

HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O.Box 6592, Harrisburg, PA 17112 www.dftu.org
Summer 2017



“Dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of the coldwater resources of Dauphin & Lebanon Counties”



From Your President:

Summer greetings to everyone, I hope it's been a good start and that you are doing lots of 'family things', including getting out to your favorite stream!

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, one of the chapter's goals is growth of our membership, both in numbers and in participation in some element of some of the many things we do. To that end, we have started offering free beginner fly fishing lessons. Information is posted on Facebook, on our website (www.dftu.org) and on displayed signage at local streams. Thus far the response has been good given the brief time that the signs have been up. If you would like to take us up on this offer for yourself or a friend or youth, please call me.

One of the most important things we do as a first class chapter is to work with youth in both the philosophy of what TU is all about, and the enjoyment of our common sport, fishing. Soon, we would like to plan an event that you as members could invite your sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, and spouses. This will be a social event where they can learn about the sport and learn about how we as a TU Chapter take care of the resources that enable us to enjoy catching (and releasing) wary trout.

Call to Action: What is happening to the Clean Water Rules is a travesty! On the back page of this issue of *Hatches* there is an article on the attack on this extremely important work that has been done over the last two years. Clean water is important. Wetlands protect communities from catastrophic flooding and absorb pollutants, as well as providing habitat to countless species.

The Doc Fritchey Chapter, as part of Trout Unlimited, works daily to fix polluted streams and rivers. We know all too well the hard work and expense that goes into fixing streams rather than protecting them in the first place. "Clean water is not a political issue" says Chris Wood, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited. "It is a basic right of every American."

With over 470 members in our footprint, we need to call our members of Congress and our two Pennsylvania Senators to urge them to fight this ill-conceived attack on our right to clean water! Take a few minutes to do it now. We have the power to block this ill-conceived plan.

Monthly Meetings

Traditionally, DFTU takes the summer off, and that's the case again in 2017: no chapter meetings or activities are scheduled until September when we return to our regular schedule of once-per-month chapter meetings (fourth Tuesday of the month) at the Giant Food Store on Linglestown Road – in their Community Room located on the second floor above the food court.

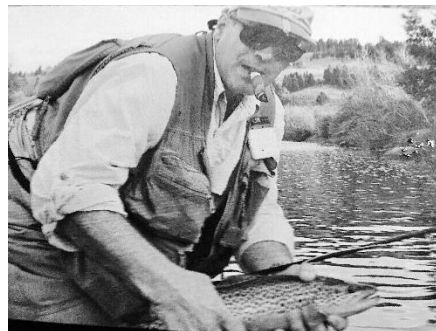


The September 26th meeting, starting at 6:30 PM, will feature Ryan Bridge (The Bug Man) who will present his colorful conversation (Does Your Water Taste Buggy?) on aquatic insects and their key role in the art and sport of fly fishing. Further details will be provided in the September issue of *Hatches*.

Viozzi Scholarship

The 2017 Dr. Francis Joseph Viozzi educational scholarship for environmental studies was awarded to a graduating senior from Annville Cleona high school. **Abigail Deavon** is an exemplary selection for this honor. She plans to attend Gettysburg College and major in biology. Her primary focus in her studies will be clean water and its restoration and protection. Abigail is the fifth recipient of the scholarship which was created by the members of the Doc Fritchey Chapter to honor the memory of Frank, who's untimely death occurred in 2011.

Our late friend, Dr. Frank Viozzi



Delayed Harvest Signs for Quittie Park

In cooperation with the volunteer committee that manages Quittie Creek Nature Park and Annville Township, DFTU is in the process of designing (and investing in) six informational signs to be placed at key entrance points to the Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville.

The impetus for DFTU to pay for these signs was an observed increase in poaching at the beginning of the 2017 regular trout season; members of DFTU (and our local conservation officer, Doug Deppen) too often observed anglers – young and old - ignoring the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's signs. A two-person committee (Joseph Connor and Stephan Vegoe) was tasked with asking the Quittie Creek Nature Park committee if we might try to increase awareness by placing much-larger and more colorful signs in the park. Six signs (18 by 24 inches on wooden posts) will be in place by the first of August.



By Pennsylvania law you are in a Delayed Harvest Special Regulations Fishing Area.

Fishing Permitted Year-Round.

Fish May Be Kept ONLY June 15—Labor Day.

Limit 3 Fish Per Day.

**ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY.
BAIT NOT PERMITTED.**



SPECIAL REGULATIONS APPLY FROM THE RT. 934 BRIDGE TO THE SPRUCE ST. BRIDGE. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.



This sign erected by the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited in partnership with the Quittapanilla Watershed Association, the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee of the Friends of Old Annville, Annville Township, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

TU Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia – September 27 to October 1

An exciting and modern city, nestled within striking distance of gorgeous national forests and productive trout streams - Roanoke, Virginia – (an easy drive from central Pennsylvania) will host the 2017 TU Annual Meeting from Sept. 27 – Oct. 1. (<http://www.tu.org/annualmeeting>)

TU has a lot to celebrate this year as Trout Unlimited's volunteers broke all records by contributing more than 725,000 hours to conservation and educational efforts

Recent Chapter Activities

June 26 Chapter Meeting at our Rausch Creek Diversion Wells

Twenty five chapter members and friends of Trout Unlimited gathered just off Gold Mine Road on Monday evening, June 26. Included among the friends were Mr. and Mrs. John Riegel. John's small trucking company provided free hauling of the limestone we have used for this project for most of the thirty years DFTU has been working on removing coal mine acid from Rausch Creek. Mike Sensening, owner of Sensening Excavating, and his two sons were also at the picnic and rode their bikes for the four miles to the diversion wells. Mike Sensening has graciously agreed to take John Riegel's place hauling stone for DFTU now that John has retired at age 82.



April 19: Two TIC Schools Release Their Fish at the Ned Smith Center

On a chilly, gray April morning, fifth graders from Kelli Recher's Math Science Academy class and 8th grade students from Maureen Mahnken's class at Harrisburg Catholic Elementary visited the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art to complete their year in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program.

Each school received about 150 brook trout eggs from the PFBC in November, and after five months of monitoring water quality for their hatchlings, 20 young brook trout from Math Science Academy and 10 from Harrisburg Catholic survived to be released as fry into Wiconisco Creek (by comparison, it is normal for only about 1% of eggs produced by brook trout in the wild to survive).

The students also participated in several outdoor education stations, including an up-close look at the macroinvertebrates trout eat, and a model of a watershed

Ned Smith Continued

where they observed the way point-source and non-point-source pollution dramatically affects our water quality.

DFTU Board member **Cyndi Camp** manages our Trout in the Classroom program. Cyndi was assisted on April 19th by Ned Smith staff members Beth Sanders and Santino Lauricella, and by DFTU members Greg Silva, Stephan Vegoe, and Richard DiStanislao.



May 19: PA Outdoors Writers are introduced to the Quittie and Snitz Creek

On a warm Friday morning in mid-May, four DFTU chapter board members (Bob Pennell, Stephan Vegoe, Chuck Swanderski, and Rich DiStanislao), greeted four professional outdoors writers at Quittie Creek Nature Park. These writers, from across Pennsylvania and elsewhere, were attending the PA Outdoors Writers Association's annual conference at the Holiday Inn of Grantville. Arrangements for the guided fishing were coordinated by chapter member, and outdoor writer, Tyler Frantz.

After a morning of successfully fishing the Quittie (wooly buggers worked well), the group went to the Snitz Creek Brewery in downtown Lebanon where co-owner and chapter member Patrick Freer hosted a tour of the brewery, along with burgers and fries, and a sampling of the brewery's malt beverages. Patrick had also spent the morning fishing Snitz Creek with one of the other writers.

Don Knaus, the current president of the PA Outdoor Writers, and Dennis Scharadin, the group's executive director, were also joined on the Quittie by Dave Barus from the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau in western New York State. Dave writes under the pen name Forest Fisher. Two days after fishing with us on the Quittie, Dave wrote a story for his online magazine. You can find that story at: <http://www.sharetheoutdoors.com/2017/05/22/gurgle-babble-slurp-the-welcome-language-of-a-reborn-trout-stream/>

Dave Barus, aka Forest Fisher, on the Quittie



June 10: Ninth Annual Home Waters Event Is Another Huge Success

This year's Home Waters event hosted fifteen veterans from the Harrisburg Veterans Center and their family members for a day of fishing and socializing and camaraderie at Ed and Nichole O'Gorman's beautiful property along the banks of Clarks Creek.

After a welcome and introductions from RoseAnn Viozzi, who annually chairs this event for DFTU, a barbecue luncheon was served - courtesy of the local Applebee's franchisee. Then it was off to either the stream or O'Gorman's pond to join DFTU's volunteer guides who instructed the vets in the basics of fly fishing.

Just about everyone caught fish, either trout that had been stocked by the Dauphin County Anglers & Conservationists (DCAC) hatchery several days before, or bluegills in the pond. The fishing of course was the major draw, but equally important was the opportunity for these veterans to establish new relationships and just have the opportunity to put their cares aside and enjoy this beautiful day.

RoseAnn Viozzi and One of Our Veteran Friends



The Clean Water Rule Fight Is Back

In late June, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began the process to rescind the Clean Water Rule, established in 2015 to restore many of the protections the Clean Water Act had afforded the intermittent and ephemeral watercourses – many of them headwaters of trout streams. As most TU members are aware, nearly 60 percent of all the stream miles in the United States are classified as small, intermittent, or headwaters and are under threat with this new action.

Protecting these waters is essential to ensuring that adjacent or downstream waters remain clear, clean, and healthy for fish, wildlife, and communities. Keeping our waters healthy is much more effective than trying to repair a stream after it is damaged or destroyed. Perhaps more jarring than the proposal to roll-back a scientifically sound and widely supported rule, the EPA is only giving Americans 30 days of public comment time to weigh in on a rule that took years to craft.

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Immediate Past President – Ed O’Gorman
Vice President (and Newsletter Editor)
Stephan Vegoe
Secretary (and Web Editor)
Bob Pennell
Treasurer – Francis O’Gorman

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