

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report
April 2015



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



Paddlefish eggs in hatching jars.

As water temperatures warmed to an optimal spawning temperature of 16°C in ponds at the Tishomingo NFH, the paddlefish brood stock collected from Grand Lake O' the Cherokees (Grand Lake) during two collection trips began their spawning process. Three employees from Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation assisted hatchery staff in successfully spawning ten female paddlefish. Twelve hatching jars were filled with eggs, began hatching in about a week, and were moved to rectangular rearing tanks.

Inks Dam NFH picked up about 50,000 paddlefish fry to rear at their station. These fish will be returned to Tishomingo NFH when about twelve inches in length for tagging and eventual stocking in Lake Eufaula.



Paddlefish brood stock.

Volunteers

Tishomingo NFH has a new volunteer, Tierra McAlpin, a 2015 spring graduate from Murray State College. Ms. McAlpin hopes to pursue a career in radiology. She volunteered twenty-one hours in April, assisting with alligator snapping turtle measurements, paddlefish tank cleaning, moving paddlefish fry to avoid overcrowding, and water quality measurements.

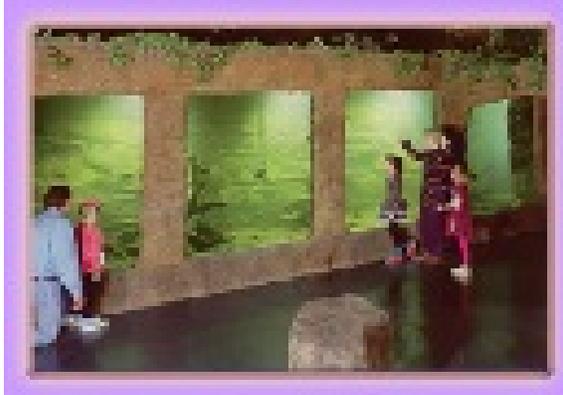
Volunteer taking blood samples from alligator snapping turtle.



Visitors and Outreach

A sampling of the fish found in Oklahoma, including green sunfish, bluegill, and golden shiners were taken by the Tishomingo NFH to the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum in Seminole, Oklahoma, where they will be on display in the museum's 13,500 gallon aquarium. This museum is based on an imaginary town where children can explore many careers built to child-sized scale while given the opportunity to play to learn. Beside the aquarium, the Moran's have put a smaller tank of water with an old tire and other trash to show what happens to water when it is polluted.

*Aquarium of Oklahoma fish
at Children's Museum.*



Blue Thumb is a water pollution education program of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Water Quality Division. In hopes of starting a local group in Tishomingo with the purpose of educating citizens on the care and protection of Pennington Creek, they hosted a community meeting in April for those working in, or interested in, protecting the environment. The Service was represented by the Tishomingo NFH and Tishomingo NWR staff. The goal of Oklahoma's Blue Thumb Program is to protect water resources against nonpoint source pollution by empowering citizens to protect water quality.





Earth Day Texas in Dallas. Below, Ralph Simmons interviewed by CBS affiliate at Earth Day Texas.

Tishomingo NFH was pleased to be part of the Earth Day Texas exhibition again this year. Held at Dallas' Fair Park, Earth Day Texas included lots of things for kids to do and adults to learn as businesses are encouraged to become more environmentally responsible, and those with achievements to share are recognized. There were new twists on the free-admission activities at Fair Park, including an enhanced look at earth science, climate change, and oceans, with presentations by federal research agencies. As one of the few "live" displays, Tishomingo NFH had alligator snapping turtles and alligator gar for the over 75,000 visitors to enjoy. Called the world's largest Earth Day initiative, this three-day festival hoped to inspire communities to lead a more sustainable lifestyle through exhibits, entertainment, and education for all ages.



Brian Fillmore and Aaron White carried alligator snapping turtles and alligator gar in display aquaria to Lake Murray Earth Day for a presentation sponsored by the Love County Conservation District. This display makes it possible for area fourth grade students to view these species closely. The staff from Tishomingo NFH also answered questions from the students about the hatchery. Approximately 130 students were in attendance at the event celebrating Earth Day by providing educational information to children.



Lake Murray Earth Day.



Canada geese.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>
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