

Susquehanna Ripples



Susquehanna Trout Unlimited March Meeting at Fish Commission Sportsman's Forum

Susquehanna Chapter of TU wishes to encourage its members and the public to attend the Saturday, **March 17th** Sportsman's Forum meeting at 10 a.m. at Lycoming College in Williamsport (Heim Building, Room G-11) hosted by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PF&BC). This is an important public meeting for everyone who fishes and paddles in the streams of PA to learn about how anglers and boaters can help shape the future of fishing and boating in Pennsylvania, the work of the PF&BC, the challenges it is presently facing, and how to provide comment and input and opinions on the issues. The forum will also serve as the March monthly meeting of our local TU Chapter. If you would like more information, please visit our website at <https://susquehannatu.com/> or the PF&BC web link for upcoming events and public opinion poll at www.fishandboat.com.

Walt Nicholson

Please note this is a change in date for our Chapter Meeting

PFBC Online Poll

The PFBC is asking anglers and boaters to share their opinions by taking a very short online poll. There are only 11 questions with multiple choice answers and only takes a few minutes to complete. Your opinions, and answers, are vital to the future actions of the PFBC. You can find the poll at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BVKXWXG>.

Penn's Creek Section 5 Update and Regulations

At a recent meeting in Mifflinburg, the PFBC presented a review of Penn's Creek section 5. They started with a review of where section 5 is and of the management of this section including electrofishing results from 2017. The results showed that there was a strong wild brown trout population in the vast majority of Section 5.

The PFBC is looking at options for Section 5 which include:

1. Catch and Release, Artificial Lures Only (highest level of protection for the wild trout population)
2. Establish harvest slot limits of 2 fish per day between 7" and 12: (high level of protection)
3. Manage this water under the Commonwealth Inland waters regulations (lowest level of protection)

If you have any questions, or input, please contact the PFBC. A copy of the PFBC presentation is available on our website.

More Social Media Options for Chapter

In an effort to be able to communicate with more of our members and the general public, the Chapter is now active on twitter, Tumblr, and on LinkedIn. We have been on Facebook for several years and that has proven very successful to us.

We realize that communication is vital and we want to give our members a variety of ways to stay connected to the news and happenings of the Chapter. Yes we still rely on email and website, but we feel it is important to use as many means as possible to stay in touch with those who have an interest in our Chapter.

We have all of our social media accounts connected so that when we add something to our website, it will automatically appear on the other sites.

Website: <https://susquehannatu.com/>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SusquehannaChapterTU/)

SusquehannaChapterTU/

Twitter: [@susquehannatu](https://twitter.com/susquehannatu)

Tumblr: <https://susquehannatu.tumblr.com/>

LinkedIn: [susquehanna chapter of trout unlimited](https://www.linkedin.com/company/susquehanna-chapter-of-trout-unlimited)

Donations Received

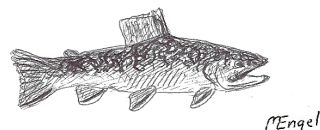
Joseph H. Lock Jr. and Karen Schatten– Lock
\$300 (have donated a \$600 total this year)

John C. Lane from Brookville, MD
A nice selection of fly tying material
Several classic books related to fly tying
Several years of copies of the PA Game News

The Chapter wants to thanks the above individuals for their very generous donations. Their donations will allow the Chapter to continue working to improve the cold

water fisheries in North Central Pennsylvania and in our education efforts.

Recipe of the Month



Beer Battered Perch

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. Perch Fillets
- 1 cup flour plus 1/3 cup for dusting
- 1 12 oz Beer
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 lemon cut into wedges
- Tartar sauce for dipping
- Peanut oil

Instructions:

1. Heat oil to 375 degrees
2. Place 1/3 cup of flour in a bowl
3. Add 1 cup of flour and 1/2 tsp salt in a separate bowl and add beer until the batter has a thin consistency that just coats the back of a spoon.
4. Dip the fillets in flour, shaking off excess and then dip evenly in the batter
5. Place battered fillets in hot oil, working in batches
6. Fry the fish 2-4 minutes or until it reaches a golden brown. The fish will cook quickly inside so don't be afraid to judge the doneness solely by the color
7. Remove from oil and let drain on a cooling rack or paper towel prior to serving
8. Plate with French fries, coleslaw, buttered rye bread, tartar sauce for dipping and lemon wedge

Recipe taken from <https://www.foxvalleyfoodie.com/wp/print/8301>

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The brook trout on page 1 was caught on Boulder Mountain in Southern Utah. The picture was taken by Jason Morrison and is used with his permission

In Praise of Fallfish

By Steve Martin

Have you ever caught a Fallfish? If you fish the type of clear, clean water often inhabited by Trout or Smallmouth Bass, I'd be willing to bet that you have, but you may not know it. That's because Fallfish are seldom called by their real name, but more often incorrectly referred to as Chub, White Chub, Silver Chub, Whitefish, Silver Sides, and even some names that can't be put into print!

Despite the lack of recognition, Fallfish can be great sport, especially when taken on light tackle. They are aggressive fish and will readily take most any kind of offering, both bait and artificial. I have caught them on everything from worms, crickets, minnows, and salmon eggs to spinners, spoons, and every manner of artificial fly. I even remember catching one on a top-water Jitterbug! Fallfish are actually a member of the minnow family, but can grow to be quite large. Locally, I have caught many from the Loyalsock and Lycoming Creek drainages in the 15 to 16-inch range, and even larger specimens in Big Pine Creek, including one brute that taped out at 18 inches! Mature Fallfish are actually quite attractive, with a sleek and powerful body. They are strong fighters all the way into the net. Their color is an overall silver appearance, yet with hues of olive and brown on the back. Oftentimes a hint of red or pink can be seen at the base of the pectoral fins, as well as around the gills. Large attractive silver scales are outlined in black and almost appear as if hand-painted.

Have you ever noticed those mysterious piles of pebbles scattered about most freestone streams in the Spring? Maybe you've even stumbled over one as you waded for Trout. Those are Fallfish nests. The male builds these piles of pebbles and small stones, each one carried and placed individually by mouth. Female Fallfish deposit their eggs in the nest and the males defend them. Although most nests are no more than two feet in diameter and 10 to 12 inches high, occasionally an individual fish can get a bit overzealous and construct a nest that is 5 to 6 feet in diameter and up to 2 feet high! All of these nests add structure to the stream bottom and also provide a safe haven for smaller minnows that will sometimes lay their own eggs within the nests.

I was probably only 8 or 9 years old when I had my first encounter with a Fallfish. My family was camping along Big Pine Creek, up near Slate Run. It was a beautiful Summer evening and my brother and I were dunking worms while an older couple skillfully cast dry flies just downstream from us. I was drawn to the beauty of their effortless casts when suddenly the gentleman hooked into a nice fish. I watched in excitement as he played and netted the fish and then headed back to shore where my brother and I stood. I was caught up in the beauty of the large silver fish in his net that was probably 15 inches or so. Oh, how I wished I could catch a fish like that! I asked him what it was as he tossed it onto the rocks. "Oh, just a big Chub" he replied. I knelt down and examined every aspect of the beautiful fish and wanted to take it home, but my father said no. Even at that age I thought it such a shame to waste any fish in that manner. Over the years I have seen too many instances where Fallfish are thrown up onto the bank to die for fear that they will compete with "more valuable" species.

Fallfish are native to the eastern US, generally ranging east of the Alleghenies, from northern New York and south-east Canada to Virginia. As a native fish, they have a legitimate place in the ecosystem of our streams, maybe even more so than the Rainbow and Brown Trout that we all prize, which are not native species to our PA waterways.

As a young angler, I grew up catching Fallfish in the lower reaches of Lycoming Creek near my home. I guess that's why they hold a special place in my heart. So, the next time you hook a Fallfish, enjoy the fight and then gently release it. They are attractive fish, good fighters, and can add some excitement to any outing.

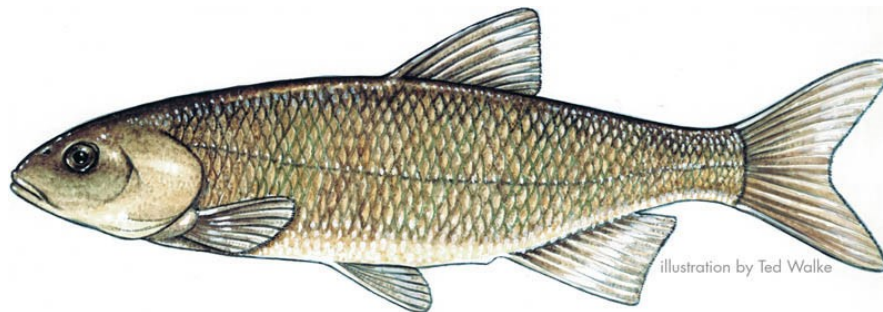


Image taken from <http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/GalleryPennsylvaniaFishes/Pages/CarpsandMinnows.aspx>

PFBC to consider adding to Class A and Wild Trout Streams

At the next PFBC Commissioners meeting on April 23, and 24, 2018, they will consider adding several streams to the Class A and Wild Trout listings. Below are the streams in our area and for a complete list, you can go to the PFBC website at <http://www.fishandboat.com/Regulations/Pages/ProposedRecentRegulations.aspx>. The public comment period runs through March 19. A copy of the notices as well as the streams being considered is on our website. When on the home page and scroll down to the post from February 8, 2018.

Class A Streams Proposed:

	Stream	Limits	Tributary to
Lycoming County	Upper Pine Bottom Run	Confluence Zinck Fork to Mouth	Pine Creek
Snyder/Union	Lick Run	Headwaters to Mouth	Penn's Creek

There are 42 other streams statewide to be considered

Wild Trout Streams Proposed

Lycoming	UNT to White Deer Hole Creek	Headwaters to Mouth	White Deer Hole Creek
Lycoming	UNT to White Deer Hole Creek	Headwaters to Mouth	White Deer Hole Creek
Sullivan	UNT to Glass Creek (RM 2.49)	Headwaters to Mouth	UNT to Glass Creek
Sullivan	UNT to Pleasant Stream	Headwaters to Mouth	Pleasant Stream
Sullivan	UNT to Schrader Creek	Headwaters to Mouth	Schrader Creek
Sullivan	UNT to Schrader Creek	Headwaters to Mouth	Schrader Creek
Sullivan	UNT to Schrader Creek	Headwaters to Mouth	Schrader Creek
Sullivan	UNT to Schrader Creek	Headwaters to Mouth	Schrader Creek

There are approximately 92 other streams statewide to be considered for Wild Trout Stream designation

DEP Releases guidelines for Maintaining Streams

The Department of Environmental Protection recently released a new resource for understanding the permit and notification requirements affecting those wishing to work in or adjacent to streams impacted by flooding called Guidelines for Maintaining Streams in your Community.

“DEP receives many inquiries each year about stream work from municipalities, landowners, businesses, and communities affected by flooding, or simply wishing to perform stream maintenance to protect property and infrastructure and prevent future flood impacts,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

The guide is a first step in determining what regulatory requirements may apply before beginning a project.

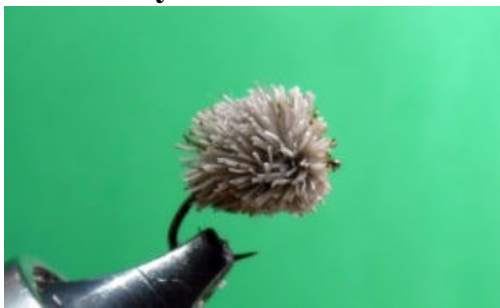
It contains a “green, yellow, and red light” list of potential stream activities to indicate whether permits are likely to be required, and additional sections titled “Good Rules of Thumb” and “Myth vs. Reality.”

Stream work that is not properly designed and permitted can inadvertently cause conditions to worsen in the next flood event, also impacting downstream neighbors.

The new guide is intended to proactively share information with the public so that stream work is done in an environmentally-sensitive manner, and in a way that reduces the likelihood of future problems. A copy can be downloaded at <http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Newsroom/NewsroomPortalFiles/StreamMaintenanceBooklet.pdf> or from susquehanna-tu.com.

This article was taken from <http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2018/01/dep-releases-new-guide-to-maintaining.html>

Fly of the Month



Deer Hair Pellet Fly

Materials

- Hook: TMC2457
- Hook Sizes: 12, 14, 16
- Thread: UTC 140 cream
- Body: Deer hair

Put your deer hair on and spin it, pack it and get 2 or 3 more deer hair clumps. Pack each clump. Trim to a round ball and if you need to, use your burner to clear the hairs at the bend and around the eye. Also, you want this fly to float. The deer hair will do that but soaking your flies in Rain-x will also help.

Fishing instructions – just let it float on the water and be ready.

Above fly recipe and picture taken from the Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association webpage at <http://www.mtfa-springfield.org/resources/fly-tying-recipes-patterns/deer-hair-egg/>

Field Day at World's End State Park

As part of the River of the Year Celebration for the Loyalsock Creek, events are being planned for August 25, 2018 at the World's End State Park. Presently, we are planning a fishing field day for the morning and there will be a non fishing event in the afternoon.

Chapter President Walt Nicholson is working with Carol Parenzan of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeepers on planning the fishing portion of the event.

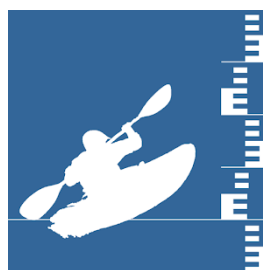
We are hoping to do a morning program that may include fly tying, casting, hands on stream instruction, aquatic insect collections and identification.

There are plans for a picnic lunch to be provided as well. We will be posting updates in future issues of the Susquehanna Ripples as well as on website and social media.

We need volunteers to help with this event as well as any ideas that you may have for things we can do. Please contact us at susquehannatu@gmail.com.

Annual Fly Tying Class

Our annual class is half over and it has been a huge success. There are over 24 students taking the class and this is the biggest class we have had in several years. The majority of students are at the beginning level but we do have some intermediate and advanced tiers as well. We are very fortunate to have many good tiers in our Chapter and area who are volunteering their time to help. Because of the large number of students, we have been able to have at least 6 instructors available each night, and sometimes more, which allows for more individual attention. Thank you to everyone who is taking the class, as well as helping teach, for making this year's class a big success!



RiverApp

Knowing water conditions is vital to the angler or boater and with smart phone technology, it is easier than ever to keep up to date with this information.

RiverApp, available on iTunes and Google Play, is a free app that gives you the current water flow and height of the water based on the USGS water gauges. You are limited to 24 hours and 2 days of information.

If you upgrade to premium, for a single purchase price of \$4.99, you can get data for 7 days, 1 month, 3 months, or custom date range.

With the premium upgrade, you have access to water level history for several years, and water forecasts.

RiverApp claims to have more than 20,000 sites in Europe and North America. You can search by river name or by country.

The United States has 7,355 rivers available and Pennsylvania has 230 rivers available with information. You can also see a topographical map of the rivers location.

This is just another tool to help you get the most of your time outdoors. For more information, please go to <https://www.riverapp.net/> or search for it on Google Play or the iTunes store.

The Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited does not endorse this product or guarantee its reliability. We are providing this to you as information only.





Susquehanna Ripples
Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 1132
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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

November 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 Mandatory Life Jacket Requirement

March 1, 2018
Stocked Trout Waters Closed to Fishing

March 13, 2018
Fly Tying Class

March 14, 2018
No Meeting on this date, moved to March 17

March 17, 2018
PA Fish and Boat Commission Sportsmen's Forum at Lycoming College / **Chapter Meeting**

March 20, 2018
Fly Tying Class

March 24, 2018
Regional Mentored Youth

March 27, 2018
Fly Tying Class

March 31, 2018
Regional Opening Day Trout South-eastern Counties

April 7, 2018
Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Statewide

April 11, 2018
Chapter Meeting

April 14, 2018
Statewide Opening Day of Trout

May 5, 2018
Opening day of Walleye

May 19-25, 2018
National Safe Boating Week

June 16, 2018
Opening Day of Bass

Chapter meetings

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). Meetings are held at the **Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W 4th St, Williamsport, PA 17701**, in the Social Hall (unless otherwise noted). Parking is at the rear of the Church and enter off of Campbell Street.

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

Welcome New Members

Garry Crandall
James Johnson
Donald Sinsabaugh
Mark Stephens
Timothy Thomke
Michael Totin