



The year is drawing to a close, and the holidays are well underway. I say this every year, but I can't believe it happened so fast. As we wrap up another successful season, our thoughts are on you - our fishing instructors! We are so grateful for the thousands of hours contributed this year (4,205 to be exact). As a team we hosted over 250 events, providing quality angling and aquatic education experiences to nearly 24,000 participants in 2014. I hope each of you has the opportunity to share happy times with families and friends this holiday season, and we look forward to working with you again in the New Year. Following are some upcoming volunteer opportunities to give you a respite from the winter doldrums.

Rod-n-Reel Chili Feed

It's that time of year again! Rod and reel maintenance days are scheduled for January. Please join us as we work through all of our fishing equipment to clean, repair and restring our gear in preparation for another busy season. As always, we will be serving up homemade chili and other cold weather treats. Please notify Lindsey if you plan to attend one or both of the following events:

Tuesday, January 13th
Outdoor Education Center
4703 N. 44th Street, Lincoln

Tuesday, January 20th
Aksarben Aquarium
21502 W Hwy 31, Gretna

Both events will begin at 9 a.m. and continue through mid-afternoon. Come ready to work and have a great time with your fellow fishing instructors!

Ice Fishing Clinics

Finally, ice fishing opportunities are almost here to stay! You can count on Daryl Bauer to keep you updated on his ice fishing adventures and tips through his Barbs and Backlashes blog. I recommend browsing his recent posts for some fun safety refreshers in preparation for our clinics.

NGPC and the Nebraska Fish and Game Association will be hosting TWO ice fishing clinics along with a comprehensive classroom clinic. Here's what is going on with ice fishing in 2015.

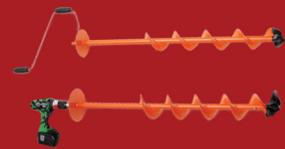
January 10th- Ice Fishing Clinic @ CenturyLink Lake, Mahoney State Park, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

January 16th- Classroom Clinic @ The E.R.C. Building, Yanney Park, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

January 17th- Ice Fishing Clinic @ Yanney Park, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Equipment is available on a first come first served basis. Hot cocoa and coffee will be served, too! Please contact Tori if you are interested in volunteering at any of these events. We had great success with our ice fishing clinic last year at Mahoney, and that was largely due to our volunteer support. Have we told you lately that you're all wonderful?

**KEEP CALM
AND
WAIT FOR
ICE**





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Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

If often comes to our attention that Youth Fishing Instructors do not accurately receive credit for hours of volunteer work at fishing clinics and other events. There are several reasons why we do not record your hours, the most common being we do not receive an Activity Report Form. Clerical errors, unidentifiable signatures and forgetting to sign the form also contribute to the confusion. To help resolve the problem, we will begin using a YFI Self-Report Card in 2015.

The Self-Report Card is a method for you to let us know what you have been doing. It is not required, but will give you assurance that we are recording your hours. Accurate records are important to us because we want you to receive the acknowledgment you deserve and because your volunteer hours justify continued funding of Aquatic Education at NGPC through the Federal Sportfish Restoration Program.



YFI Self Report Card FAQs

- ⇒ Not required, but encouraged.
- ⇒ Available for download at fishingnebraska.wordpress.com/volunteers/resources/
- ⇒ Return via mail to the Youth Fishing Program at the end of the fishing season, no later than November 30th.
- ⇒ Self-Report Cards do not replace the need for the Activity Report Form! You will get credit for your hours according to your Self-Report Card (we trust your honesty), but the Youth Fishing Program will not receive Federal Aid reimbursements unless we have a matching Activity Report Form.
- ⇒ We will use report cards to help track Activity Report Forms. For example, if we receive a report card with an event that does not match our records, we will pursue an Activity Report Form from the activity organizer.
- ⇒ Your actual signature on a Self-Report Card will qualify as a signature on the Activity Report Form if you forgot to sign an Activity Report Form at the event.
- ⇒ Questions? Call Larry or Lindsey.

Instructor Spotlight:

Kenneth “Harold” Fankhauser

Interviewed by Tori Mullins



Photo credit: Joseph Buckley, via Facebook

Most anglers have a story about “The One That Got Away.” What’s yours?

Without question, it was a Largemouth Bass I had up to the boat that was tight lipped and would not allow me to open her mouth. I had pretty much given that fish a facial before a bit of slack in the line allowed my jig to release and of course, the mouth opened. Yes, she was BIG!

Tell us about your most memorable fishing experience...

Not a chance. There are TWO that hold the top spot. The small-mouth bass trip to Niobrara with NEFGA.org forum member Cougar W and a setline flathead trip with member Uglymike were both trips of a lifetime!

What would you name the autobiography of your life and why?

Gone Fishin’ and STILL Wishin’. Harold Ensley was a great influence in my youth.

Ice fishing season is coming up...Do you have any secret advice for newbie ice fishers? (Besides wearing a lucky Packers bib)

Easy one. SAFETY FIRST! Buy a spud bar, ice cleats for your boots and ice picks around your neck BEFORE investing in ANY ice fishing equipment. At my age, reading about ice fishers passing makes me MAD before it eventually makes me sad. Leaving so many loved ones behind because you wanted the fancy electronics first...

You volunteered over 100 hours of your time for the Youth Fishing Program this year. What was your most memorable event?

While the Fort Kearny Expo is always a memorable event, this year’s event with the Risings at Plum Creek Park Lake in Lexington and the events with Russ (Super Park “Super”) at Victoria Springs SRA were very special.

How did you first get involved with NGPC and the Youth Fishing Program?

I drove to Fremont to meet an old NGPC forum friend (for the first time), Roger Flanders. Roger was “ramrodding” a Family Fishing Event on Free Fishing Day. Definitely a life changing event.

What is your favorite fish?

Smallmouth bass, although the brookie ain’t far behind!

Which celebrity do you most commonly get mistaken for?

When I was younger I was told I was a spittin’ image of Richard Dreyfuss. I prefer being mistaken as Larry Pape. (editor’s note: My vote goes to Santa Claus!)

Obviously everyone loves Nebraska waters, but if you could drop a hook anywhere in the world, where would it be?

The unchanneled waters of the Missouri River.



Baby Trout, Due January 2015!

Trout in the Classroom is in full swing! In November, twenty-six elementary and high school teachers attended a training workshop to prepare for the arrival of their trout eggs early next year. The workshop included hands-on opportunity to assemble a trout rearing aquarium, participate in TIC and AquaticWILD activities and discuss trout growth and development. We are super excited to welcome the following schools to our TIC roster. (*pilot schools)

Adams Central East Elementary (Hastings)
Brady Elementary
Centennial Elementary (Utica)
Conestoga Elementary (Murray)
Crawford Elementary
*Disney Elementary (Millard)
Dorchester High School
Field Club Elementary (Omaha)
Fort Calhoun Elementary
Fredstrom Elementary (Lincoln)
Juniata Elementary
Lincoln Elementary (North Platte)
Lourdes Central Catholic (Nebraska City)
Maxey Elementary (Lincoln)
Norfolk High School
*Osceola High School
*Patriot Elementary (Papillion)
Prairie View Elementary (Ogallala)
St. James Catholic Elementary (Crete)
St. Joseph Catholic School (York)
Schuyler Central High School
South Platte School (Big Springs)
*Upchurch Elementary (Millard)
Wallace Elementary (Hastings)

Each participating school will receive about 300 rainbow trout eggs to hatch and raise until the end of the 2014/2015 school year. Trout release field days are scheduled for each school and will take place throughout April and May at the Aksarben Aquarium in Gretna and the Water Interpretive Center in Ogallala. After students release their fingerlings into the canyon ponds at Schramm Park or, at Ogallala, into a fisheries stocking truck to be transported to Gretna, students will have the opportunity to make macroinvertebrate collections, test water quality, go fishing, cast fly rods, take hikes and tour the facilities.

The field days were a blast with our pilot classrooms this spring, and we received great feedback. We need your help to make these a success again in 2015! Please contact Tori or Lindsey for details about helping out at a TIC field day. We will also send out an email early next spring and a reminder in the next newsletter.

Staff updates

Good news from a former employee...

Natalie Luben secured a permanent position with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as a Natural Resources Specialist. She will travel statewide conducting water quality surveys, so you may run into her while fishing.

We plan to hire a seasonal staff member again in 2015 (May - September) to assist with fishing events. Spread the word!

We adopted an office cat (sort of). Frank came into our office at four weeks old. He was an abandoned farm kitty in need of a home, and Tori was smitten. She immediately offered to take him in, and he has been entertaining us at the office as he grows into a self-sufficient and spoiled cat (as all cats should be).

