

The Raceway

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Annual Membership Meeting

The Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery will hold its annual membership meeting on Friday, March 27, 2009 at El Chico Restaurant at 45 Charles Blackburn Drive, Mountain Home, AR. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will include the annual election of officers as well as the presentation of the details of the Dry Run Creek Enhancement Project. The Dry Run Creek presentation includes all the original artwork created by Dave Whitlock for the project.

Space is limited for the meeting and dinner. Dinner will be a reasonably priced Mexican buffet. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, March 22, 2008 to either (870) 425-1755 or membership@norforkhatcheryfriends.org with the names of the individuals who will be attending. Attendance will be on a first come basis.

Hatchery Open House Planned

The Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery and the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery will hold their Second Annual Open House. While plans are just getting underway for this event, we hope to build on last year by having more exhibitors, more activities and more participants. Much has happened in and around the hatchery and Visitor's Center this past year and we can't wait for you to see it all.

Once again, we will be inviting the entire community of North Central Arkansas to the Hatchery and to the Visitor's Center. We are proud of our hatchery and want to show it off. The Visitor's Center will be the focal point with games, instruction for both spin, bait and fly casting, fly tying demonstrations, hatchery tours as well as other activities still on the drawing board. Hot dogs and lemonade will be served for lunch.



Grilling hot dogs at last years open house.

President's Message

The FNNFH are looking toward to a busy year of activities. We hope many of you will be able to attend, volunteer, and enjoy the events.

2009 brought a devastating ice storm to Arkansas. Fortunately there was very little damage at the hatchery. I was sure that we would loose the bird netting at the hatchery given the amount of damage the ice caused to my own property. I guess the water temperatures in the raceways were enough to restrict the build up of ice, as was the case for the majority of trees close to the rivers.

I sincerely hope we do not see the levels of flood water evident this past year. As many of you know, we came very close to losing many fish at the hatchery.

The FNNFH are looking toward to a busy year of activities. We hope many of you will be able to attend, volunteer, and enjoy the events.

The first important activity will be our Annual General Meeting. We now have the completed work from Dave Whitlock for the restoration and habitat work to be undertaken at Dry Run creek. And I can tell you it is an eye opener!

We will present the project at the meeting after the official welcome and election of officers. All in attendance will be able to see a full view of the improvements at DRC after both the in-stream and bank stabilization work have been completed and the handicap access improved. I have asked Dave Whitlock, Tim Burnley from the AGFC, and Ken Boyles our hatchery manager to be present to answer questions. Please join us.

We will host the second Open House at the hatchery during May this year; and if the water level cooperates, we will host the first One Fly fishing event sometime during June or possibly September. The Kids Derby is also a very popular venue and all help for that event is greatly appreciated.

March is the time I will travel to DC to discuss issues of concern with other USFW personnel related to our hatchery and the National organizations within the fisheries divisions.

If anyone has ideas and suggestions for FNNFH activities, please let us know. If at all possible, we would love to bring on board some new members with your help.

Wishing you all a great year on the rivers; and each time you catch a fish, remember where it probably originated: The Norfolk National Fish Hatchery.

Tight lines all,

Davy Wotton.



Hatchery Employee Spotlight Monroe Schmidt Retires

After working for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for over thirty years, Monroe Schmidt has decided to hang up his hip boots. Monroe's career with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service began with Walhalla National Fish Hatchery on May 7, 1978 at Walhalla, South Carolina. He worked there until he accepted the position of Assistant Hatchery Manager at Norfolk NFH in May, 1994. Prior to his employment with the FWS, Monroe served three years in the USMC and worked for five years with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission trout program in Mountain Home, Arkansas. His retirement plans include wood working and traveling with his wife Sandy.

Congratulations Monroe!



Monroe Schmidt feeding fish.

Dry Run Creek Update

The Dry Run Creek project is moving forward slowly. Progress is not happening as quickly as we hoped or planned; but a major milestone has been met. Dave Whitlock has completed the design for the in-stream habitat improvements. Davy Wotton reviewed Dave's plans with Tim Burnley and Jeff Williams from AGFC. They were quite impressed with what they saw. Now that the plans are available, AGFC can schedule the in-stream work. However they have a lot of work in their queue, so we don't yet know when they can start.

The other big task is the initial revamp of the boardwalk and the handicapped access platforms. The request for bids for this work is still in the hands of the USFWS. We do not know when requests will go out to the public.

We hope to be able to give a better update in the next newsletter. In the meantime, you can go to the Friends website to see Dave Whitlock's complete plan for the in-stream work. We will have Dave and the AGFC folks at the Friends annual meeting to review and discuss Dave's plans. Be sure to join us at El Chico's on March 27.



More of Dave Whitlock's plans for DRC habitat improvement.

Storm Damage Misses Hatchery

Although most of North Arkansas suffered major damages during the recent ice storm, the hatchery escaped almost unscathed. There were several tree limbs broken, but no hatchery structure was damaged. We were very fortunate that the bird netting over the raceways was not damaged, since so much damage was done to other utility lines in this area. The hatchery was without power for two days. The fish hardly noticed anything out of the ordinary, because the water supply is gravity flow from Lake Norfolk and does not depend on electricity for pumps or aeration.

Trey Anderson, who resides on of the hatchery, took care of the fish, while the roads were impassible and the other employees were not able to get into work. Coincidentally, no fish distribution was even scheduled for this period, so we were fortunate in this regard as well. Even the trees along Dry Run Creek escaped damage and very few broken limbs were noticed. The hatchery was very, very lucky.

Monte Stark Joins Friends Board



I am extremely honored to be on the board of the Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery and look forward to helping to achieve the goals that have been planned. Having been a part time resident of Norfolk since 1992 and a fisher of the rivers since the mid 60's, I am

very familiar with the importance of the hatchery and its staff.

I am a past president of Mid South Fly Fishers in Memphis. I have been on the board of "Hooked on a Cure", a benefit for St. Jude Children's Hospital, since 2001. Currently I am chair of this event. To date we have raised over two hundred thousand dollars for the kids.

I retired in 2000, after closing my business, The Sporting Life, in Memphis. We were for many years the 9th largest Orvis dealer in the Country.

Sometime next year we will have the first annual benefit dinner and hope to see many of you at this event. If you would like to be a part of this event and work with us please contact me.

Monte Stark

Membership

The economy has hit, not unexpectedly, our membership numbers. It is going to take a concerted effort by all of us to maintain the momentum. The cost of membership in FNNFH is relatively minor if you put in perspective the larger picture. Granted, the larger picture is getting smaller as we tighten the belt; however, with a senior membership only costing \$10, an individual at \$15 and a family at \$20, most budgets will not be hampered by this expense. One cancelled trip to McDonalds will take care of the membership.

You will remember last quarter we talked about the option of giving memorial gifts to the Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in lieu of sending flowers or giving to charity. A donation to FNNFH for a birthday gift instead of a trinket makes an excellent gift. You get the picture. Now all you have to do is act. I intend to. It doesn't have to be a big amount. It all adds up! A card will be sent to the individual or family to let them know a donation was made on their behalf to the FNNFH.

Dollar amounts will not be mentioned, so you need not feel pressured. Just get out that checkbook and get busy!

Pat Smith

Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery		
Membership Report 2/18/2009		
Categories	Individuals	Memberships
Benefactor	3	3
Corporate	2	2
Family	114	57
Honorary Life	2	2
Individual	23	23
Life	20	20
Clubs/ Organizations	10	10
Student	3	3
Senior	27	27
Couples Life	28	14
TOTALS	232	161
Last Months Totals	231	160

Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery Membership Roster

* denotes Charter Members

BENEFACTOR

Federation of Fly Fishers Southern Council*

Gaston's White River Resort*

Northeast Arkansas Flyfishers

CORPORATE

FNBC

Paul Reese, DDS*

FAMILY

Jim and Diane Arnold

Mike and Rita Billbe*

Nathan Blair*

Schuyler Brower and Family

Dan and Sherrie Brown

David and Dianne Bultman

Tom and Patty Burkett*

Bob and Nancy Burnham

Bruce W. Burr and Family

Kearmie and Mary Carleton

Don Daniell*

Frank and Winnie Sue Dawson*

John Dillard and Family

Gary and Paula Flippin

Michael and Theia Foley

Dennis and Amy Galyardt*

Robert and Donna Gellenbeck

Lew and Sharon Goodson*

Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Greenwood*

Tommy and Shella Hagan*

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Haggard*

John and Carolyn Hellmuth*

Eric and Donna Henley*

Gene and Sharon Hodges

Bob Jensen*

Kenneth P and Sandra K. Jensen*

Ross and Janice Kelly

Kevin and Susan Kenny*

Jack and Sharon Knowles

David and Mickey Lyons*

Roger and Tracie Maler*

Jack and Regina Manning*

Earl and June Olsen

Peter and Jan Peitz

George and Sharon Peters

Bill and Annette Pettit

Barry and Wanda Pohlman*

Eugene and Rose Sadoski

John and Carol Selig*

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Semrau

Garry Sexton and Family

Mike and Pat Slice*

Gilbert and Margaret Stammer

Boyd and Sherry Steele

Les and Julie Stevens

Larry and Charlcie Tabor*

Bill and Sara Thorne

Mike and Karen Tipton*

Gary and Darcy Turner

Toby and Dee Vaughn

Moose and Tina Watson

Mike and Cathy Wilhelm*

Steve and Jo Wilson*

John W. Wilson*

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wiseman*

Allen and Summer Wright*

INDIVIDUAL

Sean Alexander*

Christy Alexander*

Vern Berry*

Quin Berry

Jeff Brown

Steve Carney*

J. B. Cochran*

Edward Fields*

Jon Fischer

Dave Hayward

Gene Holland*

Ben Levin

Jon Mikkelsen

Kerri Russell

Brian Sloss

Dr. William Smith*

Phyllis Speer

Roger Swain*

David TeBeest

Phillip Van Winkle*

Barbara Walls*

Clint Wilkinson

LIFE MEMBERS

Leon and Betty Alexander*

George E. Baird IV*

Leonard and Linda Batey*

Ken and Audrey Boyles*

Beth Holloway and Mary Kay Caldwell

Capt. Sid Caradine*

Mac and Julia Caradine*

Jim Cowan*

Dan Cowling*

Tripp and Holley Dargie*

Bruce Darr*

Dr. and Mrs. E. Gerald Ford

Henry E. Fredericks*

John and Kathy Gulley*

Gary and Cindy Hanson*

Clay Henry*

Louis A. Juranas*

William J. and Paulette I. Matthews

Buzz McArthur*

Dennis and Pat McCarty*

David McCray*

William R. Morgan*

Edward Mueller*

Marc Oakes*

Dave Oldham*

Tyler Lynn Neal*

C. Henry Pharis*

Rob and Sondra Reid*

Terry and Kelly Richardson*

Hunter Ryan, Jr.*

Richard C. Scholz*

Chet and Pat Smith*

Jim Traylor*

Teresa Van Winkle*

William Wegrzyn, Sr.*

Davy Wotton*

William R. Wright*

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Arkansas Fly Fishers

Arkansas Outfitters & Guides Assoc.*

Cotter Area Chamber of Commerce

Fort Smith Fly Fishers

Friends of the North Fork & White Rivers*

Kelley Linck*

Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce

North Arkansas Fly Fishers*

Ozark Fly Fishers*

The Men of Holy Cross Lutheran Church*

STUDENT MEMBERS

Wilson M. Baird*

G. Evans Baird V*

Aaron Smith

SENIOR MEMBERS

Bill Badley

Kurt Behlen

Robert S. Benham*

Grant Carter*

Buell H. Crider*

Tom Criswell

Robert M. Cunningham

Bill Fidler

James Fields

Don Grundy

John Heidorn*

Willard J. Horton

Donald Jensen*

Ed Kessey

Andy and Ginny Kluth*

Larry Luman

Terry McCarty

Lyle Melton

Chuck Orvis*

Andrew Raynon*

Irvin L. Schatz*

Ray Schroder

Monte Stark*

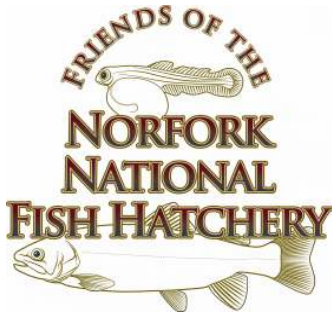
George Stavropoulos*

John H. Viser, III*

John Walther

Melvin N. Waxham*

Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery Event Calendar		
September, 2009	Rim Shoals	Bull Shoals Tailwater One-Fly Tournament
June 13, 2009	Quarry Park	Kids' Fishing Derby
May 2, 2009	Hatchery	Hatchery Open House
March 27, 2009	El Chico's	FNNFH Annual Meeting



The Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery (Friends) is a nonprofit citizens organization dedicated to conserving fishery resources and providing support for activities conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Norfolk National Fish Hatchery. Such activities whether independent or in cooperation with other organization or parties will benefit fish and other aquatic wildlife

Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery

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