



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Neosho National Fish Hatchery Newsletter

APRIL, MAY 2013

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

1888-2013
NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
125 Years
America's Oldest Federal Fish Hatchery Still Serving




An estimated 1500 visitors were on hand April 21st, for the hatchery's Annual Open House in conjunction with the Neosho Dogwood Tour. The Missouri Department of Conservation gave away flowering trees. A grilled hotdog lunch was served by our "Friends" group. Exhibitors included Mako Fly Fishers (right), "The Rock Man" Larry Cloteaux (lower left), Hill and Hollow Master Gardeners (lower center) "Snake Guy" Frank Martinez (lower right), Eastern Shawnee Tribe of OK, SW MO Beekeepers, Newton Co. 4-H, George Washington Carver Monument, Crowder College and USDA.

Photos by Bruce Hallman



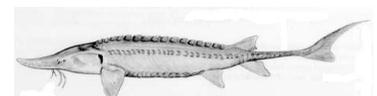


PARTNERSHIPS



Photo by Kay Hively

Pictured above with Neosho staff is Shepherd of the Hills state hatchery manager Clint Hale and staff members from Branson. The group toured and lunched at NNFH, April 3rd. We have an important partnership and friendship with this state hatchery. Our production of 100,000 lbs. of rainbow trout combined with Shepherd of the Hills hatchery production supply Lake Taneycomo. This generates millions of dollars for the state of Missouri by bringing in anglers from all over the country to fish. Last November, NNFH staff toured the state hatchery to study their hellbender mitigation. This important networking and support among hatcheries allow for shared ideas and methodology to sustain our fish and wildlife programs.





DIGNATARIES



Eddies Magazine Editor, Craig Springer and family from Edgewood, New Mexico, toured our facility and took time out of their busy schedule to have lunch with hatchery staff members on May 14th. "Eddies" is a magazine of the fisheries division (USFW).



Mr. Ed Comstock (above), of Hilo, HI, was traveling through Southwest Missouri May 29th, and paid us a visit. It was an honor to meet the man who ten years ago helped to create the "Conserving America's Fisheries" strategy and mission statement for the USFWS which hangs proudly in our Visitors Center.



Ms. Elizabeth Blincoe, pictured above with assistant manager Roderick May, returned to the fish hatchery 84 years after her initial visit with her father in 1929. She was pleased with the hatchery's updates and sustainability and we were pleased to meet her.





FISH CULTURE “Timeline of a Spawn”



March 20, 2013 – Biologist Janice Albers from the Columbia Environmental Research Center in Columbia, MO, arrived to perform ultrasounds and endoscopes. Three females were determined to be in a reproductive state.



Photos by Bruce Hallman



April 23, 2013 – A representative from USGS of Columbia, MO, extracted eggs from the three females to study motility and take measurements of the eggs.



May 6, 2013 – After genetic testing was completed, only two females were found to be spawning candidates as the third female was a hybrid. The two were injected with a 10% dosage of LHRH, a spawn inducing hormone. This inducement is required as captive fish will not spawn naturally. Twelve hours later, the additional 90% of LHRH was injected. Only one female released her eggs, the other female most likely absorbed the eggs.



May 07, 2013 – Sperm is collected, tested, oxygenated and refrigerated several days prior to spawning to allow for uninterrupted focus at the most critical time of the females and the release of their eggs. The males and females have previously been tested and studied by our geneticist, Mr. Ed Hiess from Southern Illinois University. Only those found to be most distantly related can be paired.



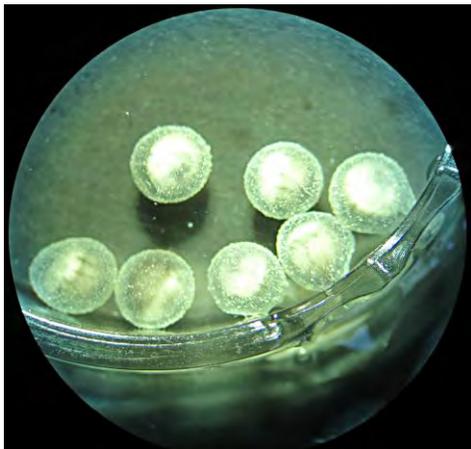


FISH CULTURE “Timeline of a Spawn”



May 8, 2013 - Biologist Justin Perkins applies sperm to the newly released eggs for fertilization. Eggs were collected and fertilized every 30 minutes for eight hours. Approximately 8,000 eggs were collected. A clay mixture is added to the eggs and gently stirred with a wild turkey feather to remove a sticky substance that the female releases with the eggs to allow eggs to stick to rocks and crevices in the wild for survival but in a controlled setting; the substance is a hindrance and therefore removed.

Photos by Bruce Hallman



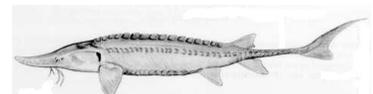
This is a microscopic view of the collected eggs.



May 8, 2013 - The pallid sturgeon spawning team pictured above left to right: Bruce Drektrah, Manager of Blind Pony State Hatchery, Lead Biologist Jaime Pacheco, Assistant Manager Roderick May, Biologist Justin Perkins, and Neosho National Fish Hatchery Manager David Hendrix.



May 20, 2013 - **SUCCESS . . . Two week old fry**
Four thousand eggs were sent to Blind Pony State Hatchery and four thousand remained here to insure against a catastrophic loss at a single location. The fry at both locations are thriving as the battle continues to keep this “dinosaur” fish from extinction.





TOURS



NEOSHO SOUTH KINDERGARTEN



Photo by Bruce Hallman

CARTHAGE, MISSOURI, SECOND GRADE



NEOSHO CENTRAL 1ST GRADE



Quabaw. OK 4th Grade





VISITOR CENTER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION WALK

The Children's Division of Newton/McDonald County held their Child Abuse Prevention Walk at the hatchery on April 19th. Participants of the walk were treated to a hotdog lunch, bake sale and balloon launch. The purpose of the walk was to increase awareness in the community regarding child abuse and neglect prevention.

Photo by Bruce Hallman



On April 25th, our skies were filled with 40 majestic handmade kites completed by members of a local homeschool group under the tutelage of Mr. Don Iman of Pierce City. Mr. Iman is owner of Higher Ground Kites and a member of the AKA Kite Flying Association. He brought a variety of huge kites which he demonstrated for the group.



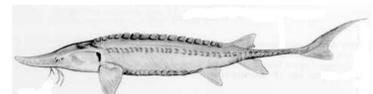
Philanthropic Educational Organization met April 04th in the Rainbow Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 12TH, Hatchery's 125th Anniversary Celebration

JULY 22ND, "Friends" meeting (please note change of date due to travel)

August 17th, PT Cruisers Car Show





OUTREACH



Bruce Hallman provided a booth and presentation at the George Washington Carver Monument “Healthy Parks Healthy People” in Diamond, Missouri.

Photo by Bruce Hallman



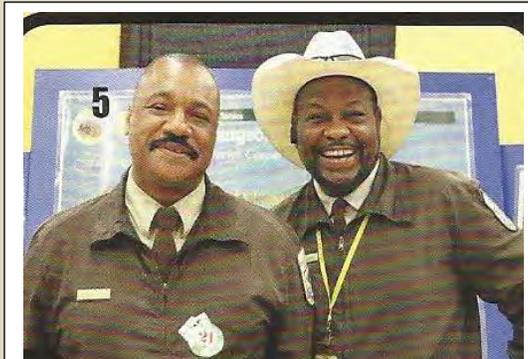
Residents of National Health Care Center in Joplin enjoyed a presentation by Educational Outreach Specialist Bruce Hallman. Bruce provided a microscope for residents to study stream organisms along with an overview of the hatchery and a math challenge.

Photo by Bruce Hallman



Manager David Hendrix and Bruce Hallman represented the hatchery at the Joplin AT&T Tourism Fair

Photo by Bruce Hallman



Assistant Manager Roderick May and Hatchery Manager David Hendrix provided a booth at Neosho’s 21st Annual Business and Industry Review





FRIENDS OF THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY



Photo by Bruce Hallman

FRIENDS OF THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY OFFICERS

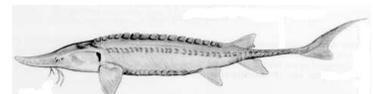
- Russell Hively –President
- Dick Keezer – Vice President
- Larry James – Treasurer
- Sue Ludiker – Secretary
- Betty Wright – Manager Gift Shop
- Diana Messens – Asst. Manager
- Don Jessen – Board Member
- Jack Sours – Board Member
- Beth Parsons – Board Member
- Lee Ann Sours – Social Media



Our newest art piece is proudly on display at the hatchery. An oil painting of the endangered Ozark Hellbender, (found only in the state of Missouri) was created and donated by local artist and “Friends” board member, Jack Sours. Jack and his wife Lee Ann have a cadre of talents as artists and musicians and use those talents generously to support the fish hatchery and many other endeavors close to their hearts. Jack was photographed below while performing at our annual open house.



Master Gardeners work to tend the flowerbeds of the hatchery each season.





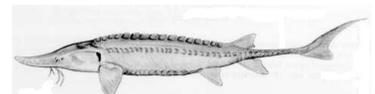
FRIENDS OF THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY



Mrs. Denise Jessens was nominated and awarded the position of board member for the National Fisheries Friends Partnership. She will represent all of the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fisheries. This group is a coalition of volunteers who come together to formally support Fisheries Program facilities, staff, and our resource mission. They have a great deal of input and impact on the Fisheries Program, related to legislation and funding.



Gift shop/book store volunteer Becky Wylie assists customers with their purchases. Volunteers donate one morning or one afternoon per week to clerk in the gift shop. All proceeds fund the outreach events of the hatchery.





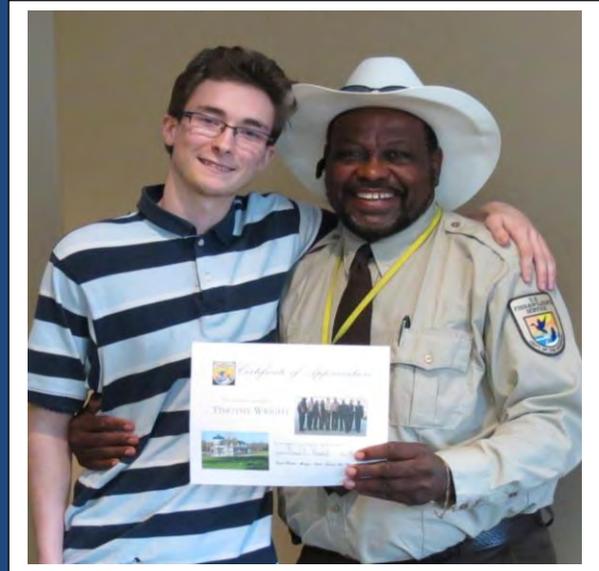
TRAININGS, MEETINGS AND TOURS

TOURS AND MEETINGS

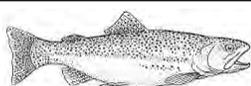
- 4/02 – Rocky Comfort 3rd Grade
- 4/05 – White Rock 3rd Grade
- 4/06 – Neosho 4-H Tour
- 4/09 – Philosophy Education Organization
- 4/17 – Carthage 2nd Grade
- 4/19 – Neosho Home School Group
- 4/21 – Annual Open House
- 4/23 – Carthage 2nd Grade
- 4/24 – Quapaw, OK, 4th Grade
- 4/25 – Goodman 1st Grade
- 4/25 – Triway Kindergarten
- 4/26 – Quapaw, OK, 1st Grade
- 4/26 – Granby Kindergarten
- 4/29 – Joplin 5th Grade
- 4/29 – Benton Kindergarten
- 5/01 – South Kindergarten
- 5/02 – Quapaw, OK, 2nd Grade
- 5/02 – Pittsburgh, KS, Kindergarten
- 5/03 – Granby Kindergarten
- 5/04 – Family Reunion at pavilion
- 5/05 – Birthday party at pavilion
- 5/06 – Southwest City 3rd Grade
- 5/07 – Pierce City Elementary
- 5/08 – Benton First Grade
- 5/09 – Jasper 6th Grade
- 5/09 – Carthage 2nd Grade
- 5/10 – Benton 1st Grade
- 5/10 – Joplin Home School Group
- 5/12 – Family Reunion at deck
- 5/13 – Central 1st Grade
- 5/14 – Carthage 2nd Grade
- 5/15 – Carthage 2nd Grade
- 5/17 – Neosho 2nd Grade
- 5/22 – Crowder Upward Bound
- 5/27 – Family Reunion at Pavilion

STAFF MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 4/09 – Bruce Hallman attended Media Communications at NCTC
- 4/26 – Staff Cookout
- 5/04 – Bruce Hallman, Healthy Parks Healthy People
- 5/15 – David Hendrix, Bruce Hallman AT&T Tourism Fair, Joplin
- 5/17 – Bruce Hallman, Carthage National Health Care Presentation, Joplin



Hatchery Manager David Hendrix awarded certificates of appreciation to Timothy Wright (above) and Tyler Williams (below). Each was awarded for the service they provided to the hatchery as part of the J.O.B.S. Program with the Neosho High School. Through this program, students can receive class credit for volunteer work performed at local facilities. Pictured below left to right are Administrative Assistant Heatherly Thorne, Lead Biologist Jaime Pacheco, Student Tyler Williams, Manager David Hendrix and Maintenance Engineer Ray Villa.





MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Hi Everyone ☺

We have just finished a busy couple of weeks here at the hatchery, and I would like to give a wonderful acknowledgement to our Friend's Group. The group consists of wonderful people from every walk of life (lawyers, school teachers, engineers, newspaper editor/owner, musicians, counselors, legislators, nail technicians, retail store owners, funeral home directors, bank presidents, civic group leaders, corporate leaders, master gardeners, etc.). Our Friends are quite diverse in their backgrounds and the common bond that brings them together is their love for the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (our nation's oldest continuous operating federal fish hatchery since 1888). Our success here is due in large part because of their continuous sponsorship. They support numerous events that we host and are able to do things for us that we cannot do in order to have a successful outing. Our Friend's Group has completed many projects over the years for the hatchery (picnic tables and shelters, fishing poles, tables and chairs, provide food for different events, etc., etc.), and more are in the works. Their advocacy for the Neosho NFH is priceless and we realize how blessed we are to have them on our "Team." My advice to all other federal facilities is to nurture and cherish your supporting people because they have really been a vital ingredient in our continued success.

Thank you Friends ☺ !!!!!

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



Articles written, photographed and assembled by staff member Janice Eaton unless otherwise noted.
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