

Pennsylvania TROUT



Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patROUT.org

Summer 2024

PATU Annual Meeting set for Sept. 14

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, at the Waterville Fire Hall located at 11009 North Route 44 Highway, Waterville, PA 17776. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and the program gets underway at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will feature special guest speakers, State Council officer elections, award presentations, raffles and an opportunity to network with members from across the state.

Registration is \$35 per person, which

**See page 2 for more info on
PATU's Annual Meeting at
Waterville Fire Hall.**

Deadline to register is Sept. 4, 2024.

includes lunch. To register go to www.patROUT.org. Registration deadline is Sept. 4, 2024.

Guest speakers include:

Nathan Walters, Coldwater Unit Leader for the PA Fish and Boat Commission, will discuss various aspects of the Com-

mission's Trout Management program, including the agency's upcoming new and revised Trout Management Plan.

Ralph Scherder, outdoor writer, fly-fishing guide and editor of Dark Skies Fly Fishing magazine, will present a program on fishing for wild brook trout in Maine. Ralph will also discuss his website and magazine and will have some of his fly-fishing products available for purchase.

Brian Wagner, PATU Conservation Committee chairman, will provide an up-

See **MEETING**, page 2

Spruce Creek trout research still relevant

**Dr. Robert A. Bachman's
observations from over 40
years ago hold true today**

By Mark Hersh

Consulting Aquatic Biologist
Portland, Oregon

January 2024 marked more than 40 years since Dr. Robert A. Bachman published the results of his Ph.D. research on wild brown trout behavior in the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. Before that many of his findings had already been featured in various magazine and newspaper articles including the *New York Times* because many of his findings were new and surprising, especially to many trout biologists and managers.

See **RESEARCH**, page 7



Contributed Photo

Dr. Robert A. Bachman's personally designed "Trout-Tracker" that allowed him to make single keystrokes to record typical feeding events and other behaviors with a precision of one one-hundredth of a minute. It was programmed each morning.

IN THIS ISSUE

Headwaters	4	Award Nominations Due	10
Treasurer's Report.....	5	PATU Merchandise Order Form	12
Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania.....	6	Chapter Reports	13

Pennsylvania TROUT

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



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

**EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR –
Michael Stahl**
146 Weyant Circle
Bedford, PA 15522
Phone: 814-505-5201
Email: mbstahl2007@yahoo.com

**EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR –
Rick Nyles**
212 Deysher Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522
Phone: 610-987-0073
Email: rick@skyblueoutfitters.com

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

SECRETARY – Erick Lewis
70 Brentwood Circle
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Phone: 607-621-8120
Email: eeewis@tds.net

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR –
OPEN**
PO Box 5148
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: TBD
Email: TBD

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR/
WEB EDITOR – Sigrid Sharif**
P.O. Box 5148
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: 971-276-8622
Email: sigrid.sharif@tu.org

**PA TROUT EDITOR & DESIGNER –
Brad Isles**
147 Swain Hill Road
Harmony, PA 16127
Phone: 724-967-2832
Email: bisles@live.com

COPYRIGHT 2024

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited
No portion may be reproduced
without permission.

MEETING

from page 1

date on the important conservation issues and activities that his committee and PATU are following and providing input on.

Scott Koser from National TU will provide a brief update on Priority Waters in Pennsylvania as well as showcase several National TU projects that have been implemented in the Pine Creek watershed.

We will also introduce PATU's new executive director at the meeting.

Join us to learn more about important coldwater conservation issues of concern and state and national programs that can assist you in achieving your local chapter project goals.

Local overnight suggested lodging locations are listed on the PATU website and below. Angling opportunities are readily available in the Pine Creek watershed.



Annual Meeting Accommodations

Gamble Farm Inn & Suites
311 N. Main St.
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-7275

Cedar Run Inn
281 Beulahland Road
Cedar Run, PA
570-353-0241

Camping is available at:
Little Pine State Park
4295 Little Pine Creek Road
Waterville, PA
888-727-2757

Happy Acres
3332 Little Pine Creek Road
Waterville, PA
570-753-8000



PATU Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 14, 2024
Waterville Fire Hall
11009 North Route 44 Highway,
Waterville, PA 17776

REGISTRATION FORM
(Please print neatly)

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Names of Additional Guests: _____

Total # of registrations _____ X \$35.00 = TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Please send the completed form along with a check or money order for the total amount due to:

PATU
PO Box 5148
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Please mail with enough time for registrations to be received by Sept. 4, 2024.

If you do not receive confirmation that your registration was processed by Sept. 4, 2024, please contact Sigrid at sigrid.sharif@tu.org.

Online registration is preferred and available at:
<https://patrout.org/events/patu-annual-meeting-2>

PATU Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 14, 2024

**Waterville Fire Hall
Waterville, PA 17776**

Draft Agenda

8:30 a.m. – Registration Opens

9:30 a.m. – Welcome – Lenny Lichvar

9:45 a.m. – Introduction of PATU Executive Director

10 a.m. – PATU Conservation Committee Presentation – Brian Wagner

10:30 a.m. – Break

10:45 a.m. – PFBC Fisheries Management Presentation – Nathan Walters

11:30 a.m. – PATU Council Elections

11:45 a.m. – PATU Trout Policy Update – Dave Rothrock

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – Fishing for Maine Brook Trout – Ralph Scherder

1:45 p.m. – Priority Waters Update and Pine Creek National TU projects – Scott Koser

2:15 p.m. – State Council Award Presentations – Judi Sittler

2:45 p.m. – Fund-Raising Raffle

Summer deal: Discount on sweatshirts

For a limited time only, we're offering 10% off our usual pricing on all PATU sweatshirts. Supplies are limited, so order soon to get the size you need. Prices shown on the order form and PATU Merchandise page include the 10% discount and free shipping.

Or maybe you're looking for a new small stream fly-rod, or perhaps a travel rod that will fit in a backpack? We also have "Brookie" themed fly-reels in two sizes to offer, as well as custom-tied leaders in both dry and wet fly configurations, PATU-logoed hats and T-shirts, "Back the Brookie" decorative license plates and refrigerator magnets, "Catch & Release"



license frames, plus a number of books on PA fly-fishing.

Use the order form in this issue to mail with your check, or just go to <https://patrout.org/index.php/merchandise/> where it's easy to order online using a credit card or PayPal.

Subscribe to PA Trout

If you would like to receive future PA Trout newsletters by U.S. Mail, fill out the following form and mail with your check payable to "PA Trout" to: PA Trout, PO Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Name _____

Street or P.O. _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Subscription rate is \$5.00 per year (4 issues)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ year(s)

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2023-24 COMMITTEES



Awards –

Judi Sittler
814-861-3277 / jlsittler@comcast.net

Budget –

Russell Thrall
570-620-8677 / russ@thrall3.com

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Admin. –
OPEN

Coldwater Heritage Partnership TU Delegate –
Scott Altemose
610-295-7660 / saltemose@trefoilta.com

College/5 Rivers –

Charlie Charlesworth
570-954-5042 / ffnepa@epix.net

Communications –

Brad Isles
724-967-2832 / bisles@live.com

Conservation/Climate Change –

Brian Wagner
484-894-8289 / bewagner482@gmail.com

Delaware River –

Jeff Skelding
410-245-8021 / skelding@fudr.org

Development –

Bob Neu
development@patrout.org

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture –
Vacant

Membership –

Jason Miller
412-335-8647 / jdm5047@gmail.com

National Leadership Council Rep. –

Russ Collins
717-580-3958 / russthepres@dfu.org

Trout in the Classroom –

OPEN

Trout Policy –

Len Lichvar
814-659-7057 / lennyll@yahoo.com

Dave Rothrock
570-377-9712 / daver2@comcast.net

TU Service Partnership –

OPEN

Women/Diversity Initiative –

Amidea Daniel
814-359-5127 / adaniel@pa.gov

Kelly Williams
814-765-2624 / kellyw@cfdccd.com

Youth Education –

Judi Sittler
814-861-3277 / jlsittler@comcast.net

Headwaters

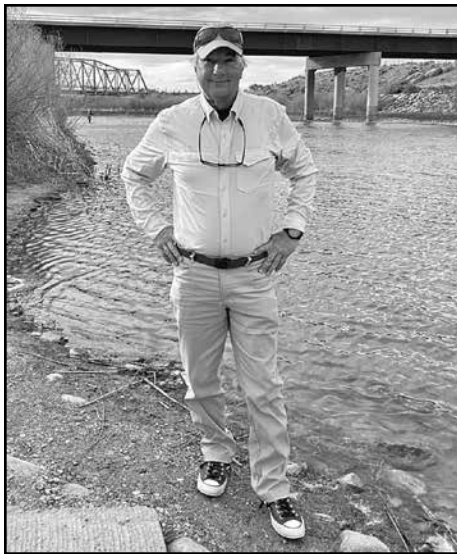
**A message from PATU President
Lenny Lichvar**

Trout are in hot water. The continuation of extreme heat and lack of rain are and will impact our coldwater wild and stocked trout resources.

That is not only the case here in Pennsylvania, but is occurring elsewhere as well. I just returned from a family excursion to Montana, Wyoming and my first trip back to Yellowstone National Park in 30 years. The extreme heat and lack of precipitation commenced there around the same time it began here. Although it did not impact the limited time I had to fish on the trip, there is growing concern in the American west already that the wild trout resources are already being and will continue to be negatively impacted.

Water quantity is an issue everywhere, but perhaps more so in the west. Irrigation is a way of life in order to sustain farm and ranch agriculture. What makes water usage unfriendly to aquatic organisms and trout is the "Prior Appropriation Doctrine" that defines western water law that was created when the west was settled.

This now antiquated method of allocat-



ing water allowed individuals to claim as much water as they could put to "beneficial use." This allowed the first settlers to divert and consume all the water they wanted and has led to over appropriated water uses to this day. So, of course, since trout could not claim the water for their use they have been left out of being able to secure water for their own survival.

Rather than bringing western water law into the 21st Century states such as Montana are left dealing with the issue by closing sections of waterways as daytime

water temperatures exceed the tolerance level of trout. These so called "hoot owl" restrictions limit fishing from midnight to 2 p.m. only. As of this writing 17 sections of rivers in Montana are under these restrictions including such waters as the Madison, Big Hole, Bitterroot, Yellowstone and others. This is the only protection that is used and is not close to a much more needed solution.

Add to that the smoke-covering haze obscuring the otherwise spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming and Montana from wildfires in California, Oregon and others within Montana. This is just another detriment to the natural resources of the iconic west.

Back here, there is often much outcry about angling pressure or harvest impacting the wild trout resource. However, drought and low, warm water is by far the greatest threat to our wild trout resources.

To get to the reality of all of this, yes I know we have had extreme weather before. But, that is indeed weather. What is occurring right now is, without doubt in my mind, and is also scientifically- and data-proven, a change in our climate. If you do not think the climate is changing just step outside.



Lenny Lichvar Photos

At left is a valve that allows water to be drawn for irrigation from the South Fork of the Shoshone River near Cody, Wyo. At right, massive water irrigation mechanisms such as this pivot are prevalent in much of the American west.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer
Russell Thrall

While TU and PATU activities tend to slow down in the summer, PATU has been active over the past few months with our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) grant program, our search for a new executive director for Council as well as planning for our Sept. 14 Annual Meeting.

I'm happy to report that through your financial support, combined with a matching grant from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, we were able to award 44 grants totaling more than \$27,000 to schools and other organizations across

Pennsylvania. The grants will help 32 pre-existing TIC programs continue and include equipment grants for 12 programs that will start up this fall.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Waterville Fire Hall in Waterville, Pa. on Sept. 14 from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Annual Meeting is always a great opportunity to learn new things, celebrate our success and meet TU volunteer leaders from around the state.

Look for complete details on the Annual Meeting on previous pages.

Online registration for the meeting is available on the PATU website.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, my term as Treasurer will draw to a close in October following the elections taking place at the meeting.

I began my time in October 2020 in the middle of the pandemic at a time of great uncertainty. Four short years later, I'm happy to see the progress the Council has made and how our support has grown for our TU chapters and coldwater conservation in the Commonwealth.

EXCOM actions taken since April 21, 2024

PATU Actions Taken since the April 21, 2024, EXCOM meeting:

Michael Stahl approved via email for Western Region VP position on June 10, 2024.



Sky Blue Outfitters
Fly Fishing Guide Service Since 1999
Walk and Wade | Drift Boat Trips
Destination Trips | Presentations

610.987.0073
info@skyblueoutfitters.com
skyblueoutfitters.com

TROUT UNLIMITED BUSINESS GOLD LEVEL

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited has nearly 15,000 members in nearly 50 chapters statewide, with one common goal: The conservation and enhancement of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams and fisheries, specifically our wild trout resources. Trout Unlimited is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, functioning for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Donations are deductible to the extent provided by law. For information on advertising in PA Trout, call 814-692-5232, or email bisles@live.com. See pages 2-3 for Council contact information, officers and committees. For listings of Regional VPs and Pennsylvania TU chapters, and their contact information, see pages 13-19.

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



PENNSYLVANIA TROUT is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. Information in this publication is provided "as is" and without warranties of any kind, whether express or implied. The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited makes no guarantees as to accuracy, currency, quality or fitness of any information presented in this publication. The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited assumes no legal liability or responsibility for any incorrect, misleading, outdated or missing information.

The views and opinions expressed in PENNSYLVANIA TROUT are those of the writers, who are responsible for the accuracy of content. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. The acceptance of advertising by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised. The publisher assumes no responsibility or liability for the publication of copy submitted by advertisers.

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited reserves the right to cancel or reject articles or advertising deemed inappropriate or unsuitable for PENNSYLVANIA TROUT. Anyone using any information from this publication does so at his own risk and shall be deemed to indemnify the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. The publisher shall not be responsible or liable for any damage or injury resulting from such use. Letters to the editor are welcome; they must be signed and contain the writer's contact information. PATU reserves the right to edit letters for length.

Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

Para-Iso Emerger

An Isonychia Bicolor imitation that sits low in the surface film and is fun to tie and a blast to fish from June through October.

Fly Design / Highlights

- Constructed with mostly natural materials
- Easily adaptable to other insects by changing material types and body colors
- Sits very low on the water – offering up an enticing meal for a trout
- Very durable, buoyant and easy to see on the water

Background

The techniques used to create this slate drake imitation are not new, and apply to many types of emerger/parachute patterns. The great benefit of learning to tie this style of fly is that by altering colors, hook sizes, and materials you can match many types of insects and fill your boxes with a variety of bug-matching fish-foolers.

About the Para-Iso Emerger

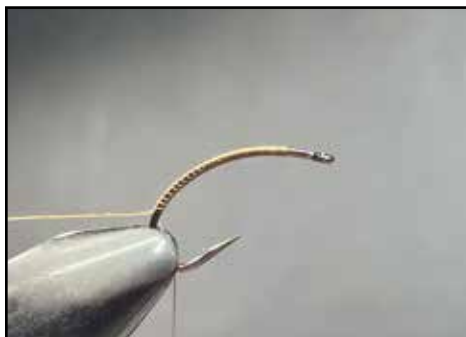
Everyone likes to see big mayflies on the water and the Isonychia is just that. Also known as the White Gloved Howdy, this mayfly hatches sporadically over a four-to five-month period from June through October. Trout seem to love eating these things. This pattern is pretty easy to see and once mastered, you can apply the style to a host of mayfly patterns. You can also opt for a wing post made of other materials, but I try to limit synthetics in my tying as much as I can. Tight lines all, and I'll see you on the water!



Materials

- **Hook:** Parachute Dry
- **Thread:** Your Preference
- **Shuck:** Micro Zelon/Your Preference
- **Body:** Superfine Dubbing
- **Thorax:** Superfine Dubbing
- **Wing/Post:** Deer Hair
- **Hackle:** Dun or White

Note: In this example I have used a size #12 Parachute/Klinkhammer Dry Fly hook in black. I also employed comparadun hair, but regular deer or elk will also work.



Insert a hook into your vise and create a thread base. Leave the tag end, as we'll use that to create some added segmentation to the body – although not necessary.



Tie in some micro-zelon to imitate a trailing shuck. Trim to size, and then wrap back up toward the eye of the hook. Stop at the spot you would like your parachute to be tied.



Clean and stack some hair of your choice. Measure to about a body length, and tie in with the tips facing forward. Cover the tag ends and trim as needed.



After cleaning up any loose deer hair, wrap back toward the shuck. Create a dubbing noodle and create a smooth, tapered body. Wrap the tag end forward and tie off.



Use the dubbing noodle to clean up the deer hair post. Tie in some hackle like you would for a normal parachute pattern. Move your thread to in front of the wing.



Carefully wrap the hackle around the post with as many wraps as you like. I usually do about 4 or 5 wraps and then catch the hackle – wrapping around the base of the stem. Whip finish in the front and go fish it!

RESEARCH

from page 1

Rather than doing research that involved netting, confining, or electroshocking fish or modifying stream habitat, Bachman elected to observe the behavior of untouched wild brown trout in Spruce Creek, Huntingdon County, Pa. in what is now known as the George W. Harvey Experimental Fisheries Area of Penn State University. After graduating from Penn State, Bachman served in various positions in the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland, including Director of Maryland's Fish, Wildlife, and Heritage Administration. After his retirement from the Maryland government, he went on to serve as a Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for eight years.

It is likely that many Pennsylvania TU members have fished Spruce Creek and the Penn State section but are unaware of his research.

Dr. Bachman sat down with Mark Hersh to reflect on their research and its present-day relevance to managing wild trout streams. Mark was an undergraduate at Penn State when he assisted Dr. Bachman's field work in the summer of 1979.

MH: Bob, after serving 20 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy, having served on many ships, boats, and stations including an attack transport, two diesel submarines, two nuclear-powered Polaris missile submarines, and the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus (SSN 571), you changed careers. Why did you choose to study ecology and why fish behavior?

RB: It was my wife Gail's suggestion that I might wish to go back to school. She knew I loved hunting and fishing and outdoor life. Hardly what running submarines was all about. When I agreed, she said what would you like to study? I said, "Fish!"

My service in the Navy had taken me nearly all around the world twice by ship or boat to ports of call or duty stations, from Maryland, south to Rio de Janeiro, east to the English Channel, north to the North Sea, Norwegian Sea, Labrador Sea, Arctic Ocean, Hudson and James Bays. I



Contributed Photos

Photos from Bachman's research show two different brown trout using the same feeding positions at different times.

fished in many of those places and learned about all kinds of fish, especially trout and other salmonids. I chose Penn State because it was a land-grant university and had a strong research program.

How did you come up with the research topic?

In 1976, Dr. Robert Butler was the leader of the Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit at Penn State. The first day I met him to discuss fisheries research he said to me "the next major advance in fisheries science will be in fish behavior." After a three-hour conversation he agreed to take me on as a doctoral student in the interdisciplinary ecology program.

Professor Butler and I decided to erect observation blinds along a pool in the Penn State section of Spruce Creek. After watch-

ing the Spruce Creek trout for three days, I noticed I could identify individual brown trout by their spot patterns. As you learned in 1979, it was easy to identify them. During the study, the observation area was closed to fishing and never shocked, nor was the habitat altered. Many of the fish you observed in 1979 were the same ones I had watched and documented the previous two years.

How did you record the behavior of the trout that you were watching?

At first, I was making notes and taking photographs of individual trout with a camera outfitted with a telephoto lens. The photos were kept in a card file box with the name and number of each fish. I soon

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

realized I needed some kind of electrical device to record how the fish moved, fed, and exhibited other behaviors, like avoiding predators. The Electrical Engineering Department at Penn State constructed a device which I designed that allowed me to make single keystrokes to record typical feeding events and other behaviors with a precision of one one-hundredth of a minute. I labeled it the “trout-tracker” and programmed it each morning using a cassette tape, and at the end of the day transferred the data back to the cassette tape, and then eventually to a mainframe computer at Penn State’s campus.

What were the first things you noticed?

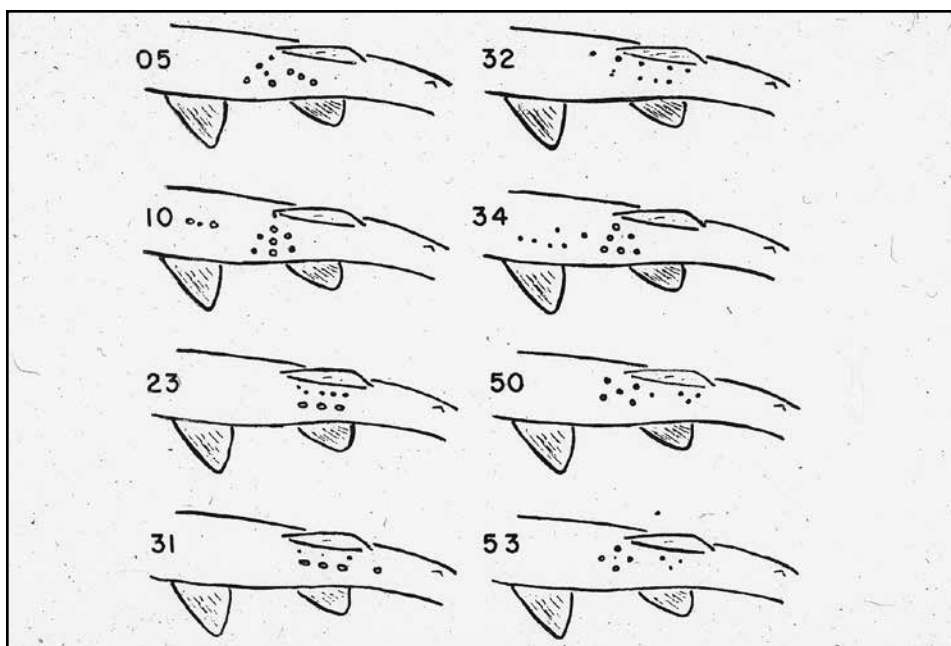
One of the first things I noticed when I started watching the resident wild brown trout in the observation area was that there were many adult fish holding in positions on the stream bottom where there was virtually no flow at all, even though the stream velocity was at least one to two feet per second. These were micro-positions where the fish used the energy of the current right above their eyes to intercept invertebrates that were floating on the surface, in the water column, and on the bottom. With just a slight movement of a pectoral fin or a slight flick of the tail, a fish could use very little energy to feed.

The second thing I discovered was that the “lies” or foraging sites, were extremely precise and when different individuals used such a site each fish positioned themselves the same way, within a quarter-inch or less variance. That precision allowed me to photograph a carpenter’s square in the same site and measure a fish’s length without touching.

Those sites are places where a trout can see drift coming by, while expending very little energy to maintain its position. The stream functions like a conveyor belt carrying food to the trout. Those “seats in the restaurant” are very important. We used photographs to make a montage map of the entire observation area and numbered each such site.

How did the trout that were holding in those positions feed?

They ate invertebrates floating on the surface, trapped in the air/water interface,



Contributed Photo

An illustration from Bachman’s 1984 Ph.D. research paper showing different patterns of spots on brown trout in Spruce Creek.

emerging from the bottom, or drifting by between the surface and the bottom. Unlike what most anglers think, trout rarely consume invertebrates directly off the bottom. Even though the trout occasionally see and consume large organisms such as a crayfish crawling on the bottom, they rarely if ever see any aquatic invertebrates that live on and in the stream bottom.

Did the adult wild trout fight or compete for foraging sites?

Yes, but only with non-resident trout. They have an instinctive tendency to establish a dominance hierarchy based mostly on size. They never tolerate another trout that is feeding too close or directly upstream of them while they are holding in one of these precise foraging sites. By recording the results of such encounters over a three-year period I was able to document such a hierarchy that changed little over that length of time.

How important is cover for wild trout?

All drift-feeding trout used cover or refuge areas when the “drift” was low. This was evident by the absence of larger drift-feeding individuals during periods when the feeding rates of smaller trout were low.

The largest wild trout in our observation area were observed only when smaller resident wild trout were feeding at high rates. Otherwise, the largest trout spent most of their time in secluded locations.

What determines the size and number of trout in a productive limestone stream like Spruce Creek?

In a stream like Spruce Creek, which is alkaline and therefore highly productive, most of the trout will rarely get much bigger than 10 to 14 inches. Larger fish will be very rare and to get bigger than that they have to become piscivorous. If they are big enough to catch and eat things other than invertebrates, they usually reside only in larger, slow pools or migrate downstream to slower water where they can pursue and eat other fish.

The number of trout is determined solely by the number of foraging sites or what I called “seats in the restaurant.” Those locations are where the fish gain more energy from what they eat than the energy they expend in capturing it.

Why aren’t there more big trout in the Penn State section of Spruce Creek?

Because there are not enough large slow pools in Spruce Creek in which a trout that is a beautiful, tasty drift-feeder can switch over to be a fish-eater. They must go downstream to the Little Juniata where there is more such habitat. In Spruce Creek, most brown trout are drift-feeders and cannot grow any larger unless they are fed.

Before I wrote the *Transactions* paper with a full analysis of the data, I prepared

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

a shorter paper based on the fact that as a drift-feeding salmonid gets larger, the caloric reward offered by the drift gets proportionally smaller. A fish can become a fish-eater, and that behavior might require migration, or it remains where it is, continues to eat drift, and grows very slowly or stops growing altogether.

Fish #15, or “Yellowfin” was over 11 inches long in 1977. It was the dominant fish in the observation area, and grew less than two inches in the next four years, and was aged as nine years old in 1982 by examination of its otoliths.

What happened when you stocked hatchery trout on top of the healthy population of wild trout?

We stocked hatchery trout in August of 1979 and then again in May of 1980. What happened? As soon as the wild trout saw the hatchery trout, the resident wild trout immediately attacked the hatchery trout.

The hatchery trout never displaced any of the wild trout. Hatchery trout are adapted environmentally to feeding in a raceway with an unlimited food supply. Although some hatchery trout briefly used the same precise foraging sites as the wild trout did, they rarely if ever remained for long or ever returned to the site. It's no surprise that hardly any hatchery trout remained to the end of the observation period. At the end of 1979 and beginning of 1980, there were only two identifiable hatchery trout left in the observation area. As soon as the water temperature went up, those two disappeared.

In 1980, the hatchery trout were stocked earlier in the year, and they disappeared even faster than they did the year before.

The section of stream we studied was closed to angling. Stocked streams are open to and attract anglers – that is the point! The increased fishing pressure wipes out both the hatchery trout and the wild trout. It makes no sense to stock hatchery trout on top of a healthy wild trout population when sensible regulations will allow angling while protecting the wild population.

Even though you have fished for many kinds of fish virtually all over the world, am I right to say you have a special affection for salmonids and especially the



Contributed Photo

The camouflaged towers Bachman utilized to observe trout in Spruce Creek.

Spruce Creek wild brown trout?

All salmonids are amazing creatures! Millions of years ago they developed four sets of chromosomes and are known as tetraploids. This amazing genetic variability enables them to rapidly adapt to new environments provided they have cold, fresh water in which to spawn. The wild brown trout of Spruce Creek are descended from different types of European brown trout that were brought to this country in the 1880s and mixed in hatcheries. If you go to Spruce Creek now you may catch a wild trout that has mostly black spots that resemble the “Loch Leven” brown trout of Scotland or the brightly colored, yellow-bellied “von Behr Bach Verellen” of Germany. These two types were cross-bred in 1883 in New York and spread eventually all over the world.

It is because of the unique and wonderful characteristics inherent in all salmonids that I strongly advocate that agencies refrain from stocking genetically inferior hatchery trout that have poor survival in the wild, but always results in harmful fishing pressure on the environmentally adapted resident wild fish.

What is the most important information that you learned by observing the wild brown trout in Spruce Creek?

By far, I think the most pertinent information is that wild brown trout, perhaps all trout and even all salmonids, in highly

productive headwater streams like Spruce Creek, Penns Creek, and the driftless area of Wisconsin grow much slower than many fisheries biologists and fisheries managers realize. I measured the length of individual adult trout over a four-year period without touching them. After I finished my four-year observation period, I captured and sacrificed several of the largest adult trout I had observed and determined how old they were by examining their otoliths. I thereby was able to identify the exact year in which they emerged from the gravel. One was six and another was eight years old. The scales of none of the largest, oldest resident wild brown trout showed any age older than three years old. Fisheries biologists use wrong tools, such as scale analysis, to age the fish, and that in turn leads to incorrect management decisions.

This information, I think, is vital in determining the population dynamics of salmonids, the effects of hooking mortality, and how both density-dependent and density-independent growth shapes trout populations in highly productive streams.

Thank you, Bob. The summer I spent assisting you is still very special to me, as it was the beginning of my career as a freshwater biologist, and was one of the most fun and interesting things that I did! I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to work with you.

After graduating from Penn State with a B.S. in biology, Mark Hersh earned an M.S. in aquatic biology from Iowa State University. His 30-plus year career with government and non-profits had few things as interesting as watching wild brown trout go about their business.

Copies of Dr. Robert A. Bachman's publications on the Spruce Creek wild brown trout can be obtained by sending Mark Hersh an email at waterhersh@gmail.com.

Digitized versions of the film and video taken by Dr. Bachman during his research are available at [youtube.com/@BeethovenvonBehr32](https://www.youtube.com/@BeethovenvonBehr32) or by searching for YouTube channel “Beethoven von Behr.”

PATU Award nominations due August 31

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will present its annual awards during the fall meeting on Saturday, Sept. 14.

There is a huge amount of extraordinary work being accomplished by PATU chapters, as well as many individuals, and that work should be recognized.

If you are aware of a group, chapter or individual you feel is worthy of a nomination, **please consider filling out a nomination form**. Nominations are due by **August 31**.

An online nomination form is available on the PATU website at <https://patrout.org/index.php/patu-awards-nominations/>

Forms may be emailed to Judi Sittler at jsittler@comcast.net or mailed to her at 108 Gaslight Circle, State College, PA 16801. Please note: nominations for Best Newsletter and Best Chapter website (described below) should be sent to Brad Isles at bisles@live.com.

Below is a brief description of each award with eligibility criteria when applicable:

- **Chapter with greatest membership increase** – Nominations not accepted; Recipient determined based on data collected from National TU.
- **Chapter with greatest percentage increase in membership** – Nominations not accepted; Recipient determined based on data collected from National TU
- **Edward Urbas Award for Best PA Chapter** – This award is given to the chapter that best exemplifies the work of TU, including involvement in conservation efforts, community activities, outreach, youth activities, etc.
- **Best Small Chapter Award** – The same criteria used in the Edward Urbas Award will be applied to this award, but it is limited to chapters with 150 or fewer members.
- **Best Chapter Project** – This award recognizes an exceptional initiative, project, or effort on the part of a TU chapter which demonstrates efficient use of resources, and which utilizes effective partnerships with other organizations such as government agencies, other non-profits, schools, etc., and which had a notable impact on the community and/or environment.
- **Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member** – This award recognizes a TU member with a history of exemplifying PATU's core values and mission- conserving, protecting, and restoring PA's coldwater fisheries and watersheds – and who demonstrates a commitment to volunteerism.
- **Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, Professional** – This award recognizes an individual, either from a governmental agency, private enterprise, or non-profit organization, who has made an exceptional effort to help fulfill the TU mission of conserving, protecting, restoring, and sustaining PA's coldwater fisheries and watersheds.
- **Outstanding Volunteer** – This award recognizes a person who, while not necessarily a member of TU or a conservationist professional, was particularly helpful and who contributed time and effort to supporting a TU chapter or project. Their efforts on either a single project or on an ongoing basis can be considered and described in the nomination.
- **Best Chapter Website** – Is your Chapter's website particularly attractive, clear, up-to-date and easy to navigate? If so, send nominations to Brad Isles at bisles@live.com.
- **Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Chapter Newsletter** – If your newsletter includes information about your chapter's activities that is current, well-presented and clear, and is visually attractive, your chapter may very well win this award. Send nominations, with a few copies of the newsletter, to Brad Isles at 147 Swain Hill Road, Harmony, PA 16037. A digital copy can also be sent to Brad at bisles@live.com.
- **Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach** – This award recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional leadership and commitment to youth outreach, programs, and activities.
- **Ken Sink Award for Outstanding Service to PATU** – This award is given to a person who contributes to PATU's mission in a notable way. It is intended to recognize a person who has been involved for a significant period of time and who has demonstrated steadfast dedication to coldwater conservation, protection, restoration, as well as volunteerism and leadership. It is not necessarily presented every year.
- **Inky Moore Award for Outstanding Service to State Council** – This award recognizes a person or persons who through their recent efforts shows leadership of the organization.
- **Diversity Award** – This award recognizes a chapter that shows diversity among the members in the chapter. It is important that chapters ensure that youth, women, and men take an active part in TU chapters. This ensures that TU chapters are able to carry on and it allows experienced chapter members to cultivate knowledge to new members. But it is also important that all members bring a voice to the chapter to ensure forward momentum.

Diversity Award submission criteria:

- Provide a description for any events held by the chapter:
 - Veterans, Youth and/or Women Events
 - Chapter youth and/or female leader
- Provide the number of:
 - Active male chapter members
 - Active female and/or youth member

For a member to be considered active, they must attend at least three chapter meetings per year or participate in at least one chapter event per year.

PATU Awards 2024 Nomination Form

Fill out, clip and except where otherwise indicated mail this nomination form to: Judi Sittler, 108 Gaslight Circle, State College, PA 16801. You may also download it from www.patrou.org and mail to the same address. Scanned submissions can be emailed to jsittler@comcast.net. **The deadline for nominations is August 31.**

Nominator's Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

***Nominator will be notified once a decision has been made.*

I would like to nominate _____ **for the**

Check one: _____ Edward Urbas Award for Best Chapter _____ Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member

_____ Best Chapter Project Award

_____ Best Small Chapter Award (<150 members)

Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist Award, Professional

_____ Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth
Outreach

Outstanding Volunteer Award
(Person who contributed time or effort in helping a TU chapter or project, either one time or ongoing; doesn't need to be a member or conservation professional)

_____ Ken Sink Award for Outstanding Service to PATU
For an individual who has made long-term
significant contributions through their work
with state council.

_____ Inky Moore Award for Outstanding
Contributions to PATU's Conservation Mission

Diversity Award
(For a chapter that shows diversity among its membership.)

_____ Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Newsletter
(Send copies of at least three recent issues to
email to Brad Isles at bisles@live.com)

Best Chapter Website Award
(Send nomination to Brad Isles at
bisles@live.com)

Reason for nomination (250 words or fewer): _____

[illegible]

(Continue on a separate page if necessary.)

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. If you have questions about the availability of any specific items, please feel free to contact Bob Pennell at rpennell37@comcast.net or 717-395-5124.



	Item Description	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		\$17.50	\$1.05	\$18.55	
	PATU Ballcap (circle) Khaki Olive		\$19.50	None	\$19.50	
	PATU Ballcap – Digital Camo		\$23.00	None	\$23.00	
3	Men's PATU T-shirt (circle size) S M L XL		\$22.50	None	\$21.00	
	Men's PATU T-shirt (circle size) 2XL		\$25.50	None	\$24.00	
	Men's PATU T-shirt (circle size) 3XL		\$28.50	None	\$26.00	
	PATU Sweatshirt (circle size) M L XL		\$35.10	None	\$39.00	
	PATU Sweatshirt 2XL		\$37.80	None	\$42.00	
	PATU Sweatshirt 3XL		\$40.50	None	\$45.00	
	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	
	"Orvis Fly Fishing Guide" Book		\$24.95	\$1.50	\$26.45	
	"Dry Fly Strategies" Book		\$29.95	\$1.80	\$31.75	
	"Pocketguide to PA Hatches" Book		\$21.95	\$1.32	\$23.27	
	"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		\$4.50	\$0.27	\$4.77	
	PATU Sticker		\$1.50	\$0.09	\$1.59	
* Prices effective June 6, 2024			Total:			



Shipping and handling costs are included in above prices.

Mail this form, along with money order or check payable to "PA Trout" to:

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

Or order directly online using a credit card at
<https://patrou.org/index.php/merchandise>

Ship to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

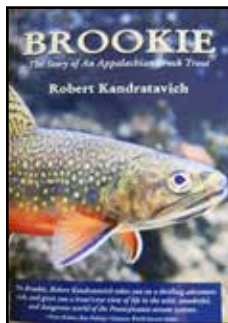
**** Phone number and email are needed should PATU have questions regarding your order.**

On the Bookshelf

By Robert Kandratavich

Brookie: The story of an Appalachian Brook Trout

Chronicles the life of a Potter County brook trout through its first three years. Finding a home in a beaver pond Brookie

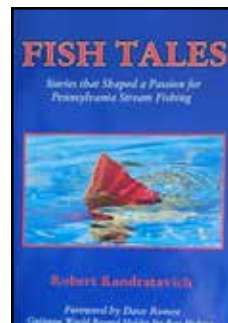


faces many dangers including floods, otters, herons, mink, kingfishers, water snakes, brown trout, and fisherman. When the pond begins to dry up, Brookie sets out on an unforgettable journey

to save his home. Finding adventure and romance along the way. Using his experience and instincts, Brookie meets the challenge saving his beloved home.

Fish Tales: Stories that Shaped a passion for Pennsylvania Stream Fishing

Chasing large wild native brook trout while exploring the stunning beauty of Pennsylvania Wildlands fostered a passion for fishing the Keystone state. A near death experience, bear encounters, a prison gang, mermaids, and fighting a forest fire, shaped a spirit of adventure.



In Fish Tales, 26 short stories document the unforgettable memories forged over a lifetime by a passion for fishing.

To order, visit www.romeonetwork.com, click "Shop" and search for the book title.

Chapter Reports

NORTHEAST REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT Todd Burns

311 Crestmont St.

Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Email: salmofisher7@gmail.com

Phone: 610-704-4549

Brodhead Chapter #289

Russell Thrall III

570-620-8677, russ@thrall3.com

www.brodheadtu.org

The chapter's Summerslam online auction is in August. We held several conservation activities from April to June, including invasive plant removal at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Larsen Lane Tract, in Stroudsburg, a riparian buffer maintenance day at the Polk Township Walking Park and the Larsen Lane Tract, a tree planting at the Larsen Lane Tract to help restore the riparian buffer around Cherry Creek, and a stream improvement workday on Cherry Creek at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Headquarters Tract. We also held our Introduction to Fly-Fishing class in June. The Monroe County Conservation Camp was in July, as was the Brodhead Watershed Association's River Ramble at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

An urban youth workshop was Aug. 7 at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. A STREAM Girls event for a local Girl Scout Troop was held in May and Boy Scout Fishing/Fly-Fishing Merit Badge Weekend is scheduled for Sept. 20-22. Brodhead Fly Tyers meet at 6 p.m. Aug. 19 and Sept. 16 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Upcoming events include a Yankee Run habitat workday at 9 a.m. on Aug. 17 at Yankee Run Nature Preserve; a Brodhead Creek angler access workday at 9 a.m. on Sept. 7 at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve; and Don Baylor will present "Hatches" at our chapter meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 11.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog

610-751-9116, baylogj@gmail.com

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

We have had a 25-year struggle to prevent the dewatering of the Bushkill Creek in the Tatamy area. We finally received notification from DEP that the backup generators at Buzzi Unicem are online, functional and with redundancy built in. That said, we are investigating another dewatering event that occurred on the morning of July 1. We are following up with DEP on monitoring wells and data transparency. Additional dewatering events occurred July 8 and July 10. Our Bugs & Dogs Family Picnic was held in June. This is our annual free "picnic" night where we tell fish stories, eat some hot dogs and other great food under

Continued on page 15...



Help protect and improve the Little J

Join the
Little Juniata River Association

Free River Tour

www.littlejuniata.net

or email bjuniata@verizon.net



GET A CUSTOM TROUT UNLIMITED PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATE!

Want to show others that you're a proud member of PATU and support the mission of Trout Unlimited? Well, you can, and it will only cost you a onetime charge of \$28 for a specialty PA license plate. The custom plate fee is in addition to your annual registration fee, and the plate is available for passenger cars and trucks 14,000 lbs. or less, motor homes and trailers.

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

Erick Lewis

70 Brentwood Circle
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

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



PATU Executive Committee Meeting

*Minutes of the
Aug. 4, 2024 EXCOM Meeting
Hampton Inn & Suites Lamar*

Attendees: Greg Malaska, Russ Thrall, Todd Burns, Gary Parzanese, Erick Lewis, Lenny Lichvar, Charlie Charlesworth, Dave Rothrock, Dean Druckenmiller and Mike Stahl.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Minutes of the April 21, 2024, EXCOM meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Submitted by L. Lichvar.

Secretary's Report: Submitted by E. Lewis.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by R. Thrall. Quarter 1 information was sent out. It was a quiet quarter. Payroll is underway with National TU. Notices and checks for TIC were sent out. Paused CHP grant round until new executive director is onboarded. Mariner funds will offset some of the 18 counties in that region's CHP grants.

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

Executive Director Interviews & Selection: Update by T. Burns. Screenings complete. Down to four candidates. Interviewing in person and via phone on Aug. 4. Reviewing interviews on Aug. 6 with PFBC participating. Expect onboard to begin as soon as possible. EXCOM will be asked to vote electronically. PFBC has been requested to hire a staff member to run the TIC program; awaiting response.

EXCOM Vacancy: South Central VP.

PATU Treasurer Position: Update by R. Thrall. Term-limiting out. Reviewer is not interested in the position. Could be outsourced with potential for issues. Background in book-keeping/oversight is needed. R. Thrall will help out as available. Will start recruiting after executive director

is onboarded. National TU offers support.

Annual Meeting Date and Location: See meeting agenda as distributed and to be include in newsletter and on website. Meeting to be held at Waterville Fire Hall on Sept. 14. Elections, registration/cost, programs, raffle/awards are set. The next EXCOM meeting will be held Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Recommend Waterville Hotel for dinner Friday night and Gamble Inn or Cedar Run Inn for lodging. Happy Acres or Little Pine State Park for camping. Chapters are required to send a representative. Election of officers will take place.

National TU Projects: Update by S. Koser.

Conservation Communications Coordinator: Submitted by S. Sharif.

Advocacy Report: Submitted by E. Baldauff.

Regional VP Reports:

Northcentral (G. Parzanese) – As submitted. Held a successful president's gathering near Jersey Shore. All but one chapter was represented. Having issues with chapter boundaries. National TU contact is needed.

Northeast (T. Burns) – As submitted. Concern with environmental issues. Lots of big box developments, dewatering at Bushkill Creek and Roaring Brook dam breach siltation are problematic. Stanley Cooper activity question regarding engagement.

Northwest (A. Capotis) – As submitted. Northwest's Spring Creek just became public, and PFBC has surveyed the stream. It's not likely to meet Class A requirements.

Southeast (D. Druckenmiller) – As submitted. Little Lehigh Chapter needs follow-up. There were a number of TIC releases. Bucks TU received a grant, Perkio-men has been very busy, Valley Forge is working through tax exempt status and several conservation issues; Tulpehocken is doing restoration and a survey in Tulpehocken Creek.

Southwest (B. Mathie) – As submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trout Policy Committee Report: Submitted by D. Rothrock. Commission is heavily weighted toward stocking trout vs. wild trout (8 to 2), normally a rotation

for VP, C. Charlesworth was bypassed, it seems he and E. Hussar are being kept out of regulatory issues. Committee being established, not on agenda, to figure out how to stock trout in Class A waters and neither Eric nor Charlie are on the Committee. Suspect this push may be coming out of Potter County. Asking for PATU and chapters to respond to this with action/advocacy/communication and engagement of National. Fly Fisherman magazine is ready to advocate. Outreach to Troutbitten is underway as well as E. Hussar. Data is needed to confirm trout population changes and angler participation on Class A streams since stocking has ceased. D. Rothrock is working on a game plan to address. Members encouraged to attend PFBC meeting Oct. 21-22.

Development Committee Report: Submitted by B. Neu.

Awards Committee Report: Submitted by J. Sittler.

Delaware River Committee Report: Submitted by J. Skelding. Preparing to respond to join PA/NY Trout Management Plan. Discussing recreational access. Monitoring aqueduct impacts. R. Collins is now part of the Delaware River Working Group.

Conservation Committee Report: Submitted by B. Wagner.

Diversity Committee Report: Submitted by K. Williams and A. Daniel.

Youth Committee Report: Submitted by J. Sittler.

Membership Committee Report: Submitted by J. Miller.

TU Service Partnership: Participating at the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show in March 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter submissions: Reports for PA Trout are lacking from some chapters. Consider updating meeting speaker list.

Overnight lodging policy/reimbursement: Receiving repeated requests for travel/lodging reimbursement. Tabled until new board is in place.

Next meeting date: Sept. 13, 6 p.m., Waterville Fire Hall.

Motion to adjourn at 1:16 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erick Lewis – Secretary*

...Continued from page 15

the tent right along the Delaware River. Chapter volunteers and members of Forks UCC Church participated in our annual Earth Day cleanup along the Bushkill Creek and popular access areas including our Adopt-A-Highway section on Bushkill Drive. We provided support for the breaching of the dam behind the City of Easton garage on Bushkill Creek, which commenced June 4. We are partnering with the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association on a tree planting in the "Meadows" on Martins Creek this fall. The chapter received a Forever Wild grant for \$2,500 from PATU. On April 19 and May 17, the chapter hosted TIC release days for Nazareth and Wind Gap middle schools at Jacobsburg State Park. On June 1, we hosted the fly-fishing station at Northampton County Youth Field Day at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club. On June 20, we assisted Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center with the fishing part of a program sponsored by Allentown Parks to introduce kids to careers in the outdoors. The chapter provided a fishing and conservation talk for Scout Pack 76 in Lower Nazareth in June.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

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

We held a spring cleanup along Hokendauqua Creek. Our TIC projects released their fish in local streams. We have resumed our monthly "Ties and Lies" and we use this time to instruct new and advanced fly-tiers in different methods. Our April speaker presented hatches on local streams. We sponsored two youths at a conservation camp in June in New Hampshire.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

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

Chapter leadership continues to monitor land development in the area, especially a proposed warehouse near Routes 512 and 22, and the one on the property of First Presbyterian Church. We donated funds to the Lehigh River Stocking Association to upgrade/repair one of their water quality probes in June. In return, the probe was placed in Monocacy Creek for a few weeks, and we are awaiting the results. We manned a table at Monocacy Creek Day, which is organized by the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association. Leaf packs were placed in the stream about three weeks before the event and were then pulled and examined for macroinvertebrates.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello

973-452-9301, pyranello@yahoo.com
www.pwtu.org

Our annual banquet was a great success. Don

Strathy, our chapter's youth Coordinator, received the Charlie Bright Award for outstanding work with youth and conservation. We've conducted outreach to the STREAM Keepers program and coordinated activities with Pike and Wayne Conservation District for a program at Carton Drake Memorial Park in Newfound, Pa. and Lackawac Sanctuary. Western Wayne Middle School TIC released trout into Middle Creek at Varden Conservation Area. Staff from Lackawac Sanctuary provided biological and macroinvertebrate education. Next year, Dr. Mark Nebzydoski, our TIC coordinator, will add STREAM Keepers to his curriculum. In May, the chapter provided four \$500 stipends to Delaware Valley, Honesdale, Wallenpaupack, and Western Wayne high school seniors who will be majoring in environmental or related studies. Chapter members from Healing Waters hosted an event at Zane Grey Museum and fished the Lackawaxen River. We donated \$250 to Fish for Kids at Carton Drake Memorial Park. We were awarded a \$1,000 grant from PATU for our STREAM Keepers program. In April, George Simon presented on "Fishing the Beaver Kill." Canal Fest is Aug. 17 at Lock 31 in White Mills. Casting for Recovery is Sept. 17 at Sky Top Lodge

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Bruce Herb

wetflyguy@yahoo.com
www.schuylkillcountytu.org

Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited participated in field days at Sweet Arrow Lake for youths and Tuscarora State Park for the field days and youth camp. Students from multiple school districts participated in the activities.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

Janet Schmitt

jreichel@ptd.net

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

Western Pocono TU hosted its second annual White Haven Trout Festival at the historic White Haven Library along the Lehigh River in White Haven in June. There were casting demos, fly-tying, rod making, and nature hikes along the Lehigh River Delaware and Lehigh Corridor Trail. Plenty of food and music was available along with more than 30 exhibits by conservation groups like Pa. State Parks, PFBC, and the PGC along with supporters of the festival such as Brodhead TU, Lehigh and Delaware Heritage Corridor Trails, North Pocono CARE, and Pocono Heritage Land Trust. New exhibits by Lehigh Coldwater Fishing Alliance, Lehigh Stocking Association Hokendauqua TU, Delaware Valley Women's Fly-Fishing Association, Monroe County Watershed Stewards were well received. Many other exhibits of outdoor artwork, paintings and crafts were on display. A special thank you goes out to Mike Gondell for his tireless efforts to again help bring this event to fruition. Plans are being made for WPTU members to lead a group from

the Philadelphia Botanical Club to the new 2,700-acre Penrose Tract now owned and managed by the Pa. Bureau of Forestry. The tract is a remote pine/oak barrens located near Weatherly in the western Poconos. It has four Class A wild brook trout fisheries with large wild brook trout. It also contains the largest known tract of rare Climbing Fern in the world at 100 acres. Botanists associated with the University of Pennsylvania will also be present to search for other rare plants. WPTU volunteers were instrumental in spearheading the preservation of this unique area long known for its prolific wildlife, recovering AMD trout streams, and special flora and fauna. It is open to the public for hunting, fishing, foraging, photography, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and other appropriate noninvasive public recreation. Our annual Trout Season Kickoff in April was at Nescopeck State Park where Don Baylor of Brodhead TU gave a fascinating program on trout fishing in Argentina.

NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Gary Parzanese

491 Walnut St.

Reedsville, PA 17084

Email: 6sneezes@comcast.net

Phone: 717-437-0318

Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

607-621-8126, ealewis@geisinger.edu

www.facebook.com/troutunlimitedcolumbiacounty

Chapter volunteers supported the Lightstreet Volunteer Fire Company's carnival in July. Our president attended National TU NLC Delaware River Working Group meetings in April, May and June. The chapter's annual activity report was submitted in May. Our chapter picnic was held at Kocher Park in Lightstreet in June. Fly-tying sessions wrapped up in April and restart Sept. 17. Regular chapter meetings resume Sept. 10. Chapter members participated in Catawissa Creek Restoration Association meetings regarding AMD mitigation/abatement and improved access. CCTU will support TIC at Central Columbia and Benton Area school districts this fall. Grants have been awarded. CCTU hosted a Trout Fishing Rodeo in May at the Lightstreet Volunteer Fire Company Carnival Grounds. We supported Fish 'n Fun at Kocher Park in Lightstreet in June by acting as 'guides' for disabled youths and adults, as well as by staffing a macroinvertebrate identification tent. Chapter members travelled to Deposit, NY, to fish the West Branch of the Delaware River June 14-16. Our photography contest concluded in June with the following category winners: Flowers – Jordan Bingaman; Insect – Kevin Hess; Landscape – Kevin Hess; Fish – Frank Martz. Bob Laubach spoke at our May chapter meeting.

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

Upcoming CCTU meetings are Sept. 10 and Oct. 8 from 7-9 p.m. at the Columbia County District Conservation Office, 702 Sawmill Road, Rear Entrance, Bloomsburg.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Saulter

814-274-9763, saulterdg@yahoo.com

The chapter held meeting in April and June. Our May meeting time was during our 15th annual Project Healing Waters event at Moores Run Fish and Game Preserve from May 21-24. This year's event was in honor of "All Donors, Volunteers, and Care Givers." In April, members assisted the Northern Potter Fly-Fishing Club with a roadside cleanup along the delayed harvest section on Route 49. At our June meeting, members hand-wrote "Thank You" cards to all donors to this year's PHWFF event. We also held chapter elections new officers being selected. We also received a brief update on Mason Roessner's experience at the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, who we sponsored this year. He gave the chapter an account of his experience at our July meeting.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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

Our annual family picnic and membership meeting were June 5 at the Antes Creek Fishing Club. We have been meeting with representatives from Clinton County Conservation District, PFBC, DEP, National TU, and others concerning AMD remediation for Beech Creek in Centre and Clinton counties. Members helped stock Little Pine Creek, Lycoming Creek, and Larry's Creek. We also helped Jersey Shore High School's Outdoor Club float stock the DHALO section of Little Pine Creek. In May, members instructed fly-tying and fly-casting to middle school students from Jersey Shore at Little Pine State Park. We also assisted Jersey Shore High School's TIC release into Little Pine Creek and instructed fly-tying for the students. Members helped with fishing for the Life Skills class from Jersey Shore at the Antes Creek Fishing Club. Also in May, members assisted with fishing at the NE Fishery in Lamar for special needs students from Bellefonte, Keystone Central and Penn's Valley school districts. In June, members assisted with a fishing event at the NE Fishery for children under 12 years old and another for Camp Cadet youths.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Kevin Lutz

**PennscreekTU@gmail.com
www.pennscreektu.org**

The chapter's Summer Social was June 12 at Poe Paddy State Park. We sent a letter of support

to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay stewardship program for a proposed project on the Upper Kish Creek watershed. Honey Creek continues to be monitored by DEP, and the chapter stays in contact with DEP. Throughout April and May, the chapter remained busy with a number of TIC releases. We also assisted with Women in the Wild at Little Buffalo State Park and STREAM Girls/Keepers at Greenwood Furnace State Park. Jay Dunkelberger presented to the chapter on predator, genetic and manmade issues with trout. Mifflin County Conservation District has several projects queued up this year, the chapter will assist when possible.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Rod Jones

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

R.B. Winter Chapter members and local volunteers faced some tough conditions during the annual Penns Creek cleanup on April 13. High winds, high water, and rain made cleaning the banks of Penns Creek very challenging. On a positive note, we have seen a reduction in litter over the past few years. Much of the debris removed during our cleanups has been the result of high water and flooding events washing items into the stream and depositing them randomly downstream. In May, students from Val Frey's agriculture class at Selinsgrove High School came to Weikert, Pa. their TIC release day at Union County Sportsmen's Club. Trout were taken to the banks of a stocked section of Penns Creek. Our May meeting was replaced by a fishout on Penns Creek. The green drake hatch was present that evening. Upcoming board meetings are Aug. 14 and Sept. 11. Our next chapter meeting is Sept. 18 at Lewisburg Hotel.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Tim Bruggeman

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

The chapter held its annual Family Fishing Picnic in June. A diverse crowd of 470 people attended the event at Tussey Mountain Pond this year and, as always, there were lots of kids catching their first fish. Our president and secretary attended the TU Northeast Rendezvous in April. Board members attended the first meeting of the State College Watershed Commission's Conservation and Stewardship Committee in May. Our participation in this committee will help expand volunteering opportunities and event outreach. We participated in the annual Centre Gives campaign and we raised \$2,645 from 51 donors. The chapter is partnering with US Fish and Wildlife to perform a habitat and streambank restoration project on Joe Humphreys' property. Initial work to remove a dam has been completed. Project scope and costs are being worked out. We have started on the Sparrow Run and Bald Eagle Creek project, which is

projected to reduce sediment by 183 tons per year, nitrogen by 304 pounds per year, and phosphorus by 87 pounds per year. The chapter also held its annual Spring Creek watershed cleanup in April. We closed Fly-Fishing 101 classes with a field trip to Fisherman's Paradise in April. Students of the class were able to learn from instructors on the creek. In May, volunteers and our Youth Education Committee assisted the Wildlife Leadership Academy with its new weekend program, Stepping Stones. Also in May, our chapter assisted DCNR at Greenwood Furnace State Park to bring some outdoor education to a large group of second graders. In June, our chapter assisted the Easterly Parkway Elementary School with a TIC release day at Whipple Dam. SCTU was represented at the State College Borough Employee Health & Wellness Fair, which provides employees the opportunity to learn about health and wellness opportunities in our community and connect with local organizations and businesses that can benefit the employees' overall health and well-being. Earlier this spring, our Youth Education Committee assisted the Penn State 4-H program at the Grier School. Our Women Anglers started on-stream fishing events. One of those outings was guided by Jamie SanFilippo at Fishing Creek by Mill Hall. Some from Women Anglers attended PATU Women's Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion Retreat at GodSpeed, and Joe Humphreys shared casting technique tips and provided some coaching to those in attendance. In May, Mark Nale spoke to the chapter on wildlife photography, giving tips that apply to cell phones and digital cameras. Our annual Winery Social at Mt. Nittany Vineyard & Winery is Sept. 5. The chapter will also start work on the Millbrook Marsh Project this quarter. Our Youth Education Committee is very busy over the summer and hosted/helped with the Wildlife Leadership Academy's Brookie Camp in July, the Youth Service Bureau's fishing in Lamar in July, the YMCA Duck Derby/Trout Release in July, and the Black Moshannon Fishing Camp in early August.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Steve Martin

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

The chapter received a generous donation from Deb Starr of useable and collectible rods and reels, tackle boxes, nets, fishing bags, lures, baits, and minnow buckets. These items will be passed on to beginning anglers and veterans/first responders for their use, or sold at future fund-raising events and raffles. We held a cleanup of Lycoming Creek in the Trout Run and Powys areas in April. The chapter sent a letter endorsing the re-designation of Loyalsock Creek and tributaries to Exceptional Value by the PA DEP Water Quality Board in May. John Pastorek spoke at our April 13 meeting about the Pine Creek Brown Trout Club and the conservation efforts of the Slate Run Sportsmen's Club.

About a dozen chapter members assisted State Rep. Jamie Flick with a youth fishing event on Lycoming Creek behind Bowman Field in April. We supported an Intro to Fly-Fishing program with PFBC and Northcentral PA Conservancy at Montour Preserve in May. We co-sponsored a presentation by Tim Palmer, a former Lycoming County environmental planner, for his new book: "Seeking Higher Ground – The Natural Solution to Our Flooding Crisis" on May 17 at Lycoming College. We assisted Montgomery High School with its TIC release on White Deer Hole Creek and Wyalusing Valley High School's release on Schrader Creek in May. We participated in the Montoursville School District, Lyter Elementary School, Outdoor Fair in May. We co-sponsored a lecture on June 17 at Lycoming College by Wildlife Ecologist Doug Tallamy about simple steps that individuals can take to reverse declining biodiversity and why we must change our adversarial relationship with nature. Chapter VP Jim Latini attended a gathering of local educators and the intermediate unit at the Waterdale Environmental Center in June. He spoke about how TU might help provide meaningful watershed educational experiences for the local school districts and the intermediate unit. Service Partnership Program Coordinator Charlie Knowlden attended a veteran's workshop on May 21 at the American Legion. Our Service Partnership Program has helped 25 veterans and first responders build fly rods. Knowlden and Walt Nicholson helped with the Hughesville High School Fly-Fishing Club's "Girls Only Day" in an effort to attract more kids, especially girls, to fishing. Our next chapter meeting is Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

**570-662-2167, whitesgordonsetters@gmail.com
www.tiadaghtontu.com**

Thermal imaging data sites of Long Run near Gaines, Pa. were prioritized. Data contained 77 thermal input sites over 7.25 miles of stream. Thirteen of those sites have been selected as significant. On Aug. 12, we will visit all the significant thermal inputs from the images with thermometers and tapes measures to determine their impact. Habitat enhancement will then be planned to enhance the coldwater inputs to better provide thermal refuge for trout when thermal stress becomes an issue. Electrofishing data from Long Run indicates the presence of native brook trout, wild brown trout and American eels. Members planted trees on Long Run, Phoenix Run, West Branch of Pine Creek, and along Blockhouse Creek in May. We collected macroinvertebrates at three sites on Long Run in April in conjunction with students in the fisheries program at Mansfield University. The insects will be identified and counted by MU students. Several stream habitat and bank stabilization projects are to be completed this summer in Long Run. The

project is in partnership with National TU out of Lock Haven and the Tioga County Conservation District. Chapter meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month except July and August. Our meeting location has changed to the Tioga County Conservation District Office.

SOUTHEAST

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Dean Druckenmiller

130 Fox Hill Dr.

Wernersville, PA 19565

Email: justthrow@ptd.net

Phone: 610-693-5537

Bucks County Chapter #254

Douglas McCabe

**215-262-1441, dougmccabe74@gmail.com
www.buckstu.org**

Bucks TU continues working with National TU and Solebury Township to develop the restoration scope and approval process and to develop cost estimates for a project. There has been some damage observed at our Watson Creek project. The chapter will need to make a more complete assessment to determine what work is needed. BCTU continues to support five TIC programs. The newest one is at the Bucks County Youth Center. Chapter member Heather Purvin is heavily involved with Casting for Recovery, and regional women's programs. The chapter received a grant to be used in the Aquetong Creek restoration. Recent speakers included Robert Lindquest presenting "Tactics and Techniques for All Seasons" in April; and Christian Sloan presented "Fishing for Striped Bass at the Jersey Shore" in May. Our chapter picnic at Aquetong Creek Park was held in June. In July, we participated in the Cooks Creek 50th anniversary Festival in Springtown. On Sept. 5 we're hosting happy hour at Warwick Farm Brewing in Jamison, Pa.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Charles Lesky

**charlesleskyjr@gmail.com
www.dmtu.org**

The streambank in the CRFFO section of Ridley Creek is eroding almost beyond repair. We received permission for officials from Ridley Creek State Park to submit a proposal for the Christmas tree bank project and replacement of park bench that was destroyed by a fallen tree in the low parking lot. We collected Christmas trees and delivered them to Marsh Creek for a tree sinking project in the spring. We are currently involved in TIC with Strath Haven Middle School. In April, George Christian presented "Trout Foods as Indicators of Ridley Creek Water Quality." In May, George Fallon presented on native brook trout: "My fishing strategies for the where's, when's and how's for success." In June, Tyler O'Neil presented "Fishing Iceland."

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Dan Dow

**ddow23@gmail.com
www.lltu.org**

Nothing to report.

Perkiomen Valley #332

Bryan Fulop

**bryanfulop@yahoo.com
www.pvtu332.org**

PVTU's 3rd annual picnic was in June. Water quality testing on Perkiomen Creek took place in April. Tree planting and riparian maintenance on Perkiomen Creek and West Branch Perkiomen Creek took place in May and June, while cleanups along both occurred in March and April. Construction started on our stream improvement project at Camelot Park. Our Long Acres stream restoration project begins in August. TIC is ongoing in six of our eight local schools. We organized and assisted with the TIC release days for Hereford Elementary, Upper Perk Middle School, Dock Menonnite High School, Evergreen Elementary, PV Middle School East and PV Middle School West in May.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

**215-675-1536, rtroadrash@msn.com
semontco.tu.org**

All schools participating in TIC were able to release their trout and fish afterwards. One school even put up with heavy rains all day. Over 300 eighth graders participated in an environmental day that included macroinvertebrate sampling, tree planting and plant identification. An additional 10 schools spent time in a local park learning to fish and identify macroinvertebrate with kids ranging from second grade to high school.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

President: Mike McLaughlin

**610-207-7994, mikemclaughlin11@gmail.com
www.tullytu.org**

The Mantawney Creek project is progressing. Riparian buffers and stream wall restoration are being considered for the new plan. Stream survey and reporting project signs were created, and we worked with the county to install signs and start gathering data by the end of July. We offered TIC classroom support across 29 schools. Two additional schools have requested assistance, potentially increasing our numbers to 31. We are hosting George Daniel in October with details to come. Our next meeting is Sept. 18.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

James Leonard

**610-793-1706, jamesmleonard@hotmail.com
www.valleyforgetu.org**

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

We continue to pursue retroactive reinstatement of our tax exempt status with the IRS. Heidelberg Quarry, West Valley Creek issues persist. Other issues we're monitoring include muddy water discharge at East Whiteland new GVSD construction, Atwater retention basin #6, Buckeye pipeline exposure in Pickering Creek, property development along Route 29 at Valley Creek Park Knickerbocker development, and Bishop Tube DEP HSCA site mitigation. Stream Data collection in Valley Creek continues. Annual macroinvertebrate collection data has been analyzed and a report was sent to PFBC. We held our annual Valley Creek trash cleanup in April and our annual fly-fishing school in May. Volunteers participated as instructors and guides in Valley Forge National Historical Park Junior Ranger program in April. Membership meetings are the second Thursday of each month September through March. Our next meeting is Sept. 12 at The Barn at Upland Farm Park, 301 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT Vacant

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Chuck Swanderski
chucks@dftu.org
www.dftu.org

Russ Collins represented the chapter at the 2025 Trout Unlimited NE Regional Rendezvous in Arlington, Vt. Due to entry procedural changes, protocols were developed in cooperation with Fort Indiantown Gap security personnel for member and guest DFTU meetings to ensure entry into FIG. We received a grant to purchase a new pop-up tent for exhibiting at local events. Our webmaster conducted an online training program for board members to post on our website to have more updated activity and calendar sections on DFTU.org. A fall/winter online auction is planned for November. Items are being solicited by Bob Pennell and our board for the event. The board is researching adding "Partnership" designation to companies that donate goods and/or services in lieu of monetary contributions. Members have visited streams to check on projects and trees that were planted along the Quittapahilla Creek project in Annville. An improvement project on the Quittapahilla Creek special regs area is complete. The Quittapahilla Watershed Association's Monitoring Program is continuing. Weekly maintenance at the Rausch Creek Diversion Well continues with workdays on Mondays. The well underwent some major repairs during low water conditions. We assisted PFBC in stocking Manada and the Quittie. We held a cleanup along Clarks Creek, another along the Quittie in cooperation with community cleanup efforts. DFTU participated at the annual PA Legislators' "Cast and Blast" at the Harrisburg Hunters and Anglers Clubhouse and

Lake. In April, we assisted the Hershey Company by conducting an Intro to Fly-Fishing day on the Quittie for Hershey employees and veterans. This was a co-op effort among the Hershey Co., DFTU, *Fly Fisherman* magazine and Cumberland Valley TU. We are looking to pick up one or two additional TIC schools next year by developing an informational TIC slide on the Lebanon County IU STEM resource website. Site has access by all IU Teachers. DFTU had five teachers at four schools participate in our 2023-24 TIC program. DFTU sponsored two local youths to the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in June. DFTU also sponsored one local participant to the Wildlife Leadership Academy's Brookies School in July. DFTU and PFBC set up an intro to fly-fishing equipment and casting event through the Harrisburg Leadership Academy and the "All You Can" program, introducing students to outdoor and other activities. We were represented at The Old Annville Days Celebration. A Ladies Introduction to Conservation and Fly-Fishing event is scheduled for Sept. 28 at the Limestone Springs Fishing Preserve.

Donegal Chapter #037

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

DTU has four active 319-funded projects. Camp Andrews North – Fencing around the wetlands is complete and the grant will be closed out once final invoices are paid. Dellinger Run Project – After reviewing the sealed bids, the project was awarded to Rettew and Flyway Excavating; construction will begin in 2025. Fishing Creek ARP – The 167-page document to de-list the watershed in nine years was submitted to the EPA by PA DEP for 319 funding. Conservation continues to meet with potential partners including Lancaster Farmland Trust, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Lancaster Clean Water Partners, and government agencies. Working with Rettew, DTU submitted \$1.6 million for an additional 319 funding for projects in the Conowingo watershed. Since federal funds require sealed bids, the conservation committee, after extensive research and conversations with other industry leaders, has created a Procurement Policy for board approval. The new nursery at SEAREC was used as the staging location for the Keystone 10k trees spring supply. Members assisted in off-loading, separating and re-loading the stock to fulfill the orders. On June 1, DTU held a Youth Fly-Fishing Camp at Millport Conservancy. The youth anglers received classroom and casting instructions from Tom Herr, and with adult assistance, fished on the Lititz Run. New rods purchased from the Forever Wild grant were used at the Camp, a DTU tabling event and loaned to another organization for a youth fishing on June 1. Also in June, the annual Special Olympics Fishing Derby was held at a member's pond for 13 Olympians and their families. Spin-

ning rods were provided by PFBC. There will be seven new TIC classrooms this fall and a total of 37 throughout Lancaster. Veterans participated in a Service Partnership Spring Creek trip and a Veteran Fishing Day in April at Millport Conservancy. The annual Summer Picnic is scheduled for Aug. 17 at SEAREC in Landisville.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

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

The chapter participated in a new event – the inaugural Red Lion Fishing Show in March. The event is spin-fishing oriented, but it gave us the opportunity to share and promote the TU message in our local community. The trout season opener offered good sales of food and merchandise at the Muddy Creek Forks and High Rock locations. We have been approved to receive a Cooperative Nursery Grant from PFBC to upgrade electrical service and refurbish our stocking trailer. These improvements will enhance the overall quality of oxygenated water in the nursery and on the trailer as we transport our fish to stocking locations in our watershed. Our annual Visioncorps Handicapped Fishing Event was in May at the Toms Run Handicapped Fishing Area in the Muddy Creek watershed. This event gives blind and handicapped individuals the opportunity to interact with nature and have a great fishing experience in a controlled and safe environment. Our women's Intro to Fly-Fishing event was in June at the McGinnis Pond near Stewartstown. This year's Muddy Creek Watershed Conservation Scholarship winner is Will Coughenour, who graduated from Kennard Dale High School and will attend Mansfield University to pursue a bachelor's degree as a Fisheries Biology major. Several members assisted Dan with fly-casting instruction and macroinvertebrate identification at our TIC release in early May. The chapter participated in the Hopewell and Winterstown First Night Out event on Aug. 6 in Winterstown. The Red Lion Street Fair is Aug. 104. This is a great event for us every year and we have updated and replenished our fly-box assortments in anticipation of good merchandise sales at the event. Our September meeting will feature a presentation on "Steelhead Fishing in Lake Erie" by Tom Herr, a guide and speaker in central PA. The presentation will be held at the Kreutz Creek Public Library in Hellam on Sept. 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bryan Mathie

930 Penn Ave.- Ste 2A

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Email: peregrine94@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 708-921-8373

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Ben Moyer

724-329-3772, bcmoyer@verizon.net

www.chestnutridgetu.org

CRTU placed 135 tons of alkaline limestone sand at our three treatment sites in the Glade Run watershed, tributary to Dunbar Creek and the Youghiogheny River. This work is currently funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Foundation for Watersheds and continues CRTU's long-term commitment to restoration of this beautiful mountain stream, degraded by poorly reclaimed surface mines. Our nursery committee provided trout from our PFBC Cooperative nursery in Youghiogheny Dam tailrace to three kids' fishing events and to the youth fishing area at Dunlap Creek Lake. Our members also assisted two of our TIC schools with their trout releases at Mingo Creek, Washington County and Mill Run, Fayette County. We offered fly-casting instruction at these events. Working with the Forbes Trail, Mountain Laurel, Ken Sink, and Penn's Woods West TU chapters, we completed the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail project by installing Trout Trail signs with appropriate QR codes along Youghiogheny River, Dunbar Creek and Meadow Run. In May, we hosted kids from the East End United Community Center in Uniontown for a day of trout fishing at South Union Township's Hutchinson Community Park. Long-time CRTU member Jim Tobal spurred development of a kids' fishing area in the park before his death. We had great participation from members in this event and were able to offer one-on-one instruction and mentoring to kids, many of whom had never fished before. After fishing, we planted a maple tree along the Hutchinson Run streambank, discussed the importance of tree cover to trout, and enjoyed a grilled hotdog lunch. CRTU members keep their PA Dept. of Human Services Child Abuse Certifications updated for these and other youth events. Our members helped run the annual native plant sale in Ohiopyle State Park in late May. This sale helps fund the work of the Southern Laurel Highlands Plant and Pest Management Partnership, of which CRTU is a member. Funding helps combat various invasive species including Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. In June, CRTU members, EQT volunteers, and Pennsylvania Game Commission land management and forestry staff treated 197 hemlock trees against HWA along a one-mile stretch of Dunbar Creek on State Game Land No. 51. These hemlock trees help to shade the stream and cool it. We have plans to protect more hemlocks farther upstream in the drainage. We are currently monitoring what appears to be a serious decline in invertebrate abundance and diversity in Meadow Run. This decline could result from any of several issues in the watershed. Our concerns, relayed through our PFBC WCO Scott Opfer prompted a survey by DEP entomologists and Ohiopyle State Park staff. We anticipate a clearer understanding of this problem. At our June meeting we said goodbye to Opfer, our longtime WCO, who retired July 5.

He was an ardent supporter of our chapter's work and will be missed.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

724-454-9345, myersld@comcast.net

www.forbestrailtu.org

We are expecting the first delivery of limestone for treating the headwaters of Linn Run, Westmoreland County. Our recently completed Coldwater Conservation Plan identified a need for treatment to improve the survival rate of wild brook trout in the nursery waters. We partnered with Sewickley Creek Watershed Association in Greensburg Salem's Middle School Field Day event at Lynch Field in Greensburg. This is a new school district for us. We demonstrated fly-tying and casting. We partnered with the DCNR to offer a Fly-Fishing 101 program to adults interested in learning how to fly-fish. Forbes Trail is partnering with Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Association to hold its sixth annual fishing event for military veterans and first responders on Oct. 5. Upcoming monthly meetings are Sept. 4 and Nov. 6 with our membership meeting being on Oct. 2. All are at Nimick Family Education Center. A dinner meeting is planned for Dec. 4.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Scott Kavanagh

814-515-4788, johnkennedytu@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/johnkennedytu

JKTU sent out raffle tickets to chapter members in July with an October 3 drawing date. We are partnering with the Blair County Conservation District on three projects and another project on Canoe Creek in Canoe Creek State Park. The permitting process has started, and we expect to complete a few projects this year and the Canoe Creek project in 2025. In April, we completed our third year Adopt-a-Highway cleanup along Plum Creek Road, which parallels Plum Creek, a Class A wild trout stream. The chapter assisted seven schools in completing successful TIC programs for 2024. We helped four schools with release day activities. Chapter members assisted the Blair County Game, Fish, and Wildlife Association with its annual Blair Women take Aim program. We taught 132 women how to fly-fish. Blair County Conservation District Family Fun Day was in July, as was "Brookies" weekend at the Altoona Curve Baseball Park where we set up an aquarium with brook trout from the PFBC hatchery and an educational table to promote our mission, discuss macros, and fly-tying.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Barrie Mann

407-808-1588, barriemann@rocketmail.com

http://http://kstupa.blogspot.com

We conducted a fly-tying/macro station at an outdoor field day for Indiana Area Senior High

School students. Indiana County Technology Center students removed, repaired and reinstalled the Grist Mill Stone Kiosk on the DHAFFO section of Little Mahoning Creek. In May, the chapter conducted the annual macro invertebrate surveys of Little Mahoning Creek and tributary Cessna Run. The results show slight improvement over previous surveys. The inaugural Women's Intro to Fly-Fishing class was conducted by KSTU in partnership of the Indiana County Friends of the Park and Yellow Creek State Park program. The chapter presented a program on fly-fishing and macros to a local 4-H Club. We continue to work with the PFBC and ICCD on the project to improve fish habitat conditions on the DHAFFO section of Little Mahoning Creek. Our next scheduled chapter meeting is the second Tuesday of September at the Homer City Firehall at 7 p.m.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

Dave Maher

814-341-5422, dmahergdyr@gmail.com

www.mltu.org

Our budget/project plan for 2024 was approved by the Board and membership. Planning began for our 2025 banquet. Repair work was done on Clearshade Creek to fix damage from a previous work site. While there, signage was placed indicating Clearshade as part of the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail. The chapter did Phase 3 of Stewart Run in July. Potter Creek and others are planned. The chapter attended Windber Sportsman's Kids Fishing Rodeo in June. We presented story boards, coldwater conservation topics, live macroinvertebrates, and fly-tying. MLTU will be supporting numerous local school districts for TIC, including Richland Elementary, Shade-Central City, Blacklick Valley, Divine Mercy, and Forest Hills. Our next meeting is Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. at Richland Township Municipal Building.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Ian Brown

ianmbrown79@gmail.com

www.pwwtu.org

We provided a couple of small grants to Ryan Glover Middle School (Seneca Valley School District) for projects on Little Connoquenessing Creek on the school's property and participated in a couple of afternoons teaching students to fly-fish in April. Our Women's Group ran another successful STREAM Keepers event in May at North Park and continued their monthly cadence of events in June with a family-friendly camping and fishing trip to the State College area. Bar Flies meets regularly. We've had no speakers of note at our monthly meetings since we had to scale back a bit due to renovations at our event site. Upcoming events are listed at www.PWWTU.org.



**PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL
OF TROUT UNLIMITED
Post Office Box 5148
Bellefonte, PA 16823**

Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Lancaster, PA Permit No. 280
--