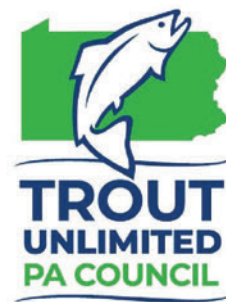


Pennsylvania TROUT



Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patROUT.org

Summer 2025

PATU Annual Meeting set for Sept. 20 in Mill Hall

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Haywood's on the Green in Mill Hall, PA.

Join us for updates about PATU programs and partnerships, participate in state officer elections, hear from special guest speakers, learn about advocacy

opportunities, and network with PATU members from across the state.

Ticket price includes entry to the PATU
See **MEETING**, page 3

PATU steadfast in the fight against stocking of Class A streams

By Dave Rothrock
Trout Policy Committee Chair

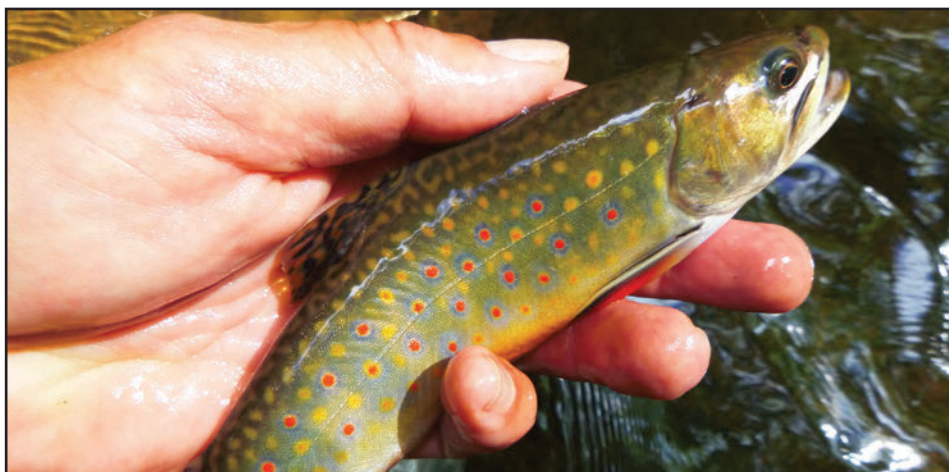
First, I want to extend a shout-out and tremendous thank you to all who dedicated their time and effort to show up and comment at the PFBC commissioners meeting on July 28. There were over a dozen folks who spoke in opposition to stocking over Class A wild trout populations.

Unfortunately, the proposal to move the authority to approve requests for exemption to the stocking prohibition from the commissioners to the executive director was passed. While there was a stipulation added that requires the executive director to notify the commissioners at the next public meeting following a decision on a request for exemption, this move is after the fact.

The decision-making process itself will no longer provide the level of transparency we should expect from our Fish and Boat Commission.

Too, the proposal also includes the liberalization of operational criteria used to

See **STOCKING**, page 7



Ben Moyer Photo

A Trout Unlimited study of the West Branch Susquehanna, once ravaged by mine pollution, found wild trout in new tributaries, and returning to the river's main stem. The study credits many small-scale restoration projects throughout the basin for substantial improvement downstream.

A healing West Branch; sum of its parts

By Ben Moyer
Chestnut Ridge Chapter President

News about our environment can get you down, because so much is bad. Invasive species, climate change, habitat destruction, rampant development, and pollution feel like such daunting challenges that we're numbed, resigned to inaction.

But sometimes news—real news—is good, even uplifting, hopefully inspiring. People working together can make things

better. They can resurrect our waters and land better than they found them and bequeath later generations a healing landscape. Could there be a better tribute?

I heard such news last week at the Keystone Coldwater Conference in State College. This meeting is held every spring through a collaboration of the PA Council of Trout Unlimited, DCNR, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Foundation for

See **HEALING**, page 8

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Pennsylvania TROUT

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Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Lenny Lichvar

Note – The following are the comments I presented in person to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Board of Commissioners at the July 28, 2025 Fish and Boat Commission quarterly meeting in Harrisburg.

I am here to recognize an anniversary.

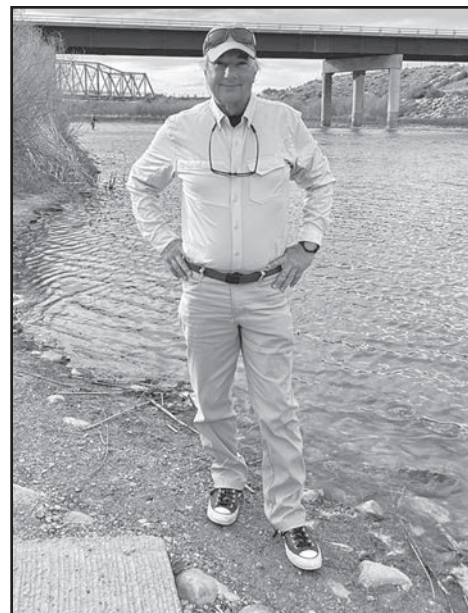
It is exactly 10 years ago in 2015 that several waters met the Class A threshold that had been previously stocked.

As a PFBC commissioner, along with several other commissioners, I argued and voted against continuing stocking in these now-designated Class A waters to no avail.

For the last 10 years this stocking of Class A waters debate has raged on. This ongoing issue clearly demonstrates the misguided priorities of the commissioners. A huge amount of PFBC Fisheries staff time has been invested in all of this.

Rather that valuable time should be invested in finalizing a Stocking Authorization. The PFBC is clearly not managing the fisheries of this state without one.

Staff should also be focusing on a complete overhaul of the stocking allocations. This is in the current PFBC Trout Management Plan. I don't mean the elimination or reduction of stocking. However, much of the stocking patterns date back 50 years



and are not providing the best management of the resource and not benefiting the angling public.

These are just two of the many important priorities sitting on the never ending back burner while commissioners command staff to spend inordinate amount of time to formulate ever new ways to justify stocking over Class A wild trout populations.

I find these misguided priorities of the Commission as both disappointing and disgusting.

I want to wish all of you a not so happy anniversary.

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

With the dog days of summer behind us, what better time is there to take stock of your angling inventory before getting back on the water for the fall?

The PATU merchandise program offers a selection of custom-tied leaders, fly rods and reels, books on PA fly fishing, PATU-logoed T-shirts and hats, "Back the Brookie" decorative license plates, "Catch & Release Wild Trout" license frames... and more!

We make it simple for you to order online using PayPal or a credit card at patrout.org/shop where you will find complete



descriptions of our merchandise selection.

Or, if you prefer, you can use the order form in this newsletter to send along with your check or money order to the address on the form.

PATU Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2025

**Haywood's on the Green
Mill Hall, PA 17751**

Draft Agenda

8 a.m. – Registration Opens
9:15 a.m. – Welcome – Lenny Lichvar, PATU President
9:20 a.m. – Brook Trout Biology and Resiliency – Eric Null, PATU Executive Director
10 a.m. – Trout In the Classroom, Women/Diversity Update – Amidea Daniel, TIC Coordinator

10:45 a.m. – Break
11 a.m. – PATU Annual Elections
11:15 a.m. – Stocking in Class A Waters – Dave Rothrock, PATU Trout Policy Chairman; Eric Hussar, PFBC Commissioner
Noon – Lunch
1 p.m. – National TU Update – Dave Kinney, National TU Vice President for Communications and Branding
1:45 p.m. – A Tale of Two Projects – Todd Burns, Broadhead Chapter
2:30 p.m. – State Council Awards – Judi Sittler, PATU Awards Chairperson
3 p.m. – Fund Raising Raffle – Bob Pennell, PATU Merchandise Chairman

MEETING

from page 1

Annual Meeting and lunch. Raffle tickets will be sold separately.

You can register online at patrout.org two ways:

To register and pay via credit card, select the “Credit Card Only” ticket type and enter your information.

To register online but pay via check or money order, please select the “Check or

Money Order” ticket type. Please print your registration confirmation and mail it with a check made out to “PA Trout” to PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PO Box 5148, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Please put “2025 annual meeting” in the memo field. Checks must be received by Sept. 5; please allow enough time for mail delivery by that date.

Haywood's on the Green is located at 43 Fairway View Drive, Mill Hall, PA 17751.

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Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

A Tippet Loop Dropper Hopper

An impressionistic terrestrial pattern that serves as a low floating indicator as well as an anchor for a submerged nymph—or even another surface fly.

Fly Design / Highlights

- Mostly constructed with easily accessible, natural materials.
- Incorporates a tippet loop at the bend of the hook for attaching another fly.
- Floats low, yet incorporates a parachute element for visibility.
- Big and buggy—a trout might mistake it for a hopper, caddis or stonefly.
- Easy enough to switch out materials and colors to fit your angling needs.

Background

I first saw this fly pattern style in my copy of the *Orvis Fly-Tying Guide* by Tom Rosenbauer that I picked up in 2008. This handy reference sits on my tying desk and is within reach at all times. Pick one up if you get the opportunity.

About the Pattern

I love fishing terrestrial patterns—especially big ones that I can easily see. This is definitely one of those! Plus, it serves as a high-protein meal for a hungry trout and is a versatile indicator fly. I've played around with various materials and recipes and this approach seems to work for me. I'll probably adapt it as I tie more and I think you should, too. For example, some people tie in the parachute and hackle first. That is the beauty of this craft! Experiment and see what you like. Tight lines!



Materials

- **Hook:** Longer Shank Dry Fly
- **Thread:** To Match Body Color
- **Underwing:** Mallard Flank
- **Wing:** Mottled Turkey Tail
- **Tail:** Small 3x Tippet Material Loop
- **Body:** Wrapped Foam Strip
- **Legs:** Knotted Pheasant Tail Fibers
- **Hackle:** Your Choice
- **Parachute Post:** Your Choice

Note: A longer shank dry fly hook helps to give you more area to tie in the various materials in this pattern.



Insert a hook into your vise and start your thread at about the one-third mark. Tie in a small loop of 3x tippet and be sure to secure it tightly. A small drop of super glue helps.



Tie in a thin strip of foam (color of your choice) at the bend of the hook and wrap forward toward the eye. Secure tightly and trim any excess foam.



Attach an underwing of mallard flank followed by a segment of turkey tail on top of the body. Wrap securely and trim any leftover fibers.



For a bugger look, create two knotted pheasant tail legs and attach to both sides of the body. Then post some fibers and hackle as you would for any parachute-style fly.



In this instance I used some hare's ear plus chocolate brown dubbing to clean up the head a bit. I like the added bugginess the hare's ear provides to this pattern.



Wrap the hackle down the post and whip finish. Trim the post to the your preferred height. Add a drop of head cement to help with durability of the fly.

Treasurer's Report

by PATU Treasurer
Russell Thrall

As summer settles in, many of our chapters slow down as members enjoy vacations and family gatherings.

At the Council level, however, we remain busy preparing for the upcoming Annual Meeting, which will once again give us the opportunity to gather as volunteers, celebrate our collective accomplishments, and chart the path forward for coldwater conservation in Pennsylvania. I hope you will plan to join us for this important event.

Details and registration information for the Annual Meeting are available on the front page of this issue and on the PATU website.

As we approach the end of another busy summer, I want to remind chapter leaders to ensure their chapter leadership information is current on the TU Leaders Only website, particularly for treasurers, so that important information about reporting requirements and training opportunities reaches the right people.

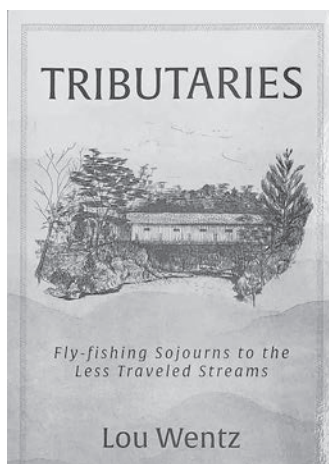
On a personal note, this column carries special meaning for me. Following this year's Annual Meeting, I will step down as Council treasurer as my extended term limit comes to a close. It has been an honor to serve in this role since 2020.

When I began, we were still in the midst of the pandemic, facing uncertainty in both our operations and fundraising. Four and a half years later, I am proud of how far Council has come.



I want to thank my fellow EXCOM officers, Council staff, chapter leaders, and the countless volunteers across the state who make our work possible. Your dedication has made my job both rewarding and meaningful.

I look forward to continuing to support PATU in other ways and to seeing many of you on the water and at future events.



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

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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.

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.

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PATU Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of the July 13, 2025

Executive Committee Meeting

Rusty Rail Brewing Company, Mifflinburg



Spring Creek Chapter has reached out for a stream improvement project. R. Thrall said Round 29 grants status, projects will be extended. CHP's PFBC cubicle is cleaned out. Access will be available in all regional offices and CRO network room, and will supply IT support. L. Lichvar is working with PFBC on revised legal agreement for services and access with PATU.

Conservation Communication Coordinator Report: Submitted by S. Sharif. Open rate of 55% with emails. Social media is increasing success, response rate has been good, especially public lands sale proposal, trout in the Susquehanna, and Freeman Run issue. Drives traffic to our website. S. Sharif to send email to PATU leadership to ask for articles and information. Initiatives under discussion: Internship opportunity in the Spring; Legislative outreach – letters/calls to discuss/raise awareness with representatives. Conservation project articles. Growing membership in chapters, success stories and events. Meeting coming up with A. Daniel to review websites. J. Sittler said a QR code for membership may be helpful on the website. Spring Creek uses business cards from EventGroove to drive members to its chapter membership sign-up, with the correct chapter number code. Wilderness Voyagers event is this month; seeking annual event, Yough float / litter clean-up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trout Policy Committee: Submitted by D. Rothrock. Upcoming PFBC Commissioners' meetings are not lining up with our reporting periods. Issues go beyond Freeman Run. There is an advocate for stocking in all Class A streams. Next Commissioners' meeting is July 28. D. Rothrock needs a list of attendees to provide structured content and questions. Stocking Freeman Run will happen this week, both sections. D. Rothrock will be in attendance. Looking at impact of natural reproduction vs. stocking. Twelve of 13 select Class A's allow stocking/harvest plus Freeman Run. Commissioners seem to believe that stock-

ing Class A increases angler opportunities. G. Malaska suggested to propose a parallel study of what happens in a Class A streams when stocking is ceased.

Development Committee: Submitted by B. Neu. Annual Appeal is \$11.5K toward goal already. CRM procurement should enable increased revenue.

Conservation Committee: Submitted by B. Wagner. Forever Wild grant received. Online form for Forever Wild is available on the website. PA Pollution Event Reporting letter is proposed. Looked at quarry expansion request near Birdsboro. Will look to assist if this moves forward. Data centers continue to be a concern RE: water withdrawals.

ACTION ITEMS

Selection of NLC Representative: Three candidates sent written requests to fill R. Collins' position. Will fill remainder of his term.

**Motion to nominate E. Lewis by T. Burns. Approved.*

Bookkeeper Selection: R. Thrall said McKonley and Asbury has responded with interest to our outreach. There is \$1,000 per month in budget for bookkeeping. R. Thrall will solicit services quote(s) by August to review and interview firms by the end of August.

CRM Software Adoption: B. New submitted a long report for this. CRM will enable moving donation engagement from 4% to 10-15%. Reviewed Bloomerang demo on July 12. NeonOne and Bloomerang are both strong candidates. Bloomerang offers more AI components. Other candidates are pricier and offer features we do not need. Asking for permission to enter negotiations with NeonOne and Bloomerang. Recommend a one-year contract vs. month to month or three-year contract.

**Motion by E. Lewis to allow B. Neu to enter negotiations with Bloomerang and NeonOne. Approved.*

Bill 50 Software Adoption: Software to utilize on website to track important to PATU legislation at state and national levels and enable membership access to relevant information. Montana TU uses Bill 50. Need a quote for what is covered and not covered.

Officer Nominating Committee: L. Li-

Attendees: Greg Malaska, Rick Edwards, Gary Parzanese, Brian Wagner, Russ Collins, Russ Thrall, Dave Rothrock, Lenny Lichvar, Judi Sitler, Lenny Lichvar, Eric Null, Erick Lewis, Todd Burns, Dean Druckenmiller, Mike Stahl, Sigrid Sharif, Bob Neu.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes of the April 27, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Motion to approve by R. Collins.*

President's Report: Submitted by L. Lichvar.

Secretary's Report: Submitted by E. Lewis. Discussion on updates to PATU directory.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by R. Thrall. Preliminary report submitted, missing some information. We had \$65K income in Q2; B. Neu is doing well in Annual Appeal, up from last year. J. Sittler asked if there is TIC money in the budget? PFBC provides grant for this to PATU. New program grants and assistance grants for existing programs are available. National TU has a discount program for gear that TIC programs are eligible for. Some EXCOM members would like access to TIC annual reports. Also, it could be valuable information for chapter leaders. S. Sharif to ask A. Daniel for copies of the teachers' annual reports. May need permission for some uses of reports.

Executive Director Report: Submitted by E. Null. Met with PFBC regarding TIC. PACD is not partnering this year due to funding stall. A. Daniel is reaching out to regional partners for sponsorship and training. We are not eligible for RF this round due to low percentage of use by PATU. E. Null is working with PFBC to re-establish funding via R3. A rebuild of TIC website is underway and will house PFBC statistics. Online forms will be included in site. Coldwater Heritage is out; approximately 30 awards. Round 30 extended to end of July. Coldwater Conservancy will reapply.

chvar to put together a two- or three-person nominating committee. Elections are Sept. 20 and nominations are needed 30 days prior – Aug. 19. Need announcement and nomination form on website by July 19.

Annual Meeting 2025 Requirements:

Location is Haywood's on the Green, Mill Hall, on Sept. 20. Volunteers will meet at 3 p.m. Friday to help set up. Registration fee of \$60 with preregistration one week in advance is required.

Presentations: E. Null – Brook Trout; A. Daniel – TIC and Women's & Diversity; D. Kinney – National TU – Updates on TU; T. Burns – McMichaels Creek Project report

Awards Committee: J. Sittler – T. Burns, B. Isles, A. Capotis and E. Lewis are working it.

Merchandise Sale: B. Pennell outreach by Lenny. Bob will need help with set-up.

Raffle: Need chapters and businesses to donate raffle items.

Small Games of Chance License: Needed to run raffle in Clinton County. L. Lichvar will sign form. D. Rothrock will assist day before.

Registration: In advance and at the door. S. Sharif will check people in at the door.

Event Program and Promotion: S. Sharif will assemble once finalized. Heavy dispersal via newsletter, email, website and social media.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership roll-up: Trend is down. Chapter membership leads should track this.

Rechartering: Email received last Tuesday. Need to renominate chapters by Sept. 1. There are a few chapters that need to be looked at.

Steelhead Community event: A. Capotis is planning a Steelhead Community event in Erie on Aug. 26.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Next EXCOM meeting date: Oct. 19 at PFBC Centre Region Office, Bellefonte.

Executive Meeting: Conducted with EXCOM members only.

Motion to adjourn at 3:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erick Lewis – Secretary*

STOCKING

from page 1

determine if an exemption can be granted by the executive director.

The proposal to stock Freeman Run, a small freestone stream in Potter County, was presented. The proposal will have Section 04 of the stream included for management under the miscellaneous regulation, which prohibits harvest of brown trout.

This section will be stocked with rainbow trout by both PFBC and the Potter County Anglers' cooperative nursery. A five-year study will commence in 2026 to determine the effects of stocking over the wild brown trout population. If the wild trout population declines to a yet-to-be-determined level the intent would be to cease stocking.

Interestingly, the stream survey conducted to establish wild brown trout population data prior to the commencement of the study yielded more than a few wild native brook trout. According to the operational criteria for exemptions, this would require action by the commissioners rather than the executive director. Placing this stream section under the miscellaneous regulation seems to address this issue.

For reference, the wild brown trout population which led to placing this section of Freeman Run on the Class A list was 67 kg/ha. Two years after stocking ended the population was again surveyed and determined to have increased to 100 kg/ha. This most recent survey revealed the wild brown trout population had declined to 73 kg/ha with decline being in line with what PFBC staff is seeing in other streams, as well. The decline may be attributable to the drought-like conditions over the past two summers.

Here's where it gets interesting. PFBC staff also surveyed a section of the stream where rainbow trout are stocked for a fishing derby. While the results revealed a wild brown trout population of 44 kg/ha it also revealed 36 kg/ha of rainbow trout. While the wild browns appeared healthy the rainbows were in poor condition with poor expectation for survival. Evidence of suppression of a wild trout population by stocking?

Two commissioners, Charles Charles-



Lenny Lichvar Photo

PATU Trout Policy Chairman Dave Rothrock addresses the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Board of Commissioners at the Commission's quarterly meeting on July 28 in Harrisburg.

worth and Eric Hussar, voiced their opposition to both of these proposals. They emphasized the fact that there is mounds of data showing what happens when stocking over wild trout ceases. Further, both commissioners referred to the mission of the PFBC: to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities. With the knowledge of the negative impact of stocking over wild trout, this action is in conflict with the mission. This was only one of several points which were referred to in their opposition to these proposed actions.

Near the end of the discussion, the president of the commissioners referred to some statistics that included "only" approximately 1.25% of Class A stream sections are currently stocked and there is no effort to expand stocking of Class A's.

And then came what I interpreted as a bit of a "dig." With only a slight paraphrasing and a definite directing at TU, the president said not everyone feels the same as a special interest group.

Yes, TU is a special interest group... with a focus on conservation. In this case, we're fighting to ensure the conservation of a natural resource (wild brown trout). Displacing some of this natural resource with an artificially produced commodity (artificially produced hatchery-reared trout) is in direct conflict.

Regardless of the fact that only a small percentage of Class A stream sections are stocked, PATU remains opposed to any and all stocking of Class A's both now and in the future.

Pennsylvania Watersheds.

One of the presentations detailed a study of water quality improvements in the West Branch Susquehanna Watershed, a huge 7,000-square mile (Pennsylvania holds 45,000 square miles) crescent-shaped swath across central and northcentral Pennsylvania, stretching from Cambria County northeastward to the North Branch confluence near Sunbury.

The West Branch basin epitomizes outdoor Pennsylvania. It's rugged, scenic, 85 percent forested, and graced by large tracts of public land, where anyone can fish, hunt, or be outdoors. Its most remarkable natural asset is that thousands of miles of mountain streams vein its wrinkled contours, all of them once dense with trout, spawned in those shady haunts. No person could have fished them all in a lifetime.

Coal seams also veined beneath the surface, and beginning in the 1800s and spanning centuries, deep mines burrowed under, and strip pits raked the surface, long unregulated and later, often shoddily regulated. Acid, iron, and aluminum drained out of the shafts, pits, and gob piles so that by the 1970s, over a thousand miles of West Branch tributaries were tainted and 40,000 acres of mine lands scarred the woods. All those dead streams drained to the West Branch, rendering it void of life.

A 1972 Operation Scarlift report by the then PA Dept. of Environmental Resources stated this: "The overall acid loading conditions to the West Branch are such that no significant length of stream above Bower Station can be permanently recovered for recreational use..."

Fast-forward to now, and the presentation in State College. Its authors, all scientists affiliated with Trout Unlimited, noted that over the past 30 years, dozens of mine reclamation and pollution abatement projects have been undertaken and completed throughout the far flung reaches of the West Branch basin. These projects were pulled off by volunteer watershed groups, conservation districts, Trout Unlimited chapters, state agencies, and regional conservation organizations—all of them refusing to accept the 1972 prediction

Editor's Note: Each year at its annual banquet, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association – of which PATU is a supporting member – presents its Excellence in Craft Awards. These awards recognize POWA members for their outstanding work during the previous calendar year. PATU has been a longtime sponsor of the "Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award." This article authored by outdoor writer and Chestnut Ridge Chapter President Ben Moyer – published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News and reprinted here with permission – was selected as this year's winner.



Ben Moyer Photo

Trout Unlimited chapters, watershed groups, conservation districts, and state and federal agencies have all contributed to the cumulative water quality improvements in the West Branch Susquehanna.

that the West Branch was unsalvageable.

The study authors wondered how all those scattered and sometimes small-scale projects might have affected the West Branch main stem downstream. In other words, they sought to determine the cumulative effects on the entire watershed of all that widespread work.

They found so much encouraging news that it's tough to fit it into this space, but we'll summarize the highlights below.

Since a similar earlier study in 2009, more than 200 "new" tributary stream miles once again harbor wild trout, including over 50 miles of Class A wild trout water. Amazingly, 26 miles of the West Branch Susquehanna main stem itself, once dismissed as unrecoverable, now supports wild trout.

Fish diversity has also improved. In 1998, after the river had begun to recover, 24 species of fish were known to inhabit the West Branch. By 2009, biologists documented 29 species, and the 2019 survey found 31 different fish, including the first brook trout documented in the West Branch main stem.

In many tributaries the recent study found young-of-the-year wild trout but no adults. This suggests, say the authors, that adult wild trout now use the river's main stem to move up and down the basin,

then swim up tributaries and pioneer new populations.

Both the diversity and abundance of macro-invertebrates—foundation of the food chain—improved in the river and tribs between 2009 and 2019.

Meanwhile, the chemical properties of pH, alkalinity, acidity, and concentrations of dissolved toxic metals all improved in the headwaters and, logically, in the river downstream.

"The results of this project demonstrate the cumulative impact of numerous, strategic restoration projects in headwater areas and tributaries of a large river," wrote the study authors.

They also made recommendations to keep this exciting momentum going. These include protecting and maintaining existing projects, continued collaboration among partners, and securing funding for future inventory and treatment of mine drainage sites in the West Branch watershed.

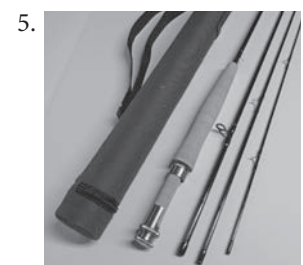
The bad news from the outdoors can be overwhelming. But if you find yourself asking, "Why get involved? Why support stream restoration efforts with my time or money?" The West Branch Susquehanna, flowing through Pennsylvania's heart, from a despairing past toward an inspiring future shows why.

Merchandise Order Form

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	Wet Fly – 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
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	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book		\$29.95	\$1.80	\$31.75	
	"Favorite Flies of PA" Book		\$24.95	\$1.50	\$26.45	
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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

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Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Email: salmofisher7@gmail.com

Phone: 610-704-4549

Brodhead Chapter #289

Russell Thrall III

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www.brodheadtu.org

Our annual rummage sale was held in June at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center (BCHC) in Analomink. The annual Summer Slam online auction started in August. The chapter held invasive plant removal, riparian buffer planting and maintenance work days in the spring and summer at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Larsen Tract and riparian buffer maintenance at the Polk Township Walking Park. The chapter also had a habitat improvement work day in Yankee Run near Mount Pocono. Our annual "Fly Fishing, the Next Step" weekly series was held in May and we also held an Intro to Fly-Fishing course in June at BCHC. A STREAM Girls event for a local Girl Scout Troop was held in May and the chapter is working with a local girls Scouting America Troop to conduct a fishing and fly-fishing merit badge weekend Sept. 19-21. An up-to-date chapter calendar is available online at brodheadtu.org/chapter-calendar.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Joe Baylog

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forksofthedelaware.tu.org/

We completed our annual Activity Report for TU National, covering April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, which includes financials and volunteer activity. Highlights: 52% of funds were spent on conservation projects; 26% spent on growth and community engagement; 18% spent on youth education; 4% operating expenses; 56 participants accumulated over 700 volunteer

hours on chapter activities; more than 400 youths participated in school and non-school related activities. Regarding the Palmer Township Bushkill Creek Greenway Corridor Study and Master Plan, Bruce McCutcheon is one of 32 members on the committee and represents our chapter. Items being addressed are flood mitigation, updating facilities, accessibility, trail system changes, habitat protection, enhanced resiliency and historic/cultural significance. We provided a letter of support for Martins Jacoby Watershed Association to apply for a grant to purchase stream crossing signs. A new website through the WordPress template supplied by National TU is now live. A recent article by Rudy Miller and published in "Lehigh Valley Live" is a very good synopsis of current conditions and a recap of the last 25 years of dealing with sinkholes and quarry issues on the Bushkill Creek. In April, the chapter offered an Intro to Fly-Fishing program and included discussions on what equipment is necessary, fly patterns and strategies, knot tying and fly-casting instruction. Also in April, the chapter and the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center hosted students from Nazareth Middle School for their TIC release. We held a stream and Adopt A Highway cleanup along Bushkill Creek at the end of the month. In June, members volunteered to run a station at the Northampton County Youth Field Day at Stockertown Rod and Gun Club. Also in June, we displayed and tied flies at the White Haven Trout Festival. Events are listed on the OnWater app.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

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hokendauqua.tu.org

Four of our TIC programs released their fish into local streams. We continue to have our monthly "Ties and Lies" where we meet to tie flies, share techniques and instruct new participants in fly-tying. It's held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in Egypt Fire Hall, Egypt, PA. We participated in a Women in the Outdoors event, instructing attendees on fly-fishing techniques. The chapter's regular meetings begin in September. We are arranging several speakers for our meetings to share their knowledge of fly-fishing as well as environmental issues. Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month from September through April.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Greg Nidoh

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www.lackawannavalleytu.org

We are working with PA American Water to ensure conservation groups are updated on the status of restoration efforts on Roaring Brook in Dunmore and Scranton from a February 2024 pollution event. The chapter held a tree and bench dedication for late board member Michael

Kashuba in April. The 73rd annual Children's Fishing Derby was held at Aylesworth Park in Jermyn, PA in June. Forty-two children attended and the chapter donated enough fishing rods for every child in three age groups between 4-15. The Derby has been renamed in honor of Michael Kashuba for his dedication to youth programming while serving on the board. Our board is in the process of revamping our program in order to attract new membership. We currently have seven active chapter members, all of whom are serving as board members and are dedicated to creating an inclusive and vibrant chapter initiative in 2026. We are meeting the first Monday of each month through December to develop an attractive activities calendar to help drive participation.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

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www.monocacytu.org

No report.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello

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www.pwtu.org

The chapter's annual banquet/fundraiser was held in April. Dr. Mark Nebzydoski received the Charlie Bright Award. Our STREAM Keepers and Fish for Kids programs were cancelled due to excessive rain. We participated in Pike County Conservation District's cleanup and Pick Up Pocono programs. Mark Nebzydoski, our TIC coordinator, helped Western Wayne Middle School ninth grade students release their trout fry into Center Creek at Varden Conservation Area. Students applied and received a grant to allow transportation of fourth grade students to the trout release and environmental presentations. We provided \$500 stipends to four area high school seniors who will be majoring in environmental-related studies. Members traveled to Michigan with Healing Waters to provide support and fly-fishing instructions to vets with PTSD. Canal Fest was held in August. A Casting for Recovery program will be held in September at Sky Top Lodge.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Bruce Herb

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www.schuylkillcountytu.org

Schuylkill County TU finished up the second quarter doing field days with students from several school districts and conservation groups. We held a fly-tying event in July with a conservation club.

Shehawken Chapter #81

Steven Mongiardo

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www.facebook.com/Shehawken-Trout-Unlimited-811023349070239/

www.patroul.org

We conducted tree planting and cleanup at the Cadosia boat ramp on the East Branch of the Delaware in June. A chapter member assisted at a fly-fishing camp for kids from June 29-July 6. A service couples weekend fly-fishing experience on the Upper Delaware was in June. The 2025 UDR Rendezvous is Oct. 15-16 at Villa Roma, Callicoon, NY. The 2025 Rendezvous will offer: engaging and robust sessions about important issues facing the UDR Watershed; keynote speakers; networking; reception dinner; optional field trips after the event on Oct. 16, including Callicoon Park Walk, Roebling's Aqueduct and Zane Grey Museum Tour, or a fishing field trip to fly-fish on the Main Stem of the Delaware River. For further information about the 2025 Rendezvous, please reach out to us at info@fudr.org. If you would like to submit a session proposal or sponsor the event, please visit UDR Rendezvous — UDR Network.

Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

Joseph Simons

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www.sctu.org

Our 32nd annual conservation banquet was held in March. The 2026 banquet is March 28. We sponsored 10th grade student from Forest City, JoEllen Jones, to the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. JoEllen received the J. Leon Chandler Award at the camp. We support a TIC program at Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Bear Creek Charter School. We held a women's fly-fishing camp in May at Frances Slocum State Park. We were approved for a \$10,000 Coldwater Heritage Grant for Bowmans Creek. Recent program speakers were Henry Ramsay (Early Season PA Hatches), Rick Nyles (Penns Creek), Sean Witman (Streamer Fishing on the Delaware), Peter Petokas (Ecology and Conservation of the Eastern Hellbender Salamander), Don Baylor (Trout Stream Ecology), Joseph Simons (Wild Trout Man: The Art, Science, Adventure and Zen Experience of Fly-Fishing for Wild Trout in Class A Streams), Bobby Hughes (EPCAMR: Watershed Restoration & Coldwater Conservation Assessment Activities throughout NE & NC PA). Bugs 'n Brews fly-tying at Sabatini's Bottleshop, Wyoming Ave., Exeter, resumes in September. Our Penns Creek Camping/Fishing Trip at Poe Paddy Campground was in May. The 2026 Penn's Creek trip is May 15-17. Our Adult Fly-Fishing Camp was held in June at Frances Slocum State Park. We held a picnic on Bowmans Creek on Aug. 10.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

Janet Schmitt

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tu.org/chapters/pennsylvania/western-pocono

The 3rd annual White Haven Trout Festival organized by Western Pocono TU and White Haven Library was another success. Almost 300 people

attended the event with dozens of exhibitors and vendors present. Thanks to all the conservation groups and individuals who offered their talents and time. Special thanks to Brodhead TU, Forks of the Delaware TU, Lehigh Coldwater Fisheries Alliance, Lehigh River Stocking Association, North Pocono CARE, Friends of Nescopeck, Mountain City Archery, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, Love Kidder Twp./Warehouse Project, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, State Parks/DCNR, and the D and L Corridor Heritage Trail. Thanks to Precision Fly and Tackle at the Evening Hatch (provided mobile fly shop trailer and donated percentage of proceeds to TU), Anglers Refuge boat display, other fly shops, tyers, river guides, rod builders, artists, crafters etc. A special highlight was several youth and kids fishing rods donated by a WPTU volunteer that were given free to two dozen delighted youngsters, many of whom did not have rods. Special thanks to Erv and Charlotte Carter and volunteers at the White Haven Library and Community Center for assisting WPTU with this event. The White Haven Trout Festival is becoming a self-sustaining event with more and more exhibitors, vendors, and people attending this wonderful Pocono program. WPTU volunteers Mike Gondell and Ray Youngblood organized annual Penrose Tract visit with Pa. Dept. of Forestry, former Penn and Swarthmore botanists and others to the area that has AMD remediation of Hazle Creek and its wild brook trout. Likewise, same volunteers attended a public meeting recently at Weatherly to learn more about a proposed trail from Hazleton to Weatherly/Penn Haven and Lehigh River. WPTU also held a well-attended meeting in May with three of its most venerable and distinguished trout fishing veterans and former WPTU presidents. Dubbed the "Trout Masters" program, past presidents Ray Youngblood, Dan Nester and Rich Chimelewski regaled the attendees with their deep trout fishing roots, connections and memories, founding of WPTU and a personal history of trout fishing in the Poconos and beyond. We hope to do an encore program again with these knowledgeable and dedicated WPTU founders.

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

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Columbia County Chapter #38

Erick Lewis

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Fly-tying sessions moved to Mulberry Mills Community Room from 7-9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month beginning in September. Regular chapter meetings continue at Columbia County Conservation District Office, Commissioner's Conference Room, from 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month beginning September. CCTU hosted Trout Rodeo at Lightstreet Community Fire Company's carnival grounds in May. Chapter members served as "guides" during Fish n' Fun, for handicapped individuals, at Kocher Park in Lightstreet in June.

God's Country Chapter #327

David Saulter

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No report.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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www.lwtu.org

Our annual family and friends picnic and a brief meeting at the Ants Creek Fishing Club was held in June. Members helped the Jersey Shore High School Outdoor Club float stock the DHALO section of Little Pine Creek at the end of April. In June, members attended a meeting at the Clinton County Conservation District Office for an update on efforts to remediate AMD in Beech Creek Stream. Members also attended an informal gathering at the 3 Points Sportsmen's Club in Snow Shoe, where representatives from BAMR and TU National presented updates and answered questions concerning AMD remediation in Beech Creek. Members participated in the TIC release by Jersey Shore students. In May, we instructed seventh grade students from Jersey Shore Middle School in fly-tying and fly-casting as part of their outdoor environmental days. We participated in two fishing events for special needs students at the NE Fishery Center in Lamar. Students were from Penns Valley and Bellefonte. Also at this facility was a fishing event for all kids 12 and under that we helped with. Members assisted with a fishing event at the Ante's Creek Fishing Club for students in the Life Skills class from Jersey Shore School District.

Continued on next page...

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Kevin Lutz

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www.pennscreektu.org

Results from our banquet questionnaire were compiled and the biggest feedback was to make people aware of our activities. Hopefully we can accomplish this with our website and Facebook page. The Penns Creek TU Summer Social was held in June at Poe Paddy State Park. Our annual stream cleanup was held in April along Kish Creek. Two different areas were targeted, Kish Park and Walnut Street. PCTU held two fly-tying classes at Juniata High School in April. The chapter had several TIC release dates during May. We also helped with Eco Day, held by the Mifflin County School District each year. PCTU completed the Forever Wild Grant we received in the fall of 2024. The chapter was represented at Crickfest in August at Coburn Park.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Rod Jones

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facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter/

In April, a dedicated group of 18 volunteers, predominantly chapter members, rolled up their sleeves for a community-driven effort to preserve the beauty of Penns Creek. This spring clean-up took place along the banks and roads from the Glen Iron Bridge to the tunnel near Poe Paddy State Park. Volunteers worked to remove debris, trash, and other unwanted materials that had accumulated over the winter months. A big thank you to all who participated—your hard work and commitment make a real difference in preserving the natural beauty of Penns Creek for future generations to enjoy. From opening day until the first of July, Penns Creek and many other local streams experienced higher flows for a longer period than most chapter members can remember. Starting April 1, there were only a few occasions when Penns dropped to 500 cfs, making wading extremely difficult throughout much of the spring season. Our spring Fishout, held during these high-water conditions, saw 21 participants brave the swollen waters. Though the flow kept many close to the banks, it didn't stop them from making the most of the green drake hatch. This spectacular event provided the perfect opportunity to cast dry flies to the big bugs that danced above the water. While conditions prevented some from venturing far from shore, it was enough to entice a few willing fish to rise. As the day wound down, everyone gathered for a well-earned meal, shared stories with old friends, and marveled at one of nature's great spectacles—the green drake duns and spinners filling the evening sky in a mesmerizing display. But that wasn't all. There was palpable excitement at the end of the evening, as this year

marked the emergence of Brood XIV of the periodical cicadas. The last time these insects made an appearance was 2008 and for many anglers this could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Starting in early June, steaks quite literally fell from the sky. For the trout, it was a feast that lasted for most of the month, and they were quick to take advantage. The waters may have been high, but the fish were fat and happy. While some may have been frustrated by the relentless rain, for those of us who had the privilege of being on the water during this time, it was a spectacle to behold. The trout, well-fed and content, rose eagerly to the surface to snatch up the falling insects, making for some memorable moments on the water. If you were adventurous to brave the conditions, you now know that a trout can be morbidly obese.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Tim Bruggeman

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www.springcreektu.org

The chapter held its annual Spring Creek Cleanup in April. The chapter hosted the 19th annual Fly Fishing Film Tour at the State Theatre in April. SCTU had a tree and shrub planting on Slab Cabin Run in April. Richard Novak represented us at the 2025 Eastern TU Regional Rendezvous in Shepherdstown, W.Va. He promoted our chapter at the event and came back with various ideas on how to improve our outreach. The chapter ventured into fly-fishing social events this quarter. We held one social at Fish—repping our chapter and the Women Anglers with pride. Two of our board members, Jamie SanFilippo and Cortney Grunberg, were on the winning team along with Ashley Wilmont and Ari Capotis, with support from sponsor Mike King. Our annual Family Fishing Picnic was held in June. We began implementing a new Strategic Plan by sending out a survey to membership for what they like about our chapter and what they would like us to do more of in the future. We supported the Wildlife Leadership Academy's Stepping Stones program and participated in the annual Centre Gives fundraiser event. Construction resumed at Millbrook Marsh in late April as we entered Phase 2 of our major restoration project. A temporary crossing over Slab Cabin Run was installed within the marsh to transport materials near the Quonset Hut. To protect existing tree roots, topsoil has been placed in designated zones throughout the worksite. Access roads have been constructed to allow equipment to begin building vernal pools, mounds, brush mattresses, and other critical habitat features. Behind-the-scenes looks and progress updates were offered throughout the summer on SCTU's social media and website. We're in the final stages of securing funding to launch a transformative restoration of 1,162 feet of Spring Creek. The Bald Eagle/Vinyl King project will not be done until next year so it may be cut down in size to stay within budget or additional grants will be sought. The chapter

signed a letter of support for a grant application that will help the Hess Farm Project, which is a part of ClearWater Conservancy's ongoing Slab Cabin Run Initiative. In April, Cub Scout Pack 32 headed to Colyer Lake to fish with our youth education volunteers. In late April, our chapter hosted the "fun station" at Bald Eagle State Park, giving casting lessons to high school students from Bellefonte, Bald Eagle, Penns Valley and St. Joseph's. In May, we joined State College High School for a TIC release at Whipple Dam. Between April and June, the Spring Creek Women Anglers encountered several weather-related setbacks, with high water and frequent rain forcing the delay of some planned activities. We did participate in the annual Family Fishing Picnic, which offered a great opportunity to connect with the community and share our passion for fishing. Though the chapter's application for an SRBC grant to support work on the Spring Creek project was not successful, we remain hopeful and await news on a \$24,000 CAP grant that could help move the project forward. In the meantime, we're actively pursuing a CHP grant to secure additional funding and bring this important restoration effort to life. SCTU's annual winery event is Sept. 4 at Mount Nittany Vineyard and Winery. For the most up to date information on events, please visit our website at www.springcreektu.org.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Steve Martin

sam667@verizon.net

www.susquehannatu.com

The chapter held a cleanup of Lycoming Creek in the Trout Run and Powys areas in April. Walt Nicholson had calls with Game Commission officials regarding several issues including Fisher mining status, PGE pipeline work on PGL 75, PGE work on PGL 134 (Plunketts Creek), stream-bank work on Plunketts Creek, and our interest in



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opening up the stretch of Spring Creek to the public just inside the south border of the Allenwood Federal Prison property. The chapter continued to monitor and comment on the proposed "Stream Cleaning Bill" and other legislative activities, as appropriate. Walt, with input from other directors, prepared a response to the Climate Change Work Group focusing on continued conservation, protection and restoration of our highest quality coldwater streams. We have inquired about post-Debbie stream channelization work on Wolf Run near Trout Run Park and Grays Run. Other streams have also been dredged and straightened. We are concerned about habitat loss and future flood damage. Jim Latini and Mike Ditchfield attended a site visit with DEP officials. The proposal for a Bob Webber Wild or Natural Area was given a positive reception by the Bureau of Forestry. Matthew Wilson, director of the Freshwater Institute and the Center for Environmental Education & Research at Susquehanna University, presented at the chapter meeting in April. Using 15 years of data from Loyalsock, Pine and Kettle creeks, he discussed ways that we can identify conservation priorities for native brook trout and how beavers can potentially be part of the solution to enhance watershed connectivity and mitigate the challenges of warming streams, acidic rainfall, and more frequent flooding events and periods of drought. Walt Nicholson and Charlie Knowlden attended the TIC release by Wyalusing Valley High School into Schrader Creek in May. In June, the Hughesville Library TIC program released fingerlings into the creek that runs through Rensselaer Park in Picture Rocks. We had the Velcro fish pond where the kids were able to catch a fish and compare it to a chart to identify their catch. The Lycoming County Conservation District had a nature display and conducted an exploration of aquatic bug life. World's End Day 2025 was held in July at Worlds End State Park.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

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

In April, the chapter collected macroinvertebrates from the three sites for our ongoing survey on Long Run near Gaines. The samples were sent out for identification. We twice conducted fish survey on the same three sites on Long Run in June. Surveys were completed in conjunction with TU National out of Lock Haven. This is all part of our multiyear study and in-stream projects conducted on Long Run. The chapter, in conjunction with the Pine Creek Watershed Council, planted over 3,000 trees this spring in riparian zones along tributaries in the Pine Creek Watershed. This put our five-year total at 20,000 trees. Chapter meetings are the first Tuesday of the month except for July and August. They start at 7 p.m. at 1867 Shumway Hill Road, Wellsboro.

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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No reports received.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTERS

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

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Dean Druckenmiller

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Bucks County Chapter #254

Douglas McCabe

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www.buckstu.org**

BucksTU has partnered with Solebury Township and Flyway Excavating for the stream restoration project on Aquetong Creek. The total project is valued at \$38,500 and will be conducted during the fall of 2025. The project includes bank stabilization, cross logs, toe logs, root wads, de-

flectors and correction of a small waterfall. Board members toured Watson Creek in Buckingham Township to evaluate its condition. Although there is some bank erosion, we don't think major work is warranted at this time. A fall clean-up day is recommended to gather tree tubes, stakes and other material. BCTU continues to support three TIC projects. The newest one is at the Bucks County Youth Center. Our TIC chair is working to add an additional school to the program for 2025-26. The chapter is preparing an application for a Grow Greener grant to be used for the restoration work on Aquetong Creek. Program speakers at chapter meetings have included Dr. Erik Silldorf (Delaware River Keepers) in March, Henry Ramsey (Early Season Hatches) in April and Jeff Neamand (Practical Nymphing) in May.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

Charles Lesky

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No report.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Dan Dow

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www.lltu.org**

No report.

Perkiomen Valley #332

Bryan Fulop

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Our annual fundraising picnic was held in June. Current stream restoration projects include the Longacres Project (riparian tree maintenance, May 2025), Green Lane Park Project (riparian tree maintenance, April 2025), water quality testing and macroinvertebrate survey for the Camelot Park Project and Church Road post-dam removal, and a stream cleanup at Green Lane Park. Upcoming projects include riparian tree maintenance at our various projects in the fall and more water quality testing and a macroinvertebrate survey at Camelot Park and Church Road. We will also do salt sampling for baseline flow samples in September in conjunction with Stroud Environmental's salt initiative. We commenced implementation of our Longacre to Barto Bridge Stream Restoration Project on West Branch of Perkiomen Creek which involves 1,100 feet of stream upstream for our 2024 Longacre Phase 2 (completed) project and helps close the gap toward the upstream public lands at State Game Lands 315. The plan includes design in 2025 and execution in 2026. We are assessing the need for water quality testing and macroinvertebrate surveys at West Branch of Perkiomen Creek and assessing future fishery surveys in the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek

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with PFBC. We are also assessing the potential for a Mayfly monitor installation on West Branch of Perkiomen Creek. We held TIC release days for Hereford Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, Boyertown Middle School East and Dock Menonite High School in May. Macroinvertebrates, stream conservation, fly-tying and fly-casting instruction for all students were part of the release days. The chapter applied for a Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant (Mariner II funding pot) to fund the engineering design phase of implementation of Longacre to Barto Bridge Stream Restoration Project on West Branch of Perkiomen Creek. We also applied for an Embrace A Stream grant to fund part of the execution phase of implementation of the same project.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry

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Our TIC schools were able to release their trout and fish afterwards. Over 300 sixth graders participated in an environmental day that included macroinvertebrate sampling, tree planting and plant identification. An additional 10 schools got to spend time in a local park learning to fish and identify macroinvertebrate with kids ranging from second grade to high school.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Mike McLaughlin

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Our George Daniel "Evolution of Fly Fishing" event is from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 14 at Berks Nature Rookery event space. The chapter is excited to help with the Berks County Conservation District's Cacoosing Creek Restoration Project, (a section that is downstream of a previous Superfund cleanup site after 1986). TCTU coordinated with Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Association for a macroinvertebrates assessment from a leaf pack study done on the Spring Creek in June. Board member and biology teacher Ed Ulmer held a TIC learning event in June, with topics including macroinvertebrate collection techniques, tools, and use for stream evaluation, water testing, total dissolved solids, pH, conductivity, temperature and hands-on training. A proposal was submitted to PFBC and Blue Marsh US Army Corps of Engineers for collaboration to promote the maximization of coldwater 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 received was not favorable. TCTU is responding with further supporting hydrology study data to appeal the initial negative response. Next steps are submitting

a clarifying addendum for our submission to PA ACOE to reinforce our stance on the proposal in our discussions with Jeff Piscanio with USACOE. The chapter provided classroom support for 31 schools for 2025. Wilson West Middle School hosted a Field & Stream Day in May. Activities included a macroinvertebrates study, TIC trout release, fly-tying and fly-casting. Exeter Township's Owatin Creek Elementary school also hosted a TIC release in May. Our annual casting competition was held in July at Oakbrook Brewing.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

James Leonard

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VFTU formed a communications committee to better coordinate chapter communications with members. IRS Form 990 for FY 2024 tax filing is being prepared by our CPA. We are monitoring East Whiteland Township's planned stream bank improvement project in Valley Creek. Annual macroinvertebrate collection at six sites is complete. Collections have been sent for identification and counting. The data will be used to calculate the Integrated Biotic Index, a measure of water quality, for each site for comparison with previous years collections and reporting to PFBC. Heidelberg Quarry-West Valley Creek is having sinkhole issues. Other environmental issues we're watching include Atwater retention basin #6, road salt, property development across Route 29 at Valley Creek Park, Knickerbocker landfill development, and Bishop Tube superfund site development. 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. New HOBO logger sites have been established in Indian Run. Our 15 TIC schools released their trout. A Watershed Restoration Protection Grant for \$100,000 for the last designed storm water infiltration bed in the Crabby Creek watershed at Lisabeth Lane has been submitted.

SOUTHCENTRAL CHAPTERS

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

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Jonathan Daniels

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Adams County Chapter #323

Frank Kozak

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The chapter's proposed bylaws are to be voted on at the annual Appreciation Dinner/Annual Meeting on Aug. Eighty percent of the operating procedures related to running the chapter have been completed to date. Phase II of the Conewago Creek Restoration Project was scheduled to start in July. With its completion, the entire Conewago Creek CROFFO section has new habitat devices. ACTU, in partnership with the Mummasburg Sportsmen Association, funded the construction of a five-car parking area at Marsh Creek. Construction of more such parking areas is anticipated as sites are identified, and landowner permission is obtained. The chapter led or participated in nine youth and community events since early April, including: TIC release day, Earth Extravaganza, Latimore Youth Fishing Derby, New Oxford Middle School Environmental Day, Southcentral Outdoors for Youth, Orvis Hill County Fishing Derby, Barlow 4H Club - Intro to Fishing presentation, Funfest 2024, and Gettysburg Nature Alliance Nature "Go Fish, Gettysburg." The chapter held Intro to Fishing and Intro to Fly-Fishing classes at the Orvis Hill County facility in July. At invitation, ACTU has become a partner in the Advancing Science Program at Gettysburg College. The program is developing an environmental literacy plan to support Adams County educators. Teachers in the program can call upon ACTU for support and participation in their environmental education activities.

Codus Chapter #558

Bob Daviau

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The chapter participated in Give Local York, our primary fundraising event, for the third consecutive year and added corporate sponsorship levels for the first time. Codorus TU held two cleanup days to remove debris from downed trees and areas impacting the flow away from the primary channel. We completed another successful year with our five TIC programs. We are in the planning phase for a joint STREAM Girls program with DCNR. Recent chapter meetings featured programs on "Riparian Buffers" with Jim Kauffman, from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in July and "Night Fishing" with Frank Landis in August. On Sept. 10, Mike Slesky will present "Northern Maryland Fishing" at Laughman Sawmill Pavillion. The chapter's an-

nual meeting and elections are Oct. 8 at Porters Fire Company.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

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Board members continue to participate in Cumberland Conservation Collaborative, a diverse collection of conservation-minded groups and county planners that meets bi-monthly to share information on current programs, projects and activities, as well as to learn from each other's experiences with planning, fund-raising and permitting. A Cumberland County event in May called Clean Water Cumberland brought together representatives from many organizations representing conservation, water quality, rails-to-trails, etc. County representatives discussed grant timelines, and we discussed possibilities of cooperation between groups. Our annual spring fund-raiser/awards banquet was April 26. For the second year, we had an all-day team fishing event followed by the banquet in the evening. In support of the Big Spring Watershed Association, the chapter petitioned PA DEP to hold another public hearing on proposed warehouse projects near Newville. As a follow-up to our annual winter beginner fly-tying course, we hosted three Intro to Fly-Fishing events streamside to connect new fly-tyers with the on-stream part of fishing. Rivers Fly Fishing & Youth Conservation Camp hosted 24 high school campers at Messiah University in June. Women's group PA Reel Sisters held a stream cleanup event along Yellow Breeches Creek in the area of our most recent chapter stream restoration project at Barnitz Church. Along with the Letort Regional Authority and the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, our chapter has received a National Fish and Wildlife Fund grant via the work of PA Organization of Watershed Resources. This grant will help all three organizations to bridge from the existing Letort Coldwater Conservation Plan to

a series of projects to address the issues identified in the plan. Program speakers have included board member Gary Leone (Fishing Kettle Creek) and Tom Keller, PA Game Commission biologist (Letort muskrat population studies). Our next meeting is Sept. 17 at Mt. Zion Crossroad Church.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Rich DiStanislao

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An April Board of Directors planning meeting was held to reorganize chapter committees, including board member leadership in these committees. Our chapter calendar events were discussed for the new fiscal year. Our May meeting featured speaker Frank Landis on Night Fishing for Large Trout. On Quittapahilla Creek, some of the trees planted last summer on the completed project at the Spruce Creek Bridge section did not survive the winter. We reordered and delivered 13 new trees, and included in the delivery a watering system for these replacements. Also regarding Quittapahilla Creek, members attended a Lebanon County Commissioners meeting, along with several other conservation organization groups, to voice opposition to a proposed new commercial development that would affect the wetlands at the head of the Quittapahilla. We also submitted letters opposing this land development, as it has the potential to increase the risk for downstream flooding and ruination of stream improvement projects already in place in the last five years. As a result, the decision on approving the land development has been put on hold by the county commissioners pending more studies. Hammer Creek work is picking back up. Weekly work is done on the diversion well at Rausch Creek. Quittapahilla Creek stream cleanup day was held in April. We received a report from a longtime resident regarding the increase siltation problem at the lower end of Clarks Creek due to the uprooted bases of many of the cathedral hemlock trees

that have fallen into the stream. We have put yet another request in to PFBC to address this problem. Eight chapter members volunteered to serve as instructors and guides for Wounded Warrior veterans as they spent a day fishing on the Wiconisco special projects area in April. We staffed an informational booth at the Wildwood Wetlands Festival in April. We conducted a fly-tying demonstration and staffed an information booth at the Ned Smith Summer Conservation Fair in Millersburg in June. We sponsored a youth from our chapter to attend the annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp at Messiah University in June. We met with a group from Lebanon County who are willing to help us establish a program to work with veterans and active military personnel with the Fort Indiantown Gap military reservation. From the results of this meeting, we are trying to meet with the USO organization at Fort Indiantown Gap. We established our annual Ladies Day Learn to Fly-Fish outing, set for Saturday, Oct. 4 at Limestone Springs Preserve. We participated in Wildwood Nature Center's summer youth camp on July 28.

Donegal Chapter #037

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In the last fiscal year, DTU completed nearly \$900,000 in conservation projects. In April, the Fishing Creek Watershed ARP, a nine-year \$3 million project, was approved by the EPA. Barry Witmer, DTU's project manager, along with our strategic planning committee, will develop the first three-year phase of the project. DTU is registered with ARCGIS and our GIS chair is giving board and committee members tutorials. This will be a valuable tool for the ARP project. In May, volunteers planted 191 stems on the D. Lapp property. Thanks to a donated ATV, transporting stems, tubes, and stakes was efficient, and an auger greatly sped up the digging process. A separate \$302,000 design and permitting project covering 10,000 feet of stream restoration will involve four properties. This project will exceed the minimum required stream length by over 1,000 feet. For the upcoming school year, six new TIC programs are set to launch. These will include four public schools, one private girls' school, and a homeschool education center. VSP hosts two monthly events, including evening sessions at Precision Fly Shop featuring guest fly-tyers and Saturday walk-and-wade outings followed by lunch. Approximately 12 veterans participate regularly. In June, DTU hosted its annual Special Olympics event at a member's pond, welcoming 12 Olympians, 13 guests, and 25 members. The event included three hours of fishing fun, followed by lunch, prizes, and gifts for all participants. Our president attended the TU Rendezvous in West Virginia, and a board member attended the PA

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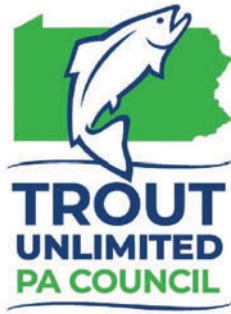
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Women's Leadership retreat at Godspeed in May. Our fly-fishing rods were lent to a Casting for Recovery event and Lancaster Sportsman Youth Day with 152 attending.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Took Coder

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www.facebook.com/fstu234/

The Falling Spring stream restoration project below Edwards Avenue was moved up in the contractor's schedule and completed. Landowners are extremely happy and we look forward to positive results. TU members participated in the Waynesboro Fish & Game Youth Day. Approximately 100 participants divided into 10 groups went through fly-casting instructions. PFBC submitted a design for another project on Falling Spring above Springview Drive. Implementation is scheduled for the summer of 2026, pending grant approval.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

John Snyder

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After a nearly two-year drought in southcentral PA, our Muddy Creek Watershed is beginning to recover to normal conditions. PFBC offered our chapter 7,000 lighthouse fish last fall for our Co-Op nursery. (The fish are put in a controlled

environment where light is manipulated to make them spawn at an earlier date. The fish come to us well past the fingerling size we are accustomed to.) We got some great feedback on the size of the fish in our watershed this spring. We also have some holdovers for our fall stocking that are impressive. Thank-you to our chapter members for their support to our annual Trout Fund appeal. This continued support helps to feed and care for the trout and maintain the nursery that enhances the fishing experience on Muddy Creek. Our opening day fundraiser was a great success again this year. In May, we sponsored our annual VisionCorps event for visually and physically challenged children and adults. In June, we sponsored our annual Women's Intro to Fly-Fishing event. This year's attendees got an extra bonus as Tom Herr, local fly-fishing guide and celebrated fly-tyer, joined us to do the casting instruction at the event. Our July chapter meeting was held on the Susquehanna River at the John Wright Factory Store and Restaurant in Wrightsville. Taylor Hess, a local guide from upstate PA presented "Smallmouth Bass Fishing" followed by smallmouth fishing on the river till dark. Our June meeting guest speaker was Emily Neideigh from the Watershed Alliance of York. Emily presented information on the requirements needed and the flow of information to support the application for grant projects. We are currently looking at a few areas in our watershed as targets and we hope to be in touch with Emily in the near future for her expertise and support for project improvements in the Muddy Creek

Watershed. We recently completed an electrical upgrade at the nursery from a grant we received from the PFBC. This was a long overdue project, and we thank the PFBC for their assistance and support for our nursery.

SOUTHWEST CHAPTERS

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

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No reports received.