



White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery

Conserving America's Fisheries

Mission

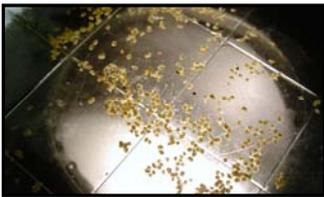
Working with partners to restore and maintain fish, mussels and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels for the benefit of the American Public. Our seven priority areas include Partnerships and Accountability, Aquatic Species Conservation and Management, Public Use, Leadership in Science and Technology, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management and Workforce Management.

Hatchery Information

Established in 1900 to produce fish for the nation's lakes and streams, the hatchery became part of the National Broodstock Program in 1976. Since that time, we have been shipping millions of disease-free rainbow trout eggs every year to hatcheries across the country.



In 1995, the hatchery added a new program, freshwater mussel conservation. Today, hatchery staff provide shelter for adult freshwater mussels threatened by pollution and raise baby mussels to help improve wild populations.



Contact Information

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Public Use

WSSNFH in the News!



Photographer Jared Morrison filming Michael Whited stripping and fertilizing the eggs. Photo by Catherine Gatenby.

The CBS Channel 59 (WVNS) News Crew visited White Sulphur Springs for a story on the trout and mussel programs at the hatchery. To see the news story in its entirety, visit wsshatcheryfriends.org and click on **In the News**.

Friends of the WSSNFH

New Friends Group Website!



The Friends of the **WSSNFH** has a new website (wsshatcheryfriends.org) complete with information on the hatchery, the Friends Group and the Freshwater Folk Festival. The hatchery would like to thank Beth Smith and the Friends Group for all of their hard work.



Friends of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery help by organizing the Freshwater Folk Festival, outreach and fundraising. If you have an interest in being a Friend or receiving information about the Friends Group, please visit their website.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation

Three members of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) from Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge traveled to White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery with their crew leader, Paiton Lee, and Refuge Biologist Marquette Crockett, to learn more about another branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Fisheries Program. YCC is an



The YCC Crew touring the hatchery with Matthew Patterson, Fisheries Biologist. Photo by Marquette Crockett.

eight-week program that gives students from local communities an opportunity to work on numerous conservation projects at the refuge. After touring the trout and mussel facilities, it was time to put the crew to work on a conservation project at the hatchery. Spring flood waters had left Wades Creek, a small stream running through the hatchery, littered with trash. After three hours of hard work, the hatchery pick-up was overflowing with a mountain of trash and thanks to YCC, the critters of Wades Creek were happy again.



The YCC Crew removed a mountain of trash from Wades Creek (from left: Daniel Higgs, Asa Mullenex, Jason Young, Paiton Lee and Marquette Crockett.) Photo by Matthew Patterson.

Public Use

An Egg's Journey!

WSSNFH is part of the National Broodstock Program, which means every year we provide millions of disease-free rainbow trout eggs to hatcheries across the country. Sounds easy enough, right! Well, as it turns out, an egg's journey can be a long and



Unpicked trout eggs. Orange eggs with the black eye will be shipped, while the white eggs will be removed. Photo by Matthew Patterson. complicated one. After fertilization, the eggs must pass through a "sensitive stage" before they can be handled and shipped. Once an eye forms inside the egg (eyed stage), they are ready to be processed for shipping. The first step is to shock or addle the eggs. Egg shocking involves agitating the eggs enough to rupture the yolk membrane of any infertile eggs, turning them white so they can be



The egg picker. Photo by Matthew Patterson. Mechanical separation, however, is not perfect, leaving large numbers of eggs to be picked by hand. Oftentimes, it will take five hatchery staff an entire day to manually pick the remaining eggs prior to shipment. Once the dead eggs are removed, the live eggs are counted, packed in coolers and shipped overnight to hatcheries as far as New Mexico.

separated from the fertile ones. The differing amount of light reflected by live, transparent eggs versus dead, white eggs allows the eggs to be sorted first with a machine.

Steve Smith hand-picking eggs. Photo by Matthew Patterson.



Steve Smith hand-picking eggs. Photo by Matthew Patterson.

Free to the Public!

Diverse Musical Line-up Set for Freshwater Folk Festival

The 3rd Annual Freshwater Folk Festival (September 29th) will bring the music of Appalachia together with musical styles from around the world. Artists will include



Packway Handle (bluegrass), Kike and Miguel (South American), Evolver (jazz) and The Carpenter Ants (rhythm and blues).

Tours

Tours of the hatchery are open to large groups Monday through Friday, 8AM to 3 PM. Please call 304-536-1361 one week in advance to schedule a tour.



To receive this monthly newsletter via e-mail send your request to: matthew_patterson@fws.gov



Fun Fish Facts

Amazing Fish Migrations!

A "steelhead" is a rainbow trout that is anadromous. Anadromous means they live in the ocean but swim up-river into freshwater to breed. During their life in the sea, steelhead trout can travel large distances in search of food. A steelhead trout tagged off the coast of



Steelhead trout fry. Photo by David Blevins. Alaska was recovered about six months later in the Wynoochee River in Washington State, a haul of over 2,200 miles. Salmon also migrate several thousand miles from the time they leave the river as a juvenile until they return as an adult. A chinook salmon tagged off the coast of Alaska was found 3,500 miles away in the Salmon River in Idaho. The trout below is trying to migrate, can you help by providing him with some **color!**

