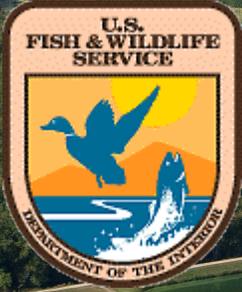


Genoa National Fish Hatchery News and Notes



June 2015



About Genoa NFH

Genoa NFH was established over 80 years ago by the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Act. The mission of the hatchery has changed from providing sport fish for area waters to a conservation hatchery concerned with the recovery of endangered aquatic species.

The hatchery is open for tours during business hours. For large groups, please call for an appointment. You can reach the hatchery at 608-689-2605 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. You can also find us online at: fws.gov/midwest/genoa And on Facebook at: facebook.com/GenoaNFH

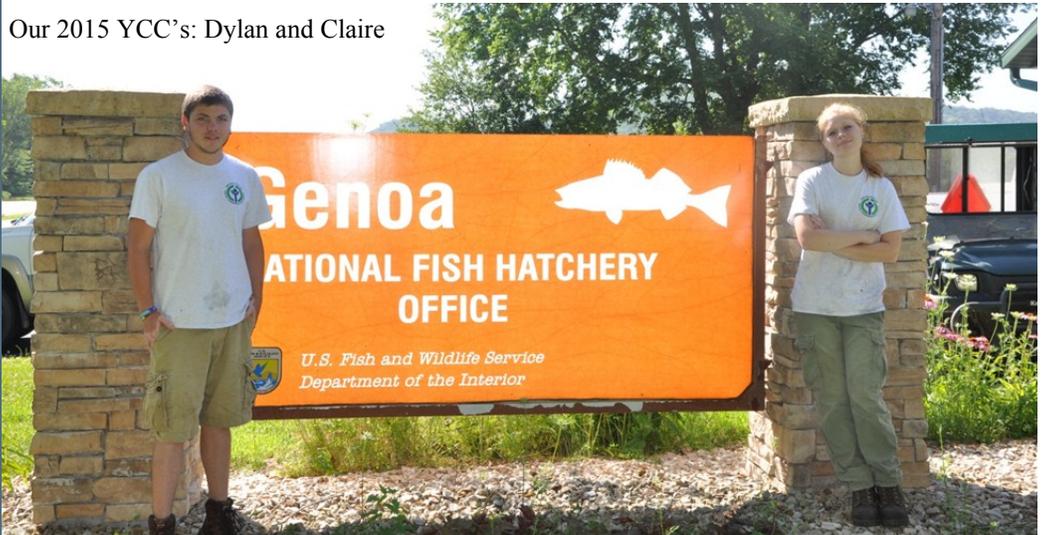


Summer Help Arrives

When summer arrives on station things can get pretty busy for the staff at Genoa National Fish Hatchery. Thankfully some help has arrived. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service youth initiative, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program allows high school students to experience careers in the field of conservation. Genoa NFH is fortunate to have two students this summer to help out with the workload and participate in all the work that takes place at the hatchery. This summer's YCC students are Dylan Krause and Claire Trussoni. Dylan will be entering his senior year of high school and his hobbies include hunting, fishing, and spending time up north in preparation for bear season. Dylan's plans after high school are to pursue a career in law enforcement. Claire is a recent high graduate who will be attending college in the fall. Her plans include pursuing a master's degree in biology and going into medical research as a career.

Some of the projects that the YCC's will be tackling this summer include renovation to the hatchery's nature trail, tending to walleye nets used in the spring, staining and painting the buildings on station, and participating in nearly every aspect of daily fish culture. The staff at Genoa NFH is thrilled to have Claire and Dylan on station for the summer and look forward to working with them. The crew hopes the experiences gained at the hatchery furthers the YCC's interest and involvement in the field of conservation. By: Aaron von Eschen

Our 2015 YCC's: Dylan and Claire



Lake Sturgeon Research Continues at Genoa.....

Last year we were able to publish an “Egg and Larval Development Index for Lake Sturgeon.” To continue moving forward, the Genoa staff has initiated a new project researching growth rates of juvenile lake sturgeon at different water temperatures. We will be determining an optimal temperature range for growth of juvenile Lake Sturgeon. To evaluate the relationship between temperature and growth rate, juvenile lake sturgeon will be incubated at four constant water temperatures (12, 17, 22, and 27 °C), two this year and next. Experimental design will consist of four temperature treatments with 3 replicates at each test temperature for a total of 12 experimental units. Lake sturgeon will be fed a satiation diet of bloodworms (Chironomid larvae) and feed required per day will be weighed and recorded. Three sample counts per tank (fish/lb.) will be taken bi-weekly to determine growth rate at each temperature and feed rates will be adjusted accordingly throughout the study.

This study is particularly important to Genoa NFH since we have the ability to control larval rearing water temperatures in our culture buildings. Identifying the optimal temperature for growth will allow hatchery staff to grow large healthy fish for stocking in the fall while also minimizing feed costs. In addition, information gained from this study would be beneficial for off sight sturgeon rearing trailers. Linear growth models are the mainstay of scientifically based production and restoration programs for species such as Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout. Benefits to lake sturgeon restoration programs will also include ability to model culture programs through anticipated temperature regimes, estimate costs and quantities of feed, as well as increase survival rates in lake sturgeon stream-side rearing facilities by placing units at locations that will maximize survival and health of fingerlings in the trailers. A side benefit of this study will be to determine optimal feed rates for lake sturgeon at varying water temperatures. This study will also allow production models to be formulated for specific watersheds and culture facilities to estimate size at stocking, the number and size of culture units to have for each desired stocking number at release size, and allow culturists and managers to plan their programs to achieve restoration goals.

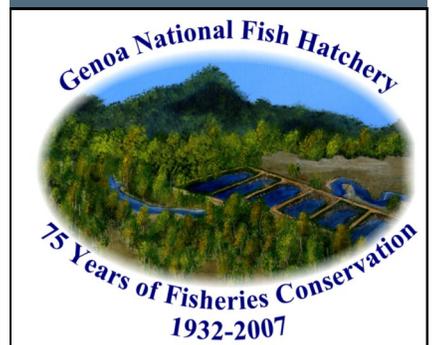
By: Orey Eckes

One of the round study tanks



Dylan and Liz measure sturgeon

Genoa National Fish Hatchery's mission is to recover, restore, maintain and enhance fish and aquatic resources on a basin-wide and national level by producing over 35 aquatic species of varying life stages, participating in active conservation efforts with our partners, and becoming a positive force in the community by educating future generations on the benefits of conservation stewardship



Welcome Aboard!

Charlie and Jan Pearce

This winter, Doug Aloisi was contacted by Charles and Janet Pearce about volunteer opportunities at Genoa National Fish Hatchery. After retirement from their jobs in Kansas, the couple purchased an RV and have been volunteering at different federal lands to be able to see different parts of the country. They come with some hatchery experience as well, last year working with the staff out at Carson National Fish Hatchery, in Washington and volunteering at DC Booth Historic Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, South Dakota. Their previous experience working with Chinook salmon and rainbow trout will help ease the transition in to the chaos of Genoa NFH! Their strong work ethic has already been put to the test at Genoa, helping the staff with sturgeon work and keeping up with maintenance and cleaning. They arrived on station July 9th, 2015 and plan to stay through Labor Day weekend. Their help comes at the perfect time, the hatchery is currently waiting for 4 positions to be filled during the peak of activity on station. Their first weekend on station they fell right in the mix, helping the weekend person with sturgeon tank cleaning and bloodworm grinding! Charles and Jan have lived a varied and interesting life and being former beekeepers, they will hopefully help us get the most out of our expanding pollinator efforts. We look forward to the remainder of the summer with Jan and Charles and hope their volunteering experience is a memorable and rewarding one! By: Angela Baran

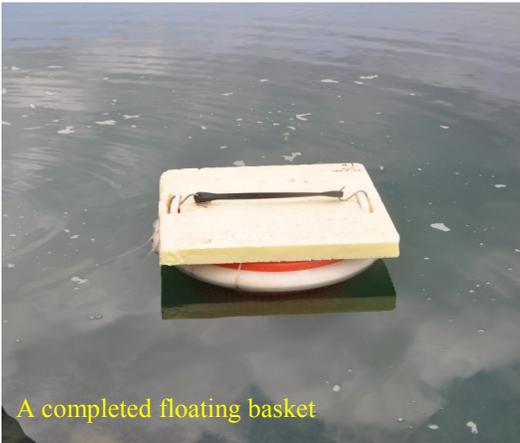


Genoa Hatchery Touch Tank a Big Hit at LaCrosse's Youth Outdoor Fest

LaCrosse Wisconsin's 7th annual Youth Outdoor Fest is a great community event that was sponsored by the LaCrosse Park and Rec department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of the Upper Miss. Over 2000 kids and their parents showed up for this year's event on July 11th, 2015. Many outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking, archery, hatchet throwing, bird-watching, an electrofishing demonstration, fish dissections, fly fishing, fur identification, geocaching, Genoa's touch tank, pontoon rides and storytelling were all on display. Many local vendors and conservation agencies also had booths at the event. One of the stars of Genoa National Fish Hatchery's touch tank was a young of the year map turtle found on the hatchery grounds. Other inhabitants of the tank were a red-eared slider turtle, lake sturgeon, minnows and several species of freshwater mussels. The touch tank gave the children an opportunity to root through the bottom substrate, just like kids from all generations have to catch fishing bait, explore for mussels, and generally just have an all-around good time. In fact one little girl fell in love with our map turtle, and ended up camping out at our booth for the entire length of the event. The hatchery booth also included fish on a stick to help with fish identification and an aquarium with cold and coolwater species of fish. Many of the children came back for seconds on the touch tank, and the lake sturgeon was also a big star of the tank. This ancient fish amazed the kids with its camouflage and sharp scutes to protect itself against predators. Events such as Youth Outdoor Fest give children a fun day of activities in hope to pique their interest in the outdoors, and desire to protect it for future generations. By: Doug Aloisi



Trying out another tool in the mussel culture toolbox



A completed floating basket

Over the years we've tried several new methods for culturing freshwater mussels here at Genoa NFH. Some have been successful (cages in the pond), others hit and miss (mucket buckets) and there have been a few complete misses (the chef hat). This summer we are testing out a suspended upwelling system (SUPSY) down at the Ice Harbor at Dubuque, IA. In addition to that trial we are also testing the use of floating baskets in one of the ponds here at Genoa NFH. The floating basket is a design that was developed by Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries biologists in cooperation with the staff at the Harrison Lake NFH in Charles City, VA. They have been quite successful placing floating baskets stocked with mussels in their ponds. The floating basket is essentially a round laundry basket floated by a pool noodle and covered to keep predators (turtles,

muskrat, snakes) out of the basket. A layer of sand is placed in the bottom of the basket and it can then be stocked with mussels, labeled and placed in the pond. They have been successful placing inoculated fish, newly transformed juveniles and sub-adult mussels in their baskets. This summer at Genoa NFH we are testing the baskets in Pond 14N using both sub-adult mussels from 2014 and newly transformed juveniles from 2015. A total of 7 baskets were placed in the pond during June, 5 were stocked with fatmucket from 2014 and the remaining two were stocked with newly transformed plain pocketbook and black sandshell. This will allow us to determine if our water is better suited to either of these freshwater mussel life stages. Hopefully both will be successful and we can expand this technology next year as we continue to try and use all of the tools at our disposal to raise many healthy freshwater mussels for release.



Sub-adult fatmucket in the basket

By: Nathan Eckert



Secure the lid to each cage to keep predators out and then run an anchor line long enough to tie all your cages together.

Upcoming calendar of events

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Blackhawk Park Kids Fishing Day
2	3 Pool 10 Mississippi River Adventure Day	4 Tagging Coaster Brook Trout	5 Cordova Mussel Clean-up	6	7	8
9	10	11 Region 3 & 5 Coordinators Meeting, LGL FWCO	12	13	14	15
16	17 Iowa Department of Natural Resources Annual Mussel Blitz American Fisheries Society Annual Symposium, Portland, Oregon	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29