me from this visit: David has a smile a mile long. He truly enjoys what he does. In fact, every employee at Neosho NFH was friendly and seemed to enjoy what he or she was doing. Plus they had volunteers from the community also willing to help on-site.”*

*“If you are ever in the area make sure you stop by and visit Dave and his staff. I am pretty certain he will have that engaging smile on his face.”*





# VISITOR CENTER



*Photo by Bruce Hallman*



*Neosho Home School group*



*Pineville 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders*



Over 800 visitors toured during spring break week in spite of the poor weather conditions.



*Bella Vista Fly Tyers, Bella Vista, AR*





# STAFF NEWS



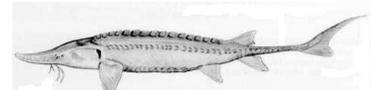
On March 19<sup>th</sup>, hatchery staff completed training for functions and maintenance of the new solar modifications to Sturgeon Building II. These modifications will aid exceptional growth in our sturgeon production with substantial energy savings. Sturgeons reared at warmer temperatures are apt to mature faster. Our well water is at a steady 58 degrees, with the addition of solar collectors, well water will be heated to about 70 degrees. After spawning in April, sturgeons will be relocated to the newly solar modified building. Regional office engineer Carol Fix was on hand for the training.



Anthony Shell and Tim Hill (third and fourth from the right) from the Tribal Fish Hatchery in Cherokee, NC picked up 11,370 two-inch rainbows.



Hatchery Mgr. David Hendrix (left) and Asst. Mgr. Rod May (right) present a plaque and 30 year pin to biologist Jeff Messens (center).





## TRAININGS, MEETINGS AND TOURS



Educational Outreach Specialist Bruce Hallman gave presentations to 275 Carl Junction, MO 4th grade students.



*The Missouri Conservation Commission met for their regular monthly meeting at the Neosho National fish Hatchery on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The morning session was closed but the afternoon session was open to the public which drew a crowd of about 45. Our "Friends" support group provided a BBQ lunch.*

- 1/7 – Bella Vista Fly Tyers presentation, given by Mgr. David Hendrix in Bella Vista, AR
- 1/11, 12 – Teen Challenge meetings
- 1/16 – Joplin Children's Division meeting
- 1/22 - Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Team winter meeting in Blue Springs, MO, attended by Asst. Mgr. Rod May and biologist Jaime Pacheco
- 1/26 – Annual Sportsman's Dinner booth in Racine, MO, by Ed Outreach Spec Bruce Hallman
- 1/28-2/1 – "Intro to Fish Health" training, La Crosse, WI, attended by biologist Justin Perkins
- 2/4 – Crowder College Upward Bound meeting
- 2/6 – Solar Panel Training meeting and tour
- 2/8 – Walmart Area Managers meeting
- 2/13 – Neosho Children's Center meeting
- 2/13 – Joplin Children's Division meeting
- 2/19 – Mako Fly Fishers of Joplin presentation by Asst Mgr. Rod May
- 2/28 – Bella Vista Fly Tyers Club tour
- 2/28 – Area Walmart Managers meeting
- 3/6, 7 – Missouri Assoc. of National Honor Society presentation by Asst Mgr. Rod May at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage, MO
- 3/09 – Annual Veterans Fishing Day
- 3/11 – Neosho Home School tour
- 3/11 – Missouri Dept. of Conservation Commissioners meeting, tour and public hearing
- 3/12 – Missouri Water Talk meeting
- 3/14 – Carl Junction 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Missouri Days presentation, Bruce Hallman
- 3/15 – Willow Crest Center, Miami, OK tour
- 3/16 – Walmart Garden Center Grand Opening booth by Bruce Hallman
- 3/19 – Neosho Home School tour
- 3/20 – Pineville 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tour
- 3/20 – Carl Junction Elementary Missouri Days presentation, Bruce Hallman
- 3/22, 23 – Neosho Business Expo booth by Mgr. David Hendrix and Asst Mgr. Rod May
- 3/25-3/29 – Hazmat training, Lacrosse, WI, Mgr. David Hendrix and Asst Mgr. Rod May
- 3/28 – Newton County Preschool Fair booth by Ed Bruce Hallman



Bruce Hallman manned a booth at the Racine MO "Sportsman's Dinner".





### MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

*Hi Everyone,*

*The Neosho National Fish Hatchery is located in the Southwest corner of Missouri, right in the heart of Neosho, Missouri. It boasts a park-like environment with a walking track around the ponds, picnic shelters with barbeque pits, and a feed bucket always available to allow the public to feed the fish. We're also proud of a beautiful new visitor center with aquariums, gift shop, interactive game/educational stations, meeting rooms/classrooms, offices, walk-out deck with picnic tables, gold rated energy efficient building, solar collectors on the roof of the center, and rocking chairs on front/back porches. Neosho NFH receives thousands of visitors throughout the year and we make sure we convey to the public the "What, Why, and How" of our job. What we do? Why we do it? How does it benefit the public? The Hatchery's production focus is now on Pallid Sturgeon Recovery (Lower Missouri River), Mandated Mitigation of Rainbow Trout for Lake Taneycomo (Branson, MO Area), Mussel Recovery in partnership with Missouri State University (Springfield, MO) and Columbia Fisheries Resources Conservation Office (USFWS-Columbia, Missouri), protect and educate the public about the importance of the Endangered Ozark Cavefish, and freshwater drum (host fish for endangered mussels). Neosho NFH is capable of producing cold, cool, and warm water fish, which is one of the reasons why it's so priceless.*

*I am so proud to be the Manager of our nation's oldest operating federal fish hatchery and I encourage each and every one to visit the Neosho National Fish Hatchery when the opportunity allows. You will be glad you did!!!!!!*

*Thank you for your continuous support. ☺*

*David E. Hendrix, Hatchery Manager, Neosho National Fish Hatchery*



Articles written and assembled by staff member Janice Eaton unless otherwise noted. Photographs by Janice Eaton and Bruce Hallman.  
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