



# White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery Conserving America's Fisheries



## Freshwater Folk Festival Issue



The Friends and Staff of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (USFWS) would like to invite you to their 3rd Annual Freshwater Folk Festival. We are planning another wonderful family-friendly day of splendid music, tasty food, local crafts, and fun hands-on educational activities, brought together around the Festival mission to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of freshwater resources. The festival is **FREE TO THE PUBLIC** and will be held on the hatchery grounds on **Saturday, September 29th** from 10AM to 5PM.

### The Music Line-Up

#### The Carpenter Ants

Having evolved into WV's premier rhythm & blues group, the Carpenter Ants have unearthed a wealth of classic and forgotten American music. The Ants wail through classic R&B, country-swamp and gospel-soul with equal conviction. The group's trademark sound -- rich, soulful harmonies, stinging solos, and a rock-solid rhythm section -- captures that rare, loose-but-tight feel, and has won the band international as well as regional fans.

### Activities for Kids



Do you enjoy hay rides? Well how about a hay ride around the hatchery in a horse-less carriage that runs completely on solar power! Or come test your hand washing skills at the WVU Extension Service's Hand Washing Station! If these fun activities don't tickle your



#### Packway Handle Band

Originating in Athens, Georgia in 2001, the Packway Handle Band is a solid and innovative bluegrass quintet. The band's appeal lies rooted in tight three- and four-part vocal harmonies, extensive and progressive original material, off-the-wall covers, and energetic performance dynamics around two tightly spaced condenser mics.



#### Kike and Miguel with Steve Bloom

Together, Kike and Miguel have formed a long and successful career playing and specializing in traditional ballads from South America. The duo play a variety of classical and traditional instruments like guitar, bass, charango, bongo drum, while creating unique harmonies with their exceptional voices.



fancy, we have plenty more planned including face painting, fish printing, mussel magnets and other art projects as well as a variety of workshops on stream monitoring, song-writing, bucket-drumming, musical instrument repair and eating a well-balanced diet.



#### Evolver

Parts jam band, jazz combo, and power trio, Evolver live up to their name, dishing up a tasty sonic gumbo that's always simmering, always ready for that next ingredient to go into the pot. And as with any favorite family recipe, the ingredients might be old hat but it's the cooking that counts. Get it while it's hot.

# Environmental Education



The mission of the Freshwater Folk Festival is to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of freshwater resources. All of earth's creatures, including humans, depend on a quality source of clean, fresh water for survival. Unfortunately, when the Environmental Protection Agency assessed the water quality for 699,946



river miles (19% of the nationwide total) in the United States in 2000, they designated over 300,000 of those miles as either threatened or impaired. Nearly 70% of the river miles in the state of West Virginia also have been designated as either threatened or impaired for fish, shellfish and wildlife protection. Consequently, conservation of freshwater resources is one of the most important environmental issues we face in West Virginia and nationwide. To help promote understanding and appreciation of this critical issue, the Friends and staff of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery have brought together a dedicated team of biologist, environmental educators, business owners and concerned citizens from the state of West Virginia and beyond to help get the word out. We have numerous hands-on activities and educational demonstrations planned covering a wide array of topics including freshwater mussel biology, river ecology, cave ecology, water quality, monitoring your local stream, starting your own watershed association, making your home or business environmentally friendly, environmentally conscious eating, fly fishing and many others. So come on out, enjoy the day and learn what you can do to help your local watershed. **Healthy Rivers = Healthy Economies = Healthy People.**



## Fun Fish Facts

### **Fish with no EYES!**

Did you know there are fish with no eyes? They are called Blind Cave Fish. In a cave, where it is dark all the time, eyes are not necessary. In fact, eyes can be vulnerable to injury and require food energy to maintain. So, a cave fish with no eyes can live longer with less



**Blind Cave Fish** Photo by Rick Olsen, NPS. food than a fish that has eyes. Even though we call them blind, they are very good at finding their way around. They bounce sound waves off the objects around them much like a bat that flies around in the dark. Blind cave fish also have sensory cells in their skin that detect movements in the water nearby. The lack of color in the photo above is also a result of living in the dark. Predators cannot see them and the sun cannot burn them so there is really no need for camouflage or pigmentation.

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Broudy stuffing envelopes.** Photo by Ellen Broudy.

The Freshwater Folk Festival would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers who help organize the vendors, design the posters and solicit donors. One of our

tireless volunteers includes Broudy Atkiss, the grandson of our fearless Friends Group treasurer, Ellen Broudy. Broudy, who just turned 10 years old, volunteered his time to help address, stamp and stuff envelopes. Thanks to Broudy and our Friends Group, we couldn't do it without you!



To receive this monthly newsletter via e-mail send your request to: [matthew\\_patterson@fws.gov](mailto:matthew_patterson@fws.gov)

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