



Manager's Corner By: Karen Kilpatrick

The hatchery is fast approaching spring/summer production and is in a preparatory state prior to the busyness of "fish season." There is always a lot going on at the hatchery even though it looks relatively quiet to passersby. Another thing that affects the hatchery that is fast approaching is the end of the Continuing Resolution for our FY11 budget. The government has been operating under a Continuing Resolution since October 1st and the funding is slated to be either extended or ended on March 4th. In addition to the FY11 budget, the FY12 budget is also on the horizon. For information about the

budgets you can go to <http://www.doi.gov/budget>. You can find information on both the 2011 and the 2012 budgets there. Information from a 2009 document shows that for every tax dollar spent on recreational fish production at Natchitoches NFH, \$25 are generated for the economy. This amounts to nearly \$3.7 million every year, and comes from taxes generated, jobs created, and retail sales (like gas, food, lodging, rods and reels, and bait and tackle), all of which are created because of the recreational fish stocked out of Natchitoches. The Federal income tax generated alone almost

equals the amount spent on Natchitoches NFH's recreational fish production. Natchitoches NFH is one of eight National Fish Hatcheries across the Southeast that are responsible for \$26.8 million in annual economic benefits through warmwater recreational fish production. To the economy of the state of Louisiana, where Natchitoches NFH stocks its nearly 2 million fish each year, a whopping \$3.8 million is infused and 39 jobs are created. Bottom line, if you're "fishing" for a good deal... this public information shows that we're it!

Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery Helps Webelos Pack 60 Learn About Local Wildlife By: Tony Brady

What are Webelos you may ask? Webelos are part of the Boy Scout organization that helps transition the den members from the Cub Scouts run by adults to being full Boy Scouts in which the boys do the leading and planning. The boys from a local den of Webelos in Natchitoches, LA, known as Pack 60, are working on earning their Naturalist badge. The Naturalist badge helps develop the boys' respect for plants, animals, and their environment. One requirement for the Naturalist badge is to learn about a

plant or animal that is found only in the den's area of the country. Due to the ongoing outreach activities of Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery

Mussel (LPM) and asked if the hatchery could give a presentation to his Webelos den. We were happy to give a presentation during which the den members



Hatchery staff looks on while the Webelos look at a Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel

(NNFH), Den leader Joey Albrecht had heard about the Louisiana Pearlshell

learned that the LPM is currently only found in two Louisiana parishes, and they heard about the research that is ongoing at NNFH to learn more about their life history and habitat requirements. Mr. Albrecht was very pleased with the presentation and asked if we could do it another time for other dens of Webelos. The answer was,

"YES! - we would love to assist the Webelos when we can. "

Extra! Extra! Read All About It: Two Natchitoches NFH Biologists Gets Published in Scientific Journals

By: Tony Brady

Anyone who has ever tried to get some written material published in a book or magazine knows that there are many hurdles to jump before finally getting your words in print. Understandably, getting published in a scientific, peer-review journal adds a level of difficulty that scientists accept in order to share their findings, hoping to make a difference in the world. Two biologists at Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery (NNFH) recently have had manuscripts accepted for publication in two different peer-review journals. Assistant Manager Dr. Jan Dean is the lead author for the paper titled “Maximum Output of Peak Power for two Backpack Electrofishers Operated at Various Pulsed DC Duty Cycles and Water Conductivities”. Dr. Dean’s manuscript will be published in

the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. The research for this paper was conducted while doing a detail at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). Dr. Dean will represent the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NCTC, and NNFH when he presents this research later this year at the American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Seattle, Washington.

The newest member of the NNFH staff, Mussel Propagation Biologist Tony Brady is lead author for a manuscript that has been accepted for publication in the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management. Brady’s



Understanding how different backpack electrofishers work, helps determine which device to use in different situations.

manuscript titled “A Method for Culturing Mussels Using In-River Cages” is a methods paper that describes the techniques used at Genoa National Fish Hatchery (GNFH), WI, to culture two and three year old endangered mussels, prior to releasing them back to the wild. Brady was the Mussel Propagation Biologist for GNFH for seven years before transferring to NNFH to build a new mussel program for the Southeast Region of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. While Dr. Dean and Brady are listed as lead authors, both men give thanks and credit to their co-authors for ensuring the success of each manuscript. For more information about either of these two papers, please feel free to contact the hatchery at 318-352-5324.



SCUBA divers deploying one of the Genao NFH Style Mussel Culture Cages



NATCHITOCHESES NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

615 South Drive
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Phone: 318-352-5324

Fax: 318-352-8082

E-mail: tony_brady@fws.gov

*Saving the world, one species
at a time.*



Natchitoches NFH's Aquarium tank showing local stream fish that are possible host fish for the threatened Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel

<http://www.fws.gov/natchitoches>

www.facebook.com/natchitochesNFH

Partners Corner

By: Tony Brady

Over the past few months, you have read about the ongoing work Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery is doing with the Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel (LPM). This month we would like to turn our spotlight on the award winning work done by one of our partners, the United States Forest Service (USFS). The Kisatchie National Forest is home to a large portion of LPMs and the hatchery works closely with their staff to help protect the LPM. Bruce Prudhomme, while working as a hydrologist on the Kisatchie National Forest, was recently the recipient of the USFS' National Friend of Fish/Watershed Award. Prudhomme was successful in incorporating Best Management Practices (BMP) and erosion prevention compliance for three major highway projects near or within USFS lands.

His work helped increase on-the-ground protection for the LPM. Erosion/siltation in the mussel streams can have devastating effects to the all mussel populations by potentially smothering entire mussel beds with the eroded sediments. Even a steady source of silt into a stream can be harmful by simply filling up the spaces between substrate where the baby mussels live thus changing the water chemistry and making those spaces uninhabitable to the baby mussels. Prudhomme was also a critical catalyst for facilitating cooperation among multiple agencies working on construction projects. Those agencies included: Louisiana Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USFS Southern

Research Station, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On behalf of all the LPMs that were saved, NNFH would like to say Thank You to Bruce Prudhomme!

