**President’s Message**

I want to talk about conservation, because by joining Trout Unlimited those of you who are fishermen have seen the need for conservation of our coldwater resources. Conserving, protecting and restoring North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds is the mission of Trout Unlimited. Our efforts have, since 2004 which includes 2010 efforts, through partnerships, grants and Donegal TU funds, resulted in conservation projects totaling over $700,000. That is a lot of money, with the overwhelming bulk coming through Federal 319 grant dollars for Conowingo Creek. That stream is the only stream locally which qualifies for those federal funds and that will not change anytime in the near future. So when we go to do other stream restorations we must find funds elsewhere. Unfortunately right now the only other source for funds is through our own fund raising efforts and corporate donations. There are some grants available from time to time but there is no guarantee we will receive the money and the waiting period is long, which delays any project where work is needed now.

Regarding Climbers Run, we have a proposal before Exelon Power’s conservation committee right now and are waiting for their response. They have been a great source of help for the Fishing Creek project and we value that partnership. Many corporations look to make donations to non-profits as a means of gaining tax credits in return. So if anyone knows of a corporation looking to get involved with a “green” project and doing something for the environment, please have them contact us. Due to this multitude of projects we need your active participation more than anything else. With our membership now approaching 600 members we know there are many of you who want to become more active, so please step up.

A stream-monitoring program has begun with volunteers already sampling streams in the southern part of Lancaster County. Garland Gingrich is monitoring Climbers Run at 2 locations. Friends of Fishing Creek will conduct monitoring on Fishing Creek. Dennis Blevins will monitor two locations on Conowingo Creek. This program was organized by Bob Wyble with Matt Kofroth of the Lancaster Conservation District doing the training.

On another note, Bob Good, Art Thorn and Scott Trefny did a stream sampling at Climbers Run and found there was considerable evidence of aquatic insect life there.

Recently we have had donations of used fishing equipment which includes rods, reels, lures, flies, waders and even a float box for stocking trout. So we are planning to have a sale at our June picnic meeting at Millport. Most of this equipment is in excellent condition with some items just lightly used.

This is a save-the-date notice for those that will be able to help at the Fly-On-the-Run fishing tournament at Millport Conservancy on Wednesday May 12th and Thursday May 13th. If you can be there for the day on Thursday to help as a stream guide you are welcome to attend the festivities on Wednesday, which will include the Banquet and Auction and hors d’oeuvres and beer. There will be tying and casting competitions also and we would appreciate any help as well with those. Questions? Call Faye Haering, 285-2572 or e-mail: Fayeonthefly@comcast.net This benefits the Lancaster Career & Technology schools.

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April
14th: 7 pm Board Meeting
21st: 7 pm Chapter Meeting

May
12th: 7 pm Board Meeting
19th: 7 pm Chapter Meeting

June
9th: 7 pm Board Meeting
16th: 6 pm Chapter Meeting

Welcome New Members

Gregory Amand
312 S. Locust St.
Lititz, PA 17543
amand806@yahoo.com

Brent Brenner
112 N. Reamstown Rd.
Stevens, PA 17578

John Bright
130 Evergreen Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17601
john@brightsrestaurant.com

Brian Dugan
42 Waterwheel Dr.
PO Box 667
Brownstown, PA 17508
bdugan@ptd.net

Christopher Hess
123 E. Logan Ave.
Manheim, PA 17545

Chris Raudabaugh
180 Hillcrest Rd.
Pequea, PA 17565
amypc@epix.net

Michael Saxinger
146 Crosswick Ln.
Lancaster, PA 17601
mis@misaaxinger.com

John Scheler
325 Cobbler's Court
Lititz, PA 17543
jscheler01@verizon.net

Brian Schreiber
1044 Sunwood Ln.
Lancaster, PA 17601
brianschreibung@comcast.net

Barry Seachrist
2177 Old Hershey Rd.
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Michael Snyder
209 Manor Ave.
Millersville, PA 17551

Randall Weidner
317 W. Marion St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
rweidner317@comcast.net

John Wentworth
517 S. Locust St.
Lititz, PA 17543
jkwent14@gmail.com

President’s Message, continued

We plan to start a “first cast” program for youth which will teach them the basics of learning how to fly fish. Kevin Hirst has agreed to help get this rolling and we will have more to follow after we obtain the equipment and are ready to set a date.

The annual banquet was a huge success and one of the best ever, with the largest attendance in 31 years. The positive comments tell us we are doing the right thing and we look forward to an even bigger event next year. Thanks to all those who contributed with donations both large and small. Thanks also to the committee members who did a fantastic job again this year. Also thanks to Scott Trefny who met with the Elizabethtown College Environmental Choices class at Millport on March 20th. An indoor session for the seven students, followed by an outdoor project near the old mill race completed their field day at Millport.
Committee Reports

PROGRAMS

APRIL 21, 2010
Craig Hull of Troutgetter.com will give a Tying Clinic with video camera & projector, featuring his Extended Body Green Drake & Coffin Fly. These patterns have been featured in “Fly Fisherman Magazine” and “Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide”. He will also have flies for sale by the dozen at wholesale prices, a huge selection.

MAY 19, 2010
“An Update from Dr. Bob Bachman of PA Fish & Boat Commission”

Bob Bachman is our Commissioner here in the PA 6th District. He’s also a DTU chapter member! Bob will bring us an update from PAFBC that promises to be interesting to both anglers and conservationists.

JUNE 16, 2010
June will be our first picnic of the Summer, at Millport Conservancy. Details are still being worked out, so watch the website.

Bob Albright
Program Chairman

CONSERVATION

Bob Kutz, Conservation Committee Chairman, reports that the committee member Art Thorn is accumulating all the required information and forms to complete the Climbers Run joint permit application. Art expects to be able to send his completed application to DEP by early April. Both DEP and the US Army Corps of Engineers must approve the application. Upon approval, DEP will then issue a permit to DTU to allow construction to begin this summer or fall. All of the designs are finished and most of the materials are on-site. We believe there will be some great trout habitat when we are finished.

As for our other project on Fishing Creek, the materials have been delivered and we are waiting to hear when the start date will be from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. I think we are still scheduled for a late-June start date.

The Conservation Committee has identified 8 sites of interest within the Conowingo Creek Watershed. Committee members will visit the farms to see exactly what needs to be done and to prioritize the sites. Of course, landowner permission is a critical element to our recommendations. We plan to attack the impaired sites on the tributaries before we work on the main stem of the creek.

There is interest in helping a new Watershed Association to get started, that being the Pequea Creek Watershed. Exploratory meetings are presently being held at the Strasburg Township Building. DTU hopes to aid the fledgling group to develop into a viable conservation organization as the Pequea Watershed is in need of immediate help. More information to follow.

Bob Kutz
Conservation Chairman

WEBSITE

Mark McMaster & Wayne Boggs have been working on a major revision of the DTU website. The present site has become unwieldy and difficult to maintain and upgrade. By revising the site from the ground up, we will be able to more easily adapt the site to current and upcoming technology and save money in the bargain. The new site should be faster-loading, more accessible, and better-suited to establishing DTU’s presence on the internet as a conservation rather than a strictly fishing organization. “Beta” versions of the revisions have been posted periodically for the officers and board to review and comment on, and with luck the goal is to have a new site available to the public by the end of April. So keep pointing your browsers to www.dongaltu.org over the coming weeks.

Mark McMaster

Unsung Heroes

Someone has to assemble and mail the hundreds of packets of tickets and information for the banquet. The team this year was comprised of Larry Clement, John Mikita, Garry Longenecker & James Wellendorf, who between them spent a total of 16 man-hours on this very necessary but unheralded job. Thanks gentlemen, and we trust the beer & pizza tasted great!
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Box 6265
Rohrerstown, PA 17603
Hammer Creek — cool, clear, and full of trout — may become the next battleground in the fight to restore and preserve water quality in Pennsylvania. A report from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection proposes to downgrade a portion of its designation as a “high-quality” stream, and remove the special legal protections designed to protect the stream’s health.

The “high-quality” stream designation strictly limits the activities that could degrade water quality, like allowing discharges from sewage treatment plants, runoff from development, and other potential pollution sources.

“High-quality streams are ecological treasures that have special legal protections,” said CBF Pennsylvania Senior Scientist Harry Campbell.

Back in 2007, DEP proposed downgrading a large section of the creek, which would then open the door to construction of a sewage treatment plant, as well as potentially allowing high-density development in a fast-growing portion of Lebanon and Lancaster Counties. CBF opposed the downgrade because DEP said the creek could never achieve high-quality status. But in the fall of 2007 an independent analysis to determine the health of the creek, commissioned by CBF, found that not only were stream conditions improving, but that a section in the heart of the downgrade area exceeded state criteria for an “exceptional value” stream, placing it among the most pristine in the Commonwealth.

Because of CBF’s study, DEP then went back to the drawing board and revised their proposal to create a donut hole of sorts — high-quality status in the forested headwaters and downstream section, but removal of protection in the middle. This middle section of Hammer Creek runs through farmlands, and while the water quality in that area has suffered, the creek quickly rebounds to high quality, even exceptional value, just downstream of the farms.

“If the legal protections are removed, we believe maintaining water quality downstream will be difficult, if not impossible,” Campbell said. “This creek has demonstrated an ability to heal itself very quickly, and instead of working with the farm community to reduce their impact, DEP proposes to basically throw in the towel.”

On February 16, the Commonwealth’s Environmental Quality Board voted to move forward with a proposed rulemaking to downgrade the creek. Public comments on this proposal will be accepted, but the public comment period has not yet been announced. CBF will continue to advocate for Hammer Creek as we believe both the science and the law justify it retaining “high-quality” status.
Fish & Golf Tournament

June 8, 2010
Sponsored by
Foxchase and
Donegal Trout Unlimited

Who: Trout Unlimited Members & Friends
When: Tuesday, June 8, 2010
Where: Foxchase Golf Course
Time: 5:45 - 7:30 AM Fishing on Golf Course
Tee Off (Shotgun Start) to Follow Fishing

Cost: $120 for Team of 2 to Fish & Golf

Tuesday, June 8, 2010 Format: This tournament will begin with fishing in 2 ponds located on Foxchase Golf Course. Ponds contain smallmouth and largemouth bass. Golfers will fish approximately 45 minutes in each pond. Tackle may be fly rods or spin cast rods with artificial lures only. Barbs on hooks must be pinched and all fish must be released. Each team of 2 players may deduct ½ stroke per fish caught by the team (pan fish do not count).

At 8:00 AM all golfers will tee off in a shotgun start. This will be a 2-person scramble.

Golf Rules for team of 2 players:

- Play ball from the best lie on the fairway and on the green
- If 2 balls are in the rough; ball may not be moved to fairway
- If 2 balls are in a sand trap; ball may not be moved out of a sand trap
- All balls must be putted into the cup; Balls may not be dragged to the cup
- Record gross score for team of 2 players
- Record net score for team of 2 players

Calculation of net score: Each team may deduct ½ stroke for each fish landed by the team of 2 players. For example if a team of 2 players landed a total of 3 fish the team may deduct 1 ½ strokes from the gross score.

NOTE: Panfish will not count towards the team’s golf handicap.

Fish Prizes:

- Most fish landed per team
- Biggest fish landed (length) (Please bring a tape to measure your fish)

Golf Prizes:

- Lowest gross score per team of 2 players
- Lowest net score per team of 2 players (reduce strokes per number of fish landed by team of 2 players)
- Closest to the pin on par 3 holes
- Longest drive on hole # 7

Registration

Open to first 70 participants who like to fish and play golf.

Send registration and payment by June 1 to:
Tim Suloff
859 Salisbury Court
Lancaster, PA 17601
For more information call Dave Chalfant 859-2906.
Wayne’s Coldwater Kids

1. Wayne Harpster, owner of a prime, heavily-stocked section of Spruce Creek, has invited young fly anglers to experience the exceptional trout fishing on his property. The Penn State Fly Fishing Program and the PATU Youth Committee have joined with Mark Belden, a fly fishing instructor at Penn State University, to insure that the young anglers will have a successful day on the stream. Chapters in the north- and south-central PATU regions were invited. Each chapter was asked to nominate 2-4 eligible youths from their area. The participants were asked to submit a bio in which they indicated why they should be selected for this adventure.

2. The day will begin with a luncheon for all attendees followed by a brief welcome, introduction, demonstrations and two or three hours of mentored fishing. The day will conclude with supper and unrestricted fishing until dark by the youths and their mentors. To insure that everyone will have access to a variety of quality water each youth will be put into groups of 4/5. Each group will be assigned to a large beat where they will rotate positions among themselves. Mentors will be responsible to insure their youths adhere to the guidelines, stay in their assigned area and pinch down barbs. Penn State FF students will be available to assist mentors as needed.

3. DTU submitted four candidates along with their mentors. We were very fortunate to have all four selected. Our participants will be: Grayson Hirst, his mentor - Kevin Hirst, dad John Wentworth, his mentor - Glen Nephin, neighbor Devin Gardill, his mentor - Chris Raudabaugh, uncle Evan Smiga, mentor - Rich Smiga, dad

4. Congratulations to the four young men.

Lititz Run Dam Removal

Saturday March 20th was a Warwick Township sponsored cleanup day along Lititz Run. About 120 people from various organizations showed up. Two of our members brought groups to help. Jim Hovan brought a crew from Conestoga Valley High School. Paul Linden brought a group from The Gate House in Lititz.

Greg Wilson, his son Brad and a friend, David Bitts, Bill Henry and I headed to a spot where a fallen tree had dammed up the stream. The result of this was that the stream was creating a pond above the tree and the debris which had filled in behind it.

In a heavy rain that pond area would flood and overflow the banks.

Using a come-along the tree was pulled to the bank. Greg then took a chainsaw to it and cut off a four foot section. This created a passageway on the right hand side for water to flow through.

The amazing thing was that within 5 minutes after the cut, the water level of the area above the tree dropped by a foot. After a good amount of grunting and pulling and a few more cuts the entire debris pile was removed. Following that the water dropped at least another foot exposing several rock dams.

As we moved downstream we saw and removed another smaller debris pile.

These piles were not man-made; they are the result of a tree falling in the stream and catching debris, causing water to pond. Will it happen again? Who knows, but for now the stream is better than it was.

Glen Nephin
More Pix of the Lititz Run Dam Removal

Photos courtesy Glen Nephin