

# Inks Dam NFH

Paul Dorman, Project Leader

January

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## Monthly Accomplishments

### Fisheries Activities

All FY 2012 channel catfish are currently being cultured in eleven over-wintering production ponds at Inks Dam NFH for the FY 2013 stocking requests. Density levels for all the over-wintering ponds are approximately 7,000 fish per acre. Currently there are 55,424 FY 2012 channel catfish averaging 6.33 fpp and 8.08 inches in total length. Staff recorded one mortality for the month.

The original (FY2010) gambusia refugium population moved over to the recirculation tanks in March of 2012 is still doing very well. The 134 fish have now been on station for more than two years. A mortality, in the male population, was recorded

### Personnel

During the month of January the staff had a monthly safety meeting on the 17th that addressed the topics of firearm and ammo storage, properly dismounting heavy equipment

in the FY2010 population during the month. No disease or parasites were found during examination of the mortality.

The new FY2012 population collected in partnership with TPWD and the Texas FWCO are doing well. The new fish have been separated by sex, quarantined, and will remain that way for the 180-day quarantine requirement. Inks Dam NFH has a total of 50 females and 18 males in refuge from the 2012 population. No mortalities were recorded in the FY2012 population during the month.

using three points of contact, and regularly checking propane tank fittings once tanks are refilled. For staff trainings, Mark Yost completed two



One of the first things that Phil Wyde (left) got to do this month as the new 2013 President of the Friends of Inks Dam NFH was to introduce Ms. Doris Mager. This is Doris' second raptor presentation at Inks Dam NFH and she enchanted over 100 hundred kids and adults on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Inks Dam NFH. The event was held again indoors so that she could "fly" some of her birds to the delight of the crowd.

mandatory online DOI trainings, namely USERRA and Veterans Hiring Reform, and Larry Guerro and Robert Vorous attended the three day

Wildland Fire Chain Saw S-212 training held at the Balcones Canyon Land National Wildlife Refuge. Also, Paul Dorman attended

the first 2013 Lower Colorado River Authority Regional Council meeting held in Austin during the month.

## Maintenance

Staff performed routine equipment and facility maintenance during the month. Staff replaced and/or repainted the bumper curb for the handicap parking spots at the Visitor Center and in the park.

Safety improvements were also made by staff at the facility by installing ten new safety bollard pipes around the Con-Vault bulk fuel tanks for safety inspection requirements.

Work was also performed by a local plumbing company to get the Residences' water heaters up to code with new water supply lines, safety pressure valves, a collection pan, and new overflow drain plumbing so that it better protects the property from water damage in the event of tank failure. They also replaced the old water heater in the office bathroom with the same set up to

bring it up to proper code and to ensure the safety of those using the facilities. The 2012 Deferred Maintenance (DM) kettle work on Ponds 10 and 7C continues. The contractors



The 2012 DM Project F12PC00163 (kettle eplacement) for ponds 10 and 7C are almost done. Pre-final check list and final inspections should occur in February. (Pond 10 above and 7C below)



have completed all the concrete pouring and have done some patch work, applied Crete-Defender, which increases the life of the concrete, and performed most of the fill work. To aid in the final inspection process, the staff has built and installed new kettle catwalks and pack-column platforms and installed new water supply plumbing so that the contractors can finish any last minute backfilling and patching procedures. The other 2012 DM project for the new phone system has been completed this month. Some early problems were fixed during the month and staff has adjusted to the new systems.

## Visitors, Education and Outreach

January was very busy month with over 208 people visiting the hatchery. During the month, there were 102 visitors counted during normal hours of operations but on January 5th, the Friends of Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery sponsored a live raptor presentation by Doris Mager, with the Save Our American

Raptors (SOAR). This is the same program that was presented for the public last year. Attendance for this year's event was 106 people, an increase from last year's program. Doris has a long history of working with the National Audubon Society and performing falcon surveys with state and federal biologists across the nation. She also displays her falconry skills at venues across the country to raise awareness of the need to conserve raptor species. Needless to say, the event was a real success and everyone in attendance, including the 25 children, aged from 2-16 years old, were captivated during the presentation and asked many questions afterwards. Many also took their picture holding Doris' great-horned owl, E.T.

As for volunteer activities during the month, the Friends Group volunteers spent a total of 107 hours helping around the hatchery, with much of this associated with Doris' presentation (this included 52.5 hours for administrative support, six for visitor amenities, 38.5 for outreach, seven for fish culture support, and three for maintenance)



Some of the 106 visitors that came to watch Doris and her raptors.



Doris Mager is dynamic, captivating speaker for all age groups!



Of course, and she'll be the first to admit, her birds (like ET above) are the real show stealers...or should I say "priceless"?