

Susquehanna Ripples

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

February 2019

PA Fish & Boat Commission Representative to be at Chapter Meeting

PA Fish & Boat Commission conservation officers Emmett Kyler, Chad Lauer, and other Commission officials will speak at a public meeting of Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited. They will present an update of fishing and boating programs and developments in our north central PA region for the coming year. The public is encouraged to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas concerning the commission and its regulations and policies with our local officers. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 Covenant Central Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, at the rear of 807 West Fourth Street in Williamsport (enter off of Campbell St.) For more information, please see our website at <https://susquehannatu.com/>.

Walt Nicholson

Annual Fly Tying Class

The Chapter will be holding its annual fly tying class starting February 5, 2019 and running through March 26, 2019. We had set the class size at 24 students and we reached that number within a short time of advertising the class **and can not accept any more registrations.**

We will have an update in the March issue of the Susquehanna Ripples and we want to thank everyone who signed up for the class.

Update Your Information Please

Our membership currently stands at 242 members. We obtain your contact information (mailing address, phone number, and email address) from Trout Unlimited and use this information as needed to communicate with you. We do not share your information with anyone and only the leaders of the Chapter have access to this information.

We are asking each of you to go to the Trout Unlim-

ited website, log in and check your contact information. If you find errors, please make the changes.

Alternatively, if you have any changes to your contact information, you can also send those changes to us at susquehannatu@gmail.com, or give them to us at any Chapter meeting or event, and we can update the information for you.

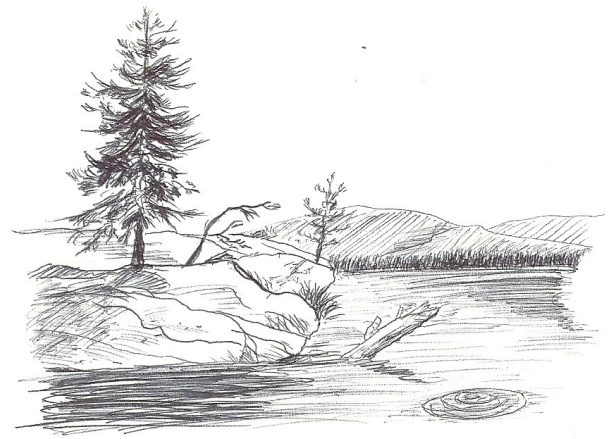
It is easy to forget to update your information but we want you to stay informed of happenings in the Chapter.

Thank you for your help.

BB

Welcome New Members

Annette Fry
Alexander Fry
Stephen Fry
Drew Miller
Leslie Miller
Jared Stetts



MEngel

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Bill O'Connor

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Joe Radley (2019)
Bob Spencer (2020)
Bill Worobec (2020)
Isaac Bragunier (2021)
Charles Knowlden (2021)

Media Liaison

Kevin McJunkin

Program Director

Joe Radley

Project Healing Waters Coordinator

Charles Knowlden
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Youth and Women's Coordinator Trout in the Classroom Coordinator

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Tips for Winter Fishing

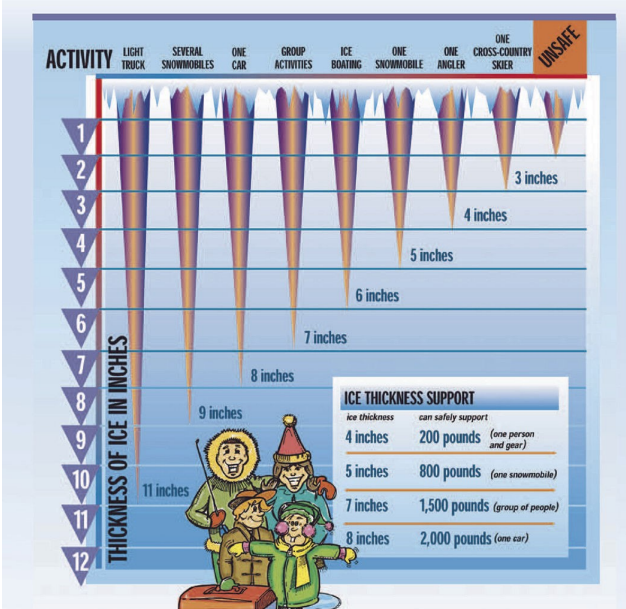
Fishing during the winter months can be exciting and very productive. Few anglers venture out during this time of year for various reasons and for those that do, there are a few things to keep in mind. These apply to both the ice fisherman and the stream fisherman.

1. Never fish alone. You don't have to be ice fishing to fall through, or slip, on the ice. If you would fall through the ice, a buddy can help get you out and can warm you up and if you fall and get hurt, you have someone there to help you and go for help.
2. Dress for the weather. Wear layers of clothing instead of just a heavy jacket or outer garment. Wear a wool sweater under a water and wind resistant outer jacket. Wear a hat to help prevent heat loss. Wear gloves and keep a spare dry set with you and another set in your vehicle.
3. Keep a spare set of dry clothing in your vehicle that you can change into if you would get wet. Don't forget to include towels to dry off with.
4. Although most people don't wear a life jacket in the winter, it is a good idea to do so. If you would fall through the ice, the jacket will keep you afloat and you will have a little more time to get out, or to get rescued.
5. Carry ice picks around your neck or other easily accessible location to help you pull yourself out of the water should you fall through the ice
6. Let others know where you will be and when you are expected back.
7. When first getting on the ice and when moving about, always check the thickness. Never go out on ice that is less than 4 inches thick.
8. Know the signs of frost bite and hypothermia. Know when to quit fishing and go back to your vehicle to get warm.
9. Wear ice cleats to help prevent slips and falls and use a walking stick / wading staff when walking through the woods and streams.

The most important thing is your safety. Always keep that in mind and if you are unsure about heading out to do some winter fishing, don't do it.

For ice anglers this winter, be safe on the ice.

Ice Thickness Guideline



The brook trout at the top of page 1 was caught on Boulder Mountain in Southern Utah. The picture was taken by Jason Morrison and was featured in the 2014 Trout Unlimited Calendar for the month of April. The picture is used with his permission and we thank Jason for allowing us to use it.

Freddie's Fish

by Kevin McJunkin

My brother Bruce and his son Freddie were up visiting one summer from North Carolina. Bruce is a Fish Hawk, and apparently Fred has inherited his Dad's fishing aptitude. When he was nine years old he fought and landed his first Citation sized Cobia, a 46 pound brute that was longer than he was.

We had a couple of hours to fish before a family obligation. I wanted to take them to a small local trout stream, that will remain unnamed, where a couple of years before I had caught and released a 20+ brown trout. However, the sky was dark, the wind blowing hard, and a storm was coming. I checked the weather radar and noticed that the storm was centered over the stream and heading our way on the prevailing winds.

We decided to drive through the storm to the stream. Hopefully, it will have passed and we would have a brief window to fish before the next wave of storms came through. We arrived just as the rain and wind tapered off and found the stream slightly off color and rising slowly - perfect conditions - and the trout on the feed. Freddie expertly flipped his orange panther martin into the head of the first pool and took a 12" brown.

We worked upstream until we came to the big fish hole. I told Freddie to cast his spinner just above a leaning Hemlock with a big root ball and slowly retrieve it.

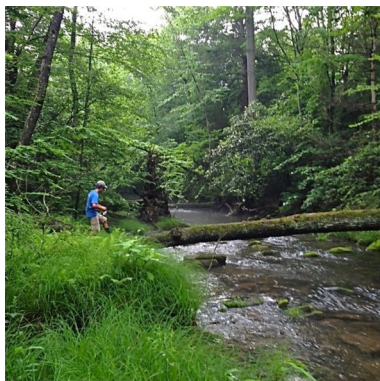


Photo submitted by Kevin McJunkin

A fish struck, and Freddie was hooked into something big. The fish rolled several times, exposing its cream colored belly, and Freddie's saltwater spinning rod bent double as he put the butt to it before it could get back in the root ball. It was a brown trout at least two feet long, especially big considering the size of the stream! But then he was off...

Fred exclaimed "wow, that was the best trout I ever hooked!" I replied, "I'm sure you will see more like that one." Bruce winked at me, and said "Good guiding."

Was it the same fish I caught two years ago? We'll never know. I tried for that fish several times after that, but never saw or touched him.



Recipe of the Month



Grilled Northern Pike

Ingredients

- 2 pounds of northern pike fillets
- ½ cup salad oil
- 2 TBS parley cut up
- ½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 dash hot pepper sauce
- ¼ cup of lemon juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. paprika

Directions:

- Cut northern pike into 6 pieces.
- Combine Oil, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, Lemon juice and salt.
- Place fillets in a shallow dish, cover with mixture. Marinate at room temperature for one hour, turn once. Drain and set aside marinade.
- Place fish in a well greased broiler basket and sprinkle with salt. Grill over medium hot coals for 5-8 minutes. Baste

with marinade and turn. Grill 5-8 more minutes until the fish flakes easily with a fork. Sprinkle with paprika and enjoy.

Recipe taken from <http://northerngirl.com/recipes/> and Submitted by Stan Sanders

The ***Susquehanna Ripples*** is the official newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is published 8 times a year: January, February, March, April, June/July, September, October, and November. Please consider submitting something of interest to our readers; a story, stream report, recipe, photograph, gear review, etc. Submissions received will be placed in the next available issue. All submissions can be sent to susquehannatu@gmail.com or boblbaker@comcast.net.

PFBC Species ID game

For those of you who use Facebook, an interesting and educational "game" is available through the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commissions Facebook page.

For 2019, each Friday afternoon, the PFBC will post a photo of an Aquatic Invasive Species for you to identify. On the following Monday, the PFBC will reveal the name and information on that species that was pictured.

So far this month, they have shown the Alewife, Grass Carp, Big Head Carp, and the Northern Snakehead.

Aquatic invasive species (both animals and plants) may be native to certain watersheds in Pennsylvania but have been introduced to other waterways thus making them invasive.

These invasive species are of concern because they can harm the natural resources (plants, animals, and waterways) as well as the people that use these waterways.

For more information, please go to the PFBC and search Aquatic Invasive Species.

Black Hole Creek Watershed Association

35 South Main Street
Montgomery, PA 17752-0125
Becky@Riverside@aol.com

Consolidated Sportsmen Of Muncy Creeks

660 Clarkstown Rd
Muncy, PA 17756
mcbadger@gmail.com

Lycoming College Clean Water Institute

700 College Place
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zimmer@lycoming.edu

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

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loyal2thesock@gmail.com

Lycoming Audubon Society

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Lycoming County Conservation District

542 County Farm Road, Suite 202
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Lycoming County Planning Commission

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Williamsport, PA 17701
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Lycoming Creek Anglers Club

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Lycoming Creek Watershed Association

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Middle Susquehanna Riverkeepers Association

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Muncy Creek Watershed Assoc

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Dr. Jonathan Niles

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North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy

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PA Council of Trout Unlimited

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PA Department of Environmental Protection

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Pine Creek Preservation Association

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bphoffma@verizon.net

Pine Creek Watershed Council

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Sullivan County Conservation District

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crichmond@sullivancounty-pa.us

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

301 Market Street, Suite 649
Lewistown, PA 17837
cellison@susquehannagreenway.org

Tioga County Planning Commission

118 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
knelson@tiogacountypa.us

Trout Unlimited Eastern Brook Trout Initiative

643 Mills Hill Road
Wellsboro, PA 16901
klavelle@tu.org

US Geological Survey

439 Hepburn Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
jclune@usgs.gov

Waterdale Environmental Education Center

c/o Williamsport Municipal Water Authority
253 W. 4th Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

West Branch Regional Authority

127 Girton Drive
Muncy, PA 17756
ericm@westbranch-ra.org

Thank you to our Watershed and Conservation Groups

The Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to thank all the Watershed Organizations and Outdoor Conservation Groups that work so hard to protect our resources. We know the amount of work that you do and that this work is done with limited resources (financially and manpower). We applaud you for everything that you have done and look forward to continuing our relationship and working with you in the future. North Central Pennsylvania is a much better place because of your efforts and we can not thank you enough.

If you do not belong to any of these groups, please contact them to see how you can help them.

2019 Watershed Summit

Highlights (this is only a small sample of what was presented) from the Watershed Summit. More detailed information will be put on the website in the near future.

PA Fish and Boat Commission

- Introduction of Tim Schaeffer, the new Executive Director of the Fish Commission
- ED Schaeffer encouraged support of a new Bill that would give License exemptions for therapeutic recreation, Wounded Warriors, and Breast Cancer recovery.
- The Division of Environmental Services is working with the Dirt & Gravel Program to improve 100 stream crossings/blockages
- The PAFBC will continue to advise DEP on projects to benefit fish habitat and will continue the Unassessed Waters Program in conjunction with partners.

Dr. Jonathan Niles, Susquehanna University

- Dr. Niles and his students have been active participants in the Unassessed Waters Initiative, and have conducted long term brook trout studies in Loyalsock Creek. He summarized his research on short term flooding impacts. Catastrophic flooding, such as the 8" of rain in 7 hours in Dry Run in the Fall of 2016

Lycoming College Clean Water Institute (CWI)

- Continued to participate in the Unassessed Streams Initiative in conjunction with the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition, potentially leading to Special Protection water quality status for additional streams.
- Hellbender Research - Dr. Peter Petokas is continuing his Hellbender research. Now raising Hellbenders in captivity. The bill that Senator Yaw introduced to make the Hellbender the PA State Amphibian has passed the Senate and is heading to the House.
- Performed limnological survey of Indian Park pond; found an interesting freshwater jellyfish.
- Measuring stream flows on the Loyalsock regarding the Chief water withdrawal.

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

- Participated in Loyalsock 2018 River of the Year Celebration
- Acid mine drainage treatment monitoring of the limestone beds in the Lopez area - cells aren't capturing total flow but are reducing acidity and minerals.
- Partnering with the gas industry on environmental projects.

Sullivan County Conservation District

- Continued the Dirt and Gravel Program, which benefits local watersheds by reducing erosion and sedimentation, including improved aquatic organism passages.
- Elk Creek Restoration – Phase V
- Emergency Stream Maintenance Workshop

Lycoming County Conservation District

- Continued the Dirt and Gravel Road Program
- Mill Creek West project and Middle Road and Beacon Light Road projects on Wolf Run, an ag impaired stream near Pennsdale
- Next year's projects include Wallis Run debris removal, Wolf Run habitat, and Muncy Creek near Hughesville.

Northcentral PA Conservancy (NCPC)

- Indian Run, Montour County, tributary of Mahoning Creek – outside bank stabilization
- Wolf Run – remove excess sediment sources
- E. Branch Briar Creek, Columbia County – stabilized outside bends

Loyalsock District State Forest

- Summarized progress in recovering from the extensive damage from the flash flood on October 21, 2016
- The District completed 56 stream crossing assessments

Tiadaghton District State Forest

- Gas management. There are 56 well pads from five companies. The 500 miles of pipelines are replanted with species that will benefit all wildlife. Manual cutting is required on steep slopes to maintain root structures.
- An initiative to add large woody debris to several tributaries of Pine Creek and Young Woman's Creek, improving trout habitat and mitigating downstream flood impacts.

PA Trout Unlimited (PATU)

- PATU assessed 117 streams in 2018. Twenty seven streams were in the Upper West Branch – of these, five contained trout
- PATU continues to assess culverts for Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) and identify priority areas for reconnecting trout populations.

Pine Creek Watershed Council

- Woolly Adelgid, a sap sucking insect pest, has moved up into the Pine Creek watershed and is threatening the hemlock trees, which could result in a trophic cascade of environmental impacts, including an increase in water temperatures.
- Council has identified priority riparian buffer protection areas for planting of underlying replacement trees to maintain the riparian buffer functions.

Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

- River of The Year activities included 20 events, 70 partnering organizations, 1500 hours volunteer time, and 2700 people
- Environmental Justice Advisory Board – pharmaceutical impacts and microplastic study with Bucknell

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

- Conducting a water trail signage inventory, updating the 2004 Water Trail Map to promote use of the river
- Assisting River Towns to identify projects and funding sources, such as the Heart of Williamsport

Lycoming Creek Watershed Association

- working on an ambitious “Midway” project will result in streambank stabilization, flood damage reduction, and sediment reduction

Harvey Katz

- gave an update of his McIntyre Wild Area bog research. He identified 150 bogs
- Briefly discussed global warming

The above highlights were taken from the meeting minutes submitted by Kevin McJunkin, Secretary. For complete meeting minutes, please let us know and we will get you a copy.

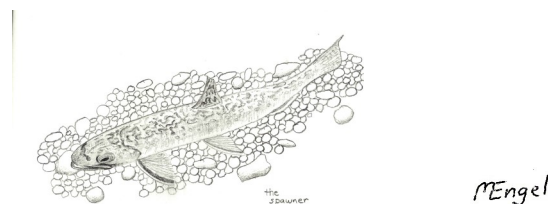


XVI World Ice Fishing Championship

Teams representing Countries from around the world converged in Batak, Bulgaria from January 21 through 28, 2019 for the World Ice Fishing Championship.

The members making up each team competed as a team as well as individual rankings. Team standings had Lithuania in first place, Belarus in second, Ukraine in third, and Latvia in fourth. The United States finished in 10th place out of 15 teams.

In the individual competition, members from Lithuania took first, third and fourth place with a member of the Finland team taking 2nd place. The highest ranking individual from the US finished in 18th position (80 competitors total).



Treasurer Report for October 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019

Submitted by Robert Baker, Treasurer

Checking Account

Beginning Balance October 1, 2018 \$5,259.10

Income:

Merchandise sold \$75.00

Expenses:

Covenant Central Presbyterian Church \$150.00

Montgomery Area School District \$82.97
UV sterilizer for Trout in the Classroom

Checking Account Balance **\$5,101.13**

Savings Account

Beginning Balance October 1, 2018 \$8,464.99

Income:

Dividend payment 10/18 \$0.36

Dividend payment 11/18 \$0.36

Dividend payment 12/18 \$0.34

Dividend payment 1/18 \$0.34

No expenses

Savings Account Balance **\$8,466.39**

Total Money in Bank \$13,567.52

Angler Interview - Sean Warner, USA Ice Fishing Team



In this month's interview, we speak with Sean Warner, the official translator for the USA Ice Fishing Team and the President of the United States Angling Confederation, and a long time TU member belonging with the Twin Cities Chapter. He Lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Chapter thanks Sean for taking the time, during this busy time, to answer our questions for us.

How did you begin your interest in ice fishing?

My great grandfather and grandfather built a 10 cabin resort Deer/Moose chain, (Itasca County) in northern Minnesota shortly after the conclusion of WWII, and I spent my early years growing up on the resort. Like most Minnesota boys, you learn how to skate, play hockey, and fish soon after one becomes somewhat ambulatory.

How did you get involved with the US Ice Fishing Team?

Oddly enough, it was through viewing a Russian language television show on the internet in 2011, featuring our longtime captain and Program manager, Mike McNett. It seemed to me that the man was in seriously in need of a Russian translator on a visit to Lake Peipus on the Estonian/Latvian/Russian border. I speak fluent Russian, having served as a Russian language voice intercept operator during my US Army service, in the waning years of the Cold War. I sent him an email, which led to a phone conversation....one thing led to another, and a few months later, there I was at Lake Kapchagai in southern Ka-

zakhstan, doing on ice interviews with the BBC, Russian television, and the local Kazakh media.

What is competitive ice fishing and how is that different (if it is) from conventional ice fishing?

It's tough to define what is "conventional" about ice fishing, right? A few years ago, there was a very dubious television show on the National Geographic channel featuring a small group of Maine guys who did their very best to confirm every stereotype one might hear about ice anglers. These guys couldn't get out of their own way half the time, practiced poor ice safety, spent more time drinking beer than anything else> Thankfully the show didn't even last a full season. Around my part of the country, "conventional" ice fishing is something a lot of folks do – part fishing, part social activity, usually setting up in one spot and not moving around much, setting up grills for an on ice barbecue, etc. There's also a lot of local ice fishing derbies, usually to raise money for the Jaycees or other local civic organizations, but a ticket or two, sit near one hole, hope to catch a big fish or something that might win a prize. The biggest difference between "conventional" and "competitive" ice fishing is that competitive fishing features a lot of constant movement, drilling 20x more holes, use of advanced sonar and aquatic camera technology that the average Joe Ice Angler usually doesn't use or need, and the time investment it takes in both travelling and scouting ("pre-fishing") the tournament body of water. In my opinion – there's a lot to be said for both, and I enjoy both.

If not answered above, are there any differences in gear for competitive ice fishing as compared to standard ice fishing gear? If so, what are they?

Not that you cannot competitively ice fish with standard ice fishing

gear one might be able to find at a local Wal-Mart, but most if not all of the pros on the North American Ice Fishing Circuit tour (NAIFC.com) are using very specialized, custom equipment that is on the high end of the price range. Custom built rods, spendier line, advanced electronics, customized snowmobiles, tracked ATVs, high end boots and protective suits, etc. Having said that – there are a LOT of very successful teams blending traditional gear with new tech that do extremely well. For example, there is a significant contingent of superb ice anglers from Michigan, with a lot of titles and trophies to their name, that still use the venerable old Schooley ice rod, which might cost a couple of bucks in any general store in the Upper Midwest. Now, for the "international" version of "competitive" ice fishing, that is decidedly low-tech, by design – no motorized ice augers (hand powered only), no electronics or cameras allowed – there's only one event every year on the calendar, the CIPS/FIPSeD World Ice Fishing Championship, usually held in late January/early February. This year the WIFC is being held in Bulgaria – past WIFCs have been held in Kazakhstan, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, Russia, Finland, and the United States. Next year will be in Lithuania, for the first time. We intend on hosting the WIFC again in the United States in 2022.

How many competitive events do you have during a typical season?

A team that expects to be in the running for the NAIFC Team of the Year title needs to put in at least 3 qualifying tournaments per season, which generally run from 01-January to end of March/Beginning of April. Most teams taking a run at TOTY do 4-5;

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the typical qualifying tournament schedule has between 8-10 events, from Michigan to Montana. The NAIFC National Championship is always held in December, where teams that have qualified during the regular season are invited to fish for the coveted NAIFC Championship rings.

What are the qualifications for someone to be on the US Ice Team?

We run open tryouts every year, open to the public. The tryouts have traditionally been held in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, at the wonderful Holiday Acres Resort (which also hosted WIFC VIII.) Traditionally, almost all of the anglers that make the team at the tryouts usually have some pretty extensive NAIFC experience – but because the competitive fishing overseas is so different, both in technique and equipment, NAIFC success is not a guarantor of making the team.

What are some of the top ice fishing waters in your opinion?

Well, I am certainly going to be biased towards my home state of Minnesota, the “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” but there are so many across the Ice Belt – virtually every state that gets at least a month of 4-5 inches of ice can boast a premium venue for ice fishing. In Minnesota, it is hard to beat Lake Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, Upper Red Lake, or Lake Winnibigoshish for multi-species action – although when the stream trout in lakes season opens here in Minnesota, up until the end of the season at the conclusion of March, I tend to spend my free weekends in the northern part of the state where rarely visited mine pit and pothole lakes that are spring fed offer unbeatable action for rainbows, browns, and brook trout thru the ice. For trophy browns, lakereels, salmon, steelhead and walleyes, Milwaukee Harbor on Lake Michigan and Du-

luth Harbor on Lake Superior are hard to beat. Lake Hebgen in West Yellowstone, Montana, the site of one of the annual NAIFC qualifier tournaments, is one of my favorite lakes in the country. Devil’s Lake in North Dakota is one of the premier perch fisheries in the United States – the aggressive jumbos there attack baits upon request, and feed almost exclusively on freshwater shrimp – hard to beat for constant action and superb table fare. I’m close to a couple of great lakes in Manitoba, I like to get up to Lake Simcoe every couple of years for their massive walleyes. I haven’t gotten a chance to fish many of the New England ice fishing hot spots, but Lake Champlain in Vermont is definitely on my to do list; I received my Master’s Degree at nearby Norwich University and Military Academy, and I’d like to spend a week there combining purpose, as there is a burgeoning competitive ice fishing movement right now in Vermont, Maine, and western New York. There’s just way too many that deserve mention.

What role do fish finders and other electronic devices play in ice fishing? Can you fish without them or are they necessary part of your arsenal for success?

Certainly, one can fish without them. I didn’t buy my first flasher until 2006. Do they help? No question. I find cameras to be of use during scouting or pre-fishing, but come game day, I really don’t use them much. There’s top teams on the NAIFC tour that do.

As a member of the US Ice Fishing Team, where are some places that you have gone representing the United States?

The trip to Bulgaria will mark my 8th year with the team. In order: 2012 Kapchagai, Kazakhstan; 2013 Wausau, Wisconsin; 2014 Minsk, Belarus (probably my favorite trip); 2015 Kuopio, Finland; 2016 Ter-

nopil, Ukraine; 2017, Riga, Latvia; 2018 Temirtau, Kazakhstan. As I mentioned before, 2020 looks like it will be in Kaunas, Lithuania, 2021 might be either in Poland or a joint championship on the Norwegian/Swedish border, and we will bid to host the 2022 WC in the United States again. I really hope to see Russia host a WC soon, and also would love to go back to Belarus one more time before I hang up my (ice) spikes; however, if I can somehow bring a WIFC to Minnesota in 2022, on either the Deer/Moose chain of lakes or Lake Winnibigoshish, I’ll probably call it a day then, on a high note that would really come full circle with my life-long love affair with ice fishing.

What are some top lures / baits for ice fishing? What is your favorite or go to lure and why?

Well, this question is always fun and sparks eternal debate. Except for the Lake Hebgen, MT qualifier, all of the NAIFC tournament events are panfish (bluegill/crappie) or perch contests, so jigs are the primary attractant of choice. The denser, heavier tungsten jigs are mostly used nowadays. During international competition, jigs (mormyshki in Russian, which with English is one of the two official languages for the FIPSeD Ice Fishing WIFCs) are the only bait allowed. My favorite jigs here in the USA are the custom “ice files” that Jeff’s Jigs in Two Harbors, MN hand ties – his UV or glow green assassin #12 is my “go to” jig for all species. But if you told me one lure was all I could use, year round, for any and all species – it would be the Bay de Noc Swedish Pimple #3. That’s a small spoon I’ve been using as long as I can remember, that anything swimming can be caught on.

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Do you have any advice for someone just starting out in ice fishing or for someone who wants to ice fish but never has?

Most of the local fishing forums in the Ice Belt, whatever the locale, has a hardwater section. Don't be shy – introduce yourself and just state you'd like to try ice fishing with someone that can introduce you to the sport. You'll have a bunch of replies, and you can go out and learn the ropes in a short period of time. Most importantly, that person can and will run you through rudimentary ice safety precautions, which everybody should know before taking to the ice.

During a typical ice fishing season, how many days do you fish?

Virtually every weekend, and a lot of free afternoons

During the off season (spring – fall), do you fish? If so, what kind of fishing do you do: fly fishing, spin fishing, bait casting, etc.

I usually split my time between fly fishing small trout streams in the Driftless Area, and taking my boat out on lakes for walleye and pan-fish/perch.

What is your most memorable experience from fishing?

Probably when I was 10 years old. A local big time outdoors writer heard about some big walleyes coming out of the resort, came out on short notice, and all the resort guides were booked. My grandfather told me to take him and his buddy out – at night. It wasn't my first time guiding at the resort, but it was at night, and this particular writer was not exactly known to be a very pleasant individual to deal with. So I was a bit nervous, but I just took them out to the same place I went when my buddies and I went out, backtrolling with old school flatfish around a local point across the lake. The guy ended up boating

an 11 pound 'eye that night, and the next Sunday edition of the Duluth News Tribune, there I was on the front page of the sports section. I remembered he tipped me \$20 bucks too, which in 1976 was a massive amount of money for a 10 year old kid. I remember blowing almost all of it at the local tackle shop.

Are there any threats to ice fishing and if so, what are they?

I think the #1 threat to fishing in general is the issue of selective harvest and resource management. Seems like there is a lot of ice anglers that keep way too many larger fish that aren't especially good for table fare. This, of course is something that is not unique to ice fishing, of course. Yet I don't really think that everything needs to be catch and release only; sadly I see this a lot on trout streams during the open water season where a certain segment of fly anglers really get bent out of shape if you keep a couple of fish for the camp grill. There's a happy medium here, and right now I think I see more of the two extremes during both the hardwater and open water seasons.

What do you see is the future of ice fishing?

Ice fishing has really grown in the last 15 years, and I see that growth continuing. We're really starting to see the New England area catch up lately, and I see that market exploding like the Upper Midwest did back in the late 1990's

How has ice fishing changed over the years, if it has?

The gear has obviously changed a lot, and has opened up ice fishing to a whole new segment of open water anglers in the Ice Belt. The use of electronics has really revolutionized competitive ice angling and has also made a lot of inroads into the casual ranks of ice anglers as well.

How do we get more people involved in fishing / ice fishing? What is your opinion on getting more kids and women involved?

Sadly, the Xbox and the PlayStation are winning the battle for youth attention these days, and that is rather unfortunate. Here in Minnesota the youth licensing numbers have been dropping consistently for decades, but the secondary educational system in the state has made a concerted effort to push outdoor sports as available "varsity" activities as an option or alternative to traditional athletics. Trap shooting was the first of the outdoor sports, and it has really taken off within the states; as a result, a whole new generation has been introduced to upland bird hunting for pheasant, ruffed grouse, woodcock, mourning dove, etc., and youth small game license sales have leveled off and even increased a bit in recent years. High school bass teams have been following the same trajectory, and youth fishing license sales have seen a similar boost. Most encouraging is the gender representation; with trap shooting, it is estimated that 35% of participants are female.

What is your greatest accomplishment in ice fishing?

Being able to travel overseas and represent my flag and my country at world championship fishing events.

Is there any one person or persons who have influenced you in this sport and why did they?

Well, everyone around this part of the country refers to Dave Genz as the "Father of Modern Ice Fishing." I know Dave well, as do many, and his pioneering approach to ice fishing and the massive influence he has had on the ice fishing world cannot be underestimated. But, on a personal level, I'd have to point to my grandfather Roy.

Continued on next page

Grandpa Roy was a World War II combat veteran (Pacific Theater) and member of what Tom Brokaw and others have called “the Greatest Generation.” He was a keen and accomplished angler in his own right, and I don’t ever remember a time where he said no to a kid that CONSTANTY asked to get out on the ice or out in the boat – even though, truth be told, he much rather would have been in a boat than out on the ice! Yet, that never stopped him from taking me out on the ice and providing a priceless education. I’ve always tried to do the best I can to pass on the rich and storied hunting and fishing legacies we here in the Upper Midwest enjoy, because I know that is what my Grandfather Roy did all his life, and what he would still be doing today if he was still with us.

What species fish have you caught through the ice and what is the biggest?

Biggest was a 30 pound 4 oz. lake trout I caught in Duluth Harbor when I was 16. It was the fight of a lifetime. Had a few northern pike that were close to that, biggest one was caught on Big Winnie in 1996, ran a shade under 50 inches- didn’t weigh it, but it was fat, guessing that was in the 26-27 pound range. Species: both Black bass species, white bass, yellow bass, sheepshead (freshwater drum), dogfish, common carp, dace, burbot (eelpout), tullibee (ciscoes), roach, ruffe, gobies, lake whitefish, yellow, white, and redhorse suckers, yellow and black bullheads, channel, blue, and flathead catfish, walleyes, sauger, yellow and white suckers, black and white crappies, green sunfish, bluegills, pumpkinseeds, white and yellow perch, northern pike, pickerel, sturgeon, rainbow-brook-brown-tiger-cutthroat-cut bow-golden-splake-lake trout, arctic char, grayling, pink-coho-chinook salmon, stickleback (both 3 and 4 fin variety) and exactly one sea lamprey.

The Ice Worm Jig

The Fly of the Month has been a regular part of this newsletter for several years. I realize that not everyone who is a member of our Chapter, or is a reader of this newsletter, fly fishes or ties their own flies. In an attempt to reach out to more people and different types of anglers, we will begin adding an article of interest to the non fly fisherman.

This month, we are highlighting the Ice Worm Jig for the ice fisherman and spin fisherman.



The photo on the left shows a store bought Ice worm jig (top). Seeing how simple it is in design, I thought that

I could make one. The jig on the bottom is one that I made out of common materials

Materials needed:

- Jig Hook, these are # 8 but you can use any size you want. If you don’t have jig hooks, any long shanked hook will do and just bend the end of it into jig shape
- Split shot, tungsten, brass or similar beads, and craft beads
- Super glue
- Paints or nail polish
- Something for a top coat (I used nail polish again)

Instructions:

- Place small amount of super glue into opening of split shot and clamp onto front of jig hook.
- Place brass beads, craft beads or similar type beads onto hook and up to front of hook. Use a small amount of super glue to hold the beads in place and against each other. Make sure

they are tight up against each other. You can add a thread base to the hook to make beads fit more securely but the super glue works fine.

- After they are dry, you can paint them any way you desire. I used nail polish on my lure and it took 2 coats to cover it completely.
- I then used Sally Hansen hard as nails over the entire jig
- I painted the hook red just for an added touch.

This is a great little jig that is easy to make and can be used year round. You can easily change the appearance by hook and bead / split shot size. It is sold as an ice fishing jig but there is no reason it could not be used during the warm months to tempt a perch or bluegill.

Bob Baker

Chapter meetings are 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 Fellowship 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

The Underwater World of Trout | How They See

A great video on YouTube discusses the underwater world of trout where we learn about Trout Vision and Refraction. In this uniquely detailed video, Ozzie Ozevovich teaches us a great deal about the underwater world of fish. The film is 49 minutes long and is well worth watch. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S57HY7TOvMA>

Commission answers Angler Questions on Voluntary Permits

“Anglers are already showing a willingness to support the cause.

But they want assurances.

That’s something the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is learning when it comes to selling voluntary permits in support of fish and fish habitat.

Late last year the agency’s board of directors created several voluntary permits: one for muskies, one for bass, one for habitat and waterways conservation and one for wild trout and enhanced waters.

The first three cost \$10 annually, the last \$25. One-, three-five-and 10-year permits are available.

The commission hasn’t marketed them much yet. Yet, anglers purchased a combined 781 of them as of Jan. 15. That includes 251 wild trout permits, 196 bass permits, 169 habitat permits and 165 musky permits.

The revenue boost is \$15,020.

“I think what’s really encouraging is how many people are willing to donate money to us. I think that’s a statement of how they trust us,” said Andy Shiels, deputy director for field operations for the commission.

Still, anglers have questions.

Shiels admitted that the commission has heard – from the public and even from within its own ranks – some uncertainty. Anglers said they are willing to buy permits, but only if the money goes to the species or projects they represent.

In fact, Shiels promised, it will.

The money from permit sales, he said, will go into a dedicated account. Funds will be used only on new or expanded projects specific to wild trout, bass, muskies and habitat.

He outlined for commissioners some possible uses of permit funds at the agency’s most recent quarterly meeting.

Money from wild trout permits, for example, might be used to turn a Class B wild trout water into a Class A, the best of the best in

terms of wild fish numbers. It might also fund wild trout stream habitat work, such as “chop and drop” projects, where foresters working with chain saws in areas inaccessible to heavy equipment cut trees so that they fall into streams, creating cover and habitat.

“There are many, many things that can be done with wild trout in Pennsylvania,” Shiels said. “We’re doing a lot. But there’s a lot more that can be done.”

Small stream habitat work might be something the commission spends money from bass sales permits on, too.

“This is something we really haven’t done,” Shiels said. “We’ve never really worked on a small warmwater stream, specifically to target bass or bass habitat. Deepening holes, making faster current in certain areas. That’s something we’re going to be looking at, and this might be a good opportunity to put some funding into it.

Bass permit money might also be used to create habitat in lakes – like Donegal in Westmoreland County, Somerset in Somerset and Meadow Grounds in Fulton – that are being rebuilt as their dams are made safe.

Musky permit funds might be used to buy minnows to feed muskies in hatcheries – something that leads to better growth and ultimately stocking bigger fish – or develop an app that would allow musky anglers to record catch data.

Musky fishing clinics – something else the commission has never done – could also be on the horizon, held with the cooperation of musky angling groups, Shiels said. The final permit, for habitat and waterways conservation, has the broadest possible range of uses, Shiels said.

One area where that money might be used is to improve Keystone Select streams, where the commission stocks unusually high numbers of large trout. Those funds could also be used to leverage outside grants that require matching funds, he added.

Anglers will have to wait just a

bit to see much of all that work begin.

Shiels said the commission may do a little bit of work with permit money this year. Things will really kick off in a big way in 2020, though.

By then, the commission will have a handle on just how much money it has, he said. And it can look at possible projects and prioritize them, with an internal review committee making decisions.

A couple of things are already clear, though. First, Shiels said the commission will spread projects done with permit funds out across the state geographically.

“We recognize that we have people that live all over Pennsylvania,” Shiels said. “So we’re going to be sensitive to being equitable in how we use these funds.”

And second, all projects paid for in whole or part with permit money will be identified in some way.

Just what form that will take remains to be seen. An outside review of the commission done by business school students at Penn State University found that it too often confuses its branding with different logos and imaging, said commission executive director Tim Schaeffer.

“That’s certainly something we want to be more thoughtful and deliberate about,” Schaeffer said.

But anglers will see their money put to use, and they’ll know where that work is going on, Shiels promised. The commission will aggressively market permits this year in hopes of boosting sales even higher. Eric Hussar, the Union County man who serves as agency president, thinks that will be effective.

Permit sales already show that anglers see value in what the commission does, he said. “They always probably saw a value. And now there’s a way they can exercise that by paying a little bit more for one of these (permits),” Hussar said. “That’s huge.”

Copied from
<http://adventures.everybodyshops.com/voluntary-permits-questions-answered/>
 Posted on: January 22, 2019 | Bob Frye



Susquehanna Ripples
Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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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

February 2 - 10, 2019
The Great American Outdoor Show, Farm show Complex, Harrisburg

February 5, 2019
Fly Tying Class

February 12, 2019
Fly Tying Class

February 13, 2019
Chapter Meeting - PFBC Conservation Officers and other PFBC Representatives

February 16 - 17, 2019
18th Annual Valley Outdoors Cabin Fever Expo
Mifflinburg Intermediate School

February 19, 2019
Fly Tying Class

February 26, 2019
Fly Tying Class

March 1, 2019
Stocked Trout Waters Closed to Fishing

March 5, 2019
Fly Tying Class

March 9 - 10, 2019
The Fly Fishing Show
Lancaster, PA

March 12, 2019
Fly Tying Class

March 13, 2019
Chapter Meeting

March 19, 2019
Fly Tying Class

March 23, 2019
Regional Mentored Youth Trout

March 26, 2019
Fly tying class (final class)

March 30, 2019
Regional Opening Day of Trout & Fly Fishing Film Tour in Wellsboro

April 6, 2019
Statewide Mentored Youth Trout

April 10, 2019
Chapter Meeting

April 13, 2019
Statewide Opening of Trout Season

