



White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery

Conserving America's Fisheries

Mission

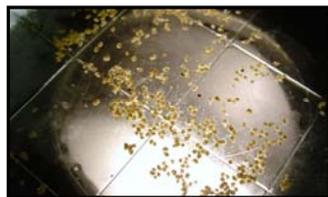
Working with partners to restore and maintain fish, mussels and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels for the benefit of the American Public. Our seven priority areas include Partnerships and Accountability, Aquatic Species Conservation and Management, Public Use, Leadership in Science and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

Hatchery Information

Originally 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

White Sulphur Springs NFH
400 East Main Street
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
Phone: 304-536-1361
Fax: 304-536-4634

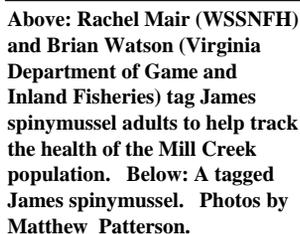
Partnerships for Aquatic Species Conservation

Local children help save endangered species!



Excited children running to the river to help release infested fish. Photo by Matthew Patterson.

To remain healthy, the population in Mill Creek needs our help because the journey from baby mussel to adult mussel can be a long and hard one. This journey starts inside the adult female where fertilized eggs develop into a larval stage called a glochidia. But that's just the beginning! Much like a butterfly, glochidia must undergo metamorphosis to become an adult. Mussels are unable complete this transformation on their own, however and must attach to a fish host to complete metamorphosis. Unfortunately, when population sizes get very small, like with an endangered species like the James spiny mussel, finding males to fertilize the eggs and finding a fish host both become more difficult. That is why children and their families came together with biologists and concerned citizens to collect host fish, infest them by hand with glochidia and release them back into Mill Creek. After releasing the fish, children enjoyed hands-on activities (mussel magnets and fish prints) and educational materials stressing the need to protect our nation's freshwater resources.



Above: Rachel Mair (WSSNFH) and Brian Watson (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) tag James spiny mussel adults to help track the health of the Mill Creek population. Below: A tagged James spiny mussel. Photos by Matthew Patterson.

On June 2nd, local school children from the Millboro, VA area worked closely with biologists and concerned citizens from White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the USFWS Virginia Field Office, Camp Accovac and the Cowpasture River Preservation Association to help save the James spiny mussel, a federally endangered freshwater mussel living in their watershed. Mill Creek, a small stream just outside the town of Millboro, has one of the largest populations of James spiny mussel remaining in the world.



Two young men fascinated with the fish infestation. Photo by Matthew Patterson.



Matthew Patterson assisting a young lady with the release of infested fish. Photo by Catherine Gatenby.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation

Dive teams from *WSSNFH*, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the West Virginia DNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency completed the salvage of freshwater mussels from underneath the old bridge on the Allegheny River at East Brady, PA just in time for demolition. A total



Bridge demolition used 65 pounds of explosives in 127 separate blasts. Photo by Darrel Sapp. of 16,000 freshwater mussels from 16 species were salvaged over a four-year period including two federally endangered species, the northern riffleshell and the clubshell, and one candidate species, the rayed bean. Through cooperation with the



Rayed bean and other juvenile mussels from the Allegheny River. Photo by Matthew Patterson. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation some of the mussels were transported to *WSSNFH* to run experiments on mussel feeding physiology and refugia technology while others were stocked in the Ohio, Monongahela and the Elk rivers in West Virginia to help restore native mussel beds and the natural water filtration service they provide.

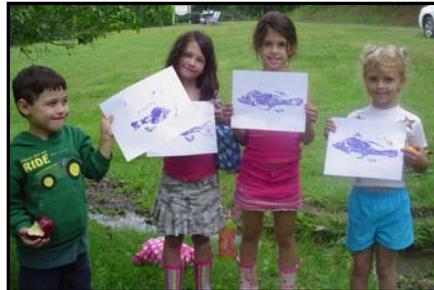


Kendra Whited, *WSSNFH* Step Student, conducting feeding physiology experiments in the field. Photo by Rachel Mair.

Free to the Public!

Freshwater Folk Festival

The 3rd Annual Freshwater Folk Festival has been set for September 29th. Bring the whole family for a day of music, dance, food and fun activities for the kids.



Tours

Tours of the trout hatchery and mussel propagation facility 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.



Friends of the WSSNFH



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 us on the web at:

wsshatcheryfriends.com

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



Fun Fish Facts

Its Raining Fish?

Have you ever heard someone say "Its raining cats and dogs?" Silly, right? Maybe so, but accounts of fish falling from the sky are more common that you might think. These strange events



are called fishfalls and are caused by waterspouts. Waterspouts are simply tornadoes that form over water. Water and fish are sucked up by the tornado, carried over land and dropped as rain.



A waterspout in the Adriatic Sea between Greece and Italy. Photo by Robert Giudici

Connect the dots to reveal another animal that can sometimes be found falling from the sky.

