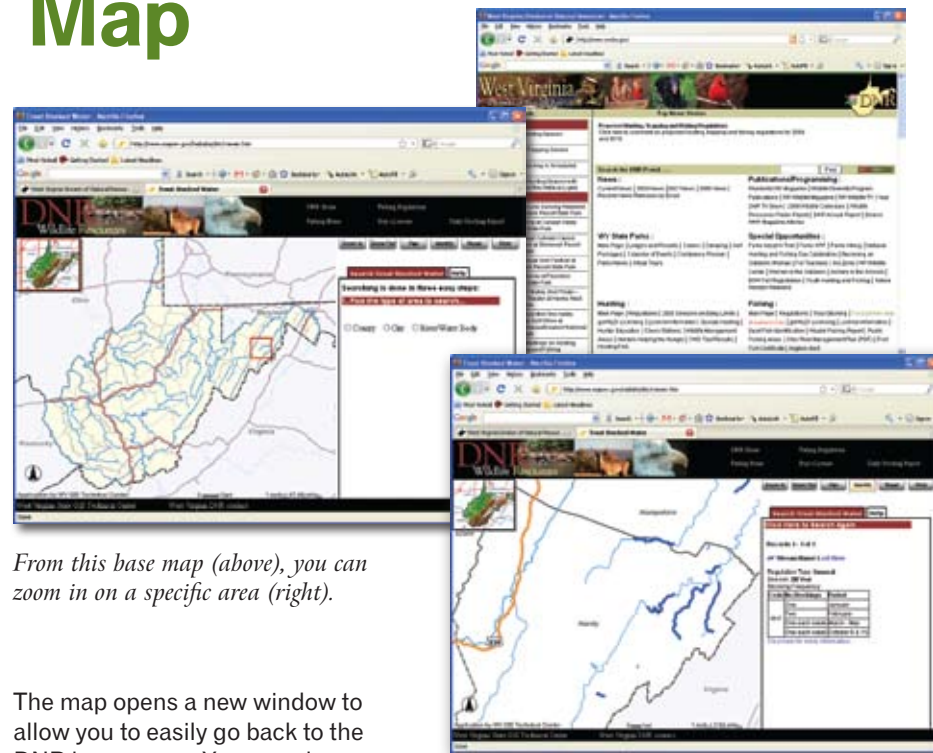


DNR Announces New Online, Interactive Trout Stream Map

Trout anglers now have a new interactive tool at their fingertips to help them locate a stream stocked with trout, according to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. An avid trout angler himself, Jezioro says this program provides all the information needed to plan a fishing trip.

The information can be found by going to the DNR home page at www.wvdnr.gov, then looking under the "Fishing" heading and clicking on "Trout Stream Map." A high-speed Internet connection is required to access the map.

Once on the Web site, you can search the state by specific stream or lake, by county, or by city. You can narrow down the search if you just want to find catch-and-release or fly-fishing-only areas. Once you locate the stream you will find information on stocking frequency, description of the stocked section of stream, and driving directions from major highways. Using the state map on the Web site, you can zoom in or out to access a more detailed map which uses aerial photography. You can also move easily from one section to adjacent areas using the panning tool. In addition, the map identifies public fishing access sites.



From this base map (above), you can zoom in on a specific area (right).

The map opens a new window to allow you to easily go back to the DNR home page. You can also use the links at the top of the map page to quickly access the daily trout stocking report, fishing regulations, or buy a fishing license.

"This online map demonstrates the capabilities of our staff," Jezioro said. "We have very talented folks who work hard to provide the public with useful

information that allows them to take advantage of the abundant natural resources our state has to offer."

This Web mapping application was developed and maintained in cooperation with the West Virginia State GIS Technical Center wvgis.wvu.edu.



Plant and Wildlife Identification Guides Available Online

Folks interested in identifying common plants and trees in West Virginia can find help in the form of printable, letter-sized posters on the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov. The subjects include spring and fall wildflowers, mushrooms, trees, invasive roadside plants and slime molds. One page shows close-up images of 18 plants, while a second page provides a brief description of the plants and the type of habitat in which you can find each one.

If you have access to a laminating machine, you can encase the guides back-to-back in a waterproof plastic cover which make them handy for long-term outdoor use. These guides are found on the DNR home page under the Wildlife Diversity heading.

Also available on the DNR Web site are printable color booklets of snakes and salamanders as well as brochures of eagles and mushrooms. These publications can be found under the Publications/Programming heading on the DNR home page.

Lab Results Confirm White-nose Syndrome in West Virginia Bats

Since the last report in the Fall 2008 issue of this magazine, the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, has confirmed that bats from two Pendleton County caves have the condition known as White-nose Syndrome (WNS). This condition has killed thousands of cave bats in the Northeast, and the affected sites in West Virginia are currently the southernmost sites where WNS has been observed.

White-nose Syndrome is named for the white fungus which is often observed on the muzzles, wings and ears of affected bats. Although there may be several factors contributing to the condition known as White-nose Syndrome, the invasion of skin cells by a specific fungus is a consistent observation in all cases. The fungus, a member of the genus *Geomyces*, was cultured from the West Virginia bats. Genetic data indicate the fungus is identical to that cultured for other WNS-positive bats. Microscopic examination of the bats' skin provided evidence that the fungi had invaded the cells of the skin in all three species submitted: little brown bats, eastern pipistrelles, and northern long-eared bats.



Hibernating Indiana bats in New York infected with White-nose Syndrome.

Nancy Heaslip, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

"This winter, DNR wildlife biologists have conducted bat surveys in Grant, Hardy, Randolph and Tucker counties as well as Pendleton County," said Wildlife Resources Section biologist Craig Stihler. "To date, WNS has only been observed in Pendleton County. However, only a small number of caves have been visited in each county."

"Scientists at several laboratories across the country are looking for ways to fight WNS. This research will take time," Stihler said. "Our best conservation strategy is to do whatever we can to slow the spread of WNS until a better solution is found." A list of caves closed to cavers is available at www.VAR-caves.us.

Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 5-7 **3rd Annual Southern Boreal Bird Festival**
Canaan Valley State Park
Participate in daily walks, workshops, and seminars about birds usually found further north in North America. Call 304-866-4121 ext. 2677 for more information.
- 6 **Kids Fishing Derby**
Little Beaver State Park
Begins at 9 am. Kids receive lunch, t-shirts, and prizes. Call 304-763-2494 for more information.
- 13 **Kids fishing Derby**
Bowden Fish Hatchery
Free fishing for kids; casting contest; catch-and-release pond and catch-and-keep pond. Call 304-637-0245 or 304-636-3960 for more information.
- 13-14 **Free Fishing Days**
Statewide
Fish without a license!
aCall 304-558-2771 for more information.
- 13 **Youth Fishing Derby**
Tygart Lake State Park
Begins at 7 am. All participants receive a certificate. Details posted online. Call 304-265-6144 for more information.

JULY

- 25 **NWTF Women in the Outdoors Field Day**
Kanawha State Forest
Women ages 14 and older can learn and practice outdoor skills. For more information, contact Billie Shearer at 304-558-2771.

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