

Pennsylvania TROUT



Summer 2013

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

Fall meeting agenda & registration available on page 9!



Contributed Photo

The God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited recently held its sixth annual Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event in Potter County.

Healing effect

By Dr. Pete Ryan
God's Country Chapter President

Changing lives... one fly cast at a time. The sixth annual God's Country Chapter Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event was held in honor of World War II veterans from May 21-24 in Potter County.

PHWFF, initiated and conducted by members of the Federation of Fly Fishers

and Trout Unlimited, serves military personnel who have been wounded, injured or disabled to aid their physical and emotional recovery by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying, and by using and enjoying these skills on fishing outings and as lifelong recreation.

While initially focusing on military personnel in the Washington, DC area, See **HEALING**, page 8

TU research targets brook trout genetics

By Shawn Rummel
*TU Eastern Abandoned Mine Program
Field & Research Coordinator*

It is well known that eastern brook trout have been declining throughout their native range due to the degradation of habitat and water quality, primarily through human activities. For the most part, this species has become confined to the extreme headwaters of watersheds that they inhabit.

Many efforts are underway to conserve, See **RESEARCH**, page 2



Contributed Photo

A brook trout fin is clipped to be used for genetic research.

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Pennsylvania
TROUT

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RESEARCH

from page 1

.....
protect and restore the eastern brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) throughout the eastern United States.

These efforts include improving habitat and water quality.

One area of restoration that has been given more attention recently is the removal of barriers to fish movement. While this has always been important for anadromous fish like salmon that are known to make long migratory movements, the importance of movement for species like brook trout is starting to be realized by fisheries biologists. Barriers to movement include the obvious obstacles in a stream like dams and poorly designed road culverts.

However, water quality can also become a barrier to fish movement. A striking example of this is abandoned mine drainage pollution.

Abandoned mine drainage, commonly referred to as AMD, is the unfortunate legacy of historical, unregulated mine operations. During these operations, pyrite (also known as "fool's gold") was exposed to the atmosphere, forming a potent acid capable of dissolving heavy metals such as iron, aluminum and manganese from the surrounding rocks.

In the past, specifically before the 1977 passage of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, many of these mines were closed and abandoned, leaving no one responsible for the pollution emanating from the mines.

Pollution from AMD not only kills aquatic macroinvertebrates and fish, but also creates a chemical barrier that impedes movement by fish that may be surviving upstream of the pollution source. AMD, and all barriers to fish movement, can create populations of fish that are isolated from one another.

Isolated populations of brook trout, or any animal species, often results in what scientists call a genetic bottleneck, or a decrease in genetic diversity (the amount of genetic variation in a population).

The presence of movement barriers in a stream do not allow these populations to move among one another. The lack of movement between isolated populations

does not allow animals from one population to interbreed with other populations, limiting the amount of genetic diversity or variation within the isolated population. Similar to biodiversity in an environment, high genetic diversity is more desirable in populations. A high amount of genetic diversity helps to protect the species from the negative impacts of disease, a changing environment and other stressors that have detrimental impacts, not only to individuals but also at the population level.

Researchers are currently working to determine how much genetic diversity exists within brook trout populations. Trout Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned Mine Program, in collaboration with Grove City College, is working toward that goal in the West Branch Susquehanna watershed located in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Trout Unlimited staff have collected fin clip samples from brook trout that were collected during electrofishing surveys throughout the West Branch Susquehanna watershed.

These samples are preserved in alcohol and sent to Grove City College where the DNA is isolated and analyzed for variations. These data should provide a snapshot of the genetic diversity that exists in brook trout populations throughout the watershed and provide useful information for the future management of brook trout in this area.

In addition, this type of research can also be useful for assessing the success of restoration work that has the goal of removing movement barriers. By collecting genetic data from of isolated populations both before and after a barrier is removed, the genetic make-up of the two populations should begin to look more similar over time after the barrier is removed. As the populations begin to look more similar on a genetic level, it demonstrates that movement and interbreeding are now occurring between the two, once isolated, populations.

Overall, we hope this research will allow future restoration work to focus on areas where the genetic diversity of brook trout could be increased by reconnecting existing populations and help to conserve and protect this species for generations to come.

Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant round opens in September

In 2002, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds joined to form the Coldwater Heritage Partnership program.

Since then, 84 coldwater conservation plans and seven implementation projects have been funded through the program. (To view completed plans and projects, please visit www.coldwaterheritage.org.)

The next grant round opens in September 2013.

Why is it important to protect Pennsylvania's coldwater streams? There are several reasons, including:

- Less than 1% of coldwater streams in Pennsylvania have natural reproducing trout and are considered High Quality or Exceptional Value, which provides additional protection to the watershed.
- It is important to protect native and wild trout populations because they are indicators of healthy coldwater streams
- It is important to protect these streams not only for the fish, but also for human use.
- Coldwater streams are often in ecologically diverse areas that contain endangered or threatened species that require extra protection. Creating a coldwater conservation plan draws awareness to these places and often provides the information needed to protect these areas from future development.
- These streams are unique and hold significant value for the local communities. It is important to protect and conserve these streams in order to preserve our angler heritage. Fishing is an important recreational pastime that is enjoyed by over 770,000 Pennsylvanians.
- Many of these streams are located in state forests and parks, where they are enjoyed by millions each year.
- Coldwater ecosystems are the crucial



link between aquatic and terrestrial environments. Our coldwater ecosystems are small headwater streams that are the origin of larger river systems. These streams are in jeopardy due to poor land use management decisions.

How the Coldwater Heritage Partnership helps to protect Pennsylvania's streams:

- Through the CHP program, organizations are able to obtain in-depth data, identify any potential threats or impacts and outline a specific conservation strategy for implementation.
- The program helps to foster a greater public understanding of coldwater ecosystems and the importance of their protection.
- The program provides immediate and long-term benefits to our coldwater resources by educating communities about the importance of protecting these waters, and by assisting communities in developing protection and enhancement strategies.
- Through the CHP program, the "jewels" of Pennsylvania are protected, and parcels of land are identified as worthy of easements for permanent protection.
- Municipalities can evaluate potential land use planning and zoning changes.
- Areas with water quality issues can be identified and solutions implemented.
- The coldwater conservation plans are the foundation for finding future funding and investments for projects that will protect, conserve, restore and sustain Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.
- The program provides a starting point

See **CHP**, page 5

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Headwaters

A message from PATU President Brian Wagner

I hope everyone was able to put in some productive time on their favorite streams this spring. My spring fishing was somewhat “interrupted” but I did manage some quality time on some of my favorites.

One such outing found me on the Lehigh River below the Francis E. Walter Reservoir. Caddis were abundant with a late afternoon Hendrickson hatch. The water was cold, which I can attest to. If you have ever waded the Lehigh, you know it’s kind of like walking on bowling balls. Each step is an exercise in risk management. I had proven to myself that I could still fool a few trout and decided to do the prudent thing and find my way back to shore before it got dark, and I almost made it too.

How many times have we lost our balance, planted our foot and had it stick? Well, this time, with each step forward, I picked up momentum until I propelled myself facedown into the river with a big yell and a bigger splash. I must’ve looked like some prehistoric waterfowl taking flight. Ironically, I found my footing right away when I tried to stand up. I’m not sure what the two gentlemen below me thought, but I picked up my TU hat before it floated away, put it on like nothing out of the ordinary happened, headed for the trail and never looked back.

I still haven’t made or purchased a wading staff. But I assure you I’ll have one before I make my next trip to the Lehigh.

Through the Trout in the Classroom program and other youth events, I have the opportunity to speak to a fair number of youths about cold water habitat. I always emphasize the importance of riparian buffers along our waterways. The benefits are easy to point out and the kids understand the concept. I know our TU chapters and members understand the importance and promote the concept regularly through public outreach.

Judi Sittler, president of the Spring Creek chapter, recently wrote to me about the Lower McCoy Bank Stabilization project, which included a “Buffer Buddies” community outreach program. Volunteers taught casting, knot tying and had kids collecting aquatic insects from the stream

to identify. She said, “It was the perfect place to do community outreach because we were working right at a bridge in Milesburg, where people could stand and watch.”

Work similar to this is duplicated all across Pennsylvania by our chapters and members. Buffers are the most cost-effective means to improve water quality and aquatic habitat and minimize flood impacts. Therefore, I was filled with great consternation, when HB 1565 was introduced in the state legislature and referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. The bill would weaken the requirement to maintain a 150-foot buffer when conducting earth disturbance activities along HQ and EV streams. Whether the bill moves remains to be seen, but PATU signed on to a letter in support of riparian buffers that was sent to the bill’s sponsor and the members of the House Environmental Resources and Energy committee. Science is on our side, but we’ll have to keep a watchful eye on this.

As TU members we tend to focus on the challenges to our coldwater habitat that lie ahead. It’s our job. It’s what we do. However, there is a time when you have to sit back and recognize everything that’s been accomplished. And that time is now.

Ed O’Gorman, our new chair of the Awards Committee, is seeking nominations for PATU’s annual awards. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Gerry Miller for his service as chair of the committee and to Ed for stepping into the role. Chapter leaders, please take the time to nominate your chapter or a deserving member for one or more of the award categories. From reading your chapter reports, I know there are many deserving chapters, members, projects and youth initiatives across the state. So nominate!

Also from reading the reports, I am quite pleased with the number of women’s initiatives that are taking place. We are still looking for more women to serve on our PATU Women’s Committee. If you’re interested, please contact Samantha Kutskel.

By the time you’re reading this, you may have attended one of our leadership



trainings held in Emmaus and DuBois. I was tasked with talking about risk management. Risk management is something I take very seriously as Council president but my dilemma in presenting it is to not put everyone to sleep for the rest of the training. I hope I will have succeeded.

Beyond the obvious risk management issues there are many more subtle risks to our organization.

Is our organization diverse enough, and does it have enough depth in leadership for long-term survival? This is why it’s so important to get more women and youths involved in TU and in leadership roles.

One idea that emerged from our recent chapter leadership call on youth initiatives is to have a youth member on your chapter’s board with the intent for that person to develop programming within the chapter to bring in peers. Eric Wilson, our Youth Committee chair, is looking for more members for his committee. If interested, please contact him at ericwilson1947@hotmail.com.

Communicating on behalf of TU is another subtle risk management issue. Are we communicating within our mission and with one TU voice? Just something to consider when asked to provide comment, take a position or sign on to a coalition statement on various issues by our regulatory agencies, other NGOs or the media.

Under the direction of National TU, we recently drafted a document titled “Com-

Continued on next page...

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municating for Trout Unlimited” which offers some guidance for PATU, our chapters and members. Look for it under documents at www.patrou.org.

Speaking about communication, don't forget to like us on Facebook at both Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited and PATU Youth. We need more likes. Whether you like it or not, social media has developed into an instantaneous vehicle for news. And I'm not talking about posting what I ate for lunch, but as another tool to convey our cold water conservation message. It's also a way to communicate with potential new members.

Well, I'm sure at some point I'll fall into another river or stream, but I'm probably less likely so with a sturdy wading staff by my side. Though my wet clothes on the drive home were a constant reminder, my real memory of that day was helping another angler with a bit of advice and being glad when I saw him catch a trout, the beautiful scenery of the gorge, the sun glistening off the water as caddis fluttered everywhere like a spring snow squall and the Hendricksons floating like miniature sailboats and the trout patiently grabbing them as they floated by. That's why we do what we do.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer George Kutskel

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS! I hope I caught your eye.

On page 7 you will find a blank raffle ticket. I ask that you please consider purchasing one or more.

This year, instead of fishing-related items, we are giving cash – and a fair amount of it at that. Like the commercial on TV says: “Everyone likes cash.”

Our goal is to sell 3,000 tickets and we have over 12,000 members so we need 25 percent of our members to help out.

This raffle will help keep Trout in the Classroom grants for field trips going, along with youth and educational programs to help our chapters be more effective.

Speaking of ways to help your chapter and its leaders, there are two regional trainings being held in July and August. There is also a meeting for the Northeast Region. We are hosting our own meeting to keep travel and cost as low as possible.

I hope to get the chance to meet members from all our chapters at our PA meetings in Emmaus or DuBois.

Don't forget that if you like receiving this hard copy of the newsletter to purchase a subscription to have it delivered to your

Chapter Donations

The following chapters have donated to further council's mission, in addition to supporting fundraisers, in 2013.

Allegheny Mtn.	Doc Fritchey
Adams County	Donegal
Brodhead	Mountain Laurel

Bequests

Roher Family Trust
Ray Nelson from Don Senior

home. For \$5 you will receive four issues and help to keep the cost of printing copies that go to fly shops and chapter from pricing itself out of reach.

Postage today cost what we paid to print and mail the newsletter just three years ago.

In closing, please be as generous as possible when you receive your annual appeal letter this fall.

One thing is certain, when you donate to PA Trout ALL proceeds stay in Pennsylvania to help our coldwater streams and our chapters!

CHP

from page 3

for many organizations to begin planning and implementing on-the-ground

projects.

Through the Coldwater Heritage Partnership, over \$600,000 has been invested in the program with more than \$1.1 million leveraged to protect and conserve Pennsyl-

vania's coldwater streams.

Visit www.coldwaterheritage.org or contact Samantha at 814-359-5233 or skutskel@coldwaterheritage.org for more information regarding these grants.

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@patrou.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 15-23. For TU membership information, see page 18.

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



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Proposed revisions to PATU bylaws

Approved by the Executive Committee – January 5, 2013. Additions/revisions proposed are in bold italics.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Section 2 – President

Add the following sentence:

President The Chief Executive Officer of the Council shall be the President; who, as such, shall preside at all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee. The President shall coordinate the activities of the Council and act as the official spokesperson for the Council within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The President will appoint the Chairpersons of all Standing and Special Committees and shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee. ***All candidates for the office of President shall have previously served for a minimum of one (1) year as a Council Officer or Chairperson of a Standing Committee.***

Section 9 – Accountability

Delete existing Section 9 which is redundant with Section 10, and substitute the following:

Vacancy in Office In the event of a vacancy in an Officer's position and upon approval by the Executive Committee, another Officer may serve in that position on a temporary, or "acting" capacity. The Officer acting in a temporary capacity shall also be responsible for fully executing the duties of the primary position to which he (she) was elected.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Delete this Article in its entirety and substitute the following:

ARTICLE IV – COUNCIL STAFF Council may elect at any time to add paid staff positions at a compensation rate and terms as approved by the Executive Committee. The job description for such positions shall include, but not be limited to, the following responsibilities: ***Increase membership involvement by conducting events and programs across the state; promote the Council and coldwater conservation principles with other organizations,***

the general public and TU members; act as a liaison with state agencies, National TU and other conservation organizations; assist Chapters in their efforts to protect, conserve and restore our coldwater streams by providing trainings, conferences, technical support and financial support; serve on Committees to aid in these efforts; oversee the Coldwater Heritage Partnership program; participate in meetings, conference calls and events to further Council's mission; and oversee Council's programs and projects.

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

Section 2 – Standing Committees

Delete (e) Education Committee in its entirety and substitute the following:

(e) Women's Committee. The Women's Committee is responsible for developing new and innovative ways to increase female membership and solicit more active participation from our female members. The Committee's primary goal shall be to increase female leadership on Chapter boards and committees. This Committee will work closely with the Communications Committee to develop publications and activities designed to engage female members.

Change name of (g) Youth Committee to Youth Education Committee:

(g) Youth Education Committee. The primary function of the Youth Education Committee is to aid Chapters in establishing and maintaining youth programs consistent with Council's ideals. It will also work closely with schools, Scouts and other organizations to promote con-

servation of our coldwater resources. This will be accomplished through field days, camps and special programs, and setting up local conservation projects such as ongoing monitoring of stream quality. These activities will be undertaken with the cooperation and leadership of local Trout Unlimited Chapters, schools and other groups. The Youth Education Committee will work closely with the Communications Committee to provide information and resources for youth programs and to recruit more young members for Trout Unlimited. It will aid in the annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp and promote the creation of similar camps in the Commonwealth.

Add the following officer to (l) Governance Committee:

(l) Governance Committee. The Governance Committee shall monitor and ensure compliance with Trout Unlimited's mission, policies and Bylaws, and the policies and Bylaws of the Council.

The membership of the Committee shall be the President, ***Immediate Past President***, the two (2) Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary. The functions of the Committee shall be to recommend to the Executive Committee for approval any required revisions to the policies or documents relating to the governance of the Council, including the Bylaws and procedures for conducting the business of the Council, policies regarding acquisition and disposal of real property, procurement of goods and services, fiduciary responsibility and risk management.



Purchase a Quality PATU Fly Rod for 100 Bucks!

State Council is offering for sale custom-built fly rods in 9-foot, 5-weight, 4-piece for just \$100 each + tax and shipping, 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. Council reserves the right to limit quantities on individual sales. Send your order to: PA Trout Unlimited, PO Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823, and include a check payable to "PATU" for \$116 (\$100 + \$6 sales tax + \$10 shipping & handling).

Education and outreach raffle tickets available

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is once again holding its annual education and outreach raffle to help support PATU and its chapters in educating the next generation of conservationists.

Tickets are available by sending the attached ticket and a check made out to "PA Trout" to PO Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Council's youth programs currently reach thousands of students across Pennsylvania and provide them with an education in coldwater conservation principles.


The raffle will help offset funding for

youth programs that has recently been lost, and all proceeds go directly to providing and enhancing education and outreach programs to students. Youth education and outreach programs offered by PATU and its chapters expose students to a wide variety of conservation concepts, from studying watershed characteristics and restoring stream habitat to being introduced to fisheries management and legislation policies.

These programs aim to provide students with information that will help them practice environmentally sound values in their communities throughout their lives. Instill-

ing a sense of environmental stewardship in youths may be the most effective method to ensure that we continue to have clean water, good fishing and a healthy environment in the years to come. It is possible that these students may never have the opportunity to appreciate and care for our resources if not for these programs.

We are asking for your help to promote TU's mission and vision to younger generations by supporting the raffle. Doing so will help us all continue to protect, conserve and restore Pennsylvania's coldwater resources long into the future.

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited	
Education and Outreach Raffle SGOC# 3782	
NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PHONE NUMBER _____ NUMBER OF TICKETS PURCHASED _____ Drawing will take place April 12, 2014, in Bellefonte, PA at 12:00PM.	 <p>Winners 1-4: \$50 Winner 5: \$250 Winners 6-9: \$50 Winner 10: \$250 Winners 11-14: \$50 Winner 15: \$250 Winners 16-19: \$50 Winner 20: \$500</p> <p>Drawing will take place April 12, 2014 in Bellefonte, PA at 12:00PM. \$5.00 a chance</p>

2014 Keystone Coldwater Conference set for Feb. 21-22

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will host its 11th Keystone Coldwater Conference Feb. 21-22, 2014, at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College. The theme is "Coldwater Resources: Current Practices in Conservation, Protection and Restoration."

The event will complement previous conferences, which dealt with subjects such as streamside buffers, water chemistry, in-stream habitat, biodiversity, storm water impacts and development.

This conference will focus on entire watersheds and how we can protect and restore Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. We will explore current research, best management practices and techniques, case studies, proactive community action, policy and regulations.

As always, the target audience is grassroots organizations, watershed groups, sportsmen's groups and other environmentally-active citizens, including college students and environmental professionals.

We have changed the location to the Ra-

mada Inn for 2014. We hope the move will ensure that participants receive the best accommodations and information possible.

The conference will kick off with a workshop Friday afternoon, followed by a Friday night social. Saturday's sessions will open with an introduction and keynote address, followed by four breakout sessions with three speakers each. Ample time will be provided for networking and visits to the many exhibitors.

We will be judging student research posters throughout the day and providing awards to the top three posters on Saturday afternoon.

We are currently seeking proposals for presenters, posters and sponsors. If you are interested in presenting please visit www.coldwaterheritage.org/keystone-coldwater-conference for information.

If you know of an organization, business or individual who would like to be a sponsor of the 2014 conference please contact Samantha Kutskel at skutskel@coldwaterheritage.org or 814-359-5233.



GET A CUSTOM TROUT UNLIMITED PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATE!

Want to show others that you're a proud member of PATU and support the mission of Trout Unlimited? It only costs a onetime charge of \$20 for a specialty Pennsylvania license plate. The custom plate fee is in addition to your annual registration fee, and the plate is available for passenger cars and trucks under 10,000 lbs. gross weight registrations only.

To order your custom Trout Unlimited PA state license plate, send your name, TU membership number and current license plate number, along with a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope, to:

George Mellinger
 2273 Brinkerton Road
 Greensburg, PA 15601

In return, you'll receive an application form to complete and send to PennDOT along with your \$20 payment.

PHWFF has expanded nationwide and is offering its services to active duty military personnel and veterans in the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals throughout the country.

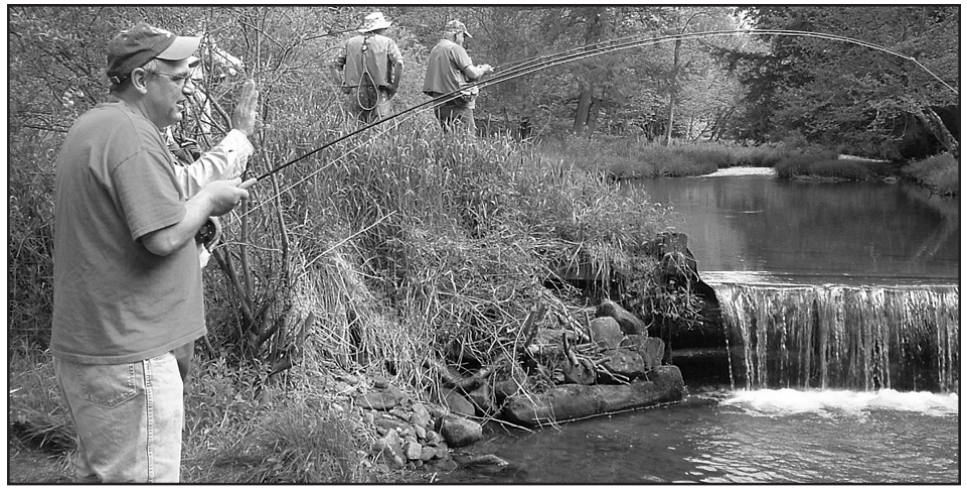
At the April 2008 God's Country Chapter meeting, Roy Magarigal, a charter member and owner of the Moore's Run Fish & Game Preserve, brought up the idea of the chapter sponsoring a PHWFF event and offered the use of his world-class fishing preserve. David Saulter, chapter vice president and ex-Marine, spoke up and said he was willing to coordinate the event and make it happen.

He contacted Ray Markiewicz, mid-Atlantic coordinator for PHWFF, and found that because we were such a long distance from a VA hospital, we would have to sponsor a three-day event. During the past six years, I have learned a lot. I saw our chapter members step up and volunteer their time and expertise. I saw citizen and veteran groups of Potter County and the surrounding area support and applaud our guests. I developed wonderful relationships and learned so much from the disabled participants. But mostly I learned to never doubt a Marine when he tells you he will make something happen!

Our participants all receive treatment from VA hospitals in Erie, Buffalo, Batavia and Bath, NY. The majority are being treated for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and are Vietnam vets.

Each year they gather on a Tuesday afternoon just north of Shinglehouse for a 50-mile parade/motorcycle escort through Potter County. Sixty-five members of the American Eagles Motorcycle Club, Patriot Guard Riders, other bikers and an ATA bus carrying 10 honored Potter County WWII veterans took part in this year's ride that concluded in Costello at the First Fork Lodge.

Along the route, school children, bands, Scouts, mothers, fathers, county employees and business people waved flags and displayed signs welcoming the vets to Potter County. The parade stopped at the Oswayo Valley High School where one of the first-year participants, who now comes



Contributed Photo

Participants at the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited's Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event cast a line during the sixth annual outing.

as an event counselor, gave a very moving speech about how much PHWFF has changed his life. After travelling through Coudersport and a brief stop at the Coudersport Legion Post 192, the entourage made its way through Austin where it was escorted by the Austin fire truck to Costello. The First Fork Lodge hosted a reception and a local Scout troop assisted the veterans to their rooms. A delicious "Welcome Dinner," followed by an introduction to fly fishing, concluded our first day.

After a peaceful evening and a good night's rest, followed by breakfast at the lodge, the vets traveled a few miles to Moore's Run Preserve for fly fishing instruction from two chapter members who are Orvis-endorsed guides. Each of the vets pairs up with a guide to fish in the heavily-stocked lake or Big Moore's Run until noon. Lunch was at the Austin-Costello Sportsmen's Club and was hosted, prepared and served by members of the Coudersport Legion Post 192 and their auxiliary.

After lunch, there was a break, followed by fly tying instruction conducted by me. Each participant received a Cabela's Deluxe Fly Tying Kit, a material kit, a fly box and a chapter-produced fly tying manual to use and take home. The vets received one-on-one instruction from our members. We concluded about 4 p.m. to take a break, eat dinner (again hosted by Legion Post 192) and then returned to Moore's Run for evening fishing. As is often the case, the vets will have landed a "fish of a lifetime" — many on a fly they have tied.

The next full day schedule was the same, except lunch and dinner were prepared and served along the banks of the lake and under a tent, courtesy of the Allegheny Grill. After dinner, we held our closing ceremony and each participant received a T-shirt, a promise of a DVD of the three days composed by chapter photographer Tracie Edwards, a gear bag and other goodies we are able to round up. Some of the vets were worn out and ready to head back to the lodge, but most fished until dark. There are always a few diehards wanting "just one more cast."

After breakfast on the last day, and following many statements of thanks, hugs, handshakes and more than a few tears, the vets head home.

"The trip was just overwhelming," said Jim Baker, a Marine Corps veteran. "I couldn't believe all the people out there with signs and flags. It was really, really emotional. And they don't know how much we appreciated that. When I returned from Vietnam 45 years ago, they didn't do anything for us, not even in my hometown."

"This is my second time here, and I experienced the same emotions as I did the first time — disbelief, awestruck, gratitude," said fellow Marine vet Paul Campbell. "Pennsylvania people love their veterans. I was in a real low place when I came here the first time. This Healing Waters Program really turned my life around. I can't say enough about the God's Country Chapter of TU and the people here."

Said PHWFF's Markiewicz, "Being the
Continued on next page...

2013 PA Council of Trout Unlimited Fall Meeting

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Saturday, September 21
(Shaver's Creek Fireman's Park and Community Building)

- 9 a.m. – Registration
- 9:30 a.m. – Welcome and introductions, Brian Wagner
- 8:45 a.m. – Leaders update/ Q&A with National TU
 - Bryan Moore, vice president for Volunteer Operations/Watershed Programs
 - New TU website and online tools
- 10 a.m. – Break
- 10:15 a.m. – Council and chapter updates
 - Chapter news
 - Nomination of officers introductions
 - Approval of bylaws
- Noon – Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. – Conservation sessions

...Continued from previous page

sixth anniversary, it is hard to find words for how I feel. The people of Potter County are such down to earth, wonderful people. And the work and organization of God's Country TU is unbelievable. I have told our national headquarters that this is by far, one of the best events in the country. I still hear from soldiers that were the first year. How wonderful the experience was, how it changed their lives. You are doing something bigger than you can imagine. These vets will not forget this ever, and they will be talking about it for months and years to come. It is fantastic. It hits you in the heart."

The entire PHWFF experience is overwhelming. The feelings one has after introducing a disabled veteran to the skills of fly tying and fly fishing is difficult to express. To see them embrace something you love, to see the real therapeutic effect it has on them, is something to behold. It is truly a win-win situation for everyone involved.

- Current Practices in Habitat Restoration (How to protect your local stream after a flooding event); Eastern Abandoned Mine Program and Eastern Brook Trout Restoration Program
- Marcellus Shale (Updates in TU efforts); Mitch Blake, Marcellus Shale Field Organizer
- Unassessed Waters Initiative (How chapters can get involved); Renae Greiner, WPC

4 p.m. – Election of officers

4:30 p.m. – Awards

5:30 p.m. – Annual Pig Roast

6:45 p.m. – Raffle

Sunday, September 30
(At the Stackhouse Center in Bellefonte)

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast

9 a.m. – PATU Executive Committee

meeting (all members invited to attend)

DETAILS

Location: The Shavers Creek Firemen's Park and Community Building is located at 8707 Fireman's Park Lane, Petersburg, PA.

The Executive Committee meeting will be held at the PFBC Stackhouse in Bellefonte, PA.

Cost: The cost for the weekend is \$35 per person, and includes the annual pig roast, programs, and handouts.

DIRECTIONS

To the Shavers Creek Firemen's Park and Community Building:

From State College: Take Rt. 26 South at the bottom of Pine Grove Mountain. Turn right onto SR 1029, Charter Oak Road. Go 7 miles to Shavers Creek Fireman's Park. Look for sign on left.

From Huntingdon: Take 22 west to Rt. 305 East through Petersburg. Go 8 miles to Shavers Creek Fireman's Park. Look for sign on right.

REGISTRATION

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- Leadership Training (Saturday, September 21)
- Saturday evening pig roast, raffle, and awards ceremony
- I've included my \$35 registration fee (*Please make checks payable to PA Trout*)
- I will bring a raffle item for Saturday evening
Item: _____
- Room Saturday night at the Stackhouse (Limited number of rooms available*)

* *There is no lodging available Friday night.*

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Are you an officer and/or board member? If yes, what is your position?

Registration deadline is September 14

(Please make checks payable to PA Trout)

Please mail your registration and \$35/per person to:

PA Council of Trout Unlimited
 PO Box 5148
 Bellefonte, PA 16823

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

*Minutes of the June 29, 2013
Executive Committee Meeting
PFBC Conference Room
Pleasant Gap, PA*

Officers Attending: Brian Wagner, Ken Undercoffer, Charlie Charlesworth, Sherwin Albert, George Kutskel, Bob Pennell, Chuck Winters, Greg Malaska, Mark Hanes, Fred Bohls, Fred Gender

Others Attending: Bryan Moore, Samantha Kutskel, Justin DiRado, Paula Piatt, Bob Volkmar, John Leonard (CVTU), Justin Pittman (CVTU), John Childe (PEDF) and Joe Lauver (PEDF)

President's Report: President Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:15 and noted that all chapters had completed uploading their bylaws to the National TU website. Wagner also announced that the recently-formed Women's Committee is in need of a chairperson, and stressed that participation is needed in signing on to the Facebook youth page created by DiRado. A motion by Hanes/seconded by Malaska was approved to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2013 EXCOM meeting, as previously distributed to EXCOM.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer G. Kutskel announced that cash flow was exceeding fiscal year expectations, and the Budget Report for the period ending 5/31/13 was approved on a motion to receive and file by Hanes/seconded by Undercoffer.

Awards Committee: Charlesworth requested that regional VPs stress with their chapters the importance of submitting nominations for annual awards, and also called for award certificates to be issued in addition to the prize offerings that Committee Chair O'Gorman is obtaining for chapter awards.

Youth Education Committee: A motion by Albert/seconded by Pennell was approved for regional VPs to appoint youth education delegates from each of their chapters, in most cases those individuals now serving as TIC coordinators.

Stream Access Committee: Winters reported that funding dedicated to land acquisition for access was slowing down.

Hanes requested a list of current public access areas, and Winters will follow through with PFBC in an attempt to obtain same.

Development Committee: G. Kutskel reported that the Education and Outreach Raffle ticket sales have been slow. Tickets will be available for chapter purchases at the two upcoming leadership training sessions. Inventory of the current 9-foot PATU fly rods is running low and it is anticipated that the new Loop models will be available for sale at the fall membership meeting.

Trout Management Committee: Undercoffer reported that PFBC is considering other forms of regulation before deciding whether to discontinue their Brook Trout Enhancement Program. It was decided that PATU should not take a position at this time on PFBC's proposal to stock trout in 10 newly designated Class A sections in urban areas where angler use is high.

Environmental Committee: Volkmar reported that American Rock Salt's application for a permit to build a major salt storage facility close to the Lackawanna River was approved by PADEP on June 28, with a 30-day appeal period. On a motion by Charlesworth/seconded by Hanes, it was agreed to utilize Widener Law School's offer to file an appeal at no cost to Council, pending approval to proceed from National TU.

Volkmar also requested, due to his committee's workload, that the Governance Committee establish guidelines for chapters to follow when requesting assistance with local environmental issues.

Communications Committee: Hanes suggested restricting the size of chapter reports printed in PA Trout to allow more space for articles of general interest to all members. It was agreed that Charlesworth, Pennell and Brad Isles should schedule a conference call to discuss further, preferably prior to the upcoming leadership trainings.

Delaware River Committee: National TU President Chris Wood visited the Delaware in March as a followup to the \$75K donation from National for work on



the Sands Creek restoration project. In May, PFBC installed temperature probes on an eight-mile stretch of the Delaware to assist in the quest to develop a proper thermal stress program during periods of high heat stress on the trout population.

Legislative Committee: After legislators return to the state capitol in the fall, additional legislative day visits will be scheduled by Wagner, Charlesworth, Volkmar and Katy Dunlap.

Membership Committee: Malaska reported that virtually all PA chapter membership numbers are up, perhaps influenced in part by National TU's new program offering free memberships to women. Malaska will be resigning as chair of this committee in the fall due to accepting a two-year term as the Mid-Atlantic representative for National TU's Embrace-A-Stream Program.

Women's Committee: S. Kutskel is seeking more active participation from women members across the state. A women's retreat is tentatively being planned for sometime this fall.

PA Environmental Defense Foundation: John Childe presented an overview of PEDF's lawsuit against Gov. Corbett, asserting failure to maintain the public's right to clean air and pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of PA's environment. To date, Commonwealth Court has ruled in favor of PEDF on eight counts, and the discovery period is underway. A motion by Bohls/seconded by Gender to seek National TU's approval for Council's support of PEDF's lawsuit was tabled for further discussion by the Governance Committee.

TU Sportsmen Organizer: Recently hired for this new National TU position, Paula Piatt will work closely with Katy Dunlap and Mitch Blake, focusing on building relationships with sportsmen's organizations in PA, NY and NJ.

National Trout Unlimited: Bryan Moore emphasized that any chapter contracts containing significant indemnification language need to be sent to him for approval before signing. Thanks to VP

Charlesworth's efforts in putting together a very effective proposal, it appears that the 2015 National TU annual meeting will be held in Scranton, with the primary host being the Lackawanna Valley Chapter. Moore also talked about plans to reach out in PA with a new program TU has introduced for the Girl Scouts.

National Leadership Council: On a motion by Pennell/seconded by Hanes, approval was granted to re-charter the Lackawanna Valley Chapter. No chapters were recommended currently for de-chartering or probation. All EXCOM members are requested to read the TU Energy Policy and submit any comments to Monty Murty by the end of August.

Program Coordinator: DiRado announced that \$16,500 in TIC grants were awarded for the 2013-14 school year, 12 for startups and 24 for existing programs. A new calendar format is being developed to be used for posting chapter activities on the website.

Program Director: S. Kutskel confirmed that the 2014 Keystone Coldwater Conference will be held at the Ramada Inn Conference Center. Due in part to the loss of the \$5,000 donated by PFBC for prior conferences, an additional \$8,000-9,000 will be needed, and corporate sponsorship is being sought to help cover our costs. Regional VPs need to reinforce with their chapters the requirement for having at least one chapter representative attend either of the two upcoming leadership training sessions.

Regional Reports:

Central – All five chapters filed reports. A meeting in September will be the final attempt at reorganizing the Columbia County Chapter.

North Central – Three out of four chapter reports were filed (Seneca was absent). This region is still in need of a regional VP.

Northeast – All nine chapter reports were filed.

Northwest – Five out of seven chapter reports were filed (Cornplanter and Caldwell Creek were absent).

South Central – Seven out of eight chapter reports were filed (Falling Spring was absent).

Southeast – All seven chapter reports were filed. The Little Lehigh Chapter expressed their thanks to Council and several other chapters for all the assistance provided in their successful reorganizational efforts.

Southwest – All eight chapter reports were filed. Winters pointed out that Penns Woods West will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Sept. 21.

New Business: Malaska announced the availability of a certificate which can be used to honor either individual or chapter achievements, to be awarded to one chapter or one individual per chapter per year. Recommendations are to come from, and certificates are to be presented by, the respective regional VPs.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 on a motion by Hanes/seconded by G. Kutskel.

Governance Committee: Preceding the EXCOM meeting, the Governance

2013 PATU Calendar

Aug. 3: Chapter Leadership Training at St. Joseph Church, DuBois. Visit the calendar at www.patrou.org for more information.

Aug. 4-8: River Researcher Teen Camp at Mahaffey Camp and Conference Center. Visit <http://www.wbsrc.org/teencamp/default.html> for more information.

Sept. 21: PATU Annual Fall Meeting at Shaver's Creek Community Center near Petersburg, PA. This will be a one-day event to better accommodate members. No lodging will be provided.

Sept. 22: Fall EXCOM meeting at PFBC Stackhouse Training Center, Bellefonte, PA.

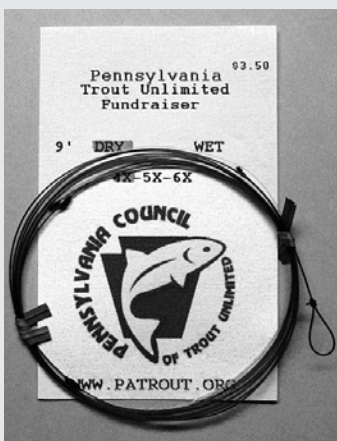
Oct. 5: PA Trout fall issue deadline.

To stay up to date with the latest news from PA Council, please visit www.patrou.org.

Committee met with Justin Pittman and John Leonard of the Cumberland Valley Chapter to discuss the proposed phase 2 restoration plans for Big Spring. After hearing the CVTU presentation, the GC decided to support CVTU's proposal to proceed with the phase 2 project as designed and continue monitoring the brook and rainbow populations for several more years before reaching any conclusion on whether the rainbows should be culled from the stream.

– Bob Pennell, Council Secretary

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: Leaders can be purchased for \$4.00 each or in minimum quantities of 10 or more for \$3.50 each. Chapters: Can order 10 or more leaders at \$3.00 each, payable by chapter check.

Send your order, along with a check payable to "PATU" to PA Trout Unlimited, PO Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Please be sure to specify type and size required.

Column earns award sponsored by PATU

Editor's Note: Each year at its spring banquet, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association – of which Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is a supporting member – presents its Excellence in Craft Awards. These awards recognize POWA members for their outstanding work in 18 different categories during the previous calendar year. PATU has been a long-time sponsor of the "Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award." The following column authored by outdoor writer Don Feigert, and published in The (Sharon) Herald on Sunday, July 8, 2012, was selected as this year's winner.



Todd Puleo Photo

A solitary fisherman works the pool below his own "Rainbow Falls."

'Not yet'

I lost a good friend a week ago. We knew about the cancer for over a year, but still, it came as a shock. Jonathan was two years younger, which makes the whole ordeal strike home even harder, but what can you do? Get all weepy and sentimental on the people around you? No, you pay your respects, you solidify your memories, you go fishing. You get away alone to a beautiful place in the woods and go fishing.

Jonathan's Creek, we actually called it, but then my friends and I are notorious for renaming trout streams to suit our fancies. And this one was his favorite, a big stream you can fish even during the hot droughts of July, with strong spring-fed currents pouring over large boulders into deep green pools. Lots of fish there, too – designated Class A for wild trout – although a few would always do for us. Native brook trout, of course, but also wild rainbows and browns, a legacy of the old practice of stocking hatchery fish here, discontinued decades ago.

I walk in from the hill above, at the exact point where Jonathan and I entered for the final time last April, and amble down the gentle hill on the evergreen-shrouded trail. And I notice things, the scent and feel of pine needles underfoot, the overhanging

rich green hemlock boughs moving slightly in the morning breeze, the stolid boulders standing like monuments beside the trail, the earthy smell of humus and detritus on the ground, the hints of blue sky behind the oak leaves 60 feet above.

I reach the stream and sit on a log to contemplate the waters before I throw in. I remember the deer tracks my friend discovered here in the wet shoreline sand last April, and the two ruffed grouse we flushed out of the twisted wild grapevines, how those thunder-chickens startled us with the sudden wing-beats of their take-offs, how their flights spiraled down the valley, how we, like all hunters, gazed after them, aiming with our sightlines for the imaginary shot.

We talked that day about how much we loved deer, wild turkeys and grouse, how we donated cash to preserve their habitat and supported conservation laws in the ballot box, and yet, every fall, we shot them for our table fare.

Jonathan argued that this was the natural way of human beings, to be hunters, to care for wild game, and yet to kill the thing we loved. It was part of the natural cycle of life, he used to explain.

And yet I believe he preferred trout fishing over all other outdoor pursuits, partly because of the practice of catch and release.

Unlike in hunting, you don't necessarily

take the life of your prey. He and I never intentionally killed a wild trout during the 21 years we fished together. We considered them too valuable.

I walk up on the cascading flow of currents over shelf rock that my friend and I named Rainbow Falls years ago because we caught three wild rainbow trout the first day we tried there. I toss in a streamer and feel the tug and set the hook and guide the thrashing small fish to shore. He is a wild rainbow trout – oversized head, trim body, distinct spotting on the side – but he is only five inches long, obviously born right here in this stream.

I gaze at the little fish for a moment and see the desperate yearning for survival in its wild eye and think about the balance of good earth, waters, and air required for it to even be here, this late in the history of destructive civilization on our planet.

I suddenly think of the James Dickey poem about endangered wildlife and their mournful cry, "Lord, let me die. But don't let me die out." Or something like that. It's been years since Jonathan showed me that poem. Was it about wolverines, perhaps? I make a mental note to look it up and read it again – today.

I know my own number will come up one of these days, years from now, I hope, and my mornings of wandering exquisite streams in Pennsylvania forests will end.

But not yet, please. Not yet.

Nominations open for PATU Executive Committee officers

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is currently seeking nominations for Council officers.

Positions include: President*, Vice Presidents (2), Regional Vice Presidents (7), Secretary, Treasurer and National Leadership Council Representative. Please see the following for a description of each position. If you would like to be nominated, or would like to nominate someone for one of these positions, please email your nomination to Samantha Kutskel at skutskel@coldwaterheritage.org by Aug. 10.

All nominations will be announced on www.patrou.org by Aug. 20, and an announcement will be sent to all chapter

presidents. Voting for officers will take place at the annual fall meeting on Sept. 21. Information on the fall meeting can be found at www.patrou.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha.

*To be considered for the position of President, you will need to serve for a minimum of one year on Council as an officer or committee chair.

Term of Office: All officers of the Council shall serve for a term of one year commencing on Oct. 1 of the year elected and ending on Sept. 30 of the following year. The President and the Vice Presidents

See **NOMINATIONS**, page 14

Council now offering 'Series Two' logo fly rods

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has introduced its "Series Two" logoed fly rods, which are now available for ordering on the PATU website.

The limited edition rods are 7-foot, 4-piece and 2-weight with "PA Council of Trout Unlimited" inscribed on the reel seat.

They are similar to the 6½-foot, 3-weight rods Council has been offering, but built to a higher quality standard.

The new rods are the GS2 Series built by Greys (Hardy/Grey's, Ltd., whose U.S. distribution facility is in Lancaster, PA).

Rods are \$130, which includes shipping and taxes. All rods come with a cloth sack and clear plastic tube. The rods will be covered by the Grey's warranty. Also included will be a PATU decal that can be applied to the tube or displayed in your vehicle window.

Check out the "Merchandise" page on the PATU website at www.patrou.org where you will find a photo and ordering information. Contact George Kutskel at maksak@comcast.net with questions. Supplies will be limited.

Don't miss this opportunity and be forced to wait for "Series Three" rods at some point in the future.



PATU BASEBALL HATS - Buy Now!

PA Council is offering these top-quality baseball hats in khaki, camouflage and navy (not shown). Each hat is \$15, which includes shipping and handling.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Color(s): _____ Khaki _____ Camouflage _____ Navy Blue

Amount Enclosed (\$15/each) _____

Send form or info and check payable to "PATU" to:
PA Trout | PO Box 5148 | Bellefonte, PA 16823

Practice casting game sales benefit veteran programming

PATU is selling a fly casting practice game, which are available for \$20.

The kit contains a blue mat that represents water, four pins to hold it in the ground, a fish that looks like a tarpon and three weighted flies. They make excellent teaching tools for youth programs. Contact George Kutskel at maksak@comcast.net to order or work out a special deal on a case of 10.

All proceeds go toward veterans service projects.

NOMINATIONS

from page 13

are limited to four (4) consecutive terms of office. The National Leadership Council Representative may serve for five (5) consecutive terms.

President - The Chief Executive Officer of the Council:

- Attends all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee.
- Coordinates the activities of the Council and acts as the official spokesperson for the Council within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Appoints the chairpersons of all standing and special committees and serves as chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Vice Presidents - two (2) Vice Presidents, each:

- Is responsible for, and coordinates activities with half of the standing committees*.
- Ensures that the assigned committees meet in a timely manner, and that written committee quarterly reports are submitted to the Secretary to be included in the quarterly Executive Committee meeting agenda. When committee chairpersons are unable to attend Executive Committee meetings, the Vice President may present their reports.
- Facilitates communication between committees and chapters needing advice and aid.
- Assists the President in filling open positions on committees, especially those requiring expert counsel.

*The President has the exclusive right to assign each Vice President the committees he or she is responsible for, immediately following the annual membership meeting elections.

Regional Vice Presidents - seven (7) Regional Vice Presidents, each:

- Serves a designated geographic region of the Commonwealth.
- Shall be a resident of his or her designated region.
- Provides support and coordinates the

activities of chapters within the designated region.

- Is responsible for filing quarterly activity reports for his or her respective chapters at least one week prior to Executive Committee meetings.
- Reports to and is accountable to the President.
- Holds at least one (1) regional meeting per year, preferably at least six (6) weeks prior to Council's annual membership meeting, for the purpose of selecting a nominee or nominees for the position of Regional Vice President to serve for the ensuing fiscal year.
- May schedule additional regional meetings as required to adequately address other matters pertinent to his or her respective region.

Secretary:

- Records minutes of all Executive Committee and Council meetings and files a copy with National Trout Unlimited within thirty (30) days after all meetings.
- Maintains accurate records of Council policies, Council directories and Council activities, including the determination and maintenance of an official list of chapter "delegates to council."
- Is responsible for registering chapter delegates at Council membership meetings, determining a majority, and recording votes taken.

Treasurer:

- Is responsible for all funds, and records of such funds, belonging to the Council.
- Reports the financial condition of the Council at each Executive Committee and Council meeting.
- Maintains a status report in the form of a balance sheet showing all income and expenditures for the prescribed period of time.
- Prepares in detailed form an annual financial statement for submission to the Executive Committee and National Trout Unlimited.
- Oversees all accounting and book-keeping as required by grant contracts.
- Is responsible for payroll and appropriate tax filing. The Treasurer will be audited annually.

National Leadership Council (NLC) Representative:

- Brings Council issues to TU's national conservation agenda-setting process, and helps determine priorities for the national agenda.
- Meets two times per year with the body of TU NLC representatives, once in person at the annual national business and membership meeting, and once six months later on a national teleconference.
- Serves on a working group or committee of the NLC.
- Reports on the affairs and priorities of the NLC at Executive Committee and Council meetings.

Subscribe to PA Trout

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Subscription rate is \$5.00 per year (4 issues)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ year(s)



Contributed Photo

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited presents Wayne Harpster, third from left, with a certificate of appreciation for his contributions to youth education and involvement. Also pictured are Mark Belden, of PSU Fly Fishing, Eric Wilson, PATU's Youth Education Committee chair, and Samantha Kutskel, PATU program director.

Wayne's Coldwater Kids event another success

On a cold and dreary late-April afternoon, 38 youths from across Pennsylvania stepped to the banks of Spruce Creek and eagerly casted flies to the waiting trout below.

Mentors representing 13 Trout Unlimited chapters stood close by, ready to help out in any way to ensure the teens had a good time and were able to "catch the big one." No one noticed the falling rain or blowing wind, just the opportunity at hand – a chance for the kids to hone their fly fishing skills, and an opportunity for the mentors to share their passion with the next generation.

Now in its fourth year, the Wayne's Coldwater Kids event has grown to a very popular occasion for youths from ages 12 to 15 to fish the famous Wayne Harpster section of Spruce Creek. The event aims to encourage the kids to continue with their fly fishing practice and education, as most participants already possess a fundamental understanding of the sport. Equally important, however, the event also allows members of PATU chapters to connect and communicate with the youths, with the hope that these individuals will become coldwater conservation stewards

in the near future.

The event was organized by Mark Belden of Penn State Fly Fishing, and PATU's Youth Education Committee. Mentors included members of TU chapters and Penn State Fly Fishing students.

In addition, famed fly fishing expert Joe Humphreys and Penn State entomology professor Greg Hoover offered fishing demonstrations and macroinvertebrate identification presentations. The Harpster family graciously provided and served a wonderful dinner to all of the mentors and students.

Planning has already started for next year's event. Mr. Harpster's generosity helps to bring together youths from across the state and connect them with others who share similar interests. All the participants, both youths and adults, benefit from the event in many ways and all return home with newfound connections, friendships and knowledge to continue their coldwater conservation journey.

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited would like to thank The Harpster family, Mark Belden, PSU students, chapter mentors, and all the youth participants for making the 2013 event a success.

NORTHEAST CHAPTERS

Brodhead 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

Brodhead Chapter #289

Tom Battista
570-236-1734, mooseowl@ptd.net
Website: www.brodheadstu.org

We changed our annual banquet to a Friday evening, at the Stroudsmoor Inn just outside Stroudsburg. We received many positive comments from the 170 attendees. Will Daskal ran another fishing trip for nine of our members to the Catskills at the end of May. They fished the Beaverkill, Willowemoc and the East Branch of the Delaware. In April, we teamed up with Tobyhanna Conservation Association and a local Boy Scout troop to plant a riparian zone on the Tobyhanna Creek. We ran another successful kids fishing tournament in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus and Stroud Township Parks on opening day. Will Daskal was featured on the local Channel 13 program "Talk of the Town" during May and June, teaching hosts Kim Bell and Marie Johns to tie flies after sampling a stream and observing insect life. The ladies got in the water and fished the stream with their flies in the second show. Don Baylor led a group to Colorado to fish the last week of July, and we gave a program teaching casting, fly tying, entomology and safety to the campers at Monroe County Conservation Camp. We received an Embrace-A-Stream grant, which will be used in the Cranberry Creek Watershed to develop signs encouraging catch and release of wild brook trout. We are looking at stream improvement projects on a section of Pocono Creek that has been opened to public fishing through a conservation easement. We also will be looking at a section of the Brodhead that was recently acquired by Stroud Township.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog
610-761-9116, baylogj@gmail.com
Website: www.forkstu.org

Our 2nd annual Pig & Corn Roast is at the Riverside

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Bar & Grill on Sept. 21. We held stream cleanups on Martins Creek and Bushkill Creek, and completed our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup in April. We sent four to "Wayne's Coldwater Kids." Members assisted Stockertown Rod & Gun Club with a fishing derby for special needs kids and assisted Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center staff with their Family fishing program in May. On April 19th, Nazareth Middle School released brook trout raised as part of the TIC program. In May, Bangor Middle School students released brook trout into Martins Creek at four different locations, and Wind Gap Middle School held their release. Easton High School and Easton Academy also participated in the program. During the school year our chapter had provided copies of the booklet, "My Healthy Stream" to all of our participating schools. We also offered the Watershed Decisions exercise, a watershed decision-making activity for adults and older students. On June 1, our chapter hosted a fly fishing skills station at Northampton County Youth Field Day. Our June 5 meeting was a "Fish the Bushkill Night." There was another fish kill on Bushkill Creek when pumps were shut down at a local quarry for about four hours on the morning of June 3 and caused dewatering of the creek between Stockertown and Tatamy when the remaining stream flow drained into numerous sinkholes. This has been a recurring problem since 1999 with a major fish kill in September of 2008. Our chapter is again ramping up efforts to ensure that the creek in this area has continuous flow.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Dave Abraham

610-844-3459, dabraham@rcn.com

Website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze26x43/hokendauquachaptertroutunlimited>

We held cleanups along the Coplay and Hokendauqua Creeks in April. Our Embrace-A-Stream project is set to be completed this August at the Kreidersville covered bridge. The restoration project includes the stabilization of 105 feet of severely eroded stream bank by installing a bank cover crib and modified mud sill cribbing system using logs, oak boards and large stone, then stabilizing the work area with trees, shrubs and seeding to establish a riparian buffer. Catasauqua High School students released their TIC fish at the Kreidersville covered bridge in April. In June, David Abraham, Dr. Dale Steventon, Chris Fye, Phil Hublitz and John Rocchio demonstrated fly casting for the Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association's "Splash Day." Twelve members assisted 30 women participating in "Women in the Outdoors," where they were introduced to TU, fly fishing equipment, fly casting and fishing the pond. In May, 25 members assisted 34 veterans and family members at Dr. Robert Saks' residence for a Project Healing Waters event. Vets learned how to fly cast, tie flies and enjoyed fly fishing for trout. Another PHW event was June 21-23. Check our website for the calendar of events, meetings, projects, stream cleanups and other events.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Gary Smith

570-718-0686, tu414@comcast.net

Website: www.lackawannavalleytu.org

Our TU Teens finished their course, with six Boy Scouts in the class earning the fly fishing merit badge. Our major fundraiser is a pig roast on Aug. 18. We are

also raffling a one-man pontoon boat with just 100 tickets to be sold. We held a number of meetings with other local conservation groups that have an interest in the Lackawanna River, and have formed an alliance to work together toward protecting the river. We also had meetings with local state reps and DEP. Our main focus is to insure storm water runoff that is awaiting DEP permits will meet the safety requirements for trout and other wildlife living in and near the river.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

610-909-2652, monocacytu491@gmail.com

Website: www.monocacytu.org

Member Bob Signorello assisted with the Hokendauqua Chapter's PHW event and helped vets learn fly casting. He also organized an outing for our chapter at the home of Dr. Bob Saks, where we enjoyed fabulous fishing on his stocked pond. Vicky Bastidas has been organizing cleanups and other projects on the Monocacy. She also organized a field trip day for about 130 middle school students on the creek at Housenick Memorial Park. Students visited several stations, with topics ranging from the history of the park, to in-stream sampling for aquatic insects. Erik Broesicke and Bob Signorello assisted. Vicky funded the trip with a Growing Greener Grant. Todd Griffith and Vicky Bastidas are both pursuing the Master Watershed Steward title through Penn State. We continue to apply for the necessary permits to remove a small dam on the creek, and explore other conservation projects to improve stream health.

Pike Wayne Chapter #462

Matt Wishneski

570-685-5420, mattwishneski@gmail.com

Website: www.pwtu.org

Our annual conservation banquet was April 13 at Lukan's Farm Resort in Hawley. Over 100 attended. The "Evening Hatch" annual conservation award was presented by NE Regional VP Greg Malaska and our president, Matt Wishneski, to our secretary, Manny Vidal. We approved a scholarship of \$500 per year for four years to be awarded to a student from either the Pike or Wayne county school districts seeking a degree in Wildlife Biology, Fisheries or Environmental Science. Selection guidelines are being worked out. Plans to conduct stream improvements on the Masthope Creek in State Game Lands 316 are in the works. The project will consist of culvert replacement, other stream adjustments and debris removal. We will purchase a macroinvertebrate test kit for future training and research. Classes will be given to members and other groups on the use of the kit as well as instruction on macro identification on local streams. Another project involves a water quality and macro study on a stretch of the Meshoppen Creek in Wyoming County. The water lies outside of our area of responsibility, but the project was approved by the Stanley Cooper, Jr. Chapter, which has responsibility and has worked closely with us on other projects.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

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John Bondura
570-640-5300, jgbond@verizon.net

On April 4, Secretary Tony Mione attended the Seminar Curriculum Fair at Williams Valley Elementary School and sponsored a fly tying demonstration. Chapter volunteers assisted the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce with its fishing awareness program. We sponsored the Big Brother/Big Sisters fishing derby. We sponsored the Make-A-Wish fishing contest and raised \$1,500. We participated in the first Family Fun Day at Sweet Arrow Lake. On May 18, we attended the Friedensburg Fish and Game Club's annual youth day and the annual Bear Creek Festival. We made a \$400 donation to William Valley high school for its inaugural TIC project and gave a \$200 donation to Pine Grove School District to purchase another tank. We attended the Norm Thornburg Conservation Camp and gave fly tying and fly casting demonstrations. Randy Emerick provided background information for a recent article in *Schuylkill Living* magazine entitled "The Schuylkill, One of the County's Finest Natural Resources." We are close to finalizing our updated website. Our annual cleanup of Route 895 along Bear Creek was over Memorial Day. Tony Mione gave a fly tying demonstration and fish identification program at Williams Valley High School. We continue to do water quality monitoring and plan to adopt a section of the Schuylkill River between Pottsville and Port Carbon for improvement. John Bondura and Ivan Willard gave presentations on aquatic life at Tri-Valley High School. They conducted a fish identification class, a fly tying demonstration and participated in the TIC release. Our sole fundraising event is Aug. 24 at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds.

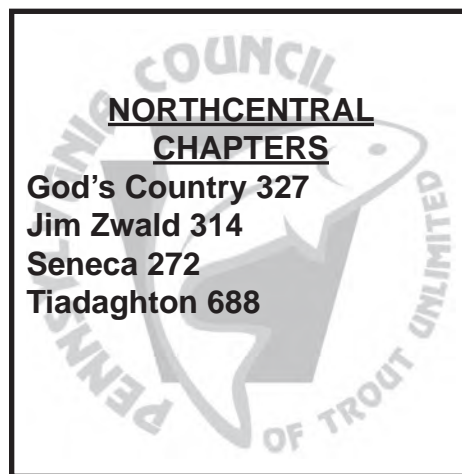
Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251
Heide Cebreck
570-675-4881, heide@baut.com
Website: www.sctu.org

Our April meeting featured guest speaker Joe Humphreys. Our May speaker was Bart Larmouth, general manager of the Delaware River Club. We also had a visit from Joe Vinton of the Bear Creek Land Trust. He wanted to inform members of upcoming events with the nature preserve. The PHW program moved outdoors early this year. In April, the group went to Frances Slocum State Park for casting instructions and a picnic. In May, they fished at the Indian Mountain Rod & Gun Club in Kresgeville. In June, we were fortunate to be guests at two events. Paradise Fishing & Hunting Club outside of Weatherly and Arrowhead Lake, Mount Pocono, both hosted a day of fishing with lunch. The Wyoming Valley Fly Tyers meetings will resume in September on the third Tuesday at the VFW in Kingston. Jay Downs and Dave Cebreck conducted the annual Adult Fly Fishing Camp on May 11 at the American Legion in Mountaintop. Five new members learned about fly fishing, entomology, casting and tying. Joe Ackourey thanked his committee for another successful youth camp, which was held in June at the roadside rest along Bowmans Creek. The 14 youths enjoyed learning stations and fishing at the all-day camp. We sponsored a Crestwood student, Justin Evanick, for the PA Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp. President Cebreck is working with the Women's Committee and continues to introduce members of a women's organization she is involved with to TU. Our college outreach initiative committee contacted local colleges. Our banquet will be April 5, 2014 at the East Mountain Inn. Joe Ackourey held a stream cleanup on Bowmans Creek. Board members continue to monitor

environmental issues on Bowmans Creek, the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers, and offered to help with the Solomon Creek watershed. Joe Vinton, manager of the Bear Creek Preserve of the Natural Lands Trust discussed a future joint project at the May meeting.

Western Pocono Chapter #203
George Hludzik
570-233-0099, grhlaw@ptd.net

In April, we conducted a fly tying and casting clinic for Cub Scout Pack 207. Scouts learned to tie at least two different kinds of flies and were taught the basics of casting. Orvis donated a fly tying kit that is available for any Scout to borrow. Our April meeting featured a presentation and a question and answer session by John Arway. Also in April we provided assistance to scouts at Camp Kresge as part of a fishing derby. In May, chapter representatives met with PFBC officials and members of the Luzerne County Conservation District to discuss possible habitat improvement projects on tributaries along the upper Nescopeck Creek. Designated as part of the PFBC Priority Stream Project, many of the Nescopeck tribs are listed as Class A. The commission would like to install stream improvement devices to increase the size of individual native brook trout that are in these small streams. Karl Lutz, PFBC stream habitat project director, will be planning projects with other commission officials and LCCD personnel. The LCCD hopes to contribute some funding for the projects. Nescopeck State Park officials are also reported to be on board. Also in May, WPTU members offered testimony at a Public Utility Commission hearing at Thornhurst opposing the proposed PPL route for a new high voltage power line near Thornhurst and supporting the alternative "Citizen's Route." We appealed to PUC officials to use common sense before allowing PPL to install a massive power line across at least 10 officially designated EV tributaries of the Upper Lehigh River.



REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
Open

God's Country Chapter #327
Dr. Peter Ryan
814-274-8718, drflyfish@yahoo.com

We hosted our sixth annual PHW event May 21-24. In early June, chapter members Dave Saulter, Ted Bear and Bob Volkmar met with Michel Pipeline Construction

representatives to review erosion and sediment controls and other stream safeguards being implemented during construction of the Tennessee Gas pipeline being built across northern Potter County. The pipeline will cross the upper reaches of the Allegheny River and several tributaries, all of which are High Quality and support natural reproduction of trout. Our members were impressed with the measures being taken to protect the streams. These include a new, more effective type of silt fencing, limiting the open trench to three pipe lengths on steep slopes and leaving the existing riparian vegetation intact over most of the right-of-way width at stream crossings. On June 15, Frank Weeks and Bob Volkmar conducted a training session for the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association for the stream assessment of the Allegheny River Headwaters above Coudersport. UAWA volunteers, most of which are TU members, are doing the assessment to gather data to develop a conservation plan. This project is funded by a grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership. As a member of the Quality Assurance Board of the Dirt & Gravel Program in Potter County, Pete Ryan and others gave final approval for five new projects to be implemented in 2013-14. Since 1996, the county has received \$3,300,000 for improvements of our dirt and gravel roads – the biggest source of sediment pollution in the county.

James Zwald Chapter #314
Murray Neeper
814-834-3472, mneeper@zitomedia.net

In April, we participated in "Wayne's Coldwater Kids" and members conducted an educational rotation for St. Marys Catholic Middle School TIC students at Bendigo State Park. Approximately 48 students attended stations that included knot tying, entomology, features of a watershed and fingerling release in the East Branch of the Clarion. At April's meeting, Jeff Buchheit gave a presentation on the fundamentals of fly tying. This was particularly interesting as Jeff used the Internet connections at the St. Marys Area Middle School Outdoor Classroom to project to a big screen each aspect of his talk. In May, Rachael Kester of TU gave a presentation on Acid Mine Drainage in the Susquehanna River Basin. She provided information sheets and details on the active lime facility which is now in operation on the Bennett's Branch of the Sinnemahoning. According to data, approximately 33 three miles of stream should be rehabilitated by this facility. Members of the chapter attended the Environmental Committee meeting held in DuBois by Bob Volkmar.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688
Larry Harris
814-628-2123, wildbrookies@verizon.net

In April, we performed our annual Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup along Route 6 near Ansonia, and also held our conservation dinner and banquet. Our guest speaker was Dr. Mel Zimmerman of Lycoming College, who is the coordinator of the student program on unassessed streams. Three local students and our VP attended the "Wayne's Coldwater Kids" program on Spruce Creek. We also co-sponsored two area high groups that took fishing field trips. We recognized Dr. William Lellis of the USGS Leetown Science Center with an inscribed glass plaque for his past involvement with many of our community education programs. The presentation was made May 10 during an event hosted by the Tiadaghton

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Audubon Society marking the successful Pine Creek eel reintroduction program spearheaded by Lellis and assisted by PATU, DCONR, Pine Creek Headwater Protection Group and the Tiadaghton Audubon Society. In May, our TIC teachers and students released their brook trout in area creeks. We participated in the Tioga County "Springfest" at Hill's Creek State Park in mid-May. Our June general membership meeting and chapter picnic was at Dr. Bellinger's camp. In July, we did stream habitat improvement work on Asaph Run.

NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Allegheny Mountain 036
Caldwell Creek 437
Cornplanter 526
Iron Furnace 288
Neshannock 216
Northwest PA 041
Oil Creek 424

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

814-371-9290, maksak@comcast.net

Website: www.amctu.org

Our 47th annual banquet was a success. John Stahl received the Golden Reel Award for his service to the chapter. We are part of a pilot program to help identify wild trout waters as part of the Unassessed Waters Program. Members are to go out and find trout populations by fishing or personal observation and then we will enter those creeks in the database so they can be checked by an "official" survey team and added to the Natural Reproduction List. We received a Coldwater Heritage Grant for our assessment on the Upper Sandy Lick Creek. We hosted an environmental day at Camp Mountain Run with over 300 students participating. We were helped by members of National TU, PATU and PFBC. Students learned about AMD, water testing, macroinvertebrates, reptiles and habitat assessment. We hosted an electroshocking demonstration for DuBois Area Catholic Schools' 8th graders and select members of DuBois Area's 8th grade on the Sandy Lick Creek. We also did a macro station with the Brockway Elementary at Clear Creek State Park. Our annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters event was June 15 at the Tannery Dam.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

Website: www.ironfurnacetu.net

Our banquet was a huge success. We are still working on the 3Rivers Quest water monitoring grab samples. The 3Rivers Quest mini-grants were awarded on June 19 to monitor in the Upper Allegheny Watershed. TU received the biggest grant amount, \$16,000, that Mitch Blake will use to distribute monitoring equipment to chapters in the watershed. Grant recipients and amounts are: Trout Unlimited, \$16,026; Crawford County Conservation District, \$7,000; Elk County Conservation District, \$7,000; McKean County Conservation District, \$7,000 and Warren County Conservation District, \$2,733.73. Work on the watershed assessment of Cathers Run is ongoing and is to be finished this summer. We are currently monitoring 25 Marcellus locations throughout the Upper Allegheny Watershed. This project has been a huge success thanks to the hard work done by Bruce Dickson. He will work with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy this summer to remove culverts on streams in the Upper Porcupine Watershed that are blocking fish passage. We held our annual fly fishing class at Fitzgerald's Pond in Brookville with around 10 participants, and they were all given a membership to TU. We participated in the Jefferson County Youth Field Day on June 8. Over 150 area kids attended and IFTU showed the basics of fly tying and fly casting. TIC was once again a success with all of our participating chapters releasing fish this spring.

Neshannock Chapter #216

Jeff Kremis

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

Website: www.neshannock-tu.org

We held our annual Fishing Derby on Wolf Creek

and had a cleanup of the Coolspring DHALO area in April. In June, we held a workday to complete the final phase of the Coolspring bank stabilization project. The Deer Creek group hosted a youth only fishing area for the first 30 days of trout season and held an opening day picnic on the stream. They have a workday planned for Sept. 28 on Deer Creek in the area of the Custaloga Boy Scout Camp. We are still looking for volunteer monitors for the CCC program.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Gary Ross

814-337-6931, info@oilcreektu.org

Website: www.oilcreektu.org

April's program was a DVD on steelhead fishing presented by noted writer and guide George Douglas and his wife, Elizabeth. Our May meeting was our annual budget meeting. We are in good shape financially to accomplish our goals for this coming year, including our planned habitat improvement projects on Little Sandy Creek. The 2013 banquet was a success. We were sold out several weeks prior to the event. We booked the Quality Inn for April 5, 2014. The first of our habitat improvement projects on Little Sandy Creek is scheduled to be done in September. Plans are being made regarding cost of materials and labor, contractors, permits needed and sources for labor. There are a possible 40 different devices which could be installed to improve the stream habitat. We would like to do a big project next year, starting at the pump station. We sent four students to "Wayne's Coldwater Kids" this year. We were represented at Earth Day celebrations at Polk Center on April 18. We sponsored a student to attend this year's Wildlife Leadership Academy. We participated in the Venango County Youth Field Day on June 15.

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Northwest PA Chapter #041

Erik Cronk

814-881-7526, ecronk@cronkinsuranceinc.com

Waterford Elementary concluded another successful TIC year with the release of their fish. We have been involved with the Caldwell Creek Chapter's planning of an upcoming stream improvement project and will offer manpower and assistance.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTERS

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



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REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Fred Gender

E-mail: afgender@ptd.net

Phone: 570-704-8764

Bucks County Chapter #254

Ed Harrington

215-260-6640

edlickflyfish@comcast.net

Website: www.buckstu.org

Our TIC program had three schools this year. One school lost all of their fish, and the other two released a total of 90 fish. Chapter member and TIC coordinator Kent Sloan taught four fly tying classes to students from William Tennant High School with the assistance of chapter member Mike Gogal. We held our annual picnic in June this year at Peace Valley Park on Lake Galena.

DelCo Manning Chapter #320

David W. Wharton

610-583-2920, davidwharton@verizon.net

Website: www.dmtu.org

We held our end of year picnic on June 8 and it was well-attended and produced new members. Our annual stream cleanup was with Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watersheds Association on May 4.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

John Tunney

610-360-1956

littlelehighchaptertu@gmail.com

As we complete our first year as a reorganized chapter we would like to take this opportunity to thank those at PATU who have assisted us throughout the year. Thanks also go out to Brian Wagner and Fred Gender for guiding us through the reorganization process and the numerous times they fielded questions and gave good counsel. It is our intention to continue to work with "local" chapters that have been kind enough to invite us to their events (Forks of the Delaware, Hokendauqua and Monocacy). We would also like to participate in activities with the other chapters in the southeast. Bob Saks, a Hokendauqua member, gave a presentation at our monthly meeting on Czech nymphing. On May 7, we participated in a Community Day sponsored by Lower Macungie Township. We let residents know about our chapter and activities with the hope that additional people would join us. One of the additional benefits was the ability to network with some of the township's management to make them aware of our involvement. Lower Macungie Township is the major land owner along the Little Lehigh. We have dam removal and stream restoration objectives and the township's cooperation is critical. In June, Dr. Marten J. Edwards, an

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associate professor of Biology at Muhlenberg College, spoke about the challenges to insects in the Little Lehigh and its tributaries and gave some perspective on how insect conservation goes hand in hand with fisheries. In May, members participated in the Envirothon sponsored by the Lehigh County Conservation District at the Wildlands Conservancy in Emmaus. This is a national environmentally-based competition for high school students. The chapter received a TIC grant to support Seven Generations, a local charter school, which will be our first program. We self-funded a program at St. John Vinney in Allentown as our second school. On April 6, Mitch Blake conducted CCC training at the Wildlands Conservancy. Two sites are currently being monitored on the Little Lehigh. We are planning to monitor additional sites within the Little Lehigh Watershed. On May 21, we held our first stream cleanup. We worked on the stream from the covered bridge just below the Heritage Fly Shop to the pedestrian bridge by the police academy. We hope to conduct a second cleanup from the pedestrian bridge to the Allentown Water Works in the fall. The Wildlands Conservancy has been successful in obtaining a grant that will provide for the removal of nine dams on the Little Lehigh, Jordan Creek and Lehigh River. We had an objective to remove one of the dams (Wild Cherry Lane) and had approached Lower Macungie Township to seek approval for removal. The Conservancy had also targeted this dam, and as a result of the grant it will be removed. We will assist in some of the stream restoration work.

Perkiomen Valley Chapter #332

Chaz Macdonald

610-730-4956, chazmac1949@rcn.com

Website: www.pvtu.org

TIC activities for the year ended on May 15 when 45 brook trout were released into Perkiomen Creek in the ATW section below Hosensack Creek. We're waiting to hear back on a grant for a tributary to Hosensack Creek for riparian buffer remediation. It's our first project on Hosensack Creek, an important tributary of Perkiomen Creek that has brown trout.

SE Montgomery County Chapter

#468

Richard Terry

215-675-1536, rtroadrash@msn.com

Website: www.tu468.org

Our annual Fishing Derby for kids in Lorimer Park was in April. The annual chapter trip to Penns Creek was in April. Of the two schools that participated in TIC, only one had fish that survived. They were released in the Pennypack. In May, the chapter had a booth at the Farm to Table Day located on the Pennypack Farm. The chapter, and several other groups, was recognized as good stewards of the earth.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Bill Eggleston

610-404-7278, info@tullytu.org

Website: www.tullytu.org

On June 9, three members met with our outgoing resource management leader, Len Good, to train on how to survey a stream. Len walked us through the Hay Creek at Joanna Furnace and explained what procedure was

needed at each damaged location and why each situation is different. In April, we held our first fundraising banquet in five years at the Fish Pond West in Leesport. We assisted two schools, Robeson Elementary and Conrad Weiser Middle, with their TIC release day. We are adding two new schools to the program this fall. We also sponsored a student to the PA Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp this year. In November, we will start two stream restoration projects on farms in our chapter's territory. We continue to do stream monitoring across the county as part of the CCC, to gather baseline stream data in preparation of natural gas pipelines being installed in Berks County.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Robbi Freisem

610-446-0341, rfrisem@verizon.net

Website: www.valleyforgetu.org

Members met with Paul Doscher and Bryan Moore, of National TU about easements that VFTU has been negotiating or holds. Chris Burns volunteered to take the position of advertising manager for *Banknotes*. Matt Seymour offered to work with the VFTU board on succession planning. The board acknowledged this need long ago but it is a difficult project to pursue so Matt is interviewing board members to provide direction. Treasurer Frank Donohoe advised the board that he will be resigning effective with the election of officers in September. Matt Seymour and Robbi Freisem attended PATU leadership training on July 27. VFTU has signed a memorandum of agreement with Project Healing Waters. The veterans services partnership between VFTU and PHWFF had its kickoff event on June 19. "Valley Forge Project Healing Waters" hosted 20 vets and gave them the opportunity to experience fly casting and tying. Check out the Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyForgeProjectHealingWaters>. John Dettrey organized the VFTU Fly Fishing School on May 19. More than 30 students participated. Pocopson Elementary School is joining the TIC program. Jim Leonard has agreed to be the chapter liaison. Membership Chair Jim Ferrier organized VFTU volunteers for Downingtown Orvis 101 and 201. The speaker for our May meeting was Todd Polacek, business manager/limnologist, Applied Ecological Services, Brodhead, Wis. who gave a presentation on restoration ecology. Frank Donohoe and Pete Goodman are working with Trammell Crow and Open Lands Conservancy on agreement for maintaining Valley Creek easement and assuring perpetual cold water flow to Valley Creek. The Earth Day celebration at Wilson Farm Park included tree planting and cleaning up Tredyffrin. Demonstration rain gardens are planned/planted in Wilson Farm Park in Tredyffrin Township. We are partnering with Green Valleys Association, Chester County Conservation Districts' Valley Creek Trustee Council and Pennsylvania Environmental Council for modifying retention basins in the Valley Creek Watershed. We are planning monitoring activities for Williams Transco gas line dry cut crossing of the Brandywine above Downingtown. Pete Goodman and Frank Donohoe continue to work on issues related to the PA Turnpike widening that will affect Valley Creek. The LeBoutillier Bridge is under construction and the Church Road Bridge over Valley Creek is scheduled for replacement. Questions will be posed to DEP and activities monitored. The Keeper of the Stream program for Valley Creek continues to seek permission for stream access from landowners. Jeff Bush is monitoring and reporting to VF National Park creek bank erosion in the Park and exposed sewer manholes.

SOUTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

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Codorus 558

Cumberland Valley 052

Doc Fritchey 108

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Falling Spring 234

Muddy Creek 575

Penns Creek 119

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Adams County Chapter #323

Dave Swope

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swopeda@hotmail.com

www.adamscountytu.org

We worked on restoration projects on Conewago Creek July 20 and on the Conococheague Creek with our partners DCNR, CVTU and FSTU. The chapter has a new Eagle Scout, Thomas Oleskey. One project he completed to obtain Eagle Scout was furthering his leadership skills by working collaboratively with PFBC and ACTU to design and install stream improvements to enhance fish habitat along Little Marsh Creek. He is currently working on the Hornady Award, which will include the planting of trees and shrubs along the banks of Middle Creek in the fall. ACTU has increased interest in local trout streams by designing a laminated framed trout stream map of all Adams County streams, including access points, townships and waterways for a fundraiser. For readability, the map had to be enlarged, which caused an increase in the cost. Our focus then changed to the eight local sportsmen clubs for their club rooms. A fishing derby was held at Latimore Valley Fairgrounds in May. Trout were provided by Yellow Breeches Anglers Association. TIC schools rearing brook trout had the opportunity to meet with our youth coordinator and ACTU members conducted classroom instructions on water quality, vernal pools, fly tying, fly casting, macros and releasing their fingerlings at Strawberry Hill Nature Center in Fairfield. Two more schools will enter the program in 2013, bringing our total to seven. Numerous schools were visited by members this year. Fish species and the history of ACTU were subjects. The chapter assisted the PFBC by float stocking the Conewago Creek in May. Southcentral Outdoors for Youths was held at the East Berlin F&G and the chapter instructed the fly tying station. Chapter members performed their annual addition of limestone sand to the headwaters of Mountain Creek thru a partnership with CVTU that started back in 2003.

Codorus Chapter #558

Tom Fenninez

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Website: www.codorustu.org

Chapter members expressed an interest in bringing back our annual chapter picnic, and plans are underway for an event this summer. We started the application process for funding for another large-scale reclamation project. We have an interested landowner and hope we can complete a much-needed restoration within the next year. Our annual spring stream cleanup was in late April. We were joined by students from one of our TIC projects. Prior to the cleanup, the students also released brook trout they raised. They also stuck around afterward for a stream sampling that showed a wide variety of aquatic life. Our second annual Family Fishing Fun Day was held on Memorial Day at Codorus State Park. Two more wader wash stations will be installed along the Codorus, bringing the total to six stations, covering all but one of the stream's popular access points. Our goal is to prevent the spread of didymo to the Codorus.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

Justin Pittman

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Website: cvtu.homestead.com

In April, volunteers worked with Carlisle area elementary schools and the Audubon Society doing ecology studies at Letort Park with 2nd and 5th grade students. In May, we assisted with PHW on Penns Creek. Our chapter sponsored and organized four different chapter fishing trips in the month and spent a great deal of time planning for upcoming camps and stream habitat projects in June. We sponsored a successful ladies fly fishing course at Allenberry Resort on June 8. Twenty-three women participated in classroom and on-stream instruction. The following week, we sponsored Reel for Recovery at Allenberry, followed by the 19th Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp on June 16. CVTU volunteers helped during morning and evening sessions, and also provided many different presentations and classroom instruction throughout the week. We finished June 25-26 with the Cumberland County Street to Streams Program. During this two-day event, CVTU partnered with the Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Department and other human service departments to work with 15 troubled youths from throughout the county to introduce them to fly fishing and conservation. We are planning for our CVTU picnic on Aug. 2 at Allenberry. We are also planning for a big fundraiser for the weekend of Sept. 6-7 at the Carlisle Sports and Outdoor show. CVTU will have a booth there selling flies, books, etc. We are also sponsoring a fly casting and fly tying competition at the event. We completed two stream projects on the Run in Boiling Springs, in conjunction with the students from the Rivers Conservation Camp and PFBC. We are finalizing the plans with Falling Spring and Adams County chapters for the Birch Run project.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Archie Fenton

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Website: www.dftu.org

Progress continues on the Quitapahilla Creek project, extending the delayed harvest section. The stream bank restoration plan was approved by DEP and the U.S.

www.patroul.org

Army Corps of Engineers. Seven-hundred white pine seedlings were planted along the banks of Clarks Creek in May. This was our second annual planting to replace hemlocks dying off from the woolly adelgid. Volunteers picked up trash along a two-mile stretch of Clarks Valley Road as part of our annual Adopt-A-Highway project. The Russ Blessing memorial bench was completed. A work project along Manada Creek is scheduled for Aug. 10. Work continues at the diversion wells on Rausch Creek. A workday is scheduled in August to perform annual maintenance. DFTU members demonstrated fly casting and tying at several community events in May. DFTU manned a booth at the Ned Smith Festival on July 27. Our TIC programs released trout fingerlings at The Ned Smith Center in May. Our annual picnic was July 23 at Memorial Lake. The chapter hosted CCC training June 15 at the Dauphin County Conservation District building. Project "Home Waters" (DFTU's version of "Healing Waters") and our Ladies Day events were held June 8 and 9 on Clarks Creek. The first Frank J. Viozzi Memorial Scholarship was presented to Joshua Pfautz from Lebanon. Josh is pursuing a degree in Fisheries/Wildlife Management at Paul Smiths College this fall. Plans for an outreach committee are in the works, with the focus of attracting youths and women to TU.

Donegal Chapter #037

Tom Hall

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Website: www.donegaltu.org

Faye Haering organized her first ladies fly fishing clinic as a followup to her 2nd annual ladies conservation breakfast in June. Dianne Tidy, a member of Chesapeake Women Anglers and a FFF certified guide-instructor taught during the clinic at the property of Hugh Wenger's pond near Elizabethtown. We have a Big Brothers/Big Sisters fishing derby at Ned Bushong's farm ponds in August. Our spring banquet in April was a tremendous success. We had record attendance of close to 300 people. We also had record income of over \$30,000 to be put toward our stream projects. June 19 was the DTU/Foxchase Golf Course annual Fish/Golf tourney. An hour and a half of fishing on the course's ponds is followed by a round of golf. Fish caught in the morning are deducted from the team score to determine the overall winner. We are currently in discussion with The Lancaster County Conservancy concerning work to be done on Climbers Run. It involves the property formerly known as Camp Snyder, a pristine area that includes a pond and wild brook trout water. We expect funding from US Fish & Wildlife as well as Excelon Corp. We may get some help from Embrace-A-Stream. The work will probably start in 2014. Work on Conowingo Creek is ongoing. All forms have been signed for funding. We are just waiting for final approval for the next projects. Some repair work has been done on existing areas due to flood damage from last winter, including Tanglewood Golf Course and the Smucker farm.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Fred Hess

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Website: www.muddycreektu.org

The chapter operated two food stands in the watershed on the opening day of trout season. Chapter merchandise and food were sold. Plans are underway to man a booth at the Red Lion Street Fair in August. We

will sell beverages, chapter merchandise and promote our conservation efforts. Live stakes, branch packs, seeding and straw covering completed the repairs on the North Branch, phase one. Chapter members completed the plantings for the riparian buffer along the 1,700 feet of stream restoration on Pine Run, a tributary to the North Branch of Muddy Creek this spring. Landowners along this section have entered into the CREP program. Fencing is completed. Our third conservation project this spring entailed planting over 50 trees for the Felton Borough Growing Greener Project. This was a restoration effort for some of the stream buffer that took a hit during Tropical Storm Lee. All the trees that we planted came from our native plant nursery. For the third consecutive year we held a fishing day for children and their families from ForSight Vision at our landowner-provided handicap area on Tom's Run. Over 30 people from ForSight attended the event. Our May outing took place on the grounds of the Allegro Vineyards. Dubbed "Spring Fling 2" this event was a combination landowner appreciation day, community outreach and fundraiser. Two long-time community fundraisers were given awards as our appreciation of their efforts. A display board of the Pine Run project made by one of our chapter members provided an educational tool for the public to view our conservation efforts. Food, chapter merchandise and silent auctions were the vehicles for fundraising. We are in the planning stages for next spring's event.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Gary Parzanese

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The DNCR office at Laurelton had engineers out to look at the tunnel at Poe Paddy along Penns Creek, but no information was provided regarding its closure. They also stated the bigger barrier to repairing the tunnel is funding. It was suggested the chapter and members call and write to local representatives requesting needed funding to repair the tunnel. Our Summer Social was held outside of Poe Paddy State Park at the Snedeker camp located along Penns Creek. We had 224 people attend our banquet, raising \$1860.83. The 2014 banquet is March 22 at Belleville Mennonite School. Larry Winey reported on the meeting with DCR Bureau of Forestry and PFBC to discuss access issue to Licking Creek. All concerned are willing to work to get access lanes cleared for stocking efforts. The chapter will assist if needed. We performed a stream cleanup in April. Ten members worked about six hours on a section Kish Creek in Lewistown Borough and filled 24 large garbage bags. Ben Crago from Thompsontown gave a program on a proposed habitat project on Delaware Creek. The presentation detailed the plan designs and a tentative construction date of July 27. The Havice Creek stream project is progressing. All materials were acquired and additional labor will be provided by the Mifflin County Probation Department. We signed on with Ken Anderson of TU to support an effort to get property owners to apply for funding for stream bank plantings. Two new schools applied for TIC grants for the 2013-14 school year. We assisted in four TIC release day activities. They included the Thompson Elementary release in March, Monroe Elementary, Lack Tuscarora Elementary/Juniata High School and the Fayette Elementary releases in May. Penns Creek's Education Coordinator Larry Winey was recognized and honored at the Juniata High School FFA Award Dinner for his work with the youth of Juniata County through the TIC program.

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John Kennedy 045
Ken Sink 053
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Arrowhead Chapter #214

Chad Hough

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Arrowhead TU has T-shirts for sale with proceeds going to wild trout stream restoration and brown trout fingering stocking in Armstrong County. Email chadough@verizon.net for more information. We, along with volunteers from NRG Energy Company under the supervision of Armstrong County Conservation District, completed the restoration project of the water supply channel from the artesian well water source to raceway channels in its co-op nursery. The project took three days to complete. In May, we started a water quality and temperature study in the Red Mill Watershed to determine the possibility of a wild trout stream restoration project. This study will take about a year to gather data. An electronic data logging device will be placed in watershed for 24-hour monitoring. Two additional electronic data logging devices will be installed in streams with natural trout reproduction in Scrubgrass Creek, and Cornplanter Run. Both TIC schools sponsored by Arrowhead did their releases in May. We helped Divine Redeemer Catholic School turn their trout release day into a whole day field trip that included fly tying, fly casting, fishing tackle explanation, macro study, plus a video and a visit from local co-op nursery Pine Creek Sportsman Club that brought brook, brown and rainbow trout for the kids to see. In June was our annual kids fishing day.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Scott Hoffman

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The chapter was selected to receive a capacity building grant, which are given so that stronger organizations can do more/better work. The stakeholder interviews

have been completed and a report is being prepared. Our annual picnic was July 20 at the Youghiogheny Outflow Pavilion. DEP has the Laurel Hill Creek water resources plan on hold. As a result of this, the due date for Corrective Action Plan was delayed until February of 2014. Design of improvements for the Jimtown bridge area natural stream channel design project is ongoing. As a result of CSX day lighting a tunnel in the Laurel Hill Creek Watershed, CSX will be required to construct a mitigation project in this watershed. The search for a suitable project location/type has begun. With the assistance of Skelly & Loy, the chapter anticipates applying for a grant fund to remediate the acid mine discharge from PURCO's mining operation at Jonathan Run. The majority of the field work for TU's AMD technical assistance program was completed at the end of March on Morgan Run. A report summarizing the observations of the field work, the Geochemist Work Bench model runs and recommendations is forthcoming. A \$2,500 grant for the Glade Run Alkaline Sand Project was provided by the Dominion Foundation. This grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration. Approximately 160 tons of sand was placed on the banks of Glade Run, Big Piney and Little Piney in mid-May. Thanks to Ben Moyer, who led the delivery trucks to the sites. Additional volunteers will be needed to collect samples to document the improvements in water quality. The past year marked the beginning of our chapter's participation in the CCC. Our members now routinely check the conditions of our streams within our jurisdiction. Beaver Creek, Ramcat Run, Quebec Run and Mill Run were selected for monitoring last April based on criteria that included their importance to their watersheds and their vulnerability to nearby drilling operations. The most extensive data was collected on Beaver Creek and Ramcat Run, where our surveillance began last May and tests are taken every two weeks. Those tests revealed no alarming conditions on either stream in 2012. Our surveillance efforts on Mill Run and Quebec Run began last October and monitoring is done monthly. Monitoring in 2012 found no suspicious conditions on either stream. We are entering all of the data we collected into an Internet-based TU database managed by CitSci.org. Members who completed the TU stream surveillance training and are interested in monitoring are urged to contact Jeff Fraser at jeffery.fraser@gmail.com.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Monty Murty

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Website: www.forbestrailltu.org

Four TIC projects reaching more than 500 7th graders finished this spring with field trips to Linn Run State Park to release their trout. Our chapter is primary sponsor of a tourism and economic development initiative in southwest PA called the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail. Chapter members participated in more than a dozen activities from April through June, including sponsoring the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail Rendezvous on April 21. Members camped at Seven Mountains Campground for a week of the sulfur hatch on Spring, Penns and Fishing creeks May 6-10. This was our fifth year traveling from western PA to catch the hatches on our state's premier limestoneers. The chapter again is busy with our Laurel Highlands Trout Trail project to get fly rods into the hands of folks new to angling, and to attract tourists to our area to enhance economic development

and get local businesses involved with the TU mission.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Derrick Miller

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FBTU participated in the annual Bob's Creek stream cleanup held by the Bob's Creek Stream Guardians. During the event, several members inspected previously placed monofilament collectors throughout Blue Knob State Park and nearby areas. We are pleased with the results. The mono collectors are being used properly and not being vandalized. Due to these results, we have placed two more collectors in heavy traffic areas throughout the park. We previously reported installation of several devices in a northern Bedford County wild trout stream last summer. Results have been exceptional. The devices are performing better than expected and excellent results have been achieved. Erosion has been curbed and fish passage produced. Several members participated in Bedford County Youth Field Day. Blue Knob State Park hosted FBTU to present a field class on Entomology, Fly Tying, and Fly Casting. Attendance was exceptional and we received positive feedback.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Creg Strock

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The chapter was privileged to have Father Clement Gardner, from St. Michaels church in Hollidaysburg, demonstrate his skills as an accomplished fly tier, tying his foam patterns, the "Big Butt Beetle," his grasshopper imitation, as well as a variety of ant and cricket patterns in April. In May, we had the famous author of "Fishing Trout Streams in Pennsylvania," Dwight Landis, provide insight on fishing the numerous native brook trout streams that abound in central Pennsylvania. At June's meeting, both Bob George and Creg Strock demonstrated fly tying techniques in creating terrestrial patterns. The chapter held a family picnic cookout in lieu of the normal membership meeting on July 13 at the campground in Barre, on the Little Juniata River. August's membership meeting will also be held streamside on the Little Juniata River at the Pemberton section. In September, we will return to our normal schedule. Bill Anderson, president of the Little Juniata River Association, is scheduled give a presentation on the restoration of the Little J. Our partnership with the Sheetz Corporation continues to wait on completion of the final permits before we can roll up our sleeves and start on the construction of the wetlands project at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. We will be planting in excess of 350 trees, shrubs and rootstock. Our annual banquet is Aug. 21 at the Lion's Club Park in Newery. Additional details for our banquet were published in our recent "Natural Channels" newsletter.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Eli Long

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Website: kensink.blogspot.com

Several board members attended the Saltsburg TIC release day on May 16. We were able provide funding for the Indiana County Envirothon. There are also two youths attending conservation camps this summer that we were able to sponsor. Plans are being developed for our summer picnic. This summer we will be assisting

at a number of the local sportsmen clubs' Youth Field Days. We had a very successful banquet this year. The money raised from this event will be used for programs this coming year as well as fund future conservation efforts. Our May membership meeting, and reasonable water levels this year, allowed us to complete the annual macro survey on Little Mahoning Creek and Cessna Run with the assistance of the Indiana chapter of the PA Senior Environmental Corps.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Randy Buchanan

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We completed cleanups on Clearshade Creek, Paint Creek, Brumbaugh MT Road and Yellow Creek. We are doing CCC stream monitoring. Stream improvement projects are scheduled for Ben's Creek and Potter Creek in August. We supported Berlin and Shanksville schools for TIC fish releases.

Penns Woods West Chapter #042

Walter Reineman

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We will celebrate our 50th anniversary on Sept. 21 with a banquet dinner at Grazie's restaurant in Wexford, just north of Pittsburgh. Memorabilia from the chapter's archives will be on display. Keynote speaker will be Chris Wood, president and CEO of National TU. Our May chapter meeting featured a night of members' trip adventures. Peter Ten Eyck, Ron Milavec and Christian Shane shared pictures and memories of their most recent angling trips. On May 5 was the "Finny Friend" release day at North Park Lake. The brook trout were raised by Christian Shane's TIC class at McKnight Elementary School. Another success was the Dan Wagner Memorial Kid's Fishing Day held May 11. Partnering with the Allison Park Sportsman's Club, of which Dan was a member, a picnic was held by North Park Lake with fishing and outdoor activities for the children. While we do not have an official youth program, we are fortunate to have these partnerships to promote our cause. Our Pine Creek workday and improvement project is scheduled for a yet to be determined September weekend. We have a strong core group of members that are working with Mitch Blake in monitoring area creeks for water quality in relation to any impacts from Marcellus exploration and drilling.

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Columbia County Chapter #38

Randy Bennett (acting)

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Our chapter's open house was May 30 at Kocher Park. There will be a membership meeting in September to discuss upcoming projects and events and set the goals for the coming year. More information on the date, time and location will be sent out in August. A Fish-n-Fun event for people of all ages with special needs was scheduled at Kocher Park on June 1. Members were encouraged to attend the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) general meeting, the Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association (RCVCA) presentation at Weiser State Forest and the Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions (BCAWS) presentation at the Briar Creek Lake Pavilion in June.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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Website: www.lwtu.org

WCO Anthony Beers attended our April meeting and updated us on some of the current happenings with the PFBC, particularly as they relate to our area. Our May meeting featured Michele Kittell, executive director of the PA Institute for Conservation and Education, and Justin DiRado, PATU's education and outreach coordinator. Members assisted at Jersey Shore Middle School's environmental field days, where members instructed approximately 200 students in fundamentals of fly casting and fly tying. On June 1, we helped with the children's fishing event at the NE Fishery Center in Lamar. Approximately 130 youngsters ages 4-12 showed up to fish. Members assisted at the Fishery Center fishing event for Life Skills students from Clinton and Center counties. The Extended Care Unit from Lock Haven Hospital had guests at the fishery center for a fishing event and members assisted. We also helped with the PFBC's family fishing event at the Sayers Lake on June 8. On April 5, we had our annual family picnic at Sieg Conference Center. Our TIC programs released trout prior to the closing of school.

R.B. Winter Chapter #127

Robert Laubach

570-966-3379, oldfrstr@dejazzd.com

On April 19, TIC coordinator Joe Southerton directed the release of over 100 brook trout into Weikert Run. Mifflinburg Middle School students said goodbye to the trout they had been nursing since October. On April 20, chapter members and volunteers conducted a cleanup of Penns Creek from the tunnel to Weikert. Several truckloads of trash were collected. On April 27, members assisted with the Wounded Warrior program sponsored by the Union Co. Sportsman Club. On May 15, we held our final monthly meeting of the year with a picnic and

"fishout" on Penns Creek. On June 23, members taught fly tying and casting at the annual Summerfest held at R.B. Winter State Park.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Judi Sittler

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We received a Water Resource Education Network (WREN) grant of \$3,800. WREN is a project of the Citizens Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. The grant proposal is titled: "Return the Roots - A Backyard Makeover for Streamside Owners." Our goal is to begin the process of educating streamside owners on the importance of maintaining a healthy, deep rooted, buffer zone. In 2012, National TU published a handbook for streamside owners, which we plan to distribute. The kick-off for this campaign will be a "backyard makeover" for some lucky homeowner. Our slogan will be "Return the Roots - Runoff Pollutes." Bob Vierck and Judi Sittler spent two days at Dickenson College where WREN organizers held a training session. Judi and local high school senior Corey Stoner are attending the 2nd TU Teen Summit in the Tetons of Wyoming north of Jackson. Banquet revenue was down this year. We stuck to the letter of the law, which greatly reduced our ability to raise funds in the traditional, bucket raffle way. We participated in the 36-hour online donation fundraiser in our community called "Centre Gives." That effort brought in just under \$2,000. In May, we established an endowment with the Centre Foundation to offer a vehicle for members and supporters to donate in a way that will provide funds for streamside projects in perpetuity. In June, we were in the stream working on the first of several restoration sites being funded by the NFWF grant awarded to us in October, 2012. We will be mitigating erosion on Spring Creek in Milesburg. In conjunction with the stream work, we will conduct an outreach program for families called "Buffer Buddies." We are inviting families to come see the restoration work, which is right at a bridge and within easy viewing. Volunteers have presented lessons on casting, aquatic insect identification, fly tying and knot tying at tables during the following events: Earth Day, Arbor Day, Spring Creek Family Festival, the Port Matilda Sportsman's Club Youth Days, Bellefonte Art Museum "Waterways" activities and exhibits, and Krislund Camp (Fly Fishing week). Rebecca Holler, Educational Coordinator, Eastern Abandoned Mine Program, has been invaluable in assisting us with the Krislund Camp program.

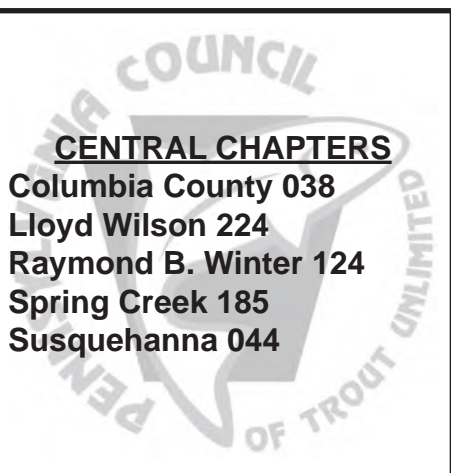
Susquehanna Chapter #044

David Craig, secretary

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We are one of two chapters participating in the Un-assessed Waters Program for PFBC. Eight unassessed waters have been evaluated by our members, and brook trout have been found in several streams. The streams may now qualify for special protection. Some are quite close and below active gas well drilling activity. Our September meeting is with a picnic at the Montoursville boat launch. Casting and kayak demonstrations are planned.



Piatt hired to fill TU Sportsmen Organizer role

By Katy Dunlap

TU Eastern Water Project Director

Some of the best hunting and fishing in the East today is found in the region overlying the Marcellus and Utica shale formations, where intact habitat sustains healthy populations of wild and native trout as well as other game species.

Without the engagement of sportsmen and women in the conservation outcomes related to shale gas development and other critical issues such as Clean Water Act protections and flood response, these special coldwater rivers and hunting grounds could be significantly altered for future generations of hunters and anglers.

To protect these special places, TU has hired Paula Piatt as its eastern Sportsmen Organizer to educate, organize and mobilize sportsmen and women to engage in the dialogue surrounding these issues and to

develop common sense solutions.

She is working largely in the Delaware River basin and at the state level in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

A Pennsylvania native, Paula is an avid turkey hunter and angler and has a communications background – most recently as the associate editor for *New York Outdoor News*.

Paula has recently moved back to her hometown area, to Athens, Pa., from the Adirondacks in northern New York where she was a member of the Lake Champlain Chapter of TU and the Lake Champlain National Wild Turkey Federation local chapter. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism/Media Studies from Lock Haven University.

Paula's second week with TU was spent at the Sportsmen Conservation Project Inter-mountain staff retreat in Utah, where she was able to learn from our seasoned western staff ways in which she might ef-



Piatt

fectively engage hunters and anglers in the east and make headway toward working with companies, agencies and the legislators to protect critical fish and wildlife habitat from drilling related impacts.

Paula is now using this knowledge to reach out to and schedule meetings with hunting and fishing clubs, and sportsmen-oriented businesses, in PA, NY and NJ, to discuss coldwater conservation issues of concern. She is engaging hunters and anglers to take specific actions to protect special hunting and fishing places, and working with hunting and fishing clubs who own acreage to protect valuable fish and wildlife habitat on club grounds.

Paula is also helping to facilitate the Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Conservation – a coalition of 20-plus sportsmen groups, representing more than 265,000 hunters and anglers from across northern Appalachia, who are working together to identify and find solutions to mitigate or eliminate impacts from shale gas drilling on critical fish and wildlife habitat.

Contact Paula at ppiatt@tu.org to learn more about TU's efforts to protect fish and wildlife habitat.



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