

Pennsylvania TROUT



Fall 2019

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

Rachel Kester named new Program Director. See page 2 for an introduction.



Amidea Daniel Photo

More than 50 volunteers from PATU chapters and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission packaged eggs and food for shipping to Trout in the Classroom programs across the state in October.

Volunteers join forces to prep TIC packages

By Bob Volkmar
PATU Treasurer

Twenty-seven volunteers from five PATU chapters joined 26 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission staff members in Bellefonte to package TIC eggs and food in preparation for shipping to classrooms across the state.

Chapters represented on Oct. 7 were Forbes Trail, God's Country, Lloyd Wilson, R.B. Winter and Spring Creek. Under the direction of Amidea Daniel, PFBC's

TIC coordinator and a TU member, assembly lines were established, and volunteers enthusiastically began the process of prepping boxes and filling them with ice packs, bagged eggs and food. Farther down the lines, crews taped and labelled the boxes to ready them for shipping.

Just three hours later, the last box was taped shut and labelled. Participants had developed a hearty appetite and consumed more pizzas than a group of college kids on a Saturday night.

See TIC, page 2

Council leaders elected at Annual Meeting

Seventy members representing 33 chapters attended the 2019 PA Council of Trout Unlimited's Annual Meeting at the Shaver's Creek Community Building in Petersburg, PA on Sept. 14.

A presentation by Dave Allbaugh on traditional wet fly fishing techniques highlighted the meeting, and each chapter was afforded the opportunity to present an overview of their accomplishments during the past year.

President Greg Malaska reviewed Council's activities and plans, and other presentations during the day included TU's Eastern Policy Director Dave Kinney on advocacy, Brian Wagner reporting on his National Leadership Council (NLC) activities, and Brandon Diehl discussing the role that the Foundation for PA Watersheds plays in support of the Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) program.

The following Council officers were unanimously elected to serve one-year terms, beginning Oct. 1, 2019.

See LEADERS, page 5

PATU Awards

See pages 6-7 for a complete listing of awards presented at the PATU Annual Meeting on Sept. 14.

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Pennsylvania TROUT

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Director's Report by PATU Program Director Rachel Kester

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Greetings!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Rachel Kester and I joined Council as the new Program Director for the Coldwater Heritage Partnership on Oct. 15.

Prior to coming to PATU, I was project coordinator for National TU's PA Coldwater Habitat Program (formerly the Eastern Abandoned Mine Program) for nearly 11 years.

My focus was primarily on restoration of abandoned mine drainage-impacted streams in the West Branch Susquehanna River basin, but I also worked on other projects including capacity building for watershed organizations, PFBC's Unassessed Waters Initiative, culvert assessments, and habitat improvement projects.

I live in rural Clearfield County with my husband and son, where we enjoy spending time together outdoors whether it be hiking, fishing, gardening, or observing nature. I also enjoy reading,



Kester

knitting, and crocheting.

I look forward to continuing to work to protect and conserve our coldwater streams through the Coldwater Heritage Partnership and engage our youth

through Trout-in-the-Classroom.

As many of you know, the Keystone Coldwater Conference is coming up on Feb. 28-29, 2020 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College. I hope to see (or meet) all of you at this event.

If you have any comments, questions, or ideas for the conference, please feel free to reach out to me as planning is currently in full swing.

My office is located at the PFBC's Central Regional Office in Bellefonte, so if you're in the area, please stop by and say hi!

In the meantime, if I can be of any help to you or your chapter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at c-rkester@pa.gov or 814-359-5233.

Council unveils new merchandise

As you might have read in the Summer issue of *PA Trout*, we are constantly striving to keep our PATU Merchandise program vital in terms of offering a great array of products at reasonable prices.

During the last few months, we have reduced prices on a number of existing items, as well as introducing the following new products: Traveller 9 foot, 7-piece, 5-weight fly rods; super-slim waterproof fly boxes; stainless steel insulated travel mugs, and PATU-logoed stuff sacks.

For full descriptions and pictures, please check out the Merchandise page at www.patrou.org/merchandise. There you will find the current selection of clothing, books, gear, and other items available to purchase online with your credit card, or by downloading an order form to mail with your check for the products you select.

Your purchases help support the many programs PATU offers for coldwater conservation projects and educational purposes. We appreciate your business!

TIC

.....
from page 1

PFBC Executive Director Tim Shaffer and Commissioner Rocco Ali stopped in to assist. They expressed their sincere appreciation for the time and dedication TU volunteers and PFBC staff devote to TIC locally and statewide.

The support garnered to help make the food packing and egg packing day a success is a great example of what makes Trout Unlimited amazing – local volunteers devoting their time and energy to further the TU mission. State Council shouts out a big “thank you” to everyone who participated.

Keystone Coldwater Conference abstract deadline is Nov. 15

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will host the 14th Keystone Coldwater Conference Feb. 28-29, 2020 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College.

The conference is an opportunity for grassroots conservation organizations, environmental professionals, college faculty, staff, and students to share ideas, concepts, and network in order to protect, conserve and restore Pennsylvania's coldwater resources.

The theme for this year's conference is "Coldwater Resource Conservation and Education: Resiliency in a Changing Environment."

If you would like to submit an abstract for consideration, please visit the Keystone Coldwater Conference website for more information and to download a presentation request form.

Questions can be directed to Rachel Kester at c-rkester@pa.gov.

Actions Taken by EXCOM since June 22, 2019

July 5 – Approved reserving 7 rooms at the Huntingdon Motor Inn at a cost of \$99.00 per room + tax for the EXCOM retreat at Shavers Creek Fire Hall on September 15, 2019.

August 6 – Approved a contribution of \$300 to the NLC Native Trout Workgroup to help cover the cost of producing a brook trout poster for educational purposes.

August 9 – Approved signing on to the letter drafted by Garth Pettinger requesting the Decree Party Principals to incorporate the proposed Phase I Release Tables into the Delaware River FFMP Agreement.

September 17 – Approved authorization for PNC Bank to issue a debit card to Secretary Bob Pennell and to add Bob Pennell as a signatory on PA Council's PNC Bank accounts.

September 24 – Approved authorization for Rachel Kester to act as a signatory on PATU's checking accounts at PNC Bank and to authorize PNC Bank to issue debit cards to her on those accounts.

September 25 – Approved an expenditure of \$4,230 for Quarter Note Systems to update and convert our www.patrou.org website to a WordPress format.

October 12 – Approved signing on to letter drafted by Dave Kinney requesting the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection to consider upgrading all Class A Wild Trout waters to High Quality (HQ) protection status.

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The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited would like to thank the businesses on the next page for sponsoring the digital edition of *PA Trout*.

For information on how to become a sponsor of the digital edition or to advertise in the printed newsletter, please contact Charlie Charlesworth, Tali MacArthur or Brad Isles.

Contact information is available on pages 2-3.

Digital edition sponsorship is \$25 per issue for an approximately 3.5-inch by 3-inch ad that runs online only.

Print ad costs vary by size.



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Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Greg Malaska

Enjoy every sandwich

This summer, I experienced many different facets of this organization, some for the better, some otherwise. Regardless, I learned that volunteer leaders need to appreciate not only the beginning and the end, but the journey itself.

The Beginning

This summer, I witnessed the birth of a trout stream.

Joe Mihok, Dan Weaver, Jeff Neamand, Doug McCabe and Frank Nassetta from the Bucks County Chapter showed me the fruits of their efforts on Aquetong Creek. This small stream originated from a large spring in Solebury Township, yet was dammed for recreation purposes.

For the last 20 years, BCTU worked tirelessly to build a coalition to remove this municipally-owned dam. In so doing, they helped create a new coldwater fishery a few minutes from Philadelphia. After the dam was removed, BCTU obtained a special permit from PFBC to trap-and-transfer wild brook trout from a stream near my home in Jim Thorpe.

During my visit, we got in the stream and discovered multiple year classes of brookies.

BCTU's efforts serve as a testament to the dedication and perseverance of our volunteers.

The Journey

In September, I spent a day with the Penns Creek and John Kennedy chapters and saw the continuing value of our chapters' conservation work.

I first met with Gary Parzanese and Joe Dunmire from the Penns Creek Chapter. Gary and Joe showed me their numerous stream improvement projects on several small tribs flowing through primarily agricultural areas. I was really impressed with the Chapter's approach and success in developing long-term relationships with the local Amish and Mennonite community.

Through this cooperation, PCTU has helped to stabilize several riparian buffers and install numerous fish habitat structures



Greg Malaska Photos

Thanks to tireless efforts and perseverance put forth by the Bucks County Chapter of TU, trout are again present in Aquetong Creek, right.

in the Honey, Tea and Kishacoquillas drainages. Gary and Joe explained how these relationships have developed over time; a lasting lesson for our chapters – protecting our streams is more of a marathon than a sprint.

I then spent the afternoon fishing Honey Creek with Gary and landed one of the largest wild browns of my life. With no net, the fish spit the Green Weenie just as Gary went for his camera. No pictures, but I have a witness! All jokes aside, PCTU is doing great work with a small volunteer base in rural Mifflin and Juniata counties.

I spent the next day with Jerry Green and other volunteers from the John Kennedy Chapter, learning how disaster can lead to progress.

Resulting from a large environmental settlement, JKTU has access to a large pool of money which has funded many successful projects in the Plum Creek and Little Juniata watersheds. Jerry showed an encyclopedic knowledge (and passion) for every small road and coldwater fishery in Blair County. His dedication and passion are a model for our volunteers.

The End

Ashes to ashes....



Last winter, I represented PATU at the Flyfishing and Wingshooting Expo at Split Rock Lodge in Lake Harmony to present an award to Joe Humphreys.

While at the show, I ran into many old friends, including Mike Romanowski. Mike was one of the founders of the Stanley Cooper Chapter in Wilkes Barre. He was a lifetime educator by trade, but his avocation was cold water.

Mike was an exceptional tyer, angler and

Continued on next page...

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advocate for his beloved Delaware River, Bowmans Creek and many of the small streams flowing through mine-challenged Luzerne County.

Mike served in every possible capacity with SCTU, finding time to educate young tyers and conservationists through the Chapter and his work with AA Outfitters in Blakeslee. Mike and I had known each other for years, and after an exchange of beers, Mike renewed his invitation to fish at his cabin on the West Branch. Explaining how busy I had been with work, family and PATU, I told him that eventually, I would have to take him up on his offer.

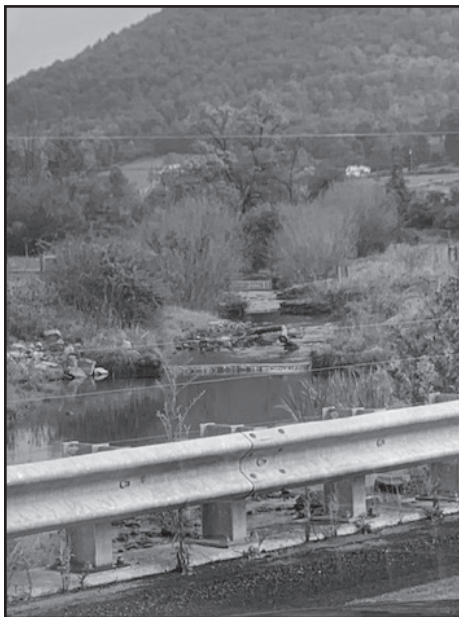
Unfortunately, I'll never get that opportunity. Mike passed away unexpectedly this spring, leaving a huge void for his friends, family, anglers, conservationists and SCTU. He was a true asset to this organization and will be missed. My guess is he's probably tying some size 18 Comparaduns for St. Peter as we speak. Goodbye, my friend.

Mike's passing reminded me that we shouldn't put off for tomorrow what you can get done today. Mike was set to retire in the next year, yet he didn't get that chance.

We, as TU members, need to focus on the here and now and seize those conservation opportunities when they come, not when we would like for them to arrive.

This column's title is taken from a song by my favorite singer, Warren Zevon, who used this phrase regularly after he learned he was dying. It still resonates and impacts my approach to PATU.

Thanks for all you do.



Penns Creek



Romanowski

LEADERS

from page 1

- President – Greg Malaska
- Executive Vice President – Robert Hughes
- Executive Vice President – Monty Murty
- Treasurer – Bob Volkmar
- Secretary – Bob Pennell
- NLC Representative – Brian Wagner
- Southeast Regional VP – Brian McGuire
- Southcentral Regional VP – Russ Collins
- Southwest Regional VP – Dale Kotowski
- Northcentral Regional VP – Bob Volkmar
- Northwest Regional VP – Ken Undercoffer
- Northeast Regional VP – Russell Thrall III

Chapter Donations

Thank you to all chapters that donated to State Council in support of the Trout Unlimited mission.

Exceptional Value \$1,000 or more

- Cumberland Valley
- Mountain Laurel

High Quality \$500 to \$999

- Donegal
- Neshannock
- Penns Creek

Brook Trout \$250 to \$499

- None

Wild Trout \$100 to \$249

- Hokendauqua

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PATU award winners

Each year, Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited honors individuals and chapters who, during the previous year, achieved notable results in enhancing the overall mission of TU in Pennsylvania.

The following awards were presented at the Annual Membership Meeting at the Shaver's Creek Community Building in Petersburg, PA on September 14.

- **Edward Urbas Award for Best PA Chapter** – Valley Forge
- **Best Chapter Project** – Donegal
- **Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member** – Bob Vierck
- **Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, Professional** – Dr. Jonathan Niles
- **Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Chapter Newsletter** – Donegal
- **Best Chapter Website** – Forbes Trail
- **Outstanding TU Volunteer** – Al Renzi
- **Chapter with Greatest Membership Growth** – Tiadaghton
- **Chapter with Greatest Percentage Increase in Membership** – Shehawken
- **Inky Moore Award for Distinguished Service to State Council** – Bob Volkmar



*Edward J. Urbas Award for Best PA Chapter
Valley Forge*



*Best Chapter Project
Donegal*



*Outstanding TU Volunteer
Al Renzi*



*Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Award for
Distinguished Service to State Council
Bob Volkmar*



Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist (Professional)
Dr. Jonathan Niles



Greatest % Increase in Membership
Shehawken



Dr. John A. "Doc" Fritchey, Jr. Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist (TU Member)
Bob Vierck



Greatest Membership Growth
Tiadaghton



Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Chapter Newsletter
Donegal



Best Chapter Website
Forbes Trail

PA Council of Trout Unlimited

Minutes of the October 19, 2019
Executive Committee Meeting

PFBC Centre Region Office, Bellefonte, PA

Officers Attending: Greg Malaska, Bob Pennell, Monty Murty, Ken Undercoffer, Bob Volkmar, Brian McGuire, Charlie Charlesworth, Russ Thrall, Russ Collins.

Others Attending: Rachel Kester, Rob Shane, Dave Rothrock.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Malaska. A motion was made and carried to approve the Minutes of our July 22, 2019 EXCOM meeting as submitted.

Committee Appointments: Malaska announced the following committee appointments and EVP assignments

Awards – Beth Boyd and Ed O’Gorman (Hughes)

Budget – Bob Volkmar, Monty Murty, Brian McGuire, Russ Collins and Judi Sittler (to be confirmed). Chair to be determined (Murty)

Communications – Brad Isles and Russ Thrall (Hughes)

Delaware River – Lee Hartman and Jeff Skelding (Hughes)

Development – Monty Murty (Murty)

Diversity – Amidea Daniels and Kelly Williams (Murty)

Environmental – Dale Kotowski and Jeff Ripple (Hughes)

Membership – C. C. Felker (Murty)

Trout Management – Lenny Lichvar and Dave Rothrock (Hughes)

Veterans’ Services – Bill Nolan (Murty)

Youth Education – Judi Sittler and Charlie Charlesworth (Murty)

Additionally, Murty presented his recommendations for an alternative committee structuring for further consideration and approval by EXCOM.

TU Advocacy Report: TU Mid-Atlantic Organizer Rob Shane outlined his planned activities, including working with the PFBC on unassessed Wild Trout and Class A Waters, and with PADEP on upgrading

Class A Waters to High Quality (HQ) designation.

Treasurer’s Report:

A motion was made and carried to approve Treasurer Volkmar’s October 2019 report detailing income/expenses for the fiscal year period from July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019.

Actions Taken Since June 22, 2019: It was pointed out that approval for Rachel Kester to act as a signatory on PATU’s checking accounts at PNC Bank and authorization for PNC Bank to issue debit cards to her on those accounts was missing from the list of actions taken. Pennell will add this item and resubmit the report to EXCOM.

ACTION ITEMS:

Forever Wild Grant Administration – Malaska re-assigned this responsibility to the Environmental Committee with assistance from Kester.

Approval of Council Donation for TU Advocacy – A motion was made and carried to approve \$10,000 in Council funds to support National TU’s advocacy efforts. Malaska also suggested that a Legislative (or possibly titled Advocacy) committee be formed by Collins, McGuire and Thrall; to be acted upon at the January 2020 EXCOM meeting.

Approval of \$500 Reimbursement to Judi Sittler – A motion was made and carried to reimburse Youth Education Chair Judi Sittler \$500 for travel expenses to the National TU Annual Meeting in Arkansas. Additionally, McGuire will develop recommendations for travel reimbursements to be presented for approval by EXCOM at our January meeting.

Program Director’s Report: Report submitted. Kester outlined the status of Round 21 through Round 25 Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) grants. Trout in the Classroom (TIC) food bagging was completed on September 30, and egg packing and shipping were completed on October 7, with over 30 volunteers from TU chapters participating. Planning is well underway for the 2020 Keystone Coldwa-



ter Conference (KCC), with Volkmar reporting that three sponsorships totaling \$2,500 have been secured to date.

National Leadership Council (NLC) Report:

Report submitted. Wagner reported on his presentation as chair of the Climate Change Workgroup, as well as the other ac-

tivities he was involved with at the recent National TU Annual Meeting. He has also suggested that EXCOM consider conducting one of our four quarterly meetings by teleconference in the interest of reducing our carbon footprint.

Financial Reviewer’s Report: John Leonard reported that all checks written for PATU’s PNC accounts (both PATU and CHP), plus all charges made on PATU’s VISA charge card for the months of June, July, August, and September 2019 were reviewed and no irregularities in any of the accounts/charges were found, and everything is well documented.

Regional VP Reports: Quarterly chapter reports were received as follows

- **Northeast** – Eight of 10 chapters reported. Shehawken and Stan Cooper did not report.
- **Northcentral** – Eight of nine chapters reported. Spring Creek did not report.
- **Northwest** – Seven of nine chapters reported. Caldwell Creek and Cornplanter did not report.
- **Southeast** – All seven chapters reported.
- **Southcentral** – Six of seven chapters reported. Falling Spring did not report.
- **Southwest** – Seven of eight chapters reported. Mountain Laurel did not report.

Awards Committee Report: No report submitted.

Communications Committee Report: Report submitted. According to Google Analytics, there have been 25,162 pageviews, 12,234 sessions and 8,842 users on the website from January 1 to Sep-

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tember 30, 2019. All are increases from the same timeframe in 2018. There are currently 1,981 followers on the PATU Facebook page, and new visitors to www.patroutr.org have increased by 12% (6,049 vs. 5,359) compared to last year.

Delaware River Committee Report: Report submitted. The Friends of the Upper Delaware (FUDR) and TU recently received close to \$1.25 million in Upper Delaware River stream restoration grant awards from the federal Delaware River Basin Restoration Program.

Development Committee Report: Report submitted. Murty reported that a new budgeting process was developed and approved by the ad hoc Budget Committee, and outlined the Development Committee's short term goals and strategic focus areas for the future. A motion was made and carried to approve a draft of the proposed yearend appeal letter, to be mailed to all PATU members after Thanksgiving. Volkmar also suggested that a "chapter challenge" be considered, to be discussed further at the January EXCOM meeting.

Diversity Initiative Report: Report submitted. Amidea Daniel outlined the committee's plans for upcoming events, including a Women's Intro to Steelhead Fishing program on November 2-3 and an Eastern Regional Women's Fly Fishing event on November 23, as well as planning for the 2020 Women's Leadership Retreat.

Environmental Committee Report: No report submitted.

Membership Committee Report: Report submitted. Current membership has dropped 8.7% year-to-date to just over 13,200 PA members.

Trout Management Committee Report: Report submitted. Lenny Lichvar reported that comments were provided to PFBC Fisheries staff and Commissioners regarding the proposed increase in length of several Delayed Harvest Artificial Lure Only (DHALO) projects and suggested that this proposal should not be used as a forum for some to attempt to alter the current DHALO regulations.

Youth Education Committee Report: Report submitted. Judi Sittler assisted with the YLC Youth Education presentation and the Stream Kids Outdoor Education Event

for kids ages 6 to 16 at the National TU annual meeting. She also participated in four Girl Scout "STREAM Girls" programs that were conducted this summer in PA, along with the "STREAM Expo" offered by the Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA held at Bucknell University.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Merchandise Program – Pennell reviewed merchandise sales to date and emphasized that the bulk of our sales were received after publication and mailing of our Summer newsletter, in addition to our exposure at the NE Regional Rendezvous and PATU Annual Meeting.

Printing & Mailing a Second Issue of PA Trout – Malaska tasked the Development Committee to evaluate the feasibility of this proposal and consider providing for this additional expense in their budgeting planning.

Website Conversion by Quarter Note Systems – The previously approved agreement from QNS to convert our website to a WordPress platform will be executed after National TU's review and approval of the contract language.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXCOM Approval for Executing Contracts – Malaska will draft language to address this issue and distribute for EXCOM approval.

PATU Partnership with ARIPPA – Malaska will meet privately with the Anthracite Region Independent Power Producers Association to determine whether it is in Council's best interest to consider some form of partnership as proposed by

ARIPPA.

Stroud Water Resource Contract – A decision is to be made on extending our Trout in the Classroom support agreement with Stroud after Volkmar's November 14 meeting with TIC coordinators Amidea Daniel and Rachel Kester.

PFBC Meeting on October 20-21 – Malaska requested that Collins provide a report to EXCOM on the trout-related actions taken at the October Commission meeting.

PATU 2020 Annual Meeting – A motion was made and carried to approve booking the Hall at Kinton's Knob for our September 19, 2020 Annual Meeting in Bedford, PA.

PATU 2020 Regional Trainings – The Eastern Regional Training will be held in the Valley Forge area on April 25, and the Western Regional Training in the Oil City area on May 16. Malaska proposed that the focus of these trainings should be on "how-to" conservation presentations.

Financial Support for Collegiate Fly Fishing Program – Charlesworth requested funding support for the PA Collegiate Fly Fishing competition in April, 2020. No action was taken at this time.

Approval for Purchase of Computer & Quickbooks Software – A motion was made and carried to spend up to \$2,000 in Council funds to purchase a new computer and software for the treasurer's use.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 2:35 p.m.

– Bob Pennell, Council Secretary



**KEYSTONE
COLDWATER
CONFERENCE**

Save the Date

The 2020 Keystone Coldwater Conference will be held Feb. 27-28, 2020 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College, PA.

The conference theme is:
Resiliency in a Changing Environment.

Sponsorship details and more information and can be found at www.coldwaterconference.com.

The hype is real: A day on the Upper Delaware

By Mark Taylor

TU Eastern Communications Director

“Wait? What? You’ve never fished the Delaware River?”

If you live in the East and are an avid (borderline obsessed) trout angler, this is the kind of thing you will hear from peers if you admit that you’ve never wet a line in one of the East’s most famous trout rivers.

I got it again a few months ago when a friend here in Virginia introduced me to her visiting son, who lives in New York City and recently decided he wanted to join what is apparently a new millennial fascination with fly fishing.

He was hoping I could provide some tips for fishing the upper Delaware. You see, he was shocked that after dropping some serious cash on all of the required gear, he didn’t catch a single fish on his first trip over to Hancock.

I could offer little specific advice.

“I’ve never been there,” I said. “About all I can tell you is that it’s not easy.”

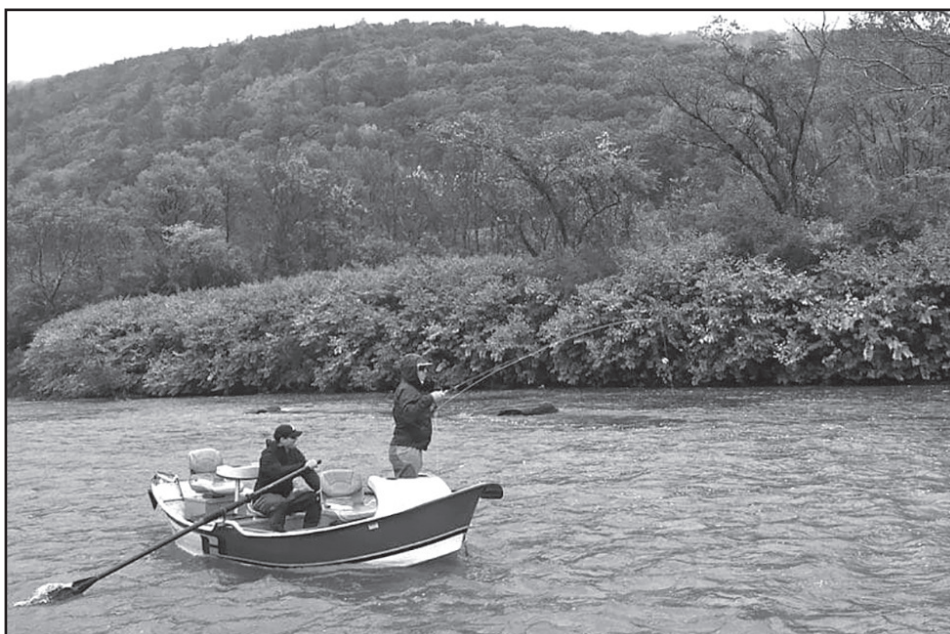
What I did know about it was that it is full of big, wild trout. Those fish can be finicky because when a river with incredible “blanket hatches” is just two hours from New York City and just a bit farther from Philadelphia, those fish see plenty of flies every season.

The upside of that pressure is that many of those anglers are vocal advocates, working with groups such as Trout Unlimited and Friends of the Upper Delaware River for management that is more trout-friendly, and for much-needed funding of restoration work in the Delaware basin.

Finally, in early October, I got to experience the river first-hand. I had to be in the area for a meeting with TU co-workers Rob Shane and Dave Kinney.

We took a day off before the meeting to float the river near Hancock in a drift boat we rented from West Branch Angler. (Another advantage of fishing a popular river is that drift boats are available for rent.)

Hancock is an interesting place, a small town where logging was once the dominant industry. These days, fishing is an important part of the economy, as evidenced by the many local lodges that cater to anglers,



Mark Taylor Photo

Rob Shane, TU’s mid-Atlantic organizer, casts a streamer while Dave Kinney mans the oars during a float trip on the West Branch of the Delaware River near Hancock, New York.



Rob Shane Photo

The average fish in the Delaware River is 14 to 16 inches, but the river holds plenty of 20-inch-plus trophies.

and the drift boats that rest in what seems like every other yard or driveway.

Dave is TU’s eastern policy director, and has fished the Delaware a number of times. Rob, TU’s mid-Atlantic organizer, is a full-on fanatic.

Until recently, Rob lived in Eastern Pennsylvania, a couple hours south of Hancock, so it was relatively easy for him

to make weekend trips to the river, fishing dries in the spring and early summer, mousing at night during the dog days of summer, and casting streamers in the early fall. In true trout bum fashion he’s been known to forgo staying in motels, instead catching short naps streamside in his SUV — not necessarily to save money, but to

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

maximize time on the water.

As any good host would and should do, Rob volunteered to start on the oars. Dave generously insisted I start in the front of the boat.

The 5-weight I had in hand is fine for Virginia tailwaters but Rob suggested I size up.

"Here you go," he said, handing me a 7-weight rigged with a big streamer on a sink-tip line. "Pound the banks but retrieve all the way to the boat. The fish can be anywhere."

Fifteen minutes later I was two strips into a retrieve when a fish darted from behind a boulder and annihilated the fly. The trout was stout, but no match for a 7-weight with a 20-pound Maxima tippet.

After a short fight Rob slid the net under the fish, a 20-inch tiger trout, my first brown/brookie hybrid. I was stoked, and even Rob seemed impressed.

"I've never seen a tiger come out of here," he said.

It was pouring rain and we had camera issues, so didn't get any pictures before releasing the fish. Ten minutes later I rolled another nice fish but failed to connect.

"I thought this river was tough?" I joked.

Rob was cautiously optimistic.

"Maybe this will be one of those rare amazing days," he said.

Or maybe not.

We took turns on the sticks and all got plenty of fishing time during the eight-hour float but managed just a handful more trout. A couple were in that Delaware average of 14-16 inches. A few were smaller.

There were a few additional chasers, including a couple of legitimately big fish that stopped our hearts and, when we didn't connect, made us say words that shouldn't appear here, so won't.

In short, it turned out to be what's probably a pretty typical day on the Delaware, one filled with hope that the next cast, the next boulder, the next riffle will produce the fish of a lifetime. Like with TU's conservation efforts, fishing the Upper Delaware River requires hard work. But the rewards are worth it.

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This article originally appeared at www.tu.org/blog.

Unassessed Waters Initiative hits milestone

By Rob Shane
TU Mid-Atlantic Organizer

When TU partnered with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in 2011 to start surveying and protecting wild trout streams in the Commonwealth, we knew the mountain ahead of us would take years to climb.

Pennsylvania has 86,000 miles of flowing water, and less than a quarter of those stream miles had been surveyed for wild browns, brookies and rainbows.

Each summer, PFBC, TU, and other partners have been sending out crews and electroshocking streams with the hope of finding wild trout, so we could protect those streams from development impacts. Streams with natural reproducing populations of trout qualify for a Class A or Wild Trout designation.

Each quarter, PFBC proposes streams for designation, and over the past two years, TU members and our partners have submitted more than 1,500 comments in favor of upgraded designations. This is a true testament to volunteers' commitment to making Pennsylvania a leader in wild trout conservation.

At the October Commission meeting, the voice of TU was again impossible to ignore. More than 200 comments were submitted in favor of upgrading 36 Wild Trout and three Class A streams.

Finding wild trout at a 40 percent clip while surveying thousands of streams inevitably caused a backup in streams awaiting designation. But according to PFBC staff, we have now officially cleared the

backlog of streams known to be deserving of wild trout designation.

That doesn't mean the Unassessed Waters Initiative is ending. More than half of Pennsylvania streams have still not been surveyed for wild trout. TU will continue sending out crews to assess more than 150 streams each year in the West Branch Susquehanna and Delaware watersheds.

But now, with the backlog cleared, any streams surveyed in 2019 can be added to the Wild Trout and Class A list in 2020, rather than waiting in line. That means it is more important than ever for PFBC, TU and our partners to invest in wild trout surveys.

So, what's next? According to Pennsylvania's antidegradation regulations, Class A designation automatically qualifies a stream for High Quality (HQ) designation from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This classification helps protect water quality and wild trout populations when development is proposed in a watershed.

Unfortunately, DEP has not been moving quickly enough on formally protecting more than 142 Class A streams; some have been waiting almost a decade. TU is urging DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell to upgrade these Class A streams to HQ immediately, and to streamline the process of future Class A upgrades.

We're confident TU members will help push these streams over the finish line and ensure healthy populations of wild trout for generations to come.

Visit www.tu.org/action-center to make your voice heard.

Apps for 2020 Rivers Camp being accepted

Students age 14 to 17 can now register for the 2020 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp to be held June 21-26 at Messiah College in Cumberland County. The deadline for registrations is December 31.

Hosted by the Cumberland Valley TU, students will engage in a variety of activities including fly fishing, instruction both in the classroom and outdoors, fly tying, and building a habitat structure. They will develop an understanding of what

conservation is about while enjoying nature and fly fishing. The goal is to instill within the next generation a love for the outdoors while giving them the skills to protect our natural resources.

If you would like to have fun, work hard, and engage in a unique experience, get your application in early. Up to 32 students will be selected to attend.

Campers selected for the early acceptance period will be notified in early January, 2020.

Moyer a Traver Prize finalist

An essay by Chestnut Ridge Chapter President Ben Moyer was among 10 finalists selected from a field of 156 entries nationwide for the 2019 Traver Prize Fly-Fishing Writing Award.

Moyer's entry, *At the Heart of Hollows*, was not ultimately the first-place winner but he expressed appreciation for being considered among the finalists.

"I am honored by this recognition for conveying through written words my deep attachment to fishing, and working to restore, the mountain streams of western Pennsylvania," Moyer said.

The Traver Prize competition is sponsored by the John D. Voelker Foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing. The award is named after Robert Traver, pen name for the late John Voelker, author of *Trout Madness*, *Trout Magic*, and *Anat-*



Moyer

omy of a Fisherman.

The Traver Prize was created in 1994 to encourage and recognize "distinguished original stories or essays that embody the implicit love of fly-fishing, respect for the sport, and the natural world in which it takes place."

Traver entries must demonstrate high literary values in one or more of these three categories: The joy of fly-fishing, personal and philosophic; Ecological, knowledge and protection of the natural world; Humor, piscatorial friendships and fun on the water.

STREAM Girls...



Judi Sittler Photos



Youth Education Committee Chair Judi Sittler attended the Girl Scout STEAM Expo held at Bucknell University in October and promoted the TU STREAM Girls program. STREAM Girls gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to earn a patch and work on badges as they serve as citizen scientists, anglers, and artists, in order to build an appreciation for watershed conservation and the environment.



Help protect and improve the Little J

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Little Juniata River Association

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www.littlejuniata.org or email

bjuniata@verizon.net



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To order your Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited PA state license plate, send your name, TU membership number and current PA license plate number by email to rpennell37@comcast.net or mail to:

Bob Pennell
2319 Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17104

In return, you'll receive an application form to complete and send with your \$27 payment to PennDOT.

NORTHEAST CHAPTERS

Brodhead 289

Forks of the Delaware 482

Hokendauqua 535

Lackawanna Valley 414

Monocacy 491

Pike-Wayne 462

Schuylkill County 537

Shehawken 81

Stan Cooper Sr. 251

Western Pocono 203

Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation's Jakes Program. On Sept. 29 the chapter had a booth at the Chestnuthill Township Community Day. In October, we had an informational booth set up at the Quiet Valley Harvest Festival. We also partnered with PennFuture and the Brodhead Watershed Association to host an Environmental Advocacy Workshop. At our October meeting, Jessie Thomas-Blate, associate director of river restoration at American Rivers, presented on the process of removing derelict and abandoned dams. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 13, with Don Baylor presenting "Off the Beaten Path" at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg, and Dec. 11 for "Pies and Flies," also at the Center. Tyers meeting are Nov. 19 and Dec. 16 at Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Russell Thrall

159 Swift Road

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Email: russ@thrall3.com

Phone: 570-620-8677

Brodhead Chapter #289

Eric Baird

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www.brodheadtu.org

Volunteers work diligently placing rock and deflectors in Cherry Creek. Volunteers also assisted on fish population studies on Cherry Creek and Pocono Creek. Preliminary results from the post-restoration efforts were very encouraging with improvements in the quantity and quality of the wild fish evident. The chapter had an Introduction to Fly Fishing Class on June 30, and we instructed campers on fly fishing at the Monroe County Conservation Camp in July. We again sponsored the Monroe County Youth Field Day in September. The chapter had an informational booth at the Get Outdoor Day on Sept. 14. On Sept. 21, we ran the fishing portion of the Pocono

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog

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www.forkstu.org

The chapter wrote a letter of support for the Bushkill Creek restoration grant application to the Northampton County grant program. Our 8th Annual Pig & Corn Roast was Sept. 28 on the Delaware River north of Easton at the Riverside Barr & Grill. In partnership with national TU, Costa and SweetWater Brewing, our chapter held a "Kick Plastic Cleanup" on Bushkill Creek Aug. 31. We worked together to clean trash in the creek along the Karl Stirner Arts Trail and nature trail, other public access areas and our Adopt-A-Highway on Bushkill Drive in Tatamy. The chapter provided fly fishing skills and a conservation message to kids at the Roseto Rod & Gun Club Youth Day on Sept. 7. We also participated in the Bushkill Bug Symposium at Lafayette College the same day. Brian Wagner provided a PowerPoint highlighting TU at the national and chapter levels focusing on stream health and designation of the Bushkill Creek. We provided fly tying and a fly fishing demo, and bug collection at the stream. Also on the same day, we assisted the Bushkill

Stream Conservancy with macro identification at the Two Rivers Greenway Festival at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

610-266-1788, awilliams1947@hotmail.com

http://hokendauqua.tu.org

We again have TIC programs at Northampton and Southern Lehigh middle schools this year. The Minsi Trails Council's annual Cub Scout Fishing Derby was July 20, where we taught the SMART ANGLER program to scouts. We also participated in a fishing derby for youth as part of the Wild Turkey Federation Jakes Field Day program. The chapter participated in a Women in the Outdoors event, where gave four group presentations that covered basic entomology, types of flies, casting and fly fishing in a pond.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Jacob Bliss

570-833-2091, jacobbliss93@outlook.com

www.lackawannavalleytu.org

Our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser will be held at Applebee's in the Viewmont Mall, Dickson City, at 8 a.m. on Feb. 1. Permit applications have been submitted for our Roaring Brook stream restoration project. We are also waiting on funding applications for the project. The Keystone Creekwalkers are hosting an Outdoor Expo at Keystone College in La Plume at 10 a.m. on Jan. 25. The Creekwalkers held a stream cleanup on Keystone College's campus on Oct. 6, and a Steelhead trip in November. Our monthly membership meetings are held at the Tripp Park Community Center on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Our Christmas party is Dec. 18 at Tripp Park at 6 p.m. The NEPA Fly Girls held a fly tying social at the LHVA building in Scranton on Sept. 7, and a steelhead trip Nov. 2-3.

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RepYourWater provides creative and unique designs on high-quality apparel and merchandise, and makes a difference for wildlife habitat around the country. RepYourWater donates 1% of Pennsylvania designed apparel sales to Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited to support our Coldwater Conservation Corps program. We would like to thank RepYourWater for its support and for those who have purchased items. Please check them out at www.repyourwater.com and support coldwater conservation!

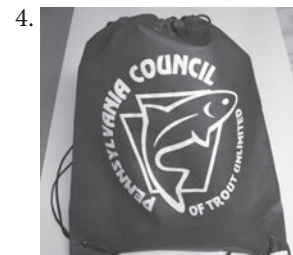
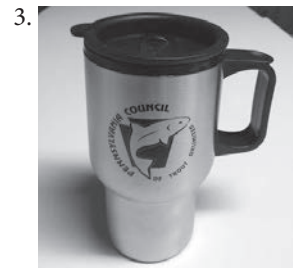


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	Dry Fly - 5X Tippet	\$6.00		
	Dry Fly - 6X Tippet	\$6.00		
	Wet Fly - 4X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers	\$6.00		
	Wet Fly - 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers	\$6.00		
	"PA Limestone Trout Creeks" Book	\$24.00		
	"History of Trout Unlimited in PA" Book	\$15.00		
	"Fly Fishing PA's Spring Creek" Book	\$15.00		
	"More of CVTU's Favorite Flies" Book	\$20.00		
	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book	\$30.00		
2	Traveller Fly Rod - 9'0, 5-wt., 7-piece	\$130.00		
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...Continued from page 13

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

610-909-2652, monocacytu491@gmail.com
www.monocacytu.org

Monocacy TU members participated in two community events over the summer: The ArtsQuest Step Outdoors program, where we answered questions and helped event-goers tie safety pin woolly buggers, and a post-MusikFest cleanup on the stream organized by Sierra Club, and supported by multiple conservation organizations. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 26 and Feb. 25 at the DAR Log Cabin, then April 28 and May 26 at Illcik's Mill Park Pavilion.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Tony Capitano

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www.pwtu.org

Members attended a breakfast hosted by Congressman Matt Cartwright to discuss his support for a robust funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Heritage Partnership Program, the National Park Service's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. PWTU signed the letter of strong support Reauthorization of Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program. We are planning for next year's banquet and fundraiser. Chapter members attended a presentation by PennFuture on climate change, the study of Phenology and how the changes of climate affect birds, insects and cold water species of fish. Michael Kelly, who we sent to the Keystone College Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, gave a report on his experience. Our president attended a Pike County Conservation District nominating organization breakfast. We hosted a Women's Intro to Fishing program in June.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Brian Lengel

570-573-7076, wetflyguy@yahoo.com
www.schuylkillcountytu.org

Our monthly meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Sweet Arrow Lake club house. We participated in a streambank restoration project on upper little Swatara Creek along with the Schuylkill County Conservation District. We also participated in a handicap fishing area on the Schuylkill River in New Philly along with Schuylkill Headwaters Association and the conservation district. We hosted a fishing day at Sweet Arrow Lake for the Williams Valley School summer program. We held fly tying demonstrations at Tredegar Family Gun Day. Our fly tying classes will be held the first three Thursday evenings in January at the Sweet Arrow Lake club house and on Feb. 9 at the Whipperwill Club in Frackville. We worked with Cabela's in holding a Ladies Pitch Tent event where we presented fly

casting and fishing instruction. We also hosted a Hook your Honey ladies' fishing event at S&A trout ponds.

Shehawken Chapter #81

Joe DeMalderis

914-475-6779, crosscurrent@optonline.net
<https://www.facebook.com/Shehawken-Trout-Unlimited-811023349070239/>

No report.

Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

Scott Brady

570-479-6106, jbrady@bradygrabowski.com
www.sctu.org

No report.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

George Hludzik

570-788-2121, grhlaw@ptd.net
www.tu.org/connect/groups/203-western-pocono

Western Pocono TU assisted the Hazleton Area School District with TIC projects at the Hazleton STEM School and Hazleton Middle School. Plans are being made for a special chapter meeting at the Picton Preserve near White Haven.

NORTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

Columbia County 038

God's Country 327

Lloyd Wilson 224

Penns Creek 119

Raymond B. Winter 124

Spring Creek 185

Susquehanna 044

Tiadaghton 688

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Volkmar

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Roulette, PA 16746

Email: rdvolkmar@gmail.com

Phone: 814-544-7174

Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

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We meet the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at the Columbia County District Conservation Office, lower level, small conference room. We held a collaborative stream-side/roadway litter removal with CCDC staff at in Orangeville in September. We also installed a

new wader changing bench adjacent to our access steps. The chapter is working with Columbia County District Conservation Office to provide grant access and boots on the ground for storm-water/culvert repair improvement. We provided literature, PATU signage and membership applications to CCDC for display and distribution at the Bloomsburg Fair in September. The chapter supported Watershed Alliance's "Bat Watch" at Kocher Park in September. Upcoming is the Early Bird Sports Expo Jan. 23-26 at Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, and we are holding fly tying classes on Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the CCDC office.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Saulter

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A beer-tasting event was held at the Hotel Crittenden in July with New Trail Brewing Company of Williamsport demonstrating several craft beers. Chapter members provided casting and fly fishing instruction to teens attending the Black Forest Conservation Association's Youth Conservation Camp. We are again sponsoring the TIC program at Coudersport Elementary School. On Sept. 21, the chapter held a picnic and learn to fly fish event at Moore's Run Fish and Game Preserve. Chapter members also helped conduct an introduction to fly fishing even hosted by DCNR at Sinnemahoning State Park in August. Upcoming chapter meetings are Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 at Coudersport Public Library.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

570-748-6120, wbailey@kcnet.org
www.lwtu.org

Our annual member and friends family banquet was held Nov. 1 at the South Clinton County Lion's/Sportsman's Club in Loganton. Members picked up litter in the narrows section of Big Fishing Creek as it became necessary. In partnership with the NE Fishery Center in Lamar, we participated in fishing events for two groups of Camp Cadet students, youths from the Clinton County Conservation District's Day Camp, and a group of adults from the Haven Rehabilitation Center. We taught fly tying at the Day Camp and fly tying and fly casting to students at the "Brookies" Camp. Members assisted with casting and fishing at the PFBC "Family Fishing Day" at Sayer's Lake. Members assisted at the "Bass" Camp also at Sayer's Lake. Several members helped pack fish food and eggs for the TIC program.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Joe Dunmire

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All structures and plantings at Kish Park were completed by the end of August. Our East Licking Creek project at Karl Guss State Park started at the

Continued on next page...

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same time. We are waiting on design and cost estimates for two projects on Delaware Creek. Once info is received from PFBC we will begin grant process for the necessary funding. Repairs to the upper J channel on Tea Creek are not completed yet. PFBC is scheduled to make repairs by the end of the year. Mifflin County Conservation District completed three Upper Kish Creek Watershed stream projects in September. We will be looking to work on future riparian buffer plantings. Members taught fly tying and manned a fishing station at the NWTf Field Day. There are six TIC projects in progress this year. We are scheduling fly tying classes this winter at the Juniata Valley YMCA. Rob Shane from National TU will speak at our Nov. 13 chapter meeting.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Bob Laubach

570-966-3379, oldfrstr@dejazzd.com

facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimited-Chapter/

We monitored the large woody debris project in White Deer Creek conducted by Bald Eagle State Forest. Trees felled into and across creek should increase the holding capacity of the creek and increase micro- and macroinvertebrates. Stream monitoring will be conducted by Bucknell University. At our September monthly meeting, Union County Watershed Coordinator Shannon Burkland updated chapter members on the progress of stream improvement on Turtle Creek. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 at The Lewisburg Hotel.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Lynn Mitchell

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www.springcreektu.org

No report.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Walt Nicholson

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http://susquehannatu.wordpress.com

The chapter has withdrawn from the Healing Waters Program due to liability insurance requirements. Member Charlie Knowlden has initiated a Veteran Services Program to emulate parts of the Spring Creek Chapter VSP. We are working with Shawn Rummell of National TU regarding follow-up projects identified in the Rock Run study, including modification of culverts to facilitate aquatic organism passage. The chapter teamed with Carol Parenzan, the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, and the Riverkeeper's Nature Book Club, to host a special public meeting on Sept. 11, including a discussion about restoration of shad and other migratory species on the Susquehanna, based on the book "The Founding Fish" by John McPfee. We are preparing for fly tying classes

starting in February. Our annual chapter meeting with election of officers and directors is Nov. 13 at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

570-662-2167, whitesgordonsetters@gmail.com

Our Fly Fishing Film Tour stop is scheduled for March 28 at the Deane Center, Wellsboro. Members received training on monitoring streams for nitrate levels from the Stream Team at Dickenson College. Our chapter will hold fly tying classes Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Feb. 5 in the Hemlock Conference Center at the Soldiers and Sailors Hospital in Wellsboro. Our annual Flies and Lies fly tying get-togethers at the Wellsboro Senior center are from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 22 and March 21. At 7 p.m. on Nov. 20 we will have our annual joint meeting with Audubon, Pine Creek Protection headwaters group, Pine Creek Watershed Council and TU at the Gmeiner Center, Wellsboro. Julie Vastine, executive director of ALLARM will be our speaker.

NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Allegheny Mountain 036

Caldwell Creek 437

Cornplanter 526

Iron Furnace 288

Jim Zwald 314

Neshannock 216

Northwest PA 041

Oil Creek 424

Seneca 272

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Undercoffer

1510 Village Rd.

Clearfield, PA 16830

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Phone: 814-765-1035

Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

George Kutskel

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www.amctu.org

Our 54th annual fundraiser is set for April 4. The chapter hosted a joint picnic with Iron Furnace and the Jim Zwald Chapters at Bendigo State Park. We are looking at several sites that were mined in our area to do remediation work. We have received a reply from PFBC on gill lice brook trout that were stocked by a local co-op. It appears that more streams have been infected with gill lice. This co-op will no longer receive brook trout, but we would hope that they do not purchase

brook trout from private hatcheries. We are working on purchasing some larger trees to go into our Montgomery Run project to conclude our CHP grant. We received word that the re-mining of the Fran Contracting site in the Sproul State Forest is complete and the first water monitoring below it shows promise that the brook trout will reclaim the balance of Camp and Rock Run, along with Cooks Run. This has been a chapter project since 2002. We continue to work with our TIC schools and the programs that have grown year over year.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

814-664-2124, tksavko2@verizon.net

No report.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Troy McDunn

814-723-3759, hdpartsman@verizon.net

www.facebook.com/pages/Cornplanter-Chapter-Of-Trout-Unlimited

No report.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

www.ironfurnacetu.net

We hope to have our annual spring banquet but the date is not set. Board member Dr. Andrew Turner worked hard to get our grant in to National TU for the Embrace A Stream grant round. We are seeking funding for work on Clear Creek within the state park in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. We partnered with other local groups as a sponsor of the Clarion River Cleanup on Sept. 7, which covered most of the river from Johnsonburg to Clarion. We are planning to hold fly tying classes at Clarion University in conjunction with the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Club. Our monthly meetings are the third Monday of each month.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neeper

814-834-3472, mneeper@zitomedia.net

The chapter participated in the Tri-Chapter picnic held at Bendigo Park with the Iron Furnace and Allegheny chapters. In partnership with the Elk County Conservation District, we continue AMD remediation Phase 2 on the West Creek tributary of Driftwood in Cameron County. Phase 2 consists of planning and project design. In addition, work is currently underway for bank stabilization on the same stream. We received a grant of \$30,000 from the Stackpole Hall Foundation to begin bank stabilization and habitat restoration of the West Branch of the Clarion River "Fish for Fun" project along Route 219 in Elk County. The chapter's main partner on this project is the WPC. Initial design work is completed, and we are seeking ad-

ditional grants to begin construction in 2020. The chapter urged members to participate with Nathan Welker of the Allegheny Nation Forest staff and volunteers on their September cleanup float on the Allegheny River. We signed on to National TU's letter campaign to continue AMD clean up funding. We support TIC in both Elk and Cameron counties. We recently met with a local group that is interested in providing funds for an additional TIC program. The chapter is applying for two local grants, including Act 13 funding, for the West Branch of the Clarion "Fish for Fun" section.

Neshannock Creek #216

Jeff Kremis

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www.neshannock-tu.org

Our next banquet will be in March of 2020 at the Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex. Watch our website for more details and ticket information. We recently completed Phase I of the streambank stabilization project on Neshannock Creek at Plantation Park in Mercer. This project was done in cooperation with the Mercer County Conservation District and PFBC. It was funded by a \$3,000 EAS grant combined with an additional \$3,600 raised with donations from the "Give Where You Fish Campaign" and \$2,500 in chapter funds. In three days we constructed a 260-foot modified mud sill that will not only stop severe bank erosion but will create fish habitat. A lease agreement signed with Plantation Park to complete the work will keep this area open to public fishing. Work on the Deer Creek stream improvement project continued with a workday held on Aug. 24 at the youth and handicap fishing area along Creek Road. Flooding in the area caused a significant change to the stream in that area and another workday will be held to remove some log jams and clean the area up. Our TIC programs are getting ready for the new year. We collaborated with the Oil Creek chapter to hold a veterans' fly fishing program this summer and we look forward to working with them again to expand the program. Our annual Winter Cabin Fever meeting will be held on Feb. 1 at Munnell Run Farm. Upcoming chapter meetings are Nov. 18 and Dec. 16 at Munnell Run Farm.

Northwest PA Chapter #41

Erik Cronk

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http://nwpachaptertu.blogspot.com

Luke Bobnar from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy spoke at our September meeting about a stream improvement program on Caldwell Creek in Warren County.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Gary Ross

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www.oilcreektu.org

We held a VSP event and hosted 14 vets and their families at the Sandy Creek Conservancy in June, which was held in cooperation with the Sandy Creek Conservancy, Neshannock TU and OCTU. We currently serve four TIC schools: Meadville High/Middle School, Titusville High/Middle School, Valley Grove Elementary School and Cochranon High/Middle School. Guest speaker at our September meeting was Brian Ensign, a fisheries biologist with PFBC for Fisheries Management Area 2, based in Tionesta. He discussed unassessed waters, wild trout reproduction and fall stocking. Some members were concerned that Little Sandy Creek was removed from the fall stocking list. Our next meeting is Nov. 20 at King's Restaurant in Franklin.

Seneca Chapter #272

Chase Howard

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www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

The Seneca Chapter will be hosting "Bar Flies" fly tying events with expert fly tyers at Port Freeze in Port Allegany. Guest Speakers include Pat Cohen (Nov. 16), Justin Pribanic (Dec. 21) and Dominic Petrucci (Jan. 18). Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Visit our Facebook page for more information. George Daniel spoke at our Oct. 19 event. The chapter received a Watershed Mini-Grant in partnership with the Potter County Conservation District for a streambank stabilization project on Sartwell Creek, a tributary to the Upper Allegheny River. The project was completed in September. This summer, chapter members assisted the Cameron County Outdoor Youth program in teaching an Introduction to Fly fishing class for women and youth. Several chapter members are also volunteering as mentors for The Mayfly Project in coordination with McKean County CYS mentoring kids in the Foster Care system through fly fishing. Upcoming meetings are Dec. 4 and Jan. 8 at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Port Allegany.

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

Brian McGuire

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Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Email: cbrianmcguire@comcast.net

Phone: 484-270-8505

Bucks County Chapter #254

Joe Mihok

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www.buckstu.org

We are in the planning stages for our 2020 banquet on March 21. In November we plan to install tree revetments at the site of a previously-planted riparian buffer on Silver Creek, a major tributary to Cooks Creek, to slow bank erosion. We asked PFBC to survey Aquetong Creek to determine biomass data for the brook trout population. They have agreed and will survey the stream in 2020.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Fred DeWees

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www.dmtu.org

Mono recycling tubes are being placed on local streams. Fishing outings were held on the Pohopoco and Chambers Lake. Matt Cullen discussed his experience at TU Camp at our September meeting.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Scott Alderfer

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www.lltu.org

We began working on a Strategic Plan for our chapter. We also began planning our annual Fall raffle. Tickets were mailed to members in October, and the drawing will be at our Jan. 8, 2020 chapter meeting. We are planning to maintain a riparian buffer area where we did a Coldwater Heritage Partnership project in 2016. We will replace dead trees and stake any leaning trees. We are in discussions with PFBC to select a section of the Little Lehigh that would be a good candidate for installing subsurface fish structure. We plan to apply for a CHP grant in December for a new project on the Little Lehigh. We are also evaluating possible opportunities to apply for an Embrace A Stream Grant in 2020. Our next meeting is Dec. 10 at East Bath Rod & Gun Club in Bath.

Perkiomen Valley #332

Thomas W. Smith

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www.pvtu332.org

We are working on implementation planning of existing and future stream restoration projects, automated membership/guest login at meetings, and ongoing retention of data for future follow-up. We

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are now able to process donations directly to our bank account on our website through PayPal. We are investigating sites for a banquet. The chapter is implementing a fundraising program soliciting local company donations. We are working with six schools on TIC programs. Upcoming meetings are at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 and Dec. 16 at Upper Perkiomen Valley Library, Red Hill.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry
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www.tu468.org

We have a new TIC school coming on board this year, which will bring us to five total. Our annual banquet will be held in March at the Environment center in the Pennypack Land Trust.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Brenda Bittinger
610-704-4676, b.bittinger@gmail.com
www.tullytu.org

The chapter is updating and migrating content to a new website design. Recent fundraising events included a 5K and "Live the Stream" showing. The chapter worked with Rob Shane on tree planting in September. The chapter received a Forever Wild Grant for Eco Station. We hosted a Women's Intro to Fly Fishing in August, and we're planning an event in early 2020. We are working to get 20-plus TIC projects set up in local schools. Our member appreciation holiday get-together is Dec. 18 at Chef Alan's in West Reading.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Pete Hughes
610-827-9239, phtrout@comcast.net
www.valleyforgetu.org

VFTU's fall fundraiser, the Clean Streams Raffle, got underway in October. The chapter joined with Stroud Water Research Center to successfully place the first mayfly data monitor on Valley Creek above a proposed large development. The next monitor will be placed below the area. The chapter is planning to place fish eggs in headwater springs sections of Pickering and West Valley Creeks. The sites have been located and temp monitors will be put in place. We sponsored a macroinvertebrate workshop with Stroud, which was well attended and produced new membership activity. The 14 TIC schools sponsored by VFTU are up and running this year. We hosted 22 Girl Scouts, along with Stroud, for a weekend STREAM Girls program. VFTU will also teach fly casting and demonstrate fly tying to Chester County Scouts during their 100th year anniversary Camporee. The chapter received an EAS grant for stream monitoring activities. Monthly general meetings are the second Thursday of each month September to May at Chester Valley

Grange; board meetings are the first Thursday of each month year-round at the East Bradford Township Building; PHWFF – Royersford is the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Monday each month at the Royersford VFW; PHWFF – West Bradford is each Monday at the West Bradford Firehouse; PHWFF – Coatesville is each Wednesday at the Coatesville VA Hospital, Building 5.

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

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Phone: 717-580-3958

Adams County Chapter #323

April Swope
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www.adamscountytu.org

At our August meeting, Chloe Plesic described her attendance at the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. In September, State Sen.

Doug Mastriano introduced himself to ACTU and PFBC's Amidea Daniel gave a presentation on TIC and the Women's Initiative. The fall stocking for the Conewago regulated area was postponed from Oct. 1 due to lack of rain and high stream temperatures. April and Dave Swope represented ACTU at a Land Conservancy of Adams County Road Rally to share information about water quality in Adams County at one of the stops located at the Orrtanna Pond on Oct. 12. Hank Rajotte will represent ACTU and attend monthly meetings for the PA Land Conservation Conference being held April 1-3, 2020 at the Gettysburg Wyndam. On Sept. 18, April and Dave Swope spoke to a Gettysburg High School Environmental Science class about trout, the Conococheague restoration project, and water quality in Adams County. Marybeth Norton is finalizing details for an Into to Fly Fishing program with the local YWCA in Gettysburg next year. She taught kids in York fly fishing through the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeepers and Master Watershed the last weekend of September. Our next board meeting is Nov. 19 at the ACCD Building, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. Our next membership meeting is Jan. 21 at the same location.

Codorus Chapter #558

Tom Fenenez
717-817-8446, tom@codorustu.org
www.codorustu.org

We're trying to get two projects past the permitting phase and on to construction during early 2020. One would take place within the Codorus' trout fishery and the other would improve an important tributary. National TU's Rob Shane attended our September meeting and gave a presentation on wild trout and stream classifications in PA. Our TIC partners all received their trout eggs, and are excited about another year of raising trout. We've also had some interest from

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Learn From Our Experience

a new school about joining the program in 2020
Upcoming meetings are Nov. 13 at Spring Grove
Recreation Center, Spring Grove, and Dec. 11 at
Buon Appetito Ristorante, Spring Grove.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

John Leonard

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www.pacvtu.org

We completed Phases I and II of the Wittlinger Dam restoration project at an approximate cost of \$42,500. The goals of the project were to improve the natural reproduction of brown trout, increase the survival rate of adult trout in the stream, and introduce cold water conservation to people not normally exposed to TU. The objectives of the project were to stabilize the stream bank, provide additional structure in the stream channel, and significantly reduce the estimated 2.6 tons of silt annually entering the stream at the project location. CVTU, along with Gleim Environmental and volunteers, built six log-framed stone deflectors and a j-hook structure to provide current breaks and reduce the impact of the stream current on the impoundment bank of Yellow Breeches Creek. These permanent structures provide habitat for the naturally reproducing trout population, expand opportunities for fishermen, and garner support for future CVTU cold water conservation efforts in the Yellow Breeches Creek watershed. We are gearing up for our 2020 eight-week beginners and advanced fly tying courses that will begin in January. Membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month (except August & December) at Appalachian Brewing Company, 6264 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Russ Collins

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www.dftu.org

In collaboration with Quittapahilla Watershed Association, DFTU secured a supply of boulders for use in projects in the Borough of Cornwall. The boulders were free from a local developer for the price of hauling them near the project. A new grant application is being submitted to PFBC for a designated fund for the Quittapahilla and Tulpehocken watersheds. The intended restoration project is for 2,800 linear feet of Bachman Run, a tributary to the Quittapahilla Creek.

Donegal Chapter #037

Tom Hall

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www.donegaltu.org

Our annual OktoberFest dinner at Four Seasons Golf Club in Landisville was held in October with speaker Henry Ramsey. USFWS recently completed the Bob Herr project, which is a one-mile stretch of Fishing Creek. Volunteers completed planting about 400 trees and shrubs that were

mostly supplied by The Keystone 10 Million Tree Initiative. We held another planting in October for the Beiler tributary to Fishing Creek, which included another 500 to 600 plants. USFWS began the Dick Albright project on Bowery Run, a tributary to the Octoraro. The project covers one mile and includes fencing and riparian buffers with funding through the Alliance for the Bay. We are scheduling a landowner information meeting for property owners in Southern Lancaster County in January, possibly. It includes a comprehensive information packet on how to improve the watersheds. Funding comes from the Campbell Grant for education. Our new Women's Initiative Coordinator is Becky Whitson, a teacher at Montessori School who is very active with the TIC program and our conservation projects. We applied to Clean Water Partners for a grant for Climbers Run were awarded \$35,000 for the project, which has a total cost of \$73,000. We also applied for a DCED grant for what we call upper Camp Andrews on Fishing Creek. This application, however, was turned down. We submitted a grant application for \$50,000 for a culvert replacement at Stump Road on Steinman Run/Trout Run. Our next meeting is Nov. 20 with speaker George Daniel at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. We also meet Dec. 18 at the same location.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Chris Rudyk

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No report.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Jimmy O'Connor

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www.muddycreektu.org

Our annual Fall Fest & Landowner Appreciation Picnic was held in September. We are in the planning stages for a project along Leib's Creek (a Class A wild trout tributary of Muddy Creek) to do a large planting and possible stream restoration work to control erosion. The chapter is sponsoring six TIC programs.

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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Arrowhead Chapter #214

Bill Libengood

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www.arrowhead214tu.org

The chapter's Huling Run restoration project was finished in June. We have seven schools participating in TIC. We anticipate having fly tying classes at the end of January or beginning of February. Our rod raffle fundraiser concluded at the end of September. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 21 and Dec. 19 at Mantini's Auxiliary Building. Our annual banquet is scheduled for March 28.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Ben Moyer

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www.chestnutridgetu.org

Chestnut Ridge has resurrected its Glade Run Alkaline Sand Project, which suffered a temporary, but brief, lull with the sudden loss of Scott Hoffman, who had handled the project's administrative aspects for many years. In August, a team of CRTU members completed water sampling throughout the Glade Run watershed, including Glade Run main stem, and the Big and Little Piney tributaries. Results are pending and expected soon. This round of results will be telling, as it will indicate the impact on water quality of skipping one of our two sand additions per year, as we did last spring. The chapter is considering a partnership with Mountain Watershed Association, which employs paid staff with water-sampling expertise, to expedite water sampling in the future. In late September we resumed alkaline sand additions on Glade Run (tributary to Dunbar Creek), placing 256 tons of high-calcium, low-silica crushed limestone at our three treatment sites in the watershed on State Game Lands 51. Our regular source for limestone sand did not have the product available, so we found a new source - New Enterprise Stone and Lime, Roaring Spring quarry. We also wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Wharton Township supervisors in resuming this project. The Glade Run Alkaline Sand Project supplements water quality improvements from our anoxic limestone drain system we installed downstream of an abandoned mine site. The objective is to continue treatment until additional fixed treatment assets can be constructed. Such assets are planned by other partner entities and could come on-line within the next few years. We met in early September with Habitat Partners, based at California University of

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Pennsylvania regarding repairs to our cross-vane habitat structure on Dunbar Creek, which was damaged by flash-flood conditions resulting from a summer storm. Repairs are planned for completion this year, weather permitting. The chapter's Resource Protection and Conservation Committee is investigating and planning our response to a potentially serious water-temperature and flow-volume issue that has developed on Meadow Run, one of the PFBC's designated Keystone Select streams, and an important public-fishing resource within Ohio State Park. Hard-working CRTU members supplied the labor to pour the concrete floor for a new picnic pavilion at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers day-use area at the Youghiogheny Reservoir outflow. Our chapter's 25th annual banquet is planned for late March.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

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www.forbestrailtu.org

The chapter held its fundraiser picnic on June 29 at the Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Club near Latrobe. We will be assisting both Ligonier Valley Middle School and Hempfield Area Senior High School with tank set-up and monitoring for the TIC program this fall. DCNR staff worked with members to distribute a load of crushed limestone to buffer the acidity in Rock Run, a tributary of Linn Run in eastern Westmoreland County. Healthy populations of wild brook trout

are present in both streams. We continue monthly water quality testing on both streams. Our September at the Westmoreland County Donohoe Center featured a presentation by Westmoreland Conservation District about ticks and mosquitoes. Our October meeting at the Powder Mill Nature Reserve included a presentation on trout bugs in local streams. Our next meeting is Nov. 6 at Nimick Family Education Center in Ligonier.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Rylan Schnably

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rschnably@bedfordcountyconservation.com
www.fortbedfordtu.org

Live staking projects on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River and Potter Creek were set for October and November. Cove Creek litter cleanup was held in September. Also in September, vets with Project Healing Waters and FBTU members fished Bobs Creek and Yellow Creek. We held an educational program at Blue Knob State Park in August.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Jerry Green

814-934-7046, jgreen51@embarqmail.com
www.tu.org/connect/groups/045-john-kennedy

Our annual Christmas pizza party at Marzoni's Restaurant is Dec. 3, and will include a guest speaker and raffles. We are working on dates for a project on Poplar Run and have allocated \$15,000 for riparian buffer planting on Plum Creek. Our

fly tying classes commence Jan. 11. Our Family Fishing days at Canoe Creek State Park held in June, July, August, and September went well. The tanks at our six TIC schools up and running.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Roger Phillips

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http://kensink.blogspot.com

Elections will be held at our November meeting. Our Christmas party will be held at the December meeting, and we will be showing a movie. This summer we did a water sampling in Two Lick Creek. We also planned a macro survey in October on the creek.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Randy Buchanan

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www.mltu.org

No report.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Dale Fogg

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www.pwwtu.org

Our VP and Conservation Chair positions are vacant. Meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Monday of the month at Christ Church at Grove Farm. Our October meeting featured local artist Alessio Deiliis. Bar Flies is held the fourth Monday of the month at The Perrytowne Draft House.