**Mayflyer**

Midsummer Greetings

It’s that time of the year when there is not a whole lot going on. Water temperatures are heating up and it’s time for bass or the beach. Historically, July has been the hottest month and this year was no exception. For all of you who did not attend our June picnic at Millport, you missed a great evening. It was a great turnout and Chef Stan did not disappoint with the food. Our August meeting will again be a picnic at Millport on the 21st. So come on out and enjoy the evening starting at 5:00 PM with some fly casting demonstrations by Dusty Wissmath.

Coming up on September 14th at Shavers Creek Fire Co, near Petersburg, is the PA Trout annual membership meeting. It is open to all, so if you have never been to a state meeting, it would be a great chance to catch up on what’s happening statewide with Trout Unlimited. Time has a habit of flying by and months seem to go by in the blink of an eye. Make sure that you mark your calendars.

**Some of our current projects are winding down. The Bob Herr property on Fishing Creek is nearing completion. The Ben Beiler tributary work is set to get underway with a tentative tree and shrub planting date of October 12th. Please mark your calendars for this great volunteer opportunity which could involve 1,000 trees, fencing and more plantings on the Bob Herr property. This Fishing Creek watershed involves some of the best work we have ever done. There is a lot going on in the entire watershed and if you haven’t seen some of these projects, please take some time to visit this area to see what it’s all about. There are also projects going on in the Conowingo watershed. If you need directions, please let me know. I’ll be happy to help you. Stay tuned as there continues to be a lot going on and lots of volunteer opportunities.**

Remember - Plant native plants, flowers, trees, and lots of milkweed to keep the Monarch butterfly population at healthy levels. It is an important indicator. The continuous loss of habitat that is occurring, leads to the loss of insects and birds at an alarming rate. The long term repercussions to the ecosystem are serious and we all need to do our part to conserve and protect our environment.

Recommended reading: “An Entirely Synthetic Fish”, by Anders Halverson - “How Rainbow Trout Overran the World”. True story of where rainbow trout really came from. It’s a fascinating story and I think you’ll enjoy it.

All the best and enjoy the rest of the summer.
Welcome New Members

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Images of mayflies in this publication are based on photographs from Jason Neuswanger (www.troutnut.com), whose rights, contribution to our knowledge of streamlife, and photographic skills are gratefully acknowledged.
It hasn’t been the most enjoyable of Summers, but we’ll bid this one farewell with a picnic at Millport Conservancy at 6 pm on August 21. Once again Chef Stan will be the man of the hour at the grill. Additionally we’ll have a special guest, Dusty Wissmath, owner of a guide & fly fishing school out of Mercersburg, who will give some casting demos. That will start at 5 pm for those interested.

SEPTEMBER

Joe Demaldaris will be speaking to us on Fall Tailwater tactics and hatches. Join us on September 18 at 7 pm at the Farm & Home Center for this unique and interesting look at an aspect of our sport not often discussed.

OCTOBER

George Daniel, familiar to most of us for his outstanding skills and the presentations by which he shares them, will be our featured speaker at this year’s OctoberFest at Four Seasons. Happy hour will commence at 5 pm, with the dinner scheduled for 6 pm. The menu includes salads, fresh fruit, sliced roast beef, chicken alfredo, red-skin bliss potatoes, mixed veg, a dessert & beverage; all for $35 apiece. Those of you who have heard him speak know to anticipate an excellent program. Send your reservation money to Treasurer Joy McMaster (4486 Ore Lane, York, PA).

Hugh Wenger
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

CONSERVATION

The Dave Phillips project on the Conowingo is wrapping up shortly. (See photos elsewhere in this issue) Bob has suggested that they enroll in CREP program, for the reforesting. While on our site visit it was cool, saw 2 mink checking out the work.

Bob has found a willing amish man on Goat Hill Rd, Conowingo. He had Mark Metzler visit him, and will work on an application for a 319 grant to fund the design work. Jenna of Alliance for the Bay, will be writing a 319 application for the Simien Esh Project on the Conowingo. This will be about a $300,000+ application. So hopefully we will have a lot of work in that watershed in the near future.

We walked the plantings at Camp Andrews and Tanglewood, the trees and shrubs look good, the riparian seed mix at Camp Andrews looks wonderful.

The Riverlands Grant we received for Drumore Park is near completion. We need to plant the trees on the hillside and Drumore Twp needs to install the rip rap in the gullies. We planted the rain garden on June 29th. The project looks great.

USFW has moved back to the Shirley Madison Project, where they have a few weeks worth of work to complete this project then will return to Ben Beiler and Bob Herr on Fishing Creek.

After the completion of the Ben Beiler tributary work and fencing is installed, we will plant the trees and shrubs. We have a tentative date set with PSU nursery folks to have a large planting day on October 12th. We estimate it will be over 1000 plants along almost a mile of stream. We also will have other plantings on Bob Herr and the other fencing projects.

Derek arranged a watershed tour with Alex Eckel of the Campbell Foundation. We focused on the Fishing Creek Watershed as this was the area of the grant they funded. We seem to line up well with Campbell Foundations agenda, Hook and Bullet crowd, Nutrient Reduction and Youth Engagement. Hopefully this will be a partnership we can build on.

We also took Alyson Gibson co-ordinator for the Lancaster Clean Water Partners on a quick tour, again primarily of Fishing Creek. Barry is looking into applying for the Community Foundation grant that could be used to fund a project on Climbers Run, a missing link. Community Foundation is administering the Clean Water Partners Grant.

Barry also submitted a grant to DECD for around $200,000 for upstream Camp Andrews.

Hopefully we will hear by early Fall: Scott Heidel called last week and informed us that we can apply for 319 funding for Fishing Creek, he is getting it listed on an Alternative TMDL, this will bolster funding opportunities. We were told we must have some friends that appreciate our work in EPA. So we have 2 farms in need of major work that Bob is having Dave Putnam with USFW assist in writing applications for these farms. These applications are due in early August. We will be working on organizing the Fishing Creek Forum for January, also landowner packets and trying to place the TIC projects in the Fishing Creek area.
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www.millportconservancy.org

Thank you, DTU, for your continued support and volunteers!

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Receptions, seminars and corporate retreats can be held in the Mill at Millport Conservancy.
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We support Trout Unlimited And Their Efforts in Conservation!
Members of Friends of Fishing Creek, along with a handful of DTU volunteers, planted a rain garden at the base of the slope in Drumore Park. It is hoped this will mitigate some of the runoff from the hillside above the Park.

Volunteers from the Chapter have been at a premium for plantings so far this year. We really need to step up and do our part as the Fall plantings begin.
This is what it can look like in short order. A similar planting at Camp Andrew in 2018.

The latest addition to our crew.
Undeterred by heat and high water, our VSP members managed several outings over the Summer. Hopefully cooler temps will let them get out more in the Fall.

Kevin Shimp and his wife Denise won a couples trip to the West Branch of the Delaware, where she caught her first gorgeous rainbow on a fly and also caught the fly fishing bug.

Photos courtesy Bill Nolan
Special Olympics

On June 22, DTU once again hosted Special Olympics at Board Member Hugh Wenger’s pond. The turnout of both Olympians and Chapter members was terrific and the participants had a terrific time, catching lots of fish from Hugh’s well-stocked pond. Doc even arranged for one of the best days of weather for the event.

Photos courtesy Becky & Steve Whitson & Jim Wellendorf
Susquehanna River Basin Commission will be installing a real time sonar unit in Hammer Creek near the Lancaster Lebanon county line. This will help establish some good long term baseline data about sediment, temp, and a few more parameters. They will conduct annual macro assessments and electro fish data work. Scott Heidel DEP called on short notice that they were going to do some electrofishing in Hammer Creek as part of the plan for the Alternative TMDL for that watershed. They went out and sampled 2 reaches, where they were impressed with numbers of wild brown trout and a few brookies. Shaun McAdams will be starting his 3 phase watershed assessment, the grant from PATU that Barry received will be applied to his work. Doc Fritchey signed onto a NFWF grant for a project design the Barry farm. This is a trib to Hammer Creek, but it’s progress for a larger scale implementation on a huge property. Dan Zimmerman indicated the possibility that Heidelberg Township will come along. They are not required to participate in MS4 so don’t have much incentive, but will support it. We have a nice list of landowners that are willing and ready. So hopefully things will happen soon. We should get approval soon for phase 1 of the dam removal.

Matt Koffroth reported good information from his electrofishing in Lititz Run, many young stream-bred rainbows and nice brown trout. Millport has engaged Ryan Davis with the Alliance for the Bay to plant the open field next to Lititz Run, and Ryan will also be working with landowners along Santa Domingo to add a few acres of tree buffer. These projects will add up to over 10 acres of new future forest. The Alliance planted about 3.5 acres with Warwick Township at Saylor Park and they planted about 3 at the former Art Hess farm, now Hunter Hess, grandson. In addition they planted over 2 acres of pollinator meadow in conjunction and thanks to Jenna Emore and Pheasants Forever. These are great examples of putting partners together, there are many resources if we can all work together.

Where we are weak is in public information, stating why these projects are being installed, I was planting the remaining plants at Saylor Park last Saturday and a young family began asking questions about the plantings. I had to go full circle how the native plants are feeding the entire food web including our trout.

Greg is surveying a wide variety of landscapes from the plain sect out east to the river hills. Many of the tribs are limestone springs. This is a large and long term project. But great to see all the work going on in the county.

We will also need matching funds of about $3600 for a grant Barry is writing.

Greg and Bob attended a DCNR meeting in Harrisburg. Most all heads of departments were present for the presentation. Some very favorable comments were made there and it could lead to some future funds.

Greg Wilson
& Bob Kutz
Conservation Co-Chairs

This is our latest project on the Conowingo, just downstream from Tanglewood. More projects on the Conowingo are in the pipeline.
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