

FLEUR DE LIS FISHERIES

US Fish and Wildlife Service



Above is a scenic view of the Saline River in Arkansas.

Newly metamorphosed Winged mapleleaf mussels.

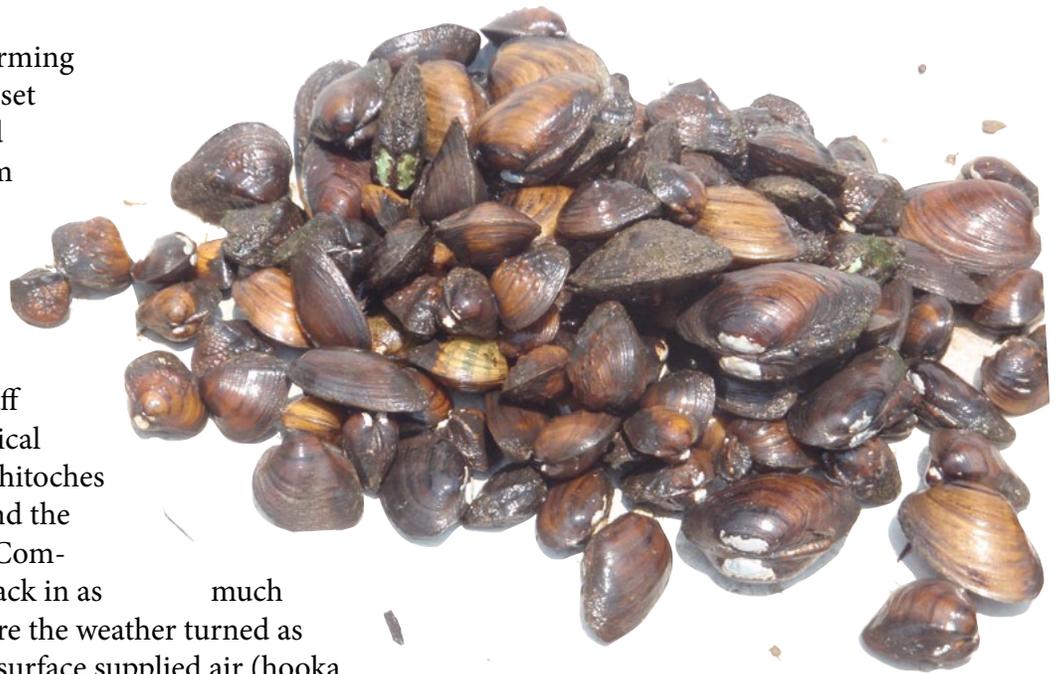
Adult Winged mapleleaf mussel.



Mussel Work Conducted Ahead of Isaac

By: Tony Brady

As Hurricane Isaac was forming in the Gulf of Mexico and set its sights on Louisiana and Mississippi, biologists from Louisiana and Arkansas took advantage of the calm before the storm to survey three mussel beds in the Saline River north of Crossett, AR. Staff from the Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office, Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission joined forces to pack in as much surveying as possible before the weather turned as Isaac approached. Using surface supplied air (hooka rig), Region 4 dive team members first delineated or measured the size of the mussel bed. Knowing the dimensions of the mussel bed, random points were selected to be sampled. Divers sampled the mussel beds by placing a frame (1m²) at the selected location and hand collected all the mussels in that area. After an extensive search of the area in the frame, the mussels were returned to the boat where they were sorted by species and counted. Mussel counts in some areas of the beds were between 400 and 500 mussels per



Freshwater mussels collected in a square meter sample in the Saline River. There are a minimum of 11 species in this one sample

square meter. Over 13,000 mussels were collected from the three beds. Two endangered mussels are found in the Saline River, the Winged mapleleaf *Quadrula fragosa* and the Pink mucket *Lampsilis abrupta*. Individuals from both species were collected during this survey. Currently the hatchery is working with the Arkansas ESFO to develop propagation techniques for the Winged Mapleleaf to aid in their recovery. We hope to have news of our production efforts in the October issue of Fleur de Lis Fisheries.



Region 4 SCUBA diver Chris Davidson can be found at the end of the green air line. He is digging up mussels from the Saline River.

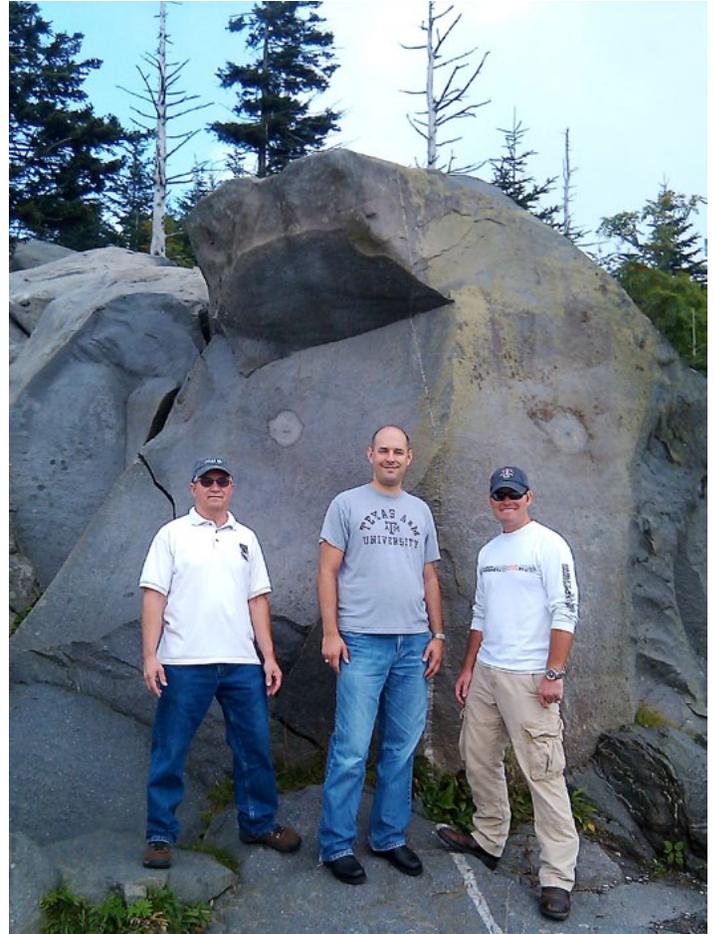
August 2012

Hatchery Staff Balance Work and Family

By: Tony Brady

For nearly 10 years now, I have been employed with the US Fish and Wildlife service, and in that time I have worked with other service employees from at least 15 other offices including refuges, fisheries, ecological services, fish health, and regional offices. I have also met, through training opportunities, service employees from all across this great nation, and one thing we all share is a passion for our jobs. I know for me that my passion can sometimes blur the line between work and recreation, because I get so much enjoyment out of what I do for the USFWS. While the joy of coming to work is a great thing, it is easy for service employees to forget to balance their lives between work and home. So I wanted to take a few minutes to share how some of the staff at Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery have taken time to do a little balancing in our lives.

During August, a couple of the hatchery staff took some time to spend with family members reconnecting and sharing precious time. First off, Assistant Manager Jan Dean took some time off and rode his motorcycle to East Tennessee where



Jan and his "biker gang" enjoy the view after riding their motorcycles to Clingmans Dome.



The Dean Clan spending the day at Laurel Falls

he got to spend a week with his children and grandchildren enjoying the beauty of the Tennessee mountains in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park along the Tennessee-North Carolina border. The family traveled along the Little River and Laurel Creek where they enjoyed a picnic and a walk in the stream. They all hiked to Laurel Falls where Jan showed his granddaughters a caterpillar which he moved off the path for safety. The women and granddaughters saw some turkeys and a small black bear near Cades Cove. The men rode their motorcycles up to Clingmans Dome which is the highest point in Tennessee at 6643 ft. above sea

level and is the third highest point in the Eastern United States. If you have to know, nearby Mt. Mitchell in NC is the highest point (6684 ft.) east of the Rockies. The forest at Clingmans Dome is a high elevation spruce-fir association more akin to what one would see in Canada than that typically seen in Tennessee or North Carolina. All of these events were in the park. Jan is a proud grandfather of four beautiful grandbabies who like many families these days are spread out into different states. With today's technology, we are able to see and talk to family easier, but being able to give and receive hugs makes this time together extra special.

As for myself, I turned 40 in August and my three daughters decided to take me to coastal Louisiana to do some fishing to celebrate my birthday. Yes I am a lucky man. Since we home school the girls and only live a few hours from the Southwest coast of Louisiana, we were able to take a day during the middle of the week and make a long day trip to Cameron, LA. At the Cameron Jetty Park, we were able to do some fishing in



My girls thought they would get out of doing school work by taking me to the beach, but Mom still snuck in a little school during lunch.

that stop them from watching with fascination as I taught them how to properly filet a flounder. We are already making plans for another trip sometime in September. So I encourage everyone to take a break and spend time with your families. Remember it is that time we spent as kids outside with our parents and family members that lead us to the professions we are in today.



Jordan Brady, biologist in training, waits with a net for the next crab to be pulled up at the Sabine NWR.

the Gulf of Mexico, watch dolphins swimming in front of cargo ships, and play with hermit crabs. We finished the day by catching some blue crabs at a recreational area on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. The final tally of the day was 5 flounder, 9 blue crabs, and 3 slightly sun burnt girls. However, being tired and sun burnt and the fact it was 10 o'clock at night, the girls didn't let
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The flounder and crabs were just a side benefit of the day spent with my family.