

# White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery Newsletter

*Issue 19: Winter 2010*



## Youth and Careers in Nature

### WSSNFH to Host a Youth Conservation Corps Crew this Summer



Marquette Crockett, USFWS

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (WSSNFH) has received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to host a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew this summer. The YCC is a work-learn-earn program for young men and women 15 through 18 years of age aimed at developing an appreciation and understanding of the nation's environmental and natural heritage. This summer, the crew will assist hatchery staff with a variety of conservation projects including rainbow trout spawning, freshwater mussel research, trail building and grounds maintenance. The program will run for eight weeks from June 14th through August 7th, 2010. YCC crew members will work 40 hours per week and earn minimum wage. No prior experience is required so if you or someone

*The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge YCC Crew visiting White Sulphur Springs NFH in 2008.*

you know might be interested in joining the YCC crew this summer please contact Matthew Patterson at (304) 536-1046. Or you can download an application at [www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/ycc/YCC\\_Application.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/ycc/YCC_Application.pdf) and mail the application along with a letter of recommendation from a teacher to 400 East Main Street, WSS, WV 24986. All applications must be postmarked by April 9th.

## Public Use

### Upgrades to Rainbow Trout Program Set to Increase Production

The WSSNFH's disease-free rainbow trout program is upgrading for 2010 in an effort to increase fish production and holding capacity. On a recent field trip to Erwin NFH in Erwin, TN, hatchery staff decided to make the switch from the more traditional Heath trays for egg incubation to the Eager-type hatching jars. The advantages of the hatching jars include 1) less space needed per million eggs incubated, 2) less labor needed to tend eggs and 3) fewer chemicals needed for egg treatment. Plans also are underway to concrete the hatchery's outdoor raceways. The earthen bottom raceways will be concreted, enlarged and divided by a center wall to provide much needed space for broodstock maintenance and spawning. WSSNFH also is working closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to route all fish effluents through settling basins and constructed wetland habitats to limit the hatchery's impact on water quality in Wades Creek. In 2009, the rainbow trout program shipped 6.5 million eggs to 3 tribal fish hatcheries and 12 state and federal fish hatcheries across 7 states.



Matthew Patterson, USFWS

*The new egg hatching jars at WSSNFH.*

## Connecting People with Nature

### The Final Tallies Are In! Visitors from Fifteen States and Three Countries Attend the 5th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival



Visitors gather for the dedication of the Anniversary Amphitheater at the 5th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival in October 2009.

Alexa Marcigliano, USFWS

The Friends of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery recently released their final report on visitation to the 5th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival and the results were overwhelming. Visitors traveled from 15 states (Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin) and three countries (United States, Canada, and Holland) to enjoy the tasty tunes, sweet treats, hand-made arts and hands-on educational

activities at the festival. As the momentum and excitement for this unique fall festival continues to build, we expect attendance to continue to grow by leaps and bounds. In fact, one of the primary musical acts for the 6th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival has already been booked. Kinobe and Soul Beat Africa will share the traditional sounds of Uganda and the African continent while performing exclusively on a variety of traditional acoustic instruments. So mark your calendar for Saturday, October 2nd and come join the Friends and staff of WSSNFH for the 6th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival.

## Aquatic Species Conservation

### WSSNFH Welcomes a New Biologist to the Team



Brian Roosa maintains the fish tanks at the ARRC.

Matthew Patterson, USFWS

The staff at White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (WSSNFH) is excited to welcome a new member to the team. Brian Roosa comes to the hatchery from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Richmond, VA. He will assist with the rainbow trout program but most of his time will be spent propagating endangered and common freshwater mussels at the hatchery's Aquatic Resource Recovery Center (ARRC). The ARRC has been working to recover federally endangered and common freshwater mussel populations for over 10 years. However, because mussels rely on a fish host to complete their life cycle, healthy fish populations in the wild are critical to any freshwater mussel recovery effort. Unfortunately, 70% of the river miles in West Virginia have been designated either threatened or impaired for fish, shellfish and wildlife protection, leaving many of our nation's wild fish populations in serious decline. While the Appalachian Partnership Coordination Office (co-located at WSSNFH) is working with private landowners to restore the physical habitat to our impaired rivers, Brian (a non-game fish culturist) will begin setting up the ARRC to recover fish populations through propagation. In addition to augmenting existing fish populations, Brian hopes to help provide ARRC with a steady supply of host fish for the mussel propagation program. This will help limit our impact on wild populations and save the time and money required to collect fish from the wild on a regular basis.



# Youth Conservation Corps

## A Storied History

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created 1933 by President Roosevelt as part of the New Deal, a program designed to put Americans to work during the Great Depression. The CCC

enlisted three million men to battle the erosion and destruction of the nation's natural resources. The CCC was disbanded in 1942, but it was the model for today's Youth Conservation Corps. On May 4th, 1960, then Senator John F. Kennedy visited Lewisburg, WV and spoke about the importance of creating a Youth Conservation Corps in West Virginia. "One of the most important single steps in developing the economy of Greenbrier County, and protecting the health of your youth, would be the establishment of a Youth Conservation Corps. It would be the



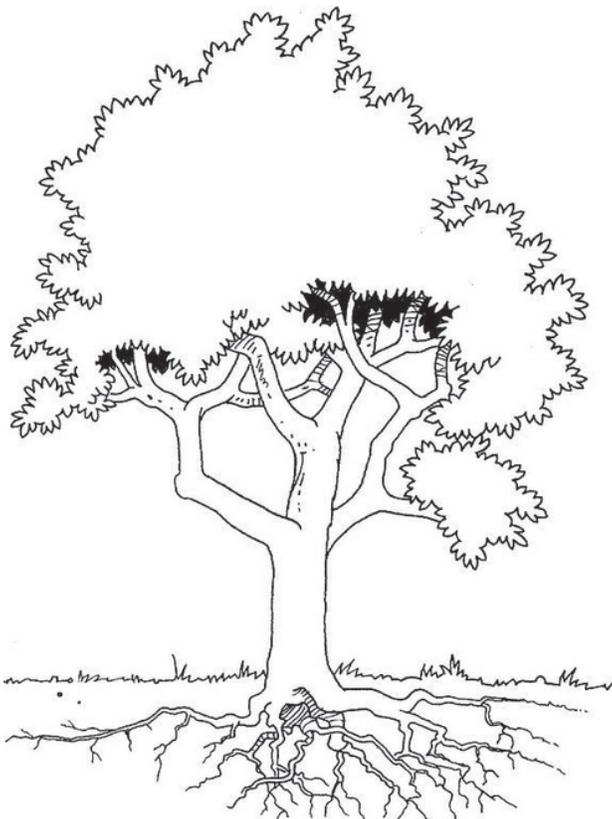
Senator John F. Kennedy visits the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, 1958.

Greenbrier Sporting Club

job of this corps to work to preserve our forests, stock our lakes and rivers, clear our streams and protect America's great abundance of natural resources. Such a conservation corps would help you to develop the great natural resources on which - here in the "Switzerland of the Americas" - your tourist industry depends."

Kennedy's dream came true when Congress approved the Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970, establishing permanent

programs for young adults ages 15 to 18 to perform specific tasks on the nation's lands and water. In 2010, the Department of Interior proposed budget increases to further the program and create the 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps. Over the years, YCC and CCC crews have planted over 3 billion trees across the United States. Remember their hard work as you enjoy coloring the tree to the left.



## Hatchery Mission

Our mission is working with the community of White Sulphur Springs and our partners to be good stewards of both the environment and the historical significance of White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery by 1) providing recreational fishing opportunities, 2) recovering fish, mussels and other wildlife and their habitats and 3) promoting awareness and appreciation of our cultural and natural resources, for the benefit of all people.

## Hatchery Information



Matthew Patterson, USFWS

## Rainbow trout eggs ready for shipment.

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 mussels threatened by pollution and raise baby mussels to improve wild populations.



Rachel Mair, USFWS

## 1.5 year-old northern riffleshell (a federally endangered mussel) raised at WSSNFH.

## Hatchery Tours

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

## For more information:

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