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Trout in the classroom for Turkeyfoot

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Turkeyfoot student Chelsea Hoover is shown getting trout out from the tank to be released. (Submitted photo)

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HARNEDSVILLE — Turkeyfoot senior high students in agriculture, integrated and physical science classes released 180 4-inch fingerling brook trout into Mill Run Stream on May 4 after raising them since November.

“Our trout came through the Fish Department with a grant from Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited (our partner organization) and through the school district,” science teacher Leanna Weimer, who oversaw the program, said. “I had about 30 students who were involved in the project from the combination of classes that went to release the trout.”

Weimer said it took the students most of the month of September to set up and prepare the aquarium before they got the trout eggs in November.

She said she watched the students respond very well to the project and hopes to continue it in future science classes at the school.

“It is a great asset to our curriculum and the students love having a long term project and a goal,” Weimer

said. "I am also trying to incorporate more of a stewardship aspect into my classes, so they can be a little more knowledgeable about the world around them. The trout program has really helped to make this come alive. Students did not know about water quality and temperatures and how those factors affect the things in our watershed, and now they do."

Weimer also intends on implementing the Adopt a Fish program to encourage local community members to take part in the students' program.

"This program would help to alleviate some of the financial burden to raise the fish. We would like community members, other students, whomever, to be able to come and see the fish as they are being raised and then be interested enough to pick out a fish and name it. After they bought (adopted) the trout, we would then put their name and whatever they name their trout up on the wall of fame in my classroom. Participants would receive an e-mail newsletter each month with updates on the trout, projects we were doing in my classroom, updates on release dates, etc."

For more information you can contact Leanna Weimer at Turkeyfoot Area High School.

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