



White Sulphur Springs

National Fish Hatchery

Conserving America's Fisheries



Public Use *Congressman Rahall Visits WSSNFH!*



Photo by David Garst.

On October 15, 2007, the Friends and Staff of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery presented Representative Nick J. Rahall II with a Service Award for his continued support of environmental legislation, in particular his support of the National Fish Hatchery Volunteer Act of 2006 (H.R. 5381). The purposes of this Act are 1) to encourage the use of volunteers to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with hatchery management, 2) to facilitate partnerships between hatcheries and non-Federal entities to promote public awareness and public participation in the

conservation of hatchery resources, and 3) to encourage individuals and organizations to make donations to federal fish hatcheries. This legislation paved the way for the formation of the Friends of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (FWSSNFH), a group of local citizens who joined together to form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to support the mission of the hatchery. The FWSSNFH provides many invaluable services to the hatchery, including community outreach, educational programs, volunteer staffing and fundraising. For information on how to join the FWSSNFH, please visit wsshatcheryfriends.org.

Partnerships *WSSNFH and the Town of WSS Showcase Plans for Community Trail!*

The Friends and Staff of the WSSNFH along with their partners (White Sulphur Springs Main Street Revitalization Committee, the White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club and the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau) presented Representative Rahall with their plans for a community partnership project, a Hike/Bike Trail in White Sulphur Springs. The proposed trail will take visitors through historic downtown White Sulphur Springs, along the banks of Howard



An artistic rendition of the proposed trail. Prepared by the Whitesell Group, Roanoke, VA.

and Wades creeks and through the hatchery grounds on the way to the beautiful Monongahela National Forest and Blue Bend Recreation Area. Interpretive signs along the trail will provide information on the history of White Sulphur Springs as well as information on the hatchery and the conservation of our nation's freshwater resources. By drawing tourists to the area, the new trail will benefit both the hatchery mission and local businesses in White Sulphur Springs.

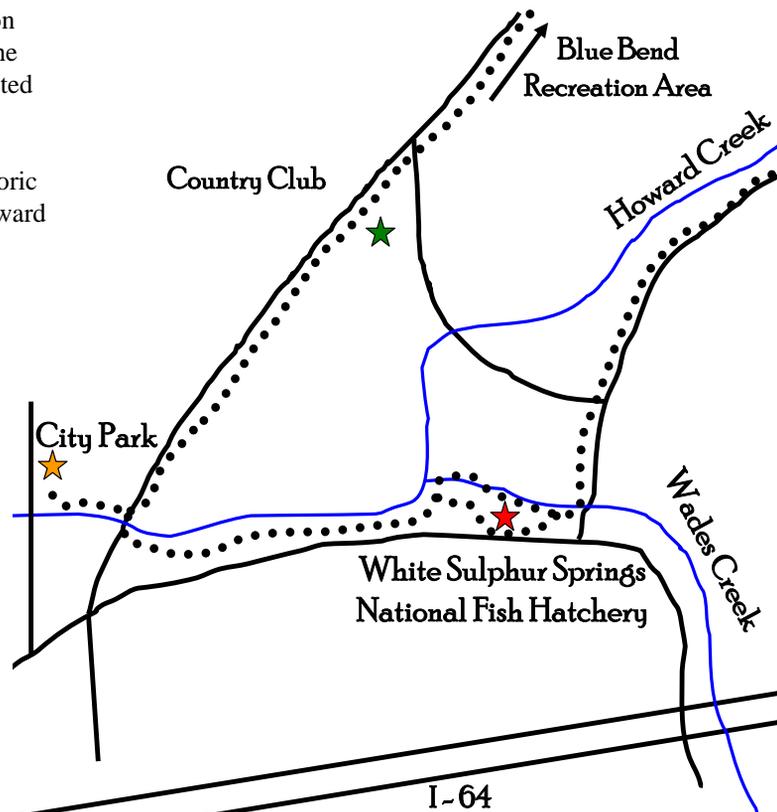


Diagram of the community Hike/Bike Trail. Prepared by Matthew Patterson.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation

For the past 4 months, Dr. Catherine Gatenby (WSSNFH Hatchery Manager) assumed additional responsibilities as the Acting Appalachian Partnership Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Appalachian Partnership Coordinator's primary duty is to coordinate the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a locally driven and scientifically based partnership under the National Fish Habitat Initiative designed to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the range of the eastern



brook trout. Dr. Gatenby also helped to shepherd along a new partnership called the Ohio River Basin Habitat Partnership (ORBHP). Through targeted habitat conservation, watershed restoration and the reestablishment of the freshwater mussel beds in those watersheds, the ORBHP seeks to have a large reaching beneficial effect on all aquatic resources in the Ohio River Basin. The new Appalachian Partnership Coordinator position will be stationed at WSSNFH, providing the hatchery with the necessary expertise to begin working more with on-the-ground habitat restoration efforts.

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



Fun Fish Facts

The World's Biggest Mollusk!

Last month we talked about the world's smallest fish. Since we study freshwater mussels here at the hatchery, it only seemed fair to talk about the world's biggest mollusk. Mollusks are a huge group of animals that include mussels, clams, oysters, snails, squid and octopus, but the title of world's biggest mollusk belongs to the Colossal Squid. On February 22, 2007, the



Photo courtesy of Getty Images. largest known Colossal Squid was caught in the freezing Antarctic waters of the Ross Sea. The squid was 33 feet long and weighed 1,091 pounds. Able to dive over 7,000 feet below the ocean surface in search of food, this real life sea monster uses the largest beak of any squid and swiveling hooks on the end of its tentacles to attack prey as large as a sperm whale. Not bad for an invertebrate huh!

The octopus is a mollusk too and a close relative of the Colossal Squid, but his tentacles and suction cups need some color! Can you help?!

Hatchery 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 American Public, WSSNFH became part of the National Broodstock Program in 1976. Since then we have shipped millions of disease-free rainbow trout eggs to hatcheries across the country. In



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



Hatchery Tours

Tours are available free to the public M-F, 8AM to 3 PM. Call (304) 536-1361 one week in advance to schedule a tour.



Photo by L.E. McKinney for The Times of Greenbrier County.

Hatchery Contact Information

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