



# Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

## Monthly Staff Report for June 2014



### Aquatic Species Habitat Conservation and Management

#### Fish Distribution for June

1. Channel catfish were delivered to Fort Sill Military Base as part of our reimbursable agreement with the Department of Defense. This trip included about two thousand 14-16 inch catfish.
2. Channel catfish were delivered to Muleshoe NWR in Texas for their Fishing Derby. Muleshoe NWR reimbursed delivery and rearing costs.



*Staff delivers catfish to Muleshoe NWR.*



3. Five thousand paddlefish, measuring about seven inches in length, were tagged for stocking in John Redmond Reservoir by the Kansas Wildlife Department.

4. La Crosse Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office in Wisconsin received five hundred 5-inch paddlefish to assist in their research of paddlefish serving as host for mussels.

**(CSF 5.3.1; CSF 5.2.1)**

*YCC student Kyler Gastineau learns how to tag paddlefish.*

## Fish Health Inspection

Staff from Dexter Fish Health Unit performed the annual Fish Health Inspection; results are pending.

## Volunteers

With a start date of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tishomingo NFH has hired two local high school students to serve as YCC summer help. After an orientation in safety and hatchery methodology, these two young men began learning tasks in pond, grounds, and building maintenance to prepare for the station's Kids' Fishing Derby. They will also assist with paddlefish, channel catfish, and alligator snapping turtle culture tasks; and learn techniques for insuring good water quality; all while being shown ways to be good environmental stewards. The students will be employed through July. (CSF 52.1.2)



*YCC students and Career Intern student assist in harvesting paddlefish brood stock.*

## Outreach

*20<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids' Fishing Derby with big catfish and smiles.*



The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids' Fishing Derby at Tishomingo NFH was a great success, with 200 children fishing, and about 425 in attendance. Winners of the drawings claimed 34 prizes, including life

vests, rod and reels, tackle boxes, tents, chairs, and thermos jugs. We appreciate contributions from

the John Bruno Memorial Fund for these prizes, and local merchants for providing them. The fruit and healthy snacks, water and juices, provided by the Chickasaw Nation were a big hit for the hungry children as they fished. A special “thank you” goes to Linda Vannest of Dexter Fish Health Unit for staying on after the fish health inspection was complete and volunteering her help on Friday and Saturday with the Derby. After 20 years of hosting this fishing derby, the smiles and fun enjoyed by all in attendance do prove that “Getting Outdoors” does foster healthy, happy youth. (CSF 15.4.8)

*Linda Vannest of Dexter Fish Health Unit passes around chicken liver for bait at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids’ Fishing Derby.*



## Tours



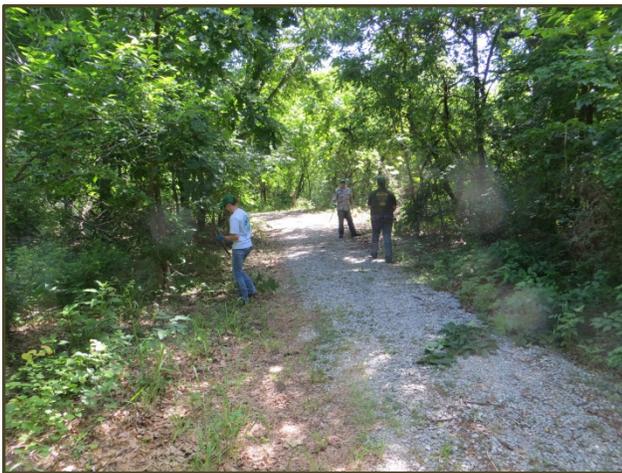
*Boy Scouts enjoy feeding catfish during their tours.*

During June and July, Boy Scouts who are attending the local summer camps visit the hatchery to earn badges in Citizenship and the Nation. The Tishomingo NFH taught scouts weekly from Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, and Arkansas, about the function of a National Fish Hatchery and about the importance of protecting our natural resources. Most of the boys had never even heard of a paddlefish, and actually seeing thousands up close was quite an experience. The favorite sight remains the feeding of channel catfish and the feeding frenzy created by the always-hungry adult catfish. (CSF 15.4.8)

As part of a federal grant for science, math, and technology enrichment in public schools, Murray State College hosted a weeklong summer camp for students in eighth and ninth grade. In addition, as part of the same federal grant, students from Lawton Public Schools toured Tishomingo NFH, viewing channel catfish eggs and fry at different stages, juvenile paddlefish, alligator snapping turtles compared to common snapping turtles, and then everyone fed adult catfish. After

the tour, the students seined Pennington Creek as an aid in their study of aquatic life and vegetation. Together the two groups totaled about one hundred students.

*Channel catfish fry for visitors to see.*



As an outreach experience, YCC from the Tishomingo NWR visited the Tishomingo NFH. During the day they spent at the hatchery the Refuge YCC were given a tour of our facilities, then these YCC assisted the hatchery's YCC in clearing the Nature Trail of brush and fallen limbs.

*YCC from Tishomingo NWR and Tishomingo NFH work on Nature Trail.*

The University of Oklahoma Biological Station brought their students to the Tishomingo NFH for tours of our alligator snapping turtle facilities, to view paddlefish, and feed the hungry channel catfish. Students then can seine in Pennington Creek for aquatic invertebrates and vertebrates, as well as vegetation samples.

Waurika Schools requested a presentation by hatchery staff for their children's summer enrichment program at the city's library. With ages ranging from five to twelve, the staff took alligator snapping turtles, common snapping turtle, Mississippi mud turtle, and red-ear slider turtles for the students to compare. [\(CSF 15.4.8\)](#)

## Work Force

Ralph Simmons and Aaron White took the Motorboat Operator Certification Course at Sequoyah NWR.

All hatchery staff successfully took the 2014 FISSA Training as required.



*Pennington Creek footbridge.*

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>

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*June 2014*

*Photos courtesy of FWS staff.*

