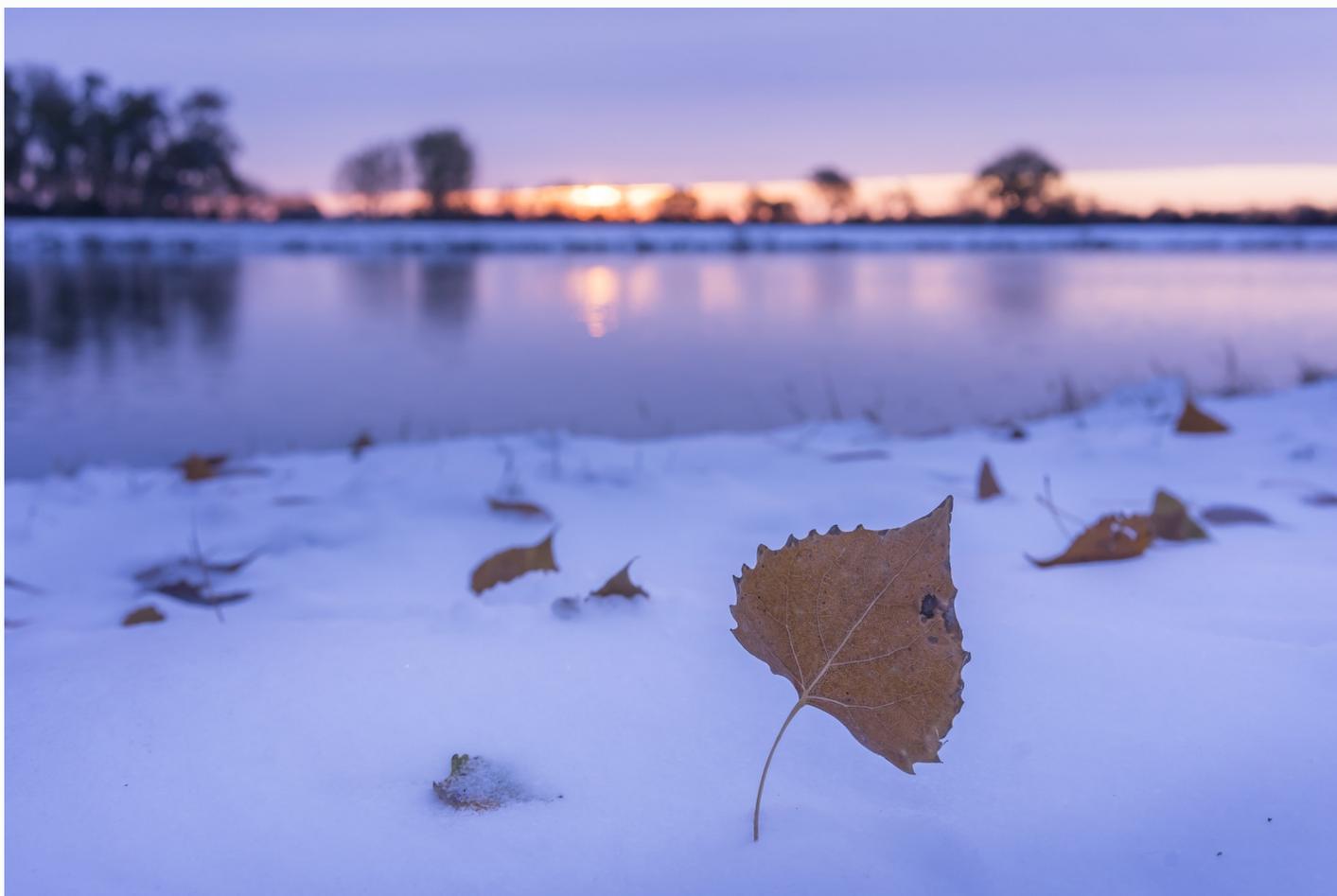


Monthly Report

Dec/Jan 2021

GAVINS POINT NFH



Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery—Yankton, SD

KWS Dace Refugia Development

By early December, we were able to set up two more circulars in the dace room. This has allowed us to separate wild fish by year class and replicate spawning environments to create 1x1 crosses with known parental contribution. Our new methods produced 11 new 1x1 crosses over the last 2 months including over 200 additional future individuals to the refugia. The ability to create 1x1 crosses separately and efficiently has eluded us for the last 3 years, and will now pave the way toward developing a genetically diverse refugia population in the effort to delist this species.



Pallid Sturgeon Reproductive Status

All wild middle basin pallid sturgeon have been evaluated for reproductive status going into next year. We have 6 reproductive females and 6 reproductive males going into the 2021 season.



Outreach and Communication

Sam completed construction on what will become an AIS interpretive display in our aquarium. The display will feature Asian carp mounts, zebra mussel encrusted props and educational signage. He also completed the “Writing for the USFWS” training, took part in the inaugural FWS Communication Corps meeting and began creating a new Gavins Point NFH website for the coming Drupal transition.

Surplus items auctioned

Surplus items were listed for sale. We cleaned house this fall and were able to identify certain pieces of property that were not needed and taking up space. Among the items included two trailers, an old Polaris Ranger, a grain wagon, a grain auger, and a grain bin.



Heaters were replaced in Endangered Species Building.

Tim, Chris, and Cole worked together to replace 2 original unit heaters in the Endangered Species Bld. The old heaters were installed in 1995 when the building was first commissioned. The hatchery is very fortunate to be able to utilize staff skills in order to save money where and when appropriate.



West well repair

The west well required emergency repair in January. Once pulled it was apparent that one of the bowls had developed a hole. The approximately 60' deep well requires periodic repair. While this well is down, we are able to continue normal culture operations using the east well.



Well flow sensors Replaced

Each tower needed a replacement well water flow meter. Tim and the crew successfully replaced each of them during an unseasonably warm day in January. Accurate well water usage is helpful in determining if systems are functioning efficiently.



Looking Ahead

- *KWS dace Spawning and experimental rearing*
- *Pallid Sturgeon Middle Basin Meeting*
- *Fish Culture Equipment repairs*
- *Generator Repairs*
- *Winter aquarium display cleanout project*

Hatchery Staff

Nick Starzl—Acting Project Leader

Tim Schroeder—Maint. Mechanic

Chris Hooley—Lead Fish Biologist

Sam Stukel—Fish Biologist

Terry Hall—Biological Science Tech

Cole Modereggor— Seasonal/volunteer

Ron Grandi— Seasonal



A 30" American Eel that was recently captured by an angler in the local Missouri and donated to our aquarium.

In Brief

- KWS Dace Refugia Development
- Pallid Sturgeon Reproductive Status
- Outreach and Communication
- Surplus items auctioned
- Heaters were replaced in Endangered Species Building.
- West well repair
- Well flow sensors Replaced
- Nick and Sam met with a member of the Friends Group to develop ideas for a fishing derby replacement during the pandemic.
- Seasonal hiring process
- Sam created content for three pieces featured on the Regional FWS Share-Point site.