

Fish Tales Newsletter

West Virginia's Aquaculture Newsletter is produced to help inform, educate, and update those interested in producing quality aquatic products. in a sustainable manner, for the recreational and food fish markets.



5 lb. Brookies for Cheat River

If you are the superstitious type then you may have stayed indoors on Friday, Oct. 13, and missed out on a great opportunity on the Cheat River. For more than two years, brook trout were grown at WVU's research farm near Wardensville. The research ended earlier this year with unusually large brook trout, some topping 8 pounds on the scale. The decision was made to donate 3,000 pounds of these monsters to **Trout for Cheat Inc.** if they could cover the cost of transportation from the farm to the Cheat River. The stocking could not have happened without the help of **Art George** and the **Challenge Academy** from Camp Dawson.

Bluefield State Aquaculture Program to use Local Trout Farm for Real World Experience

Mercer Co. - The nine first-year aquaculture students taking classes in Bluefield State University's two-year aquaculture degree program will get wet at a local commercial trout farm. **Mr. Kumar**, who teaches the aquaculture classes at Bluefield State, said that his students will have a great opportunity to get involved in the daily operations of a local trout farm. The new owner of the farm, **Luis Marmol**, is expanding the production capacity of the farm and is interested in focusing on sustainable use of resources, including the eventual production of organic products.



Construction projects at the hatchery include capturing more of the natural spring water for use in the hatchery. This will allow more water to be used for the grow-out raceways (above photo). Improving the concrete raceways and building some new ones will increase the carrying capacity of the farm.

For more information on the two-year aquaculture program given at Bluefield State University in Bluefield, W.Va., contact Mr. Kumar (304-327-4209 or udayakumar@sunlitsurf.com).

New Viral Disease Found in Great Lakes

Mother Nature continues to challenge fish farmers using viruses as her mode of attack. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health issued a disease notice in July of 2006. A summary of the notice follows.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) has historically been considered to be the most serious viral disease of salmonids reared in freshwater environments in Europe. More recently, VHS has been associated with marine finfish species, and it has become an emerging disease of freshwater fish in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada .

VHS was first detected in the Great Lakes region in the Bay of Quinte, Lake Ontario, in 2005, and it was subsequently detected in an archived 2003 sample from Lake St. Clair. VHS virus also was detected in Lake St. Clair in 2005 and in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and the St. Lawrence River in 2006 in a variety of fish species. Before 2003, isolations of VHS virus were limited in North America to saltwater finfish from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, including Chinook and Coho salmon, Pacific herring, Atlantic herring, and cod. Since 2005, the list of species known to be affected by VHS has risen to more than 40, including a number of ecologically and recreationally important fish.

For more information go to the Web site:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cei/taf/emergingdiseasenotice_files/vhsgr eatlakes.htm

Federal Order Prohibits Interstate Transport of Many Game Species

In late October, USDA-APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) issued a Federal Order to prohibit interstate transport of some 30 live fish species from eight states surrounding the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin) and importation from the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. **Included in this list are yellow perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, and brown trout.**

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the spread of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) into aquaculture facilities. There are 37 species listed in the Federal Order. The full text is available at on the Web (www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/pdf/vhs-fed-order_ogc-changes.pdf).

For West Virginia producers, this order will impact any fish on your farm that may have come from the eight states. If no fish originated from those states, you can still ship into them, but **DO NOT BRING ANY OF THE LISTED FISH FROM THOSE STATES ONTO YOUR FARM WITHOUT CERTIFICATION FROM AN APPROVED LAB FOR VHS.**



Students from the Bluefield State Aquaculture Program Gain Field Experience Transporting and Stocking Trout

In November, two students (**Joey Peters** [left] and **Brandi Gilpin**) gained some practical experience by helping transport trout from the Trout Lodge hatchery to a mine site in Boone Co. They helped calculate the volume of the transport tank and determined how much salt was needed to get a 0.2% solution for transport. After loading the fish and driving 3.5 hours to the mine site, they helped stock the trout into the experimental tanks in the background. The experimental tanks were funded by the Northeast Regional Aquacultural Center, based at the University of Maryland.

Organic Aquaculture Standards Move Forward

The Spring 2006 edition (Vol. 4 No.1) of *Fish Tales Newsletter* reported on how to provide input to the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) when it wanted public comments on Organic Aquaculture Standards.

The Aquaculture Working Group reports to the NOSB for recommendations concerning national organic standards for fish. This working group has issued a report on production requirements for organic farm-raised fish products.

One contentious issue deals with the debate to allow (or not) fish meal as a feed ingredient in organically labeled fish products.

If you want to read the document you can find it on the Web (www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm).

The organic concept has grown to encompass more than just keeping manmade chemicals out of the organic farmer's tool shed. Now at issue is the entire production process and how it relates to sustainability.

Can animal proteins (read fish meal) be sustainably harvested from the oceans for use in organic labeled fish products? We will find out perhaps as soon as next year since the NSOB is expected to present a final proposal in the spring of 2007. As promised, we will keep you up-to-date on this hot topic in future editions.

Until then, eat more fish!

2007 W.Va. Aquaculture Forum Set for Cedar Lakes

The aquaculture forum is designed to inform people about growing fish to eat, to watch, or to sell. Each January, aquaculture enthusiasts from West Virginia and adjacent states gather for this event. The **2007 Aquaculture Forum** will be held in the Jackson Hall at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, W.Va., on **Saturday, Jan. 20**. The day will consist of presentations on a variety of topics, a showcase of West Virginia aquaculture products, posters describing the latest aquaculture research, door prizes, a business meeting of the West Virginia Aquaculture Association, and an opportunity to meet and speak with fish folks from the region. Participants will receive information on a wide variety of topics and learn about where to get fish, feed, supplies, and information about growing aquaculture products.

This year, the program will open with a general session in the morning and split into two sessions in the afternoon. The general session will open with the annual industry update. Learn about what has happened in West Virginia aquaculture during the past year. Recent advances in aquaculture research will be presented by the principal investigator of the Aquaculture Product and Market Development Project at West Virginia University, *Eat fish, it's good for you*.

The afternoon session for pond owners will feature presentations on controlling aquatic weeds, what to do about sick fish, and growing fish for home consumption and a panel discussion to answer questions about pond management. The afternoon session for commercial growers will feature a presentation on a proposed fish stocking initiative for public waters to enhance tourism, a panel discussion on regulations, and fish health. During breaks, participants will have an opportunity to visit with speakers, vendors, and other meeting participants. **Early registration is \$10 per person, which must be received by Jan. 14, 2007.**

Registrations will be accepted the day of the meeting but the cost will increase to \$20. Registration fees will be waived for members renewing WVAA membership in 2007. Registration information is posted on the Web (www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/index.htm).

You may also contact your county WVU Extension Office or Becky Casteel (304-293-6131, ext. 4231 or Becky.Casteel@mail.wvu.edu).

Walk-ins will also be taken at the door beginning at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting is sponsored by the West Virginia University Extension Service, the West Virginia Aquaculture Association, and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. It is coordinated by Ken Semmens, WVU Extension Specialist - Aquaculture. He can be reached by phone (304-293-6131, ext. 4211) or via e-mail (Ken.Semmens@mail.wvu.edu).

Directions to Cedar Lakes

Cedar Lakes is conveniently located off I-77 at Ripley/Fairplain Exit 132. The site is just 38 miles north of Charleston and south of Parkersburg.

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We are encouraging contributions to Fishtales newsletter by W.Va. residents. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Dan Miller at dmille31@wvu.edu or call 304-293-4832, ext. 4465. The deadline for the next issue of Fishtales is Feb 1st, 2007.

This publication is available, in a printable format, on the Web at:

www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/newsletter.htm

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