

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery Newsletter



Issue 11: April - May 2008



Connecting People with Nature



Rachel Mair/USFWS

A father-daughter team hauls in their catch at the 2007 Fishing Derby.

Annual Fishing Derby Scheduled for May 24th

The White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club and the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery have announced the dates for the jointly sponsored Children's Fishing Derby. This year's event will be held Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 24th) in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Dandelion Festival, hosted by Main Street White Sulphur Springs. Registration will begin at 8:30 am for the youngest children (6 years and younger). Registration for older children will begin at 9:00am and 10:00 am for ages 7-9 and 10-12. The Derby gives children up to fourteen years of age the opportunity to catch a couple of the hatchery's largest rainbow trout.



Colerain Township

An amphitheater prototype at Colerain Park, Colerain, OH.

Connecting People with Nature

WSSNFH Receives \$85,000 for Outdoor Classroom

White Sulphur Springs NFH has received \$35,000 in Visitor Facility Enhancement Funds and \$50,000 in additional funds from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to begin work on the national pilot Outdoor Classroom. Phase 1 of the Outdoor Classroom will involve construction of a new Festival Amphitheater on hatchery grounds. The handicapped-accessible amphitheater will include a performance stage, dance floor and bench seating for 120 people. In addition to providing a permanent venue for music performances at the Freshwater Folk Festival, the amphitheater will be available to the public for natural resource seminars, outdoor concerts, plays and dance recitals. Construction will begin in July 2008 with the amphitheater set for completion before the 4th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival on October 4th, 2008. Future plans for the Outdoor Classroom include a new hatchery visitor center, a wetland and wetland boardwalk, the Aquarium of the Appalachians, as well as hiking and walking trails.

Friends of the White Sulphur Springs NFH

Help Friends Feed the Fish

Visitors to the hatchery can now help feed the fish. A new vending machine has been installed outside the Visitor Center that dispenses a handful of fish food for only a quarter. It's great fun for the whole family and all the proceeds go to support the Friends of the WSSNFH. FWSSNFH help support the hatchery's mission through organizing the Freshwater Folk Festival, education and fundraising. For information about joining the Friends, please visit their website: www.wsshatcheryfriends.org.



Matthew Patterson/USFWS

The Fish Food Dispenser.

Aquatic Species Conservation

WSSNFH Begins Sculpin Spawning

Sculpin are small fish (typically < 6 inches) that live in cool, clean, swift-flowing streams. Several species of federally endangered freshwater mussels also prefer this kind of habitat, making sculpin an excellent choice for a fish-host. Consequently, WSSNFH biologist use large numbers of sculpin for their juvenile mussel production. Sculpin spawning at the hatchery will allow for easier access to sculpin and lessen potential negative impacts on wild populations.



Matthew Patterson/USFWS

WSSNFH Biologists Rachel Mair and Tommy Watkins spawning sculpin.

Partnerships

New APCO Joins the WSSNFH Team

Callie McMunigal, the new Appalachian Partnership Coordinator (APCO) for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), recently joined the team at White Sulphur Springs NFH. Callie has been with the USFWS since 2001 supervising a team of hydrologists, engineers, ecologists, and biologists working on Florida Everglades Restoration and in recognition of her work was inducted into the US Army Corps of Engineers Restoration Hall of Fame in 2006. The APCO will work to coordinate conservation efforts of the USFWS and their partners in the Appalachian Mountains. Particular emphasis will be placed on fisheries and aquatic habitat restoration including native mussels, but also terrestrial species such as migratory birds that depend upon healthy aquatic and riparian habitats.



Fun Fish Facts The Swim Bladder

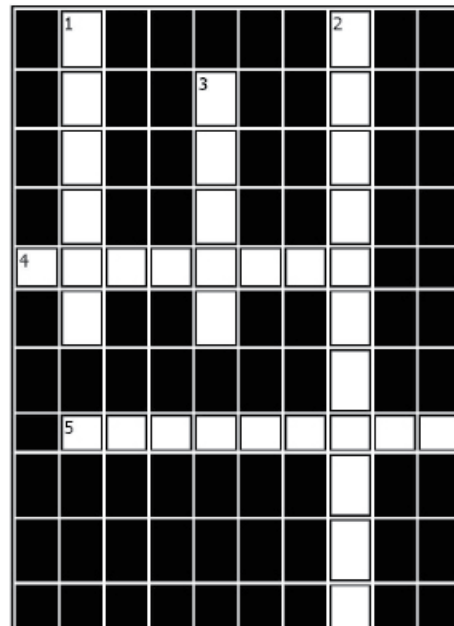
Most fish have an organ in their body called a swim bladder. This bladder is full of air and helps fish move up and down in the water without wasting too much energy. Sculpin, on the other hand, have lost their swim bladder, making it easier to sit comfortably on the bottom out of the current (remember they like fast water).



Mark Evans

The swim bladder in this picture has been colored blue.

Work the puzzle below to find out what other animals use air sacs for things like communication, flotation and breathing.



Down

1. Large, ocean dwelling mammals
2. Floating plant that frogs love to sit on
3. Flying animals

Across

4. Santa's favorite animal
5. Stinging ocean dweller

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, Cooperation with Native Americans, 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 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.

For more information:

Catherine Gatenby, Hatchery Manager
White Sulphur Springs NFH
400 East Main Street
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
Phone: 304-536-1361
e-mail: catherine_gatenby@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

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