

Pennsylvania TROUT



Winter 2015

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

TU's Annual Meeting coming to PA

Scranton to host national event Sept. 16-20, 2015

For the first time in 25 years, Trout Unlimited's Annual Meeting is coming to Pennsylvania in 2015. Events will be held from Sept. 16-20 at the Center City Hilton

Hotel and Convention Center in Scranton. The Annual Meeting gives chapters an opportunity to see first-hand what it takes to operate Trout Unlimited on state and national levels, and offers an idea of what chapter officers in similar positions in other states are doing to advance coldwater

fisheries and conservation.

Chris Wood, president and chief executive officer of Trout Unlimited, will present a "State of TU Address" and discuss the scope of TU operations and projects.

The tentative schedule of events is as
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Contributed Photo

Thanks in part to a Back the Brookie grant, volunteers were able to enhance native brook trout habitat Conococheague Creek.

Grants assist rebirth of the 'Jig'

In 2003, the Old Chambersburg (Birch Run) Reservoir was drained. As a whole, the Conococheague Creek (or the Jig as some locals call it) is one of the healthiest and most productive wild trout streams in the South Mountain region. However,

the section that runs through the Old Chambersburg Reservoir was shallow and had little trout habitat.

Ten years later, with the leadership of DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the Adams

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Trout Unlimited preps for work with new administration

With a new governor and General Assembly in place, Trout Unlimited is preparing to work with the new administration and legislature to ensure that Pennsylvania's exceptional trout streams are protected for generations to come.

Among its top priorities, TU will be working to educate state decision-makers about the value of trout streams for ecological and recreational purposes, and for the economic revenue that is generated for local communities each year by fishing.

New committee chairs have been named by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Senate.

Rep. Keith Gillespie (R-47, York) and Rep. Ted Harhai (D-58, Westmoreland) are the Majority and Minority Chairs, respectively, of the Game & Fisheries Committee.

Rep. John Maher (R-40, Allegheny and Washington) and Rep. Greg Vitali (D-166,

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Pennsylvania TROUT

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Pair of CCC trainings on tap

The Pennsylvania Coldwater Conservation Corps has two upcoming trainings.

Basic Monitoring Training will be held Saturday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at East Stroudsburg University. This training, open to both community volunteers and students, is hosted by the Brodhead Chapter of TU and East Stroudsburg University. The training will cover topics ranging from basic environmental concerns of shale gas extraction to hands-on water quality sampling. Trained volunteers will be equipped to monitor coldwater streams in their area with support from TU staff.

Advanced Monitoring Training will be held Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Erie County Conservation District office. This training, open to current CCC volunteers, is hosted by the NW PA chapter of TU. It will cover benthic macroinvertebrate sampling and identification. Assessing benthic macroinvertebrates can indicate cumulative and long-term impacts to aquatic ecosystems.

To register for either of these trainings, or to learn more about the program, please contact Jake Lemon at jlemon@tu.org.

Trout in the Classroom grant round opens Feb. 2

PATU will open the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) grant round on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. Existing grants will be available for teachers who are already participating in the program. Teachers can apply for funding up to \$500 for equipment and educational field trips. To apply for an existing grant or for more information, please visit www.patrouinthe classroom.org. Grant applications are due Friday, March 20, 2015. Contact Sandy Sausser at outreach@patrou.org or 814-359-5114 with questions.

TIC T-Shirts: It's not too late to get a TIC T-shirt! This year's shirts are royal blue. All proceeds from T-shirt sales go directly toward supporting the grant program. Shirts are \$17 each (\$20 for 2X and 3X). You can purchase a shirt at <http://www.patrouinthe classroom.org/supporttheprogram.aspx>.

Wayne's Coldwater Kids set for April 26 on Spruce Creek

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is excited to announce that Wayne's Coldwater Kids will be taking place on Sunday, April 26 at Wayne Harpster's Evergreen Farm on Spruce Creek.

Kids ages 12-15 are invited to attend this fun-filled day of fly fishing, which is followed by dinner. PATU requests that the \$10 registration per youth is paid for by chapters. This is a great opportunity to mentor youths who may someday become an active participant in your chapter. All participants must be accompanied by no more than one mentor per student. We encourage two students per mentor if possible.

For more information or to register, please visit www.patrou.org. Contact Sandy Sausser at outreach@patrou.org or 814-359-5114 with questions.

SESSION

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Delaware and Montgomery) are the Majority and Minority Chairs, respectively, of the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

For the Senate Game & Fisheries Committee, Sens. Mario Scavella (R-40, Monroe) and Senator James Brewster (D-45, Allegheny) are the Majority and Minority Chairs, respectively.

Sens. Gene Yaw (R-23, Lycoming) and John Yudichak (D-14, Luzerne) are the Majority and Minority chairs, respectively, for the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Over the past year, we have built a significant grassroots legislative effort and that work will continue into the coming session. If you are interested in joining PATU's legislative efforts, please contact Katy Dunlap, kdunlap@tu.org, for more information on how you can get involved.

MEETING

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follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 16: Fishing Day – Choose to fish one of northeast Pennsylvania’s trout waters with a local volunteer as your guide. These include the Lackawanna, the Lackawaxen, the Delaware, Brodheads Creek and the Upper Lehigh River.

Thursday, Sept. 17: Conservation Tour – Participate in a bus tour highlighting conservation projects and environmental issues being faced by Trout Unlimited in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Friday, Sept. 18: Full day of meetings and breakout training sessions, followed by an awards dinner.

Saturday, Sept. 19: “State of TU” by Chris Wood, president and CEO, followed by reports from the Board of Trustees, National Leadership Council and Trout Unlimited chief financial officer. Saturday evening will consist of the annual banquet, which will include a live auction, silent auction and raffle items, and the presentation of the prestigious Mortenson Award.

There will be tours and special programs throughout the weekend for all spouses

who register at a reduced rate. A special welcome reception will be hosted by the NEPA Fly Girls, a contingent of the Lackawanna Valley chapter. There will also be a hospitality suite each night for attendees to unwind, relax and socialize. This will be a fun event with a lot of great information to take back your chapter.

PATU is looking for donations for the live and silent auction. Proceeds will be used to cover the cost of the event and any additional funding will be used for the Back the Brookie grant program. PATU is asking for items of \$100 or more (retail value) for the auction. Please keep in mind that most attendees will be flying in, so and transporting large items could be difficult. Regional vice presidents will be coming around during the second and third quarters this year to pick up auction items.

Contact Charlie Charlesworth, national committee chair, at 570-954-5042 or fnepa@epix.net.

Registration will be available on www.TU.org as the date gets closer. If you’d like to donate an item to the auction, please contact Samantha Kutskel at skutskel@coldwaterheritage.org or Sandy Sausser at outreach@patrout.org.

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Contact information is available on pages 2-3.

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Headwaters

A message from PATU President Brian Wagner

I don't know if Leonardo Da Vinci was a fisherman, but he is quoted as saying "The water you touch in a river is the last of that which has passed, and the first of that which is coming; thus it is with time."

The quote seems appropriate as we enter into a new year. I hope everyone had a festive holiday season. I know for many it is a time for reflection, a time to reset priorities. It is no different for me and the Pennsylvania Council. So let's dip our hands in the water, as if we were about to release a trout back into its home, remembering that the water that has flowed by surely has defined us as an angler, a person and an organization, and then look upstream in anticipation of what is to come. Let's look at a few issues and opportunities for 2015.

Certainly a highlight of 2015 will be the National TU meeting to be held Sept. 16-20. Trout Unlimited members from across the United States will be descending on Scranton to fish, network and conduct TU business. This will be a great opportunity to showcase TU in Pennsylvania. Council proceeds from the banquet will be dedicated to brook trout conservation within the state.

Shale gas is always in the news and it seems like I'm constantly wading – no pun intended – through articles good and bad. I think it can be said that the state of Pennsylvania has been playing catch up with the development of shale gas since 2008.

Several recent developments may influence unconventional gas drilling in Pennsylvania. What effect the New York state ban on fracking will have in Pennsylvania is debatable, but it looks to give a reprieve from drilling in the Delaware River basin. Newly-elected Gov. Tom Wolf has promised a severance tax to pay for education. Surely this will take some compromise in the legislature and we will need to be vigilant that there is proper funding included for conservation measures. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection most recently has handed down some larger fines on the gas industry. The thought is that this will lead to greater compliance by the industry as a whole.

Our focus will remain on "boots on the ground" monitoring through the Coldwater Conservation Corps program (look for trainings on our website) with an expanded focus on pipelines and other infrastructure, weighing in during the FERC process on routing and stream crossings, and see that best management practices are utilized. We need to remain vigilant to ensure that impacts to our coldwater resources are limited as shale gas continues to be developed in the state.

Did you know that 2015 ushers in a new two year legislative session in the Pennsylvania General Assembly? All bills introduced and not passed in the previous session are dead and would have to be reintroduced as a new bill.

The 2013-2014 session sure was an active one involving several pieces of legislation that were not in the best interests of trout and sportsmen. As everyone knows, HB1565 passed the legislature and was signed by Gov. Tom Corbett. Now that the bill is law, it is up to the DEP to figure out how to implement it. The department will be releasing technical guidance on the equivalency demonstration which is required to show that an applicant's best management practice is substantially equivalent to a buffer. We will weigh in during the public comment period. PATU will be meeting with legislators in Harrisburg on Jan. 27. I was also invited to speak about Trout Unlimited to a Legislative Environmental Issues Forum of the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee in Harrisburg on March 2. I am excited about the opportunity to tell our TU story.

I think everyone would agree that we need to get more kids away from their game consoles and outside to explore the great outdoors. I'm very proud of our chapters and members who routinely are the standard bearers for so many youth programs in Pennsylvania to not only get kids interested in fishing but also to become involved in conservation related activities as well.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has announced an expansion of its Mentored Youth program to include



more streams this year, with the intent of transforming the Mentored Youth Day from an event to an opportunity. March 28 is the regional Mentored Youth Trout Day (southeastern counties) and April 11 is the state-wide Mentored Youth Trout Day. The popular Wayne's Coldwater Kids youth fishing event at Wayne Harpster's farm on Spruce Creek is scheduled for April 26.

Perhaps you know a youth between the ages of 14 to 17 who would be interested in applying to attend a camp like the original Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp or the Wildlife Leadership Academy's Pennsylvania Brookies Field School. Also, a new fly fishing youth conservation camp will be offered this year in northeast PA. Look for more information about these events on our website at www.patrou.org.

On Aug. 1, the PATU 5K Trail Run & Family Festival will take place at Whipple Dam State Park near Pine Grove Mills. An introduction to kayaking will also be featured. It promises to be a fun day for all ages. I'm thinking about donating a dollar for everyone who finishes behind me in the 5K. Family events are a great way to promote the great work TU is doing in our communities. And please consider a TU youth membership for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and the kid next door.

Although the majority of people believe that man is contributing to a warming planet at some rate, climate change is still

Continued on next page...

REBIRTH

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County chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Conococheague Creek Stream Restoration Project began. This project enhanced native brook trout habitat on this impaired stretch by installing 23 fish habitat structures – cross vanes, single log vanes and j-hooks. The project also enhanced the riparian buffer and initiated long-term physical and biologic monitoring of the creek.

A Back the Brookie and South Mountain Partnership mini-grant helped pay for a portion of the project. Seedlings plantings finalized the riparian buffer areas. Signage was installed on a large limestone shotrock to recognize all contributing parties.

This project is the essence of grassroots organizations working together for the betterment of protecting the resource.

DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Adams County Trout Unlimited deserve recognition for their leadership and ability to coordinate with over 17 active local partners including four other Trout Unlimited chapters, along with Adams County, Falling Spring, Cumberland Valley



Contributed Photo

After several years and countless hours of volunteer effort across several different agencies, native brook trout habitat is once again part of Conococheague Creek.

and National Capitol, local businesses, state and county agencies, and local/state/national nonprofit organizations. These organizations built new partnerships and strengthened existing ones to undertake the countless volunteer hours that were needed to complete the project and further the South Mountain Partnership's mission.

Another important point to highlight is the project did not benefit one or a few organizations. This project benefited the entire South Mountain region and many generations of Pennsylvanians to come.

As soon as the project was completed, news of the project spread quickly and local fishermen enjoyed the newly improved stream almost immediately.

Articles on the project ran in three local newspapers, in the *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*, and in *Trout*, Trout Unlimited's national magazine. There has even been international attention given to the improved section in a YouTube video that was created by a traveling fisherman showing the exceptional trout fishing on the "Jig."

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a polarizing subject. As trout anglers, we need to at least be thinking about how to mitigate the effects of climate change. For instance, reconnecting trout to desirable habitat by focusing on barriers to fish passage like poorly constructed road culverts is a good place to start and we are begin-

ning to see some of this work taking place in north central Pennsylvania.

I know our members take great pride in their home waters, our Class A streams and wild trout waters. I know I get excited when I hear of trout being found in a previously unassessed water or a stream that has been restored from the effects of acid mine drainage.

These places represent opportunity. They are the places we fish. We need other people to love them too, whether they fish or not, and understand what they represent, a sustainable recreational economic engine important to our communities and state. You most likely know someone who is not a member. Sign them up and go forth and spread the word – it's a story worth telling.

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has more than 12,000 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 e-mail advertising@patrout.org. See pages 2-3 for Council contact information, officers and committees. For listings of Regional VPs and Pennsylvania TU chapters, and their contact information, see pages 14-20.

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PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Minutes of the Jan. 10, 2015
Executive Committee Meeting
PFBC Facility, Pleasant Gap, PA

Officers Attending: Brian Wagner, Ken Undercoffer, Charlie Charlesworth, George Kutskel, Bob Pennell, Greg Malaska, Mark Hanes, Chuck Winters, Ben Hayes, Chris Burns, Fred Gender, John Leonard, Monty Murty.

Others Attending: Samantha Kutskel, Sandy Sausser, Katy Dunlap, Dick Soderberg, Bob Vierck, Scott Brumbaugh.

President's Report: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Wagner. Wagner referenced his written report and announced that he will be making a presentation on TU at the March 2 meeting of the Legislative Environmental Issues Forum in Harrisburg. He is also working with the Cumberland Valley, Iron Furnace, Lackawanna Valley and Hokendauqua chapters to draft an updated Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) with TU's NLC Grassroots Workgroup. A motion by Hanes/seconded by Malaska was approved to accept the minutes of the Sept. 24, 2014 EXCOM meeting, as previously distributed to EXCOM.

Treasurer's Report: G. Kutskel reported that all PA chapters filed their annual financial reports with National TU by the Nov. 15 deadline, but also called for regional VPs to work with certain chapters to ensure future compliance. The annual rebate from National TU amounting to approximately 28K was received by Council in early January. The Budget Report for the period ending 11/30/14 was approved on a motion to receive and file by Hanes/seconded by Malaska.

Discussion/Action Items

• **Approval of Support for DRBC Funding** – On a motion by Charlesworth/seconded by G. Kutskel, approved signing on to the Delaware River Watershed Coalition's letter to the Office of Management and Budget urging the federal government's contribution of funding to the Delaware River Basin Commission

(DRBC).

• **Approval of Strategic Plan** – On a motion by Leonard/seconded by Murty, approved the updated PATU Strategic Plan as proposed by Wagner, including the addition of the introduction prepared by Murty.

• **Approval of Request for Policy on Climate Change** – On a motion by Hanes/seconded by Gender, approved Murty sending letter to National TU Trustees requesting policy on climate change.

• **Approval of Employee Handbook** – On a motion by Gender/seconded by Charlesworth, approved adoption of National TU's Employee Handbook for PA Council paid staff.

• **Approval of Position Statement on PFBC Policy on Stocking Class A Waters** – After a lengthy and spirited discussion, and on a motion by Hanes/seconded by G. Kutskel, it was agreed that Council would continue to support its previously published compromise position while also stating that we remain opposed to any and all stocking of Class A waters. Wagner will be attending the PFBC Fisheries Management meeting on Jan. 21 to present our position statement.

Awards Committee: No report submitted.

Delaware River Committee: Report submitted. There will be a three-state Delaware River Committee meeting on Jan. 24 to be held during the Somerset, NJ Fly Fishing Show.

Development Committee: Report submitted. G. Kutskel reported that our Annual Appeal donations to date are pretty much in line with what we received last year. Sausser reported that TIC T-shirts have been selling extremely well. Leonard suggested that we take a look at the NetCharge program which rebates a percentage of members' online purchases to non-profit organizations.

Stream Access Committee: Report submitted. Winters reported that PFBC



is still hopeful of obtaining a grant to use for stream access.

Trout Management Committee: Report submitted. Undercoffer reported that there are currently 400 streams that have been assessed

for wild trout populations that have not yet been officially listed by PFBC. Katy Dunlap will draft a letter for Council approval, requesting PFBC to move forward on their internal review process to get these streams listed for approval.

Women's Initiative: Sausser reported that a request will be sent out to our members to enlist a chairperson to head up this initiative for at least a one-year term, with the option available to serve multiple terms.

Communications Committee: Report submitted. Charlesworth is working with Brad Isles to develop a special TU National Meeting insert for the next four issues of *PA Trout*. He also requested that regional VPs contact fly shops in their regions to boost ad revenues for the newsletter.

Environmental Committee: Report submitted. There is a need to recruit additional members as only five individuals have so far confirmed their intent to actively participate on this committee. An updated Riparian Buffers Policy was approved on a motion by Charlesworth/seconded by Hanes, and will be posted in the newsletter and on the website. The committee is currently working on an updated Stream Channelization Policy.

Legislative Committee: Dunlap reported that two individuals are currently being considered to co-chair this committee.

Membership Committee: Report submitted. Hanes reported that there continues to be a decline in PA membership, and he is looking into the possibility of combining smaller chapters in an effort to increase active participation in chapter activities.

Youth Education Committee: No report submitted. Charlesworth reported that a teen summer camp at Keystone College has been organized for June 14-20 with the assistance of the Lackawanna Valley

and Stanley Cooper chapters. Wayne's Coldwater Kids event is scheduled for April 26.

National Leadership Council: Report submitted. See action item above on approving NLC request to National TU's Trustees for policy on climate change.

Outreach Coordinator: Report submitted. Sausser reported that plans for the PATU 5K Run in August are moving forward. Fourteen entries were submitted for the PATU T-shirt design contest, and the winner was selected by a vote of the EXCOM members.

Program Director: Report submitted. S. Kutskel reported that nine people participated in the recent New Leaders Webinar. There were about 20 chapters who did not participate in the Leadership Survey who will be identified for the regional VPs to follow up with. On a motion by Hanes/seconded by Malaska, approval was granted to move ahead with plans to hold PATU's Annual Meeting on Oct. 3 at the Ramada Inn in State College. On a motion by Charlesworth/seconded by Malaska, approval was given to fund S. Kutskel's travel and attendance at National TU's Regional Retreat in Wyoming on May 2-5.

TU Eastern Water Projects Director: Dunlap reported that 124 streams in the Delaware River Basin were assessed by National TU personnel during 2014, and about one half of these were found to contain wild trout. Paula Piatt has been visiting TU chapters and sportsmen's organizations to talk about the unassessed waters initiative. Dunlap is heavily involved currently in issues affecting gas pipelines. The first 2015 "Legislative Day" in Harrisburg is planned for Jan. 27.

Regional Reports

- ***North Central*** – All eight chapter reports were filed. A reorganizational meeting for the Columbia County

Chapter will be held on Jan. 15. Hayes commended the Spring Creek Chapter for their efforts on the PFBC Policy on Stocking Class A Streams issue.

- ***Northeast*** – Eight out of nine chapter reports were filed. Stanley Cooper did not file.
- ***Northwest*** – All nine chapter reports were filed. Hanes reported that new, younger leadership is producing good results for the Cornplanter and Seneca chapters.
- ***South Central*** – All eight chapter reports were filed. Leonard is attending a reorganizational meeting at the Codorus Chapter on Jan. 14. He reminded us that applicants are being sought for the Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp to be held June 21-26.
- ***Southeast*** – Four out of seven chapter reports were filed. Bucks County, Delco Manning and Perkiomen did not file. Burns reported that Tredyffrin Township has agreed to settle up for three sewage spills into Valley Creek and will pay fines to PA DEP amounting to \$110K.

- ***Southwest*** – All seven chapter reports were filed. Winters plans to visit all of his chapters during the next few months. Cabin Fever is set for Feb. 22 in Pittsburgh.

Old Business

- ***Speakers Bureau*** – Leonard volunteered to update the list of program

speakers list initiated by Sherwin Albert and requested the regional VPs to submit their suggestions.

New Business

- ***Update on TU National Annual Meeting*** – Charlesworth reported that all committees have been formed and we are in the process of obtaining Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) from the three chapters who will share the responsibilities; Lackawanna Valley, Pike-Wayne and Stanley Cooper. Auction prize donations have started to come in, including a Salmon River steelhead fishing package valued at \$5K. He reminded the regional VPs that each chapter is encouraged to donate a prize of \$100 or more in value. Pennell suggested that we use an informational flyer that Murty developed as a handout to attendees, and will get pricing for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m. on a motion by Charlesworth/seconded by Hanes.

– Bob Pennell, Council Secretary

Thank You
PA Trout Unlimited Members
For All Your Good Work!

PA Environment Digest

David E. Hess
Former Secretary of DEP, Editor

www.PAEnvironmentDigest.com

Crisci Associates
www.CrisciAssociates.com
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Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org



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Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer George Kutskel

Thank you.

That is my message to all this issue. I don't want to forget anyone so this is to all who have, in some way, helped Trout Unlimited this past year – and PA Trout in particular either by volunteering or

by donating and purchasing one of our items for sale that furthers our mission to restore, protect, and conserve our coldwater resources.

May the new year be filled with great times enjoying our environment.

Chapter Donations

Please note that all money we receive from chapters and individuals is used to fund Council programs or projects, including this newsletter. Grant money can only be used for the purpose of the grant. We know how hard it is to raise funds and wish to recognize your efforts.

Exceptional Value \$1,000 or more

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- Iron Furnace

High Quality \$500 to \$999

- Allegheny Mountain

- Doc Fritchey
- Neshannock
- Oil Creek
- Penns Creek
- Penn's Woods West

Brook Trout \$250 to \$499

- Adams County
- Chestnut Ridge
- Donegal

Wild Trout \$100 to \$249

- God's Country
- Muddy Creek
- RB Winter
- Spring Creek

**Want to see your chapter listed?
Contact your officers and tell them!**

PATU Calendar

Feb. 28 – CCC Program Basic Monitoring Training, East Stroudsburg University

March 7 – AIS Workshop, McKeever Environmental Learning Center (Sandy Lake, PA)

March 21 – AIS Workshop, Loyalhanna Watershed Association (Ligonier, PA)

March 28 – CCC Program Advanced Monitoring Training, Erie County Conservation District

April 11 – EXCOM Meeting

April 26 – Wayne's Coldwater Kids

June 5-7 – Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (Frederick, MD)

June 21-26 – Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Camp

June 27 – EXCOM Meeting

July 7-11 – WLA Brookies Camp

Aug. 1 – PATU 5K Trail Run & Festival, Whipple Dam State Park, PA

Sept. 16-20 – National Meeting (Scranton, PA)

Oct. 3 – PATU Annual Fall Meeting

More information about all the above programs and activities can be found on www.patrou.org

Woodland owners conference – becoming a master

By Bob Slagter
Special to PA Trout

As you walk through your woods any time of year, your eyes seek some familiar sites. That large cherry growing in with the hemlocks, that grove of maples or quaking ash, that gaggle of white oaks that never seem to have enough acorns, all become “go to” areas.

But often you notice trees and bushes and even flowers never noticed before or trees that were healthy looking last time that are now sickly or dead.

That ash tree is showing signs of emerald ash borer, it will soon be gone. Should I try to save the others that are still viable? Oh yeah, and are they black or white ash? And do I leave the dead one stand or cut it?

I attended the first ever Woodland Owners Conference in Altoona in May 2013 and it made me a different observer of my woods than I had ever been.

If you were one of the 500 of my closest

woodland friends attending, you participated in, count them, 99 concurrent sessions on such diverse topics as:

- Forest Ecology
- Regenerating Trees Naturally
- Tree Planting
- Competition, Deer & Light in Hardwoods
- Your Back Woods Garden
- Backyard Habitat Triage
- Young Forest Habitat
- Creating a Gift Legacy
- Wildflowers and Rare Plants
- Stream Health Assessment
- And dozens more...

You saw demonstrations and interacted with experts from all over the state as well as with other concerned woodland owners. You talked to nationally known authors, like Curt Meine and Doug Tallamy. In essence, you got a mini-master's degree on your land in two days.

The conference was billed as the first of

its kind in the state and that it was. Never before did we woodlanders have such an intense and fun learning experience. From the opening through the keynotes through the workshops through the lectures, the demonstrations, the opportunity to be introduced to unprecedented learning was right in front of you constantly.

But I couldn't get enough in just two days so thanks to the people at Penn State's Center for Private Forests, I will get another chance to increase my “master's training” March 20 and 21. This one will be bigger and better than the first with focused training in conservation options, invasive species, taxes, water quality, and literally dozens of other topics and hopefully 1000 attendees.

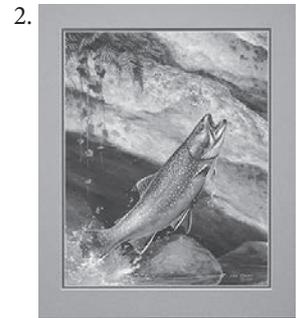
So, do yourself a favor and lock the dates into your schedule now. Register online and get more information here: <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/conferences>.

Merchandise Order Form

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited in protecting, conserving, and restoring Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. Merchandise orders are processed during volunteer time. Please allow adequate time for your order to be filled and shipped. Direct questions to George Kutskel at maksak@comcast.net or 814-371-9290. See the Merchandise page at www.patrou.org for additional details.



	Item Description	Price	Qty.	Total
	"Back the Brookie" License Plate	\$25.00		
1	Ball cap w/logo (circle) Khaki Navy Camo	\$15.00		
	Large Waterproof Fly Box (6"x4"x1")	\$25.00		
	Custom Fly Leaders			
	Dry Fly – 4X Tippet			
	Dry Fly – 5X Tippet			
	Dry Fly – 6X Tippet			
	Wet Fly – 4X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers			
	Wet Fly – 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers			
	Subtotal – Leader Quantity (1 to 9)	\$4.00		
	Subtotal – Leader Quantity (10 or more)	\$3.50		
	Dan Shields' <i>Fly Fishing PA's Spring Creek</i> Book	\$20.00		
2	Ned Smith "Sting of the Hook" Print – Unframed	\$148.40		
3	Little Juniata Patch 2011 – 4"	\$6.00		
	Little Juniata Patch 2011 – 6"	\$10.00		
4	Kinzua Creek Patch 2010 – 4"	\$6.00		
	Kinzua Creek Patch 2010 – 6"	\$10.00		
5	Delaware River Patch 2009 – 4"	\$6.00		
	Delaware River Patch 2009 – 6"	\$10.00		
	PATU Decals – 3"	\$3.00		
	PATU Travel Rod Case	\$50.00		
	Fly Fishing Practice Casting Game	\$25.00		
	Custom 9'0, 5-wt., 3-piece Fly Rod	\$175.00		
	Adult TIC T-Shirt (circle size) S M L XL	\$17.00		
	Adult TIC T-Shirt (circle size) 2XL 3XL	\$20.00		
	Youth TIC T-Shirt (circle size) M L	\$17.00		
Note:	6% sales tax (where applicable), shipping and handling costs included in unit prices.	Total \$		



Mail this form, along with money order or check payable to "PA Trout" to:

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PA Council of Trout Unlimited
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Ship to:

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

Policy on Riparian Habitats

January 2015

In October 2014, Gov. Tom Corbett signed into law House Bill 1565 which decreases the requirements of riparian buffers along High Quality (HQ) and Exceptional Value (EV) streams, as defined by the Department of Environmental Protection, for projects and development that require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under *Title 25, Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control*. However, any activity within 50 feet of a stream still requires a “Stream Encroachment Permit” under *Title 25, Chapter 105, Dams and Waterways Safety*. According to the PFBC, 33% of Pennsylvania’s 86,000 miles of waterways are listed as HQ or EV. These streams are the most pristine waters that we have within the Commonwealth and are now under danger from outside influences and development.

The Science Behind Riparian Buffers

It is recognized that riparian habitats, defined as the vegetative zones bordering streams and rivers,

have important influences in maintaining good populations of trout and aquatic insects, and also provide many other significant ecological and cultural functions and values. Many of Pennsylvania’s riparian habitats have already been damaged and additional losses are threatened from urbanization; road construction; improper agricultural, lumbering and mineral extraction practices; and off-road vehicle use.

Riparian buffers provide multiple and varied benefits for the protection and conservation of waterways, fish and the people that benefit from them. Riparian buffers are an essential component of watershed management plans that provide numerous physical, chemical and biological benefits that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of non-point source run-off, attenuation of flood flows, absorptive capacity of soil particles to minimize the loss of organic and nonorganic chemicals, maintenance of stream water temperatures

and aquatic habitat. The values of riparian stream buffers have been well documented in scientific literature.

The EPA (Mayer, et al, 2007) assessed the effectiveness of riparian buffer width on the removal of nitrogen. The results of this study revealed that wide buffers, those greater than 150 feet, more consistently removed significant portions of nitrogen entering a riparian zone than those of lesser width. This study also indicated that buffers adjacent to headwater streams are the most effective management tool towards maintaining the health of the watershed. Doskey, et al, (2010) indicated that riparian vegetation stream water chemistry through a diverse process including direct chemical uptake and indirect influences such as supply of organic matter to soils and channels, modification of water movement and stabilization of soil. Deibel, et al, (2009) found that land cover is generally the most important driver of constituent loads and that a large proportion of pollutants can be eliminated from streams by the use of buffers. DeWalle (2010) and Ghermandi, et al, (2009) found that shading by a riparian buffer improves water quality through the minimization of the direct impacts of solar radiation of streams.

Research shows that a continuous riparian buffer helps to maintain stream functions as it drains a larger area, minimizing undesirable trends that negatively impact water quality (Maryland DNR 2005). The proximity of a riparian buffer in landscapes is also critical to the biological, chemical and physical functions of the adjacent waterbody. Riparian buffers that provide the greatest ecological benefits are generally complex and are composed if a mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees. Fully functioning mature riparian buffers that support diverse and complex plant communities require time to develop. PA Trout believes that buffers cannot be removed from one area of a watershed and be replaced in another area of the watershed, or in a different watershed, and be expected to provide the same beneficial functions.

Given the appreciable focus on trout angling in Pennsylvania, it is important to note the significance of riparian buffers

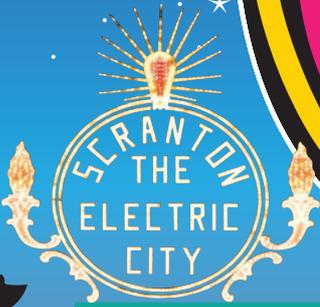
to our coldwater aquatic resources. Forested riparian buffers influence physical components of streams including water temperature dynamics, water quality, sediment regimes, food web resources and in-stream habitat heterogeneity (Jones, et al, 2006). In an analysis of 17 northeastern states, water temperature and riparian conditions were two of the top five threats to stream dwelling brook trout populations (Hudy, et al, 2005). Trout require temperatures between 45-60 degrees for optimal growth and survival. Any temperature above 68 degrees begins to significantly impact survival of trout (Piper, et al, 1982). PA Trout is especially concerned with the loss and/or maintenance of riparian buffers for the health of our watersheds and trout fishing across the Commonwealth. House Bill 1565 can adversely affect the water quality of our streams, not only for fishing, but for the multiple uses of the riparian buffers by outdoorsmen and use of water by the citizens of Pennsylvania.

In short, research shows the following are just some of the widely recognized functions and values of riparian habitats:

- 1) Trees and shrubs provide shade, maintaining cool water temperatures.
- 2) Roots of riparian vegetation bind soils and sediments near the stream edge, limiting bank erosion. This reduces channel widening and the influx of sediment into streams.
- 3) Escape cover for fish is provided by undercut roots along the banks, overhanging branches, leaning trees, and downed trees (large woody debris) in the channel.
- 4) Pool formation is triggered by interactions between stream flow and leaning and fallen trees (large woody debris). Trout populations are closely linked to the quantity and quality of pool habitats.
- 5) During floods, the roots of riparian vegetation further back across the floodplain also reduce soil erosion from the top of the floodplain (floodplain stripping), also reducing the influx of sediment into streams. Riparian vegetation also obstructs and slows high velocity flows, dissipating their energy through friction. This limits damaging scour. Along channel edges, the water

Continued on page 14...

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**Policy on
Cooperative Nurseries
Operated by TU Chapters
and Stocking by
TU Chapters**

September 2014

This policy establishes guidelines for the operation of trout nursery facilities operated by TU chapters in Pennsylvania. It applies to facilities producing catchable-sized trout for release into streams in order to provide angling opportunities. This policy also establishes guidelines for stocking or supporting the stocking of hatchery-reared trout by chapters.

The TU National policy on Stocking over Native Trout (2012) prohibits chapters

and councils from stocking (or assisting in stocking) of non-native hatchery fish on top of healthy populations of native trout (Pennsylvania's state fish is the brook trout, the only salmonid native to Pennsylvania's streams).

PA Council recognizes the utility of hatchery trout for providing recreational fishing in waters incapable of sustaining wild trout in Pennsylvania.

PA Council defines a viable population as one containing recent reproduction and at least one other age class of wild trout, regardless of the biomass estimate.

PA Council also recognizes that hatchery fish released into streams containing wild trout populations is detrimental to the wild fish and that cessation of stocking is likely to result in recovery of low biomass viable populations.

PA Council is especially cautious of the idea that streams containing modest popu-

lations of wild trout can be improved by adding stocked trout to bring the abundance up to some designated desirable level.

Stocking of hatchery fish or financial support of cooperative nurseries that stock hatchery fish over healthy self-sustaining populations of wild trout is contrary to TU's conservation mission (see Trout Unlimited North American Salmonid Policy, page 31, letter D).

PA Council does not support the continued involvement by TU chapters with cooperative trout nurseries or private hatcheries that do not conform to PA Council's stated Trout Management Policy and the PA Fish and Boat Commission's stated rules and regulations regarding the stocking of trout in the Commonwealth's approved trout streams.

PA Council disallows the establishment of any new trout cultural facilities in the name of Trout Unlimited.

...Continued from page 12

is slowed by contact with roots, limbs of overhanging bank vegetation, and leaning trees. In mid-channel areas, downed trees (large woody debris) slow the water's velocity. A similar process occurs on the floodplains during floods. Both standing and fallen vegetation obstructs and slows the floodways, reducing downstream property damage and recharging floodplain aquifers. Riparian vegetation also induces the deposition of fine sediments, building up rich floodplain soils, and reducing in-stream deposition of fine sediments that cover important aquatic habitat and trout spawning areas. **6)** Riparian vegetation promotes water quality protection by helping to capture polluted runoff and sediments from adjoining agricultural and developed lands. **7)** Plant parts such as leaves, seeds, flowers, twigs, and branches that fall into the stream (allochthonous organic matter) are a very important part of the aquatic food chain, particularly headwater streams. **8)** Naturally vegetated riparian zones provide habitats for a wide variety of life, including rare and endangered species. Riparian corridors typically have a higher number of plant and animal species than any other part of the landscape.

It is the policy of PATU to protect, conserve and restore natural vegetative stream buffers of sufficient width to protect stream ecosystems. PA Trout therefore encourages the following volunteer efforts:

1. More educational efforts are needed to inform Pennsylvanians of the importance of riparian habitats.

2. Streambank fencing programs need to continue to protect riparian zones from overgrazing by cattle, accompanied by revegetation through natural regrowth and native tree and shrub plantings, are very beneficial, and should be supported and expanded.

3. Streamside lawns could be converted to natural riparian vegetation wherever possible or practical.

4. Where proposed developments such as parking lots, structures, and roads plan to occupy riparian areas, restoration to natural vegetation should be carried out where feasible. We understand that in many places, economic constraints will limit this type of restoration of riparian areas. But there are places where, for economic, public safety and environmental reasons, infrastructure could be moved to higher ground and out of the path of floodwaters. All proposed projects that require an NPDES permit are available for review and

comment through the County Conservation Districts. More efforts are needed to educate the public on how to review and comment on these permits.

5. For long-term conservation of riparian lands, programs that promote the acquisition of streamside buffers with willing landowners through voluntary perpetual easements or purchase should be encouraged.

6. Managers of public resource lands, such as state forests, state parks, state game lands, and the Allegheny National Forest, should be tasked to take particular care for maintaining and restoring the integrity of riparian areas and utilize their lands to showcase exemplary streamside vegetative management.

7. Published documentation instructs how to best to restore and conserve riparian habitats (PA DEP, BMP).

8. TU members and the general public should report any damage to riparian areas due to development, highway construction, recreation, timbering, mining and agricultural practices to the proper enforcement agencies to verify these actions are permitted activities. These agencies would include the County Conservation Districts, Department of Environmental Protection and the PA Fish & Boat Commission.

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

Plans are coming together to hold a one-day fly fishing clinic for ladies for our women's initiative program this spring. Annual fly tying classes began Jan. 10 and run at 9:30 a.m. for eight consecutive Saturdays at Northampton Middle School, Northampton. Work removing 200 feet of the Atlas Dam project is complete. Planting will take place this spring. On Oct. 12, 15 members instructed 22 Lehigh University college outreach students at Bob Saks pond. A complete article is on pages 65-66 of the winter 2015 edition of *Trout* magazine. On Dec. 5, five members attended the First Nighter program sponsored by ArtsQuest at the Banana Factory in Bethlehem, where they tied flies and answered questions for the public. Dec. 10 and 17, we ran a tying course for ArtsQuest.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Charlie Charlesworth

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www.lackawannavalleytu.org

Chapter leaders met with Scranton's mayor and cabinet to discuss the economic impact of trout fishing on the Lackawanna River Basin and the possibility of forming a Lackawanna River Watershed Authority. Those same representatives are scheduled to meet with the Scranton City Council and the Lackawanna County commissioners to discuss the same objectives. A discussion was also held regarding the 2015 Annual Meeting. Leadership and committee chairs have designed a program to print and mail announcements, postcards and a printed newsletter each quarter. LVTU received an "Environmental Partnership Award" from Pennsylvania Environmental Council for conducting a cleanup on the Lackawanna River, installing wooden lunkers for trout habitat, attending a stormwater runoff symposium presented by Penn State University, and having members at meetings with the NEPA Conservation Alliance, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and the Lackawanna County Conservation District. LVTU members met with representatives of PFBC, the Susquehanna County Conservation District and Clifford Township supervisors to discuss habitat and stream restoration programs on the East Branch of Tunkhannock Creek. LVTU and Keystone College met regarding the area's first fly fishing youth conservation camp set for June 14-20. We also started a 5 Rivers Club at Keystone and assisted in establishing a one-credit Phys. Ed-type fly fishing course, and an adult education class at the college. We opened enrollment for our 2015 TU Teens fly fishing school. The NEPA Fly Girls began their all-women fly tying classes on Jan. 10. Our group steelhead fishing trip is March 8-10 in Altmar, NY.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

610-909-2652, monocacytu491@gmail.com

www.monocacytu.org

The annual joint chapter Spring Event is at 9 a.m. March 14 at East Bath Rod and Gun Club. Our chapter finalized a deal to bring the Fly Fishing Film Tour to Bethlehem at the Banko Alehouse Theater on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. In partnership with the Wildlands Conservancy, we applied for the Coldwater Heritage implementation grant, to support the removal of a small dam. Upcoming events include "Insights of a River Guide" by Jerry Hadden at 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at the DAR Log Cabin and "Fishing the Beaverkill" on March 24 at the same time and location.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Matt Wishneski

570-685-5420, mattwishneski@gmail.com

www.pwtu.org

Our annual banquet is at 5 p.m. March 21 at Lukan's Farm Resort, Hawley. Member Tony Capitano volunteered to be a Boy Scout merit badge counselor for fly fishing and fly tying. Classes are in the planning stage. We will hold a fly tying course at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Cora's Bistro, Hawley.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Tony Mione

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www.schuylkillcountytu.org

Our stream project below Pottsville is on hold as we wait for landowner permission. We started a project on the Schuylkill River in New Philadelphia that is expected take three years. We had a cleanup on the Schuylkill in and around Tamaqua. Another cleanup was a private pond where we cleaned out weeds, and the landowner gave us some very large trout to release in nearby streams. Fly tying classes will be held Feb. 8 at Tower City Lions Club, Feb. 22 at Tamaqua Art Center and March 8 at Wippenwill Dam. Times are 12-4 p.m. Our Christmas party was well-attended and John Bondura received an award from PATU VP Greg Malaska for valuable contributions to the chapter. Other awards were given to Leon Weaver, Ann McCole, Iven Willard and Ruben Ortiz and wife Lillian for hard work and contributions to the chapter.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

George Hludzik

570-233-0099, grhlaw@ptd.net

Our seminar on acid mine water and its effects on fresh water streams in northeastern Pennsylvania at the Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton Campus went extremely well. We are hoping to have another presentation about Gifford Pinchot, his love for fishing, and his love for environmental conservation at a future date. Our VP, Tom Jones, is a Boy Scout fly fishing merit badge instructor and we are working on scheduling classes for Scouts to attain this badge. We also do a Scout fishing derby in the spring along with a fly tying and casting class.

NORTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

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God's Country 327

Lloyd Wilson 224

Penns Creek 119

Raymond B. Winter 124

Spring Creek 185

Susquehanna 044

Tiadaghton 688

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Fred Gender

Email: afgender@hotmail.com

Phone: 570-704-8764

Brodhead Chapter #289

Todd Burns

610-704-4549, tgburns@rcn.com

www.brodheadtu.org

The chapter's spring banquet is at 6:30 p.m. on March 20 at Stroudsmoor Country Inn, Stroudsburg. Final activities for the completion of the EAS grant and the placement of wild trout identification and catch and release signage was completed after delays caused by the manhunt throughout the Brodhead watershed area. Signage is now found along the Brodhead and tributary creeks. A fly fishing workshop is March 7 at the Kettle Creek Conservation Building, Bartonsville.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog

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www.forkstu.org

A joint meeting of the Lehigh Valley chapters was Dec. 15 at East Bath Rod & Gun Club with guest speaker Tom Gilmore. Preliminary meetings and site visits were held relative to a potential project on Bushkill Creek. We visited a site along the Musconetcong River in New Jersey on Nov. 12 to view a habitat project and meet with Brian Cowden, Musconetcong Home Rivers Initiative Coordinator of Trout Unlimited, to discuss the feasibility of a similar project on Bushkill Creek. Our fall Adopt-A-Highway cleanup was Nov. 15. Our annual trout redd survey was Nov. 22-23. An additional section of stream between Bushkill Street and Newlins Mill Road was added to the survey to get baseline data. The full report is on our website. We hosted a PATU aquatic invasive species/habitat workshop at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center on Nov. 1. Our 13th annual Spring Event is March 14 at East Bath Rod & Gun Club.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Dave Abraham

610-844-3459, nymphingguy@gmail.com

hokendauqua.tu.org

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Ben Hayes

119 Vista Drive

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Email: brh010@bucknell.edu

Phone: 570-939-0730

Columbia County Chapter #038

814-359-5233

info@coldwaterheritage.org

We are planning a local showing of the Fly Fishing Film Tour to use as a fundraiser. We are also interested in partnering with Bloomsburg University students to research the true potential of Fishing Creek in order to push for management that will optimize the productivity of our local watershed. Our first meeting of the year was Jan. 15 and we discussed how to best support these plans and add to them throughout the year. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 19, March 19, April 16 and May 21.

God's Country Chapter #327

Dr. Peter Ryan

814-274-8718, drflyfish@yahoo.com

A seven-week fly tying class in cooperation with the Potter County Education Council begins Jan. 27. TIC is up and running at Coudersport Elementary School. The chapter sent a letter to John Arway, PFBC executive director, expressing opposition to PFBC's policy on stocking Class A wild trout waters. Ted Bear, Pete Ryan and Bob Volkmar completed benthic macroinvertebrate sampling in Prouty Run and the First Fork of Sinnamahoning Creek under the PATU stream monitoring program. Bob has continued participation in Three RiversQuest stream monitoring program and sampled eight streams in the upper Allegheny Basin on two occasions. Pete Ryan and David Saulter initiated planning for our 2015 Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event to be held May 19-22, titled "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans." Pete, Dave and Paul Campbell presented a program about PHWFF at the annual Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers dinner in October and received a \$500 grant from the foundation. We are excited to have a Vietnam War Era Medal of Honor recipient committed to participating this year.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

570-748-6120, wbailey@kcnet.org

www.lwtu.org

Our annual family banquet was in November. James Boone, who attended the "Brookies" camp, gave the program. Phil Baldacchino of the Kettle Creek Tackle Shop was the recipient of the "Out of Chapter" award for his continued support. The chapter sent a letter to John Arway urging him and PFBC commissioners to restore criteria that were originally proposed as guidelines when stocking in Class A waters.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Gary R. Parzanese

717-242-3451, 6sneezes@comcast.net

The chapter's annual spring banquet is March 7

at the Belleville Mennonite School. Speakers will be from both the Mifflin and Juniata county conservation districts. They will be discussing issues and projects the counties are doing to improve water quality. In November, Sara Nichols from The Nature Conservancy made a presentation on their efforts on the Lost Creek Watershed. The upper reaches of the watershed is high quality, but decreases moving toward the Juniata River. Five schools involved in TIC received their fish and no issues have been reported.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Robert Laubach

570-966-3379, oldfrstr@dejazzd.com

Shanon Stamm, Union County watershed coordinator, presented stream improvement projects on Turtle Creek in November. We decided to apply for grant to continue the projects. Members hosted a TU booth and conducted fly tying demonstrations at the 2014 Susquehanna River Symposium at Bucknell University. In December, Paula Piatt, TU's eastern sportsman advisor, presented on "protecting our headwaters and trout habitat." Upcoming events include fly tying demonstrations at R.B. Winter State Park Winterfest on Feb. 8; Joe Dougherty: "Bonefish flies and fishing tactics" at Lewisburg Hotel, 7 p.m. Feb. 18; Rod Rohrbach: "Trout fishing in Eastern PA" at Lewisburg Hotel, 7 p.m. March 18; and our annual banquet with speaker Dave Bloom, Montana guide, on March 20.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Bob Vierck

814-360-3702, pres@springcreektu.org

www.springcreektu.org

We established a "Planned Giving" program and have a page on our website. This includes a "Brook Trout Society" for those who put SCCTU in their will. We signed a three-year agreement for herbicide treatment at the Upper Milesburg (McCoy) site. We completed Fisherman's Paradise parking lot improvements, in-stream stabilization, and planting and Rock Road parking lot improvements and planting. We have contracted for an interpretive sign/kiosk for Fisherman's Paradise and are working with PFBC on riparian planting in the spring. We contracted with US Fish and Wildlife Service for construction of mud sills on the Kelly Property in Oak Hall. The permit has been received and modified and the initial delivery of material has been made. SCCTU and the local YMCA established a "Y Trout Program" that is similar to TIC, but is a focal point for fishing and conservation outreach through the YMCA. It has gotten an enthusiastic reception with over 4,000 hits on Facebook. Upcoming events include: Frank Nale on "Spin Fishing For Trout," Feb. 5 at Comfort Suites State College; Amy Wolf TU's Eastern Abandoned Mine Program, March 5 at Comfort Suites State College; 42nd annual Dinner and FUNRaiser, March 14 from 5-9:30 p.m. at Ramada State College Hotel and Conference Center; Centre Gives, 6 a.m. May 5 to 6 a.m. May 6; and Mark Nale on "Hooking Mortality of Trout Caught in the Bald Eagle Creek Tournament," April 2 at Comfort Suites State College.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

David Craig

570-971-4744; davsalc@comcast.net

susquehannatu.wordpress.com

Discussions have been held with Project Healing Waters, which is planning to establish a chapter in Williamsport. The chapter may provide instruction in the event that Healing Waters becomes active in the area.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

570-662-2167, whitesgordonsetters@gmail.com

Our annual banquet is March 28 at Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro. Several members participated in a redd survey on Cross Fork Creek Watershed, Potter County, in conjunction with National TU. We purchased two data loggers that will be placed in strategic streams in the area with high Marcellus activity. Our Flies and Lies sessions are Jan. 25, Feb. 22 and March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Wellsboro Community Center. We are supporting five TIC projects in Tioga County. We received two small grants of \$250 to help fund local TIC projects. We applied for an Embrace-A-Stream grant that would be carried out in the Little Pine Creek Watershed. It will include biological and chemical stream monitoring and assessment of aquatic organism passage on several Little Pine tributaries.

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

Mark Hanes

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Phone: 724-464-7320

Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

George Kutskel

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www.amctu.org

Our 49th annual banquet is March 28 at the Falls Creek Eagles Club. Fundraising raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in January. Initial contact with landowners in the Montgomery Run Watershed has been made. After the results from our data loggers in the watershed showed very high water temps this summer we are trying to organize a willow planting along the old splash dam where water reached 80 degrees. Kelly Williams is finishing our Coldwater Heritage grant for the Upper Sandy Lick. We are also revisiting our Trout Run Growing Greener grant and comparing current data with what we collected. We have funding for a lime sand

project, but we want to see how the roads change due to Marcellus development. We have funding to do a liming of the ditches to add alkalinity to the stream if it is still needed. We have data loggers on three watersheds and continue to monitor several streams in our area. Our DuBois Middle School environmental day is May 15 at Camp Mountain Run. On May 16, we will host a family fishing event at the Tannery Dam in DuBois and have our schools do a trout release at the same event.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

814-664-2124, tksavko2@verizon.net

Stream projects on Caldwell Creek are in the permitting and funding process. We have four TIC projects up and running. Fly tying classes are at 7 p.m. Wednesdays from March 11 through April 8 at Corry Higher Ed. There will be a fly fishing and casting workshop with the Northwest Chapter at Presque Isle on April 11.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Troy McDunn

814-723-3759, hdpartsman@verizon.net

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

Our spring fishing show is March 28 at the Kalbfus Rod & Gun Club. We had a booth at the Warren Sports-



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Bob Pennell
2319 Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17104

In return, you'll receive an application form to complete and send with your \$25 payment to PennDOT.

www.patROUT.org

man Show at Warren Mall on Jan. 10-11. We raffled a TU fly rod and flies tied by chapter members. Our chapter has teamed up with other conservation groups to help cleanup the East Branch of Tionesta Creek. We will be having free fly tying instruction in February and March.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

www.ironfurnacetu.net

Our banquet is April 11. Porcupine culvert replacement permits were received from DEP and work on the six culverts should start this summer. Three Rivers Quest sampling is also still ongoing. Fly tying classes will be Feb. 21, 28 and March 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brookville Masonic Lodge. Contact Mark Hanes to reserve a spot as classes are limited to 15. All TIC classrooms have reported all having fish swimming before Christmas break. Our next chapter meeting is 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at Sigel Sportsmen's Club.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neepser

814-834-3472, mneepser@zitomedia.net

The chapter provided Luke Bodnar of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy with letters of support for a habitat enhancement project on a tributary to Spring Creek on the Clarion River. Members were informed of legislative initiatives to retain appropriate riparian barriers. Iron Furnace grant monitors on Crooked Creek and Middle Fork tributaries of the East Branch of the Clarion were pulled in anticipation of icing. They will be replaced in March or April. The chapter supports TIC projects in nine different school buildings within a two county area. The chapter continues working with the Headwaters Foundation to pursue grants to expand habitat projects near the dam removal site in Bendigo State Park on the East Branch of the Clarion.

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. Due to logging activity on the Beagle Club property in the Coolspring DHALO area, this year's workdays will be dedicated to restoring the access trail. Our five existing TIC programs are back for another year, and we have added two new programs in the West Middlesex School District. The annual Wolf Creek Fishing Derby will be held again but no date has been set. We will also be sponsoring the Youth and Handicap Special Regulation Area on Deer Creek for the first month of the trout season. Opening Day festivities will be handled by the Deer Creek improvement group with lunch provided to all participants.

Northwest Chapter #041

Erik Cronk

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nwpachaptertu.blogspot.com

We are working on a spring fundraiser and exploring options of hosting Fly Fishing Film Tour movie in Erie.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Gary Ross

814-337-6931, info@oilcreektu.org

www.oilcreektu.org

We are hosting a northwest regional aquatic invasive species and conservation workshop conducted by PATU in March. Our annual banquet is April 11. The first Little Sandy Creek habitat improvement project, a mud sill 140 feet long at the pump station, was completed in the fall. Venango Conservation District completed another project farther upstream on Little Sandy Creek by stabilizing a streambank and adding three log vanes to divert water back to the center of the channel as well as provide fish habitat. Upcoming events include membership meetings at King's Restaurant in Franklin on Feb. 18 and March 18. An AIS/Conservation workshop will be held March 7 at McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Sandy Lake.

Seneca Chapter #272

Chase Howard

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www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

Our fundraising banquet is April 25 at Port Allegany Fire Hall. Fly tying classes are Feb. 17, 24, March 3 and 10 at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Port Allegany. "Dynamic Nymphing" with George Daniel will be held March 8 in the Blue Room of Port Allegany Elementary School.

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

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Little Lehigh Chapter #070

John Tunney

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www.tu.org/connect/groups/node-48

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Our November speaker was Don Baylor, who has been involved in stream baseline and monitoring studies of fishes and macroinvertebrates throughout the northeast. Don has published the booklet *Pocono Hatches*, an article in *Fly Rod & Reel*, and over 60 technical reports for Aquatic Resource Consulting. He spoke on eastern hatches, emphasizing the importance of doing your own observation and experimentation. In December was a joint meeting with the Monocacy Chapter at the East Bath Rod and Gun Club. Tom Gilmore was the featured speaker and gave two presentations. The first featured streams within 150 miles of New York City. The second presentation dealt with fishing tailwaters.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

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www.tu468.org

Our annual banquet is March 21 at the Willow Grove Moose Hall, Willow Grove. We planted 26 trees in the Natural Land Trust in Horsham in November. Hopefully we will have a wet winter so that by spring the trees will be on their way before the drought of summer hits. We took our fourth annual trip to the Salmon River in New York in November. A fall stocking of 250 brooks and browns took place in the section of the Pennypack stream that flows through the Pennypack Trust. Two Philadelphia schools that had previously participated in TIC were not able to participate due to a lack of funds in the school district.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Daniel Shaffer

610-334-2615, info@tullytu.org

www.tullytu.org

There have been a number of meetings about Hay Creek with PFBC, Berks County Conservancy members and individuals from the Johanna Furnace Historic Association. At this time there is not much we can do about what happens to the creek after hard rains. We talked about longer term problems of storm water runoff and moving the road. In the spring we will try to stabilize a portion of the streambank with tree planting. We have been working with Berks County Conservancy and the City of Reading to investigate whether to eliminate the Bushong Dam on the Tully near the confluence with the Schuylkill River. The dam site is an attractive nuisance and currently serves no purpose since the paper company that built it no longer exists. It could be a great long-term project for the chapter. We had a presentation this summer from PFBC regarding the Unassessed Waters Initiative and decided to embrace the project. We have had two more meetings regarding the project and will be rolling out a plan at our March meeting. Partners include Miller Environmental, SSM Group, Reading Area Water Authority, Stroud Water Research, the Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Conservancy. We hope to add the Western Berks Water Authority and the Berks County Water and Sewer Association. Our board passed a resolution to investigate the potential of forming a Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Association. Partners include the Doc Fritchey Chapter, the Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Conservancy. The Tully represents a large watershed that has never had representation of an association. We are hopeful to get the Army Corps of Engineers, TCO Fly Shop and the Western Berks Water

Authority involved. We are now on Facebook. Search for Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Upcoming meetings include Paula Piatt and Marcellus Shale at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at Chef Alan's in West Reading; and the Unassessed Water Initiative on March 20.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Robbi Freisem

610-466-0341, rfrisem@verizon.net

www.valleyforgetu.org

The annual Trout Show is March 26 at Valley Forge Middle School. The guest speaker will be Steve Schweitzer. Maintenance is being performed, as weather permits, on existing projects and plans are beginning to be developed for the warmer weather. Spawning redds were observed in Valley Creek, which is good news considering sewage discharge that has occurred. Members and a representative of the Open Lands Conservancy are reviewing the plans for the South Rim Residential Development on the south side of Atwater Lake, which looks to be densely packed. Cold water discharge at Atwater appears to be flowing normally again, but planned maintenance/repairs are on hold as of now. The obstruction may have pushed through, however crews are cutting open the manhole access to check for and clear any remaining obstruction and to check the gate valve setup. In conjunction with co-plaintiff Penn Environment, the National Environmental Law Center filed suit with Tredyffrin Township over three large-volume sewage spills into Valley Creek as a result of sewer main ruptures. The suit was necessary because all efforts to work amicably with the township failed and was approved by National. The suit has encouraged the township to work with DEP and the plaintiffs to come up with an action plan and to provide for repair of damages resulting from the previous spills. The township will also pay a fine for the spills. Our annual fly fishing school is May 17. Our Project Healing Waters program has expanded to offer an outpatient program for those veterans who are not eligible to participate through the Coatesville VA. The West Bradford Fire Company has donated the use of their facilities.

SOUTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

Adams County 323

Codorus 558

Cumberland Valley 052

Doc Fritchey 108

Donegal 037

Falling Spring 234

John Kennedy 045

Muddy Creek 575

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Phone: 717-697-6188

Adams County Chapter #323

Dave Swope

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www.adamscountytu.org

The chapter's 33rd banquet is March 14 at Heidlersburg Fire Hall. The 32-year of partnering with Northern Virginia TU on the Conewago Creek restoration project continued with NVTU presenting the chapter a donation to improve the Conewago Creek Watershed. The two chapters began a new two-year phase of repairs on older habitat devices. We partnered with PFBC on a fall stocking in the catch and release section of Conewago Creek. The chapter is planning to partner with Sen. Rich Alloway on a fishing youth day in 2015. This event is aimed at providing for less fortunate youths throughout district. The chapter had two new schools enter the TIC program, bringing our total to 10. Southcentral Outdoors for Youth meetings are scheduled monthly and the event will be held June 4 at the McSherrystown Fish and Game Club in New Oxford.

Codorus Chapter #558

Tom Fenninez

717-817-8466, tom@codorustu.org

www.codorustu.org

Our chapter now meets in the fall and winter at the Spring Grove Recreation Center, 50 N. East Street in Spring Grove. This new location is easily accessible from Route 116 (Main Street) and is near the geographic center of our membership area. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 11 and March 11. Meetings from May to September still take place at Laughman's Sawmill Pavilion. We added a Facebook page at facebook.com/CodorusTrout (Unlimited) to improve communication regarding chapter activities. Our annual Family Fishing Fun Day event at Codorus State Park is June 13. We added a second TIC aquarium in the West York School District. Our chapter applied for a Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant that we would use to fund a stream restoration project on the Codorus. We're still waiting for a decision regarding a Growing Greener grant.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

Justin Pittman

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www.pacvtu.com

Our annual Limestoner Banquet is March 20 at the Park Inn, Mechanicsburg. Winter fly tying classes run on Thursdays from Jan. 22 to March 12 at Boiling Springs High School. We had our board meeting Nov. 12 and our last meeting of the year on Nov. 19, where we did a membership survey for the second year in a row. This has been a great opportunity for members to provide feedback to the board on the past years events and for the upcoming year. At our Dec. 10 board meeting, we reviewed the year and also the survey completed in November. We have been working with our chairperson to focus on our TIC program. We are also planning our winter fly tying classes at South Middleton High School. Mid-Atlantic Fly Casting and Fly Tying competitions will be held June 20 at Allenberry Play House.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Edward O'Gorman

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www.dftu.org

Chapter officers have taken advantage of training opportunities and guidance offered by PATU in the areas of fund raising and grant writing. We are in the process of implementing a contact management system for the chapter. We were pleased to find that Salesforce offers their product to non-profits for free. Our annual banquet is April 11 at the Holiday Inn of Grantville. Our ongoing weekly work continues at our diversion wells in the headwaters of Stony Creek. Volunteers meet every Sunday afternoon in the winter months to maintain the wells. The Quittapahilla Watershed Association continues to move forward on a substantial restoration and improvement project in the Quittapahilla Nature Park and the Chapter is looking forward to assisting the Association with their work. We are now surveying possible locations to install our first permanent monitoring device on Stony Creek. The chapter has developed a relationship with the Dauphin County Conservationists and Anglers which has resulted in project to improve stream banks and habitat in the children and handicap only fishing area on Clarks Creek. The chapter supports six TIC programs in Dauphin and Lebanon County schools. Our eight-week beginner fly tying classes began in January and are held in the Wildwood Nature Center at Wildwood Park. We are in conversations with faculty representatives at Lebanon Valley College about establishing a TU Five Rivers Program on their campus, and are encouraged by their interest. Our Feb. 24 meeting features Brandy Watts Martin, Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad historian, at the Giant Foods Community Center, 2300 Linglestown Rd.

Donegal Chapter #037

Jim Wellendorf

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www.donegaltu.org

On Oct. 30 and Nov. 8, volunteers planted 135 trees along both sides of Climbers Run on the Menno Stoltzfus farm south of Marticville. The trees were potted and raised at the chapter's nursery at Millport. The volunteers saw trees that had been planted in previous years which had grown bigger and stronger and were now helping to prevent erosion and to shade the Run. On two Saturdays in December, chapter members worked with the Lancaster County Conservancy and Adam Smith of US Fish and Wildlife to identify, mark and remove invasive plants and trees at Climbers Run Nature Preserve. Our eight TIC programs are up and running. Our board approved a proposal to purchase new issues of *Stream Explorers* magazine to distribute to youths who attend our events. We are currently discussing a contract with the Williams Company to obtain mitigation funding for the natural gas line that is proposed to run through Lancaster County. Our annual banquet is March 28. Other upcoming events include a program on steelhead fishing, Feb. 18, at the Farm and Home Center, Acadia Road, Lancaster; a winter fly tying session at the same location on Feb. 21; Lititz Run stream cleanup and tree planting on March 21 at Banta Wetland Farm; and another fly tying session on March 21 at Farm & Home Center.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Rod Cross

717-264-2747, crcross@comcast.net

Plans are being made for the "Falling Spring Invitational," which is the chapter's outing for Wounded Warriors held in May. Members are meeting with a Falling Spring landowner to discuss habitat maintenance

and improvement on his section of the stream. We have taken over Adopt-A-Highway responsibilities from the Falling Spring Greenway and will continue to clean up the Falling Spring Road from Route 30 to Spring Road.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Dan Beck

814-932-2431, normandyb@aol.com

We are waiting for permits for two stream projects in Poplar Run and Clover Creek. Dan Beck and Jerry Green cleaned and prepared tanks and packed food for our TIC projects – one in Blair County, one in Huntington County and two in Cambria County. We went to the Benner Springs hatchery before Thanksgiving and packed trout eggs for the TIC program.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Fred Hess

717-650-6566, muddycreektu@comcast.net

www.muddycreektu.org

A picnic was held in honor of the chapter's 25th anniversary. Six longtime members were honored for their contributions. The 2015 patches and buttons have arrived and are currently on sale. Workdays are being planned for some stream restoration work on Tom's Run. The Pine Run monitoring report was completed for 2014 and submitted to DEP, Watershed Alliance of York County and the contractor, AARC.

SOUTHWEST CHAPTERS

Arrowhead 214

Chestnut Ridge 670

Forbes Trail 206

Fort Bedford 291

Ken Sink 053

Mountain Laurel 040

Penn's Woods West 042

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Arrowhead Chapter #214

Chad Hough

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www.arrowhead214tu.org

Our annual banquet is March 21 at Slovak Catholic Union Club in Ford City. Arrowhead is currently exploring opportunities to restore a local stream damaged by

AMD a grant application has been submitted and is in review. We are also exploring options on upgrade/repair of raceways at the co-op nursery we use to raise fish. The chapter is involved in four TIC programs – Divine Redeemer, Lenape Elementary, West Hills Intermediate and Buffalo Elementary. There is interest from three other schools in our district – Armstrong High School, Dayton Elementary and Shannock Valley Elementary. We are in the process of developing a plan to help these schools get the TIC program up and running. We are sponsoring beginner fly tying classes for five straight Tuesdays from 6:30-8:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 27. Classes will be held at 717 Sixth Avenue, Ford City.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Dale Kotowski

724-747-1513, pheasantfarmflycasters@hughes.net

www.chestnutridgetu.org

The chapter will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2015. Activities culminate on June 26, with the second Youghiogheny River Symposium. This day-long event will be held at the Penn State Fayette campus. It will examine the Yough as a biological, social, recreational and community resource. Our annual banquet is March 21 at the Uniontown Holiday Inn. Our chapter's Coldwater Conservation Corps continues to monitor four local streams: Beaver Creek, Ramcat Run, Quebec Run and Mill Run. Additional alkaline sand was distributed in the Glade/Dunbar Watershed in the fall. Our Research Management & Protection Committee continues its remediation efforts on Jonathan, Morgan and Glade runs. We are also monitoring activity on the Curry Mine coal-stripping project above the Youghiogheny River and the Great Allegheny Passage Rails-to-Trails. A meeting was held at the Fayette County Conservation District offices on Jan. 9 to discuss options for the restoration of Dunbar Creek. The fly fishing only project water suffered significant flood damage in late August 2014. Stream enhancement dating back to the 1930s was washed away by heavy stream flows. In February, the Youghiogheny work group will meet with members of PFBC as part of an ongoing cooperative effort to formulate a fisheries management plan for the Yough. Chestnut Ridge will support TIC projects in 21 schools in 2015.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Leo Vensel

724-875-5712, lvensel@gmail.com

www.forbestrailtu.org

The Laurel Highlands Trout Trail helped lead to the Laurel Highlands area being selected as one of TU's "Special Places" too valuable to be developed as a Marcellus Shale resource rather than conserved as a natural resource and powerhouse tourism destination. We've changed our meeting location back to the Ligonier Watershed Authority building. Our 2015 fundraising programs will focus more on grant writing, and that we have been invited to apply for grants from conservation-focused non-profits in our area that have become aware of our 2014 program successes through our active publicity campaign. We now have five school systems in the TIC program: Ligonier, Latrobe, Valley, and now Derry and Southmoreland.

Continued on next page...



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Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Guy Stottlemeyer
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www.fortbedfordtu.org

Our meetings during the last few months included a presentation on introductory nymph fishing and a presentation by Chuck Winters about stream access law in Pennsylvania. The riparian planting projects planned and announced earlier were canceled due to landowner issues and the chapter is considering other sites for a spring planting. Fly tying classes started Jan. 10 and continue on Saturdays through March 14.

Ken Sink Chapter #506

Dick Farabaugh
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kensink.blogspot.com

We are preparing for our annual banquet on March 28. We have identified a situation where run-off from a mine access road and also run-off from PennDOT highway is causing water quality problems on Laurel Run and Little Yellow Creek in Indiana County. We are working with our partner organizations to have DEP and PennDOT correct the problems. We have partnered with three TIC programs in local schools. Fly tying class began in January.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

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

Andy Fresch volunteered to chair a new membership committee and a project to form a new phone tree. Chuck Furimsky will be presenting a fly fishing program at Rizzo's of Windber on April 23. We will be offering free fly tying classes at our local Gander Mountain. Planning for our banquet is underway. We will also be setting the dates soon for three stream cleanups and three stream projects. Many thanks go to Melissa Reckner who keeps our TIC programs very active in nine schools.

Penns Woods West Chapter #042

Walter Reineman
412-999-8292, walterr28@hotmail.com
www.pwwtu.org

Our monthly meetings continue to do well at new venue, Grazies Restaurant, just north of Pittsburgh. Our January meeting featured Laurel Highlands Guide Service and warm water opportunities on the Youghigheny River. We will have a table at the annual Allegheny Sportsman's Show Feb. 18-21. Members Ron Milavec

and Earl Morgan will be doing presentations on Lake Erie steelhead techniques and an African photo safari, respectively. Longtime PWWTU member Bill Hayes was recognized as the "Fly Fisher of the Year" by the Fly Fishing Club of Pittsburgh for his involvement with Project Healing Waters and his many hours spent at a local VA Hospital, leading tying and rod building classes. In addition, Bill and his crew have organized trips to get the veterans out on the water to try out their new equipment. Bill has also made many rods and flies over the years to auction off for the chapter. Our Jan. 12 and Feb. 9 meetings showcase our Joe Kline Great Fly Sale. Cabin Fever is Feb. 22 at the Sheraton Four Points in Cranberry Township. Featured speakers are George Daniel – Streamer Fishing for Large Trout; Jon Hooper – Fly Fishing the South Holsten River in Tennessee; Amidea Daniel – Fly Fishing from a Woman's Perspective; and Mike Schmidt of Angler's Choice Flies – Tying and Fishing Big Flies. There will be over 50 vendors, a flea market, rod and bucket raffles, tying and casting demonstrations and youth programs. Admission is \$10 with kids under 12 free. Stream improvement is being planned for August on local Pine Creek. Under the leadership of Christian Shane, we have two strong TIC participants. We have started an informal tying group at Grazies on the third Monday evening of the month. Our annual fly fishing seminar organized by Rob Reeder is scheduled for either March 22 or April 12.

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