Three hatchery superintendents admire a handsome trout produced at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery. They are (L to R) Robert Hayford (son), Charles O. Hayford and Jim Zamos.
trout growth for the first time in the hatchery’s history. He worked toward integrating the hatchery drivers with other work crews at the facility. Zamos recognized the need—and took steps—to protect the hatchery’s surrounding watershed to ensure a clean and ample cold water supply. He departed Fish and Wildlife in 1960 but today remains an active birder, enjoying the outdoors.

ROBERT WILLIAMS
SUPERINTENDENT: July 1960 – Jan 1986
In several ways, Bob Williams was seen as the last in a line of superintendents from another era. Staff addressed him as “Mr. Williams,” a formality lost at the end of his reign. Instead of directing his energies toward fish culture, Williams’ primary concerns focused on working with administrators in Trenton, with the Fish and Game Council, and planning of hatchery operations and with personnel matters. He witnessed the long epoch of trout culture end at Hackettstown as the state’s new Pequest Trout Hatchery, located just a few miles away, became fully operational in 1986.

KURT POWERS
SUPERINTENDENT: Feb 1986 – March 1992
Originally from Massachusetts, Kurt Powers joined Fish and Wildlife in 1977. Powers, along with Assistant Superintendent Bob Olsen, renovated the old hatchery building system into a re-circulating system. Heat exchangers now pre-warmed the incoming spring water by utilizing the otherwise wasted, heated water exiting the system, thereby greatly increasing efficiency at a significant cost savings. This was the design premise of the new intensive building soon to follow. Powers implemented a water displacement method to count and load fish onto distribution trucks. Plexiglas sight tubes were mounted on the trucks’ sides. Trucks were filled with water until they reached the “fully loaded” mark, as if filled with the proper trout allocation plus enough water to sustain them on distribution day in the hatchery truck. An appropriate amount of water was “weighed off” representing the water that will be displaced by the planned volume of trout for that day’s load. Trout were then loaded into the truck until water in the sight tubes returned to the original target level. This allowed trucks to be loaded much more quickly with less direct handling of the fish. This system is still used today at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Powers moved on to a supervising biologist position overseeing both hatcheries, and later to Chief of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries until his retirement in 2006.

BOB OLSEN
As the next superintendent, Bob Olsen saw the installation of Fish and Wildlife’s new state of the art intensive culture building. The entirely new system was not without problems as it was one of largest re-circulating culture system ever designed. Through his determination and many long hours, Olsen and crew supervisor Craig Lemon resolved the obstacles. In 2001, Bob Olsen took a position with Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Lands Management.

CRAIG LEMON
SUPERINTENDENT: Oct 2001 – Present
Craig Lemon has supervised the hatchery during some of its best and darkest days. While making the final adjustments on the new intensive building Lemon directed the Children’s Fishing Derby Program. At its pinnacle, 129 events reached over 25,000 adults and children in one year. Regretfully, shortly thereafter the program was discontinued due to critical staffing shortages. For over three years, Lemon, Ed Conley (crew supervisor) and Ron Jacobsen (fisheries technician) were the only full time staff covering the 230 acre facility. Assisted by a group of dedicated seasonal employees—Nick Healy, Jim Hartobey, Linda Morschauzer, Sarah Shoemaker, Tyler Tressler, and Ryan Votta—the facility remained at full operating capacity through the sheer determination of the staff.