

Pennsylvania TROUT



Winter 2020

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

Keystone Coldwater Conference set for Feb. 28-29 in State College

The 2020 Keystone Coldwater Conference will be held Feb. 28-29, 2020 at the Ramada Conference Center in State College.

The event will kick off on Friday with a workshop focused on aquatic organism passage (AOP), followed by an evening social and student poster session.

Poster abstracts are being accepted

from college students conducting research related to coldwater conservation until February 14.

Interested students can find more information on the website at <https://www.coldwaterconference.org/students.html>.

Saturday will begin with a keynote address by Tim Schaeffer, executive direc-

See **CONFERENCE**, page 7



**KEYSTONE
COLDWATER
CONFERENCE**

Updates on the Francis E. Walter Dam re-evaluation study



Mike Stanislaw Photo

The Lehigh River supports an outdoor recreation economy worth roughly \$35 million – largely fueled by the fishing and whitewater rafting communities.

By Rob Shane

TU Mid-Atlantic Organizer

In October 2019, New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware River Basin Commission joined the Army Corps of Engineers as non-federal sponsors of a long-awaited feasibility study that will investigate changes and improvements to flood control, recreation, water quality, as well as increasing water storage capacity in the Delaware River Basin to assist with salt line encroachment in Philadelphia.

The three-year study is made possible by a combined \$3 million investment from the three member parties.

Rising sea levels as a result of a changing climate are threatening the water infrastructure in Philadelphia. Currently, New York City is responsible for pushing the

See **STUDY**, page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

EXCOM Actions	3	Minutes	8
Headwaters	4	Chapter Reports	13
Treasurer's Report.....	5	PATU Merchandise Order Form	14

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Council launches new website...

Contributed Photo

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited launched a new website in January. The new site, developed by Quarter Note Systems in Reading, features a responsive design optimized for use on mobile devices and tablets. Donate, learn about Trout Unlimited membership, PATU programs, get merchandise, read previous newsletters and much more by visiting www.patrou.org.

In Brief

PFBC offering Fishing Skills and Fly Fishing Skills Instructor Course

The PA Fish and Boat Commission is offering its Fishing Skills and Fly Fishing Skills Instructor Course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 28 at the PFBC Centre Region Office, 595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

This Fishing Skills Instructor (FSI) course is designed to teach experienced, adult, anglers how to teach basic fishing skills, fly fishing skills and aquatic ecology. Once this course is complete, participants become a PFBC “Certified Instructor” for basic fishing and fly fishing programs. Certified instructors can then teach “SMART” Angler classes, Family Fishing and Intro to Fly Fishing programs to the public, while providing a fishing license waiver for those who attend their event. Instructors are also able to loan fishing gear from PFBC for future programs, at no cost.

Register by March 20 at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/155770>.

Space is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

TU business members wanted

Does your chapter work closely with a local business to achieve your conservation goals? Consider signing them up for a TU Business Membership!

Businesses provide a unique perspective to how clean water benefits not just anglers and fly shops, but restaurants, hotels, gas stations, grocery stores and so much more. In Pennsylvania, outdoor recreation accounts for more than 390,000 jobs and provides more than \$4.6 billion in economic output.

For just \$295, TU business members receive a listings on the TU website and also in each issue of TROUT Magazine. However, if a local business has donated more than \$1,000 in goods or services to your chapter, they may be eligible for a free one-year membership.

To nominate a local business, contact Rob Shane, Mid-Atlantic Organizer for Trout Unlimited by phone (571-274-0598) or email (rshane@tu.org).

Actions Taken by EXCOM since Oct. 19, 2019

October 29: Approved the transfer of existing funds from T. Rowe Price GNMA Mutual Funds into the T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Fund as recommended by the Investment Committee.

November 8: Approved a new Policy on Executing Contracts to be added to the PATU Officers' Operating Manual.

November 11: Approved Dave Kinney's letter to the PA House of Representatives objecting to the provisions in S.B. 790 allowing the application of brines on roadways.

November 16: Approved booking the Clarion University Venango Campus facility for PATU Western Regional Training on May 16, 2020.

November 16: Approved Council sending a letter to PFBC in support of adding 36 new Class A Wild Trout Waters and amending the description of one previously listed Class A stream at the Commission's January, 2020 quarterly meeting.

November 18: Approved Council sending a letter to the Corps of Engineers, Delaware River Basin Commission and the NYC DEP requesting an economic feasibility study of the Francis E. Walter Dam on the Lehigh River.

December 20: Approved extension of existing TIC contract with Stroud Research from December 31, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

January 24: Approved Council sending a letter to Mr. Reed Johnson supporting his efforts for remediating an abandoned mine site on his property in the Little Anderson Creek watershed in Clearfield County.

January 29: Approved Council sending a letter urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to focus on the ecological and economic benefits to the Lehigh River in conducting their Re-evaluation Study of the Francis E. Walter Dam.

DCNR accepting 2020 grant applications

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting applications for its Community Conservation Partnerships Program grants.

The 2020 grant application round opened Jan. 15 and closes April 22. Funds can support projects such as:

- Planning, acquisition, and development of public parks
- Trail planning and construction

- River conservation and access
- Open space conservation
- Streamside tree planting

Applicants should contact their Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Regional Advisor to discuss project ideas and application requirements prior to submitting.

To apply for a grant, please use the DCNR Grants Customer Service Portal at www.brcgrants.dcnr.pa.gov.

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Digital Edition Sponsors

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

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

Contact information is available on pages 2-3.

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

Print ad costs vary by size.



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Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Greg Malaska

A new decade

5-4-3-2-1, Happy New...huh?? Remember that feeling you had on Dec. 31, 1999. Everyone was up in arms about Y2K? Fortunately, when the clock struck 12, the lights didn't go out, our computers were still intact, and the fears of a technological Armageddon were laid to rest.

Whew! That was 20 year ago. I was 28, single, and about to graduate from law school. I had my whole life in front of me. I may have even had a 32-inch waist!! Now, as we enter 2020, the future is just as bright (although those 32 Levis are long gone).

PATU faces a new decade and new challenges. Fortunately, as I begin my 11th year on EXCOM and second as president, I can report that PATU is in a good place. The New Year will provide many opportunities for PATU to provide value back to our chapters.

First up is our inaugural budget cycle under TU's new fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). We implemented a new budgeting procedure that will begin in earnest this month. We have tasked all of our committees to develop mini-strategic plans and budgets for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2020. Our Budget Committee, led by Executive Vice President Monty Murty and Treasurer Bob Volkmar will be working hand-in-hand with each committee and our Board to ensure a fiscally prudent budget that will keep the lights on and allow us to expand in certain areas.

As we inch toward spring, we are finalizing our regional trainings. I learned the hard way last year to avoid banquet season and trout openers. I think you'll like this year's lineup.

Our Eastern Regional Training will be held on Saturday, April 25 in East White-land Township, Chester County. It will feature two project-specific topics. First, Joe Mihok, president of the Bucks County chapter, will give a presentation on how to pull off a successful riparian planting. Joe is a tree expert by trade and during a tour of the county last year he showed me the



fruits of his chapter's labor. The second presentation will be given by representatives from the Valley Forge chapter, who will discuss how they have used litigation as a tool to protect their local streams.

Our Western Regional Training will be held at Clarion University's Venango Campus in Oil City, on Saturday, May 16. Attendees will enjoy a presentation by Joe Greco on creative riparian planting technology. Joe's work with the Spring Creek chapter was highlighted in a recent issue of this newsletter. The second presentation will be given by Luke Bobnar from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, who will discuss the use of large woody debris to improve habitat in your local fisheries. I've seen Luke speak before and believe that his ideas can be of use on many of our waters.

Both trainings will include lunch, refreshments, advocacy reports from TU staff, stream improvement assistance ideas from TU's Lock Haven office, and updates from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Thanks in advance to the Oil Creek and Valley Forge chapters for their help in organizing these trainings.

One last item. Both trainings will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., which will allow you to spend some quality time on Valley Creek or Oil Creek during hatch season. More details to follow on our website and My PATU Monthly.

We have also firmed up the details for this year's annual meeting. The event will

be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Bedford County Historical Society in Bedford, PA. Lots of lodging, no Penn State game, and easy access from the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I-99.

We are working with the Fort Bedford chapter to possibly arrange some fishing either the day before or the evening of the meeting. We have also secured a special guest speaker. I'll share his identity in my next column.

In closing, I have three asks. First, please try to donate to PATU's annual appeal. We have sought to enhance our Forever Wild program, which channels donations right back to our chapters in the form of stream improvement grants. Every penny counts.

Second, please consider joining a PATU committee. It's a great way to bring new ideas to the table and learn from other volunteers. Even better, with our subscription to ReadyTalk, there is no need to cross the state for in-person meetings.

Third, don't forget the biannual Keystone Coldwater Conference, scheduled for Feb. 28-29 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College. The KCC is our flagship conference and brings together conservationists, regulators, anglers and academics to review many pressing issues and emerging technologies which impact our coldwater resources. I strongly encourage you to attend. For more information, check out www.coldwaterconference.org.

Looking forward to working with all of you in 2020. Thanks for all you do.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer

Bob Volkmar

A hearty thank-you to the 216 members and five chapters who donated to PATU in response to the Annual Appeal.

We'll use that money to "get stuff done" for coldwater conservation in Pennsylvania.

But we're not done yet. You see, I promised the executive committee that we would get 250 members to contribute, and we're shy 34 members.

Failure to reach that goal will deliver a

serious blow to my self-esteem, resulting in a downward spiral of distraction and depression. The last time that happened, I didn't go fishing for three whole days!

Help me out here, folks. If you haven't yet contributed, get your credit card out, jump on the PATU website (www.patroul.org), and hit the DONATE button.

I haven't caught a fish over 16 inches long in over two years. My self-esteem can't handle another hit.

Chapter Donations

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

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PFBC announces refilling of two popular lakes in advance of trout season

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announces that the refilling of two popular lakes, Donegal Lake in Westmoreland County and Minsi Lake in Northampton County, is underway following lengthy dam rehabilitation projects.

"As the refill process gets underway in both of these lakes, people will notice the water levels increasing gradually over the next several weeks," said Paul Urbanik, Director of the PFBC's Bureau of Engineering. "It's an exciting time because we're all anxious to see these lakes return so that we can enjoy them again."

Donegal Lake, a 90-acre impoundment located in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County, is fed naturally by Four Mile Run. The lake was drained in 2016 when the previous dam was deemed unsafe. A \$5.5 million rehabilitation project was

completed in December 2019.

Minsi Lake, a 117-acre impoundment located within Northampton County's Minsi Lake Wilderness Area is fed naturally by East Fork Martin's Creek. The lake was drained in 2017 when the previous dam was deemed structurally deficient. A \$4.9 million rehabilitation project was completed in December 2019.

Urbanik expects both lakes to refill at a pace of about 2-3 feet per week, with the lakes approaching full capacity in approximately six weeks. Refilling is intentionally performed slowly to allow the earthen portion of the dams to adequately saturate and to allow engineers to monitor new concrete dam structures which will be placed under a tremendous amount of pressure for the first time as water is introduced. Both facilities will be subject

to weekly inspections to ensure safety and monitor performance.

Water quality in both lakes will be monitored ahead of trout stocking events planned at each location in the coming weeks. Minsi Lake is scheduled to be stocked on March 24, ahead of the Regional Mentored Youth Trout Day on March 28. Donegal Lake is scheduled to be stocked on April 1, ahead of the Statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day on April 11.

Both lakes will be stocked with rainbow trout and golden rainbow trout during the preseason period, with additional rainbow trout to be stocked throughout the spring and fall. Volunteers are welcome to attend the stocking events and participate in placing the trout into the lakes. Both Donegal Lake and Minsi Lake are regulated as stocked trout waters.

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has more than 13,000 members in nearly 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 email bisles@live.com. 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 11-20.

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



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STUDY

from page 1

salt line back by releasing water from the reservoirs on the Upper Delaware and other impoundments in the basin. According to New York City, they have no interest in or ability to tap Francis E. Walter (F.E.W.) Reservoir for drinking water supply.

A few short weeks ago, more than 500 people filled the ballroom at Mountain Laurel Resort to hear from the member parties about the scope of the study. A common theme was repeated in everyone's comments: the Lehigh River is a special place worth protecting at all costs.

The Lehigh supports an outdoor recreation economy worth roughly \$35 million – largely fueled by the fishing and whitewater rafting communities. Thanks to strong advocacy efforts by TU members and our partners, including Lehigh Coldwater Fisheries Alliance, Friends of the Upper Delaware, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission, the outdoor recreation economy and ecological health of the river have been included as key considerations in the study.

Francis E. Walter Dam was built in 1961 with the primary purpose of flood control. To date, the dam itself has saved downriver communities roughly \$230 million in damages. In 1998, recreation was authorized as a secondary use after an agreement between the Army Corps, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the whitewater rafting industry allowed for controlled releases for fishing and rafting. Each year, these stakeholders agree to an annual flow plan which results in roughly 24 planned whitewater rafting release days and 22 fisheries enhancement release days as well as low flow augmentation from July through September.

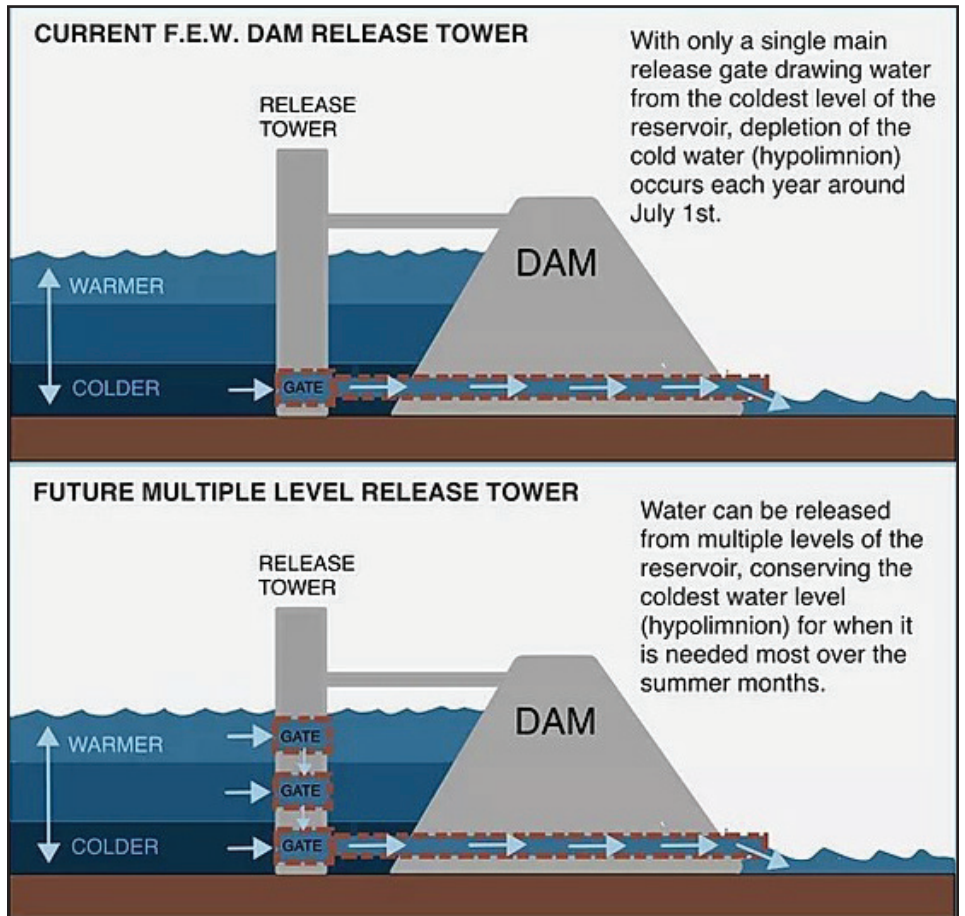
The wild trout fishery on the Lehigh is a success story unto itself. It wasn't long ago that the river was lifeless, wrought with impairments from abandoned mine drainage and insufficient coldwater releases from Francis E. Walter.

Thanks to efforts from local conservation organizations and our state agencies, much of the abandoned mine drainage has been addressed and cold, clean water flows from most of the tributaries; many of which



Wild East Outfitters Photo

A fine Lehigh River wild brown trout.



Graphic courtesy of Lehigh Coldwater Fisheries Alliance

now boast healthy wild trout populations of their own.

Unfortunately, the river still experiences thermal issues that impair trout reproduction and survival. Even with the fisheries

releases, the coldwater pool (hypolimnion) behind Francis E. Walter Dam is typically exhausted by July 1. Some thermal refuge can be found year-round once the river

Continued on next page...

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reaches the Lehigh River Gorge, but the first 12 miles are mostly uninhabitable for the better part of the Summer.

The biggest roadblock to year-round coldwater is the release tower at Francis E. Walter Dam.

Currently, the tower at F.E.W. can only draw water through a single, fixed gate at the very bottom of the reservoir. Large releases in the spring send the coldest layer of water downstream. With changes to the release tower, multiple gates could be added to draw water from various levels, allowing control of water temperatures in the dam's outflow and the ability to conserve enough cold water to last the entire summer.

Even with the addition of an extra 70 feet of water storage seasonally for the recreational flow plans, the reservoir itself is small by comparison. If the pool level is raised permanently, while still maintaining flood control, this would create a larger hypolimnion making any release tower changes even more effective in maintaining colder downstream temperatures.

Alterations to the release tower and raising the pool level have been proposed as far back as 1985 with the conclusion that F.E.W. could better support recreational uses while still meeting its flood control requirements.

In 2009 and 2014, additional water quality studies confirmed that an improved release tower would create a 30-mile tailwater able to support a year-round wild trout fishery, without any impacts to whitewater releases.

As the study moves forward, Trout Unlimited is cautiously optimistic about the outcome providing a pathway for these improvements, allowing the Lehigh River to reach its full potential as a destination wild trout fishery on par with other notable eastern tailwaters.

We have filed public comments on behalf of the organization with a few requests:

- The member parties incorporate improvements to the fishery, and other recreational opportunities, in any recommendations to structural changes and flow operations.

- Any alterations to the Lehigh River flow plan and F.E.W. have no negative impact to other regional fisheries, especially the Upper Delaware River.
- Examine the feasibility of necessary structural changes to the dam and release tower to improve the ecological health of the downstream ecosystem.
- Incorporate the findings in previous studies (1985, 2009, 2014) in the current study, utilizing data provided by the Army Corps to validate necessary improvements to F.E.W.

We are committed to continued participation in the study and appreciate being considered a key stakeholder as this process moves forward.

If you have any questions on the Francis E. Walter Dam Feasibility Re-Evaluation Study, please reach out to Rob Shane, Mid-Atlantic Organizer, by email: robert.shane@tu.org.

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Mike Stanislav of Bucks County TU and the Lehigh Coldwater Fisheries Alliance contributed to this article.

Keystone Coldwater Conference Sponsors

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited would like to thank the following Brown Trout sponsors of the 2020 Keystone Coldwater Conference for their generous support:

- ARIPPA
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- Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
- Hanover Engineering Associates
- Penns Valley Conservation Association
- PA Environment Digest

More information about these sponsors can be found on the Keystone Coldwater Conference website at www.coldwater-conference.org/sponsors.html.

CONFERENCE

from page 1

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tor of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, followed by a plenary session focused on the conference theme of “Resiliency in a Changing Environment.”

The remainder of Saturday will feature a host of concurrent sessions focused on coldwater conservation, research, and education.

For more information, or to register, please visit <https://www.coldwater-conference.org/>.

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PA Council of Trout Unlimited

Minutes of the February 1, 2020
Executive Committee Meeting

PFBC Centre Region Office, Bellefonte, PA

Officers Attending: Greg Malaska, Bob Pennell, Monty Murty, Ken Undercoffer, Bob Volkmar, Charlie Charlesworth, Russ Thrall, Russ Collins, Brian Wagner, Dale Kotowski

Others Attending: Rachel Kester, Dave Rothrock, Len Lichvar, Judi Sittler, Cynthia Kotowski

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Malaska. A motion was made and carried to approve the Minutes of our October 19, 2019 EXCOM meeting as submitted.

President's Report: Malaska submitted a report of his activities since the October 19, 2019 EXCOM meeting

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and CHP Financial Report dated January, 2020. Volkmar reported that our T. Rowe Price investment account is performing well, with a \$4,900 increase in the value as of the fourth quarter of 2019.

Budget Committee Report: Report submitted. The committee is using the new functional/programmatic approach to prepare the FY2021 annual budget. This will enable us to better plan and manage activities and cash flow. The budgeting process was initiated by sending instructions and worksheets to committee and program chairs, with a deadline of February 14 to submit their budget requests to the treasurer. The committee will propose a budget to EXCOM in mid-March.

Annual Appeal Report: A summary report of our yearend funding appeal showed receipts of \$19,324 to date compared to our goal of \$28,000.

Actions Taken Since October 19, 2019: The list of 9 actions taken by EXCOM since our October 19, 2019 meeting was submitted for the record.

Program Director's Report: Report submitted. Kester reported that 9 planning and 10 implementation Coldwater Heritage

grant applications have been submitted for Round 25, and DCNR has approved an expenditure of \$100,000. The Stroud Research contract for work on Trout in the Classroom, including an upgrade to the TIC website, has been extended through March 31. Problems with online registration for the Keystone Coldwater Conference have been reported. Volkmar will reach out to potential donors to solicit items for a door prize raffle at the KCC.

National Leadership Council Report: Report submitted. Wagner reported that a priority item for TU is finding ways to retain new members beyond their initial year of membership. PA chapters overall are about average, with 35% retention after the first year and about 75% after the second year. Membership retention will be added to the agenda for PATU's Annual meeting.

Financial Reviewer's Report: John Leonard's report was submitted for the months of October, November, and December 2019, showing no irregularities in any of the accounts/charges, and everything is well documented.

Regional Reports:

- **Northcentral** – All eight chapters reported. Consideration is being given to combining the God's Country and Seneca chapters.
- **Northeast** – Seven of 10 chapters reported. Stanley Cooper, Schuylkill County and Shehawken did not report.
- **Northwest** – Six of nine chapters reported. Cornplanter, Northwest PA and Iron Furnace did not report.
- **Southcentral** – All seven chapters reported.
- **Southeast** – All seven chapters reported.
- **Southwest** – All eight chapters reported.

Malaska requested RVPs to submit dates for their chapters' fundraising events. Collins will update the chapter reporting form and distribute to the RVPs before our next

EXCOM meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trout Management

– Report submitted. The committee has put together several recommendations to be presented to PFBC Bureau of Fisheries staff for discussion and consideration early this year. Collins

will prepare a flyer on his PowerPoint Trout Policy presentation to send out to RVPs for distribution to their chapters. A motion was made and carried to change the name of this committee to Trout Policy Committee. The committee will support Rob Shane's plans for conducting Trout Forums in PA.

Development – Report submitted. Murty has outlined a development strategy and goals to identify fundraising opportunities. He has stated that fundraising is everyone's job and that every program needs to find its own revenue.

Awards – Report submitted. New committee chair Beth Boyd has begun the process with her committee members to analyze and evaluate the current program with the goal of possibly consolidating and/or eliminating some existing award categories while also considering new awards. The committee is also investigating ways to increase the number of nominations that are received every year.

Delaware River – Report submitted. Current concerns are focused on the feasibility study to be conducted on the F. E. Walter Dam on the Lehigh River.

Environmental – Report submitted. A motion was made and carried to change the name of this committee to Conservation Committee. New committee chair Kotowski will be reaching out to recruit two members from each region to staff this committee. There will be a new round of Forever Wild grants offered this spring.

Diversity Initiative – Report submitted. Planning is underway for the Women's

Continued on next page...



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Leadership Retreat to be held at the GodSpeed Hostel near Port Matilda on May 15-17.

Youth Education – Report submitted. Sittler will be doing a STREAM girls presentation at the Keystone Coldwater Conference on February 29.

College/5 Rivers Program – Charlesworth announced that registration is now open for a NE STREAM Girls program to be conducted at the Keystone TU Teens Conservation Camp on June 14-20. A request has been made for a \$500 donation for Brookie Camp.

Membership – Report submitted. Summary shows current PA membership at 13,705 members. This represents an increase of 1,013 members (8.0%) over the last 5 years. A chairperson is still needed to head up this committee.

Communications – Report submitted. The committee plans to meet by teleconference in February or March to develop plans for this year. An Instagram account needs to be added to our social media offering.

Veterans Service Partnership – Report submitted. New committee chair Bill Nolan has reached out to chapters requesting info on their chapter programs. He has also requested that chapters name their programs Veterans Service Partnership in keeping with national TU's program.

OLD BUSINESS:

PATU Annual Meeting – Malaska reported that TU CEO Chris Wood will be speaking at the PATU Annual Meeting in Bedford on September 19. A fishing day on September 18 is to be hosted by local chapters.

Regional Trainings – Agendas have been finalized for our Eastern Regional Training in East Whiteland Township (Philadelphia Area) on April 25 and Western Regional Training on May 16 in Oil City.

Update on Merchandise Sales – Pennell reported that since taking on this responsibility last April, merchandise sales have totaled \$4,684 through the end of 2019. About half of all sales resulted after the publishing and mailing of the summer issue of our PA Trout newsletter.

PA Collegiate Fly Fishing Championships – Charlesworth reported that \$5,000 has been raised to support the PA Collegiate Fly Fishing Championships to be held on April 3-5 in the Bellefonte/Milesburg area. A stream cleanup project will be added to the fishing competition.

NEW BUSINESS:

New TU Mid-Atlantic Policy Director – Jen Orr-Greene has been hired to replace Dave Kinney who has moved on to another position with National TU.

Donation to Wild Trout Symposium III – A motion was made and carried for Council to donate \$1,000 to help sponsor National TU's Wild Trout Symposium III.

DEP Upgrades for Class A Streams – A letter was sent by Malaska in support of DEP upgrading all Class A Wild Trout streams to High Quality designation.

Trout Summit 2021 – Discussed the potential for Council to partner with PFBC on a Trout Summit in 2021.

ARIPPA – Awaiting guidance from TU National regarding a federal bill to extend tax credits to power producers.

Lehigh River Study – A letter was sent by Council to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Delaware River Basin Commission and NYC DEP with recommendation for a feasibility study of the F.E. Walter Dam on the Lehigh River.

PATU Travel Reimbursement Policy – A motion was made and carried to approve PATU's new Travel & Reimbursement Policy as submitted.

New PA Trout.org Website – PATU's upgraded website featuring new graphics and compatibility with cell phones and tablets was rolled out in early January.

Donation Request from PA Wildlife Society – A donation request from the PA Chapter of The Wildlife Society was denied due to insufficient information about their work with aquatic species.

Support for Amazon Smile – Approval was given to have Council register for Amazon's "Smile" program which would rebate a percentage of members' purchases back to Council.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 2:55 p.m.

– Bob Pennell, Council Secretary

Voluntary permit aids coldwater projects across the state

We get a number of questions at the PATU office regarding the PA Fish and Boat Commission's voluntary permits program.

The Commission provided some data and information at its quarterly meeting in January, and Trout Unlimited Mid-Atlantic Organizer Rob Shane was kind enough to summarize it for us. The following should answer some of our members' questions.

During 2019, PFBC realized nearly \$58,000 in revenue from sales of the Wild Trout and Enhanced Waters Voluntary Permit. That money will immediately be put to work to improve coldwater resources and benefit wild trout via the following projects:

- Ott Fork in Tiadaghton State Forest, Lycoming County: Removal of three culverts to facilitate movement of brook and brown trout (\$10,000)
- Spruce Creek, Huntingdon County: Habitat improvements for wild brown trout (\$20,000)
- Upper Delaware River tributaries: Passive integrated transponder tags and arrays to assess wild brown trout and rainbow trout movements (\$10,000)
- Delaware River and lower Susquehanna River Basins: Unassessed waters electrofishing surveys for wild brook trout (\$12,000)
- Portable power winches for use in placement of large woody debris (\$3,600)

Calendar of Events

- **Feb. 28-29:** Keystone Coldwater Conference
- **April 15:** PATU Eastern Regional Training
- **April 26:** Spring Executive Committee Meeting
- **May 16:** PATU Western Regional Training
- **July 19:** Summer EXCOM Meeting
- **Sept. 19:** PATU Annual Meeting

Efforts to protect and enhance resources do pay off

By Lenny Lichvar

*Co-Chair PATU Trout Management Committee
Ex-PFBC Commissioner*

Oftentimes efforts to better protect and enhance natural resources, such as wild trout, require significant effort and time to achieve. This was the case with the

initiative to cease stocking and implement artificial lure only special regulations on Section 5 of Penns Creek. PA Fish and Boat Commission Bureau of Fisheries staff supported by PATU and National TU representatives as well as landowners of Section 5 all combined to achieve these changes.

What are not always identified afterward are the documented positive results of these efforts. The following piece, written by Wayne White, may not be a scientific evaluation of the results, but certainly is a real life example of what happens when we truly put the resource first.

Remember catching your first trout?

By Wayne M. White

Most anglers remember catching their first fish, especially their first trout. It's a memorable day with indelible images. It's those special memories and unforgettable moments that get us hooked on the sport and keep most of us fishing for life!

What's more exciting than landing your first trout is reliving those special moments with a young angler and the joy of his or her very first catch! And on the Saturday after Thanksgiving last year at our family cabin on Penns Creek, I was lucky enough to share such a once-in-a-lifetime event with my grandson.

With his dad out for the first day of deer season, I suggested to my grandson, Noah, that we go fishing. Of course it was a gamble trying to keep a 4 year old interested while standing creek side patiently waiting for a fish to bite with temperatures in the 40s.

Penns Creek was in typical fall fashion running slow and low and gin clear. Recent regulation changes meant the state had not stocked in two years and the creek was now designated Class A Wild Trout, catch-and-release only. Regular local anglers confirmed that since the stocking stopped, fishing had been slow during the past year.

Although such reports would normally discourage anyone from trying to help a boy catch his first fish, I had confidence that we might get lucky based on my reconnaissance of the creek about a week before Thanksgiving. During a short afternoon break from some cabin maintenance, I fished a small spinner in the riffle at the head of the pool in front of the cabin. In about 30 minutes, I had six hits and landed three nice browns ranging in size from

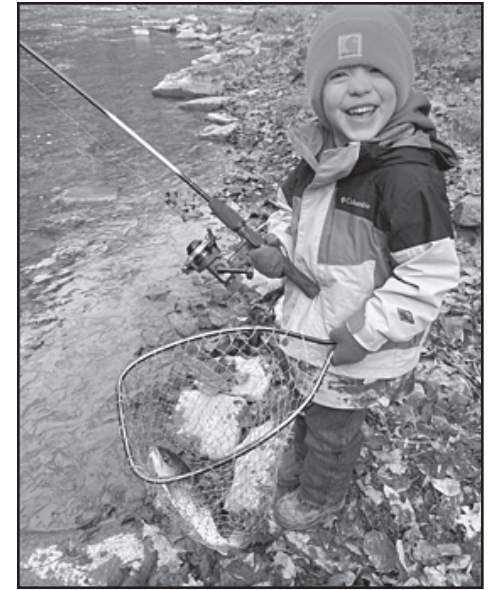
eight to 11 inches. That was all I needed to convince me that these wild fish were doing well.

Based on that recent experience my plan to get Noah his first trout was simple. I would place the cast, raise a fish, hook him, and give the rod to him so he could reel in the fish.

Returning to the same spot I fished two weeks earlier, I stood Noah on a safe rock at the creek's edge and proceeded to cast into the riffle. After a couple of casts, we saw a small trout chase the lure and refuse it about 10 feet to our front. I tried a couple of different spinners and spoons with no luck. Soon he became distracted, and in typical little boy fashion started jumping in the small pools of water beside his rock perch caking the lower leg of his pants with mud.

With the temperature dropping and his fishing interest waning, I knew there were only minutes to spare before we would have to end our outing. I finally tied on a 1/16 oz. white buck tail spinner. Again, I cast the lure and Noah reeled in the line. On the second cast, as the spinner fluttered in the riffle slowly sinking, we saw a good size brownie roll over on the lure and head down stream. I set the hook and reeled up the slack making sure we had fish on! Handing the rod to Noah I told him to keep the tip up and start reeling.

Looking for our net, I spotted it on the ground 30 feet up the bank behind us. Leaving Noah completely on his own I stumbled up the bank all the while thinking that the fish will surely be gone by the time I got back to help him land the fish. I grabbed the net and made my way back to him, and much to my surprise he was still reeling in the line with the rod tip now



Contributed Photo

Noah, with his first fish – a wild brown trout from Section 5 of Penns Creek he caught and released in November.

in the water. I helped him raise the tip and the fish came towards us. After a couple more seconds (what for me seemed like an eternity) Noah actually had the fish in position for me to net him. On the second attempt – success! We landed the fish, a nice 14-inch brown trout!

Taking the treble hook out of the fish I explained to Noah how we had to keep the fish in the net in the water during the process. He seemed to understand about keeping the fish in the net especially as we took his photo with his first catch. I also explained that keeping the fish in the net made it easier to put him back in the creek. Noah said he liked seeing the “brownie trout” swim away as we released him from the net.

Looking back on catching my first trout it seems like only yesterday. Now I can only hope that my grandson will so vividly remember the day he landed his first trout with his Papa and returned it to the creek!

Trout in the Classroom time...



Marshall Nych Photos

From Trout in the Classroom teachers unpacking their shipments of eggs (above) to raising fry in their tanks (below) to release days on local streams (right and bottom), TIC programs across the state have from October to April to spend with their trout. Like the Mercer Elementary School TIC program featured here, hundreds of other schools across Pennsylvania are anxiously watching their trout grow in advance of spring 2020 release dates. Mercer releases its trout in Coolspring Creek each April.



NORTHEAST CHAPTERS

Brodhead 289
Forks of the Delaware 482
Hokendauqua 535
Lackawanna Valley 414
Monocacy 491
Pike-Wayne 462
Schuylkill County 537
Shehawken 81
Stan Cooper Sr. 251
Western Pocono 203

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Russell Thrall
159 Swift Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Email: russ@thrall3.com
Phone: 570-620-8677

Brodhead Chapter #289

Eric Baird
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www.brodheadtu.org

Our annual banquet is March 27 at Stroudsmoor Country Inn, Ridgecrest. We are partnering with the Brodhead Watershed Association on a chloride sampling program by pledging volunteer hours for data collection and \$500 toward the purchase of testing supplies. We have TIC programs at Pocono Mountain and Stroudsburg school districts. We are talking with several teachers about starting programs in 2020. Our Introduction to Fly Tying classes are ongoing in January and February at Eastern Monroe Public Library. The chapter is partnering with the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center for an Introduction to Fly Fishing class on March 21. Jessie Thomas-Blate, associate director of river restoration and most endangered rivers coordinator for American Rivers, who discussed dam removal procedures at our October meeting. Our November meeting featured Don Baylor talking about his experience fishing the backcountry of the Rockies. Our next meeting has Tim Flagler presenting "What Trout Like to Eat and Flies to Feed Them" on April 8 with at Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. The KOC Children's Fishing Tournament is April 11 at Brodhead Creek Park. Brodhead Fly Tyers meet March 16 and April 20 at Eastern Monroe Public Library.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog
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www.forkstu.org

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Our board approved donations to the National TU Youth Headwaters Program and PATU's annual appeal. The chapter received a \$500 donation from the Hokendauqua chapter and a \$100 donation from an anonymous donor toward our Bushkill Creek restoration project. The December joint event with other Lehigh Valley TU chapters was Dec. 10 at East Bath Rod & Gun Club where Tom Gilmore presented on eastern blue-ribbon streams. The permitting process with DEP and Northampton County Conservation district is underway and the funding for a Bushkill Creek restoration project is nearly complete. Along with our partners, Bushkill Stream Conservancy and Wildlands Conservancy, we anticipate construction in summer 2020. Trout eggs were delivered to Nazareth Middle School, Wind Gap Middle School and Bangor Middle School for our TIC programs. Circle of Seasons Charter School in Fogelsville also received eggs. PFBC, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center and our chapter offered a free Introduction to Fly Fishing program on Oct. 12 at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. Bugs & Suds fly tying events at Riverside Barr & Grill on the second Thursday in January, February and March are ongoing.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

610-266-1788, awilliams1947@hotmail.com
<http://hokendauqua.tu.org>

The chapter made a contribution to Forks of the Delaware TU for a restoration project. We support three TIC programs at a local middle school. Our annual fly tying course is in the midst of its eight-week run in January and February. We participated in organizing and planning a joint meeting with three other local chapters of the Lehigh Valley.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Jacob Bliss

570-833-2091, jacobbliss93@outlook.com
www.lackawannavalleytu.org

Our annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was Feb. 1 at Applebee's inside Viewmont Mall in Dickson City. Our 5 Rivers initiative, the Keystone Creekwalkers, had an outdoor expo on Jan. 25 in Brooks Theater at Keystone College. Our Roaring Brook restoration project is still in the permitting process, and we are in the planning stage of a joint restoration project on the Lackawanna River with Williams Pipeline. Our women's initiative, the NEPA Fly Girls, is hosting several fly tying socials this winter plus a fishing retreat on the Delaware River this spring. Kathleen Levelle presented the results of our comprehensive, multi-year surveys of the Lackawanna River at our Jan. 15 membership meeting. For our Feb. 19 meeting, Joe Ackourey is presenting on his fishing tactics for the Lackawanna River. Meetings are held at the Tripp Park Community Center, Scranton.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

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www.monocacytu.org

This marks our 6th year of partnership with ArtsQuest to bring the Fly Fishing Film Tour to the Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas in Bethlehem. Showings are March 3 and 4 at 6 p.m. Our annual spring event is March 14 at 9 a.m. at East Bath Rod and Gun Club. Several chapter members attended the Francis E. Walter dam re-evaluation study public comment meeting. New York DEP has asked the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate raising the level of FEW in order to provide additional flow to the Delaware River in times of low water/drought. The additional flow would be used to help maintain the freshwater/saltwater line on the lower Delaware, which is the main drinking water source for the City of Philadelphia. Information was sent to 8th grade teachers at Nitschmann Middle School in Bethlehem who showed interest in the TIC program. Talks are in the early planning stages. John Mauser spoke at our Jan. 28 meeting, while Tim Flagler did the same at our Feb. 25 meeting.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello

www.pwtu.org

The chapter is working with the Pike County Conservation District to develop a Strategic Plan for the county. Our annual banquet is April 4 at Lukans Farm and Resorts. PWTU conducted its annual electro fishing in Pike County. A full report on the health of the streams is forthcoming. We approved funding \$500 stipends to graduating seniors from three local high schools who will be majoring in science or conservation related studies. Plans are underway for our second Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing event expected to be held in June. Monthly meetings are held at Cora Bistro on the second Tuesday of the month.



Help protect and improve the Little J
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Little Juniata River Association
Free River Tour
www.littlejuniata.org or email
bjuniata@verizon.net

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Brian Lengel

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

STCU held its annual Christmas party raffle in December. We installed vibrant boxes with 2,500 brook trout eggs and had 95% hatch. We also had 600 brown trout swim ups. All were placed in unassisted streams. We are working with private landowners to start stream projects this spring. The chapter applied for a local conservation grant.

Shehawken Chapter #81

Joe DeMalderis

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<https://www.facebook.com/Shehawken-Trout-Unlimited-811023349070239/>

No report.



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Bob Pennell
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Harrisburg, PA 17104

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Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

Scott Brady

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

Our annual banquet is March 28 at Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes Barre. We finished a phase of a stream improvement project at Mountain Springs Lake, removing a dam and planting 2000 plants and trees in conjunction with Luzerne County Conservation to revitalize Bowman's Creek where Mountain Spring Lake was before the construction of the dam. Our TIC project in conjunction with EPCAMU is in place at Lake Lehman Jackson Elementary School. Our youth fly fishing camp is May 16 and our adult fly fishing camp is May 18. We are planning a women's fly fishing camp held in conjunction with the PFBC.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

George Hludzik

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www.tu.org/connect/groups/
203-western-pocono

TU Mid-Atlantic Coordinator Rob Shane spoke at our November meeting. He discussed the many important issues TU is involved with locally and nationally and the programs TU sponsors in response to those issues. WPTU members and several hundred local citizens attended a meeting on Jan. 9 regarding a study on the Francis E. Walter dam on the Lehigh River being proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Delaware River Basin Commission and New York City DEP. The three-year study could have wide implications for the dam and river. Those present emphasized the need to protect any current benefits regarding releases and water use and the hope that the study could offer improvements to flood protection, water use by municipalities, local environments, the downstream fishery and other recreational uses. WPTU will have more reports in the future on this complex and important issue.

NORTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

Columbia County 038
God's Country 327
Lloyd Wilson 224
Penns Creek 119
Raymond B. Winter 124
Spring Creek 185
Susquehanna 044
Tiadaghton 688

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Volkmar

443 West Br. Fishing Creek Rd.
Roulette, PA 16746
Email: rdvolkmar@gmail.com
Phone: 814-544-7174

Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

607-621-8126, ealewis@geisinger.edu
<https://facebook.com/Trout-Unlimited-Columbia-County-PA-Chapter-038>

We are working with Columbia County District Conservation to provide grant access and boots on the ground for stormwater/culvert repair improvement. Chapter members traveled to Weikert for a Penns Creek fishing outing on Oct. 20. We offered weekly fly tying classes in February.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Sautler

814-274-9763, saulterdg@yahoo.com

Planning is underway for the chapter's 13th annual PHWFF event from May 19-22 along with

upcoming Women in the Wilds events in 2020. The chapter made several donations to TU-related activities. Several chapter members are working with the Potter County Conservation District to formulate the job description, duties, responsibilities and project cost to hire a college-level intern to assist the district on water quality, streams, erosion and related projects for summer 2020. The work will be done in conjunction with the district that will help benefit the quality of local streams and trout habitat. Chapter members attended a stream workshop sponsored by the Conservation District on Nov. 1 at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 27 and March 26 at Coudersport Public Library.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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

A water withdrawal permit request for a well along Big Fishing Creek in Greene Twp., Clinton County was submitted to SRBC. The request is for 173,000 gallons per day and is still in the preliminary stage. Our concern has been added to SRBC's project file and provided to the technical reviewer and commissioners for their consideration. We will be notified when this project is up for a hearing and potential action. It is expected that the earliest hearing will be in May. We had to replace the chiller for the Jersey Shore High TIC program. Surviving fish are doing well, as are those at Renovo Elementary School. Our annual family and friends banquet was held in November.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Joe Dunmire

717-899-6085, jhjazzbo@hotmail.com

We continue to participate in the Water For Ag project. Results from the survey of residents in Mifflin County are nearly complete. Planning for

Continued on page 15...



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

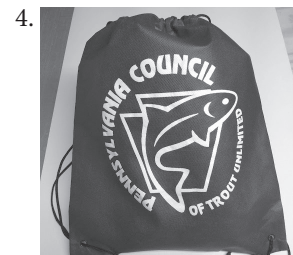
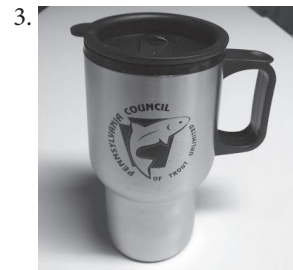


Merchandise Order Form

Thank you for supporting the efforts of PATU in protecting, conserving and restoring PA's coldwater streams. Please allow 1-2 weeks to receive your order. Some items may ship sooner. For pictures and complete descriptions of these items please go to www.patrou.org/merchandise. If you have questions about the availability of any specific items, please feel free to contact Bob Pennell at rpennell37@comcast.net or 717-395-5124.



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	Large Waterproof Fly Box (6"x4"x1")	\$22.50		
1	Medium Waterproof Fly Box (5.5"x3.75"x5/8")	\$14.00		
	Custom-tied Leaders			
	Dry Fly - 4X Tippet	\$6.00		
	Dry Fly - 5X Tippet	\$6.00		
	Dry Fly - 6X Tippet	\$6.00		
	Wet Fly - 4X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers	\$6.00		
	Wet Fly - 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers	\$6.00		
	"PA Limestone Trout Creeks" Book	\$24.00		
	"History of Trout Unlimited in PA" Book	\$15.00		
	"Fly Fishing PA's Spring Creek" Book	\$15.00		
	"More of CVTU's Favorite Flies" Book	\$20.00		
	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book	\$30.00		
2	Traveller Fly Rod - 9'0, 5-wt., 7-piece	\$130.00		
	PATU Travel Rod Case	\$24.00		
	Official PATU T-shirt (circle size) S M L XL	\$20.00		
	Official PATU T-shirt (circle size) 2XL 3XL	\$23.00		
	PATU Sticker	\$1.50		
3	PATU Travel Mug	\$14.00		
4	PATU Stuff Sack	\$5.00		
Note:	6% sales tax (where applicable), shipping and handling costs included in unit prices.	Total \$		



* Prices effective October 1, 2019

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** Phone and email are needed should PATU have questions regarding your order.

...Continued from page 13

goals and how to achieve them is the current focus. TIC projects continue with only a few minor problems. Fly tying classes are underway in January and February. Sara Mueller, a Ph.D. candidate at Penn State, is the speaker at our annual banquet on March 14 at the Belleville Mennonite School. She will share some of her research on brook trout in a changing climate. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 12 and March 11 at the Juniata Valley YMCA.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Bob Laubach

570-966-3379, oldfrstr@dejazzd.com

facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimited-Chapter/

Our 10-week fly classes run from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays through March 16 at Christ Lutheran Church, Lewisburg. RB Winter Park's Snofest was Feb. 4. Our next meeting is March 18 at Lewisburg Hotel. Our annual banquet is March 27 at Watsonstown Inn. The chapter's October meeting featured PGC WCO Dirk Remensnyder updating us on PGC activities plus a discussion of the current status of CWD in the area. Our November meeting featured TU Mid-Atlantic Organizer Rob Shane discussing stream reclassifications in the chapter area and statewide. Area PFBC Commissioner Eric Hussar updated us on current and upcoming PFBC activities in December. He stressed the importance of TU chapters commenting of stream reclassifications and other PFBC business.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Jamie SanFilippo

sanfilippo.jamie@gmail.com

www.springcreektu.org

Our annual banquet is March 21. The chapter received a donation of fly fishing equipment valued at \$6,000 from a former chapter president to use for fundraising at the banquet. We completed an approximately one-mile rehabilitation project on Spring Creek near Houserville. The project was funded by a National Fish and Wildlife grant. A tree/shrub planting took place as part of the project, planting nearly 300 trees and shrubs to enhance the riparian buffer along the project area. Total stream enhancements, including matching funds, exceeded \$300,000. We finished our annual redd count in November, covering the entire length of Spring Creek. We received an endowment from the will of a chapter member in 2019 that will provide approximately \$6,000 annually to be used exclusively for women's fly fishing programs and initiatives. The chapter received a \$105,000 grant and a \$9,000 Embrace A Stream grant, both to be used on Sparrow Run, near Port Matilda. This project will begin in the spring. We also applied for a Growing Greener grant for projects on Spring Creek planned for 2021. Our January meeting featured Brian Query speaking

on veterans benefits along with a presentation of our chapter accomplishments. In February, Bryan Swistock spoke on "Potential Effects of Climate Change on Pennsylvania Streams and Groundwater." The chapter's annual Christmas party was held in December at Boalsburg Fire Company.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Charles Knowlden

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http://susquehannatu.wordpress.com

SCTU severed its relationship with Project Healing Waters last fall due to extensive new liability, accommodation, and background check requirements. We are investigating how to incorporate elements of the Spring Creek chapter's Veteran Services Program into ours, as appropriate. The chapter continues to monitor and comment on PGE's proposed pump station and pipeline on the Loyalsock Creek. We have gone on record in support of directional drilling rather than an open cut. Rob Shane, the TU Mid-Atlantic Organizer, briefed the chapter about conservation efforts in the region at our October meeting. We submitted a letter of support for the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy's application for a CHP grant for streambank stabilization work on Plunketts Creek. PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer, Commission President Eric Hussar and WCO Chad Lauer spoke at our February meeting. Fly tying classes are held weekly at 7 p.m. starting the first Tuesday in February and continue through March at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church. Our March 11 meeting has Geoff Smith, PFBC chief Susquehanna River biologist, on the status of smallmouth bass and other new study findings on the Susquehanna River.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

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whitesgordonsetters@gmail.com

A Fly Fishing Film Tour stop is scheduled for March 14 at 4 p.m. at the Deane center in Wellsboro. Project planning for the EAS grant on Long Run is underway. We will begin a full assessment this spring. Planning for riparian plantings is underway in cooperation with the Pine Creek Watershed Council. We will be planting conifers in the watershed this spring. Fly tying classes were offered this winter at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital in Wellsboro. Our annual Flies and Lies events will happen at the Wellsboro Senior Center from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 22 and March 21. The film "Live the Stream: The Story of Joe Humphreys" will be shown at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19 at the Victoria Theater in Blossburg. Monthly meetings are 7 p.m. Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2 at Wellsboro Senior Center, Wellsboro.

NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Allegheny Mountain 036

Caldwell Creek 437

Cornplanter 526

Iron Furnace 288

Jim Zwald 314

Neshannock 216

Northwest PA 041

Oil Creek 424

Seneca 272

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Phone: 814-765-1035

Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

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www.amctu.org

Our annual banquet is April 4 at the Falls Creek Eagles. The chapter met with PA American Water Company to look at putting a river conservation plan in place for the East Branch of Mahoning. We expect to work with the PGC to remove steel from the former Punxsutawney water supply dam. We plan on holding another tree planting on the Montgomery Run watershed in the old splash dam. We wrote a letter of support to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in its efforts to receive a Growing Greener grant to repair the riparian area where Clear Creek enters the Clarion River. We completed a planting there last spring to help hold the bank until a final plan is put in place. Our TIC programs received their eggs. Issues arose with very high ammonia levels killing the trout, which has been common among our schools. We are again hosting the fly fishing club at DuBois Middle School. Our weekly fly tying round table started on Jan. 2 and runs for eight weeks at Penn State DuBois. We are working on putting together a Women on the Water class this spring. The Jim's Sports Center Anniversary Show is March 20-22 in Clearfield. Our chapter picnic is July 26 at Bendigo State Park Pavilion 1.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

814-664-2124, tksavko2@verizon.net

Two chapter members participated in the Allegheny National Forest Water Quality Snapshot
Continued on next page...

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Day in October. Additionally, we are continuing to monitor water quality in area streams throughout the year. Our TIC programs are running and doing well. A fly fishing workshop is set for May.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Troy McDunn

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

No report.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com
www.ironfurnacetu.net

No report.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neeper

814-834-3472, mneeper@zitomedia.net

The chapter received \$30,000 for habitat restoration on the West Branch of the Clarion River "Fish for Fun" habitat restoration project. We are seeking additional funding sources and shareholders to begin the project this year. The West Creek AMR on the Driftwood Branch is nearing the completion of Phase II, planning and permitting. The chapter, in conjunction with the Elk County Conservation District, will be seeking funding grants for implementation during the coming year. ECCD has completed a bank stabilization project on a portion of West Creek near the AMD project site. The chapter is awaiting renovation and re-design plans from PFBC for the DHALO project on the East Branch of the Clarion River near East Branch Dam. The plans are being developed from a site survey conducted in the fall of 2019. Stakeholders in the survey included Jim Zwald Chapter 314, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Elk County Conservation District, PFBC, PGC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We are hosting a public meeting with WPC for the implementation phase of a CHP grant to utilize large woody debris to improve habitat on the Middle Fork Tributary of the East Branch of the Clarion in the spring. We have partnered with WPC on this project since its inception. We provided a letter of support, along with other regional chapters, for a bank stabilization project on the Clarion River near Clear Creek State Park. We support TIC in the Elk and Cameron county schools. We held a social at its October meeting for friends, spouses and significant others at the camp of one of the shareholders for the West Creek AMR project as part of our Women's Initiative. Regular monthly meetings are at 7 p.m. on the last Tuesday of February, March, April and May at St. Marys Area Middle School Library, St. Marys.

Neshannock Creek #216

Jeff Kremis

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www.neshannock-tu.org

Our annual banquet is March 21 at the Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex. We are looking into our next project on Neshannock Creek, which will be stream improvement work in the DHALO area in Volant. We will also have the annual spring cleanup on the Coolspring DHALO area with date and time to be announced. The Deer Creek group is also working on plans for stream improvement projects. All of our TIC programs are reporting good results this year. Our annual Winter Cabin Fever event was Feb. 1 at Munnell Run Farm. Speakers this year were Rodger Coup from the PGC with a presentation on bald eagles in Pennsylvania and Dave Allbaugh with Wet Fly Waterguides on fishing wet flies. Upcoming board meetings are Feb. 24 and March 16 at Munnell Run Farm.

Northwest PA Chapter #41

Erik Cronk

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<http://nwpachaptertu.blogspot.com>

No report.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Jennifer Lyons

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www.oilcreektu.org

We are planning another VSP event at the Sandy Creek Conservancy in late May or early June. Plans for our upcoming chapter banquet are progressing. It is April 4 at the Ale House in Franklin. Tom Young, Dan Rockwell and WCO Mark Kerr attended the annual meeting of the Venango County Dirt & Gravel Roads Committee on Nov. 7. They approved spending of all the monies allocated for this year and needed to ask for a number of requests to be resubmitted next year, as this has become a very popular program in our county. We provided assistance with equipment for the Titusville TIC project. OCTU's annual Christmas dinner was held at Dawndi's Restaurant in December. Upcoming chapter meetings are Feb. 19 and March 17 at King's Restaurant, Franklin.

Seneca Chapter #272

Chase Howard

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www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

The Seneca Chapter is hosting the Fly Fishing Film Tour on Feb. 15 at the Coudersport Theatre in Coudersport. Our annual banquet is April 18 at the Port Allegany Fire Hall. Fly tying classes will be held Feb. 18, 25 and March 3, 10 at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Port Allegany.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTERS

Bucks County 254

Delco Manning 320

Little Lehigh 070

Perkiomen Valley 332

SE Montgomery Co. 468

Tulpehocken 150

Valley Forge 290

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Brian McGuire

52 W. Princeton Rd.

Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Email: cbrianmcguire@comcast.net

Phone: 484-270-8505

Bucks County Chapter #254

Joe Mihok

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www.buckstu.org

The chapter held an auction of donated fishing gear at our January meeting to raise funds for the chapter's stream conservation projects. We are in the planning stages for projects on Aquetong Creek, Watson Creek and Cooks Creek. For the second year we are selling a selection of long-lived native trees members to plant in their yards. We are having a beginner's fly tying night at the March meeting. We will also have an Advanced Fly Fishing Techniques clinic in the spring.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Fred DeWees

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www.dmtu.org

The chapter's placement of monofilament recycling tubes on local streams is still in progress. Our TIC programs are going well. In October, George Daniel spoke on nymph fishing. Nick Raftus on streamer fishing followed in November. In December, PATU President Greg Malaska spoke, as did Tim O'Neill on steelhead alley.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Scott Alderfer

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www.lltu.org

We met with PFBC and county Conservation District representatives to discuss possible stream improvement projects on Little Lehigh Creek. We selected two areas on the Little Lehigh that would be good candidates for installing subsurface fish

structure and possible bank restoration. We selected the more practical of the two areas to begin scoping the work for securing funding. We have six schools enrolled in TIC. We are exploring the possibility of applying for an Embrace A Stream grant in 2020. Author Tom Gilmore spoke at our Fall Event, held jointly on Dec. 10 with the Hokenauqua, Forks of the Delaware and Monocacy chapters. He discussed his field research for the 2016 book "Flyfisher's Guide to Pennsylvania."

Perkiomen Valley #332

Thomas W. Smith

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www.pvtu.org

The chapter received approval from USFWS to proceed with stream restoration following bog turtle study on our Hosensack project. We are filing a GPI permit application with DEP to secure final approval to proceed with implementation in 2020. An in-stream data monitor measuring water quality issues originally installed by Stroud Research Organization was longer reporting data and was restored to working order by PVTU and will be maintained by our chapter. We secured property owner support for stream restoration on an approximately quarter-mile length of Perkiomen Creek at Camelot Park. We've conducted preliminary design and investigation into funding sources. We planted 40 six-foot container-size trees along Perkiomen Creek in the FFO area at Church Road. We are working with six TIC schools and scheduled PVTU participation in release day activities. We are also scheduled to participate in Schuylkill River Greenways Summer Camp in 2020. PVTU would like to participate in the DCNR Riparian Forest Buffer grant program. In November, Tom Smith presented "Fifty Years Matching the Hatch" – an overview of various macroinvertebrates found in trout streams and the

use of the proper type fly type to use. Our next monthly meeting is March 16 at 7 p.m. at Upper Perkiomen Valley Library, Red Hill.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

215-675-1536, rtroadrash@msn.com
www.tu468.org

A fall stocking took place in the section of the Pennypack stream that flows through the Pennypack Land Trust. Signage has been posted limiting the fishing to "Artificial Only." Our annual banquet is March 21 at the environment center in the Pennypack Trust. We planted 125 trees in the headwaters of the Pennypack in Horsham. We now have five schools participating in TIC.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Brenda Bittinger

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www.tullytu.org

We are working with Javius Galan for wetlands project grant support. Our 30-plus TIC programs are up and running. A Brew & Bugs event with TCO is set for Feb. 19 at TCO West Lawn. A Fly Fishing Film Tour event is April 16 at the Phoenixville Theatre.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Pete Hughes

610-827-9239, phtrot@comcast.net
www.valleyforgetu.org

The Spring Trout Show is March 28 at the Lionville Middle School, Exton. Tom Gilmore will present on fishing Pennsylvania's internationally renowned trout streams, among other activities and tying presentations. VFTU is again co-hosting the Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Colonial Theatre

in downtown Phoenixville on April 16. The chapter continues to work with Stroud Water Research Center to place data monitors on Valley Creek above and below a proposed large development. VFTU is also installing data monitors on Pickering and West Valley creeks. We planted fish eggs in headwater spring sections of both. In April, the chapter will repair an in-stream device on Valley Creek designed to improve trout habitat. VFTU is hosting another macro-invertebrate workshop with Stroud Water Research Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 18 at Ecology Park, East White-Land Township. Our 14 TIC schools are raising trout to be released this spring. VFTU taught a couple of dozen Scouts how to fly fish at the 100th Year Anniversary Camporee. We are applying for several grants to fund additional stormwater trenches to be installed on a steep slope section of a tributary to Valley Creek. VFTU has applied for a Growing Greener grant to help fund work along Valley Creek. General meetings are the second Thursday each month from September through May at Chester Valley Grange. Monthly board meetings are the first Thursday of the month year round at East Bradford Township Building. PHWFF – Royersford meets the second, third and fourth Monday at Royersford VFW. PHWFF – West Bradford meets every Monday at West Bradford Firehouse. And PHWFF – Coatesville meets every Wednesday at Coatesville VA Hospital, Building 5.

SOUTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

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

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Russ Collins

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Adams County Chapter #323

Hank Rajotte

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www.adamscountytu.org

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Learn From Our Experience

...Continued from previous page

Letters are being sent to interested parties to raise funds to supplement the possible purchase of an easement for a one-mile stretch of the Conewago. Northern Virginia TU and ACTU made repairs to the catch and release, fly fishing only section of the Conewago. Drainage pipes were installed to direct water runoff and prevent erosion along the streambank. We are playing an active role in helping "Friends of Toms Creek" with efforts at protecting the creek from industrial waste water damage. ACTU is currently supporting 11 TIC programs. Trout releases are scheduled for the end of April at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. ACTU is making a presentation to the local 4H Club demonstrating fly tying and fly fishing on April 4. Our annual banquet is March 21. PFBC WCO Rachel Thurmer-Diaz spoke at our Jan. 21 meeting. Dan Herrick will give a fly tying demo at our Feb. 18 meeting at 7 p.m. at the Adams County Agriculture Center, Gettysburg. The Heidlersburg Fishing Show is Feb. 22-23 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2720 Heidlersburg Road, Gettysburg. PFBC's Michael Nerrozzi will speak at our March 17 meeting. Our chapter family fundraiser is March 21 from 1:30-5 p.m. at the Ag Center.

Codorus Chapter #558

Tom Feninez

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www.codorustu.org

We submitted comments supporting the latest batch of streams being considered for Class A or Natural Reproduction status. We're exploring a potential wooded debris removal/re-purposing project in partnership with some of our local landowners. We have two other projects awaiting permits, and we're hopeful construction can begin shortly thereafter. A separate project is being submitted for review and is progressing through its design phase. Finally, we are working with a local utility on a project to evaluate an unassessed watershed, and hope to engage with potential partners in early 2020. Open fly tying sessions in January and February are being held, and we received interest from a local high school fishing club about attending. Our TIC projects have been running smoothly so far. We're looking for local candidates interested in this year's Youth Conservation Camp and/or Wildlife Leadership Academy. Our next chapter meeting is March 11 at Spring Grove Recreation Center, Spring Grove.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

John Leonard

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www.pacvtu.org

Our Limestoner banquet is March 14 at Carlisle Country Club. We are still working on our LeTort restoration plan. We received a \$5,000 donation from an individual to be used for the project. The work that our Feet in the Stream crew did in the

LeTort removing weeds and raking spawning beds resulted in a lot of brown trout spawning activity this fall. Signs were posted along the streambank to inform those fishing of the spawning activity. We are holding beginners and advanced tying classes from Jan. 14 to March 3. Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp begins on June 21 at Messiah College. Get more information at www.riverscamp.com. Membership meetings are the third Wednesday of each month (except August & December) at Appalachian Brewing Company. Area 6 PFBC Fisheries Manager Bryan Chikotas will speak at our Feb. 19 meeting.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Russ Collins

717-580-3958, russthepres@dftu.org

www.dftu.org

Our conservation banquet is March 14. We held a meeting with Cornwall Borough Council to bring them up to date on one of the projects we have partnered with the Quittapahilla Watershed Association. Work had begun on the survey and planning following receipt of the grant but it halted due to one of the property owner's reluctance to sign a final document. The presentation was to show that this one single project provided them the ability to meet their MS4 requirements at a lower cost than 17 other projects on their list. We participated in a call with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation regarding recent budget developments concerning Growing Greener funds. In anticipation of a meeting of stakeholders and interested parties, the chapter president participated in an aerial survey of the Spring Creek watershed in Derry Township in the Hershey area. A group interested in the restoration of the Spring Creek watershed, which included representatives from surrounding townships and supervisors, Milton Hershey Schools, Hershey Entertainment, Hershey Trust, Army Corps of Engineers, PA Department of Environmental Protection, several local engineering firms and several property owners then met. They discussed developing a Watershed Implementations Plan and the formation of a core planning group that will discuss forming a Watershed Association with a full 50(1)c status. We met with the Cornwall Borough Planning Committee to review the presentation on the stalled project on Snitz 2 in Cornwall Borough. Leadership attended a Dauphin County-wide watershed meeting with various municipal representatives in attendance to coordinate work on MS4 issues. The chapter submitted a grant application for \$860,000-plus to PFBC for restoration of 2,800 linear feet of Bachman Run in South Annville Township. We resurveyed the Powell's Creek Handicapped and Children's Access area to jump-start the project after learning that the funds for the planning process were misappropriated. An application was submitted for a Growing Greener Plus grant which is a design and build request. Our TIC schools are functioning without issue. In partnership with the

Quittapahilla Watershed Association, the chapter submitted a Growing Greener Plus application for a tributary of Snitz Creek in Cornwall Borough.

Donegal Chapter #037

Tom Hall

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www.donegaltu.org

Our annual fundraiser is April 4 at the Double-Tree by Hilton, Lancaster. Work by the USFWS has been ongoing on Bowery Run, a tributary to Octoraro Creek in southern Lancaster County. The project is about a mile long. Upon completion, USFWS will install fencing and cattle crossings. The Alliance for the Bay is funding the project and will be planting 3.5 to 4 acres of riparian buffer this spring. This project has produced a huge transformation and already reduced a tremendous amount of sediment. We have had to go back to repair storm damage on the Beiler property tributary to Fishing Creek. Currently underway are projects on Lititz Run, Hammer Creek, culvert removal on Walnut Run, a tributary to Hammer Creek and another project on Climbers Run. We are still waiting for approved funding on Conowingo Creek. TIC activities continue. We received several grants from the Campbell Foundation for educational purposes in the Fishing Creek watershed in southern Lancaster County. They include funding for four TIC programs as well as landowner outreach programs. Upcoming membership meetings are Feb. 19 with speaker Becky Whitson and March 18 with speaker Nick Raftas at Lancaster Farm & Home Center.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Chris Rudyk

717-387-1246, chris.rudyk@imiproducts.net

We accomplished several very important tasks in 2019, including trout stockings, stream clean-ups, a successful Project Healing Waters outing, increasing our monthly meetings to two a month, acquisition of a second larger venue for membership meetings, mailings to our members and landowners, stream restoration improvement projects, increasing our footprint in the community by being more active, working with local sporting clubs and associations with youth programs, winter fly tying course, adding a Fulton County liaison officer position, TIC releases, a successful chapter banquet, arranging several guest speakers at our chapter meetings, initiating chapter officers to have business cards, and working with a local Boy Scouts troop on a stream cleanup project.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Jimmy O'Connor

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www.muddycreektu.org

We held a Cabin Fever fundraiser and fly tying event on Jan. 26 at the American Legion in Stewartstown. We are in the final planning stages to

partner with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on a three-acre riparian buffer zone installation along a section of Leibs Creek, a Class A tributary of the South Branch of Muddy Creek, in April. We implanted nearly 100,000 eyed brown trout eggs using streamside incubators and Whitlock-Vibert boxes in various tributaries of Muddy Creek, in an effort to promote populations of nearly "wild" brown trout. We are sponsoring six TIC programs. Derek Eberly, the field representative for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership spoke at our November chapter meeting on the impact of the sportsman's voice in Harrisburg.

SOUTHWEST CHAPTERS

Arrowhead 214
Chestnut Ridge 670
Forbes Trail 206
Fort Bedford 291
John Kennedy 045
Ken Sink 053
Mountain Laurel 040
Penn's Woods West 042

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Arrowhead Chapter #214

Bill Libengood

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www.arrowhead214tu.org

Our annual banquet is March 28 at 10th Street Station. There is a possibility of obtaining a grant to catch more seeps on Huling Run. We have seven schools currently in TIC. Fly tying classes started the last Tuesday of January and continue for five weeks at 7 p.m. in Armstrong High School cafeteria. Our next meeting is Feb. 20 at Mantini's Auxiliary Building. Arrowhead chapter March Madness is March 20 at the CU Club.

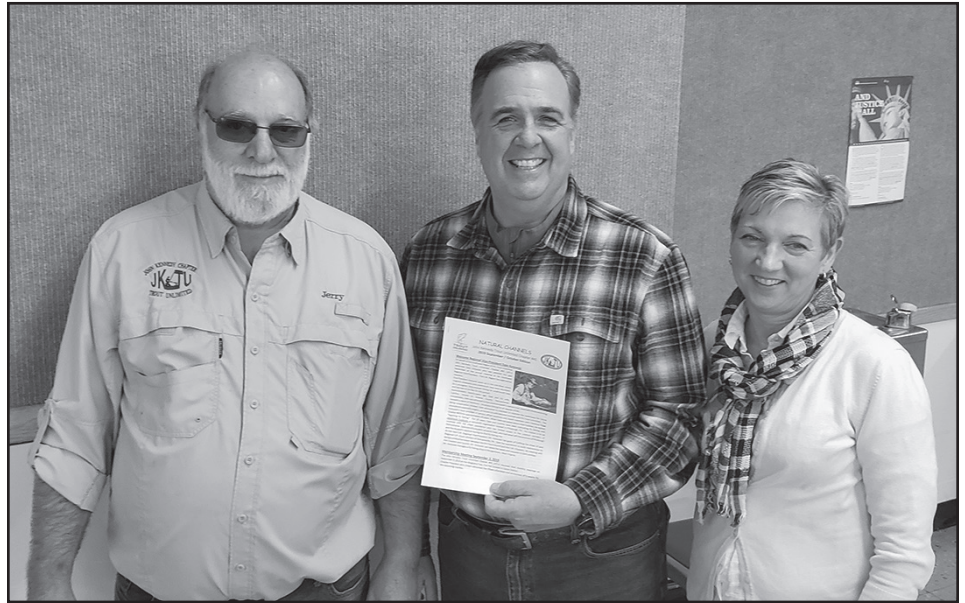
Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Ben Moyer

724-329-3772, bcmoyer@verizon.net
www.chestnutridgetu.org

The Chestnut Ridge chapter will hold its milestone 25th annual banquet March 21 at the Ramada by Wyndham Hotel (Formerly Holiday Inn) on Route 40 in Uniontown. We are also working with the Washington County Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce to host the Fly

John Kennedy chapter banquet guests...



Contributed Photo

John Kennedy TU President Jerry Green greets State Rep. Jim Gregory (R-80) and his fiancée at the chapter's annual banquet on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Fishing Film Tour this spring in Washington, PA. Our annual litter cleanup on Dunbar Creek is April 11. Our ongoing Glade Run project has improved water chemistry, and we are working with habitat partners based at California University of Pennsylvania to improve the physical nature of stream habitat, and to facilitate trout passage throughout the Dunbar Creek basin. A final litter cleanup before the trout fishing season complements those efforts. CRTU is carefully monitoring progress of DEP's proposal to re-designate Dunbar Creek and most of Glade Run in Fayette County as "Exceptional Value." We ask all chapters to help us advocate for that re-designation at appropriate points in the process. We have also begun planning a second kids' fishing experience at Ohiopyle State Park for children affiliated with the East End Community Center in Uniontown. We work with the Community Center staff to offer this day of fishing to kids who have never fished and are not likely to have an opportunity to fish unless someone facilitates the experience. As in recent years, CRTU volunteers will volunteer as guides and tutors for the Veterans Fly Fishing outing at Ohiopyle State Park in late May or early June.

no more will be needed for a while. A healthy population of wild brook trout is present in both streams. Members continue monthly water quality testing on both streams and stream chemistry is holding relatively steady. FTTU is applying for a Coldwater Conservation planning grant to identify the stressors on wild brook trout in Linn Run and its tributaries. Our annual Veterans Service Partnership fishing event in partnership with the Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Club is May 2 at their facilities near Latrobe. Our October meeting included a presentation on trout bugs in local streams by Powder Mill Nature Reserve's Research Entomologist, Andrea Kautz. Officers and directors participate in the Westmoreland Conservation District's monthly agency breakfast in Ligonier, which provide opportunities for state and local agencies and resource conservation based nonprofit organizations to interact. Chapter members have been in contact with our five TIC school coordinators. We are participating in a variety of school and state park outreach programs for winter and spring 2020. Upcoming meetings are March 4 and April 1 at the Nimick Family Education Center, Ligonier.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

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www.forbestrailltu.org

The chapter has worked with DCNR staff for several years to distribute loads of crushed limestone to buffer the acidity and increase alkalinity in Rock Run, a tributary of Linn Run in Westmoreland County. With the limestone installed this past summer, we are cautiously optimistic that

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Rylan Schnably

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www.facebook.com/fortbedfordtu

The chapter is hosting an eight-week series of free fly tying classes from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays through February at the Bedford County Conservation District.

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John Kennedy Chapter #045

Jerry Green

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www.tu.org/connect/groups/045-john-kennedy**

Our annual banquet at Trinity United Methodist Church, Roaring Spring was Nov. 2. State Rep. Jim Gregory (R-80) shared his support for TU efforts on clean streams. During our December meeting at Marzoni's Restaurant in Altoona, chapter President Jerry Green presented the annual Spruce Fly Award to board member and Family Fish Day coordinator Carl Reed for his tireless efforts in promoting the PFBC programs in addition to instructing the public the basics of fly fishing. Our eight-week fly tying class runs on Saturdays through February. On Jan. 20, chapter officers and directors held a dinner meeting designed to lay out our projects/programs for the coming year. We are manning a booth at the Jaffa Sports Show in Altoona from Feb. 21-23, and we are participating at the Central PA Fly Fishing Show on March 21 at Meyers Elementary School, Bellwood.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Keith Ewing

**724-840-3145, goirish50@gmail.com
<http://kensink.blogspot.com>**

A macroinvertebrate survey was conducted on Twolick Creek with KSTU and participants from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. A quarterly

water quality sampling was also performed. We participate in and attend monthly meetings held by the Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps of Indiana County. The chapter will take part in the Indiana County Youth Field Day later in the spring. Our October meeting featured Tim Cammisa of Trout and Feather who spoke about his recent experiences using Pennsylvania tactics and gear to fly fish for Arctic char and brown trout in Iceland. Guide Shawn Holsinger, owner/operator of Holsinger's Fly Shop near Altoona, presented on fly fishing Central PA in November. Our December meeting was the chapter's annual Christmas party featuring "Modern Nymphing European Inspired Techniques." A six-week introduction to fly tying and fly fishing course for youths/adults began on Jan. 11. KSTU Fly Tying Round Robin is Feb. 11 at Indian Springs Golf & Country Club. All tyers are welcome to participate beginning at 7 p.m. Our annual banquet is April 4 at Indiana Golf & Country Club.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Randy Buchanan

**814-467-4034, prbfish4fun@aol.com
www.mltu.org**

Our annual banquet is April 4. We are currently planning for spring/summer stream restoration projects. Saturday morning and Monday evening beginners fly tying classes are being held in January and February. The chapter currently supports eight different schools in TIC.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Charles Buffington

**412-388-1666, buffingtoncw@gmail.com
www.pwwtu.org**

The board is considering having a one-day retreat on a Saturday this spring, possibly at 7-Springs. A morning session to consider big issue such as where the chapter should be headed, lunch and then an afternoon fishing Laurel Hill Creek or Lake Gosling at 7-Springs. We are developing a grant request form to handle requests for funding from allied organizations. The January chapter meeting featured the Great Joe Kline Fly Sale. Flies tied by the members were sold to members and non-members. Five tyers demonstrated for the audience as well. Plans are underway for Cabin Fever, set for March 1 at the Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh - Cranberry. We have a long-standing commitment to help with the conservation and improvement of Pine Creek in Allegheny County that will continue this year. We are also interested in projects out of our area that will allow our members to contribute to cold-water stream conservation efforts put on by other chapters. In addition, we hope to get the spin fishermen in the chapter galvanized for conservation efforts. The annual Introduction to Fly Fishing class is March 27-29. The chapter welcomed Dr. Bradley Porter who spoke about "fish surveys on our three rivers and species recovery over the past decade" in November. In December, John Brehm discussed "Life and Times of a Central PA Fishing Guide."