



# PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK

## NFH NEWSLETTER

### Our Mission

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

A vision of Fisheries Program that hatcheries directly address is to conserve aquatic species through recovery programs for threatened and endangered fish and mussel species, maintenance of fish health, restoration of native inter-jurisdictional species and management of aquatic nuisance species.

### Our Facilities

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Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is located along Lake Superior, approximately 17 minutes west from Brimley, Michigan. Pendills Creek NFH is a lake trout production facility and was established in 1951 to stock the Great Lakes. Lake trout are raised from eggs, and are reared for approximately 14 months, then are released into Lake Michigan. Currently, Pendills Creek is able to raise approximately 1 million lake trout each year.

Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is 15 miles west of Brimley, located south of M-28, on US Forest Service Road 3134, which is branched off of US Forest Service Road 3131. Sullivan Creek NFH was established in 1934 and is a lake trout brood stock facility. The brood stock at Sullivan Creek are from wild parents, and are maintained to provide approximately 5-7 million eggs each year for hatcheries to continue the restoration efforts.

Our complex is located in the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) within the Department of Interior. There are 6 hatcheries within our Region that play a valuable role in restoration/rehabilitation of native fish, mussels and other aquatic species around the Great Lakes.



# **PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY**

## **Visiting our Facilities**

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Pendills Creek NFH is open for tours during business hours (7 am to 3 pm). For group tours, please call for an appointment, by calling (906) 437-5231 to schedule an appointment.

Sullivan Creek NFH provides tours by appointment only. Please call Pendills Creek to schedule an appointment.

## **Outstanding Employee**

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During certain times of the year, Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery and Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery are in need of additional manpower.

When the need arises for additional help, both Pendills Creek and Sullivan Creek call upon Aaron Stallman. Since 2003, Aaron has worked in many capacities for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a term employee. During those years, Aaron has become a valuable asset to the hatchery complex.

Whether filling in for permanent staff during vacations, assisting during spawning season, or working during fish distribution, Aaron can always be counted on to help out when called upon .

While working at Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery as an Animal Caretaker, Aaron has performed a variety of duties related to fish culture and maintenance. Some of the duties he performed include: cleaning raceways, feeding fish, recording various fish culture information, helping with sample counting, janitorial work, and assisting the hatchery staff with a variety of projects.

During spawning season, which usually starts by the middle of September and runs until the middle of November, Aaron has also worked at Sullivan Creek NFH. Sullivan Creek is a substation of PEC and a lake trout brood stock facility which requires extra help during this time. Aaron has helped with the spawning process by sorting, picking, fertilizing, and collecting lake trout eggs.

Aaron has also worked as a Coded Wire Technician with the Great Lakes Fishery Mass Marking Initiative. Traveling throughout the state of Michigan at various state and federal fish hatcheries, he has worked in the Auto Fish Trailer .The Auto Fish System involves the process of clipping the adipose fin and inserting a coded wire tag resulting in uniform marking and identification of trout and salmon stocked into the Great Lakes.

Aaron is dependable, reliable, and has a great work ethic. We are fortunate to be able to call on him to fill in at the hatchery complex on a short notice. We are proud to have him in our ranks.

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# **PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY**

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery, founded in 1951 is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula near Brimley, MI on Lake Superior. The facility rears yearling lake trout to be released into the Great Lakes as part of the Great Lake Restoration Program. Hatchery production includes over 1,000,000 fish released into Lake Michigan each spring.

- *Randy Obermiller*  
*Biological Science Technician*

## **Attendance at Fish Biologist Meeting**

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From July 20 to July 23, I, Tim Falconer, from Pendills Creek NFH attended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) Region 3 Fish Biologist Meeting in Onalaska, Wisconsin. There I met up with numerous other fish biologists from each of the hatcheries from around the region, a handful of representatives from the La Crosse Fish Health Center (FHC), and the Program Manager for National Fish Hatcheries from the Regional Office in Bloomington, Minnesota. Topics discussed were varied, from studies that are being done at hatcheries to histories and current updates of other hatchery systems. Almost every person in attendance gave a presentation about the highlights of their facility or research their facility has been involved in since the last biologist meeting. The last fish biologists meeting for Region 3 was facilitated by the Iron River NFH and held in Osceola, Wisconsin in 2009. The Friends of the Upper Mississippi group had a fish fry for our enjoyment after the first day of the meeting, which I thought was both delicious and great way to relax and meet new friends and colleagues.

I enjoyed meeting people I have not had the opportunity to meet as of yet and catch up with the folks that I already knew, as well as learning a little bit about what the other fish biologists are working on in the region. A big thank you goes out to the Genoa NFH, La Crosse FHC, and all those who made the event happen.

I am already looking forward to the next meeting of the US FWS's Region 3 Fish Biologists to learn about some of the new research and projects occurring around me. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2016 and will be hosted by the Jordan River NFH.

- *Tim Falconer*  
*Fish Biologist*

## **News/Updates from Hatcheries**

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Pendills Creek and Sullivan Creek hired two local adolescents for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program this summer. The new hires were between ages 15-18, and will work at both facilities full time for 8 weeks. They reported to work on June 16, and the program will end August 8. Their duties will include fish culture, painting, and lawn maintenance.

The YCC program provides an opportunity for young adolescents with a job within the Federal government; learn about the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and how their efforts directly assist with the hatchery, fisheries resources and the public.

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Figure 1 The YCC employees receiving a tour of Sullivan Creek NFH's brood stock raceway building. Photo Credit: Julie Timmer/US FWS



Figure 2 Pictured are both YCC employees collecting trash around the Children's Fishing Pond, after the event occurred. Photo Credit: Julie Timmer/US FWS

- Julie Timmer  
Administrative Officer

# PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

## Updates from Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery

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Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery held their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Fishing Event on June 7, 2014. The weather was perfect and we had a great turnout. A free hot dog lunch was served to all attendees, and prizes were awarded. It was a warm and buggy day, but that did not deter the young anglers to come out and fish.



Figure 3 The images above are from the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Fishing Day. Photo Credit: Julie Timmer/US FWS

Thank you to all of the FPCH members, volunteers, and sponsors who made this day possible. It's a great event for an even greater cause.

Visit FPCH's website for further images from the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Fishing Event, at <https://sites.google.com/site/friendsofpendillscreek/>.

*- Julie Timmer  
Administrative Officer*

# PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

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Visit our website to receive our newsletters via email!

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