

Pennsylvania TROUT



Winter 2024

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patROUT.org

Keystone Coldwater Conference set for Feb. 23-24, 2024

The 2024 Keystone Coldwater Conference is scheduled to take place Feb. 23-24 at the Ramada by Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center in State College. The theme of this year's conference is "Shared Priorities: Ensuring Cold, Clean Water for All through Community and Collaboration."

On Friday, Feb. 23, the conference will

kick off with two workshops. The first will be led by Emily Baldauff, TU's Mid-Atlantic policy manager, and will provide participants with training and resources to conduct successful conservation advocacy campaigns. The second workshop will be all about using large wood addition to improve aquatic habitat in Pennsylvania

streams and will be led by Phil Thomas, stream restoration specialist with TU's PA Coldwater Habitat Program, and Luke Bobnar, watershed projects manager for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Friday evening there will be a social gathering with desserts and a cash bar.

See **CONFERENCE**, page 10

Trout truths: What the TIC program teaches us

By Christian A. Shane

Penn's Woods West TU

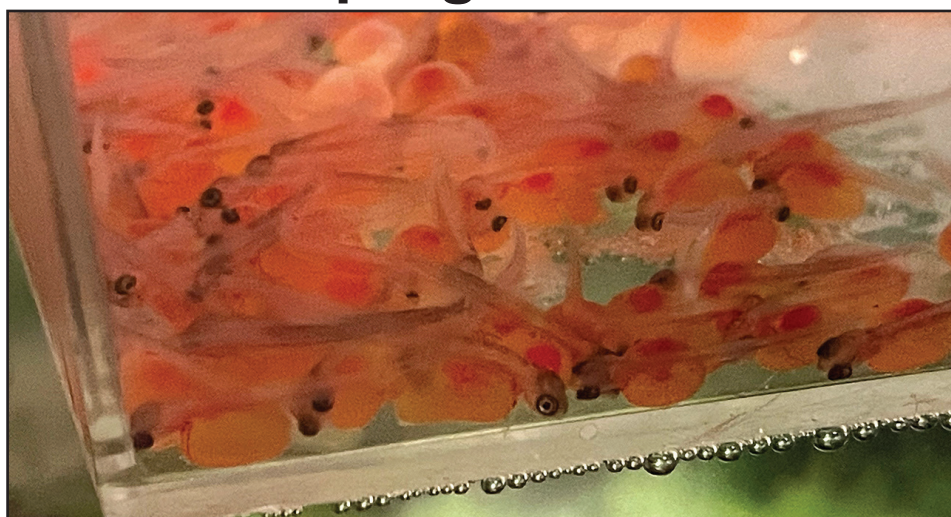
The start of my seventh grade Life Science classes usually begins with my students huddling around the 55-gallon tank at the back of the room to check out the progress of our rainbow trout.

Since January, we've cultivated our new batch of eyed eggs into alevins, which will hopefully grow into successful fry and fingerlings. Their eyed egg bodies hatched into sac-fry laying at the bottom of the hatching basket.

Currently, they have shed their orange bellies, have darkened, and have become more active as they make the journey into becoming a fry. Through this process, my students have learned many lessons about trout which I hope they take with them through their own learning journey.

Lesson 1: Trout begin as eyed eggs.

Since 2007, my class and I have received fertilized eyed eggs from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. With the help and support of Penn's Woods West Trout



Christian A. Shane Photo

Development into weird-bellied alevins from tiny eyed eggs is just one part of a trout's life cycle students learn about as part of the Trout in the Classroom program.

Unlimited and other volunteers from PA Trout, we've had 18 successful years of the TIC project.

As we received the eggs this season, we poured them, each the size of a pencil eraser head, into the floating hatching baskets. The students watched for changes in the eggs daily as they hatched into sac-fry.

Within weeks, they developed into fry.

Lesson 2: Trout hatch into weird-bellied alevins.

Most students and even anglers are unfamiliar with this stage of an alevin in a trout's life development. Their elongated bodies have a food sac attached. This will

See **TIC**, page 7

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Generous donations fuel successful Annual Appeal

By Bob Neu
Development Committee Chair

As of Feb. 8, 405 members of PATU, along with individuals and families honoring their favorite anglers, have contributed over \$34,400 to PATU in support of our conservation efforts. That's a gratifying increase of 27% over last year's results.

We're grateful to all who responded to this year's appeal—find your name on the growing list of donors at www.patrou.org.

Let's keep the momentum going. PATU is a volunteer organization, and we need your support in our work to protect, conserve and restore Pennsylvania's aquatic resources, and to make the outdoor experience along Keystone State waterways outstanding in every way.

If you've already contributed, thanks! If you have yet to chip in, please send a check today to PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PO Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823, or go to www.patrou.org and click on "Donate Today!" at the top of our home page. Give what you can: It's the participation that counts, not the amount. Imagine if all 16,000 of our members gave just \$10.

Employer Match: Ask your employer if the company has a program to match your individual contribution to PATU. Many businesses have charitable giving policies aligned with the interests of their employees.

Tax Savings for Your Business: Are you a small-business owner, or are you influentially-placed in a larger corporate office? Here's an opportunity to support PATU's signature education program in a way that could generate savings on your PA business taxes. PATU has been certified by the Commonwealth of PA as an Educational Improvement Organization, which means that business contributions in support of Trout in the Classroom accrue tax advantages for PA companies registered for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Each year more than 400 schools across the state participate in TIC, raising trout from eggs in their classroom,

releasing them as fingerlings in approved PA streams, and practicing responsible stewardship of Pennsylvania's waterways. Find out more at: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/> or email us at development@patrou.org.

Two Big Dates in April: While you're tying flies and checking your rig for trout season's opening day (Saturday, April 1, 2024), keep in mind that the IRS goes fishing too, on Tax Day (Monday, April 15, 2024). There are several ways to support PATU and save on your taxes at the same time:

Giving Directly from Your IRA: Many supporters over 70-1/2 years of age are able to donate directly from their Traditional Individual Retirement Accounts and count the amount towards their annual minimum required withdrawal. With an IRA gift, it's possible to reduce your tax obligation and help build a thriving coldwater habitat at the same time. You pay no tax on the gift amount, and PATU receives the total contribution tax-free. Talk to your tax advisor, or go to: <https://www.investopedia.com/taxes/can-i-use-money-my-ira-donate-charity/>.

Planned Giving: It's never too early to consider placing a bequest to PATU in your will. Contributions of this type accrue strong tax advantages to your estate, and can be a source of long-term benefit for all of PATU's programs. Ask your lawyer or tax adviser for details, or go to: <https://www.plannedgiving.com/resources/what-is-planned-giving/>.

PATU is a federally certified 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization, and gifts are tax-deductible according to law. As always, feel free to email us with any questions.

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Bob Neu is chair of the Development Committee Chair. He can be reached at development@patrou.org.

Thank you for supporting PATU merchandise sales

As we start a new year, we just want to say thanks to all who have helped fund our coldwater conservation mission in Pennsylvania by purchasing PATU merchandise during the past year.

To help kick off 2024, we've added a 5/6-weight model of the really cool 3/4-weight "Brookie" fly reel introduced last month.

These all-aluminum reels feature a large arbor design with adjustable disc drag and are easily reversible from left to right-hand retrieve. And as an extra-added bonus, each reel comes with a padded case and a spool of 20 pound test backing line.

Or consider purchasing a 9-foot, 5-weight Traveler Fly Rod, 7-foot, 3-weight Ultra-light Fly Rod, custom-tied leaders in both



dry and wet fly configurations, PATU-logoed hats, T-shirts and sweatshirts, "Back the Brookie" decorative license plates, "Catch & Release" license frames, or any number of books on PA fly-fishing.

It's easy to order merchandise online using a credit card or PayPal, or download and print the order form and mail with your personal check to the address on the form.

If you're planning to attend the Keystone Coldwater Conference, our full line of merchandise will be available for sale there.

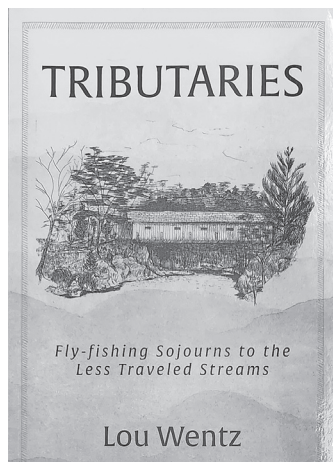
EXCOM actions taken since Sept. 1, 2023

Nov. 14, 2023 – EXCOM approved NOAA Support Letter re: Lake Erie habitat.

Nov. 2, 2023 – EXCOM members voted to retain Haywood's on the Green as the location of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Sept. 22, 2023 – EXCOM approved letter to PFBC regarding proposed regulation on the 12 Class A stream sections currently stocked.

Sept. 13, 2023 – EXCOM approved letter opposing Clean Streams funding proposal.



"We're recommending it because we think it's the coolest concentration of Pennsylvania- (and a bit Catskill-) centric short essays we've read." – *Trout magazine*

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PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2023-24 COMMITTEES



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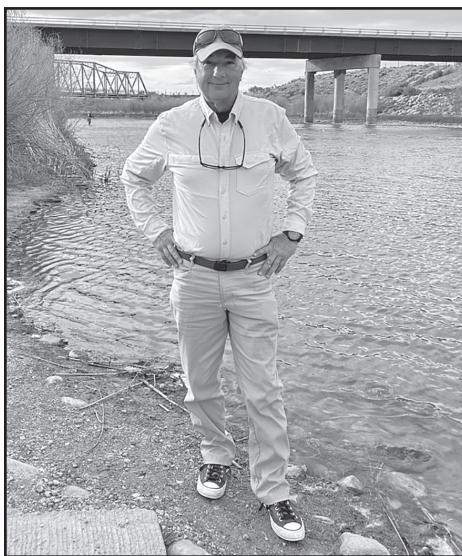
Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Lenny Lichvar

Exactly 30 years ago I wrote the first national article promoting non-toxic alternatives to lead split-shot in the March 1994 issue of *Fly Fisherman* magazine. I had already made the switch from lead sinkers to tin prior to that, and have continued to replace lead in all my sporting endeavors wherever lead alternatives exist – not just in fishing, but fly-tying and shooting sports as well.

As both a professional and volunteer conservationist it became exceedingly clear that lead is nasty stuff and the overuse of it in our environment has been scientifically demonstrated to cause negative impacts to our natural world. Back when I first became aware of non-lead alternatives there were few. Today, tin, bismuth and tungsten are now readily available for weights both in angling as well as fly-tying. Also, copper and bismuth are now produced in multiple forms by many manufacturers for handgun, shotgun and rifle ammunition.

With all this now in place I recently joined a relatively new group known as Sporting Lead Free (SLF). Based out of Wyoming, this organization is focused not on legislating lead out of the sporting world, but rather on education and information and scientific documentation enabling the individual sportsmen or women to make their choice.



To further this education initiative into the eastern United States our PATU Executive Committee has voted to join SLF as a conservation partner making PATU the first Trout Unlimited organization in the country to do so. The Wyoming Council of TU has also used its platform to allow SLF to spread its message.

Of course, I know there are those who question how much difference can using non-lead alternatives make. The primary impact that has been documented is to the bird and waterfowl life rather than trout. Then there is the concern that non-lead alternatives are more expensive, which on average they are indeed.

For the record, my personal response to the unconvinced is if you are a conservationist then you should do what you can to impact the well-being of all species, not just the ones you put your focus on. All

species are collectively a key component of the ecosystem.

From a specific TU standpoint many chapters hold litter cleanups, which is great. Well let's face it, litter in the stream or on the banks – as displeasing as it is – has little effect on the health of trout. Nonetheless, it is still something many chapters put time and energy into.

There is also much encouragement by TU and its members for being good stewards of the resource such as not leaving discarded leader material along the stream, even though, in reality, it does not put trout in any real jeopardy.

As for the extra cost, let me just say I see little hesitation in the purchase of and few complaints about the cost of new fly-rods, hackle necks, and everything else that continues huge expenditures made in all this angling equipment, even as prices continue to rise.

I can say the same for the ever-expanding cost of firearms and hunting equipment where sales also continue to do nothing but expand. So don't tell me a few cents or even dollars in the difference between lead and non-lead alternative is anything but an unfounded excuse.

With all that said, switching to non-lead alternatives is a small contribution to make. But it is indeed a contribution we all can make with no sacrifice in our ability to still enjoy our favorite pursuits.

To learn more about SLF as well as review documentation as to why going lead free is a viable choice to make visit www.sportingleadfree.org.

Registration now open for 5th annual Women's Retreat

The PA Council of Trout Unlimited Women, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee is happy to announce registration is now open for the 5th annual Women's Retreat!

This event is May 17-19, 2024, check out our website for more information. <https://patuwdi.weebly.com/annual-retreat.html>.

You can support this event in several ways:

- Sponsoring a woman (or women) from your chapter to join us.
- Donate to the Women's Retreat.
- Or provide an item for a door prize or

silent auction.

We would love to network with you and help connect you to resources and partners who can assist you in your adventures of offering women's fishing or conservation programs in your communities.

Register by 11 p.m. on April 28.

WHEN – May 17-19, 2024

COST – \$100, \$80, \$60, or \$40 depending on which lodging option you choose (Covers food and lodging for the weekend.)

WHERE – GodSpeed Events and Lodging – <https://www.godspeedevents.com/>. It

is located along the banks of Bald Eagle Creek, Centre County, just outside of State College, PA.

NOTE – The facility has 11 Cabanas that have 1 queen bed and 1 futon each; 1 Cabana that has a queen bed and 1 full size mattress bunkbed. The facility also has a bunk house that has 6 bunk beds (full size mattress bunkbeds) and 3 futons. There is also lots of room for tent camping!

REGISTER – <https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/5th-Annual-Patu-Wdi-Womens-Retreat-87162>

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer
Russell Thrall



I want to thank all the members and friends who donated to PATU's Annual Appeal. Through mid-January, donations have been arriving regularly and are above pace compared to last year at this same time.

The Annual Appeal is one of the key sources of the funds that Council uses to support our work across Pennsylvania, including education, advocacy and grants such as Forever Wild for PATU chapters.

If you haven't donated to the Appeal

yet, please visit the PATU website (www.patroul.org) at any time and click on "Donate Today" at the top of the homepage to help support the work of all the great TU volunteers throughout the Commonwealth.

Also, make sure to check out Bob Neu's Development Committee report on page 2 for other opportunities to help us support PATU activities.

It's also that time of year for chapter

treasurers and presidents to start preparing for the end of the fiscal year on March 31, and to start the process to timely file your Annual Activity Report (AAR) with TU as well as the IRS filings. Expect to see additional information from PATU over the next several weeks about this year's AAR process and deadlines.

Now is the time to make sure that you have access to the members only section of the TU website and that the treasurer is correctly listed for your chapter. Doing so will ensure they receive TU communications about training on the AAR process and important information for the treasurer role.

Council Donations

Thank you to those who donated to State Council in support of the Trout Unlimited mission.

Exceptional Value \$1,000 or more

- PA DCNR
- Flyway Excavating, Inc.
- The George & Miriam Martin Foundation

High Quality \$500 to \$999

- Earth Conservancy in support of Keystone Coldwater Conference
- Donegal Chapter in Support of Keystone Coldwater Conference
- Earth Conservancy in Support of Keystone Coldwater Conference

- Valley Forge Chapter
- Doc Fritchey Chapter

Brook Trout \$250 to \$499

- John Kennedy Chapter

Wild Trout \$100 to \$249

- Scott & Terri Thompson Community Fund
- Donegal Chapter in Support of Keystone Coldwater Conference

In Memoriam

- In Memory of Kasimir C. Sikora
Diane Sracic
Beverly Resnick
Eva Markiewicz
Kathleen Appleby
Michael & Debbie Hewitt
Alexis Drago
Bob & Linda Anderson

Fred & Vicky Anderson Family
Sue & Ken Harlan Family

- In Memory of H. Daniel Hill III
Lee Ridell
Bonnie Orr
Bob Petri & Janice Castro
Dr. Scott J. M. Lim
Deborah A. Phillips
- In Memory of James R. Harrison
James Harrison
- In Memory of George Bestvina
Lori Stripay
- In Memory of Frank H. Van Deventer, Jr
Meredith Schuler
Warren Van Deventer
Kevin Hortens & Joanna Pinaire
Ruth & Braden Brajkovich

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has nearly 15,000 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 12-20.

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Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

Deer Hair Emerger

An effective fly that sits low in the water with a submerged abdomen

Fly Design / Highlights

- Constructed with minimal and easy-to-find materials
- Easily adaptable by changing material types and colors
- Represents a bug's vulnerable state to elicit trout strikes
- Very durable and buoyant

Background

The Deer Hair Emerger pattern is credited to Bob Wyatt of Alberta, Canada, who borrowed ideas from other innovative tyers like Fran Betters (Haystack and Usual), Al Caucci (Comparadun) and Hans Van Klinken (Klinkhammer Special).

About the Deer Hair Emerger

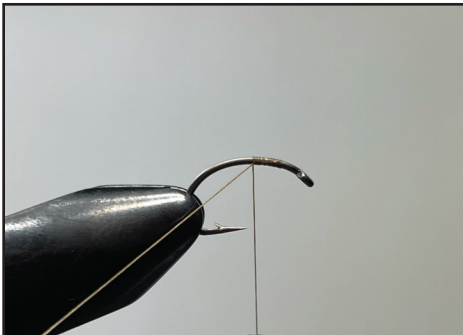
This is another one of those simple-to-tie patterns that can be modified to mimic a host of emerging bugs. Different colors and shades of deer hair can be used to adjust the wing color, as well as substituting other materials like CDC and snowshoe rabbit; dubbing blends and colors can tweak the abdomen appearance. Ribbing materials like fine wire, monofilament and thread can customize the pattern as well. A good suggestion from Wyatt is to only apply floatant to the wing and thorax. This helps ensure the abdomen penetrates the surface of the water. I think after you tie a few of these, you'll see just how easy it will be to stock your fly boxes in preparation for a great 2024 fishing season. Tight lines all!



Materials

- **Hook:** Curved in size of your choice
- **Thread:** Your choice of type & size
- **Abdomen:** Your choice of dubbing material and color
- **Thorax:** Your choice of material
- **Rib:** Your choice of material

Note: In this example I have incorporated a size #14 curved scud hook with a natural color deer hair wing, silver French oval tinsel in medium size for the rib, natural color all-purpose rabbit dubbing for the abdomen and brown thread.



Insert a hook into your vise and create a thread base wrapping back to about the hook point — leaving ample space behind the eye to eventually finish the fly.



Clean and stack some deer hair and tie in with the tips facing forward over the eye of the hook. Length should be about the length of the hook shank.



Trim the excess butts of deer hair at an angle and secure some ribbing of your choice. Here, I am incorporating some medium French oval tinsel to simulate segmentation.



Wrap a clean underbody with flattened thread and create a dubbing noodle with the material of your choice. Here, I have used some all-purpose rabbit dubbing in a natural color.



Wrap the dubbing noodle forward and then follow with the ribbing material of your choice. Tie off and secure the rib and position your thread in front of the wing.



Create another dubbing noodle and wrap behind and then in front of the wing — building up a larger thorax — while propping up the wing. Whip finish and voila!

TIC Egg Packing...

sustain them for a few weeks before they need to feed. At this time, they remain down deep and gain energy to begin their swimming journey. Therefore, they begin to darken and begin their camouflage transformation.

Lesson 3: Trout have their territories.

Last season, one of my students observed that one trout fry was bullying and scaring away others that came into a specific area. It would swim in a tight circle for food and then back to its original position within the tank. The class decided to track other individual fish within certain areas.

Lesson 4: Trout take their places within the classroom aquarium.

Within each territory in the tank, the trout began to set up into racing lanes. The fry would use their counterparts to maneuver themselves to best conserve energy and be in the ideal position for food. Trout will stack up in channels or water currents within a water system for energy conservation and food supply.

Lesson 5: Trout are piscivores (fish-eaters).

This was a sad truth for our class to accept. At times, the smaller fry that were not eating began slowly turning on their sides. The other fish would attack these weaker fish seeing them as an easy meal. We tried to remove these fish before they became trout food.

Lesson 6: Trout need cold, clean water to thrive.

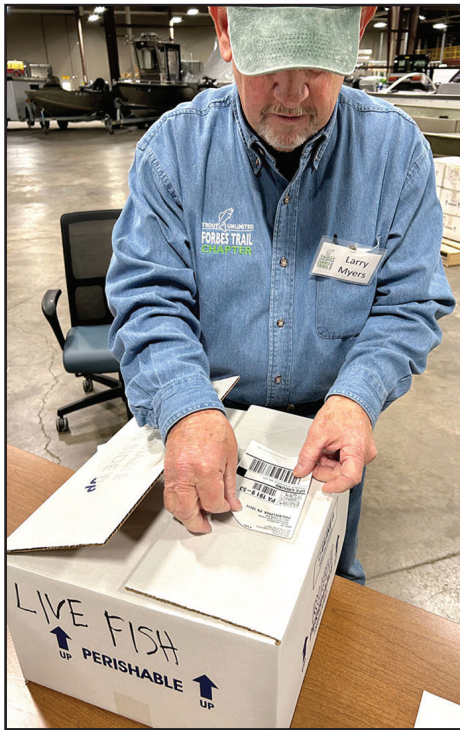
Though obvious to most anglers and conservationists, a lesson I hope my students gathered from this amazing project was their understanding of water conservation and environmental protection. They observed our trout fry needed an ample supply of oxygen and fresh-filtered water without chemicals or pollutants. They also required the consistent cold-water temperature maintained by the chiller. Hopefully, students make connections to the real world environment and the importance of tree-shade, clean water, and habitat conducive to keeping a healthy population of trout.

Lesson 7: Trout can inspire youth to get outside.



Sigrid Sharif Photos

PATU would like to give a huge thank you to volunteers from the Forbes Trail, Penns Creek, Penns Woods West, Spring Creek, Donegal, Ken Sink and Columbia County chapters, as well as the employees from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, for working so hard to get Trout in the Classroom eggs packed in early January. It was a busy, fast-paced day, but the volunteers readied 417 boxes to ship to participating schools across Pennsylvania.



I witness many students in my classroom become enthusiastic about trout and become experts in the life cycle of a trout. This prompts them to look for it in nature and make connections between the fish and their food chain. To pass on a passion for the outdoors, get children involved with programs like TIC or other programs that promote youth interaction with the outdoors.

Christian Shane is a member of Penn's Woods West TU and a TIC teacher in the North Allegheny School District.

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PA Council of Trout Unlimited

*Minutes of the January 21, 2024
Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Teleconference*



Attendees: Lenny Lichvar, Greg Malaska, Russ Collins, Sigrid Sharif, Erick Lewis, Todd Burns, Dean Druckenmiller, Bob Neu, Brian Wagner, Nate Cozzens, Rick Nyles, Gary Parzanese, Rachel Kester, Russell Thrall, Dave Rothrock, Kelly Williams, Ari Capotis.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Lenny Lichvar. Minutes of the Oct. 15, 2023, EXCOM meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Submitted by L. Lichvar.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by R. Thrall. We received our Q3 invoices and are better than planned. The PATU checking account is down due to electronic grant payment issues. CHP grant receipt is behind this year. Budgeting process will start in February with spreadsheets going out to Budget Committee members.

List of Actions Taken: Submitted by E. Lewis.

Program Director's Report: Submitted by R. Kester. 2020 CHP is completed and we're expecting our \$10,000 payment soon. Round 26 2021 CHP is ready to be submitted following budget reporting. Round 27 2022 CHP is close to being closed out. 2024's round awarded \$179,800. New CHP proposals submitted to PATU may be delayed due to new requirements and rules, approximately three months expected.

Conservation Communications Coordinator: Submitted by S. Sharif. Had an article published in the newsletter. Social media is increasing by sharing chapter content and TU content weekly. We are seeing good engagement. Corrected a configuration issue to increase open rate on materials. Worked with Bob Neu on the annual giving letter. Participated in TIC egg prep and will be posting content from TIC classrooms.

Keystone Coldwater Conference 2024: Submitted by R. Kester. Forty registrations to date. Feb. 1 is deadline for the reduced rate, and Feb. 15 is the registration deadline. Special Ramada rates are available. Conference fund-raising is running behind past years

rate, unsure of the root cause. Agenda for the conference is being finalized. Gov. Josh Shapiro has been invited to address group at event. Task list is going out to the Planning Committee for day-of assistance. B. Pennell needs silent auction items from chapters. TIC eggs were distributed on Jan. 8 and are in classrooms. Forever Wild grants are still available until March 21. Remind chapters to submit any small project requests. 2023 grant is going toward TIC and women's activities, and Sigrid's position. R3 grant for 2024 is now open. B. Neu is assisting with submission. PATU's annual meeting is Sept. 14 at Haywood's on the Green. Their building is being rebuilt; Floating Feathers may be available if expansion project has been completed.

NLC Report: Submitted by R. Collins. Need to plan for PATU presence at the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show. Quentin Collins is assisting with grant submissions via National TU. Have requested a grant administrator position be created at National. Jeff Yates suggested hiring a grant administrator for PATU as his chapter had done this. A meeting is planned for March. R. Collins to meet with R. Thrall, R. Kester and B. Neu offline for additional discussion. The Climate Change group is working to reorganize. New goals are posted, working to get these inserted into National's strategic plan. B. Neu attended National's online webinar for government grant tips and tricks. More webinars are planned. B. Neu encourages wider participation.

Advocacy Report: Submitted by E. Baldauff. Will be back on the job soon and participating in conference. National TU will not be filling her previous position now.

Regional VP Reports:

Northcentral (G. Parzanese) – As submitted. Loyalsock, Little Pine Creek Watershed pipeline and ATV trails projects are being monitored. Several chapters engaged in Priority Waters action planning. Will be presenting at KCC. A new website is expected soon.

Northeast (T. Burns) – Most activity is around warehouse construction and development in the Poconos. Pike-Wayne had concerns about getting people in the correct

chapters. Looking at potential for QR code to simplify. R. Thrall said National TU is changing systems and that may be causing issues, keep an eye on your rosters. R. Nyles has tips for creating QR codes, call him as needed.

Northwest (A. Capotis) – As submitted. Chapters have been very active, such as Northwest Chapter partnering with Caldwell Creek Chapter on property acquisition for new game lands and surveying a creek, and assisting the PGC. Oil Creek Chapter has been busy with addressing access issues for areas formerly available via PFBC on Little Sugar Creek. Iron Furnace is collaborating with agencies. Regarding Big Moore's Run stocking, when will PFBC stop stocking Class A waters? D. Rothrock said care is needed in addressing this issue. It's a common misconception because sections can be Class A and not the whole stream.

Southcentral (J. O'Connor) – J. O'Connor has stepped down from this role and we are looking for a replacement. Please assist with recruiting. We need regional chapters to nominate and vote on a new VP. R. Nyles to move it forward. R. Collins offered to assist.

Southeast (D. Druckenmiller) – As submitted. Most regional chapters are participating with TIC. The Trout Show is upcoming. Perkiomen speakers are very active. Tulpehocken Chapter had a good fundraiser. Little Lehigh Chapter worked on stream restoration project on the Little Lehigh. Bucks County Chapter is looking for help with Survey Monkey. R. Nyles offered support via phone call.

Southwest (B. Mathie) – As submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trout Policy: Submitted by D. Rothrock. Recent health issues have reduced activities. Regarding Big Moore's Run Class A stocking, the Moore's Run Hatchery raises brook, rainbow and brown trout, stocking a section that is pay to fish. It has requested continued stocking on Section 3. Big Moore's Run Lodge has closed but the hatchery remains. L. Lichvar has talked with Dave Nihart from PFBC. This section does meet exception criteria, which is available on the PFBC website. This will likely be approved. A letter to oppose this is out for PATU approval. PFBC can regulate what is stocked to prevent conflict with current wild trout population. D. Rothrock said this creek may have natural reproduction of all three species. Stocking

Continued on next page...

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authorization push is ongoing with PFBC to bring PA up to common standards. L. Lichvar said PFBC public relations on this is lacking based upon understanding at the grassroots level. R. Kester said TIC is covered for stocking notification, not required. A. Capotis asked to publish information about this in our newsletter.

***Motion** to approve letter regarding Big Moore's Run. Approved.

Priority Waters Plans: L. Lichvar followed up on G. Parzanese comments. National is focused on this, but management plans are slow to develop in PA. Leadership of watershed plans is currently unclear. D. Rothrock said Scott Koser is currently the face of Priority Waters in PA. It appears the focus is on marginal water, i.e. Kettle Creek. Why are we spending a lot of money on marginal water? T. Burns said it seems as though there has been scope creep on this from brook trout to wild trout. R. Kester said there is nothing complete to share with our chapters yet. S. Koser will be at the Coldwater Conference. What should S. Sharif be doing with media materials received? We should have additional clarity after Coldwater Conference.

Tailwater Army Corps Agreement: D. Druckenmiller said National TU is in agreement via Chris Wood. D. Druckenmiller provided document for future discussion.

Development: Submitted by B. Neu. Annual Appeal was successful. Letters were mailed prior to National's appeal. Some 16,700 letters were sent to members and former donors. 345 donor response, up from 321 in 2022. Contributions are now winding down. LYBUNT letters going out to previous donors not participating in 2023; have received about 40 additional donations to date. Looking for \$30,000 plus donations. Working on report for TIC funding for viability. There is an opportunity to ask for support for the Keystone Coldwater Conference in upcoming LYBUNT letters.

Awards: Submitted by J. Sittler. Nothing to report.

Delaware River: Submitted by J. Skelding. E. Lewis reporting Watershed Management Plan and three-year study activity as well as HDSS survey of the Upper Delaware River.

Conservation: Submitted by B. Wagner. DEP Permitting work; PA General Energy pipeline permitting letter from PATU for route revision; Letter sent as requested by

Western Pocono Chapter regarding ATV trails near Scranton; Allegheny Mountain Turnpike project to reroute tunnels through mountains. A stakeholder meeting occurred, and B. Wagner is following this. Headwaters of the Juniata River could be affected; Warehouse projects in Carbon County have been sent to committee. These are primarily local zoning issues. Penn Future put out model zoning ordinance, linked to in report. Local municipalities encouraged to look at it; Local landfill expansion that could affect a Class A stream, looking to use zoning to mitigate this as well. T. Burns offered to assist; Email was sent to committee on Jan. 19 regarding a DCNR report for review. Codorus Chapter left voice message regarding Susquehanna Riverkeeper input/commenting on paper mill flows permitting for Codorus Creek. R. Kester suggested copying Emily Baldauff on their commentary.

Diversity: Submitted by K. Williams and A. Daniel. Group has been busy. A. Daniel is not available now. The Lancaster Fly Fishing Show will have a Women's Social at 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 2 with a scavenger hunt. Information is available on Facebook. The Women's Retreat is May 17-19 and registration is open. Please send to chapters for participants. We are looking for sponsors/prizes.

Youth: Submitted by J. Sittler. Nothing to report.

Membership: Submitted by J. Miller. Membership is down 7%, may be associated with free memberships given to First Responders during COVID.

Communications: Submitted by B. Isles. Nothing to report.

Financial Reviewer: Submitted by N. Cozzens. Nothing to report.

College/5 Rivers: Submitted by C. Charlesworth. Nothing to report.

TU Service Partnership: Vacant. No information to date. Looking to recruit via newsletter, can someone contact Sigrid.

OLD BUSINESS

Outdoor Show Participation: PATU will have a booth at the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show. Two other PATU chapters will be there in same row. Jeff Yates is working on planning and coordination. B. Pennell will be selling merchandise. The annual report will be available with newsletters and brochures. Need to get names of booth volunteers prior to show to avoid confusion; we can have up to 5. Discounted tickets are available for

volunteers at \$12.

***Motion** to purchase table cover up to \$200. Approved.

National TU Regional Meeting: L. Lichvar is receiving information. L. Lichvar, B. Wagner and R. Collins are attending.

NEW BUSINESS

Keystone Coldwater Conference: G. Malaska – there are few hotel rooms available, make sure you get group rate. R. Thrall put link in the chat, keycode KEYCC24.

New Chapter Request: There is a new TU chapter request for Tubmill Trout Club, which has done significant good work in Westmoreland County. National has been consulted. R. Kester said there are multiple chapters that overlap their territory. National will reach out for alternatives, i.e. collaboration/partnership/absorption into existing chapters.

Dark Skies Flyfishing: Outdoor writer Ralph Scherder, who lives near Coudersport, is launching a quarterly digital magazine to be similar to the *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Journal*, and open to PATU chapters submitting articles. He would like to have something from PATU in each issue and chapters as available, coordinated through S. Sharif. L. Lichvar will coordinate with owner, S. Sharif and R. Kester.

American Fisheries Society: Spring Technical Meeting in Meadville is seeking sponsorship. R. Kester suggested exchange of sponsorship for KCC. She will talk to Clayton about sponsorship.

***Motion** to sponsor for \$100. Approved.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: WPC is looking to purchase 126 acres along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, six-plus miles of frontage, Class A wild trout water. They are asking for our support of the acquisition for public access.

***Motion** by K. Williams to submit a letter of support. Approved. L. Lichvar to work with S. Sharif to get letter out by Jan. 25.

Sporting Lead Free Organization: L. Lichvar signed up as an ambassador. Organization does not promote legislation or participate in political realm.

***Motion** by E. Lewis to align with Sporting Lead Free. Approved.

Next Meeting Date: April 21, 2024 at the PFBC's Centre Region Office at 10 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 1:08 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erick Lewis – Secretary*

CONFERENCE

from page 1

During the social, college and university students from across the Commonwealth will present their research posters as part of the student poster session. Research topics covered in the poster session will include the effects of fluctuating temperatures on brook trout, the upstream effects of dam removals, and the effects of culverts on fish communities, among others.

Following the poster session and social, there will be a special screening of the film "Covenant of the Salmon People" about the Nez Perce Tribe and their efforts to carry out their ancient promise to protect Chinook

salmon by working to remove four dams on the lower Snake River. More information about the film can be found at www.covenantofthesalmonpeople.com.

Saturday, Feb. 24, will begin with opening remarks by PATU President Lenny Lichvar, followed by a keynote address featuring Derek Eberly, director of the Governor's Advisory Council on Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation and the affiliated Youth Council. The afternoon will consist of a series of concurrent presentations on a variety of topics related to cold-water conservation. See below for the full agenda.

Registration closes Feb. 15 at midnight. For more information and to register, please visit www.coldwaterconference.org.

Keystone Coldwater Conference Agenda

Friday, February 23, 2024				
11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.	Registration (Lobby)			
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Exhibitor Setup (Lobby)			
1-4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Workshops			
	Executive Forum		Chairman's Room	
1-2:30 p.m.	Conservation Advocacy Workshop - <i>Baldauff</i>		Puttin' Trees in the Crick?: Everything You Need to Know about Large Wood Additions to PA Streams - <i>Thomas & Bobnar</i>	
2:30-3 p.m.	Break and Networking (Lobby)			
3-4:30 p.m.	Conservation Advocacy Workshop continued		Large Wood Addition Workshop continued	
4:30-6:30 p.m.	Room Check-in & Dinner (On Your Own)			
6:30-8:30 p.m.	Student Poster Session & Evening Social (Desserts/Cash Bar)			
8:30-9:30 p.m.	Film Screening: Covenant of the Salmon People (Ballroom)			
Saturday, February 24, 2024				
7-8 a.m.	Registration (Lobby)			
8-10 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks (Ballroom) - <i>Lenny Lichvar</i> , PATU President & <i>Rachel Kester</i> , PATU/CHP Program Director Keynote Address (Ballroom) - <i>Derek Eberly</i> , Director, Governor's Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation			
10-10:30 a.m.	Break/Networking (Lobby)			
	Concurrent Presentations			
	Ballroom A	Ballroom B	Executive Forum	Chairman's Room
10:30- 11 a.m.	Trout Unlimited Update on Priority Waters in Pennsylvania - <i>Koser</i>	Identifying Optimal Groundwater Recharge Locations and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Within the Susquehanna River Basin - <i>Markowitz</i>	Coldwater streams in a changing world: Effects of watershed fragmentation and forest composition on fish assemblages - <i>Turner</i>	Introducing Dr. Watt R Shedd - Stream Doctor - <i>Kunsmann & Fetter</i>
11:05-11:35 a.m.	TU's Abandoned Mine Drainage Program - <i>Cooper</i>	Coordinating Partners and Funding on a Full Farm Restoration Project in Centre County, PA - <i>Rohrer & Clark</i>	The Little Juniata River from sewer to "Class A" - 20 years of advocacy for one small river - <i>Spagnoli & Anderson</i>	How Good is Our Wood? Monitoring the Response of Wetlands and Salmonid Breeding Behavior to Large Wood Additions in the Little Arnot Run Large Wood Restoration Project- <i>Bobnar</i>
11:40 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	Designing Mine Drainage Treatment Systems to Minimize Thermal Pollution - <i>Clark</i>	Utility of Redd Counts to Monitor Wild Trout Populations in Streams - <i>Carline</i>	Trout stream restoration in the Minnesota Driftless - <i>Brant</i>	The response of wood addition and floodplain reconnection to the fish community in the Little Arnot Run watershed, Allegheny National Forest - <i>Seiler & Delp</i>
12:15-1:25 p.m.	Lunch & Student Poster Awards (Atrium)			
1:30-2 p.m.	Scaling Up Restoration: Recovery of Native and Wild Trout Populations and Other Downstream Responses Due to Abandoned Mine Drainage Remediation in a Large River System - <i>Lutz</i>	Large Wood Additions - Why, Where, How and What the Data Tell Us - <i>Thomas & Lovelle</i>	Outreach, Engagement and Collaboration - Understanding the Efforts to Breach the four lower Snake River dams. - <i>Crawford</i>	Wildlife Leadership Academy: Engaging and empower the next generation of Conservation Ambassadors - <i>Mueller</i>
2:05-3:05 p.m.	Butler County Stream Improvements and Tagged Fish Study - <i>Andrews & King</i>	Riparian Zones and Beyond - <i>Lee</i>	Pennsylvania Fishing and Aquatic Invasive Species - <i>Stilwell</i>	Building Community Around Conservation: Engagement Strategies That Work - <i>Yates & Vadala</i>
3:10-3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks & Door Prizes (Ballroom)			



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Student Poster

Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Kettle Creek Watershed Association

Penns Valley Conservation Association

DFTU does its part to restore home waters

By Russ Collins

PATU National Council Representative

At the Doc Fritchey Chapter, stream restoration and watershed protection in Central PA has been our mission since 2019. Russ Collins, current chapter vice president and conservation committee chair, has been leading the charge. Since 2019, we have received \$2,069,543.29 in grant and private funding for design, permitting, and construction projects.

Our chapter footprint covers Dauphin and Lebanon counties. Grant funding has enabled us to construct five projects and to plan, design, and permit 12 additional projects. We have projects on Quittapahilla Creek, Snitz Creek, Spring Creek in Hershey, PA, and Hammer Creek.

The largest of our projects is on 10,800 linear feet of the Hammer Creek mainstem and tributaries, and the property owner has dedicated 19 acres to improve the stream on their property. We have completed about half of the design and planning process and will apply for a construction grant shortly.

All this would not be possible without creating a great team. Our team includes partners from the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Nature Conservancy, Lebanon County Conservation District, and several consulting firms.

While TU and Council have the "Priority Waters" initiative, we have our "Priority Home Waters."

DFTU encourages all chapters to toot your horn on chapter projects.

Save the Date

2024 PATU Annual Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024

Location to be Determined

More info will be forthcoming at
www.patrou.org



Contributed Photo

Doc Fritchey Chapter's Hammer Creek Mainstem, Barry Farm project.

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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

Todd Burns

311 Crestmont St.

Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Email: salmofisher7@gmail.com

Phone: 610-704-4549

Brodhead Chapter #289

Russell Thrall III

570-620-8677, russ@thrall3.com

www.brodheadtu.org

The chapter held monthly in-person board meetings and committee meetings as needed last quarter. We secured a facility and date for our banquet, which is at 5:30 on March 15 at the Woodsgate facility within the Stroudsmoor Country Inn complex near Stroudsburg. The chapter completed Phase 1 of its habitat restoration project on McMichaels Creek at the Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Nature Preserve over two weeks in October. We held a rod-building class starting in October. Participants built their own 7-foot-6, 4-weight fly-rod. The chapter conducted a tour of the McMichaels Creek restoration project that included educational stations on the history of the preserve, macroinvertebrate identification and common invasive plant species in the area. A Girl Scout troop has been identified for 2024's STREAM Girls event. Pies and Flies was Feb. 7. Brodhead Fly-Tyers meet on Feb. 19 and March 18. At our January meeting, Tim "Shorty" Bartholomew presented "Fly-Tying Proportions." On March 13, Brian Mc Donnell presents "Invasive Plant Species Management from the Streambank and Beyond" at 7 p.m. We're hosting an Intro to Fly-Fishing event at 9 a.m. on March 23. An up-to-date chapter calendar is available on our website.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog

610-751-9116, baylogj@gmail.com

<https://forksofthedelaware.tu.org/>

Chapter elections were held at our December meeting. We are in the process of developing a communication plan and rolling out a membership survey to better serve our chapter. Chapter representatives attended a meeting with Pottsville DEP Bureau of Mines to discuss Buzzi Unicem's response to a deficiency letter regarding its permit to mine deeper in their quarry. The following are possible permit conditions for the quarry to mine deeper in the east end of the pit (an additional 50 feet to sea level): Install additional stream gauges on Bushkill upstream from Route 191, on the Little Bushkill, and on Bushkill in Tatamy; Gauges are to be linked to the cloud; Replacement of destroyed monitoring wells/additional wells. Data to be accessible on the cloud; Minimum flow requirement would be a new permit condition. From PFBC: "The discharge located at NPDES Outfall 007 is of sufficient water quantity to maintain surface flow and to facilitate habitation of aquatic life within the Bushkill Creek downstream of the discharge. This discharge shall be operated in a manner as to not result in fish kills or other impacts to aquatic life attracted to this flow during active mining activities as well as reclamation;" Backup generators need to be operational; Turbidity to be monitored in the quarry near discharge point. The chapter sent a letter to DEP opposing spreading bio-solids on the Hower Farm site by the Nazareth Sewer Authority. While we recognize the spread of bio-solids is an approved method, our opposition is based on the slope of the land toward Little Bushkill Creek and Exceptional Value wetlands. We are reviewing the Grand Central Landfill expansion and rezoning project in Plainfield Township. The concern is what impacts the project may have on Waltz Creek. We held a "Bugs & Suds" fly-tying night on Dec. 7. The chapter is hosting a three-part fly-tying series and a one-night Intro to Fly-Fishing in conjunction with Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center in January and February. We are planning a program on March 9

at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club featuring Anita Coulton on "Fishing Pocket Water."

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

610-266-1788, awilliams1947@hotmail.com

<http://hokendauqua.tu.org>

We continue to hold monthly board meetings. The chapter sponsors five TIC programs in different school districts. Our monthly "Ties and Lies" has resumed. We use this time to instruct new and advanced fly-tyers in different methods tying. Zack Rudd, our local WCO, spoke at the chapter's meeting in October. He updated us on new regulations from PFBC, which was followed by a question-and-answer period. Our annual fly-tying course is held in January and February over eight consecutive Saturdays. Check our website for details.

Continued on page 14...



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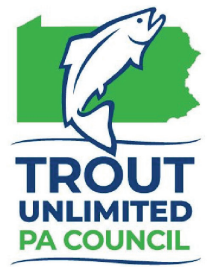
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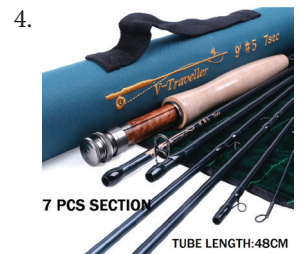
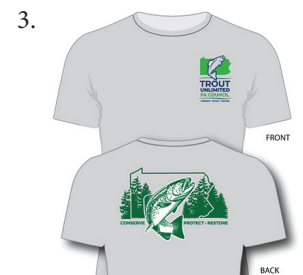
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	"Pocketguide to PA Hatches" Book		\$21.95	\$1.32	\$23.27	
	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book		\$29.95	\$1.80	\$31.75	
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Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Greg Nidoh

570-489-1050, info@agoutfitters.com

www.lackawannavalleytu.org

No report.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

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www.monocacytu.org

Chapter President Erik Broesicke and several members of the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association attended a Hanover Township meeting dealing with a warehouse project being proposed on the site of an existing hotel near the area of Routes 22 and 512. While the property is already developed, the new project would expand onto adjacent property and increase the amount of impervious surfaces. Numerous township residents in attendance voiced concerns about traffic and other impacts to the community. Embassy Bank, whose headquarters would be affected by the proposed traffic/road changes, has enlisted legal counsel to pursue a possible remedy. The watershed association has been in contact with the Embassy Bank president to provide information and assistance if possible. Currently, the property has a highly degraded culvert and drain field that passes under Route 22 and directly into Monocacy Creek. The chapter conducted a LeafPack Survey (leafpacknetwork.org), which consists of placing mesh bags filled with leaves in the stream for about four weeks. The bags are then collected, and any insects are sorted. Chase Rowland presented his experience at the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp at a recent meeting. He attended the camp with chapter sponsorship. Our next meeting is Feb. 27 at the DAR Log Cabin.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello

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www.pwtu.org

Our annual banquet is April 13 at Lukan's Farm Resort in Hawley. See our website for details. On Oct. 27, Lackawaxen River Trails opened a river access site at White Mills. It features an ADA walkway, parking, and a concrete boat ramp, signage, composting bathroom, and fencing, benches, and trash receptacles. PFBC Executive Tim Schaeffer and Board President William Gibney attended along with state senators, state representatives, and Wayne County Commissioners. This is the first handicap-accessible kayak launch on the river. We continue to participate in Pike County Conservation District monthly meetings and the Dirt and Gravel, Low Volume Roads program. Our TIC coordinator, Mark Nebzydoski from Western Wayne Middle School, prepared his tank in advance of trout eggs arriv-

ing in early January. We are hosting a series of fly-tying demonstrations and instructions at our January, February and March meetings.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Bruce Herb

wetflyguy@yahoo.com

www.schuylkillcountytu.org

Schuylkill County TU held a fall kids fishing rodeo that was well attended. The chapter also held its annual Christmas party prior to the holidays. We started 2024 by partnering with Schuylkill County Headwaters to host the "First Day on The Water" fishing event on Jan. 1. The chapter once again held its annual "Hook Ur Honey Day" at S&A Trout Ponds in Orwigsburg. We received a grant from Schuylkill County Conservation District.

Shehawken Chapter #81

Richelle Dufton

rdufton33@gmail.com

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

No report.

Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

J. Scott Brady

570-479-6016, jsbrady@jscottbradylaw.com

www.sctu.org

No report.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

Janet Schmitt

jreichel@ptd.net

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

Western Pocono TU board members are making plans for the second annual White Haven Trout Festival. This will be organized by Western Pocono TU and White Haven Library and be held from noon to 5 p.m. on June 1 at the library. Last year's inaugural event was a tremendous success and attended by over 400 people, focusing the celebration of the Lehigh River and its fishery. This was a great opportunity to showcase river guides, fly shops, fly-tyers, rod makers and conservation groups dedicated to conserving the Lehigh River and all Pocono trout waters. WPTU and the library hope to expand this year's affair with more conservation exhibits and vendors and the historic and beautifully restored White Haven Library and Community Center will provide a variety of foods with proceeds going to their Children's Library. WPTU members spearheaded other groups and individuals in writing letters of opposition to ATV and other off-road vehicle use at the new Penrose Tract at the Weiser State Forest near Weatherly, PA. State Council and PATU President Len Lichvar also offered an official letter of opposition in support of state Bureau of Forestry officials opposing this policy that would negatively impact

the sensitive and unique ecology of this special 2,700-acre semi-wilderness site that is near White Haven, Hazleton and Weatherly and is home to abundant wildlife, four brook trout streams with large trout, and over 100 acres of rare plants. WPTU members and others were instrumental in leading preservation efforts of this special tract. WPTU is also making plans with White Haven Library to arrange a roundtable discussion on a variety of conservation topics affecting the Lehigh River and Pocono waters including releases from the FEW Dam, warehouses and other development affecting the Poconos. The WPTU board is examining ways to attract new members and develop a strategic plan that includes regular member meetings with guest speakers, pursue fundraising ideas, and conservation projects.

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

Gary Parzanese

491 Walnut St.

Reedsville, PA 17084

Email: 6sneezes@comcast.net

Phone: 717-437-0318

Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

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[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/troutunlimitedcolumbiacounty)

troutunlimitedcolumbiacounty

We attended the Water Water Everywhere Conference from Oct. 24-25. Chapter volunteers supported the Lightstreet Volunteer Fire Company's Roast Beef Dinner on Nov. 18, and we attended the TU NLC Delaware River Working Group meeting on Dec. 1. We received an inquiry from a Roaring Creek property owner regarding an erosion and runoff survey. The investigation is ongoing. Chapter volunteers supported TIC egg packing on Jan. 2 and Jan. 8. CCTU is working with Peter Ten Eyck to pursue an Embrace A Stream grant to identify malfunctioning septic systems in several areas on Fishing Creek in Columbia County. Erick Lewis presented Fishing Creek Flies at our Nov. 14 meeting. Upcoming CCTU meetings are Feb. 13 and March 12 from 7-9 p.m.

at the Columbia County District Conservation Office, 702 Sawmill Road, Bloomsburg. Upcoming fly-tying sessions are Feb. 20 and March 19 from 7-9 p.m. at Lightstreet Community Fire Hall, 1630 Monroe Ave., Bloomsburg. Our Feb. 20 "CCTU Brews & Bugs" is at The Lightstreet Hotel, 1361 Main St., Bloomsburg. Our chapter banquet is at 6 p.m. on March 3 at the Lightstreet Hotel. The CCTU trip to Spring Creek is March 23.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Saulter

814-274-9763, saulterdg@yahoo.com

The God's Country Chapter had a meeting in October and took November and December off. We did have a holiday get-together. We had dinner and briefly talked about the upcoming year, and helping a new fly-fishing club at Northern Potter High School get started.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

**570-295-7210, wbailey@comcast.net
www.lwtu.org**

Planning continues for our AMD remediation project on Beech Creek. Efforts are being made to contact involved property owners and provide information about the project. We participated in a Zoom meeting with Scott Koser of National TU to develop plans concerning the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, which is a priority watershed.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Kevin Lutz

PennscreekTU@gmail.com

The chapter held its Winter Social on Dec. 7 at the Stonefly Café in Reedsville. Our annual banquet is set for Feb. 24. In January, chapter members assisted PFBC and PATU with food and egg packing for the TIC program in Bellefonte. The chapter is planning a fly-fishing outing to Big Spring Creek in Newville. A one-day fly-tying class is scheduled the beginning of February.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Rod Jones

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facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter**

October is a month when many fishermen change from aquatic pursuits to terrestrial. In other words, hunting is the primary focus. Land and water are intimately linked so any good conservation organization must be informed about both. It has been a chapter tradition to have the PGC meet with our members during the month of October. This year, warden Jonathan M. Wyant's presentation on chronic wasting disease provided updates on changes in policy and practices related to this threat to deer populations. Wyant stayed an extra hour answering questions and providing information on a host of topics. Due to a health

emergency, the chapter was without a speaker on the day of the November meeting. Chapter member Dave Rothrock offered to fill in at the last minute. His presentation on drop-shot nymphing featured a unique perspective on tactics and patterns that reflected current trends and old traditions. In December, Brian Auman presented "A Different Perspective on Stream Restoration and the Opportunities for Turtle Creek Park." Brian describes himself as a landscape architect and community planner with over 30 years of professional experience working on projects that build active, healthy, and resilient communities through public engagement and environmental stewardship. While impressive, this description does not get to the essence of his approach to land and stream restoration. Brian begins with historic research to uncover the natural state of a site prior to changes influenced by development. The changes brought about by the extensive use of water mills in the nineteenth century is an example of how many of Pennsylvania's waterways were changed from their natural state. Agricultural practices over time have accounted for many changes as well. Sediments along the streambed have accumulated to over a foot or more resulting in channelization. Brian's process often calls for the removal of sediments and restoring stream flow to a path that is closer to its natural state. When completed, a project designed by Brian is a functioning ecosystem with diversity of plants and a stream bed returned to a more natural state. In short, they are beautiful and functional spaces that are resilient to events like flooding. One of the more provocative aspects of Brian's presentation was the influence wildlife has on these riparian spaces. The positive changes brought to Yellowstone Park as result of the return of wolves was cited as an example of how restoring a keystone species can have benefits for the entire ecosystem. Brian suggests we take a hard look at beavers and their influence on water systems. The Turtle Creek Project in Union County involves a large tract of land with a coldwater stream running through it. Turtle Creek Park is on the chapter's radar as decisions are made for the restoration of the stream and access to it...and maybe someday beavers will be a part of that.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Tim Bruggeman

**412-807-992, tjbruggeman88@gmail.com
www.springcreektu.org**

No report.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Steve Martin

**sam667@verizon.net
www.susquehannatu.com**

Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson was presented with the Susquehanna Chapter Order of the Tie award for his many years of outstanding service as president and chapter member. Dave

Craig resigned as director. He was honored for over 30 years of outstanding service by being elected director emeritus and chapter adviser. Our board met on Oct. 3, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6. Walt Nicholson presented an annual report at November's chapter meeting. The chapter received several generous donations of fishing tackle, books, lure making and rod building supplies, art prints and posters, and fly-tying supplies for use by beginning anglers and veterans/first responders and to sell at future fund-raising events and raffles. We continue to coordinate with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, EPCAMR, and SRBC on monitoring and rehab of AMD treatment systems and tributary streams of the upper Loyalsock Creek watershed. We worked with the PATU Conservation Committee and other regional conservation organizations to provide public comments to DEP on a proposed open cut PGE natural gas and water pipeline in the Little Pine Creek Watershed that would cross nine wild trout streams. We are monitoring DCNR management and policy development on the Northcentral ATV pilot initiative in the Pine Creek Watershed. We also continue to monitor the Nicholas Meat withdrawal proposal and advocate for a USGS gage on Fishing Creek. We attended a conservation project grant seminar hosted by state Rep. Jamie Flick. Chapter members participated in a meeting with a private landowner on Plunkett's Creek below the game farm to address a 20-foot vertical washout. Our Oct. 11 chapter meeting featured Matt Kaunert, director of the Lycoming College Clean Water Institute, who presented a program on his hellbender research findings as well as past and ongoing research activities of the CWI and its partners. PFBC WCOs Justin Boatwright and Hunter Shoemaker discussed new PFBC initiatives, issues and actions in our regional area at the Oct. 11 chapter meeting. Michael Kinney, a professional freelance photographer, presented an outstanding program at our Nov. 8 meeting featuring underwater videos of interesting aquatic fish and animals. His amazing video of a hellbender swimming and breathing through flaps in his skin in crystal clear Lycoming Creek was instrumental in obtaining designation of the hellbender as the PA State Amphibian. He hopes that his videos will help educate people about the importance of clean water and of protecting this animal by designating it as a threatened and endangered species. Scott Koser and Brian Cooper presented on TU's Priority Waters initiatives, regional habitat improvements and AMD cleanup efforts at our Jan. 10 meeting. The chapter approved a donation to the Hughesville Public Library to purchase a \$600 starter kit for its TIC project. Charlie Knowlden participated in a National TU meeting to discuss the effectiveness of TIC. Chapter members continue to provide support to the Hughesville High School Fly-Fishing Club for fly-tying, casting and fishing instruction. Walt Nicholson gave a program at the Lycoming

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College Scholars Lunch Program about "Hunting, Fishing and Conservation." Service Partnership Program Coordinator Charlie Knowlden built a fly-rod for an active-duty Marine who is currently stationed at a Naval Air Base where he trains pilots to fly the Osprey. Charlie is available to set up a class or work individually with any veteran or first responder who wishes to build a rod. PFBC Commissioner Eric Hussar and WCOs will speak at our Feb. 15 meeting. It's at 7 p.m. at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W. 4th St., Williamsport. John Pastorek is tentatively scheduled to present on Slate Run Sportsmen and the Pine Creek Brown Trout Club at our March 13 meeting at the church. Our Beginners Fly-Tying Course runs on Tuesdays through March 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

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www.tiadaghtontu.com

Our meeting location has changed to the Tioga County Conservation District Office at 1867 Shumway Hill Road, Wellsboro. They are at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month except for July and August. WCO Chad Lauer will present at our Feb. 6 meeting. Thermal imaging flights of Long Run near Gaines, PA were planned for the week of January 22 by Jacob Fetterman. We are looking for ground water (warm water signatures) that will tell us where coldwater discharges are located in the summer. Plans are to enhance the coldwater inputs to better provide thermal refuge for trout when thermal stress becomes an issue. The chapter will be conducting five fly-tying classes in February and March in the Wellsboro area. The chapter assisted Sayre School District with setting up outdoor educational field experiences for the spring of 2024. The experiences will include water chemistry, macroinvertebrate identification and an electrofishing demonstration. The chapter also conducted fly-tying classes for students at North Penn Liberty High School.

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

Ari Capotis

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Email: acapotis@gmail.com

Phone: 814-602-3324

Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

Jimmy Lattimer

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www.amctu.org

No report.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

814-664-2124, txsavko2@verizon.net

www.facebook.com/CaldwellCreekTU437

No report.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Scott Dyke

814-706-3049, scott@joneschevrolet.com

[www.facebook.com/pages/Cornplanter-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cornplanter-Chapter-Of-Trout-Unlimited)

[Chapter-Of-Trout-Unlimited](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cornplanter-Chapter-Of-Trout-Unlimited)

No report.

Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Andrew Turner

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www.ironfurnacetu.net

Members of Iron Furnace Chapter were busy this fall with several projects. The East Sandy Creek riparian stabilization project wrapped with the installation of riparian plantings. We initiated a new collaborative project with the Clarion Conservation District to repair flood damage to McCanna Run, an EV-Wilderness Trout Stream. We conducted our semi-annual litter cleanup on Piney Creek. Our fall meetings were well-attended, with engaging guest speakers. Garrett Herigan of PFBC presented on trout management, and a group of students who were sponsored by our chapter to attend summer camp or summer field courses gave a presentation on their activities. Finally, we wrapped up the year with a festive Christmas party involving a review of the year's accomplishments as well as an exchange of fishy gifts.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neep

814-834-3472, mneep@zitomedia.net

No report.

Neshannock Creek #216

Matt Ceremuga

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www.neshannock-tu.org

No report.

Northwest PA Chapter #41

Jim Head

bsidejimmy@gmail.com

<http://nwpatrout.org>

The Northwest PA Chapter held its final membership meeting for 2023 on Nov. 15. Guest speakers were Amy Burniston and Ron Dombrowiak. Amy discussed Northeast School District's STEM & Vine Program (to include TIC). She also presented the chapter with a plaque in appreciation for our assistance in providing fly-casting and fly-tying instructions to students. Ron is the president of our local 3CU organization. 3CU is a cooperative nursery which raises steelhead and brown trout, which are released into Lake Erie tributaries to augment PFBC's annual stockings. Ron updated us on the status of 3CU and the need for volunteers to help stock fish. The chapter had booths at Fish USA's Chromefest, Folly's End Steelhead Kickoff Party and chapter members provided instruction for a macro and fly-tying class at Asbury Woods Nature Center. This past year the chapter made a concerted effort to get out into the community to let people know who we are and what we stand for. We plan to continue to participate in events such as these in 2024.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

Jennifer Lyons

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www.oilcreektu.org

The chapter's Christmas dinner was held on Dec. 20 at King's Restaurant in Franklin. Barry Wilson, the chapter's website chair, has been making some much needed updates and revisions to our site. The tentative date for our 40th annual banquet is Sept. 7. Bailey Kozalla is the new watershed specialist for Venango Conservation District. She has been keeping us up to date on conservation and educational activities of the VCD. It has a project underway at Fisherman's Cove dealing with road and bank erosion. The VCD has identified two possible project sites on Hemlock Creek and Little Sugar Creek. Little Sugar Creek and Prather Run are having access and erosion problems. The Conservation District conducted a site visit in November on Hemlock Creek. A new landowner is concerned with stream improvements and capping wells. The Venango County Dirt & Gravel Road Committee met on Dec. 6. Franklin School District's three TIC classrooms are planning to all do their trout releases together in the spring. Barry Wilson, our TIC chair, reported that all aquariums were set up and eggs arrived. Eva Hollidge, a new TIC teacher at Sandy Creek Elementary, did a very nice write-up on the chapter's Facebook page. She wrote about their preparation, getting the eggs, and she posted some very nice pictures of the kids' activities. We donated to the Franklin YMCA for conservation-related programs. Our next chapter meetings are Feb. 21 and March 20 at King's Restaurant in Franklin.

Seneca Chapter #272

Dominic Petruzzi

www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

Dominic Petruzzi is the new chapter president. We are in the preliminary stages of planning a chapter kickoff party. If you would like to be involved in the planning process please contact NW Regional VP Ari Capotis.

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

Dean Druckenmiller

130 Fox Hill Dr.

Wernersville, PA 19565

Email: justrthrow@ptd.net

Phone: 610-693-5537

Bucks County Chapter #254

Douglas McCabe

215-262-1441, dougmcabe74@gmail.com

www.buckstu.org

Bucks TU has partnered with Mainstream Outfitters to host the Fly Fishing Film Tour on Feb. 29 at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church in Jamison, PA. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets can be purchased on the chapter website or at Mainstream Outfitters in Doylestown. Our annual fund-raising raffle is during the March 7 chapter meeting at the Buckingham Township Building. The chapter continues working with TU National and Solebury Township to develop a "restoration game plan" and develop cost estimates. RFQs have been put out and discussions are underway to analyze differences in project scope. BCTU continues to support five TIC projects. The newest is at the Bucks County Youth Center. The Center has expressed interest in getting fly-tying, casting and fishing instruction. The chapter has received a grant to be used in the Aquetong Creek restoration. Joe Mihok presented "Climate Change 101" at our Feb. 1 meeting. On March 7, Mike Rosa presents "Bass fishing tactics, techniques and places." Upcoming speakers are Robert Lindquest on April 4 and Christian Sloan on May 2. Our chapter picnic is June 6 at Aquetong Creek Park.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Charles Lesky

charlesleskyjr@gmail.com

www.dmtu.org

We collected Christmas trees and delivered them to Marsh Creek for a tree sinking project in the spring. The chapter is involved with a TIC program at Strath Haven Middle School. Scott Major of PA Woods N Water presented "Winter Nymphing for Selective Trout." Jerry Caviello was a special guest fly-tyer doing Dave Whitlock patterns.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Dan Dow

ddow23@gmail.com

www.lltu.org

Our restoration project on Keystone Road wrapped in early fall 2023. We are working with TU scientists to begin post-restoration data collection. We will also be working with our partners at Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards on a streamside planting at the restoration site to help stabilize the stream bank.

Perkiomen Valley #332

Bryan Fulop

bryanfulop@yahoo.com

www.pvtu332.org

The Fly Fishing Film Tour in Phoenixville is scheduled for April 18. Tree planting and maintenance at Longacre Farm/West Branch Perkiomen Creek and at Green Lane Park and the AQUA PA property on West Branch Perkiomen Creek and Main Branch Perkiomen Creek continues. We held a fly-tying event on Feb. 10. TIC is ongoing in eight of our nine local schools. Boyertown High School opted out this year due to scheduling problems. We had a presentation on "Fishing in France" at our Jan. 22 meeting. Coming up on Feb. 26 is a presentation on water conservation and another on steelhead fishing in Lake Erie tributaries. Don Baylor is scheduled to present at our March 18 meeting.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

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semontco.tu.org

No report.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Brenda Bittinger

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www.tullytu.org

Our Mantawney Creek project is progressing. We have a revised plan in place due to unnameable residents. Riparian buffers and stream-wall restoration are being considered for the new plan. New signs have been installed for the Cacoosing dam removal project as part of stream restoration

project scope. We will have a lot of TIC releases happening and we're looking for volunteers to help teachers. We'll vote on board positions at the chapter's Feb. 21 meeting. We also have a board meeting on March 20. The Tully TU Eco 5K is at 10 a.m. on April 21 at PSU-Berks campus.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

James Leonard

610-793-1706, jamesmleonard@hotmail.com

www.valleyforgetu.org

The VFTU Clean Streams raffle ticket drawing was held at our December general membership meeting. Environmental issues we're monitoring include: Great Valley School District Center construction's muddy water discharge; Atwater retention basin #6; road salt; Buckeye Pipeline exposure in Pickering Creek; property development across Route 29 at Valley Creek Park; Knickerbocker development; and Bishop Tube site DEP mitigation. Stream data collection in Valley Creek continues. The chapter received an Embrace A Stream grant of \$3,000 to purchase HOBOT stream monitors for the Valley Creek Restoration Partnership to be placed in Crabby Creek. Pete Goodman, our environmental chairman raised an additional \$4,000 through the Embrace A Stream Challenge online crowd funding. The 16 schools we are involved with for TIC received their eggs in January. We have raised our stipend to these schools to \$3,200 per year (\$200 per school). VFTU has purchased equipment to allow us to provide emergency backup in case of an equipment failure. General membership meetings are the second Thursday of every month except for March, June, July and August. Our new meeting location is The Barn at Upland Farm Park, 301 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs. VFTU's 44th annual Trout Show is from 1-4 p.m. March 23 at Lionville Middle School, 550 West Uwchlan Ave., Exton.

SOUTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

Adams County 323

Codorus 558

Cumberland Valley 052

Doc Fritchey 108

Donegal 037

Falling Spring 234

Muddy Creek 575

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OPEN

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Adams County Chapter #323

Frank Kozak

fmkozak@gmail.com

www.adamscountytu.org

A ribbon-cutting and unveiling ceremony was held at the Zeigler Mill Road Access site on Oct. 6 to mark the opening of the ZMRA site, introduce the public to the new walking trail, and celebrate the culmination of two years of work to bring the project to fruition. The event was attended by ACTU members, state and Adams County elected officials, PFBC personnel, and private-sector contributors. ACTU received donations during the Adams County Giving Spree. This is the first year we were selected to participate in the event. Some 100 trees and shrubs were planted in the former farm field and along the new walking trail at the ZMRA site, bringing the total planted under the South Mountain Partnership grant to about 300. Work under the SMP grant performed and completed by ACTU members at the ZMRA site included: Planting a total of approximately 300 trees and shrubs of a variety of species in the former farm field; spraying the ubiquitous multi-flora rose in a large area in the vicinity of the planned trail; creating a 900-yard nature trail for the community to enjoy. This included building three teaching stations, each with an educational sign; constructing a 40-foot-long mud sill on the creek. This was done by members of both ACTU and Northern Virginia TU, along with PFBC Habitat Division specialists. Chapter members and students from Biglerville High School float-stocked the Conewago CRFFO section with 300 PFBC-supplied trout. We added a new teacher at James Getty Elementary School to now have six TIC programs active this school year. ACTU purchased the start-up supplies for all the teachers. Planning is in progress for the release day at Strawberry Hill featuring educational stations for students. Our January meeting featured a program on "What's on a Trout's Menu?" Our February meeting at 6:30 on Feb. 21 features "Taxidermy – How to Preserve Your Catch to Create Lifelike Replicas" at the Adams County Conservation District Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.

Codorus Chapter #558

Bob Daviau

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www.codorustu.org

No report.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

John Zazworsky

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www.pacvtu.org

Our Limestoner Spring Fly Fling is April 20. This year, we're planning an all-day team fishing event followed by a banquet in the evening. Corporate sponsors will support fishing and auction

prizes. Team entry fees will support fund-raising. The Barnitz Church Yellow Breeches summer in-stream project is showing improvement of stream conditions, especially reduction of sediment. Follow-up work has proceeded with the planting of native trees, bushes and grasses on multiple dates in October and November. A benefit to this project has been the interaction with other like-minded non-profits (planning and funding) and the resulting involvement of volunteers from those organizations. Our beginner and intermediate fly-tying classes run on Mondays from Jan. 22 through March 11 at the Carlisle Stuart Community Center. Membership meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at Mt. Zion Crossroad Church in Mt. Holly Springs. At our October meeting, Michael Blackwell presented chalk stream restoration in the UK. Our annual year in review and member feedback was in November.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Chuck Swanderski

chucks@dftu.org

www.dftu.org

Our improvement project on the Quittapahilla Creek special regs area has begun with stream-bank improvements and water diverters in place. This spring, DFTU will enlist volunteers to help plant riparian buffer trees along the newly-restored bank. The Snitz Creek 3 final design and permit conversation with DEP is complete. At Bachman Run, surveying and wetland delineation and stream assessment is complete. A Growing Greener grant application was approved by DEP pending submission of documentation from the 20 landowners for our Snitz Creek 4 project. We have secured the needed documents except for one, and the decision was made to work around that property. At our Barry Farm Hammer Creek project, footprint surveys, bog turtle phases one and two, and wetland delineation are now complete, and the legacy sediment trenching is scheduled to begin. We have a new project on Quittapahilla Creek and landowners have been contacted. Approximately \$250,000 is funded by the Lebanon County Conservation District with matching funds from Palmyra Sportsman's Association and DFTU. We are also applying for a package of several grants from various agencies to assist Becks Creek. Quittapahilla Watershed Association's monitoring program is now in full swing. The goal is to measure the extent to which the restoration work in the watershed is having its intended effects. Weekly maintenance at the Rausch Creek diversion well is ongoing. The well underwent some major repairs during low-water conditions. Chapter volunteers participated in fall cleanup of Manada Creek and Clarks Creek on Oct. 21. A large group of volunteers assisted PFBC with stocking on Oct. 12. We assisted Palmyra Sportsman's Association in float-stocking the Quittapahilla on Oct. 7. DFTU participated at

the Ned Smith Center and Wild Woods Festival. Emphasis was placed on DFTU's diversion well, ecology, fly-tying and coldwater conservation. For the second year, the chapter was invited to participate in the Legislative Cast and Blast Program sponsored by TU. Basic fly-tying classes began Feb. 1 at Palmyra Sportsman's Association. Intermediate classes begin Feb. 15 at Wildwood Education Center. TIC programs are ongoing. We are looking to pick up one or two additional schools next year. Our board approved renting a storage unit to house chapter and TIC equipment. We participated in the Palmyra Sportsman's Association Field Day on Oct. 8. We offered fly-tying demos, spinner-lure making, casting instructions and practice. Several youths are participating in our winter tying class. We reached out to two local Scout troops for possible co-op activities. DFTU participated in the PATU and National TU Diversity conference calls. On Oct. 7, DFTU sponsored its fifth consecutive Ladies Fly-Fishing Day at Limestone Springs Fishing Preserve. PA Reel Sisters are an active participant in our Ladies Program. Rick Nyles, owner of Sky Blue Outfitters, presented "Fishing tales from Idaho and Montana" at our Jan. 23 meeting. DFTU's annual Membership Meeting is March 26 at the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Room. We will hold elections and guide George Fallon is scheduled to present "Brook Trout Streams and Tactics."

Donegal Chapter #037

Claire Landis

president@donegaltu.org

www.donegaltu.org

We received two grants from DEP in November: One for \$97,000 to update and revise the 2006 Conowingo Creek WIP, and another for \$302,000 for the Conowingo Creek 10,000 feet of Stream Restoration Project. The Dellinger Project grants were approved. The \$460,000 in funding will come from Lancaster Clean Water Partners, ARPA, and the landowner. Grant extension was approved for the Shears Run in Chiques Creek WS project and waiting for the bog turtle survey. Design was approved by PFBC on a DEP 319 project involving three properties. DTU agreed to submit a Letter of Intent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Hammer Creek Project. DTU is investigating a project in the Donegal Creek Watershed with the LCCD involving six properties. A youth fly-fishing event is scheduled for May. Women and adult classes are planned for the fall. With a Forever Wild grant award, we will purchase new rods and equipment for these events. A \$5,000 grant was submitted to the SRBC to partially fund a contractor to mow and apply herbicide to three sites with the balance funded by DTU. Upcoming general meetings are Feb. 21 and March 20 at Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Took Coder

www.patrou.org

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www.facebook.com/fstu234/

We have started planning for "Family Fest Day" to coincide with the mentored youth trout day on March 30. Our goal is to attract more youths to fly-fishing and to get more active TU members. Progress is being made on adding a website for our chapter. PFBC declined our request to change the Delayed Harvest section of Falling Spring to Catch and Release, Fly-Fishing Only. We have now requested it change to Catch and Release, All Tackle. We are still waiting on grant approval for a complete watershed study for Falling Spring Creek. We have also conducted land studies for two other projects on Falling Spring. FSTU is scheduled to do a project designed by TU on Falling Spring this summer below Edwards Avenue.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

John Snyder

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www.muddycreektu.org

Our Cabin Fever Fly-Tying event was Feb. 3 at the Stewartstown American Legion and featured Bobby Clouser, Henry Ramsey and Tom Herr. MCTU was in the final stage of its Incubator Project in late 2023. Most of the fry found their way into the headwaters of our watershed. This program continues to be a great success and enhances the population of stream-bred trout in our watershed. MCTU is again sponsoring TIC programs in six classrooms, reaching 400-plus students across Red Lion, Dallastown, South Eastern, and Eastern York school districts. Plans are underway for women's and handicapped fishing events for the spring.

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**

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Bryan Mathie

930 Penn Ave.- Ste 2A

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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Phone: 708-921-8373

www.patROUT.org

Arrowhead Chapter #214

Chad Hough

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At our November meeting, Maria Sorce from the Armstrong County Conservation District spoke about improvements that were made last summer on the passive AMD treatment plant on Huling Run. Our annual Christmas party was in December. Also in December, we float-stocked trout from a local co-op nursery in the Buffalo Creek DHALO section. At our January meeting, fly-fishing guide and author Ralph Scherder presented on fishing the Clarion River. Our annual fly-tying class will be held at Buffalo Creek Nature Park in Sarver in February. March is a busy month with chapter members helping to float-stock trout from both the state and local co-op nurseries.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

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In mid-October, Chestnut Ridge Chapter worked with our frequent partners Mountain Watershed Association and PA Fly Company to present a free fly-fishing clinic at South Union Township's Hutchinson Community Park. Those who attended received intense one-on-one instruction in casting, tying, stream entomology, rod set-up and tactics. Attendees expressed deep satisfaction for the time and effort CRTU members extended. We look forward to more clinics with Mountain Watershed and PA Fly Company in the future. We learned that we were successful in our application to Pennsylvania Foundation for Watersheds for a grant that will enable us to continue our Glade Run project for another two years. This may be enough time for the full positive influence of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's new AMD treatment systems in the headwaters to improve the stream quality, hopefully bringing to a close our 25 year-long effort to improve and restore Glade Run. We are working with the Southern Laurel Highlands Plant and Pest Management Partnership to address hemlock conservation at selected priority locations on trout streams within our chapter's region. Candidate streams are Dunbar Creek, Meadow Run and the Quebec Run Watershed. Our chapter has scheduled its 2024 fund-raising banquet for March 23 at Hugo's Restaurant, Route 40 west of Brownsville, PA. Ticket information is available at www.chestnutridgetu.org. Chapter members are beginning the process of renewing our PA Child Abuse History Clearances. This is an important step in responsibly offering fishing and aquatic education experiences to youth.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

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FTTU volunteers will once again be assisting several local schools over the winter with teaching coldwater conservation lesson plans, fly-tying and casting, and supporting two school TIC programs. Field trips will involve stream studies, fly-fishing and service projects. The "Gray Hackle Gang" (FTTU members and guests) meet weekly through the winter for lunch and fly-tying. Mentors are available to assist beginners. Forbes Trail partnered with Werry's Provision meat market and the Westmoreland County Food Bank for its annual fundraiser. More than 800 raffle tickets were sold, nine \$250 gift cards to Werry's or Walmart were awarded as prizes, and we shared \$600 of the profit with the Foodbank. Monty Murty, past chapter president and retired U.S. Army major, will present a history of the Vietnam war from an infantry officer's perspective at 6:30 p.m. on March 13. Monty's presentation will be held at the Westmoreland Conservation District, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg. Preregistration is required. Forbes Trail TU offers a fishing event each fall for area military veterans and first responders. It is intended to teach fly-fishing as a means to heal the body and soul. This is part of the National TU Service Partnership program. It is scheduled for October 5. We are still waiting for DCNR to approve a proposed limestone sand treatment system in the headwaters of Linn Run. Our recently completed Coldwater Conservation Plan identified a need for treatment to improve the survival rate of wild brook trout in the nursery waters. If approved, FTTU will work with partners to do a more extensive baseline study of water quality, macroinvertebrates, and wild brook trout populations in the headwaters. Chapter meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. Check our website for more details.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

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FBTU's annual membership meeting was held on Nov. 14 at the Horn-O-Plenty Restaurant. The chapter hosted a fly-tying roundtable at its January meeting. We are planning a cleanup on Bobs Creek at 8 a.m. March 25. Stream restoration projects (current and projected): Shobers Run Phase IV restoration project is set for summer 2024, as is a Potter Creek streambank stabilization project. Fly tying and fishing instruction activities: Fly-Tying Round Table at the January meeting.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Scott Kavanagh

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We are partnering with the Blair County Conservation District on possibly four projects and another on Canoe Creek in Canoe Creek State Park.

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We expect the permitting process to start early in the year. On Nov. 11, the chapter completed its fourth Adopt-A-Highway cleanup along Plum Creek Road, which parallels Plum Creek, a Class A wild trout stream. On Oct. 8, the chapter held an Intro to Fly-Fishing class at the Blair County Game, Fish & Forestry Club. We hope to schedule the next event in March. On Jan. 2, we held our first Fly-Tyers Roundtable with 12 of the best tyers in the area. Our eight-week Intro to Fly-Tying started Jan. 6 and finishes on Feb. 24. It's from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays at Allegheny Volunteer Firehall, 651 Sugar Run Road, Altoona. Shawn Holsinger from Holsinger's Fly Shop presented "Tying and the Lifecycle of Caddis" at our Feb. 6 meeting. Frank Nale will discuss spin-fishing for trout at our March 5 meeting. It's at 7 p.m. at Allegheny Volunteer Firehall.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Barrie Mann

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[http:// http://kstupa.blogspot.com](http://http://kstupa.blogspot.com)**

In early October, the chapter partnered with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and PFBC on a 500-foot bank stabilization project on Yellow Creek. Our general meetings resumed, and we enjoyed presentations by Stephen Nymick who offered his comprehensive steelhead program in

October. In November, Josh Miller presented a program on dry/dropper fishing. Our December meeting was the annual chapter Christmas party where KSTU member Landon Cook talked about his experiences competing and making the USA Youth Fly-Fishing Team, where he placed fifth and will now compete for a spot to represent the USA in international competition. We picked up roadside litter on a two mile stretch of Little Mahoning Creek. At our January meeting, chapter member and officer Bobby Kish presented his program "Methodically Mastering Pressured Trout." In February, we will hold our annual "Fly-Tyers Round Robin." The KSTU annual banquet is March 16.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Dave Maher

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Officer and one-year board position elections are upcoming in March. Budget/project planning is finalized for 2024. MLTU's annual banquet is March 23 at The Willow, near the Johnstown Airport. At this time, a streamside litter pickup is scheduled for March 30. The chapter is supporting TIC programs in Blacklick Valley Jr.-Sr. High School, Shade-Central City, Divine Mercy, Forest Hills Jr.-Sr., Richland Elementary and Shanksville Stony Creek Elementary. NatureWorks at Bottle

Works Ethnic Arts Center in Johnstown is March 9. This annual event is supported by the chapter, where we demonstrate fly-tying and conservation initiatives. MLTU received a \$3,500 mini-grant administered through the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which will help fund Phase 2 of our Stuarts Run project. The chapter held fly-tying classes on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings in January, which run until Feb. 12.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Ian Brown

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In September, Tim Flagler presented to the chapter and we invited other organizations to join us and take advantage of this unique opportunity. Chapter member Eric Norberg presented on fishing in Arkansas from his recent trip. In December, we had a "Tie-In" to prepare for the annual Joe Klein fly sale fundraiser in January. PWWTU's 23rd annual Cabin Fever fundraiser is Sunday, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton DoubleTree Cranberry. Speakers include George Daniels, Josh Miller, Dusty Wissmath and Morgan Biticofer. There will be two STREAM Keepers events in 2024, with dates and locations to be announced. Our women's group is currently putting together its monthly agenda for the year and that will be available at www.PWWTU.org.