

# Warm Springs Fish Health Center

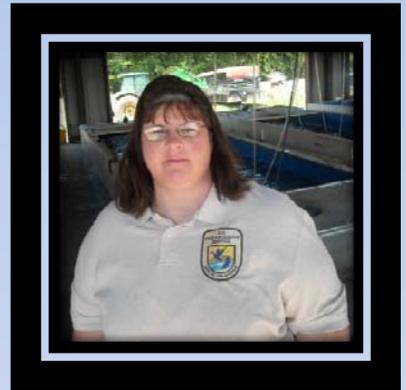
March - May 2011 Activity Report



Norm Heil, Project Leader  
Brian Hickson, Fish Biologist  
Devin Chappell, Fish Biologist  
Allison Hernandez, Fish Biologist  
Nikki Persons, Fish Biologist  
(below)



The Fish Health Center (FHC) is a component of the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center (RFC) and was developed to improve and enhance fisheries management. More specifically, the FHC provides a wide range of services from disease diagnostics to ploidy inspections.



## Goals:

- Provide service, expertise and information that contributes to the health, survival, enhancement, restoration, and recovery of fish and other aquatic species in support of national and regional priorities.
- Supports hatchery operations to provide quality fish that contribute to ecosystem objectives.
- Assists in the development of management strategies through assessment and applied research to support the protection of wild stocks and recovery of threatened and endangered species.
- Educates key audiences about the elements of comprehensive fish health and its critical significance to healthy aquatic ecosystems.



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<http://www.fws.gov/warmsprings/FishHealth/index.html>

## Fish Health Diagnostics

With a busy month of March, SCA intern Mike Hassett, of the Fish Technology Center (top right), Cody Meshes of the Youth Ambassador Program (middle) and SCA intern Kara Brown of the Regional Fisheries Center (bottom right) assisted with working up fish or samples that arrived at the Fish Health Center. Without their help, the FHC staff may have been heavily challenged with timely sample processing.



# Fish Health Diagnostics



In late March, visitors from the Regional Office and from Washington D.C. came to the Regional Fisheries Center, during which they toured the facilities. Norm led the Fish Health Center tour. Visitors included: Joel Bader, Cindy Williams, Mark Musaus, Chuck Hunter, Bill Uihlein, & Meredith Bartron.



# Fish Health Diagnostics



In April, Norm went to Erwin National Fish Hatchery to conduct their bi-annual inspection.





## Triploid Grass Carp Program



On March 3-4, 2011, the annual Triploid Grass Carp (TGC) meeting was held in New Orleans, LA. US FWS inspectors and TGC producers met to discuss the MOA that went into effect as of October 2010. Overall, the meeting was positive and productive.





## Triploid Grass Carp Program



Brian and Allison collected data for a study looking at breakdown of fish blood samples over time measured on a coulter counter for the Triploid Grass Carp Program. Brian has been busy this quarter with analysis of those data.



## Wild Fish Health Survey



In March, Devin and Brian assisted Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery staff with their annual American shad collection of broodstock on the Edisto River. Other species of fish caught during the collection were used for the Wild Fish Health Survey.



# Wild Fish Health Survey



In March, the Wild Fish Health Survey group had a meeting hosted by the Fish Health Center and held at the Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center.

For more information visit the site: <http://www.fws.gov/wildfishsurvey/database/>



# Wild Fish Health Survey



In early April, Devin and Brian went to Lake Jocassee to assist South Carolina DNR staff with their gill net sampling. Collected fish were measured, weighed, some species had otoliths taken and then all fish were provided to Wild Fish Health Survey for diagnostics.



## Wild Fish Health Survey



Devin and Brian continued their collaborative efforts with Columbus State University professor, Dr. Bill Birkhead, collecting fish on the Chattahoochee River in April and were also able to collect fish for Wild Fish Health Survey.



## Other FHC Activities



**Spring Cleaning!!**

On March 10, in collaboration with Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery and Fish Technology Center staff, Fish Health Center staff helped with a Spring cleaning on the center's common use grounds, wet lab and parking lot.

## Special Mention



Staff appreciation day



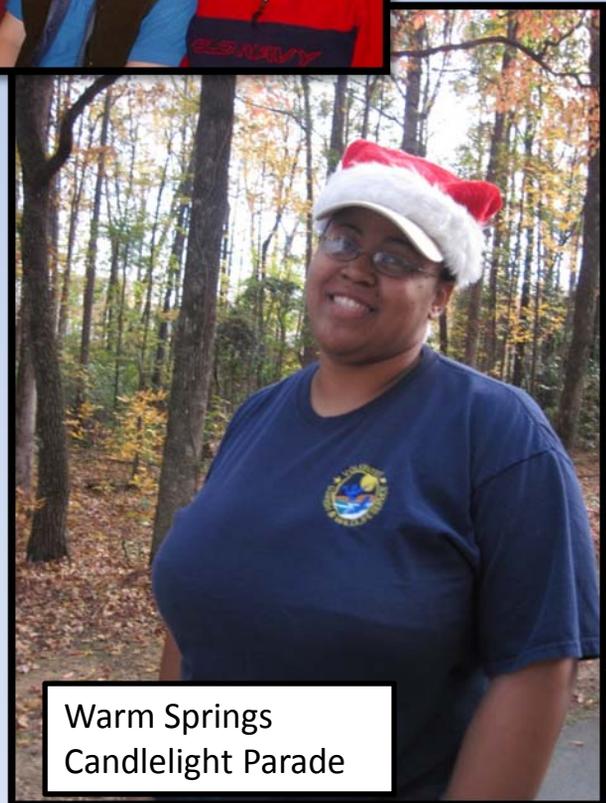
Volunteer recognition dinner



Carnivorous Plants display workday



Fish workup in FHC lab



Warm Springs Candlelight Parade

Kara Brown was a SCA volunteer for a year with the Regional Fisheries Center. She was involved with all entities of the Center including Fish Health. She was especially involved with Fish Health Center activities towards the end of her internship. Her disposition was pleasant and she was very beneficial in helping out the Health Center team. Upon her departure in May, Kara is planning on returning to school for her Masters of Science in Biology. We will miss you, Kara!! Thank you for all of your hard work and GOOD LUCK!!