



# HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
P.O.Box 6592, Harrisburg, PA 17112 [www.dftu.org](http://www.dftu.org)

April 2017



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



## From Your President:

I'm happy to report that after much discussion our chapter has embarked on a long anticipated Strategic Planning process. We have taken a membership survey (and received an outstanding response; 95 responses). We now have a strong foundation to create our Strategic Plan. This document will be used as the "working paper" to measure our progress. Prizes were drawn from the survey responders and were awarded to: Charlie Bowen; Tom Slusser; Greg Koussis; Rich Holey; and Rick Young.

Our Lower Snitz Creek project has received first review approval for a \$115,000 grant from the Fish and Boat Commission. This Snitz Creek project is comprised of approximately 1,200 feet of stream improvement, and will include livestock fencing and crossings, invasive plant removal, riparian buffer tree plantings, and substantial in-stream boulder structure habitat construction. Due to other projects on the agenda for our contractors, it is likely project completion may slip into 2018.

Early in 2017, DFTU was 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 15th a group of interested organizations and individuals, including Fish and Boat Executive Director John Arway, met with the landowner, who had restricted access to his property. After the meeting, the landowner agreed to remove his restrictions. It will be about a year before design work and planning can take place. We look forward to participating in the project, which will certainly offer some of our members the opportunity to help with this project.

I feel that many exciting things are happening for our chapter. Our goal is that our membership will grow and that many more of you 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.

Please feel free to contact me at [rwarrencollins@gmail.com](mailto:rwarrencollins@gmail.com) or (717) 580-3958

**Russ Collins**, President, Doc Fritchey Chapter

## Monthly Meetings – April 25, May 23, and June 26 (A MONDAY)

**Tuesday, April 25** –at Giant's Community Center in Lingelstown  
Following our business meeting, which begins at 6:30, our featured speaker will be PA Fish & Boat Commission Executive Director John Arway, who will bring us up to date on the latest news from the PFBC, including his plans for conducting a Wild Trout Symposium later this year.

**Tuesday, May 23** –at Snitz Creek Brewery's Tasting Room - in the Flight Path Sports Park at 318 Taxiway Rd, Annville PA, 17003

Following our business meeting which begins at 6:30, TU's Mid-Atlantic Organizer, Chad Chorney, will bring us up to date on TU's progress in the designation of PA Wild Trout Streams, responsible energy development, and protection of critical coldwater habitats.

Note, in the last issue of Hatches, we mentioned we would be holding some of DFTU's monthly meetings in Lebanon County. This is the first of those meetings. We hope you'll join us. If you have not tried the beers from Snitz Creek, this will be a good time to start. Sandwiches are available in the tasting room.

## Monday, June 26 - Monthly Chapter Meeting at DFTU's Rausch Creek Diversion Well

Mondays are the normal day of the week, in the summer, that our Diversion Well Crew works on adding stone to both of DFTU's diversion wells, one of the oldest (thirty years) and most recognized activities of DFTU. Since the crew will be there on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, we have scheduled a chapter meeting, and a picnic supplied by the chapter (bring your own beverages) so please send an email to chapter president Russ Collins to let him know you'll be joining us - [rwarrencollins@gmail.com](mailto:rwarrencollins@gmail.com). The Diversion Well Crew starts working at 6:00 PM so get to the parking lot at the north gate of the Stony Creek trail off Gold Mine Road at 5:30 PM. For more information and directions to the diversion wells, Google Rausch Creek Diversion Wells or find the relevant section on DFTU.org. (There is even a YouTube video on this impressive conservation story).

## Email Addresses

Last issue we mentioned we have considerable issues with bad email addresses for our 450 DFTU members – we simply have way too many members that we cannot reach in any manner other than this printed newsletter. So, if you do not receive email messages from DFTU (and you would like to), please send a simple email message to DFTU chapter president Russ Collins - rwarrencollins@gmail.com – to give him permission to add (or correct) your email address.

On a related note, attendance for the last two chapter monthly meetings was up appreciably thanks to the printed newsletter.

Reminder, we use www.DFTU.org, the chapter's web page, to provide information about chapter activities. Please refer to www.DFTU.org whenever you want to know about what, how, why, where, etc.

## DFTU on Facebook

Late in March an interesting conversation started on the chapter's Facebook page about downed trees in the Fly-Fishing Only section of Clarks Creek. Members weighed in on the pros and cons of trying to clean out some of the enormous log jams that are present in this stretch of the stream. Some members were for leaving things as they are; some wanted nature to be given the chance to clean the log jams with a big storm surge, others wanted to try to organize a cleanup project (anyone know of a football team that's looking for a volunteer project?), and others were wondering about the theory and practice of trout stream management. All in all, the discussion was good reading and will, eventually, become a discussion item for the board.

## Worth Remembering

My copy of Trout Unlimited's new book, *Trout Tips*, edited by Kirk Deeter, arrived in late March. The forward has a paragraph that's worth repeating – "But the bottom line is that you can cast 100 feet, tie the deadliest pattern in the world, and make it swim prettier than Michael Phelps, but none of that matters if there are not fish in the water. So, if you are already a supporter of Trout Unlimited, thank you. If not, and you love to fish, and want to surround yourself

with others who will make you a better angler and help you give back to this resource we all love, join Trout Unlimited today."

Also from *Trout Tips*, "I have always felt that fly fishing for trout is ultimately less about flies and trout, and more about the people you meet and the places you experience along the way. That's not to say I don't appreciate the unique tranquility that can be found on a river with a fly line whispering a four-count rhythm overhead, and cool water pressing around my legs. And I like the tug a trout makes, particularly after they've risen for a dry fly. A lot. But it seems to me, at the end of the day or at the end of the trip, I don't remember fish as much as I remember the place and the people I was fishing with. One of the most beautiful aspects of fly fishing for trout is that you are never truly alone. You are always part of something larger than yourself. Nature . . . tradition . . . community."

## That Makes Sense

One May morning a year ago, as I was getting ready to fish the Quittapahilla Creek downstream from the Spruce Street Bridge, I listened to a young father who was gently assisting and teaching his two sons. Suddenly, the younger of the two sons, maybe seven years old, caught and landed a nice rainbow just downstream from the bridge, in the special regulations section of the Quittie. As the father was preparing to release the rainbow into the riffle, the young boy shouted, "Dad, I want to keep that fish." Dad turned to his young son and explained that the regulations required the fish to be released and then said, "Besides, when we release him you can catch him again." To which the young son responded, "Oh, that make sense. What time are we coming back tomorrow?"

## If You See Something, Say Something

Last December I was getting ready to spend a couple of hours on the Quittapahilla on the newly restored section in Quittie Park and had a conversation with another fly fisherman, who commented that many of the fish that our DFTU volunteers had helped stock a few weeks before had been illegally caught – with worms – and removed in a

bucket by a fisherman who blatantly was catching, killing, and keeping as many fish as he could catch. Apparently, he was very good at it. The fellow telling the tale mentioned that he had approached this obvious lawbreaker and was told to "mind your own business."

"What was I to do in a situation like that," he said. "I saw someone killing and keeping fish in the special regulations section of the Quittie and I was powerless to stop him."

That's a frustrating story, but there are some things you can do if confronted with obvious lawlessness. Doug Deppen is the Conservation Officer for Lebanon County and lower Dauphin County and Mark Sweppenhiser serves the same role in northern Dauphin County. They recommend calling **(717) 626-0228**

### **Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Spring Conference**

Tyler Frantz is a member of DFTU and is also a professional outdoor writer, (and a public-school teacher) and a member of the (POWA) Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association (Tyler used to write a weekly column in *the Lebanon Daily News* until just a few weeks ago when the newspaper's managers decided to drop their Sunday Outdoors page.)

Tyler is helping organize the POWA's spring 2017 conference at the Holiday Inn in Grantville and has organized a "story builder experience" for eight of the writers, including a morning of fly fishing on Snitz Creek and/or on the Quittie to see and fish the newly restored sections in Quittie Park in Annville. Patrick Freer from Snitz Creek Brewery has invited the writers to join him for lunch and a tour of the brewery after they have been "on the water" in Lebanon County. Tyler reached out to DFTU for help with the morning's fishing, and we quickly, through members of DFTU's board, found willing guides to show these Pennsylvania writers a couple of Lebanon County's trout streams. We'll have photos on DFTU's webpage and Facebook page by the end of May.

### **Clarks Creek Highway Cleanup**

As many of you know, there is a special-regulations, Fly-Fishing Only section of Clarks Creek in northern Dauphin County. The stretch is easily accessible along Clarks Valley Road (Route 325). Years ago, DFTU agreed to do roadside cleanup (Adopt-A-Highway) along Route 325 for the entire length of the Fly-Fishing section, about two miles. The 2017 cleanup is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the Capital Region Water Board, much of Route 325 paralleling Clarks Creek will get a thorough spring cleaning that morning, Volunteers from throughout Dauphin County will walk the highway's shoulders and pick up trash . . . to keep that human-generated trash out of Clarks Creek.

We get started at 9:00 AM at Dehart Dam. DFTU members work on the stretch of highway along the Fly Fishing Only section. It typically takes us about an hour and a half to complete the clean-up, in two-person teams, usually telling fishing stories while filling up trash bags. We never have enough volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, call Dennis Coffman at 717-350-8817 to let him know you want to join the "gang" (of mostly old men) on Saturday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring your fly fishing gear and get to know Clarks Creek after we finish picking up the trash that accumulated over the past year.

### **Home Waters and Disabled Veterans**

Thanks to the great help DFTU receives from former chapter president Ed O'Gorman, whose family owns property along the lower end of Clarks Creek before it enters the Susquehanna River, DFTU annually sponsors a one-day fishing event for disabled veterans. Working with the VA's clinic in Harrisburg, we provide a delightful trout fishing experience – on a gorgeous piece of rural trout stream – for up to twenty veterans. Which means 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 at (717) 756-1990 or email her at [roseamsv@comcast.net](mailto:roseamsv@comcast.net).

### **Free Fly Fishing Lessons**

The best way to learn to fly fish is to learn from an experienced fly fisherman, and we know that DFTU has plenty of those. So, chapter president Russ Collins, in expectation that there are plenty of men, women, and youngsters in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties (DFTU territory) that would take lessons if those lessons were available (and free) - and assuming there are members of DFTU that, if given the opportunity, would happily teach - is going to get the ball rolling by advertising Free Fly Fishing Lessons. Russ intends to start by posting signs at the parking area in Quittie Park. Russ figures he can recruit teachers from DFTU board members and then expand the teacher list as demand grows. Which means if you want to teach fly fishing to a rookie, please tell Russ. Email always works - rwarrencollins@gmail.com - or call him at (717) 580-3958. Likewise, if you know someone, maybe yourself, that would like to learn to fly fish, let Russ know.

### **Lebanon County Annual Day of Caring – Quittie Park**

If you regularly fish on the Quittapahilla Creek in Quittie Park in Annville, then please mark your calendars for Saturday morning, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As part of the United Way's Day of Caring, members of DFTU will help with cleanup of the Quittapahilla Creek in Quittie Park. Come to the parking lot just before 9:00 AM - and bring a teenaged football player or two to help us haul downed trees out of the stream. Bring waders, rubber gloves, and a can-do attitude because we'll be filling trash bags (provided) with a winters' worth of accumulated trash (lots of interesting and/or disgusting stuff and way too much Styrofoam). We'll also pull thousands of invasive species weeds - like garlic mustard (our efforts last year made a noticeable difference) and, if there are enough DFTU volunteers, we'll help spread mulch. Lebanon Valley College usually has a strong contingent of student volunteers but the more DFTU workers that show up the more we can accomplish. We work hard from 9 until noon. Send an email to Steve Vegoe at [stephan.vegoe@verizon.net](mailto:stephan.vegoe@verizon.net) to let us know how many eager, strong, young men you are bringing with you. We'll put them to work.

### **Spring Trout Stocking Schedule**

Back in January we mentioned we have a new trout stocking coordinator, chapter VP Steve Vegoe, and we asked members interested in helping the Pa Fish and Boat Commission stock our local streams to contact Steve. There are now 17 DFTU members on the email contact list. That list contains the "old hands" that have been helping stock Manada and the Quittapahilla for years, and several new faces. If you want to be on the list, send an email to [stephan.vegoe@verizon.net](mailto:stephan.vegoe@verizon.net). He'll add you to the list.

Dauphin and Lebanon County Stocking Schedule

**April 28, The Quittie at the park in Annville (DFTU)**  
**May 2, Manada Creek (DFTU)**

### **For Your Consideration**

Wednesday, April 19 - Penn State Middletown Campus Earth Day  
DFTU is looking for volunteers to staff a table at Penn State's Earth Day celebration. Contact Russ Collins at [rwarrencollins@gmail.com](mailto:rwarrencollins@gmail.com) or 717-580-3958 to sign up.

Wednesday, April 19 - TIC (Trout in the Classroom) Students from Harrisburg Catholic and Math Science Academy will be releasing their trout fry at the Ned Smith Center in Millersburg.

May 16 - TIC (Trout in the Classroom) Students from the Sylvan Heights School in Harrisburg will be releasing their TIC fry at the DCAC waters on Clarks Creek.

If you would like to assist, please contact Cyndi Camp at [ccampsilva@verizon.net](mailto:ccampsilva@verizon.net) or 717-545-2460.

Saturday, April 29 - Wildwood Park Wetlands Festival, Harrisburg  
Volunteers are needed to staff a booth to demonstrate fly tying and talk about our chapter. Contact Russ Collins at [rwarrencollins@gmail.com](mailto:rwarrencollins@gmail.com) or 717-580-3958 to sign up.

DFTU's Spring Banquet, our annual fundraiser, was held at the Holiday Inn in Grantville on Saturday night, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Once again, the event was well attended, and the guests went home with lots of outstanding fishing and non-fishing merchandise, artwork, and fishing trips from silent auctions, live auctions, and lots of raffles (including a kayak). Thanks to all who participated. See you next year.



Beth Miller presenting the Gerald L. Miller Conservationist of the Year Award to Joseph Connor



RoseAnn Viozzi presenting gift certificate to Matt Shenk for his outstanding work as auctioneer.



Rick LaTourmous and Russ Collins "pass the net" to Jim Rauch.



Russ Collins presenting "Certificate of Appreciation" to Bob Pennell for his service to the chapter.



RoseAnn Viozzi, 2017 Banquet Chair and Ed O’Gorman, 2016 Banquet Chair.

### **Doc Fritchey Chapter Officers and Board Members**

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

### **Board Members**

RoseAnn Viozzi	Steve Long
Cyndi Camp	Rick LaTournous
Steve Funck	Rich DiStanislaio
Joseph Connor	Chuck Swanderski
Rob Konowitch	

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