

# *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.

## **Cedar Lakes Resort Hosts 2007 West Virginia Aquaculture Forum**

The annual W.Va. Aquaculture Forum (photo below) was held at the Cedar Lakes Resort near Ripley Jan. 20. Just over 100 people registered for the event, which is highlighted by good food, new information, and networking with others interested in the development of the aquaculture industry. Presentations from the forum are at [www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/forums.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/forums.htm).

**Rodney Kiser (WVU)** presented the annual Industry Update that mentioned the expansion of production facilities at Trout Lodge and Angler's Resort as well as Allegheny Aquaculture's trout operation. **Dr. Ken Semmens** provided the Aquaculture Research Update, and **John Houben (APHIS)** spoke about how to deal effectively with pests and predators of fish.

The afternoon gathering broke into two sessions, with legal issues dominating discussions led by WVU's legal eagle **Fonda Holehouse**. She moderated a panel of experts including **Mike Stratton (WVDEP)**, **Frank Jernejcic (WVDNR)**, **Rob Nichols (WVDA)**, **Roger Hanshaw**, **Jerry Jenkins**, and **Will Valentino**.

In the other session, **Dan Miller (WVU)** spoke about raising fish in small ponds for personal use. **Mark Mongin (SePRO)** addressed the nuisance aquatic weed problems often found in ponds, and **Beth Semmens, R.D., L.D.** explained that eating fish was a healthy addition to the diet. Fish, a good source of protein, contain minerals and omega three fatty acids that have been linked to a reduction in heart disease and strokes. Most adults are encouraged to consume two to three servings of a variety of fish every week.



## **New Trout Farm in W.Va.?**

**Ted Miller** and his business partners have signed a memorandum of understanding on two mine water sources that have previously been used for trout production. Ted plans to lease the old Lillybrook and McAlpin fish farms from Jobs Institute Trust (JIT), which has the legal control of both sites. In a previous issue of *Fish Tales Newsletter* (Summer 2004), we reported on the closing of the farms, which were operated by Geneva Foods at the time.

The new company will be called **Mountaineer Trout Farm**. Ted Miller has experience raising rainbow trout on his farm in northeastern Pennsylvania, where he also has a successful deer farm and fencing company ([www.birchcreekdeerfarm.com](http://www.birchcreekdeerfarm.com)). Based upon advice from aquaculture extension specialists, a design change will occur before any fish are stocked on either site. The new design will feature the traditional concrete raceways that use gravity for reeration. Solid waste containment areas will be incorporated into the design to allow for better solid waste management.

The estimated production for the first year of operation will be almost twice that of the previous design. Ted plans to start construction at the old Lillybrook farm site first and then move on to the McAlpin site.

Welcome to the Mountain State, Ted!



**Farmer Profile:  
Bill Bowers of Rainbow Farm**

Back in 1956, **Bill Bowers** built two ponds for personal recreational fishing. The family had so much fun that the neighbors wanted in, so he began a commercial fee fishing operation in 1964. Bill’s son, Jeff, was only 9 years old then, but he continues to help his father on weekends even today.

Now 82 years young (photo), Bill still operates the fish portion of Rainbow Farm, which also has 100,000 turkeys and about 60 beef cattle. Jeff, an attorney, is currently a commissioner for the W.Va. Virginia Division of Natural Resources; he runs the turkey and cattle operation on the 1,200-acre farm in Pendleton County.

Rainbow Farm is open on weekends from the third weekend in March through the 4th of July weekend, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Bill’s price is 18 cents an inch, but he anticipates raising it to 20 cents and inch. So hurry in before the price goes up.

An article in the *Pendleton Times* from Oct. 20, 1966, shows the popularity of the farm ponds and states that they were stocked with 12,000 to 15,000 rainbow trout. That makes for some fine fishin’.



**35% PEROX-AID®, Major Aquaculture Drug,  
Approved**

Fish farmers in West Virginia and across the nation have reason to celebrate due to the approval of a new chemical for the treatment of fungal (*Saprolegnia*) and bacterial diseases. Here are the details as released by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

35% PEROX-AID® (hydrogen peroxide) was approved on January 11, 2007 for control of mortality in (1) freshwater-reared finfish eggs due to saprolegniasis, (2) freshwater-reared salmonids due to bacterial gill disease, and (3) freshwater-reared cool water finfish and channel catfish due to external columnaris disease.

Eka Chemicals, Inc. (Marietta, Ga.), is the sponsor of 35% PEROX-AID®. This is a very important approval because it is:

- THE FIRST new waterborne drug approved for a disease claim for any aquatic species in more than twenty years
- THE SECOND aquaculture drug to gain designation under the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act which entitles Eka Chemicals, Inc. to seven years of exclusivity for marketing rights for the approved label claims
- THE FIRST new aquaculture drug with an original approval covering multiple label claims for use in a variety of finfish species

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**Water Resources Protection Act – Final Report**

In December 2006, the W.Va. Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) published a detailed report addressing the use and protection of water resources in our state. The report quantified the availability of surface water (using the 7Q10 study). The 98-page report is loaded with information, yet it acknowledges the difficulty in obtaining data for groundwater resources.

One thing learned is that on an annual basis, at least 3.4 trillion gallons of water are withdrawn from surface waters. That number is 100 times the amount of groundwater withdrawn (only 0.03 trillion) annually in the state.

This report creates a much-needed foundation that will help WVDEP and other agencies to implement a management program. The development of a standardized definition of drought is also recommended. The complete report can be found on the Web: [http://www.wvdep.org/Docs/12138\\_Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.wvdep.org/Docs/12138_Final%20Report.pdf)

## Recreational Pond Management Class Offered by WVU as Distance Education Course

This summer the Davis College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences will be offering a class in recreational pond management that allows WVU students to take the class (for credit or audit) on their own time, in their home or while they are on the road. The technology for distance education is improving all the time and more classes are being offered off campus using computers and the internet.

The recreational pond management class is for professionals in Landscape Architecture, Land Development, Parks and Recreation or others with a need to understand the chemical, physical, and biological interactions in a pond for improved management. The course (RESM 493) is three credits and can be taken on a pass/fail (audit) basis. It will cover important issues that include: pond construction, species selection, weed identification and control, production methods, best management practices, among other topics.

Assignments will be sent as a word file to the instructor, and communication will occur using email from a home computer or laptop on an individual basis. The class will physically meet only once, in the Morgantown region, for demonstrations on tools used for pond management. There are no prerequisites for this multidisciplinary class. Access to a computer is the only requirement.

Registration Contact: **Beverly Hassler**, Room 1005 Agricultural Sciences Building, email: [bhassler@wvu.edu](mailto:bhassler@wvu.edu), phone: (304) 293-2691 ext. 4527

## Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center funds Aquaculture Research in West Virginia

**Dr. Gerard D'Souza** of West Virginia University is conducting an economical analysis of an alternative raceway material thanks to funding from the **Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC)**. The research compares the cost of installing and operating a 2000 gallon plastic "U" shaped raceway compared to the traditional flat bottomed concrete raceway system of similar volume.

The research tanks in the center of the photo (below) will produce the first crop of trout this summer. A group of cohort rainbows are being raised in a concrete system in Pennsylvania and the project will also compare the operational cost of cleaning the tanks, as well as the fin condition of the fish at harvest.

Both systems were stocked in November 2006. The initial data indicates the plastic tanks will be less expensive to purchase, install, and maintain. Limited volume of the tanks will restrict the application of this research to small and medium sized producers. The economic analysis should be completed by late 2007 and a publication from WVU's Extension Service will follow. We will have a follow-up article in a future edition of this newsletter.



#### **Indian Lake Fisheries**

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#### **This space available for WV aquaculture producers.**

List your products, equipment, etc, for sale, trade or as a want ad. Please submit information for each issue before stated deadline.  
Space available on first come first served basis. Contact Rodney Kiser, 304 293-2631 x 4447.  
Rodney.Kiser@mail.wvu.edu

#### **Quality Fish for Stocking!**

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We encourage story contributions to Fishtales newsletter by W.Va. residents. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Dan Miller at [dmille31@wvu.edu](mailto:dmille31@wvu.edu) or call 304-293-4832, ext. 4465. The deadline for the next issue of Fishtales is May 1, 2007.

This publication is available, in a printable format, on the Web at:  
[www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/newsletter.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/newsletter.htm)

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