

Susquehanna Ripples

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

February 2016

Richard Leaver

I knew Dick for over fifty years, including his career with Sprout Waldron where his engineering talent soon led to a very successful career.

We were neighbors in Muncy, his waders could be seen hanging in the garage across the street. That prompted a trip up the Sock on many evenings after supper. His insect knowledge, coupled with fly tying, attracted many friends. He fished with Al Troth out west.

Dick was active in our TU Chapter and received the Order of the Tie. His knowledge of the environment led to many projects such as the formation of Watershed Associations. He became president of the one for Muncy Creek.

Now we have another silent member of Charter Members. May his trout stream be easy to wade, with soft Potamanthus hatches.

Bob Rinn

Fly Tying Course to be Offered

Susquehanna TU is pleased to announce that it will be offering an eight week fly tying course open to the public beginning on February 9 and extending through March 29. Sessions will be on Tuesday evenings between 7:00 - 8:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, rear 102 East Third and Mulberry Street in Williamsport. There will be no cost for the course which will include instructive manual, tools and materials used during the sessions. Instructors will include notable local fly tiers. Both beginners and intermediate skill tiers are welcomed.

Anyone interested in taking the course or having questions should contact Walt Nicholson at (570) 447-3600 by February 5th.



PA Fish & Boat Commissioner to Speak at Susquehanna TU Meeting

The Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a public meeting on February 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at the rear of 102 E. 3rd St., Williamsport. The evening's program will be Eric Hussar, District 5 Commissioner of the PA Fish and Boat Commission. He will have an update of Fish Commission activities and developments for the coming year. We invite your thoughts, concerns, and ideas concerning the Commission and its regulations and policies for discussion with Commissioner Hussar.

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant Treasurers Report for October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Submitted by Bob Baker, Treasurer

Beginning Balance October 1, 2015 \$5,000.00

No Deposits

Expenses:

Trout Unlimited for 2 water test kits \$ 500.00

Account balance December 31, 2015 \$4,500.00

Checking Account Balance \$2,295.91

Savings Account Beginning: \$5,081.40

Interest for October \$0.20

Interest for November \$0.14

Interest for December \$0.14

Total Income \$0.48

Expenses:

Transfer to Checking Account \$2,000.00

Savings Account Balance \$3,082.52

Money in the bank

Checking Account: \$2,295.91

Savings Account: \$3,082.52

\$5,378.43

Treasurers Report for October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Submitted by Bob Baker, Treasurer

Checking Account Balance: \$ 879.76

Income

Deposit from Savings \$2,000.00

Expenses:

Trout Unlimited \$ 155.00
(Liability Insurance)

Bob Baker (October Ripples) \$ 113.10
(November Ripples) \$ 115.75

Post Office (Bulk Mail Postage) \$ 200.00

Total Expenses: \$ 583.85



<https://www.in-depthoutdoors.com/community/forums/topic/deep-freeze-on-the-way/page/2/>

Officer and Directors

President: Walt Nicholson
Email: walt.nicholson10@gmail.com

Vice President: David Craig
Email: davsalc@comcast.net
Phone: 570-326-1002 / 570-971-4744

Secretary: Kevin McJunkin
Email: kevinmcjunkin@comcast.net

Treasurer: Bob Baker
Email: boblbaker@comcast.net
Phone: 570-337-1279

Board of Directors

Jim Latini
Joe Radley
Carey Entz-Rine
Steve Szoke

Chapter Advisors

Bill O'Connor
Bob Rinn

Media Liaison: Kevin McJunkin
Program Director: Joe Radley

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
Bob Baker

Newsletter Team members
Cheyenne Baker
Dakota Baker

susquehannatu.wordpress.com
susquehannatu@gmail.com



**You are invited to join Glenn McConnell
from McConnell's Country Store & Fly
Shop on our SIXTH ANNUAL MON-
TANA FLY FISHING ADVENTURE**



**Why McConnell's
Country Store & Fly
Shop Hosted Trip?**

We're knowledgeable: The outfitter and guides we use are on the river every day so they have a fair idea of where the fish are, and what they're eating. We're experienced: we've been at this a while; even have a little grey in our beards. We're patient: if you're struggling, we'll help you work the kinks out of your cast. We're enthusiastic: this isn't a job. Making your day a success is the thing that keeps us going.

We have had so much fun the past five years with Ed Lawrence & his staff of experienced river guides that we are continuing this annual tradition. As a matter of fact we have TWO TRIPS planned for this year. This would be a great trip for anyone from beginning fly fisher to expert. It would be great to have some locals along to enjoy the type of trip that I have put together for fly fishers from this area and we have TWO TRIPS planned for this year.

TRIP #1 - August 5 through August 13 - (2 opening is available at this time) This trip will be 6 days of fishing with some of the best guides that the Missouri, Madison & Yellowstone have to offer. We are going to spend 4 days exploring the Missouri River. The section of the river that we will be fishing has a population of over 6,000 trout per mile. For an additional cost of \$100.00 you may want to fish the section of the Missouri known as the "Land Of The Giants". Located between Houser Dam and Houlter Dam, this section of the river is only accessible by jet boats and a licensed Coast Guard Captain. Last year the average rainbow that we took from this section was 20" and weighed between 4 & 5 pounds. We also landed a brown trout that was 27 1/2" and weighed 7.6 pounds. After the four days we will head back to Bozeman to fish the Madison & Yellowstone Rivers. The Madison is known as a 62 mile long riffle. The fishing here can be fast and furious from a drift boat on this river. The Yellowstone is probably one of the best known "Blue Ribbon" trout streams in the world and you don't want to miss the opportunity to fish this gem.

This 8 night 6 day fly fishing adventure will include

your hotel stay at the Holiday Inn Express upon arrival in Bozeman, 4 nights stay at a B&B ranch near the town of Craig (includes all meals while at the B&B), 3 nights hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express in Bozeman. Your host will have a rental vehicle for travel to and from our fishing locations.

The cost of this 8 night - 6 days of fishing package is \$2305.00 and does not include airfare, license evening meals, or additional fees to fish the "Land of the Giants," and tips for your guides.

TRIP #2 - August 14 through August 19 - (4 openings are available at this time) This package allows you to fully experience Montana "Blue Ribbon" fly fishing at its best on the Madison and Yellowstone Rivers in the company of the same experienced river guides that have shown us the way in the past. Here's your chance to chase the thousands of fish living in the Yellowstone and Madison Rivers during four days spent in the Madison and Paradise Valleys. You will be floating in a 16' drift boat where your guide will maneuver you into the most productive spots on the river, with stops along the way at likely looking holes and riffles.

An addition to this package is the option to fish a private spring creek (with limited access) for a day that flows into the Yellowstone River. This is a true spring creek fishing experience that shouldn't be missed. The cost of this addition is \$100.00 per day.

Your lodging will be at the Holiday Inn Express in Bozeman. After a cooked breakfast you will be transported to the river for a morning of fishing. You will take a break from the fishing to enjoy a fisherman's lunch then fish the afternoon away and at day's end, return to town in time for cocktails and evening meals at some of the area's best restaurants.

The cost of this 5 night - 4 days of fishing package is \$1577.00 and does not include airfare, license evening meals, or additional fees to fish the a private spring creek" and tips for your guides.

For more information and to reserve your spot, please contact:

Glenn McConnell
McConnell's Country Store
& Fly Shop, Inc.
10853 North Route 44 Hwy.
PO Box 175
Waterville, PA 17776
Tel - 570 753-8241
Fax - 570 753-5072
Email - glenn@mcconnellsflyshop.com



**Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited
Annual Watershed Summit
January 13, 2016**

Summary Notes

Walt Nicholson convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to learn about the volunteer efforts and accomplishments of our area's watershed groups, conservation organizations and agencies during 2015 and their upcoming plans to help preserve, protect and enhance our area streams and watersheds. Walt introduced Jack McKernan and Richard Mirabito, newly elected Lycoming County Commissioners. He also introduced Jeff Prowant, Tiadaghton District Forester. Each group was given 10 minutes for a presentation.

Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited

Chapter President Walt Nicholson explained that the Susquehanna Chapter is a local chapter of National Trout Unlimited. We meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday between September and April. TU's Mission is to preserve and restore cold water fisheries. We partner with many other organizations to accomplish our goals.

Some activities include Project Healing Waters, a fly tying activity for disabled veterans; fly tying lessons for the public (starting Feb. 9); and youth education initiatives, such as working with Scouts and Trout in the Classroom. The Chapter also secured a grant and is working on a Coldwater Heritage Project for the Rock Run Watershed. Rock Run has been impacted by low pH, legacy acid mine drainage, and low alkalinity soils. The project will gather baseline water quality data, inventory fish passage obstacles, and identify needed stream improvement projects, resulting in a Coldwater Heritage Plan to help coordinate restoration activities. The Chapter hosted a water quality monitoring training workshop, organized teams of volunteers, and have begun to do local stream monitoring, including five stations in the Rock Run headwaters.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Jerry Walls, Board member, stated that the Susquehanna Greenway partnership advocates for public and private efforts to connect people with the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna River Watershed, and promotes a sustainable and healthy environment. The SGP is comprised of many partners. They are

working on improving riverfront parks and access, such as the Jersey Shore River access. They are also working on improving walking and biking trails, including extending a 400 mile greenway trail from Genesee to the Chesapeake, using existing trail links such as the Williamsport River walk and Pine Creek Rail-Trail.

Pine Creek Watershed Council

Erica Tomlinson stated that the Pine Creek Watershed Council is a group of many organizations that is working together to implement the Pine Creek River Conservation Plan. The Council recently completed an update to the Plan to include oil and gas activities. The Watershed Council convened a Strategic Policy Summit with 48 attendees. They are preparing comments for the DCNR State Forest Management Plan due by Jan 31. Erica encouraged other groups to comment.

Erica also reported that the Tioga County Conservation District has initiated a 50:50 cost share program for stream stabilization projects on private land (which would not be eligible for other grants) using funding from Shell and Act 13. There is a lot of interest with over 20 applications.

Lycoming College Clean Water Institute (CWI)

Dr. Mel Zimmerman stated that he will be retiring from teaching, but will continue as CWI Director. CWI has completed 395 Unassessed Waters stream assessments between 2010-2015. These assessments can lead to Class A wild trout classification by the PAFBC, such as on Pleasant Stream, and Exceptional Value Protected Waters Status. Dr. Peter Petokas continues his Hellbender research and has provided eggs to the Bronx Zoo for Hellbender introductions in New York state watersheds. New hellbender nesting boxes are working. Student intern projects include knotweed research, partnering with the Lycoming MS4 program to monitor 261 storm water outfalls, assessing the impact of gas development on runoff in partnership with the SRBC, West Branch water quality monitoring, and mini sewage treatment plant research to improve nitrogen and phosphorus discharges.

Muncy Creek Watershed Association

Carey Entz-Rine, on behalf of Andrea Young, reported that the Lairdsville fish habitat project, completed in 2014, is still working well. The Hill project on Little Muncy above Clarkstown was completed with 7 log deflectors and 2 root wads. The Laidecker Rd log deflec-

tor project on Little Muncy was completed in partnership with LCCD and Moreland Township with the added benefit of protecting a municipal bridge. The Chapter is planning additional stream projects. The Association also continues to do educational programs including School Science Day. There will be a Science Festival, sponsored by Penn College and the Chamber of Commerce, on Feb 18 – open to the public at 5 PM.

Lycoming County Conservation District

Carey Entz-Rine reported that nine Act 13 projects were completed for dike removal, stream bank fencings, buffers, manure storage, etc., including projects on Wolf Run and Carpenter's Run, as impaired streams. The Carpenter's Run project also included 5.2 (CREP) acres of tree plantings. The Conservation District also has completed 52 fish habitat structures. The Dirt and Gravel Road Program also benefits the watersheds. Carey said she hoped to see attendees at the Keystone Coldwater Conference coming up on Feb. 26-27.

Sullivan County Conservation District

Corey Richmond stated that the Sullivan Co. Conservation District continues the Lycoming/Sullivan Envirothon Competition for students. They also convened a Solar Power Workshop, School Environmental Day, and Soil Health/Nutrient Management Workshop. The District has been monitoring streams with oil and gas activity but so far has found no issues. Would like to get real time phosphorus & nitrogen loadings from agriculture rather than relying on models.

The District worked with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association to restore a barren section of Elk Creek. Fish were seen around the new structures within days of project completion. The District is partnering with Chief Oil and Gas and PAFBC to restore the stretch between Lincoln Falls and the mouth. Corey recommends a pre construction safety meeting and to invite guests including municipal officials, legislators, and PA-DOT engineers (structures can help protect bridges). The District has a new stream project trailer to carry tools to projects.

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

Carol Cafer said that the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association has merged with the Rose Valley/Mill Creek Watershed Association and now covers 500 sq. miles. They are planning to continue the Rose Valley fishing derby, although they realized that the late Jerry

Zeidler put in a lot of work.

The Susquehanna University team led by Dr. John Niles is studying rejuvenation of stream trout populations following the 2011 flood utilizing baseline data before the flood. Most streams are coming back very rapidly. Fifteen trout streams were added to the wild trout stream list due to recent stream assessments. Research is ongoing on brook trout genetics & behavior, trout migration, salamander baseline study, and temperature logging surveys.

Completed projects included the Elk Creek stream restoration, Worlds End State Park fencing and Ellis Creek lime dosing. Many heavy metals have been removed by the Lewis AMD site project. The Chief water withdrawal was a concern although the SRBC ultimately granted the request at 1.5 mgd, less than the 2 mgd requested. Sandy Bottom will be stocked with 1000-1500 large trout between 14"-20" as part of the PAFBC large trout stocking program, which would not have been possible without water quality improvements.

Lycoming County Planning

Joshua Billings, Environmental Planner, stated that the County Comprehensive Plan Update will serve as a policy guide for the physical, social, and economic development of the County. He encouraged the attendees and their organizations to participate. The County continues a Nutrient Credit Trading Program to help finance water quality improvements on County farms. The County Hazard Mitigation Program buys out repetitively flooded properties and helps home owners mitigate flood damages. New, more accurate FEMA floodplain mapping by the County has resulted in a significant overall reduction of the number of properties within the regulatory floodplain. The County is partnering with the CWI to monitor storm water outfalls.

Rock Run Bog Research

Harvey Katz presented some of his findings about bogs in the Loyalsock State Forest between Ralston & Hillsgrove. Bogs are important for water quality and storage – they release water slowly to help streams maintain flows. He has found 92 bogs in the area, including early successional, fens, and vernal ponds. Several of the bogs have pitcher plants and sundews – endangered species in PA. Harvey's information has resulted in the relocation of a gas drilling site to protect these important resources.

North central PA Conservancy (NPC)

The North Central PA Conservancy is a land trust devoted to conserving the working farm and forest lands and watersheds in North central PA. The Conservancy works with PAFBC, DEP, and the County Conservation Districts on stream improvement projects, including in stream and fencing projects, according to Charlie Schwarz, Land Protection Specialist for NPC. Fourteen projects were completed in 2015, with 80 projects completed since 2009. The Conservancy also maintains many Conservation Easements.

Waterdale Environmental Education Center

The Waterdale Lodge on Mosquito Creek, owned by the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority, has been turned into an Environmental Education Center in partnership with the Lycoming College Biology and Education Depts, CWI, and LCCD. Programs include Creek Study & Aquatic Biology, Groundwater Model, Leaf Creatures, Water Quality & Stream Monitoring, Water Cycle & Watersheds, Raptors & Birds of Prey (Audubon), Geology & History, Tree Identification & Forestry, Nature Trail, and a Water Filtration Plant Tour. Students have fun while learning the important connection between clean watersheds and public drinking water. Walt Nicholson reported that 10 different school sessions and open house events were held during 2015 and that anyone interested in using the Lodge or arranging for an educational program for their school or group should contact him.

Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council (EMRCD)

EMRCD is a six county regional natural resources conservation 501c3 nonprofit organization. Joshua Billings, Chairman, stated the EMRCD has a Work Plan that focuses on energy, agriculture and watershed projects. The WINGS program is working to enhance wildlife habitat by educating landowners about planting perennial trees, shrubs, and grasses within pipeline right-of-ways. EMRCD has a Biofuels project to encourage purchase of EPA approved wood stoves. Some of their future initiatives include a Conservation Volunteer Fair and Backyard Conservation for habitat, storm water management such as rain barrels, and low impact development. Mike Lovegreen is working on a tool to show natural stream contours to provide a baseline for stream restoration after high water events.

Lycoming Creek Watershed Association

Mike Ditchfield said that the Association has been somewhat dormant although they did repair three of the 18 multi log van deflectors on the Sheshequin Campground project (completed in 2012). The project work was funded by Laurel Hill wind tower development and they were able to include maintenance funding, which you can't do with Growing Greener. Al Boyer, McIntyre Twp Supervisor, wants to do work at the lower end of Rock Run. The Association is preparing comments for the State Forest Resource Management Plan in conjunction with the PA Environmental Defense Fund.

DEP Growing Greener Program

Jason Fellon of DEP stated that Growing Greener Projects can include ag BMP's, stream improvements, environmental education, lime dosing – or other projects to improve water quality and health. The Grant Program usually gets about \$20 million in funding, of which \$3 million goes to the North central region. The next grant round will open up in April or May. He expects more funding through Chesapeake Bay initiatives, and encouraged local organizations to work with him on grant proposals.

The Watershed Summit concluded about 9:30 PM, followed by refreshments and discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin McJunkin, Secretary

Fly of the Month



February Red

Hook: Mustad 7948A size 14.

Thread: Danville pre-waxed black monocord.

Tail: Lemon wood duck (sparse).

Body: Circa 1930 terra cotta silk floss. This floss is dusty-rose color when dry but turns the color of raw beef liver when wet.

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel.

Hackle: Barred rock hen with as defined a barring as you can get. (<http://www.flyangleronline.com/features/oldflies/part351.php>)

Proposed Changes to Trout Waters

At the March 30, 2016 meeting of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Commissioners will consider additions and revisions to the Wild Trout Streams as well as proposed additions to Class A wild trout waters. The public comment period continues until February 22, 2016. For more information on the streams to be considered, please see the PFBC website at <http://fishandboat.com/reg398.htm>.

2015 in Review

The Chapter has a lot to be grateful for. The year 2015 was another year that we should be proud of because of what we accomplished.

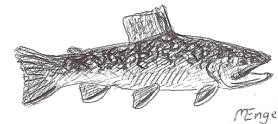
- Project Healing Waters - this program was started after many months of discussions and research. It has proven to be a very worthwhile program, not only to the participants, but also to the Chapter members assisting. The program is designed for up to 10 veterans and they have tied many flies and shared many stories. The group was invited to stay in cabin's on Penn's Creek for a week this past fall and guides took the participants fishing. Many fish were caught, friendships made, and stories were shared each evening. There was no expense to the participants or to the Chapter. This project will continue to grow over the coming year.
- Fly tying class - another successful fly tying class was held last spring and we drew in new participants over the previous years.
- Fishing gear donations - The Chapter continued to get donations throughout the year and the largest donation came from Ken Beane, owner of the former E. Hille Anglers Shop. Everything imaginable was donated by Ken and members from our Chapter have been sorting and inventorying the donated items for several months with more work needing to be done.
- Rock Run Watershed Project - many meetings and planning took place throughout the year and ended with a water quality monitoring class in December. Over 20 people attended this training and although the training was specific for the Rock Run Watershed, other streams of concern in our area may be able to be monitored as well. Sites have been identified in the watershed to be the test sites and the groups will be going out monthly.
- Many new faces have been seen at Chapter meetings and Chapter events. We would like to thank everyone who has come out to any of our informative meetings or events. We have many new people

helping with fly tying, Project Healing Waters and the sorting of our material.

It has been said before and is worth saying again. Our success as a Chapter is due to the participation of its members. We are fortunate to have some very dedicated individuals who give countless hours to the Chapter and this time and dedication is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to 2016 and hope to continue our success's but we need your help in doing so. If you would like to help in any way, even if only for an hour or two a month, please give one of the Officer's a call. Their contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Recipe of the Month



Smoked Trout Crackers with Lemon-Dill Mayonnaise

A simple lemon-dill mayonnaise adds a touch of sophistication to smoked trout on crackers.

20 servings

Ingredients

1/3 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise

1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 tablespoon minced fresh dill

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

4 ounces thinly sliced smoked trout

20 thin whole-grain crackers

Combine mayonnaise, lemon zest, lemon juice, dill and pepper in a small bowl. Divide trout among crackers; top with a spoonful of the lemon-dill mayonnaise.

http://www.eatingwell.com/recipes/smoked_trout_crackers_with_lemon_dill_mayonnaise.html
From EatingWell: December 2006

Be Safe Outside

Now that winter has finally arrived, along with snow and ice, please keep safety in mind. Always make sure of your footing when walking and if traveling on ice, make sure it is thick enough to support you and your gear. Dress in layers and have plenty of warm clothing with you. If you get cold while outside, get indoors or someplace warm.



Susquehanna Ripples
Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 1132
Williamsport, PA 17703 - 1132

The Mission of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to work to conserve, protect and restore Central Pennsylvania's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

Upcoming Events

Project Healing Waters
Held the 1st and 3rd
Tuesday of each month
from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

February 9, 2016
Fly Tying Class

February 10, 2016
Chapter Meeting Commis-
sioner Eric Hussar of the
PFBC

February 16, 2016
Fly Tying Class

February 23, 2016
Fly Tying Class

February 29, 2016
Extended Trout Season
Ends

March 1, 2016
Fly Tying Class

March 8, 2016
Fly Tying Class

March 9, 2016
Chapter Meeting

March 15, 2016
Fly Tying Class

March 23, 2016
Fly Tying Class

March 29, 2016
Fly Tying Class

April 2, 2016
Regional Opening Day of
Trout

April 13, 2016
Chapter Meeting

April 16, 2016
Statewide opening of Trout
Season

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Our Membership currently stands at 256 members

Chapter meetings

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to the public and begin at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church of Williamsport in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted), 102 East 3rd Street, Williamsport. Parking is in the rear of the Church along Mulberry Street.

No meetings are held in May, June, July, August or December