



PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK

NFH NEWSLETTER

Our Mission

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

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

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.

Creating Memories

For the past seven years our hatchery has partnered with Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery (FPCH), our local “Friends Group” to hold an annual Children’s Fishing Event on Pendills Creek. These types of events have become more common place and occur at various locations throughout most states. The common theme among these types of events is getting children excited about the outdoors and outdoor activities, especially fishing. Fishing can be a treasured activity for many children; it’s often a new experience for them as well as for their families. Novice fisherperson quickly realize it is a learned skill and fishing doesn’t necessarily mean catching.

However, after conducting numerous events of this nature and trying to enhance the experience of the participants, I have come to one conclusion that makes all of the hard work worthwhile. It is that we are creating memories for these children that most will keep with them their whole lives and that in itself makes the event worthwhile. Our hope is that these memories will eventually evolve into a true appreciation for the outdoors and the aquatic environment. Once this appreciation develops, the aquatic environment then gains continued public support for conservation efforts that lasts a lifetime. The return on investment cannot be put into a dollar figure but is critical in the support of the aquatic efforts taken on by government agencies for habitat, conservation and enhancement activities.



PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

In this age of electronic overload it is nice to see children appreciate something different that has a reality component to it. As with so many of us, this reality component of fishing, hunting or some other outdoor activity also serves a purpose for us to recharge our batteries and get us away from the grueling activities of modern daily life and get back to the primary reason most of us work for the Fish and Wildlife Service. Having the ability to reconnect with nature brings a sense of reality back into our abstract working lives situated in an office, away from the resources we are working with to conserve, protect and enhance.



Throughout life, once the memories are created an appreciation starts to cultivate and hopefully through time develops into an outdoor enthusiast, focusing on the true value to these natural resources and the natural world.

It is imperative that we all do as much as possible to make memories for children. As adults, they are the voting public; their support for natural resources will depend upon their outdoor appreciation to perpetuate the future significance of Fish and Wildlife Management or it will fade in relevance and importance in future generations.

Let us all strive to create memories for our nation's children!

*- Curt Friez
Hatchery Manager*

Helping Fish "Breathe" On The Road

Each year, Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) stocks more than one million yearling lake trout into Lake Michigan. The yearlings are transported in special single purpose trucks built especially for fish transportation. Tanks constructed of stainless steel and divided into three compartments to house the fish are mounted on the trucks which are driven to the stocking sites. The hatchery uses oxygenated water when transporting the fish to keep them alive. Supplemental oxygen is possibly the single most important ingredient to a successful transport. It is essential to maintain adequate oxygen in the water while transporting the fish. Pendills Creek NFH uses liquid oxygen cylinders filled with compressed oxygen that are mounted on the trucks. Knowing how much oxygen has been used on a stocking trip and how much oxygen is left in the cylinder to be used on the next trip is of course very important. The hatchery recently purchased an electronic portable scale to accurately weigh the cylinders to determine if the oxygen tanks need to be refilled or have adequate oxygen left to make another stocking trip. The scale weighs 100 pounds and has a 1000 pound tank weighing capacity. It has built in handles and wheels for easy mobility for use in multiple locations. The

PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

scale is lightweight and can be lifted onto the truck platform to quickly and easily weigh the oxygen tanks to determine if the tank should be refilled. Having the electronic scale and the ability to know with confidence the oxygen tank will supply the fish with needed oxygen, is another tool in the driver's toolbox to a successful fish stocking trip. Pendills Creek NFH was founded in 1951 and is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula near Brimley, Michigan on Lake Superior. The facility rears yearling lake trout to be released into the Great Lakes as part of the Great lakes Restoration Program. Hatchery production includes just over 1,000,000 fish.

*- Randy Obermiller
Bio Science Technician*

Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery's Donation

The Friends of Pendills Creek Hatchery continue to be a loyal, trusted group of dedicated volunteers in support of the Pendills Creek/Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery complex since 2004. The Friends Group has accomplished many activities and enhancements for the Hatchery Complex. The list is long but several highlights come to mind and included in this list is their dedication to making the public access site more user friendly to the visiting public. This includes the accessible foot bridge and boardwalk from the parking area to Lake Superior. They have also enhanced the site with a picnic pavilion, picnic tables, pedestal grill and trash receptacle. The site is heavily used throughout the year and remains a very popular destination for both locals and visitors.



FPCH recently donated to the hatchery. This time, their donation is in the form of a needed piece of equipment for the hatchery's new pickup, which is a cap. The cap will enclose the bed of the pickup protecting the very valuable cargo that will be shipped later each fall to sister Federal hatcheries. That's right; you probably guessed the cargo, lake trout eggs from the Sullivan Creek NFH. Millions of eggs will be transported in the back of this pickup to



these other facilities to complete the egg incubation process and hatch out and then provide another year's worth of production fish for Lake Trout restoration activities. This movement of eggs is a mission critical activity occurring in the middle of winter; the eggs are boxed

PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

up in specialized Styrofoam shipping containers especially made for fish eggs. The precious cargo cannot freeze, and must remain viable while in shipment. The Friends group stepped up to assist the hatchery by purchasing this topper for Pendills Creek NFH. Once again showing their resolve and support for the hatchery complex and its mission. FPCH realizes the true value in supporting the activities of the hatchery complex and the USFWS deeply appreciates the donation by FPCH. Heartfelt thanks go out to all the members of FPCH for this fine donation. This partnership with our Friends Group enhances both partners in a variety of ways and sometimes it's extremely hard to put some sort of value on these benefits especially, when it comes to natural resources and the full potential they can represent over time.

- Curt Friez
Hatchery Manager

News/Updates from Hatcheries

- Christopher Dean and his girlfriend, Rachel joined our staff in April. Chris grew up in a big farming family in Luther, Michigan that resided on the headwaters of the Little Manistee River. He moved to Escanaba, Michigan shortly after graduating high school in Leroy, MI. Chris graduated from Lake Superior State University with a degree in Fisheries Management with his senior thesis titled: *“Characteristics of Wild Steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) to Hatchery-Raised Steelhead Returning to the Little Manistee River Weir, Michigan.”* His previous career started off working with the U.S. Geological Survey for sea lamprey control dealing with sea lamprey pheromone studies in Millersburg, MI. In the following season he worked as a Fisheries and Aquatics Technician for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, MI. He gained extensive experience working with sturgeon restoration, inland fisheries, and water quality. He moved to Coos Bay, Oregon shortly after to work as a Marine Fisheries Biologist dealing with the regulation of the commercial fishing industry for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). During his two years in Oregon he worked in Washington, Oregon, and California aboard a variety of different commercial fishing vessels in the Pacific Ocean. Fishing trips lasted anywhere from one day deployments on near shore fishing vessels to offshore trips lasting over a month in length. Chris has over three hundred days of at-sea experience while having lived in Oregon for two years. In the spring of 2014 Chris moved to Ashland, WI and assumed the role as the Fisheries Specialist for the Bad River Tribe. While working for Bad River he oversaw and supervised a walleye and yellow perch hatchery and also assisted in the regulating of the Lake Superior Commercial Fishery. Chris' hobbies include steelhead and walleye fishing year round, along with many outdoor activities and spending time with his family.
- Mikayla Kooyer is our YCC employee for this summer. She started June 29 and will be with us until August 21. She is from Rudyard, MI and will be a senior this coming fall at Maplewood Baptist Academy. Mikayla enjoys reading and photography.

PENDILLS/SULLIVAN CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

She has been busy assisting us with fish culture, painting the pedestrian footbridge at the public beach access site, grounds maintenance, and archiving the office files in storage.

A few pictures Mikayla has taken for us are viewable below.

*- Julie Timmer
Administrative Officer*



US FWS Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery
21990 W Trout Lane
Brimley, MI 49715
(906) 437-5231

Visit our website to receive our newsletters via email!

www.fws.gov/midwest/pendillscreek

www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries



Newsletter Editor: Julie Timmer (Julie_Timmer@fws.gov)

