

FLEUR DE LIS FISHERIES

US Fish and Wildlife Service



At Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, youth can connect with nature through archery on the hatchery's new 3-D archery range.

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USFWS Sturgeon Delegation Visits China

On November 10-20th, six USFWS employees representing three different regions traveled to China to meet with officials, employees, professors and private companies and discuss a range of issues about their threatened and endangered species. The primary topic discussed was the recovery of the critically endangered Chinese Sturgeon *Acipenser sinensis*. Once found in multiple rivers, the Chinese Sturgeon is now only found in the Yangtze River, with estimates of only 100 adults in the wild. Two hydroelectric dams have been

constructed on the Yangtze River which has only exacerbated the population decline. The six USFWS employees each had different backgrounds that were each beneficial to their Chinese counterparts. Some were able to discuss culturing techniques, health screenings and treatments, sperm cryopreservation, building partnerships and other recovery actions. The delegation thoroughly enjoyed the trip and look forward to future collaboration with the USFWS and the multiple Chinese conservation agencies.



USFWS Sturgeon Delegation: Left to Right William Wayman, Region 4, Warm Springs Fish Technology Center; Daniel Schwarz, Region 4, Pvt. John Allen National Fish Hatchery; Rebekah McCann, Region 3, LaCrosse Fish Health Center; Angela Baran, Region 3, Genoa National Fish Hatchery; Kyle Hanson, Region 1, Abernathy Fish Technology Center; and David Hendrix, Region 3, Neosha National Fish Hatchery.

Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery Goes 3-D

In 2012, Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery saw a need in the Natchitoches Parish 4-H shooting sports program to have a space where kids could learn to shoot bows and arrows. The hatchery staff saw an opportunity to help meet this need by taking the Archery as an Outreach Tool class offered at the National Conservation Training Center. With the supplies acquired through the class, the hatchery teamed up with the Natchitoches Parish 4-H to begin hosting archery practice on the hatchery grounds. Regular archery practices are held during the school year for 4-Hers to



William "Tell" takes aim at a 3-D boar on the Natchitoches NFH 3-D Archery Range.

come and connect with nature through archery. Over the years the number of kids participating in archery at the hatchery has grown to as many as 24 kids at a single practice. Not only have the number of kids grown, but the kids themselves have grown and now several of the archers are shooting the nationals division. In this division the archers must shoot on three different archery courses. The first archery course is a FITA round where they shoot at a 10 ring target from known distances ranging from 30 to 60 meters. The second archery course is a field round where they shoot at various sizes of 3 ring targets from a distance from 5 to 50 yard. These two courses are shot on a flat field and recreating those conditions is relative easy at the hatch-

ery. The third course is a 3-D course where the archers shoot at life-sized foam animal targets set in a wooded course. The shooters must guess the distances that range from 5 to 50 yards. In a 3-D course, some of the shots are made either from elevated shooting positions, or shooting up hill. To challenge the archers, some of the shots must be made in tight shooting lanes with a limb or brush obstructing a clear sightline to the target. Over the past year the staff at Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery has worked to develop a 3-D course in a small wooded lot on the station. Several lanes have been cut in this wooded lot allowing for multiple shots at a single target. Elevated shots can be made from adjacent pond levees. In April of 2015, Natchitoches Parish 4-H has one archer shooting the national division. Before the hatchery developed the 3-D practice course, she shot a 3-D score of 30 at the Regional 4-H tournament. After the course was developed and she had a chance to practice on it, she improved her 3-D score to a 91 at the State 4-H tournament. The 3-D course



These young ladies pull arrows out of one of the 3-D targets on the range.

will be more valuable than ever now that the Louisiana 4-H shooting sports program is creating a 3-D division that in which any 4-H archery can compete. Having the 3-D course will allow Natchitoches NFH to provide more opportunities for kids to enjoy the sport of ARCHERY!