

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023 THE FIRST WHITE HAVEN TROUT FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY WESTERN POCONO TROUT UNLIMITED WILL BE HELD AT THE WHITE HAVEN LIBRARY COMMUNITY CENTER AND ADJACENT RAILYARD PARK, 121 TOWANDA ST., WHITE HAVEN, PA. NOON TO 5 PM.

The Lehigh River has long been known as a legendary waterway for commerce, industry, native American transportation and natural scenic beauty as it flows through the western Poconos past the riverside community of White Haven with which it has been associated for over two hundred years. The river and its watershed have also been known for many years to trout fishermen as unique habitat possessing an outstanding wild trout fishery. From its headwaters at Lehigh Pond near the village of Gouldsboro, to Francis Walter Dam, to its terminus at Easton, Pa. where it joins the Delaware River, trout can be found. On Saturday, June 3, (rain date June 4) from Noon to 6 pm the Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited will sponsor the first White Haven Trout Festival at the White Haven Library / Community Center and adjacent Railyard Park. The library is the perfect venue for this event as it is a converted railroad engine house with deep historic and cultural ties to the community and acts as a mini museum. The day long event will connect visitors attending the festival with the many organizations, both public and private, that are committed to conserving and maintaining this remarkable natural resource renowned for its wild trout.

Day long activities will include fly casting demonstrations, fly tying, explanations of trout habitat, trout life cycles, aquatic and terrestrial insects that sustain the trout and the need to preserve the habitat for trout and the aquatic insect life that allows the trout to survive and flourish. Conservation organizations, fly shops, fishing clubs, artists, craftsmen, and various speakers will be present to highlight and celebrate the river, the Poconos and the TROUT. Raffles, kids activities, food and refreshments will be available. The White Haven Library will be sponsoring a fish fry (haddock/ not trout!) . Live, light music will entertain everyone.

The history of fly fishing for trout will be discussed along with its lure and lore, its rich traditions going back hundreds of years; explaining some of the mystery of the grand sport of fly fishing without eliminating its mystique. No matter your level of interest, ability, or expertise this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about this sport that compels us to engage with nature and natural habitats. Enjoy the beauty and satisfaction of making a precise cast, appreciate the many, lyrical, colorful names of the many flies that imitate and entice trout: the Royal Coachman, the Quill Gordon, the Green Drake, and the inimitable...Rat Faced MacDougal ! Learn the fascinating life cycle of aquatic insects that sustain wild trout and both their need for clean, healthy, coldwater habitat. Likewise learn the equally fascinating life cycle of the brook, brown, and rainbow trout that rely on these aquatic insects and the same clean, healthy, flowing water. Enjoy learning the artistry, craftsmanship, literature, and insights of those who seek to capture the thrill and understanding of the science and art of trout and trout fishing. Give your children a special opportunity to learn a safe, positive, affordable, and exciting past time and allow them to create memories that will indeed last them a life time and hopefully, be passed on.

Discover the talents and knowledge of those who have felt the life long, inner call to invest their talents, knowledge, interest, finances and energy into private businesses that allow others to appreciate their

passion for trout, trout fishing, nature's beauty and conservation of all that contributes to healthy, sustainable trout fisheries. Appreciate their passion and talent for conveying their deep, personal knowledge to others. Their businesses draw many to the area that in turn support other businesses like restaurants, markets, shops and lodgings and indeed the very communities in which we all live and enjoy. The festival will have something for everyone; the young and those a bit older, the novice and veteran fisherman, the scientist, the artist and the poet. You may also learn the many "secret" places up and down the Lehigh River and its tributaries and all the Poconos where you can enjoy the simple thrill of catching a wild trout ! You can also enjoy the many past times that trout fishermen enjoy when they are NOT catching trout , such as birding, hiking, photography and identifying the hundreds of species of wild flowers and other unique plants and animals that also call the Lehigh River, the Poconos and White Haven home.

The White Haven area and much of the Poconos has recently enjoyed the preservation of thousands of acres of land and water that provide access to all people for responsible recreation. It also is encountering the challenges and pressures of development. We all enjoy the convenience of safe, efficient highways, comfortable homes, modern conveniences and access to affordable markets but we also have a deep desire to appreciate the the rich natural areas that draw us here for a better life and enrich us with better lives. We have three first class state parks within minutes of each other and less than an hour from local metropolitan areas like Scranton, Wilkes Barre, Hazleton and Stroudsburg and just over an hour's travel from some of the country's largest metro areas like New York City and Philadelphia. Hickory Run State Park and its new visitor center, Lehigh Gorge and its exciting, roaring water, and Nescopeck State Park that boasts having the most species of plants in any Pa. state park offer natural resource opportunities that are all near White Haven making it a true western gateway to the Poconos. The new, boat ramp beneath the I 80 bridge offers convenient access to the river by boat or wading. The recently completed Delaware and Lehigh Canal riverside trail runs directly through White Haven and will connect the entire trail from Wilkes Barre to Philadelphia ! The nearby town of Weatherly is constructing a trail from the town to the Lehigh River with Hazle Creek flowing through the borough and making an astonishing come back as wild trout water. Numerous land conservancies have saved thousands of acres of pristine, ecologically invaluable land and water; some of which exist nowhere else in the world ! The thousands of acres of nearby game lands and new acquisition of 2700 acres of semi wilderness Pa. Bureau of Forestry land at Penrose Swamp Barrens with its hundreds of acres of rare plants, rich wildlife habitat and four wild trout streams further allows the Weatherly/White Haven area to re invent itself as a first class nature lovers' destination and offer outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to encounter wild trout, a variety of wildlife, migratory birds and songbirds and unique botanical specimens that are among the most abundant of their kind in the world.

The town of White Haven and Western Pocono Trout Unlimited are proud to showcase this special area in the Poconos and sincerely invite you to join us in celebrating this special area on June 3 that represents the Gateway to the Western Poconos, enjoying its beautiful natural setting, its local history and outdoor culture, the warm, welcoming hospitality of the people of White Haven and of course...THE TROUT !