

# *Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery*



## **Monthly Report January 2016**



### **Leadership in Science and Technology**

*Denise Thompson and Brian Fillmore perform ultrasound on alligator snapping turtle.*



*Denise Thompson examines alligator snapping turtle while Brian Fillmore holds the turtle.*

In the study of food and habitat preference for hatchling alligator snapping turtles in Pennington Creek, one of two hatchlings previously considered missing was located and recaptured. The transmitter from the other missing hatchling was also located and recovered. The transmitters have become problematic by either quickly losing their ability to transmit or falling off the turtle. The transmitters are being returned as available to the vendor for refurbishing.

## OUTREACH

Brian Fillmore, fish biologist, was featured on the Bass Pro Radio, a station dedicated to providing the outdoorsmen with helpful information about sports, on land and on water. He discussed paddlefish, alligator snapping turtles, and bits of how he grew up to become an avid fisherman and hunter.



*Brian Fillmore brings in paddlefish brood stock at Lake Eufaula.*

Staff attended a planning meeting for a proposed Outdoor Classroom at Tishomingo High School.

The plans include a fishing pond, covered gazebo sitting area, water feature, and plenty of native plants and trees to attract pollinators, including monarchs, and birds. The Outdoor Classroom will be a cooperative effort between Tishomingo NWR, Tishomingo NFH, Oklahoma ES, Chickasaw Nation, and the staff and students of Tishomingo High School. This will be the first Outdoor Classroom in our county, and hopefully more will follow at various grade levels.

A former student from Tishomingo, now a graduate of Oklahoma State University, requested an interview and tour of the hatchery for a story she is preparing as a free-lance writer. Even though she grew up in Tishomingo, she was amazed with all that was happening at the hatchery. She is planning a return visit from her current home of Denver, Colorado, in late May or early June to see alligator snapping turtle nesting.

## FACILITIES

Pond maintenance continues to be a priority with valves replaced, vegetation removed, and water lines repaired. Repairs on water supply canal and water control structures were also completed.

*Pond ready for spawning season  
after being smoothed and  
cleaned.*



Repairs were made to the metal roof on Quarters #2 to stop leaks around the chimney. Water supply lines were also replaced in Quarters #2 to prevent leaks, add insulation, and install a frost-free hydrant near the outside wall of this building. Quarters #2 is currently used as office space for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

*Area of roof repaired  
on Quarters #2.*





*Bald eagle at Tishomingo NFH.*

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**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>  
**Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation**  
**Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery**  
**5501 OK Highway 7W**  
**Tishomingo, OK 73460**  
**Phone: 580-384-5463**  
**Manager: Kerry G. Graves**

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