

Lillafüred Trout Breeding Farm

Lillafüred Trout Breeding Farm Breeding trout as well as fishing have been turned out for a long time. Yet Otto Herman proposed building a trout breeding farm in the Valley of Brook Szinva to the National Fishing Authority in 1906 which was not realized at that time. In 1932 the 80 % of trout died out in Lake Hámor. Otto Herman's plan came out again. However, they could not put up the farm therefore, another place was chosen, the Valley of Garadna, where the water rich in oxygen, and its constant temperature provided by Spring Margit, would be the best place for spawning fishes in the ponds. Setting off the construction was started by the Hungarian Royal Forestry Body in the autumn of 1932. First, the 32m²-wooden-breeding house was built, and then 4 ponds were created on the right side of Brook Garadna. The first collection of spawns was transported from Traismauer and Zniovaralja on 1st March, 1933. At the same time Istvan Vasarhelyi appeared on the farm too. He was an excellent autodidact farmer who had practical knowledge and intuitive working manner in breeding method. This scheme had been carried out during his life till his death. After he had also studied species of fishes, snails, insects and small mammals, he published 500 articles and studies on Hungary's fauna in national and foreign scientific magazines. Consequently, his relief is put up on the wall of the farm house.

Conditions on the farm and breeding procedure had been ruined from 1968. Between 1980-1982 120,000 spawns and 1-1.2 tons of trout were able to produce themselves. After Istvan Vasarhelyi's efforts, in 1983, the expertise management of this farm started a new reproduction strategy in fish breeding. By now – according to the water supply – between 20-36 tons of fishes and a half a million of spawns are bred in a year. This fish farm runs 18 breeding ponds on a 1ha territory.

In the fresh water Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta m. Fario Linne, 1758*), Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss Walbaum, 1792*), Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis Mitchill, 1815*) are bred with their half a million of eggs. This is the only place in Hungary, where native brown trout can be found in this great amount. In addition to this, the gene bank of one phylum of brown trout is also developed and stored on the farm. Furthermore, three phylums of rainbow trout are brought up; they are the steelhead trout the Kamloops trout and the golden trout. Every year 10 and 50 thousand brook trout and tiger trout – the hybrid specie of brown and brook trout – are reproduced. The whole farm provides a great deal of activities, from breeding trout to selling them and it also retailing eggs, early spawns and one-year old spawns. The main profile is to produce fish to be foodstuff. This fish farm produces specifically-seasoned trout in a limited number, however, its flavour is unique with excellent quality. The secret of that exceptional taste of fishes is simple. Trout served here, have been bred in the crystal, spring water in a traditional way, by giving them the best quality of food. One more thing is sure: they are caught daily.

The Woodland Fish Inn, where the freshly fried fishes and smoked trout can be eaten open from 1st May to 30th September. Anyway, the crunchy fishes are seasoned by eight types of spices and dipped in two types of flour, moreover, the smoked ones are kept for a fixed time in twelve-type-herbal-sauce, and then smoked on beech logs to be golden-brown, and finally the warmed-up ones are served. It has been our homemade recipe for 20 years. There is a small store where fresh, ready to cook fishes or packed smoked trout can be bought. The depth of Brook Garadna is 0.2-1 m and its width is 1.5-2.5m. As it has small rapids, and quick running water, a 4-8 km long fishing area calls nature lovers to make an attempt to catch trout in the wild. Fishing pass can be purchased on the farm. Above and beyond producing fish as foodstuff, advisory works and other arrangements are managed to go on; especially scientific researches such as studies on fish breeding, analyzing the fish fauna in rivers, surveys on brooks with its fish phylums and versatile ecological swots. Let's meet and enjoy trout dishes on our farm!

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Opening hours: The Woodland Fish Inn, Wednesday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Opening hours: Trout Breeding Farm Tuesday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.