



HATCHES

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



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



From Your President:

As the chapter expands our scope of conservation work, I want to give you an idea of how expansive the opportunities are in our two counties for potential projects. On September 17th I spent the day with

Rob Frank, Watershed Specialist at the Dauphin County Conservation District, exploring several creeks in upper Dauphin County.

The first site we visited was on Bear Creek, a tributary of the Wiconisco Creek near the towns of Wiconisco and Lykens. This site is a clear example of the damage that coal mining created back in the late 1800s. Efforts were made several years ago to mitigate the iron oxide flowing from these abandoned mines. While this pollution occurs across our state, our chapter can perform work to further clean up this and other streams similarly impacted. What does it take? Support, both financially and physically from our membership. If you know of a group of people willing to volunteer their time to do some of this work, like high school and college outdoor clubs, or environmental clubs, we can tackle even more.

Dauphin County Conservation District, with the support of Doc Fritchey, has applied for a grant through Growing Greener for the repair of a section of Armstrong Creek. The section we visited had extreme bank erosion problems, with soil banks 8-feet high disappearing with every high-water event. If the grant is secured, this section will be restored, but other areas will soon need attention, possibly requiring a more comprehensive restoration plan.

To round out the rainy afternoon, we visited a site where a handicapped and children's area was to be restored. There are several organizations in upper Dauphin County that are working to re-establish this site. When/if completed, it will afford an opportunity for children and handicapped individuals to fish one of the better streams in this area. According to Rob Frank, this stream has one of the best macro invertebrate counts of all the streams in upper Dauphin County. I extend a challenge to our upper Dauphin members to join in the effort to get this project back on track.

These are only a few examples of the potential projects the membership can get involved in. The result can be much improved habitat for our trout.

Russ Collins, President
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

October 23rd Membership Meeting at Giant Foods

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM – Conversation starts at 6:00 PM in the café, which is on the main floor of Giant Foods at 2300 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Our special guest speaker for the final general membership meeting of 2018 is a competitive fly fisherman. Josh Miller is a member of Fly-Fishing Team USA and has worked as an assistant coach, and instructor, with Team USA Youth. Josh is the eastern region coach for the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. He is also a “Signature Fly Tyer” for Orvis and works at International Angler in Pittsburgh. You can learn more about Josh at <http://joshpgh.blogspot.com/>

We also expect to have Lenka Platt from Halifax and Leo Posavec from Harrisburg - the teenagers DFTU sponsored this year - in attendance to tell us about their experiences at the 2018 TU Rivers Conservation & Fly-Fishing Youth Camp.

Door Fly Drawing

Remember, we hold a drawing at every chapter meeting. Attach any trout fly to a small card and put your name and contact information on the card. At the end of the meeting, we'll draw one card out of a Doc Fritchey Chapter logoed hat. That person takes home all the flies in the hat.

Annual Election of Officers and Board Members

At the chapter's annual membership meeting on Tuesday, September 25th, our 2018 DFTU officers were re-elected to serve in the same positions for 2019, and we welcomed two new board members. We extend our thanks to Rick LaTournous for all his efforts on behalf of the Doc Fritchey chapter, including many years as a board member, and to Rob Konowitch for his service as a board member. Jim Suleski and George Dodson were elected to serve as board members.

National TU Changes their Calendar Year

Trout Unlimited has advised all chapters that they are changing the dates of their calendar year. September 30, 2018 was the end of the traditional calendar year. They'll operate on a six-month calendar from 1 October to the end of March and start a new calendar on 1 April 2019. As an affiliate chapter of Trout Unlimited, Doc Fritchey will follow the same calendar, so the board of directors has created a 6-month budget effective 1 October 2018 and will create a new 12-month budget to begin 1 April 2019.

“Game fish are too valuable to be caught only once.”
Lee Wulff

PA Council Presents DFTU with Chapter Project of the Year Award



At its annual meeting - on a very wet Saturday afternoon in early September in Bellefonte - the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited presented the Doc Fritchey Chapter with its **Chapter Project of the Year Award** . . . for a just-about-to-start stream bank restoration project on lower Snitz Creek near the confluence of the Snitz and the Quittapahilla Creek, a project we have discussed in this newsletter for more than a year. Because of the exceptional rain events of 2018, this project has been delayed over and over, but will begin in October (we have been promised).

“Obviously,” Russ Collins said, “when we submitted the application for this award, we were expecting to have the project entirely completed well before the first week of September; we are certainly appreciative of the PA Council’s recognition of the merits of this chapter project.”

This is the third time that DFTU has won the Council Award for Best Chapter Project - in 2005 for our work on Spring Creek in Harrisburg and in 2014 for our long-time diversion wells project.

We will post photos of the work on the project on the chapter’s Facebook page and on our website (DFTU.org) as soon as the project commences.

Membership Update

As of the end of September 2018, we have 477 members listed on our TU roster, up 12 members since June.

New Members:

Jason Kugler – Annville, Travis DiNicola – Harrisburg, Andrew Link – Harrisburg, Kathryn Bard – Harrisburg, William Garland – Harrisburg, Joseph Nguyen – Harrisburg, Tim Staver – Palmyra, James Norris – Steelton, Gretchen Ramsey – Halifax, Eric Wanner – Richland

Top five mailing addresses for members are:

Harrisburg	30%
Lebanon	12%
Palmyra	11%
Hummelstown	8%
Annville	5%

The Rausch Gap Diversion Well – What It Is and Why do We Care

Stony Creek is a beautiful clear and cold-water stream flowing through State Game Land # 211 and Saint Anthony’s Wilderness. Today the stream is designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as High-Quality Waters – Cold Water Fishery. This was not always the case. Strip mining in the middle 1930s exposed mine entrances that had been abandoned in the late 1800s. Over the years and culminating in 1972 with Hurricane Agnes, the rise in ground water levels created drainage paths from some of the mine entrances. These drainage paths caused highly acidic water (acid mine drainage or AMD) to flow into the streams in Rausch Gap and ultimately into Stony Creek. The AMD caused the pH to drop to approximately 4. This high level of acidity prevented virtually all forms of stream life from surviving in Rausch and Stony Creek.

In 1987 the Dauphin County chapter of Trout Unlimited (now known as Doc Fritchey) in cooperation with Penn State University constructed a “diversion well” at the pinch point in Rausch Gap where each of the drainages come together. The acidic water is piped through limestone in the diversion wells and flows back into the stream. The limestone “dust” suspended in the water partially neutralizes the AMD. Because of DFTU’s well-maintained diversion wells, the water downstream of the wells maintains a pH level of approximately 6. In other words, water upstream of the wells is uninhabitable. The water below the wells teems with life. Wild brookies are thriving in the first pools just a few yards downstream.

Our challenge is to continue this successful project. Because the limestone breaks up in the well and flows into the stream the wells must be refilled each week. A team of dedicated members meets at Rausch Gap for routine maintenance and to shovel several loads of limestone. In the spring and summer, we meet on Monday nights. In the fall and winter the work is done Sunday afternoons. If DFTU does not maintain the wells, Stony Creek acidity levels will rapidly increase and the stream will revert to its previous lifeless state.

Volunteers are needed each week. The fall/winter season began on Sunday September 30th. We meet at 1:00 at the State Game Lands #211 gate to the west of Goldmine Road. There is no reason to reserve a spot. Please just show up. Special note – it is important to be on time because the gate must be locked when we head into the woods.

As time goes on we’ve noticed more gray hair among the volunteers. Younger and stronger men, women, boys and girls are much needed to carry the legacy of this project forward for future generations. The team would appreciate your help - the Brook Trout NEED your help.

“Never leave fish to find fish” Moses in about 1200 BCE

My Favorite Fly, Ron K's Palmered Cricket by Steve Vegoe



A new job brought me to Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 1981. Suddenly, I was no longer in lake country. I was in trout stream country. Ninety miles east from Saint Paul, Minnesota

where I had been living brought a huge change in geology. Where Minnesota is filled with lakes, that's not the case in western Wisconsin. It's dairy country with spring creeks, and those small streams hold native brook trout and stocked browns. Better yet, the streams are home to plenty of mayflies.

However, I was not then and never had been a fly fisherman. I was a walleye fisherman. I grew up on a big lake out on the prairie in Lake Wobegon, Minnesota and had only caught a few brook trout in a local stream you could easily step across from bank to bank. And those brookies were all caught on worms and fried in butter.

During that first summer in western Wisconsin I met a lot of people while playing golf, including Dr. Skip Van Gordon, who asked if I fly fished. "No," I said, "but I have always wanted to." Skip volunteered to teach me. He took me to Elk Creek, twenty minutes west of Eau Claire and loaned me a fly rod and reel and stood next to me to teach me to cast to the brown trout that were rising to caddis flies against the bank. That's all it took. When I caught my first brown on an elk hair caddis, like that small trout, I was hooked.

That same summer I learned about a fly-fishing clinic weekend hosted by Gary Borger in northern Wisconsin, just two hours north of Eau Claire. I registered and Gary and his teenage son, Jason taught me about fly fishing for trout. Indeed, Jason Borger, probably fourteen at the time, took me from a novice to a "pretty good" fly caster in two days. I still cast a fly rod the way Jason Borger taught me to cast in the summer of 1981.

Skip Van Gordon introduced me to a bunch of fly fishermen and I joined TU and became actively involved in the local chapter, which owned a small log cabin on Elk Creek. That small stream, smaller than Clarks Creek, became my go-to stream. If I was not playing golf I was teaching myself to fly fish to rising brown trout in the evening on Elk Creek. It helped a lot that I was single and unattached.

I did not then tie flies (and still don't). Like now, I was then dependent on the kindness of friends (and strangers) for my trout flies. I paid for many but mostly I begged for flies (still do, in fact), and my friends were happy to help. Thirty-plus years ago, those friends in western Wisconsin were exceptional fly tiers, as are my friends in the Doc Fritchey chapter.

My main supplier was Ron Koscicheck (and that's an approximation of how to spell his last name). Ron K. was a renowned bamboo rod builder, a superb fly fisherman, and an extraordinary tier. He gave and sold me dozens of what he called his "palmered cricket," and I mostly fished those when I was not using elk hair caddis flies. When I was getting ready to move to Lebanon County in 1987, Ron K. told me all I had to do to get more flies was to mail him a check and he would put his palmered crickets (size 14 to 20) in the mail to me, and I did that for four or five years. Those thirty-year-old flies are still in my fly boxes and still catching fish. I think I have a lifetime supply of those tiny fish catchers.

Although he invented this fly and named it in the late 70s, Ron K's palmered cricket is really a Griffith's Gnat. Side by side, Ron K's fly is almost identical to the legendary Griffith's Gnat. (For a closeup look at this renowned fly, see the article on George Griffith, one of the founders of *Trout Unlimited*, in the summer 2018 issue of *Trout Magazine*.)

My favorite memory of using *My Favorite Fly* was one spring evening on the Fox River in Northeastern Wisconsin. Four of us, including Ron K., were sitting on the bank watching for rising trout when a fish started to rise about forty yards straight out from us. Ron K. looked at me and said, "Your turn, rookie. Go get him." I asked what to use and he smiled and said, "Your favorite fly." I slowly worked my way into casting range, which then with my limited casting ability was not all that far and put Ron K's palmered cricket in front of that rising brown trout. He took it on my first presentation and I landed him in front my three new best fishing friends. Thirty plus years later and I remember that evening like it was yesterday.

My Favorite Fly – Who's Next

We hope there's a chapter member out there that wants to submit an article/story on his or her favorite fly for the Winter issue. It's an opportunity to get a story published. Contact our newsletter editor (Stephan.vegoe@verizon.net) and Steve will work with you on developing your story.

Fly on the Run Reception – October 18th at Millport Conservancy

If you have heard about the hugely successful Lancaster County fly fishing/fund raising event known as *Fly on the Run*, and want to know more, the Lancaster County Career and Technology Foundation is hosting a reception at the Millport Conservancy (on Lititz Run) on Thursday, October 18th at 4:30.

"I prefer any kind of fishing to any kind of work."
Ed Zern

Jim and Melissa Suleski Offer to Help

For at least the last two years, one of our new board members, Dr. Jim Suleski, has been helping novices learn the theory and practice of fly fishing. Jim's been giving one-on-one, free lessons on the Quittie. Now that he has become a board member, Jim and his wife Melissa, have volunteered to help the chapter improve its communications with our members and with the communities in which our chapter members live. Jim Suleski is now communications director for the chapter, and his wife Melissa has agreed to serve as the chapter's social media outreach coordinator. Jim and Melissa describe themselves as *aging millennials* who bring a much better understanding of marketing and communications to the board.



WHTM reporter, Priscilla Liguori, interviewing Jim Suleski on the banks of the lower Snitz Creek on Friday afternoon, September 14th

Final Trout Stocking – October 11th

The last stocking of *Keystone Select Trout*, aka *big trophy trout*, on the Quittapahilla Creek in Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville is scheduled for Thursday, October 11th.

The stocking truck with Quittie Creek fish will start its day at the fly fishing only section on Clarks Creek at 11:00 AM. For the Quittie stocking, our DFTU volunteers typically start to gather in the main parking lot at about 12:30. The truck usually arrives after 1:00 PM. Bring your waders if you want to help float stock. Assuming water levels are OK, we'll float stock from the Spruce Street Bridge downstream to the Walking Bridge at the parking lot, and from the first parking lot downstream toward Route 934.

Depending on the amount of interest from those that show up to help with this float stocking, we may also do a litter and downed trees cleanup on the Quittie after we complete the stocking. After this year's excessive rainfall, we are sure to find plenty of litter and piled-up trees that flowed in from upstream.

2019 Fund Raising Banquet

Mark your calendars for the 23rd of March 2019. Details to follow starting in early January.

Another Reason to Provide DFTU With Your Email Address

The announcement for the Doc Fritchey Chapter's annual membership meeting (on September 25th) was sent out via email on September 10th – and included an announcement that chapter president Russ Collins had obtained a copy of the **2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour** and the film would be shown – free – as part of the annual membership meeting. However, sending the announcement via email meant that way too many DFTU members were left out of the announcement because we do not have valid email addresses for you. You know who you are. We don't have your correct contact information either because you are reluctant to share your email addresses with TU and DFTU or you don't have an email address. If you want to receive notifications, etc. from DFTU, please send an email to Chuck Swanderski, our membership chairman, and he will make sure you are on the email list. Isafetyp3@aol.com.

Seriously Hard Work on Snitz Creek



In anticipation of our contractor - *Aquatic Resource Restoration Company* - starting work on the chapter's lower Snitz Creek project, chapter president Russ Collins sent email invitations to chapter members in Lebanon County to help clear invasive species from the banks of the creek. For the most part, response to this request for help was underwhelming, but one evening a serious group of volunteers arrived to help. The piles of trees, shrubs, weeds, and other vegetation they created that evening were a sight to behold.

"If fishing is interfering with your business, hie up your business.
Sparse grey Hackle

Book Review

While browsing through the book section at Costco in Bozeman, Montana this summer, I noticed Keith McCafferty's latest book, signed, *A Death in Eden: A Sean Stranahan Mystery*, was available. As it turned out, I had just finished reading his first Sean Stranahan Mystery, *The Royal Wulff Murders*, on Kindle. Until finding the book at Costco, I was not aware that McCafferty now had seven books in his series. Thanks to the Lebanon County Library System, I am currently working on the second book in the series, *The Gray Ghost Murders*. First impression is just as positive as *Royal Wulff*. FYI, in addition to writing highly entertaining murder mysteries that take place in the Madison Valley of Montana with lots of rainbows and browns caught and released, Keith McCafferty is the survival and outdoor skills editor of *Field & Stream Magazine*.

Diversion Well Picnic and Work Night



On Tuesday evening, August 28th, a large group, maybe thirty, of chapter members came out to the Chapter's Diversion Well project for a picnic (Thanks to Russ and Sue Collins!) and a work night on the diversion well. At least half of the members that attended the picnic had never been in to see this chapter project, so we put them to work shoveling limestone into the two diversion wells. Many hands made quick work. Thanks to everyone that helped.

25th Annual Rivers Conservation and Fly-Fishing Youth Camp Scholarships

Annually, DFTU budgets to pay for up to three scholarships for the annual Rivers Conservation Summer Camp at Messiah College. This exceptional summer camp is limited to 32 boys and girls between ages 14 and 17. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to have fun, work hard, and engage in a unique experience, please encourage them to get their application in early. The application process begins on November 1st. Details at www.riverscamp.com.

Quittapahilla Watershed Implementation Plan Announced

On September 26th, in front of a diverse group of stake holders, the Quittapahilla Watershed Association (QWA) presented its recently completed Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), a guide for the next 20 and more years for grant-funded work to improve the water quality in the watershed and reduce the amounts of sediment and pollution flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

Michael Schroeder, QWA President, said, "We're excited to unveil our WIP, which is basically a roadmap for future restoration efforts in our lovely but injured little watershed. We're grateful to our intrepid consultant, Rocky Powell, Clear Creeks Consulting, for all his hard work, and to our partners in this process, especially The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Biology Department at Lebanon Valley College."

Funded by a \$26,250 Growing Greener grant in 2016 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the WIP builds on nearly 20 years of study and planning to develop a detailed plan, to be implemented and monitored over the next two decades, for a series of restoration projects along Quittapahilla Creek's principal tributaries, namely Beck Creek, Snitz Creek, Bachman Run, Killinger Creek, and Gingrich Run.

The WIP excludes those portions of the Quittapahilla watershed that fall under the jurisdiction of the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium, comprised of six municipalities working to comply with the PA-DEP's mandates for MS4. Those six municipalities are the City of Lebanon, North Cornwall Township, North Lebanon Township, South Lebanon Township, Cleona Borough Authority, and Annville Township.

The WIP also excludes waterways in two MS4-mandated municipalities that opted not to participate in the Consortium, which are Cornwall Borough and South Annville Township.

MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. MS4 requirements are mandated by the Clean Water Act of 1972 and later additions and amendments and enforced by PA-DEP as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Included in the WIP are plans for public participation and education – part of what this public meeting was intended to achieve – and for pre- and post-restoration monitoring, to be undertaken in part by students supervised by Dr. Rebecca Urban, Associate Professor of Biology at Lebanon Valley College.

"Things fishermen know about trout aren't facts, but articles of faith."
John Gierach

Beginner Fly Tying Classes in 2019

We mentioned in the article on our 2019 officers and board members that Rick LaTournous has retired from the DFTU board. Rick did so because he and his wife have decided to relocate. Rick's leaving created an opening for a new chapter member to lead our beginner fly tying courses. Rich DiStanislao has agreed to take over for Rick LaTournous. Rich is an exceptionally well qualified fly tier and teacher, and, fortunately, Rich will continue to be assisted with the teaching of beginner fly tying by many exceptional, chapter-member fly tiers. Details for the 2019 beginner classes will be part of the Winter DFTU Newsletter. We anticipate six or seven classes on consecutive Thursday nights starting the 21st of February 2019. Check DFTU.org for registration and cost details.

2018-2019 Officers and Board Members

Russ Collins	President
Stephan Vegoe	Vice President
Trip McGarvey	Treasurer
Bob Pennell	Secretary
Cynthia Camp	
Joseph Connor	
George Dodson	
Rich DiStanislao	
Steven Long	
Francis O'Gorman	
Jim Suleski	
Chuck Swanderski	
RoseAnn Viozzi	

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