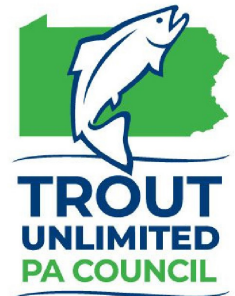


# Pennsylvania TROUT



Winter 2025

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org



Contributed Photo

Author Christian Shane makes the best of a frigid, snowy day on an Erie tributary.

## Steelhead season brings the good, the bad and the ugly

By Christian A. Shane  
*Penn's Woods West TU*

*“You see, in this world there’s two kinds of people, my friend: those with loaded guns...and those who dig. You dig.” Blondie (The Good) to Tuco (The Bad), from the movie “The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly,” 1966.*

You may recognize this infamous Clint Eastwood character quote from the Spaghetti Western called “The Good, The Bad,

and The Ugly.” The 1966 film represents the themes of the Wild West with making choices and surviving.

If you’re a steelhead angler, you’ve experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly this season. From early drought-like conditions to record snow amounts to extreme flooding to slush and frozen tributaries, the 2024-2025 steelhead season seems to be along these same lines with a plethora of weather events and metrological com-

See **STEELHEAD**, page 8

## PFBC moves forward to approve Class A stream stocking policy

By Dave Rothrock  
*PATU Trout Committee Chair*

Pennsylvania boasts an incredible number of miles of wild trout streams and rivers. These waters vary from small mountain streams measuring only a few feet between banks to those so wide the average angler would find their casts falling far short as they attempt to target a trout feeding against the far bank.

The crème de la crème of wild trout waters are those stream sections designated Class A Wild Brook Trout or Brown Trout. While most of the stream sections presented for Class A designation are not stocked there are some which have received allocations of hatchery trout from PFBC, a cooperative nursery or other private entity,

See **STOCKING**, page 9

## Trout and President Jimmy Carter

By Rod Cross & Monty Murty  
*Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited*

We are writing this today while every TV channel is covering the pomp and ceremony of President Jimmy Carter’s so richly deserved state funeral. And every fly-angler who sees his flag-draped casket must be wondering if they buried

See **PRESIDENT**, page 13

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# Trout have no politics

By Bob Neu

*PATU Development Committee Chair*

We live in interesting times. Rarely has the American electorate been so divided, and there is evidence to suggest that the rift will continue for some time.

But trout are apolitical.

Their habitat is tinted neither red nor blue, and they are blissfully indifferent to the human tumult above and beyond their watery lair.

They have no cultural ax to grind. Indeed, if they were to make a campaign pitch, they would lobby only for a fresh, clear and pollutant-free environment in which to hatch, grow, swim, eat, and procreate.

As members of PA Trout Unlimited, no matter our individual views, it's safe to say there's one platform on which we all agree: our shared responsibility to conserve, protect and restore Pennsylvania's treasured coldwater fisheries and watersheds – especially our precious wild trout resources – for the benefit of all residents of the Keystone State.

In December we reached out to all members with our Annual Appeal letter, and the drive is still going on. If you have not yet made your gift in support of our efforts, please do so now.

You don't have to give a huge amount – every contribution, no matter how large or small, makes a surprising difference when calculated in the aggregate.

Annual dues cover only the very basic costs of membership, and are shared with the TU national organization. So, we rely heavily on contributions from Pennsylvania's membership to fund the critical conservation efforts needed within our Commonwealth.

Your donation also goes a long way to defray the cost of PATU's flagship educational program, Trout in the Classroom. Each year, some 57,000 students in over 400 public and private schools raise trout from eggs to fingerlings while logging 12,000-plus instructional hours on topics such as aquatic ecosystems and watershed management.



Collectively, these young conservationists engage in over 500 improvement projects each year to keep Pennsylvania's waterways running clear and clean.

Please make your gift to PATU as soon as possible – just go to [www.patrout.org](http://www.patrout.org) and click on the blue **Donate Today!** button at the top of the page. We honor all donors on our website, unless you choose to be anonymous.

Of course, we'd also be glad to receive your gift by check or money order. Just make it payable to *PA Trout*, and mail to: Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823. PATU is a federally certified 501(c)3 Non-Profit Charitable Organization, and contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Please make your gift today. Think of it as campaigning on a straight "Trout Ticket" – the wisest vote you'll ever cast!

.....  
*Bob Neu can be reached at [development@patrout.org](mailto:development@patrout.org).*

**TRIBUTARIES**

Fly-fishing Sojourns to the  
Less Traveled Streams

Lou Wentz

"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*

Visit [www.coastforkpress.com](http://www.coastforkpress.com)



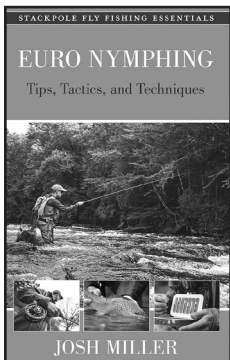
# Spring is coming – it's time to stock up on PATU merchandise

To help kick off 2025, we've added a new book to our existing selection of fly-fishing books written by PA authors... "Euro-Nymphing: Tips, Tactics and Techniques" by Josh Miller.

Euro-nymphing (also once called Czech nymphing) is a broad term for a wide range of subsurface fly fishing techniques that rely on long leaders, light fly lines, and long rods.

Because of the light lines, anglers can get better drifts, sink their flies faster, and detect even subtle strikes – with proper technique. Pittsburgh native and Fly Fishing Team USA member Josh Miller is one of the most successful guides and coaches teaching this method, and in this book he shares everything he knows about approach, presentation, and choosing the right flies.

To complement this new book, we have also added to our line of custom-tied wet- and dry-fly leaders a new 30-foot long Euro-nymphing leader constructed



of Maxima Chameleon, red Amnesia, gold Stren, and finished with bi-color Cortland indicator mono with a tippet ring.

And don't forget that we offer a 9-foot, 5-weight, 7-piece Traveler Fly-Rod, a 7-foot, 3-weight, 4-piece Ultralight Fly-Rod, "Brookie" fly-reels in 3/4 and 5/6 sizes, PATU-logoed hats and T-shirts, "Catch & Release" license frames, and "Back the Brookie" decorative license plates and refrigerator magnets.

It's easy to order merchandise online at [www.patrou.org/index.php/merchandise](http://www.patrou.org/index.php/merchandise) using a credit card or PayPal; or download, print the order form and mail to the address on the form with your personal check or money order.

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## PFBC biologists hosting Monday conservation programs

Join Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission biologists to learn more about the core of our mission to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources. You don't have to be an angler or boater for the work of the Commission to matter to you. Find out how the agency is keeping Pennsylvania's waters clean and our aquatic species and habitats restored, maintained and protected.

### Mission Mondays Programs

Attend virtually from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Topic	Date	Speaker(s)
Importance of PA Mussels	February 3	Nevin Welte, Malacologist/Nongame Biologist
Delaware River Highlights	February 10	Daryl Pierce, Area Fisheries Manager, Cooper Barshinger, Fisheries Biologist, Mike Porta, Area Fisheries Manager, and Tyler Grabowski, Fisheries Biologist
Erie Fisheries Highlights: Perch and Walleye	February 24	Mark Haffley, Fisheries Biologist and Lake Erie Unit Leader
PA Wild Trout Waters: A Reason to Celebrate	March 3	Jason Detar, Fisheries Biologist, and Nate Walters, Fisheries Biologist and Coldwater Unit Leader
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	March 10	Kathy Gipe, Herpetologist/Nongame Biologist, and Chris Urban, Chief, Natural Diversity Section and Nongame Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator
What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?	March 17	Sean Hartzell, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
Stream Habitat Projects and Fishing Benefits	March 24	Mark Sausser, Chief, Stream Habitat Section
Lake Habitat Projects and Fishing Benefits	March 31	Ben Page, Chief, Lake Habitat Section

Register for programs and events:



# Headwaters

A message from PATU President  
Lenny Lichvar

Resource First is dead.

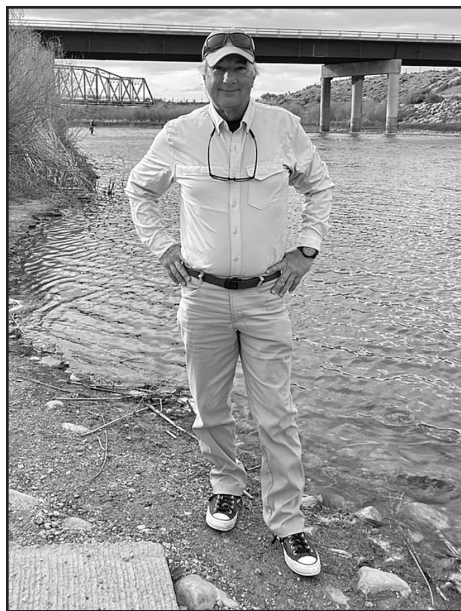
You may or may not have noticed that the PA Fish and Boat Commission's slogan/motto/philosophy of "Resource First" is no longer stated or seen anywhere.

Here is a little background on it for those of you who have not been around that long. In 1981, the Commission adopted what was named Operation Future under then Executive Director Ralph Abele. Among the precedents that Operation Future was built on were:

- Manage self-sustaining fish populations as a renewable natural resource to conserve the resource and the angling it provides.
- Use hatchery fish to provide recreation in those waters where fish populations are inadequate to sustain the fishery at desired levels.

Operation Future was created to move the agency from a recreation first concept to a resource first agency. The phrase "Resource First" was actually coined in 1987. Although Resource First was not codified or given any type of mandated enforcement, it was adopted to provide further emphasis on the natural resource to be at the forefront of a natural resource agency.

Resource First stuck with the agency all through John Arway's term as executive director. As a Commissioner for the PFBC



for 12 years I proudly wore a Resource First lapel pin to every Commission meeting and event I participated in to remind myself, as well as others, what the focus of the agency should be.

Since then the motto seems to have vanished. To be honest, even during my tenure as Commissioner, Resource First was on life support.

The momentum of Operation Future had already largely been eradicated as well. This was evident when Commission staff, as well as many of my fellow Commissioners, determined that a viable use for hatchery trout was to continue to place them in selected, multiple, newly designated Class A waterways. Although stocked trout are a resource, wild trout

are a naturally occurring resource. (We can debate native or non-native but that is another discussion).

The latest assault on our wild trout natural resource is the recent effort of streamlining and fast tracking of the method by which Class A waters will be considered for possible stocking, if they meet the specific criteria for consideration. PATU, not to mention myself personally, oppose any criteria for the stocking of Class A waters in the first place – just as Operation Future envisioned.

Today, and in the past as well, when I listen to PFBC Commissioners discuss wild trout management I hear things such as "we have to run the Commission like a business and satisfy our customers."

Yes, your customer/angler/boaters are a resource too. I happen to be one of them. I also worked for years in the private sector before becoming a part of the professional public sector. Tailoring your product to your customers' wishes is essential in the private sector in order to cover your costs and make a profit. There is nothing wrong with any of that.

In the public sector you still have to cover costs and income is still essential. However, your service mission is your goal and in a resource agency in particular the protection and enhancement of the natural resource is your profitability.

The PFBC is responsible for water quality improvements and protection, management of reptiles and amphibians, creating and maintaining infrastructure such as buildings hatcheries and boat launches, conservation education programs, enforcement of essential fish and boating regulations among many other important services all aimed at improving the outdoor experience for the customer/angler/boater. The PFBC and its staff do an excellent job at all of these endeavors.

However, in the ever ongoing tug of war between prioritizing the customer/angler/boater resource and the natural wild trout resource the enlightened philosophy of Operation Future and Resource First has not managed to survive in the predicted future as was intended.

Therefore Resource First is dead. But, I don't believe it should rest in peace.



Lenny Lichvar Photo

A "Resource First" pin from back in the day.



# Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer  
Russell Thrall

## Thank you for your support and a key reporting reminder

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual appeal so far. Your generosity allows us to continue our vital work—protecting and restoring Pennsylvania's coldwater fisheries, supporting local TU chapters, and investing in conservation and youth engagement programs.

Every dollar makes a difference, and your support ensures that we can carry out our mission effectively. Look for Bob Neu's Development Committee report elsewhere in this issue for full details.

### Fiscal Year End & Reporting Deadlines

With March 31 marking the end of the Trout Unlimited fiscal year, I want to remind all chapter presidents and treasurers across Pennsylvania of another essential upcoming deadline: the Annual Activity Report, due May 15.

### Why the AAR Matters

The AAR provides a snapshot of your chapter's financials, conservation efforts, and community engagement. It helps TU National and PA Council showcase the collective impact of our organization, strengthen partnerships, and secure future funding.

This report is more than just a formality, it ensures your chapter remains in good standing and remains eligible for rebates and grants.

It also provides essential information about the tremendous work of TU's grass roots volunteers across the Commonwealth.

According to an analysis of last fiscal year's AARs, Trout Unlimited volunteers at Council and our 49 local chapters across Pennsylvania donated just over 75,000 hours of their time, a value of over \$2.3 million dollars to support our shared mission.

This is on top of the \$1.8 million in real money spent on program services such as our conservation, education, member engagement, veteran initiatives, and ad-

vocacy. The spending on program services represents over 88% of just over \$2 million in total spending last fiscal year in Pennsylvania by the Council and our chapters.

### Don't Wait Until the Last Minute

Start gathering your chapter's financial information, volunteer hours, and activity summaries now. Spring is a busy time for most of our chapters and May 15 comes around fast. If you need guidance, PA Council is here to help.

Finally, make sure your chapter leadership is up to date on the TU volunteer leader's website so that you receive communications about AAR training and deadlines pertinent to their role.

Thank you again for your generosity and dedication!

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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, email bisles@live.com. See pages 2-3 for Council contact information, officers and committees.

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



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# Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

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## Quill Gordon

*A classic Catskill style dry fly steeped in American history.*

### Fly Design / Highlights

- Constructed with beautiful, natural materials
- Contains a tremendous historical significance
- Floats high and very visible to the angler
- Once mastered, the technique can be applied to other Catskill style flies

### Background

This style can be traced to the Father of American Dry Fly Fishing—Theodore Gordon. Most think of Gordon as being a Catskill angler, but it is also interesting to note that he first fished the Pennsylvania limestoners in his younger age.

### About the Quill Gordon

This pattern has evolved over time from the original style Gordon tied, but the materials pretty much remained consistent. A barred wood-duck flank feather was used to create the wing—set back from the hook eye for balance. Stiff tailing fibers were used to help balance the fly. A stripped peacock eye quill was incorporated for a sleek, segmented body reminiscent of the natural insects. And dun hackle was used to aid floatation and impressionistic legs. Sometimes thread or wire was used to reinforce the quill. Gordon tied these patterns in three shades: light, medium and darker colors. Push your tying skills and tie up a few of these beauties! Tight lines!



### Materials

- **Hook:** #12–14 Allcock W1755 or Mustad 94840
- **Thread:** Tan 8/0 Uni-Thread
- **Wing:** Wood-duck Flank Feather
- **Tail:** Stiff Dun Hackle
- **Body:** Stripped Peacock Eye Quill
- **Hackle:** Natural Blue Dun, Medium to Dark

Note: These materials are the traditional ingredients—feel free to substitute as needed. We don't always need to have the exact materials at the ready!



Insert a hook into your vise and start your thread, leaving an ample amount of space behind the eye in traditional Catskill form. Tie in a divided wood-duck wing.



Tie in a stiff hackle tail and cover all the wraps with nice even and flat turns. Double check the length of the tail using your scissors as calipers.



Strip a peacock quill and tie in at the start of the tail. It's a good idea to brush some head cement on the body before you start wrapping the quill to help reinforcement.



Wrap the quill forward and tie off leaving some space behind the wing. I also like to cover the body again with a little head cement for additional reinforcement.



Now tie in some hackle—some folks use two feathers—and wrap forward. About three or four turns behind the wing and three or four turns in front usually works well.

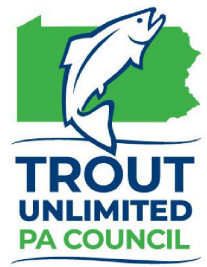


Trim any stray or unsightly barbs and create a neat, clean head of thread. Trim the thread and reinforce with a little head cement. Set it aside to dry and tie some more!



# Merchandise Order Form

Thank you for supporting the efforts of PATU in protecting, conserving, and restoring PA's coldwater streams. Please allow 7 to 10 days to receive your order. Most items should arrive sooner. For pictures and complete descriptions of these items please go to [www.patrou.org/merchandise](http://www.patrou.org/merchandise). If you have questions about the availability of any specific items, please feel free to contact Bob Pennell at [rpennell37@comcast.net](mailto:rpennell37@comcast.net) or 717-395-5124.



	Item Description	Qty.	Unit Price	6% PA Tax	Total w/Tax	Line Total
1	"Back the Brookie" License Plate		\$24.50	\$1.47	\$25.97	
2	"Catch & Release Wild Trout" License Plate Frame		\$17.95	\$1.08	\$19.03	
	PATU Ballcap (circle) Khaki Olive		\$19.50	None	\$19.50	
	PATU Ballcap – Digital Camo		\$23.50	None	\$23.50	
3	Men's PATU T-shirt (circle size) S M L XL		\$23.00	None	\$23.00	
	Men's PATU T-shirt (circle size) 2XL		\$26.00	None	\$26.00	
	Men's PATU T-shirt (circle size) 3XL		\$29.00	None	\$29.00	
	Custom-tied Leaders					
	Dry Fly – 4X Tippet		\$6.50	\$0.39	\$6.89	
	Dry Fly – 5X Tippet		\$6.50	\$0.39	\$6.89	
	Dry Fly – 6X Tippet		\$6.50	\$0.39	\$6.89	
	Wet Fly – 4X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$6.50	\$0.39	\$6.89	
	Wet Fly – 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$6.50	\$0.39	\$6.89	
	Wet Fly – 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$6.50	\$0.39	\$6.89	
	Euro Nymphing Leader –30 ft.		\$11.50	\$0.69	\$6.89	
	"Euro Nymphing" Book		\$34.95	\$2.10	\$37.05	
	"Pocketguide to PA Hatches" Book		\$22.95	\$1.38	\$24.33	
	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book		\$29.95	\$1.80	\$31.75	
	"Favorite Flies of PA" Book		\$24.95	\$1.50	\$26.45	
4	Traveler Fly Rod – 9-ft., 5-wt., 7-piece		\$130.00	\$7.80	\$137.80	
5	Ultralight Fly Rod – 7-ft., 3-wt., 4-piece		\$115.00	\$6.90	\$121.90	
	"Brookie" Fly Reel 3/4 wt.		\$46.50	\$2.79	\$49.29	
	"Brookie" Fly Reel 5/6 wt.		\$49.50	\$2.97	\$52.47	
	"Back the Brookie" Refrigerator Magnet		\$3.75	\$0.23	\$3.98	
	PATU Sticker		\$1.50	\$0.09	\$1.59	
	* Prices effective February 1, 2025				<b>Total:</b>	



Shipping and handling costs are included in above prices.

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**PATU c/o Merchandise**  
**2319 Valley Road**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17104**

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

plications.

### The Good

Fortunately, despite the challenging conditions, steelheaders have caught fish this fall and winter of significant size and in number. For the fortunate days we were on the water, my fishing friends and I hooked fish with impressive size and fight for a Lake Erie steelhead. Even in the tough, frigid conditions, and in high or low water levels, we've managed to coax some fish with our patterns and into the net.

In the last few seasons, in many of the PA tributaries, the number of fish caught by most anglers compared to the hours spent pursuing them have also been successful. The Lake Erie watershed continues to produce a healthy crop of steelhead, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission hopefully maintains and improves the steelhead numbers.

### The Bad

The 2024 fall steelhead season started off with a drought in Pennsylvania which hasn't been seen in decades. The lack of water in the tributaries contributed to an extremely late start to the season for anglers and especially the crowdedness on the creeks when the rainfall finally came to raise the water to fishable levels.

After the droughts, then the snow fell and fell. Erie's total snowfall from October 2024 to December 2024 was over 50 inches on average (According to NOAA records).



Christian Shane Photo

**Be persistent in icy steelheading conditions as it can pay off when they bite.**

Though the total so far has not reached the record snowfall back in 2017-2018, this snowfall came pretty quickly from Thanksgiving into December to lock up the tributaries and make steelhead angling tough.

### The Ugly

Furthermore, due to a VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) scare, the PA Fish & Boat Commission closed down its Tionesta State Fish Hatchery, and now relies on the Fairview State Fish Hatchery for its steelhead population. They shared that

the annual steelhead stocking was down about 20%, from a million steelhead smolts to 800,000. This effect won't be seen by anglers for a few years since it takes two to three years for steelhead to grow to spawning size and return to the creeks. They do plan to increase the hatchery production up over the one million mark into the future.

Hopefully in 2025, you'll appreciate the good, navigate the bad, and triumph over the ugly for some steelhead angling success the rest of this winter season.

## Donations

### In Memoriam

- In memory of Richard Hillwig:  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Geibel  
Oak Hills Garden Club
- In memory of Darryl E. Zalenski  
on behalf of his grandchildren:  
Eric and Rebecca Beck
- In memory of Randy Haser:  
Peggy Nelson
- In memory of Ford B. Draper, Jr.:  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Draper

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# STOCKING

from page 1

or both. Once approved to be added to the Class A list, in addition to qualifying for a higher level of protection by DEP, all stocking on that stream section must cease unless an exemption is granted by PFBC.

It goes without saying that PATU's position is that no stocking of any Class A Wild Trout stream section should be permitted. Fortunately, Class A Wild Brook Trout stream sections will not be considered for stocking by PFBC.

A bit of controversy has developed with this issue over the past few years. While PFBC staff informs local entities, especially those operating a cooperative nursery having a history of stocking the stream section in question, that stocking must cease strong disagreement on the part of a local entity can result in complaints going beyond PFBC directly to legislators. Pressure from legislators only tends to complicate things.

And that brings us to the specific issue at hand. With a formal proposal from the Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee adopted by PFBC Commissioners at their meeting on Jan. 27, the criteria used to consider approval of a request for exemption to the no stocking policy are being relaxed. Further, the authority to approve a request for exemption is being moved from Commissioners to the executive director. While PATU is opposed to the changes as presented, we acknowledge that no one expects the number of requests for exemption to increase dramatically; however, any exemption granted contrasts with PATU's position.

With any process, transparency is considered a most important factor. With the authority to approve exemptions remaining with the Commissioners, transparency in the process would continue. Moving this authority to the executive director would remove this transparency. There is no provision for the public to be informed of any part of the process from submission of a request for exemption to approval or denial.

One of the arguments in favor of continued stocking of a Class A Wild Brown Trout stream section is, on the surface, one

to which many people may relate. This wild brown trout population was able to meet or exceed the minimum threshold to qualify as Class A while stocking continued.

So, what's the big deal? The best response is to recognize that continued stocking inhibits this wild brown trout population from realizing its full potential. PFBC staff has the data to support this. While there may be exceptions, most stream surveys pre- and post-cessation of stocking has revealed anywhere from significant to substantial population increases. An increased wild brown trout population should always be considered a more valuable benefit to anglers than continued stocking of hatchery trout.

Another positive effect of cessation of stocking a Class A Wild Brown Trout stream section is the fact that this stocking allocation is now available to either establish additional angling opportunity

on a nearby marginal water or increase allocations on currently stocked stream sections. PFBC's trout management plan calls for pursuing additional trout angling opportunities and this can contribute toward realizing this goal. This is a win for both wild trout and anglers who desire to pursue stocked trout.

There will be an opportunity to provide public comments in the near future. PATU will keep you informed as these opportunities arise. We hope, too, that PFBC will hold a public meeting or series of public meetings to inform the angling public as well as elicit public input.

You've heard it said before: "Wild trout can't speak for themselves, so we have to speak for them."

The language may vary but the message is the same. The more anglers who are willing to comment the more impact the message will have.

Stay tuned...

## FORBES TRAIL TROUT UNLIMITED PRESENTS THE 2025 FLY FISHING POKER RUN

Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sponsoring a Poker Run in an effort to introduce anglers to new premier trout streams in the Laurel Highlands. This is a product of the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail (LHTT) developed by five regional TU chapters in 2024 to promote ecotourism in the area. This is an opportunity to discover new trout streams, enhance your fly-fishing skills, and earn a chance at winning a valuable prize. TU membership is not required to participate or win.

- PHOTOS RULES**
- \* Participation Dates - April 5, 2025 - July 31, 2025
  - \* Open to all PA Licensed Anglers and Youth (Flies & Artificial Lures Only)
  - \* Entry Fees are \$20.00 for licensed anglers ages 16 and up, \$5.00 for youths ages 15 and under

- PHOTOS**
- \* Take a "selfie" photo at an LHTT sign at each of the top 10 streams you visit
  - \* Stream and sign locations are available by downloading an LHTT brochure from the LHTT website, [Laurelhighlandstrouttrail.org](http://Laurelhighlandstrouttrail.org) or use the QR code below
  - \* e-mail your photos and fly-fishing information to: [info@forbestrailtu.org](mailto:info@forbestrailtu.org). e-mailing photos to FTTU gives us your permission to use photos in newsletters and at events.



- RAFFLE TICKETS**
- \* You will receive one raffle ticket for registering
  - \* One additional raffle ticket for fishing 3 streams (total of two tickets)
  - \* Another additional raffle ticket for fishing 5 streams (total of three tickets)
  - \* Another additional raffle ticket for fishing 7 streams (total of four tickets)
  - \* Two additional raffle tickets for fishing all 10 streams (total of six tickets)
  - \* One raffle ticket for new membership in TU Forbes Trail Chapter prior to registering for the LHTT Poker Run
  - \* The more LHTT Top Ten Streams you visit, the more raffle tickets you earn!

**TO REGISTER**

- \* Mail check to: Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited, PO Box 370, Youngstown, PA 15696. Include, Name, address, telephone number, email address and note on your check for "2025 FTTU Poker Run".

- \* Participants must be registered and fee paid before submitting photos. Registrations accepted from April 5 to July 31, 2025. FTTU must receive a minimum of 15 adults and 10 youth participants or registration fee will be returned.

- \* Deadline for submitting photos is August 4, 2025



# PATU Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Jan. 19, 2025  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Zoom Teleconference



**Attendees:** Eric Null, Erick Lewis, Rick Nyles, Lenny Lichvar, Gary Parzanese, Brian Wagner, Greg Malaska, Russell Thrall, Russ Collins, Judi Sittler, Michael Stahl, Sigrid Sharif, Todd Burns, Bryan Mathie, Jonathan Daniels, Ari Capotis, Dave Rothrock, Scott Koser, Jason Miller, Erick Lewis.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the Sept. 13, 2024, EXCOM meeting were approved as submitted.

\**Motion* to approve by T. Burns.

**President's Report:** Submitted by L. Lichvar.

**Secretary's Report:** Submitted by E. Lewis.

**Treasurer's Report:** Submitted by R. Thrall. Preliminary financials provided. YTD grants, etc. are light because CHP came in last fiscal year. Feb. 2025 \$25K R3, \$50K Foundation for PA Watersheds. Running a little behind in year-end appeal but continuing to come in, \$19K in so far. Draft tax return and financial review. CHP grant approved for 2025, expect in Feb. or March. J. Sittler asked where women and youth money is shown. R. Thrall can generate a detailed report. Approximately \$4.5K to Women's Retreat and approximately \$1.5K from SCTU will show in 2025.

\**Motion* to approve by T. Burns.

**Executive Director Report:** Submitted by E. Null.

CHP Grants – Meridian East has no max. cap, DCNR C2P2 Grants awarded but not received. Not to exceed \$50K requires separate submission for projects over this.

TIC – Eggs shipped. Late FedEx deliveries. PFBC only has resources to support 450 schools. Discussing this with PFBC, we need a full-time coordinator to support additional schools and increase engagement. Replacement of critical equipment turnaround time is too long – fish die. A few chapters are willing to stock extra

chillers. Request made for regional egg packing days to engage more volunteers and teachers.

Forever Wild – Requesting a formal grant round to increase visibility, can be used to promote Meridian East.

Activity update – Meeting with professionals and organizations, need to rebuild 30-year-old foundations: Five-year plan, PATU Mission/Vision, membership showing confusion about who we are. Need photos/bios of leaders, who to contact with specific questions. Accessibility: How can we improve and make access easier? Can we open attendance at EXCOM meetings, connect with/be more approachable at more accessible locations and promote local businesses? Can website design be improved to be more similar to Colorado TU website? Please watch their film.

Recruitment – Chapters need more/new/younger members. We need to meet them where they are, big events like “Loose on the Neuse” successfully recruit new members, raise interest through dynamic actions, increase volunteer opportunities i.e. video/photography, administrative, planning, marketing, IT experts.

Donors – Need to target large donors, i.e. target members for donations to specific projects, need to cater to/give personal attention to large donors, recognition of donors needed, need financial security, specify where donations will be used.

Funding – Corporate funding pursuit needed, assist with tax deductions, merchandising, partnerships, additional grant funding, but not relying on them as they have strings and are time limited.

Decentralized – We are centered in Bellefonte, but no one is located there. We are everywhere, not more than 1.5 hours from an EXCOM member.

Staffing – Other Councils have approximately six staff members in addition to the Executive Director. Suggest: TIC coordinator, finance officer, program manager, advocacy coordinator, fundraising/event planner.

Being better work partners – Resources used to develop common goals, need to step up on TIC support, coordination and volunteers. Programs are shared responsibilities.

Dynamic vs. Stoic – We are a conservation organization, not a fly-fishing organization. You don't need to be a fisherman. We need to continuously evolve to meet societal/cultural changes, we need to change the tone we set with members/chapters, pursuit of better.

Programs – Overhaul website, break out of the fly-fishing stigma, low cost, minimal work, uses volunteer effort only: Lake Trout in Lake Erie recovery – Long Live the Lakers, Support your Local Gun Club – PA has a lot of Rod & Gun Clubs that we have much in common with, engage chapters to work with gun clubs. Their resources are valuable, and they can advocate with government.

Next steps – In 2025, website, data firehose is here, we need to take advantage, need something like Office 365 as a single platform for our work, need to have meetings in public places where it is fun, gather funds for a TIC coordinator, CFO, large donors, event committee, make the Annual Meeting a fun event. Keystone Coldwater Conference planning for next year, is this something we really want to do now or push off for year?

**Partnership Program with Angling Application:** Possible partnership with an angling app. L. Lichvar and E. Null met with them last week. It revolutionizes data collection for water. Offers a huge amount of data for free and provides many opportunities with easy access. E. Null to set up meeting with tech people from app to understand the technology. More details to come.

**Conservation Communication Coordinator Report:** Submitted by S. Sharif. Good traffic on sites, but having difficulty with website. Tech provider changes may be causing complications. Not seeing similar contributions, letters for year-end appeal. E-mail will be going out. TIC is very popular at 400-plus schools.

**PATU Treasurer Position Status:** Submitted by R. Thrall. Current status is termed-out, but continuing to serve for one year. Need a new treasurer elected by



September. Need to run this as oversight with CFO doing the bookkeeping. Candidates are needed. Financial Reviewer is also stepping down. R. Collins – look into Donegal & Cumberland Valley using external firm for accounting.

#### **Regional VP Reports:**

Northcentral (G. Parzanese) – Received zip code information. National TU amended so new members are allocated correctly. Some are still going to Cumberland Valley. Doc Fritchey has an opportunity to take over an area.

Northeast (T. Burns) – Had revisions to reports. New chapter president. Quarry issues in Lehigh Valley affecting Bushkill, warehouses in the Poconos.

Northwest (A. Capotis) – Need guidance on chapters with informal structure. Projects have no formal leadership structure. L. Lichvar, there may be an opportunity to consolidate or eliminate chapters. E. Null can assist. G. Parzanese suggested a presidents meeting, which was successful in the Northcentral region. There is an injection well discharge issue, which is illegal but no trespassing signs. DEP says it won't reach Brokenstraw Creek. Seneca Chapter is engaged. There is no access to monitoring equipment. Information comes via Marcellus Shale News subscription service.

Southeast (D. Druckenmiller) – R. Nyles reported. Valley Forge resolved its IRS issue and received non-profit status. Tulpehocken wants to approach Army Corps. and PFBC for a study on impacts of increased releases from Blue Marsh reservoir. Only warmwater releases today. PFBC was reluctant to participate. L. Lichvar said he, Eric, and Dave meet with PFBC quarterly and can address with more info.

Southwest (B. Mathie) – Who should Arrowhead reach out to for correction of leaders and get membership list. There was a recent leadership change when faced with closing chapter. Penns Woods is hosting Cabin Fever, all invited. Big Sewickley Creek had conservation win, fracking pull from creek stopped that would have pulled full volume of creek. Commitment for Priority Waters meeting to discuss there.

Southcentral (J. Daniels) – Met with a few presidents, but still getting oriented.

Wants to start building relationships to try to work on what E. Null addressed regarding redefining brand. Awareness of Council activities is not good/not positive.

Reminder that info. is available for operations: [https://view.officeapps.live.com/office/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fpatrout.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F02%2FPATU-Leaders-Operating-Manual\\_12.15.19.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/office/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fpatrout.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F02%2FPATU-Leaders-Operating-Manual_12.15.19.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trout Policy Committee:** – Submitted by D. Rothrock. L. Lichvar, attended multiple meetings and commented on current policy regarding stocking over wild trout. D. Rothrock, meeting with PFBC staff occurred earlier this week. Stocking Class A sections is coming up again via Commissioners. Proposal to make changes to operational policy to authorize at Executive Director level, could affect transparency. PATU should oppose this policy change. Looking to do away with one-year limitation code on stocking and going to a 10-year history of more than one stocking. We need to stay on this. Question about holding back streams being added to the Class A list because of this issue – answer maybe. Studies proposed to look at effects of stocking over Class A populations. Staff has provided this in the past showing significant increase in populations. D. Rothrock is drafting information to provide to the Commissioners. Looking for promised follow-up on stocking authorization to occur. Upcoming video to promote trout in Pa. is on hold. Report will be issued after meeting with PFBC. L. Lichvar, expecting motion at Commission meeting, need some additional attendance from PATU, for increased transparency. Rationale for change to decision process is to fast track it. D. Rothrock, when this started, code is looked at as confusing, but changes add additional opportunity for confusion. L. Lichvar had good PATU participation at October 2024 PFBC meeting. Thank you for supporting this with comments and attendance.

**NLC Committee:** Submitted by R. Collins. What is NLC? Redefinition is underway to increase communication to chapters and councils. Outreach to TU marketing about brand messaging. Shared

PowerPoint presentation draft of communication work. Every river needs a champion, showed what TU is about. Explosive growth of projects and grants nationwide, assistance is available at National TU via board of trustees. New focus/help documentation is expected soon. A PowerPoint will be available this summer and can be used for public outreach.

**Development Committee:** Submitted by B. Neu.

**Conservation Committee:** Submitted by B. Wagner. Time for a reboot of the Forever Wild grant program. Conservation Committee reviews applications for approval, recommends to EXCOM, operating on a rotating grant round. Most are approved as they arrive, if beneficial. Compiling statistics for B. Neu for promotion and fundraising. Committee work has been light this past quarter. DCNR contacted about the Natural Area on Pine Creek. Ongoing communications with the group. Provided guidance to multiple chapters on issues.

**Communications Committee:** Submitted by B. Isles. Next newsletter deadline is Feb. 1 for submissions. Newsletter goes to printer on Feb. 15.

**Delaware River Committee:** Submitted by J. Skelding. E. Lewis provided commentary.

**Membership Committee:** Submitted by J. Miller. Membership has consistently declined this past year, by approximately 15%. Post-COVID related? Down 500 from 2017 benchmark, down 2% from 2012 benchmark. Youth membership has stayed consistent between 200-300. R. Collins, need to address accuracy of membership system and look at why members aren't renewing.

**Women/Diversity Committee:** Submitted by A. Daniel. J. Sittler, the committee meets monthly with members from across Pa. attending. Working on details for retreat and social at Lancaster Fly Fishing Show.

**Youth Education Committee:** Submitted by J. Sittler. STREAM Girls and STREAM Keepers are good partners with state parks for youth programming. Outreach is coming from new partners.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

***Continued on next page...***

...Continued from previous page

### National TU Mid Atlantic Organizer

**Position:** L. Lichvar, no longer have this position filled. Notification of comings and goings is not optimal from National TU. No response on outreach regarding refill of position potential. R. Collins will pursue an answer with Amy Wolfe. Correct position title is Mid-Atlantic Policy Program Manager. J. Sittler, Amy Wolfe may be able to address this. B. Wagner, this position is very valuable to the Conservation Committee.

### Meetings with National TU staff in Pa.:

L. Lichvar, meetings with staff in Lock Haven for coordination. S. Koser, there are monthly meetings, link is still active for meetings. PA Coldwater Habitat program and Allegheny, Kettle Creek work. Finalizing project permits now, will continue to share project schedule when available. Lick Run culvert project is large. Mix of projects across counties expected. Priority Waters is in strategic development phase, Delaware is completed. Starting Laurel Highlands plan. Working with B. Wagner, L. Lichvar and E. Null to organize meeting location and date. Delaware PM staffer planned as part of NJ acquired grant. Will be a TU employee. Wildlife Management Institute provided funding for two years. America the Beautiful Challenge grant expected for several million dollars for these projects.

### PA Sportsmen and Women Policy

**Workgroup:** L. Lichvar found it through Pheasants Forever. We need info about PATU engagement. R. Thrall, it's been in place for several years, reported on by Jennifer and Emily. Gets sportsmen's organizations together in Harrisburg to engage legislators involved in outdoor activities. R. Collins, the last two years, legislator participation has been low. Not sure who is leading PATU engagement in Emily's absence.

**Outdoor Show Participation:** PATU will have a booth at Penns Woods West's Cabin Fever on Feb. 23. L. Lichvar and E. Null will manage booth. Lancaster Fly Fishing Show is March 15-16. Need help setting up and extra help on Sunday for booth and tear down. Contact L. Lichvar if you'd like to participate. Fly Tyers Reunion at Seven Springs Mountain Resort,

PATU booth on mid-April evening. Eastern Regional Rendezvous in West Virginia desires PATU representation. J. Sittler suggested providing a QR code at these events to enable membership sign-up right there. L. Lichvar is looking for a hook to bring people by the booth for conservation.

**Expense Reimbursement Policy:** L. Lichvar, there are occasional requests from members for reimbursement for mileage/expenses. R. Thrall, the policy is on page 9 of the Operations Manual.

**Meeting Dates for 2025:** Dates are April 27, July 13, during Annual Meeting (tentatively Sept. 20), and January 2026.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Administrative Services Agreement:

R. Collins, about a year ago J. Yates sent an Administrative Services Agreement. We have received multiple revisions since. Steven King, counsel, reached out for meeting in November. The agreement has been simplified. We need to review/approve. It's \$150 per month per EE for payroll processing and Mad Wolf IT services/email, and Paylocity/HR. Expense is \$3,600 per year. G. Malaska asked what is the deadline and is this nationwide? R. Collins, S. King is new and realized that this is not standardized. It looks like an eight-fold increase. J. Sittler, not heard from trustees as to a reason for the increase. R. Collins, we need to work through this as part of our budget and need a plan to sign by April. G. Malaska will review it and ask some questions. R. Collins will send information G. Malaska and set up a call for G. Malaska and E. Null.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

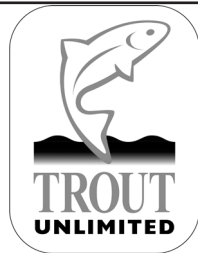
*Next meeting date:* April 27, 2025.

Motion to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Erick Lewis – Secretary*

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member?**

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Bloomsburg, PA 17815

In return, you'll receive an application form to complete and send with your \$28 payment to PennDOT.



# PRESIDENT

from page 1

him in his fishing waders, or if his son Chip secretly slipped his favorite fly-rod into his casket? Jimmy Carter was an avid fly-fisherman, and fly-tyer, and like everything else he did in his century-long life, he was really good at it.

We have had presidents who loved fishing. Herbert Hoover, the 31st, loved trout fishing so much he had a camp on the Rapidan in Virginia where he could find his escape and pleasure. Dwight D. Eisenhower stocked Big Hunting Creek at Camp David for his fishing as he served as the 34th president. And Presidents Eisenhower and Carter had one Pennsylvania connection in common, the dean of Pennsylvania fly-fishing, George Harvey from Penn State. Not only that, but in 1980 President Carter invited the well-known Pennsylvania fly-fishers Vince Marinaro, Ed Shenk, Tom Maxwell of Thomas and Thomas Rod Co., Barry and Cathy Beck, and Eric Leiser to Camp David for a weekend of fly-tying, fly-casting and fishing.

It was the Carters' pleasure to fish the Spruce Creek property owned by dairy farmer Wayne Harpster. Even after leaving the White House the Carters returned each year to Harpsters on May 29th, to celebrate their dear friend's birthday. It just so happened to coincide with the annual hatch of the "big" Green Drake mayfly, *Ephemera guttulata*. By the way, President Carter always made it clear that Rosalynn was the better fly-fisher.

The Pennsylvania Fly-Fishing Museum in Carlisle has an exhibit featuring the Carters even though they were not from the state, but to recognize President Carter's dedication to the sport and to conservation. His administration protected one-hundred-million acres of land in Alaska. Two items that will never be in the museum or the Presidential Library are two very special bamboo fly-rods built especially for the president.

One is by Tom Maxwell when he was at the H.L. Leonard Co, and a second as a grateful "thank you" from a prominent sporting magazine for the Alaskan land



Contributed Photo

**Rosalynn and President Jimmy Carter with their custom carved trout pins.**

protection. The president packed his personal belongings, including these two cherished rods, for his trip back to their home in Plains, Ga. Imagine his disappointment on finding that the two rods were stolen! To the everlasting shame of the thief or thieves the rods may never respond to the perfect timing of the cast and the rise to a Green Drake imitation.

What we do have, however, are handwritten letters from President Carter and Rosalynn thanking George Harvey for his instruction and wonderful days together on Spruce Creek. The letters display the genuine sincerity of a couple with what can only be described as "class." One letter is an order for a dozen Harvey-tied flies that Carter planned on being put into shadow boxes and presented as Christmas presents to the Carter family. Talk about collectable flies!

Another farmer that hosted President Carter was Frank Skelley of Chambersburg, Pa. Protected by Secret Service in the trees and bushes, Carter spent a day on Falling Spring. It was not reported how the President did, but a Falling Spring regular said that not many fly-fishers could say that they had to give up a day fishing the Tricos for the President of the United States! Good

stream etiquette.

There was a woodcarver from Chambersburg that received a request from Rosalynn Carter in 2016. She saw a trout pin on the hat of Dusty Wiedner, their personal guide and friend at Spruce Creek, and asked Dusty where she could buy two for her and President Carter. Dusty explained that they were never for sale, only given, but would contact the carver and make the request. They were proudly presented to the couple on their May 29th birthday visit with Wayne Harpster. No doubt it's the carver's most honored project!

You can remember James Earl Carter as an ex-President, as a conservationist, or a world class humanitarian. As Pennsylvanians we should relate to him as another Pennsylvania angler who has gone to "fish around the bend."

After a day of fly-fishing on Pennsylvania's Spruce Creek Jimmy said, "Rosalyn and I talked about how Wayne Harpster, George Harvey, and Joe Humphries seemed part of a large but close-knit family of fly-anglers who love God's world with its changing times and seasons and want to preserve its beauty."

Rest in peace Mr. President, from your close-knit family at Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

## **NORTHEAST CHAPTERS**

**Brodhead 289  
Forks of the Delaware 482  
Hokendauqua 535  
Lackawanna Valley 414  
Monocacy 491  
Pike-Wayne 462  
Schuylkill County 537  
Shehawken 81  
Stan Cooper Sr. 251  
Western Pocono 203**

### **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

**Todd Burns**

**311 Crestmont St.**

**Pen Argyl, PA 18072**

**Email: [salmofisher7@gmail.com](mailto:salmofisher7@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 610-704-4549**

### **Brodhead Chapter #289**

**Russell Thrall III**

**570-620-8677, [russ@thrall3.com](mailto:russ@thrall3.com)**

**[www.brodheadtu.org](http://www.brodheadtu.org)**

The chapter's annual banquet is March 28 at the Shawnee Inn in Shawnee on the Delaware River. We held an invasive plant removal and tree planting workday in October at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Larsen Lane Tract, in Stroudsburg, PA. We also held a riparian buffer restoration workday at the location of the chapter's stream habitat restoration project at the Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Nature Preserve in Stroudsburg, PA. The chapter held its Rod Building 101 workshop starting in October. Treasurer John Smith started a weekly fly-tying program at local libraries as part of a new outreach effort. A STREAM Girls event for a local Girl Scout troop is being scheduled for this spring.

### **Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482**

**Joe Baylog**

**610-751-9116, [baylogj@gmail.com](mailto:baylogj@gmail.com)**

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

The chapter updated its mission statement and adopted a new strategic plan for 2025-2029. We are monitoring several "unique" development proposals along Bushkill Creek. We received a notification from Buzzi Unicem on Nov. 23 that the "Hercules Cement Quarry pumps have experienced a shutdown event in excess of 30 minutes." We didn't observe any flow in Tatamy but there were still large areas of pooled up water. We were able to save a large wild brown trout that was stuck in a small puddle. Although there was no flowing water the gradually diminishing

remaining pools were still hanging in there, unlike the outages this past July when the entire creek bed in Tatamy dried up. We noticed a bump in the Route 33 USGS gauge at 2:25 p.m. and by 2:40 p.m. it appeared that flow at the gauge was normal. It took about an hour for flow to resume at the bridge on Main Street in Tatamy. Fortunately, this event occurred at a time when we were able to get out and observe what was happening. We will be following up with DEP, PFBC and Buzzi Unicem to find out what caused the pump failure, what action was taken, and the functionality of the backup generators. The chapter partnered with the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association on a tree planting in the "Meadows" on Martins Creek in October. The project was partially funded by a Forever Wild grant from PATU. We held an Adopt A Highway cleanup along Bushkill Drive in October. Dave Hess, manager of Tight Lines Fly Fishing in Parsippany, NJ, presented "Fly-Fishing the Upper Delaware" on Oct. 2. We also hosted a casting session prior to the program. Our "Fly-Tying Extravaganza" was Nov. 6. We have three schools in the TIC program: Nazareth, Wind Gap, and Bangor middle schools. Nate Pritchard presented "The Hole Story - Karst Issues in the Lehigh Valley" at our January meeting. WCO Zach Rudd gave us a PFBC update in February. Upcoming are Jeff Gensheimer on "Fishing the Lehigh" on March 8, "Intro to Fly-Fishing" on April 2 and our "Bugs & Dogs" picnic on May 7.

### **Hokendauqua Chapter #535**

**Art Williams**

**610-266-1788, [awilliams1947@hotmail.com](mailto:awilliams1947@hotmail.com)**

**<http://hokendauqua.tu.org>**

The chapter's monthly "Ties and Lies" where we gather and tie flies has resumed. We use this time to instruct new and advanced tyers in different methods of fly-tying. Our regular monthly meetings resumed in September. A speaker from PATroutfitters guide service spoke on fishing the Upper Delaware at a recent meeting. Our annual eight-week fly-tying course is held on Saturday mornings in January and February.

### **Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414**

**Greg Nidoh**

**570-489-1050, [info@agoutfitters.com](mailto:info@agoutfitters.com)**

**[www.lackawannavalleytu.org](http://www.lackawannavalleytu.org)**

No report.

### **Monocacy Chapter #491**

**Erik Broesicke**

**610-909-2652, [monocacytu491@gmail.com](mailto:monocacytu491@gmail.com)**

**[www.monocacytu.org](http://www.monocacytu.org)**

We partnered with the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association for a fall stream cleanup, which is always much needed after MusikFest. Chapter members also participated in a survey of a recently completed WildLands dam removal and an in-stream improvement project at the

historic Johnston Estate upstream of Township Line Road. A local stakeholder had some concerns about the project, and we met with her and our local conservation officer to survey the site. Due to extreme low flows at the time, it was difficult to accurately assess any impacts of the project positively or negatively, but overall the expectation is that there will be a net improvement in flow and reduction of silt. A native planting was done in the same area to help stabilize the newly graded bank and several hundred plant plugs were placed in hopes of jumpstarting the riparian regrowth in areas that were previously underwater. Our next meeting is Feb. 25 at DAR House.

### **Pike-Wayne Chapter #462**

**Paul Ranello**

**973-452-9301, [pvranello@yahoo.com](mailto:pvranello@yahoo.com)**

**[www.pwtu.org](http://www.pwtu.org)**

Our annual banquet is April 12 at Lukan's Farm and Resort in Hawley, PA. We held a fall road cleanup along the Lackawaxen. We continue to participate as a board member at the Pike County Conservation District and a voting member with the Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Committee. We assisted PFBC with fall stocking of the Lackawaxen. Western Wayne Middle School received its TIC eggs. In October, the conservation district and chapter members hosted a STREAM Keepers program at Carlton Memorial Park in Newfoundland. Members also assisted with Casting for Recovery at Sky Top Lodge.

### **Schuylkill County Chapter #537**

**Bruce Herb**

**[wetflyguy@yahoo.com](mailto:wetflyguy@yahoo.com)**

**[www.schuylkillcountytu.org](http://www.schuylkillcountytu.org)**

STCU spent the last three months planning its partnership with Schuylkill Headwaters for the first day on the stream fishing event, which took place Jan. 1 in the Tamaqua area. Fish were stocked for the event on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Approximately 65 anglers participated. Chapter officers remain the same for the year 2025. In January, we hosted fly-tying classes on Thursdays.

### **Shehawken Chapter #81**

**Richelle Dufton**

**[rdufton33@gmail.com](mailto:rdufton33@gmail.com)**

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

An Upper Delaware River committee report was generated and is ready to be issued.

### **Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251**

**Dr. Joseph Simons III**

**570-592-1480, [adventure@wildtroutman.com](mailto:adventure@wildtroutman.com)**

**[www.sctu.org](http://www.sctu.org)**

We have been very busy updating our website and continuing our presence on our Facebook page. We applied for a CHP grant for Bowmans



Creek. Eighty tons of limestone sand was recently applied to Bowmans' headwaters. The chapter sponsors several TIC projects. We have had fly-tying classes in conjunction with the Wilkes University Fly-Fishing Club and have resumed "Bugs and Brews" fly-tying sessions at Sabatini's Bottle Shop in Exeter. Our 35th annual conservation banquet is March 29 at the Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes Barre. A chapter camping trip is planned at Poe Paddy State Park on Penns Creek from May 2-4. Our summer picnic will be in Noxen on the bank of our home waters, Bowmans Creek. SCTU shirts will soon be available to purchase. We continue to have youth, women's and adult fly-fishing camps each summer. Our monthly meetings are open to the public on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Forty Fort Borough Building. Recent speakers were George Daniel on nymphing, Henry Ramsay on spring hatches and Rick Nyles on Penns Creek. Sean Witman of HouseFly spoke in January about big trout on streamers in the Lackawanna and Delaware Rivers. February's speaker was Peter Petokas and his research on hellbenders.

### **Western Pocono Chapter #203**

**Janet Schmitt**  
**jreichel@ptd.net**

[www.tu.org/connect/groups/203-western-pocono](http://www.tu.org/connect/groups/203-western-pocono)

Western Pocono TU is making plans for its third annual White Haven Trout Festival in late spring of 2025. The Trout Fest has been a great success for fishing enthusiasts, the White Haven / Pocono community and the Lehigh River trout fishery and its tributaries. More than 350 folks have attended each year, and more than 35 vendors and exhibitors are present. Plans are also being made for our second annual Trout Literature Night where folks can read their favorite books and essays on trout fishing with others at our February meeting at the White Haven Library. We hope to have a report on the Lehigh River by conservation groups monitoring the river and its tributaries at an upcoming meeting. Todd Burns of Brodhead TU, with an assist by Don Miller, did an outstanding program in October on their chapter's stream improvement project on McMichaels' Creek near Stroudsburg.

### **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](mailto:6sneezes@comcast.net)**  
**Phone: 717-437-0318**

### **Columbia County Chapter #38**

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

Regular chapter meetings resumed in September. We held a litter cleanup at Kocher Park in Lightstreet in November. Our annual banquet is from 4:30-7 p.m. on March 2 the Lightstreet Hotel, 1361 Main St., Bloomsburg, PA. CCTU is supporting TIC at Central Columbia and Benton Area school districts. Our next chapter meeting is March 11 from 7-9 p.m. at the Columbia County District Conservation Office, 702 Sawmill Road, Rear Entrance, Bloomsburg, PA. Upcoming fly-tying sessions are Feb. 18 and March 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Lightstreet Community Fire Hall, 1630 Monroe Ave., Bloomsburg. We also have a chapter trip to the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show on March 15 and a spring fishing trip to Spring Creek planned for February or early March.

### **God's Country Chapter #327**

**David Saulter**  
**814-274-9763, [saulterdg@yahoo.com](mailto:saulterdg@yahoo.com)**

No report.

### **Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224**

**Bill Bailey**  
**570-295-7210, [wbailey@comcast.net](mailto:wbailey@comcast.net)**  
**[www.lwtu.org](http://www.lwtu.org)**

The chapter had a successful annual banquet in November at the Southern Clinton County Lions/Sportsman's Club in Loganton. We continue to support the efforts of various groups in the AMD remediation project on Beech Creek. National TU is a big player in this endeavor and currently they are working on developing projects at two major discharge areas on Sandy Run which appears to be the primary source of AMD for the mainstream.

### **Penns Creek Chapter #119**

**Kevin Lutz**  
**[PennscreekTU@gmail.com](mailto:PennscreekTU@gmail.com)**  
**[www.pennscreektu.org](http://www.pennscreektu.org)**

The chapter's Winter Social was held in December at Shy Bear Brewery. In October, we assisted the Mifflin County Science Club and Junior High Conservation Club with tree planting at Kish Park. Also in October, we provided fly-tying and casting at the Reeds Gap Fall Fest. We have started the process of designing and placing a sign at the Jack's Creek Project on State Game Lands to highlight the work. Mifflin County Conservation

District presented an overview of its efforts this past year in the Upper Kish Watershed and Hungry Run. PCTU received \$2,500 from a Forever Wild grant that helped pay for the identification and reporting of aquatic macroinvertebrates on the streams mentioned. The chapter has eight TIC programs within Mifflin and Juniata County. Our annual banquet will be held on Feb. 22.

### **R.B. Winter Chapter #124**

**Rod Jones**  
**570-259-7205, [flyrodjones@gmail.com](mailto:flyrodjones@gmail.com)**  
**[facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter/](http://facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter/)**

Concerns over protections for wild trout in Class A streams motivated our chapter to send a contingent to the Oct. 21 PFBC meeting in Harrisburg. Members spoke during public comment prior to the meeting. The narrative of all speakers at the meeting was consistent...wild trout are one of our most precious resources and need to be protected. Planting stocked fish over these wild populations is not necessary and can be a detriment to the wild fish. We urge the PFBC to honor their policy of not stocking hatchery fish over wild fish in Class A waters. Zach Cline, Live Stake Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy attended our October meeting and spoke about volunteer opportunities available to the chapter. There is a need for live stake cutting, tree planting, and riparian buffer maintenance on local streams. Entomologist Dave Rebeck presented part two of his presentation "Common Early Mid-Season Hatches of Central Pennsylvania" during our October meeting. Helen Karp from the Northcentral Region of the PGC spoke at our November meeting. Helen was a wealth of knowledge on management practices related to game species and other Pa. animals. Landscape architect Brain Auman spoke at our December meeting. One of his early projects in Pa. was in the Lititz Run Watershed where he worked closely with the Donegal Chapter. His plant selection and materials reflect the natural history of the topography, and his final product is a design that allows nature to dominate but also factors in human interaction. January is the month our fly-tying classes are taught. Our beginner fly-tying classes have a revised curriculum that focuses on fundamental skills over tying specific patterns. Our approach to intermediate tying classes is very different from the beginner class. It is assumed that students are competent in basic skills and looking to tie proven patterns that catch fish, especially on local waters. A team of very experienced instructors will teach some of their favorite proven fly patterns. These classes start on March 6 and run from 7-9 p.m. for four consecutive Thursdays.

### **Spring Creek Chapter #185**

**Tim Bruggeman**  
**412-807-992, [tjbruggeman88@gmail.com](mailto:tjbruggeman88@gmail.com)**  
**[www.springcreektu.org](http://www.springcreektu.org)**

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Our board formed a subcommittee to lead a three-year strategic planning project. The chapter held its second annual "Chopped" fly-tying contest in October. Our annual holiday party was held at the State College Legion. In October, the Youth Education Committee assisted Nittany Mountain District Boy Scouts at their "Fall Camporee" at Black Moshannon State Park, and had table at the "Trunk or Treat" event at the YMCA. Several ladies attended a pilot camping retreat program for women organized by Amidea Daniel. They camped, hiked, and fished. Our Women Anglers are currently working on the event schedule for 2025. We are applying for SRBC grants to fund a new project on Joe Humphreys' property and to cover an expanded scope of work on our Vinyl King project. George Daniel spoke to the chapter in November. He shared many invaluable tips and tricks for elevating your nymph fishing approach using a mono rig. It was also great to hear about the positive impact and healthy habits the PSU Fly-Fishing program is teaching students year after year. The chapter's annual meeting was Jan. 22 and featured board elections followed by USFWS biologist and chapter board member Richard Novak, who presented "Endangered Species in Pa. and the Spring Creek Watershed." We are holding free beginner and intermediate fly-tying classes in February at the South Hills School of Business and Technology. In March, we will also be teaching Intro to Fly-Fishing. Our awards dinner and banquet is March 22 at the Mountain View Country Club.

#### Susquehanna Chapter #044

Steve Martin

sam667@verizon.net

www.susquehannatu.com

Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson accepted an invitation to participate on behalf of our chapter in the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association "Riverkeeper Roundtable." We held several work sessions to organize our spring fly-tying course and fund-raising sale and raffle. In October, our board voted to request that PATU support the designation of Little Slate Run, Naval Run, and Callahan Run Class A Exceptional Value streams in the Pine Creek watershed as the "Bob Webber Natural Area." Chapter President Steve Martin in December sent a letter to DEP Bureau of Forestry expressing support of the Bob Webber Natural Area. We continue to monitor groundwater withdrawals by Nicholas Meats from the Fishing Creek aquifer in Sugar Valley. In October, a new USGS stream gauge began operating at the head of "The Narrows" on Fishing Creek just downstream of the Tylersville Trout Hatchery. Also in October, we joined other TU representatives to provide testimony at the PFBC meeting in Harrisburg regarding the negative impacts of stocking hatchery trout over top of native and wild trout populations

in Class A streams. Additionally, we visited an 81-acre property on White Deer Hole Creek that is open to walk-in fishing to see if our chapter could provide the landowners with any assistance regarding flood damage to the stream channel, woody debris deposition, and the creation of a new stream channel. We continue to coordinate with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation on monitoring and rehab of AMD treatment systems on the tributary streams of the upper Loyalsock Creek Watershed. We also continue to monitor and comment on various legislative activities, as appropriate. We support the Hughesville High School Fly-Fishing Club with tying and casting instruction. Our Veterans and First Responders Service Partnership Program has helped 26 veterans and first responders build fly-rods. Our October meeting featured DCNR Forest Health Program Specialist Sarah Johnson who spoke about the impacts of forest pests, diseases, invasive plants, and non-biotic factors on the health of Pennsylvania's forests and how declines in forest health negatively impact water quality in coldwater streams. She also spoke on large woody debris addition to streams as well as aquatic organism passage best practices. President Steve Martin distributed a 2024 Annual Report at our November meeting. Bob McCullough III, who served as a PFBC deputy fish warden for 17 years, presented "fishing when nobody else wants to," such as during high water, in the winter, or at night. Dr. Ben Hayes, director of the Watershed Sciences and Engineering program at Bucknell University, spoke at our January meeting. He presented how the legacy impacts of the "Lumber Era" and catastrophic floods in northcentral Pa. have initiated substantial landform changes and stream destabilization in our major stream floodplains and have significant implications for watershed management and planning, including stream and flood restoration projects. PFBC Commissioner Eric Hussar and WCOs spoke at our February meeting. Our next meeting is March 12 at 7 p.m. at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W. 4th St., Williamsport, PA. A fly-tying course taught by Dave Rothrock and Rick Kintzer runs on Tuesday nights through Feb. 25. A "Spring Fishing Flea Market & Raffle" fundraiser is set for March 22 at 9 a.m. at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church.

#### Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

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www.tiadaghtontu.com

Several members participated in the annual redd survey on Cross Fork creek in November. TU in Lock Haven was recently awarded \$936,800 for work in Pennsylvania's Pine Creek Watershed. Money is earmarked for culvert replacements and strategic wood additions to enhance stream

habitat. The chapter also sent in a letter of support for brook trout habitat work along Lick Run, a tributary of Pine Creek near Gaines, PA. We will be working on riparian planting for those projects and also plan to plant another 2,500 trees this spring along various Pine Creek tributaries. We are in the planning stages of a North Central Conservation Fair in conjunction with the Tioga County Conservation District tentatively scheduled for March 14 in Wellsboro. We are also conducting fly-tying classes in February at the Wellsboro Tackle Shack. Chapter meetings are the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at 7 p.m. at 1867 Shumway Hill Road, Wellsboro, PA.

#### NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Allegheny Mountain 036

Caldwell Creek 437

Cornplanter 526

Iron Furnace 288

Jim Zwald 314

Neshannock 216

Northwest PA 041

Oil Creek 424

Seneca 272

#### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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#### Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

Jimmy Lattimer

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[www.amctu.org](http://www.amctu.org)

No report.

#### Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

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[www.facebook.com/CaldwellCreekTU437](http://www.facebook.com/CaldwellCreekTU437)

No report.

#### Cornplanter Chapter #526

Scott Dyke

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

No report.



## Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Andrew Turner

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[www.ironfurnacetu.net](http://www.ironfurnacetu.net)

No report.

## James Zwald Chapter #314

Murray Neepser

814-834-3472, [mneepser@zitomedia.net](mailto:mneepser@zitomedia.net)

No report.

## Neshannock Creek #216

Matt Ceremuga

724-301-0482, [Matt.ceremuga@gmail.com](mailto:Matt.ceremuga@gmail.com)  
[www.neshannock-tu.org](http://www.neshannock-tu.org)

No report.

## Northwest PA Chapter #41

Jim Head

[bsidejimmy@gmail.com](mailto:bsidejimmy@gmail.com)  
<http://nwpatrout.org>

The chapter held four instructional sessions at a local pond for 4th graders from one of our newest TIC schools. The fall sessions were done using bait and spin rods. We plan to do additional fly-casting instruction in the spring. The chapter contributed funds for landowner appreciation fruit baskets that were distributed to local residents who allow access to steelhead streams from their property. Members assisted with distributing the baskets to local landowners. Finally, we spent time planning for 2025 and setting some goals that we hope to achieve in the coming year and beyond.

## Oil Creek Chapter #424

Jennifer Lyons

814-671-1292, [lyons3876@gmail.com](mailto:lyons3876@gmail.com)  
[www.oilcreektu.org](http://www.oilcreektu.org)

Treasurer Jason Rockwell prepared a proposed budget for the coming year, which was approved by the membership at our October meeting. Special guests at that meeting were PFBC WCOs Noah Grice and Mike Noone. Grice is the new WCO for Venango County, replacing Mark Kerr, who recently retired. Noone is the WCO for Clarion County. Elections were held at the November meeting. Gary Ross was elected Director Emeritus for Life thanks to his service as chapter president for 10 years and his hard work and contributions over the years. Our annual banquet is Sept. 6 at the Franklin VFW. The Dirt and Gravel Roads Committee, which includes representatives from the Venango Conservation District and Oil Creek Chapter, met on Nov. 6 at The Log Cabin Restaurant in Seneca. They had requests for money for projects that exceeded our allocation for this year. They agreed to fund four projects for approximately \$463,000. Newer member Ben Dolby has been very involved with Project Healing Waters, working with veterans. He has gone on trips with them to Montana, New

York state, and Yellow Creek in Bedford County. We currently have seven classrooms in the TIC program. Chris Leisher, a teacher at Venango Vo-Tech is very interested in becoming involved in TIC. He has some experience in warmwater fish culture. His class planted tree stakes and did some streambank stabilization on Cherry Tree Run off Route 8. Member Al Rickerson continues to be involved with STREAM Girls. We are planning our Veterans Service Program event on May 17 at the Sandy Creek Conservancy. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 19 and March 19 at King's Restaurant in Franklin, PA.

## Seneca Chapter #272

Dominic Petrucci

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

No report.

## SOUTHEAST CHAPTERS

**Bucks County 254**  
**Delco Manning 320**  
**Little Lehigh 070**  
**Perkiomen Valley 332**  
**SE Montgomery Co. 468**  
**Tulpehocken 150**  
**Valley Forge 290**

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Phone: 610-693-5537

## Bucks County Chapter #254

Douglas McCabe

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[www.bucksttu.org](http://www.bucksttu.org)

No report.

## Delco Manning Chapter #320

Charles Lesky

[charlesleskyjr@gmail.com](mailto:charlesleskyjr@gmail.com)  
[www.dmtu.org](http://www.dmtu.org)

Banks in the CRFFO section of Ridley Creek are eroding almost beyond repair. We received permission for officials from Ridley Creek State Park to submit a proposal for a Christmas tree bank project and replacement of park bench destroyed by a fallen tree in the low parking lot. Check out the DMTU.org website for a raffle of over 400 flies. The drawing is in March.

Cost is \$5 per raffle ticket. We currently have a TIC program in Strath Haven Middle School. Tyler Potts of TCO Reading spoke about "Great Lakes steelhead fishing" in October. Ralph Scherder from Dark Skies Fly Fishing presented on First Fork Sinnemahoning, Kettle Creek, Pine Creek, the Allegheny River and the many excellent tributaries for each of these waters in November. Ben Turpin presented "Beers with Ben" in December.

## Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Dan Dow

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[www.lltu.org](http://www.lltu.org)

No report.

## Perkiomen Valley #332

Bryan Fulop

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[www.pvtu332.org](http://www.pvtu332.org)

Current projects include tree maintenance on Perkiomen Creek, Camelot Park; Longacre Farm, West Branch Perkiomen Creek; and Green Lane Park, West and Main Branch Perkiomen. Projected projects this spring include tree planting at Camelot Park; tree maintenance and tree planting at Longacre Farm; tree maintenance at Green Lane Park; and stream cleanups on West Branch Perkiomen and Perkiomen creeks. The chapter initiated multiple contacts with private landowners along West Branch Perkiomen Creek to determine future project opportunities (stream bank stabilization/fish habitat improvements and/or expansion of riparian areas). Our 2025 activities are first securing landowner commitments and then proceeding with grant writing and permitting. Riparian work could be accomplished as early as fall 2025 and stream rehabilitation projects would occur in 2026 at the earliest. PVTU initiated discussions with Trees for Graziers and Propagate Agg, which are looking to form partnerships for riparian planting projects. We will be meeting with similar organizations in 2025. The goal is to partner with professional organizations that will secure grant funding and plant and manage the tree maintenance. Our chapter is currently handling the maintenance for upwards of 500 trees. With additional planting plans for 2025 we are approaching our maximum capacity to use volunteers to manage tree maintenance. Strategic alliances with professional organizations would allow us to expand our positive impact across our watershed by having us focus on locating project opportunities and then partner with the professional organizations to handle the labor intensive fieldwork. We initiated discussion to explore forming a partnership with Clauser Environmental, LLC to use our skills and network to locate future project opportunities for stream rehabilitation projects and allow the professional

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organization to lead grant writing, permitting, contracting, and oversight of fieldwork. TIC is ongoing in eight local schools and PVTU will participate in five release days this spring.

#### **SE Montgomery County Chapter #468**

**Richard Terry**

215-675-1536, [rtroadrash@msn.com](mailto:rtroadrash@msn.com)  
[semontco.tu.org](http://semontco.tu.org)

We had a fall stocking of 200 rainbows in Pennypack Creek that runs thru the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. A fish kill took place in the Pennypack upstream of the Trust due to a level of ammonia beyond permit levels by UM-HJSA. PFBC and DEP visited the site. Fly-tying classes are on Tuesday nights in February at the Nature Center. All schools in our TIC programs received their eggs in January. Two events took place in the Trust that required the kids to identify the type of fish that they caught.

#### **Tulpehocken Chapter #150**

**Mike McLaughlin**

610-207-7994, [mikemclaughlin11@gmail.com](mailto:mikemclaughlin11@gmail.com)  
[www.tullytu.org](http://www.tullytu.org)

A Tulpehocken stream cleanup was held at Red Bridge Park in November. The Cacoosing Creek Restoration Project in cooperation with Berks County Conservation District on the Holleran Farm has been quiet for about a year as the health of Mr. Holleran impacted the scope of the project. We are hopeful there is potential to re-energize the project. A proposal was submitted to PFBC & Blue Marsh US Army Corps of Engineers for collaboration to promote maximization of cold-water outflow from Blue Marsh Reservoir and reduce low flow conditions in late summer/early fall. The proposal by Tully TU is asking USACE to do a study to optimize downstream conditions by reducing the duration of low flows. An initial response was not favorable. TCTU is responding with further supporting hydrology study data to appeal the initial negative response. Next steps will be an in-person meeting with PFBC and USACE to discuss the next steps to reach a resolution. We support TIC projects in 31 classrooms. We are planning to host George Daniel in the fall.

#### **Valley Forge Chapter #290**

**James Leonard**

610-793-1706, [jamesmleonard@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmleonard@hotmail.com)  
[www.valleyforgetu.org](http://www.valleyforgetu.org)

We have initiated the staggering of board membership by electing officers to a four-year term in this election and extending the terms of other board members in groups over the next three years, so elections of about one-quarter of the board will take place each year. VFTU received an IRS determination letter retroactively reinstating our 501(c)(3) charitable organization status. We also successfully registered with the state as a

non-profit corporation and were able to hold our annual Clean Streams sweepstakes by mailing tickets to members. Our second annual Holiday Fishing Bazaar was in December, where we set up tables to sell items donated to us. VFTU is monitoring East Whiteland Township's planned streambank improvement project in Valley Creek, which continues to be in the planning phase. Environmental issues we're keeping an eye on include deer fencing in Valley Forge National Historical Park, Heidelberg Quarry-West Valley Creek issues, Atwater retention basin #6, road salt, Buckeye pipeline exposure in Pickering Creek, property development across Route 29 at Valley Creek Park, Knickerbocker development (Toll Brothers townhouses), and Bishop Tube. Stream data collection using MayFly data loggers in Valley Creek continues. We have also been monitoring West Valley Creek and Brandywine Creek tributaries using HOBO data loggers. Our 17 TIC schools received their eggs. The chapter's February meeting was a "Fly-Tying Night" featuring a number of local tyers. General meetings are the second Thursday of each month except for March, June, July, and August at the Barn at Upland Farm Park, 301 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA. The VFTU Annual Trout Show is March 22 beginning at 1 p.m. at Lionville Middle School, 550 West Uwchlan Avenue, Lionville, PA.

and individuals. Last year, Phase I of the Conewago Creek Restoration Project was completed. Work started at the upper end of the CRFFO section of the creek and continued downstream to the junction with the new access parking lot. A grant for Phase II has been approved for 2025. Phase II will restore trout habitat on the remainder of the special regulations section this summer. Our TIC programs received their eggs. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 19 and March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Adams County Conservation District Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA. Conewago Creek CRFFO stocking is March 1 starting at Adams County National Bank, Arendtsville.

#### **Codorus Chapter #558**

**Bob Daviau**

717-817-6374, [bob.daviau@gmail.com](mailto:bob.daviau@gmail.com)  
[www.codorustu.org](http://www.codorustu.org)

The chapter submitted an application for a Growing Greener grant to continue efforts to improve the warmwater branch of Codorus Creek. We completed a successful online auction in November. CTU sponsors five TIC projects. We held open fly-tying on Jan. 11 and a chapter meeting on Feb. 12. Our next meeting is April 9 at Porters Fire Company.

#### **Cumberland Valley Chapter #052**

**John Zazworsky**

717-805-8234, [johnzaz83@gmail.com](mailto:johnzaz83@gmail.com)  
[www.pacvtu.org](http://www.pacvtu.org)

CVTU held its first Veterans/First Responder Service Partnership program in October. Planning is underway for our annual spring fundraiser/awards banquet on April 26. We're again holding an all-day team fishing event followed by a banquet in the evening. We are seeking areas along the Yellow Breeches for our next stream project. We are monitoring American Rivers' efforts to remove two dams along the Yellow Breeches: one in Brandtsville that may be removed in 2025, and one in New Cumberland (removal date still pending). Beginner and intermediate fly-tying classes run on Monday nights through March 10 at the Carlisle Stuart Community Center. Membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at Mt. Zion Crossroad Church in Mt. Holly Springs.

#### **Doc Fritchey Chapter #108**

**Chuck Swanderski**

[chucks@dftu.org](mailto:chucks@dftu.org)  
[www.dftu.org](http://www.dftu.org)

DFTU sold its trailer and voted to store materials for chapter activities in a storage unit. Our board approved adding a "Chapter Partner" program recognizing businesses and individuals that donate goods and/or services in lieu of monetary contributions. The Quittapahilla Watershed Association's monitoring program is continuing. The goal is to measure the extent to which the

### **SOUTHCENTRAL** **CHAPTERS**

**Adams County 323**  
**Codorus 558**  
**Cumberland Valley 052**  
**Doc Fritchey 108**  
**Donegal 037**  
**Falling Spring 234**  
**Muddy Creek 575**

#### **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

**Jonathan Daniels**

1040 Myerstown Road  
Gardners, PA 17324

Email: [jonboar@aol.com](mailto:jonboar@aol.com)

#### **Adams County Chapter #323**

**Frank Kozak**

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[www.adamscountytu.org](http://www.adamscountytu.org)

The chapter received \$5,074 in donations during the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree. Our letter fundraising campaign is underway, reaching out to 20 local organizations



restoration work in the watershed is having its intended effects. Weekly maintenance at the Rausch Creek diversion well continues with work days on Sundays. Due to low water the crew split into two teams working every other week. We are sponsoring three winter tying events: one intermediate and one beginners class will be held at the Wildwood Nature Center in Harrisburg and one beginners class will take place at the Palmyra Sportsman's Club in Annville. Classes run for six weeks. DFTU participated in the annual Palmyra Sportsman's Association's Field Day. Eggs were delivered to our TIC programs. Our annual "Ladies Introduction to Fly-Fishing" was held at Limestone Springs Fishing Preserve. Mark Nale, outdoor writer and photographer, spoke at our November meeting and offered tips on taking great outdoor and fish pictures. Rick Nyles from Sky Blue Outfitters presented "Fishing Penns Creek. Techniques, hatches, flies, and seasons" at our January meeting. On March 25, PFBC's Tim Schaeffer will talk about what's happening with the commission. Meetings are held at the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Room.

### **Donegal Chapter #037**

**Claire Landis**  
**president@donegaltu.org**  
**www.donegaltu.org**

The landowner and neighbor approved a new stream-crossing walkway design that straddles the property line of our Dellinger Run project. Construction began Jan. 13. In-stream construction is finished on our Miller project, and streambank fencing was installed. On Nov. 7, we planted the riparian buffer with Solanco High School students for their Day of Service program. Land Studies mowed and applied herbicide on three properties that were funded by DTU and a Susquehanna River Basin Commission grant. DTU approved a new procurement policy that complies with the federal procurement policy for bidding and awarding projects when funded by federal and state governments. DTU will sponsor three students to attend the Rivers Conservation Camp. Our annual summer picnic was Aug. 17 at the Penn State Extension Research Center. DTU created a TIC PowerPoint and Mike Burcin, our TIC chair, is visiting school classrooms with the presentation.

### **Falling Spring Chapter #234**

**Took Coder**  
**717-352-3989, hcoder115@comcast.net**  
**www.facebook.com/fstu234/**

We are close to completing all permit requirements to move forward on the Falling Spring project below Edwards Avenue. Many hurdles and restrictions had to be overcome due to it being designated as a wetland. We continue to move forward with building the content for our chapter website. We have a beginners' fly-tying class in February. Terry Ward, one of our founding members, passed away. Terry was an avid fly-fisherman

and an active member of TU for decades.

### **Muddy Creek Chapter #575**

**John Snyder**  
**717-870-6111, jlsnyder89@gmail.com**  
**www.muddycreektu.org**

We hosted a fall fest/landowner appreciation event in October at the Stewartstown American Legion. This annual event allows us to meet new landowners and stay connected with the gracious folks who allow access to otherwise private water on Muddy Creek. Our yearly co-op fund drive to support the MCTU nursery is currently underway. More than 450 co-op sponsor applications were mailed in late November, and we have been blessed with the generous response from our membership and the local business community. Our 4th annual Walt Lister Memorial Cabin Fever Event was Feb. 1. This is a great opportunity to meet premier fly-tyers in central Pa., meet other tying and fishing enthusiasts, and find great deals on tying materials and equipment. We had a great selection of raffle prizes and silent auction items.

### **SOUTHWEST** **CHAPTERS**

**Arrowhead 214**  
**Chestnut Ridge 670**  
**Forbes Trail 206**  
**Fort Bedford 291**  
**John Kennedy 045**  
**Ken Sink 053**  
**Mountain Laurel 040**  
**Penn's Woods West 042**

### **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

**Bryan Mathie**  
**930 Penn Ave.- Ste 2A**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15222**  
**Email: peregrine94@sbcglobal.net**  
**Phone: 708-921-8373**

### **Arrowhead Chapter #214**

**Chad Hough**  
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**www.arrowhead214tu.org**

No report.

### **Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670**

**Ben Moyer**  
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**www.chestnutridgetu.org**

During the last quarter of 2024, CRTU placed

216 tons of alkaline limestone sand at our three treatment sites in the Glade Run watershed, tributary to Dunbar Creek on State Game Lands 51. This work is currently funded by a grant from Pennsylvania Foundation for Watersheds. A committee of our longest-tenured members compiled a history of CRTU's long commitment to Glade Run's restoration and submitted it to TU's *TROUT* magazine for possible publication in the "Pocket Water" feature. We have not heard any response from the editor, but hope for publication in the spring issue. We took delivery of PFBC fingerlings to our cooperative nursery in the Youghioghny Reservoir tailrace. These trout, once raised to trophy size, support many youth fishing events in the region and supplement the tailwater fishery in the Youghioghny River. We are currently engaged in planning our spring 2025 banquet to be held March 22 at Hugo's restaurant on Route 40 in Washington County. We are also planning our annual litter cleanups on Dunbar Creek and Pike Run. We learned that our application to the Walter Pomeroy Foundation for a "Legends and Lore" marker commemorating the Legend of Betty Knox has cleared the first level of consideration. We are hoping to win final approval and place an attractive marker along Dunbar Creek soon. We believe this bit of cultural preservation complements our long commitment to the water quality, physical habitat, and aesthetic appeal of the Dunbar Creek corridor. Our participation in the Southern Laurel Highlands Plant and Pest Management Partnership continues. We participate in this cooperative effort in order to conserve stream-cooling hemlocks along the mountain streams of our region.

### **Forbes Trail Chapter #206**

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

Forbes Trail partnered with Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Association to hold its sixth annual fishing event for military veterans and first responders on Oct. 5. Scout troops 465 and 305 opened the event with posting colors followed by assisting veterans with retiring worn out American flags. They also provided a grilled lunch for over 100 veterans, first responders, and volunteers. We received two deliveries of limestone sand for treating the headwaters of Linn Run, Westmoreland County. We'll continue assessment of macroinvertebrates, water quality and wild brook trout populations post treatment. All of the schools with which we have done TIC programs in the past have asked us to continue, and in some cases expand, this year. We held another meat raffle this fall, awarding \$250 each to eight winners. We Again shared 10% of the profit with the Westmoreland County Food Bank. For every 100 tickets sold, a winner receives either a \$250 gift card to Werry's Provisions meat market or cash. This is

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### **...Continued from previous page**

easy money and a way all members can assist raising funds for activities. We modified our monthly meetings to include a “Show & Tell” at the end. Members present slides of their recent fishing expeditions while everyone enjoys pizza during a social hour. Upcoming meetings are March 4 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Office with a program on Climate Change Impact on the Laurel Highlands, and then April 2 and May 7 at the Nimick Family Education Center.

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#### **Fort Bedford Chapter #291**

**Rylan Schnably**  
fbtu291@gmail.com

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

No report.

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#### **John Kennedy Chapter #045**

**Scott Kavanagh**

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<https://www.facebook.com/johnkennedytu>

Permits are in place for three projects to start in 2025. We completed our fourth Adopt A Highway cleanup along Plum Creek Road, which is adjacent to Plum Creek, a Class A stream. The chapter has partnered with the Blair County Conservation District in its new “bioblitz” program that will have scheduled events in Blair County schools. The goal of these “bioblitzes” is to get the kids outside and teach students how to measure and think critically about their impact on climate change and the environment and provide meaningful hands-on activities for the students to use throughout their lifetime. We help the kids identify

stream health and the macroinvertebrates that live in the stream. We also teach the students how to conduct a stream study. We completed our first bioblitz in November with Tyrone High School students and will start again with other schools in March. Fly-tying courses are held on Saturdays through Feb. 22 at Allegheny Volunteer Firehall, 651 Sugar Run Road, Altoona. Shawn Holsinger from Holsinger’s Fly Shop and YouTube channel presented on a fly-fishing trip to South Africa at our February meeting. Ashley Wilmont of the United States Fly-Fishing Team will speak March 6 at Allegheny Volunteer Firehall.

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#### **Ken Sink Chapter #053**

**Barrie Mann**

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<http://kstupa.blogspot.com>

No report.

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#### **Mountain Laurel Chapter #040**

**Dave Maher**

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[www.mltu.org](http://www.mltu.org)

No report.

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#### **Penn’s Woods West Chapter #042**

**Nora Cline**

[www.pwwtu.org](http://www.pwwtu.org)

The chapter’s annual Cabin Fever event is Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PWWTU is working with Allegheny Land Trust in securing grants to upgrade sections of Big Sewickley Creek, the Pittsburgh area’s last coldwater-fed tributary that

can hold over trout. The endangered red bellied dace has also been recently found in these waters, proving the health of the stream. PWWTU has committed to working on this stream with several conservation partners and will use it as our focus water for many projects and efforts for years to come. Thanks to funding from the chapter, students from multiple school districts such as North Allegheny, Pine, Riverside, Montour, Plum, and more will have the opportunity to participate in the TIC program. Chapter members fished Yellow Creek in Bedford County in October. November’s outing was a shared event to plant trees, bushes, etc. along Big Sewickley Creek with Allegheny Land Trust. Our January event was a 2025 kickoff with a luncheon and planning, followed by equipment, flies and tying in February. Our education committee is working on events for the spring, including a fly-tying event at Seneca Valley Middle School and teaching fly-fishing and macro invertebrates to AW Beating Career Center students. We’re hosting a free fly-fishing school March 22-23 featuring two sessions of day-long introductions to fly-fishing. Due to changes at Chatham University, our board has decided not to renew scholarship funding, and we are pursuing other opportunities to provide support to a student for research. Recent meetings featured Ray Weitzel, a professor at Chatham University in September, Tim Camissa on “Emergers and Dry Flies” in October, Amanda Thompson from Project Healing Waters in November, Doug Yacobek in December, and Ari Capotis in February. Our annual Joe Kline Memorial Fly Sale was in January. Upcoming meetings are March 10, April 14 and May 12. Bar Flies is held the fourth Monday of each month at Howard’s Tavern.