



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

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery was established in 1900 in the far southeastern corner of West Virginia. Originally established to produce fish for the nation's lakes and streams, the hatchery became part of the National Broodstock Program in 1976 and began shipping millions of disease-free rainbow trout eggs across the country to state and federal hatcheries. In 1995, the hatchery added a new program, freshwater mussel conservation. Protecting freshwater mussels is important because they filter enormous amounts of water every day and help keep our rivers clean. Today, hatchery staff provide shelter for adult freshwater mussels threatened by pollution and raise baby freshwater mussels to help improve wild populations.

Partnerships

WSSNFH is currently working with Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Pennsylvania Ecological Services, and the Lamar Fish Tech Center as well as other state and federal partners (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), and the EPA) to salvage two federally endangered species of freshwater mussels (the northern riffleshell, *Epioblasma torulosa rangiana* and the clubshell, *Pleurobema clava*) from the potential impacts of a new bridge construction project on the Allegheny River in East Brady, PA. Although once widespread in North America, this is



Northern riffleshell. Photo by Rachel Mair

likely the best population of clubshell remaining in the world and apparently one of only two remaining reproducing populations of northern riffleshell. Consequently, all northern riffleshell and clubshell are being transported to WSSNFH for holding in refugia. While in refugia, biologists with the WSSNFH and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary are collecting information crucial to conservation efforts, including information on life history, feeding physiology, feeding behavior and captive care. Once river conditions have improved for reintroduction, all individuals will be returned to the Allegheny River.

Aquatic Species Conservation

The rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*) is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act so conservation efforts are being directed toward this mussel species in an attempt to prevent federal listing. Penn DOT provided funds for holding 200 rayed bean in refugia at WSSNFH and the West Virginia DNR relocated 240 rayed bean to the Elk River in West Virginia in an attempt to re-establish a viable population at Queen Shoals.

Additional rayed bean collected during the salvage effort were sent to various partners including the Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit (USGS), the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Ohio State University to gather information on juvenile propagation, life history, and captive care of this species.



Rayed bean. Photo by INHS

Cooperation with Native Americans

Biologists with WSSNFH are currently sharing mussel propagation technology and management strategies with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation of Oregon and Washington and the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine.



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Public Use

Rainbow Trout Spawning Is Underway!!



Spawning for the winter has begun. Several million eggs will be collected over the next month, fertilized at the hatchery, and then shipped across the country to other hatcheries that raise rainbow trout. After they have been spawned, the adults are stocked by the West Virginia DNR.



Tours

Tours of the trout spawning and other parts of the hatchery are open to the general public Monday through Friday, 8AM to 5 PM. Please call 304-536-1361 1 week in advance to schedule a tour.

Fishing Derby

WSSNFH annual fishing derby is not that far away. Mark your calendar for June 2nd and come enjoy the fishing!

Freshwater Folk Festival

The 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.

Leadership in Science and Technology

Biologist at WSSNFH are currently researching freshwater mussel feeding rates to determine if they can be used as a non-lethal indicator of health for endangered species.



The Oyster Mussel feeding. Photo by Matthew Patterson

Aquatic Habitat Conservation



Wades Creek. Photo by Matthew Patterson

Restoring fish and mussel populations starts with habitat conservation, so the hatchery is working to restore the creek right in our own backyard. We plan to use a variety stream restoration techniques to restore the banks of Wades Creek and use information kiosks to highlight the economic and ecological benefits of the various techniques to the American Public.

Workforce Management

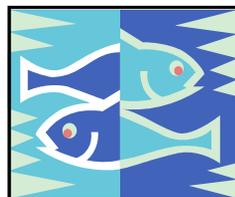
Thomas Watkins and Michael Whited recently returned from the Fish Identification Class at NCTC where they learned to identify a wide array of wild fishes. Matthew Patterson also just returned from the Fisheries Academy at NCTC.

National Conservation Training Center

Friends of the WSSNFH

Friends of the WSSNFH help by organizing the Freshwater Folk Festival, education and fundraising. If you have an interest in being a Friend or receiving information about the Friends Group, please contact:

Matthew Patterson
304-536-1361



Fun Fish Facts

Did you know the mudskipper is a fish that can swim and walk on land!



For more information and photos visit www.themudskipper.org

Word Search

Find the Mussel's Common Name!

Y L U Z T R R W M R K P J G L
L J D D M G O U X C O I J J I
F B P E Q X C N A Z R G Q V D
R J A I E K W B N A U T M P I
E K U Q E R Y T B A J O Y Z F
T G C T G T T B H O Q E C E D
T P E A R D I O W V Q P D I J
U T V A B T V N E Z O V I F Z
B O W J S E G D I R E E R H T
T R R F P J L Y N F N E K F S
C I O T O P V P F N U D Y K Y
O O D R E E Q H M A Q P V L I
T U Q B V R H N L I F O F F M
W A S H B O A R D F P I A Z K
Y V Q D O P W D R Y V S Z I A

- BUTTERFLY
- MUCKET
- PIMPLEBACK
- THREERIDGE
- WASHBOARD
- DEERTOE
- PIGTOE
- RABBITSFOOT
- WARTYBACK

Contact Information

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