

WELAKA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY NEWS



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Welaka National Fish Hatchery Gets New Deputy Project Leader

The staff at Welaka National Fish Hatchery would like to introduce and welcome Tony Brady as their new Deputy Project Leader. Tony has been with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 13 years, and comes to Welaka from Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery where he spent the past six years doing freshwater mussel research, Alligator Gar culture, and assisting other hatcheries in starting up successful mussel propagation programs. Tony started his career as the Service's first Mussel Propagation Biologist stationed at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Genoa, WI. At both of his former hatcheries, Tony has gained a lot of experience with outreach and connecting people with nature. Tony developed a very successful Archery Program at the Natchitoches NFH, through the local 4-H, and he is

already making plans to work with the Putnam County 4-H to start an Archery club based here at the Welaka NFH. Tony brings three experienced archers with him to help start the Archery club in his daughters, Stasi, Jordan and Leslie. All three girls have competed in several Louisiana regional and state 4-H archery tournaments. Finishing out the Brady family is Tony's wife Anita, the "Archery MOM", as clearly stated by the large pink Archery MOM window decal plastered across the back window of their vehicle. Anita is a stay at home, homeschooling mom, who supports the girls and Tony in all their adventures. Welcome to Florida, Brady Bunch! We at Welaka NFH look forward to teaching Tony about Striped Bass culture, and to see what he brings to enhance Welaka NFH in the future.

The Brady Family enjoying their first lunch in their new home at the Welaka NFH.



Welaka NFH Youth Conservation Corp Student Visits Flagler College

Cody Busey has been part of the Welaka National Fish Hatchery staff for the past three summers as part of the Youth Conservation Corp. In those years, Cody has performed a number of duties from weed eating to netting Atlantic Sturgeon on the St. Johns River. During his time at the hatchery, Cody has discovered a love for fish and aquatic conservation and is considering a career conserving fish and wildlife. Cody will be entering his senior year in high school next month and has started to look at colleges that will aid him in achieving his goal of someday working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of his experience in the YCC program, the staff at Welaka NFH arranged a visit and tour of Flagler College in St. Au-

gustine, FL where Cody got to learn about the requirements to attend Flagler College in the Fall of 2017. Cody is interested in Flagler College's Coastal Environmental Sciences Program. Located in the country's oldest city, Flagler College's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean makes it a great school for learning Coastal Environmental Sciences and Marine Biology. With that said, the staff at Welaka NFH, with its diverse educational background, knows to not put all your fish eggs in one jar and is encouraging Cody to explore all possible options for college and to find a place that best fits his personality and provides the education he needs to achieve his future goals.



Cody Busey stands in front of Kenan Hall where the Coastal Environmental Sciences Program class are held.

Florida Fisheries Offices Represent Conservation at ICAST 2016

Welaka National Fish Hatchery and the Vero Beach Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office along with the Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery, Region 1's Regional Office, and the Washington headquarters sent staff members to be a part of Conservation Corner at ICAST 2016 in Orlando, FL. ICAST 2016 is the world's largest fishing tradeshow where every name associated with fishing presents their newest, latest, and greatest fishing products to the world. For the past two years, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency has shared a booth with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation Offices in ICAST's Conservation Corner. Conservation Corner is where Federal and State Agencies set up booths where they are able to explain to the folks in the fisheries world how the conservation agencies are working to ensure that there will be safe waters and abundant fish populations for their customers to use the great products the fishing industry

produces each year. Orlando, FL is known as one of the country's largest vacation destinations, and the folks attending ICAST bring their kids to enjoy the area after ICAST ends, but during the show, those kids get to explore the booths. The USFWS's Fish and Aquatic Conservation booth provided those kids with Biologist in Training Books, educational coloring books, and other materials to help connect these kids with nature and conservation. Grandparents were also picking up these materials to take home to their grandkids. The number of kids reached during this event is far greater than the number of kids who stop by the booth. The ICAST 2017 is scheduled to be back in Orlando and the joint NOAA and FAC booth hope to be there to educate many more families, industries, and the general public on all the hard work we do to conserve our nation's waters and fish populations



In Conservation Corner: Ken Blick from Welaka National Fish Hatchery talks about how the US Fish and Wildlife's Fish and Aquatic Conservation section helps protect the environment for both recreational and endangered species.