



VOL. 12 website: friendsoftheleadvillennialfishhatchery.org **2023**

Hatchery Happenings

May: Pathways to Fishing, 2023

The Friends, hatchery staff, the Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, members of the Lions, and PB Swims once again invited Lake County Intermediate School 5th graders back to the hatchery for a day of fun and learning. Stations included aquatic entomology, fish life cycle, leave-no-trace camping, casting, and knot tying, plus others. As usual, the Friends provided a lunch for the students under the pavilion at the picnic ground. It was a chilly, occasionally snowy day, but our mountain kids handled it without complaint.



Fifth grade Pathways students having lunch in the Pavilion



Students at the trout life cycle station



Students practicing their spin casting.



Jane Harelson of PBSwims presents water safety tips to the students.

June: Annual Clean-up Day, June 3

Members of the Friends of the Leadville National Fish Hatchery gathered to do road clean-up, stain bat boxes, and sand benches. Everyone had such a good time conversing that it wasn't easy to get us organized and started on our tasks, but eventually we got busy.



Volunteers gathering for the annual work day.



Installing the swing in its new location on Lake 3.



Young ones came to help.

June: Hatchery 5K, June 4

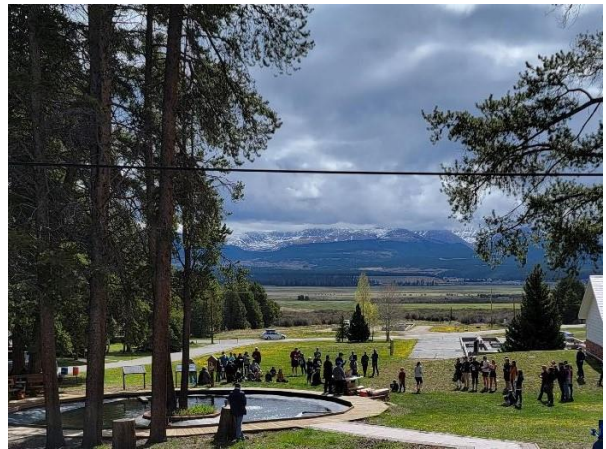
The hatchery welcomes the Leadville Lake County Sports Hall of Fame's 5K Run each year. The number of runners increased this year after a post-COVID low. FLNFH staffed a table so that we could talk about the hatchery to participants.



Friends Table.



The runners start.



Dandelions in the field and clouds over the Mosquito Range.

August – Boom Days

Several members walked in the parade to hand out Swedish Fish, and to staff a booth throughout the weekend. The parade theme was “Then and Now.” Josh created an awesome, trophy winning float showcasing how fish used to be transported (train cars) vs. how we now transport them (stocking trailers) The hatchery’s newest stocking trailer has panels which raise to display windows through which the fish can be seen. Pretty cool.



Moving fish the old fashion way by train.



Moving fish with the new viewable fish tank on a trailer.



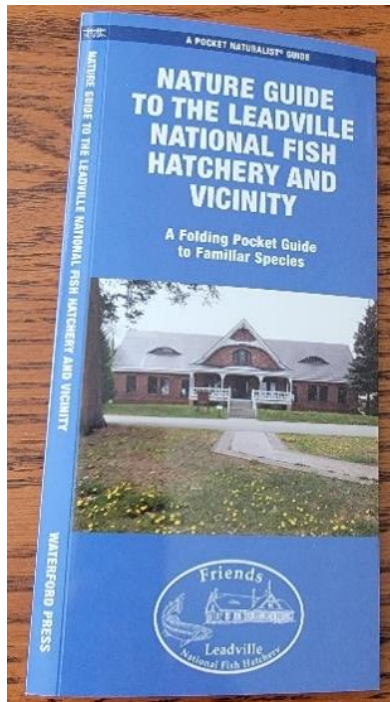
Rocky Kimball and Cheryl Wells holding the first place award for the Hatchery parade float.

FLNFH Projects

Laminated Nature Guide

We have published a nature guide to the hatchery grounds and vicinity. The board wishes to thank our former hatchery manager, Ed Stege, and our current hatchery manager, Josh Homer, for their help and input. Additionally, several board members, especially Cheryl Wells, volunteered their time and knowledge to generate the lists of flowers, trees, pollinators, and other animals which we provided to the publisher. The guides are available for a donation, and you can obtain one by sending a request to: FLNFH, P.O. Box 1194, Leadville, CO 80461.

Enclose a check for a minimum donation of \$ 10.00. This includes return postage. Or you can get one for an \$8 donation at Boom Days.



Pollinator Garden and Outflow Fishing Pond

In preparation for our next project -- a pollinator garden east of the lower raceways -- the board took a guided tour of the Betty Ford Garden in Vail to learn about native plants that support bees, butterflies and other pollinators. In addition to a garden we want to build a fishing pond for children especially where the 5th graders can use their new spinning rods. We have had a topographic survey of the area prepared so as to determine the best placement of the pond and garden, and we have decided on using raised boxes for the garden beds. We are now in a discovery period, waiting on water issues to be resolved.



Board members listening to our tour guide at the Betty Ford Garden in Vail, Colorado.

Hatchery Happenings as reported to the FLNFH board

By Josh Homer, Project Leader/Hatchery Manager

A bat “condo” has been installed east of the lower raceways. It is quite large and sits 12 feet above ground level. In addition, several smaller bat houses have been built, stained and placed around the hatchery. This work has been done because we will be sealing the main building where a large colony of bats has been living. The guano they have created, which lays on the dropped ceiling of the main building, is becoming heavy and a hazard to health and safety. It is necessary for us to seal them out of their old habitat while providing them with new places to roost.



Bat Condo, looking east toward the Mosquito Range. Leadville can be seen on the center far left side of the image.

Our hatchery hosts three different populations of trout – Greenback Cutthroat trout, Hayden Creek Cutthroat Trout, and Rainbow Trout. The two cutthroats are maintained on site as brood stock for reintroduction programs. The third population consists of rainbow trout which are sent to Leadville from the Hotchkiss Hatchery and then raised here for two years before being stocked into local lakes and streams for recreational fishing.

We continue with studies and improvements for the purpose of increasing the survival rate of the greenback cutthroat eyed eggs and fry. In general, the Hayden cutthroats are doing well. However, the greenback cutts have a lower survival rate. The main study is on diet – providing the trout with nutrient enhanced feed stocks and continuing to feed during spawning season – a practice that was unusual in the past. Ongoing improvements include a change in tank size and shape, the addition of circulating pumps into tanks, and rebuilding of degassing columns to remove dissolved nitrogen more efficiently. A major change which will be visible to visitors is an isolation wall being built in the main building. You will still be able to view the interior raceways and any activity taking place. Visitors, however, will no longer have access to the raceways. This will decrease the chance of diseases being brought into the building.

Approximately 100,000 rainbow trout are on station for stocking in 2024. 160,000 rainbows have been delivered to our hatchery where we will grow them for stocking in 2025.

Beetles have killed several trees around the hatchery. These will be felled next summer. Meanwhile, in an effort to save the remaining large trees in the front lawn, we will begin to water them and will apply pheromone pouches to protect them from beetle infestation. Work will be ongoing with reseeding and repairing the center lawn.

Outreach

The pavilion continues to receive heavy use for weddings, reunions, and a summer reading program with the Lake County Public Library. Schools from all over the state visit for tours.

How to Contact the Friends

Email: flnfh15@gmail.com

Write: Friends of the LNFH, P.O. Box 1194, Leadville, CO 80461

View our website at: <http://friendsoftheleadvillernationalfishhatchery.org/>

Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLeadileNationalFishHatchery/>

Pavilion Fees

General Public	
Under 10 people	Free
Groups of 10 and over	\$30
Weddings	\$100
Non-Profits, Schools, Gov., etc.	Free (and no fee for power)
Commercial Businesses	\$100
Power	Additional \$30 to any reservation

Our Current Board of Directors, January 2024

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