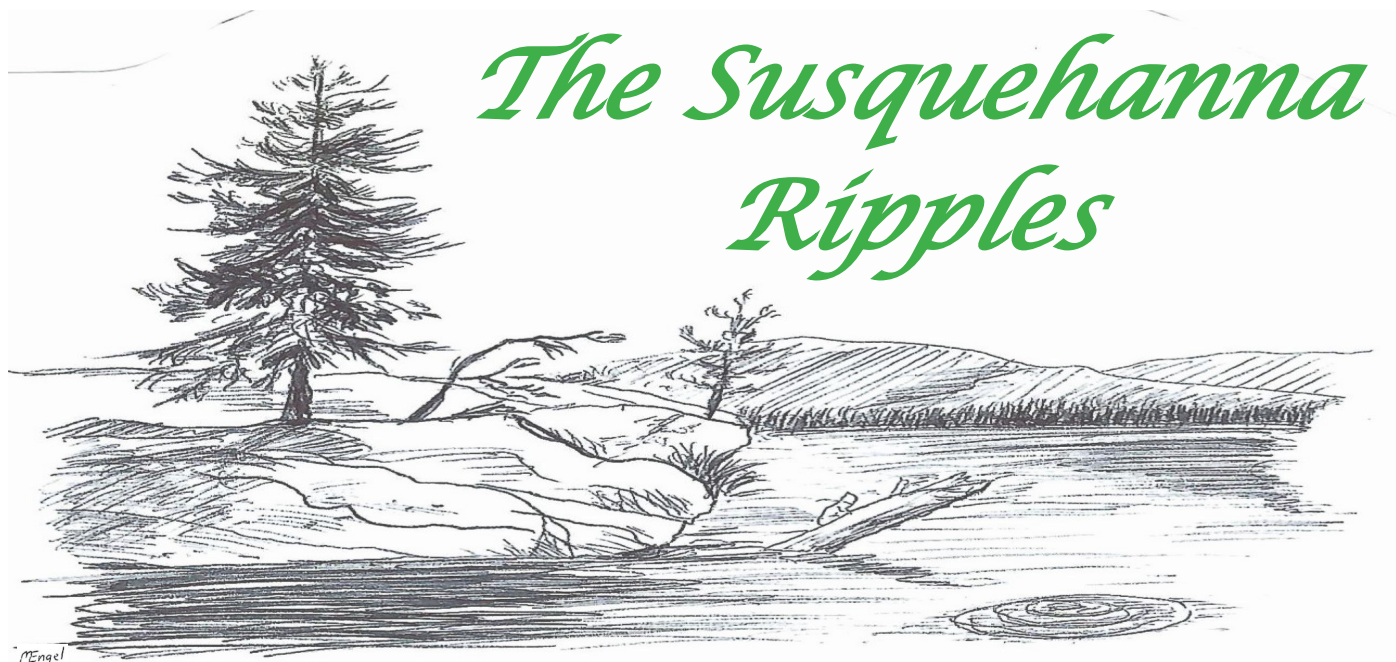




The Susquehanna Ripples

The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited Picnic and Meeting at Trout Run Park on September 9, 2026

Want to learn about our TU chapter activities and conservation projects, perhaps try out fly casting as a first-timer or sharpen your skills under the instruction of experienced fly fishers? Maybe just talk fishing and the outdoors with a bunch of like-minded individuals? 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 9th. Several fly rod and reel outfits will be available for those to try out who do not have one. You may also 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.

Chapter Fishing Tournament



The Chapter has decided to have a fishing tournament this spring. The initial idea is a low key social event. A chance to get members, the public and kids together for a day of fishing.

Bob Vasant has formed a committee to make this happen. We are having a dry run this fall to learn what anglers want and to work out details.

We will get together on Saturday October 10. You can fish anywhere you want on Lycoming Creek with artificial lures, catch and release.

Pictures showing the length of your five best fish will be totaled for your score. The State will stock on October 6. Anyone interested in participating on October 10 can text Bob Vasant at 703-408-3997.

Bob and members of the committee will be at our picnic on September 9 to answer your questions.

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Pennsylvania Fishing and Boating Access Strategy

In collaboration with our partners at the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, this strategy provides tools and resources to identify new fishing and boating access sites, improve existing sites and maximize accessibility so that all users have access to fishing and boating opportunities.

State agencies and their partner organizations like heritage areas and watershed organizations, 501(c)3 nonprofit groups, local governments and water trail managers will find the Pennsylvania Fishing and Boating Access Strategy useful in developing, planning and enhancing access opportunities in their communities.

The Pennsylvania Fishing and Boating Access Strategy will help you to:

- Optimize access area placement
- Enhance current public access
- Prioritize under-resourced communities and areas with limited access
- Maximize accessibility for all users
- Assess site suitability
- Build project support
- Focus on established Water Trails first

To view the document, click the link below:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/fishandboat/documents/forms-permits/pafb-access-strategy.pdf#page=30>

Chapter Elections

Our annual elections are coming up and we want you to consider becoming a leader in YOUR Chapter. Many positions will be open later this year and each position is unique and gives you an opportunity to guide your Chapter. Please consider running for a position or nominating someone who you think will fit the position. No Experience, No Problem. We will help you in every way we can and support you throughout the process. More information will be given in a later Susquehanna Ripples.

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...

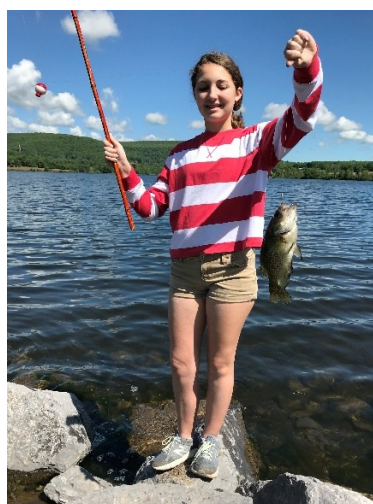
At one time or another, most of us have heard the phrase, “What’s in a name”? Some names are given to places based upon historical events, some are based upon family names, and some for other reasons. Just take a look at any map, especially a topographical map, and you will see many unique and interesting names associated with mountains, hollows, and little “blue line” streams. Some of those names conjure up images of our rich history, brave acts associated with the early settlers, wild animals or geological features. Sometimes the maps of our personal lives contain significant and important names too. Some of those names have been safely locked into our minds, creating neuro pathways that can recreate rich memories and emotions that are as detailed and real today as they were decades ago.

This Summer our family gathered at the home of my son in Indiana, PA to celebrate his 40th birthday. The first evening there, we did a rare thing for many families today. We all sat in his living room, TV and phones turned off, and we talked. As you can imagine, much of the talk centered upon a time when my son and daughter were young. My three grandchildren sat in awe as they heard stories of times now long ago. It amazed me how detailed and accurate my son and daughter’s memories were of fishing trips, hunting trips, picnics and other outdoor adventures that occurred decades ago. It was obvious that those experiences were important to them and are now locked into their personal memories forever.

We had a habit, maybe you did too, of naming places we ventured to that were significant to us. Places like, “the cabin hole”, “cliff hanger”, “bone - daddy”, or “tin can bunker”. Each one, and many others like them, hold significance in our lives. In some ways they may have even helped shape who we are today. One event that both my kids readily remembered was an evening fishing trip along Lycoming Creek when not one fish was caught, but we pulled the car into the State Game Lands parking lot off Camp Susque Road and watched an incredibly large moon rise into the darkening sky, while eating Cheez-its and sipping Juice Packs. Another was a first day of Trout season along Lycoming Creek when it was raining so hard, that we didn’t even get out of the car! The rain pounded the car like a million tiny hammers while we ate our lunch at 8 AM and then we went home. Who would have thought that these would prove to be important memories for the kids?

I hope no one saw my eyes getting red, or the tears beginning to well up in them. But they were good tears. The kind we are fortunate to shed. But it’s all good and I have already begun piling up some outdoor adventures with the grandkids. And yes, we are still coming up with more important names to connect the neuro dots. How about “bird’s nest lookout”, “guard rail hole”, “Snapper cove”, or “dead Possum gulch”?

Don’t ever underestimate the value of time spent in the outdoors with kids. They don’t even need to be your kids. Just go out there and make up some names of your own. Decades down the road, the kids will thank you.



Steve Martin
President – Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Canoeing, Camping, and Fishing on the Susquehanna River

By Collin Kolb, age 10

First things first, we had a 2-hour ride to Harrisburg. We stopped at Blue Mountain Outfitters, a canoe and kayaking shop. We rented 2 canoes and started our trip. First, we paddled around a little bit then once we got in the middle of the river we started fishing. It took about five minutes. Carter, one of my cousins, had a fish on his line. He reeled it in and just when he saw it, it fell off. It took about 45 more minutes until the fish started to bite. We went about 2 miles down river. Brodie, my other cousin caught three bass. I caught three bass and Carter caught seven bass. My dad caught two bass. We got up to a bridge. I casted under it and started to reel my line in. Just when it was by the canoe, a big fish took my bait! At first, I had the biggest catch of the trip until day two. We camped on an island and slept in tents. We cooked one of our catches over the camp fire. We fished around camp and I caught a bass all by myself along a grassy bed on the island. Day two we woke up, cleaned up the campsite and started floating down the river again. It was slow fishing. I caught one. My dad caught a giant bass, the biggest of the trip with his fly rod! When we got to the miniature statue of liberty, the rapids were extremely fast. We had to get on our knees and paddle. I got soaked by the splashing rapids. The water got really deep below the rapids. I casted my lure and reeled it in slow. Then a giant fish took my lure! I was reeling it in, it felt like I was catching a 72 LBS fish! Just when I was about to see the fish, it broke my line. Legend has it, that it was either a giant cat fish or a musky. The end.



Above picture on left shows John Kolb (on left) and his son Collin (in red life jacket) taking a pre-launch photo. Photo on right shows Collin in the canoe and ready to hit the water.



Collin's 3rd fish



John's big bass

How Do I Become a Mayfly Project Mentor?



Becoming a mentor to the Mayfly Project is not difficult. You must be able to pass a background check just like you would for any other youth organization. The Mayfly Project makes that easy if you don't already have the clearances. They use a clearing house that keeps the records on file so that they can be sent to any organization in any state at your request. You can start the process by contacting: themayflyproject.com/become-a-mentor/. This is the application link that will take you through the process.

Mentors can have several different responsibilities. The regular job is to be paired with a Mentee so that you can accompany them on group outings and demonstrate the skills needed to catch a fish with a flyrod. You will receive a manual that describes the duties and provides resources. There are regular Zoom meetings in which you can participate that provide a wealth of information and give you opportunities to ask questions and get feedback from other mentors as well as Mayfly Project administrators.

There are other duties that Mentors may choose to take on. Examples include: Fly tying and casting instructor where you might only be required to attend one or two meetings. Public

relations are important for taking pictures and writing articles for the local newspapers and sports journals. Planning snacks and food for outings or for the original ice breaker meeting is recommended. Giving Information on conservation is an important task. Grant writing and gear inventory are important. Husband and wife teams can be successful in handling some of these tasks. Not every Mentor has to be a fisher person or work directly with a Mentee. Remember that these mentees are not coming from a typical family unit. Seeing a marital team working together can be a beneficial outcome of our project.

As the Lead Mentor, it will be my responsibility to coordinate the outings and delegate responsibilities so that the program will be as successful as possible. At the current time, there are four Mentors committed to the Project including myself. It would be great to have at least four more. For the first year of the Williamsport Mayfly Project, our goal is to have six Mentees. We will draw from various agencies in Lycoming and Northumberland Counties. Rick Saylor is a Co-Lead Mentor and it is his responsibility to coordinate with the agencies that will provide the Mentees.

The Project will be scheduled to start in early 2027. Outings will be scheduled by consensus of the Mentors. If you have any questions or especially an interest in becoming a Mentor, please contact me at Cjknow@comcast.net

<https://themayflyproject.com/williamsport-pennsylvania-project/>

Rose Valley Lake Update

Representative Joe Hamm (R – Lycoming/Sullivan) is pleased to announce the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has received the necessary permits from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to proceed with the dam project scheduled for Rose Valley Lake. The \$5 million project will include rehabilitation of the dam embankment and spillway to meet DEP dam safety standards.

“I am pleased the permits have been approved to proceed with the project at Rose Valley Lake,” Hamm said. “I will continue to press the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission to complete this project in a timely manner and ensure the lake restoration creates enhanced opportunities for many generations to come. We want our lake back as soon as possible!”

The next step for the project is the lake drawdown, tentatively scheduled for the end of August. When safety concerns to use the boat launches are determined, the lake and associated access areas will be temporarily closed throughout the drawdown and fish salvage activities, until the reservoir is fully dewatered and the lakebed is stabilized. The Rose Valley Lake drawdown will be initiated at a rate of not more than 2 feet per week until dewatered. Bank seeding and erosion control implementation will occur at that time.

The fish salvage operations are tentatively scheduled for October of this year. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2027 and should be completed in fall 2028. Reservoir refilling is anticipated to begin in spring 2029. Last year, the Fish & Boat Commission lifted all seasons, sizes and creel limit restrictions at Rose Valley Lake in anticipation of the lake drawdown. The temporary regulations will remain posted on signage around Rose Valley Lake and remain in place until further notice.

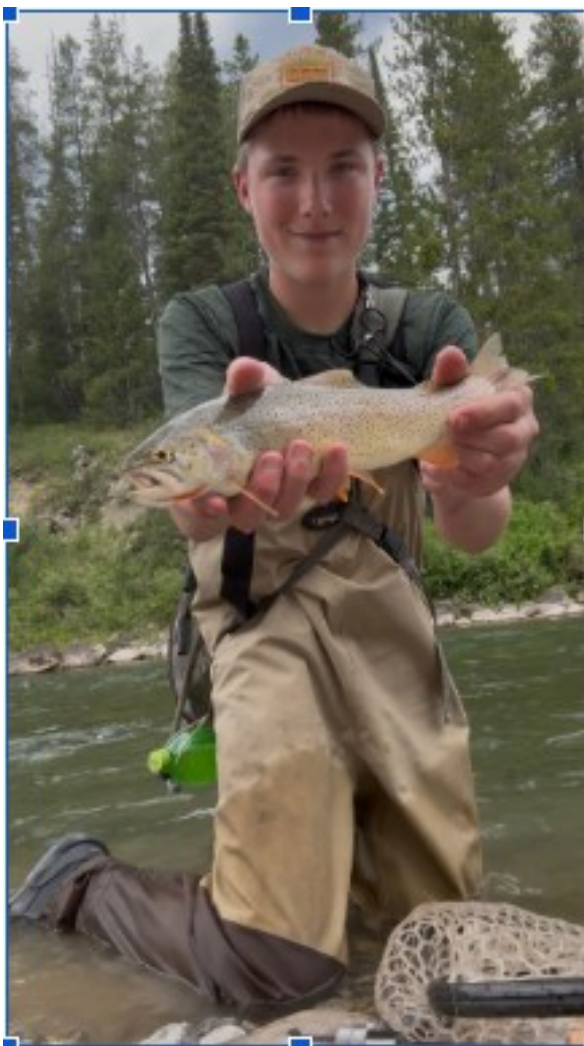
TU Expeditions Camp

By Asher Ulmer

I had the privilege of attending a TU Expeditions Camp in Wyoming in July. A TU Expedition is a chance to connect deeply with landscapes, communities, the ecosystems we aim to protect, and the stories that shape them. Process-Based Restoration (PBR) helps rivers and wetlands heal by supporting natural stream functions. Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) are nature-based structures that mimic real beaver dams to restore streams and boost biodiversity. I had the opportunity to participate in both of these activities while I was there.

Making the beaver dams was a lot of fun. I mostly dug up the sod. It was very refreshing going into the water on the hot days. We also made zuni bows to help the erosion coming from the field. On the 4th of July, we went to a rodeo. It was really fun watching the wild cow milking. The cows went crazy! After the rodeo, we watched fireworks, and they were spectacular.

I also was able to fish some amazing bodies of water, such as the Greys River. The Greys River is where I had the most luck catching the big ones. Right by our campsite, we fished the tiny stream there and caught lots of fish, but they were all around six inches long. My first big fish was a 15 inch Cutthroat caught on a Waltz Worm. On the second day fishing the Greys River, stimulators were the fly of the day. I caught a 14 inch Cutthroat in the morning, and a 17 and a 18 in the afternoon. The 17 was really fat, but the 18 was really skinny. I would like to thank the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited for sponsoring me to have this awesome experience.



Asher with his 15 inch cutthroat



Asher with his 18 inch cutthroat



More pictures from Asher and his TU Expedition experience. On the left is the 17 in Cutthroat that he caught. Above is the rodeo he was able to attend and below are more of the beautiful trout that he was able to trick into taking his fly.



PFBC Eliminates Deputy Wardens

After the Pennsylvania Game Commission announced it will eliminate the Deputy Game Warden Program, the Fish and Boat Commission confirmed this week that the agency is also terminating its Deputy Waterways Conservation Program, laying off 36 deputy officers across the state.

Deputy waterways officers are volunteers who assist full-time employees with enforcing fishing and environmental regulations for streams, rivers and lakes. Deputies serve 29 counties across the state, assisting approximately 100 full-time officers, and are paid \$100 per day.

The deputies were notified on Aug. 12 that the program would end on Sept. 1, the same day as the termination of the game warden program.

“Coming to this decision was difficult and was not reached without intense consideration. However, cessation of the program is a natural evolution of modern professional conservation law enforcement,” said the Fish and Boat Commission in a statement.

A spokesperson for the agency said the decision was made by the Fish and Boat Commission’s executive director Timothy Schaeffer.

Dave Eichler, Lancaster County’s deputy waterways conservation officer, said the news took him by surprise. He said there had been little discussion or communication on the matter outside of the email notice.

“I’m human. Why would a state agency treat a fellow officer or a fellow employee like this?” he said.

The program’s termination comes amid a time of financial strain for the Fish and Boat Commission. Unlike the Game Commission, which saw a \$500 million surplus last year, the Fish and Boat Commission experienced a \$4 million deficit in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The most recent class of deputy officers graduated in 2022, according to the Fish and Boat Commission. Eichler said the declining number of trainings for deputy officers may reflect the commission’s focus to recruit full-time staff.

Regardless, Eichler said he hoped for more transparency from the Commission on the decision, and that he believes full-time officers will have difficulty fulfilling their duties without deputy assistance.

“I wish we would’ve been communicated with before just a hatchet dropping. If there were concerns about things, we could have maybe come to an agreement that we would be treated differently,” Eichler said.

PFBC Seek Public Input on New Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced today that public input is being accepted related to the agencies’ draft 2025-2035 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan. This is a non-regulatory plan that encourages all Pennsylvanians to participate in fish and wildlife conservation.

The draft Plan and public comment form are available [online](#). Comments may be submitted through September 19, 2026.

First developed in 2005, the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan has been the Commonwealth’s blueprint “to conserve Pennsylvania’s native fish and wildlife, maintain resilient habitat, and protect and enhance Species of Greatest Conservation Need.” As required by Congress, State Wildlife Action Plans must be revised no less than every 10 years.

Over the past decade, the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan and associated funding from State and Tribal Wildlife Grants have been crucial for protecting and recovering at-risk species and their habitats.

A Wildlife Action Plan approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required for states to receive State & Tribal Wildlife Grant Program funds. The Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan is scheduled to be delivered to the USFWS by October 1, 2026.

“This Plan reflects our responsibility to protect Pennsylvania’s remarkable variety of wildlife,” said Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Steve Smith. “In that responsibility, we must do more than just express our commitment to conservation. We must be active stewards to carefully manage and protect the Commonwealth’s natural resources. This Plan provides the framework to fulfill that responsibility while keeping our efforts aligned with the federal government and other states.”

“The Wildlife Action Plan is a call to action to help protect, conserve, and enhance Pennsylvania’s fish and wildlife,” said PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer. “Our state is home to an incredible diversity of fish, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians, and we are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring their sustainability for generations to come. This Plan will help guide our agencies’ efforts and empower our partners to work collaboratively alongside us to advance common goals.”

To compile the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, the PGC, PFBC, and conservation partners, work together to gather and analyze information related to native species, habitats, threats, conservation actions to address the threats, and monitoring of these species and habitats.

The revised draft plan has 858 Species of Greatest Need including 86 birds, 21 mammals, 19 amphibians, 18 reptiles, 47 fishes, and 667 invertebrates that require attention.



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*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ New Members Only \$17.50 | ☐ TU Teen (\$14) (13 - 18 y/o) |
| ☐ Regular (Renewal) \$35 | ☐ Life Membership (\$1500) |
| ☐ Family (\$55) | ☐ TU Business (\$295) |
| ☐ 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