

# *The Susquehanna Ripples*



*The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044*

## **PATU Annual Membership Meeting to be held in Waterville, PA**

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, at the Waterville Fire Hall located at 11009 North Route 44 Highway, Waterville, PA 17776. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and the program gets underway at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will feature special guest speakers, State Council officer elections, award presentations, raffles and an opportunity to network with members from across the state.

Registration is \$35 per person, which includes lunch. To register or for more information go to [www.patROUT.org](http://www.patROUT.org). Registration deadline is Sept. 4, 2024.

Guest speakers include:

Nathan Walters, Coldwater Unit Leader for the PA Fish and Boat Commission, will discuss various aspects of the Commission's Trout Management program, including the agency's upcoming new and revised Trout Management Plan.

Ralph Scherder, outdoor writer, flyfishing guide and editor of Dark Skies Fly Fishing magazine, will present a program on fishing for wild brook trout in Maine. Ralph will also discuss his website and magazine and will have some of his flyfishing products available for purchase.

Brian Wagner, PATU Conservation Committee chairman, will provide a date on the important conservation issues and activities that his committee and PATU are following and providing input on.

Scott Koser from National TU will provide a brief update on Priority Waters in Pennsylvania as well as showcase several National TU projects that have been implemented in the Pine Creek watershed.

We will also introduce PATU's new executive director at the meeting.

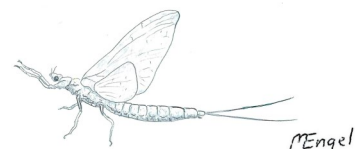
Join us to learn more about important Coldwater conservation issues of concern and state and national programs that can assist you in achieving your local chapter project goals.

Local overnight suggested lodging locations are listed on the PATU website and below. Angling opportunities are readily available in the Pine Creek watershed.

## **Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited Picnic and Meeting at Trout Run Park on September 11, 2024**

Want to learn about our TU chapter activities and conservation project updates, perhaps try out fly casting as a first-timer or sharpen your skills under the instruction of experienced fly fishers? Would you like to learn more about fishing from a kayak? The public is invited to a picnic and outdoor meeting of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited to be held at Trout Run Park on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Several fly rod and reel outfits will be available for those to try out who do not have one. A demo on fishing from kayaks will also be presented and you may want to check out the fishing platform adjacent to the park on Lycoming Creek constructed by our members, as well as some of the habitat structures placed along the stream to create fish habitat and control bank erosion.

Meet, greet and picnic will begin at 5:30 PM at the Trout Run Park Pavilion, with hotdogs, corn-on-the-cob and drinks provided, followed by the demos. Participants are encouraged to bring a dessert or side dish to share, but if you can't, please come anyway. Trout Run Park is located just south of the village of Trout Run and can be accessed from the old Rt 15 highway. A map and directions on how to get there from Williamsport can be found on the link to Google Maps at <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.3815903,-77.0550486,15z?entry=tu>, or Trout Run Park - Google Maps or as found on the Susquehanna TU website at <https://susquehannatu.com>.



*A Message from the*  
**PRESIDENT**

Sometimes change is subtle. You can feel it in the air more than you can see it. The days grow shorter, you notice a bit of orange in some roadside Sumac, the Crickets and Katydid become deafening as evening fades to dark. The wildlife can feel it too. I run a number of trail cams on my property and I see a change in the Whitetail bucks. Suddenly, I begin to get pictures of bucks locking antlers with a bit of playful pushing and posturing. About the same time, I'll find my first buck rub on a tree. Fresh and glistening with bits of shredded bark littering the ground below. They don't know that it's the increase in their testosterone level that's causing the change, but they can feel it. And I can feel it too.

As a hunter, my excitement grows as Summer gives up the reins to Fall, the mountains begin to show some splashes of color, and the time of harvest approaches. But still, I'm also an avid fisherman and I'm not quite ready to put away the rods and reels yet. There is still a lot of good fishing to be had! Besides wild and native fish, there are still stocked Trout left in many waters and some Delayed Harvest sections will receive an October stocking. Fall Trout will continue to be very active until the water temps begin to dip into the 40's and even then, can still be coerced to bite. If a fly fisherman, dry flies and nymphs will continue to produce fish while hopper imitations and streamers can also be quite effective in the Fall.

And then there are Smallmouths. As the water temperature begins to drop, Smallmouths will become quite active again as they feel the urge to feed up before the oncoming Winter. As they begin to shift from deeper, Summertime haunts to shallower shorelines and riffles, they become quite voracious and will hit most anything that looks like food. Top water poppers can still be effective, as well as Crayfish imitations, Wooley buggers and streamers. You will often find Smallmouths stacked up right where a riffle dumps into a pool. The action can be fast, with some exciting aerial acrobatics!

So don't put those rods away just yet...get out there and do some Fall fishing! Enjoy!

Steve Martin

President – Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited



### **Donations Received**

Deb Starr from Hammondsport, NY

A large number of useable or collectible rods and reels, including an antique Bristol telescoping steel fly rod, tackle boxes, old nets, fishing bags, lures and baits and minnow buckets.

Bryan J. Newsham from Middle Village, New York

Size 13 Proline chest waders with storage bag

Fishing fact #4: The most difficult part about teaching someone to fish, is teaching them to shut up.



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## What topics do you want to hear at Chapter Meetings?

We are looking for ideas from you on what you would like to have as topics for our upcoming Chapter meetings. September 11 is our annual picnic / Chapter meeting and will be held at Trout Run Park in Trout Run. More information about the meeting will be coming in the next few days.

We have 7 Chapter meetings in a year and no meetings are held in December, May, June, July or August. It is difficult to come up with ideas and things of interest. As members or follower of the Chapter, what do you want to see or hear? Please give us some ideas.

- 👍 Is there a specific topic that you want to hear about?
- 👍 Do you want to learn about specific fishing skills or how to fish certain types of water?
- 👍 Do you want a meeting with the Director of the Fish Commission, a Board commissioner, or other state representative?
- 👍 Do you want to learn about self guided fishing trips and how to go about doing so?
- 👍 Do you want to know about fishing out west, Alaska, or somewhere in the World?
- 👍 Would you want to meet any of the PATU leadership and have them discuss the overall goals and vision of PATU?
- 👍 Would you want to meet Chris Wood or other individual from Trout Unlimited?
- 👍 Do you want to have a get together with other like minded environmental groups and see what they are doing and how we can work together on a project?

This is your Chapter and we want to provide you with the meetings and topics that interest you. Please give us your thoughts. We want to provide interesting and informative topics but need your help.

### Our Official Newsletter

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](mailto:susquehannatu@gmail.com) / [boblaker@comcast.net](mailto:boblaker@comcast.net).

**Chapter meetings** are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) and are always free and open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm. 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





## Fly Tyers' Corner A Fly for Two Seasons

Of all the mayflies that our local Flyfishers look forward to seeing each year, the ones belonging to the *Isonychia* genus stand out as one of the most consistent and long-lasting of the hatches. They go by the names slate drakes, leadwing drakes, and my favorite, the “White Gloved Howdy.” (Apparently because the rear legs of the dun and front legs of the spinner are white and can be imagined as presenting a handshake.)

One of the earliest mentions of that moniker was in Charles Wetzel's *Practical Fly Fishing*, The Christopher Publishing House, (1943 and 1945 editions). Wetzel was reliving his first encounter with that fly as a young lad on the Kettle Creek tributary of Trout Run in the early 1900s. An elderly gentleman angler took him under his wing and tied imitations of the spinner form for that evening's rise from brown wool pulled from his sweater and brown and white chicken hackle from an envelope he carried in his fly box. The pattern matched the brown spinner with white legs, and they both had a banner night using the flies tied right there at streamside.

Wetzel's book was important as one of the very first to connect the entomology of aquatic insects to fly patterns used here in Pennsylvania. Even more significant locally was the fact that he was a customer of E. Hille Angler Supply House on Railway Street in Williamsport and could sometimes be found there comparing notes with Bill O'Connor on all manner of angling topics.

More recently, Dave Rothrock presented a comprehensive discussion of the various forms of *Isonychias* (Isos) and how to fish with them in his blog, “The Ranting Angler,” June 16, 2021, found at <https://www.therantingangler.com/2021/06/another-mayfly-easy-on-eyes-its-big.html>. The somewhat unique characteristic of Isos is the fact that they have different seasonal groups, one that hatches in late spring-early summer, and one that hatches in the fall. The hatch which normally occurs on our northcentral PA streams from late May into June can last several weeks. Afternoon and early evenings can find trout taking the nymphs swimming to the shoreline in the riffle areas, followed by duns in the edges of the riffles and tops of the pools, and later, the swarms of big #10-12 brown spinners will get large fish looking up well into dusk. To locate where the hatch will likely occur, just walk up the streamside from the top of the pools into the incoming riffles and look on the rocks for the dark brown nymph shucks with the three fuzzy tails and white stripe split down the back to see where the previous night's or earlier in the day hatch took place.

The emergence from the nymph to the dun form happens mostly in faster water and on adjoining shoreline rocks. An angler can sometimes see rise forms in those areas, but may find it challenging to pick a fly that both floats well for visibility and presents a lower profile which better represents the emerging winged insect. Refusals to high-riding flies by hungry fish and difficulties in detecting strikes with submerged emerger patterns are common issues to solve. Parachute duns with CDC wings can be very effective, but CDC tends to get slimed up by the first fish or two caught and is then more difficult to clean up and stay afloat and visible.

After a couple of evenings experiencing frustration with those situations in early June of this year, I tried a different style of pattern which, for whatever reason, was more successful and a bit more durable and buoyant. Let's call it the “loop-wing biot paradun” or LWBPD for short. It rides low in the film, presents nice wing and white gloves silhouettes, and seemed to work well during the period when the trout are switching from emergers to duns struggling to take off.

During a trip out west this summer, the LWBPD style also worked well when tied to imitate smaller flies such as #16-18 blue-winged olives (BWOs) and pale morning duns (PMDs). Trout took them when they began to look up into the surface film rather than under it for their next bite. LWBPDs can also serve as a floating indicator when dropping a submerged emerger pattern 6"-12" off of it for periods when the trout were not yet taking on the surface.

Here follows some tips for tying the Slate Drake LWBPD.

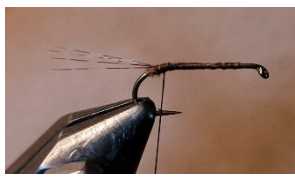
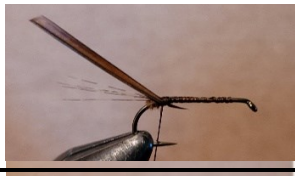
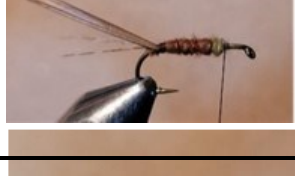





### Materials:

- Hook: # 12 dry fly similar to the TMC 100, 1X fine
- Thread: Dark Brown 6/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Tail: Gray-speckled Coq De Leon stiff fibers
- Dubbing: Fine dry fly polyester, dark brown abdomen, olive-brown thorax
- Abdomen ribbing: Goose biot, dark brown with darker edge stripe
- Wing: Z-Lon polyester straight fiber bundles, loop style, dark gray dun
- Hackle: Grizzly saddle hackle tied parachute style

**Fly Tyers' Corner**

*A Fly for Two Seasons continued*

Suggested procedure for tying the Slate Drake LWBPD:

1. Wrap the thread back from just behind the eye back to the beginning of the hook bend and tie in a very small clump of brown dubbing to make a base for the tail fibers. Place about 6 Coq De Leon stiff tail fibers on top of the dubbing clump and tie them down, fanning them out, with length about 2/3 of the hook shaft length.	
2. Pick out a large goose biot and tie in with tip down and concave side away from you, just in front of tail clump. Be careful to secure the tip firmly with several thread wraps.	
3. Apply the fine brown dubbing in a thin, smooth silhouette to provide a uniform base for the biot ribbing wrap. In the event the biot comes loose during use, it can be cut off and the dubbing will still provide a good abdomen for the fly. Dub in a short section of olive brown dubbing for the beginning of the thorax section, still leaving space of about 1/4 of the shaft toward the eye.	
4. Using hackle pliers, wrap the biot stem forward away from you in uniform spiral wraps to make the ribbing. Keep it aligned, tight and firm against the dubbing. Secure the final thread wraps carefully to not allow the biot to be cut, but firmly tightened to prevent it from sliding loose. For flies larger than #14, a second biot stem may be needed in order to cover about half of the hook shank length. Add olive brown dubbing to cover the biot butt and enlarge the thorax.	
5. Cut a 3" length of a thin bundle of straight Z-Lon dark gray dun fibers and twirl them into a tight bundle. Make a wing-sized loop with a height of about 3/4 of the hook length and secure it to the hook vertically at a backward 45 degree angle. Tighten the thread wraps by pulling straight up with each wrap. Leave the end of the Z-Lon bundle out above the hook eye. Add a bit more olive brown dubbing to increase the thorax size toward the eye.	
6. Take a grizzly saddle hackle feather and remove the barbuless from the end of the stem. The hackle fiber lengths should be about 1/2 of the hook shank length. Tie in the bare stem behind the wing loop with 2 thread wraps, then again behind the eye, making several firm wraps; trim off the bare stem behind the eye.	
7. Wind the grizzly saddle hackle around both the wing loop and excess Z-Lon pulled up in front of the wing. Make each winding in a horizontal plane with each wind below the previous one. Make about 3 winds and then tie off the hackle stem just behind the eye with several very firm thread wraps. Trim off the hackle stem behind the eye and whip finish over the stem but under the hackle windings.	
8. Carefully trim off the excess Z-Lon bundle in front of the wing and above the parachute hackle wraps. A small drop of head cement can be applied at the top of the hackle windings to secure the hackle and align the wing. Note: the barb of the hook should be pinched down before using. Not only does it prevent injury to you and the fish, but it makes removing the hook from the fish much easier, usually without use of forceps which can damage the biot body wraps and shorten the life of the fly.	

Good luck and tight lines,

**Walt Nicholson**

## Community Ties with the Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club

The Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club is looking for presenters for our Community Ties sessions this fall. Topics need to be fly fishing related, i.e., stream etiquette, destination trips, entomology, rod building etc.. Presentations should be approximately 40-60 minutes in length.

This event is free and open to the public. After each presentation, we will spend approximately 1 hour having an open fly tying session. Even if you have not fly fishing or tying experience, you are welcome to come out and learn and try your hand at tying a fly or to learn about the great sport and hobby.

If you have your own vice, tools, and materials, please bring them.

If you'd like to present or just have questions please contact the Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club through their facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/hhsflyfishingclub17737/about>

# HHS FLY FISHING CLUB COMMUNITY TIES SESSION 1

SEPTEMBER 14 AT 6:30-8:30 PM

HUGHESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Speaker: William Kosmer

Topic: Fly Fishing at the End of the  
World (Pesca con mosca en el fin del  
mundo)



## HHS Fly Fishing Club Presents: Community Ties

Evenings designed to build community, mentor, and educate. These events are open to the public.

Dates	Time	Topic
Saturday 9/14	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 10/12	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 11/9	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 12/14	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 1/11	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 2/15	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 3/15	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 4/12	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD
Saturday 5/10	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	TBD



Teach, Build Community, Have Fun, Pass It On



## **What I Learned This Summer by Charlie Knowlden**

I first went to the Moosehead Lake area in Maine in 1981 as a guest of a Greenville native and his daughter and family. I fell in love with the area then due to the magnificent scenery, the abundant wildlife, and especially the fishing. My wife-to-be and I came back to the area annually starting in 1988 and were able to buy our own camp in 2016. Our family has enjoyed the area as well and our youngest son was married on the shores of Moosehead Lake.

About seven years ago while fishing on the West Outlet of the Kennebec River, I noticed a box with survey cards placed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for anglers to fill out indicating the number and species of fish caught, whether they were legal size and which ones were released. I soon discovered these boxes at many places that I fished and started filling them out wherever I saw them which led me to becoming an annual participant in the survey process. An IF&W biologist Stephen Seebach contacted me and sent me a booklet that I could keep those season catches recorded in and returned to him when I headed home for the Fall. I have been keeping those records ever since. This year, I had the opportunity to speak with Stephen about how those records were used and he invited me to accompany him on a fish count at the East Outlet Dam.

One Thursday morning I accompanied Stephen and two other biologists, Tim Obrey and Jeff Bagley, to the fish ladder located in the dam. It is not the typical fish ladder that we have on the Susquehanna River where the fish have free movement past the dam located in Williamsport. The one at the East Outlet is “selective” as they can make sure that non-native species do not migrate into Moosehead Lake from the Kennebec. The fish migrate into a holding tank and stay there until a biologist is lowered into the tank, nets the fish, and places them in a bucket that is hoisted manually by a second biologist and the fish are dumped into a tub. There a third biologist sedates the fish so as not to stress them out while they are being identified as to species, whether they have been caught before, measured, and fin clipped. Then they are placed in a tub of fresh water where they are allowed to sober up, er. recover before being dumped into the lake above the dam. This operation is performed three times a week during the months of June and July when the target fish are migrating. They are assisted by a summer intern, Olivia Hill, a college student who has aspirations of becoming a fish biologist.

When they were finished with the operation, I had a chance to chat with Stephen about the dam and others in the area. I voiced my concerns with some dams including the one on the Piscataquis River at Dover Foxcroft, Maine, about which there has been controversy concerning its condition and value. He explained that some dams are beneficial as far as the biology is concerned by helping to keep unwanted species of fish from migrating to waters where they would compete with the native fish. Other dams that impede the natural migration of fish like the Atlantic Salmon are detrimental if provisions are not made for them to return to natural spawning areas.

Manually identifying and lifting every fish over a dam is labor intensive. However, it is well worth it to keep the balance of nature intact. The Biologists of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are doing a yeomen’s job to ensure that the balance is kept through their regulations and operations like the one on the East Outlet. The biologists gave me some scientific data on the East Outlet of the Kennebec explaining the progress that has been made since they started record keeping in 1974. The CPUE (catch per unit effort) is the measure of abundance of a target species. It is a mathematical formula assessing the efficiency of a sampling of a specific species based on the surveys taken over a given period of time. The average number of Landlocked Salmon in the East Outlet has increased by approximately 63% since record keeping began. Improvements in the spawning channel have greatly improved these numbers although there has been a slight decrease in recent years. Record keeping by anglers has also decreased but is essential to the IF&W analysis of all the data necessary to maintain the progress made in this great fishery and the rest of the State of Maine.

Another topic we discussed was stocking versus native populations of Brook Trout. He explained that all of the major waters have been assessed and where there is a naturally sustainable reproduction of Brook Trout, no stocking takes place. Daily limits including slot limits vary depending on the location being fished. This information is found on line and in the booklet when you get your fishing license. Stocking does take place in the lakes, ponds, and streams where natural reproduction is marginal or non-existent but the water conditions allow for enough good conditions for the fish to survive. There is a limit of two fish per day in the stocked areas. There are a total of seven state hatcheries in Maine where trout are raised.

*Continued on next page*

### *What I Learned This Summer continued*

The breeding stock is wild trout and is rotated every three years to keep the strain as purely wild as possible. I explained the problems we had here in Pennsylvania with stocked Brook Trout and that the state has turned to stocking Rainbows and Browns as the survival rate of Brookies was dismal. Stephen mentioned to me that Maine sells fertilized Brook Trout eggs to other states. Purchasing some for PA might be a good idea to introduce a more resilient strain for the Commonwealth waters. It may be worth a trial.

I have known for some time that Smallmouth Bass are considered an invasive species in Maine and that there is no minimum size or daily limit on those fish. They have “invaded” the upper Kennebec and are now in Moosehead Lake. The IF&W encourages people to catch and take as many of these fish as you can and it is illegal to throw them back. There are also some remote places in Northern Maine where there are so many Landlocked Salmon that the population is stunted. Those places also have a no minimum size or daily limit regulation and you must keep every one you catch. It is hard to imagine such a place unless you try to go there. Take a tire patch kit and air compressor with you. After my first trip into the area with two flat tires, I took my guide’s advice and put 10 ply tires on my truck. Yes, I recommend a guide as a GPS is not accurate in some places. There are also several outfitters with float planes located in Greenville, Maine, you don’t have a truck.

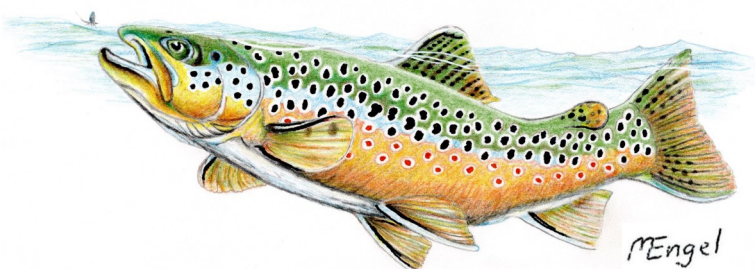
### **Veterans Service Program Summer 2024 By Charlie Knowlden**



A couple of years ago, I met a Navy Veteran, Dave Fratello, who was working as an IT specialist for the power company in Maine. He is a friend of a former student of mine who is now extended family and a professor of physical chemistry at the University of Maine in Orono. He and his wife and four daughters often visit our family compound on Moosehead Lake. Last summer he started to show an interest in learning to flyfish so I asked if he was interested in learning to build his own fly rod. I told him about our program and he was immediately pleased with the idea. When we came back to Maine near the end of the summer, I took all the parts and equipment necessary for him to complete the task which he did in two days. Unfortunately, the weather and timing did not cooperate to go fishing last year.

When they came up this year, he was ready. After a few casting demonstrations, I took him to one of my favorite places to fish for native Brookies. It was late afternoon and conditions were about perfect. The Solunar Tables were in agreement. I showed him how to tie on an Elk Hair Caddis with the improved clinch knot and we began fishing. He had a little trouble getting used to casting from the front seat of a canoe but he soon developed an acceptable technique. After missing a couple of fish, he hooked a dandy that leaped a few times and really gave him a fight. He managed to play it correctly and brought it along side the canoe and as I was ready to net the fish, a Loon came out of nowhere like a torpedo and snatched the fish, fly and all, and disappeared. It surfaced about 50 yards away and proceeded to eat the Trout while we sat there in amazement. The first thought that came to my mind was how ironic for a Navy Veteran to lose his first Trout to a torpedo! He tied on another fly and kept fishing. We both managed to land a few more without being bothered by the Loon.

Early in May while I was still home, I mentored a father and son duo in building flyrods. They each built a four-piece, 5 wt. flyrod so the father, Boyd Clark, could introduce his son Braden to the wonderful pastime of fly fishing. Boyd is a health care employee at Divine Providence Hospital and Braden is an Air Force Veteran that currently works for the Veterans Administration. That was the first experience I had with building four-piece rods making sure that the guides all line up correctly. I will say that the guys were very meticulous and did a great job. I haven’t had a chance to fish with them yet, but hopefully I will be able when I come home.







Braden Clark winding thread onto a fly rod that he built earlier this summer



Boyd Clark making sure the eyes are just right on his fly rod



Boyd and Braden's finished rods



Dave Fratello applying epoxy to the fly rod that he built.



## US Fly Fishing Teams Compete



The **United States Women's Fly Fishing Team** competed in the 3rd World Ladies Fly Fishing Championship held in May 2024. This event was held in Rozmberk, Czech Republic. The Czech Republic took 1st place, France in second, Australia in 3rd and the United States came in 4th.

In the individual category, Ashley Wilmont from State College came in 4th place and Tess Weigand, from Coburn, came in 12th place



The Masters Championship was also held in Rozmberk, Czech Republic. The United States team finished in 5th place behind Italy (#1), Spain (#2), Czech Republic (#3) and France (#4).

The Senior Men Fly Fishing Championship was held in Occitanie, France in June. The United States finished in 3rd place behind France (#1) and Spain (#2)



The US Youth Fly Fishing team competed in Vyssi Brod, Czech Republic August 11-14, 2024. The youth team did a fantastic job and finished in 1st place and brought home the Gold. Poland finished in second place and the Czech Republic came in 3rd. Youth from 10 Countries were represented in this years World Youth Fly Fishing Championship. Kossler Kage of the USA team finished in first place overall in the individual results and team mate Logan Max 2nd overall, and team mate Hardie Justin came in 3rd place. Congratulations to the entire team and to the top three finishers in the World. There were a total of 56 youth represented this year.





## Sunday School Outreach Donates to Chapter

Our Chapter was contacted this past April by Jackie Otwell, from Finksburg, Maryland. She stated “my 4th / 5th grade Sunday School class is planning on collecting fishing goods from Church members for the month of May.” She ask if we would be interested in the donation and if someone from our Chapter would meet her to collect the donated items.

I responded that we would certainly accept any donations that they had and that we could meet somewhere in the middle.

In June, Jackie contacted me again and said that their collection was over and they had collected several rods/ reels, tackle boxes and other various fishing tackle. We met in Dauphin, PA and they gave us the items they had collected.

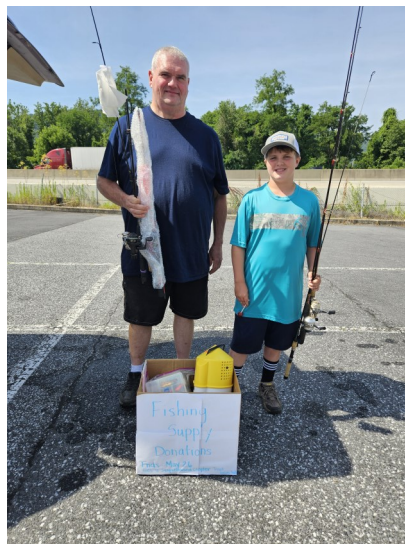
Jackie stated that her son Will is an avid fisherman and fishes as every chance he gets.

She went on to say “As part of a Sunday School Outreach project at Wesley United Methodist Church in Hampstead, MD, Will wanted to collect used fishing gear to donate to a local agency.” Two other students in the class also helped with the collection and they were Josie and Maddie.

After meeting the Otwells, they headed back home but not before stopping somewhere on the lower Susquehanna River to do some fishing.

Will is an avid spin and fly fisherman and on this day, he was able to catch his first rainbow trout on a fly rod.

Thank you Will, Josie, Maddie, and Jackie for your wonderful donation. And congratulations to Will for getting your fish on the fly rod. Your smile tells us all what a great day it was!!



Bob Baker from the Chapter meeting with Will Otwell and accepting the donation of fishing tackle that was collected during the month of May.



Will Otwell proudly showing his first rainbow trout caught on a fly rod.



Will Otwell recently participated in the Kent Island Kids Fishing Derby (the largest island in the Chesapeake Bay). Will won a trophy for having caught the smallest fish jokes that his fish was smaller than the fish at the top of his trophy!

Congratulations Will and the excitement is in the experience of fishing and no matter the size of the fish, it is worth every minute on the water.



## **New study shows key behavioral, physical impacts of increasing water temps on sculpin, headwaters**



Susquehanna University graduate Danielle Tryon, center, recently completed a study on how sculpin react to thermal changes in streams. At left is a sculpin at Stony Run, near Lewisburg. Top right is the network of manmade stream channels Tryon used to study the sculpin at Susquehanna's Freshwater Research Institute and bottom right is a sculpin being measured in the lab.

*Riverkeeper note: The following story and podcast package was created/written by Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper John Zaktansky. You can contact him directly*

Much more active than originally anticipated, freshwater sculpin instinctively swim upstream when threatened by thermal changes in headwater environments even when cooler water options are not accessible according to a study by recent Susquehanna University graduate Danielle Tryon.

"We expected to see changes over time in their physical condition, but what we didn't realize was that this species moves around as much as it does when stressed by water temperature changes," said Tryon, who conducted the study over the course of a year using manmade stream channels at the university's Freshwater Research Institute (FRI).

"These channels are recirculating, and each is the same temperature throughout, but in channels with higher temperatures, the sculpin instinctively swam upstream to search for cooler water, which is fascinating," said Matt Wilson, head of the FRI. "It would be easier to say they found cold water randomly and just sat there, but in these channels where temperatures were consistent across the moving water, they automatically swam upstream to look for relief. There wasn't any randomness about it."

### **Setting up the study**

Tryon spent a year and a half repurposing 20-foot-long stream channels with the goal of using them to study sculpin and the species' reaction to thermal changes

in an effort to better understand how climate change could be impacting headwater fisheries.

"The past four years, these channels were basically sitting unfinished and I went in last spring and did all the engineering. I was under them with caulk guns and drills and saws getting them built to best replicate headwater stream environments for this study," Tryon said.

"We incorporated UV light and made sure water was circulating at the same rate as you'd find in a natural stream setting. We added substrate specific to headwater streams and included macroinvertebrates and other elements to best replicate this environment because it is being impacted the most by climate change and can be so critical for our cold-water species."

Tryon targeted sculpin because she saw them as a great indicator of thermal stress.

"They are in the same habitat as brook trout, which are a more recreationally vital species and usually get more funding," she said. "Sculpin are a little smaller, so they can model things in the stream channel better. They are also benthic low-mobility fish, which means they don't move very much."

However, the sculpin – which Tryon collected from Stony Run near Lewisburg, were much more active than anticipated.

"Within four hours of being put into the channels, they were all over," said Wilson. "There is a lot that happens in our streams that we just assume, and observing these fish in this environment was a good example of how much more we have to learn."

In fact, the original study wasn't going to factor in fish behavior in relation to thermal changes – simply physical changes.

"We basically were just going to put them in, feed them and see what happened, and then take them out and see whether they gained or lost weight," said Wilson. "But Danielle realized within the first couple of days that their movement was a key variable to consider."

Within different channels, Tryon studied the sculpin in different water temperatures.

"The standard, which they were the happiest, was set to 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit)," she said. "Then we intentionally stressed them out in the other channels. Our moderate stress environment had water temperature at 16 degrees Celsius (60F) and in another we had them at one of the highest levels they could be, at 22 degrees Celsius (72F)."

Beyond the behavioral reaction to these different environments, the sculpin were impacted physically, as well.

"We were seeing declines in weight, with individuals moving out of higher-temp areas when they had the capability," Tryon said. "However, among those not strong enough to get out of the stressed sections, we saw a noticeable decline in body condition."

### **Waterway Impacts**

In both scenarios, regardless of whether a sculpin was impacted physically or behaviorally, there can be an immediate effect on the aquatic ecosystem, according to Tryon.

*New Study continued from previous page*

“Sculpin are just a specific part of a bigger food web, where trout are near the top of the aquatic food web. If sculpin react to thermal stress by moving out of a certain section of waterway, you are going to see an increase in macroinvertebrates and algae,” said Tryon. “It is like removing an important part of a puzzle, and then just telling the remaining species to figure it out on their own and hope for the best.” Wilson agreed.

“Sculpin are middle predators – they eat macros and fish eggs while also functioning as food for trout. If you think about a stream with both sculpin and trout in it, you get this interaction where sculpin are at the bottom eating bugs and other things which allow the trout to feed more on the surface,” he said. “If sculpin aren’t there, it changes things for all the species remaining. This all requires more research to know more about what would happen specifically, but there is a definite change.”

## What’s Next

In fact, Tryon admits there are numerous potential next-step studies with sculpin that could help us better understand the aquatic ecosystem and how to better protect it.

“We could go in and add discharge at high flow rates that could be caused by different phenomenon or a low discharge to represent drought situations. As we change those discharge circumstances, we can pair it with thermal fluctuations and learn so much more,” she said. “We can also go in and add blocks in the channels to look at culvert or dam impacts to the species in relation to thermal changes, or put sediment in the water to look at turbidity and how mucking up the water influences species.”

Tryon’s efforts to make these stream channels at the Freshwater Research Institute viable for research opens many potential doors for future research, Wilson admitted.

“I have a couple of ideas around stream morphology and how particles move in a stream and to look at deposition and erosion. It would be cool to also experimentally measure how sediments build behind structures like beaver dams,” he said. “I am also interested in doing some bigger food web experiments. Like introducing various salamanders, species of fish and aquatic insects, but doing a much longer experiment.”

Tryon, who has moved to Alaska since her Susquehanna University graduation, where she works on research involving salmon weirs, admits that her time at Susquehanna and this study specifically has helped her realize a lifelong dream.

“Growing up, I always wanted to be a scientist. Being at Susquehanna and working in the labs and the Freshwater Research Institute, and then various opportunities with the (Middle Susquehanna) Riverkeeper association have provided so many great opportunities to be the scientist I always wanted to be,” she said. “I learned

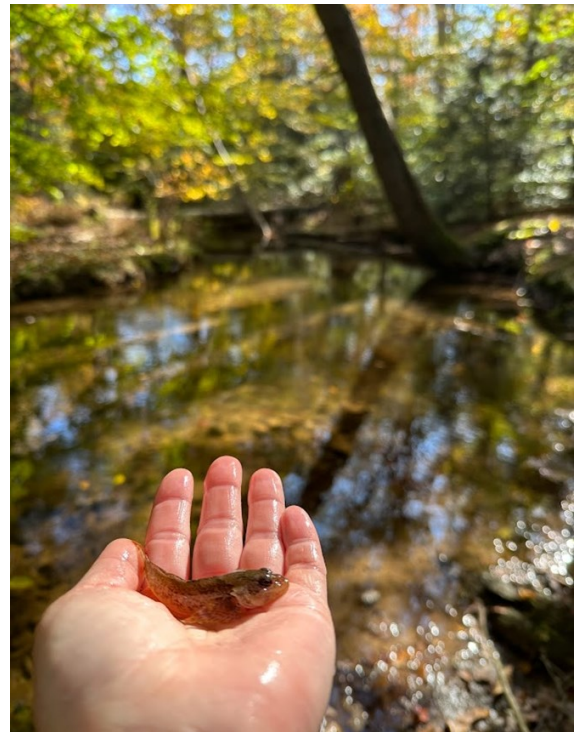
to be adaptable to be in the field doing studies, to see things in a different way and hopefully have been able to help in at least a small part with my work.”

Along those lines, everyone – scientist or not – has the ability to make a difference, Tryon added.

“Be curious and don’t be afraid to ask questions,” she said. “Find people in your community, whether it is through a nonprofit or a university or even a neighbor, and ask your questions, learn more about this world and your place in it and then get involved.”

*Those interested in getting involved in various ways with the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association are encouraged to fill out the group's online Susquehanna Survey.*

We want to thank our friend John Zaktansky, the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, who has given us permission to reprint his articles. Please visit the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper website to see everything they are doing and be sure to check his blog.





## Marcellus Drilling News: Eureka Resources Plans To Close/Sell 2 Oil & Gas Wastewater Treatment Plants In Williamsport: Not Enough Wastewater Volume To Keep Plants Open

On August 23, Marcellus Drilling News reported Eureka Resources plans to close or sell two of its oil and gas wastewater treatment plants in Williamsport and downsize its operations to only one facility-- its Standing Stone Treatment Facility in Bradford County.

This report follows a DEP inspection of the Standing Stone Treatment Facility August 19 that found the facility shut down and its workers laid off as well as a series of continuing waste violations dating back to February 2023. [Read more here.](#)

MDN quoted Eureka CEO Dan Ertel as saying the company currently plans to reopen the Standing Stone facility sometime in October. He said there was not enough oil and gas wastewater volume to keep all three of its treatment plants operating.

Ertel also told MDN the company's plan to extract lithium from oil and gas wastewater "will ramp up in earnest when the facility resumes operations this fall."

Taken from the 8/26/2024 issue of the Pennsylvania Environmental Digest

[www.paenvironmentaldigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=61263&SubjectID=](http://www.paenvironmentaldigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=61263&SubjectID=)

## Welcome New Members

Al Bartlett

Jason Mazxullo

Erik Cawley

Kyle Merryman

Bruno Day

William Morris

Brian Foresman

Rylan Mosier

Frank Heddings

Jim Phillips

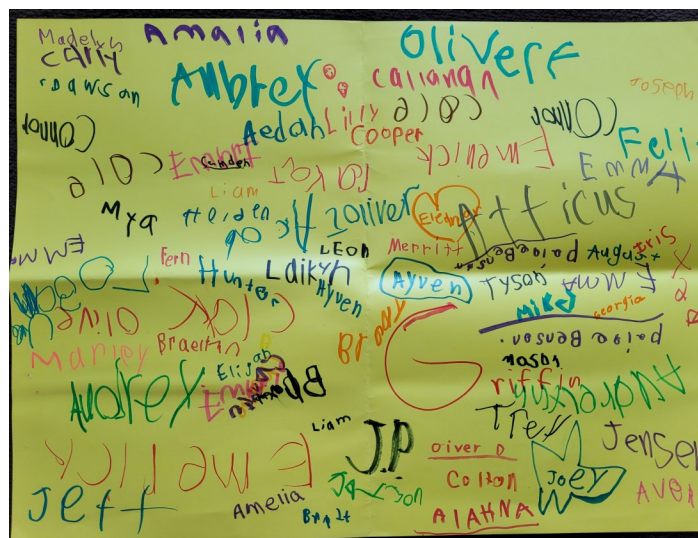
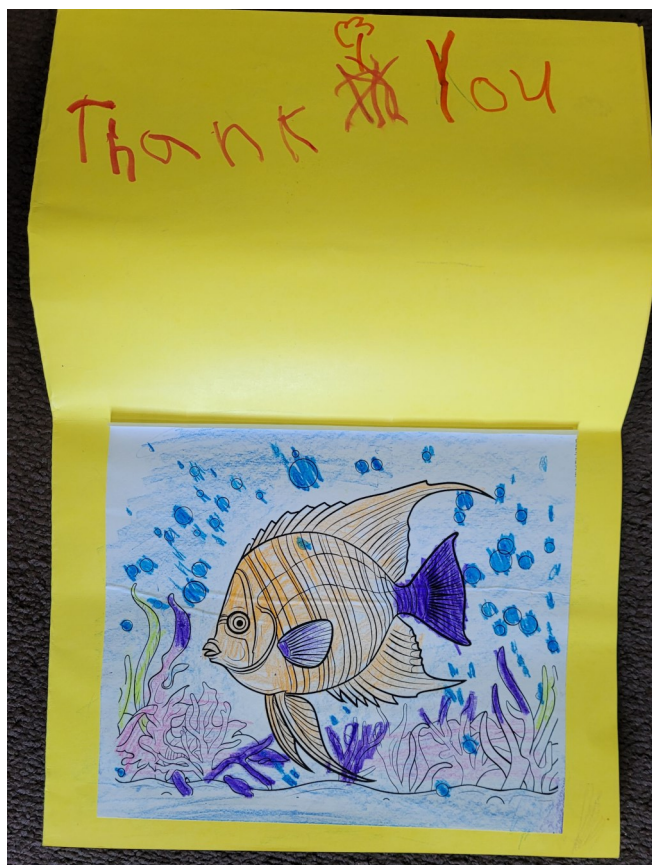
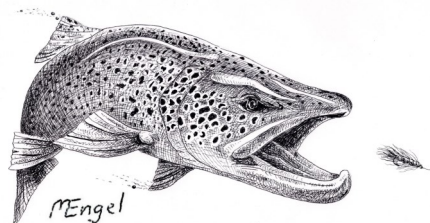
Austin Higley

Trey White

Andrew Keller

Eric Wolfgang

Michael Johnson



Chapter President Steve Martin and Vice President Jim Latini were present at the Montoursville School District, Lyter Elementary School, Outdoor Fair on May 31<sup>st</sup> with our velcro fish pond. They interacted with 65 kindergarten children, teaching them about the many different fish in our State waters, then letting them catch fish in the pond that we helped them identify by matching to images on fish posters. This is the thank you they received from





September 2, 2024 Last day of Regular Trout Fishing

September 3, 2024 Extended Trout Season

September 7, 2024 Fall Membership meeting of the Slate Run Sportsmen. RSVP by August 31.

<https://slaterunsportsmen.com/calendar/>

September 11, 2024 Chapter Meeting

September 14, 2024 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

September 14, 2024 PATU annual membership meeting in Waterville, PA

September 29, 2024 National Hunting and Fishing Day Event at Bald Eagle State Park (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206966>)

October 9, 2024 Chapter Meeting

October 12, 2024 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

November 9, 2024 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

November 13, 2024 Chapter Meeting and annual Chapter elections

November 20, 2024 Virtual Intro to Ice Fishing by PFBC (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/211480>)

December 14, 2024 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

January 8, 2025 Chapter Meeting

January 11, 2025 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

January 24 - 26, 2025 The Fly fishing Show in Edison, NJ

February 1 - 9, 2025 The Great American Outdoor Show at the PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg

February 12, 2025 Chapter Meeting

February 14 - 16, 2025 Philadelphia Fishing Show at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center

February 15, 2025 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

March 12, 2025 Chapter Meeting

March 14, 2025 The Chapter Celebrates its 61st birthday since receiving our Charter from Trout Unlimited in 1964

March 15, 2025 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

March 15 - 16, 2025 The Fly fishing Show in Lancaster, PA

April 5, 2025 Statewide Opening Day for Trout

April 12, 2025 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

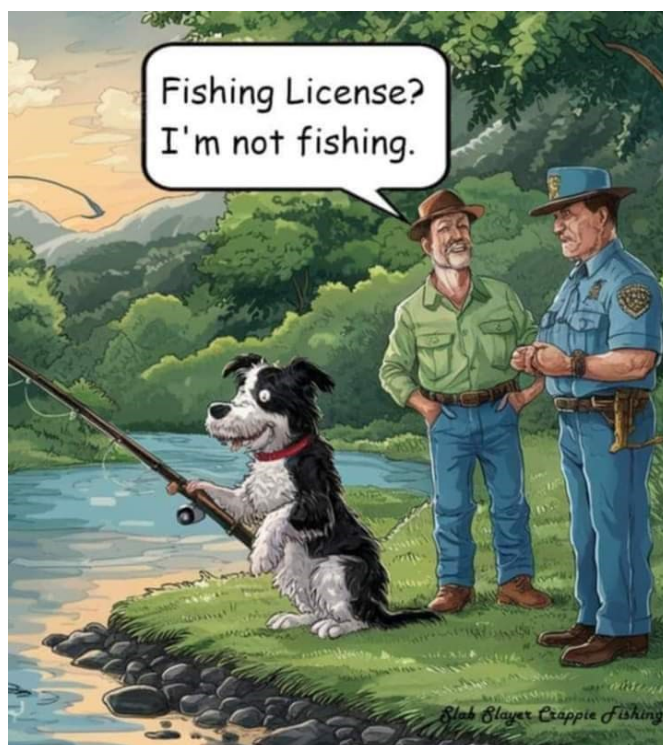
April 16, 2025 Chapter Meeting

May 3, 2025 Statewide opening day of Walleye / sauger

May 10, 2025 Hughesville High School Fly fishing Club Community Ties 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

June 14, 2025 Statewide opening day of Bass

September 2, 2025 Extended Trout Season begins



## FLOODS and AQUATIC LIFE

By John Pastorek



August 9th Flooding Along Pine Creek

The August 9 flood along Pine Creek and other nearby waters, though tragic for many, was certainly not an anomaly. Pine has been flooding since before its former northeasterly flow was diverted by glacial activity to a southerly flow some 20,000 years ago.

In more recent years, Pine has seen major floods in nearly every decade this past century. Pine's flood crests in the last 100 years have ranged from 16 feet in 1972 (although some believe that Hurricane Agnes' crest on Pine was actually 21 feet), to 14.39 in 1946, 13.41 in 1975, to the 11.1 foot crest on August 9 with a dozen or so more flood crests over the years of at least 11 feet.

In the aftermath of most floods, worried anglers typically make comments such as "the bugs and fish must've been washed all the way down into the Chesapeake Bay by now."

But what really happens to the aquatic life during and after major floods?

There is no doubt that floods have an effect on all water life.

The huge amounts of silt can harm fish, bury insect larvae and block necessary sunlight from nourishing the underwater, life-giving algae.

The rushing water can wash away or kill fish eggs, insects, young fish and even adult trout.

Stream bank erosion can channelize streams, which often causes more disastrous effects during future floods.

However, aquatic life is amazingly adaptable, as evidenced by their continued survival given eons of flooding. Studies have shown that insect life after a flood can be decimated, but will usually repopulate itself in coming months - perhaps not to pre-flood levels right away, but eventually so.

Some insects species fare better than others during floods. For example, insect larvae that are free floating, like some caddis, are washed downstream easier than the mayfly nymph burrowers.

Repopulation can be in many forms. Some insects make their way back from safe havens after flood waters have receded. Some Insects are washed downstream from upstream flooding, thus repopulating new areas. Some insects willingly migrate to repopulate new areas, etc.

Also, as I learned from reading books and publications over the years by noted aquatic entomologist, Rick Hafele, insects that live below the stream bottom, in the hyporheic zone, can be significantly less affected by raging flood waters. Those stream dwelling insects, eggs and other life that exist beneath the stream floor, where water courses through gravel and larger substrate, are well protected from most floods.

As for fish survival during floods, we know that, unlike inanimate objects such as hunks of driftwood, fish are masterful swimmers and well adapted to rapid changing water flows. As waters rise, fish find refuge in eddies, underneath banks, behind structure, near the bottom of the stream where currents are much slower than currents in the top third of the water column, etc.

Timing of floods can also be a factor, especially in Pine's wild trout tributaries. Fortunately, the recent August 9 flood came before the brook and brown trout's fall spawning cycle.

To be sure, young-of-the-year and immature fish that do not have the stamina and experience of adult fish are the most vulnerable. Certainly, a percentage of those fish perish or wash away, but not all.

Even so, the loss of some fish during flooding leaves more available food for the fish that do survive. In streams with natural production, the healthy surviving fish live on to ensure continued reproduction during subsequent breeding cycles.

So anglers can relax. Less than a week after the August 9 flood, anglers began catching smallmouth bass, brown trout and rainbow trout again in The Stretch. Additionally, the Brown Trout Club and the PFBC have stockings planned for the fall. As for insect life, it remains to be seen how hard the late-summer, fall and spring 2025 hatches have been affected by the flood.

Floods are a part of the natural cycle in every watershed. While floods surely have a negative impact on aquatic life - insects, fish and other stream dwellers, have survived such events for eons. Unless pollution, man-made / channelization, habitat destruction, over-fishing and other factors cause additional problems, the insects and fish will continue to survive floods for eons more.

Article reprinted from the August 26, 2024 issue of the Brown Trout Club E newsletter; written by John Pastorek and permission to use granted by John Pastorek, The Slate Run Tackle Shop, Wolfes General Store and the Brown Trout Club. For more information or to subscribe to the newsletter, please go to [slaterun.com](http://slaterun.com) or email them at [wolfesgeneralstore@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfesgeneralstore@yahoo.com).



## Work on Little Bear Creek

On August 16th & 17th The Loyalsock Creek Men's Club in conjunction with PA DCNR & The PA Fish & Boat Commission completed a work project on Little Bear Creek. The project consisted of stabilizing a section of stream bank that was encroaching on the road along the creek. Log vanes were installed and several sizes of stone were used to anchor the logs in place. The Loyalsock Creek Men's Club has been organizing & sponsoring this event for many years. According to records the club has the longest standing conservation work event with The Fish & boat Commission in the state! A very proud record in our club!



## Little Bear Creek Special Designation

A portion of Little Bear Creek is now designated as open only to youth 15 & under, and handicap individuals as defined by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. The Loyalsock Creek Men's Club and PA DCNR were instrumental in getting this designation applied. Signs are posted to mark the designated area. The designation extends from 150 feet upstream of the Loyalsock Trail crossing Little Bear Creek downstream to the outflow of a plunge pool adjacent to an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant fishing platform. The Loyalsock Creek Men's Club will be stocking this section in the future.

Information on this page was taken from the Loyalsock Creek Men's Club Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/loyalsockcreekmensclub>. Please see their page for more information. You can also contact them via email at [LCMC@zitomedia.net](mailto:LCMC@zitomedia.net).

The Loyalsock Creek Men's Club is a non-profit organization that promotes conservation of natural resources of the Loyalsock watershed and whatever activities that may be related thereto.

The Susquehanna Chapter wants to thank them for everything they have done in the watershed and to make fishing more accessible to everyone.





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

**Since 1964, the core mission of our Chapter is to work to make positive contributions to the protection, conservation and restoration of our Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds of North Central Pennsylvania**

### Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

TU does not make email addresses available to outside parties, for any reason, ever.  
Please help us conserve resources by providing your email address.

[www.tu.org/join044Susquehanna](http://www.tu.org/join044Susquehanna)

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:



**Trout Unlimited**  
**PO Box 98166**  
**Washington, DC 20090**

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES\*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Members Only \$17.50                         | <input type="checkbox"/> TU Teen (\$14) (13 - 18 y/o) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (Renewal) \$35                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (\$1500)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$55)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> TU Business (\$295)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Explorer (\$12)<br>12 years old and under |   |

### PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ Check    ☐ Visa    ☐ MC    ☐ AMEX    ☐ Discover  
Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law

To ensure correct New Member Rebate, enter Chapter/Council #:

**#044**