

Pennsylvania TROUT



Fall 2020

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www.patrou.org



Ralph Scherder Photo

Brown trout aren't the only fish you'll find in small headwater streams. Brook trout can surprise, too, and Pennsylvania's state fish are some of the prettiest you'll see.

Trickle Trout

By Ralph Scherder

Editor's Note: Each year at its spring banquet, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association – of which Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is a supporting member – presents its Excellence in Craft Awards. These awards recognize POWA members for their outstanding work during the previous calendar year. PATU has been a longtime sponsor of the "Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award." This article authored by outdoor writer Ralph Scherder, published in American Angler in Spring 2019 – and reprinted here with permission – was selected as this year's winner.

The rougher the road got, the narrower the stream became, and by the time our convoy arrived at its destination, the flow was little more than a trickle. I'd decided to join a team of biologists from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission as they electroshocked the headwaters of one of my favorite streams.

Although the main stem had been designated Class A Wild Trout waters back in the early 1990s, the tributaries that converged to create the stream had never

See **TRICKLE**, page 10

PATU Annual Meeting goes virtual; award winners announced

The 2020 PATU Annual Membership Meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference on Sept. 19 with 65 participants representing 43 of our 49 chapters statewide.

PATU's annual awards were presented to the following chapters and individuals whose good works exemplified our mission, "to conserve, protect, restore and reconnect Pennsylvania's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds:"

Best Chapter Project – Neshannock Chapter, Plantation Park – Phase 1

Best Small Chapter (under 150 mem-)
See **MEETING**, page 3

Protecting streams from assessment through regulation

By Jennifer Orr-Greene
TU Eastern Policy Director

For the past 10-plus years, Trout Unlimited staff have been working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission with additional funding from the Foundation for PA Watersheds, the Heinz Endowment, and others to complete Unassessed Waters surveys in streams across the state.

See **STREAMS**, page 2

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Pennsylvania TROUT

**PA COUNCIL OF
TROUT UNLIMITED**
PO Box 5148
Bellefonte, PA
16823



PRESIDENT – Greg Malaska

218 W. 13th St.
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229
Phone: 570-657-7169
Email: gregmalaska@gmail.com

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT –
Bobby Hughes**

394 E. Washington St.
Nanticoke, PA 18634
Phone: 570-239-3909
Email: rhughes@epcamr.org

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT –
Len Lichvar**

213 Atlantic St.
Boswell, PA 15531
Phone: 814-659-7057
Email: lennyll@yahoo.com

TREASURER – Russell Thrall

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

SECRETARY – Bob Pennell

2319 Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Phone: 717-395-5124
Email: rpennell37@comcast.net

**PA TROUT EDITOR & DESIGNER –
Brad Isles**

P.O. Box 23
Grove City, PA 16127
Phone: 724-967-2832
Email: bisles@live.com

**PA TROUT ADVERTISING –
Brad Isles**

P.O. Box 23
Grove City, PA 16127
Phone: 724-967-2832
Email: bisles@live.com

WEB EDITOR – Bob Pennell

2319 Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Phone: 717-395-5124
Email: rpennell37@comcast.net

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STREAMS

from page 1

These assessments are targeted using a variety of factors, including geographic watershed and land use/land cover analysis, as well as to document populations that are reestablishing in areas of watershed recovery.

Each year, sampling sites area are chosen, electroshocked in the field, field chemistry taken, and class and biomass measurements recorded. Fin clips and/or PIT tags are also sometimes used for further study later. Since 2010, TU has sampled hundreds of sites throughout Pennsylvania to document populations of wild trout. Over the years, approximately 40% of all sites sampled support populations of wild trout representing a significant number of streams that would not otherwise be identified as eligible for higher levels of protection.

These assessments are key in starting a process that ends in Clean Water Act regulatory protections through discharge permits and other mechanisms. In addition to wild trout streams, a sub-set of these streams also qualify for Class A listing status based on species-specific biomass estimates and year class distributions.

TU field staff pass along the results of these assessments to the Fish and Boat Commission for evaluation and recommendation for listing to the commissioners. At each quarterly meeting, the commissioners vote on staff recommendations to add these streams to the wild trout and Class A lists.

Once added to the PFBC lists, the waters are referred to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for inclusion in modifications to PADEP regulations that classify streams based on their biological, chemical, and physical characteristics. This means that these listings trigger a change in how activities considered by the PADEP, requiring any projects in these watersheds to use practices that are more protective of these waters.

For higher levels of protection for Class A streams (High Quality – HQ), facilities must evaluate alternatives to discharging to the protected stream, implement 150-foot riparian buffers, and include BMPs that are

more protective in preventing runoff from impacting the stream.

These processes have been working smoothly in the past four to five years as PFBC has diligently worked to evaluate and list streams that had been backlogged. However, while these segments are listed and receiving “interim” protections (referred to as existing use protections), once they are delivered to PADEP, it can be 3-5 years before regulations are promulgated to officially protect these streams from present and further development. This long delay is due to resource issues at PADEP, as well as the complex regulatory process that exists in Pennsylvania.

There is good news on the horizon, however.

PADEP recently published a “draft final” package of Class A streams that are moving through the final rulemaking process. This means that this package had been released previously for public comment, comments were addressed/responded to, and now this is the package PADEP is proposing as final.

On Nov. 19, the package will be presented to the Water Resources Advisory Committee for a vote to allow it to continue along in the rulemaking process. The package will have other stops at the Environmental Quality Board, in the legislature, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission before officially becoming a regulation.

While the public comment period has closed for this package, look for upcoming opportunities to sign a petition or sign-on letter to tell PADEP, its advisory committees, legislators, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to finalize these protective regulations.

So why is identifying and listing unassessed waters as wild trout streams and/or Class A streams so important?

First, these listings allow management of salmonid resources in these waters in accordance with the recently released Pennsylvania Trout Management plan. These include management activities such as preserving areas containing wild trout populations as wild, discouraging the stocking of waters that include wild, native brook trout populations.

Continued on next page...

Council elects slate of officers

The following officers were elected to serve one-year terms, effective Oct. 1.

- President** – Greg Malaska
- Executive Vice President (Eastern PA)** – Bobby Hughes
- Executive Vice President (Western PA)** – Lenny Lichvar
- Secretary** – Bob Pennell
- Treasurer** – Russ Thrall
- Northeast Regional Vice President** – Russ Thrall

- Northcentral Regional Vice President** – Bob Volkmar
- Northwest Regional Vice President** – Kelly Williams
- Southwest Regional Vice President** – Bryan Mathie
- Southcentral Regional Vice President** – Russ Collins
- Southeast Regional Vice President** – Brenda Bittinger
- NLC Representative** – Brian Wagner

MEETING

from page 1

- bers) – Adams County Chapter
- Samuel Slaymaker Best Newsletter** – Susquehanna Chapter, Susquehanna Ripples
- Best Chapter Website** – Chestnut Ridge Chapter, www.chestnutridgetu.org
- Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist (TU Member)** – Richard Lewis
- Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist (Professional)** – Luke Bobnar
- Outstanding Volunteer Award** – Tracey MacAfoos
- Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach** – Judi Sittler

- ❖ **Ken Sink Award for Outstanding Service to PATU** – Bob Volkmar
- ❖ **Inky Moore Award for Outstanding Contributions to PATU’s Conservation Mission** – Rachel Kester

A special Lifetime Achievement Award in the form of a framed Ned Smith “Sting of the Hook” print was presented to Ken Undercoffer, whose longtime service to Council included a term as secretary, two terms as president, and most recently as vice president of the Northwest Region.

President Greg Malaska addressed the “State of PATU,” Program Director Rachel Kester discussed the Coldwater Heritage Program, TU Mid-Atlantic Policy Director Jennifer Orr-Greene reviewed her advocacy efforts in PA, and National TU CEO Chris Wood covered a wide range of topics to round out the meeting.

...Continued from previous page

In addition, being listed as Class A requires any projects, such as an industry or housing development, to evaluate and implement more stringent management practices to preserve the higher quality of these waters.

Each quarter another list of wild trout and Class A trout waters are proposed for public comment by the Fish and Boat Commission. TU Eastern Policy coordinates an online petition for members to sign in support of those listings. Look for this opportunity each quarter (generally announced through an email and posted on the Eastern Policy Facebook page) to tell PFBC you support higher protections for Pennsylvania streams.

Eastern Policy is interested in doing presentations for chapters regarding the program, answer questions, and work with those who are interested in being further involved in advocating for clean water protections from all areas of the state. Contact Jen Orr-Greene at jen.orrgreen@tu.org or at 717-364-4368 for more information.

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 10:** Winter EXCOM Meeting
- April 11:** Spring EXCOM Meeting
- April 24:** Eastern Regional Training
- May 8:** Western Regional Training
- July 11:** Summer EXCOM Meeting
- Sept. 18:** PATU Annual Meeting
- Oct. 10:** Fall EXCOM Meeting

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2020-21 COMMITTEES



- Awards** – Beth Boyd
717-404-7642 / ycpnurse@gmail.com
- Budget** – Russell Thrall
570-620-8677 / russ@thrall3.com
- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Admin.** – Rachel Kester
814-359-5233 / c-rkester@pa.gov
- Coldwater Heritage Partnership TU Delegate** – Ken Undercoffer
814-765-1035 / kcoffer@atlanticbb.net
- College/5 Rivers** – Charlie Charlesworth
570-954-5042 / ffnepa@epix.net
- Communications** – Brad Isles
724-967-2832 / bisles@live.com
- Conservation** – Bob Volkmar
814-320-3899 / rdvolkmar@gmail.com
- Delaware River** – Jeff Skelding
410-245-8021 / skelding@fudr.org
- Development** – OPEN
- Diversity Initiative** – Amidea Daniel
814-359-5127 / adaniel@pa.gov
- Kelly Williams
814-765-2624 / kwilliamsccd@atlanticbbn.net
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture** – Ken Undercoffer
814-765-1035 / kcoffer@atlanticbb.net
- Membership** – Erick Lewis
607-621-8120 / ealewis@tds.net
- National Leadership Council Rep.** – Brian Wagner
484-894-8289 / bewagner482@gmail.com
- Trout in the Classroom** – Rachel Kester
814-359-5233 / c-rkester@pa.gov
- Trout Policy** – Len Lichvar
814-659-7057 / lennyll@yahoo.com
- Dave Rothrock
570-377-9712 / daver2@comcast.net
- TU Service Partnership** – OPEN
- Youth Education** – Judi Sittler
814-861-3288 / jlsittler@comcast.net
- Christian Shane
412-734-0150 / christianshane72@hotmail.com

Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Greg Malaska

We recently concluded our first (and hopefully last) virtual PATU Annual Meeting. We had participation from 43 of 49 of our chapters, a new record! We also learned about the state of PATU and CHP, and welcomed TU CEO Chris Wood.

The meeting was special in that we had a chance to say some farewells and also welcome some new members to the PATU Board.

After several years as First Executive VP, Monty Murty has decided to step down. Monty was the most strategic thinker I have met in PATU. When myself and many others were scrambling at the onset of COVID, Monty was thinking about long-term trends in conservation and fundraising. His vision and insights from 10,000 feet will be missed.

We also gave thanks to Ken Undercoffer, who has worn many hats for PATU, but none perhaps more commendable than that of a brook trout advocate. We presented Ken with Ned Smith's "Sting of the Hook" print in recognition of his passionate efforts to protect *Salvelinus Fontinalis*, our state fish.

We also saw a change in the Treasurer position from Bob Volkmar to Russ Thrall. Bob has really modernized our financial approaches and as a former colleague on the Brodhead TU Board, I can assure you that Russ has some creative ideas in store.

Thanks to Monty, Ken and Bob for their efforts over the years.

I'd now like to introduce you to the three newest members of our Executive Committee:

Bryan Mathie, Southwest VP

Bryan and his family moved to Pittsburgh four years ago from Chicago to take a new role with PNC Investments, continuing his 23-year career in financial services industry. However, his passion is the outdoors and conservation, where he has been actively involved and committed to the cause for over 35 years. After graduating with a Biology/Chemistry degree from Illinois State University, he spent the next 10 years focused on wildlife conservation

through zoos and aquariums working with many endangered species in an effort to protect and care for reserve populations. Along the way, Bryan became involved with other conservation efforts that exposed him to raptor biology, watershed conservation, the importance of urban green space and the value and methods of urban agriculture.

As an avid outdoorsman, Bryan raised his two boys to appreciate the outdoors through wilderness experiences on the Great Lakes sailing, scuba diving and in the backcountry backpacking, canoeing and fishing. He has been fishing his entire life and at 12 asked for his first fly rod, a passion that has only grown since and has led him to Trout Unlimited and the conservation chair of the Penn's Woods West chapter. Bryan believes that there are two crucial elements to engage people for conservation: empathy and connectivity. Just like an ecosystem, members need each other and other like-minded groups to address the magnitude and breadth of the problems facing us and the generations to come. Bryan believes that building networks and relationships is vital to accomplish our goals.

Brenda Bittinger, Southeast RVP

As newly-named RVP for Southeastern Pennsylvania, Brenda brings a thirst for adventure and willingness to try new things.

Her husband inspired her to return to fishing about 10 years ago and she was soon hooked (pun intended) when introduced to fly fishing. Wanting to learn more, she became involved with the Tulpehocken chapter eight-plus years ago and has fostered new ideas, community awareness and cold-water conservation education to the area.

Her passion for connecting people for a cause continues. The first female president of the Tulpehocken chapter, Brenda is now in her second term. She also serves on the board for the Pennsylvania Women Anglers and is a member of Delaware Valley Women's Fly Fishing Association. Along with her certification as a casting skills instructor, Brenda utilizes her spare time helping other enthusiasts find passion



in fishing and conservation while working at TCO Outdoors of Reading.

With home waters in Berks County, Brenda finds enjoyment fishing the Tulpehocken Watershed. She resides in Fleetwood, with her husband and two mischievous cats, just a few minutes from her

college alma mater, Kutztown University. At Kutztown, she received a BFA in Communication Design with a minor in Art History in 2006. Since then, she has worked in various industries, utilizing her graphic design expertise. Currently, Bittinger is a creative director, working for Weidenhammer based out of Wyomissing, PA and also provides freelance brand strategy and design services for small businesses.

Kelly Williams, Northwest RVP

Kelly is a lifelong resident of Jefferson County and has been the watershed specialist with the Clearfield County Conservation District since 2009. She is also on the board of the Allegheny Mountain chapter of Trout Unlimited and is a co-chair of the PATU Women, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative with Amidea Daniel. She is a Certified Fishing Skills Instructor with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and maintains fishing tackle loaner equipment at her office in Clearfield.

She's had a passion for conservation and love for the environment since she was a little girl. This passion led to an Associate degree in Wildlife Technology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fishery Science from Penn State and ultimately her career as a watershed specialist.

Kelly learned how to fish shortly after she learned how to walk and has enjoyed passing on her love of fishing and the environment ever since. In the coming year she hopes to continue working on the Women, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative as well as providing support for the chapters in the Northwest region.

I am sure Bryan, Brenda, and Kelly will be great leaders in their new roles. Make a point to introduce yourself.

Enough of this writing... Time to get back in the treestand. Thanks for all you do for PATU.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer
Russell Thrall

I want to thank all the volunteers from around the Commonwealth who attended our virtual Annual Meeting in September and the support I received as the new treasurer for PATU.

In September I finished my second term as treasurer of the Brodhead Chapter in Northeast PA and I am looking forward to serving Council in the new role and will continue as Northeast regional vice president for this year as well.

Bob Volkmar, who held Council's treasurer's position for the last few years in addition to his role as North Central regional vice president, and I have been working since September on transitioning the treasurer responsibilities.

In early October we met with Rachel Kester, our program director, at the Fish and Boat Commission Office in Bellefonte to go over the day-to-day work and transfer paper files as well as the new PATU

computer that I help Bob set up last winter. Bob's organization skills and attention to detail has made the treasurer transition go smoothly so far as I learn the ropes of my new responsibilities. I want to thank him for his support of me personally, as PATU treasurer and his continued service to PATU as regional VP.

Beyond the accounting responsibilities, I have started the work on the Annual Appeal.

You should expect to see information in the mail later this year. As Bob is wont to say, PATU uses the funds raised during the Annual Appeal to "get stuff done" and support coldwater conservation across Pennsylvania.

Of course, you don't have to wait for the Appeal to arrive in your mail, you can visit the PATU website (www.patrou.org) at any time and click on DONATE to help support PATU.

Chapter Donations

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

Exceptional Value \$1,000 or more

- Cumberland Valley
- Valley Forge

High Quality \$500 to \$999

- Allegheny Mountain
- Doc Fritchey
- Penns Creek

Brook Trout \$250 to \$499

- Adam's County
- God's Country
- John Kennedy
- Oil Creek

Wild Trout \$100 to \$249

- Forks of the Delaware
- Tiadaghton

EXCOM actions since April 26

June 16: Approved Trout Policy Committee's comments for submission to PFBC regarding their proposed Trout Management Plan.

June 29: Approved letter to Stroud Research in support of their application for a PFBC R3 Education Grant to complement Council's STREAM Girls program.

July 3: Approved sending letter drafted

by National TU to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission outlining concerns due to possible groundwater contamination and proposed water withdrawals for a Nicholson Meats processing plant to be built near Fishing Creek in Clinton County.

July 8: Approved submission of application for Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC).

Not a
member?

JOIN TODAY!



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The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has more than 14,000 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 14-20.

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Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

UPRIGHT WINGED DUN, THORAX STYLE

Designed by Vincent C. Marinaro (1911–1986); (Slightly modified by author)

Fly Design / Highlights

- Incorporates commonly found, natural materials
- Fools picky trout ... if you are lucky!
- A challenge to tie – which makes it a fun one to master!
- Fully described in Mr. Marinaro’s famous book “A Modern Dry-Fly Code”

History

Being a dry fly junkie, this pattern has always been a great one for its history, fish-fooling ability and the challenge presented to the fly tyer. It takes much practice to master for sure. I truly believe Mr. Marinaro would be proud that we are keeping it alive today! This version is tied as a blue-wing olive to show the overall procedure.

About the Fly Pattern Designer

The legendary Vincent C. Marinaro was born in Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania, and lived most of his life in Mechanicsburg near his beloved Letort Spring Run. He was a corporate tax specialist and had degrees from Duquesne University. To add to that, he was also a classically trained violinist and the master of 11 languages.

A talented fly fisherman, fly tyer, bamboo rodmaker, photographer and author, Mr. Marinaro created many original fly patterns and concepts. He authored two books that should be on every fly fisherman’s desk, “A Modern Dry-Fly Code” (1950) and “In the Ring of the Rise” (1976).

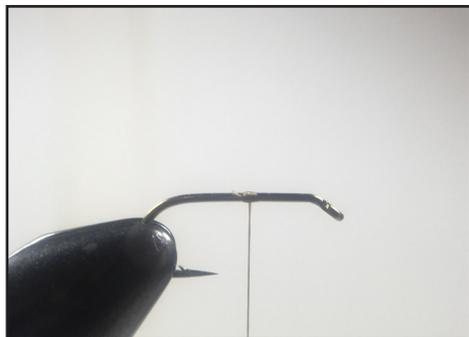
Vincent C. Marinaro passed on March 2, 1986 and his ashes were spread in the legendary Letort Spring Run – where he spent many enjoyable days on the water.



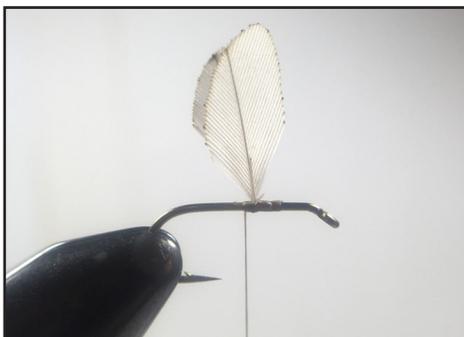
Materials

- **Thread:** Olive 6/0 or 8/0
- **Body:** Olive Dubbing
- **Tails:** Light gray/blue hackle fibers
- **Wings:** Pale gray hackle points burned or trimmed to shape
- **Thorax:** Olive Dubbing
- **Hackle:** Light gray/blue wound in X pattern around thorax
- **Hook:** Standard dry fly, sizes 14-20

Note: Mr. Marinaro’s book “A Modern Dry-Fly Code” has the original dressing details.



Start and secure the thread at about the half-way mark of the shank. (Mr. Marinaro stressed the importance of falling closer to the bend than the eye of the hook.)



Mount hackle-point wings pointing back with secure wraps and stand upright. Clip or cover the remaining stem. (Mr. Marinaro trimmed his wings, but I’ve opted for a wing-burner.)



Move the thread to just beyond the hook point and tie in a sparse tail, splitting, lifting and splaying into equal groups



Dub a neat body from the tails toward the eye of the hook. Then create a ball shape of looser dubbing at the wing. Anchor one hackle in front of the wings.



Make two turns in front of the wings on top of the shank. Then behind the wings underneath the shank in an X design. Tie in the hackle tip securely and as close to the wings as possible. Clip any remaining fibers.



Dub a neat, tapered head from the wings toward the eye of the hook, leaving room to whip finish the fly. Spend the winter tying these up in various colors and be ready for next season!

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.



	Item Description	Price	Qty.	Total
	"Back the Brookie" License Plate	\$25.00		
	Brook Trout Dog Collar – SM/MD	\$23.00		
	Brook Trout Dog Collar – LG/XL	\$25.00		
	Ballcap w/logo (circle) Khaki Navy Camo Brown Green	\$17.50		
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		
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	"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		
	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book	\$30.00		
2	Traveler 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		
Note:	6% sales tax (where applicable), shipping and handling costs included in unit prices.	Total \$		

1.



2.



3.



* Prices effective May 1, 2020

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PA Council of Trout Unlimited

Minutes of the October 11, 2020
Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Teleconference

Officers Attending: Greg Malaska, Bob Pennell, Charlie Charlesworth, Russell Thrall, Brian Wagner, Len Lichvar, Bobby Hughes, Russ Collins, Brenda Bittinger, Bryan Mathie

Others Attending: Rachel Kester, Judi Sittler, Jennifer Orr-Greene, Mike Banaszewski

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by President Malaska. A motion was made and carried to approve the Minutes of our July 19, 2020 EXCOM meeting as submitted. A motion was made and carried to table further action on continuity planning until the January, 2021 EXCOM meeting.

President's Report: Malaska submitted a report of his activities since the July 19, 2020 EXCOM meeting.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October, 2020 as submitted.

Actions Taken by EXCOM since July 19, 2020: The list of seven action items taken by email vote since July 19, 2020 was submitted.

Program Director's Report: Kester reported that Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) grant rounds 21 (2016), 22 (2017), and hopefully 23 (2018) should be closed out by the end of December. DCNR has advised that \$100,000 will be awarded for grant round 26 in 2021 (\$112,175 was requested). Kester is working with Steve Fabian of QuarterNote Systems to develop a new CHP website that should go online by the end of this year.

Kester and Thrall will be talking with American Fisheries Society/PA Chapter President George Merovich via Zoom on October 14 to explore the possibility of conducting a joint Keystone Coldwater Conference in the spring of 2022

The Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program is underway for this year with 402 teachers participating. The program is being conducted virtually at this time, but

eggs will be sent out in January to schools that are able to raise fish in the classroom. PFBC is awarding an R3 Education Grant which will provide additional funding for the TIC Existing Program grants. Further information is being provided to the PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development in hopes of obtaining "educational improvement organization" status to allow tax breaks for financial supporters of the TIC Program.

National Leadership Council (NLC) Report: Wagner participated in two Sportsmen Conservation meetings hosted by Derek Eberly featuring support for the Environmental Stewardship Fund and Keystone Fund. He encouraged Council and chapter leaders to view a TU training webinar, "Good Governance: Best Practices for Growth." He also reported that National TU is developing a new "One TU" strategic plan.

Advocacy Report: Orr-Greene reported that the week of October 5 was Clean Water Education Week. TU along with members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and groups from western PA held a series of legislative meetings related to funding for Clean Water.

The following PA legislation is currently being tracked: SB679 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) establishing an unfunded stream maintenance program. HB584 (Kortz-D-Allegheny) allowing for exemptions from fishing license fees for therapeutic programs. SB619 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) amending the Clean Streams Law to change the definition of pollution related to spills. Other bills TU is tracking include those related to regulatory reform, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), pipeline regulation, and oil and gas regulation. TU continues to advocate as part of the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Coalition for reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund, which



provides funding for AML reclamation and AMD treatment.

TU submitted comments to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on September 25. Act 40 of 2018 mandated DEP to move the point of compliance for manganese from the point of discharge to the point of intake by a public

water supply. The TU letter supports DEP's proposal to change the criterion for manganese from 1.0 mg/L, which is to prevent staining of plumbing fixtures and taste issues in drinking water, to 0.3 mg/L, which is based on human health protection, specifically for infants, and keeping the point of compliance at the point of discharge. **Financial Reviewer's Report:** John Leonard examined the checks written for PATU's PNC accounts (both PATU and CHP), plus all charges made on PATU's debit card for the months of July, August, and September 2020. He found no irregularities in any of the accounts/charges, and everything is well documented.

Regional VP Reports: Malaska introduced our two new RVPs, Bryan Mathie (SW Region) and Brenda Bittinger (SE Region), who presented brief bios on their backgrounds.

- *Northcentral* – All eight chapters reported.
- *Northeast* – Eight of 10 chapters reported. Western Pocono had no activity to report, and Shehawken and Monocacy did not submit reports.
- *Northwest* – Seven of nine chapters reported. Iron Furnace and James Zwald did not submit reports.
- *Southcentral* – Six of seven chapters reported. Falling Spring did not submit a report.
- *Southeast* – Six of seven chapters reported. Delco-Manning did not submit a report.
- *Southwest* – All eight chapters reported.

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No action items were noted in any of the chapter reports. Collins called attention to problems reported by professional guide Julie Szur regarding local harvesting of trout during the extremely low water and high temperature conditions in Pine Creek.

TU Service Partnership: Mike Banaszewski gave a PowerPoint presentation updating National TU's former Veterans Service Partnership program which is now focused on fire, medical and law enforcement personnel, in addition to those who serve in the military. The TSP mission is to "serve and engage the first responders and military communities and their families." He pointed out that 53% of our PA chapters currently have no dedicated TSP programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trout Policy – The committee prepared a letter for Council's submittal to the PFBC in support of proposed final rule making for setting slot limit regulations for Section 3 of Penns Creek. The co-chairs participated in a conference call with PFBC, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, and other partners regarding a change in New York State regulations for the Upper Delaware River.

Development – No report submitted.

Investments – No report submitted.

Awards – The committee has established a scoring system for evaluating the annual award nominations. Beth Boyd will work with our website designer to develop an online nomination process, as well as expanding our promotional efforts through our social media outreach. She is seeking a third member for the committee.

Delaware River – No report submitted.

Conservation – No report submitted.

Women, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative – Kelly Williams reported that, pandemic conditions permitting, the 2021 Women & Diversity Leadership Retreat will be held at the Godspeed Hostel near Port Matilda on May 12-13. A PFBC R3 grant for \$7,400 has been awarded to assist WDI in conducting four virtual training meetings. A WDI webpage is under development at <https://patuwdi.weebly.com/>.

Youth Education – The Stroud Water Research Center is moving forward with the grant they were awarded to retain those STREAM Girls that have gone through the

program. A survey was sent to all girls/parents who participated in any of our PA STREAM Girls programs since the pilot program began in 2018. The grant awarded to PATU had more of a hands-on focus; therefore, we are in the process of adjusting to the current circumstances that COVID has created. The PA Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) has 6 PA regional contacts who could partner with local TU chapters for youth programs; in particular, STREAM Girls, and has offered to put information about STREAM Girls and TIC on their website.

College/5 Rivers Program – Charlesworth reported that there are currently 11 chapters organized in PA, although some are inactive. St. Francis College in Loretto is soon to be added.

Membership – Erick Lewis reported that there are currently 15,223 members in PA which represents an increase of 1,975 members, or 13.6% growth during the past year.

Communications – Brad Isles reported that as of October 1 we have 2,188 followers on Facebook and 2,979 on our Twitter account. He also stated that our website has seen an increase of 516 users, with an increase of 3,313 pageviews since one year ago.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nicholas Meats Processing Plant – Orr-Greene is proposing a meeting of the stakeholders to follow up on the letter sent to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) outlining concerns due to possible groundwater contamination and proposed water withdrawals for a Nicholas Meats processing plant to be built near Fishing Creek in Clinton County. A higher-level meeting with Nicholas Meats would follow later.

Donation to Wildlife Leadership Academy – A motion was made and carried to donate \$500 in support of the Wildlife Leadership Academy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Council Secretary – Since no one was elected to the position of Council Secretary for FY2021, Malaska appointed, and EXCOM approved, Bob Pennell to fill this role.

Appointment of Committee Chairs – Malaska appointed the following commit-

tee chairs for FY2021:

- Awards – Beth Boyd
- Membership – Erick Lewis
- Budget – Russ Thrall
- Trout Policy – Len Lichvar & Dave Rothrock
- Communications – Brad Isles
- Women/Diversity – Kelly Williams & Amidea Daniel
- Conservation – Bob Volkmar
- Youth Education – Judi Sittler & Christian Shane
- Delaware River – Russ Skelding
- College/5 Rivers – Charlie Charlesworth

Malaska will seek candidates to appoint as chairs of the Development Committee and TU Service Partnership. The Executive VPs will determine which committees will fall under their jurisdiction.

Update on Merchandise Sales – Pennell reported that a total of 46 merchandise orders were received since our July 19 meeting, amounting to a total of \$2,372.72. This compares to 27 orders and \$861.00 in revenue during the previous quarter. The biggest factor in this increase is the printing and mailing of the Summer PA Trout newsletter. Bittinger volunteered to assist in this marketing effort.

Forever Wild Funding – A motion was made and carried to roll over the unused FY2020 budgeted funds for Forever Wild grants in FY2021.

Future of Western Pocono Chapter – Malaska, Thrall, and possibly Hughes will plan to meet with chapter leaders later this year to develop goals for chapter performance.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule – Malaska established the following meeting dates for the next year:

- EXCOM – January 10, April 11, July 11, October 10
- Eastern Regional Training – April 24
- Western Regional Training – May 8
- Annual Membership Meeting – September 18 in Bedford, PA.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 11:45 a.m.

– Bob Pennell
Council Secretary

been surveyed. I jumped at the chance to join them, but I wasn't expecting to spend the day sampling such skinny water.

The stream was only ankle deep where we began. Upstream were a handful of deeper pools and undercut banks where I expected they'd turn up a few good-sized native brookies. But as they slowly worked their way up, probing every inch of water and recording everything that went belly-up, I got excited. Not all of those fish were young-of-the-year fingerlings. And not all were brookies.

When one of the biologists prodded a small plunge pool under a fallen log and a beautiful 18-inch wild brown trout came floating up, my jaw dropped. To me, it was impressive. To the biologists, who survey small streams often, this was typical.

By the end of the day, I'd gained a new appreciation for those little trickles and their ability to harbor fish. And I realized that many of the tiny streams I'd taken for granted for so many years probably held some nice wild browns, too.

Finding Fish

The area we surveyed had received a good bit of rain the previous week, but the stream was still barely six feet wide. As the biologists worked the water, I tried to anticipate the quality of fish we'd find. There wasn't one pool that really tripped my hot button or looked like it might hold anything other than a scattering of tiny trout. Long, shallow riffles separated small, unimpressive pools. In short, it was the type of stuff you walk passed on your way to better water.

The beauty of trout, though, is that they are where you find them. At times they're ferociously territorial and live out their lives within small quadrants. Other times they're more transient than a band of gypsies.

Later in the afternoon, the biologists moved on to a second stream that had been surveyed the year prior. That survey had produced enough trout to warrant a reassessment to see if it would meet the requirements of a Class A water (40kg of biomass per hectare).



Ralph Scherder Photo

The author found surprisingly large brown trout, up to 18 inches, in water that he formerly ignored. When casting to fish in these skinny waters, he wants the fly to drop quickly. Bead heads achieve that goal.

One of the biologists was especially excited about the resurvey because he'd taken part in the first one which had produced healthy numbers of wild browns up to 20 inches long. Again, this stream was about six feet wide, and in many places narrower than that. Another trickle.

As the crew worked upstream, beginning at the same point they first surveyed, their findings were considerably different. All of those big fish were gone. They turned up a few browns in the 9- to 12-inch range, but none of the bruisers they'd anticipated... until they got to the really skinny, maybe three feet wide. Suddenly, every pool with a little depth and good structure produced a wild brown over 16 inches. "That's a relief," one biologist said. "I was beginning to think these fish were going to make a liar out of me."

According to the team, this was normal. The reason they clip a sliver of caudal fin on every trout they capture is so that they know which ones they've caught before when they resurvey a section. They often find that fish caught even just the day be-

fore have relocated.

After spending a day surveying these trickles, I decided to assume until proven otherwise that a nice-sized brown lived in every little bit of holding water. When I applied that approach to the streams I fish, my catch rates went up and I started picking up bigger fish than I ever had.

I also realized that, in trickles, big trout don't always utilize the most obvious holding water all the time. Watching the stream survey was fascinating in that deep pools, even ones with desirable undercuts and root systems, didn't necessarily guarantee big browns and, in fact, were often void of fish.

That doesn't mean these pools went unused; lunker trout spend the majority of their time around other structure and move into the deeper pools to feed. The catch, of course, is that you never know when they'll decide to feed, which is why it's best to assume they're always present.

In trickles, the holding water trout prefer is the kind that's almost impossible for

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anglers, or other predators, to approach without being seen. It doesn't have to be deep, but it must have structure that trout can slip under (usually long before you even get to make a cast).

During my time following the survey crew, the most surprising find came in a stream only three to four feet wide and in a pool less than calf deep.

When they probed a narrow gap under an overhanging rock, a hefty 16-inch wild brown floated into their net. I couldn't believe that a trout of that size could thrive in such skinny water. It was the equivalent of finding a 50-inch musky in your bathtub.

The Trickle Factor

The question that should be asked is, do trout live in trickles year-round? The answer, most likely, is no.

In my experience, wild brown trout work their way into these diminutive streams during two occasions – when spawning in the fall (when water levels are up) and when seeking thermal refuge in the middle of summer. (Note: Although the air temperature approached 90 degrees Fahrenheit the day of the stream survey, the water temperature rarely exceeded 50 degrees F.)

Wild brown trout in these heavily canopied coldwater sanctuaries are often overlooked by most anglers who think it takes big water to produce big fish. Therefore, it makes the most sense to target these trickles during those two times.

During summer, some trickles get so small that trout simply cannot work very far up into them due to natural barricades, such as waterfalls or long stretches of shallow water – and by shallow, I mean less than a couple of inches deep. Usually, if you find larger fish above natural barricades, it's because they arrived there in the fall and were confined when water levels dropped.

But, as long as they're trapped in a pool with enough overhead cover or structure and potential food sources, they'll continue to thrive and grow. Also, just because the bigger fish are unable to navigate the stream doesn't mean that young-of-the-year fry don't still move around a bit. And when they end up in the same pool as a larger fish, they often end up in its belly.

Trickle Tactics

Knowing they're there is one thing. Catching them presents a whole other challenge.

First of all, if you have to enter the water at any point, chances are you're already beat. I never realized how many trout I was potentially spooking until I watched the stream survey. The reason they survey streams multiple times is because a percentage of fish evade their probes. Numerous times I witnessed trout bolting upstream, sometimes 10 yards or more ahead of the crew, that were long gone by the time the bios there.

The smaller the water, the more sensitive trout are to the vibrations on land, and especially to those on the streambed.

It's helpful if you can spot the fish before making your first cast, but that's usually impossible. In larger rivers, where the water depth itself is a form of structure, trout feel safe in the open. Trickle trout don't have that luxury. Typically, anglers first see them as they bolt from under a rock, log, or some other structure to either take your presentation or vacate the premises.

That doesn't mean you shouldn't spend considerable amounts of time just watching the water. Sometimes you can pick up the slightest movement or change in shadows next to structure that indicate fish. It's not uncommon to have trout move into and out of a pool you're fishing, seemingly without rhyme or reason.

That said, I still don't spend a lot of time at any one pool. Trickle trout are op-

portunists, and if I've covered the water effectively with just a few casts, I move on. Sometimes you have to cover a lot of water to locate big fish that are accessible. In truth, many wild browns living in these diminutive dwellings are simply uncatchable because of the lairs they've chosen.

I don't fret over fly choice when fishing skinny water. However, I do use mostly weighted flies because I want them to get down quickly in those tiny pools and pockets. Mastering the art of the short cast is almost a prerequisite to success on these waters.

I have no preference when it comes to working up or down a stream. I prefer to walk well back away from the water and observe the pools from a distance, then approach and fish from the middle. My logic is this: If I start at the tail or head of a pool and spook trout, those fish inevitably spook other fish. If I start in the middle of a pool and spook trout in the tail end, then I've effectively cut them off and still have a shot at the ones at the head of the pool – and vice versa.

No other situation or conditions – or quarry, for that matter – test your skills at such a precise level. When you catch a nice wild brown, even if it's not a monster compared to those found in much bigger rivers, you know you've done everything right.

For me, chasing wild browns in trickles is an addiction. And it's one vice I'll happily encourage everyone else to try.

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Rivers Camp accepting early applications

The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding the 26th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp June 20-25, 2020.

The camp will be at Messiah University in Grantham, PA. It begins on Sunday and ends the following Friday.

2021 Conditions

Admission is limited to 24 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. Those students who were accepted for the 2020 camp will have the opportunity to attend the 2021 camp and be given priority without having to re-apply.

However, it is incumbent upon the 2020 accepted student to contact the camp and state their intention that they wish to attend camp in 2021.

Students who were accepted for 2020 and wish to attend in 2021 **MUST contact** the camp at Riverscamp@gmail.com. If there are less than 24 students from 2020, new applicants will be selected for the 2021 camp.

The board of directors is being optimistic and planning for the 2021 camp. Because of COVID-19 and the unknown factors associated with the pandemic, the camp size has been reduced from 32 students to 24.

It is unknown at this time whether additional restrictions will be placed on the camp by Messiah University, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or Trout Unlimited.

The Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp's first priority is keeping students and staff safe.

As additional information becomes known, that information will be shared with public and can be found on the camp's website www.riverscamp.com.

2021 – Early Acceptance

The deadline for early acceptance is Dec. 31, 2020. Students selected for the early acceptance will be notified in early January 2021. Applicants who apply during the regular application period of Jan. 1, 2021 through Feb. 29, 2021 will be notified in early March 2021.

The camp began accepting applications for the 2021 camp on Nov. 1, 2020. Applying via the camp website is preferred.

The camp tuition is \$550 per student. There is no cost to apply, and no money is required until a student is accepted. Financial aid may be available to qualified students. All meals and accommodations are included for the residence camp.

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

But it's not all work. There are 10 fishing sessions, casting and fishing instruction and fly-tying classes. Over 25 instructors, all experts in

their field, teach the various classes. A student doesn't have to be an accomplished fly fisher or a budding aquatic biologist to attend. The student only needs to be highly motivated and willing to learn.

For more information, a camp brochure, or to apply, visit the camp website at www.riverscamp.com.

Be sure to watch the camp video there, or join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/49190088991/about>.

Questions may be submitted at the website or via email to riverscamp@gmail.com.



GET A CUSTOM TROUT UNLIMITED PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATE!

Want to show others that you're a proud member of PATU and support the mission of Trout Unlimited? Well, you can, and it will only cost you a onetime charge of \$27 for a specialty PA license plate. The custom plate fee is in addition to your annual registration fee, and the plate is available for passenger cars and trucks 14,000 lbs. or less, motor homes and trailers.

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

Bob Pennell
2319 Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17104

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



Help protect and improve the Little J
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www.littlejuniata.org or email
bjuniata@verizon.net

In Brief

Coldwater Heritage Partnership launches re-designed website

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership recently debuted a re-designed website with a new interactive map that displays all the plans and projects that have been completed across the state.

Visit at www.coldwaterheritage.org for more information.

PFBC accepting grant apps for Sinnemahoning Creek program

On Nov. 2, the Fish and Boat Commission announced it was accepting applications for grants under the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Program. The deadline to apply is Jan. 23.

Project applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and must use the application form specified in the grant application package. The PFBC anticipates final selection and public announcement of grant awards by the end of April 2021.

The PFBC's primary emphasis will be on projects in the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed upstream of the confluence with the First Fork of Sinnemahoning Creek; however, projects located elsewhere within the eligible counties will be considered.

Projects eligible for funding in this round will be limited to the following: fish habitat protection and enhancement; restoration of aquatic habitat connectivity through the removal of barriers to fish passage; riparian buffer plantings of trees and shrubs; abandoned mine drainage treatment systems or mine reclamation projects that result in sig-

nificant improvements to water resources that are likely to benefit fish and other aquatic life; acquisition and development of properties for public fishing and boating access; enhancement or restoration of populations of specified aquatic Species of Greatest Conservation Need; storm water conservation practices/best management practices (including Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) practices for dirt, gravel, and low volume roads) that maintain or improve water quality and/or habitat for fish and other aquatic life; and acid deposition abatement and alkaline addition to remediate adverse impacts from acidic precipitation to habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

Currently, the balance of unobligated funds remaining in the program account is approximately \$380,000. For this round, the PFBC will consider individual grant awards in the range of \$10,000 to \$100,000.

For more information, read the grant application package at www.fishandboat.com. Questions should be directed to Fisheries Biologist Jeff Schmid at 814-359-5242 or jschmid@pa.gov.

New Keystone Select water receives experimental regulation

During its formal quarterly business meeting held virtually on Oct. 19-20, PFBC Commissioners voted to adopt an experimental fishing regulation on a newly designated Keystone Select Stocked Trout Water located in Centre County.

The Miscellaneous Special Regulation along section 03 of Bald Eagle Creek located within the Soaring Eagle Wetland in Huston Township, Centre County is identical to the current Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (58 Pa. Code §65.6) regulation; however, all tackle types will be permitted.

As such, the regulation allows for year-round angling with all tackle types and harvest of up to three trout per day at least nine inches in length from June 15 through Labor Day, with no harvest permitted the remainder of the year.

The regulation is designed to provide for an extended period of catch-and-release angling with all tackle types for stocked trout; then, as stream conditions become less favorable for trout survival due to decreased flow and elevated water temperatures, harvest is permitted under a reduced creel limit.

"By designating this section as a Keystone Select Stocked Trout Water with a higher concentration of trophy-size fish, we are providing an opportunity to anglers that was previously unavailable in this part of the state," said William C. Brock, District 3 Commissioner. "Secondly, by allowing fishing with all tackle in this high-use location, we'll be able to study and evaluate the survival of fish that were released after being caught by baited hooks versus lures on similar waters statewide."

The amendment will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021.



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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!



Note: Due to changing COVID-19 restrictions, any upcoming events listed in the following chapter reports should be considered *tentative*. Please check the individual chapter's website or newsletter for updated status.

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

570-396-4647, ericrobertbaird@gmail.com
www.brodheadtu.org

In August and September we held an in-person board meeting with a call-in option. We are selling chapter fly boxes as our current fundraiser. We held an in-person outdoor picnic on Sept. 19 in conjunction with our chapter elections. We have overseen the completion of the restoration work on Cherry Creek. Following the delivery of 1,400 seedlings from PPL's Community Roots program we planted them along Cherry Creek. We have met once in person on the McMichael Creek project and the project team is reviewing the plans and cost estimate. We worked on a project narrative for permitting and grant opportunities and presented the project to the chapter at our October meeting. We picked up the tank set-ups for our two new TIC programs. We held a "Fly Fishing the Next Step" class for students to improve on their casting, knot tying, fly tying and entomology. The final class was a one-on-one guided trip on the stream to learn about reading the water. The chapter is not currently pursuing any grant activities, but will be looking into some grant funding

for our project on McMichael Creek for next year. Upcoming general meetings are Nov. 11 (online) and in December at our Cherry Valley project at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Stroudsburg, on a date to be announced. Brodhead Fly Tyers meet Nov. 16 and Dec. 21 at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, East Stroudsburg.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog

610-751-9116, baylogj@gmail.com
<https://forksofthedelaware.tu.org/>

The chapter held a board and membership meeting outdoors on Sept. 10. We requested an extension for the 2018 Embrace A Stream grant due to construction delays from COVID. We signed on to a letter by the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, to PENNDOT to support the installation of watershed signage along major roadways that intersect with the basin's boundaries. The chapter presented on the Bushkill Creek dewatering/sinkhole issues at the Northampton County Council committee on Energy, Environment and Land Use in July. In August, the Northampton County Council approved a resolution fully supporting efforts to study, develop and implement solutions to minimize and/or eliminate a future dewatering event at Bushkill Creek. The chapter hosted an Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on Bushkill Drive on Sept. 21. Several Scouts from local Cub Scout Pack 29 based out of Arndt's Lutheran Church participated. The chapter ran a DIY Stream Cleanup Contest from Sept. 25 to Oct. 31 where participants picked up a small bag or netful of trash along a local stream while fishing, walking or just enjoying the stream.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

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

No activity to report.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Jacob Bliss

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

The chapter held an in-stream cleanup on Aug. 16 and removed a few hundred pounds of trash from the Lackawanna River.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

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

No report.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello

973-452-9301
www.pwtu.org

During the summer months our monthly meetings were held on the Tow Path along the river. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to have our monthly fall and winter meetings at Cora's Bistro in Hawley, but the location is switching to American Legion #859 in Newfoundland. We began planning for our April banquet. Members continue to participate in the Pike County Conservation District's monthly Zoom meetings, as well as Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Committee Zoom meetings. Due to COVID-19, our educational activities are suspended. We are in the process of planning a second Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing in the spring 2021. Hawley Park and Recreation plans to apply for a PFBC's Facilities Construction Grant next spring, especially for the Hawley river access point. One of the goals is to complete a handicapped fishing dock to allow wheelchair-bound veterans and community access to the river. The Rails to Trails program plans to have five fishing and kayak access points between Honesdale and Hawley.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Brian Lengel

717-708-8846, brianlengel7@gmail.com
www.schuylkillcountytu.org

SCTU held its 3rd Annual Hook Ur Honey fishing event to help introduce women to fishing. The following week we held a free kids fishing rodeo. There were no new conservation projects and all educational events will start in January when we target our fly tying classes. Our Christmas party is scheduled for December.

Shehawken Chapter #81

Joe DeMalderis

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

No report.

Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

Scott Brady

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

Our SCTU Banquet at the Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes Barre, was rescheduled for early April. We finished a phase of a stream improvement project at Mountain Springs Lake by removing a dam, planting 2,000 plants and trees in conjunction with Luzerne County Conservation, and revitalizing Bowman's Creek where Mountain Spring Lake was located before the construction of the dam. Our Bowmans Creek roadside and stream cleanup was rescheduled. We have a TIC program in conjunction with EPCAMU at Lake Lehman Jackson Elementary School. We will have a women's flyfishing camp held in conjunction with the PFBC in 2021. Our hope is to restart Bugs 'n Brews in January.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

George Hludzik

570-788-2121, grhlaw@ptd.net

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

No activity to report.

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

viewed invasive species videos available via the Columbia County District Conservation Office website. We held a riparian tree planting on Oct. 17 at Kocher Park, Main Street, Lightstreet. Upcoming chapter meetings are Nov. 10 with WCO Aaron Lupcchini and Dec. 8 with Dr. Whisner discussing Bloomsburg University Fishing Creek monitoring at the Columbia County Conservation District Office, Bloomsburg.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Saulter

814-274-9763, saulterdg@yahoo.com

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most scheduled chapter activities were canceled. We held a member meeting on July 30 at the pavilion in Mitchell Park, next to Coudersport Library. The chapter received a \$10,000 donation from Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative for our Project Healing Waters Flyfishing program.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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

Our annual banquet scheduled for Nov. 6 was canceled. The chapter hosted Council President Greg Malaska at our September director's meeting, which was held outside. Also in attendance was Clinton County Commissioner Angela Harding, who outlined concerning problems associated with the Nicholas Meats operation in Loganton. In addition to the request by Nicholas for a permit to withdraw a minimum of 173,000 gallons of water per day, which is being addressed by SRBC, there is a big concern with the application of waste products on land adjacent to Big Fishing Creek. All fourth quarter activities have been canceled.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Joe Dunmire

717-899-6085, jhjazzbo@hotmail.com

The chapter held its first monthly meeting since March at Bender Park in Reedsville on Sept. 9. We received \$800 raised by Stonefly Cafe and donated to the chapter from a rod raffle. The final eight structures have been completed at the Kish Park project site. Our TIC classes are on hold until at least January 2021.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Rod Jones

570-259-7205, flyrodjones@gmail.com
facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter/

Our Sept. 16 regular monthly meeting was held outdoors at the Union County Sportman's Club. On July 3, several chapter members conducted fly tying demonstrations at Summer Fest held at R.B. Winter State Park.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Jamie SanFilippo

SanFilippo.Jamie@gmail.com
www.springcreektu.org

Our October and November monthly board meetings were held via Zoom. Guest speaker in November was Sara Mueller, who is currently working on her Ph.D. at Penn State with a focus on the genetic and phenotypic variation in brook trout across Pennsylvania. Our annual stream clean-up will take place the same day as our annual redd count on Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Spring Creek Park. The Y Trout release event was held Oct. 10 at the Penns Valley YMCA. Our Women Anglers Group continues to be active, meeting once per month.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Charles Knowlden

570-971-1296, cjknow@comcast.net
www.susquehannatu.com

The Susquehanna Ripples newsletter was distributed in September. The chapter won the Best Chapter Newsletter award presented by PATU during September's Annual Meeting. The chapter submitted a letter to SRBC commenting on the proposed Nicholas Meats water withdrawal applications in the Big Fishing Creek watershed. We endorsed the PFBC-proposed Penn's Creek regulation change to extend the current all-tackle limited-kill requirements on a seven-mile stretch of Penn's Creek (section 03). The board signed a petition from National TU opposing the proposed Pebble Mine that threatens the Bristol Bay fishery. Future chapter meetings are canceled until further notice due to current COVID conditions. We will explore virtual meetings and electronic communications with members. The chapter is moving ahead with a raffle this fall utilizing donated fish-

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Volkmar

443 West Br. Fishing Creek Rd.

Roulette, PA 16746

Email: rdvolkmar@gmail.com

Phone: 814-320-3899

Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

607-621-8126, ealewis@geisinger.edu

The chapter's litter clean-up at the Orangeville Steps access area was completed in July. We

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Learn From Our Experience

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ing items. We received a \$5,000 portion of a fine from Double D Construction and \$13,333 from Inflection Energy due to court orders. The fine was for dumping gas development brine water into a Loyalsock tributary. The chapter received a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) that involves the TU Lock Haven office gathering data and creating a plan for potential AMD-related conservation projects in the Upper Loyalsock Creek watershed. Shawn Rummell convened a site visit in late May and chapter members also participated in early September gathering Loyalsock stream water quality data and assessing AMD treatment systems with TU Lock Haven, EPCAMR, Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, Lycoming College Clean Water Institute and Hedin Environmental. The chapter is coordinating a TIC program with the Lycoming County Conservation District.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

570-662-2167, whitesgordonsetters@gmail.com

Assessment of the Long Run EAS project was completed this summer. Analysis of the data will follow and future projects will be proposed and we will seek funding. We continue our partnership with the Pine Creek Watershed Council and planned to participate in a fall tree planting along Marsh Creek in October.

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

Kelly Williams

152 Geno Lane

Reynoldsville, PA 15851

Email: kwilliamsccd@atlanticbbs.net

Phone: 814-591-1299

Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

Codey Schlemmer

814-953-5295, schlemmerservices@gmail.com

www.amctu.org

Our board of directors meeting was outdoors

at the Tannery Dam on Aug. 20. Our election was held Oct. 15 at the same location. Barring any COVID restrictions, our banquet will be held on April 10 at the Falls Creek Eagles.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

814-664-2124, tksavko2@verizon.net

We continue weekly water testing and pulled, downloaded and reinstalled data loggers this fall. There was a significant increase in volume, upgrading of storage facilities and two more old wells have been upgraded and brought online. These are Class 2D wells. Our meetings are still canceled, as are all other activities.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Troy McDunn

814-723-3759, hdpartsman@verizon.net

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

Our annual Allegheny River Dice Run for 2020 was canceled, as was our annual Morrison Run stream enhancement project. Some chapter members are helping our local watershed specialist with stream assessment on our local stream, Farnsworth Branch. Unfortunately, we will not have any TIC class rooms this year due to COVID-19.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

www.ironfurnacetu.net

No report.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neep

814-834-3472, mneep@zitomedia.net

No report.

Neshannock Creek #216

Jeff Kremis

724-588-4378, jjkremis@gmail.com

www.neshannock-tu.org

Our annual banquet is planned for March of 2021 at the Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex. As with all things at this time, it will be dependent on COVID-19 rules in place at that time. We planned to have a fall workday at the Coolspring DHALO area on Oct. 3. There was a large tree blocking the stream that we hoped to remove and do some other general cleanup as needed. The stream improvement project at Plantation Park on Neshannock Creek was recently selected as Chapter Project of the Year by Council. Stream improvement project plans on Deer Creek were put on hold but we hope to get back on track next year. The Youth Fishing Derby at the Grove City Sportsmen Club and all veterans' events were canceled and hope to return

next year. We hope to hold our Winter Cabin Fever meeting in February. We are currently looking for a location and speakers for the event. Upcoming board meetings are planned for Nov. 23 and Dec. 21 at Munnell Run Farm.

Northwest PA Chapter #41

Bill Eckert

814-392-2696, bill@eckertappraisals.com

<http://nwpachaptertu.blogspot.com>

Our chapter participated in the virtual PATU annual meeting in September and we have been communicating with the new Erie office of Penn Future regarding signing on as a supporting organization as they have completed their common agenda. This agenda will be forwarded to our board members for their comments and decisions. Possible plans for the Trout Run watershed in Waterford Township by the Western PA Conservancy have been delayed due to COVID-19 and pushed to 2021. We will continue to offer our assistance as their plans unfold.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Jennifer Lyons

814-671-1292, lyonssj3876@gmail.com

www.oilcreektu.org

We held our regular board/membership meeting on Sept. 16 and planned our budget for the next fiscal year. Our chapter Christmas dinner and meeting is planned for Dawndi's Restaurant on Dec. 16. The annual chapter banquet was canceled for 2020. Our 2021 banquet is now scheduled for April 10 at the Inn in Franklin. Members are planned to attend the annual meeting of the Venango County Dirt & Gravel Roads Commission in November. Our Veterans' Service Program activity was canceled until 2021. Our TIC program at Cochran High School is not happening this year due to health concerns, but we expect it back next year. We also have interest in adding another TIC class at Victory Elementary School. We have adequate equipment and supplies for another class. We are concerned whether TIC training will be available, in light of the pandemic. Our next chapter meeting is Nov. 18 at King's Restaurant - Franklin.

Seneca Chapter #272

Chase Howard

814-598-3449, chaserhoward@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

In partnership with the Potter County Conservation District, the Seneca Chapter completed a streambank stabilization project on Sartwell Creek, a tributary to the Upper Allegheny River. Additionally, while we have had officers' meetings, we have not yet resumed meetings or events with the public at this time.

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

Brenda Bittinger

16 Lyons Road

Fleetwood, PA 19522

Email: b.bittinger@gmail.com

Phone: 610-704-4676

Bucks County Chapter #254

Joe Mihok

215-589-9531, joemihok@verizon.net

www.buckstu.org

On July 22, PFBC performed an electrofishing survey of Aquetong Creek at the site of the Aquetong Lake dam removal. The preliminary report to the chapter found 19 brook trout from four- to six-inches long. In 2017, the chapter moved 50 brook trout from a Lehigh River tributary to Aquetong Creek. It did not contain brook trout previously. We are awaiting the official report that will have the trout biomass estimate for the creek. We will be planting approximately 200 trees on Aquetong Creek in November immediately downstream of the dam removal site. We are planning to do a mailing of raffle tickets to chapter members this winter as we still have the prizes from the canceled 2020 banquet, with plans to draw the winning tickets on Facebook Live.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Fred DeWees

610-547-9403, freddew4@gmail.com

www.dmtu.org

No report.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Scott Alderfer

610-390-6219, salderfer@gmail.com

www.lltu.org

The chapter provided support for a riparian buffer planting performed by the newly-formed Little Lehigh Watershed Association, which included securing permission from the municipality to do

the planning project on township-owned floodplain land and providing 200 trees and shrubs that our chapter had received from grants obtained pre-pandemic. We also purchased stakes and tree tubes and donated them to the effort. Three of our board members volunteered to assist the watershed group in planting the trees. The chapter president and VP had a site meeting scheduled for Oct. 21 with officials from Allentown Parks and Lehigh County Conservation District to review our proposed plan for installing habitat structures in a section of Little Lehigh Creek in Allentown's Lehigh Parkway (a linear park running the length of the creek through the city). Work would be planned for summer of 2021. Grant funding has not yet been secured. We currently have six TIC schools from last school year that will be continuing in the program this school year.

Perkiomen Valley #332

Thomas W. Smith

215-513-9709, twsmith623@comcast.net

www.pvtu332.org

The chapter developed "Benefits of Stream Restoration Projects to the Community" for presentations to local municipalities, social organizations, businesses, etc. for fundraising and to support the chapter. We participated in the virtual presentation of the Fly Fishing Film Tour with four other southeast chapters in September. We completed an in-stream restoration project on Hosensack Creek covering 180 feet, which includes a 30-foot mud sill, five root wads and improvement to the riparian buffer. We will finish by planting dormant stakes in November. We have a Perkiomen Creek, Camelot Park, stream restoration project planned for 2021. We have completed final design plan and will be working on funding and permitting this fall. In September, we evaluated a large area of the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek on the property of a local farmer that we've worked with in the past to determine the need for additional stream restoration. This was a preliminary evaluation. The chapter has deployed an "EnviroDIY Mayfly Logger" water quality monitoring station on Hosensack Creek, in cooperation with Stroud Water Research Center. The chapter will be working with Berks County Conservation District in the deployment of a coir log and planting dormant stakes in a riparian buffer and stream crossing of Valley Run Creek and Route 100. We will be planting trees along the riparian area of the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek as part of the 10 Million Tree Program. PVTU supports six schools, however, with many of them conducting virtual learning and the unknowns associated with this, we've been unable to determine how many will conduct TIC programs this school year, even when they do return to the classroom. High school environmental students are planting of trees along Perkiomen Creek below Green Lane Dam as part of the "Tree Vitalize" program. A Schulykill River Restoration Fund grant will be applied for

in 2021. Cory Trego presented "Improving Brook Trout Angling through Landscape-scale Restoration in the Potomac Headwaters" during a virtual chapter meeting in October. He formerly served as Potomac Headwaters Project Leader with TU, and is now with CCWRA.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

215-675-1536, rtroadrash@msn.com

www.tu468.org

Our only meeting since the lockdown took place outside at the Pennypack Trust in September. Another meeting was planned for October. One-hundred four-foot River Birch and Sycamore trees were planted in the headwaters of Pennypack Creek. A Fly Fishing 101 Class is planned for November.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Brenda Bittinger

610-704-4676, b.bittinger@gmail.com

www.tullytu.org

We are working on purchasing signs to educate the public about what "water pollution" is, in conjunction with PSU Watershed Stewards. We are planting trees in areas where riparian buffers are needed. We sponsored a Berks County Conservation District booth and a Wilderness Leadership Academy scholarship. Our board meetings in November and December will be held virtually.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Pete Hughes

610-827-9239, pht trout@comcast.net

www.valleyforgetu.org

VFTU will hold its fall Clean Streams Raffle this quarter with pre-addressed tickets being mailed to members. We participated in a virtual screening of the Fly Fishing Film Tour and it turned out well thanks to quick action by Carter Satterfield, who organizes the event. One of our data logger stream monitoring devices was severely damaged in a storm but fortunately Stroud Water Research Center worked with VFTU to fix it and reinstall it in a safer location. VFTU is working with multiple partners to investigate the possibility of reestablishing brook trout in some of the tributaries to Pickering Creek. This is a lengthy project and will, if grant funding is approved, include eDNA testing for the presence of brook trout in the tributaries that maintain appropriate temperatures year-round. Where eDNA testing indicates fish exist, electrofishing will be conducted. Macroinvertebrate studies will also be conducted. Following the assessment of the current state of the fish populations, an egg planting process will begin in suitable stream sections. VFTU is planning the next STREAM Girls event, including fielding a survey of past participants and volun-

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teers to get a better sense of what they found most valuable and enlightening for the scouts. VFTU and other volunteers continue to stay in touch with the PHWFF participants in the three programs we sponsor. Participants in the Royersford program are actively preparing submissions for the fly tying contest. Instruction is being given via Zoom meetings. The 15 schools that VFTU supports in the TIC program are scheduled to receive eggs sometime this winter. The participation of students is subject to decisions regarding in-person classes. VFTU has several grant applications pending and we are researching additional granting organizations as well as looking at additional partners for grant applications. Monthly 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 the East Bradford Township Building. PHWFF – Royersford meets the second, third and fourth Monday of each month at Royersford VFW. PHWFF – West Bradford meets each Monday at West Bradford Firehouse. PHWFF – Coatesville meets each 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

1167 S. Forge Rd.

Palmyra, PA 17078

Email: russthepres@dftu.org

Phone: 717-580-3958

Adams County Chapter #323

Hank Rajotte

717-408-8747, hank.rajotte@gmail.com

www.adamscountytu.org

In July, with the assistance of NVTU, the chapter added two newer habitat devices while making improvements to others on the Conewago. Two 20-foot culvert pipes were installed with rock retaining walls. Trails were trimmed and rose bushes

removed. The two new devices were seeded with grass. Eighty trees and shrubs were planted along the Conewago. Two chapter members assisted the PFBC electrofishing of the upper reaches of Toms Creek. Planning for 2021 will include the SOY fly tying sessions and ACTU's annual Latimore Fishing Derby, both of which were canceled in 2020.

Codorus Chapter #558

Tom Feninez

717-817-8446, tom@codorustu.org

www.codorustu.org

The chapter was fortunate to have access to a spacious outdoor location where we could safely hold in-person meetings over the summer months. Masks were required and social distancing was carefully maintained. Our meetings will now move online using Zoom for the foreseeable future. We believe that we're close to getting some long-awaited permits for a restoration project on a Codorus Creek tributary. We hope construction can commence shortly thereafter. Another permit for a separate project will hopefully follow, but that one will need to wait until 2021 when the no-construction period to protect spawning ends. We're committed as a minor sponsor to a large project in the upper Codorus watershed which is also nearing the end of the permit phase. Construction is anticipated for 2021, and we've offered manpower for planting and other post-construction work as-needed. The designer/contractor on that project is also preparing a 319 grant application for and even larger project nearby, and we anticipate signing on to that one in a similar capacity. We received the unfortunate news recently that invasive New Zealand mud sills have established themselves in the Codorus Creek fishery. We've been working with PFBC to secure streamside signage that we'll install. We'll also continue to educate the public through various means on how to properly address their gear to prevent further spread. We're continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation as it relates to our local schools, and we'll work with our teachers to determine what, if anything, will take place this year with their respective TIC projects. Upcoming chapter meetings being held via Zoom are Nov. 11 and Dec. 19.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

John Leonard

717-512-4620, johnleonard222@gmail.com

www.pacvtu.org

The Limestoner banquet is set for March 13. We held an online auction using TU's "go.localevents.org" and grossed over \$8,000. We highly recommend this fundraising format. We may make this an annual fall event and have our spring banquet a more of a social event. We are still working on our LeTort restoration plan. We have received a \$7,000 Embrace A Stream grant for the next two phases of our Yellow Breeches Wittlinger project.

We're beginning to plan our 2021 fly tying classes and Rivers Camp. We held the first of two public Zoom meetings to take input from landowners and other conservation stakeholders about our LeTort restoration project. We have our membership meeting on Facebook Live with different presenters. Bobby Hughes did an awesome presentation on the work of EPCAMR.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Russ Collins

717-580-3958, russthepres@dftu.org

www.dftu.org

Progress is moving along for our online auction scheduled to take place Nov. 19. As of Oct. 28, our chapter will be submitting a grant application for EPA 319 funding for a Watershed Implementation Plan for the Spring Creek watershed in the Hershey area (Derry Township, Dauphin County). This will be a large undertaking and we are being assisted by The Center for Watershed Protection and Ecosystem Planning and Restoration Co. As a part of the project our conservation chair will be working to form a watershed association. Another 319 application will be submitted at the same time for restoration design and permitting on Bachman Run near Fontana, in Lebanon County. This project is seeking to restore nearly 3,000 linear feet of stream. We are awaiting the announcement from Growing Greener on an application to restore a handicapped and children's access area on Powell's Creek in upper Dauphin County. Plans for a women's Introduction to Fly Fishing are ready to go as soon as we are past restrictions for COVID-19.

Donegal Chapter #037

Tom Hall

717-898-8664, phallcat@comcast.net

www.donegaltu.org

Our spring banquet is scheduled for March 14 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Willow Street. We had an online auction in June using the TU platform and were very pleased with the results. We are looking at possible work on Shearer's Run north of Manheim, and perhaps on the Donegal Creek FFO section close to Marietta. Something substantial could be coming in the Chiques Creek watershed, which includes Donegal Creek. We participated in the Lancaster Conservancy's Water Week on Aug. 9. It included a self-guided tour of Climbers Run Preserve. On Aug. 10, we participated in a Water Week event at Millport Conservancy on Lititz Run, which included a presentation on native plants and shrubs and a stream survey. Our TIC programs are on hold for the moment. We just signed a contract for a dam removal on Hammer Creek at the old Pumping Station in Lancaster County. Keith Williams was the speaker for our Oct. 21 membership meeting, which will also include our yearly election. He spoke on fresh water snorkeling.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Chris Rudyk

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

No report.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Jimmy O'Connor

717-451-5200, jim.oconnor.001@gmail.com
www.muddycreektu.org

We partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to do a large pollinator-friendly riparian buffer zone planting along Leib's Creek, a Class A Wild Trout tributary to the South Branch of Muddy Creek, in late October 2020. This fall we're continuing with our streamside incubator program, which consists of placing 100,000, eyed brown trout eggs into various tributaries of Muddy Creek, using Whitlock-Vibert boxes. The eggs hatch in the stream and the fry make their way into the watershed as nearly wild brown trout with a greater likelihood of reproducing naturally. Due to the uncertainty surrounding schools and COVID-19, and the burden placed on classroom educators, we've decided to pause our TIC efforts until 2021. Chapter members led a number of educational sessions for a local Boy Scout Troop as they work to learn the elements of fly fishing and earn a merit badge. This included multiple sessions from equipment, fly casting, fly tying, to some basic in-stream instruction. Our women's fly fishing event has been postponed until 2021.

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

Bryan Mathie

930 Penn Ave.- Ste 2A

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Email: peregrine94@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 708-921-8373

Arrowhead Chapter #214

Bill Libengood

724-498-6632, libengood2000@yahoo.com
www.arrowhead214tu.org

www.patROUT.org

Arrowhead TU's annual banquet for 2021 is scheduled for March 27. The chapter received 5,000 brown and rainbow fingerlings from PFBC in July. The initial stocking of the Buffalo Creek DHALO section will occur in December. The chapter plans on conducting its annual beginner fly tying class at Armstrong High School in late January. The chapter is considering applying for an additional grant for future work on Huling Run. Arrowhead TU will be contacting its TIC schools to determine if the programs will be held this year. Upcoming chapter meetings are Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 at Mantini Auxillary Building, 6th Avenue, Ford City.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Ben Moyer

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

Chestnut Ridge began having board meetings on the dates of our regularly scheduled monthly membership meetings to begin easing the chapter back toward full operation. We held board meetings in August and September in an open picnic pavilion, with masks, socially-distanced outdoor seating, hand sanitizer available and following all recommended national TU protocols. The board decided to hold a full membership meeting on Oct. 14—again, in an outdoor picnic pavilion. The board devised a workable system for paying bills and reimbursing members for project expenses during the pandemic when it is difficult to get everyone together. Our chapter president attended the PATU annual meeting on Sept. 19 and was able to report to the Chestnut Ridge membership that our chapter had won the Best Website Award. Many thanks to member Carol Gulya for bringing our website back from inactivity to award-winning status in the span of a year. We appreciate you Carol, and everyone who contributed to the website and to chapter activities that generate website content. The chapter is the grateful recipient of this year's Orvis Give Back Days fund drive through the Orvis Store in Pittsburgh. Orvis fly-fishing manager Gary Clouner actively promoted CRTU and its diverse projects to his customers during a two-week period in September. The exact amount raised for CRTU's projects is not yet known but look for a press release and check presentation photo soon. Thanks to Gary, to Orvis and to CRTU member Joe Gudac who made the initial contacts with Orvis to make this happen. We are in the planning stages, cooperating with American Rivers, the Western PA Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Habitat Partners based at California University of Pennsylvania for more aquatic organism passage work on Dunbar Creek. The project will also result in better physical habitat for brook trout in the creek's most heavily fished sections. Water sampling in the Glade Run Basin (Dunbar Creek tributary) will continue this fall, as will alkaline sand treatment of three Glade Run

headwater streams. Thanks, once again, to our partners, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Wharton Township supervisors whose long-term cooperation make this work possible.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

724-454-9345, myersld@comcast.net
www.forbestrailtu.org

Like most chapters, Forbes Trail had to cancel all of its meetings and activities in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We've held two informal meetings over the summer, and our first formal meeting in September, in outdoor pavilions observing CDC guidelines. Our annual membership meeting to elect officers and directors was held indoors in October. We made tentative plans for school and community programs, a veterans' fishing event and a fundraiser picnic for 2021. In early 2021 we will hold a partners' planning meeting and begin studies for a Coldwater Conservation Plan for Linn Run and its tributaries in eastern Westmoreland County. We presented the chapter's Silver Trout Award for outstanding and dedicated service to two of our members this year. One positive outcome of the pandemic is that it seems to have driven up membership. We developed and mailed a new welcome letter with action photos to all of our new members describing who we are and what we do. Members continue monthly water quality testing on Linn Run and one of its tributaries, Rock Run. We got terrific newspaper coverage on the Rock Run project as a follow up to an award presented to Denny Hess who does the testing. Some sampling for gill lice has been conducted. Results will be incorporated into the future Coldwater Conservation Plan we will be completing for that watershed.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Rylan Schnably

814-494-3751,

rschnably@bedfordcountyconservation.com
www.facebook.com/fortbedfordtu

FBTU received a \$8,500 Embrace A Stream grant for streambank restoration and habitat work on Shobers Run, and is scheduled for summer 2021.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Jerry Green

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

Our annual fall banquet was canceled because of COVID-19. Our other fundraising event, the Jaffa Sportsmen Show has also been canceled. JKTU has been contacted by St. Francis University asking if we would be willing to partner in the TU Costa 5 Rivers Program.

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OF TROUT UNLIMITED**
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Bellefonte, PA 16823

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Ken Sink Chapter #053

Keith Ewing

724-840-3145, goirish50@gmail.com

<http://kensink.blogspot.com>

Due to COVID-19, our annual fundraiser banquet was canceled in the spring and rescheduled until fall. The fall event has also been canceled for this year. A macroinvertebrate survey was conducted on Little Mahoning and Cessna Run creeks. A macro survey and water quality sampling was conducted on Twolick Creek in October. Western PA Conservancy is funding repairs to upgrade the public access site on Little Mahoning Creek. Work is in progress to work out details with land owner, permit, and contractor selection. KSTU is providing support and will be named access site sponsor. At the last chapter meeting, speaker Dennis Goodlin, a PA-licensed guide

from Northern Cambria gave a presentation on restoration efforts that led to the recovery of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from being an acid mine impacted river into a self-sustained wild trout fishery. The improvements resulted in PFBC designating 26 miles of the West Branch as a wild trout catch and release all-tackle regulated fishery. All KSTU youth events and chapter meetings have been canceled for the remainder of this year due to COVID-19. The chapter board meetings are still being conducted with social distancing and safe practices.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Randy Buchanan

814-467-4034, prbfish4fun@aol.com

www.mltu.org

The chapter is holding monthly meetings for board members only through the winter season

in order to social distance while still planning projects and addressing issues as they arise. Our 12 Days of Christmas fundraising tickets were mailed in September. In October, we dedicated the Soap Hollow Run Fish Habitat Improvement Project at Greenhouse Park, Johnstown.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Charles Buffington

412-388-1666, buffingtoncw@gmail.com

www.pwwtu.org

We sponsored a contest for individuals to see who could pick up the most stream garbage. Winners received gift cards to International Angler. No TIC programs are happening this year. We are holding Zoom fly tying classes for women. In September, we held a Zoom session with Steve Colton, a guide and educational expert on Sept. 14.