

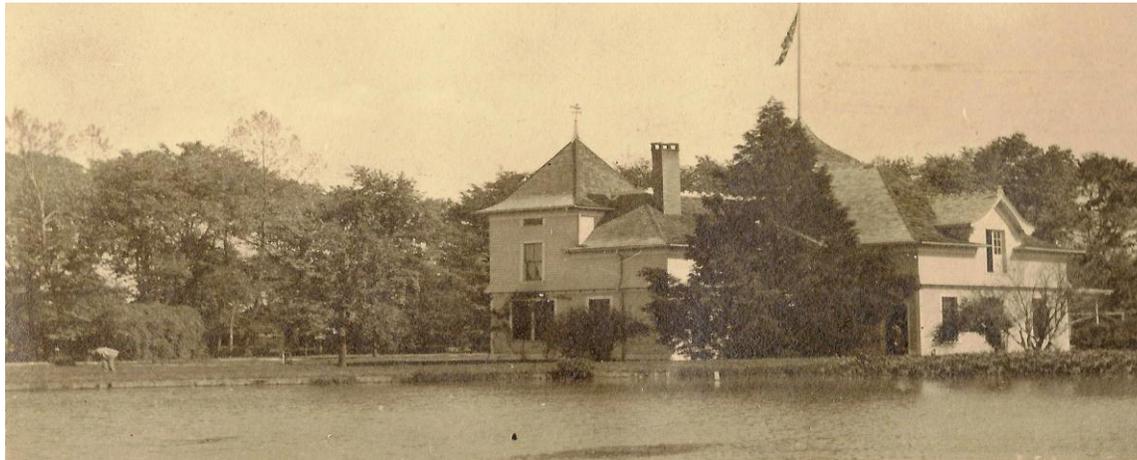


# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Neosho National Fish Hatchery Newsletter

### SPECIAL EDITION, JULY 2013

# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now



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



ORIGINAL HATCHERY BUILDING AND SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSING . . . 1889

"125 YEARS AGO, A MAN CAME TO NEOSHO TO START THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY. HE CAME BECAUSE OF THREE THINGS: FIRST, THERE WAS 20 ACRES OF OZARK LAND ON THE EDGE OF A LITTLE TOWN OF NEOSHO THAT HE WAS TOLD TO MAKE INTO A FISH HATCHERY. THERE WAS A WONDERFUL SPRING AND THERE WAS A RAILROAD. AND THESE ARE THE THREE REASONS WHY NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY BEGAN. OVER THE YEARS, MANY THINGS HAVE EVOLVED, MANY DIFFERENT FISH HAVE BEEN RAISED HERE – I BELIEVE 130 DIFFERENT SPECIES. AND ALL HE HAD AT THE BEGINNING WAS THESE THREE THINGS. NOT ONLY DID THEY MAKE A FISH HATCHERY, THEY ENDED UP MAKING IT PARK-LIKE AND OVER THE YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE CONTINUED TO COME HERE TO ENJOY THE SETTING. THERE WAS ONE MORE THING OF BENEFIT OF THE HATCHERY. I WANT TO THINK ONE MORE THING THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY GIVES US BESIDES FISH, THE WONDERFUL PLACE TO COME, AND THAT IS MEMORIES. AND IF YOU WORK HERE LIKE WE DO, VOLUNTEER IN THE BOOKSTORE FOR A HALF DAY, WE ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE COME IN WHO SAYS, "I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE SINCE 1949, MY DADDY BROUGHT ME HERE." "OR LOOK IN THIS PICTURE; THERE I AM AT ONE OF THE FISHING DERBIES." THIS PLACE IS A PLACE THAT IF YOU EVER VISITED IT, YOU REMEMBER IT. SO MAYBE WE NEED TO CHANGE THE NAME TO THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY AND PLACE OF WONDERFUL MEMORIES."

*RUSSELL HIVELEY, PRESIDENT "FRIENDS OF THE NNFH"*





## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now

CONGRESS ESTABLISHED THE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY IN NEOSHO IN JULY 1888. IT'S THE OLDEST OPERATING FEDERAL FISH HATCHERY STILL SERVING AMERICA. THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF 25,000 EGGS ARRIVED IN JANUARY 1890 AND THEY SOON BEGAN TO HATCH. THE NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY NOW PRODUCES MORE THAN 100,000 POUNDS OF RAINBOW TROUT ANNUALLY THAT GENERATE MORE THAN \$15 MILLION FOR THE MISSOURI ECONOMY. THE HATCHERY ALSO PRODUCES PALLID STURGEON, WHICH IS ENDANGERED, FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER.





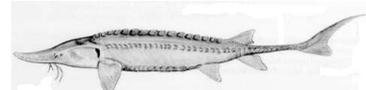
# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now



**TRANSPORTING FISH THROUGH THE YEARS**

**During the hatchery's early days, railway "fish cars" transported fish in dairy milk cans.**

**Today ice is added to specially designed insulated trucks and trailers.**

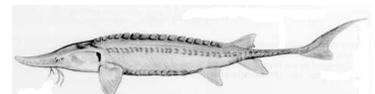
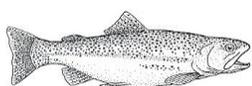




## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now

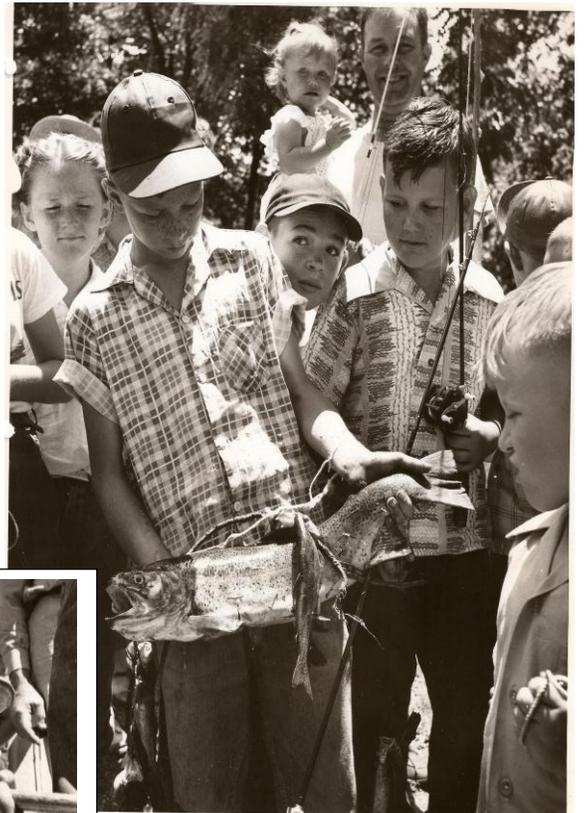


For many years it has been a tradition at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery to host a Kids Fishing Day. To the delight of thousands of children throughout the years, this day is all about them and the joy of fishing. It is the hope that these derbies will continue to inspire upcoming anglers to “get outdoors” and to protect our natural resources.





## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now



**Children wait all year long for the Annual Kids Fishing Day event held on the first Friday in June. The Friends of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery sponsor these derbies and help to make it a day the children will never forget. Hopeful young anglers come from the three state areas of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri to participate. It is a favorite among volunteers as well, to observe firsthand the delight of a child catching their first fish and becoming “hooked” on the sport of fishing. Senior citizens frequent the fish hatchery and reminisce of childhood days when they too participated. Their faces always become animated as they share details of their experiences and fond memories. Two additional fishing days have been added. Every March features a “Rainbows for Veterans” fishing event. The second Friday in June is always reserved for the “Senior Citizen and Disabled of Any Age Fishing Day”.**

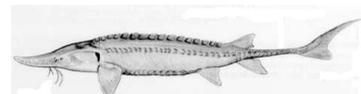
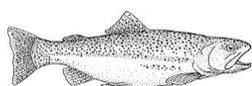




## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now



Over the years, more than 130 different species of fish have been raised at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery but today **Rainbow Trout** and **Pallid Sturgeon** are reared. Many aspects of Rainbow Trout production are the same as 125 years ago; however, the hatchery staff now injects oxygen into the water to increase production. Oxygen and water flow alarms now guard against losses, and the fish are transported with specialized trucks instead of railcars. This enables the hatchery to raise 235,000 fish in the ten inch range for stocking Lake Taneycomo, MO annually. The hatchery currently utilizes 1200-1600 gallons per minute gravity flow spring water at an annual temperature of 54-62 degrees Fahrenheit to raise the trout.





## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now

### CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF HATCHERY HISTORY

Think back, way back, to another time in our country's history – the 1880s. This was a couple decades after the horrific Civil War threatened to rend our United States apart. In this time of recovery and growth, ingenuity, invention and innovation described many of the happenings here and abroad. The first skyscrapers began transforming our cities, the first submarines opened our water travel options, phonographs revolutionized our entertainment, electrical power began its unstoppable incursion, and Coca-Cola's invention gave us the "real thing" to enjoy. Some iconic artistic products to come out of that time include Pinocchio, Huckleberry Finn, Jekyll and Hyde, Sherlock Holmes, ragtime music and none more recognizable than the very Statue of Liberty. Yes, for the 50-plus million citizens and their Democrat President Grover Cleveland, progress in 1888 led right to the Ozark region in Southwestern Missouri.

In that same era, commercial brick buildings were built around the central courthouse square in Neosho when it incorporated as a municipal government in 1878. This rebuilding was needed as a result of the town's rough handling in 1863 when much of the downtown was burned down in the war. During this reconstruction period, Neosho became a prominent commercial center in the area and the town would swell to over five times its population by the turn of the century. To handle this resurgence, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad reached Neosho in 1870 and the Kansas City-Fort Smith and Southern Railroad arrived in 1887 as well.

It is this climate that the Neosho National Fish Hatchery found its beginnings. While not the first federal hatchery, it is the oldest in the country that is still serving the American public. Established by Congress in 1871, the National Fish Hatchery System's original purpose was providing mitigation-of-species agreements to replace fish lost from dam construction, and to expand recreational fishing opportunities. Congress established the facility on July 12, 1888 and thus, 125 years ago, this Neosho attraction was born.

Since the arrival of the first Superintendent, William Page, on February 20, 1889, the hatchery has been run by twelve other directors. Currently, and since 1990, David Hendrix is manager and for 23 years he has been a smiling fixture here. The former built the iconic "hatch house" that would stand for 72 years; the latter oversaw the construction of our current, award-winning visitor center and its opening in December 2010. So many fish have been reared, people employed, visitors welcomed, and projects completed in the years between, that space does not permit barely their mention. Suffice it to say, there is real history here – enough to fill books and enough to fill a display wall!

*Bruce Hallman, Environmental Education Specialist, NNFH*

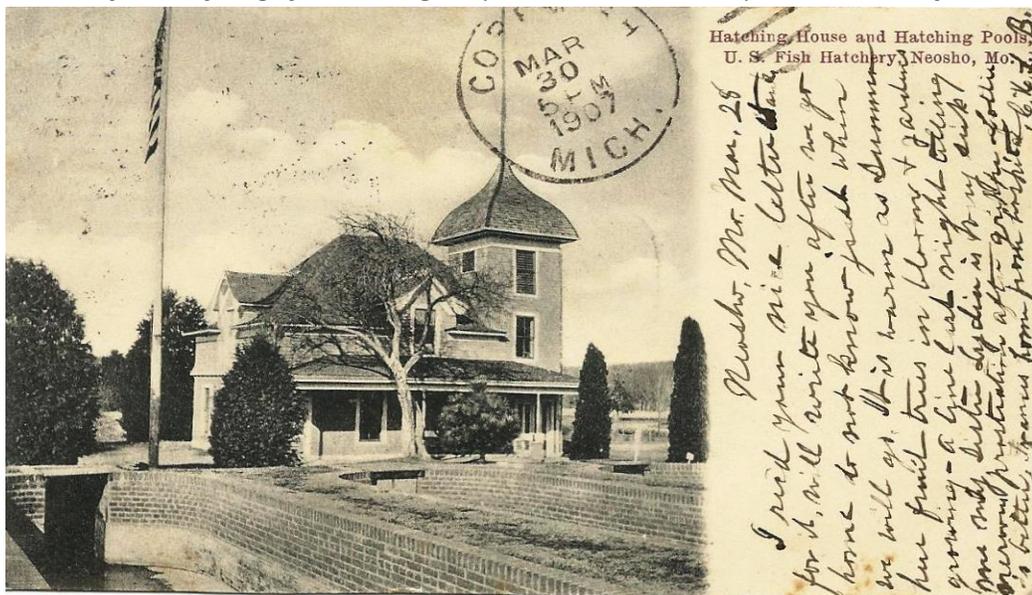




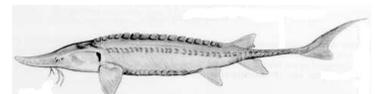
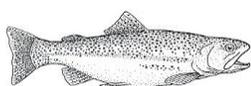
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013  
Then and Now



Commemorative post card photographed and designed by Bruce Hallman of Hatchery Visitor Center completed Dec 2010



1907 post card of Neosho hatchery building and superintendent's quarters - Donated by Jeff Messens





# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013

## NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Program

JULY 12, 2013 • 9:30 A.M.

Welcome – Hatchery Manager David Hendrix

Presentation of the Flags – 418th Civil Affairs Battalion, Belton, MO, USAR

National Anthem – Alex Sutton

Invocation – Pastor Tom Thorne

Proclamation – Representative Bill Reiboldt

Proclamation – Neosho Mayor, Richard Davidson

Resolution – Jake Heisten, Field Rep. for Congressman Long

Neosho Chamber of Commerce Director, Gilbert Garrow

“Friends of NNFH” President, Russell Hively

418th Civil Affairs Battalion

Special Cancellation Announcement – Postmaster Douglas Taylor

Closing Remarks

Serving of Birthday Cake and Punch Following Ceremonies

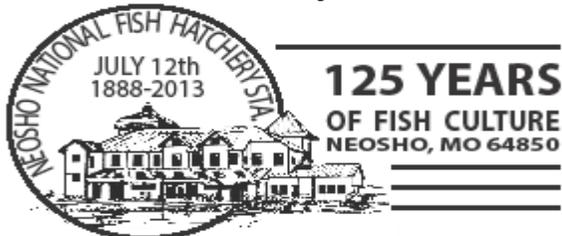
11:00-1:00 Lunch



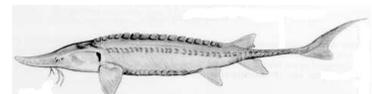
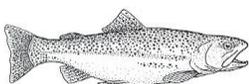
Manager David Hendrix welcomes the visitors to the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held July 12<sup>th</sup>.



Proclamations were presented by State Representative Bill Reiboldt. Commemorative Postal cancellation (below) as Hatchery served as a Postal Station for a day.



Proud staffers pose with Battalion during festivities

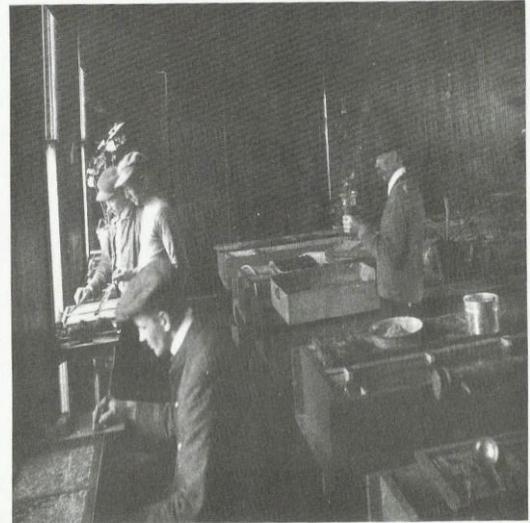




# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE - 1888-2013 Then and Now



**Assistant Manager Rod May (far left) and Lead Biologist Jaime Pacheco (second from left) during a pallid sturgeon spawn aided by Blind Pony State Hatchery staff.**



This interior view of the hatchery shows men working with fish eggs, relying heavily on window light. One man holds a plant, something found in the hatchery in early days.

*Photo reprinted from "At This Place" by Kay Hively & Larry James*



**WILD TURKEY FEATHERS CONTINUE TO BE USED TO SAFELY MANIPULATE EGGS.**





## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now

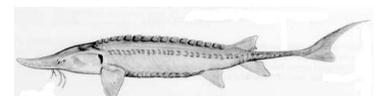
### CITY SAVES HATCHERY

**In 1982, townspeople mobilized to protect the hatchery from threatened closure, rallying the media, local leaders and elected officials. In 1984, the political battle to save the hatchery finally ended in victory for the facility and its supporters. Because national fish hatcheries are charged with supporting healthy fish populations, gaining designation as a “mitigation station”—meaning that the hatchery is recognized as crucial to improving the viability of at risk fish—was key to the facility’s survival.**

**One of the hatchery’s ambassadors is Mrs. Kay Hively, shown below petitioning Congress on behalf of the hatchery. Since that time in 1984, she has shown her love and support for the hatchery in myriad ways. She serves once a week as a volunteer in the gift shop/book store. As a columnist for the Neosho Daily News, she continuously exalts the hatchery to her readers. She serves at every function of the hatchery as a volunteer and touts its wonders and importance at every opportunity. She has even written a book about the hatchery called “At This Place.” Husband Russell Hively heads our “Friends” support group as President. Without Kay’s petition to Congress in 1984, there most likely would not have been a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**



Kay Hively, center, testifies before a Congressional Committee in Washington, D. C. Her testimony was in support of the House Resolution 5381 which passed successfully.





## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now

FASHION TRENDS AT THE HATCHERY HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS  
BUT FISH CULTURE REMAINS THE SAME



1950s post card donated by Jeff Messens



Buggy and horseback rides were favorite activities at the hatchery before the automobile became commonplace. These young people dressed up for the outing - no tank tops or flip flops for them.

*Photo reprinted from "At This Place" by Kay Hively and Larry James*



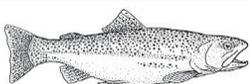


## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013 Then and Now



### GOOD GUYS DO WEAR WHITE

*One of the greatest assets the hatchery has going for it is its Manager, David Hendrix. Always a professional and always “on duty”, Mr. Hendrix is a key player in the continued success of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. He is a beacon in the community and beloved by all who meet him. He returns that love tenfold. His enthusiasm for the hatchery is contagious and undeniable. Always motivating employees to “Represent”, David does just that and does it well. His magnetic charisma and ready smile draws visitors and supporters to the hatchery in droves. Always willing to lend a hand with any endeavor, he makes magic happen as just a part of his job. Having helped hundreds of teenage volunteers and workers through funded youth service programs or college intern programs, he offers opportunity and respect, hoping to gently guide them down life’s path. With long standing experience and knowledge of fish culture, his contributions to the fish hatchery have propelled it as a strong force in endangered species mitigation and rainbow trout production for the state of Missouri and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*





## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE – 1888-2013



*Photo by Bruce Hallman*

### **Hatchery on a MISSION**

**The Neosho National Fish Hatchery exists to raise fish. That mission has remained the same since the hatchery's founding in 1888, though the motivation for it has evolved.**

**The original purpose was to provide edible fish to augment declining native fish populations. Today, hatchery-raised stock replace fish lost through natural events like drought and flood, or through human influences such as pollution, dams, over-fishing and habitat destruction.**

**This facility is the oldest operating Federal fish hatchery in the nation. It is one of 69 hatcheries operated by the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Hatchery System to conserve and protect America's fishery resources. Where people need fish for recreation, and where fish need people for recovery, your fish hatcheries are there.**

