



## JOE HOGAN HATCHERY NEWSLETTER

Jason Miller Hatchery Manager E-mail: [jbmiller@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:jbmiller@agfc.state.ar.us)  
 Chad Wicker Asst. Manager E-mail: [wcwicker@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:wcwicker@agfc.state.ar.us)  
 23 Joe Hogan Ln. Lonoke, AR 72068 Tel: (877) 676-6963

### January– March 2009

Welcome to the Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery. This past quarter has been quite a busy time for the crew. We have finished our spring catchable and grass carp pending stockings, harvested 98,750 white crappie and 60,000 black crappie, leaving only 10,000 white crappie to complete our 2009 pending stockings. We have also spread some fingerling catfish for grow-out to yearling and catchable size. We have separated our male and female largemouth bass and harvested some fathead minnows to be used as forage for hatcheries and nursery ponds.

The USDA, ARS at Stuttgart finished a one and a half year study comparing channel catfish to blue/channel hybrids. They were kind enough to donate over 32,500 lbs. of hybrid catfish to the AGFC. In a week-long effort these fish were harvested and distributed to Family and Community ponds throughout the state. This project was made easier with the help of the Stuttgart staff and trucks and drivers from other hatcheries around the state.



Harvesting blue/ channel hybrids donated by  
 Aquaculture Research Station

Seven people from the Joe Hogan Hatchery worked on the Northern Snakehead Eradication Project. Hatchery Manager, Jason Miller led a boat strike team while Assistant Manager, Chad Wicker led an ATV strike team containing Hatchery Biologist,

JJ Gladden. Dean Smith and Nick Werle worked in helicopter support, Bill Shinn worked on the assessment team, and Michael Radford worked with the detoxification effort. Everyone worked hard, day in and day out, and enjoyed being able to contribute to the project.



Bill Shinn and Katrina Heath tagging catfish for exploitation study.

In March the hatchery crew aided Jeff Quinn in tagging fish for an ongoing catfish exploration study and later stocking these fish in designated rivers and lakes. JJ Gladden assisted Shawn Hodges of the National Park Service with the stocking and tagging of catfish used in the Buffalo River Restoration Study. We also prepared production ponds for black and white crappie, which will be stocked on April 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition the Cummins nursery ponds have been stocked with brood stock largemouth bass caught at ABA tournaments from Pendleton Dam on the Arkansas River near Dumas.

During the winter months the crew found the time to attend several meetings and training sessions. In February, Jason Miller attended the Mid Continent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop in Iowa. Bill Shinn, Michael Radford, Nick Werle, Chad Wicker, and JJ Gladden attended the American Fisheries Society's Arkansas Chapter meeting at Bentonville. Rob Peterson attended the Ornamental and Baitfish Growers meeting in Lonoke. Most of the crew received first-aid and CPR/ AED training on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The hatchery crew accomplished a lot in the past three months. The next quarter will be even busier with spawning season upon us. Next quarter we will update you on largemouth bass and catfish spawning. 'Till then, happy fish'n.

### *Special Announcements this Quarter*

**Birthdays:** February 21<sup>st</sup> – Chad Wicker  
March 26<sup>th</sup> – Rob Peterson  
March 31<sup>st</sup> – Julian Proctor