

FRIENDS OF WOLF CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY NEWSLETTER

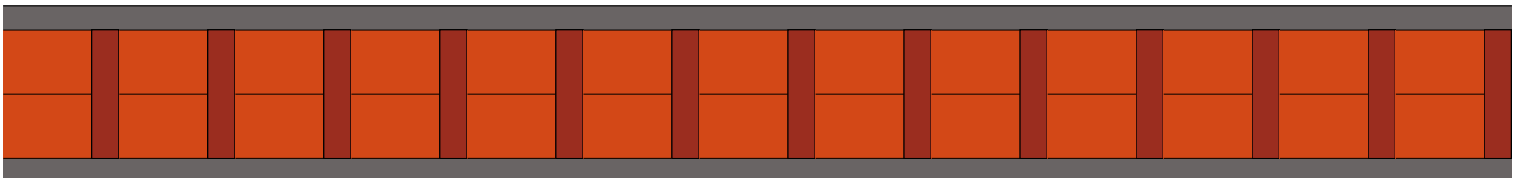
January-March 2026

Newsletter Content

- ◆ Workshops
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Mushroom Grow Bag Workshop

The Mushroom Grow Bag Workshop was held at the Russell County Public Library on March 12, 2026. Twenty-seven people attended this workshop led by Eric Sanders of Friend of Fungi Farm. He taught several ways to grow mushrooms for the local farmer's market, the science within fungi cultivation, and taught ways to help create a healthy harvest from the inoculated grow bags. Each person that attended left with either Oyster (*pleurotus ostreatus*) or Lion's Mane (*herecium erinaceus*) mushroom inoculated grow bag. Recipe cards were also given out.



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!

Gini & Tim



Ann & Jim Yacko

No photo Available

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:



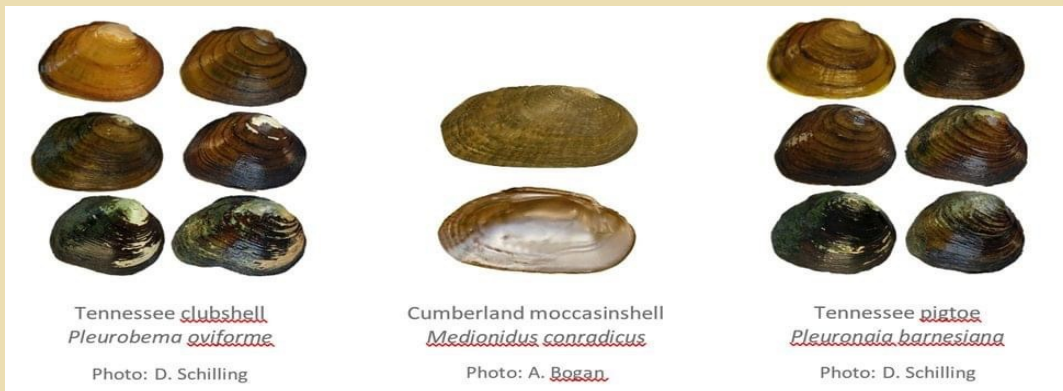
Interesting Hatchery Information

Mollusks:

January-March; the staff has spent many days taking care of racks, cages, and the boathouse.

A second electric and pneumatic boat lift was installed in the boathouse. This was added to the one installed in 2024 to help make the mussel culture work much easier and safer.

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:

January-March; 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

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

Total of 21,675 fish weighing (8,089 lbs.) were stocked this month

Visitor Center Volunteer Hours: 457

Total Number of Visitors: 675

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

Total of 79,500 fish weighing (32,560 lbs.) were stocked.

Visitor Center Volunteer Hours: 483

Total Number of Visitors: 1,128

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

Total of 126,475 fish weighing (42,744 lbs.) were stocked.

Visitor Center Volunteer Hours: 563

Total Number of Visitors: 3,060



Eggs Received in 2026

January: 200,000 Arlee (ARD) strain Rainbow trout eggs from Ennis National Fish Hatchery, in Montana

100,000 Brook Trout eggs from Enfield State Fish Hatchery in Maine.

75,000 Hot Creek (HCD) strain Rainbow trout eggs from Dubois State Fish Hatchery in Wyoming.

150,000 McConaughy (MCD) strain Rainbow trout eggs from Ennis National Fish Hatchery in Montana.

February: 150,000 Fish Lake (FLD) strain Rainbow trout eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery, TN.

March:

400,000 Shasta (SSD) strain Rainbow trout eggs from White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery in West Virginia.



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.**
- Made a donation to help support the Russell County High School Bass Fishing Team**
- Support the Hatchery as needed in various ways.**
- March 24, provided snacks and lunch for all the volunteers, judges, and staff for the Kentucky Junior Duck Stamp Contest held here at the hatchery.**
- Placement of the Personalized Paving Stones moved to a new location thanks to Dale Hollow Construction of Albany, KY**

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

May 12: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

June 6: 38th Annual Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby

June 9: CANCELLED Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

July 6: Kids Nature Week at the Hatchery 10:00-11:00am daily CST

July 14: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

August 11: Friends of Wolf Creek NFH monthly board meeting 1:00pm CST Wolf Creek NFH classroom.

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!!*