



HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 www.dftu.org
Summer 2018



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



From Your President:

When I ask members of DFTU what they think of when asked "What is our chapter all about?" I get a variety of answers. Some of the answers include "fishing club," "social group to learn about fly fishing," "fish stocking organization," or "conservation organization." We also have the reputation of being an "old boys club" or "too focused on fly fishing." On this last point, it has been my goal to shed this image and reach out to all (including women) who are passionate about creating a good habitat for the trout we pursue.

To the point, we are first and foremost a volunteer grassroots conservation organization! Simply stated, our mission is "to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds." We have undertaken several worthy stream projects that have met this goal, but we need to do more. The chapter has been reaching out to various townships and municipalities in our two-county area seeking to partner with them to find projects that fall within our mission. This effort is beginning to take hold, and there are several projects on the drawing board. They range from riparian buffer tree plantings to in-stream habitat restoration. Partnering with the Quittapahilla Watershed Association under the umbrella of The Lebanon Valley Conservancy and the hard work of several volunteers, two grant applications were submitted to secure funds from the Mariner East II Pipeline fines. We anticipate hearing later this summer from DEP on our applications.

Like many volunteer organizations, a lot of the work is done by a small percentage of our membership. This, in the long run, is unsustainable because that core group begins to burn out. Picture what happens when the stocking truck comes to a stream. A caravan of volunteers is ready to get the job of stocking done. Imagine if this same thing would happen when a stream project is planned? We could make central Pennsylvania even more of a fishing destination!

With the feedback from a survey and input from your Board of Directors, a draft strategic plan has been created. I call it the "Chapter Steering Plan," and it is posted on the chapter's website (www.dftu.org). Please visit the document and forward any observations to www.info@dftu.org,

Let's get back to our mission and expand the good work we do! Consider helping your chapter become an even more outstanding chapter.

Russ Collins, President
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Calendar

Summer is the lightest time of the entire year. If you want to know what's happening with DFTU, please go to DFTU.org. Bob Pennell does a great job with the chapter's website. Visit often to see his exceptional work.

July 16 to 21 – Snitz Creek Work Sessions

July 24, 2018 – Board Meeting and Picnic

August 28 – Chapter Meeting, details TBA

September 8 – PA TU Annual Meeting in Bellefonte

September 25 – DFTU Annual Meeting at Giant Foods

Doc Fritchey Chapter Door-Fly Drawing – For Every DFTU Chapter Meeting

We have "borrowed" an idea from the Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Charleston, West Virginia: a "Door-Fly" drawing, which will take place at the end of every DFTU Chapter meeting. The new DFTU Door-Fly drawing is simple. Attach one of your flies (self-tied or store-bought) on a small card, like a business card. Put your name on the card (and a short description of the fly) and put the card in the "HAT" when you get to the meeting. At the end of the meeting we'll draw one card from the HAT (a DFTU Chapter logo hat) and the winner will go home with the HAT and all the cards/flyes in the hat. Simple, right? And a fun way to add three dozen (or more) trout flies to your collection.



Congratulations to Darrell Peterson who won the first Door-Fly Drawing on June 26th. Chapter president Russ Collins, white shirt, presented a DFTU chapter hat along with all the flies in it to Darrell.

DFTU Work Sessions on Snitz Creek

Our chapter's major streambank restoration project on the lower Snitz Creek, near the wastewater treatment plant on Dairy Road in North Cornwall Township, downstream from Wengert's/Swiss Premium Dairy, (detailed in another article in this issue) will begin in mid-August. A significant amount of undergrowth needs to be removed by the chapter, (those hours count as part of the chapter's contribution to the total project).

Russ Collins has scheduled work sessions for the week of July 16th through Saturday the 21st. Weekdays from 5 to 8 PM (refreshments provided) and on Saturday morning from 9 AM to 1 PM with lunch provided. **We need your help.** Please plan to come to at least one work session. Please let Russ Collins know when you will work. Call him at (717) 580-3958 or rwarrencollins@gmail.com. Russ will advise what you need to bring in the way of tools.

DFTU Membership Report - April, May, June 2018

New Members: **April** - Doug Walker, David Posavec, Larry Phelabaum. Wayne Landis. Nicholas Lefever, Joseph Noll, Dennis Brashear, Robert Schwartz, Donald Zulli, Robert Green, Frank Verbos, Evan Heilman, Richard Woodward, Rick Arnick, Cynthia Casiano, Garrett Kieffer, Byron Eckardt, and Matt Owens
May - Jason Kugler, **June** - Travis DiNicola, Andy Link, and William Garland

DFTU's total membership now stands at 420, plus 68 recently lapsed members still on the mailing list. That means that even though your membership has lapsed, you are still receiving this newsletter. We encourage you to send a renewal check to Trout Unlimited.

Fishing for Families



Three members of DFTU (Cyndi Camp, Jim Rauch, and Steve Vegoe) helped with a special *Fishing for Families* learning experience at the Ned Smith Center on Saturday June 2nd. Our old friend Bobby Clouser is shown here helping a young man tie his first trout fly.

Quittie Clean-Up on April 21st

George Dodson and Rich Hart helped with the Annual Lebanon County Day of Caring on Saturday April 21st. They spent four hours removing undergrowth, vines, and invasive species from the historic weir on the Quittie just east of the Spruce Street bridge.



Home Waters Veterans Fishing Program Celebrates Its 10th Year

Twenty veterans from the Harrisburg and York Veterans Centers participated in the chapter's 10th Annual Home Waters event, once again hosted by Ed & Nichole O'Gorman on their beautiful Clarks Creek property. Each vet was assigned a chapter volunteer to guide them on the stream following the introduction activities hosted by RoseAnn Viozzi and a buffet lunch served courtesy of the local Applebee's franchise.

The stream had been stocked several days before the event by chapter volunteers, and there were plenty of nice rainbows caught by both fly fishers and spin fishers alike. All of the vets we heard from expressed their thanks for their day spent as guests of the chapter. We couldn't have done it without the commitment of RoseAnn Viozzi and our chapter volunteers.

Interns Working on the Quittapahilla Watershed

Two LVC students are working this summer as interns for the Quittapahilla Watershed Association (QWA), working on assessing the current state of the entire watershed. DFTU, thanks to a grant from PA TU, is providing \$1,500 to help pay the interns, and thanks to Russ Collins' efforts, North Cornwall Township is providing an additional \$900, meaning the interns will be paid \$10.00 per hour.

Women's Fly Fishing Day Nailed It

A gloomy, rainy day greeted the 14 women who resolutely showed up for an introduction to the basics of fly fishing, which our chapter hosted at Ed and Nichole O'Gorman's property along the south bank of Clarks Creek. Membership Chair Chuck Swanderski, who organized this event for the chapter, started the day by introducing our eager, albeit wet, "students" to the Doc Fritchey chapter members that had agreed to help introduce them to "the theory and practice of fly fishing." Amidea Daniel, Youth and Women's Program Coordinator for the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Amy Coen of the TCO Fly Shop in Boiling Springs covered tackle and gear selection, as well as basic knot tying and tackle setup. A second station was manned by Lynn Langer who displayed a tray of macroinvertebrates (freshly collected from Clarks Creek) while Steve Long and Joe Notarangelo demonstrated fly tying techniques and how the imitations related to the critters in the tray. Rich DiStanislaio taught fly casting; at times under *down pour* conditions. The chapter is eager to make Women and Fly Fishing an annual event.

There's a Reason We Raise Money

There's an article in this issue of *Hatches* on DFTU's stream restoration project on the Snitz Creek in Lebanon County, written by chapter member Tyler Frantz. Tyler didn't know something important when he wrote his article; the project was almost stopped dead six weeks ago. Stopped because we ran into a serious problem. In the funding application we included a donation from Pennsy Supply in Annville of more than \$26,000. Pennsy offered to supply the large, dimensional boulders that are a crucial component of the construction project. However, to their surprise and our shock, when the consultant we are employing for this project visited both of the Pennsy quarries in Lebanon County he discovered Pennsy does not mine appropriate dimensional boulders in either quarry. Ouch!

Since Pennsy Supply's offer on this project was for dimensional stone, not cash, Chapter president Russ Collins brought this significant issue to the chapter board at their May board meeting. The board unanimously voted to approve the expenditure of more than \$26,000 to make certain this important cold-water conservation project was able to continue.

"Put backing on your line; even if you never use it. It helps you dream."

TU Chapter to Restore Wild Trout Stream in Lebanon County

Tyler Frantz

In the midst of seemingly ever-present doom and gloom in the news, at least one glimmer of light is shining brightly in Lebanon County. The Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited is preparing to break ground this summer on a \$171,300 stream restoration project on Snitz Creek, a tributary to Quittapahilla Creek near Cleona.

Every couple of years, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission allocates grant money to the Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Watersheds. Anyone within those areas can compete for funding via applications for watershed restoration projects. Following a two-and-a-half-year process of applying, strategic planning and organization, a \$115,000 grant was awarded.

The work will be done along 1,200 linear feet of the Dean Foods (former Wengert's Dairy) and Mrs. Hershey's properties along Dairy Road. Snitz Creek is currently on the list of candidates for Class A wild trout stream designation, as wild brook trout were found there during a recent stream survey.

Stream restoration will include bank erosion prevention measures and in-stream wood and boulder habitat structures to narrow and deepen the creek in an effort to speed up the flow, scouring out the built-up sediment, and improving oxygenation of the water. It will also create riffles, plunge pools, boulder vanes and J-hooks, bank grading, modified muddills, one livestock crossing, removal of invasive plants and planting of native shrubs and trees to create a riparian buffer.

"This is a continuation of improvements in an impaired watershed," said DFTU President, Russ Collins. "The project will greatly improve the quality of the water when the entire project is finished. It was a high priority area in terms of working on some of the tributaries that feed into the Quittapahilla and marks the beginning of DFTU's efforts in the complete restoration of the watershed."

In a time when so many seem to be getting it wrong for water quality in Pennsylvania, the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited is getting it right. Not only will the trout benefit, but also the watershed in its entirety - including the anglers who call it home.

"I go fishing not to find myself but to lose myself"

My Favorite Fly – Rich DiStanislaio

With the advent of snowmelt and the start of green woodland undergrowth comes the anticipation of trout season in Pennsylvania. Among the first of the classic mayfly emergences is the Ephemerella Subvaria, commonly referred to as the "Hendrickson". These beautiful mayflies are typically seen on the water from early to mid-April, peaking around mid-May. They are well-distributed throughout Pennsylvania and New York trout streams. Overcast, misty days always seem to produce the best periods for catching a hatch. At hatch time, the Hendrickson nymphs (easily imitated with a size 12 hare's ear nymph pattern) swim to the surface of the stream in mid-afternoon to shed their shucks and emerge as duns (subimagoes), and the trout can turn to feeding voraciously on the surface for these, taking both the crippled emergers and the newly hatched dun. The male and the female duns are somewhat easy to distinguish, as the males are a bit larger and dark reddish in color, with dark smoke-colored wings, easily imitated on a size 12 hook, while the female is a pinkish tan color with the same dark wings, best presented on a size 14 hook. As if this wonderful event can't seem to get any better, it gathers a repeat surface eruption performance in the evening with the spinner fall. The spinners are a reddish-brown body with clear wings, on a size 12 or 14 light wire hook.



My favorite pattern for the Hendrickson is the parachute dun. Here is the pattern I prefer to tie:

Hook: Dry fly hook, size 12, barbless (Tiemco model 900 or Mustad 94845 or similar hook)

Thread: Rusty orange 8/0 unithread or 12/0 Veevus

Tails: 3 or 4 fibers from a brownish-gray Coq de Leon feather, each tail fiber slightly longer than the hook shank. Before tying in the tail fibers, first build up a small ball of superfine reddish-brown poly at the bend of the hook. Then tie the coq de leon fibers on the top of the hook shank, wrapping your tying

thread into the ball, pressing the tail fibers into the ball. This will cause the tail fibers to separate a bit and angle upwards slightly

Body: For the abdomen, use a turkey biot, rusty colored, soaked for a few minutes in water to make it pliable. Tie the biot in by the tip, with the darker flue pointing up and away from the tyer, so as you wrap, the flue will create a segmented body appearance. Wrap the biot from the tail toward the eye, about 2/3 the length of the hook shank and tie off.

Wing: Dark dun colored poly yarn (I like Hi-Viz fibers) for a parachute post

Hackle: Medium dun-grizzly dry fly hackle. Tie in at the base of the parachute post, but don't wrap until after dubbing the thorax

Thorax: Reddish brown superfine poly, same as the ball tied in at the tail. Build the thorax around the parachute post, dub forward up toward the eye, leaving enough hook shank to anchor the hackle.

Now wind the hackle around the parachute post, making about 4 turns. Tie off the hackle feather near the eye of the hook, leaving enough room to build a small head at the eye.

When finished, trim the parachute wing to length, roughly as long as the hook shank.

Trout Tips by Chris Hunt for Trout Magazine

I don't mind encountering other anglers on the water, particularly on public water that belongs to everyone. In fact, it's often nice to meet up with a stranger, compare notes and see how he or she has done on the water up to our meeting time.

But stream etiquette is a must. And, it appears, it's become a lost art.

It's simple, really. If you see another angler, take the time to determine their game plan. If they're fishing upstream, give them some room and move downstream to fish. If they're fishing down, space out some room and fish up.

And, for crying out loud, wave at them to let them know you're there and that you've acknowledged their presence. You might even say "hi" and let them know your plan. It's simple manners. Practicing those manners makes everybody's day on the water better.

"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."

Round Table on Climate Change

Steven Funck

On March 27, I had the opportunity to attend a Roundtable on Climate Change Effects on Fish, Wildlife and Forests co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited held at Wilkes University. This very interesting and in some sense troubling meeting featured a panelist from the National Wildlife Federation, TU, Wilkes College, and both the Pennsylvania Game Commission and DCNR.

The presentations by both the DCNR and the PGC representatives focused on the changes that global climate change will have and are currently having on our forests and game species and were quite sobering. A surprise to me was a presentation by Lisa Williams, Program Leader, Ruffed Grouse and Webless Migratory Game Birds, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission. Ms. Williams reported on the recent decimation of the grouse population by the West Nile Virus. While this may not represent a direct impact of climate change it most definitely is an indirect impact as the West Nile is a classic example of what once was considered a "Tropical" disease which has worked its way north.

The presentation by Shawn Rummel, PhD, Field and Research Manager, Pennsylvania Coldwater Habitat Restoration Program, Trout Unlimited was equally informative. He presented data on current Pennsylvania wild brook trout streams and the potential climate change impact on them. Some models indicate as much as a 30-50% reduction in cold-water stream habitat. The one bit of somewhat good news of the evening was his emphasis that habitat restoration and other similar projects can help mitigate some of the impact climate change will have on the streams and that emphasis should continue to be focused there. Members are invited to investigate the following TU website which provided the source for much of his data. <https://www.tu.org/ebt-portfolio-rwa>

Who's Next with a Favorite Fly

If you have a favorite fly and a story to tell – Like Rich DiStanislao's Hendrickson mayfly story, please contact newsletter editor Steve Vegoe (Stephan.vegoe@verizon.net) and he'll get you into the queue for the next couple of issues of Hatches.

"The man who coined the phrase "Money can't buy happiness" never bought himself a good fly rod!"

Big Fish in the Quittie

Our stocking crew float stocked Quittie Creek Nature Park on April 24th, four men in the water and two "helpers" on shore. We had been told to expect "trophy trout," but we were amazed at the size of the browns and rainbows we released in the Quittie that afternoon.



Sunoco Penalty Grant Applications

On April 17, the PA-DEP announced the creation of a new grant program funded by the \$12.6 million penalty imposed on Sunoco Logistics related to construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline. Grants will be awarded for projects that reduce or minimize pollution and protect clean water in the 85 municipalities along the length of the pipeline corridor.

Eligible grant applicants included the 85 municipalities, county conservation districts, incorporated watershed associations, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations along the length of the ME2 pipeline. DEP anticipates announcing the approved projects in summer 2018. Six municipalities in Lebanon County were eligible for funding, five in the Quittapahilla watershed: South Annville Township, South Londonderry Township, West Cornwall Township, Cornwall Borough, and South Lebanon Township.

The Sunoco Penalty Grant opportunity generated **nine** proposals submitted by five non-profit entities to improve the water quality in the Quittapahilla watershed. Three proposals were submitted by the Quittapahilla Watershed Association in partnership with The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC), with the crucial help of Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU). One proposal was submitted by South Annville Township; one by Cornwall Borough; and five by the Lebanon County Storm Water Consortium. The total projected cost of all Sunoco Penalty Grant proposals submitted to PA-DEP for the Quittapahilla watershed comes to \$2,865,123.

What are Aquatic Invasive Species? (Reprinted from *Trout Magazine*)

We've experienced the impacts from aquatic invasive species in our trout waters across the country. Some of us have slipped on rocks covered in Didymo (rock snot) or crunched over a host of invasive New Zealand mud snails as we waded through cold water in search of trout. In some cases, the impacts on the fish and our fishing are minimal, but in others, they can be devastating.

The Issue

From whirling disease to exotic fish invasions, there is scientific data that backs up the assertion that aquatic invasive species are among the top threats to America's trout and salmon. And the problem isn't just in your local river—invasive species have invaded waters all over America. Yellowstone Lake is infested with lake trout from Lake Michigan; whirling disease has infected some of America's greatest rivers, like the Madison and the Arkansas; rock snot is prevalent in the Delaware River, and New Zealand mud snails are showing up in waters nationwide. These infestations not only impact our prized trout populations, but they take a bite out of angling opportunity.

TU's Approach

The good news is that, through science and education, TU understands the challenges that accompany aquatic invasive species in our rivers and lakes. We have a vast network of volunteer anglers who are already mobilizing in places like Yellowstone and the Delaware River, and we're teaching and training our volunteers how to identify invasive species and how to prevent their spread. Educating anglers of the threats to our fish—and our fishing—is the best approach to stemming the tide and perhaps, one day, reclaiming our rivers and lakes from these noxious invaders.

How to Clean Your Wading Boots

The biggest contributor to the inadvertent moving of "invasives" from one stream to another is Wading Boots, especially, it is assumed, wading boots with felt soles. The best way to prevent that inadvertent moving is to **Freeze Your Boots** after you leave the stream. That's right - put them in the freezer and you'll kill everything that is living in and on the boots.

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