

Pennsylvania TROUT



Winter 2021

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

PATU trainings move online

By Greg Malaska
PATU President

The past year has amplified the importance of keeping our volunteers safe. As such, based on current guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Executive Committee of PATU has decided to hold our regional trainings virtually.

As you recall, we canceled the trainings outright last year due to the pandemic and, after much deliberation, have decided to not hold them in person in 2021. Sincere thanks to all those who helped coordinate the proposed in-person trainings in Oil City and Chester County.

See **TRAININGS**, page 2

Fly Fisherman recognizes Charlesworth as Conservationist of the Year

Charles “Charlie” Charlesworth has a long history with Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, having served a number of leadership positions from chapter president on up to Council president.

Now a commissioner with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Charlesworth can add another accolade to his

See **CONSERVATIONIST**, page 13



Ben Moyer Photo

Mark Killar, watershed specialist (now retired) with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy explains design of the \$800,000 acid-mine-drainage treatment facility recently completed on the headwaters of Glade Run, a major tributary to Dunbar Creek, in Stewart Township, Fayette County.

Conservancy’s AMD facility, CRTU aid Dunbar Creek basin

By Ben Moyer
Chestnut Ridge TU President

Dunbar Creek in Fayette County is a beautiful mountain stream managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as Catch and Release Fly-Fishing-Only.

All of Dunbar’s main stem under special regulation (4.2 miles), and most of its headwaters, an aggregate of 50 stream-miles, flow through 17,000-acre State Game Land No. 51, offering public access to what could one day be among the most alluring trout fishing destinations in the

state. But insect hatches, though improving, remain sparse, and many anglers who fish Dunbar feel the stream has never reached its potential.

Dunbar Creek’s gradual progress toward that potential got a new boost last fall. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy completed an \$800,000 acid-mine-drainage treatment facility atop old mine workings on Dunbar’s Glade Run tributary, funded jointly through the state Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener program, and the Department of

See **AMD**, page 7

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TRAININGS

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Additionally, we have decided to change the dates of the trainings. Originally, we scheduled the trainings after banquet season and after the “first day” for each region. As there are no flyfishing shows, sportsman shows, or in-person banquets, we thought March would be a great time for the trainings. No reason to worry about fundraiser prep, opening days (now singular), or bad weather.

Our meetings will be held on two Saturdays, March 6 and 13, 2021, from 9-11:30 a.m.

Both trainings will be state-wide, there will be no “regional” trainings. The trainings will be available for all PATU members, regardless of location.

The virtual trainings are FREE (but you still need to register).

Both trainings will be managed through Zoom and Rachel Kester will serve as the meeting administrator.

If you’d like to register, kindly contact Rachel at 814-577-7611 or c-rkester@pa.gov. Registration deadlines are noon the Thursday before each training. All members are invited to attend one or both trainings.

Here is the proposed lineup:

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

9:15 a.m. – **Riparian Buffers 101: Planning, Planting and Maintaining a Successful Riparian Buffer** (Joe Mihok, President of the Bucks County Chapter)

A presentation of the down-in-the-weeds details for planting a riparian buffer, what worked and didn’t work, on projects completed by the Bucks County Chapter. The presentation covers workday planning and organizing your volunteers, tree species selection, protecting trees from deer and rodents, and ongoing project maintenance. The goal of this presentation is to give the information you need to get your project to the point in time that it is self-maintaining.

10:30 a.m. – **Advocacy Training** (Jennifer Orr-Greene, TU MidAtlantic Policy Advisor)

Have you ever wanted to be involved in shaping policies related to conservation but didn’t know where to start? This session

will introduce participants to interacting with decision makers at various levels to influence conservation policy at the local, state, and federal levels. We will discuss the basics of the legislative process, successful techniques for interacting with legislators and other elected officials, and how to frame and present a successful message/ask. We will also talk about ways your chapter can be involved in advocacy and will highlight hot topics in current conservation policy.

SATURDAY MARCH 13

9:15 a.m. – **Benefits of Woody Materials to Aquatic Ecosystems or Wood is Good!** (Luke Bobnar, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy)

Trees and fallen woody materials in streams and floodplains create a diversity of habitats for many species. Centuries of removing wood to straighten streams and reduce localized flooding negatively impacted stream habitats and exacerbated flooding downstream. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and partners across the state are working to reestablish historic densities of woody materials in streams to restore habitat and natural flow regimes. Using a naturally-based approach, large woody materials are placed at key locations to help stabilize banks, diversify habitat, increase cover, and re-establish functional roles of wood in streams. This presentation will discuss the history of wood removal in Pennsylvania and the legacy and culture it has left us with. It will provide an introduction to benefits of LWM, highlight projects, methods and lessons learned, and discuss ongoing research

Continued on next page...



Go To skyblueoutfitters.com To Place A Bid Or
Call 610.987.0073
email rick@skyblueoutfitter.com

Time to take advantage of PATU merchandise specials

To kick off the new year, we are offering a FREE copy of Dan Shields' excellent reference book, "Fly Fishing PA's Spring Creek" with any PATU merchandise order totaling \$50 or more. The PATU merchandise program offers a wide variety of products that might be just what you are looking for.

And, as an added incentive for a limited time only, we are also offering DISCOUNTED PRICING on a select number of items in our inventory. These items will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

T-shirts, ballcaps, books, fly boxes, travel rods & rod cases, leaders, and yes...even brook trout-themed dog collars for your best canine friend! You can conveniently order these items online using a PayPal account, or use the order form in this issue to mail along with your personal check. Check out the Merchandise page at www.patrou.org for complete details.

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

Save money on insurance, give back to Trout Unlimited

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has partnered with Strickler Insurance and its "Quotes for a Cause" campaign to not only save you money on your auto and home insurance, but also to raise money for our organization.

Strickler Insurance will donate \$10 to PATU for any person who calls for a quote and mentions "TU" during the campaign, which will run through April 30. You don't have to be a TU member to get a quote, and there is no obligation to purchase the insurance.

We also wanted to let you know of an exclusive PATU member benefit. Strickler

Insurance has partnered with Donegal Insurance Company to give you an automatic 5% discount on your insurance simply by being a TU member.

This would be in addition to any savings you would get through the program.

All you need to do is call Jordan Witman at 717-273-2641 or 844-655-7480 (toll-free), or send an email to jordan@stricklerinsurance.com, mention "TU" and request a quote.

You will also be helping PATU raise some funds for coldwater conservation programs. This offer is good only through April 30, 2021.

...Continued from previous page

that seeks to succinctly quantify ecosystem wide benefits of this restoration technique.

10:30 a.m. – **Rolling Out Biodegradable Erosion Control Solutions** (Joe Greco, President, BEG Group, LLC)

Erosion control is the practice of preventing or controlling wind or water erosion in agriculture, land development, coastal areas, stream banks and construction. Effective erosion controls handle surface runoff and are important techniques in preventing water pollution, soil loss, wildlife habitat loss

and human property loss. Rolled biobased erosion control products are an emerging technology. These products can either be temporary and biodegradable or long-term non-degradable materials that are manufactured into rolls designed to reduce soil erosion, and assist in the establishment, protection and growth of vegetation. BEG Group is an innovator of both vegetated and non-vegetated rolled erosion control products. Joe will offer two short videos on the use of bio preferred products. The first covers a TU pollinator project and the second a National Fuel Gas environmental protection related project.

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Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Greg Malaska

It's finally over. Perhaps the most challenging year of our lives. A year defined by disposable masks, social distancing and a tourism economy in peril.

Twenty-20's forced lockdowns were a far cry from Warren Zevon's vision of "Splendid Isolation." We all suffered and sacrificed in some way. In a final bit of tortured irony, I dealt with the indignity of seven inches of water in my basement... on Christmas Day.

My rant is now over, 2020 is in our rearview mirror, and we now begin to turn the page.

What better way to break free than to begin plotting out the future? For the first time in five years, PATU is overhauling its strategic plan. However, we are trying a new approach.

In the sake of full disclosure, I HATE STRATEGIC PLANS (or I at least hate developing them). Why?

Because up to now, my vision of the strategic planning process has taken one of two forms.

First, I have rubber-stamped plans de-

veloped by one to three persons with no opportunity for meaningful collaborative review. Second, I have sat in a stuffy room for a marathon one-day planning session AFTER a two- to three-hour Board meeting. Along the way, I've been indoctrinated with the "SWOT" approach (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats). I just turned 49 recently and can tell you that at this point in my career and life, I would like to *swat* the SWOT approach.

Twenty-20 gave us time to think and think about better ways to do things. I spent many hours in a tree stand this fall and during one particularly long stretch, I had a light bulb moment regarding our strategic plan.

If you look at our 2015 strategic plan, it was split up into about 20 different sections. At present, we have approximately 20 board members and committee chairs. Hmm?

What if we set up teams to work on each component of the plan?

What if each officer and committee chair was a leader of a team?



What if each member of the team had several weeks to brainstorm about their portion of the plan?

What if each team member had some experience in the plan topic?

What if the teams could meet remotely and not have to travel in bad weather?

Well, no more "what ifs?"... Over the last six weeks, our board and committee chairs have been plotting the course for the future of PATU using just this approach. We have coordinated approximately 20 separate planning sessions via zoom lasting 60-90 minutes each. I just finished my fifth and final team meeting and am really proud to be a part of this collaborative effort. The process is working and the result is a first draft that is a product of creative, thoughtful discussion. This collaboration is a sign of a bright future.

Our goal is to mold this first draft to be released in final form to our members at the annual meeting in September. A lot of great skulls have gone into this effort, reflecting a great cross section of our membership.

Continued on next page...

EXCOM actions taken since Oct. 11, 2020

By email votes

November 4: Approved renewal of annual membership in the PA Outdoor Writers Association.

November 11: Approved content of annual appeal letter to be printed and mailed to Council membership the week of November 15.

November 18: Approved Council signing on to letter along with various other sportsmen's organizations to PA elected officials voicing support for Pennsylvania's Keystone Fund and Environmental Stewardship Fund.

November 18: Approved Council signing on to joint letter with National TU to the PA House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in opposition to the passage of HB619 which, if enacted, would amend the Clean Streams Law to change the definition of pollution spills.

November 19: Approved Council sending letter to PA Governor requesting a veto

of SB790 which, if enacted, would roll back environmental protections to benefit the conventional oil and gas industry.

November 24: Approved returning an unsolicited donation check to the Williams Foundation.

December 4: Approved the appointment of Erick Lewis to serve as Deputy Secretary.

December 11: Approved Council sending letter to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy supporting the acquisition of a 90-acre property in Summit Township, Potter County, in conjunction with the PFBC Sinnemahoning Watershed Restoration Grant program.

December 14: Approved the adoption of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' "Antidiscrimination/Harassment Policy" as required in the execution of Coldwater Partnership

Heritage (CHP) grants.

December 19: Approved Council sending letter to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission in support of adding and amending the listing of Wild Trout and Class A Trout waters proposed for adoption at the January, 2021 Commission meeting.

January 2: Approved Council sending letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in support of upgrading the designated use for listed tributaries of the middle Lehigh River from Coldwater Fishes to High Quality Coldwater Fishes.

January 4: Approved Council sending letter to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission requesting further clarification of proposed regulations for stocking trout in Class A waters and publication for public comment prior to enacting rulemaking.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer
Russell Thrall

I want to thank all the volunteers, members and supporters who donated to PATU's Annual Appeal so far. As of the end of December, donations were running a little bit ahead of last year as we had received \$18,772 in donations. There were still donations arriving regularly in early January.

The Annual Appeal is a key source of the funding that Council uses to support coldwater conservation across Pennsylvania including our education and advocacy work as well as provide funding for grants.

If you haven't donated to the Appeal yet, please visit the PATU website (www.patrou.org) at any time and click on DONATE to help support the work of all the great TU volunteers throughout the Commonwealth.

As part of the transition in accounting responsibilities since I took over the

treasurer's role, I took advantage of my end-of-year vacation time at my day job to move our bookkeeping over to Quickbooks software in December.

If any chapter treasurers are considering making this change, feel free to contact me via email (russ@thrall3.com) or give me a call at 570-620-8677 and I can answer any questions you have about the process and how the software works.

Chapter treasurers and officers should also keep in mind the end of the fiscal year on March 31 and the need to start the process to timely file your Annual Financial Report (AFR) with TU as well as the IRS.

Expect to see an email and additional information from me over the next several weeks about this year's AFR process and deadlines.

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Our final work product will be a clear, supportable plan to move PATU well into this decade, COVID or otherwise.

Before tripping over our own feet, we also need to consider the immediate term. Two years ago, I made it my No. 1 priority to visit with all 49 chapters. I made it to 29 of them before...my plans were interrupted. I am pleased to see that the vast majority of our chapters are meeting

virtually. In fact, I plan to meet with eight different chapters in the next five weeks. My goal is to meet with all of you by Memorial Day.

That leads to my final point. Our regional trainings are set to be held virtually on March 6 and March 13. We were hoping to hold these in person, however, our members' health and safety is paramount. If we learned anything from the last year, it's that we can adapt to changing conditions.

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

In Memoriam

- In memory of Mark Stanley

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 15-20.

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



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Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

THE MICKEY FINN (A.K.A. THE ASSASSIN)

Made popular by John Alden Knight (1890–1966); (Slightly modified by author)

Fly Design / Highlights

- Incorporates a few, highly available materials
- Great fly for brookies and rainbow trout
- Highly visible when submerged
- Simple to tie up a bunch for your box

History

Originally labeled the Red and Yellow Bucktail and developed some time in the 1920's or 1930's, this bucktail streamer was made popular by Mr. Knight as he showed it around to his pals. The name changed to The Assassin due to its effectiveness at slaying trout! And then when Rudolph Valentino, a celebrity of the day was reportedly killed by a spiked drink (slipped a mickey finn), a writer – Gregory Clark – renamed the fly and the rest is history. Tie some up today for your fly boxes!

About the Fly Pattern Designer

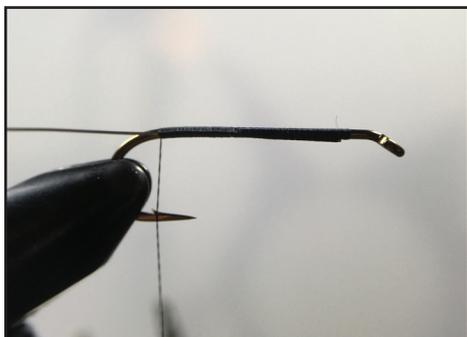
John Alden Knight, or “Jack” to his friends, was a very interesting man who called Williamsport, PA home. He was a banker, a writer, a fly-tier, a hunter, a naturalist, a casting expert, and an angling filmmaker. He developed a theory of Solunar Tables in 1926 – which codified the rhythmic effects of the sun and moon phases on fish and game into peaks and troughs by longitude and latitude. This hypothesis is that fish and other animals move according to the location of the moon in comparison to their bodies. He is also credited with writing *The Theory and Technique of Fresh Water Angling*, *The Complete Book of Fly Casting* and *Modern Fly Casting*.



Materials

- **Thread:** Black 6/0 or 8/0
- **Body:** Silver Tinsel
- **Rib:** Silver Wire
- **Wing:** Red Bucktail Sandwiched between Yellow Bucktail
- **Hook:** Streamer, 4xl Straight

Note: Try experimenting with other materials and hook sizes to create your own versions of The Mickey Finn. More importantly, don't dwell on having the exact materials and have fun tying!



Start and secure the thread a full hook eye behind the front of the hook. Attach the silver wire and wrap back toward the barb trying to keep a nice slender, even body.



Wrap the thread back toward the front of the hook to the starting point, and attach some silver tinsel. Clip the tinsel at an angle for a neater tie-in point.



Wrap the tinsel back down the hook toward the barb and back again. Overlapping turns are not necessary. Counter wrap the wire rib forward with open spirals and tie off.



Clean and stack a small bunch of yellow bucktail and attach to the top of the hook. Trim deer hair at an angle and secure with thread wraps. The parser the better.



Once again, clean and stack a small bunch of red bucktail and attach as before. Trim and secure with thread wraps. As a guide, try to use the same amount of red bucktail to match the yellow.



Now clean and stack about as much yellow and red bucktail you have already incorporated for the top layer. Trim and secure with thread wraps. Form a neat head and apply head cement. Let dry and go fish!

Community Economic Development.

The Glade Run trib has tainted downstream water quality since the 1950s, when unregulated coal-stripping unleashed acid, iron, and aluminum into Dunbar Creek via Glade Run. Another spate of surface mining followed in the 1980s, when operators' post-mining reclamation efforts failed. Pollution has been leaking from the mine scars ever since. In the mid-1990s, scientists from California University of Pennsylvania's Environmental Studies program documented poor water quality in Glade Run, and verified it supported no aquatic life.

Covering about eight acres, the WPC system required grading, land re-contouring, and uses almost 3,000 tons of limestone, high in calcium carbonate, to treat mine discharge. The Conservancy's contractor, Stoy Excavating of Somerset, completed construction in mid-November.

"We are definitely getting treatment right now, but it takes a while for the mine discharge to work its way through the systems and interact with the limestone," said Greg Schaetzle, watershed program director for the Conservancy. "Over the next month or two we'll begin to see the beneficial results we're anticipating downstream."

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's new treatment system supports and enhances a long-term commitment by the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited to improve water quality and establish a wild brook trout fishery in Glade Run.

In 1998, CRTU began experimental dosing of Glade Run's headwaters with high-carbonate limestone sand. Encouraged by promising results, CRTU conducted survival experiments with caged brook trout in cooperation with biologists from California University of Pennsylvania. The trout survived and in 2003, using Growing Greener funding, CRTU built an anoxic limestone drain system similar to, but smaller, than WPC's recent addition. But after CRTU built that system, members have continually found previously undiscovered acidic and iron-laden discharges from the same sprawling mine complex. In response, CRTU has maintained a twice-yearly schedule of limestone-sand dosing in the Glade Run headwaters ever since. WPC's new system will capture and treat many of the previously unknown discharges.

Dale Kotowski, former CRTU president, said the group's members were motivated by their refusal to accept that such an attractive stream, flowing across public land, could not sustain trout.

"On Glade Run's course to Dunbar Creek, it flows cold and shaded by hemlocks through remote reaches of State Game Lands 51. We considered it tragic that such an otherwise appealing stream could not support trout and public fishing," Kotowski said. "We congratulate the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for their initiative and success on their newest Glade Run treatment facility."

According to Schaetzle, WPC's new system will require no maintenance, other than limited annual mowing to prevent tree roots from puncturing the settling basin liners, for 20 years.

Schaetzle acknowledged the sustained commitment of vari-



Ben Moyer Photo

Greg Schaetzle, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy watershed project manager, points to iron-laden coal mine pollution into a feeder stream to Glade Run in Fayette County. The Conservancy's new treatment facility built on an old surface mine footprint now captures and treats most of the mine discharge.

ous cooperating entities in improvements to Glade Run and the Dunbar Creek basin, including Chestnut Ridge TU, the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Community Economic Development, Fayette County Conservation District, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the bordering municipalities of Stewart and Wharton townships.

In addition to working to restore water quality, CRTU members do an annual litter cleanup on the Fly-Fishing-Only portion of Dunbar Creek on the Saturday preceding the opening of trout season (Dunbar is open to year-round fishing), and is working with American Rivers, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Habitat Partners at California University of Pennsylvania, and Dominion Energy to improve fish passage in the basin by removing obstructions, replaced with habitat improvements.

"Part of our mission at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is to improve water quality across western Pennsylvania," Schaetzle said. "Our hope, together with partners, is to make the Dunbar Creek watershed all that it can be again as an asset for the Laurel Highlands region."

Sittler added to Trout Unlimited's Grassroots Board

By Judi Sittler
Spring Creek Chapter

What is a National TU Grassroots Board member? What do they DO? ... if anything. We are all about to find out because I was officially voted in as one of two new Grassroots Board members at TU's annual virtual meeting, held Oct. 25.

If you don't already know me, I have been involved with Trout Unlimited since 2009 when a Spring Creek chapter board member asked me to join the chapter's board. I knew next to nothing about trout and their habitat. I was interested in learning more about fly fishing and joined a women's fly fishing group that was just forming. By my second year on the board, I was "talked into" being president. As a retired special education teacher and clinical psychologist, I guess I just showed the right amount of patience and willingness to learn something new.

I am no longer on the chapter's board but still function as their Youth Education chair. I am the PATU youth Education co-chair emphasizing the STREAM Girls program in PA, and I am part of the Youth Education National Leadership Council workgroup. Enough about me.



Sittler

We can probably all agree that there is a bit of a disconnect between chapters, Council and National TU. Here is one sentence from my job description:

"Grassroots Trustees are a valuable liaison between the Board and their region of the country, communicating with other TU groups and the public and listening to concerns of TU members and the public."

Oh boy! Am I asking for trouble? Most likely. Pennsylvania is unique in many ways. We have more chapters than any other state. We have a council that only deals with one state. In the recent past, Pennsylvania has had two chapters win the Best Chapter Golden Trout award (in

2015 and again in 2016). I would like to see us be a proving ground for better communication between National TU, Council and chapters.

Most TU leaders agree that TU must include a younger and more diversified membership. It is good to see more women taking positions of leadership. For example, we now have two women VP's on PATU Council: Kelly Williams and Brenda Bittinger. National TU is developing training videos to help chapters learn strategies to attract and welcome new and diverse members into the TU family. TU membership growth is flat. We want to figure out ways to make the membership roster grow.

You will hear the term "One TU." That means that as a chapter you feel connected to your council and to national. To me, connections mean communicating with each other. Maybe COVID-19 has slowed down personal interaction but, eventually, we will once again be able to sit across the table.

Please feel free to contact me just to say hello, or ask a question, or describe an issue that needs to be addressed. I look forward to helping TU grow with your help. Contact me at jlsittler@comcast.net

PAEP recognizes Lichvar with Lyon Award...



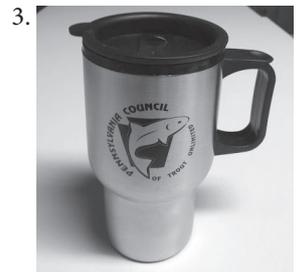
Linda Zug, left, representing the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals, (PAEP) presents PAEP's 2020 Walter Lyon Award to Somerset Conservation District Manager Lenny Lichvar. The award recognizes Lichvar, and the staff he manages, as the top professionals in natural resource conservation in the state. Lichvar also serves as the PATU Western Executive Vice President, Co-Chairman of the PATU Trout Policy Committee and is a long time member of the Mountain Laurel Chapter and served for 12 years as the District 4 Commissioner to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Under his leadership the District has enabled and empowered the local TU chapter to achieve many of its local cold water conservation goals in addition to the District's own many successful water quality improvement projects. (Photo by Aimee Steele)

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	Brook Trout Dog Collar – LG/XL	\$16.00		
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2	Traveler Fly Rod – 9'0, 5-wt., 7-piece	\$130.00		
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	PATU Sticker	\$1.00		
3	PATU Travel Mug	\$12.00		
Note:	6% sales tax (where applicable), shipping and handling costs included in unit prices.		Total \$	



* Prices effective February 14, 2021

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PA Council of Trout Unlimited

*Minutes of the Jan. 10, 2021
Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Teleconference*

Officers Attending: Greg Malaska, Bobby Hughes, Lenny Lichvar, Russ Thrall, Bob Pennell, Erick Lewis, Brian Wagner, Charlie Charlesworth, Kelly Williams, Bob Volkmar, Russ Collins, Brenda Bittinger, Bryan Mathie.

Others Attending: Rachel Kester, Dave Rothrock, Jennifer Orr-Greene, Judi Sittler.

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Malaska. Minutes from the Oct. 11, 2020 EXCOM meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Submitted by Malaska – no questions.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Thrall. \$22K income less \$46K expenses = \$24K net loss for previous quarter. T. Rowe Price account doing well – up ~\$63K to ~\$199K for 9 months ending Dec. 30, 2020. Annual year-end appeal has grossed ~\$18K so far. Moved financials over to QuickBooks – v no questions.

Malaska thanked Volkmar and Thrall for a smooth transition of the Treasurer duties.

Program Director's Report: Submitted by Kester.

Coldwater Heritage Partnership program – Grant programs mostly closed out -2016 closed -2017 one left 2020 grants are in progress. Received \$100K from DCNR for 2021 – RFP sent out for grant proposals – would like to make awards prior to April 1, 2021. 2022 submission to DCNR for next round is due in April. New CHP website is up and running – still debugging. Kudos from Volkmar to Kester for finding a way to get the project done in a way that will satisfy all parties.

Keystone Coldwater Conference (KCC) – The American Fisheries Society (AFS) is onboard to do a joint conference in 2022. They are working on a virtual conference currently and will start working on 2022 in March.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) – TIC is



planning to send eggs in February. Working on biannual summit in July (virtual) with a C3 theme (Connect/Collaborate/Change). EITC application status is unknown at this point but may need follow-up. R3 Grant is received. Will be able to offer startup grants this year. Some supplies, e.g. filters, are on back-order. Mathie asked about help for chapters that are financially struggling to get their TIC programs up and running. R3 and \$10K funding is available.

10 Million Trees program – Trees need to be ordered by Jan. 15, 2021. Virtual training is Feb. 16-18, 2021.

Forever Wild program – Stanley Cooper Chapter received grant for Water Tower Run. Valley Forge Chapter requested and received grant for headwaters of Hickory Creek. Kester would like the grant process to be revolving rather than once per year.

National Leadership Council (NLC) Report: Submitted by Wagner. National is developing a new strategic plan, membership approach based upon engagement of members in what they are interested in, quarterly report for Climate Change is in process, link in Brian's report to NLC workgroups. Attended Citizens Climate Lobby conference. Engaging in additional advocacy in 2021. Gathered and stored climate change related documents from state government orgs. for website.

Advocacy Report: Submitted by Orr-Greene. Presentation "Government is Hard."

Federal legislative recap:

- Great American Outdoors Act
 - Permanently funds Land and Water Conservation Fund

- Covers backlog of National parks / forests infrastructure
- Admin. transfer should finalize the selection of projects
- Conservation Enhancement Act
 - Came through early December 2020
 - Funds Chesapeake Bay programs through 2025 (bumped up funding)
 - Will fund Eastern Brook Trout Join Venture (secure funding)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
 - Restoration, water quality etc.

PA legislative recap:

- Defended special funds in budget
- PAFBC license fee increase
- Bill to change pollution definition / spill reporting avoided
- Bill to roll back oil & gas regulations vetoed by Governor
- Bill to allow stream dredging defeated

Provided Bill and Regulation education to group. Looking to provide advocacy training. Need to provide education on Class A listings and their importance. Unsolicited grant check from Williams follow-up. Williams wants to connect with us. Mathie supported furthering our advocacy work.

Financial Reviewer Report: Submitted by John Leonard. No irregularities, all is good.

Regional VP Reports:

- *Northeast* – Seven of 10 chapters reported. Lackawanna Valley, Shehawken and Western Pocono did not report.
 - *Northcentral* – Seven of eight chapters reported. R.B. Winter did not report.
 - *Northwest* – All nine chapters reported. Williams – from Allegheny Mountain Chapter – stocking class A streams – disappointed that Council didn't support limiting stocking more on Class A streams – If VP hadn't spoken with them about it, they wouldn't have known.
 - *Southwest* – Four of eight chapters reported. Ft. Bedford, John Kennedy,
- Continued on next page...**

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Ken Sink and Mountain Laurel did not report. Mathie – lack of funds, some don't like Zoom (they are on life support though), engaged chapters in strategic planning discussions, (What we do well, more of, less of...) Knowledge gap of what Council can provide, when to reach out. Mathie thanked Malaska for visiting Chapters, it was a high point.

- *Southcentral* – All seven chapters submitted reports. Collins – things are pretty well working as expected, have attended some Zoom meetings, multiple calls recently looking for help with project planning (training needed?). Most Growing Greener grants seemed to go to municipalities and conservation districts in last round.
- *Southeast* – Six of seven chapters submitted reports. Little Lehigh did not report. Bittinger - things seem to be moving along, sometimes difficult to make contact with chapters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kester to record committee reports, requested by Collins.

Awards Committee: (EVP Hughes) – No report.

Delaware River Committee: (EVP Hughes) – No report.

Development Committee: (EVP Lichvar) – No report.

Trout Policy Committee Report: (EVP Lichvar) Submitted by Lichvar. Speaking with National TU, PFBC High Level Staff, Comments to PFBC Fisheries Committee, Committee Meeting completed. Rothrock: Stocking vs. wild is an emotional issue with many moving parts. New trout management plan engaged us for many hours in comments and meetings. Re-evaluation of 13 Class A streams being stocked, yet to be determined, we should follow it closely so that we can monitor and comment on the social aspects of the study.

- Asked to recommend a position on petition to manage brown trout in the state. Committee met via Zoom and voted to recommend to EXCOM no position on petition. PFBC proposed regulations address most of the petition demands.

- Collins is pleased to see that proposed regulations will meet most of what the petition desires. Wishes to have the Trout Policy Committee address regulations when PFBC proposes them.

- Rothrock: It would be very helpful if we could get early notification of these types of activities. Social Media misconstrued ownership of the petition to TU.
- A motion was carried by EXCOM to accept recommendation of the Committee and take no position on this petition.

Kester announced the Trout Policy Committee discussion portion of the meeting was requested to be recorded. Lichvar asked who requested the recording. Kester replied that Collins made the request. No specific reason was provided for the recording. Charlesworth: Recording of session precluded his comments. If studies show no impact of stocking over Class As, there could be unintended consequences.

Conservation Committee Report: (EVP Hughes) Submitted by Volkmar. No questions.

Women/Diversity/Inclusion Committee Report: (EVP Hughes) Submitted by Williams. Been very busy. Amidea Daniels meeting monthly. Worked with Malaska to make sure grant acceptance clause was added. Virtual trainings started, more expected. R3 grant work is prioritized. Planned May leadership retreat, but status is unclear to date.

Youth Education Committee Report: (EVP Hughes) Submitted by Sittler. Interested in promoting chapters with diversity, strategic plan is underway, need to talk about funding for Stream Girls program.

Colleges/5 Rivers Committee Report: (EVP Lichvar) Submitted by Charlesworth. 5 Rivers is experiencing difficulty as many colleges are not holding in person classes. If Collegiate Fly Fishing Championship is held it will be in the same place. Strategic plan, looking to do more with TU Teens clubs within chapters, and high school fly tying / fishing clubs.

Membership Committee Report: (EVP Lichvar) – Submitted by Lewis.

Communications Committee Report:

(EVP Hughes) – Submitted by Isles.

TU Service Partnership: (EVP Lichvar) No report. Malaska requested RVPs to check with their chapters to identify candidate to chair this effort.

Meeting recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Nicholas Meats: Orr-Greene – 319 Plan had come through for the watershed, followed up with science team regarding monitoring. Can we kill two birds with one stone re: monitoring locations? USGS, Lock Haven and Bucknell universities have submitted data and have some concerns about spray irrigation proposal for discharge, and nutrient control. Hiring of Advocacy Outreach person in still underway actively. NLC is working on comments for the NY Trout Management Plan and would like comments from PATU.

Merchandise Sales: Pennell – Last quarter results reported. Distribution of Winter issue of *PA Trout* should boost sales. Survey circulated by Kester provided initial results, more detailed survey is planned.

Western Pocono Chapter: Hughes and Malaska are working to resolve its status.

Annual Appeal: ~\$18,772 + \$485 + additional stack to be picked up at PO Box – ahead of last year!

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Committee: Malaska appointed Volkmar, Thrall, Williams, Mathie and Lewis, with Volkmar as chair - members can opt out if they so choose by contacting Malaska individually – next FY budget is due by March 31. Volkmar - can follow system in place to streamline, should be able to get it together for initial review by early March, initial committee meeting to take place shortly - Malaska asked to be looped into the initial meeting – directives: underestimate revenue and overestimate expenses, we are not sure what next year will look like. Committee chairs are requested to work through Volkmar.

Reallocation of Unused Facebook Funds: A motion by Malaska was carried to approve spending funds that were originally budgeted (but not spent) for Facebook activities to be used instead for expenses related to paying for *PA Trout*

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newsletter articles written by professional outdoor writers.

AOP Obstructions Inventory: Volkmar – Nothing has happened since last meeting due to COVID / illness - meeting on Jan. 13, 2021 to get back on track. Kester suggested adding Jake Tomlinson and Phil Thomas in the conversation. Passing on to Jake Lemon for reaction. Hughes stated that LICs need to be engaged in TU for culvert assessments. Volkmar mentioned that the certification is two step: online training and participation in 30 culvert assessments.

Sky Blue Outfitters Auction: Volkmar – Auction is going on for a trip with Chris Wood, all proceeds to PATU, high bid is \$525, (\$1,000 bid was pulled back), would like to see the money go to Forever Wild program. A motion by Volkmar was carried to approve that all proceeds of SB Auction be directed to FW program in addition to the customarily-budgeted amount, not as a replacement.

SRBC Comprehensive Plan: Kester – Comments due Feb. 19. The goal to address comments and present final at June meeting. All EXCOM participants are requested to review email of plan from Kester and Orr-Greene and submit concerns by the end of January.

Strategic Plan Update: – Malaska: Thanked everyone who moved the plan forward. Team leaders need to send in their

summaries to Kester by end of January to be put in a master document for circulation & review in February. To be approved at June's EXCOM meeting, and presented at September's Annual Meeting.

Brittney Hartzell Work Proposal: – Malaska: Hartzell is asking about opportunities for work. Potential to enhance social media outreach. Mathie suggested that a program manager for the strategic plan would be a good addition. Sittler would like additional staff to assist with programs which we struggle with to move forward with strictly all-volunteer participation.

Regional Trainings: – Malaska: National TU has canceled Annual Meeting and all in-person meetings. Our regional trainings are still scheduled in person. Presenters are willing to do trainings online. Consensus is to move to virtual with two sessions. Possible additional cost to expand Zoom spending to accommodate large group. Orr-Greene has access to the expanded Zoom and can provide access. Malaska wants to get something up on website to get things moving.

National TU Grassroots Trustee: Malaska congratulated Sittler as our first PATU Grassroots Trustee. She spent significant time on Trustee training, looking to connect National Leadership Council to chapters more personally. One TU strategic plan is happening there as well. Adding this opportunity to report going forward.

Conservationist of the Year Award: –

Malaska congratulated Charlesworth for receiving this honor from Fly Fisherman magazine and the Simms \$5,000 donation in his honor to the Lackawanna Valley Chapter.

PATU Monthly: – Wagner reminded everyone that submissions are now due for his monthly email newsletter to chapter leaders.

PA Trout Newsletter: Kester reminded everyone that our newsletter deadline for submissions is Jan. 27.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 11:43 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Pennell – Secretary
Erick Lewis – Deputy Secretary*



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Calendar of Events

March 6: PATU Virtual Training

March 13: PATU Virtual Training

April 11: Spring EXCOM Meeting

July 11: Summer EXCOM Meeting

Sept. 18: PATU Annual Meeting

Oct. 10: Fall EXCOM Meeting



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bjuniata@verizon.net

CONSERVATIONIST

from page 1

expansive résumé.

Because of his legacy of successful environmental and educational efforts, Charlesworth was recently named as Fly Fisherman's 2021 Conservationist of the Year. In his honor, Simms Fishing Products will make a \$10,000 donation to Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited to continue its work in river restoration, water quality monitoring, and youth education.

An article written by Barry Beck for the Feb.-March 2021 issue of Fly Fisherman under the title "Charlie Charlesworth: Bringing the Lackawanna River back to life" highlights Charlesworth's dedication to coldwater conservation and expanding opportunities for the next generation of anglers. Getting youth involved in fishing and river restoration is Charlesworth's biggest passion.

As Beck writes: Charlesworth helped to establish the Keystone/TU Teens Conservation Camp—a partnership between Keystone College and Trout Unlimited. The summer camp is for kids aged 14 to 18, with instructors from three different universities and colleges, professionals from agencies like the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish & Boat Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, county conservation districts, and the Penn State Agricultural Extension office.

The Keystone/TU Teens Conservation Camp is a partnership between Keystone



Charlesworth

College and Trout Unlimited, with instructors from post-secondary institutions, as well as from various state agencies, who teach the kids about hands-on conservation and stream improvement methods. These campers are learning how to use electroshocking equipment and carry out trout population surveys.

He also helped start the LVTU Teens Fly Fishing Club for high school students and also the Keystone College 5 Rivers Fly Fishing Club. The Keystone College club model was so successful Charlesworth worked with former LVTU Teens club members to also start clubs on their campuses at Pitt-Bradford, Juniata College, St. Francis University, and Mansfield University. There are now 11 different 5 Rivers Fly Fishing Clubs on Pennsylvania campuses, and 150 clubs across the country.

In addition to his volunteer work with youth groups and with Lackawanna Valley TU, Charlesworth has served on the

board of directors for the Lackawanna River Conservation Association, he's been a director with the Lackawanna County Conservation District, a member of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, a member of the Pennsylvania Environment Council, and he's a graduate of the Penn State Master Watershed Steward Program. Through his efforts with all these groups, the Lackawanna River was named Pennsylvania's 2020 River of the Year.

He's also had important roles as president of LVTU, president of PATU, and also as part of PATU's Legislative Action Committee, which makes monthly visits to the Pennsylvania House and Senate, speaking to members about environmental issues important to coldwater fisheries.

In 2019 he stepped down as Pennsylvania TU president and was appointed to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. As a commissioner, he has been involved in the classification of more than 180 new Class A Wild Trout stream sections and more than 600 new Trout Waters designations. In that role, he's also been involved with significant dam removals in Pennsylvania and in land acquisitions and fishing leases for restoration and/or public access.

His previous awards include the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Thomas Shelburne Award for Conservationist of the Year (2015), Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited's Inky Moore Award for Environmental Excellence (2016), and nationally, the Trout Unlimited Award for Distinguished Service (2016). He received a citation from Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf in 2015 for his conservation efforts.



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Memorial bench honors Seneca Chapter founder

By Patrick Kotnik
The Bradford Era

(Editor's Note: This article originally ran in The Bradford Era on Dec. 17, 2020. It is reprinted here with permission.)

Tucked at the brand new trailhead parking lot area off of Route 219 on Westline Road, which is part of the Kinzua Valley Trail Club, you'll find a memorial bench placed in Howard Gustafson's honor.

Gustafson, who was a World War II veteran and 1938 graduate of Port Allegany High School, according to his obituary, founded the Seneca Chapter of Trout Unlimited during the 1970s. Trout Unlimited is a national non-profit organization whose mission is "to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds," according to the organization's website.

He went on to be instrumental in the forming of the Black Cherry Chapter, the McKean County Boondocs program and held both national and state level positions in Trout Unlimited. Gustafson passed away on Oct. 18, 2019 at the age of 98, but his impact and legacy still live on.

"My relationship (with him) was fantastic. Personally, he was just a great guy. He was my mentor," Tim Bizzaro said, who currently serves as the Seneca Chapter's treasurer. "He was just a caring gentleman and his focus, his passion for conservation efforts were truly amazing. He was not one to ever sugarcoat anything. You knew exactly where you stood with him. He was a great mentor, instructor, advisor and a heck of a lot of fun to travel with."

Gustafson's passion for water conservation ability to keep a close eye on issues that did or potentially could cause harm to cold water resources were instrumental, according to Bizzaro.

These efforts go as far back as the 1960s with one dealing with pollution from a strip mine area at Scaffold Lick Run located south of Port Allegany.



Contributed Photo

The memorial bench placed in honor of Howard Gustafson.

"That was kind of, my understanding is one of the first real efforts that Howie sort of spearheaded in trying to get the proper authorities to take notice of what it was doing to the area waters in that specific area from the pollution from strip mining," Bizzaro said.

Gustafson also played a role in helping secure funds from the 2007 Norfolk Southern train derailment settlement that went toward the Boondocs program.

Among some of the other accomplishments achieved by Gustafson provided by Bizzaro from the book "A history of Trout Unlimited and the Environmental Movement in Pennsylvania 1959-2000," by Michael J. Klimkos were being elected VP for the Northeast Region of National Trout Unlimited in 1987 and awarded Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist by PATU in 1989.

He was also instrumental in securing 2.3 miles of Kinzua Creek designated as

Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only regulated waters in 1990.

"He was always out watching," Bizzaro said. "He wasn't saying don't do it, if you're going to do it, do it the right way. Don't cut corners, make sure it's done properly. He just was always on top of the little things."

The process of getting a memorial bench placed in his honor began when Bizzaro contacted Jon Pomeroy. The Seneca Chapter later voted to purchase a memorial bench in his honor and after a process that consisted of a lot of back-and-forth contact, the bench was placed just prior to Thanksgiving.

According to Bizzaro, when you sit on the bench, you'll find another connection to Gustafson which makes the location of the bench an even more fitting tribute.

"If you sit on that bench, you can look over on a tree and you'll see a sign from the fish commission where it's special regulated water for Kinzua Creek down through that area," Bizzaro said. "He had his hands in that, too."

The memorial bench will serve to honor Gustafson for years to come. Bizzaro said he'll remember Gustafson most for his laugh, his great sense of humor and of course, his conservation efforts.

"He was always, always pleasant," Bizzaro said. "That doesn't mean that he wasn't forceful in what he believed in, but he was always a pleasant guy, very pleasant."

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PFBC announces changes to 2021 trout season opening day dates

During its quarterly business meeting held virtually on Jan. 25, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced several changes to the upcoming 2021 trout season, including opening day dates and stocking operations.

These changes, effective immediately, include consolidating the 2021 season into a single, statewide schedule for all Pennsylvania counties; beginning trout stocking operations earlier than usual; reinstating limited volunteer opportunities for trout stocking operations; and releasing a schedule of trout stocking dates and locations. All changes were made by the PFBC in consultation with the Office of the Governor, Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to address ongoing public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic while preserving the opportunity to enjoy the fun and recreational health benefits of fishing.

For 2021, the PFBC will operate under a consolidated statewide schedule for all counties. Under this revised plan, a single Statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day will occur on Saturday, March 27, and a single Statewide Opening Day of trout season will take place on Saturday, April 3. Anglers are also reminded that because the mentored youth days were cancelled in 2020, all Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses purchased last season remain valid and will be honored during the 2021 season.

To prepare for the consolidated statewide trout season schedule, the PFBC began pre-season trout stocking operations on Feb. 15, 2021. This allows hatchery staff to deliver trout to many waters ahead of the Statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day and, weather permitting, all waters prior to the Statewide Opening Day. Due to this change, streams designated as Stocked Trout Waters will be closed to angling as of Feb. 15. Trout which are stocked in lakes, reservoirs and ponds during the pre-season will be open to catch-and-release angling.

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

The chapter planted 1,400 seedlings and 200 tree shelters at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Planning has continued for the habitat restoration project at the Pomeroy Preserve on McMichaels Creek. Planning has begun for potential habitat restoration projects on the headwaters of the Paradise Creek including Tank Creek and Yankee Run. At least one of our TIC programs has decided to move ahead this school year. Seven students went through our Fly Fishing the Next Step program. The chapter is not currently pursuing any grant activities, but will be looking into some grant funding for our project on McMichaels Creek. Our next meeting is March 10 at 7 p.m. with Tim Flagler presenting "What Trout Like to Eat & Flies to Feed Them." Brodhead Fly Tyers meet March 15 at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482
Joe Baylog
610-751-9116, baylogj@gmail.com
https://forksofthedelaware.tu.org/

The chapter held several Facebook Live events in the fall, including fly tying with Tim Flagler and fishing the Kenai Peninsula with Joe Baylog. We sent out an annual appeal letter in early December along with a membership survey asking for input on chapter activities. The chapter is participating in a Karst Geology Advisory Council related to Bushkill Creek dewatering/sinkhole issues. We have been reviewing documentation from DEP relevant to the Buzzi Unicem quarry permits and we developed a list of asks for DEP to minimize and/or eliminate a future dewatering events on Bushkill Creek. We hosted a DIY stream cleanup contest in the fall where participants picked up a small bag or netful of trash along a local stream and posted a selfie along with the trash. The chapter resumed its annual trout redd survey on Bushkill Creek.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

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

We have been holding board meetings each month using Zoom. All other meetings and activities have been canceled.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

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

No report.

Monocacy Chapter #491

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

Nothing to report.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello
973-452-9301
www.pwtu.org

Due to the anticipated rise in COVID, we suspended December to February meetings. We are planning for a banquet/fundraiser in June. Despite not having a fundraiser in 2020, members will provide three stipends to graduating seniors from local high schools, and donations to Project Healing Waters in 2021. Members continue to participate in Pike County Conservation District monthly Zoom meetings, as well as Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Committee Zoom meetings. We are in the process of planning a second Women's Intro to Fly Fishing in the fall.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

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

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We held phone meetings to discuss spring conservation projects. The chapter applied and received a \$3,000 grant to continue to work with local landowners in the Swopes runoff project. We are planning some culvert and pipe work on farm lands to help with the erosion and the breeding of native trout. We donated funding to Schuylkill Headwaters and other children's fishing and environmental programs.

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

We again canceled our banquet at the Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes Barre, set for April 5. We would like to restart Bugs 'N Brews virtually in April. We essentially finished a phase of a stream improvement project at Mountain Springs Lake by taking down a dam and planting 2,000 plants and trees in conjunction with Luzerne County Conservation. The project revitalizes Bowmans Creek where Mountain Spring Lake was before the dam was installed. The chapter's adult and youth fly fishing camps are being re-scheduled for the summer. Our women's camp is also rescheduled for 2021.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

George Hludzik

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

Nothing 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

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Volkmar

**443 West Br. Fishing Creek Rd.
Roulette, PA 16746**

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Phone: 814-320-3899

Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

607-621-8126, ealewis@geisinger.edu

Riparian tree planting at Kocher Park in Light-street was completed in the fall with 100 trees installed. Tree plantings are planned for additional locations this spring. Nymphing techniques and access locations for Spring Creek in Bellefonte were shared with several chapter members in the fall. WCO Aaron Lupacchini provided an inside look at waterways law enforcement and current issues and opportunities in our watersheds via Zoom in November. In December, Dr. Jennifer Whisner, Bloomsburg University professor of Groundwater Hydrology and Geomorphology, gave a summary slide presentation of the analysis and findings of her and her student's work monitoring Fishing Creek water quality in Columbia County via Zoom. Our next meeting is March 9 at the Columbia County Conservation District Office, Bloomsburg, or virtually. A Spring Creek fishing trip is planned for March 20. And a Fishing Creek litter cleanup/tree planting is March 27.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Saulter

814-274-9763, saulterdg@yahoo.com

The chapter held outside meetings at Mitchell Park in order to maintain the social distancing in October. Discussions were held about a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event, but everything is on hold for the time being, and will depend on National TU's guidelines in 2021. No meetings were held in November or December.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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

Lloyd Wilson TU had an outdoor meeting in October, but since then, business has been done through phone calls or emails. Our November banquet/fundraiser was canceled. However, thanks to the generosity of members, we did receive some monetary donations to help with our financial obligations. We haven't heard anything new concerning the Nicholas Meat Plant's request to withdraw water from a well on Big Fishing Creek watershed or their waste disposal plans.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Joe Dunmire

717-899-6085, jhazzbo@hotmail.com

No meetings or activities have been held since November. Stream cleanup on Kish, Honey and Tea creeks was Nov. 14. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Penns Creek Chapter. At our Nov.11 chapter meeting, charter members Gene Brown and R.B. Powell presented a timeline of how the chapter's founding was keyed to the acquisition of, and presentation to PFBC, the "fly stretch" on Penns Creek. This story will be the basis of our March 13, 2021 banquet, if held.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Rod Jones

570-259-7205, flyrodjones@gmail.com
[facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimited-Chapter/](https://www.facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimited-Chapter/)

No report.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Jamie SanFilippo

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

October, November and December meetings were held via Zoom. We are planning an online auction in lieu of our annual fundraising banquet. Our annual stream cleanup took place the same day as our annual redd count on Nov. 22 at Spring Creek Park. Greg Hoover presented "Periodical Cicadas" by Zoom on Nov. 3. Our Women Anglers Group continues to be active, meeting once per month. We received a Growing Greener Grant for \$38,528.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Charles Knowlden

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

The chapter received a Technical Assistance Grant 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 Rummel has completed bug counts and fish surveys. Hedin Environmental will complete its report regarding the AMD facility rehabilitation in early 2021. Other partners include EPCAMR, Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, Lycoming College Clean Water Institute and USGS. The report is expected to be completed in March 2021. Rather than holding our annual fly tying classes in February and March, we are posting fly-tying tips, resources and instruction videos on our website. The chapter is coordinating with Carey Entz-Rine of the Lycoming County Conservation District on the TIC program, including purchase of needed supplies and equipment. We are digitizing a box of VHS compact tapes of interviews of George Harvey by chapter member John Youngman, Jr. A copy will be provided to the PA Fly Fishing Museum in Carlisle. Our next chapter meeting is March 10 at 7 p.m. via Zoom, with Rummel discussing

the Upper Loyalsock Creek watershed projects.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

570-662-2167, whitesgordonsetters@gmail.com

Members participated in the annual Cross Fork Creek Redd survey. We will meet soon to finalize spring activities for the Long Run Embrace A Stream project. Meetings are currently on Zoom, preceded with a fly-tying demonstration by one of our members.

NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Allegheny Mountain 036

Caldwell Creek 437

Cornplanter 526

Iron Furnace 288

Jim Zwald 314

Neshannock 216

Northwest PA 041

Oil Creek 424

Seneca 272

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

Codey Schlemmer

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www.amctu.org

Our October membership meeting was held outdoors at the Tannery Dam. Our annual re-organizational meeting was in November after our election. We rented a larger storage unit for our chapter banquet and activities merchandise. Barring any COVID issues our banquet will be April 10 at the Falls Creek Eagles. Our spring educational events are canceled.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

814-664-2124, tksavko2@verizon.net

Members continue water testing and data loggers were reinstalled for winter. Meetings are on hold due to COVID.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Troy McDunn

814-723-3759, hdpartsman@verizon.net

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

www.patROUT.org

Chapter members are helping our area's watershed specialist with stream assessment on our local stream, Farnsworth Branch. We also look forward to Morrison Run stream work continuing in 2021. Our TIC programs are suspended.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Mark Hanes

724-464-7320, m_d_hanes@yahoo.com

www.ironfurnacetu.net

We are hoping to have Zoom meetings throughout the year. Our first was Dec. 16 and featured a presentation by board member Andy Turner and his sons on their trip to Wyoming's Wind River Range on a hiking and fishing trip. We are sending out an annual appeal and a magazine-style pamphlet about what the chapter has been doing and what we are about. This will replace our banquet for the coming year. We finished the first stage of habitat improvement project on Clear Creek within Clear Creek State Park, removing an old gabion structure that was blocking fish passage. It was completed as part of our Embrace A Stream grant. We have additional funding remaining that will be used for more habitat work on Clear Creek. Plans are to have some Facebook Live fly-tying sessions with chapter president Mark Hanes leading the sessions.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neepner

814-834-3472, mneepner@zitomedia.net

The chapter conducted a Media Day on Jan. 13 for partners, shareholders and stakeholders in the West Branch of the Clarion habitat project. Items discussed included current progress of the project, pending work and riparian work to complete this section. We continue to work on AMD project Phase 3 on West Creek tributary of the Driftwood Branch, LWD and culvert improvement on Middle Fork of the East Branch of the Clarion and other local habitat projects. Evan DeLong of ECCD is heading the effort to receive funding to complete the AMD project on West Creek. WCO Tom McMann recently informed the chapter that National Fuel is considering funding a bank stabilization project on West Creek as part of a settlement regarding Rattlesnake Run.

Neshannock Creek #216

Jeff Kremis

724-588-4378, jkkremis@gmail.com

www.neshannock-tu.org

Due to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions we have decided to postpone the fundraising banquet planned for March. We are going to try and hold a picnic/fund raising event sometime later this summer. We are going ahead with our gun raffle with the drawing to be held at our monthly meeting on May 24. We held a workday at the Coolspring DHALO area in October to remove a large tree that was blocking the stream. We also

performed trail maintenance and general cleanup of the area. We received publicity for the Project of the Year award from PATU with a front-page article in a local newspaper that showcased the project and collaboration with other local agencies. Stream improvement project plans on Deer Creek were put on hold, but we hope to get back on track in 2021. We hope to hold the Youth Fishing Derby at the Grove City Sportsmen Club this year, but no date has been set. We are in the process of contacting all of our TIC partners to see what their plans are. We also decided to cancel the Winter Cabin Fever meeting in February. We are looking into replacing it with an outdoor event at our May meeting. Upcoming board meetings are Feb. 22, March 22 and April 26 at either Munnell Run Farm or on Zoom.

Northwest PA Chapter #41

Bill Eckert

814-392-2696, bill@eckertappraisals.com

http://nwpachaptertu.blogspot.com

Our board of directors reviewed the agenda for the Eric Penn Future office and, though the agenda is very encompassing, we feel we can work on some portions of it that are in-line with Trout Unlimited. We decided to be a supporter of the organization as opposed to a partner, giving the relationship some time to assess whether we may decide to become a full-fledged partner in the future. A prior commitment to support the Foundation for Sustainable Forest in seeking a grant to purchase 440 acres of forested land around Caldwell Creek, plus provide \$1,000 in donation toward the purchase, will come to fruition as a DCNR C2P2 grant has been awarded to the Foundation.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Jennifer Lyons

814-671-1292, lyonssj3876@gmail.com

www.oilcreektu.org

Our chapter Christmas dinner and meeting was planned for Dawndi's Restaurant on Dec. 16, but it was rescheduled to March 17 due to COVID. Our 2021 banquet is scheduled for April 10 at The Inn in Franklin. Chapter members attended the annual meeting of the Venango County Dirt and Gravel Roads Commission in early November. Our next chapter meeting is Feb. 17 at King's Restaurant, Franklin.

Seneca Chapter #272

Chase Howard

814-598-3449, chaserhoward@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

The chapter commissioned a bench to be installed in memory of Howard "Howie" Gustafson, founder of the Seneca Chapter, at the trailhead of the Kinzua Valley Trail along Kinzua Creek near Route 219. Recent chapter meetings have been

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conducted via Zoom and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. The chapter's annual fly-tying classes are being taught virtually via Zoom.

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

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Fleetwood, PA 19522

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Phone: 610-704-4676

Bucks County Chapter #254

Joe Mihok

215-589-9531, joemihok@verizon.net

www.buckstu.org

The chapter had a successful stream workday on Aquetong Creek Nov. 7. Chapter members planted 180 native trees in Aquetong Spring Park. We will be returning to the site in the spring to do more plantings of forest understory shrubs and native wildflowers. This winter we expect to receive PFBC's full report of its survey of Aquetong Creek completed in July 2020, which will contain the first biomass estimate of Aquetong Creek brook trout since the chapter restored them to the stream in 2017.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Fred DeWees

610-547-9403, freddew4@gmail.com

www.dmtu.org

We did not qualify for any recent grants. Tim Flagler presented during our December Zoom meeting.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Scott Alderfer

610-390-6219, salderfer@gmail.com

www.lltu.org

No report.

Perkiomen Valley #332

Thomas W. Smith

215-513-9709, twsmith623@comcast.net

www.pvtu.org

We appointed two leaders to assume oversight of stream restoration projects under direction of the president and conservation chair to expand our stream restoration program. We are also developing a monthly newsletter. A restoration project on a quarter-mile section of Perkiomen Creek at Camelot Park is planned for 2021. Another is planned on the West Branch of the Perkiomen in Berks County. We're working with a property owner on the removal of two dams on Perkiomen Creek and one minor restoration. Our TIC schools deferred participation for current school year due to COVID. Rick Nyles presented "Tactical Dry Fly Fishing" via Zoom for our Jan. 18 membership meeting. Krista Scheirer of Aqua Water Co. is speaking during our March 15 Zoom meeting.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

215-675-1536, rtroadrash@msn.com

www.tu468.org

Our only meeting in the fall took place outside at the Pennypack Trust. A fall stocking was completed in the section of the Pennypack stream that flows through the Trust. One-hundred four-foot river birch and sycamore trees have been planted in the headwaters of the Pennypack. A Fly Fishing 101 class took place with several father/son combinations.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Brenda Bittinger

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

www.tullytu.org

We are planning a first-quarter guide raffle trip. The chapter received proceeds from the Fly Fishing Film Tour sponsored by Carter Satterfield. We plan to purchase signs to educate public about what "water pollution" is, working with PSU Watershed Stewards. Tree planting on deflectors and in areas where riparian buffers are needed is complete. We are working with Berks County Conservation District to plan a restoration project with funds we've received.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

Jim Leonard

610-793-1706, ValleyForgeTU@gmail.com

www.valleyforgetu.org

Orvis Downingtown selected VFTU as a recipient for donations from the Orvis Giveback Days promotion. We also received a donation from the Fly Fishing Film Tour, which was held online in 2020. We are planning a restoration/stormwater management effort to extend below-grade infiltration trenched on headwaters of Crabby Creek, a

tributary to Valley Creek. Data is being collected from stream monitoring devices in Valley Creek, West Valley Creek and Pickering Creek. Members involved with the Tredeffrin Township Stormwater Task Force continue to seek information to aid and assist the task force. VFTU continues a dialog with the developers as plans for the redevelopment of the Knickerbocker landfill proceed. We are monitoring East Whiteland Township Planning Commission activities relating to the redevelopment of the Bishop Tube site. In addition to being on a steep slope, it is also a source of groundwater contamination plume. Our TIC activities are suspended. The chapter received a Growing Greener grant in December. Monthly board meetings are the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Monthly membership meetings are the second Thursday of each month September through May, except March, on Zoom. Project Healing Waters Coatesville and West Bradford are suspended. Project Healing Waters Royersford meets the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month via Zoom.

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

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www.adamscountytu.org

DCNR awarded \$220,500 toward the purchase of the Knouse Foods acreage, encompassing a half-mile stretch of Conewago Creek. Float stocking took place in the fall with social distancing. Tree and shrub planting also occurred along the Conewago. All trees and shrubs were installed with protection and stakes. Planning for 2021 includes the SOY fly tying sessions and ACTU's annual Latimore Fishing Derby in late May. Our family fund-raiser geared for children is tentatively set for April. We are researching available

grants and matching needed stream funding to these grants.

Codorus Chapter #558

Tom Feninez

**717-817-8446, tom@codorustu.org
www.codorustu.org**

During the fall, we received long-awaited permits for a restoration project on a Codorus Creek tributary. We expect construction to commence in the first quarter of 2021 since this tributary is not a trout fishery. Another permit for a separate project will hopefully follow, but that one will need to wait until the conclusion of a no-construction period to protect spawning. 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. In 2020, we received news that invasive New Zealand mudsnails established themselves in the Codorus Creek fishery. We recently posted some educational signage provided by PFBC along the stream to educate anglers on proper care of their gear to prevent spread. We also added an announcement to our website where visitors can quickly access the same online resources that are referenced on the signage. Our next chapter meeting is March 10 via Zoom.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

John Leonard

**717-512-4620, johnleonard222@gmail.com
www.pacvtu.org**

The Limestoner Fundraiser and Conservation Banquet is rescheduled to Oct. 16. We are planning to have another online auction this spring. We are still working on our LeTort restoration plan. Our 2021 fly tying classes scheduled to begin in January were canceled, but planning for the 2021 Rivers Camp from June 20-25 is moving forward. We are working to complete our CHP planning grant requirements. Membership meetings are being held on Zoom with different presenters.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Russ Collins

**717-580-3958, russthepres@dftu.org
www.dftu.org**

The chapter conducted an invasive species removal and tree planting project on Nov. 1. We are gathering support for the formation of a Spring Creek Watershed Association in the Hershey area. The chapter submitted a 319 Nonpoint Source grant application for the creation of a Watershed Implementation Plan for the Spring Creek Watershed. We are planning a virtual advanced fly-tying course starting in February that runs for six weeks. Our membership annual meeting was held virtually Feb. 23 for election of officers and board, and guest speaker Henry Ramsay.

Donegal Chapter #037

Barry Whitmer

www.patrou.org

**717-380-0281, b.witmer@donegaltu.org
www.donegaltu.org**

The chapter completed the Clare project on Climbers Run and buffer maintenance on three existing projects. Our TIC programs are suspended. We have grants pending from PFBC and Clean Water Partners for Peters Creek, and DCED for Fishing Creek. Our next chapter meetings are Feb. 17 and March 17, to be held virtually. Stream restoration is planned for March 10 and a buffer planting for March 20, both on Fishing Creek.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Chris Rudyk

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

We are working with the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay on a project to improve the riparian buffer on Falling Spring Creek above Quarry Road. We have developed a plan and expect to begin the project in March. The chapter worked with PennDOT to pick up trash over a three-mile stretch along Falling Spring Road. FSTU has received \$6,000 in grants through the Coldwater Heritage Project. We have begun the process of applying for additional grants as the anticipated cost of the Quarry Road Meadow project will be \$20,000.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

Jimmy O'Connor

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

In the fall, 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 tributary to the South Branch of Muddy Creek. In November, we again completed our streamside incubator program, which consists of placing 100,000 eyed brown trout eggs into various tributaries of Muddy Creek, using Whitlock-Vibert boxes. Hatch rates were 90%-plus for most sites. All but one of our TIC educators elected to forego participation for the 2020-2021 school year. Our women's fly-fishing event scheduled for the fall was 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

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Arrowhead Chapter #214

Bill Libengood

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

Arrowhead's annual banquet for 2021 is scheduled for March 27. The chapter is considering applying for an additional grant for future work on Huling Run. We will be contacting our TIC-sponsored schools as to whether the programs will be conducted this year. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 18 at the Mantini Auxiliary Building, 6th Avenue, Ford City.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Ben Moyer

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

Chestnut Ridge held its last in-person meeting on Oct. 14. The meeting was outdoors, with ample room for attending members to spread out to safe distances. Together with a team from Mountain Watershed Association, CRTU members collected water samples at the seven prescribed sites throughout the Glade Run basin. Mountain Watershed delivered the samples to the Geochemical Testing laboratory in Somerset for analysis. We also received our fall delivery of high-calcium limestone sand in the Glade Run watershed, placing 253 tons from the New Enterprise Stone and Lime Roaring Spring quarry at our three treatment locations. We are gratified and humbled to receive a donation of \$500 to our Glade Run project from a gentleman in Connecticut. His note enclosed with his check stated the donation was in memory of his grandfather, who had taken him fishing on Dunbar Creek as a boy. Our cooperative nursery committee took delivery of fingerlings from the Fish and Boat Commission and secured a \$1,500 grant from PFBC for purchase of materials for repairs to our cage-culture nursery in the Youghiogheny Reservoir tailrace. We are continuing online planning and support with American Rivers, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Habitat Partners at California University of Pennsylvania for additional work to improve aquatic organism passage in the Dunbar Creek watershed. Our collective hope is that enhanced connectivity there, combined with improving water quality will help Dunbar Creek and its tributaries to meet their potential as wild trout fisheries. We prepared a press release announcing Orvis Pittsburgh's presentation of their Giveback Days donation (\$2,172) to our chapter. The ceremony took place on the

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**PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL
OF TROUT UNLIMITED**
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Permit No. 280

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banks of Meadow Run in Ohio State Park, and the photo and text appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Uniontown Herald-Standard* and *Pennsylvania Outdoor News*.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has created some challenging times for Forbes Trail as well as all chapters. We've done our best to keep in touch with our members and even held a few in-person monthly meetings in pavilions and a community center while complying with CDC guidelines. With the virus statistics worsening, we switched to Zoom meetings starting in November and we've had increasing turnout and interest. We held a successful meat raffle in December partnering with Bardine's Country Smoke House giving away five \$250 gift cards and donating 10% of the profits to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. We are making a special effort to reach out to our new members and those whose membership has lapsed. We are preparing to support local schools with TIC and other programs as interest and pandemic guidelines permit. We are exploring how to start the Coldwater Conservation Plan for the Linn Run watershed given the challenges of the pandemic and how they impact small groups training and working together. We will offer guest speaker presentations on fly tying and fishing techniques over the winter to our

members via Zoom to keep them engaged. One of our members has started a weekly fly tying session on Facebook which is available to the public. He is also taping presentations on various types of fishing equipment our members use and posting them on our YouTube account to assist beginners with buying new equipment. Members continue monthly water quality testing on Linn Run and one of its tributaries, Rock Run. We are considering a virtual fly tying session(s) for a local school outdoor club and providing the equipment and materials if their students are able to meet. Our next meeting is March 3 on Zoom.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Rylan Schnably

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No report.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Jerry Green

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

No report.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Keith Ewing

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

No report.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Randy Buchanan

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

No report.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Charles Buffington

412-418-7885, buffingtoncw@gmail.com
www.pwwtu.org

Penn's Woods West has established a scholarship grant with Chatham University in memory of our late Conservation Committee Chairman, Tom Walsh. Tom's passion for the Pine Creek urban watershed is unmatched. In his honor, PWW is donating \$2,500 annually for five years to Chatham University to be awarded to students in the Biology Sustainability curriculum. Director of the Headwaters Youth Program for National TU, Franklin Tate, recognized PWW as one of a handful of chapters from across the country who accumulated over 1,000 volunteer hours in the area of youth education and outreach in 2019-2020. Due to COVID, our board and membership meetings are being conducted online via Zoom. The chapter has been hosting speakers for our monthly Zoom meetings to keep membership engaged. We invite any of the other chapters to contact the chapter president, and join us. Tim Flagler spoke in January and February. Our annual Cabin Fever was postponed to 2022 due to COVID precautions.