



Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Activity Report

February 2013



Uvalde National Fish Hatchery Staff

Project Leader – Grant Webber

Assistant Project Leader – Karin Eldridge

Administrative Technician – Sandra Castaneda

Engineering Equipment Operator – Cirilo Alonzo

Maintenance Worker – Rene Guerra

Fish Biologist – Rick Echols

Animal Caretaker – Vacant

Volunteers – Patricia Schenk and Thomas Jetzer

Partnerships and Accountability

In partnership with the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, the station continues propagation efforts for razorback sucker. As identified in approved Recovery Plans, refugia efforts continue for the Texas wild-rice, fountain darter, Comanche Springs pupfish, and San Marcos salamanders.

The Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC) (formerly known as Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center) picked up 4,000 pounds of razorback sucker diet feed that was purchased by the Uvalde NFH for anticipated receipt of razorback larvae. Uvalde did not want the feed to go to waste so it was transferred to SNARRC for their use.

In an effort to reduce channel catfish numbers on station 280 broodstock averaging 13 pounds apiece were given to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for distribution into Live Oak Park Lake, Frio County Regional Park Lake, and Converse North Park City Lake, TX. The fish were older broodstock whose reproductive capabilities had diminished and were consuming lots of feed.

Workforce Management

Cirilo attended the required annual Pesticide Applicator Training for the Texas Department of Agriculture. The credits he earned are required to renew his state applicators license and be the station's certified pesticide applicator.

Brandy Santleben, a student enrolled in the Wildlife Management program at the local Southwest Texas Junior College, volunteered this month for one day. She worked on various tasks including cleaning tanks, wild rice maintenance, and assisted with feeding. She had intended on volunteering two times a week but found a job locally and unfortunately will not be able to volunteer anymore in the future. We are happy for her since she needed the job to continue her college degree.



The winter volunteers, Patricia and Thomas, finished building and assembling the stands for the aquaria display that is located in the lobby for visiting public. They also started designing and constructing a computer stand for the station's touch screen computer that will also be located in the lobby for visitors to use. The computer will have various video files loaded into the computer for visitors to touch the screen file to open and view video footage of aquaculture activities that occur at the Uvalde NFH.

Facility Maintenance

The Spurgeon well pump was pulled for maintenance. Initially when the pump was pulled it got hung up on an obstacle so this time acid was pumped into the well and the blockage was cleared. The contractor is waiting on a modification to proceed with the purchase of the worn components so that they can reassemble the well for use.



The GE transfer switch that transfers power to the tankhouse from the CAT generator during power outages was replaced. Prior to the replacement, staff would manually have to transfer power from the generator to the tankhouse during power outages.



February's air temperatures ranged from a low of 32 degrees Fahrenheit to a high of 82 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation totaled 0.06 inches this month. According to The Weather Channel the monthly precipitation average for February is 1.30 inches. On February 25, 2013 Uvalde had a wind storm with wind gusts of up to 58.7 miles per hour (mph). The strong winds abounded from 4:00 am to 6:30 pm with average speeds of 20 to 30 mph according to the *Uvalde Leader-News*. Two bird deterrent nets covering ponds 18 and 19 were destroyed by the strong winds.

Additional Facility Activities

Staff attended two webcasts hosted by Director Dan Ashe on sequestration and participated in a regional fisheries conference call regarding sequestration.

Mike Montagne, Project Leader of the Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, visited the facility to discuss proposed new species to bring on the station.

Grant and Karin participated in a conference call with Jim Brooks and Jason Davis, New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Project Leader and Assistant Project Leader respectively, regarding the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program.

Grant and Karin participated in a conference call between the Regional Office Fisheries, a representative from the Texas Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC), and the Texas Fish and Wildlife Coordination Office regarding coordination and planning for funding that the LCC anticipate receiving.

Facility Visitors

The hatchery was visited by 11 individuals this month for bird watching, tours, and other outdoor visitation activities.