

Pennsylvania TROUT



Fall 2011

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

Keystone Coldwater Conference set for Feb. 24-25

PA Council of Trout Unlimited will be hosting the 10th Keystone Coldwater Conference Feb. 24-25, 2012 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.

This conference is designed for grassroots members from nonprofit organizations such as Trout Unlimited, sportsmen's groups and watershed associations, along with environmental professionals from conservation districts, agencies and consulting firms to share ideas and concepts among diverse groups with the common interest of protecting our coldwater resources.

This year's conference is titled "Responsible Land Use: Protecting Habitat and Native Species," with topics such as landscape fragmentation, buffer maintenance, stormwater management, invasive species and development (pervious and

See **CONFERENCE**, page 2

Trout tactics...



Brad Isles Photo

George Daniel, a two-time national fly fishing champion and head coach of the Fly Fishing Team USA, discusses nymph fishing tactics during a demonstration at the PA Council of Trout Unlimited's annual meeting Oct. 1 at Fisherman's Paradise.

TU announces important policy on stocking over native trout populations

The National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited was asked to conduct a survey regarding chapters or councils stocking non-native, hatchery trout in streams containing populations of native trout. At the 2011 Annual Meeting in Bend, Oregon, the NLC discussed this, and the following resolutions were passed by the NLC, the Organizational Development Committee of the Board and the Board of Trustees.

These resolutions affirm that it is TU policy that all chapters and councils are not to participate in the stocking of non-native trout in streams that contain native trout species (e.g. hatchery brown trout in streams with native brook trout).

The resolutions:

The National Leadership Council "RESOLVED, that the NLC is opposed to chapters or councils stocking of non-native

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Pennsylvania TROUT

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CVTU receives Gold Trout Award

At its annual meeting Sept. 14-18 in Bend, Ore., national Trout Unlimited recognized the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited with its highest honor – the Gold Trout Award.

John Leonard, newly-elected CVTU vice president, was on hand in Bend to accept the award. With more than 400 TU chapters in the nation, this is a tremendous honor for CVTU.

Some of the projects and activities that led to this award include:

- The United States Army War College program
- The Street to Streams program for disadvantaged and probationary youth
- Restoration of Big Spring Creek
- Dam removal on Yellow Breeches Creek

- Preservation of Letort Spring Run
- Hosting the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp
- Work of the “Feet in The Stream Gang”
- Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show
- PA Fly Tying Championship
- Limestoner conservation banquet
- Mentoring local high school fly fishing clubs
- Sponsorship of four Trout in the Classroom programs
- Project Healing Waters
- Reel Recovery
- Ladies’ fly fishing course
- Winter fly tying course
- Fly tying and casting demonstrations
- The Last Supper

The application that CVTU submitted can be viewed at www.homestead.com/cvtu. Previously, Trout Unlimited awarded CVTU its 2005 Silver Trout National Conservation Award.

CONFERENCE

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impervious).

The conference will begin on Feb. 24, with a Friday night social. Individuals have the opportunity to network and visit the exhibitors. The event will include appetizers and a cash bar, along with opportunities to win some great prizes.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the program will begin at 8:30 a.m. with our keynote speakers. Twelve breakout sessions will round out the morning and afternoon, with topics related to protecting habitat and native species.

The presentations will highlight research, case studies, proactive community action, and targeted outreach and advocacy that have played a part in ensuring environmental protection.

Exhibitor Information:

Table space (includes one complimentary registration):

- Nonprofits and government agencies — \$110
- For-profits — \$250
- Electricity, if needed — \$39
- Additional table — \$48

Please fill out the registration form. Each exhibitor space includes one complimentary registration.

Each additional exhibitor at a booth must also register for the conference at a cost of \$60 (by Jan. 31); \$80 (beginning Feb. 1). The exhibitor deadline is Feb. 1, 2012.

Poster Information:

Posters are invited from watershed organizations, Trout Unlimited chapters, students, and any other groups that have projects to share with the conference participants.

There is no charge for posters, which should be no larger than 4 feet by 5 feet. Easels will be provided, but you must provide your own poster board. Poster presenters do not receive free registration, and must register for the conference. Poster submissions will be accepted until Dec. 1, 2011. Please contact Samantha Kutskel at skutskel@coldwaterheritage.org or at 814-359-5233.

For more information or to register please visit <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/coldwaterconservation/> or contact Samantha Kutskel at 814-359-5233 or skutskel@coldwaterheritage.org.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer George Kutskel

By the time this gets to everyone the dust should have settled on another fiscal year.

We have been making progress toward hiring an additional staff person to help the president with some of Council's time consuming tasks. It's our hope to have all this wrapped up early in 2012.

Our TIC raffle was held at the fall meeting. The numbers of tickets sold were down slightly from last year, due to the tickets being held back until after chapter banquet season. This year we will have them ready by the Keystone Coldwater Conference. While tickets will be mailed to every chapter, individuals can purchase as many as they like or be given books to sell. All proceeds go toward running the TIC program, which this year will run approximately \$15,000. All start up and equipment grants are funded separately.

Please support this program and make sure that your chapter does as well.

As chair of the Development Committee, we could use more people to become involved and help with some of the funding challenges that we face. This is true for all committees. With a membership of over 12,000 it's amazing that only three or four people are willing to help out with some committees. Please consider joining one of the many committees that you maybe able to join and help make a difference.

Chapter Donations

The following chapters have donated to further council's mission, in addition to supporting fundraisers.

- Allegheny Mountain
- Donegal
- Adams County
- Hokendauqua
- Neshannock
- Oil Creek
- Spring Creek
- Mountain Laurel
- Valley Forge

Memorial Donations

- For Frank Viozzi, from Linda Keller
- For L. Lavern Walker, from the Cummings family

Another item that we have invested a lot of time and money into is our website. I receive about half the orders for items using the order form from our website. Many are handwritten with an email address for us to respond to. That means the person could have saved a lot of time and made sure their order was processed quickly and error-free if they used the website.

Our website is always up to date thanks to the efforts of Bob Pennell. Please make it a monthly habit to go there just to keep up with what is happening within TU.

PATU officers elected at fall meeting

At PA Council's annual membership meeting on Oct. 1, the following individuals were elected to serve a one-year term.

- President – Ken Undercoffer
- Vice President – Brian Wagner
- Vice President – Charlie Charlesworth
- Treasurer – George Kutskel
- Secretary – Bob Pennell
- NLC Representative – Monty Murty
- NC Region VP – Open
- NE Region VP – Greg Malaska
- NW Region VP – Mark Hanes
- SC Region VP – Fred Bohls
- SE Region VP – Fred Gender
- SW Region VP – Chuck Winters

STOCKING

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hatchery trout on top of native trout populations."

The Organizational Development Committee of the Board considered this resolution and unanimously supported the NLC directive that all chapters and councils cannot participate in the stocking of non-native, hatchery trout over native trout.

Finally, the Board of Trustees considered the above resolutions and "RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited fully supports the NLC's directive to chapters and councils that no chapter or council can participate or support the stocking on non-native, hatchery trout in streams containing native trout."

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2011 COMMITTEES



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PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

*Minutes of the Oct. 2, 2011
Executive Committee Meeting
PFBC Stackhouse Training Center
Bellefonte, PA*

Officers attending: Ken Undercoffer, Brian Wagner, Charlie Charlesworth, George Kutskel, Bob Pennell, Monty Murty, Greg Malaska, Mark Hanes, Fred Bohls, Fred Gender, Chuck Winters.

Others attending: Jack Williams, Bryan Moore, Greg Grabowicz, Lee Hartman, Brad Isles, Samantha Kutskel, Paige Filice, Dave Smith, Vaughn MacGregor.

President Undercoffer convened the meeting at 8:50 a.m. and reported on his activities during the previous three months. A motion by G. Kutskel/seconded by Malaska was approved to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2011 EXCOM meeting as previously submitted.

Discussion/Action Items: A motion by Wagner/seconded by Gender was approved to send letters to all the officers of chapters which were not represented at the annual meeting on Oct. 1, emphasizing that attendance is a mandatory requirement and one of the key criteria in consideration of re-chartering chapters.

A motion by Malaska/seconded by Gender was approved to authorize Malaska to proceed with a letter to the Western Pocono Chapter outlining a series of steps to take and actions required to regain active status. If conditions/time frames are not met, a recommendation for de-chartering the chapter will be made at the January EXCOM meeting.

A motion by G. Kutskel/seconded by Malaska was approved for Undercoffer to send letters to the Wood Duck, Art Bradford, Kettle Creek and Little Lehigh chapters based on Malaska's draft outlining the steps that must be taken to regain active status and avoid de-chartering.

S. Kutskel agreed to set up and monitor a separate president's email account to reduce the administrative load for Undercoffer.

A motion by Bohls/seconded by Murty was approved to increase CHP Coordinator

Samantha Kutskel's salary from \$37,500 to \$40,000 per year, which was already projected in the new fiscal year budget.

G. Kutskel agreed to Bohls' request from the PA Fly Fishing Museum Association to purchase PATU merchandise at chapter level discounts for resale as a fundraiser.

Undercoffer reported that the Lloyd Wilson Chapter requested TU's position on accepting donations from energy companies to fund local projects. G. Kutskel suggested that B. Moore needs to develop a policy, and Murty added that Katy Dunlap should also be involved.

Treasurer's Report: A motion by Bohls/seconded by Gender was approved to accept the 2011-2012 PATU budget. Bohls suggested that financial information be shared with the chapters, and G. Kutskel agreed that Council's Form 990 could be sent to regional VPs to share with their chapters.

Committee Assignments: Undercoffer announced the following committee assignments for the two vice presidents:

- Wagner: *Awards, Delaware River, Environmental, Legislative and Trout Management.*
- Charlesworth: *Development, Communications, Membership, Youth and Stream Access.*

Awards Committee: Wagner will follow up with Gerry Miller on concerns registered about the appropriateness of the physical awards given out this year, i.e. fly boxes in lieu of plaques in some cases. Wagner will also discuss with Miller the suggestion by Bohls about adding a "Special Recognition Award" for individuals who are neither TU members or conservation professionals. Hanes suggested that each regional VP should be responsible for nominating a Best Chapter as well as a Best Small Chapter (if applicable) in his region.

Development Committee: G. Kutskel discussed the possibility of sharing a current part-time TU employee to serve as a paid executive administrator for Council, and expects to have a proposal to present for approval at the January EXCOM



meeting. An end-of-the-year fundraising appeal letter is planned, and 2012 Trout in the Classroom raffle tickets should be available in January.

Communications Committee: Pennell reported that bulk mailing of *PA Trout* to fly shops has produced a number

of merchandise orders and newsletter subscriptions, and the mailing will be expanded to include other outdoor-oriented businesses in the future. Paul Raubertas is re-formatting our website to develop an up-to-date Marcellus Shale page.

Membership Committee: Malaska requested that all EXCOM members read his College Outreach proposal and provide feedback to finalize and obtain approval at the January meeting.

Youth Committee: Murty agreed to work with Paige Filice to coordinate PATU's participation in "Fish for Fun" days as proposed by Leroy Young of the PFBC.

Delaware River Committee: Hartman acknowledged improved cooperation by the decree parties on the flow regime this year, and lauded PFBC Commissioner Bob Bachman's prompt intervention which saved a fish kill this summer.

Environmental Committee: Grabowicz reported that Scott Perry, PADEP Oil & Gas Bureau's chief, recently acknowledged that PATU's efforts were a valid and important factor in monitoring drilling activities as a result of our Coldwater Conservation Corps training program. Grabowicz also reported on the activities of the Marcellus Shale Citizens Advisory Commission and suggested that EXCOM might want to support their findings after a draft is made available for our review.

Legislative Committee: Bohls cautioned that our chapters need to do their homework before signing on to, or supporting, other groups and their causes. He also restated the importance of establishing a "legislative tree" and asked the regional VPs to work with their chapters to make this happen.

Stream Access Committee: Winters reported that he needs to follow through

Continued on next page...

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with Kevin Anderson at National TU to clarify a number of points before a final version of the stream access brochure can be put together for EXCOM approval.

Trout Management Committee: Undercoffer talked about certain stocking issues that remain unresolved with PFBC, and that TMC Co-chair Dick Soderberg plans to call a meeting in the near future to address these issues.

Coldwater Heritage Partnership: S. Kutskel reported that plans are shaping up nicely for the 2012 Keystone Coldwater Conference. She requested input from the regional VPs for monthly conference calls with National TU, and also that she needs to be copied on emails the regional VPs send to their chapters.

Trout in the Classroom: Paige Filice, the new AmeriCorps volunteer working as our Education and Outreach Coordinator with a primary emphasis on the TIC program, requested input on youth education projects currently being conducted by the chapters across the state.

National Leadership Council: VP Bryan Moore has offered to attend regional meetings to conduct training on the development of strategic plans and other TU-related chapter requirements. Moore will provide Council with a modified schedule for evaluating PA chapters for re-chartering, spreading out the deadlines over the next several years. In keeping with the NLC leadership's need for qualified volunteers to staff work groups,

Jack Williams has recommended Dave Sewak to serve on the Responsible Energy Committee. Williams was thanked by EXCOM for his good works during the past five years he has served Council as our NLC rep. New NLC rep Monty Murty stated that he will be developing a "catechism" for EXCOM to explain TU's finances. The 2012 TU National Meeting will be held Sept. 14-16 in Asheville, NC.

National TU Update: Bryan Moore talked about potential liability problems created by the Wood Duck Chapter due to the deteriorating condition of various AMD treatment systems located on 160 acres the chapter owns outside of Philipsburg. A motion by G. Kutskel/seconded by Hanes was approved for National TU to take whatever action might be necessary to resolve this issue.

Regional VP Reports: See the individual reports (6) as submitted. No new action items were requested.

Other New Business: The following dates were set for our 2012 EXCOM meetings and Annual Meeting, with locations to be confirmed depending on availability:

- January 7 – EXCOM
- March 24 – EXCOM
- June 23 – EXCOM
- September 28-29 – Annual Meeting
- September 30 - EXCOM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on a motion by G. Kutskel/seconded by Hanes.

-- Bob Pennell, PATU Secretary

CHP grant applications being accepted through Dec. 16

Applications for 2012 Coldwater Conservation Grants will be accepted through Dec. 16, 2011. The Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) urges watershed groups, conservation districts, municipalities and local chapters of Trout Unlimited to apply.

The program provides two grant opportunities that help to protect and conserve the health of PA's coldwater ecosystems.

Planning grants help to develop a conservation plan that identifies the values and threats that impact the health of coldwater ecosystems that have naturally reproducing trout. The collected information can be used as a catalyst for more comprehensive planning or for development of watershed improvement projects.

Implementation grants provide funding to projects identified in completed coldwater conservation plans. Potential projects must enhance, conserve or protect the coldwater stream for which the coldwater conservation plan was originally completed.

Grants averaging around \$7,000 will be awarded to organizations to outline strategies and complete implementation projects that best conserve and protect coldwater fisheries.

For more information, contact PATU Coldwater Resource Specialist Samantha Kutskel at 814-359-5233, or visit www.coldwaterheritage.org.

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has nearly 12,000 members in more than 50 chapters statewide, with one common goal: The conservation and enhancement of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams and fisheries, specifically our wild trout resources. Trout Unlimited is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, functioning for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Donations are deductible to the extent provided by law. For information on advertising in PA Trout, call 814-692-5232, or e-mail advertising@patrout.org. See pages 2-3 for Council contact information, officers and committees. For listings of Regional VPs and Pennsylvania TU chapters, and their contact information, see pages 13-23. For TU membership information, see page 9.

Pennsylvania Trout is a supporting member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association



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Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Awards

The following awards were presented to those chapters and individuals who demonstrated outstanding performance in meeting or exceeding PATU's goals during the past year during a ceremony at the annual meeting held on Oct. 1 at Fisherman's Paradise.

Gerry Miller, awards chairman, presented either a plaque or customized fly box to the winners. Judge's comments are summarized in the photo captions.



Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, Professional Winner — ALLARM

Judge's comments: The professional staff of ALLARM (the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Dickinson College Department of Environmental Studies) was instrumental in helping to develop Council's Coldwater Conservation Corps to monitor Marcellus Shale activity and in training more than 270 volunteers to date, of which 100 are new TU members. They have worked on the Letort for years, and are now helping train and provide technical assistance to our volunteers. They are both professionally and personally great stewards of our water resources and champions of TU and its mission.



Ken Sink Award for Long-Term Service to Council Winner — George Kutskel

Judge's comments: This award is not necessarily presented every year, but is only warranted to an individual who has made significant long-term contributions through their work with Council. The winner has served as council treasurer the last several years and brings us the pig roast every year.



Best Chapter Project Winner — Valley Forge

Judge's comments: The self-publication of the book "Trout Tales and Watershed Heroes" is a unique — and difficult to execute — fundraising opportunity with profits to be used in programs that promote fishing and conservation to young people. This book is available through Amazon.com as well as local tackle shops and chapter members, with current sales going well. The book is a compilation of over 20 years of "Banknotes," the chapter's newsletter.



Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Newsletter Winner — Penn's Woods West

Judge's comments: This particular newsletter is easy to read, is well-designed, and is visually appealing thanks to a great balance between photos and text. The newsletter includes varied and timely information important to the membership and also has a high volume of contributions from chapter members.



Best Chapter Website Winner — Valley Forge

Judge's comments: This chapter best exemplifies TU's mission in a well-conceived and logical format, with graphics that are clean and to the point.



**Inky Moore Award for Outstanding Contributions to PATU Conservation Mission
Winner — Dave Sewak**

Judge's comments: This person has worked very hard over the last year to create the CCC program to monitor Marcellus Shale drilling with Council and AL-LARM. The program is constantly evolving to help our members in their efforts to monitor their local and favorite streams. He has also been active in educating our members along with other organizations about the importance of protecting our local streams and what we need to be aware of with Marcellus. He has also helped in building the Sportsman's Alliance for Marcellus Conservation, which is bringing sportsmen's groups together to protect our wildlife.



**Edward Urbas Award for Best Chapter
Winner — Hokendauqua**

Judge's comments: This chapter of approximately 150 members does great stream work on non-famous water in suburban Allentown. This chapter has a full program of conservation, education, youth and social events. Its restoration work on Hokendauqua Creek made it to TU National's website in the last year. This chapter partners with youth organizations and groups such as Project Healing Waters and has continuously sponsored Trout in the Classroom projects in local schools. The chapter also partners and networks with other Lehigh Valley chapters to fund raise, including the annual banquet, and programming such as the innovative Speaker-sharing program. For a suburban chapter with a small membership, this chapter is a true overachiever, a testament to its dedicated volunteers.



**Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach
Winner — Forbes Trail**

Judge's comments: This year's winner provides great environmental education and coldwater conservation opportunities to the youth of their area. They deserve this award because of how much time and energy they put into educating our youth and the impact they have on the conservationists of the future. The chapter dedicates a substantial amount of overall time to youth education and conservation. For example, they have an active Fly Fishing and Conservation Youth Group that meets twice a month, doing a variety of topics from collecting macroinvertebrates to fly tying. They also sponsor a fly fishing trip to Erie every year. They host a kids fly fishing derby where the youth are provided with fishing equipment and introduced to catch and release fishing. They are very active in Trout in the Classroom, reaching well over 500 students a year. They have created lesson plans now being shared state-wide. In addition, they do a variety of other things, such as assisting the local YWCA present a girls only fly fishing program, working with inner city kids on habitat projects, and local Boy Scout troops, plus creating a youth only fishing area on one of their home waters.



**Doctor John A. Fritchey Jr. Award for
Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member
Winner — Robert Pennell**

Judge's comments: Although this individual has been recognized for prior accomplishments, he continues to work tirelessly for both his chapter and Council, devoting many hours per week. As chapter secretary for the past several years, he records our minutes also offering sage advice, while also editing/publishing our chapter newsletter. He also maintains our chapter website, currently working with a professional web designer to 'spruce up' the site. He worked for many years on Harrisburg's Spring Creek, which today holds a healthy population of wild brown trout. Just this spring he spotted beaver activity on this urban creek; the beaver were humanely trapped and relocated before any damage occurred. He participates in just about all work projects within our chapter, from stream projects to our annual Healing Waters event. There just doesn't seem to be anything he won't do for the chapter. As well, he impresses everyone who he meets with his knowledge of geology and hydrology, all self-taught. He puts the same energy and enthusiasm with Council as secretary. He is a valuable leader in his chapter particularly with the recent untimely death of Frank Viozzi. His energy, enthusiasm and passion for fly fishing are an inspiration to us all, so it is fitting that he should receive our chapter's namesake Doc Fritchey Award.

Headwaters

A message from PATU President Ken Undercoffer

Well, another year of trout fishing has slipped by, at least for me. Good luck to all of those who brave the cold and snow of the winter months to fish our wild trout streams. I'll be back on the stream come spring.

Fall 2011 Membership Meeting – PATU's annual fall membership meeting was held at the Stackhouse Center (Fishermen's Paradise) the first weekend of October. The fishing was great, according to Wes Tetsworth, from TU National. He came up early on Friday to do a little fishing in Spring Creek and caught about 15 nice wild browns. According to Wes, they were all decked out in their spawning colors and ready to participate in propagating the next generation.

Friday evening, Tom Greene described the ongoing wild trout stream assessment program being conducted by the PFBC. Saturday there were presentations and training seminars to help chapters and Council better address coldwater conservation issues. Saturday evening, we had our traditional pig roast. George Kutskel did his usual fine job of roasting the pig.

Sadly, only about half of our chapters were represented. A lot of information is disseminated during these fall meetings. TU National sends several representatives who actively participate, give short seminars and network with PATU members in attendance. Chapters are therefore able to get up-to-date information on activities within TU. This is the best chance that chapters have to interface with PA Council and National TU and address issues that concern trout anglers here in the Commonwealth.

We feel this fall membership meeting is important enough that PA Council considers attendance as a component in considering chapters for re-chartering. Chapter presidents are encouraged to attend; if they can't make it, then another officer or even an active member of the chapter can attend as the chapter's representative. Whoever represents the chapter is eligible to cast the chapter's vote for council officers. If nobody is there, the

chapter is not represented and misses out on a lot of very useful information.

Katy Dunlap, Eastern Water Project director for TU National, was an active participant at the fall meeting. She has been writing op-eds and testifying at hearings in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. in order to plead the case for more stringent regulation of the Marcellus Shale play.

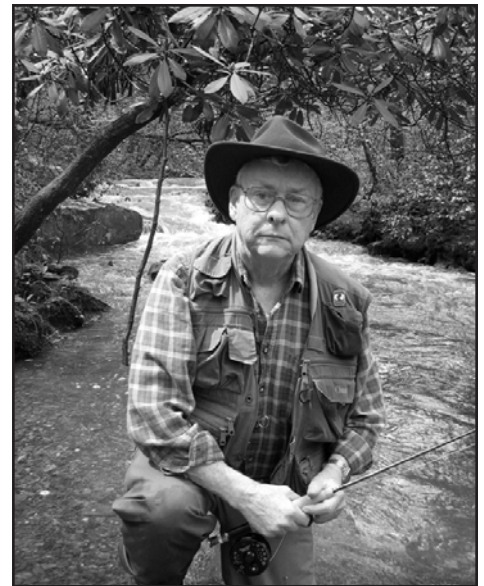
A bill has been proposed in the PA legislature to rescind the DEP ruling that calls for a 150-foot riparian buffer on all HQ and EV streams. Hopefully, it will not go anywhere, but we need to keep a close watch on this. PATU was a strong supporter of this "Buffers 150" rule and, if anything, it isn't strong enough.

TU National Convention – I attended the National TU convention in Bend, Ore. on Sept. 14-18. During the council chair meeting, I had a chance to discuss how the Montana Council manages its workload, which in a state like Montana, is very large and growing larger every year. Including its executive director, Montana Council has five paid employees. Funding comes from grants and donations. PA Council is almost certainly going to take this route very soon, as we are finding that the workload is taking more time than volunteers with families and jobs can manage.

Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley Chapter won the National TU Gold Trout Award this year. Congratulations to all the members of the Cumberland Valley Chapter for winning this very prestigious award.

National Leadership Council Chair Changes – Jack Williams has been term-limited out as our NLC representative. In the past, Jack also served as co-chair of the Environmental Committee and leader of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture effort. Thanks, Jack, for the five years you gave as NLC chair for PA Council and all the considerable time and effort you have given to preserving and protecting Pennsylvania's wild trout resources.

Monty Murty of the Forbes Trail Chapter was elected by the membership to be our new NLC representative. Thank you, Monty, for volunteering to step into this



very important position. I'm sure Monty will be a very able liaison between PA Council and National TU.

Rockview Section of Spring Creek Opened to the Public – I attended the dedication ceremony announcing the opening of the Spring Creek Cooperative Management Area. This will open the section of Spring Creek below Benner Spring that has been closed to anglers, hunters and hikers for many years. PA Council supported the transfer of some 1,800 acres to the PGC, PFBC and Benner Township. A few hundred acres of the highlands along I-99 went to Penn State. Most of the acreage (and all of that along Spring Creek) will be owned and managed by the PFBC and the PGC. The trail will be managed by Benner Township.

Chesapeake Bay Coldwater Summit – The Summit was held at Shepherdstown, WV on Oct. 22 and was chaired by Kevin Anderson, TU's Chesapeake Bay Land Protection coordinator. There were presentations by several federal and state government agencies, and by conservation groups involved in coldwater stream restoration and protection. The focus was on protecting water quality and native species, especially brook trout, in watersheds that feed into the Chesapeake Bay.

Bob Weber of PFBC gave a presentation describing the PFBC's wild trout assessment program. The National TU group in the WB Susquehanna Restoration

Continued on next page...

Applications being accepted for Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp

Applications are now being accepted for the 18th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp being held June 17-22, 2012 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County.

The highly structured curriculum is based on college level classes. The students are instructed in ecology, aquatic biology, geology, hydrogeology, erosion and sedimentation control, ichthyology, riparian corridor protection, watershed management, entomology and much more. Students also participate in a hands-on stream habitat improvement project.

But it's not all work. Fly fishing and fly tying are included. Nationally known instructors teach the students fly casting, fly tying, stream etiquette, how to "read" the water, and of course there is fishing. The camp begins on Sunday and ends the following Friday.

The camp will be limited to 32 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. **The applicants must have been born between June 22, 1994 and June 17, 1998.** The 32 students will be selected through an application process where they must state why they want to attend camp and they

...Continued from previous page

Coalition office in Lock Haven has been helping in this effort. Several universities are also participating. According to Bob, of the mostly small headwater streams the PFBC is finding that hold wild trout populations, about 90 percent contain native brook trout.

Getting these populations identified is very important because it gives EV protection to the wetlands along these streams. This program will continue until the PFBC feels it has pretty much identified all the wild trout water mileage in the Commonwealth. I feel this is probably the most important thing the PFBC has ever done to protect our wild brook trout waters.

must provide a reference from a science teacher or guidance counselor. The competition for admission is fierce. The camp began accepting applications for the 2012 camp on Nov. 1, 2011 and all applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2012.

The camp costs each student \$350 for the entire week. All meals and accommodations are included for the residence camp. A student need not be an accomplished fly fisher or a budding aquatic biologist to attend. All the student needs to be is highly motivated and willing to learn.

The Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp was founded in 1995 through the efforts of the late Dr. John R. "Jack" Beck and the late Enoch S. "Inky" Moore, Jr., Pennsylvania Fish Commissioner. Their goal was to select 32 teenagers each year who are the leaders in their class. The thought is that today's leaders in high school become the leader of tomorrow's communities. In a few short years they will be the bankers, lawyers, realtors, municipal officials and the leaders in their

communities. If the camp can implant a kernel of knowledge in today's students about the importance of clean water, when those students become the decision makers in their communities it may have a positive impact on how water resources are used.

Alumni are welcome to attend the Thursday evening picnic and share their experiences since they attended camp.

The highly successful camp has been emulated in Michigan, North Carolina, Maine, Montana, Washington, Arkansas, New Hampshire, Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia/D.C./Maryland/West Virginia with other states looking to start their own programs.

For more information or an application brochure contact the camp at:

Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, PO Box 71, Boiling Springs, PA 17007

Or visit the camp's website at www.riverscamp.com. Join the camp group Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp on Facebook.

NOT A TROUT UNLIMITED MEMBER YET? CLIP AND MAIL THIS FORM TODAY!

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Conservator	\$250
Life (one-time payment)	\$1,000



* For special rate, must note chapter you want to join. Regular individual membership is \$35. Members renew at full price. Members receive chapter newsletter, Pa. TROUT newsletter and Trout magazine. Form may be photocopied, or send same information on separate sheet to TU.

Currently all levels have a rebate to the designated chapter joined. See PA chapter listings or visit www.tu.org or www.patrou.org for more info.

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What you need to know to receive PA Trout newsletters

The goal in changing our method of distributing future newsletters from essentially a print medium to electronic distribution is to save a substantial amount of dollars that can be used more directly for other worthwhile projects related to PA Council's mission, "To conserve, protect, restore and sustain Pennsylvania's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, especially our wild trout resources."

It is our belief that this move serves the best interests of our PA Trout Unlimited members. Review the following options:

1. The newsletter will be posted electronically on the PA Trout Website, www.patrou.org, where it can be read online or downloaded and printed out.

2. If you are a current PA TU chapter member, you will automatically receive a notice by email when each new issue of *PA Trout* is posted at www.patrou.org, provided that your email address on file with National TU is current. If not, then you should log on to www.tu.org and update your email address as follows: Click the "Member Login" box

Subscribe to PA Trout

If you would like to receive future Pennsylvania Trout newsletters by U.S. Mail, fill out the following form and mail with your check payable to "PA Trout" to: George Kutskel, 107 Simmons St., DuBois, PA 15801.

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and enter your username and password which opens the "Welcome to My TU" page. Click "Edit Profile" and then click on "Account" tab where you will enter your email address.

3. If you do not have access to the Internet and/or you would prefer to receive a printed copy by mail, you can subscribe at a cost of \$5.00 per year (4 issues). **Please note that this is a reduction in the previously announced cost of \$10.00 per year. Those who have previously paid**

\$10.00 will automatically receive a one-year extension on their subscriptions. Just send your check payable to "PA Trout" to George Kutskel, 107 Simmons Street, DuBois, PA 15801.

4. A limited number of printed copies for distribution to other organizations will be available at no cost to chapters on a first come/first served basis. Send requests to Samantha Kutskel, PATU, P.O. Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823, or by email to c-skutskel@state.pa.us.

Valley Forge book 'Trout Tales and Watershed Heroes' now on Amazon.com

Longtime friends and Valley Forge Trout Unlimited members, Jim Clark and Tom Prusak, hatched the idea to select the best writing from the past 30 years of the chapter's award-winning newsletter "Banknotes."

Tom, Jim and editor Tom Ames painstakingly searched the chapter's archives to produce this outstanding collection of outdoor writing. Linda Steiner describes the book in her foreword as, "Not a mere compilation of stories and reports from a conservation organization, this ranks with the best anthologies of outdoor writing."

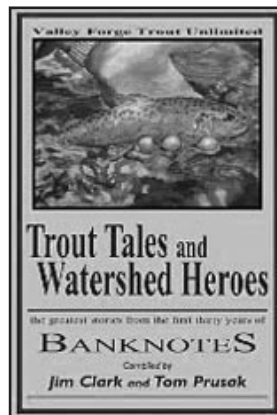
Recently, Trout Tales and Watershed

Heroes was recognized by Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited as "Best Chapter Project."

The book is beautifully illustrated with original artwork from

chapter members Todd Henderson, Andy Leitzinger and the late Carl Dusingberre.

Trout Tales and Watershed Heroes is available at VFTU chapter meetings, through their website and on Amazon.com. (<http://www.amazon.com/Trout-Tales-Watershed-Heroes-BANKNOTES/dp/1456538748>)



Fall CCC training Nov. 12

The fall Coldwater Conservation Corps training session will be held Nov. 12 at the Glinodo Center, 6270 East Lake Road in Erie, PA. This training will cover the topics ranging from basic environmental concerns of gas extraction in the Marcellus Shale to hands-on water quality sampling. The day-long training will cover all aspects of gas drilling and what you, as an angler or hunter, can do to look after your favorite stream.

Educational materials, water quality sampling kits for chapters, and lunch will be provided free to TU members. Please plan to attend and help to ensure that our fisheries are better protected. Non-TU members may attend the trainings for a special half-priced \$17.50 TU membership fee (checks only please). To register, contact Dave Sewak at dsewak@tu.org with your name, address, e-mail and phone number, or call Dave at 814-535-5030 (o) or 814-659-1772 (cell).

TIC Report

by PATU Education & Outreach Coordinator Paige Filice

Hello! I would like to introduce myself to all of those who did not get the chance to meet me at the fall meeting.

My name is Paige Filice and I am the new AmeriCorps/Education and Outreach Coordinator for PATU. I am coming to you from Michigan with a bachelor's degree in Conservation Leadership from Lake Superior State University. My primary role with PATU is to work with program partners in the Trout in the Classroom program.

Trout in the Classroom eggs were shipped in early November to 185 classrooms across the state. With eggs being shipped, it's a great opportunity for chapters to go into their classrooms and introduce themselves to the students and start planning classroom and release day events with their teachers.

The 2012-13 grant round will be opening on Dec. 19, 2011 so make sure to mark your calendars! The application will be available on the PA Trout in the Classroom website.

Also, please keep in mind there will be a

few changes to each of the grants this year and there will be a scheduled conference to discuss these changes.

One of my roles as the Education and Outreach Coordinator is to learn what chapters are doing around the state and to assist them with their Trout in the Classroom program as well as any youth programs they are participating in.

I will be traveling around to chapters in the next few months to talk about TIC and what they can do to enhance their program. If you would like me to attend one of your chapter meetings, feel free to contact me so we can set a date.

If you have any questions please email or call me. I am excited to be a part of PATU and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you.

Paige Filice
Education and Outreach Coordinator
c-pfilice@pa.gov
814-359-5114



**Outstanding Trout in the Classroom Coordinator Award
Winner — Jerry Green, John Kennedy Chapter**

Jerry Green accepts the Outstanding Trout in the Classroom Coordinator Award from Samantha Kutskel, the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited TIC coordinator during the fall meeting. This new award was created by the TIC staff to recognize a TIC coordinator and chapter that goes above and beyond to educate our youth about Coldwater Conservation. The award will be chosen each year by the TIC staff.

Book on Pa.'s Spring Creek available

Pennsylvania Council is offering for sale copies of Dan Shields's "Fly Fishing Pennsylvania's Spring Creek," at a cost of \$20 each, including tax and shipping.

All fly-rod-ers should appreciate this book about the Centre County stream that has played such a significant role in the development of the sport



and, even more importantly, how it has proven the benefits of catch-and-release as a fisheries conservation tool. The author examines what makes this fishery what it is, its angling history and, of course, the fly patterns and techniques for successfully fishing this limestone stream.

The author is a former partner of a State College fly shop and one of the first to become a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor in the eastern U.S. Dan teaches fly fishing and fly casting, with over 2,500 students to his credit.

Dan also authored the "Penns Creek River Journal" and compiled the book, "George Harvey: Memories, Patterns and Tactics." To quote Joe Humphreys: "Fly Fishing Pennsylvania's Spring Creek is a 'must read' for anyone interested in fishing and conserving Spring Creek."

Order by sending a check for \$20 payable to "PATU" to George Kutskel, 107 Simmons Street, DuBois, PA 15801.

The Fishery of Spring Creek / A Watershed Under Siege

Spring Creek is the subject of a new technical publication from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, authored by Dr. Robert Carline, Becky Dunlap, Jason Detar and Bruce Hollender.

The 88-page document which tracks the former decline and rise of this well-known trout fishery can be read by visiting: <http://www.patrou.org/Content/20110407221507156.pdf>.

2011 TIC Raffle winners announced

On Oct. 1, raffle tickets were drawn and the following winners were announced in the 2011 Trout in the Classroom Raffle.

- **First Prize** (Wyatt Dietrich bamboo fly rod) – Stanley Cooper, Jr. Chapter
- **Second Prize** (Ned Smith “Greenbrier Grouse” print) – Ray Guthrie
- **Third Prize** (Charbroil gas grille) – Jerry Potocnak
- **Fourth Prize** (\$200 cash card) – Jim Mondok

Proceeds from the raffle are used to help support an AmeriCorps volunteer to act as the statewide coordinator for the Trout in the Classroom program.

Currently, there are 180 programs being sponsored by TU chapters across the state which benefit from this raffle.

Thanks to all those chapters and individuals who purchased tickets to help out this year, and we look forward to even greater participation in our upcoming 2012 Trout in the Classroom Raffle.

Eagle Scout project...



Contributed Photo

Thomas Oleskey, right, a junior Adams County Chapter member, completed a restoration project on Little Marsh Creek in June. He partnered with the PFBC habitat manager in an effort obtain his Eagle Scout badge. Oleskey also presented his restoration project guest speaker at the chapter’s September meeting.

BACK THE BROOKIE PLATE - ORDER FORM FOR INDIVIDUAL ORDERS ONLY



TU Chapter presidents: Contact PATU Treasurer George Kutskel by e-mail at maksak@comcast.net or phone 814-371-9290 for information on ordering larger quantities.

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NORTHEAST CHAPTERS

Brodheads 289
Forks of the Delaware 482
Hokendauqua 535
Lackawanna Valley 414
Monocacy 491
Pike-Wayne 462
Schuylkill County 537
Stan Cooper Sr. 251
Western Pocono 203

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Malaska

638 Center Ave.

Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

E-mail: gregmalaska@yahoo.com

Phone: 570-657-7169

Brodheads Chapter #289

Tom Battista

610-681-6307, mooseowl@ptd.net

Website: www.brodheadstu.org

R.R. 5, Box 5520, Kunkletown, PA 18058

It has been a busy summer with many opportunities to promote fly fishing and TU. In June, Bob Stevens, Joe Sadowski, Will Daskal, Mike Schwartz and Tom Battista assisted Project Healing Waters with programs at Tobyhanna State Park. In July, we all met with Bob Eddy and his Fishing Club to fish Arrowhead Lakes with veterans. We fished at Indian Mountain Rod & Gun Club twice in August. With a little coaching the veterans were able to adapt to fishing on a stream, since most places they fish are ponds or lakes. Several of the veterans caught and released over their daily limit. One veteran who never caught a fish on a fly rod caught seven and he only stopped when he was told he had to get on the bus. Will Daskal worked very hard this summer to adapt bylaws suggested by National TU to fit our chapter. The board then met and reviewed the proposed bylaws in August. The bylaws are now posted on our website, and will be voted on by the general membership by the December deadline. In an attempt to increase attendance at meetings, Joe Sadowski and Scott Cesari developed a "Fly of the Month" fly tying contest this summer. In July, Spencer Yeakel, Will Daskal, Bob Stevens, Carl Meyer and I provided an introduction to fly fishing to the campers at Monroe County Conservation Camp. Many of the 35 campers quickly become adept at fly casting in a very short time. This group of teenage youths was very interested in trying the equipment, and was asking questions that showed

genuine interest in our sport. We have received letters of thanks from several of the campers that we sponsored. Don Baylor, Jim Connor, Eric and Amy Baird, Mike Brong and I did a "Fly Fishing Seminar" for the Pocono Heritage Land Trust the day before hurricane Irene swept through the area. About a dozen people attended and received instruction followed by a fishing session in the rain on the Bushkill Creek in Resica Falls Scout Reservation. They also enjoyed an intro to entomology from Don and a cookout furnished by the land trust. We like to help out the land trust whenever possible since they help secure headwaters and access to streams in the area for outdoors enthusiasts. I contacted PFBC and was able to secure an "Agent Letter," which allowed participants in the seminar to fish if they did not have a license. This requires all instructional staff to have appropriate licenses, but allows those attending to fish, catch and release for the day as stipulated in the letter. In August, several of us volunteered on short notice and were able to help the Brodhead Watershed Association with their River Ramble at the Brodhead Forest and Stream Association. We were able to "ramble" on parts of the Paradise and Brodhead creeks not open to the public. There was an electro-fishing demonstration, fishing history of the area, invasive and native plant information. A Revolutionary War gravesite was also visited on the property. Will Daskal and I went to The PPL Environmental Center on Lake Wallenpaupack to take the TU Coldwater Conservation Corps training. This Corps of TU volunteers is being developed in response to the proliferation of drilling in the state for natural gas in Marcellus Shale. We were taught to test water for total dissolved solids, conductivity, pH, temperature and to determine stream flow using stream cross section as the measurement (no velocity by timing a float is required). We were also trained in how to pick sites in relation to potential drilling sites. So far we do not have any drilling permits in our immediate area thanks to a moratorium in place in the Delaware River Basin. Gas drilling companies are flooding the TV with advertising trying to show how beneficial they are to the area's economy and how natural gas gained by hydraulic fracturing will solve the nation's energy needs, while preserving our environment. Using their websites you can learn about the process, check Citrus Energy's website for a computer video showing the process. Become informed and you will see how this is a threat to your watersheds, drinking water and fishing. On Sept. 10, several members of the chapter volunteered at the Monroe County Field Day. Over 200 youths between the ages of 8 and 14 participated in this event which exposes them to hunting, fishing, trapping, entomology, building bird or bat houses and dog handling for field. This was the 17th year for this event held a Trexler Boy Scout Camp, Jonas Pa.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Ryan Rush

610-217-8326, flyfishryan@yahoo.com

Website: www.forkstu.org

P.O. Box 467, Stockertown, PA 18083

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, except July and August, at 7 p.m. at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club. Our annual holiday raffle is underway. The drawing date is Dec. 7. We participated in a Martins Jacoby Watershed Association habitat project on Little Martins Creek July 6-7. Two rock cribs, three multi-log vane deflectors and several root wads were installed to restore the stream bank. The chapter has placed a half dozen aluminum signs along the Bushkill Creek as part of an educational sign project promoting catch and release of our wild brown trout resource on local streams. We received a report on macroinvertebrate study undertaken this spring with Aquatic Resources Consulting on Bushkill Creek at three test sites. The chapter provided fly fishing instruction for over 30 scout leaders at a Powder Horn Event on Sept. 17.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Dale Steventon

610-767-1213, adms@enter.net

**Website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze26x43/hokendauquachaptertroutunlimited>
3917 Shirley Dr., Schnecksville, PA 18078**

Lehigh Valley's 9th annual JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) Youth Field Day sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation and Lehigh County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs was held at Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club on Aug. 6. Twelve chapter members assisted youngsters in the fishing contest. There were 10 groups of 15 boys and girls each having 30 minutes to fish. There were many other activities wherein they participated throughout the day. We planned to have a booth at the Walnutport Canal Festival Oct. 16. At our September monthly meeting, Mark Ginther of our chapter presented a talk on Czech nymphing. Future monthly meetings for this year feature: October – Blue Sky Outfitters, Rick Nyles on fishing Penns Creek; November – Dale Steventon and Jack Fekula on fishing Kenai River, Soldotna Alaska for Sockeye Salmon and Rainbow trout; and December – Phil Hublitz photos and film of this year's PHW events. Advanced fly tying sessions are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Egypt Fire Hall. Check with Dale Ott concerning any change at 610-262-7598. Fundraising efforts include having chapter T-shirts and caps for sale, and lanyards for sale at \$20 each, made by Mike Churetta. We held our 2nd annual chapter picnic July 27 at the pavilion, Northampton Borough Park, where about 30 members and guests enjoyed good food

Continued on next page...

and camaraderie. Fred Hutterer took command of the grill and other food was prepared by members and wives. Stream cleanup is planned for later this fall. On July 16, Boy Scout and Hokendauqua Chapter Vice President Dave Abraham, along with Kerry Marsh, Dale Steventon and Robert Cericola assisted Cub Scouts at Camp Trexler with a fishing contest followed by a fly casting clinic. There were over 400 in attendance, including scout counselors, cub scouts and their family members. There were about 200 scouts participating in the fishing contest at two lakes at the camp. The number of scouts catching fish was 58. The number of fish caught was 106. The breakdown was 12 largemouth bass, 12 yellow perch, 73 sunfish, eight rainbow trout and one crappie. On Aug. 20, 10 of our chapter members met with five adults and children from the organization "Friends of Allentown Parks," who asked us to give them insight on introduction to fly fishing and the Little Lehigh. We did this in the parkway adjacent to the Little Lehigh, upstream of Fish Hatchery Road above the hatchery. Although they were few in number, they were very impressed, took notes and asked if we could do it again next summer with a promise of greater attendance. We discussed kinds of trout and habitat requirements, hatches of the Little Lehigh throughout the year, macroinvertebrates with live demonstrations and identification as food source, types of impressionistic flies we tie and use as lures, lines, leaders, reels, rods and ended with fly casting instruction and attendant participation, all in 3½ hours. Kids loved the bugs and expressed interest in fly tying class. The 12th annual Casting For Recovery event was held Sept. 13 at Skytop Lodge. Fourteen women recovering from breast cancer attended. Bob Cericola and Al Herman from Hokendauqua Chapter were two of the stream guides for the day. Our chapter provided 14 boxes of a dozen flies each for the women. We provide flies for the event each year.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Charlie Charlesworth

570-586-3363, ffnepa@epix.net

Website: www.lackawannavalleytu.org

200 Camins Pkwy., Clarks Summit, PA 18411

This year we had a June meeting scheduled on the river, but we were rained out. The chapter started the year with Ben Bartoli as president. Vice President Charlie Charlesworth took over as president in July. Two members of our board attended the National Regional meetings in Connecticut in July. Every year the chapter conducts a Conservation and Youth Education Banquet and Auction. This year the Banquet/Auction and Rod Raffle raised over \$4,000. We have applied for a \$3,000 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority Grant (not received at this time) and we have applied for a grant from Giant Foods to donate two park benches in our name for along the river. We have created LVTU patches, which we are selling

for \$5. In September, two board members attended a grant writing school for non-profits through the NEPA Alliance of Non-profits, the organization that was recommended to us by National TU at the regional conference. We attended meetings of the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority as representatives of the chapter by becoming members and supporting organization. We attended two training sessions on the eradication of the invasive species Japanese Knotweed, and took part in the cutting of said species. We supported the river cleanup for the LRCA River Fest and set up TU information at the festival. We had two of our own river cleanups scheduled but were rained out on both events. We set up a two-fly tournament and were rained out. Our chapter, in support of the Federation of Sportsman's Clubs, assisted with a Youth Fly Fishing Derby and had an information booth where we signed up youths for our own Youth Fly Fishing School. The following week we gave casting lessons after the Forever Young Children's Fishing Derby. We put on demonstrations and signed up two more youths for our Youth Fly Fishing School. We also had an information booth handing out membership applications. The chapter has its own website along with a very active blog. Our blogger has done a superlative job. We are also on Facebook and LinkedIn. We held a five-day group trip to Eastern Tennessee Cherokee National Forest to fish the Watauga and S. Holston Rivers. In March, went to Altmar, NY with eight hearty souls for steelhead. We have two fall and one spring steelhead trip scheduled for 2011-12. The chapter donated another picnic table for near the levee system along the Heritage Trail on the Lackawanna River. This year we also donated a park bench that sits atop the levee system along the Heritage Trail. We took some of the unsold items from our auction and donated them to other associations for their events including items to the "Reeling for Recovery Program," sponsored by Hardy/Greys outside of Boston. On Sept. 24, we held a youth conservation and fly fishing day camp. We expected to have between 15 and 20 total. They received the Stream Explorer membership donated by the chapter and also received a LVTU member's patch. Each month our membership committee calls the members whose memberships expired and remind them to remain current. All new members receive a welcome aboard letter reviewing LVTU activities and a personal phone call to get their email address. We do all meeting announcements by email. The chapter's list of guest speakers is impeccable, starting last November with a presentation by Barry and Cathy Beck: "Photographing Your Catch and other Wildlife" which was attended by over 40 people; Lee Hartman (white paper, Delaware Releases); the Heritage Trail and Rails to Trails given by Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority; River Restoration and Monitoring with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association; and recently Marcellus Shale 101 with Dave Sewak. We have also volunteered to do

the two-day training class for the other chapters in the Northeast. We have also stated we would be willing to host the Northeast National Regional Meeting next July. Our other meetings included a swap meet, a presentation on our chapter's trips to fish for steelhead, a rod-building seminar and a presentation on the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum with our own Cara Sutherland, former executive director of the Catskill Center, and a presentation on our trip to Tennessee.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Steve Vanya

610-691-1371, van0087@ptd.net

Website: www.monocacytu.org

3119 Red Lawn Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017

The Monocacy Chapter resumed monthly meetings on Sept. 27 in the DAR House, 8th Ave., Bethlehem. It was an organizational meeting to address chapter issues and plan for upcoming programs and events. Election of officers and board members will be held at the October meeting. We routinely meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at the DAR House unless otherwise announced. Heavy rain and subsequent runoff in August and September resulted in significant flooding of the Monocacy. Although the Monocacy drops relatively quickly from flood stage, the impact of such an event is certainly not diminished. Major flooding once again occurred in the Historic Colonial Industrial Quarter and many other areas as well. Musikfest was in process at the time and a stream side venue was heavily damaged. The City of Bethlehem's Department of Parks and Public Property reiterated its intention to move forward with a dam removal in this locale. The hope is that this removal may reduce flooding in this historic area. Flood assessment damage is ongoing. We needed to postpone our usual post Musikfest stream clean up due to the flooding. Unfortunately, with marked development and ever increasing impervious surfaces within the watershed, the Monocacy has become quite a victim of flash flooding in recent years.

Pike Wayne Chapter #462

Matt Wishneski

570-685-5420, mattwishneski@gmail.com

Website: www.pwtu.org

115 FLC Rd., Hawley, PA 18428

We met at Lukan's Pond in September for a picnic meeting. In October, we will host Jim Krul, executive director of Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. In November, we will have a meeting of local fly shop owners to discuss new products. In recent months we held a Coldwater Conservation Corps workshop with Dave Sewak, TU's Marcellus Shale field organizer. We had representatives from five different chapters and two from State Council. Pike-Wayne discussed

projects for 2012, opening the feeder streams so wild trout can spawn. Masthope Creek and Shehawken Creek were chosen to work on next year. We still continue to conduct water monitoring on area streams. With a Marcellus Shale pipeline through Wayne and Pike counties, it becomes very clear about the environment and how it's treated very poorly. Many of our small streams in the area have been destroyed by sediment from the environment being disturbed.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Bruce Schneck

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Website: www.schuylkilltu.org

313 E. Wiconisco Ave., Tower City, PA 17980

Starting in September, we returned to Yorkville Hose Company in Pottsville for all regular and board meetings. We left Sweet Arrow Lake and covered dish format meetings with regret and look forward to them again next year. We are seeking interested members to fill positions of leadership of our chapter at the October nominating meeting. We must finalize amending our bylaws by the October meeting. The December meeting, held on the second Tuesday of the month, will be a combination regular meeting and Christmas party. We will once again draw on the unique gift exchange taught to us by Diane Bogdon. We will have covered dish meal with chapter providing main dish and beverages (soda, coffee, water and tea). A fly swap and a rod raffle in addition to our popular monthly raffle will round out the evening. We moved from a banquet to a pig roast and now to a picnic format for our primary fundraiser for the year. This was the best result we have experienced in recent years, and it seems this is way we will go again next year. A small number of members and wives did a tremendous job at this affair. To wrap up the year we will be raffling off a rifle, case and ammunition. Stream testing will have two or three of our members involved. Plans are for Bruce Herb to head up the popular fly tying classes held at Sweet Arrow Lake. Some evenings are designed to cover more advanced tying methods in addition to basic ties at earlier classes. We handled fly tying and fly casting classes at Norm Thornberg Camp and also at the Tri-Valley Youth Field Day.

Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

Phil Mancini

570-451-0248, lovethearts@verizon.net

Website: www.sctu.org

Chapter: P.O. Box 1135, Kingstone, PA 18704

No meetings were held throughout the summer. Meetings resumed Sept. 6. The Board of Directors met on June 7. The chapter continues to be involved in Project Healing Waters. We sponsored an adult fly fishing camp on July 11.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

Greg Malaska

570-657-7169, gregmalaska@yahoo.com

638 Center Ave., Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

State Council sent out an RSVP invite to all WPTU members seeking attendance at a meeting in August at Nescopeck State Park. As of the RSVP date, only six of 115 members had expressed interest. In response, State Council sent a demand for reorganization by Oct. 1 to all WPTU members. If new officers are not elected and the chapter reorganized, State Council will vote to dissolve the chapter on Oct. 2.

NORTHCENTRAL **CHAPTERS**

A. Bradford - No. Tier 357

Columbia County 038

God's Country 327

Jim Zwald 314

Kettle Creek 151

Lloyd Wilson 224

Raymond B. Winter 124

Spring Creek 185

Susquehanna 044

Tiadaghton 688

Wood Duck 235

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Open

God's Country Chapter #327

Dr. Peter Ryan

814-274-8718, drflyfish@yahoo.com

820 Rt. 49, Coudersport, PA 16915

This has been a busy summer for our chapter. In July, our chapter was honored as we were named the "Conservation Educator of the Year," an award presented by the Potter County Conservation District at the annual Agricultural Progress Through Communications banquet. We were honored for our efforts in educating the public and working with and through the Potter County Marcellus Gas Task Force to raise the public awareness about the importance of water issues related to Marcellus gas drilling. Currently our chapter has eight members monitoring 35 stream sites throughout Potter County. In August, chapter member Bob Volkmar helped lead interested local citizens on a public land "well walk" held on State Game Lands in northwest Potter County. There are six well pads constructed in the area and it is a real "eye opener" for anyone concerned about how drilling activity affects a formerly pristine game land. Our chapter

sponsored a student to attend the Black Forest Conservation School in August. Ted Bear and Bob Volkmar spent a morning session at Sinnemahoning State Park instructing the students on fly fishing and casting. Several chapter members serve on the Water Quality Committee of the Potter County Marcellus Gas Task Force. As the site of the only "triple divide" watershed in the eastern U.S., Potter County has strategic significance when it comes to water quality. Headwaters of the Allegheny, Genesee and Susquehanna Rivers can all be traced to the same plateau, and nearly 70 percent of the county's streams are classified High Quality or Exceptional value by DEP. In an effort to most effectively monitor and protect these resources, the Potter County Commissioners have pulled together interested organizations and agencies to form a Water Quality Workgroup. Two grants submitted by this workgroup were recently approved. Funds will primarily be used to purchase water monitoring equipment for volunteers, acquire and install 12 in-stream monitoring data logger systems, pay for chain-of-custody testing for public water supplies and develop educational materials to be used at public meetings and school systems. It is certainly ironic that it took the invasion and threat of Marcellus gas drilling to raise the public awareness of the value of cold, clean water...something we at TU have been espousing since our inception.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Rick Leviski

814.834.2413, releviski@gmail.com

509 Light Rd., St. Marys, PA 15857

The chapter is working on revising our bylaws and we hope to have this completed by the end of the year. We held our yearly picnic on Aug. 7. A presentation was made by Samantha Kutskel on Trout in the Classroom. We are still trying to schedule a meeting with park rangers from Bendigo State Park to see if they would like some assistance on stream improvements now that the dam has been removed. Stream testing is still being conducted by Stanley Hastings. His baseline readings will be given to Kim Bonfardine, current head of Elk County Conservation District.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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Website: www.lwtu.org

14 Valley View Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745

Our annual family banquet will be held on Nov. 4 at the Southern Clinton County Sportsmen's Club in Loganton. There were eight fishing events held at the NE Fishery Center in Lamar over the summer. Chapter members assisted

Continued on next page...

at each of those. Participants included young children, teenagers, special needs students and senior citizens. In addition to the fishing events, members conducted a fly tying class at the Clinton County Conservation District's Day Camp, helped with habitat improvement work on Antes Creek and Little Pine Creek and continued to monitor streams in areas of Marcellus Shale activity. Students and faculty at the Jersey Shore Middle School, Central Mountain Middle School and Central Mountain High School are anxiously awaiting the arrival of eggs to begin another year of the TIC program.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Judi Sittler

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Website: www.springcreektu.org

108 Gas Light Circle, State College, PA 16801

Our two-week Trout Camp (previously known as First Cast), for grades 5-8, was held the last two weeks in July. We run this camp in partnership with Centre County Parks and Recreation. Dan Shields, expert fly fisherman and author of "Fly Fishing Pennsylvania's Spring Creek" and "River Journal, Penn's Creek" was on hand to demonstrate casting techniques to camp participants. Dr. Shawn Rummel from Trout Unlimited did a morning of electro-fishing to identify fish in Spring Creek and to discuss proper handling techniques. The students tied plenty of flies and learned a lot about entomology along with a few days of fishing. We take the months of July and August off from general meetings and board meetings. Our September meeting was a presentation by Bill Anderson entitled "Little Juniata River - from Sewer to Class A." The Little Juniata River Association is working hard to protect and restore

its approximately 30 miles of the Little J, of which the lower 13 miles (to the Barrie Bridge) has been shown by PFBC to be natural reproducing brown trout water. Our October meeting will be a presentation by John Arway, executive director of PFBC, who will talk on topics of current interest. Our chapter suggests that PATU offer a workshop on finding grants, grant writing and identifying areas of need in our streams. After a very successful three-year project of restoring habitat on Spring Creek, we had no "on the stream" project this summer. We continue to assist in the funding of the Water Resources Monitoring Project conducted by the Spring Creek Watershed Association. Through the efforts of Bob Eberhart, Scott Brumbaugh and Bob Vierck, we joined with the Clearwater Conservancy and the Sierra Club Moshannon Group to endorse a "joint statement on Marcellus Shale drilling." The PATU White Paper was used to assist in the wording.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Bill Paulmier

814-367-2636, spalmier@verizon.net

105 Harvey Ave., Westfield, PA 16950

The summer of 2011 was a season of cancellations due to rain events as two of our adult education programs were canceled. In mid-June, chapter members, with help from DCNR Forestry, removed an old dangerous jack dam above the Aasph Run campground. During the weekend of July 8, we installed a new habitat improvement device designed by Mark Sausser of PFBC. After three months and a few heavy storms, it is holding up well and looks like it will serve its purpose. Our second annual "Stand Down on the Stream," which is a full weekend for veterans, was rescheduled to the third weekend in October. We

will host six vets at a beautiful lodge with ponds for practice in casting and hopefully get some fishing time on nearby Pine Creek. The program will also offer some basic fly tying and we have some great meals planned. Evenings around a campfire will offer some camaraderie and relaxation. Our stream monitoring program will be expanded by November and is to include a total of four local streams. Thanks to Dave Sewak and the CCC training crew, we have over 20 eager volunteers after the training program held in June at the USGS Geological Lab in Asaph Run. Once again with the onset of the new school year, our Trout in the Classroom programs will be gearing up to receive their brook trout eggs. Fall is our time for planning fundraising and other chapter activities. In November, we will be electing an almost full slate of new officers. We also will have a calendar of tentative dates for future chapter activities and are looking to build member participation. Our 2012 spring banquet is March 29 at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro. Our speaker will be Dave Brandt of Oneonta, NY.

NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Allegheny Mountain 036

Caldwell Creek 437

Cornplanter 526

Iron Furnace 288

Neshannock 216

Northwest PA 041

Oil Creek 424

Seneca 272

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Hanes

P.O. Box 324

Clarion, PA 16214

E-mail: m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

Phone: 724-464-7320

Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

George Kutskel

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Website: www.amctu.org

107 Simmons St., DuBois, PA 15801

Election of officers was held at our Oct. 12 meeting. The model bylaws were voted on at that meeting and submitted to State Council. We had a program on nymphing for steelhead in Lake Erie that same night. Our 46th annual banquet is set for March 31, 2012 at the DuBois VFW. We



Purchase a Quality PATU Fly Rod for 100 Bucks!

State Council is offering for sale custom-built fly rods in two sizes; 9-foot, 5-weight, 4-piece and 6½-foot, 3-weight, 3-piece configurations for just \$100 each + tax and S&H, which includes a nylon-covered hard tube case. These rods are built on medium-fast olive green blanks with gold wraps over smoked chrome guides. The reel seat fitted to the half wells style cork grip is of graphite construction with double locking rings. Each rod carries the inscription "PA Council of Trout Unlimited" and the PATU logo is embroidered on the case. These rods are currently on backorder due to unanticipated demand, with a projected availability date of February, 2011. Order today to guarantee your delivery, or if you're planning to order as a gift, a gift certificate can be furnished upon request. Council reserves the right to limit quantities on individual sales. Send your order specifying rod size to: George Kutskel, 107 Simmons Street, DuBois, PA 15801, and include a check payable to "PATU" for \$116 (\$100 + \$6 sales tax + \$10 shipping & handling).

had a great turnout of 26 people (over 15 were TU members) to place six log vane deflectors and a modified log crib on Wolf Run and Irish Run. We were asked by the landowners to help protect their property from erosion from the streams. Irish Run is on the current Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant list. Helping were students from the Brockway Area, DuBois Area and Curwensville Area schools, which are schools in our TIC program. The chapter will be partnering with the City of DuBois in doing some habitat projects in the DHALO area. The city is going to protect the bank across from Martins grocery store with rip rap and the chapter will be using log vanes to help move the stream from that bank and provide some habitat in that stretch of stream. Going forward we will be doing more habitat work in the mile and half of stream flowing through the city. Kim Bonfardine is working on a newsletter to keep everyone informed on our Marcellus Shale monitoring. We currently have members monitoring streams in Clearfield, Jefferson and Elk counties. At our September meeting we were given a program on a diversion well that was built by the Clearfield County Conservation District. Kelly Williams came and showed slides of how it was built and how it worked. Then she gave a presentation on building one on Alex Branch, which flows into Trout Run. We had a Growing Greener Grant to do an assessment on Trout Run, which is impacted by acid precipitation. We need to meet with DCNR and get permission to build this on state forest property. The well would have a big effect on Trout Run as Alex Branch is in the headwaters of that watershed. We are waiting to receive word from the Bureau of Abandon Mines on re-mining Camp Run in Clinton County. We have been working to clean up both Camp and Rock Runs since early 2001. When done, this will restore not only Rock and Camp Runs, but also four miles of Cooks Run. Both Rock and Camp are Class A streams above the mine discharge. We plan on having our weekly fly tying roundtable again this year, continuing our fly fishing club at the DuBois High School and also starting one in the Brockway School District. The chapter received two grants to schools in the TIC program. Brockway School will be receiving a new chiller and the DuBois Middle School will again have the environmental field day in the spring that the chapter helps sponsor. Chapter youth coordinator, Eric Wilson, checked in with our schools to make sure we were ready to go. The chapter currently supports six schools in three counties.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

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P.O. Box 16, 10 Erie St., Columbus, PA 16405

It's been a busy summer with fishing, Marcellus Shale issues and waste injection. Several of our members have gotten together over the summer

to work on concerns regarding freshwater threats by the disposal of high volume slick water frack fluid waste generated in other parts of the state being injected into old Medina gas production wells. Our September meeting was on 28th and Bruce Dickson from the Iron Furnace Chapter spoke on in-stream monitoring. This will help us with our concerns about 20 Mile Creek in North East and the Brokenstraw Watershed. Our youngest member, 15-year-old Jonathan Dietz, has been accepted to the 2012 United States Fly Fishing Team. He recently traveled to Vail, Colo., for his first competition. We wish him success on the 2012 team. We have four TIC programs and the teachers and students are looking forward to November's shipment of eggs.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

James Lawson

814-726-7816, jwlawson@blair.com

210 Terrace St., Warren, PA 16365

The chapter held no meetings during June, July and August. Regular monthly meetings resumed in late September. Although no meetings were held, various projects continued to move forward. The removal of the lower dam and bridge replacement on the chapter's Morrison Run Watershed Restoration Project is very close as a contractor's bid has been received and the permit is ready. This is a very exciting project for the chapter after a few years of planning, grant writing and cooperation with various partners and private landowners. Our in-stream habitat work on Morrison Run also continues to make progress and took place on Sept. 24. Our TIC program is on schedule with a planned expansion from four to seven classes for the 2011-12 school year. Members participated in the 3rd annual Allegheny River cleanup the week of Sept. 10-17. Marcellus Shale stream monitoring sites have been selected in our area and we are currently working on forming teams to collect baseline data at each site. During the month of September, CCTU will have a display at the Warren Public Library showcasing the chapter's projects, educational programs and community involvement.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

Website: www.ironfurnacetu.org

P.O. Box 324, Clarion, PA 16214

The chapter decided to keep the current officers for the next year. Chapter bylaws were presented at the September meeting and will be voted on in October. Plans have been made to get the strategic plan done by the end of the year. The chapter is hard at work with the tentative date for next year's banquet being set as March 31. The chapter will

be installing some of the monitoring stations we acquired through the Colcom grant this fall. We already placed one of the temporary units in Iron Run to monitor an active Marcellus well drilled by Shell in the headwaters of the stream. The site was suggested by Chuck Keeports of the Warren Office of the USFS. Five other monitors will be placed. Two of the streams are designated wilderness streams within the Allegheny National Forest. The large permanent monitoring stations were received in August and will be sited in coming months. The chapter combined our order with the Elk County Conservation District and saved enough to purchase a fifth unit to be placed in either the Clarion or Tionesta watershed. North Clarion High School was approved for its TIC grant and will be in the program for the 2011-12 school year. The chapter thanks Tracy Durish for heading up the program at the school. All of the chapters participating schools are looking forward to getting their eggs this fall.

Neshannock Chapter #216

Jeff Kremis

724-588-4378, bentley48@neo.rr.com

Website: www.neshannock-tu.org

48 Bentley Ave., Greenville, PA 16125

Our monthly board meetings at Penn State Shenango started again September and are held the fourth Monday of the month starting at 6:30. Check the website for a complete schedule of meeting dates and times or contact any board member for more details. We would like to see more members attend and get involved in chapter activities. Planning has already begun for our annual Spring Banquet. It will be held on March 24, 2012 at the Radisson Hotel, West Middlesex. Watch your newsletter and check the website for more details. We had two main conservation projects this summer and both went without a hitch thanks to Marc Sausser from PFBC and the help of many volunteers. On July 25, we constructed two stone deflectors with logs on Coolspring Creek. Twenty members were there along with four students from the Keystone Adolescent Center to help carry logs and throw stones. All the work was completed by noon and a lunch of pizza was provided for everyone to enjoy. The Deer Creek group continued their stream improvement on that stream with the construction of a mudsill on Aug. 27. Another good group of volunteers were on hand to make everything go smoothly. This was the first step in improving a stretch of stream that will eventually be used for a youth and handicap fishing area. All of the work was completed in one workday and the helpers were treated to lunch cooked up by Susan Armbrurger and other members of the group. Thanks to all who helped make these projects a success. We will be starting our second TIC program this fall with this one being in the Mercer School District. Luke

Continued on next page...

Rust, 9th grade biology teacher, will be heading up this project and is excited to get started. We will also be working with Rick Stephens at Delahunty Middle School in Hermitage for the second year of that program. It was great to see the excitement the students had about the TIC program when they released their trout this past spring and we are looking forward to working with these two schools in the coming years.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Gary Ross

814-337-6931, info@oilcreektu.org

Website: www.oilcreektu.org

P.O. Box 366, Franklin, PA 16323

In the past nine months the chapter has lost two faithful members, both unexpectedly. Last December Wayne Wilson died while cleaning his vehicle of snow on a Sunday morning. Although Wayne had been a member only a few years, he was an asset to the organization, and always had a smile on his face. In April of this year we lost Pete Straub. Pete was a charter member of the chapter and was always there to help. He was a strong advocate for coldwater resources. Pete made many donations to and for the chapter during his tenure. Upon his passing, the chapter received numerous monetary donations in his memory. Both Wayne and Pete will be sorely missed by all of us. The NWPATU Regional meeting was held at Oil Creek Petroleum Center this past May and five OCTU members attended. We all agreed it was very informational, as well as getting to meet some old and new faces. Through the craftsmanship and hard work of local high school student Matthew Hite, the county has acquired two new trout stocking transport boxes which will replace the current pair that have been in use for well over

a decade. These transport boxes will be utilized to deliver trout to waters in those areas inaccessible by traditional stocking methods. Additionally, the chapter provided monetary reimbursement for materials used in the construction of this project. Thanks and accolades for a job well done go to Matthew. Through his hard work and ingenuity, anglers will continue to have recreational opportunities on those more remote sections of the county's approved trout waters. Chapter volunteers Ed Atts, Walt Zinno, Vaughn MacGregor, Frank Emanuel, Justin Hutzell, Regis Senko and Gary Ross set up and manned a fly tying station at the Venango County Youth Field Day. The goal was to teach each child on basic fly tying and different types of flies. We had approximately 130 children tie a wooly worm, which they took with them. The chapter donates annually to this event and this year we donated \$300, plus we supply fly tying tool kits and material. Meadville Area Middle School asked the chapter to instruct fly tying classes at the school for the 8th grade science class. Vaughn MacGregor, Walt Zinno and Gary Ross taught two separate groups over a three-week period. The students did a great job and I was told by the teacher Mr. Chris Oblich that some of the students brought him some of the flies they tied at home. The chapter's 28th annual banquet was attended by 126 people. It was held on April 9 at the Quality Inn in Franklin. The entire event went very well from set up in the morning till the final drawing that evening. The committee is wonderful and they are the reason why the banquet goes so smoothly every year. The food and staff at the Inn are excellent and accommodating. The banquet generated a profit of \$5,400. Next year, the banquet will be held on March 31, 2012. The first weekend in April is Easter and the second weekend is the opening day of trout season. There may be something special put together for a drawing at this event. On July 14,

the conservation committee met to discuss plans and approve projects for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The committee is comprised of Mark Richard from the Venango County Conservation District, Mark Kerr, WCO for Venango County and Tom Young from OCTU. This year we had \$44,355 to work with and projects to review. Several years ago the chapter was approached by Forest County WCO Eric Shellgren asking if we would offer any support to the local sportsmen's clubs in their work on Ross Run. Ross Run is a small trout stream in Forest County. We agreed to provide some financial help, since Forest County is part of our coverage area. A section of the stream has been designated as a Children's Only Area for the first 60 days of each trout season. The sportsmen's clubs have constructed a number of stream/habitat improvement devices in this section.

Seneca Chapter #272

Dave Mensch

814-596-5256, dmmensch@zitomedia.net

313 Broad St., Port Allegany, PA 16743

Our chapter has had a very busy year so far with Marcellus Shale information meetings, fly tying class, fundraising banquet and stream monitor training. We hosted a public Marcellus Shale presentation by David Sewak, TU's Marcellus Shale field organizer. Our annual fly tying class set a record for registrations but it was a tough year for travel. School-aged or retired, we all had a great time tying 12 different flies over six weeks. We have several students that have now been tying for several years and are producing beautiful flies. On the last night we held an equipment drawing for our students and Hunter Redmond won the grand prize of a complete fly fishing outfit. In spite of the poor economy, our fundraising banquet this

2011 Little Juniata Collectible Patch



The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is offering a special set of collectible patches, to individuals as well as to TU chapters. By George LaVanish of Wilderness Editions, this is the fifth and final patch in this series. The 2011 patch features the Little Juniata River. The set includes one 6-inch and one 4-inch patch. Sales are first-come / first-served, as PATU's quantities are limited.

Mail this form or send same info to: George Kutschel, 107 Simmons St., DuBois, PA 17104; 814-371-9290; e-mail maksak@comcast.net. Make checks payable to Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited. Include tax-exempt certificate, if your chapter is eligible.

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Total enclosed:	\$ _____

Name: _____ Chapter (if applicable) _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

year was one of our best. The funds will go mostly to purchase stream monitoring equipment and support Trout in the Classroom. Stream monitoring in advance of Marcellus Shale drilling has been our main project this year. We are working closely with our local watershed conservationist and have sponsored four training sessions. Our monitoring teams are now collecting baseline data from nearly three dozen sites.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTERS

Bucks County 254
Delco Manning 320
Little Lehigh 070
Perkiomen Valley 332
SE Montgomery Co. 468
Tulpehocken 150
Valley Forge 290

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Fred Gender

E-mail: afgender@ptd.net

Phone: 570-704-8764

Perkiomen Valley Chapter #332

Chaz Macdonald

610-730-4956, chazmac1949@rcn.com

Website: www.pvtu.net

P.O. Box 730, Green Lane, PA 18054

Election was held on Sept. 20 with only one officer volunteering to serve. Secretary and treasurer will remain as-is, with Chaz Macdonald as president. Bylaws were passed unanimously. The dam removal at Legion is slated for November 2011, and bank restoration in spring 2012 (which we need to get volunteers for). Mensch Mill dam owners may be interested in removal. On April 30 in celebration of Earth Day, the chapter repaired fencing along various sections of Perkiomen Creek and the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #462

Richard Terry

215-675-1536, rtroadrash@msn.com

Website: www.tu468.org

305 S. Warminster Rd. #B-1, Hatboro, PA 19040

This summer, repair work to the protective netting was completed on trees at the headwaters of the Pennypack Creek in the Natural Land Trust and another location in Horsham. Stream restora-

tion work was scheduled for the Lorimer Park section of the Pennypack but had to be postponed due to high water from heavy rains.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Pete Goodman

610-827-7619, peteg@bee.net

Website: www.valleyforgetu.org

2194 Valley Hill Rd., Malvern, PA 19355

The chapter held elections during our member meeting Sept. 8. Robbi Freisem was elected as vice president, internal affairs, replacing Neil Johnson, who remains an active board member. John Dettrey was elected as secretary, replacing longtime secretary Bob Jones, who also remains a board member. Rich Bauer took over as environmental chairman from Jim Leonard. All other positions remain the same. The chapter has made several internal revisions to our recently updated bylaws to be parallel to the National model. We hope to have our internal update to our lawyers by the end of October. We are in the process of selling tickets for our annual fall fundraiser – the “Clean Streams Raffle.” We are mailing tickets to our membership and have additional tickets available for sale for this very good 10-prize raffle. The publishing of “Trout Tales and Watershed Heroes” has been quite successful and very well received. Our initial order of 200 books is nearly sold out, and we have had a number of sales through Amazon.com. The chapter has reordered more books and has them for sale in local shops. We have started looking for a speaker for our annual Trout Show and are working on establishing the event date. The Sidley Road Stormwater Basin in East Whiteland Township, which we retrofitted in 2006, was the subject of a recent review. The

basin was re-graded and planted to change it from a mowed flow through basin to a low maintenance vegetated basin with a serpentine discharge path. The planting and grading are doing fabulously although there are some invasive plant issues. We did some thistle control in June, and in October we are planning a workday to remove many of the invasive plants that have become established in the basin. Overall the basin is a huge success even with the invasive issues. Several chapter members have been following the developments as Tredyffrin Township prepares the reconstruction of the Crabby Creek sanitary sewer line. We have met with the design engineering firm, with the township engineer and a representative of DEP. It appears from drawings we have seen that this will be an extensive project with the potential to do major damage to a sub-watershed where we have spent \$700,000 to improve its condition. We are still working on inserting ourselves into groups that will form decisions on how the work will be done and form the protections and restoration the stream will be afforded. Very little communication occurred over the summer with

Continued on next page...



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the PA Turnpike Commission (PTC) regarding their widening project from mile marker 320 to 326. Some stream restoration we thought was going to occur now is not happening. The PTC, in one of the last communications I received, said it was planning on submitting its package for permits to DEP at the end of September. Our work will start once the permit package is submitted. We feel the current design does not meet the anti-degradation laws of the Pennsylvania Code for an Exceptional Value stream. The chapter's involvement with a Chester County Marcellus Shale coalition continues. This group has many partners and is great source of information. The chapter continues to work through the Valley Creek Restoration Partnership to accomplish projects in the Valley Creek Watershed. One such project is the Growing Greener funded Conestoga High School practice field bio-retention swale. This project was completed this summer. Its goal was to reduce runoff significantly from the practice field and tie into another infiltration project accomplished by Tredyffrin Township last year. More projects in the mill include a couple of rain gardens to be installed in the Wilson Farm Park and an application on behalf of Valley Forge National Historical Park for the correction of erosion issues on Mt. Misery. On Sept. 24, National Public Lands Day, the chapter initiated a new partnership between the chapter and Valley Forge National Historical Park. It will be a Keeper of the Stream initiative for the entire Valley Creek watershed. This will involve volunteers who will sign up for certain stream sections or "beats" to monitor at least four times per year. This will give us the eyes on the ground and stream to watch out for problems. The program will include training and reporting protocols.

Adams County Chapter #323

Dave Swope
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Nominations of officers took place at the September meeting. The chapter is excited about building new partnerships in the TIC program. We now have four schools participating and realize as volunteers there are numerous avenues that can open new doors in educating our youths through this program. The chapter purchased aerators/coolers for transporting the trout to the release point. In June, chapter members and the PFBC Habitat Manager performed a stream survey to identify the restoration work and the stream bank erosion problems that needed corrected. In August, the restoration work was completed in the C&R FFO section. A permit has been applied for to make some added improvements at a later date. On Oct. 5, the chapter participated with PFBC in the stocking the C&R FFO section by float stocking trout in this 1.1 mile stretch. A junior chapter member completed his restoration project on Little Marsh Creek in partnership with the PFBC Habitat Manager to obtain his Eagle Scout badge as a high school student. Most of us realize the time, effort and dedication that is involved in a restoration project of this magnitude. A great effort was put forth by Thomas Oleskey. He presented his restoration project as a speaker at our September meeting.

are our partners. Our September meeting featured Theaux Le Gardeur, who is the Riverkeeper for Maryland's Gunpowder River. He gave an entertaining and informative presentation on the Gunpowder and the issues facing it. He also discussed Maryland's effort to address invasive species, most notably the presence of Didymo in the river. Because of its close proximity to our home stream, we are considering the addition of wader wash stations on the Codorus. The work on our 2011 Growing Greener project was put on hold as we're still awaiting a permit and cannot do work in the creek after Oct. 1 to not disturb spawning.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

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Chapter: P.O. Box 520, Carlisle, PA 17013

Two chapter events were held this past quarter, including our annual family picnic at Allenberry Resort and the Last Supper held at our property on the Letort. The picnic included a fly casting competition and bucket raffle. Food and beverages were supplied by Allenberry. We completed what is now an annual introduction to fly fishing event at the Army War College, which we began last year, for the class of officers that arrived over the summer. The Last Supper is a traditional outing originally intended to mark the end of trout season. It included a roast pig and the usual fixings and all had a good time. We had our board of directors and officer elections as required by our bylaws. The new directors are Jim Rainey and Don Albright. The new president is Justin Pitman and the vice president is John Leonard. Eric Edstrom and Paul Rouse were retained as secretary and treasurer, respectively. I am pleased and humbled to report that we received the Gold Trout Award for 2011. Awards are not the reason any of us are members, but we believe it helps when asking for volunteers, material, equipment and funds to do our projects. We had several work parties on the Letort to deal with a developing sinkhole. We made temporary repairs and are waiting for the permit to do a permanent fix. We also performed weed removal in the Letort on a number of occasions using our newly-acquired razor-edged cutter. It has substantially increased the efficiency of the process to where we can say we're gaining on the problem for the first time. We completed a stream improvement project in Boiling Springs Run below Children's Lake, supervised by PFBC and performed by volunteers with donated materials and equipment.

Codorus Chapter # 558

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Chapter member Clayton Frey represented our chapter at this year's Rivers Conservation Camp. He reported that he had a great time, learned a lot and was grateful to everyone involved in the event. We have started the process of revising our chapter's bylaws, and plan to complete and approve all changes sometime this fall. We recently submitted a Growing Greener grant application for 2012 for another restoration project. Approximately 500 feet of impaired stream would be addressed, and a number of detrimental deadfalls would be removed, repositioned or repurposed as necessary. We are also investigating several other grant opportunities to fund a water quality monitoring program. We hope to monitor and study the effects of a new sewage treatment plant in the Codorus watershed. The chapter recently purchased and installed equipment for our first TIC project. Mrs. Markle's science students at Lincolnway ES in the West York School District

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Ed O'Gorman
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SOUTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

Adams County 323
Codorus 558
Cumberland Valley 052
Doc Fritchey 108
Donegal 037
Falling Spring 234
Muddy Creek 575
Penns Creek 119

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Fred Bohls
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Phone: 717-732-5050

We are now in the beginning phases of planning our annual banquet which will be held in the spring of 2012. We had workdays on Manada Creek and on our Adopt-a-Highway project along Clarks Creek this quarter. Heavy rain in August postponed some work planned for Clarks Creek, and flooding created some additional work at our diversion well project. We continue to work with the Twin Valley Conservation group, the watershed group for the Powells and Armstrong watersheds in the Halifax area. The watershed group is in the final phase of permitting for the rehabilitation of the children's and handicap fishing access on Powells Creek. It now appears that this project will be constructed in the spring of 2012. This summer, we finalized plans for a second fly tying class – an advanced class to be held at the Harrisburg Gander Mountain store. Additionally, members participated in youth outreach at the YMCA camp where kids were provided with an introduction to fly casting and had an opportunity to catch a few fish from the pond at Camp Shikellamy.

Donegal Chapter #037

Wayne Boggs

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Chapter: P.O. Box 8001, Lancaster, PA 17604

After being rescheduled due to flooding, DTU held its annual fishing derby for the local chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Participants had two hours to fish followed by a picnic lunch. DTU volunteers served as guides. Our education chairman very graciously provided his pond for the event. It was a great day and everyone caught fish. Our September chapter meeting featured Dave Sewak, PATU field coordinator, who spoke on Marcellus Shale issues in PA. Dave gave a very neutral and detailed presentation which was very well received by 40 members. Questions kept him for almost another hour after he had completed his presentation. Monitoring devices installed on Fishing Creek this summer held through flooding and are doing what they were designed to do. All the devices that we installed on Climbers Run last fall held, but several new areas have appeared due to unusually heavy flow. US Fish & Wildlife, the original work crew, will work on these newly impaired sites this fall. DTU will be planting more trees and grass to replace what was washed out. Design work for four new projects in the Conowingo Watershed is almost completed and we have applied for grant money to do the restoration. That work will be done next year. We expect the design work for Charles Run, a tributary of Donegal Springs Creek, to be done this fall with work commencing next summer.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Tio Paci

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We hosted our 37th annual banquet on Oct. 1 at the Landis Mcleaf Marine Corps League. We would like to thank all those who participated in making it possible. We received approved plans for a stream habitat improvement project from the PFBC that will include a 100-yard stretch of the stream from the bridge on Falling Spring Road downstream to the bridge on Springview Drive. The property is owned by Curtis Frey and Carl Helman, with public access on the stream. The project includes stone deflectors and log deflectors that will increase the velocity of the stream to purge silt buildup above an old waterwheel. We have moved the start time of this project to spring. We are sponsoring two TIC programs this fall in the Chambersburg Area School District. We will be hosting our annual eight-week fly tying class this winter with Bill Bashor at the vise. This free class is open to the public.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Maurice Chioda

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A committee of four reviewed and approved the revisions to our chapter bylaws, which were then submitted to our regional VP. The chapter sponsored a youth at the Conservation and Youth Fly Fishing Camp in June. An open house was held in September to display our achievements and show appreciation toward landowners. MCTU stocked over 650 holdover trout from our cooperative trout nursery in September. MCTU was represented at the Red Lion Street Fair in August, signed up several members and kept the local community aware of our presence. Pine Run Growing Greener II restoration is expected to begin this winter after permitting and design delays are overcome.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Gary Parzanese

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The chapter resumed its meeting schedule on Sept. 13 after our summer social in June. We discussed the upcoming election of officers for our October meeting. Information on the banquet for the Pa. Fly Fishing Museum was distributed to the members present. Owen Welch, a member of our chapter and a member of the US Youth Fly

Fishing Team, brought his gold medal to show members. The chapter is proud of Owen and the rest of the US team for their performance in Italy. The chapter was informed we have a new Waterways Conservation Officer for the Mifflin and Northern Huntingdon area. His name is Cory Girt. I contacted Cory and invited him to our October meeting. The chapter is going to send a questionnaire out to the membership to find what they would like to see or discuss at our monthly meeting. We are trying to increase the number of members attending meetings. Members were reminded of the 2012 banquet date, March 24, 2012, at the Belleville Mennonite School. We need to find a speaker and we are looking for help for planning of the banquet. The chapter was informed that Andy McDowell, of the Mifflin County Conservation District office, has accepted a position with another agency. Andy had a number of projects in the works that the chapter was going to assist with. Dan Dunmire, also of the district office, informed us the district is in the process of hiring a new conservation officer. The projects for Hungry Run and Musser Run are still progressing. The chapter hopes to be involved in the planting and stream work on these projects. Dan also informed us of additional stream bank fencing work to be done in the Kish watershed. Larry Winey reported about 60 youths attended the National Wild Turkey Federation Field Day in August. The chapter had eight members work with youths on fly tying and at the pond assisting them with fishing. Larry also informed us the chapter will have two TIC programs this year. This will be the chapter's fourth year with TIC.

SOUTHWEST CHAPTERS

Arrowhead 214

Chestnut Ridge 670

Forbes Trail 206

Fort Bedford 291

John Kennedy 045

Ken Sink 053

Mountain Laurel 040

Penn's Woods West 042

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Continued on next page...

Arrowhead Chapter #214

Jerry Potocnak

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Officer elections were held with the following being elected: Jerry Potocnak, president; Don Carney, vice president; Jeff Lipniskis, secretary; Dave Gallaher, treasurer. Arrowhead's primary fundraising activity is its annual banquet held in mid-March of each year at the C.U. Club in Ford City. Recently, the chapter has partnered with Verizon Communications so that the chapter will receive funding when members purchase either new cell phone/Fios contracts with Verizon and/or renegotiate existing cell phone/Fios agreements. The chapter will sponsor a beginner fly tying initiative in January. Chapter members assisted with the cleaning of our nursery in the latter part of June prior to the receipt of fingerling brown trout in early July. Chapter officers reviewed our bylaws recently, which were subsequently approved by members in attendance at the September meeting. Chapter officers have been asked to lend assistance to a possible stream restoration project in Butler. We are currently awaiting an informal overview of the project by the individual wishing to pursue this initiative. The chapter is currently searching for an individual with computer expertise to assist with revamping and improving our website.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

David Gilpin

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Chapter officer and board of director elections were held in September to coincide with the

beginning of the fiscal year on Oct. 1. No significant fundraisers will be held during this time. The DEP has failed to respond to numerous inquiries on the status of the Jonathan Run Project and its investigation of an illicit discharge on Glade Run in an area that was mined by Purco. The Glade Run discharge was eerily similar to the discharge the chapter discovered on Jonathan Run. Recall that Purco tried to deceive the DEP by piping the discharge from Jonathan Run onto state game lands. Later this fall, we anticipate collecting samples from Glade Run to document the improvements in water quality from the alkaline sand addition earlier this summer. The chapter will be reimbursed for the alkaline sand and analytical costs by a Growing Greener Plus and other grants. The chapter received a \$6,777 Huplits Grant from the PA Chapter of Sierra Club for 2011-2012 for alkaline sand placement and monitoring. Using the Huplits grant as a match, the chapter submitted an Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) grant application for additional alkaline sand placement and monitoring.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Monty Murty

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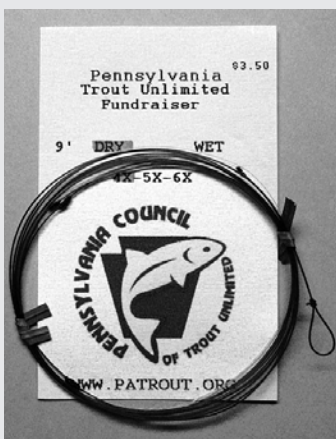
Website: www.forbestrailltu.org

P.O. Box 370, Youngstown, PA 15696

Throughout the summer Forbes Trail worked as a founding member of the newly-formed Laurel Highlands Trout Trail. We worked with the Laurel Highlands Visitor's Bureau, the Ligonier and Donegal Chambers of Commerce, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor and all the DCNR State Parks and Forests between Ligonier and Confluence to identify and promote an interconnecting trout fishing venue of high

quality trout streams. This effort has great value communicating and forwarding TU's mission as well as increasing tourism upon which our local economy depends. The board of directors developed a slate of candidates for the upcoming annual meeting. The chapter held informal fishing meetings throughout the summer in lieu of July and August meetings. We held our annual business meeting on Sept. 21 at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve on the campus of St. Vincent College in Latrobe. The chapter received a \$370 grant from PA Trout for Trout in the Classroom. The chapter also received an in-kind contribution that allowed us to purchase high quality, framed nature artwork for our next conservation banquet. The chapter completed a major habitat improvement project on Four Mile Run, Westmoreland County, which includes an easy-access parking area. The chapter's TIC project acquired the necessary replacement equipment to begin our programs this fall. We initiated planning with our local YMCA partner for this winter's women's fly fishing course. We've set ourselves a challenging goal for the coming year: interesting every member in attending at least one meeting, event or fishing trip. Our youth group training sessions this fall will cover steelhead fly tying, go-to fly patterns, rigging up and casting techniques. We've reminded our members they are welcome to learn along with our kids, and then join us for a weekend of steel heading on Elk Creek. Throughout the fall and winter we'll be steelheading as part of our Fish with a Member program. Again this school year our TIC programs will be helping 7th graders in Latrobe and Ligonier raise trout from eggs and release them into the wild. We've emphasized members don't need to be an expert to help teachers set up and maintain the aquariums, or help kids release their trout on field trips. And, TIC is tremendous education to our volunteers! I can honestly say if you want to become a better trout fisherman, volunteer.

HIGH QUALITY LEADERS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$3 EACH!



Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited is offering the opportunity for individuals or chapters to purchase high quality hand-knotted tapered leaders in an assortment of types and sizes. These leaders feature Maxima material of several different types and are the very same leaders that retail for about 5 bucks in several leading fly shops.

DRY FLY LEADERS

Available in 9-foot lengths, featuring Maxima Chameleon hard butt and next 3 sections, with Maxima Ultragreen softer mid-sections and 24 inch tippets. Available with 4X, 5X or 6X tippets.

WET FLY LEADERS

Available in 9-foot lengths, featuring two droppers tied with mason hard knots and Maxima clear tippet sections. Available with 4X or 5X tippets.

HOW TO ORDER

Individuals: These leaders can be purchased for \$3.50 each or in minimum quantities of 10 for \$3.00 each. Chapters: Can order 10 or more leaders at \$2.50 each, payable by chapter check.

Send your order, along with a check payable to "PATU" to George Kutschel, 107 Simmons Street, DuBois, PA 15801. Please be sure to add 6% sales tax and specify type and size required.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Derrick Miller

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August 28 was our 3rd annual joint picnic with John Kennedy/Blair County TU. Just like the previous years, it proved to be a wonderful time despite lower attendance. FBTU members participated in the Bedford County annual river cleanup event on Sept. 24. It focused on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River in Bedford and Everett boroughs and outreached to a few other selected sites. Additionally, there were some beautification activities in Fort Bedford Park and around the Fort Bedford Museum, which included tulip bulb plantings, other plantings, weeding, etc., for younger volunteers who could not work along the river bank.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Jerry Green

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JKTU held its annual banquet Aug. 27. Attendance was down this year, but we made more money than the past year. Plans for next year will start soon. We are gearing up for this year's sports shows. We will have a booth at the Outdoor Times show and the Jaffa Sportsman's Show. Both will be held in February, 2012. Once again we will be raffling off several rods and selling flies at both shows. We assisted the Little Juniata River Association in completing another streambank restoration project on the upper reaches of the Little J in August. PFBC will be laying out projects on Clover Creek and several more sites on the Little J in October. The Sandy Run wetlands purchase is moving through its final steps for approval and hopefully will be finalized by the end of the year. Once this happens we will proceed with several projects identified by PFBC and initially approved by representatives of DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. These projects include dam removal, removal of invasive plant species and spawning habitat improvement in Sandy Run, which runs thru this 52-acre parcel. In August, we assisted biologists from USGS and Blair County Conservation District Watershed Specialist Jim Eckenrode in doing fish surveys on South Poplar Run, Poplar Run, Sugar Run, Glen White Run and Blair Gap Run. We purchased water testing equipment and will soon have our group in place. We will be monitoring Olde Town Run, Brush Run, Halter Creek, Beaverdam Branch of the Juniata and Frankstown Branch of the Juniata. We will be doing annual macro surveys and quarterly stream flow measurements as well as water quality testing.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Dan Cardellino

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After having a successful banquet and successful TIC release day in the spring, the chapter was proud to host the southwest regional quarterly meeting in Indiana in June. Also in June, we had our first Ken Sink Chapter Youth Conservation Day. Although we had only nine youths, we considered it a successful event. Through the summer we attended the Shelocta Youth Field Day, the Twolick Valley Rod and Gun Club's Youth Field Day and we were pleased to send two youths to camps – one to Rivers Conservation Camp and one to the Penn State Leadership Conference. We concluded our summer with our annual chapter picnic on Aug. 28, with 44 in attendance. On Oct. 8, we attended the Tanoma AMD project's annual conservation day, where we again demonstrated tying and casting.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Randy Buchanan

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Election results were: Randy Buchanan, president; Gary Cooper, vice president; Dave Maher, secretary and Pat Buchanan, treasurer. Board members are Butch Kerchenske, Mark Lee, Jassim Hassan, Dave Wright, Len Lichvar and Dave Sewak. The chapter has updated its bylaws. A big thanks to Dave Maher and Gary Cooper for all of their efforts. The 12 Days of Christmas tickets are available. Money raised helps fund our banquet. Contact Randy or Gary if you want tickets. Workdays on Yellowcreek as part of the YCC took place this summer. Workdays on Benscreek have been progressing, with a few more to wrap up the project this fall. On Aug. 29, the chapter, Dunlo Rod and Gun Club and PFBC conducted a bank improvement of the old water dam on the South Branch of the Little Conemaugh River. The project was designed by Mark Sausser with the assistance of Gary Smith. Steve Cooney, from MLTU and DRGC, was material coordinator and grant manager. Eight 20-foot-plus hemlock logs were used as deflectors and 92 tons of mixed R5 and R6 sand stone were placed in the stream. These items were moved by large two large excavators. One machine and operator were donated by Highland Sewage and Water. The logs were donated by Shawn Clarr. Winter fly tying instruction will be held at Gander Mountain. Please check the website or call a board member to get details.

Penns Woods West Chapter #042

Walter Reineman

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Our annual bus trip was to Fisherman's Paradise on June 2. Starting with our January/February issue, our newsletter, Hatches & Rises will cease mailing and will be available online. Hard copies will be available at monthly membership meetings. This decision was based on the yearly expense of more than \$5,000 to print and mail over 1,200 copies to our members and friends. Our annual Cabin Fever show will be March 4, 2012. It's our major fundraising event and last year we had over 900 attendees. We will meet at the Sheraton in Cranberry with a new slate of speakers. Family Tyes will again present their youth tying and casting program, open to all youngsters. On September 10, with supervision by PFBC, three stream deflectors were installed on local Pine Creek near Allison Park with the help of some 30 volunteers. These structures were placed just upstream from the special regulation area. Next fall we will focus on improving the lower end of the Delayed Harvest section. Two years ago DEP approached us and asked if we could help coordinate a streambank erosion abatement project in Shaler Township's Fawcett Field Park. Using grants totaling \$138,000 from the Federal Clean Water Act and the Allegheny Conservation District, PWWTU member Tom Walsh orchestrated the paperwork and lined up the environmental engineering and construction contractors. In all, more than 1,000 feet of streambank was stabilized using six structures. This project is now complete. Our chapter is once again sponsoring two TIC projects. Mr. Christian Shane and his 2nd grade class at McKnight Elementary in the North Allegheny School District will be in their fifth year of raising trout in the classroom. We welcome our newest participant, Mr. Dennis Holderbaum, an 11th grade biology teacher from Academy Charter School in Pittsburgh. The students and teachers are scheduled to receive their brook trout eggs in early November. Both Mr. Shane and Mr. Holderbaum plan to have a cooperating trout pen pal project between their two schools. McKnight Elementary will also begin a "Trout Blog" this school year to include information, pictures and progress during the project. At our first meeting in September, two representatives from PATU attended and presented: Samantha Kutskel, coldwater resource specialist, and Paige Filice, education outreach coordinator. Both presented on the TIC program and the importance of the Coldwater Heritage Partnership.

PFBC & TU celebrate West Branch Susquehanna Watershed recovery

Trout Unlimited, the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Department of Environmental Protection celebrated improvements to the West Branch Susquehanna River and its many tributaries at an event Oct. 24 at Hyner View State Park.

A 2009 TU study shows that the overall health of the watershed is greatly improving compared to 25 years ago. Fish and insect populations have increased, and water quality and habitat have improved. Scientists collected data at 90 sites across the watershed to evaluate how abandoned mine restoration has affected the river and its tributaries.

“The West Branch Susquehanna River and many of its tributaries are showing amazing signs of recovery from severe pollution from mine drainage for nearly a century,” said Amy Wolfe, TU’s Eastern Abandoned Mine Program Director.

“There is still an enormous amount of work that needs to be done to achieve full recovery, but these marked improvements prove that the investments of time and money have been well spent.”

Within the watershed, more than 1,200 stream miles are polluted with mine drainage from abandoned coal mines. TU’s study documents that in the past 25 years, the river’s acidity and level of toxic metals have significantly decreased – to levels deemed safe by the DEP – between Curwensville in Clearfield County to Renovo in Clinton County. Water quality has also improved due to water treatment systems and as a result, native brook trout are returning to streams that were previously devoid of life due to the mine drainage.

Biologists from the PFBC’s Fisheries Management Area 3 assisted with the study by conducting fish surveys at nine sites on the river. There were increases in the numbers and variety of fish found at the sites. The most substantial improvement was found at Hyner, where the amount of fish caught increased by more than 3,000 percent when compared to a similar survey conducted just 10 years ago.

“Today marks a milestone in the recovery of the West Branch,” said PFBC Executive Director John Arway. “This reach of the Susquehanna River has been long considered polluted and beyond repair, a casualty of acid mine drainage. It has taken decades of remediation driven by volunteer groups like TU, state and federal government agencies that provide the funding and industry which now treats wastewater to today’s standards. As a result, the West Branch has responded and I am pleased to declare that it is now fishable again.”

Wolfe and Arway say that protection of water and fishery resources from future sources of potential pollution, such as Marcellus shale natural gas drilling, should be a statewide priority as the West Branch Susquehanna and other streams are restored from historic sources of pollution from coal mining.

Major project partners, in addition to the PFBC, include the DEP, Susquehanna River Basin Commission and members of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition.

To read the full technical report for the study, go to: www.tu.org/westbranch.



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OF TROUT UNLIMITED**
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