What’s Emerging

Autumn Greetings

Time passes very quickly and I hope you all had a wonderful summer, brief as it seems to have been, although we are coming into my favorite time of the year.

The PA Trout annual membership meeting was held on September 14th at Shavers Creek Fire Co. Park outside of Petersburg. For those of you who hadn’t heard, it was with great pleasure that I accepted two PATU awards on behalf of our Donegal Chapter. The first is for Best Chapter Newsletter. Congratulations to Mark McMaster. We all know what a great job he has done and I think I speak for everyone in the chapter in saying he should win it every year. The second is for Best Chapter Project. In this case, it is for the Camp Andrews work on Fishing Creek. This watershed has become one of our favorite projects with stream work, tree plantings, fencing and stream buffers in process up and down the main stem as well as numerous tributaries. Kudos to Greg Wilson, Bob Kutz, and all the rest of the conservation committee for keeping this train rolling. October 5th and 12th are our next two planting dates on Fishing Creek. Only native plants and trees are used to achieve maximum efficiency of the ecosystem. Bring a shovel and come on down, if for nothing else than to see what it all looks like. Check the website for directions.

Please join us at our annual Oktoberfest on October 16th at Four Seasons. There has been a program change. George Daniel will not be with us for Oktoberfest, but will be at our regular membership meeting on November 20th at the Farm & Home Center. Henry Ramsey will now be our speaker at Oktoberfest. Henry is also well known in fishing circles and is an excellent presenter.

There is another very important date coming up. It’s November 22nd. That is EXTRAORDINARY GIVE DAY. That is the day that everyone has the chance to donate to their favorite non-profit. This is the 50th anniversary of our chapter and we need your support now more than ever. In the history of DTU we have never had as many projects and programs going on. From stream restoration and riparian buffer installation to educational programs like Trout in the Classroom and landowner outreach. I am asking everyone who can, to donate $50 in honor of DTU’s 50th anniversary. Your support is vital, very much appreciated and will go a long way for our conservation projects.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 4th for our annual DTU Fundraiser at The DoubleTree by Hilton in Willow Street. I had mentioned some time ago that we were looking for someone to take the reins for this event. I am pleased to say the position has been filled and the committee is being formed. Last years event was a great success and I truly believe this next one will be the biggest and best ever. Don’t miss it.

Recommended reading: “The Founding Fish” by John McPhee. The importance of the American Shad in the history of our country. If you have never read John McPhee, you’re missing a very talented writer. It is his 26th book. Give it a look!

See you at Oktoberfest

Have a great Fall and all the best!
Welcome New Members

Christopher Hehnly  
4 Woodland Ave  
Lititz, PA 17543  
chehnly@gmail.com

Larry Mays  
152 Bentley Lane  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
Hlarrymays@gmail.com

Theodore Koch  
1526 Esbenshade Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
theodore.j.koch@gmail.com

Trevor Stull  
15 Barrow Cir  
Lititz, PA 17543  
twstull@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

OCTOBER

If you can’t tear it up and throw it in the air, you didn’t plan it properly. With that in mind our featured speaker at this year’s OctoberFest at Four Seasons will be Henry Ramsey, guide & author, taking “A Walk on the Wild Side.” 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).

NOVEMBER

George Daniel will now be our speaker for November at the Home & Garden Center at 7 pm on November 20.

DECEMBER

Will be our traditional Fly Tying Workshop, on the 18th, with a variety of tyers yet to be announced.

CONSERVATION

USFW has completed Bob Herr and is now working on Benuel Beiler tributary, hopeful that we will have it fenced and planted in October.

We received approval to proceed with phase 1 of the dam removal on Hammer creek, also a large storm damaged the culvert on Walnut Run, so the urgency to improve the culvert and remove the dam on Walnut run has increased. There is a meeting scheduled with the township and Game Commission to begin the process. Mike Morris and Scott Heidel DEP, hosted a meeting at Middle Creek to present the proposed TMDL for Hammer Creek, the good news is they are pushing along, the bad side is it will only be in Lebanon county. They feel that if we can reduce the sediment from Lebanon, downstream will improve on its own. The estimate shows 5 million pounds of sediment coming downstream annually, so a better perspective is 250 dump trucks full going into Speedwell Forge. The target is a 54% reduction.

The Fishing Creek Alternative TMDL is also in the open comment period, they seem to think it will be added to the list, this will open up some additional funding opportunities.

Lydia Martin presented her first landowner packet she developed as part of the Campbell grant, the first one is for Camp Andrews, we will meet with them to present it and get feedback. This an area we are weak in, when we secure the project we are excited and upon completion are already thinking of the next one. These packets will provide a lot of helpful information to the landowners on how to help maintain their project and much more. We will also begin planning for the January Fishing Creek Forum, geared to farmers and residents to try to elevate the value of the watershed to the community.

Garry reported that with the PSU advance tree order form, we are sold out of plants, well they are free, but the nursery will be empty — over 3500 plants !! He is extremely happy with results of the first year’s partnership, PSU was very helpful with maintenance as well as tracking inventory.

We are anxiously awaiting on grant approvals, we would really like to get the projects rolling. Hopefully we will hear of a few in October.

We have a lot of trees to plant, hoping for a lot of volunteers.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elections for Officers & Board were held at the September chapter meeting. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee were approved at that election. Accordingly, Tom Hall, Bill Nolan, Bill Henry & Joy McMaster will continue their terms as President, VP, Secretary & Treasurer respectively.

Additionally, Ned Bushong, Bob Kutz, Wayne Boggs & Mark McMaster were re-elected. The interim appointment of Rick Purnell was approved for a full term.
At Althouse, Martin & Associates, Inc., we give ideas structure.

As one of Lancaster County’s leading architectural designers for more than 35 years, we create aesthetically pleasing, cost-effective architectural solutions that meet your highest expectations.

Creating functional, natural landscapes.
- Green Masterplanning/Sustainable Design
- Innovative Stormwater Management
- Stream and Floodplain Restoration
- Riparian Buffer Design and Installation
- Water Quality and Infiltration Issues

A Woman Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)
www.landstudies.com

Concerned about your reaction or a loved one’s to insect sting allergy?

Write for FREE information, published by the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology.
Send stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
Insect Sting Allergy
c/o Allergy and Asthma
Foundation of Lancaster County
Box 6265
Rohrerstown, PA 17603

SELECT OUR SERVICES
WE’LL KEEP YOUR HOME IN TIP-TOP SHAPE SO YOU CAN SPEND MORE TIME CASTING

- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- COOLING
- ELECTRICAL

24/7 SERVICE DONE RIGHT BY PROFESSIONALS
(717) 625-1000
Susquehanna
INSURANCE
Serving the Insurance Needs of Lancaster County & Central Pennsylvania Since 1994
AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • ANNUITIES
650 Delp Road • Lancaster, PA 17601
717-290-7780
www.susquehannainsurance.com

Prudential
Homesale Services Group

Park Road Ltd.
150 North Pointe Blvd

Direct: 717 560-4877
Fax: 717 581-8788
Tom Cell: (717) 587-9274
Tom@rissergroup.com
Matt Cell: (717) 587-9275
Matt@rissergroup.com
Rob Cell: (717) 587-9276
Rob@rissergroup.com
Emerald Advisers, Inc.
Registered Investment Adviser
Investment Management Services
Specializing in Small-Cap Growth Portfolios

Proudly supports
Donegal
Trout Unlimited

For more information about mutual fund and separate account portfolio management services call
717.396.1116
3175 Oregon Pike • Leola, Pennsylvania 17540

The Emerald Investment Companies
www.teammernald.com

Proud Supporter of
Donegal
Trout Unlimited
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!
Coldwater Conservation and Buffers

What 40+ Years of Hands-on Experience Teaches

Lancaster County is, and has been, a center of gravity in the fight against water pollution for a number of years. That conversation has been spurred on by the focus on the Chesapeake Bay. The good fight against chemical and sediment pollution continues, and monies to deliver solutions are certainly available to fight the good fight. Many casual observers would not suspect it because of the name and logo of a County organization, but a local nonprofit has been positively impacting coldwater stream restoration for most of its history. That organization is Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

DTU’s mission as cited in its 2016 strategic plan is “To protect, reconnect, restore, and sustain cold water fisheries and their watersheds in Lancaster County”. While many of DTU’s 750 members are avid fishermen and women – often catch-and-release – fishing is ancillary to the mission. DTU focuses most of its time, money, and energy on restoring watersheds.

Lately, there have been several negative-leaning articles about the good fight, especially relative to riparian barriers. Indeed, many who use the terms ‘stream restoration’ or ‘water conservation’ see the planting of buffers as the definition of those terms. So, what has been learned by DTU during the past 40 years?

In summary, cold water conservation requires a holistic approach, using a combination of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for each unique situation found in imperiled tributaries, streams, and rivers. BMPs are the tools that scientists recognize as actions that can be taken to reduce or eliminate specific pollution issues in a watershed. There are many BMPs, including the use of some in-stream structures such as mud sills; rock sills; log or rock vanes; rock clusters; and sometimes removal of legacy sediments in order to restore floodplains or wetlands. Oh, and yes, planting and maintaining native trees, shrubs, and understory grasses to complete the project.

The goal of in-stream devices is to position cold water streams to heal themselves over time. DTU’s projects begin with in-stream work and move forward from there. Often, more steps must be taken, including removal of dams or replacement of culverts which are preventing aquatic organisms from migrating, effectively disconnecting pieces of the watershed from each other. DTU has spearheaded the replacement of some of those, too.

How did so many streams become polluted in Lancaster County? There are many reasons, but the two that stand out the most are dams that were built to help power mills, coupled with deforestation. Approximately 83% of the forest that existed in Lancaster County when William Penn arrived has been cut down. How many mills were built on the County’s waterways? Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter of Department of Earth and Environment, Franklin and Marshall College, wrote, “The number of all mills totals over 450 (Landis, 1964; Barton, 1998), roughly two thirds of which were on streams in the northern half of the county, north of the Martic Line.”

An important step after streams have been re-engineered is, indeed, the planting and maintenance of buffers. Since deforestation is key to the pollution problems, why not just plant trees and shrubs and ignore the rest of the work? Because buffers are just one of the needed BMP solutions as some landowners have discovered the hard way. Do nothing but plant trees on or near waterways, and within 10 to 15 years, those trees will start falling into the streams. Often impressive in concept as a single solution, buffers alone are not the solution although they are very important tools in stopping erosion and in filtering pollution from run-off.

DTU has learned that the basis for effective, long term stream restoration begins with an evaluation of a watershed by a trained, experienced specialist, followed by an engineering sketch of the needed BMPs that will help the stream recover.

As crews work downstream on a project, they plant an understory crop of native grasses and flowers. The understory takes root quickly to keep newly disturbed soil from washing into the creek. At the same time, the understory makes it much more difficult for invasive grasses, shrubs, and trees to establish themselves in a newly-worked area. At the end of a project, DTU volunteers plant hundreds of native shrubs and trees to secure the soil, provide food and habitat for local animal and fish species, and filter out contaminants.

That is the beginning of the process of restoring streams, piece by piece. For the next 3 to 5 years, DTU members, frequently Greg Wilson or Bob Kutz, make regular visits to completed projects. As successful farmer Roger Rohrer has said, buffers must be viewed as a crop. Years of time and work are required so that they become firmly established and healthy. DTU has learned that working up front with property owners so they understand how to protect the investment made in their properties goes a long way. Meanwhile, DTU is developing a core group of volunteers to monitor its buffered projects and to help with maintenance and the removal of invasives as needed.
Taking a holistic approach to stream restoration leads to streams that look like this into streams that look like this.

DTU will keep on working and learning and has never lost any of the more than 25 buffers installed over the past 30 years it has planted in its efforts help restore the watersheds of Lancaster County.

THE DTU CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

(1) Southeast Friends of the Pleistocene (SETOP) Guidebook, Fall 2003 Fieldtrip, 17-19 October 2003

Save the Date

Our Annual Spring Fundraiser is scheduled for April 4. Dinner, auctions at DoubleTree in Willow Street.

Welsh Mountain/ Mill Creek Headwaters Bioblitz

Photos courtesy Greg Wilson
Casey Clugston, member of our VSP program and his wife have recently returned from the annual TU veterans couples trip to Silvertip Ranch on Slough Creek in Yellowstone National Park.
Jenna Mitchell Honored

Former Board member and member of the DTU Conservation Committee, Jenna Mitchell has been honored with Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences 2019 Outstanding Alumna Award, recognizing achievements of alumni graduating within the last 10 years.

The 2014 graduate in environmental resource management has been a State Director for 2 years. She started at the Alliance for the Bay as Program Manager in 2016, did strategic change by moving the office to Lancaster to better support farmers; partnered with Turkey Hill Dairy and the Maryland/Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association to build & coordinate the Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership, raising $1.5 million in public & private initiatives to support dairy farmers and secured a further $3.5 million in grants for the Alliance.

USF&W Begins Work on Beiler Project

Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 8001
Lancaster, PA 17604
www.donegaltu.org

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)