



HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 www.dftu.org

Spring 2018



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



From Your President:

Spring is here and I'm happy to report that after a lot of discussion our chapter has started on a long-anticipated Strategic Planning process. We took a survey of our membership in

2017 and received an outstanding response - 95 responses. With that response data we have a strong foundation to create our Strategic Planning document, which will be used to measure our progress. Prizes for completing the survey were awarded to: Charlie Bowen - 24 member-tied flies; Tom Slusser - 12 member-tied flies; Greg Koussis - 6 member-tied flies; Rich Holey and Rick Young - TU hats.

DFTU has been asked to participate in the restoration of the handicapped and children's access area on Powell's Creek in upper Dauphin Co. At a meeting on February 15, 2017 a group of interested organizations and individuals, including DFTU and also including Fish and Boat Executive Director John Arway, met with the landowner who had previously posted the area. After the meeting, the landowner agreed to remove the posted status. It will be a year or so until design work and planning for the restoration can take place. We look forward to participating in the project and affording some of our upper Dauphin Co. members the opportunity to join in a project near them.

Our Snitz Creek improvement project is scheduled to begin June 16th. An opening ceremony has been scheduled for June 4 at 10:00, at which we will thank the two property owners - Mrs. Lilian Hershey and Mr. John Wengert, GM of Dean Foods - for their important help on improving one of our favorite fisheries. State, county and local representatives will be invited.

I feel that many exciting things are happening for our chapter. My goal is that our membership will continue to grow and that more of our members will participate in the important work we have before us. The work we are faced with has become even more challenging due to the rescinding of the Clean Water Act rules and the Stream Protection rules. These are just two reasons why all our members should be concerned about seeing all the work we do being reversed by the President's executive actions.

Russ Collins, President
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

April and June Chapter Meetings

Tuesday, April 24, at 7:00 PM at Giant Foods' Community Room

Eric Richard (Coveted Waters), our April 24th presenter was born and raised on a farm in Perry County and tied his first fly and began his journey as a fly fisherman at the young age of 13. Early on, Eric found two large brown trout which would lead to a lifetime of excitement, exploration, and discovery. Now, thirty years after catching those two large browns, Eric provides his clients with the best kept fly-fishing secrets of Pennsylvania and helps them become part of the effort which brings recognition to the conservation efforts needed in these fine Commonwealth waters.

"Hidden among the shadows of the legendary Cumberland Valley Limestone Trout Streams, beneath the omnipotence of the Appalachian Mountains thrives a natural, untampered population of supremely adapted Brown Trout which has been left hidden for decades."

Tuesday, June 28 at 7:00 PM at Giant Foods' Community Room

Domenick Swentosky (Troutbitten) will talk about what he has learned through a lifetime of fly fishing. "Life is about discovery. And it seems I've spent a large share of my days learning about trout. I've grown to understand the places trout live, and I've come to know myself better . . . all while searching for a trout. The best trout streams harbor a quiet peace that I cannot find elsewhere, and I need to walk in these waters on a regular basis. Because we have memories deeper and richer with more emotion when our hands are wet, and our legs are weak from hours spent hiking a water-filled path against the current. Our best friends are all fishermen."

Note: Chapter meetings are typically held at Giant Foods on Linglestown Road (in the second-floor community center) starting at 7:00 PM, ending about 8:30. Members often gather in the Beer Garden shortly after 6:00 to enjoy a sandwich and "a cold one." If you are new to chapter meetings, please feel free to stop by the Beer Garden and introduce yourself. You will find a warm welcome.

If you are new to TU and attending your first meeting, make sure you find Chuck Swanderski and introduce yourself to him. He'll have a new-member gift for you.

Women's Conservation/Fly Fishing Program

The Doc Fritchey Chapter is offering a new program, exclusively for women who are interested in learning to fly fish, an educational, conservation-based program we are calling DFTU's Women's Conservation/Fly Fishing Program. The event will be held on Sunday June 10, 2018 at Ed O'Gorman's creek-side property along Clark's Creek. The program is open to women who have an interest in conservation and in fly fishing.

Starting at 11:30 AM, the 3.5-hour, Sunday event will introduce eighteen women to many aspects of conservation - with a focus on the basic aspects of fly fishing with educational and practical instruction provided by experienced fly fishermen and women. They'll explore:

- Personal equipment selection: waders, boots, vests, hats, sunglasses.
- Trout habits and food, insects, fly tying
- Fly fishing equipment: rod, reel, line, tippet, knots
- Casting techniques

Participants will have an opportunity fish for trout in Clarks Creek, which will be stocked by the chapter.

This is a free program. Rods, reels and flies, hand out materials and snacks will be funded by our Chapter. A one-day educational fishing license will be provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

For more information and to register for the event e-mail Chuck Swanderski at: docfritcheytumorship@gmail.com.

Home Waters and Disabled Veterans – June 9th on Clarks Creek

DFTU annually sponsors a one-day fishing event for disabled veterans. Working with the VA's outreach clinic in Harrisburg, we provide a delightful trout fishing experience – on a gorgeous piece of rural trout stream (Clark's Creek) – for up to twenty veterans. Thanks to Applebee's Restaurants in central Pennsylvania, everyone, veterans and chapter members, eats extremely well. We need at least twenty volunteers from DFTU to help make the day extra special. That's not an easy thing to coordinate, so if you have an interest in helping, please call RoseAnn Viozzi (ASAP) at (717) 756-1990 or email her at roseamsv@comcast.net.

There is a wealth of current DFTU information online at www.dftu.org

2017 Home Waters in Trout Magazine

In case you missed the story on our DFTU chapter while you were looking through the Spring 2018 issue of *Trout Magazine*, please go back and look at page 62. That's our TU Chapter featured in an article by local member/outdoor writer Tyler Frantz. Tyler's story is *Veterans Wet a Line at DFTU Home Waters*.



That's Rick LaTourneous netting a brown trout on Clark's Creek for one of the twenty vets who took part in last year's Home Waters program.

Matching Bugs to Flies – Online Entomology Course

Want to take some of the guess work out of fly selection? Doc Fritchey has partnered with Allen Gardner, founder of *The Catch and The Hatch*. This new partnership gives chapter members access to a subscription to Allen's Entomology Course; a complete study of the life cycle of stream aquatic life and matching hatches to your flies.

Gardner has created an exclusive web site for DFTU that allows DFTU members access to the course. To begin, email or text Russ Collins at (717) 580-3958) or (russthepres@dftu.org) for your personal access coupon, which are linked to individual member accounts when they register for the course. Russ will provide all the information you need to begin after you contact him.

In addition to the online entomology course, members will get three coupons for 50% off flies, boxes, leaders, and other resources. The coupons will be linked to individual member accounts when you register for the course.

This is an outstanding course and one that will be a valuable addition to your creel. Several members have test-driven the course and were enthusiastic about the program.

Lebanon County Annual Day of Caring – Quittie Park – April 21st

As part of the United Way's Day of Caring, Saturday morning, April 21st, members of DFTU will help with the annual spring cleanup in Quittie Creek Nature Park. Come to the main parking lot just before 9:00 AM. Bring a chain saw if you have one, and a couple of tough, young teenagers if they are interested in helping us clear trees from the creek.

Annual Fund-Raising Banquet Held in Late March

125+chapter members and guests attended this year's Conservation Fundraising Banquet to help celebrate the 48th anniversary of the founding of our chapter.



Fly fishing expert Joe Humphreys was on hand to autograph his book *Trout Tactics* and share stories of his early years working with fly fishing legend George Harvey.



Another highlight of the banquet was the awarding of the Gerald L. Miller Outstanding Volunteer Award to **Cyndi Camp** who has championed the chapter's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program since its inception, has served as treasurer, and currently serves on our board of directors.

After an accounting of his travels with DFTU's ceremonial "Traveling Net" in 2017, Jim Rauch passed on DFTU's "Net" to Rich DiStanislao, who will return next year to share his own experiences traveling with the "Net"

As always, there were plenty of unique live and silent auction items on hand to keep the crowd involved in the bidding process, as well as kayak, card and bucket raffles to round out the evening's fundraising activities. We thank all those who attended and made this year's banquet another rousing success!

Keystone Select Trophy Trout on the Quittie – An Update

As we were getting this issue of *Hatches* ready to be mailed, we talked to Doug Deppen, the Conservation Officer responsible for Lebanon County. We asked Doug about his impressions of how the Quittie has been affected by the introduction of Trophy Trout. Doug told us, "I am getting many good responses while on patrol throughout Lebanon County on the new Keystone Select area. I'm running into fisherman from Dauphin, Lancaster and Berks Counties fishing the new area. Talked to two guys that said they landed a trout over 18" and two guys reported that they had big ones on, but they broke the line. On days in March when the temp hit 50 degrees, there were 30 anglers there for sure. As always, thanks for all the chapter's help!"

Clarks Creek Highway Cleanup



Four of the 2017 Clean-up Crew

Years ago, DFTU agreed to do a roadside cleanup (Adopt-A-Highway) along Route 325 for the entire length of the Fly-Fishing section on Clark's Creek, about two miles. That annual cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday morning, May 19th**. Thanks to the Capital Region Water Board, much of Route 325 paralleling Clarks Creek will get a thorough spring cleaning that morning.

Along with our DFTU volunteers, many other volunteers will walk the highway's shoulders and pick up trash, litter, and detritus, with the intent of keeping that human-generated trash out of Clarks Creek. As you can imagine, each year we find some interesting stuff along the way, and we can tell you the exact point where sandwiches and drinks from the Hardee's in Dauphin first get tossed out truck windows.

We get started at 9:00 AM at Dehart Dam and all of us from DFTU work on the stretch of highway along the Fly Fishing Only section. Obviously, we never have enough volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, call Dennis Coffman 717-350-8817 to let him know you want to join the "gang" (of mostly old men) on Saturday, May 19^h.

Capital Region Water provides lunch following the cleanup and offers tours of the Dehart Dam.

Two Students Selected to Receive Scholarships for Summer Camp

Although we tried hard to get many applicants for scholarships (fully-funded by DFTU) to send local high students to the 2018 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, we ended up with just two qualified applicants, so those two students have been notified they are going to Messiah College this summer for a great week on the Yellow Breeches. We extend our congratulations to Lenka Platt from Halifax and Leo Posayec from Harrisburg.

Introducing My Favorite Fly

Kent Crawford (our chapter's loyal stream steward for the Quittapahilla Creek in Lebanon County) recently suggested a new, continuing story-line for the chapter's newsletter, an article written by members, once per quarter, on **My Favorite Fly**. If you have a favorite fly pattern and are interested in sharing the fly pattern (and how it became your favorite fly and how you tie it), please send a note to our newsletter editor (stephan.vegoe@verizon.net) and Steve will work your article into the queue. Rich DiStanislaio is next up with his favorite fly for our summer issue, his Hendrickson Mayfly.

My Favorite Fly by Kent Crawford

This story starts over 50 years ago in North Carolina. My father grew up on a farm in Ashe County, which is the northwestern-most county in the State with Tennessee to the west and Virginia to the north. There was a small stream, Obids Creek, running through the family farm and the stream had a few native brook trout.



When Dad started taking me trout fishing, I was a teenager. One of the places we would fish was Obids Creek.

Two Clouser Crayfish flies, one right side up and one upside down.

Occasionally, we would catch a few, usually on live bait or on artificial lures. The hot lures seemed to be a wobble lure called the Helin Flatfish and in-line spinners like a Mepps. We would save these fish for the table and of course, that involved cleaning the catch, a job for me. I would routinely dissect the gut to see what the trout had been eating. Frequently, the stomach would contain a crayfish.

Fast forward to 1988. My spouse landed a job on the faculty at Penn State Harrisburg and I transferred to the Harrisburg office of the USGS. You can imagine that our move to central Pennsylvania was not entirely circumstantial because this area is known for its quality trout fishing. We bought a home in Derry Township which is next door to the Middletown/Royalton area . . . and who lives in Royalton but Bob Clouser, famous smallmouth bass fisherman, guide, fly shop owner, and fly inventor.

I knew of Bob Clouser's reputation and had heard of the Clouser Deep Minnow and the Clouser Crayfish patterns. Occasionally, I would go over to the Clouser Fly Shop in

Royalton to stock up on flies, browse, and chat with the legend himself, Bob Clouser. Visiting the Clouser Fly Shop was like a trip to Mecca. Bob was (and still is) a very personable fellow who would gladly share his knowledge with whoever would listen. And I was taken by the flies he tied – especially the Clouser Crayfish.

The crayfish pattern that Bob Clouser invented was made to entice smallmouth bass. Lots of fishing articles point out that a staple of the smallmouth bass diet is crayfish. But, I figured these things should work for trout as well, especially given my experience with trout stomach contents as a teenager. So, I purchased a few Clouser Crayfish and tried them out on Pennsylvania trout streams.

Admittedly, I don't catch a lot of trout. But it seemed that I caught more trout on the Clouser Crayfish than on any other fly in my arsenal. And, in general, the trout on the Clouser Crayfish were larger than the normal trout I was catching. So, I began to gain confidence in the fly and to use it more often. Essentially, it became "My Favorite Fly."

Let's take a look at the fly to see why it might be effective. First of all, it looks like a crayfish. Note the pincers and the antenna on the Clouser imitation. Also note the palmered hackle which provides a good representation of the walking legs. Second, the fly is heavily weighted. Did you ever see a crayfish on the surface? No. They are bottom dwellers. That's where they live and that's where they stay. I think the weight on the artificial is one key to its success. The fly uses furry foam for the body and this material soaks up water and retains it, making it heavier still. Third, the fly is larger than your typical trout fly. I use the crayfish in size 10 and 8. And you know the old adage: "Big fly = big fish."

The fly is not simple to tie; there are many steps. Tying instructions can be found on line. Just search for "how to tie the Clouser crayfish." So, give it a try and good luck.

Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Quarterly Membership Report

Total Members – 477
Expired Memberships on TU Roster - 62
New Members February and March – 12
New Women Members - 4

New Members for February and March 2018:
Melissa Murphy, James Pearson, Thomas Garrity, Yvonne Werzinsky, Tom Markwood, Bob McCafferty, Lawren Bell, Hudson Hughes, Violet Kanoff, Garnet Light, William Irwin, and Bart Zahurak.

Kosmer Print Auctioned at Fund Raising Banquet



Fly fishing photographer and Chapter member Bill Kosmer donated one of his large-format brown trout prints on canvas for this year's Fund-Raising Banquet's silent auction. The winner was Ed O'Gorman's young son, a very excited, Sam O'Gorman. Bill can be contacted at wjkosmer@yahoo.com. You can follow Bill's adventures at tcotrouttales.blogspot.com

Upcoming Trout Stocking Dates and Locations

April 24 – Quittie Creek - Delayed Harvest/Trophy Trout Section of the Quittapahilla Creek. DFTU Members meet at the parking area in Quittie Creek Park and help float stock the stream in two sections – from Spruce Street Bridge to the parking area, and from the parking area to Route 934. The Quittie will get another infusion of Keystone Select, Trophy Trout with this stocking.

April 27 – Manada Creek Delayed Harvest Section – Fogarty Rd. to Furnace Rd.

DFTU Members typically float-stock two sections of the Delayed Harvest section of Manada Creek and carry buckets into a third section. We meet at the bridge across the Manada at Furnace Road about noon and wait for the stocking truck to arrive.

It Was Quite a Winter

For more than twenty years a small group of dedicated – and hard working – volunteers has traveled up Gold Mine Road once a week to shovel limestone into the chapter's two diversion wells on Rauch Creek. Every week, religiously, this team of old and young men shows up to keep these two diversion wells filled so the acid mine drainage damage coming from the surrounding hills is remediated before the waters of Rauch Creek meet up with Stony Creek.



Photo: The Mountain Bunnies

This winter, our team showed up every Sunday afternoon to pick at a large pile of frozen limestone and then shovel more than a ton of chipped stone into the diversion wells. That's dedication. Thank you.

DFTU Hats and Shirts Available at Chapter Meetings



DFTU branded ball caps, embroidered for us by Mister Bobbin Embroidery in Palmyra, are once again available. They are a dark-ish khaki featuring DFTU's traditional multi-colored logo. It's a sharp hat and replaces a similar hat from at least ten years ago that can still be seen on the graying heads

of some of DFTU's more senior members. We charge \$15.00 for the hats and we'll have plenty at the April 24th chapter meeting.

We also have one DFTU branded long-sleeved fishing shirt remaining from the one-time order placed last year through the Pennsylvania Council of TU. Please see Bob Pennell at the meeting if you if you would like to purchase.

Invasive Species Along Snitz Creek

In advance of construction starting on the Snitz Creek restoration project, DFTU is looking for volunteers to help clear 2,500 feet of invasive species. Call Russ Collins at (717) 580-3958 if you want to help on a Saturday morning in May – date to be determined.

Winter 2018 Beginner Fly Tying Classes

As part of our chapter's educational mission, DFTU, under the direction of Rick LaTournous, (our Chapter's Education Chairman) sponsored a beginner fly tying class at the Wildwood Nature Center in Harrisburg. Classes were held on eight consecutive Thursday nights starting February 1st and running through March 22, 2018. Assisting Rick were 12 experienced tiers from the chapter.



The 18 participants were comprised of men and women . . . and 4 young tiers. The first class began with introductions and a brief orientation into fly tying, conservation and Trout Unlimited. The Chapter provided each participant with a vice, tools, hooks and other materials to use to tie this session's flies.

Rick demonstrated several techniques on the vice each evening progressing the participants through the "green weenie", stone fly, caddis larva, woolly bugger, hares ear, and variations of each. Rick stressed material selection, techniques, how to correct mistakes and showed examples of the flies he ties. This year the class was enhanced by projecting the actual demonstrations on a large screen keeping the completed fly image on the screen for student reference during their tying. Mentors circulated among the participants to observe skills, offer tying tips, and answer any questions. The final class was a fun class using foam, hackle, and other materials to create beetle and ant patterns.

On a side note, we had 4 participants join TU and several are already helping with trout stocking. We extend a special thank you to Rick LaTournous and a dozen Chapter Mentors who freely gave their winter Tuesday evenings to help eighteen new craftsmen learn the art of fly tying.

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