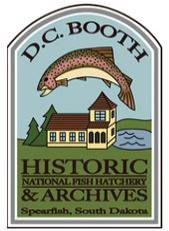




MONTHLY REPORT

March 2020



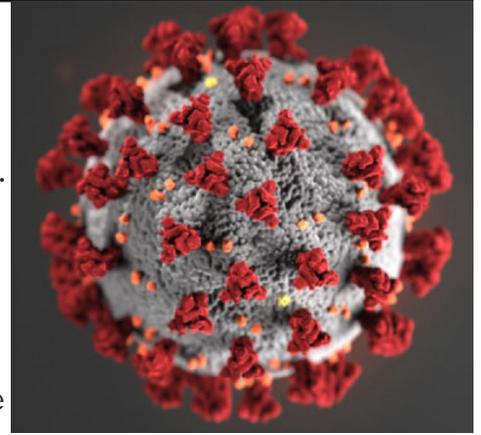
D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery
and National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives



**Interior Region 5 - Missouri Basin
Spearfish, South Dakota**

COVID-19

As of April 2nd, there were 187 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota, including 1 death. Nine cases are in Lawrence County which includes Deadwood, Lead and Spearfish. The State of South Dakota is one of only five states that do not have a state-wide stay-at-home order, and no municipalities in the state have shelter in place rules.



The City of Spearfish passed Ordinance 1314 on March 31st that says restaurants, bars and similar locations that offer on-site consumption of food and beverages must close. They are still able to serve takeout and curbside pick up, delivery and drive-thru options.

A number of events, meetings, and trainings have been cancelled or postponed. FWS staff continue to perform mission critical duties at D.C. Booth while performing social distancing and isolation.

Facility Operations



- Facility Operations Specialist Mitch Adams has been largely responsible for the planning and logistics of the Regional Wage Grade Workshop scheduled in April. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Spearfish/Rapid City event has been postponed.
- A new pump and associated electrical lines/panel have been installed on the raceway well's alternative point of draw. The pump is 25 feet deep and produces approximately 40 gpm accessible for ice season and emergency backup. This water supply and location would be perfect for the use of an isolation trailer if one can be obtained.

- Thank you to Black Hills Equipment Rentals and Henry Kallis for providing an excavator at a reduced price so Mitch could dredge the stations inlet of **90 tons** of silt. This helps reduce the amount of bacteria laden sediment entering our raceways. Another reason we seek out a new well.



Fish Culture for Tribal Trust

Removal of dead leaves continues to be a daily project on pond and raceway screens. Mitch Adams, pictured right, stands by a pile of leaves he removed in a few days. Leaf issues in March??? Yes, another one of many reasons why the D.C. Booth Hatchery is pursuing a new well.

D.C. Booth grows out approximately 60,000 Rainbow and Brown trout annually to a length of 8-14 inches. They are stocked primarily on eight tribal reservations located in South Dakota and Eastern Montana.

The trout also serve as a back-up broodstock for the McConaughy strain.



SPECIES	LOT	#	FPP	WEIGHT	LENGTH	MORTS
McConaughy	RBT-MCD-18-ENN	42,031	9.4	4,491	6.5"	208
Mixed	Display	5,000				

National Fish & Aquatic Conservation Archives

Carlos Martinez and April Gregory continue as key contributors and collaborators on a book titled: **America's Bountiful Waters | 150 Years of Fisheries Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**. The product will be published via Stackpole Publishing in 2021 and celebrates the 150th Anniversary of our agency's Fish and Aquatic Conservation program.



Over the past year, April has been working with Bennett Museum Services, who has a year-long contract to complete evaluations of FWS facilities that store and/or display museum property. Headquarters secured these services to help fulfill the agency's responsibility to care for museum property. This is in part a response to a December 2009 report from the Office of the Inspector General concerning the condition of museum property in the Department of the Interior. Multiple facilities across Region 6 are also doing this evaluation.

Photos of exhibits (left, Booth House bedroom) and storage areas are part of the process.

- Routinely, several new donations are added to the collection, multiple research requests are responded to, and cyclical maintenance and cataloging/processing continue.



Detail photos of a few of the new donations to the collection in March:

Left, an egg picker was donated by Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery in South Dakota (the first egg picker in the collection!)

Right, a plain utility level from the Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery in Texas.



Educational Outreach - SD Junior Duck Stamp

The D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and the Booth Society coordinate the South Dakota Junior Duck Stamp Program. The Booth Society provides additional staff, funding for prizes, advertising and catering. For the 2020 competition, 364 entries were received.

The judging for the Jr Duck Stamp Contest was held March 24. Originally scheduled for March 31, judging was held early and closed to the public because of the COVID-19 situation. As an additional precaution, only three judges were utilized instead of five, as approved by FWS Headquarters.

Madison Grimm of Wallace, SD, won Best Of Show and Erika Symens of Amherst, SD, submitted the winning conservation message, "Conservation today, hope for tomorrow." There will not be a State Awards Luncheon this year, instead prizes and ribbons will be mailed in April. Scans of the winning artwork will be uploaded to the Booth Society's website.



Judges practiced social distancing while following the national judging rules set by FWS Headquarters.

Friends Group - Booth Society, Inc.



Washington Monument can be seen in the background of this photo taken from the Capital Building. Left to right: Nancy Cole, SD Representative Dusty Johnson, and Karen Holzer.



Booth Society staff members, Karen Holzer and Nancy Cole, attended the Public Lands Alliance Conference in Washington D.C. on March 1-5. The conference benefits friends groups of public lands. While there, they were able to meet in person with Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson to provide updates and needs related to D.C. Booth while thanking the South Dakota Delegation for their continued support. Dusty Johnson gave them a tour of the Capital Building and they also met with a staffer from Senator Rounds office.

The Booth Society was also busy preparing for the Gaining Ground Gala, a fundraiser for their recent acquisition of 64.26 acres for the benefit of D.C. Booth to be held on March 14. The event was postponed due to the COVID-19 situation.

The gift shop has significantly cut back on merchandise orders for the 2020 summer season as they are unsure of the impacts the current COVID situation will have on visitation and tourism and ultimately on their revenue for the season.

Photos - Worth 1,000 Words



Right two photos: Mitch uses a long pole and razor scraper to clean the underwater viewing windows.



Above: Mitch had some new "supervisors" stop by recently to check his work - his two daughters. School has been closed due to COVID-19 and they have helped him feed fish and clean raceways a few times.



UPCOMING

2020

~~March 14 Booth Society "Gaining Ground" Gala Fundraising Event - **Canceled**~~

March 15 South Dakota Junior Duck Stamp entries due

~~March 24 Booth Society Monthly Board Meeting - **Canceled**~~

March 31 SD Junior Duck Stamp Judging - **Moved to March 24 and Closed to the public**

April 13-17 National Broodstock Meeting – Spring Creek NFH, WA - **Postponed**

~~April 14-16 Wage Grade Workshop – D.C. Booth Historic NFH - **Canceled**~~

~~April 27-30 Heritage Meeting – Rocky Mountain Arsenal, CO - **Canceled**~~

~~May 16 Booth Day – D.C. Booth Historic NFH~~

June 6 Hot Rods For Hatchery – D.C. Booth Historic NFH

June 16-18 Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) – D.C. Booth Historic NFH

~~June 22-26 FWS Curators & Cultural Resources Workshop, DeSoto NWR, IA - **Canceled**~~

June 21-25, 2021

125th Anniversary, Spearfish National Fish Hatchery (established 1896)

150th Anniversary, National Fish Hatchery System (established 1871)

2021 USFWS Retirees Reunion

Hatchery Staff

Carlos Martinez, **Project Leader**

Mitch Adams, **Maintenance**

April Gregory, **Curator**

Vacant, **Fishery Biologist**

Vacant, **Archivist**

Vacant, **Biological Science Tech (1039)**

On the cover: A red-breasted nuthatch says, "Are you getting closer than 6 feet to me? Please practice social distancing!"