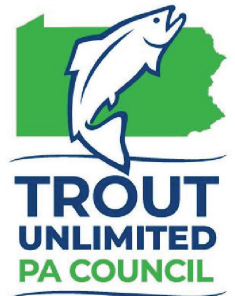


# Pennsylvania TROUT



Winter 2026

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patrou.org

## CHP Grants make big difference for trout conservation

Four Pennsylvania conservation projects will share nearly \$90,000 in Coldwater Heritage Partnership grants to protect and restore wild trout habitat across the state.

### Elk County Conservation District – \$20,530

A stabilization and habitat improvement project on Elk Creek will install engineered habitat structures to stabilize eroded banks and improve cover for wild trout.

See **GRANTS**, page 6

## Morris leads effort to save trees along Pine Twp.’s Irwin Run

By Thomas B. McCartney  
*PWWTU Climate Change Coordinator*

Duquesne Light Company was planning on removing numerous trees that lined Irwin Run, a popular nature trail and trout stream in Pine Township, a suburb north of Pittsburgh, Pa. The intended tree removal was to protect an electric line that runs for a mile along the trail and called for cutting 300 trees.

It seemed like overkill to Ray Morris and his good friend Ken Knapp, especially when they learned the line only served one home.

See **TREES**, page 5



Chuck Dinkel Photo

Big Spring Middle School students participate in their Trout in the Classroom release day, where the students visit a number of stations to learn about their watershed and environment.

## Why Trout in the Classroom?

By Chuck Dinkel  
*Cumberland Valley TU*

If you lived 100 years ago, where do you think you’d be living, and what would your life consist of?

It is highly likely you would be involved in some form of agriculture or farming. Today the opposite is true.

We live in a highly technical society. We have improved farming methods to the point where a few farmers can feed many

of us. That opens whole new options and opportunities for us. But there is something we lose when we leave a life of agriculture. And this is one reason I think students love to participate in Trout in the Classroom programs. They have a front row seat to witnessing the miracle of life.

If you lived on a farm, you could see cows give birth to calves, baby lambs being born, chicks hatching. A hundred years ago you might have been born in a farmhouse,

See **TIC**, page 6

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## Headwaters

*A message from PATU President  
Russell Thrall*

In my January myPATU email message I shared how honored I am to serve as your president. Now I want to tell you where we're headed.

First, some important thank-yous. I want to recognize the outgoing members of the Executive Committee for their years of service to this Council. President Lenny Lichvar brought decades of conservation experience and an unwavering commitment to Pennsylvania's wild trout resources during his tenure leading PATU. Regional Vice Presidents Todd Burns, Ari Capotis, and Gary Parzanese each gave generously of their time and energy connecting Council to the chapters in their regions. Their contributions helped make PATU a stronger organization, and we owe them our gratitude.

I would also like to welcome on new RVPS, Bill Eckert, Claire Landis and Jacob Smith as well as Treasurer Tom Dryburg. Thank you all for stepping up to the plate and volunteering your time and expertise to PATU.

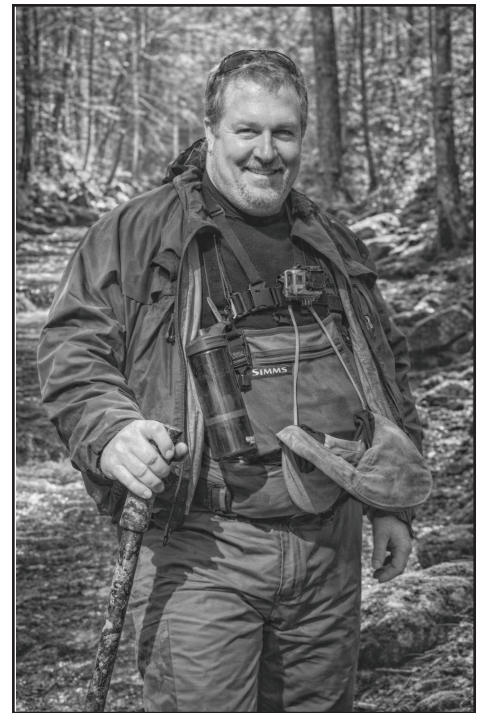
TU says every river needs a champion, and I believe every chapter deserves a Council that champions them. It's the standard I intend to be held to.

The numbers make the case for why this matters.

Last year, our 49 chapters contributed 69,000 volunteer hours — the equivalent of 49 full-time conservationists. You invested \$1.4 million in conservation and education programs and completed 309 projects. Through direct chapter programs and our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, we reached nearly 68,000 young people across the Commonwealth. Volunteer engagement has grown 56 percent since 2021. That's close to \$4 million in annual impact, and those results belong to you.

Council's job is to make sure every chapter has the support to build on that momentum.

Two ways PATU can help in the near term are the Coldwater Heritage Partner-



ship (CHP) and Trout in the Classroom grant program.

The CHP Grant Program — Round 31 — is open now. Approximately \$215,000 is available for planning grants up to \$10,000 and implementation grants up to \$25,000. **A key change this year:** the match requirement has dropped from 50 percent to just 25 percent of the requested grant amount, making these funds more accessible than ever. The maximum project size funded is \$50,000. Chapters, nonprofits, conservation districts, and municipalities are eligible to apply. The deadline is 4 p.m. on April 15, 2026. Full details and application materials are available at [coldwaterheritage.org](http://coldwaterheritage.org).

Meanwhile, PATU's Trout in the Classroom grant program will be launching soon to help chapters support TIC educators in their communities. This school year, PATIC reached its largest footprint yet — 430 teachers running 442 aquariums across 60 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, with 40 of our 49 chapters now partnering with TIC programs. If your chapter isn't involved yet, this is the year to start. Watch for the TIC grant announcement in an upcoming myPATU email newsletter.

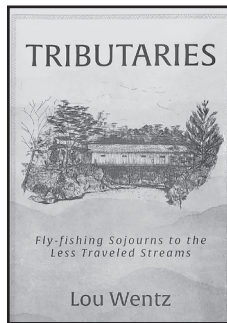
Let's build a PATU where every chapter has Council as its partner in success.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for all you do.

# 'Tributaries' book added to PATU merchandise options

We've just added a "must read" collection of essays and stories titled "TRIBUTARIES: Fly Fishing Sojourns to the Less Traveled Streams," based on author Lou Wentz's lifelong fly-fishing experiences along both obscure and well-known streams in Pennsylvania and the Catskill region of New York. As a mantra for living a meaningful life, fly-fishing has inspired Wentz's insightful words as well as motivated his dedicated conservation efforts through Trout Unlimited.

And don't forget that you will also find a number of other books on PA fly fishing, Ultralight and Travel fly rods, "Brookie" fly reels, custom-tied leaders,



PATU-logoed hats and T-shirts, "Back the Brookie" decorative license plates, and "Catch & Release" license frames available to purchase online using PayPal or a credit card at [patrout.org/shop](http://patrout.org/shop), or you can order by using

the order form in this issue and mail with your check or money order.

And please remember...your purchases help fund your Council's coldwater conservation efforts in PA!

## PATU welcomes its new board members elected in November

**Council President:** Russ Thrall  
**Council Vice President:** West – Mike Stahl  
**Council Vice President:** East – Rick Nyles  
**Council Treasurer:** Tom Dryburg  
**Council Secretary:** Brian Wagner  
**Council NLC Representative:** Erick Lewis

**Northcentral Regional Vice President:** Jacob Smith  
**Northeast Regional Vice President:** Bobby Hughes  
**Northwest Regional Vice President:** Bill Eckert  
**Southcentral Regional Vice President:** Claire Landis  
**Southeast Regional Vice President:** Dean Druckenmiller  
**Southwest Regional Vice President:** Open

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**TROUT UNLIMITED BUSINESS GOLD LEVEL**

## PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2025-26 COMMITTEES



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- Coldwater Heritage Partnership TU Delegate –**  
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- College/5 Rivers –**  
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# Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

## Simplified Stonefly Nymph

*An impressionistic nymph pattern that trout feed on year round.*

### Fly Design / Highlights

- Mostly constructed with easily accessible, natural materials
- Can be tied in a variety of sizes, colors and materials to suit various waters
- Tied heavy to get down or lighter to drift higher in the water column
- Larger sizes can imitate bigger salmonflies
- Really buggy looking—mimics a steak dinner for a hungry trout

### Background

I've seen a bunch of stonefly patterns since I started fishing and tying many years ago. Some feature many precise components and attributes that always steered me away from tying them due to the complexity; others too plain. So, at this point, I've settled on the version you see here. I believe this simplified stonefly nymph is relatively easy to tie and still very impressionistic. Only time (and fish) will tell.

### About the Pattern

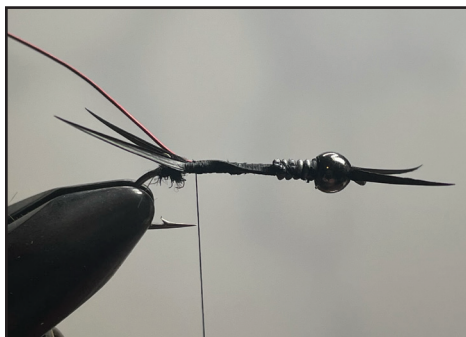
There is a lot of flexibility with this pattern's construction. Firstly, it can be created using a range of hook sizes to match smaller stoneflies, and tied larger for salmonflies. I even think it might be mistaken for a hellgrammite. Secondly, with so many material colors available—you can experiment with various styles and looks. Try rubber legs for added motion. Utilize two beads for added weight. Switch up the wire color for rib segmentation. But as always, have fun and tight lines!



### Materials

- **Hook:** Nymph 2xl or 3xl, #4 – #18
- **Thread:** 6/0 to Match Body
- **Underbody:** Non-Toxic Weight
- **Tail:** Black Goose or Turkey Biots
- **Rib:** Wire or Vinyl – Your Choice
- **Body:** Dubbing to Match Body
- **Legs:** Goose/Turkey Biots; Rubber
- **Wing Case:** Turkey Wing Feather
- **Antennae:** Goose/Turkey Biots

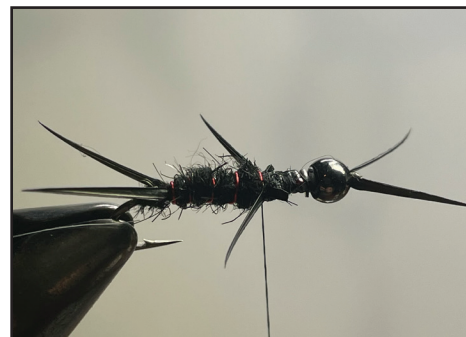
Note: Many of these materials can be substituted for various effects. Experiment and have fun!



Slide a bead on and push rearward. Tie in biots facing forward. Push bead forward; secure wraps of weight; tie in biots with a small dubbing ball to split. Tie in wire for rib.



Create a dubbing noodle and wrap forward towards eye of hook. Spiral wrap wire forward to create rib and secure. Trim any stray fibers that get in your way.



Add a couple legs of your choice to the sides. Here I used biots, but rubber legs are also an option. Secure and dub another noodle of material to cover ends.



Tie in a turkey feather facing backward, being sure to align it to the top of the hook shank. Consider pretreating the feather to keep fibers together prior to using.



Once again create a dubbing noodle and wrap a few turns. Tie in a couple more legs and cover with dubbing—moving toward the eye of the hook. The bugger the better!



Build up a robust thorax and pull the turkey feather forward and secure with some tight wraps. Create one last dubbing noodle to cover your wraps. Whip finish to complete.

# TREES

from page 1

Morris, a climate change coordinator for Trout Unlimited, and Knapp, an Irwin Run Trail Steward were concerned about how the tree removal would impact the temperature of the stream, and the natural beauty of the trail. They teamed up to see if another solution could be found.

Morris, who also serves as chair of the Pine Township Environmental Advisory Committee and is an active member of the Allegheny Land Trust, which owns the 73-acre Irwin Run Conservation Area portion of the trail, worked through these two groups to urge action against the aggressive tree cutting. He also utilized Facebook and sent an eBlast alert to local community email lists urging citizens to voice their objections to Duquesne Light.

Morris and Knapp met with State Rep. Jeremy Shaffer to see if he could lead an effort to persuade Duquesne Light to consider other alternatives.

Although Duquesne Light workers had already marked numerous trees for removal, they listened to what the community and Shaffer had to say, and on Oct. 20, Duquesne Light announced that no trees would be removed. They had found a shorter, alternate route to connect the lone homeowner to the line.

Following the victory, Morris said, "This success shows how a local community can work with other stakeholders, and their state representative, to preserve a valuable natural asset."



Ray Morris

The book cover for "Tributaries" by Lou Wentz features a detailed illustration of a river flowing through a forested landscape. The title "TRIBUTARIES" is at the top, and the author's name "Lou Wentz" is at the bottom. A quote from Trout magazine is included: "We're recommending it because we think it's the coolest concentration of Pennsylvania- (and a bit Catskill-) centric short essays we've read." The website "www.coastforkpress.com" is also listed.

TRIBUTARIES

*Fly-fishing Sojourns to the Less Traveled Streams*

Lou Wentz

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

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



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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](mailto: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](mailto:bisles@live.com). See pages 2-3 for Council contact information, officers and committees.

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



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Chuck Dinkel Photos

Students from Lambertson Middle School had the opportunity to view how fish are tagged by volunteers and then released (above and below right), and also had a chance to collect macros on Yellow Breeches (below left).



not in a sterile hospital room.

By moving off the farm, most of us no longer are witnesses to the miracle of new life. We may read or hear about a baby panda being born in the National Zoo, but few, if any of us, are there to experience it.

In a Trout in the Classroom program, students get to see firsthand, how trout eggs mature and baby trout hatch. They'll see the newly hatched alevin swimming with the attached egg sac, their source of food until they develop sufficiently to eat other food. And even more importantly, they will get to care for them.

In the wild, if a female trout laid 100 eggs, how many do you think would survive to adulthood? The answer – maybe two to three percent. When students are engaged in raising trout to fingerling size, survival rates greater than 50 percent are generally achieved. In addition, fingerlings that size have already lived past the point where in the wild they would have faced many predators.

The other “why” of Trout in the Classroom is even more important. Participating students become environmental stewards. Today, far too many students lack a basic understanding of their watersheds and the unique role they play in their lives.

Life depends on the existence of clean water – the kind of clean, cold, oxygenated water in which trout live. As Trout in the Classroom students learn about their local streams and the watershed, they become carriers of this message. Some will follow a career path in the environmental sciences. All will play a future role as protectors of our valuable water resources.

## GRANTS

from page 1

### Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited – \$25,000

Native brook trout restoration in the Linn Run watershed (Westmoreland County), which has historically suffered from acid deposition. The project will apply limestone sand to neutralize acidity and

promote the recolonization of brook trout in a Linn Run tributary.

### Perkiomen Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited – \$19,000

Stream restoration along the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek from Longacre to Barto Bridge (Montgomery County). This project is one of the final phases of a long-running restoration effort. Engineered structures will stabilize highly

eroded banks and provide habitat for the recolonization of wild trout.

### Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited – \$25,000

Bank stabilization and habitat improvement on upper Spring Creek (Centre County). SCCTU will continue stabilizing eroded banks and installing in-stream habitat structures, focusing on a crucial reach for wild trout restoration.

# Five chapters and 442 egg shipments connect 57,000 students to coldwater conservation

This winter, something remarkable happened at the PA Fish and Boat Commission Center Region Office in Bellefonte.

Volunteers from five PATU chapters spent two January days packaging 1,326 bags of trout food and 442 egg shipment boxes—enough to serve 430 teachers running aquariums in 60 Pennsylvania counties.

By the time those trout are released this spring, 57,000 students will have received hands-on education about watersheds, habitat, and conservation.

That's the power of partnership—and you made it happen.

## The Power of Showing Up

On Jan. 7, members from Columbia County, Donegal, Forbes Trail, Penns Creek, and Spring Creek chapters gathered at the hatchery. Together with PFBC staff, they prepared 1,326 food bags and set up for the main event.

Five days later, an even larger group assembled: volunteers from Donegal, Forbes Trail, Penns Creek, Penns Woods West, and Spring Creek chapters joined by PFBC staff, teachers, staff from Senator Cris Dush and Senator Scott Martin's offices, members of the Lackawanna County Conservation District, and several TIC educators.

Their mission: package 442 egg boxes for shipment to classrooms across Pennsylvania.

Why does this matter? Because programs like Pennsylvania Trout in the Classroom (PATIC) don't run on autopilot—they run on volunteers who donate their time to connect the next generation to the resources we're fighting to protect.

## TIC Reaches New Heights:

### 60 of 67 Counties Now Participating

The 2025-26 school year brought PATIC to its largest reach yet:

- 430 participating educators running 442 aquariums
- 442 egg shipments delivered January 12, 2026
- 60 of 67 Pennsylvania counties now participate in TIC (Only seven coun-



Contributed Photo

On Jan. 7, members from Columbia County, Donegal, Forbes Trail, Penns Creek, and Spring Creek chapters gathered at the hatchery. Together with PFBC staff, they prepared 1,326 food bags and set up for the main packaging event.

ties left to reach—is yours ready to expand?)

- 322 of 430 educators (75%) partnered with program supporters like PATU chapters, conservation districts, conservancies, and sportsman associations
- 40 of 49 PATU chapters now partner with TIC programs

## 2024-25 PATIC:

### The Impact in Numbers

When 410 teachers completed their end-of-year reports last spring, here's what they told us:

- 57,012 students engaged in TIC activities

That's equal to filling Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia 1.5 times—or roughly one out of every 33 school-age children in Pennsylvania.

- 12,556 hours of watershed and habitat

instruction

Students learned about watersheds, trout habitat, fish management, life cycle stages, and fishing. That's more than an entire school year of instruction, delivered across hundreds of classrooms.

- 9,174 volunteer hours donated

Worth approximately \$287,000 at Pennsylvania's volunteer labor rate of \$31.25/hour. This represents the real economic value your chapters contributed to Pennsylvania's youth education.

- 1,065 conservation projects and activities completed

That's nearly three projects every single day of the school year—stream cleanups, habitat assessments, water quality monitoring, and more.

Students will receive more than 13,000 hours of watershed and trout lifecycle and habitat instruction this year.

## Does your chapter partner with TIC educators?

Forty of 49 PATU chapters currently support PATIC programs.

Is yours one of them?

Partnership opportunities include:

- Supporting local teachers with equipment or expertise
- Attending classroom release events in spring
- Sponsoring aquarium equipment

Learn how to get involved:

Contact Amidea Daniel, PFBC TIC coordinator. [ra-troutclass@pa.gov](mailto:ra-troutclass@pa.gov)

# PATU Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Dec. 7, 2025  
Executive Committee Meeting



Trout subscription list updated on Dec. 1, 2025 and sent to Brad Isles. Additional action since last EXCOM meeting: Motion to approve and submit the recommended PATU comments pertaining to docket E4129225-017, Pennsylvania General Energy Co., LLC, permit to build a permanent access road and to request a public hearing on the permit was approved (motion B. Wagner, second M. Stahl). Motion approved. Comments were picked up by David Hess for an article in Pennsylvania Environment Digest.

**Executive Director Report:** Submitted by E. Null. Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) Round 28 will be closed on Monday, December 8th. Round 30 potential applicants were affected by the federal funding freeze due to lack of matching funds. Need to market the Mariner East funding next round. Null will need assistance from EXCOM marketing in the 18 affected counties. Round 29 grants are awarded except for one. A new requirement for Round 31 will be that a project can't exceed \$50,000 but will only require a 20% match. Null working on regional partnerships to assist with expansion of the Trout in the Classroom program. Formation of a statewide TIC committee to be developed. Partnership with Abandoned Mine Reclamation for the Keystone Coldwater Conference (KCC) conference is not happening next year. KCC and CHP committees to meet to discuss plans for next year's conference. B. Hughes inquired about possibility of including collector's permits as part of funding from CHP grants or possible waiver by PFBC. M. Murty suggested a model process for a master collector's permit may be in place from past Coldwater Conservation Corp programs.

**NLC Report:** Report submitted (E. Lewis). The NLC is rolling out a process to update the National Conservation Agenda. Criteria will be delivered to councils and chapters in January. Selecting NCA criteria, categorizing results, and creating an action plan will be completed

and voted on by NLC end of September. Lewis will be collecting the criteria for PA.

## **Regional VP Reports:**

Northcentral (J. Smith) – Has reached out to all chapters. Asked if PATU would be sending official email of leadership change.

Northeast (B. Hughes) – Transitioning with past regional Todd Burns on issues. Making introductions with chapters. Discussed membership zip code issues.

Northwest (Eckert) – Report submitted.

Southeast (D. Druckenmiller) – Only four chapters reporting. Little Lehigh merger to be discussed later on agenda.

Southwest (Open) – M. Stahl to reach out to Adam Cotchen.

Southcentral (C. Landis) – Reached out to all chapters. All are reporting. Doc Fritchey Chapter has an issue with Clark's Creek that may require assistance. Working with PFBC.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Conservation Committee:** Submitted by B. Wagner. The Road Salt Management bill passed in the PA House with bipartisan support but mainly among party lines. The bill is currently in the Senate Transportation Committee. The Artificial Intelligence Data Center policy statement has been sent out through PATU media channels and was reported on in PA Environment Digest. We received kudos on the statement from PennFuture as being "spot on", Met with PennFuture's Annie Regan on collaboration in future. Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to meet Dec. 9 to consider several petitions including to increase setbacks from shale gas wells from 500 feet to a minimum of 750 feet from any surface water and another petition involving the processing and storing of oil and gas wastewater at the site at which they are produced, at the well site where they are used or at a well site from which they are distributed to other wells sites for use in stimulating wells at those other sites. PADEP has public comment open on their Draft 2026 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (due Jan. 27) and a Policy on Erosion & Sedimentation for Oil & Gas Operations (open December 6th through Jan. 5). Request from Chesapeake Bay Program's

**Attendees:** Russell Thrall, Michael Stahl, Rick Nyles, Brian Wagner, Thomas Dryburg, Erick Lewis, Jacob Smith, Bobby Hughes, Claire Landis, Dean Druckenmiller, Judi Sittler, Bob Neu, Monty Murty, Eric Null and Sigrid Sharif.

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Welcome & introductions:** Executive Committee and PATU staff introduced themselves.

**EXCOM overview – Board orientation:** R. Thrall provided a board orientation slide deck including organizational structure, roles and responsibilities, governance and accountability, legal and ethical obligations, a review of our programs and partnerships, and an overview of the National Volunteer Tacklebox.

Minutes of the July 13, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted.

\*Motion to approve by M. Stahl. Second by B. Hughes. Approved.

**President's Report:** Report from last quarter submitted (L. Lichvar). R. Thrall meeting weekly with Executive Director Null. CHP round 28 to be completed. Working on transition with Treasurer Dryburg.

**Treasurer's Report:** A committee will be formed to select a bookkeeping firm.

\*Motion to update signees on bank and investment accounts to include Russell Thrall, Thomas Dryburg, Eric Null and Robert Pennell and update signees on T-Rowe investment to Russell Thrall and Thomas Dryburg by R. Thrall. Second by M. Stahl. Approved.

Wagner to prepare a document memorializing motion for bank records.

Form 990 (last FY) report submitted for Executive Committee review.

R. Thrall reviewed Q3 draft financials with EXCOM.

**Secretary's Report:** Submitted by E. Lewis. Update (B. Wagner) – Directory updated on Nov. 7 and Dec. 1, 2025. PA

brook trout workgroup for brook trout project data for projects constructed in 2023-2025. Wagner will forward email from CBP to E. Null and B. Hughes who agreed to compile information for PATU. EPA proposal to weaken the Clean Water Act. Trout Unlimited webinar Dec. 8. Wagner would like to see the Forever Wild Grant budget line grow to \$20,000 and possible revamp of program or at a minimum market and grow the program. The Conservation Committee's role has been to review the applications. J. Smith made suggestion that chapters could assist with projects on streams listed in the Restoration Priority Watersheds as part of CWA section 303(d) listed in the Draft 2026 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

**Development Committee:** Submitted by B. Neu. Provided an overview of the selection and implementation of Neon One, our Customer Relation Management system. All fundraising, merchandise sales, communications (replacing Constant Contact), membership, newsletter subscriptions, and event management will be handled through Neon One. We currently have 12,300 accounts consisting of members, non-members, donors and institutional partners. The Annual Appeal is considered to run the entire year from the start of the fiscal year to the end with sub-appeals like the current Fall newsletter being sent throughout the year. Participation is around 4% with an industry average of 10 to 20%.

**Governance Committee:** Committee roles and responsibilities were discussed in orientation. R. Thrall to put out a poll to schedule a Governance Committee meeting.

**Trout Policy Committee:** Submitted by D. Rothrock. Discussed openings for PFBC Commissioners. In the aftermath of the Freeman Run decision by PFBC, need advocacy plan moving forward for "not stocking over wild trout." Discussed contact from Jim Neely on the issue.

**Youth Education Committee:** Submitted by J. Sittler. Discussed promotion of the STREAM Girls and STREAM Keepers programs and emphasized partnering with an organization who has a staff member whose job is to work with youths.

Makes it much easier. B. Hughes and J. Sittler suggested utilizing Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Coordinators as a resource for environmental educators.

**Delaware River Committee:** Submitted by J. Skelding. E. Lewis reported that the committee had sent a letter pertaining to Freeman Run. There have been some issues with fishing over redds since the river is open year-round. Working with PFBC and NYSDEC to monitor the implementation of the UDR Tailwaters Management Plan adopted by both states earlier this year.

**Women/Diversity Committee:** No report.

**Delaware River Committee:** Submitted by J. Skelding.

**Awards Committee:** Submitted by J. Sittler. Sittler discussed the need for more nominations possibly through Regional Vice Presidents. Sharif suggested adding more award categories, for example, social media.

**Communications Committee:** No report.

**Veteran Service Partnership Committee:** Chair open.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Strategic plan update is due. This will be a priority in the new year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Chapter Rechartering:** Little Lehigh – R. Nyles discussed the potential merger of Little Lehigh and Monocacy chapters with the possibility of also merging in the Hokendauqua Chapter. R. Nyles to meet with the chapters. Northwest Chapters – Council to work with Northwest Regional VP B. Eckert on Caldwell Creek, Seneca and Cornplanter chapters.

**PATU License Plate Program:** Discussed the PENNDOT license plate program and the need to update to the new Pennsylvania plate design and also add the new TU logo.

*\*Motion* to spend the required \$500 fee to update to the new Pennsylvania plate and work through the details of the redesign by B. Neu. Second by T. Dryburg. Approved.

**Oversight Committee:** An oversight committee is to be formed to implement National's Performance Review Process

and implementation of work plans for PATU staff. To consist of the President, Treasurer and one other member.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PATU-PFBC Agreement:** Agreement will define PFBC's contribution to the Coldwater Heritage Program and to codify the use of PFBC facilities by PATU. The contract was reviewed by National TU.

*\*Motion* to enter into PATU-PFBC Agreement. Agreement to define PFBC's contribution to the Coldwater Heritage Program and to codify the use of PFBC facilities by PATU by T. Dryburg. Second by R. Nyles. Approved.

**TIC Virtual Workshop Grant Proposal:** Wildlife Leadership Academy. This project will purchase Articulate 360, a premier interactive learning design platform, to create a comprehensive, virtual TIC training and an expandable library of PA STEELS Standards-aligned learning modules. The request for PATU is to purchase the license for the Articulate 360 platform.

*\*Motion* to purchase the license for Articulate 360 to be used to develop virtual TIC training and an expandable library of PA STEELS Standards-aligned learning modules by B. Neu. Second by T. Dryburg. Approved.

**Past President Appointment:** Appointment of G. Malaska to fill vacant Past President position.

*\*Motion* to appoint and approve Greg Malaska to fill the open Past President position by T. Dryburg. Second by D. Druckenmiller. Approved.

**Other:** D. Druckenmiller expressed concern over the feasibility study looking at additional storage in Francis E. Walter reservoir on the Lehigh River. The study (ACOE, DRBC and New York City) started in 2020 and has resumed but is not including recreational fishing enhancements. They are looking at raising the pool when drought conditions are declared which would diminish downriver flows. Hughes pointed out that with diminished flows during drought, AMD impacts would be enhanced.

*Motion* to adjourn at 1:48 p.m. by D. Druckenmiller. Second by T. Dryburg. Approved.

# Policy Statement on Artificial Intelligence Data Centers

The purpose of this statement is to provide general information and guidance to our chapters and members pertaining to the development of AI Data Centers in Pennsylvania in regards to potential impacts to our cold water resources. While PATU recognizes the importance and economic benefit of AI Data Centers, we are promoting responsible development thereof. PATU also recognizes that the technology driving AI Data Center development is continuously evolving in the interest of increasing environmental sustainability.

## What is an AI Data Center?

An AI data center is a specialized data center designed to handle the immense computational demands of artificial intelligence workloads, utilizing advanced hardware like GPUs and TPUs, high-speed networking, and massive storage to efficiently train and deploy AI models and applications. Unlike traditional data centers, AI data centers require significant power and advanced cooling systems due to the continuous, resource-intensive nature of AI tasks.

## Why are AI Data Centers coming to Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvania has always been blessed with abundant natural resources. Unfortunately, unfettered extraction of these resources like lumber and coal have historically led to some of the worst examples of environmental degradation to our cold water habitat. Pennsylvania's abundance of water for cooling, abundant land and interstate access, and available energy including natural gas makes the state attractive for AI Data Center development.

What are PATU's concerns regarding development of AI Data Centers and potential impacts on our cold water resources?

### Siting

- AI data center acreage varies significantly, but the trend is toward massive campuses ranging from several dozen acres to over 1,000 acres. In the Pocono region of Pennsylvania, a developer is planning a 1,000-acre campus with 34 buildings across two townships.
- Land use decisions in Pennsylvania are handled at the municipal level



through zoning boards and municipal government.

- These large campuses dramatically increase the amount of impervious surface, Impervious surfaces, like roads and rooftops, negatively impact the environment by increasing stormwater runoff, causing pollution, and altering natural water cycles. This leads to issues like flooding, habitat destruction, and decreased water quality.

### Water consumption

- Water is used to cool the processor chips. Water use for cooling is primarily sourced from municipal water, wells and recycled or reclaimed water. Municipal water sources are primarily surface water (rivers, lakes, and reservoirs) and groundwater (from underground aquifers). While water consumption can vary greatly based on the size of the facility and differences in cooling technology, large data centers can consume up to 5 million gallons per day, equivalent to the water use of a town populated by 10,000 to 50,000 people.
- The cooling process involves multiple stages where water is lost. In typical chilled water systems, water is cooled in central chillers, and then circulated through cooling coils that absorb heat from data center air. The heated water then passes to cooling towers where it interacts with outside air, allowing heat to escape. During this evaporative cooling process, significant amounts of water are permanently lost to the atmosphere.
- The industry is continually developing new cooling technologies that would require less water consumption like immersion cooling and direct to chip cooling.
- Due to the high demand for electricity required to operate the AI Data Centers, water is also consumed in

the production of electricity by thermal power plants (coal, natural gas, nuclear) by boiling water to produce steam that drives turbines.

### Energy use

- The massive energy demand is outstripping the growth of renewable energy sources, driving up overall electricity consumption. Many data centers are still powered by electricity grids that rely heavily on fossil fuels, leading to substantial carbon dioxide emissions and contributing to climate change.
- The extensive use of diesel backup generators adds to emissions.

Therefore, the PA Council of Trout Unlimited has the following recommendations pertaining to the development of AI Data Centers.

1. Promote the PennFuture model zoning ordinance with suggested provisions addressing water consumption, power consumption, noise, and aesthetic concerns.
2. Attend local municipal meetings to gather information, ask questions and address any potential impacts to our cold water resources.
3. Promote use of appropriate sites like brownfields (former industrial sites) instead of using forest, farmland and other natural areas.
4. Because of the large impervious surface created by these developments, robust riparian buffers and best management practices should be utilized to control storm water to ensure no impact to our cold water resources if sited in sensitive areas.
5. Promote development and use of more sustainable cooling methods and energy use.
6. Increase transparency of actual water consumption. Utilize the water feasibility study found in PennFuture's model zoning ordinance.
7. Promote renewable energy sources both on campus, e.g. rooftop solar and in support of the grid.
8. Increase transparency of energy use.

—September 2025

## **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**

**Bobby Hughes**  
**183 Harris Hill Road**  
**Shavertown, PA 18708**  
**Ph: 570-239-3909**  
**Email: rhughes@epcamr.org**

**Brodhead Chapter #289**  
**Russell Thrall III**  
**570-620-8677, russ@thrall3.com**  
**www.brodheadtu.org**

The chapter held monthly in-person board meetings and committee meetings as needed. Brodhead TU is planning for its 2026 Conservation Banquet that will take place March 27 at Skytop Lodge in Skytop, Pa. The chapter's Tree Committee was busy planning 2026 activities, including invasive plant removals and riparian buffer maintenance at the Larsen Lane tract at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and at the Polk Township park. Our Conservation Committee set a meeting in January for 2026 planning. Projects in the works include habitat restoration activities at Tank Creek. BTU learning opportunities included our Oct. 8 meeting featuring Don Baylor's "Pocono Streams" presentation. The annual Rod-Building 101 course began Oct. 22, and fly-tying nights at Clymer Library continued throughout the fall. We began outreach to a Girl Scout Troop to plan a May STREAM Girls initiative. The chapter will also hold a Women's Intro to Fly-Fishing course in June. Pies and Flies is at 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, East Stroudsburg, Pa. Brodhead Fly Tiers meets at 6 p.m. on Feb. 16, March 16, and April 20 at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Brodhead TU Tree Committee meets virtually at 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 23, March 23, and April 27. Jerry Daidone presents "Steelhead Fishing" at 7 p.m. on March 11 and Mike Komara presents "Euro Nymphing and Competition-Style Dry Fly-Fishing" at 7 p.m. on April 15 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. The KOC Children's Fishing Contest is at 8 a.m. April 11 at Brodhead Creek Park.

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

**Bruce McCutcheon**  
**610-751-9116, bruce.e.mccutcheon@gmail.com**  
**https://forksofthedelaware.tu.org/**

Chapter elections were held at our annual meeting held on Nov. 5. The Easton Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board both voted against a proposed warehouse at Wood Avenue. Our major concern is storm water. Our annual appeal is underway. Phase 2 of a planting project at the "meadow" along Martins Creek was completed Oct. 11 with the planting of 50 trees. Riparian buffer signage for Phase 1 was also installed. There was a meeting with PFBC to discuss future stream restoration projects in this section along Martins Creek. Fly-tying classes are Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11. Larry Ott presents "Wyoming Cuttislam" on March 14. "Fishing Opportunities in Northampton County" will be presented by Brian Wagner at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center on March 27. Northampton County Youth Day at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club is June 6. A family fly-fishing program collaboration with Jacobsburg is on June 13.

### **Hokendauqua Chapter #535**

**Art Williams**  
**610-266-1788, awilliams1947@hotmail.com**  
**http://hokendauqua.tu.org**

The chapter is again sponsoring four TIC programs in our area. We also continue to have our monthly get together called "Ties and Lies," a casual evening where we meet to tie flies while sharing techniques and instruct new participants in the art of fly-tying. It's held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in Egypt Fire Hall, Egypt, Pa. Regular meetings resumed in September at Northampton Middle School. They are on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We had several speakers sharing their knowledge of fly-fishing as well as environmental issues. We held a Learn to Fly-Fish program in October and received positive feedback. Our annual eight-week fly-tying course began in January and runs through February.

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

**Greg Nidoh**  
**570-489-1050, info@agoutfitters.com**  
**www.lackawannavalleytu.org**

No report.

### **Monocacy Chapter #491**

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

The nearly decade-long run of Monocacy TU partnering with ArtsQuest to host the Fly Fishing Film Tour has come to an end. We are currently exploring other venues to host the event

and hope to have an update soon. Our January meeting featuring Todd Burns' program "A Tale of Two Projects" had to be canceled due to a weekend snowstorm. We are hopeful that this can be rescheduled for this spring. The chapter is monitoring the possible resurrection of a housing development plan located between Route 22 and Monocacy Creek. This is currently farmland and is also the location of numerous springs that feed the creek. Development in this area could be extremely harmful to the health of the stream. Upcoming meetings feature Rick Nyles presenting "Tactical Dry Fly-Fishing" on Feb. 24, and "Fly-Tying for the Sulphur Hatch" on April 28.

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

**Paul Ranello**  
**973-452-9301, pvranello@yahoo.com**  
**www.pwtu.org**

The chapter went live with a new PWTU.org website in December. Our annual banquet is planned for March 28 at Lukan's Farm and Resort, Hawley, Pa. We held a fall cleanup along the Lackawaxen River. Western Wayne High School is ready to receive its TIC eggs.

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

**Bruce Herb**  
**wetflyguy55@gmail.com, 570-990-9645**  
**www.schuylkillcountytu.org**

No report.

### **Shehawken Chapter #81**

**Steven Mongiardo**  
**mongiardol@comcast.net, 609-304-5868**  
**https://www.facebook.com/Shehawken-Trout-Unlimited-811023349070239/**

Steve Mongiardo and Jeff Skelding attended the Regulated Flow Advisory Committee meeting of the Delaware River Basin Commission. The main topic is the request to consider combining the two Upper Delaware Flow Banks (Thermal at Lordville and Rapid flow bank at Montague) to provide greater flexibility in releases. Jeff Skelding, Garry Takle, and Rich Thomas attended the FUDR-sponsored Upper Delaware Science and Angling Conference held in Callicoon, NY. Jeff Skelding attended monthly meetings of the Delaware River workgroup of TU's National Leadership Council. The primary focus is the renewal of a Flexible Flow Management Plan with the city of New York for the Delaware River. Steve Mongiardo participated in NE Regional Rendezvous monthly sessions for the April 10-12 meetings in the Catskills. Shehawken Chapter will be coordinating Delaware River float fishing opportunities for attendees on April 10. Joe Demarlderis from Crosscurrent Outfitters will be providing boats and guides for a reduced rate for the event. Three board members will be available for TU member floats if needed. The chapter is planning bankside

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tree planting with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in SGL 299 along the West Branch of the Delaware. Trees were provided through the 10 million tree initiative. Knotweed removal and tree planting is scheduled for June 2026 by the PGC.

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

**Joseph Simons**  
**mind3d@aol.com, 570-592-1480**  
**www.sctu.org**

Our 33rd annual Conservation Banquet will be March 28 at the Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes Barre. We sponsored 10th grader JoEllen Jones from Forest City to attend the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. JoEllen received the J. Leon Chandler Award at the camp. We also sponsored the Luzerne Conservation District Envirothon. We had a women's fly-fishing camp at Frances Slocum State Park in 2025 in conjunction with PFBC. We will continue this tradition in the summer of 2026. We received a \$10,000 Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant to implement our Coldwater Conservation Plan for Bowmans Creek. We also received a \$5,000 Wyoming County Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund grant for our Bowmans Creek plan. Culvert assessments occurred Oct. 23-24. Bowmans Creek Critter Crawlers Bug Collecting (macroinvertebrate study) was Nov. 6-8 and Dec. 15. Upcoming dates are Feb. 7-8, 22, 27, March 7-8, and March 21-22. Bugs 'n Brews fly-tying at Sabatini's Bottle Shop in Exeter is Jan. 28, Feb. 25, and March 25. Our Penns Creek camping/fishing trip at Poe Paddy Campground is May 15-17. The chapter's Picnic on the Creek is Aug. 9 on Bowmans Creek, Noxen.

**Western Pocono Chapter #203**

**Janet Schmitt**  
**jreichel@ptd.net**  
**www.tu.org/chapters/pennsylvania/western-pocono**

No report.

**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**

**Jacob Smith**  
**358 S. Main St.**  
**Pleasant Gap, PA 16823**  
**Ph: 610-597-0125**  
**Email: fishjake101@gmail.com**

**Columbia County Chapter #38**

**Erick Lewis**  
**607-621-8126, ealewis@geisinger.edu**  
**www.facebook.com/troutunlimitedcolumbiacounty**

CCTU's fly-tying sessions moved to Mulberry Mills Community Room and are from 7-9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. CCTU meetings are from 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Columbia County District Office, Bloomsburg.

**God's Country Chapter #327**

**Kristopher Bretz**  
**814-558-3030, kbretz25@gmail.com**

The chapter did not hold meetings in November or December due to the holidays. Members gathered in November for the chapter's annual end-of-year dinner. Potential project sites in the Allegheny River Watershed continue to be identified and prioritized. The chapter will resume its monthly meetings on the last Thursday of the month beginning in January. They are held at Coudersport Library. GCTU is e-scouting potential project sites in the Allegheny River Watershed and gathering landowner contact information. Several potential riparian buffer planting sites and culvert replacement projects have been identified. GCTU members will contact landowners this winter and perform field investigations this spring.

**Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224**

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

Our annual chapter banquet was held at the Southern Clinton County Sportsman's/Lions Club in November. We also reelected three board members whose terms had expired. We are continuing to work with and support the work of National TU and the Clinton County Soil Conservation Office in their effort at AMD remediation in Beech Creek.

**Penns Creek Chapter #119**

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

Election of officers was held at our November meeting and all officers return for another year in office. Our Winter Social was held on Dec. 12 at Cora's Creekside Tavern. The chapter set up a macro station and fly-tying at Little Buffalo State Park's Fall Arts Festival. We also hosted fly-

tying and fly-casting at the Reeds Gap Fall Fest. Both events were in October. Trevor Hackenberg was the speaker at our October meeting. An accomplished fly-fisherman and fly-tyer, he gave a presentation on the October Caddis. For our November meeting, local angler and chapter member Jay Dunkelberger gave an in-depth presentation on thin line contact nymphing techniques and equipment. Chapter member Don Douple will give a slide presentation at our January meeting. He is an accomplished fly-fisherman, fly-tyer and photographer. Our annual Spring Banquet is Feb. 21 at the Belleville Christian School.

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

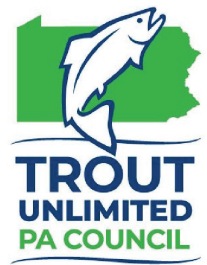
**Rod Jones**  
**570-259-7205, flyrodjones@gmail.com**  
**facebook.com/RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter**

The Selinsgrove Fly-Fishing Club, under the leadership of advisor Nicole Sassaman, kept chapter volunteers very busy throughout the fourth quarter of 2025. Students in grades 9-12 have been learning about the mission of Trout Unlimited while progressing through beginner fly-tying classes. They are mastering the fundamentals, tying an impressive number of flies, and building fly-boxes in anticipation of exploring local streams this coming spring. We have been meeting with 16-20 students per session. Many of our volunteers have not stepped inside a public school classroom in decades, and they too are receiving an education—particularly in seeing how technology now shapes teaching and learning. The students are an impressive group: attentive, motivated, and quick to grasp new fly-tying skills. After many years of holding our monthly meetings at the Lewisburg Hotel in Lewisburg, we were a little apprehensive about moving to a venue in another town. However, the Rusty Rail in Mifflinburg has proven to be an outstanding host for both our executive board and monthly chapter meetings. Attendance has been strong, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and having excellent speakers certainly added to the success of this quarter's gatherings. Upcoming board meetings are Jan. 7, Feb. 10, March 10, and regular meetings are on Jan. 21 and Feb. 18. On Oct. 15, Helen Karp presented "Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunting & Wildlife Changes." We meet with a representative of the PGC each year. These visits keep us informed about updates to game laws and provide insights into ongoing conservation initiatives. On Nov. 19, Sara Schlesinger from National Park College presented "Women in Fly-Fishing." This was Sara's first time presenting to our chapter. In an engaging and entertaining session, she shared practical ideas for how TU chapters can attract and support female membership. A highlight of the evening was her story—and stunning photos—from a solo fly-fishing adventure to Montana this past summer. Her presentation beautifully captured

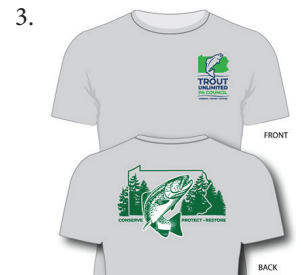
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# Merchandise Order Form

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



	Item Description	Qty.	Unit Price	6% PA Tax	Total w/Tax	Line Total
1	"Back the Brookie" License Plate		\$24.50	\$1.47	\$25.97	
2	"Catch & Release Wild Trout" License Plate Frame		\$19.50	\$1.17	\$20.67	
	PATU Ballcap (circle) Khaki Olive		\$23.50	None	\$23.50	
	PATU Ballcap – Digital Camo		\$26.50	None	\$26.50	
3	PATU T-shirt (circle size) S M L XL		\$24.50	None	\$24.50	
	PATU T-shirt (circle size) 2XL		\$27.50	None	\$27.50	
	PATU T-shirt (circle size) 3XL		\$29.50	None	\$29.50	
	Custom-tied Leaders					
	Dry Fly – 4X Tippet		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	Dry Fly – 5X Tippet		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	Dry Fly – 6X Tippet		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	Wet Fly – 4X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	Wet Fly – 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	Wet Fly – 5X Tippet w/ 2 Droppers		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	Euro Nymphing Leader –30 ft.		\$12.00	\$0.72	\$12.72	
	"Euro Nymphing" Book		\$34.95	\$2.10	\$37.05	
	"Pocketguide to PA Hatches" Book		\$22.95	\$1.38	\$24.33	
	"Keystone Fly Fishing" Book		\$29.95	\$1.80	\$31.75	
	"Favorite Flies of PA" Book		\$24.95	\$1.50	\$26.45	
	"Tributaries: Fly Fishing Sojourns" Book		\$23.50	\$1.41	\$24.91	
4	Traveler Fly Rod – 9-ft., 5-wt., 7-piece		\$130.00	\$7.80	\$137.80	
5	Ultralight Fly Rod – 7-ft., 3-wt., 4-piece		\$115.00	\$6.90	\$121.90	
	"Brookie" Fly Reel 3/4 wt.		\$46.50	\$2.79	\$49.29	
	"Brookie" Fly Reel 5/6 wt.		\$49.50	\$2.97	\$52.47	
	"Back the Brookie" Refrigerator Magnet		\$3.50	\$0.21	\$3.71	
	Cling Temperature Tape		\$7.00	\$0.42	\$7.42	
	PATU Sticker		\$1.50	\$0.09	\$1.59	
	* Prices effective March 1, 2026				<b>Total:</b>	



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

## ...Continued from page 8

the spirit of exploration, the friendships made along the way, and the unforgettable landscapes and wildlife of the American West. On Dec. 10, Cameron Englehart from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission presented "Stream Restoration." This presentation felt like a homecoming. Cameron was introduced to the outdoors early in life through TU programs, and the mentorship of former chapter President Bob Laubach played a key role in his decision to pursue a career in conservation. Now a member of the PFBC "Stream Team," Cameron is doing remarkable work. His stream restoration projects are making a meaningful, lasting impact on coldwater fisheries across Pennsylvania. Our annual Conservation Banquet is March 20 at the Silver Moon banquet hall, Lewisburg. Rick Nyles of Sky Blue Outfitters will be our speaker.

### Spring Creek Chapter #185

Tim Bruggeman

412-807-992, [tjbruggeman88@gmail.com](mailto:tjbruggeman88@gmail.com)

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

We partnered with Penn State football player Blaise Sokach-Minnick for a T-shirt fundraiser to raise money towards ongoing conservation initiatives and stream restoration projects. T-shirts can be purchased by clicking the link on our main website page. The Slab Cabin Run at Millbrook Marsh Stream Restoration & Habitat Improvement Project has been completed. This effort stabilized over 4,400 feet of stream, reduced sediment by 422 tons per year, and enhanced more than six acres of habitat for pollinators, woodcock, and native plant species. We're proud to have collaborated with 15 outstanding partners to bring this \$520,000-plus project to life. Our chapter had 38 volunteers who joined us for this year's Spring Creek redd count. We recorded 2,429 redds, an increase from last year's 2,171 and a new all-time high for our watershed. October brought another great community moment at the State College YMCA's annual Trunk or Treat, where nearly 400 kids stopped by our table to "catch" their Swedish fish. On Nov. 15, we supported the Hughesville Middle School "Community Ties" event with the Hughesville Fly-Fishing Club – now an official TU Student Club. In October, the Women Anglers gathered for a fun and creative fly-tying night at FlyFishers Paradise by Precision. Tiers of all experience levels came together to learn seasonal egg patterns, dive into the history of Walt's Worm, and enjoy Cortney's imaginative twist on one of George Daniel's streamer designs. A special thank-you goes to Justin, the new owner of FlyFishers Paradise by Precision, for hosting the event and providing a warm, welcoming space, along with generous door prizes and shop goodies. SCCTU was awarded CAP funding totaling more than \$91,000, including \$45,500 for the Bald Eagle Vinyl King project and \$45,873.33 for the Humphreys/Mitchell project. SCCTU was also

awarded a CHP grant of \$25,000 for the Humphreys/Mitchell project. The Charney's Chopped: Fly-Tying Contest is at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 at Happy Valley Brewing Company. Speaker Series: Possibilities and considerations of a land transfer after the Rockview prison closes is Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at the Comfort Suites in State College. The chapter's annual fundraising banquet is at 5:30 p.m. March 21 at Good Shepard Catholic Church. SCCTU & State Theatre Hosts the Fly Fishing Film Tour 2026 on April 2. Speaker Series: Frank Landis on "Night Fishing" is at 6 p.m. May 7 in the Community Room at the State College YMCA.

### Susquehanna Chapter #044

Steve Martin

[sam667@verizon.net](mailto:sam667@verizon.net)

[www.susquehannatu.com](http://www.susquehannatu.com)

The chapter's board met on Nov. 5. An election will be held at our chapter meeting on Jan. 14. The *Susquehanna Ripples* newsletter was distributed in November. We divided our donated tackle into lots for sale at the Roan Inc. Spring Sporting Auction. The chapter continues to work with Dave Goerman and Jared Dressler of DEP, and Brian Wagner of PATU, on remediation of the misguided, destructive dredging of Wolf Run and Grays Run following Tropical Storm Debbie, and prevention of future problems. We met with PGE representatives at the PGE headquarters in Hughesville on Oct. 17. PGE presented plans to build a new road from Wallis Run towards Bar Bottom to access drilling pads in the Loyalsock State Forest. PGE explained their environmental mitigation procedures. PGE also reviewed their plans for development of SGL 75. We received a copy of the map and permit application for the new road for review and provided input to the PATU Conservation Committee, which submitted comments and requested a hearing on PGE's 105 Permit application for the project. Brian Cooper, head of the PATU Acid Mine Drainage program, spoke at our chapter meeting on Oct. 8. He discussed TU managed passive treatment systems in Two-Mile Creek (Kettle Creek Watershed), Potts Run (Clearfield Creek Watershed), Babb Creek (Pine Creek Watershed) and work being done to restore Beech Creek, a large, coldwater watershed in Centre and Clinton counties. He also covered recovery of the West Branch Susquehanna River, as well as TU's AMD Technical Assistance Program that provides free biological, chemical, and engineering support to conservation districts, non-profits and government entities to address AMD impairment. Dave Rothrock, chair of PATU's Trout Policy Committee, gave an update about PFBC policies regarding stocking trout in Class A streams, at the Oct. 8 meeting. Rothrock has given testimony at PFBC Board meetings in opposition to the proposed policy to allow continued stocking of trout in 14 Class A wild trout streams. Several chapter members testified at the PFBC meeting

in Harrisburg on Oct. 27. We assisted the Slate Run Sportsman's Save-A-Hemlock project to treat the Woolly Adelgid on Nov. 13. We met with Dave Weigle and Rick Saylor to discuss starting a Mayfly Project chapter in our area to mentor children in foster care via the sport of fly-fishing. We participated in the Susquehanna River Symposium at Bucknell University on Nov. 7-8. We delivered bound copies of PA Angler magazine, a complete set of John Alden Knight's Solunar Tables, and a number of items about the historic E. Hille Anglers Supply House to the PA Fly Fishing Museum in Carlisle for their reference and display. The chapter and Lycoming College Clean Water Institute co-hosted a public meeting on Nov. 12. PFBC staff gave presentations about West Branch Susquehanna catfish surveys, an upcoming smallmouth bass telemetry project, an update on muskellunge management, local trout related survey information around the region, and an update on the Rose Valley Lake drawdown and dam renovations. There was also discussion of artificial intelligence data center impacts on energy demand and water use, and brook trout restoration in the Loyalsock. Charlie Knowlden is available to set up a rod building class with a maximum of five veterans or first responders or work individually with any interested person. He helped a veteran build a fly-rod in November. Please contact Charlie at [cjknow@comcast.net](mailto:cjknow@comcast.net) if you know anyone who is interested. Chapter board meetings are at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 7 and Feb. 4 at Kast Hotel, Newberry. Upcoming meetings are Michael Kinney, president of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeepers Association, presenting on his Susquehanna Sojourn at 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at Covenant Central Presbyterian, Williamsport. Additionally, Mark Sausser, stream habitat manager for PFBC and other PFBC representatives join us at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Covenant Central Presbyterian. Our beginners' fly-tying course is held Tuesday evenings from Jan. 20 through Feb. 24 at Covenant Central Presbyterian.

### Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

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[www.tiadaghtontu.com](http://www.tiadaghtontu.com)

The Tiadaghton TU Conservation Fundraiser Auction is at 10 a.m. on March 28. Lightly used fishing and outdoor equipment will be auctioned off. In early January, several chapter members went looking for thermal inputs on Lon Run near Gaines, Pa. Using GPS coordinates and thermometers we tried to locate and collect data using the 123 Survey data collection system. Numerous thermal inputs were located. We will assess the data and prioritize the most suitable sites for habitat improvement with the goal of providing enhanced thermal refuge for brook trout in the warmest summer months. In December, the chapter received a preliminary update on the 10-year conservation plan for Pine and Kettle creeks. The

presentation was done by TU's Senior Manager Shawn Rummel along with Scott Koser and Alison Lutz. They reviewed a comprehensive plan to protect the region's best brook trout strongholds in the Pine and Kettle Creek watersheds. The chapter will also help plant riparian areas along Lick run after TU completes habitat work this summer. The chapter will provide beginner fly-tying classes for five weeks starting on Feb. 11. Classes are from 6-8 p.m. at the Tackle Shack in Wellsboro, Pa. Chapter meetings are the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at the Tioga County Conservation District Office, 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

**Bill Eckert**

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**Ph: 814-392-2696**

**Email: troutbumeck@gmail.com**

**Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036**

**Jimmy Lattimer**

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**www.amctu.org**

The chapter held its annual election of officers and directors during October's meeting. All officers agreed to serve another term. The chapter will be voting to add two youth members to the board as non-voting members to provide input to bring more youth to our meetings. Our 60th annual fundraiser is April 11 at the DuBois VFW. Raffle tickets were distributed and we changed the price to reflect the increase in the cost of printing, mailing, and return of tickets. We will be having several cleanups this spring. The first is at Tannery Dam on Earth Day weekend. We will also participate in the Dr. Blakeslee Memorial Forest in Elk County. This is usually held in early May before leaves come out and invasive weeds can be identified. Monitoring will continue on our tree planting from several years ago on Montgonery Run at the splash dam. The trees are just now getting large enough to start to show some impact

on water temperatures. We will be meeting with Moshannon Forest District to investigate ways to increase the alkalinity of Montgonery Run. We are continuing to help support the Brockway FFA in the tree nursery and greenhouse. The chapter participated in a workshop sponsored by PEC and POWR to look at the upper West Branch of the Susquehanna for opportunities to mitigate AMD and provide more recreation. We participated in the initial meeting for the Coldwater Heritage grant for Medix Run. The Western PA Conservancy is the lead along with Elk and Clearfield County Conservation Districts. We sent a letter to the executive director of PFBC and talked with PFBC Commissioner Brock about stopping the stocking of brook trout in flowing waters in Jefferson County. Though the commission does not stock brook trout in the northcentral region, they continue to stock brook trout in waters where most of the tributaries as well as the main stem have wild brook trout. The chapter is once again hosting the fly-fishing club at the DuBois Middle School, which will hold their outing on May 1. We will be hosting Environmental Day and the location may be changed due to the sale of the Boy Scout Camp at Mountain Run. Our annual fly-tying roundtable has will wrap up mid-March. Our fly-tying class will in held in Punxsutawney starting in early February.

### **Caldwell Creek Chapter #437**

**Tom Savko**

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**www.facebook.com/CaldwellCreekTU437**

No report.

### **Cornplanter Chapter #526**

**Troy McDunn**

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**www.facebook.com/pages/Cornplanter-Chapter-Of-Trout-Unlimited**

No report.

### **Iron Furnace Chapter #288**

**Justin Barrett**

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**www.ironfurnacetu.net**

No report.

### **James Zwald Chapter #314**

**Jude Schlimm**

**814-594-9552, judeschlimm@yahoo.com**

No report.

### **Neshannock Creek #216**

**Matt Ceremuga**

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**www.neshannock-tu.org**

No report.

## **Northwest PA Chapter #41**

**Jim Head**

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**http://nwpatrout.org**

During the fourth quarter of 2025, our chapter held Bar Fly events in October and November. Guest fly-tyers helped to create interest and also give attendees a chance to learn new tying skills. We also held a membership meeting in November. Guest Speakers were William Burniston, who told us about his experiences at the 2025 Rivers Camp; Jack Barr, who presented an interesting perspective about why we fish; and chapter member Jim Pfindler, who took us through a presentation on potential stream improvement projects on our local Lake Erie tributaries. We partnered with the Regional Science Consortium and SONS of Lake Erie for a two-day event to provide fly-casting and fly-tying instructions to school students from area schools. We partnered with local Master Watershed Stewards to set up an information booth at the Pumpkin Walk at Waldameer Amusement Park, which was hosted by the Penn State Master Gardeners. We also participated in the opening of Gannon University's Lake Erie Research Center. In addition to Lake Erie research, the center also provides interactive maps that provide information on a variety of topics that provide a wealth of information regarding the lake, such as invasive species identification and where these invasives have been found.

### **Oil Creek Chapter #424**

**Jennifer Lyons**

**814-671-1292, lyons3876@gmail.com**

**www.oilcreektu.org**

Chapter elections were held on Nov. 19, and our four officers were reelected. We also have three new members of the board. OCTU's annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange was held at King's Restaurant on Dec. 17. We have started planning for our annual banquet for September 2026. We are dividing assignments for the various aspects of the banquet, such as having one person responsible for the various activities. This will help distribute the workload and help organize things more efficiently. Tom Young participated in the Venango Dirt & Gravel Roads Committee meeting held in November, and they approved \$440,000 for projects. Details are available on the Venango Conservation District's Facebook page. The chapter continues to work with the Venango Conservation District. Rebecca Fagley is VCD's watershed specialist and has been keeping us well informed. She passed around some pictures of stream bank stabilization done on the East Branch of Sugar Creek. The area in Oakland Township has some erosion and sediment. Stabilization needs to be done. There is also a dirt and gravel road where they need to address water coming from the road. A grant is available. We could possibly use pictures on a display and provide a letter of support.

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Project would be two to three years out. Rebecca and Butch Homer are doing an excellent job with our TIC participants. Rebecca drew up a table of organization for all of Oil Creek's TIC classes. We have nine classes either currently participating or are in the process of setting up. OCTU's Veterans Service Program day is tentatively scheduled for May 16 at the Sandy Creek Conservancy. Membership meetings are Jan. 21, Feb. 18 and March 18 at King's Restaurant- Franklin, Pa.

**Seneca Chapter #272**  
Dominic Petruzzi

[www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited](http://www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited)  
No report.

**SOUTHEAST  
CHAPTERS**

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

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**Bucks County Chapter #254**

**Douglas McCabe**  
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**[www.buckstu.org](http://www.buckstu.org)**

No report.

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

The chapter is looking to merge with other area

chapters. We are waiting for a meeting with PATU and Hokendaqua TU.

**Perkiomen Valley #332**

**Bryan Fulop**  
**[bryanfulop@yahoo.com](mailto:bryanfulop@yahoo.com)**  
**[www.pvtu332.org](http://www.pvtu332.org)**

No report.

**SE Montgomery County Chapter #468**

**Richard Terry**  
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**[semontco.tu.org](http://semontco.tu.org)**

A fall stocking of 150 rainbows took place in the Pennypack Creek that runs through the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. Fly-tying classes are set to be held on Tuesday nights in February at the Nature Center. Our TIC schools appear to be ready to receive their eggs in January. One event took place in the Trust that required the kids to identify the type of fish that they caught. Several "special needs" classes came out to Lorimer Park and were able to try their hand at fishing, with some success.

**Tulpehocken Chapter #150**

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

Berks County Conservation District's Cacoosing Creek Restoration Project has seen some delays. Expectations are that in early 2026 groundwork will finally begin. A proposal was submitted to PFBC and Blue Marsh US Army Corps of Engineers for collaboration to promote 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 was received that was not favorable. TCTU is responding with further supporting hydrology study data to appeal the initial negative response. An amended proposal was sent to Jeff Piscanio at USACOE in recent months with no response. We provided TIC classroom support to 31 schools for 2025. Our holiday event was Jan. 14 at B2 Bistro. We are planning to do another fundraising event in fall 2026. Other upcoming events are our Board meetings on Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20 and June 17. Sunday Coffee and Donuts is March 22 at Red Bridge Park. We are planning a streambank cleanup in April as well as a Blue Marsh shoreline cleanup in April. TIC release days will be in May. Also in May is Wilson West Field & Stream Days. The chapter hosts a casting competition at Oakbrook Brewing on July 15.

**Valley Forge Chapter #290**

**James Leonard**

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

We continue to monitor East Whiteland Township's stream bank improvement projects in Valley Creek. We are looking into sinkhole issues related to Heidelberg Quarry and West Valley Creek. We are monitoring road salt with property development across Route 29 at Valley Creek Park, Knickerbocker Landfill development and the Bishop Tube Superfund site development. The chapter continues to collect stream data using MayFly data loggers in Valley Creek. Our general meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from September through February at 7:30 p.m. at The Barn at Upland Farm Park, Chester Springs. The VFTU Annual Trout Show is from 1-4 p.m. on March 21 at Lionville Middle School, Exton.

**SOUTHCENTRAL  
CHAPTERS**

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

**REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

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

**Adams County Chapter #323**

**Frank Kozak**  
**[fmkozak@gmail.com](mailto:fmkozak@gmail.com)**  
**[www.adamscountytu.org](http://www.adamscountytu.org)**

ACTU was honored to receive the Chapter of the Year Award from PATU, for the third time, as well as the Best Newsletter Award. Director Dave Swope was recognized by the Adams County Conservation District with the 2025 Bill McCleaf Conservation Leadership Award. The award is given to an individual that has supported and enhanced the goals of the conservation district. ACTU has formed a partnership with Community Media of South Central Pennsylvania, which provides the chapter with an opportunity to further inform the surrounding community about our youth and conservation efforts at no cost. Also, at the request of Community Media, Frank Kozak will be hosting monthly interviews

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

of guests from the chapter and other organizations that we have collaborated with or interacted with. Frank Kozak and Rick Franzese prepared and submitted a recommendation letter for BJ Small to continue as a PFBC Commissioner. ACTU has had a partnership with the Northern Virginia TU Chapter since 1982 for performing conservation projects and for partner-fishing days. Recently, Jay Lovering of NoVaTU was selected as their liaison to our chapter. Dave Swope will continue as ACTU's liaison. The chapter raised \$17,750 in combined Today and Forever donations/gifts during the Adams County Community Foundation's Giving Spree in November. The Today gifts totaled \$7,265, which we received in a check from ACCF. The Forever gifts totaled \$10,487, which has been placed in a permanent charitable endowment for ACTU. Funding of Phase III of the Conewago Creek CROFFO restoration project has been approved. A 1,000-foot section of creek extending from the PFBC lower property line, where Phase II ended, downstream on the abutting Rodgers property will be restored with new habitat structures. Pending funding, Phases IV and V are to be completed over the following two summers for the remainder of the lower CROFFO section of the creek. Ricky Whitmore of ACCD manages these projects, with chapter members contributing labor assistance during construction. The walking trail at the Zeigler Mill Road public access site, which was constructed by ACTU in 2023, was further improved during an October workday. Also in October, 31 native trees and shrubs were planted by a woodland owner's group. Both of these activities were completed under the guidance of chapter member Mike Waldron. To date, some 400 native trees and shrubs have been planted at the site, largely to expand the riparian buffer. Three more teachers want to start TIC programs, but not until school year 2026-27. Equipment from previous TIC programs should be able to be used for the new classrooms. TIC Release Day is planned

for April 13. The board decided not to pursue an R3 grant. PFBC Director Tim Schaeffer gave an update on what's new with PFBC for 2026) at our Jan. 21 meeting. Upcoming board meetings are Feb. 18, March 17, April 15, and May 20 in Room A3 of the CCD Office. Guide Tony Dranzo is tentatively scheduled to speak at our March 17 meeting. WCO Rachel Thurner-Diaz is scheduled for May 20.

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### Codorus Chapter #558

Bob Daviau

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www.codorustu.org

No report.

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### Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

John Zazworsky

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www.pacvtu.org

Planning is underway for our annual Limestone awards banquet and fishing tournament fund raising events scheduled for April 25. We have changed the banquet location to a 19th century timber frame barn that has been converted into an event venue. The teams competing in our "Spring Fly Fling" fishing event will start early morning of that same day at the neighboring Stuart Community Park. We are promoting TIC by dedicating a portion of the money raised this year to subsidizing the start-up cost of one new TIC program in our area. Stream Access and Conservation Committee chair Neil Sunday coordinated three spawning bed work events on Letort Spring Run. Members coordinated several maintenance events at our several riparian buffer project areas. We continue to communicate with American Rivers as they approach the start of the dam removal work at Brantsville in January, and continue preparations for the removal of the New Cumberland dam, both on the Yellow Breeches. Planning has begun for our winter fly-tying courses, which run from Jan. 19 through March 9 at the Carlisle Stuart Community Center. Members represented the chapter with a booth at Precision Fly Shop's Fall Fest on Sept. 27. Members supported a veteran's fishing event organized by Mountain Creek Trout Club. Our Service Partnership Program held an Intro to Fishing event on Oct. 11. Participants rotated through stations, learned about the stream ecosystem and took part in a macroinvertebrate sampling, observed a fly-tying demonstration, and were taken to the stream to practice casting and fishing. Members coordinated a chapter fishing trip to Erie for steelhead. In September, Precision Fly Shop guide Ben John spoke about fishing for steelhead. For October's meeting presentation, local angler Chris Laburtis spoke about his experience fishing and appreciating Big Spring Creek. We also welcomed Mark Spicka, president of the Big Spring Creek Watershed Association, who updated our audience members about the status community efforts to lobby DEP to ensure best

management practices by the developer of a warehouse project situated near the creek's headwaters. We held our annual year in review and member feedback meeting in November. Membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at Mt. Zion Crossroad Church in Mt. Holly Springs. "Fishing Penns' Creek" was the topic for Jan. 21, and our local Conservation District Watershed Specialist is scheduled for Feb. 19.

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### Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Rich DiStanislaw

724-664-3122, rdistan1@comcast.net

www.dftu.org

The chapter's annual fall auction was Nov. 8-15. Several trips, rods, tackle, artwork were auctioned off. We conducted a book bucket raffle at our Nov. 25 membership meeting. In September, our diversion well crew ran across some folks from DEP who were walking the Rausch Creek stream bed above our well. They indicated that they were "surveying" the polluted soil along the creek above our well, and were interested in doing a cleanup project to remove much of the tainted mine acid soil. In October, some of our chapter officers met with DEP to get more details. DEP is putting together a grant request for a project to remove many of the hot spots from mine seepage along Rausch Creek, and DEP wants to formally meet with our chapter this spring to get input for this proposal. Improvements to our diversion well may be included in the project proposal. The proposal will be put together by summer 2026, with a projected starting date of spring 2027. Weekly work on our diversion well at Rausch Creek has continued, but the water flow this past fall is still low with only one of the two wells needed to pulverize the limestone. We are continuing to monitor the pH of the creek both above and below the well, and some rain has actually helped the water flow. We had a light snow in early December but could stand a lot more precipitation to help conditions. Work continues along Hammer Creek's banks. We assisted with fall stocking of Quittapahilla Creek. We did our Adopt a Highway cleanup on Clark's Creek for the fall. PFBC has not responded to requests to accompany us to see the work that has to be done on Clarks Creek to remove fallen trees. Bill Nolan, owner and lead guide for PA Troutfitters presented "Fly-Fishing Central Pennsylvania" at our November meeting. The chapter conducted a fly-tying mentors meeting on Nov. 18. We continue planning discussions with the USO at Fort Indiantown Gap regarding sponsoring routine programs for the active military at the base as well as veterans in the local area. We received two applicants that our chapter will sponsor for the 2026 Rivers Conservation and Fly-Fishing Youth Camp, to be held in June 2026 at Messiah University. We made a heavy push for women to enroll in our annual Ladies Day,  
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scheduled for Oct. 4, but ended up canceling the event. We submitted an application for a PFBC grant for community awareness and involvement in fishing in Pennsylvania. PFBC has received the application and reviewed a portion of it with us. Our chapter is continuing to try to get a response from PFBC regarding the overall health of Clark's Creek. The wooly adelgid infestation of the tall "cathedral" hemlocks lining the banks of the stream has taken a toll over the past few years. These tall, large hemlocks have fallen into the stream, making float stocking impossible, and the root balls from these fallen trees have ripped up the banks. This has caused terrible siltation downstream and a meandering effect on the main course of the stream. PFBC has dismissed the issue, saying that the large trees which have fallen into the water are adding to the "woody debris" that is healthy for aquatic life. The truth is that there are so many trees down that fishing in the special projects area is nearly impossible. We held a membership meeting Jan. 27 at Fort Indiantown Gap's Arrowhead Lounge. Our next is March 24. Our next board meeting is Feb. 24 in the meeting room at Skelly & Loy, Harrisburg. The chapter's beginning fly-tying courses are Feb. 11- March 18 at Palmyra Sportsmen's Association Clubhouse and Feb. 12-March 19 at Olewine Nature Center in Wildwood Park. Intermediate classes are Feb. 12-March 19 also at Olewine Nature Center.

### Donegal Chapter #037

Claire Landis

president@donegaltu.org

www.donegaltu.org

Our new board started Nov. 1 with three new members: Bob Kutz, Andrew Coco, Neil Clark, and Marlan Clark. Donegal TU was notified by the state that we are required to have a single audit conducted due to exceeding \$750,000 in Federal grant funding last fiscal year. After sending out bids, we have contracted with Maher Duessel and should have it completed by March 31. The budget for the audit is \$15,000-\$20,000. Lancaster Extra Give was held on Nov. 21 and DTU received over \$6,100 in donations. DTU received a DEP award of \$557,770 to support work on three properties in the Conowingo Watershed. The required bidding process for engineering and construction will take place this spring, with project work scheduled to begin in spring 2026. In 2025, DTU successfully completed three Section 319 grants. A fourth grant, an update to the current Conowingo WIP revision, is nearing completion. The Fishing Creek ARP has entered its initial phase, focusing on the collection of certified baseline water and vertebrate samples. This annual sampling effort (\$1,400 per year) will provide the DEP and EPA with verified data demonstrating water quality improvements over the course of the nine-year project. Our VSP program increased vet participation under the leadership of Joshua Hudelson, a

disabled veteran and certified guide. In November, the group took a trip to Oak Orchard in Albion, NY. Six vets spent three days catching brown trout and king salmon. VSP continues to hold monthly fly-tying with speakers, instructions and needed materials.

### Falling Spring Chapter #234

Took Coder

717-352-3989, hcoder115@comcast.net

www.fallingspringtu.org

Our fly-tying class for beginners began on Jan. 6. We received grant approval to begin stream restoration on the upper section of Falling Spring Creek along the Nitterhouse property. We are partnering with the Franklin County Conservation Group and PFBC for this project, which should begin in the June/July timeframe of this year. A landowner appreciation event is being planned for March 18 at Berg Brewery. We are also planning a Healing Waters event in May for vets from Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir.

### Muddy Creek Chapter #575

John Snyder

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www.muddycreektu.org

The chapter's annual Fall Fest landowner event took place on Oct. 11 at the Stewartstown American Legion. Our chapter values partnerships with riparian landowners for stream improvements, tree planting, trail maintenance, and fishing access. The event is public, with raffles and opportunities to connect with the community. We are excited to report on another successful year for our brown trout incubator program. This program has been in place for 20 years and a new incubator was constructed and finished just in time for the arrival of eyed brown trout eggs we receive each year from PFBC. Our Co-Op Nursery Fundraiser is underway and participation from chapter members and residents in our community has been very good and is very much appreciated. Our PFBC grant for roll-up side covers has been approved, and we look forward to using the funds to complete our nursery improvement project.

### SOUTHWEST CHAPTERS

Arrowhead 214

Chestnut Ridge 670

Forbes Trail 206

Fort Bedford 291

John Kennedy 045

Ken Sink 053

Mountain Laurel 040

Penn's Woods West 042

### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT Open

#### Arrowhead Chapter #214

Chad Hough

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www.arrowhead214tu.org

No report.

#### Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

Ben Moyer

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No report.

#### Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

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We sponsored our 7th annual free fishing event for military veterans and first responders at Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Club in Latrobe. Over 100 participants and volunteers enjoyed the camaraderie and beautiful weather. We have started our in-classroom and on-stream education programs with Ligonier Valley Middle School Outdoor Club and Latrobe High School Capstone Program. Programs include coldwater conservation studies, fly-tying and casting, and fly-fishing on a local stream or lake. Our annual meat raffle raised over \$5,000 in net profit and provided nine winners with \$250 cash or gift card prizes. We shared 10% of the profit with the Westmoreland Foodbank. We received a \$25,000 implementation grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership for our ongoing Linn Run project. It will be used for stream/trail remediation work, limestone treatment, macro surveys, water quality analyses and electroshocking surveys. We continue with introducing limestone sand into the headwaters of Linn Run. This is part of implementing the recently developed Coldwater Conservation Plan. Water quality samples are taken quarterly. St. Vincent College conducts analyses on a list of parameters to assess the effectiveness of the treatment. Volunteers conducted a redd count in November to determine if wild brook trout are returning to the headwaters to spawn. This will be an ongoing fall activity to ascertain if our treatment is reducing free aluminum in the water and restoring the headwaters as a wild brook trout nursery. Monthly meetings are March 4, April 1, and May 6 at the Nimick Family Education Center, Ligonier. Chapter volunteers assisted with food and egg packing for the TIC program. Our Grey Hackle Gang meets every Monday during the winter at a local restaurant to share lunch and tie flies.

#### Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Rylan Schnably

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**www.fortbedfordtu.org**

Our annual membership meeting was held Dec. 16. Our new website launched at [www.fortbedfordtu.org](http://www.fortbedfordtu.org). The "Trout Stock Music Festival & Fundraiser" was held Sept. 13. Upcoming is the Terry C. Strait Memorial 200 drawing and banquet on March 14, at 5 p.m. at the Bedford American Legion. FBTU completed eight streambank stabilization and habitat projects in 2025, impacting 5,500 linear feet of streams in Bedford County totaling approximately \$317,000. Projects were funded through Bedford Countywide Action Plan implementation funds. FBTU has applied for additional Countywide Action Plan and PATU Forever Wild funds for projects on three streams in 2026. The chapter will participate in the Bobs Creek stream cleanup on March 28. FBTU participated in a fishing camp for youths at Camp Living Waters and an educational program "Stream Investigation and Fly-Tying" with Blue Knob State Park in July. Our free fly-tying classes begin Feb. 7 and run from 9-11:30 a.m. each Saturday in February at Bedford County Conservation District.

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

**Lexi Trenger**

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

The chapter's Christmas Party Banquet was held at Marzoni's in December. JKTU completed its Newry Lions Club stream project with the help of Blair County Conservation District. A Canoe Creek project is in discussion with the contractor. Our TIC tanks and equipment have been inventoried and are ready to be delivered to classrooms. The chapter discussed participation in Blair Women Take Aim 2026. Recent speak-

ers include Jamie SanFillippo on "Recipes for Fly-Fishing Success," as well as Tim Cammisa, and Joe Clark on various topics. Frank Nale is scheduled to speak on spin fishing at our March 5 meeting, Joe Clark from Trout Yeah Guide Service at our April 2 meeting, and Tim Cammisa on May 7. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Allegheny Township Firehall.

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

**Eric Cook**

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**<http://kstupa.blogspot.com>**

KSTU holds monthly member meetings every second Tuesday of the month from September through May at the Homer City Fire Hall on Church Street in Homer City. Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and are open to general members. Member meetings follow at 7 p.m. KSTU fly-tying/fly-fishing classes started Jan. 10 and run six consecutive Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Our Jan. 13 membership meeting featured Landon Cook, a third-year member of the Team USA Youth Fly-Fishing Team and our youngest board member here at KSTU. Landon shared his experiences as a competitive fly-fisher, competing at the international level. He and fellow teammates captured a third successive title this past summer in Colorado, including many individual gold medalists performances along with the championship. In lieu of our February monthly meeting, we are again hosting our annual "Fly-Tying Round Robin" on Feb. 10. Bill Anderson of the Little Juniata River Watershed Association is scheduled for our March 10 meeting. The chapter's annual banquet is March 14 at the Chestnut Ridge Resort and Golf Course. Last spring was a very wet one in Indiana County. As a result, there were quite a few major flooding events on our local streams and rivers. The Little

Mahoning Creek public access canoe launch site, just east of State Route 119 on E. Creek Road, was blown out by high water. Three jersey barriers put in place in 2021 as a deflector to protect the ramp were dislodged from their mooring. This allowed the current to completely wash the launch ramp away. Further erosion of the bank left the site with a six-foot drop to the mean water level and the jersey barriers toppled flat in the stream bed. As KSTU had virtually just restored the launch using a Canoe Access Development Fund grant in 2021, we turned back to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to see about funding a redesign and rebuild. Since this was funded by them and was destroyed by a natural act we hoped they would assist in its restoration. Due to the extent of the destruction, it was determined that seeking a new grant was the path to pursue, even though the current grant is only halfway through the landowner lease agreement term of 10 years. A log-framed stone deflector of approximately 20 tons of R-7 limestone is being proposed to protect the rebuild on the ramp. This design should provide a large eddy at the ramp to allow safe launching and landing in the future. The jersey barriers will be repositioned horizontal to the ramp slope and backfilled with stone to help support the new build. The grant was written in early November by members Ted Pluchinsky, Keith Ewing, Nick Pinizzotto and Bob Sagely for delivery to WPC on November 17. Each year, the Indiana County Conservation District holds two conservation-oriented competitions for students in Indiana County school districts and homeschoolers. Winners move on to regional and state competitions if they continue to be successful in subsequent contests. The fall Envirothon event is for middle school level students. Around 125 students from area schools and home schools attended. Students compete in groups of four or five. They are presented with materials on different environmental issue topics and then tested on what they have learned. The chapter sponsors six Indiana County TIC programs. They are: Indiana High School, Homer Center High School, River Valley Middle School, Purchase Line High School, Marion Center High School and the Adelphoi Village satellite school in Indiana borough.

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

**Dave Maher**

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

No report.

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

**Nora Cline**

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

No report.



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