

BYE, BYE, BABIES

Students raise trout from eggs, release them to replenish stream



Some of the fingerlings grew to be rather sizable, as shown by this fish that was four inches in length.

BY MARILYN FORBES
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Sometimes it's hard to say goodbye, and for the students of the Veterinarian Technician Program at the Fayette County Area Vocational Technical School, releasing their "babies" into the wild was a bitter-sweet moment.

As part of the Trout in the Classroom program that is sponsored by Trout Unlimited, the students received 200 brook trout eggs at the beginning of the school year and raised them in the classroom.

Tending to the "fingerlings" was not an easy task.

"The students had to keep an eye on the temperatures and the pH levels of the water," said program assistant Karen Siebert. "We had to regularly change the water and the tank size, because as they grew, they needed bigger tanks."

As the fish grew, the students



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Gently dipping in her container, Sara Conrad released her fish.

charted their progress, and the project proved to be time consuming and educational.

"This took a lot of commitment," Siebert said. "It was a lot of work but these kids learned a lot from the program."

The local chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chestnut Ridge 670, proached the school about help with the program.

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