



# 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 to state and federal hatcheries across the country.



In 1995, the hatchery added a new program, freshwater mussel conservation. Protecting freshwater mussels is important because they help keep our rivers clean by filtering enormous amounts of water every day. 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

## FISHING DERBY: MAY 26<sup>th</sup> !!



### Public Use



**Tommy Watkins collecting trout eggs.** Photo by Matthew Patterson

Rainbow trout spawning for the winter is complete. Hatchery staff produced over 3 million disease-free rainbow trout eggs and shipped them all across the country to hatcheries in Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. Eggs and sperm are stripped from the fish by hand, fertilized and incubated for 2 weeks until an eye forms on the developing embryo. Just before they hatch eggs are sorted, counted and shipped overnight.



**Counting eggs using the Von Bayer method.** Photo by Matthew Patterson

The Annual White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery **Fishing Derby** has been moved to May 26<sup>th</sup> to coincide with White Sulphur Springs' Dandelion Festival. So bring the whole family for a day of fishing and fun!



### Partnerships

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery is partnering with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and the Brandywine Conservancy to restore native freshwater mussels to the Brandywine River as a strategy for improving water quality and habitat in this impaired stream. Hatchery staff will provide scientific expertise and advice on mussel propagation and fish host identification.



**Catherine Gatenby (Hatchery Manager, third from left), working on the Brandywine.** Photo by Dr. Danielle Kreeger.

While the partnership is interested in biodiversity conservation and restoration of the geographical range of our native freshwater mussels, it is important to emphasize that this interest is secondary. The principle focus of this project is to restore a diverse population of freshwater mussels for functional purposes such as biofiltration services and habitat diversification.

**Aquatic Species Conservation**

WSSNFH staff are working with Ohio EPA, WV Department of Environmental Protection, WV Division of Natural Resources, Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alabama Department of Conservation, and the Ohio State University to restore mussels, snails and fish in the Ohio River following a large fish and mussel kill that was



**The Ohio River.** Photo by Ed Harp documented near Parkersburg, WV in 1999. The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. EPA, and the states of West Virginia and Ohio joined together in the suit against Elkem Metals and Eramet Marietta, Inc. for violations of the Clean Water Act. The National Resource Damage Assessment Case was settled for \$3.25 million with \$2 million dedicated towards restoration of injured natural resources in the Ohio River.

**Free to the Public!**

**Tours**

Tours of the trout spawning and mussel propagation facility are open to large groups Monday through Friday, 8AM to 3 PM. Please call 304-536-1361 1 week in advance to schedule a tour.

**Freshwater Folk Festival**

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

**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  
E-mail: matthew\_patterson@fws.gov



**Fun Fish Facts**

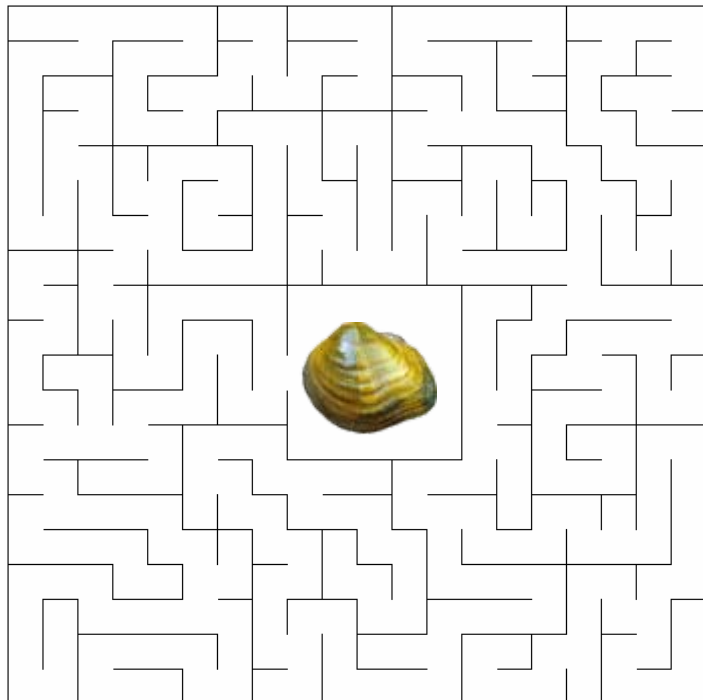
**Fish that Fly!**



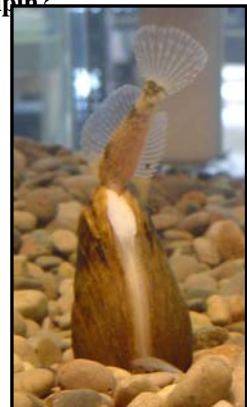
The band-wing flying fish.

Flying fish are a unique because they launch themselves out of the water and "fly" through the air using their tails and their wing-like fins. Scientists do not know for sure why they fly but it might be to escape predators or to save energy while traveling long distances.

**The Fish Host Maze**



Baby mussels undergo metamorphosis much like a butterfly but they must attach to a fish to become an adult. The federally endangered Northern Riffleshell has developed a really cool way to attract a fish and help their young grow up to be adults. They wiggle a small lure inside the shell and when the fish bites they close their shell on the head of the fish. Then they can hold on while the baby mussels attach. Finally the fish is released and so the mussels can develop. **Can you help this endangered Northern Riffleshell escape the maze and find her host fish, the Sculpin?**



Northern Riffleshell clamped down on a fish head. Photo by Matthew Patterson