What’s Emerging

President’s Message

“It’s The Holiday Season”

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Did you survive Black Friday and Cyber Monday?

Not only do the holidays bring excitement, but October 1st brought the start of a new year for DTU. It has been an eventful two months for our chapter. We have three new board members who have much enthusiasm for our chapter and many good ideas to advance our goals.

Our first time joining the Lancaster County Community Foundation for the Day of Extra Giving was a success. We received $5,805 in donations. We will also receive a portion of an extra pool of money provided by sponsors of the Extra Give. Thank you to everyone who gave DTU these extra gifts in support of our many projects.

By the time you read this, our Nursery should be nestled in its winter bed. Even with the drought late in the season, we were able to provide trees and shrubs for several projects throughout the county, in addition to our own plantings.

Trout eggs have arrived at our TIC schools. This initiative generates so many lessons for the students. It’s not just watching trout development. The children use their math skills, learn about water chemistry, habitat, conservation, and more topics than you would think a few fingerlings could generate. I think it’s one of TU’s best projects.

Please note the December meeting is on the 14th, one week earlier than usual. Your board of directors did not want to interfere with any of your holiday gatherings. This meeting will be our annual tribute to fly tying. It’s always a fun, casual meeting. I hope to see a lot of you there.

Finally I’d like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our-now Past President, Jim Wellendorf. He spent a great deal of time making sure I understood the job I was being prepared to undertake. Jim guided us down many new paths for the chapter, from setting up new and much needed financial guidelines to exploring new partnerships that will make our chapter more visible as a conservation organization in the community. Thanks to his efforts, both I and the chapter are better prepared to deal with the challenges we will face in future.

Thank you for being a part of this community. May your holiday season be happy, no matter which day you celebrate. And a very Good New Year for all!

Joy

Volunteer Corner

Our season is winding down. Members are encouraged to check the Volunteers page (www.donegaltu.org/volunteers.html) on our website for up-to-the-minute announcements.
Welcome New Members

Lance & Kyle Baker
213 Oxford Dr
Lititz, PA 17543
 lwbak@windstream.net

Christopher Bodish
243 Cartridge Ln
Millersville, PA 17551

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scarrilio1@gmail.com

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Marietta, PA 17547
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Willow Street, PA 17584

Images of mayflies in this publication are based on photographs from Jason Neuswanger (www.trouttrust.com), whose rights, contribution to our knowledge of streamlife, and photographic skills are gratefully acknowledged.
We'll be moving the December meeting forward a week, to December 14, because of the usual date's proximity to the holidays. Join us that evening at the Farm & Home Center for our traditional Fly Tying Clinic, with a variety of tyers yet to be announced. This is always a very enjoyable and informative meeting, even if you don’t tie yourself.

The January Meeting on January 18 at the Farm & Home Center will be something distinctly different. Members of the Board & Committee heads will be reporting on “the state of the chapter.” Since we’ve done away with lengthy committee reports at the general meetings, members who do not regularly read the minutes posted to the website may not be aware of all the chapter’s activities. Each report will be as concise as possible, but hopefully leave members with a better idea of what your chapter is doing.

For the February meeting, Skelly & Loy, environmental restoration specialists, will talk to us about a different approach to stream restoration using “natural stream channel techniques.” This approach minimizes “scour while maintaining natural sediment transport, reduced flooding potential, reduced property loss and damage, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and improved stream stability.” Please join us at the Farm & Home Center on the 15th for this unique presentation.

I am happy to report that many of our projects have been or will be completed this fall. Here is a report on all of our existing projects.

**Conowingo Creek Projects**

1. Lapp Farm Project. This $442,901 project is completely finished including the final seeding and fence installation. Final invoicing has been submitted to the Conservation Fund.

2. The Stoltzfus Project. Flyway Construction completed this $90,000 project in October. PADEP & The Williams Co provided the funding.

3. Weaver/Smucker Repair Projects. PADEP funded this $48,500 project. Repairs were needed on both farms due to several “High Water Events” causing some structures to move and needed to be relocated and repaired. Construction was completed except for tree planting in October.

4. Phillips Project. This project has a funding request in to DEP for $58,000 to design & permit the site. Severe erosion is happening on this site. This grant should be awarded in the near future.

5. Woy Property. This $67,500 Design & Permitting grant was received and Rettew Associates is in the process of completing this task. Construction costs have yet to be obtained. DTU will then apply for a DEP grant to cover the construction. Look for construction to start next summer.

**Fishing Creek Projects**

1. Drumore Twp. Park. This $103,000 project was started in early November and will be completed this year. The US Fish & Wildlife Service will be the contractor. Friends of Fishing Creek Watershed Association and Drumore Township Supervisors will help with planting a riparian buffer as well as building a kiosk next year. The funding will be supplied by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lancaster County Conservation District and PA DC&R.

2. Metzler Property. The US Fish & Wildlife Service will build this $52,309 projects next June. The Williams Co. as well as the US Fish & Wildlife Service will supply the funding.

3. Camp Andrews Project. The PA Fish & Boat Commission, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Camp Andrews and Lancaster County Conservation District will fund this $84,580 project with construction to start next June. US Fish & Wildlife Service will be the contractor.

**Peters Creek Project**

This $69,855 project is scheduled to be started next spring. Funding will be by Exelon Corp., US Fish & Wildlife, Fulton Township & PA Fish & Boat.

**Future Projects Under Consideration**

1. The Hass Farm located at the top of the tributary to the Conowingo that runs through the Lloyd farm as well as 2 other properties on that trib.
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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On October 20, DTU celebrated OctoberFest at the Liederkranz just outside Salunga. Some 40 members gathered to enjoy delicious German food, and of course, German beer.

Volunteer appreciation awards were announced recognizing Dennis Blevins & his wife for their work monitoring water quality in several streams in the county, Bill Nolan for his work with our Veterans Initiative, and Dr. Hugh Wenger for making his pond and property available for numerous women’s, youth & Special Olympics events over the years. Unfortunately none of the recipients were present, so the awards will be presented at a later date.

Our scheduled speaker, Tom Gilmore, was sadly taken ill and had to cancel. DTU member Nick Raftas, of Sky Blue Outfitters stepped in at the last minute and gave an excellent presentation on fishing for smallmouth bass.

All in all everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

Committee Reports, continued

2. Hammer Creek located in the PA Gamelands upstream from Rte 301 near Brickerville.

3. Big Beaver Creek Property. We visited along the Big Beaver Creek. The landowner called Matt Kofroth who in turn called us. Adam Smith will visit to begin to give us a cost to design & build this project. We will then look for possible funding.

Our winter fly tying gatherings will take the month of December off and resume the second Saturday in January (the 14th). We will also meet the second Saturday in February & March, weather permitting. Join us from 9 am - 1 pm, or as long as you’d like, in the meeting room at the rear of Stauffers of Kissel Hill grocery 1050 Lititz Pike. The public is welcome, and you don’t have to be a tyer yourself, just bring a sense of humor and some lies about fishing. Lessons in the basics of the dark arts can be arranged with prior notice. Just email us at flytyers@donegaltu.org.
In August of 2016, the Douglaston Salmon Run (DSR), in Pulaski, NY extended an offer of free salmon fishing passes to our Veterans Initiative. For those of you not familiar with the DSR, they own and operate the two and one half mile stretch of the lower end of Salmon River. This stretch is where the Salmon first enter the river from Lake Ontario. The stretch is private with a limited number of anglers per day. Great care is taken to watch over the land as well, as the fishery. In other words, it’s the place you want to be.

On September 16, Clay Pankevicz and Don Hershey began their great adventure to DSR. However before they began Don, who is a beginner, needed gear. Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg, PA stepped up and donated an 8-weight rod, reel, hooks, lead, flies, leader and tippet.

After securing lodging, the guys set up at “O-dark-thirty.” By all accounts, the fishing was tough as the Salmon run hadn’t started yet. There were some Salmon coming through and the guys managed to hook up to a few. The ones they did hook fought them tooth and nail and they weren’t able to bring them to the net. That’s ok, we’ll get ‘em next time.

The Board of Donegal Trout Unlimited and its Veterans Initiative Program would like to sincerely thank the Douglaston Salmon Run and Bass Pro Shops for their generosity and for supporting our chapter and our Veterans. Our Veterans had a great time and it wouldn’t have been possible without them. As part of our appreciation, the Chapter presented Douglaston Salmon Run a certificate of appreciation.

**New Members**

Two new members attended the Membership meeting on Wednesday November 16, at the Farm and Home Center. Pictured here left to right are: Josh Morgan, Membership Chairman Fran McElhinney and Casey Clugston.

At the meeting Fran reported that as of our November Board Meeting, we had 735 members – 678 men, 49 women and 6 young men and 2 young women.
For the past several months, I have met with Dr. Mike Gumpper, Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Economic Education at Millersville to discuss his plans to start a 5 Rivers Club at the University. In addition to discussing his ideas, we talked about how our Chapter could support his efforts. After an initial meeting with several students to discuss their level of interest, Mike and the students decided their next step would be to set up a booth in the student union to attract other students to the 5 Rivers Club. Mike asked our Chapter to participate and we agreed.

On Monday, November 14, Tom Hall and I manned a booth along with Mike and his friend, Steve Borza. Both Mike and Steve are members of our chapter. Mike talked to students about the 5 Rivers Club and Tom and I talked to them about Donegal Trout Unlimited. Steve demonstrated how to tie a black woolly bugger, a tan caddis, and a green weenie. Steve even had two students tie flies with his guidance.

In the two hours we manned the booth, 15 students signed the Club’s email list and expressed interest in attending its next meeting in December. The 5 Rivers Club is in the process of attracting new members and identifying student leaders who will shape the mission and goals of the organization. These are the first steps to becoming a recognized university student organization. Following university recognition, the club will apply to the 5 Rivers Program to be officially sanctioned by Trout Unlimited. The Club’s goal is to be officially recognized in Spring 2017.

The following is a description of the 5 Rivers Club @ MU:

The 5 Rivers program was created by Trout Unlimited to bring together college students to serve and support the community through educational efforts, volunteer work, leadership development, and entrepreneurship. The 5 Rivers Club @ MU utilizes the sport of fly fishing as a theme, but it is not defined by it. Members of the chapter may have interests and experience in conservation management, freshwater biology, climate science, adventure tourism, guiding, fish & game law enforcement, or wildlife photography, filmmaking, and art.

I believe that a partnership between our Chapter and the Millersville University 5 Rivers Club has the potential to attract young adults to our Chapter, to teach them about fly fishing, and to involve them in cold water conservation.

In addition, Tom and I talked to Dr. John Wallace, Professor of Entomology and Co-Coordinator of the Watershed Education Training Institute. John is also the faculty advisor for the Entomology Club. We discussed areas of mutual interest and opportunities for the Club and the Chapter to work together on specific projects.
KiKi Galvin is the owner of Ms. Guided Fly Fishing Services in Virginia. She has been a guide since 2002 but first and foremost she is a fly fisherwoman. She loves to fly fish so much she stopped at the Gunpowder in Maryland on her way to our membership meeting on Wednesday November 16, and she caught trout.

When she is fly fishing, she likes to maximize her time actually fishing so she has developed some tips which she shared with our members.

Here are a few of them:

- Carry a hatch guide in your car or vest
- Wear clothing that blends in, avoid bright colors
- Wear polarized sunglasses & start fishing near the bank you’re on
- Assemble your rod and string your line before walking to the stream
- Twist your rod sections ¼ turn when joining them
- Always check the water temperature
- Fish dry flies first, then streamers, wet flies and nymphs
- Use two-sided clear fly boxes in order to waste less time searching
- When buying new flies, buy three and label the third and keep it for future reference
- Organize your flies by stream and season, rather than carry every fly you own every time you go. Carry all stages of any fly that might be hatching
- Identify your lines by weight with a magic marker
- Use brightly colored lines to practice
- Do not put your reel on the ground, where it could pick up grit
- Carry two arbors not two reels and rods
- Angle your rod downward and tap it to unwind line wrapped around your pole
- Pull your line not your pole to release a fly caught in a tree

These are just a few of her suggestions that kept the members acutely interested for over an hour. There is no doubt that she could have spoken longer had time permitted. The Chapter is developing plans for her to return next year to teach a Women’s Fly Fishing clinic.

KiKi is an enthusiastic instructor and a longtime member of the International Women Fly Fishers. She was recently recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for the National Capital region. She is also a board member of Project Healing Waters.

Jim Wellendorf

Badges to fish Lititz Run on the Conservancy in 2017 are now available to members of DTU or Millport Conservancy. Badges are priced @ $20 at a meeting or DTU function, $22.50 if they need to be mailed. Contact Tom Hall (phallcat@comcast.net) or Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Attn: Millport Button Sales, PO Box 8001, Lancaster, PA 17604 to request a badge. Please provide proof of your membership.
DTU has partnered with the Lancaster Conservancy to plant trees at several of our projects this fall. Pictured here are volunteers from both groups planting 108 trees & shrubs from our Nursery along the Pennsy Road Project on Climbers Run.

Of course little would get accomplished but for the sharp supervision of Nellie.

MM

Photos courtesy Greg Wilson
Hugh Wenger

Dr. Hugh Wenger received a 2016 Volunteer Award for his many contributions to the Chapter at its November Membership Meeting. He is pictured here with Past Chapter President, Jim Wellendorf, who nominated him for this award.

Dr Wenger, who prefers to be called Hugh, has allowed the Chapter to use his property and pond to teach fly tying, fly casting and fly fishing to Special Olympians, Youth and Women for the past several years. The property and pond are ideal to teach beginners and intermediaries the concepts and techniques of fly fishing. We could not have designed a better place.

While the facilities at Hugh’s home are a perfect match for our needs, what makes them even more so is Hugh. His friendly smile, pleasant personality, knowledge and willingness to help in any way are truly remarkable. Everyone who gets to know him quickly realizes that he possesses all of these qualities.

And to quote him “I really enjoy it!”

Congratulations Hugh and thank you!

Jim Wellendorf

The Eggs Are Here!

On November 1 volunteers from 4 TU chapters gathered at the Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery near Bellefonte to pack eggs & food supplied by the PA Fish & Boat Commission for Trout in the Classroom. This year those eggs were sent to 310 classrooms across the state, the highest participation to date.

DTU member Becky Whitson was thoughtful enough to send some photos of her class as they unpacked their shipment the next morning. The excitement and enthusiasm in the children’s faces speaks volumes. We’ll try to keep you updated as the eggs hatch & grow.

Mark McMaster
Brandon Prouse and his Troop 393 thrive on action. Boys love to get outside — camping, hiking, playing games or cooking s’mores over the fire! Jumping over the stream without getting your feet wet, no problem, bring on the challenge. Experiencing nature at Climbers Run Nature Preserve is a recipe for fun and these boys know it.

Not only do these scouts know how to play, they know how to work and they care about conservation. Since 2015, Troop 393’s commitment to volunteering at Climbers Run has been a priority. When the Lancaster County Conservancy and Donegal Trout Unlimited led work days to clean up trash, manage invasive species and plant hundreds of native trees and shrubs at Climbers Run, Troop 393 answered the call.

This commitment led sixteen-year-old, Brandon Prouse of Troop 393 from Willow Street, to seek out an Eagle Scout Project that would benefit the Conservancy’s Climbers Run Nature Preserve. One special project that surfaced at the top of the list became known as the stage project. A cabin, damaged by a fallen tree and then stripped down leaving behind just a beat up platform, became the inspiration for the stage. Brandon and his dad, Mike, listened to me sharing stories of using the old platform to sing and dance with the Mix at Arbor Place and other children from our summer camps. This led to the transformation of the platform into a stage. Why not? What a cool way for all ages to showcase amazing artistic and musical talents.

Brandon had the motivation, his dad and help from fellow scouts. What he needed next was a mentor skilled in construction and local business owner, Doug Martin, of Highmark Construction stepped in for the job. Tapping our networks led to additional support for the project from Cornerstone Design Architects and Greenebaum Structures for architectural plans and engineering services.

In late September, after months of planning and the arrival of tools and materials, Prouse and more than 20 volunteers took shifts spending the weekend to build a new platform. With smiles on their faces, the first phase of the project was successfully completed. Mission accomplished!

In early November, Brandon and his dad joined Conservancy staff to meet with GR Mitchell who agreed to work with us on materials for local scout and preserve projects. Another community link through a special scout project and a reminder that we share this world together.

“If you’re a Boy Scout work for your Eagle (Project) and achieve it, it’s a lot of work but it is definitely worth it!” said the tall, blue-eyed Eagle Scout. This project demonstrated his leadership skills with his peers and benefited his community by caring about a local preserve open to the public.

Opportunities for youth that engage nature, whether for service, work or play instills a sense of appreciation in the natural world. Nature’s magic stimulates our senses, the feel of climbing a massive tree and viewing the world from a high canopy or glimpsing a flock of turkeys coming upon a hiking trail. Scouting and volunteerism offers each one of us a chance to experience that magic while conserving the source of that magic; nature.

The Conservancy has had another exceptional year working with our many conservation partners - Donegal Trout Unlimited, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist, Lancaster Conservation District, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Sierra Club just to name a few. In addition to those partnerships, the tremendous support from local businesses, college and university students and the dedicated volunteers, especially scouts, has been phenomenal.

Our hearts are full of sincere thanks for continued community support at Climbers Run and the Conservancy’s more than 5,500 acres of natural lands protected by our conservation efforts. Thank you to everyone who serves in a capacity that benefits our natural lands. Stay tuned for upcoming work days at this beautiful preserve. Prouse and Troop 393 look forward to working on Phase II of the stage project in spring 2017. We invite you to join us!

“Eagle Scout & His Troop Make Lasting Impressions at Climbers Run

“It learned that there is a lot behind the scenes that most people don’t see or realize but you need to stick with it” said Prouse.

Photos courtesy Lydia Martin

LYDIA MARTIN
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVANCY
The Lapp Project on the Conowingo, off Black Barren Road, is now complete. This project was far downstream from our other Conowingo projects but the site was in such dire condition we felt justified in undertaking it in 2016.

Contractors have finished fencing to keep livestock out and Rettew has planted trees and shrubs to protect the stream banks. In all, this project ran nearly $500,000. Note this was largely a project to reduce TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and restore severely eroded farmland, so it did not involve a large number of trout habitat devices. Nonetheless we expect the large rocks placed throughout the streambed to enhance the stream habitat over a relatively short period of time.
Pennsy Road Project

Our project along Pennsy Road involved 3 landowners in what was essentially their back yards on the headwaters of Climbers Run. US Fish & Wildlife, along with the Chapter, funded this project which restored eroded stream banks and provided fish structures along this important brook trout spawning area.

Note the use of root wads in one device, a technique we would like to incorporate in more future projects.

Photos courtesy Bob Kutz
Chapter member Dennis Blevins and his wife, along with Garland Gingrich and volunteers from the Willow Street Retirement Community, have been monitoring water quality on several southern Lancaster County streams on our behalf. Some of these streams are potential future projects, and several are streams on which DTU has already done work.

Join the Lancaster County Conservancy to sample streams at its Susquehanna Riverlands Research and Education Center (SRREC) at Climbers Run Nature Preserve in Pequea, PA through its Water Quality Volunteer Coalition (WQVC) program. Conduct testing on six streams in southern Lancaster County. The WQVC meets at 9 a.m. the second Saturday of every month. Learn how to monitor stream health: chemical (nitrates, pH, oxygen, etc.), physical (stream velocity, habitat assessment, etc.) and periodic biological (macroinvertebrates — like stoneflies and mayflies) sampling. Volunteers meet at the SRREC and carpool to the designated stream, groups of two or more volunteers then monitor each stream. Volunteers return to the SRREC to finish testing the stream samples in a lab setup. Baseline data is collected by the Conservation District to monitor stream health.

If you would like to join the WQVC or participate in a stream testing please contact Linda Ferich, Volunteer Coordinator at lferich@lancasterconservancy.org. All ages are welcome to learn about water quality and monitor watershed health that affects each of us in the county and downstream in the Bay.

Pictured here are Garland & volunteers from Willow Street testing Fishing Creek & some trib.