Winter is upon us and we just experienced one of the wettest years in our county’s history. This bodes well for the water table and stream levels. We do, however, need more freezing temperatures and snow cover to maintain the natural health of the ecosystem. There has been a lot of attention recently to the fact that insect and bird populations have been dwindling dramatically. It is certainly not a good sign. It’s all part of the balance of nature and too many things are happening not to recognize that there’s a problem. Whether it’s global warming, pollution, overuse of pesticides, or something else, we should all be concerned and try our best to conserve the environment. It’s the only one we’ve got!!

This is normally a slow time of the year, but 2 projects are underway on Fishing Creek and one of its tributaries in southern Lancaster County. These projects encompass about 2 miles of stream and will have a significant impact on the water quality as it enters the Susquehanna River. There has been quite a bit of press lately about the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. The heavy rains of the Fall have wreaked havoc with the streams in the Susquehanna watershed and have contributed to the degradation of the bay. This is an ongoing problem and we need your support to help make the watersheds in Lancaster County as good as they can be.

That’s about all for now. I think most of you are pretty much aware of what’s going on at the moment.

If you haven’t done so, please mark your calendars for our annual Fundraiser on March 16th, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Willow Street. Hopefully, you have all received your registrations, so come on out. It’s going to be a fun evening and we need your support to help make the watersheds in Lancaster County as good as they can be.

All the best

Tom

Volunteer Corner

The Veterans Service Partnership will hold its 2019 Kickoff event at Millport on Saturday, April 6. Volunteers to help teach casting, ff rudiments and streamside assistants are welcome.

Volunteers to help our vets tie flies are always welcome on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month until Spring.

Volunteers will be needed to help at the Spring Fundraiser. Contact Glen Nephin (gnephin@ptd.net) or Barry Witmer (cbwitmer29@gmail.com) if you can help.
Welcome New Members

James Baumgardner
2008 Manor Ridge Drive
Lancaster, PA 17603
Baumgardnerusmc@gmail.com

Larry Guth
684 Smick Rd
Salem, NJ 8079
wendyguth@comcast.net

Leavitt Keener
2118 Marietta Ave
Lancaster, PA 17603
lmkeener@verizon.net

Elizabeth Conroy
1982 Harrisburg Ave.
Mount Joy, PA 17552
econroy@gmail.com

Sherman Guyer
110 Sandstone Dr
Willow Street PA, 17584
sherm.castlerock@comcast.net

Gary Kreiner
240 Stonemill Dr
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

William Conroy
1982 Harrisburg Ave.
Mount Joy, PA 17552
econroy@gmail.com

Bronwen Hartranft
421 Ashford Dr
Lancaster, PA 17601
bronwen.sossity@gmail.com

Jordan Loose
691 Sue Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
jordanloose2@gmail.com

Stephen Gavalchik
111 Goldenrod Ct
Lancaster, PA 17603
smpgavalchik@yahoo.com

Harry Kalb
105 Bent Tree Dr
Lancaster, PA 17603

Joshua Morgan
124 Weaver Road
Lancaster, PA 17603
Joshuapmorgan1994@gmail.com

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.
**Programs**

**February**

Guide & Author Joe Dendleris will be our speaker for February. Joe guides on the Delaware for Cross Current, so it will come as no surprise that his topic will be fishing this wonderful and challenging tailwater. Orvis has declared Joe to be that person we all aspire to be - an official Trout Bum. Don’t miss this meeting - Winter can’t last forever (can it??).

**March**

Derek is in New Jersey negotiating our speaker for our March 20 meeting as we go to press. We’re sure he’ll come up with an interesting one.

**April**

Rob Shane, Mid-Atlantic Organizer for TU will be our speaker on April 17. Rob deals with the Unassessed Waters Initiative and our work to discover, promote & protect wild trout. Come out and learn what TU is doing for trout in this region.

**Conservation**

The Conservation committee is off and running with many irons in the fire. We are excited the Fishing Creek Bob Herr and Ben Beiler projects are underway. These 2 will be almost 2 miles of stream. When completed it will also exclude livestock from the Fishing Creek trib for almost a mile. These will also receive buffer plantings later in the year. This project will reduce a large volume of soil loss.

We are hoping USF&W will also complete the storm damage repairs at Drumore Park and the Metzler Project, although they are impacted by the government shutdown. It’s hopeful that the AG BMP grant will begin the stream bank fencing on the farms in that grant this Spring or early Summer, this was to include about 35 farms.

Lydia Martin applied and secured a grant primarily for Fishing Creek, this will be used to develop landowner information packets, public educational forums, TIC support information and sponsoring more TIC projects. This will be a great project, providing support in an area we typically don’t have resources for, but is a critical link to engage landowners. Barry also received the DCNR grant for $50,000 to support the riparian buffer plantings for the 3 tributaries. We are hoping to generate some funding that can assist with long term maintenance, we are so short on volunteers it’s all we can do to get planted, let alone go back year after year and tend to them. This has been a very slow process. I hope upon implementation, that they will work on another phase to install more fencing.

We are also waiting for designs for the stretch upstream of Camp Andrews, Fishing Creek. After we receive design and budget Barry can begin searching for funding.

We are also waiting for a design being created by Lancaster Conservation District for the Esh Project, which is a very large project on the Conowingo.

The Menno Stoltzfus culvert replacement is completed and working great. The Martic Township Roadmaster and supervisors were watching and are impressed with this project. There are a few more upstream culverts that need reconnected. Lydia Martin has asked me to attend the Martic Township meeting to discuss future projects and explain the need and value of aquatic organism passage. I invited Shaun McAdams a National TU employee, who is helping TU chapters implement culvert projects to join. He has been down and looked at few of the culverts to also help convince the Township of the importance and also long term cost savings.

We had an initial Upper Hammer Creek meeting discussing a large scale restoration plan. The planning included Doc Fritchevy TU, The Alliance for the Bay, LCD, Lebanon Conservation District, Donegal TU, and Chesapeake Conservancy. We decided to try and offer a public landowner workshop, this is tentatively scheduled for Feb, 28th, at Middle Creek. We have a great panel of presenters, thanks to Ryan Davis and Jenna Mitchell, who have taken a lead securing speakers and venue, Thank you. We also have been building a list of potential interested landowners. It’s sounding very promising. We will also use DCNR’s prime prospects list to use for mailing out invitations. The dam removal is slowly moving through the bureaucracy, hopefully phase one will begin this Summer. The extreme flooding was wild on Hammer Creek. It damaged 3 road bridges, it’s a huge volume of water funneled through the gap along Pumping Station Road. Hopefully long term some positive projects will help alleviate the large amounts of sediment loss.

Garry Longenecker has been planning ahead for the year. He intends to replace the irrigation line from the stream to the nursery. It’s about worn out with new leaks occurring. He is also ordering plant materials. Yesterday we met with Sarah Xenephon PSU and Kristen, they work out of Middletown PSU campus, the meeting was to...
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Tom Cell: (717) 587-9274
Tom@rissergroup.com

Matt Cell: (717) 587-9275
Matt@rissergroup.com

Rob Cell: (717) 587-9276
Rob@rissergroup.com

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Women and Waders

Introduction to Fly Fishing for Women sponsored by:
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Learn the basics of fly fishing or brush up on your skills...FREE event.
Join other like-minded women for an afternoon with some local fly fishing experts.

CASTING...FLY TYING...KNOT TYING...EQUIPMENT

This Program will include an introduction to all the aspects of fly fishing including:
- Casting
- Fly Tying
- Equipment (rod, reel, waders, boot, etc.)
- Aquatic insect identification
- Knot tying
- Trout conservation mission information

When: April 27th (Sat.) 1-4pm (Location TBD)
If interested in attending please contact:
Pam Williams at pwilliams@donegaltu.org or
(717) 368-9741
Acquatic Ecology
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Survey
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Tucked in East Lampeter Township, Millcreek Apartments is a secluded getaway from a busy life. An adjoining unique garden is the perfect place to escape to and relax in a serene environment or to entertain for social gatherings. It is settled within minutes to Route 30, a few miles from outlet shopping and easy access to the local attractions. Living at Millcreek Apartments gives you the convenience of city life and the privacy of country living.

We support Trout Unlimited And Their Efforts in Conservation!
Only the hardiest of us are still casting our fly upon the water, the rest have taken to tying flies so they have something to decorate streamside trees come warmer weather. Our Vets too have moved indoors to hone their skills until the trout call again.

Respected tyers like Son Tao & Tom Herr have come out to demonstrate & encourage the tyers.

They meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at the American Legion Post #34, 1388 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster from 7 - 9 pm.
The December Meeting was our traditional Fly Tying Seminar, with 5 skilled tyers arranged around the room. Members rotated through the various stations during the course of the evening.

The January Meeting featured Guide & Author Matt Supinski who argued for a common heritage between the European Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon. You didn’t have to agree with him to enjoy his presentation and his many stories about the pursuit of both quarries.

Our own Bob Bachmann and OctoberFest speaker Eric Richard were there as well to make it an especially delightful gathering.

New members Jeff Kindrew & David McMillan are pictured here with Membership Chairman Fran McIhenny.

Photos courtesy Derek Eberly & Joy McMaster

New member Leavitt Keener is pictured here with Membership Chairman Fran McIhenny.
Before the Project Began

Thick planks will provide traction as work begins
The Fly Fishing Show is returning to Lancaster.

On March 9 & 10 fly fishers from the mid-Atlantic states will be gathering at the Lancaster Convention Center on the square in downtown Lancaster to view & purchase the latest in fly fishing gear, tying supplies, books and trips from Alaska to South America.

Additionally there will be dozens of fly tyers demonstrating their skills & patterns, and numerous speakers giving seminars throughout the building.

If you’ve any interest in any aspect of fly fishing you need to attend.

The chapter will be represented as well, manning a table in the lobby. Stop by and say ‘hello’, get the latest news on our activities, and try out some of the lies you’ve been polishing to tell your buddies next season.

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Foxchase/Donegal TU
Fish & Golf Tournament
June 6, 2019

5:30 AM - fish for bass in ponds on the golf course
7:30 AM - exchange fishing rods for golf clubs for a round of golf
(2-person scramble)

Cost for team of 2 - $120 - includes
greens fee, cart, picnic lunch and prizes

Maximum - 72 Fishers/Golfers
Fishing 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).

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 1/2 stroke per fish landed by team of 2 players)
Closest to the pin on par 3 holes
Longest drive on hole # 7

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO
BOB WYBLE
Checks payable to Donegal Trout Unlimited
Registration deadline: May 27, 2019

Name (print): _________________________________________________________________________
E-mail address (print) ___________________________________________________________________
Home Tel. #: _______________________________ Cell Tel #: _______________________________
Name of team partner for fishing/golf (print) ________________________________________________

Send check (payable to Donegal Trout Unlimited) and registration form to Bob Wyble. For more information and details contact Bob Wyble or Dave Chalfant.

Bob Wyble                                    Dave Chalfant                              Directions:
986 Hammon Ave.                        31 Meadow View St.                    http://www.foxchasegolf.com/course/cour
Ephrata Pa. 17522                      Akron, Pa. 17501
wyble@ptd.net                             717-341-3389                      http://www.foxchasegolf.com/course/cours
717-725-6609
Donegal TU’s only fundraiser of the year — cleverly disguised as a banquet — will be held on March 16th at the DoubleTree Inn by Hilton on Willow Valley Pike. If you were among the many participants from last year who remarked about how much fun the 2018 event was, you are in for a treat again this year.

The DoubleTree has a facility and staff that understand what it takes to stage a banquet event, and sponsors have stepped forward once again to ensure that attendees will have a large selection of silent auction, live auction, and bucket items on which to bid. Keller Brothers will once again handle registration, the vocal auction, and check out for those who won their bids.

Ever wonder where revenues go when you support Donegal Trout Unlimited? Well, it is not to fish, even though the Chapter’s name and logo would seem to indicate that. The Chapter tradition of expert speakers on trout fishing, fly tying demonstrations, and plenty of fish stories lives on. However, more than 96 cents of every dollar goes into stream restorations and conservation education. Imagine that. Clean water as a mission.

Once again this year, doors will open at 4:30 pm, and Silent Auction items will be set up at that time. In addition, there will be displays and points of interest with facts and information that attendees may not know. A plated dinner will be served at 6:30 pm with the Vocal Auction starting an hour later. Wrap up will take place at 8:15 pm so that everyone can be on their way home early to prepare for St. Patrick’s Day.

Donegal TU members should have received their invitations by snail mail last month. Tickets are $55. Gold Table tickets are $65 and come with extra perks, such as two bottles of wine and a raffle ticket worth $100. Along with the invitations, members received Superfund Raffle tickets, which carry a first prize of $1,000.

Deadline for registration is March 5. The public is welcome. Anyone needing dinner reservations or Super Fund tickets please click here

Please plan to join us for this and bring friends or family. Tables seat 8!

Thanks for your support.
Glen Nephin
Barry Witmer