

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Staff Report
September 2014



Aquatic Species Habitat Conservation and Management



Paddlefish stocked in Caddo Lake in Texas.

Texas Parks and Wildlife stocked two thousand tagged paddlefish from Tishomingo NFH in Caddo Lake in East Texas. This is part of an ongoing effort, including Texas FWCO, to restore paddlefish to their native habitat in the Red River drainage areas of East Texas and Caddo Lake itself. Monitoring will be done by Texas FWCO and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Derby-sized channel catfish were distributed to the Buffalo Lake NWR in Texas where they were stocked in a city pond in Friona, near the refuge. Due to drought conditions there, the Kids' Fishing Derby was to be held in Friona. Buffalo Lake NWR reimbursed Tishomingo NFH for the cost of raising these fish.

Releasing channel catfish at Buffalo Lake NWR in Texas.



Derby-sized channel catfish were also distributed to the Seminole Nation in Oklahoma for a fishing derby to be held on Indian land.



Stocking channel catfish on Seminole land for a Fishing Derby.

Outreach Accomplishment

In Connerville, a community just north of the Tishomingo NFH, the hatchery participated in their Fair Day by exhibiting alligator snapping turtles and alligator gar in aquaria, and handing out outreach materials of pencils, stickers, and bookmarks. Approximately 300 people attended the fair, all quite interested in both the function of a national fish hatchery and the turtles and gar on display.

Staff greets Expo visitors at the Hatchery's exhibition.

In an effort to foster cooperative projects with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), the Tishomingo NFH participated in the ODWC 9th Annual Wildlife Expo, sponsored entirely by ODWC and several business partners. The Expo covers a three-day period with spectacular hands-on events for children and adults in both outdoor and indoor venues. Children can learn the fundamentals of fishing in a stocked pond, archery, kayaking, hunter safety, and various crafts using all natural items. The free event attracted an estimated 42,000 people, with Friday's designated school attendance bringing about 16,000 young people on that day alone. Hatchery staff set up an educational booth, using aquaria for live alligator snapping turtles, a common snapping turtle, red ear slider turtle, and mud turtle for comparison, and an alligator gar to catch the curiosity of visitors. A panoramic pictorial display of hatchery activities and species served as the backdrop for our booth to educate the public on the purpose and mission of a federal fish hatchery – that of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment, as well as the President's initiative of getting young people outdoors. The huge success of the Expo is a worthwhile outreach event that the hatchery will continue supporting in future years.

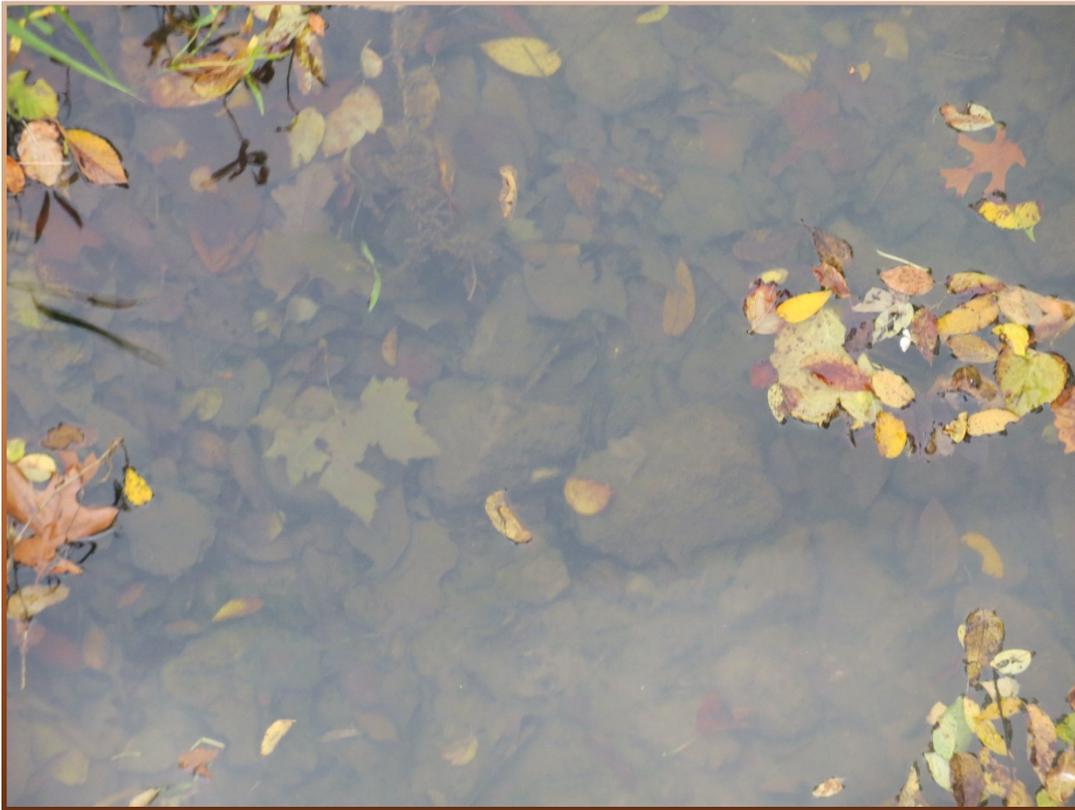


Large crowds enjoy displays at the Expo.

In September, the Tishomingo NFH participated in the Johnston County Fair, which lasted 2 days. On Thursday, the public schools in Tishomingo and the surrounding counties brought about 700 students to the fair. We were able to showcase the alligator gar and alligator snapping turtle juvenile and hatchlings in aquaria for all the visitors to see. Outreach materials were also given to the students such as pencils, notepads, and tattoos stating “It’s Cool to Care”.

Sample of outreach materials given out at Expo.





Fall colors arrive on Pennington Creek.

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/tishomingo>

Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

5501 OK Highway 7W

Tishomingo, OK 73460

Phone: 580-384-5463

Manager: Kerry G. Graves

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