The other day we had a three inch snowfall. I think everyone I talked to said, “I hope that was the onion snow”. I feel the same way. It has been a long winter, in many respects too long. It is time for warm weather and some trout fishing.

A winter snow even forced us to cancel our January Membership meeting. It has been quite some time since that happened. We were able to hold our February and March Meetings. Both presentations were about steelhead fishing, one in Northern PA and Ohio and the other in New York State. They were both well attended as members seemed to be looking for a respite from the cold and making plans for getting out and doing some fishing.

Speaking of membership, our membership is now 701. We have 662 men, 33 women, 4 male youth and 2 female youth members. We received a $500 bonus for being the Chapter that recruited the most new female members through the Trout Unlimited Women’s Initiative. Fran McElhinney also introduced a new member mentoring program in February.

This past weekend was our 36th annual Banquet. As he always does, Dan Brandt did an outstanding job. The banquet was attended by 234 people and raised in excess of $20,000 which will be used to fund cold water conservation projects throughout Lancaster County. Some of the expense and revenue items are still arriving.

On the conservation front, the Chapter signed an agreement to accept a $90,000 mitigation grant from the Williams Gas company to restore a section of stream in the Conowingo Creek Watershed in southern Lancaster County. The process of deciding whether or not to accept the grant was long and involved. I have written a detailed account of what the Chapter did and it is on page 8 of this newsletter. The Climbers Run Preserve project is progressing very well. We have installed, graded and seeded seven mudsills and 9 log or rock vanes as well as other structures. We added native plant seed to the riparian buffer seed mix. Mark McMaster, our editor & webmaster, working with Lydia Martin, Lancaster Coun-

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Badges for fishing Millport Conservancy in 2015 are now available for chapter members and members of the Conservancy. Pricing remains $20 in person, $22.50 to cover mailing expenses. You must include your telephone # and membership info. Contact Faye Haering (fayeyonthefly@comcast.net) if interested.

Volunteers will be needed to stock trout on Lititz Run on May 12. Contact Derek Eberly (keystoneflyguides@gmail.com) if you’d like to help.

Volunteers will be needed May 16 to instruct youths in fly casting at the Kinsey Kids Day. Contact Paul Zegley (peaquepaul@gmail.com or 717.715.7307) if you can help.
Welcome New Members

Mason Ault
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Images of mayflies in this publication are based on photographs from Jason Neuwsanger (www.troutnut.com), whose rights, contribution to our knowledge of streamlife, and photographic skills are gratefully acknowledged.
APRIL

The Yellow Breeches is a short drive away for most of us, and odds are very good that you’ve fished it on more than one occasion. Odds are equally good that you’ve not ventured far from the Catch & Release special regs stretch near Allenberry. But did you know the ‘Breeches has more than 30 miles of trout water? True, much of that is whipped to a froth in the early season by the stocking truck followers, and much also gets too warm in the Summer, but there are also stretches with wild trout and limestone influence. Gene Giza has guided on the ‘Breeches for years and on April 15 will give us some tips on fishing more than the Allenberry section. Join us for what is sure to be an entertaining and educational evening.

MAY

Bad weather forced us to cancel our previous presentation by Bill Anderson on “The ‘Little J’: from Sewer to Class A’. We’ve happily rescheduled him for the May meeting. Many of us love the Little Juniata in central PA, one of PA’s premier trout streams. Join us on May 20 and learn more about this wonderful fishery.

JUNE

The June Meeting will be our first picnic of the Summer, held at Climbers Run Nature Preserve on Frogtown Road east of Marticville. This will be a Family Picnic, our chance to show off to all of you the amazing transformation DTU, working hand-in-glove with Lancaster Conservancy and many donors and workers, has made to this beautiful native brook trout stream. The picnic will run from 6 - 9 pm, and food & drink will be provided. Please bring folding chairs, and wear appropriate clothing and footwear if you want to wander along the stream.

FLY TYING

Yet another winter storm forced us to cancel the February tying event, so we held our final session for the season on March 14. Only 7 tyers were able to make that event, but they all had a great time, with lots of fishing stories told while they were “resting their eyes”. Patterns, ideas and flies were swapped, making for a productive morning. Next Winter we may try scheduling days in November, January, February & March if there is sufficient interest.

CONSERVATION

Bob has submitted several grants prior to his much-needed vacation. He submitted a Riverlands Mini-Grant application to Lancaster Conservancy which administers this for DCNR. The application is for a project on Fishing Creek which runs through Drumore Township Park. US Fish & Wildlife has a preliminary design and budget costs. They have donated about $30,000 toward the project costs. We hope to receive funds from the Riverlands Grant and also from the Williams Corporation mini-grants. If we receive the Riverlands Grant we have 2 years to complete the project so we plan to also look for other funding sources.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has also designed and created a budget for the Metzger sisters property also on Fishing creek. Bob has also submitted this project to Williams Corporation for a mini-grant. We will also look for additional funds for this project.

Climbers Run Preserve project is moving along. It has been a little slow with the stream frozen over and all of the ice and frozen ground. They have completed 4 mudsills and have 3 of them graded and seeded. They think weather permitting they will complete all of the structures this week, and about finish everything up the next week. We have added a little extra cost in a Riparian buffer seed mix. It would be nice to establish some native plants especially in the sunny areas in addition to the annual rye mix they are using. We plan on purchasing about $3000 worth of seed and add it to annual rye seed. This will be used selectively in the best areas. I also thought it would be good to add some signage so Conservancy members and visitors could learn a little more about the project. Working with Mark and Lydia (LCC land steward) they came up with a beautiful poster. It shows the project plan and lists all of the donors for the project. We will install a sign at each end of the trails leading to the project area and post one in the education center (barn). They are very nice, thanks to Mark and Lydia. US Fish & Wildlife also donated their services and took the forestry mower down and

Continued, page 13
At Althouse, Martin & Associates, Inc., we give ideas structure.

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E-mail: AAMart@aol.com

MAYFLYER ADS

If you are a business owner and would like to reach over 560 members with a common interest, please consider running your ad in the Mayflyer. There are 6 issues each year. Cost of the ads are $150 for a business card size and $300 for a half page ad.

Please contact Glen Nephin at gnephin@ptd.net or 271-9208.

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Banquet Briefly

Photos courtesy Jim Wellendorf
On Saturday March 21st 6 Donegal TU members were joined by 13 volunteers from the Gate House in Lititz, and attempted to find the hidden litter and plant approximately 20 trees. The snow created a little difficulty but everyone seemed to have enjoyed the morning. Several of the Gate House volunteers would like to come out again, so maybe we have a good source of helpers. We did not have adult beverages, but were treated with Achenbach’s donuts and coffee. Thanks

GREG WILSON
In 2014, the Williams Company applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct a new natural gas pipeline to connect to the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative’s (ODEC) new Wildcat Point power plant located just across the Pennsylvania/Maryland State Line to an existing Transco gas pipeline in Chester County, PA. The project, called the Rock Springs Expansion, would travel 11.1 miles, 10 of which are in Lancaster County. It is not part of the much larger Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. The construction of the proposed pipeline would cross wetlands and water bodies located in two watersheds – Conowingo and Fishing Creek. Federal and State permitting requires Williams to mitigate for impacts to wetlands as a result of the project’s construction. In order to comply with the requirements, Williams searched all available resources including local nonprofit conservation organizations to work with for potential mitigation opportunities. After numerous inquiries the recommended organization was Donegal Trout Unlimited (DTU). In June 2014, Williams contacted Bob Kutz, Conservation Chairman of DTU, to see if the Chapter would be interested in working with them. Bob notified Williams that the Chapter was interested.

On Monday, September 15, Tom Hall, DTU Chapter President, Wayne Boggs, Past President and Jim Wellendorf, Vice President, met with Devyn Richardson, Williams Senior Environmental Scientist, Pat Strong from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jason Shirey and Nathan Phillips from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Nate Kurtz of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD), and Mark Metzler and Jon Kasitz of Rettew Associates to discuss and tour areas that might work as mitigation sites for the Rock Springs Expansion Project.

As a result of that meeting, the Lloyd site in the Conowingo Creek Watershed was selected as it met all of the mitigation requirements - wetland restoration and creation, stream restoration and a significant planned forested riparian buffer. The total cost of the Lloyd property construction and post-construction monitoring is $380,000. Williams agreed to pay Donegal Trout Unlimited $90,000 toward that cost. The remaining cost will be funded by a 319 Grant from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

On November 1, I was elected President of DTU. On December 9, I received two documents from Williams – a letter of Agreement and a Master Service Agreement (MSA). I was asked to sign them and to return them to Williams.

I read both documents and was not comfortable I understood the legalities of the MSA. I asked the Chapter’s Board members if any of them had formal legal training or knew of someone who did. I also asked our Chapter members at our December Membership meeting. No one stepped forward.

On December 15, I had a breakfast meeting with John Leonard, Vice President, South Central Region of PA Trout Unlimited. I asked him to read the MSA and advise me what to do. He read it and told me not to sign it until it was reviewed by Katy Dunlap, TU Eastern Water Project Director, and Brian Wagner, President PA Council Trout Unlimited. Both Katy and Brian told me to send it to Beverly Smith, TU Vice President of Volunteer Operations. Beverly told me not to sign the MSA until it was reviewed and approved by Bryan Moore, TU Chief Intergovernmental Officer. TU suggested several modifications to the MSA, and Williams and DTU reached a mutually agreeable solution on February 11, 2015.

On the evening of February 11, 2015 I reviewed the status of the mitigation project at the DTU Chapter’s monthly Board Meeting. I told the Board members that from a legal standpoint TU had given us their approval to proceed. However before I signed the agreements the Board needed to discuss the implications of signing an agreement with a natural gas company when there is open opposition to the proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline in Lancaster County because of its potential negative environmental impacts. After much discussion of the pros and the cons, the Board unanimously agreed to proceed. The next day I signed both the letter of Agreement and the Master Service Agreement and faxed them to Williams in Houston, Texas.

On Friday morning I called Ad Crable, outdoor writer for the Lancaster Newspaper, and reviewed the entire project with him.

On March 10 Greg Wilson, Conservation Committee Co-Chairman and I met with Devyn Richardson, Geoff Fix, Rettew Vice President, and Mark
Metzler to discuss the status of the Mitigation Project. The two main issues were a communication plan and liens on the Lloyd property. Everyone agreed to approve and coordinate all communications. The timing of the first external communications will be the date the Chapter’s newsletter, the Mayflyer, is available to its members. Mark Metzler and Williams’ representatives are working on the lien issues. The issues need to be resolved before the mitigation project can move forward.

On Thursday March 19, 2015 the FERC approved the construction of the Rock Springs Expansion Project. FERC found the construction and pipeline posed no significant environmental impact. The target date to begin construction is early May 2015.

By agreeing to accept the mitigation funds from Williams, DTU will be able to complete two significant water conservation projects in 2015 – the Lloyd and the Stoltzfus properties.

This project has broken new ground for our Chapter. We have learned a great deal and it has prepared us for what we will face in the future. Throughout the entire process all parties – Williams, PATU, TU and DTU - have worked together in the spirit of cooperation and of doing what is right for the environment. I want to sincerely thank everyone for their understanding and patience.

James Wellendorf
President
Donegal Trout Unlimited

The fourth annual Fly Fishing Show was held at the Lancaster Convention Center on February 28 and March 1, 2105. The show had something for everyone – celebrities, outfitters, seminars, a film festival and vendors demonstrating and selling their products.

Donegal Trout Unlimited’s booth was located directly across from the Exhibition Hall entrance. It was the perfect place to:

• Meet and share news and ideas with Chapter members, members of other Chapters, other Organization members and friends
• Tell prospective members about the Chapter and Trout Unlimited
• Sign up new members
• Sign up participants for the Ladies Cold Water Breakfast, Youth Fly Tying, Wayne’s Cold Water Kids, and the Rivers Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp
• Sell Millport Fishing Badges
• Solicit contributions from vendors for our Annual Banquet
• Sell raffle tickets for our Annual Banquet

Mark Ebner planned and coordinated this year’s event. He was assisted by the following volunteers who helped set up and man the booth: Dan Van Buskirk, Tom Royer, Bill Henry, Fran McElhinney, Jerry Rife, Garry Longenecker, Joy McMaster, Mark McMaster, Faye Haering, Derek Eberly and Jim Wellendorf.

Everyone who volunteers at the Fly Fishing Show agrees that it is an ideal venue to accomplish many of the Chapter’s objectives and to learn new ways to improve it.

Jim Wellendorf
The weather in January was so bad we were forced to cancel our membership meeting. Fortunately the weather cooperated in February, or at least we thought it had, and 56 members were able to hear an informative presentation about Steelhead fishing in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Our guest speaker was Patrick Campbell, a steelhead fishing guide with over 34 years of experience. Patrick guides on “Steelhead Alley,” the tributaries of Lake Erie from Ohio into northwest Pennsylvania. He described each of the Lake’s tributaries and told the members when to and how to fish them. Included in his presentation were the Fall and Spring Steelhead runs, the Fall brown trout runs and the relatively unknown Spring runs of smallmouth bass. He explained the key to success as “presentation, presentation, presentation”. He also explained the importance of water temperature and fish location.

All of the members, even those who are avid steelhead fishermen, learned from Patrick’s experiences and left the meeting anxious to try out what they learned.

Unfortunately Mother Nature had a surprise for them in the form of a snowstorm. Fortunately everyone got home safely.

Our March speaker was Paul Jacob, a guide in western New York State, who spoke about steelhead fishing in the tributaries of Lakes Erie and Ontario. He started by prioritizing the important factors of wet fly fishing as: reading the water, matching the fly to the water and using long leaders with lots of slack. For streamers he said that the primary factor was matching the size and color of the streamer to the color and speed of the water. Paul talked about both tributary and lake fishing. He also spoke briefly about the opportunities to catch brown trout, lake trout, carp, smallmouth bass and Atlantic and Coho salmon.

Paul said that you can catch steelhead in all weather conditions. However, he said that before you travel from Lancaster to New York State you should check the CFS which should have spiked and be dropping and the barometer which should be steady or slightly dropping.

His presentation was a visually effective blend of pictures and videos. It showed some very beautiful places to fish.

For the second month in a row, the members left the meeting anxious to try out what they learned.

Paul donated a two person guided trip to be auctioned at our annual Banquet for which we were very grateful.
On Thursday March 19, Tom Stahl, Lancaster County Conservancy (LCC) Director of Stewardship, hosted a presentation at the Climbers Run Nature Preserve for the members of the LCC Board of Directors. Tom invited Greg Wilson, DTU Conservation Co-Chairman, Tom Hall, DTU’s Past President, and Jim Wellendorf, DTU’s President to attend the presentation. Greg explained the work that has been done on the Run and the land adjacent to it since LCC purchased it in June 2012. After the presentation everyone walked along the Run to see firsthand the work that has been completed and the work that was in progress. They also saw the poster that Lydia Martin, LCC Education Specialist and Land Steward, and Mark Master, DTU Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, created to show the work on the Preserve and recognize the organizations that contributed to its transformation. Greg Wilson made two cases to enclose and protect the posters.

Everyone agreed that the transformation is remarkable. It is a testimony to what can be done with a vision, partnerships and hard work. The Preserve will become a model for environmental education and cold water conservation.

DTU members will have an opportunity to see the Preserve at our Membership Family Picnic on Wednesday June 16, 2015.

Jim Wellendorf
BioBlitz is a 24-hour race against the clock to count as many species as possible: birds, bugs, butterflies, frogs, fish, fungi, mammals, plants -- you name it!!

Spring BioBlitz

24 hour Noon to Noon

Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17
Climbers Run Nature Preserve
226 Frogtown Road, Pequea, PA 17565

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mowed the buffer area at the Menno Stoltzfus farm. Hopefully we can keep up with the maintenance this year. We hope to get US Fish and Wildlife back to Climbers Run this summer and install the projects at the 3 residences on Pensey Road.

As they wrap up Climbers they will move equipment to Millport Conservancy and do the invasive plant removal at the North pasture area along Lititz Run.

We will continue to seek out funding opportunities to increase the amount of projects we can install. I was glad to hear Kevin Anderson say he hasn’t seen any chapter get as many projects installed.

REGINALD WILSON
CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRMAN

Volunteers, continued

Volunteers will be needed to instruct youth in fly casting & fly tying on June 6 at Youth Field Day (Southern Lancaster County Sportsmen). Contact Kevin Faust (kevin40@ptd.net or 717.626.4003) if interested.

For Sale

Have a fly fishing or fly tying item for sale, maybe a rod or reel you no longer need?

On an experimental basis, we’ll offer space in the Mayflyer for chapter members to advertise items for sale.

Just email the information to the Editor @ mark.mcmaster@donegaltu.org and we’ll include it in the next issue.

Please, no slightly-used 1972 Datsun’s or old refrigerators.
New Members

Three new members attended the February 18 DTU Membership Meeting at the Farm and Home Center.

Left to right they are: Clay Pankewicz, Pete Wise, and Doug Overly. Fran McElhinney, Membership Chairman, is pictured in the right.

Our Chapter now has 690 members – 651 men, 33 women and 6 youths. We had a net increase of 6 members in February.

We were recognized by Trout Unlimited for “recruiting the most new female members to Trout Unlimited through the Women’s Initiative”.

Three new members attended the March 18, 2015 Donegal Trout Unlimited Membership Meeting at the Farm and Home Center.

Right to left are: Dave Bushnell, Jeff Heisey and Galen Halteman. Fran McElhinney, Membership Chairman, is pictured in the left.

Our Chapter now has 701 members – 662 men, 33 women and 4 young men and 2 young women. We had a net increase of 11 members in March.

Donegal Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization affiliated with National Trout Unlimited located at 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22209-2404 (703.522.0200)