



Tri-Valley Fly Fishers "Trout In Classroom" Program



CLASSROOM EGG DELIVERY PROCEDURE

- When you arrive at the school check to see how many classrooms will be receiving eggs and gather the items listed below (one set for each aquarium) to take into the classrooms as follows:
 - One cup with a "batch" of eggs (approximately 30) wrapped in moist cheesecloth.
 - The DFG permit for each teacher at this school.
 - A container of fish food.
 - The spawn/temperature data (supplied by the hatchery).It is a good idea to carry the cups into the classroom/s in a small ice chest. Be sure to check in at the office before going to the classroom/s. Follow the instructions/procedure that the school requires (may vary from school to school) for badges etc.
- At the classroom check with the teacher on how you should proceed. Some teachers may want to do everything themselves, while others may want you to do it all.
- When you are ready to place the eggs into the aquarium ask the teacher for permission to show the kids the eggs. Hold them (still wrapped in the cheesecloth) in your hand (make sure your hands are free from any contamination, lotions etc.). Gently unwrap the top of the cloth enough to expose some of the eggs, and show them to the kids. Point out the "eyes" that are forming in the eggs and the fact that this is an indication that they are alive and almost ready to hatch.

Do not allow the kids to touch the eggs – just look. It is okay to photograph the eggs in ambient room lighting, however, do not permit the use of a flash on the camera or exposure to bright sunlight. At this stage of development the eggs are still sensitive to light, and overexposure will damage them. Do this quickly and explain that they need to be put into the water, and kept in the dark ASAP.

- Before placing the eggs in the aquarium open the top and front of the aquarium cover (if it is in an insulated box) and make sure it is working properly. The tank status/conditions should be as follows:

The water should look clean and clear.

The water temperature should be between 50 and 55°F. (See ** below)

The water level should be near the top of the tank (Chiller probe submerged).

There should be a good current flow circulating in the tank.

An ample supply of air bubbles should be visible (coming from the pump).

** If the aquarium temperature is above 60°F do **NOT** put the eggs in the tank. The tank temperature must be lowered first. This may be accomplished with ice temporarily until the chiller can be checked out. Make arrangements to have this done.

If the tank is too cold it is okay to deposit the eggs. Cold temperature will not damage the eggs, however, step should be taken to bring the temperature back into the correct operating range

- Once it is determined that the aquarium is in good shape unplug the power head so the current flow stops. This will make it much easier to place the eggs where you want them.
- With the pump still off, and holding the eggs in the water near the top of the aquarium (at the front), carefully unwrap the cheesecloth and allow the eggs to gently settle into the water along the very front of the tank. Distribute them along the entire front edge so that they fall into the larger rocks on the bottom of the aquarium. If a few stray onto the gravel behind the rocks don't worry about it – they will be okay. The idea is to try to make them visible so the kids can watch them develop.
- When they are distributed remember to plug in the pump again. The eggs may move around somewhat in the current, but hopefully they will settle in the larger river rocks. Check the aquarium again for proper operation and recover the aquarium.
- Remind the teacher that the aquarium must be kept covered and dark until the fish develop to the “fry” stage. The door and lid may be opened for brief periods (not to exceed 15 minutes at a time) to check on the aquarium operation and view the egg/fish development but kept covered for most of the time. The egg and alevin stages of the fish should be dark. (In nature the fish are under gravel during these stages.)
- Give the permit (772) to the teacher and explain that it must be kept with the eggs/fish until they are released.
- Give the teacher a copy of the spawn date/temperature history provided by DFG for the eggs. This will permit the teachers to show the students how to calculate the hatch date.
- Give the teacher a package of food and remind them to keep it in the freezer, and not to feed the fish until they “button-up”. When they are ready to be fed give them only a small pinch at a time. DO NOT OVERFEED.
- If you get a chance tell the kids that you are leaving the eggs in their care and ask them to please help the teacher take good care of them.
- Sign out at the office before leaving, if the school requires it.