

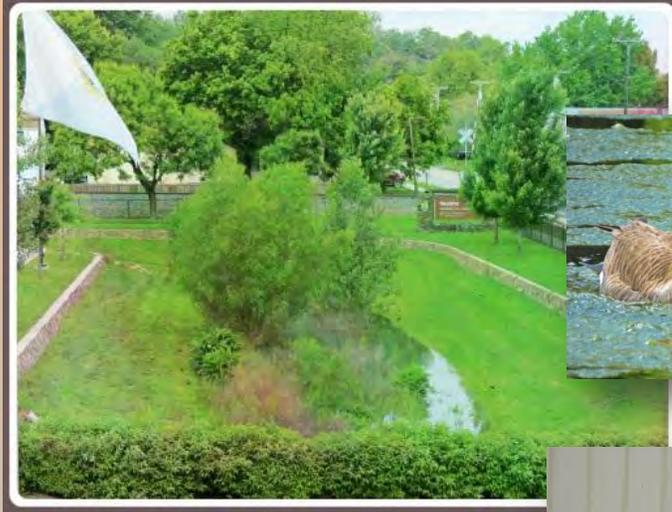


Neosho National Fish Hatchery

NEWSLETTER

May and June 2015

Spring was in full effect here at the hatchery – we had plenty of rain and the birds were taking full advantage.



In May, on the Memorial Day weekend, we hosted a veterans event to raise money and awareness for the Wounded Warrior project. It featured bands and booths for people to enjoy all afternoon long.





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In anticipation of the spawning of our newest federally endangered species, the Topeka shiner minnow, we made adjustments to our raceways, including adding clear panels to allow for additional water heating.



In May we also had a wedding on the grounds – only the second in recent history. We like it when our grounds are used for wholesome community events!





Neosho National Fish Hatchery NEWSLETTER

May and June 2015

Also in May, hatchery staff went north to Kansas City KS to assist in the first of two outreach events with Urban Outdoor Adventures TV. What a privilege to help out, and in June at KC, MO, Director Ashe and other Service folk plus Neosho Friends went to help. Great partnership — great outreach — great fun!



Urban Kids Fishing Derby
www.urbankidfish.com
#urbankidfish



Urban Kids Fishing Derby
Kansas City MO
6.20.15





Neosho National Fish Hatchery

NEWSLETTER

May and June 2015

On June 20, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assisted Urban American Outdoors and Kansas City Parks with the 10th Annual Urban Kids Fishing Derby in Kansas City, Missouri.

The morning sun was out and the temperature creeping from warm to hot as more than 200 children and their families arrived at Spring Valley Park in Kansas City, Missouri ready for some summer fishing fun. Hosted by Urban American Outdoors and Kansas City Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was on-hand to assist. Director Dan Ashe, Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and staff from Neosho National Fish Hatchery participated in the fishing derby and monarch butterfly activities.

The event began with Wayne Hubbard, host of Urban American Outdoors, welcoming participants and partners. As part of the opening remarks, Bob Kendrick, President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, presented honorary Kansas City Monarch jerseys to Dan Ashe, Wayne Hubbard and Assistant to the Director of Kansas City Parks, Mark Bowland. A handful of lucky participants were then chosen to help the new honorary Monarchs plant a butterfly garden by the fishing derby pond. By 9:00 a.m. the plants were in the ground and the first hooks were in the water as kids got down to business and

started fishing. By 9:05 a.m. the first fish was being pulled from the water and screams of shock and delight from children could be heard echoing across the pond.

Staff from Neosho National Fish Hatchery and members of their friends group were a pivotal part of the day, stocking the pond with channel catfish from Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery in Oklahoma and bringing dozens of fishing rods and boxes of bait to share with participants. Project Leader Dave Hendrix, fishery biologist Roderick May, education specialist Bruce Hallman, maintenance mechanic Raymond Villa and members of their friends group helped introduce numerous kids to the fun of fishing. Monarch Watch also participated in the event. Executive Director Chip Taylor and a handful of staff and volunteers set up a tent where kids and their families could see live monarch butterflies, caterpillars and pupas. They also provided seed packets for participants interested in starting their own butterfly gardens.

Whether it was a catfish on their hook or caterpillar on their hand, the event helped hundreds of Kansas City children experienced the thrill of being outdoors and interacting with nature. With downtown Kansas City only minutes away, the event underscored that kids don't have to go far to start playing in nature.



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The first two Fridays are always our own fishing days – Kids Derby and Senior/Disabled Derby. Great times to be had by all, and great help getting all done well!





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May and June 2015

Despite all the outreach and events, there is still plenty of "normal" activities to attend to:

Some of the natural beauty that can be seen on the grounds:





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NEWSLETTER

May and June 2015

May and June are some of our busiest months for working with the endangered pallid sturgeon. We were busy spawning, tagging, hatching on top of all the regular care for our brood fish and yearlings.





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We received sturgeon eggs from Gavins Point NFH so we could learn more about fin curl in developing pallids – we are testing well water versus spring water here.



The Final Word, from hatchery manager David Hendrix.



Hi Everyone ☺,

The Neosho National Fish Hatchery is a very special facility. It's the oldest federally operated fish hatchery in our nation; it's capable of producing anything freshwater (cold, cool and warmwater fish); located right in the heart of the city; park-like environment that's enjoyed by all; great water quality that's perfect for fish culture; we can manipulate the water temperature to cater to the fish we are working with at that time; lots of public support from all levels; lots of educational opportunities for everyone; lots of partnerships; great "Friends Group" that is second to none; thousands of visitors come through the hatchery year round; beautiful state of the art visitor center; special fishing events during the year that focus on our veterans, kids, seniors and individuals with disabilities; fish feeding; picnic shelters with BBQ pits; and lots of fish on hand. When the opportunity presents itself, please stop and enjoy a wonderful experience here. It is a very special place indeed.

Until Next Time, Take Care ☺!!!!!!!!!!



Newsletter and photos by Bruce Hallman,
Environmental Education Specialist