

The Susquehanna Ripples



The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

Happy New Year

A note from Bob Baker

escape from the troubles in the world. We all need to reset and there is no better place to do this than the great outdoors.

What a year 2024 was. We all experienced ups and downs and dealing with what life dealt us. A great deal of fishing was done by many and just being outdoors allowed us to reset ourselves and get back on track.

It was certainly a very busy year for the Chapter as you can see by President Martin's year end report on page 8. Our Chapter has lots of plans for the future and will certainly be busy. Your help will be greatly appreciated in any of the events we are involved with.

We have an exciting program planned for January 8. You can find more information on this on page 4. This will be a very interesting program as Dr. Benjamin Hayes talks about effect of lumbering in our region and our waterways over the years.

Recently President Jimmy Carter passed away and member Don Daughenbaugh passed away last fall. Please see pages 12 - 15 for more.

Bob McCullough Jr. presented a very interesting program in November. He talked about night fishing and why he does that. There are many benefits to this and he was taught at an early age to go out in the dark and fish when no one else is out. The meeting minutes from that meeting are on page 5 and they give a brief review of Bob's talk.

These are just a few of the highlights in this issue but there is so much more inside.

Everyone at the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited hopes that you had a very happy and safe holiday season and that you were able to spend it with family and friends.

Lastly, we hope that this New Year brings continued happiness and good times. We also want you to do more fishing, or the things that you enjoy and love and get that



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Joe Radley (2025)
Bill Worobec (2026)
Bob Baker (2026)
John Kolb (2027)
Rick March (2027)

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BEGINNERS FLY TYING COURSE OFFERED BY SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED

Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce that it will be offering a beginners fly tying course on Tuesday evenings starting on January 21 and running through February 25, 2025. The course will be taught by Dave Rothrock and Rick Kintzer. The cost will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth under 18 years of age who must be at least 12 years old and must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult throughout each session. Tools and materials will be provided. The classes will be held weekly from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 West 4th Street in Williamsport (entrance and parking is at the rear of the church - enter off of Campbell Street). You can register by sending an email to susquehannatu@gmail.com or by call or text to Walt Nicholson at 570-447-3600. Please list the names of everyone you are registering, and contact information (email and phone number).



This class is for beginners only. If you have taken a class from us in the past you will not be learning anything new. Changes have been made for this year's class and it should offer a better learning experience and more opportunities for the student to tie flies and to learn the different techniques.

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 / 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



Presidents Message...

I've never been much of a Winter fisherman, but being cold is not the deterrent. In fact, I kind of get a bizarre sense of satisfaction and accomplishment being active in weather that would keep most others indoors. Stiff lines and icy guides are just not my thing. I do; however, like to be outdoors in the Winter, with slow walks after a fresh snow being one of my favorites.

A couple of days ago I woke to temps in the teens and a fresh, two-inch coating of dry snow. These conditions, along with the low, angled light of December make animal tracks pop with incredible definition and detail. Almost immediately, I cut the tracks of a Red Fox as he appeared to wander aimlessly across the forested mountainside, but there was purpose to his pursuit. He was traveling into the prevailing wind, hunting by smell and checking out every hole and hiding spot where he might find a mouse. At a spot where the Red jumped an old, rotting log that lay perpendicular to his trail, the tracks of a Gray Fox followed the surface of the log with balance and agility. The Gray's smaller, more rounded, cat-like tracks were easily distinguishable from the larger, more diamond shaped tracks of the Red.

As I followed the mountainside into an area thicker with mature Hemlocks, a bright red spot of blood on the ground caught my eye. A short distance from the blood lay two small puffs of Rabbit fur. Clearly a rabbit had met its demise the night before, but what I found interesting was that there were no rabbit or predator tracks in the snow, nor was there any signs of a struggle. Upon close inspection of the blood, a small length of intestine lay mostly covered by the snow. Apparently, this Rabbit had been killed in a different location by a large Owl, probably a Great Horned Owl, and carried back to the security of the Hemlocks to be consumed. Above me I could see no rabbit remains clinging to the thick Hemlock branches, but the sign on the ground told the story. Without fresh snow on the ground, I would never have been able to read this script of survival that nature plays out night after night in the wild.

Looping downhill, I cut the tracks of a lone Coyote that lined out straight across the mountainside, appearing as though he was trying to get from point A to point B and get there fast. The nature of his trail makes it clear that this wooded mountainside is simply an obstacle between where he was and where he wanted to be.

Ascending back up the mountain I cross the intermingled tracks of some Deer. Following their aimless path for a short distance I am able to decipher that it is a large doe accompanied by two young of the year that are alternately browsing on small twigs and occasionally scraping the snow in search of some kind of remaining fruit or nut mast.

Almost home, I cross the trail of an unusual animal to find out in cold, Winter weather. The trail of a large Skunk. Although Skunks sleep the cold weather away in a burrow, under an out building, or under a brush pile, the males do start coming out in late Winter to search for females in dens that are ready to be bred. This fellow seemed to be out searching a bit early!

I am always fascinated to read the stories in the snow that the woodlands have to tell. The next time conditions are right, take a walk in the woods and see what they have to tell you.

Steve Martin
President – Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Skunk Tracks in the snow <https://critterstop.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/skunk-tracks-in-snow-1024x538.webp>

The Intersection of the Legacy of the Logging Era and Catastrophic Floods in North-Central PA

Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host an important presentation by Dr. Benjamin R. Hayes, Director of the Watershed Sciences and Engineering (WSE) Program at Bucknell University, on how the legacy impacts of the “Lumber Era” and catastrophic floods in north-central Pennsylvania initiated substantial landform changes and stream destabilization in our major stream floodplains and have significant implications on watershed management and planning.

In gravel bed streams such as Loyalsock, Muncy, Lycoming, and Fishing Creeks, the fluvial (stream flow) response to Sept 2011 flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee was characterized by (1) large-scale new channel creation and old channel abandonment with chute development on the insides of bend meanders, (2) extensive erosion of gravel from channel margins and transport downstream in large pulses, (3) headwater landslides and alluvial fan activation, (4) major floodplain erosion and deposition, and (5) breaching of human-made berms and reconnection of the main channel to prehistoric floodplain side-channel branching. Streams in this region appear to be in a phase of disequilibrium largely in response to major shifts in sediment delivery from their watersheds caused by historic logging practices and a series of floods over the past 100 years.

This presentation emphasizes the important influences of drainage basin physical characteristics and historic land-use changes and stream flows in understanding current channel dynamics and basin response to heavy precipitation and flooding. Streams in this region are likely to remain in a prolonged phase of readjustment for many decades as complex response to historical land-use change continues. In this disequilibrium phase, most significant rainfall events will likely trigger additional readjustment and channel change. The findings have significant implications for watershed management and planning.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7 pm at the Covenant Central Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, rear of 807 West Fourth Street (enter off of Campbell Street) in Williamsport, PA. The public and all persons interested in watershed management and flood mitigation and stream projects are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information, please see our website at <https://www.bucknell.edu/fac-staff/ben-hayes>.



Figure 1. Examples of erosion and deposition in north-central Pennsylvania from Tropical Storm Lee. (A) Extensive gravel bars formed in a disequilibrium zone on lower Fishing Creek. (B) Washed out bridge in upper Muncy Creek. (C) Eroded road along Big Bear Creek, upper Loyalsock Creek watershed. (D) House eroded on a Pleistocene terrace, Loyalsock Creek.

Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited (SCTU)
November 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Covenant Central Presbyterian Church
807 W. 4th St, Williamsport, PA

Attendees: approximately 30 (see sign in sheet)

President Steve Martin opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He passed out a list of the following slate of officers from the nominating committee:

President – Steve Martin
Vice President – Jim Latini
Secretary – Kevin McJunkin
Treasurer – Dave Walters
Immediate Past President – Walt Nicholson
Board of Directors:
Mike Ditchfield (2025)
Joe Radley (2025)
Bob Baker (2026)
Bill Worobec (2026)
John Kolb (2027)
Rick March (2027)

Steve asked if there were any additional nominations? There were none. Steve Szoke made a motion to accept the slate of Officers and Directors, seconded by Patrick Ginther. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President Martin said that he has prepared an Annual Report of the Chapter Activities. The report was available on the information table and will be posted in a future issue of the Ripples newsletter. The Chapter has been very active over the last year. We would welcome and need additional assistance from our members.

Program

Steve introduced the speaker, Robert McCullough III, who gave an informative and entertaining program about “fishing when nobody else wants to.” Bob enjoyed a long and successful career in the criminal justice system where he has achieved many professional accomplishments, was selected for notable State-level appointments, and received numerous professional awards. McCullough also served as a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Deputy Fish Warden for 17 years. Now retired, he enjoys fishing local trout streams on an almost daily basis.

Bob’s program mainly covered fishing on Loyalsock, Lycoming & Pine Creek in what he described as “marginal put and take trout waters,” although he has been able to catch many impressive trout, including large holdover fish.

Since these streams are stocked, they can attract large crowds. One reason Bob likes winter fishing is the lack of other anglers. He fishes all winter (November to March) so long as the temperature is above 20 degrees, seldom seeing another angler. He prefers cloudy days over bright sunny days, always fishes with a sinking tip line, mainly with wet flies and streamers. He dresses warmly, and although he wears fingerless gloves he is able to keep his hands warm with heat packs.

If you really want to avoid the crowds, Bob recommends night fishing from May to September between the hours of 10 PM – 4 AM. June is the prime month. On small streams, he recommends not moving between pools until after midnight to allow the fish to settle in to their feeding rhythms. A hot humid night between 65-80 degrees is best for night fly action, with water temperatures below 65 – sometimes difficult to find good conditions.

The best nights are the dark of the moon, with only the ambient light from stars to go by. Absolutely no flash lights as they will mess up your night vision and spook the fish. It is imperative to get to know the pool you will be fishing well during the day before attempting to fish it at night.

Continued on next page

Meeting minutes continued from previous page

Bob learned to tie flies from SCTU members Bill O'Connor, Al Troth, and Dick Lever. Expert fly tyers such as Vince Marinaro and Charlie Fox used to present as some of the Chapter meetings. He swings a trio of traditional night flies such as the Montreal, Light Cahill, with a Royal Coachman always in the middle. Grasshoppers and crickets also work well at night. He believes that the Professor pattern, with its yellow body, resembles a hopper. Steve Szoke commented about the Bobby Webber Special, also with a yellow body and red.

He has had a number of wildlife encounters at night, and caught many other species besides trout, including channel cats, fallfish, smallmouth bass, eels, and walleye.

Walt Nicholson mentioned that Jim Bashline wrote a good book about night fishing. Bob said many of the night fishers seemed to have come from the Jersey Shore area. His father, Robert W. McCullough, Jr., was a renowned night fisherman and conservationist, responsible for the cleanup of Babb Creek and the resurgence of hatches on Pine Creek. He was practically blind but was able to make good use of his other senses at night. Bobby used to ask his dad to tie his fly on without a light, using his mouth. Bob has taken his grandchildren out night fishing – an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives. It has been many years since Bob has run into another night fisherman on the stream. He thinks many people are afraid of the dark. Some youth are “mousing” on limestone streams, popularized by social media.

In response to a question from Steve Martin about what type of pool to fish at night, Bob said that the deeper the pool the better it is for night fishing. Pools with cool water springs are also good sites. Unfortunately, some of the best local night-fishing pools have been dam-

aged by floods and channelized by bulldozers. Bob lamented the loss of a big hole at the junction of Long Run and the Little Loyalsock. He mentioned the Delaware River as a good night fishing destination, mainly for Brown Trout at night (more Rainbows during the day).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin McJunkin, Secretary\



PFBC Announces New, Low-Cost Online Boating Safety Education Course

HARRISBURG, Pa. (December 5) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is excited to announce the availability of a new, low-cost online boating safety education course!

The course, offered in partnership with the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, is available for only \$17, is approved by both the PFBC and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), and recognized by the United States Coast Guard.

In Pennsylvania, a Boating Safety Education Certificate is required for any person born on or after January 1, 1982, to operate boats powered with motors greater than 25 horsepower or any personal watercraft. To receive a certificate, boaters must successfully complete an approved boating safety course – either online or through in-person instruction.

The BoatUS Foundation course consists of six lessons and quizzes along with a final exam. Students may use a computer or mobile device to start, pause, and resume their learning at any time, and the full course can be completed in approximately four to eight hours. Individuals who successfully complete the online course will immediately re-

ceive a temporary Boating Safety Education Certificate which can be printed and is valid for 60 days. Within four to six weeks, students will receive their permanent certificate in the mail in the form of a durable plastic card that is valid for the boater's lifetime.

“Not only does this boating safety course come at a great value and convenience, but it's also proven that this type of education saves lives,” said Paul Littman, Director of the PFBC's Bureau of Boating. “Approximately 75% of boating fatalities occur on boats where the operator did not have any formal boating safety education. There's never been a better time to earn your certificate than right now thanks to this partnership.”

To access the course, visit the PFBC [website](http://FishandBoat.com) (FishandBoat.com), and select the BoatUS Foundation [option](#).

“I'm happy to have helped provide a convenient and affordable way to connect people with the great outdoors,” said State Senator Dan Laughlin (Erie), who advocated for expanded accessibility to boater safety education through the addition of a low-cost online course.

A leader in boating safety for more than 40 years, the BoatUS Foundation offers low-cost online boating safety education courses in 37 states including Pennsylvania. To date, more than 2.5 million students have taken the BoatUS Foundation's online courses.

The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is to protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.



Accessible Fishing Platform being Built on Slate Run

DCNR is constructing a concrete, handicap accessible fishing platform is being upstream of the Tomb's Run canoe launch. This information was provided on November 10, 2024 by Slate Run Johnny on the Slate Run Brown Trout Club Facebook page so the platform may be finished. If it has not, please be aware that construction is going on and avoid the area. Photo's taken by Slate Run Johnny and posted on the above Facebook page.



Good Samaritan Act Signed into Law

For decades, stakeholders have been working towards legislation to encourage the cleanup of abandoned mining sites without fear of incurring legal liability. On December 17, 2024, these efforts finally paid off when President Biden signed the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act (the “Act”) into law.

There are estimated to be more than 140,000 abandoned hardrock mine sites on federal lands, including some 22,500 sites that pose serious dangers to the communities around these sites. The Act provides limited liability protections for so-called “Good Samaritans” like nonprofits, private organizations, and local governments that work to clean up these abandoned hardrock mines. Specifically, the Act provides protection from liability under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*) (“Clean Water Act” or “CWA”) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) (“CERCLA”), during and after the permit term (for both Good Samaritan Permits and Investigative Sampling Permits), and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit to a Good Samaritan permit. Good Samaritans are also provided an exemption from compliance with several requirements under the Clean Water Act, including the need to obtain a permit under CWA §§ 402 or 404; they also enjoy the permit exemption provided under CERCLA § 121(e). Thus, a Good Samaritan permittee does not need to obtain a federal, state, or local permit for any removal or remedial

action conducted entirely onsite.

The Act applies to “abandoned hardrock mine sites” which are defined as abandoned or inactive mines sites (including any facility associated with the mine site) that were used for the production of a mineral (excluding coal) on federal land under the Mining Law of 1872 (Revised Statutes §§ 2319–2352) for which there is no responsible owner or operator who is potentially liable for environmental remediation under applicable laws. This definition would preclude a person or entity who is unconnected with the abandoned hardrock mine from obtaining a Good Samaritan Permit if there is another person or entity who is potentially liable for remediation at that same abandoned hardrock mine site. Federal land management agencies are not “responsible owners or operators” as long as the agency has not been involved in mining activity beyond approval of operations under hardrock mining regulations.

Abandoned or inactive mines do not include mines that are temporarily shut down. The Act also excludes mine sites that: are on the National Priorities List (NPL); are subject to a planned or ongoing response under CERCLA; have a responsible owner or operator who is potentially liable for remediation and financially able to comply with applicable cleanup requirements; or actively mined or processed minerals after December 11, 1980.

<https://martenlaw.com/news/good-samaritan-act-kickstarts-hardrock-mine-cleanups>

2024 Annual Report for Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited #044

Leadership Changes since Last Report:

- Dave Craig resigned as Director. He was honored for over 30 years of outstanding leadership and service by being elected Director Emeritus and Chapter Advisor.
- Walt Nicholson, Immediate Past President, was presented with the Susquehanna Chapter Order of the Tie for his many years of outstanding leadership and service as President and Chapter member.

Organizational and Administrative Activities:

- The Officers and Directors met monthly with the exception of May through August.
- The Chapter's official Newsletter, "Susquehanna Ripples", was distributed in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November.
- The Chapter continues to maintain a high-quality social media presence via its website (www.susquehannatu.com) and Facebook page.
- On December 20, 2023 President Steve Martin and Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson attended a Conservation Project Grant seminar sponsored by State Representative Jamie Flick in Williamsport.
- On January 8, 2024 Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson spoke to the Loyalsock Men's Club about Trout Unlimited and our mission of cold water conservation.
- On January 22, 2024 President Steve Martin and Director Dave Walters participated in the Lycoming County Countywide Action Plan meeting regarding grant funding and projects to reduce nutrient pollution in area waterways.
- On February 6, 2024 Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson spoke to the Montoursville Rotary Club about Trout Unlimited and our mission of cold water conservation.
- On February 24, 2024 President Steve Martin and Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson attended the Keystone Coldwater Conference held in State College.
- On July 20, 2024 President Steve Martin attended a meeting with PA Council of TU, Northcentral Region Vice President and Northcentral Region Chapter Presidents at the Antes Creek Sportsman's Club.
- On September 14, 2024 President Steve Martin, Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson, Secretary Kevin McJunkin and Director Dave Walters attended the PA Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting held in Waterville.
- On October 2, 2024 Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson accepted an invitation to participate on behalf of our Chapter in the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, "Riverkeeper Roundtable" meeting in Fall / Winter 2024 / 2025.

Fundraising Activities:

- Throughout the year the Chapter has received and acknowledged numerous donations of fishing tackle, books, lure making & rod building supplies, art prints & posters, and fly tying supplies for use by beginning anglers and veterans/first responders, or to sell at future fund raising events and raffles. A number of cash donations were also received.

Conservation Activities:

- Continued follow-up activities in regards to a potential stream improvement project to address erosion on Plunkett's Creek below the old Game Farm. On November 17, 2023, President Steve Martin, Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson and Chapter Advisor Steve Szoke participated in a tour of stream damage, including a 20' vertical washout, along with members of the PA Fish Commission, Lycoming County Conservation District, Northcentral PA Conservancy, State Representative Joe Hamm's office and the private landowner.
- Continued to monitor PA DCNR policy development and management of the Northcentral PA ATV Pilot Initiative in the Pine Creek watershed. On February 28, 2024, President Steve Martin and Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson participated in an ATV Pilot Stakeholders study Zoom call with Penn State University to share comments and concerns concerning the Pilot.

Continued on next page

2024 Annual Report Continued

- On March 18, 2024 President Steve Martin and Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson met in English Center with various PA Game Commission personnel, members of the Otter Run Club, and the National TU, Mid-Atlantic Policy Program Manager to discuss historical coal mining activities at Fisher Mines on State Game Lands 75, the resulting pollution of Otter Run, and the future of Fisher mining operations.
- On April 13, 2024 the Chapter held a successful and much needed stream cleanup along Lycoming Creek from Trout Run downstream to Wolf Run and also a section of the Delayed Harvest area downstream of Powys. Following the cleanup a picnic was held at the Trout Run Park pavilion for the volunteers.
- On June 3, 2024 the Chapter submitted a letter endorsing the redesignation of Loyalsock Creek and its tributaries to Exceptional Value by the PA DEP Water Quality Board.
- Worked with the PA Council of TU Conservation Committee and other regional conservation groups to provide public comments to PA DEP on a proposed open cut PGE natural gas and water pipeline in the Okome area of State Game Land 75. This proposed pipeline in the Little Pine Creek watershed would cross 9 wild trout streams and wetland areas. On July 2, 2024 President Steve Martin participated in a PA DEP Virtual Public Meeting to provide additional testimony regarding our concerns about adverse environmental and visual impacts of the proposed pipeline. On July 31, 2024, President Steve Martin, Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson and Directors Dave Walters and Joe Radley met with the President of PGE and his staff at the PGE offices in Hughesville. Discussion included our concerns and PGE's plans to minimize stream and wetland crossing impacts, as well as ways in which PGE plans to minimize visual impacts in the areas where the proposed pipeline will run in close proximity to the Mid-State Trail.
- On August 12, 2024, Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson worked with the PA Council of TU to draft and submit a comment letter to PA DEP regarding our concerns with poor erosion and sedimentation controls at stream crossings along the Beautys Run natural gas pipeline in Lycoming County.
- On October 2, 2024 the Board of Directors voted to request that the PA Council of TU support the designation of Little Slate Run, Naval Run and Callahan Run (Class A & Exceptional Value streams in the Pine Creek watershed) as the Bob Webber Natural Area which would afford the highest level of protections to this area.
- We continue to monitor groundwater withdrawals by Nicholas Meats from the Fishing Creek aquifer in Sugar Valley and have continued to advocate for a USGS stream gauge on Fishing Creek so that changes in stream flows can be monitored. On October 16, 2024, a new USGS stream gauge began operation at the head of The Narrows on Fishing Creek just downstream of the Tylersville Trout Hatchery.
- On October 21, 2024 Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson and Director Dave Walters joined other Trout Unlimited representatives to provide testimony at the PA Fish Commission meeting in Harrisburg regarding the negative impacts of stocking hatchery trout over top of native and wild trout populations in Cass A streams.
- On October 29, 2024 President Steve Martin, Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson and Secretary Kevin McJunkin visited an 81 acre property on White Deer Hole Creek, that is open to walk-in fishing, to see if our Chapter could provide the landowners with any assistance regarding flood damage to the stream channel, woody debris deposition, and the resulting creation of a new stream channel.
- Continue to coordinate with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation on monitoring and rehab of AMD treatment systems on the tributary streams of the upper Loyalsock Creek Watershed.
- Continue to monitor and comment on various legislative activities, as appropriate.

Educational Activities:

- The Chapter has established a lending library of over 300 books, periodicals and videos available for Chapter members.
- The January 8, 2024 Chapter meeting featured presentations by Scott Koser, Program Manager for the PA Coldwater Habitat Program of Trout Unlimited and Brian Cooper, TU's PA Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Project Manager. Scott outlined TU's Priority Waters Initiative and recently completed / planned habitat improvement projects in our region. Brian discussed TU's statewide AMD cleanup efforts, its Technical Assistance Program and current / future projects to restore AMD impaired fisheries in our region such as Beech Creek.
- On January 11, 2024 the Chapter Board of Directors approved an expenditure of \$621.88 for a fish tank and all other equipment and supplies to begin a Trout In the Classroom program at the Hughesville Public Library.

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2024 Annual Report Continued

- Beginning January 30, 2024, the Chapter held a 7 week, Beginners Fly Tying Course for 22 participants.
- The February 15, 2024 Chapter meeting featured PA Fish Commission Waterways Conservation Officers for Lycoming, Sullivan and Clinton counties, as well as PA Fish Commissioner Eric Hussar. Discussed were both current and planned regulation & policy changes, as well as other upcoming PA Fish Commission activities.
- On February 29, 2024 President Steve Martin, Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson, and Directors Bill Worobec, Charlie Knowlden and Dave Walters met with State Representative Jamie Flick at his Williamsport office to discuss the TU Trout In the Classroom program, his proposed “Fishing with Flick” Youth Fishing Day and other conservation issues of concern.
- Chapter Officers, Directors and membership continue to provide support for the Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club for fly tying, casting and fishing instruction, as well as their March 3, 2024 stream clean up of Muncy Creek.
- The March 13, 2024 Chapter meeting featured a presentation by Dave Rothrock on Diversified Nymph Fishing Techniques.
- The April 13, 2024 Chapter meeting featured a program by John Pastorek about the Pine Creek Brown Trout Club and the conservation efforts of the Slate Run Sportsmen’s Club.
- On April 20, 2024 about a dozen Officers, Directors and members assisted State Representative Jamie Flick with his “Fishing with Flick” Youth Fishing Day on Lycoming Creek across from Bowman Field. Instruction and assistance were provided to the youth and our Velcro Fishing Pond was set up for the younger children.
- On May 4, 2024 a number of Officers, Directors and members assisted the PA Fish Commission and the North-central PA Conservancy with an Intro to Fly Fishing program held at Montour Preserve.
- On May 8, 2024 various Officers, Directors and members assisted with the Montgomery High School Trout In the Classroom fish release on White Deer Hole Creek.
- On May 17, 2024 the Chapter co-sponsored a presentation by author Tim Palmer on his new book “Seeking Higher Ground – The Natural Solution to Our Flooding Crisis” held at Lycoming College.
- On May 29, 2024 Officers and Directors assisted Wyalusing Valley High School with its Trout In the Classroom fish release on Schrader Creek.
- On May 31, 2024 President Steve Martin and Vice President Jim Latini participated in the Montoursville School District, Lyter Elementary School, Kindergarten Outdoor Fair. Steve and Jim manned our Velcro Fishing Pond and interacted with 65 children.
- On June 17, 2024 the Chapter co-sponsored a presentation at Lycoming College by Wildlife Ecologist, Doug Talamy about simple steps that individuals can take to reverse declining biodiversity and why we must change our adversarial relationship with nature.
- On June 20, 2024 Vice President Jim Latini attended a gathering of local educators and the local Intermediate Unit leadership at the Waterdale Environmental Center in Mosquito Valley. Jim spoke on how Trout Unlimited might help provide meaningful watershed educational experiences for the local school districts and the Intermediate Unit.
- On September 8, 2024 President Steve Martin and Director John Kolb participated in the Cogan House Township Community Day event with our Velcro Fishing Pond for youngsters and an information handout table.
- The September 11, 2024 Chapter meeting featured a picnic at the Trout Run Park pavilion. President Steve Martin spoke to the group about our Chapter activities and projects, while Vice President Jim Latini gave a presentation on fishing from kayaks & paddleboards and Dave Rothrock provided fly casting instruction.
- The October 9, 2024 Chapter meeting featured a program by DCNR Forest Health Program Specialist, Sarah Johnson. Sarah spoke about the impacts of forest pests, diseases, invasive plants and non-biotic factors on the health of Pennsylvania’s forests and how declines in forest health negatively impact water quality in cold water streams. Sarah also spoke on large woody debris addition to streams as well as aquatic organism passage best practices.
- The November 13, 2024 Chapter meeting featured a program by Robert McCullough III titled “Fishing When No One Wants To” and focused primarily on night fishing and Winter fishing.

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2024 Annual Report Continued

Service Partnership Program (Veterans and First Responders):

- Program coordinator Charlie Knowlden received a donation from the Anglers Pro Shop in Souderton, PA of ten, 5 to 8 weight fly rod blanks. The Chapter purchased handles, reel seats and guides for these rods, bringing our inventory to 14 complete kits.
- On May 21, 2024 Program Coordinator Charlie Knowlden attended a Veteran's Workshop at the American Legion Post.
- During the Summer, Program Coordinator Charlie Knowlden helped a veteran build a rod and also took him fishing and the veteran was able to catch some fish with the rod he built.

New Member and Women's Initiatives:

- On April 19, 2024 Immediate Past President Walt Nicholson and Director Charlie Knowlden helped with the Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club's "Girls Only Day", an effort to attract more young women to the sport of fly fishing. They helped the girls tie their first fly; a San Juan Worm.

In Summary

2024 was again a very busy year for our chapter. True to our mission, we took a leadership role in bringing many important regional environmental issues to the attention of the PA Council of TU. We facilitated several meetings with the PFBC, PA DEP, PGC, private enterprises and elected officials regarding regulatory issues, environmental concerns, conservation programs, and potential stream improvement projects. We also nurtured cooperative relationships with local academic and conservation organizations. We made good progress in expanding our membership, strengthening our financial assets, and continuing our programs of service to veterans and first responders. Additional goals for next year include investigating and planning a significant stream enhancement project, building additional active committees, broadening member participation, and creating a viable Officer & Director succession plan to continue the good work which has been carried out by the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Martin, President

Online Boating Course

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is excited to announce the availability of a new, low-cost online boating safety education course!

The course, offered in partnership with the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, is available for only \$17, is approved by both the PFBC and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), and recognized by the United States Coast Guard.

In Pennsylvania, a Boating Safety Education Certificate is required for any person born on or after January 1, 1982, to operate boats powered with motors greater than 25 horsepower or any personal watercraft. To receive a certificate, boaters must successfully complete an approved boating safety course – either online or through in-person instruction.

The BoatUS Foundation course consists of six lessons and quizzes along with a final exam. Students may use a computer or mobile device to start, pause, and resume their learning at any time, and the full course can be completed in approximately four to eight hours. Individuals who successfully complete the online course will immediately receive a temporary Boating Safety Education Certificate which can be printed and is valid for 60 days. Within four to six weeks, students will receive their permanent certificate in the mail in the form of a durable plastic card that is valid for the boater's lifetime.

Don Daughenbaugh

By Bob Baker

I can not remember which exactly when I met Don, but it was through Trout Unlimited just after I became active in the Chapter. At the time I did not know who he was, or more importantly, what he had done throughout his life. As I got to know him, I learned more about him and was in awe of his life. Despite being a friend to Presidents and Congressmen, and doing all he had done in fly fishing, Don was one of us. He was a regular guy who loved to tell stories and talking fishing.

He always had the time to talk to you and teach. No matter what the question was or what I, or others were trying to learn, he took the time needed until we had the question answered or understood what he was teaching us. I became more amazed at him during the early fly tying class's that the Chapter held when he was a guest instructor. My kids attended the class and I wanted them to meet Don and learn fly tying from him. My kids, Cheyenne and Dakota, sat across from Don in the class and Don seemed to absolutely love it that young kids were learning the art. Granted Don was a teacher in South Williamsport, but his love of teaching others, and his love for kids, definitely showed and continued well after he retired from teaching.

He had the patience to teach them and to answer all their questions. I don't know about Cheyenne and Dakota, but he definitely made an impression on me. He not only taught, but he had a story about everything and anything. He was a great story teller and tried to find humor in all.

He was a friend to all and a lifelong teacher. No matter who you were, he would take the time to teach you anything you wanted to know and just loved to sit and talk and share stories.

His health had been deteriorating over the last several years and he was eventually confined to bed or a wheel chair as he could no longer walk. He had started giving away many of his fly tying materials and things he had collected over the years. The Chapter is fortunate to have received some of the items from his Daughter, Kim and are lucky to have known him and to be a small part of his life.

I was saddened to learn that he had died last fall. Don played a huge role in teaching, guiding and sculpting hundreds of kids through the years as a biology teacher. This love of teaching continued throughout his life to anyone who wanted to learn and it did not matter who you were. He took the time for anyone who wanted to learn or had a question.

Those of us who knew him were fortunate to know the many sides of him while others only knew him through his book, Great People, Great Rivers or as having him as their guide on one of the many streams across the County.

Don will be missed but his teaching and love for the sport will continue on in everyone he touched. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kim and to his entire family.



*With best wishes
to Mary Jane and Don Daughenbaugh
Jimmy Carter
12-80*

President Jimmy Carter By Bob Baker

Back in 2017 and 2018, I started a column in this newsletter about notable angler 's answered a few questions about fishing. I sent numerous letters out to individuals and President Jimmy Carter was one of the few individuals who responded and he was 94 years old at the time. I received the questionnaire that I sent him a short time later and he had filled it out in his own writing and his signature on it (Please see the next page for this).

I was every excited to have received this and I remember Dave Craig, who was picking up the mail at that time, came to my door with a big smile on his face and said "You got a letter from President Carter." Were both in disbelief that he took the time to respond to me, and our Chapter.

President Carter has different connections to our area but it is fishing that we remember. He was introduced to this area by Don Daughenbaugh who guided him, and his wife, on many trips to North Central Pennsylvania. His passion to fish, conservation, and the beauty of the outdoors kept him fishing well into his 90's.

Although we remember him as a fisherman, his love of others is what he dedicated his life to. Always working to improve the lives of others and giving of himself is something that will be always remembered.

We want to remember his service to the State of Georgia and to the United States of America and hope that his work continues in some way in each of us.

We extend our deepest sorrow to President Carters family and know that not only our Chapter, but everyone in the Country and around the world will continue his work.



The Williamsport gang joins us for a photo at Spruce Creek. Bob McCullough, Bill O'conner, President Carter, me, Bobby Jr. McCullough, Jerry Walls.

Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Interview Questions - August 2018

1) How did you begin your interest in fishing?

From my father,
when I was a small boy -

2) How old were you when you first went fishing and with who?

8 years old.

3) What is your most memorable experience while fishing?

Catching Atlantic
salmon east of the mouth, in Russia

4) What are the top waters (in your opinion) that you have fished and like to fish?

The Ruby River in Montana

5) What do you see is the future of fishing?

Expanding

6) How do we get more families (kids and women) involved in this great sport?

Fathers
who fish just invite them

7) How has fishing changed over the years?

More catch and release

8) What is your greatest accomplishment in fishing?

Catching a 32-inch
humpback in Alaska

9) What was the first fish you remember catching?

A stream in SW Georgia

10) What is your favorite or go to bait / lure / fly?

A black ant - first in Spruce Creek, PA.

11) Do you think fishing has become commercialized in that there are all kinds of gadgets

and ever increasing choices in tackle and equipment? Do we really need all the stuff that

is on the market or should we just stick with simplicity?

There is no harm
in trying new ideas, but simplicity suffices.

12) Is there any one person or persons who have influenced you in this sport?

George Harvey, at Penn. State

13) What do you think is the biggest threat to our sport?

Overfishing some streams.

14) Do you tie your own flies or make your own lures, rods, etc? If you do, why?

Tie flies,
especially when I was President.

15) What species of fish have you fished for? What is your favorite?

Trout, Atlantic
salmon, bass, catfish, stream.

16) Any advice for someone just starting out in fishing / fly fishing?

It is good for all ages. (I am 94)

Jimmy Carter



The President and I at Grays Run.



An all wool sculpin imitation.

GRAYS RUN

On another trip to Pennsylvania the entire Carter family joined Mary Jane and me at Grays Run Hunting and Fishing Club. The presidential family had been refused the opportunity to fish the Texas Blockhouse water because of a "no guest rule" at their club that was in force until June 1. I called Bud Greevy, a longtime member of the Grays Run Club who said, "We would love to have the presidential family fish our water." And a special salmon dinner at the club house would end the day." We took time out to talk about fishing and how to solve the cold water problems of Grays Run.



We talk about how to fish a muddler minnow.

The extremely cold water taught yet another lesson to the President and Rosalynn on fly fishing. Mainly you have to "do what the stream is telling you." With no hatches, and low water temperature around 50 degrees, Rosalynn and I caught trout. We solved the stream problem that day with the simple muddler minnow. I knew there were plenty of trout in the stream and we were not fishing dry flies, doing only what the creek was telling us. Grays Run was a demanding stream that day. The final score was Rosalynn: 7 trout; President Carter: 0.



Rosalynn was again the champion after I taught her the art of fishing



Family Fishing for the Golden Monster

By Asher Ulmer

It was the opening day of Trout Season 2023. My dad, mom, and I went to a hole that was loaded with fish, and even had two Golden Rainbows in it. My dad was just fishing for anything, but I was fishing for a Goldie. I don't think many people saw this particular Goldie, because it kept swimming into a brush pile. I tied on a pink Trout Magnet and casted a perfect drift. He swam up to it and gobbled it up! I set the hook and yelled, "Dad! I got it!" and he came down with the net. Dad netted this fish and it was 15.5 inches long. We took some pictures and released it so some other kid could catch it.

I talked my dad into going to another spot where I had previously stocked a giant Goldie, but we only had about an hour to fish. My mom and I were fishing in the main hole, but didn't see any fish except for a couple minnows. My dad went downstream, because he thought there would be a big fish that got too pressured and spooked downstream. I was upset because I wanted to go to a different spot, because we hadn't seen any big fish at this spot. I kept picking on dad saying he was going to catch this "imaginary fish" since there seemed to not be any. I asked him to go to another spot, but dad told me to come down where he was because he saw a monster Goldie. Mom and I walked down-

stream, and sure enough, there was a giant Goldie with about 50 other trout! I put my waders on and crossed the creek, even though it was pretty deep and swift. I tied on my favorite Mepps spinner, because my dad always says, "Spinners in fast water catch fish!" I had it spinning right in front of the monster's face, and soon enough, I didn't see it anymore. Suddenly, my line went tight and the monster jumped and thrashed. I was fighting him and dad was saying I needed to walk down the creek so he could net it, but he didn't know that I walked across the deep creek, since he was further up stream. Mom had to save the day by wading into the deep, swift waters in only boots, to net the monster Goldie. This monster ended up measuring an impressive 21.5 inches! It was a perfect hook set, right in the top of his mouth! It was an exciting day of fishing and I am so blessed to share it with both my parents!

ICE SAFETY TIPS

- Wear a life jacket
- Understand ice formation factors
- Spot warning signs
- Carry rescue items
- Learn self-rescue techniques

CALL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES



NOTICE
COLD WATER
KILLS!
WEAR YOUR
LIFE JACKET!

ICE THICKNESS
AND CONDITIONS
ARE NOT
MONITORED
IN THIS AREA

WEAK ICE SIGNS!



- WARM TEMPERATURES AND SUNLIGHT
- SHORE AND OBJECTS THAT ABSORB HEAT
- ICE CRACK
- WATER ON THE MANTLE
- UNDERWATER SPRING AND MOVING WATER
- SLUSH
- DISCOLORATION AND HONEYCOMBED APPEARANCE



January 7, 2025 Virtual Intro to Ice Fishing by PFBC
(<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/218583>)

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 5, 2025 Virtual Intro to Crappie Fishing by
PFBC (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/218591>)

March 11, 2025 Fishing Skills Instructor by PFBC at
Little Buffalo State Park
(<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219564>)

March 12, 2025 Virtual Intro to Bass Fishing by PFBC
<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/218587>

March 12, 2025 Chapter Meeting

March 14, 2025 The Chapter Celebrates its 61st birth-
day / received 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

March 20, 2025 Fishing Skills Instructor by PFBC at
Cordorus State Park [https://www.register-ed.com/](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219565)
[events/view/219565](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219565)

March 25, 2025 Virtual Intro to Crappie Fishing by
PFBC <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/218592>

April 1, 2025 Virtual Intro to Bass Fishing by PFBC
<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/218589>

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 3, 2025 Family Fishing Program and Lunch at
Rose Valley Lake [https://www.register-ed.com/events/](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219354)
[view/219354](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219354)

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

May 21, 2024 Intro to Kayak Fishing by PFBC at Bald
Eagle State Park [https://www.register-ed.com/events/](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/220409)
[view/220409](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/220409)

June 14, 2025 Statewide opening day of Bass

September 2, 2025 Extended Trout Season begins

September 28, 2024 National Hunting and Fishing Day
at Bald Eagle State Park by PFC [https://www.register-](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219286)
[ed.com/events/view/219286](https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/219286)





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

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)
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