

Pennsylvania TROUT



Spring 2026

Publication of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited

www.patROUT.org



Tyler Frantz Photo

A wild brook trout is a thing of pure beauty, and a proposed size limit change for all trout species in the Commonwealth could protect more than 99 percent of Pennsylvania's prized state fish populations.

Size matters for wild trout

By Tyler Frantz

Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU

Sneaking along the shadows of towering hemlocks with a 3-weight fly rod in hand, the cool mist of a favorite wild trout stream cuts the heat of a sultry summer day. Dappled sunlight dances through swaying tree branches onto moss covered rocks. Mountain birdsong harmonizes with the therapeutic murmur of trickling water. The entire scene is the definition of

pristine serenity.

Eying a long plunge pool amid the surrounding pocket water, I release the size-16 ant fly pressed between my fingertips, feed out some neon line and flip the false morsel toward the top of the pool. It lands gently without disturbance, drifts seamlessly with the current, and a dark mini-torpedo darts from the rocky depths to voraciously snatch up my offering.

With a splash, a brief run and gentle

See **WILD TROUT**, page 7

New social media award added to PATU nominations

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will present its annual awards during the fall meeting at Haywood's on the Green, 43 Fairway View Drive, Mill Hall, PA 17751 on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026.

There is a huge amount of extraordinary work being accomplished by PATU chapters, as well as many individuals, and that work should be recognized. If you are aware of a group, chapter or individual you feel is worthy of a nomination, **please consider filling out a nomination form.**

Nominations are due by **August 31.**

See **AWARDS**, page 8

DRBC launches Delaware River angler creel survey

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and member agencies of the Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative announced this spring the implementation of the 2026 Delaware River Creel Survey.

The survey of angler experiences, known as a creel survey, will provide fishery managers with up-to-date information regarding angler use, expectations and satisfaction within the Delaware River Basin.

The Delaware River is the longest,
See **SURVEY**, page 5

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Pennsylvania TROUT

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Headwaters

A message from PATU President
Russell Thrall

Let me start with an apology. This Spring issue – like the Winter issue before it – is reaching you later than it should. Our editor has been contending with technical issues beyond his control, and we are working through them.

I told you last fall that transparency would become the norm at this Council, and that includes owning it when our own communications fall short of the standard you deserve. We will get our quarterly schedule back on track.

One consequence of the delay: for time-sensitive advocacy, we are reaching you by email now rather than waiting for print. You saw that in action recently when the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission published a proposed rulemaking to raise the minimum size limit for trout from seven inches to nine inches statewide.

The current seven-inch limit has been in place since 1983, and Commission staff determined a nine-inch minimum would protect more than 99 percent of Pennsylvania's wild brook trout from harvest – exactly the kind of science-driven protection for our state fish that TU members have long championed.

To everyone who responded to our email blasts and submitted comments in support of the proposal before the July Commissioners' meeting: thank you. When the public shows up, proposed rules become final rules, and you showed up for the brook trout. You will find more detailed coverage of the rulemaking elsewhere in this issue.

Next, a follow-up on a promise. In my last column I told you that when Trout in the Classroom programs need support, and Council would deliver on time. This spring, we did.

PATU awarded more than \$40,000 in TIC grants to 56 schools across the Commonwealth – funding supported by the generosity of PATU members and an R3 grant from the Fish and Boat Commission.

Those dollars put coldwater conservation directly in front of the next generation of stream stewards, in classrooms from one



end of Pennsylvania to the other. Thank you to every member who contributed and to our partners at the Commission for investing in this work alongside us. And a big thank you to Bob Neu, our development committee chair, for organizing the TIC fundraising appeal.

Two more items deserve your attention as you read this issue.

Nominations for our Annual Awards are now open. Every chapter has members whose work deserves recognition – the volunteers who show up for every stream day, the leaders who make programs run, the champions who move conservation forward in their watersheds. Take a few minutes to nominate them. Details are inside this issue.

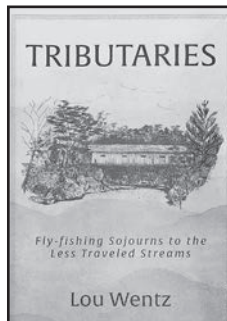
And mark your calendar now: our Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 12 in Mill Hall at Haywood's on the Green, the same venue where we gathered last year. It was a great setting for connecting with fellow members from across the Commonwealth, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The streams are running and the work continues. Reach out with your ideas on how we can serve you better.

'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,



ing 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-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, or you can order by using

PATU Annual Meeting set for Sept. 12

Mark your calendar: the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will hold its Annual Meeting on September 12, 2026, at Haywood's on the Green, 43 Fairway View Drive, Mill Hall.

It is the one day each year we gather members from across the Commonwealth for state officer elections, program and partnership updates, guest speakers, our

State Council Awards, and the chance to network with fellow coldwater advocates over lunch.

Registration and the full program will open later this summer — for now, hold the date.

Watch the PATU website and future emails from Council for registration details.

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED



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TIC program a success story to celebrate

By Thomas B. McCartney

Penn's Woods West TU

Despite some disappointing conservation news this past year, PA Council of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission take great pride in the tremendous success of PA's Trout in the Classroom program. Through a unique partnership, PATU and PFBC continue to build the state's TIC program to connect youth to PA's cold water resources through education.

In addition, the program has announced new partners – Pennsylvania DEP, Wildlife Leadership Academy, and Asbury Woods – who are working with PFBC on some exciting new projects over the next few years. TIC's main objective is to connect PA's youth to coldwater resources, their importance, how to protect and enhance those resources, while also learning how to enjoy those resources recreationally.

As reported by TIC teachers, the program reached 57,114 students, provided over 12,000 teaching hours on topics related to TIC, and implemented over 1,000 conservation projects in the 2024-2025 school year. Since 2008 the program has

reached 525,721 students. It is the largest TIC program in the nation working in conjunction with National Trout Unlimited.

PA's TIC program gained roots in 2008 when PFBC hired a TIC coordinator to manage the program statewide in addition to other PFBC programming duties. Since 2008, PA's TIC, has grown organically from 90 programs to more than 430 programs. It has, and continues, to reach students in 200 of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts and involves 40 of PA's 49 local Trout Unlimited chapters.

The collaborative program involving support from PATU, PFBC's TIC coordinator, biologists, and other key support staff, teachers, and local partners such as TU chapters, conservation districts, watershed associations, conservancies, sportsman associations, and more, invested \$4,115,938.18 in the program with most of the funds coming from local/community support!

The results of PATIC were highlighted in a recent 15-year status report from TIC Coordinator Amidea Daniel of the PFBC.

"The weight and success of the program truly rests on the shoulders of the local program partners and the teachers who



Contributed Photo

Pennsylvania' Trout in the Classroom program is a collaborative effort with an enormous impact on the state's coldwater resources.

choose to implement TIC," said Daniel. "TIC program partners include TU chapters, watershed associations, conservation districts, conservancies, sportsman organizations etc., alongside the dedicated teachers. Without the local interest and support, there would be no TIC in PA."

Thank you to TU chapters involved in this program to introduce the next generation to the importance of PA's coldwater resources, how to enhance and protect those waters, along with ways to enjoy those waters be it fishing, hiking/camping near, or canoeing/kayaking.

Council nominations open soon with Treasurer candidates a priority

Elections for the PATU Executive Committee (EXCOM) will be held at the September 12 Annual Meeting, and nominations will open shortly. Watch for a dedicated email on the nomination process.

We want to flag one need now, because it is a priority: PATU is looking for a Treasurer. The Treasurer oversees the council's finances and financial reporting and works with our EXCOM — a role well suited to a member with a head for numbers and a heart for wild trout, with a manageable time commitment. If you or someone in your chapter might be a fit, we would love to hear from you before nominations open.

Reach out to Council President Russell Thrall directly at russ@thrall3.com for more information.

Save the Date



2026 PATU Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 12
Haywood's on the Green
43 Fairway View Drive,
Mill Hall, PA 17751

**More information and details
will be available at
www.patROUT.org.**

SURVEY

from page 1

free-flowing river on the Atlantic Coast and is vital for the life history of migratory fishes, including American shad and striped bass, both prized sport fishes. The Delaware River also supports popular fisheries for catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, trout and other resident sportfish.

The Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative consists of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries.

“DRBC is pleased to partner with our member fisheries experts on the 2026 Delaware River Creel Survey to better understand recreational angling perspectives throughout the Basin,” said DRBC Executive Director Kristen Bowman Kavanagh. “We hope to hear from our angler community, learning vital information to help effectively manage the fishery and our shared water resources into the future.”

The survey began March 1, with survey locations spanning from the Delaware Memorial Bridge near Wilmington, Del., upstream to and including the East and West Branches of the Delaware Rivers near Hancock, N.Y. Surveys will also be conducted on the Brandywine River, Schuylkill River and Lehigh River. These interviews will occur randomly to provide an unbiased assessment of the anglers who utilize these resources. Angler participation in this survey is entirely voluntary, with questions focused on anglers’ targeted species, number of fish caught and harvested and overall satisfaction with fishing in the Delaware River Basin. Furthermore, if permitted by an angler, creel survey staff will also collect select biological data from harvested fish.

In fall 2025, DRBC solicited proposals for the project and in collaboration with the Co-op, selected HDR Engineering, Inc. to perform the survey with subcontractors Normandeau Associates, Inc. and Alpha Aviation, Inc. The survey is expected to be completed by July 6, with a report to be issued in 2027.



Understanding angler use is key to managing this fishery. By telling us about your fishing experience, you play an important role in helping us maintain quality trout fishing.

Scan the QR code for a quick survey about your fishing trip. This survey is to be completed by one angler at the end of each day. Please fill out the survey even if no fish were caught.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!



No cell service? No problem. Take a picture of the QR code with your phone, then once you have service just open the picture and hold your finger on the code until the survey link pops up. Questions? Email fwfish@dec.ny.gov.

The DRBC is a federal/interstate government agency created in 1961 by concurrent compact legislation, marking the first time that the federal government and a group of states joined together as equal partners in a river basin planning, development and regulatory agency. The five Commission members are the governors of the Basin states (Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government.

To learn more about the Commission, please visit www.drbc.gov or follow DRBC on X at @DRBC1961.

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

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



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Fly Patterns of Pennsylvania

by Nick Cobler

Matt's Midge Dry Fly

A modern dry fly regarded as one of the most effective adult midge patterns

Fly Design / Highlights

- Easily constructed with accessible materials.
- Designed to imitate an emerging adult midge or midge escaping the surface film.
- Useful when fish are sipping tiny adults drying their wings in flat water.
- Body color can be adjusted as you see fit.
- Minimal tying steps so you can stock your boxes fairly quickly.

Background

The fly was developed by Matt Miles of Colorado and was designed with western tailwaters in mind—cold, clear, heavily pressured rivers where trout feed very selectively on tiny midges near the surface. It became a tailwater staple. And the pattern works equally well in the east, particularly during midge hatches.

About the Pattern

Midge fishing is always a challenge, I know. And watching those sipping trout puts a big smile on my face as I frantically adjust my cheater glasses to tie on a new bug. But seeing those tiny bugs on the water can be tough—however there are methods to mitigate that. Firstly, try trailing Matt's Midge behind a larger, more visible pattern. Maybe a large parachute Adams or a classic Patriot. Anything that you can easily see depending on the conditions. See what works for you and always have fun and tight lines. See you on the water.



Materials

- **Hook:** Standard Dry Fly #18–#26
- **Thread:** Black; size for hook
- **Wing:** White Synthetic Fibers
- **Hackle:** Grizzly Rooster

Notes: Some people adjust the body color to olive or gray, but the standard pattern usually incorporates a black body, white wing and grizzly hackle. Materials like Zelon or Antron are used for winging, but McFlylon, EP Trigger Point Fibers and even white macrame yarn can be used.



Secure a #18-26 dry-fly hook in the vise. Start fine black thread behind the eye, wrap back in smooth touching turns, then forward to 60-70% of the shank.



Use the same black thread to form a slender, slightly tapered body with smooth, touching wraps. End your thread at the 60-70% point, leaving room in front.



Cut a sparse clump of white Zelon or Antron. Measure so tips reach the end of the body, tie on top at 60-70%. Trim butts at an angle and cover with thread.



Select a small grizzly rooster hackle sized to the hook. Strip a bit of stem and tie it in before the wing. Advance thread to just behind the hook eye.



Wrap hackle forward in 2-4 snug, touching turns to form a small collar. Secure with tight thread wraps behind the eye, then trim the excess hackle stem cleanly.



Form a tiny, neat thread head behind the eye. Whip finish or half-hitch, then trim thread. Optionally add a tiny drop of head cement to the head.

WILD TROUT

from page 1

retrieve, a gorgeous native brook trout is brought to hand. I pause for a moment to admire the beautiful creature cradled in my wet palm. Its green back is wormy and vermiculated. Red dots encircled by blue halos decorate its flank. A vibrant orange underbelly punctuates its striking appearance.

Holding it next to the cork handle of my fly rod, I estimate the trout's length to be around eight inches – a real trophy in these parts. I've caught a few larger ones through the years, but not many. With a subtle whisper of thanks, I release the lively trout back into the cold, graceful waters from which it came and return to camp completely satisfied.



Tyler Frantz Photo

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In April, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commissioners voted to authorize the publication of a proposed rule change to the minimum size limit for harvesting trout. Under this proposal, Commonwealth Inland Waters, Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing, Special Regulations and Extended Trout Season rules would be amended to increase the minimum size limit for trout from seven to nine inches, which ultimately would preserve wild trout exactly like the one just described.

Previously updated in 1983, the size limit for trout was then increased from six to seven inches to provide additional protections to wild brook trout populations. Based on analysis of brook trout data from electrofishing surveys over the past decade, PFBC staff determined that an increase in minimum size limit from seven to nine inches for all trout would prohibit the harvest of more than 99 percent of the state's wild brook trout.

That basically means less than one percent of native brookies currently grow to exceed nine inches, and most of our state fish's more petite family members would be granted safe harbor if this change would be enacted. However, it would also give a free pass to any stocked trout not meeting the mark. Would Pennsylvania trout anglers go for that?

PFBC staff reportedly evaluated angler opinion data that was collected through its 2023 Trout Survey, which specifically asked anglers, "Would you support or oppose an increase of the minimum [size limit] to nine inches to provide protection of wild brook trout?" Eighty-five percent of respondents expressed support. In the same survey, harvesting trout, regardless of species or origin, was not ranked as one of the top three reasons why anglers fish for trout in Pennsylvania, so more showed favor than one might initially suspect.

It should also be noted that the increase in minimum size limit from seven to nine inches should have minimal impact on anglers' ability to harvest stocked trout. According to the PFBC, the average size of a standard trout produced at a state fish hatchery and stocked into the waters of the Commonwealth is eleven inches, with most cooperative nurseries also producing similar-sized trout for stocking in public waterways.

The Board also proposed rulemaking pertaining to General Fishing Regulations that would establish a formal definition for measuring fish length not only for trout, but all species.

Based on a decade of brook trout survey data, it's believed that an increase in minimum size limit from seven to nine inches for all trout would prohibit the harvest of more than 99 percent of the state's wild brook trout.

Per the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requires that states define total length for the purposes of measuring Atlantic Striped Bass to determine compliance with size limits associated with both commercial and recreational fisheries. According to PFBC, adding a formal definition would meet this ASFMC requirement while also applying to all other species of fish across the Commonwealth. Its new definition was proposed as follows.

"Total length is defined as the greatest straight-line length as measured on a fish while laid flat on its side with its mouth closed from the most forward tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extent of the tail with the upper and lower tail lobes compressed or squeezed together." If approved for final rulemaking at a future meeting, these amendments would go into effect January 1, 2027.

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This proposed change seems to me like a simple and sensible way to safeguard added protections to Pennsylvania's prized state fish populations. While small, highly populated streams may stunt the growth of brook trout, it is important to remember these delicate creatures are also sensitive to temperature and water level fluctuations, non-point source pollutants, habitat fragmentation and predation by a multitude of other critters.

The last thing brookies need is another challenge to overcome, so it's nice to hear they may soon be getting a little reprieve. As much as a long day on the trout stream helps work up an appetite, I'll settle for fireside pork and beans, because canned goods aren't nearly as pretty as wild trout.

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This article previously ran in the May 22 edition of PA Outdoor News. Tyler Frantz is a member of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. Read more of his work at www.naturalpursuitoutdoors.com.

AWARDS

from page 1

A new addition to the awards lineup is the Best Use of Social Media Award. This award is presented to the chapter that most effectively uses multiple social media platforms to engage supporters and the wider community. Through impactful photos and messaging, the chapter promotes coldwater conservation and highlights its outreach initiatives.

An online nomination form is available on the PATU website at patrout.org.

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

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

- **Chapter with greatest membership increase** – Nominations not accepted; Recipient determined based on data collected from National TU.
- **Chapter with greatest percentage increase in membership** – Nominations not accepted; Recipient determined based on data collected from National TU
- **Edward Urbas Award for Best PA Chapter** – This award is given to the chapter that best exemplifies the work of TU, including involvement in conservation efforts, community activities, outreach, youth activities, etc.
- **Best Chapter Project** – This award recognizes an exceptional initiative, project, or effort on the part of a TU chapter which demonstrates efficient use of resources, and which utilizes effective partnerships with other organizations such as government agencies, other non-profits, schools, etc., and which had a notable impact on the community and/or environment.,
- **Best Small Chapter Award** – The same criteria used in the Edward Urbas Award will apply to this award, but it is limited to chapters with 150 or fewer members.
- **Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach** – This award recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional leadership and commitment to youth outreach, programs, and activities.
- **Ken Sink Award for Outstanding Contribution to PATU's Conservation Mission** – This award is given to a person who contributes to PATU's mission in a notable way. It is intended to recognize a person who has been involved for a significant period of time and who has demonstrated steadfast dedication to coldwater conservation, protection, restoration, as well as volunteerism and leadership. It is not necessarily presented every year.
- **Inky Moore Award for Outstanding Service to State Council** – This award recognizes a person who through his or her recent efforts shows promise as a future leader of PATU.

- **Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Chapter Newsletter** – If your newsletter includes information about your chapter's activities that is current, well-presented and clear, and is visually attractive, your chapter may very well win this award. Send nominations, with a few copies of the newsletter, to Brad Isles at 147 Swain Hill Road, Harmony, PA 16037. A digital copy can also be sent to Brad at bisles@live.com.
- **Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member** – This award recognizes a TU member with a history of exemplifying PATU's core values and mission- conserving, protecting, and restoring PA's coldwater fisheries and watersheds – and who demonstrates a commitment to volunteerism.
- **Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, Professional** – This award recognizes an individual, either from a governmental agency, private enterprise, or non-profit organization, who has made an exceptional effort to help fulfill the TU mission of conserving, protecting, restoring, and sustaining PA's coldwater fisheries and watersheds.
- **Outstanding Volunteer** – This award recognizes a person who, while not necessarily a member of TU or a conservationist professional, was particularly helpful and who contributed time and effort to supporting a TU chapter or project. Their efforts on either a single project or on an ongoing basis can be considered and described in the nomination.
- **Diversity Award** – This award recognizes a chapter that shows diversity among the members in the chapter. It is important that chapters ensure that youth, women, and men take an active part in TU chapters. This ensures that TU chapters are able to carry on and it allows experienced chapter members to cultivate knowledge to new members. But it is also important that all members bring a voice to the chapter to ensure forward momentum.

Submission Criteria:

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

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

- **Best Chapter Website Award** – Is your Chapter's website particularly attractive, clear, up-to-date and easy to navigate? If so, send nominations to Brad Isles at bisles@live.com.
- **Best Use of Social Media Award** – This award is presented to the chapter that most effectively uses multiple social media platforms to engage supporters and the wider community. Through impactful photos and messaging, the chapter promotes coldwater conservation and highlights its outreach initiatives.

PATU Awards 2026 Nomination Form

Fill out, clip and except where otherwise indicated mail this nomination form to: Judi Sittler, c/o PATU 108 Gaslight Circle, State College, PA 16801. You may also download it from www.patrou.org and mail to the same address. Scanned submissions can be emailed to jsittler@comcast.net. The deadline for nominations is **August 31, 2026**.

Nominator's Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

I would like to nominate _____ for the

Check One: _____ Edward Urbas Award for Best PA Chapter

_____ Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding
Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member

_____ Best Chapter Project Award

_____ Best Small Chapter Award (<150 members)

____ Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist
Award, Professional

_____ Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding
Youth Outreach

_____ Outstanding Volunteer Award

Person who contributes time or effort in helping a TU chapter or project, either one time or ongoing; doesn't need to be a member or conservation professional.

_____ Ken Sink Award for Outstanding Contribution to PATU's Conservation Mission

Person who contributes to PATU's mission in a notable way, who has been involved for a significant period of time and who has demonstrated steadfast dedication to coldwater conservation, protection, restoration, as well as volunteerism and leadership.

_____ Diversity Award

For a chapter that shows diversity among its membership.

_____ Inky Moore Award for Outstanding
Service to State Council

For an individual who through his or her recent efforts shows promise as a future leader of PATU.

_____ Best Chapter Website Award

Send nomination to Brad Isles at bisles@live.com.

_____ Best Use of Social Media Award

For a chapter that most effectively uses multiple social media platforms to engage supporters and the wider community.

_____ Samuel Slaymaker Award for Best Newsletter

Send copies of at least three recent issues by email to Brad Isles at bisles@live.com.

Reason for nomination (250 words or fewer): _____

_(Continue on a separate page if necessary.)

PATU Executive Committee Meeting

*Minutes of the May 2, 2026
Executive Committee Meeting*



Attendees: Russell Thrall, Michael Stahl, Brian Wagner, Thomas Dryburg, Erick Lewis, Greg Malaska, Bill Eckert, Claire Landis, Jacob Smith, Monty Murty, Bob Neu and Judi Sittler.

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

Minutes of the Feb. 7, 2026 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Motion* to approve by M. Stahl. Second by T. Dryburg. Approved.

President's Report: Submitted by R. Thrall. Worked on QuickBooks online transition. Worked at CHP and Keystone Coldwater Conference with Executive Director. KCC will be at the Ramada Conference Center in State College, Feb. 26-27, 2027. CHP grant round for 2026 closed April 15. We had a good response with applications. Scoring of applications next week. Discussed staff priorities. G. Malaska, E. Lewis, B. Neu, M. Murty to review job descriptions.

Secretary's Report: Submitted by B. Wagner. Submitted documentation to PennDOT for the redesign of the PATU license plate on March 6. It was approved March 24. Signed agreement submitted to Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI) on April 6 to start process of producing proofs for final design. Received PDF proof May 1 and the board approved the proof.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by T. Dryburg. J. Smith is picking up the mail and scanning checks. Q4 Draft Financials were reviewed. E. Lewis suggested reviewing investment options for unrestricted money. Will reach out to R. Collins.

**Motion* to spend up to \$1,500 to purchase a laptop for the PATU Treasurer by E. Lewis. Second by J. Smith. Approved.

Actions Taken since last EX-COM: Moved for PATU to sign on to the PA NPO Sign-on Letter to Governor Shapiro: Protect the Roadless Rule was approved by the board.

**Motion* by B. Wagner. Second by B.

Hughes. Approved.

PATU along with National TU signed on to three Choose Clean Water Coalition appropriation request letters, 1. Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, 2. Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, and 3. Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

NLC Report: Report submitted. E. Lewis reviewed National Conservation Agenda surveys received from chapters. E. Lewis to finalize responses and send a cumulative report for Council review. E. Lewis attended the Northeast Regional Rendezvous. Working on enhancements on upper Delaware Management Plan. Urged use of QR codes on Upper Delaware to report on fishing experiences.

**Motion* to spend \$1,500 for a Council designee to attend the CX3 in Minnesota by G. Malaska. Second by T. Dryburg. Approved.

Regional VP Reports:

Annual Activity Reports (AAR) are due May 15. Regionals should review progress with their chapters.

Northcentral (J. Smith) – Report submitted. Smith reported Spring Creek doing onsite meetings. Northcentral issue of stocking over wild trout has come up.

Northeast (B. Hughes) – Report submitted. J. Smith added that B. Hughes attended several chapter meetings. Working on some zip code issues. Pike Wayne issues for Council: Brookfield is no longer required to maintain cool water releases on the lower Lackawaxen River during the summer months. Ongoing meetings will be held with Brookfield. The proposed Shawnee-Walker transmission line project and its potential impact on several local cold-water creeks in Pike County.

Northwest (B. Eckert) – Report sub-

mitted. B. Eckert attended Neshannock chapter which has the highest membership in region. Discussed inactive chapters. Allegheny Mountain chapter issue: Asking that Council support the end of stocking of brook trout by the commission and by others in all flowing waters of PA. Northwest chapter CHP planning grant application for Elk Creek. J. Smith to review Trout and Co-Op policies with D. Rothrock, B. Eckert, and R. Thrall.

Southeast (D. Druckenmiller) – Report submitted.

Southwest (Open) – B. Wagner is collecting chapter reports. L. Myers is possible candidate for Regional VP.

Southcentral (C. Landis) – Report submitted. C. Landis reported Doc Fritchey working with DEP for mine subsistence/removal of toxic topsoil and mine seepage on Rausch Creek, area above our chapter's diversion well. Donegal Single Audit by Maher Duessel should be completed by next quarter. Adams County 50th anniversary program scheduled for September 2027. Chris Wood accepted invitation. On May 28, DTU and Rettew Engineering will present the grant "10,000 ft Design and Permit" at the DEP 2026 Section 319 Annual Virtual Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation Committee: Submitted by B. Wagner. Forever Wild: B. Wagner will send original application in Word to R. Thrall for use if needed. Contact information would have to be updated. Big Spring warehouse permit was approved by PA DEP on April 23. The permit may be challenged. We are waiting on PA DEP response and/or permit issuance or denial on PGE permanent access road in Lycoming County. Plan in motion to collaborate with PARSa to address chloride levels in special protection waters with PA DEP and discuss intention of submitting a Chapter 23 petition asking PA DEP to set a Water Quality Standard for chloride for aquatic life. There is an opportunity on May 27 for local Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) to attend a virtual roundtable by WeConservePA titled "Road Salt Pollution and Municipal Strategies to Reduce Impact." Please send this information to your EAC members and ask them to register: <https://weconservepa.org>.

org/event/2026-environmental-advisory-council-roundtable-road-salt-pollution-municipal-strategies-to-reduce-impact. Discussed PATU participation. PennFuture and Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania (CVPA) is launching a Pennsylvania State Water Table. The State Water Table is envisioned as a structured, policy and action-focused convening that brings together organizations and institutions working on water protection, infrastructure, science, recreation, agricultural and community impacts.

Climate Change Committee: Submitted by M. Murty. Murty reported on his session at the Southeast Regional Rendezvous. Discussed need for training in responding to local development issues. Met with new Eastern National vice-president David Patrick.

Development Committee: Submitted by B. Neu. Neu reviewed Annual Appeal which is doing reasonably well. Important to check mail and send out thankyou letters quickly. Would like

to expand from individuals to foundations and corporations. Reviewed uses of NeonOne, including fundraising lists, secretary reports (council directory, chapter directory, PA Trout subscribers), merchandise sales and communications.

Governance Committee: Governance committee met on March 30.

Trout Policy Committee: Submitted by D. Rothrock.

Youth Education Committee: Submitted by J. Sittler. Sittler discussed STREAM Keepers and STREAM Girls programs. Fishing rods, vises and materials are situated regionally for use.

Delaware River Committee: No report.

Women/Diversity Committee: Submitted by M. Himes/A. Daniel.

Membership: Submitted by J. Miller.

Awards Committee: Nothing to report.

Communications Committee: No report.

Veteran Service Partnership Committee: Chair open.

Strategic Planning Committee: Strategic plan expired in 2025. Need committee to work on new plan.

Trout Policy Committee: Submitted by D. Rothrock.

NEW BUSINESS

EXCOM Meeting Schedule: The next EXCOM meeting will be held in July.

PATU Annual Meeting: The PATU Annual Meeting will be held on Sept. 12 at Haywood's on the Green.

OLD BUSINESS

By-laws Review: G. Malaska reviewed PATU's by-laws and will follow up with the Governance Committee.

Wild Trout Coalition Update: R. Nyles to be PATU point person in communication with Neely.

PATU-PFBC Agreement: Agreement finalized with PFBC to define PFBC's contribution to the Coldwater Heritage Program and to codify the use of PFBC facilities by PATU.

*Motion to adjourn at 2:22 p.m. by M. Stahl. Second by T. Dryburg. Approved.

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

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Email: rhughes@epcamr.org

Brodhead Chapter #289

Russell Thrall III

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www.brodheadtu.org

The chapter held its 2026 Conservation Ban-

quet on March 27 at Skytop Lodge in Skytop. The event was attended by over 150 people, the highest since the pandemic. BTU's Conservation Committee met in January to plan activities for the coming year. Projects identified include grant writing for Phase 2 of the habitat restoration work in partnership with PFBC on McMichaels Creek at the Pocono Heritage Land Trust Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Preserve. A project was also identified for Tank Creek on PHLT's Kurmes Preserve as part of an Eagle Scout Project. A visit to the Kurmes preserve to identify habitat structure locations took place in March. Our 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. BTU learning opportunities included our annual six-part fly-tying classes held in January and February. Our March Speakers Series event featured Jerry Daidone presenting on steelhead fishing. Fly-tying demonstrations are happening weekly at area libraries. The chapter planned a women's Intro to Fly-Fishing course for June. The chapter applied for a DCED grant this spring to fund the Pomeroy Phase 2 habitat work.

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Bruce McCutcheon

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www.forksofthedelaware.tu.org

The chapter received an update on a proposed large project on Martins Creek designed by PFBC to include three sections of stream, 400 trees and 750 tons of rock. As proposed, the project cost is \$125,000 and would be completed in phases. Phase one will include the first bend in the upper meadow section. Buzzi Unicem (Hercules Quarry) withdrew its permit application. Nazareth, Wind Gap, and Bangor middle schools participated in TIC. We had another successful Annual Appeal. President Bruce McCutcheon spoke in support of the Bushkill Greenway Master Plan at the Palmer Township Supervisor's meeting. The plan was approved. Fly-tying classes were held in January and February. Free memberships were given to participants completing the course. The chapter started with themed fly-tying nights in March (Hendrickson/Grannoms), April (Sulphurs), and May (Slate Drakes). Larry Ott presented a "Wyoming Cutt slam" program on March 14. Brian Wagner presented "Fishing Opportunities in Northampton County" at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center on March 27. We sponsored "A River Runs Through It" at The Gap Theatre on April 2.

Hokendauqua Chapter #535

Art Williams

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www.hokendauqua.tu.org

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The chapter hosted a fly-tying course for beginners from January through February. We held monthly meetings with speakers who spoke about conservation topics. We also have a monthly meeting called "Ties and Lies" where we get together to share different techniques of tying. The chapter held a fly-casting class in May. We sponsored five TIC programs.

Lackawanna Valley Chapter #414

Greg Nidoh

570-489-1050, info@agoutfitters.com

www.lackawannavalleytu.org

No report.

Monocacy Chapter #491

Erik Broesicke

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www.monocacytu.org

We are continuing to work on getting the Fly Fishing Film Tour back in 2026 after losing our venue at ArtsQUEST. Monocacy TU partnered with the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association for a stream cleanup on April 12. Roughly 100 volunteers participated. Todd Burns recently presented "A tale of two projects" and Jonny Kaminski presented "Lehigh River Tributaries" at recent meetings.

Pike-Wayne Chapter #462

Paul Ranello

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www.pwtu.org

Our annual banquet was March 28 at Lukan's Farm and Resort, Hawley. We assisted PFBC with stocking the Lackawaxen River and other local streams in March. We supported Western

Wayne High School TIC's program and with its release day in May. We reached out to several local Scout troops with an offer to provide training and support for Scouts obtaining their Fly-Fishing Merit badge. PATU Regional VP Bobby Hughes attended our January 2026 chapter meeting.

Schuylkill County Chapter #537

Bruce Herb

wetflyguy55@gmail.com, 570-990-9645

www.schuylkillcountytu.org

No report.

Shehawken Chapter #81

Steven Mongiardo

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

No report.

Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter #251

Joseph Simons

mind3d@aol.com, 570-592-1480

www.sctu.org

No report.

Western Pocono Chapter #203

Janet Schmitt

jreichel@ptd.net

www.tu.org/chapters/pennsylvania/western-pocono

WPTU hosted its 3rd annual Round Table program in March with panelists from several groups joining us to discuss pressing items like data centers, warehouses, and Lehigh River/FEW Dam issues. WPTU also offered its 3rd annual Trout Literature Night in February, where those attending enlightened all with some of the

famous writing and authors who have produced some great literature from the world of trout fishing. Our 4th annual White Haven Trout Festival sponsored by Western Pocono TU and the White Haven Library was held June 13 at St. Patrick's Church/Parish Center. White Haven was recently designated as a Blue Print Community and will be using financial resources to promote the town and area. WPTU hopes to join the community and offer suggestions for future Blue Print projects that will enhance the town and community and the river fishery.

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"We're recommending it because we think

TRIBUTARIES



Fly-fishing Sojourns to the
Less Traveled Streams

Lou Wentz

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

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	Item Description	Qty.	Unit Price	6% PA Tax	Total w/Tax	Line Total
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2	"Catch & Release Wild Trout" License Plate Frame		\$21.50	\$1.29	\$22.79	
	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.		\$49.50	\$2.97	\$52.47	
	"Brookie" Fly Reel 5/6 wt.		\$52.50	\$3.15	\$55.65	
	"Back the Brookie" Refrigerator Magnet		\$3.50	\$0.21	\$3.71	
	Cling Temperature Tape		\$6.00	\$0.36	\$6.36	
	PATU Sticker		\$1.50	\$0.09	\$1.59	
* Prices effective July 1, 2026			Total:			



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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

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troutunlimitedcolumbiacounty

Our chapter banquet was held in March. Our litter cleanup was April 14 at the access site we maintain along State Route 487 in Orangeville. Fly-tying sessions are offered monthly for beginners and youths. CCTU voted to purchase six new fly-tying vises in April. The chapter is planning to apply for grants to support new kiosk maps and flylibraries at multiple access sites along Fishing Creek in Columbia County. Chapter meetings are from 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Columbia County District Conservation Office, Bloomsburg.

God's Country Chapter #327

Kristopher Bretz

814-558-3030, kbretz25@gmail.com

The chapter held a raffle for a rod in May and June. We made donations to the Mayfly Project and Northern Potter High School or a biology trip. We are partnering with Potter County Conservation District to complete a riparian buffer planting on Germania Branch. Our annual Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event was May 19-22. We hosted a booth at the Potter County Maple Fest May 1-2.

Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224

Bill Bailey

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www.lwtu.org

No report.

Penns Creek Chapter #119

Kevin Lutz

PennscreekTU@gmail.com

www.pennscreektu.org

Six chapter members assisted with the food and egg packaging for the TIC program at the PFBC Central Region Office in Bellefonte. The chapter made a donation to become an Elk Creek-level sponsor for the Penns Valley Conservation Association. We also made a donation to state Council to help offset expenses. Our annual banquet was held Feb. 21 with George Daniel as our program speaker. The chapter had 10 TIC programs within Mifflin and Juniata County, and one at Greenwood Furnace State Park. The chapter held fly-tying classes in March, one at Tuscarora Jr. High School and one at Little Buffalo State Park. We made a donation in support of the Annual Women's Mentor Retreat held in Port Matilda. Mike Komara was the program speaker for our March meeting. Our stream cleanup was April 11 on Penns Creek.

R.B. Winter Chapter #124

Rod Jones

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facebook.com/

RBWinterTroutUnlimitedChapter

The first quarter of 2026 was productive for the R.B. Winter Chapter. Our volunteers continued their strong support of the Selinsgrove Fly-Fishing Club, completing another successful fly-tying course. Students finished the program with a well-rounded starter box of flies. Our annual Conservation Banquet was held for the first time at the Silver Moon Banquet Hall in Lewisburg. This year's keynote presentation, "Circling North America," was delivered by Rick Nyles of Sky Blue Outfitters. Rick guided the audience from trout waters of the American West to redfish flats of the South and remote Canadian lakes filled with northern pike. It was an inspiring journey to many of the destinations fly-fishers dream about. The prestigious Warren Wolfe Conservation Award was presented to Jack Peters, a senior at Selinsgrove High School. In addition to excelling academically, Jack is a standout athlete in wrestling and football. He is also a remarkably skilled angler and an exceptional young conservationist. Jack regularly assists with macroinvertebrate collection for TU programs and has developed an impressive understanding of aquatic entomology. One of his most notable achievements is founding the Selinsgrove High School Fly Fishing Club. Jack plans to attend Davidson College in the fall, and our chapter looks forward to seeing where his passion and talent lead him. The Chapter Service Award was presented to Rick Kintzer. Rick has been instrumental in strengthening our fly-tying instruction, including a complete update of our beginner's tying course. He is the kind of dedicated volunteer who forms the backbone of a successful chapter—always ready to help,

always dependable, and always willing to see a project through. Rick's contributions exemplify the spirit of service that keeps our mission moving forward. Dr. William Snyder recently organized an intermediate fly-tying course that spanned six weeks of instruction. Experienced tyers had the opportunity to learn a series of proven patterns for local waters in Central Pennsylvania—most notably Penns Creek. "Dr. Bill" brings a unique approach to the program by inviting some of the region's most talented fly-tyers to lead individual sessions. This exposes participants to a variety of tying styles, techniques, and perspectives, enriching the overall learning experience.

Spring Creek Chapter #185

Zach Quinby

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www.springcreektu.org

The chapter hosted its annual banquet with great success at a new venue. The chapter finished the first round of T-shirt sales from Blaise Minich, a PSU football player. The chapter has recruited a new grant writer to assist the chapter. SCTU will be completing construction of two projects during the summer of 2026. We also submitted comments on behalf of Rockview prison, and the 322 highway expansion. These opportunities will continue to be monitored. The chapter participated with casting demonstrations at Conservation Day at St. Joseph's Catholic Academy. In January, the chapter helped with TIC fish food and rainbow trout egg packing. The chapter held its intro to fly-tying, intermediate fly-tying and fly-fishing 101 classes throughout the winter months. Spring Creek Women Anglers hosted their annual Joe Humphreys get-together at the State College YMCA. The chapter has fully funded the remainder of the Humphreys Mitchel project with \$25,000 coming from CHP funding, and the remainder coming from Centre County Action Plan monies. Our Conservation Committee gave a fantastic presentation at our state of the chapter meeting on what makes a healthy stream and walked through how we identify conservation projects and guide them from idea to completion, including the funding process. Elizabeth Crisfield, executive director of ClearWater Conservancy, spoke about the uncertain future of the Rockview property and what potential changes could mean for our community and the environment. Graymont Mining offered a tour to 18 members of the Spring Creek Chapter to enter the underground mining operation. The ever-popular Charney's Chopped Fly-Tying Competition was held in February with guest judges Joe Humphreys and State Rep. Paul Takac.

Susquehanna Chapter #044

Steve Martin

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We divided our donated tackle into lots for sale

at the March 28 Roan Inc. Spring Sporting Auction. We postponed the sale of our items until the Roan's Fall Sporting auction (to be scheduled). We continued to work with Brian Wagner of PATU on remediation of the misguided, destructive dredging of Lycoming Creek tributaries, including Wolf Run and Grays Run following Tropical Storm Debbie, and prevention of future problems. A tour was held on Lycoming Creek on April 7 with members of the SCTU Board, Brian, and David Goerman of DEP. We coordinated with Brian to review and comment at the virtual Public Hearing on Feb. 3 regarding the PGE application to build a new access road for gas drilling pads and pipelines across EV streams and wetlands on Loyalsock State Forest lands from Wallis Run toward Bar Bottom Saddle and up to the top of Jacoby Mountain. At our Feb. 18 chapter meeting, Mark Sausser from PFBC discussed the evolution of stream habitat improvement in PA, highlighting advances in design, materials, and restoration techniques compared to those used two decades ago. Local PFBC WCOs as well as Commissioner Eric Hussar also provided updates and took questions. We participated in a PGE SGL 75 pre-construction meeting for a new pipeline with many stream crossings. We are monitoring their implementation of best management practices. We reviewed two EQT permit applications for temporary, above ground water pipelines from their Wallis Run pad to the Salt Run site off of Wallis Run Road and over to a well pad on Ellenton Mountain, north of Pleasant Stream. A meeting was held with EQT on April 9 to review the permit applications. We held a six-session beginner's fly-tying course, plus two extra sessions covering fly-tying materials and an introduction to fly-fishing. Michael Kinney, a videographer who is president of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeepers Association, gave a presentation about his journey down the Susquehanna at our Jan. 14 meeting. He documented water quality improvements to the headwaters; however, we still need to mitigate the impact of acid mine drainage from Alder Run and other tributaries on downstream macroinvertebrate and bird populations. Rick Kintzer presented an introduction to fly-fishing program, with an emphasis on safety and essential equipment, at our chapter meeting on March 11. Walt Nicholson and Jim Latini followed with an overview of good places to fish in our region. We sponsored Asher Ulmer for a TU Headwaters Youth Program eight-day expedition, and Jacob Hilkert for the Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Kevin McJunkin and Bob Baker wrote a story for the April issue of *Mountain Home* about the history of the E. Hille Anglers, a historic fly and tackle shop in Williamsport that was instrumental in the start-up of our chapter. Kevin is also coordinating with Bill Skilton of the PA Fly Fishing Museum on a display about Ernie Hille and his successor, Bill O'Connor. John Kolb posted YouTube videos (search "The Ranting Angler") of the Bill O'Connor and Don

Daughenbaugh presentations from our April 12, 2017 chapter meeting. Charlie Knowlden, Dave Weigel, and Rick Saylor are undergoing extensive training and vetting for starting a Mayfly Project chapter in our area, a program that mentors children in foster care via the sport of fly-fishing, anticipated to start in 2027. Charlie Knowlden reported that 22-year Army veteran Mike Deaver, who built a rod in November, also participated in the fly-tying class.

Tiadaghton Chapter #688

Jere White

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

The Tiadaghton Chapter's Conservation Fundraiser Auction was held March 28 at Meads Auction Service in Wellsboro, Pa. The chapter collected macroinvertebrates again this spring on Long Run at our annual collection sites and is planning fish surveys later this summer. The chapter will also plant trees in the Pine Creek watershed on six different dates. The trees are planted in riparian areas along various Pine Creek tributaries. Planting is done in conjunction with the Pine Creek Watershed Council. We currently have planted 20,000 trees with this project. One of the plantings was at a TU project site on Lick Run with students from North Penn Liberty High School Fish Club on April 24. We meet monthly except July and August on the first Tuesday 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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Allegheny Mountain Chapter #036

Jimmy Lattimer

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www.amctu.org**

The chapter's 60th anniversary fundraiser was held on April 11 at the Falls Creek Eagles. Our annual picnic was May 20 at Walter Dick Park in Brookville along with Iron Furnace TU. Our annual cleanups were April 18 at the Tannery Dam in DuBois and May 4 at the Dr. Blakeslee Memorial Forest. Monitoring continues 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 are meeting with Moshannon Forestry to see about ways to increase the alkalinity of Montgonery Run. We continue to help support the Brockway FFA in the tree nursery and greenhouse. The chapter sent a letter to the PFBC executive director along with the commissioners and DCNR to stop stocking brook trout by private and sportsman's groups in streams in the Quehanna area. While the commission does not stock brook trout in the northcentral region, it continues to allow sportsman's clubs and private individuals to stock brook trout. AMTU again assisted the fly-fishing club at DuBois Middle School, which held their outing on May 1. Our annual fly-tying round table wrapped up with attendance being consistent each week. Our fly-tying class was held in Punxsutawney starting in early February. Our six TIC schools did well this year.

Caldwell Creek Chapter #437

Tom Savko

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We continue to attend local township and governmental meetings to watch for potential local pollution issues. At the same time, we continue to test local waters for possible issues with the local injection wells at Bear Lake, Pa. CCTU continues to work closely with members of the Brokenstraw Watershed Council on all testing, especially stream and roadside salt runoff. The chapter is also working with the Brokenstraw Watershed Council on activities that concern macroinvertebrates in our local streams and ponds. The chapter's lab team is waiting for lower water levels to change data logger and collect data from units. We are also waiting to see the schedule for stream rehab in our area to help local conservation personnel. Our local school district has one TIC program still active. We continue to have weekly meetings each Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. at our lab site, 2 Erie St., Columbus, Pa.

Cornplanter Chapter #526

Troy McDunn

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

No report.

Continued on next page...

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Iron Furnace Chapter #288

Justin Barrett

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No report.

James Zwald Chapter #314

Jude Schlimm

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Our West Creek Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek AMD project was completed early 2026. This project remedies several AMD sources in the headwater sections located in Elk County. This was a major project that is expected to significantly improve water quality. The chapter assisted the Sinnemahoning Watershed Association on March 29 with trash pickup along Route 120 in Cameron County. We also assisted the Cameron County Conservation District with a live staking on April 17 on the East Branch of Hicks Run to reduce erosion of a large streambank. JZTU completed a six-week basic fly-tying program at the Ridgway Library. Our TIC program concluded in April for several area schools. We sponsored a tuition scholarship through the Elk County Community Foundation. The winner was based on their written essay titled "How do I plan to have my career positively impact water quality?" Private funding has been awarded for fish habitat improvement in the stretch of Iron Run (a tributary of Elk Creek) that flows through Benzinger Park in St. Marys. Implementation is planned for fall 2026. We were awarded an R3 grant through the PFBC to help with purchasing equipment to conduct fly-fishing courses. The initial course is planned to launch in spring 2027.

Neshannock Creek #216

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No report.

Northwest PA Chapter #41

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The chapter hosted three Bar Flies fly-tying events. NWPATU also hosted the Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. The chapter supported 11 TIC programs this year. We are in the process of applying for a CHP grant. Ralph Scherder from Dark Skies Fly Fishing spoke at our February meeting. We assisted with cleanups on April 21 and 23. The chapter's annual picnic and fishing outing at Drake's Well Museum on Oil Creek was scheduled for May 2.

Oil Creek Chapter #424

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Members have been purchasing items, and we have received some generous donations for our annual banquet coming in September. We had a custom fly-rod made to be given as a prize. The chapter continues to work with the Venango Conservation District. Rebecca Fagley is VCD's watershed specialist. She is keeping the chapter informed stream bank stabilization done on the East Branch of Sugar Creek. The area in Oakland Township has some erosion and sediment. Bank 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. This project would be two to three years out. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to increase the budgets for our TIC and the Veterans Service programs. We purchased a spare replacement chiller and filters to cover any breakdowns. We had nine TIC classes participate this year. Three schools requested programing for TIC release day field trips at Two-Mile Run. The Venango Conservation District held an Envirothon competition again this

year. Training for this year's Envirothon competition was held on March 20. Competition Day was April 17. Our Veterans Service Program event was scheduled for May 16 at the Sandy Creek Conservancy. We donated to the Cranberry High School Conservation Club's conservation efforts again this year. Members attended the annual conservation dinner at Galloway Church. We also had a table promoting our Veterans Service Program, TIC, memberships, and more. The Oil City Izaak Walton League approached us for a field day as part of its 100th anniversary on July 18.

Seneca Chapter #272

Open

www.facebook.com/SenecaTroutUnlimited

No report.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTERS

Bucks County 254

Delco Manning 320

Little Lehigh 070

Perkiomen Valley 332

SE Montgomery Co. 468

Tulpehocken 150

Valley Forge 290

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Dean Druckenmiller

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Bucks County Chapter #254

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Our annual fund-raising raffle was March 5 and proved to be our most successful event post-COVID. Proceeds from the event will go toward the Aquetong Creek restoration project and annual operating expenses. Several short fly-fishing films were presented during the raffle. BucksTU has partnered with Solebury Township and Flyway Excavating for the stream restoration project on Aquetong Creek. The total project is valued at more than \$40,000 and includes bank stabilization, cross logs, toe logs, rootwads, deflectors and correction of a small waterfall. Solebury Twp. is undertaking the permit phase of the project. The chapter held a cleanup day at Watson Creek to collect deer tubes, planting stakes and other discarded materials. Damage from beaver activity

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was noted. Temperature monitors will be installed in the creek to evaluate stream conditions. BCTU worked with a local Cub Scout pack for an on-stream education and learn to fly-fish day. We support three TIC projects. The newest one is at the Bucks County Youth Center. Our TIC chair is working on adding two additional schools to the program for 2026-27. Recent meetings featured Bob Lindquest and Dr. Joseph Simons, and a presentation on Lehigh River Tributaries. Our chapter picnic was in June.

Delco Manning Chapter #320

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No report.

Little Lehigh Chapter #070

Dan Dow
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No report.

Perkiomen Valley #332

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Our annual fund-raising picnic was held June 7. Current projects include riparian tree maintenance at our Longacres and Green Lane Park projects. We participated in Stroud Research Center's Road Salt Month activities in February. We also held stream cleanups at Green Lane Park and the West Branch Perkiomen at State Game Land 315 this spring. We are planning riparian tree maintenance at our various projects in the fall. Trees for a watershed grant application has been submitted for fall 2026. Water quality testing and macroinvertebrate surveys at Camelot Park and Church Road occurred in the spring and will again in the fall. We are working to repair the chapter's Mayfly water quality monitor on Hosensack Creek. The chapter began implementation of the Longacre to Barto Bridge stream restoration project on West Branch of Perkiomen Creek, which involves 1,100 feet of stream upstream of our completed 2024 Longacre Phase 2 project and helps close the gap towards the upstream public lands at SGL 315. Grant funding, permitting, and bid package preparation is planned for 2026. We are assessing the need for water quality testing and macroinvertebrate surveys on West Branch of Perkiomen Creek. We are coordinating future fishery surveys in the West Branch of Perkiomen Creek with the PFBC for summer 2026. We are also coordinating with Schuylkill River Greenways to transfer one of their Mayfly monitors at our Longacre Farm project site. We are following Crossley Farm Superfund site cleanup operations to monitor impacts to groundwater in the West

Branch Perkiomen watershed. We invited EPA representatives to our February meeting to get background and cleanup strategy. We are working with Aqua, Inc. to pursue the addition of temperature detectors on USGS stream flow gages on Perkiomen Creek and West Branch above Green Lane Reservoir. We held fly-tying classes on Saturdays in February. The chapter assisted with TIC release days in May for seven schools: Hereford Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, Boyertown Middle School East, Boyertown HS, PVMSE, PVMSW, Evergreen Elementary, and Boyertown High School.

SE Montgomery County Chapter #468

Richard Terry
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We held a flea market at our March meeting that was well attended. Beginner and advanced fly-tying classes were held on Tuesday nights in February. Our eight TIC schools did well. Dates were selected for releases. Fishing classes were held in Lorimer Park on Wednesdays and Fridays in April and May.

Tulpehocken Chapter #150

Mike McLaughlin
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Berks County Conservation District's Cacosing Creek Restoration Project has seen some delays, but expectations are work will begin at some point in 2026. 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 received was unfavorable and we responded with a second proposal. There was no movement for months. In early March 2026, Jeff Piscanio of ACOE responded with some guidance that was helpful, gave example of previous studies that were conducted that mirror what we're trying to prove. We're preparing our own documents to share with an expected next step in-person meeting to include PFBC, ACOE and TCTU to further discuss this issue. There is discussion at the county level that the Gring's Mill Bridge and underlying dam will need to be replaced in the future, but no other information is available at this time. The chapter supported 31 TIC programs this past year. We completed a Tully streambank cleanup at Red Bridge Park in March and a tree planting at Bushong Dam in April. TCTU's casting competition is July 15 at Oakbrook Brewing and we are planning a fund-raising event on Oct. 14.

Valley Forge Chapter #290

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We continue to monitor East Whiteland Township's stream bank improvement projects in Valley Creek. The chapter is monitoring Heidelberg Quarry-West Valley Creek sinkhole issues, along with property development across Route 29 at Valley Creek Park, Knickerbocker Landfill development, and Bishop Tube superfund site development. Stream data collection using MayFly data loggers in Valley Creek continues. Annual macroinvertebrate collections were completed. We assisted with 15 TIC programs. VFTU is exploring a grant for East Whiteland Township to augment tree plantings in erosion control project areas. The 44th annual VFTU Trout Show was held March 21. Our annual Valley Creek cleanup was April 11 at Valley Creek Park. VFTU assisted with the Junior Ranger Angler Program on April 25 and May 2 at Valley Forge National Historical Park. We hosted the Fly Fishing Film Tour on April 30 at The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

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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Adams County Chapter #323

Frank Kozak
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Director Dave Swope was honored by the Adams County Conservation District with the 2025 Bill McCleaf Conservation Leadership Award. ACTU's 50th anniversary is in 2027. The chapter is planning a celebration in September 2027. TU President Chris Wood has accepted an invitation to attend as the speaker. PFBC Executive Direc-

Continued on next page...

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tor Tim Schaeffer was the guest speaker at the chapter's January meeting, leading discussions on a variety of activities at the Commission. Fishing with a Partner Day was on April 9, with 17 members of ACTU and Northern Virginia TU enjoying a day together on the Conewago Creek. ACTU members installed a creek-side memorial bench in April to honor Wayne and Gladys Rodges who have made the Conewago Creek CROFFO section on their property open to anglers for decades. Since January, Frank Kozak has been a monthly guest host on the Community Media of Southcentral Pennsylvania media network. To date, he has interviewed members of the Gettysburg Nature Alliance, the Watershed Alliance of Adams County, and the Friends of Codorus State Park. The chapter is entering its third year of having monthly columns in the Gettysburg Times newspaper. These activities increase the visibility of the chapter in Adams County and surrounding areas. ACTU received its year-end endowment statement from Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF) in late January. We anticipate receiving a roughly \$500 annual payout to the chapter based on our current endowment balance. Chapter volunteers planted 25 more trees and shrubs at the Zeigler Mill Road access site, bringing the total of some 375 plantings at the site over the past few years. Phase III of PFBC's Habitat Division work on the Conewago Creek CROFFO section is scheduled for August. A 1,000-foot section of creek extending from the PFBC lower property line at the ZMR site, where Phase II ended last year, downstream on the abutting landowner's property will be restored with new habitat structures. Pending funding, Phases IV and V are to be completed by the PFBC over the following two summers for the rest of the lower CROFFO section of the creek. Our TIC release day was held on April 13 at the Strawberry Hill Nature Center. Education stations for the students included aquatic invertebrate sampling, fly-casting, and a bass fishing program. Recent events include Hanover Boy Scouts, introduction to fishing and fly-fishing sessions including classroom instruction on April 29 and casting instruction on May 9; Southcentral Outdoors for Youth, fly-tying instruction on June 6; and 4H Club's Ag Explorer Day Camp, fly-fishing instruction on June 9.

Codorus Chapter #558

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No report.

Cumberland Valley Chapter #052

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Allenberry Resort, owned for the last 10 years by an investment group, has implemented a permit system to manage the number of anglers accessing Yellow Breeches Creek where it flows through their property. This has resulted in PFBC suspending future stockings and those from a cooperative nursery run by the Yellow Breeches Anglers and Conservation Association, and the removal of the long standing Catch and Release, Artificial Lures Only special regulations on this iconic stretch of the Yellow Breeches. The first meeting of Trout Unlimited in Pennsylvania was held at the old Allenberry Resort in 1961. Our annual Limestoner banquet and fishing tournament were April 25. We are donating a portion of the money raised this year to supporting expenses for our TIC programs. Several members continue to coordinate maintenance along the Letort and at our riparian buffer project areas at the Wittlinger Preserve and at Barnitz Church. We continue to communicate with American Rivers in advance of dam removal work at Brantsville in January, and continue preparations for the removal of the New Cumberland dam, both on the Yellow Breeches. The chapter has continued to share messaging and recommendations for actions members and others concerned about the warehouse development near the head waters of Big Spring Creek can take to encourage DEP to force the developer to practice the BMPs for stormwater runoff. We facilitated collaboration between Dark Skies Fly Fishing and the BSPA, which is leading fundraising efforts to pay for legal services to advocate for Big Spring Creek conservation interests. CVTU took an active role in the initial "Rapid Stream De-Listing Project" meeting organized by the Cumberland County Conservation District and the Chesapeake Conservancy. This is an effort to coordinate local resources and organizations to identify and address stream catchment areas listed as impaired by DEP where concentrated conservation efforts can have the best chance of the broadest positive impact with the goal of being able to improve their water quality to the point of being eligible for de-listing as impaired waterways within about 10 years. Winter fly-tying courses for beginner and experienced tyers ran from Jan. 19 through March 9 at the Carlisle Stuart Community Center. Our Service Partnership Program held an Introduction to Fly-Fishing course at the Carlisle Army War College on March 5, 12, 19, and 21. CVTU volunteers presented a Intro to Fishing with Kids class at the Carlisle Community Center for parents and children 6-12 years old on March 30, April 6, and 13. Rick Nyles of Blue Sky Outfitters spoke about Penns Creek at our January meeting. Our county's watershed specialist, Brooke Weary, spoke about some of her office's water conservation projects in February. She was joined by Mount Holly Borough Manager Tom Day and Mountain Creek Trout Club President Mark Stahl and Vice President Mike Davis. Mount Holly Borough and MCTC both implemented significant projects with the help of the Conservation District. In March,

TCO educator and fishing guide Dusty Wismath presented "Fly-Fishing in Iceland." At April's meeting, we heard from Connor McCoy, TCO Reading's manager, about fishing the Tulpehocken creek near Reading. Membership meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month except August and December at Mount Zion Crossroad Church in Mount Holly Springs.

Doc Fritchey Chapter #108

Rich DiStanislao

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The chapter is answering a call for the complete redo of our website and contracted with a private web management team. We are also seeking advice regarding managing our grant funding for our projects. We have numerous large grants for stream improvements that are becoming increasingly difficult to manage at our volunteer chapter treasurer level. We renewed eight corporate sponsorships for 2026. The chapter is working with DEP for mine subsistence/removal of toxic topsoil and mine seepage on Rausch Creek, area above our chapter's diversion well. We have an opportunity to include some needed maintenance for our wells. We sponsored a walkthrough for chapter members on the current improvements being made to Beck's Creek and to the Upper Snitz Creek projects on May 2. We also were just notified of a proposal to put an AI data center project on the area next to the Quittapahilla headwaters, and that there is a potential threat to the waters from higher temperatures. We will investigate this as information unfolds. DFTU taught three fly-tying courses over six weeks earlier this year, two beginner courses and one intermediate. We had five elementary schools participating in TIC this spring. Release dates were set for May. Our chapter sponsored three youths for the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in June. We conducted discussions with women's organization leaders at the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show to determine how our chapter can best attract women into our meetings/programs. The chapter received a PFBC R3 education grant for \$7,400 to purchase equipment for our chapter to teach fly-fishing and conservation veterans, women, youths, and minorities. Gary Leone, a guide with Precision Fly Shop, presented "Fishing Kettle Creek Valley" at our March 24 meeting. Members Rich DiStanislao and Sarah Stark are scheduled to present "Travelogue: Iceland, tour of Iceland and Fly-Fishing for Brown Trout."

Donegal Chapter #037

Claire Landis

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www.donegaltu.org

Our single audit by Maher Duessel should be completed by next quarter. DTU members hosted tables at The Fly Fishing Show and a Conservation District event. With the Keystone 10 Million Trees

ending last year, DTU must purchase stock, tubes, stakes and potting soil for more than 500 trees for the fall plantings. Two projects are scheduled to begin this summer: Donegal Creek and partial completion of D. Miller. On May 28, DTU and Rettew Engineering presented the grant "10,000-foot Design and Permit" at the DEP 2026 Section 319 Annual Virtual Meeting. We had 44 teachers participating in TIC programs. Classrooms included public, private, park education center and homeschool organizations. VSP continues its monthly activities with guest fly-tyers and walk-n-wade trips. They planned volunteer work at Millport Conservancy and helped PFBC with trout stocking.

Falling Spring Chapter #234

Took Coder

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The chapter held a landowners appreciation dinner at Berg Brewery on March 18. The purpose was to show our appreciation for allowing access to fishing along Falling Spring Creek. The stream restoration project for Falling Spring below Garmin Drive (Nitterhouse and Frey properties) is scheduled for August/September. Contractor and landowner agreements and permits are all in place. We participated in a TIC event at Chambersburg Middle School on March 23. We assisted with a Project Healing Waters event on May 16 at the Isaak Walton Club. Veterans from Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir were scheduled to participate.

Muddy Creek Chapter #575

John Snyder

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Our Cabin Fever event was held Feb. 7. We expanded our presence on opening day to three locations on the watershed, with merchandise and food items for hungry anglers. Our annual VisionCorps event for visually challenged children and adults was held May 16 at our physically challenged location on Tom's Run tributary to Muddy Creek. We also participated in the annual Youth Day Field Event at Izaak Walton League York on May 30. Fly-tying, casting, and macroinvertebrate topics were discussed at our table. Our women's intro to fly-fishing event at the Izaak Walton League facility was June 20. The event is expanding and we are looking forward to this reimagined event and new venue. We worked with the York County Conservation District and First Capital Engineering in late March to assess two separate locations in our watershed in consideration for grant opportunities. The chapter received a grant from PFBC to install new roll-up side covers at our nursery. Guest speaker in May was Kevin Grove, a graduate of Red Lion Senior High School who has over 20 years of experience as a fisheries biologist. He lives in Arizona and discussed western native trout species.

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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No report.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter #670

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We fund-raised during the first quarter of 2026, including a Trout Blowout ticket draw held on Jan. 10 to benefit CRTU initiatives, and our annual CRTU Banquet held at Hugo's Restaurant on March 21. At the banquet, we presented our Meritorious Award to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Watershed Conservation Program with Greg A Schaetzle, WPC's watershed manager, accepting the award. We were in contact with several partner schools for our TIC initiatives. School districts in the program are Trinity, Elizabeth Forward, Central Greene, Laurel Highlands and Madonna Catholic. Our annual Dunbar Creek cleanup was March 28 in Fayette County, along with a West Pike Run cleanup on March 27 in Washington County.

Forbes Trail Chapter #206

Larry Myers

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We have completed our annual in-classroom and on-stream education programs with Ligonier Valley Middle School Outdoor Club and Latrobe High School Capstone Program. Programs included coldwater conservation studies, fly-tying and casting, and fly-fishing on a local stream and lake. The chapter partnered with DCNR to offer free Intro to Fly-Tying classes and conducted several educational table events at local venues. As part of our \$25,000 Coldwater Heritage Partnership implementation grant, we have secured a

contractor, ordered materials and planned to start work mid-June to remediate Linn Run stream bank and trail. Macro surveys and electrofishing were planned for late spring. Approximately 25 chapter members met for a week of fly-fishing at Kettle Creek Lodge during the end of May.

Fort Bedford Chapter #291

Rylan Schnably

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Veterans in Project Healing Waters visited Bedford County for a weekend of guided fly-fishing April 24-26. The Terry C. Strait Memorial 200 Drawing and Banquet was held March 14 at the Bedford American Legion. FBTU participated in the Bobs Creek stream cleanup on March 28. FBTU held its free fly-tying classes every Saturday morning in the month of February.

John Kennedy Chapter #045

Lexi Trenger

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No report.

Ken Sink Chapter #053

Eric Cook

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The chapter's annual banquet was held in March. Our Little Mahoning Creek Cleanup was April 22. We constructed and installed three "Fly-braries" in Indiana County. KSTU also completed a macro study, fly-tying round robin and supported five TIC programs and their release days in April and May. The chapter sponsored two youths to attend the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp at Messiah College for a week. We assisted with a River Valley STREAM Girls fly-fishing day on March 30 at Blue Spruce Park. Recent speakers were Bill Anderson presenting on the Little Juniata and Landon Cook, a two-time world champion with the USA Youth Fly-Fishing Team. KSTU also hosted a fly-fishing class on June 20 at Blairsville Community Park.

Mountain Laurel Chapter #040

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No report.

Penn's Woods West Chapter #042

Nora Cline

www.pwwtu.org

No report.



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