



FRIENDS OF WOLF CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY NEWSLETTER

April - June 2026

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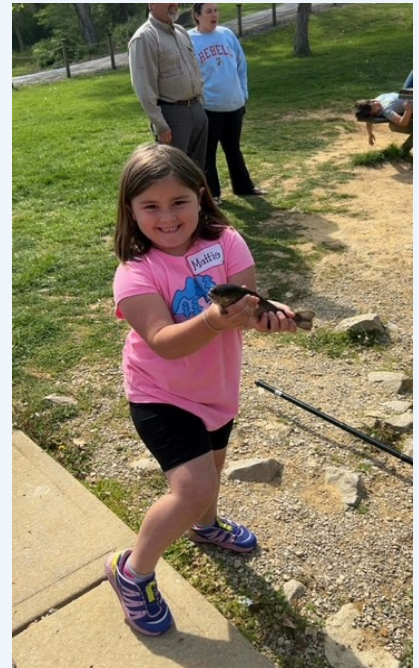
Fishing 101 for Kids Workshop

Fishing 101 for Kids was held on April 8 at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery with approximately 25 students attending along with Hatchery staff, Friends of WCNFH members, and volunteers.

The day started with volunteer anglers being partnered with their students. Next the students were given a new fishing pole and loaded tackle box, provided by the Friends of Wolf Creek NFH. The volunteers taught them the basics of how to string a rod, tie on a hook, add a sinker and a bobber. After that they headed to Hatchery Creek!

At the creek the teachers helped the students practice casting, setting a hook, and reeling in a fish. Tips and tricks for catching trout and fishing etiquette were also topics of discussion.

These volunteers made a positive and lasting impact on the participants, and we hope they continue to use their new-found fishing skills for years to come, into adulthood. We appreciate the volunteers; without them these events would not be possible!



Fly Fishing 101 with Bill Carman Workshop

April 4, 2026: Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosted a Fly Fishing 101 Workshop led by professional fly fisherman Bill Carman.

Twenty participants joined Bill Carman for a full day of beginner fly fishing instruction, including a classroom session covering gear basics, stream reading tips, and knot-tying practice. Then it was outside for casting on the lawn before heading to Hatchery Creek for on-stream instruction.

Each participant was treated to lunch and a free box of flies to encourage them to practice their newly acquired skills.



Outdoor Adventure Day

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosted the 4th grade students from Salem Elementary, Russell Springs Elementary, and Jamestown Elementary for a day of learning and fun.

Approximately 200 students and their teachers experienced 10 interactive learning stations, with a focus of science and conservation. Topics students learned:

Topics presented for the day included:

- How to make thread from rabbit fur
- The importance of bees and pollination
- Animals native to Kentucky
- Pollution and its impact
- Water Quality monitoring
- Composting and recycling
- Making soap from goats' milk
- Water food webs
- The trout life cycle





Earth Day

April 18, 2026: Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery hosted our Annual Earth Day celebration with over 400 visitors and conservationists.

Activities included hands on informational booths set up by partners; Gunnar's Bees, Russell County Public Library, Kentucky Division of Air, Water and Waste Management, and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The Friends of Wolf Creek NFH, Inc. sponsored lunch for our partners , staff and volunteers. They also provided free Washington Hawthorne and Chestnut Oak saplings to those who attended. It was a great day to celebrate this planet we love!





38th Annual Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby June 6

The 38th Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby was a wonderful rewarding day for everyone involved. We had 1,000 children register to fish from ages 1-15. Our hearts are full of thankfulness, and we are so grateful for every person that volunteered at this event. Volunteers make this event possible, and they do it with a smile, bringing joy to everyone throughout the day. All volunteers, sponsorships and donations are so greatly appreciated

We had 106 Volunteers that put in over 646 hours of service. We also had over 75 partners and sponsors that donated services or money to fund the event. Because of them, we can offer this event FREE of charge including free food, drinks, snow cones, face painting, archery, and prizes for each child registered to fish. For more information, visit:

We are truly grateful for each person! Thank you all for making this day possible for these children and their families, bringing them happiness, great memories, and the opportunity to enjoy this event! For more information, visit:

<https://www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/wolf-creek>

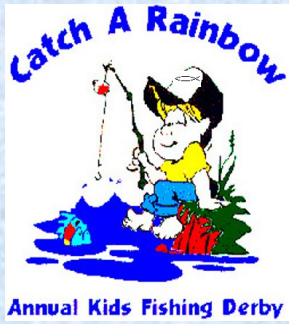
<https://www.catcharainbow.org>

<https://www.friendsofwolfcreeknfh.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/WolfCreekNFH>

<https://www.facebook.com/fowcnfh/>





38th Annual Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby



Special Thanks & Appreciation :

We appreciate these volunteers who have been with us for many months.

They are hard working, kind, and a joy to be around!

You will be missed as you go onto new adventures!

Joyce & Gary O'Connell



Lynn & Michael Rees



Friends of Wolf Creek NFH President & Vice President

We are so proud and grateful to have these two special people as our President and Vice President as of February 2025.

Steve Bennett is a local businessman and native Russell countian who has been married to his high school sweetheart for more than 40 years. They have two adult children and three grandchildren. Steve loves to fish and enjoys the outdoors.

Charmaine Stewart, since retiring as a CNA, has enjoyed volunteering with the Friends group for the last six years. Living in nearby Adair County she has visited Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery for several years with her children and grandchildren. She looks forward to sharing the enjoyment of the outdoors with people through the wonderful events that the Friends group and Hatchery provide.

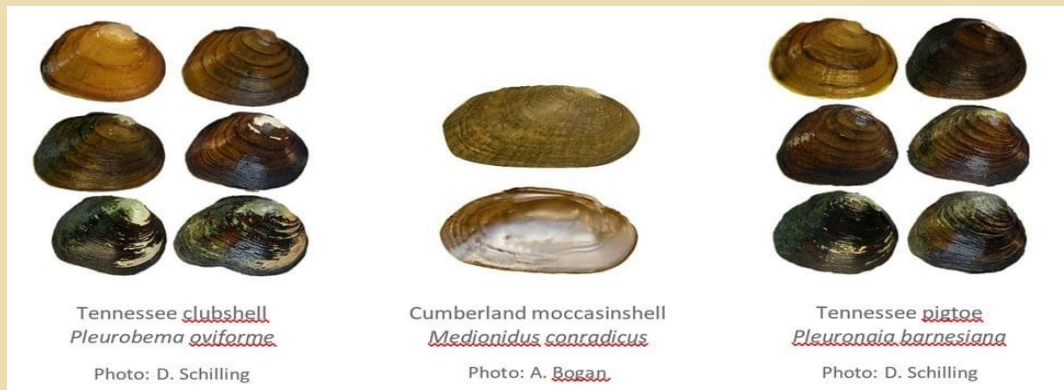
Below: President Steve Bennett & Vice President Charmaine Stewart:



Interesting Hatchery Information

Mollusks:

April -June; the staff has spent many days taking care of racks, cages, and the boathouse. They currently have several thousand Cumberland Elktoe and Cumberlandian Combshell, Purple Cats Paw, Cumberland Bean, Fluted Kidneyshell, Round Hickorynut, Pink Mucket, Snuffbox, Tan Riffleshell, Purple Lilliput, Kentucky Creekshell, Pheasantshell, Black Sandshell and several other species in the floating culture at the boathouse.



Barrens Topminnow Recovery:

April-June; The Barrens Topminnow is a very rare fish that was listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act on November 20, 2019. The Barrens topminnow, as of today, is still one of the most endangered species in the world. The species is endangered due to loss of habitat and competition with the Western Mosquitofish. These have caused the invasion of the majority of the Barrens topminnow area. There are currently @375, 2025 year-class, to be released in 2026.

Biological Science Technician Makenzie Foster was recognized as a 2024 Recovery Champion. Recovery Champions are U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff and their partners whose work is advancing the recovery of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. Makenzie has been recognized in the Southeast Region for her work with Laurel dace, a freshwater minnow native to Tennessee.



Fishy Facts about the Hatchery

April: 2,000 Rainbow Trout were stocked in Hatchery Creek for the disabled, elderly, and children.

Total of 79,350 fish weighing (33,769 lbs.) were stocked this month

Visitor Center Volunteer Hours: 655

Total Number of Visitors: 3,060

May: 2,500 Rainbow Trout stocked in Hatchery Creek for the disabled, elderly, and children.

Total of 63,665 fish weighing (21,751lbs.) were stocked.

Visitor Center Volunteer Hours: 755

Total Number of Visitors: 6,592

June: 2,150 Rainbow Trout stocked in Hatchery Creek for the disabled, elderly, and children. 3,100 additional 13 inch Rainbow Trout were stocked for the Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby

Total of 48,025 fish weighing (17,482 lbs.) were stocked.

Visitor Center Volunteer Hours: 710

Total Number of Visitors: 7,643



Eggs Received in 2026

April: None received.

May: None received.

June: None received.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / INFORMATION

The Friends of Wolf Creek NFH had the privilege and honor to participate and help in these special programs:

- Assisted with various items needed for workshops including supplies, educational materials, food and drinks.**
- Donated items as needed for the Library Fishing & Tackle Program.**
- Provided the poles, tackle boxes and other items needed for the Kids Fishing 101 Workshop**
- Provided free trees on Earth Day: Washington Hawthorne & Chestnut Oak. Lunch for the partners, volunteers & staff on Outdoor Adventure Day & Earth Day.**
- We helped to organize the Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby. We obtain funds and sponsorship through various people, businesses and grants, provide items needed and help make this day enjoyable as children are encouraged to get hooked on fishing and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.**

Upcoming events for 2026: *(Dates and Times TBA)

August 11: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Russell County Public Library

September 2: Outdoor Adventure Day for Russell County 4th grade students

September 8: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

September 9: Wounded Warrior Fishing Event at the Hatchery

September 22: Catch A Smile Senior Fishing Derby

September 23-24: Reaching for Rainbows Special Needs Fishing Derbies

October 8: Fall Break Movie Night featuring The Lorax 6:00-8:00pm CST

October 13: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

October 17: Fly Fishing 101 with Bill Carman 8:00am-5:00pm CST, all day class. \$75 fee includes lunch, pre-registration required.

October 23: Creepy Crawlies Workshop 5-7pm CST

November 10: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

November 14: Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop 9:00-10:00am CST

December 5: Holiday Open House

December 8: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

For more information call: Makenzie or Marsha 270-343-3797

NOTE: The 2nd Tuesday of every month Friends of Wolf Creek NFH hold their monthly board meeting at 1pm CST in the hatchery classroom or Russell County Public Library. All are welcome!

Ways you can help support The Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery:

- ♦ Visit Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery and feed the fish, shop the gift shop, and have fun!
- ♦ Add us as the recipient for Kroger rewards (you will still receive your fuel points):
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>
- ♦ Visit our websites: <https://www.friendsofwolfcreeknfh.com> You can make donations here and find out more ways you can help! Also, <https://www.catcharainbow.org> to learn more about this event.
- ♦ Volunteer
- ♦ Attend our monthly board meeting-2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm CST in the hatchery classroom.
- ♦ Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fowcnfh/>
- ♦ Email or call us at: friendsofwolfcreeknfh@gmail.com or call 270-343-3797 EXT: 205

*Thank you to all who volunteer, donate, and sponsor us!! We appreciate all of you!!
It is because of you that these special events and programs are able to bring joy to so many!!*