



## JIM HINKLE/SPRING RIVER HATCHERY NEWSLETTER

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### January, February, and March Activities

It's time once again to inform everyone of our first quarter of 2009. Once again we here at the hatchery wonder how three months have come and gone so fast. As usual we try to sort out a few headlines out of many.

This quarter saw the coming of an arguably unprecedented ice storm which resulted in power outages from several days to weeks here in our area. The hatchery grounds didn't fair very well either as our entire bird netting that covered the premises came down due to all the ice. We're still cleaning up all the limbs and damage done.



The net over the entire facility was down...

We also said goodbye to hatchery assistant manager, Mike Lewis, who transferred to the William Donham

hatchery in Corning. Mike will truly be missed by everyone here at the hatchery.

### Take me to the River Once Again!...

This quarter we trucked out 163,562 head of trout with a total weight of 102,731 pounds. Our driver's successfully and safely delivered these fish to designated sites all over the state. Our driver's also successfully backhauled 159,400 trout ranging in size from 5"-8" from the Norfolk and Greer's Ferry Facilities. So the next time you see Joe Haley, Jason Hickman, or Brandon Myers out stocking be sure to tell them what a good job their doing. The adjacent chart outlines the distribution numbers.



Trucks roll out rain or shine...

**Jim Hinkle/Spring River SFH  
Distribution Report for Rainbow Trout  
January, February, March  
2009**

<b>Body of Water</b>	<b>Number Head</b>	<b>Number Pounds</b>
<b>Amon's Lake</b>	1,800	1,191
<b>Atalanta Lake</b>	4,680	3,167
<b>Boyle Park Pond</b>	1,000	631
<b>Cabot Community Pond</b>	2,000	1,434
<b>Lake Catherine</b>	3,000	1,935
<b>Cherrywood Lake</b>	1,000	672
<b>Craighead Forest Y&amp;S Pond</b>	1,700	1,076
<b>Lake Hamilton</b>	1,500	968
<b>Kiwanis Park Pond</b>	1,250	788
<b>Little Missouri River</b>	1,700	1,097
<b>Little Rock Air Force Base</b>	1,900	1,191
<b>MacArthur Park Pond</b>	1,250	788
<b>Little Red River</b>	10,465	6,417
<b>Martin Luther King Park Pond</b>	500	410
<b>Mirror Lake</b>	2,840	1,922
<b>Murphy Park Pond</b>	1,100	732
<b>Narrows Dam Tailwater</b>	13,850	8,878
<b>Otter Creek Pond</b>	750	425
<b>Ouachita River</b>	1,600	1,032
<b>Pleasant View Park Pond</b>	800	505
<b>Rock Creek</b>	1,900	1,191
<b>Salem City Lake</b>	2,050	1,218
<b>Sherwood City Pond</b>	200	118
<b>Spring River</b>	22,540	13,937
<b>Springdale Lake</b>	800	539
<b>Lake Valencia</b>	2,650	1,653
<b>War Memorial Park Pond</b>	1,000	631
<b>West Memphis City Park Pond</b>	2,250	1,316
<b>White River</b>	75,487	46,909

## **2009 ICE STORM**

It's hard to put into words what the ice storm we had was like in our neck of the woods. We had around 3 to 4 inches of ice and the clean up efforts are still ongoing. It seems like any limb that was of any size broke, couple that with all the trees and power lines that were down everywhere and it was a mess. In Fulton County alone we had over 5,000 power poles down. We all were out of power for several days, some people for weeks. Here at the hatchery the damage was almost overwhelming. The overhead bird netting came crashing down as a result of the weight of the ice on the netting which caused the anchor poles (which are the same as what's used for power poles) snapped like toothpicks.



**Netting down over our gazebo...**

It seemed almost every limb around our facility was down. Our crew worked really hard to clean up and get our facility up and operating again. It was just an unprecedented event that we hope we won't see again for a long time. According to the old timers this storm was worse than the ice storm of 1955.



**Here's a picture of what the net looked like going up.**



**Here the same shot with the net down...**



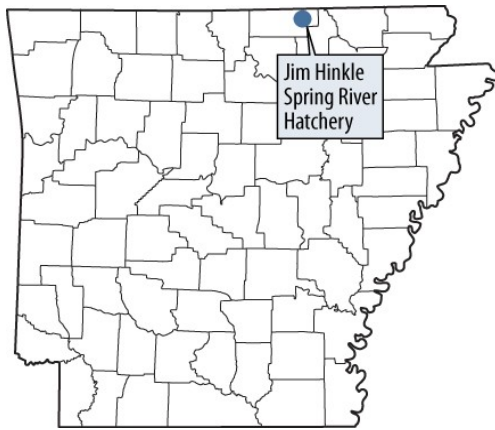
**One more picture of what the net looked like up...a mess to clean up to say the least.**

## **Mike, we'll miss you man!**

Everyone here at the hatchery said goodbye this quarter to assistant manager Mike Lewis as he accepted a position with the Agency's William H. Donham hatchery at Corning. Mike transferred to the Jim Hinkle/Spring River Hatchery in 1996 as a technician from Lonoke. In 2001, Mike was promoted to hatchery assistant manager. He served in that position until March 13 of this year. Mike was one of those guys who was easy to work with. He had a way of getting the most out of his guys and he will be hard to replace. We already miss his presence around the hatchery. Thanks Mike for 14 years of service.



## **Education & Outreach**



## **Annual Fish Health Assessment**

On March 12, 2009 Fisheries Pathologist Kelly Wunningham and hatchery staff Cody Wyatt, Brandon Myers, Mike Davis, and Bud McCullough took samples from about 150 trout from our production units pulling internal organs for our annual health assessment. The project went smooth without any problems. The samples were then taken to UAPB for analysis.



Cody, Kelly, Mike, and Bud taking samples to study.



Richard giving years of experience to the guys.

## Dam Maintenance

On March 13<sup>th</sup> Cody, Mike and Richard Shopen did a routine inspection of the dam here at the hatchery. Since it was Mike and Cody's first time out to inspect the dam, the inspection was also an introduction to the operation and design of the dam. Richard described in detail the way to safely go about maneuvering through the dam and what points needed regular inspection.



## Welcome aboard Mike...

We also welcomed Mike Davis to our crew this quarter. Mike is a veteran of the military having served six years with the U.S. Navy as a deep sea diver. Mike is married and has two sons Blake and Tyler. The family resides here in Mammoth Spring.



Mike Davis...



In closing we are glad the inclement weather has given way to nice spring days. We as a crew once again came together and overcame yet another round of severe weather. From the Jim Hinkle/Spring River crew we say thanks for reading and so long!