



Neosho National Fish Hatchery NEWSLETTER

July and August 2014

Summer – the time of the year for great abundance of all sorts of life around the hatchery (in addition to the fish, of course)!

Some with wings...



Common buckeye



Eastern tailed blue



Luna moth



mallard family



Widow skimmer



Eastern tiger swallowtail



Dobsonfly



Black Saddlebags Dragonfly

...and some with petals.





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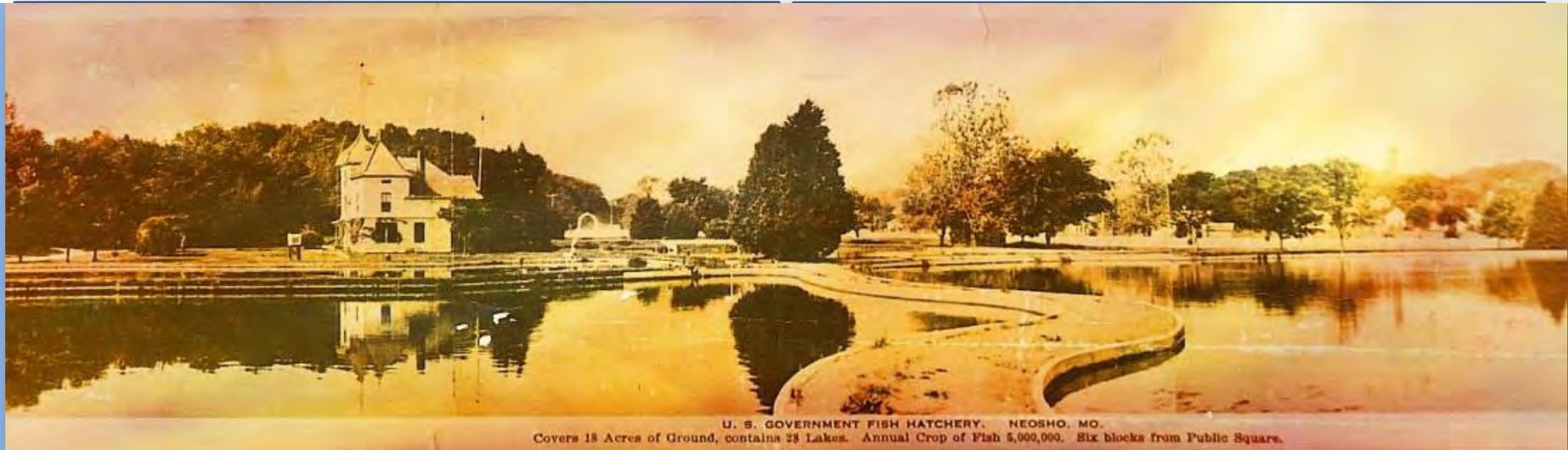
July and August saw the draining, cleaning and refilling of our main fishing derby pond. So much work!





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U. S. GOVERNMENT FISH HATCHERY. NEOSHO, MO.
Covers 18 Acres of Ground, contains 28 Lakes. Annual Crop of Fish 5,000,000. Six blocks from Public Square.

Hatchery Anniversary

This time last year, July 2013, we were introducing Neosho to a new word: quasiquicentennial. You see, back in 1888 when this hatchery was commissioned by congress, a wonderful tradition of fish culture and community partnership was begun. And last year we had a joyous celebration of our 125th anniversary of its founding. That's what that crazy "Q" word means. I did not encounter a single person for the many months I shared that term via the hatchery Facebook or in person that had any idea of its meaning. How did someone come up with that amazing word to begin with, you might wonder. Well, it is a contraction concocted from some Latin terms. Centennial is a word that many, if not most, are already familiar with. It is also a contraction of the Latin terms "centum" meaning hundred, and "annualis" referring to the circuit of the sun, or a year.

Now, not every anniversary number has a fancy Latinate word formed to describe it. But the 125th year does. It uses the "centennial" part, to represent the 100 years, but then adds the 25 to the front. The

term was created back in 1961 by Dr. Wilfred Funk, of the famous publisher Funk & Wagnalls, in response to a certain town celebrating its 125th anniversary. After working through various options, the publisher decided on adding the words for "and a quarter (of a hundred)" to make the new term. Latin for quarter is "quarta" and fourth is "quadrans" and the word for "and" is "que." This led to "quarta que centennial" and "quadrans que centennial" to choose from. They picked the latter, and shortened it to become quasiquicentennial to make it less burdensome, but "ugly" (Funk's description of it!) nonetheless.

So now we are another year further down the line of history, and now we're at 126 years of continuous serving America with fine fish. Because that number does not nicely divide by 5 or 10, there is no special name for it, not even from Funk & Wagnalls. But what if there were? The Latin for "one" is "unus" and if we do a little wordsmithing of our own, perhaps we can call 2014 the hatchery's quasiquincentennial.

Kind of rolls right off the tongue, don't you think?



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We always get visitors throughout the year, but this summer saw a number of camps and other groups stop by. This class from the nearby town of Carthage got to tour, sample for macroinvertebrates and do fish dissection in our classroom. Fun stuff!



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Partners at the local Crowder College alternative energy department are designing solar powered fountains for our ponds. This is several iterations down the line, and might be close to the final design. Now if we can just keep the ducks and other critters to stay off of it....



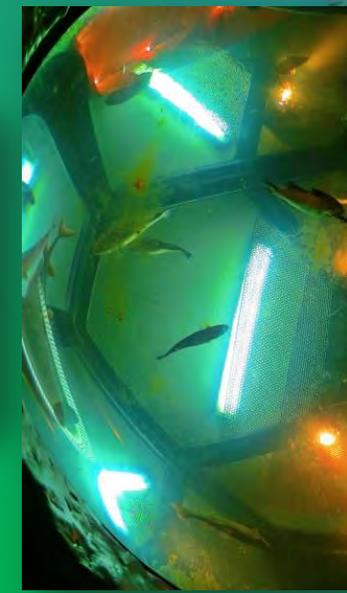
Dragonfly larval exuviae looking like weird little zombies...



We hosted a youth photography class this summer....good to see lots of kids getting the hang of their cameras and learning how to frame a better shot!



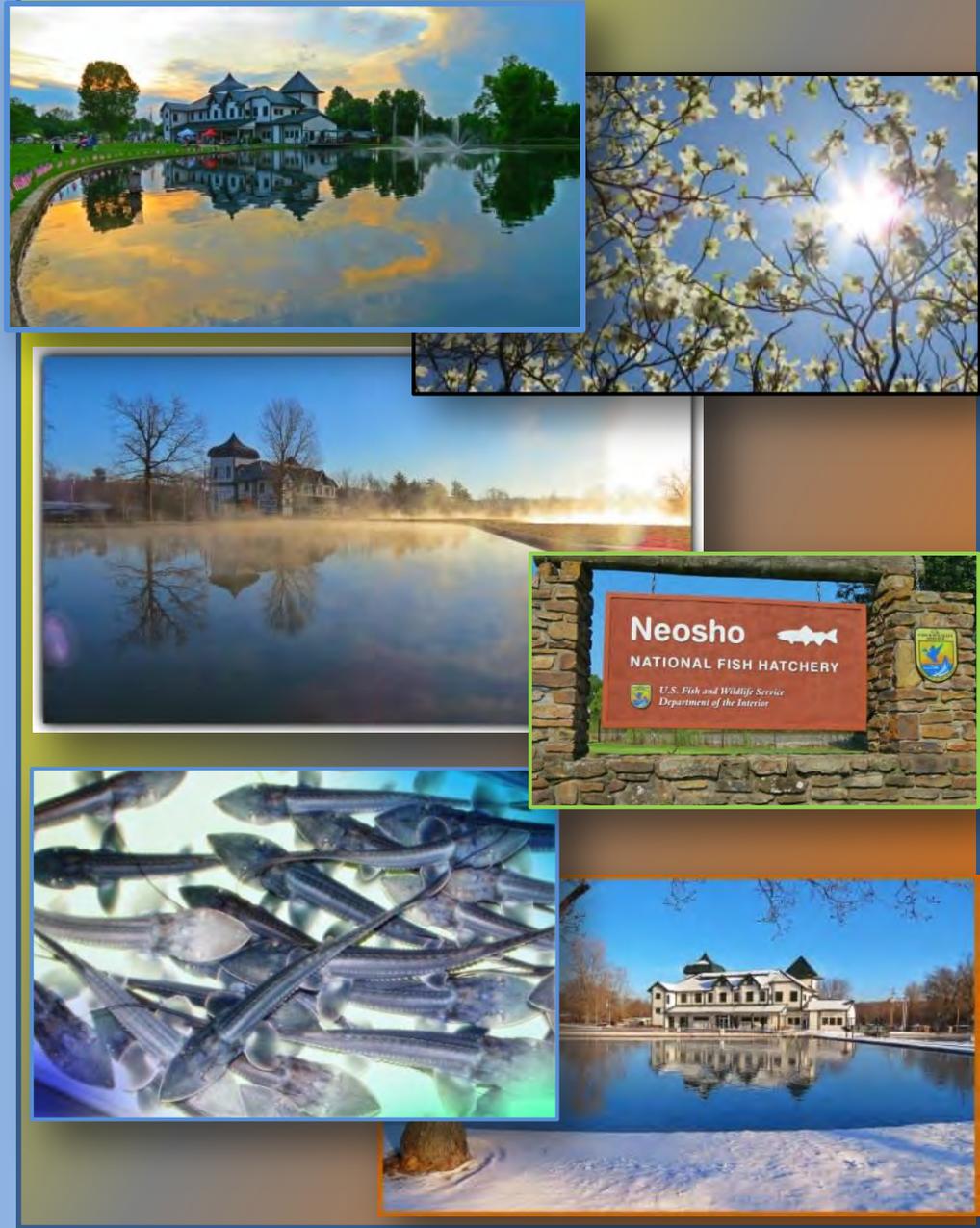
Under the Dome – probably the most interesting view of the hatchery!





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These hatchery photographs were turned into postcards and are now available at our gift shop.



The Final Word, from hatchery manager David Hendrix.



Hi Everyone ☺,

I want to touch on the importance of surrounding yourself with quality people. As a leader, you are only as good as the people you associate yourself with and I have surrounded myself with an excellent staff. I am so very proud of them and the quality of work they generate. Every day we must deal with all kinds of needs at our wonderful facility (fish culture, administrative, partners, general public, visitation, etc.), but we meet these needs as a “team” with the support of our leadership from the Regional and Washington offices. It’s so important to recruit people that take pride in their work — true professionals that love representing a great agency by conserving and protecting our nation’s precious resources. We are public servants and as a “team” we gladly serve our nation. Please stop by, whenever you have an opportunity and allow us to converse with you about the wonderful things going on at our nation’s oldest operating federal fish hatchery.

Take care until next time! ☺

*Newsletter and photos by Bruce Hallman,
Environmental Education Specialist*

