



HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 www.dftu.org
Spring 2019



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

This Year’s Annual Fundraising Banquet Set Records!

Celebrating our chapter’s 49th year since its founding in 1971, more than 130-chapter members, guests, and friends of conservation joined us for Doc Fritchey’s 2019 Annual Conservation Fundraising Banquet.



If you were there, you know the crowd was given an interesting selection of auction and raffle items to bid on and were treated to an interesting reminiscence of his career - “40 Years A Biologist” - by our friend and recently-retired PFBC Executive Director John Arway’s.

Matt Shenk did his usual fine job as auctioneer, working the crowd to get the best value for the live-auction items. We offered our guests a record 13 amazing guided and hosted fishing trips. Our Door Prize Raffle, Dave Rothrock’s guided trip for two anglers to a stream of their choice in eastern Pennsylvania, brought in a record amount. Thanks Dave. You are the best!



After telling the crowd about his past year’s travels with Doc Fritchey’s ceremonial “Traveling Fishing Net,” including a trip to Ireland, Rich DiStanislao passed the peripatetic net to Dennis Coffman. Dennis recently reported that he has started to fish and travel with the net, including a recent successful outing on Manada Creek

All in all, it turned out to be a record year for both attendance and net income.

We thank those volunteers who served on our Fundraising Banquet Committee, as well as our sponsors, advertisers, and donors, and especially everyone who attended our banquet. By the way, even though the “leaderless model” of managing and producing our annual fundraising has been working, we would be delighted if a chapter member stepped up to serve as chair of the committee. Please call Bob Pennell to discuss.

Spring Calendar

- April 23 (Board Meeting)
- April 27 (PA TU Regional Meeting in Bloomsburg)
- April 27 (Quittie Cleanup Day)
- April 27 (Wildwood Wetlands Fair - DFTU will be there)
- May 11 (Clarks Valley Highway Cleanup)
- May 28 (Membership Meeting}
- May 30 to June 2 (TU Regional Rendezvous at Allenberry)
- June 8 (Home Waters for Veterans)
- June 9 (Introduction to Fly Fishing for Women)
- June 25 (Board Meeting)
- July 23 (Membership Meeting)

May 28th Membership Meeting

Typically, Doc Fritchey’s leadership team has a solid plan for membership meetings well in advance of the publication of our newsletters, but that’s not the case for the May 28th meeting. We’ll have a membership meeting on the fourth Tuesday in May, but you’ll have to wait for an email announcement; the program will also, of course, be on our Doc Fritchey web page and on our Facebook page.

Membership Report

DFTU is delighted to welcome these new members.

Stefan Caporaletti, Jonestown, Patrick Reb, Lebanon, Jacob Herzing, Middletown, Kim Latchford, Williamstown, Linda Adler, Steelton, Dale Bretz, Middletown, Amy Coen, Lewisberry, Travis Way, Harrisburg, Joshua Fox, Harrisburg, Dave Gress, Palmyra, Bill Sumski, Harrisburg, Dennis Trump, Myerstown, Kent Crawford, Hummelstown, Joseph Aponick, Harrisburg, Tanner Solarczyk, Hummelstown, Chad T Weber, Harrisburg, Nathan Woleslagle, Duncannon

We hope you will join us for our May 28th membership meeting at Giant’s Community Room. Make sure you introduce yourselves to membership chair Chuck Swanderski who will have a welcome gift for you.

Speaking of memberships, we get a monthly report from national TU on our chapter’s members that have not renewed their TU memberships. Right now, that recently expired list is a bit daunting; far larger than normal. Please, if you think you may have unintentionally let your membership lapse, go to TU.org and renew your membership. You are important to us. Thanks.

“You can’t say enough about fishing. Though the sport of Kings, it’s just what the deadbeat ordered.” Thomas McGuane

Keep Current with WWW.DFTU.org

Rich DiStanislao's Second Favorite Fly – The Sulfur

Growing up in a steel manufacturing town in western PA, I had little exposure to fishing, period. Monaca is an industrial town on the Ohio River, part of the "Steel Corridor" that stretched from the Mon Valley and continued well past the Ohio border. Every man I knew was a steelworker; including my father, all my uncles, all my neighbors. These were hardworking men, and any extra time off was spent either with family or in attending sporting events. To them, "outdoor sports" meant football and baseball. Many professional athletes played their high school sport in this area. My first career job landed me in Kittanning in rural western Pennsylvania. I was astonished that the town businesses and schools shut down during the start of deer season, and the kickoff of spring trout fishing infected the locals with wild-eyed "trout fever." I realized I had to get involved with this stuff or die a lonely death during these times. It was my good fortune that I connected with a group of guys who were all fly fishermen, and they accepted me as a dumb bunny who didn't know how to put on a pair of waders. I learned to fly fish as they were doing it, swinging a cast of three wet flies on a sinking line. To them, the season ended shortly after the final regular in-season stream stocking. During the second year of my newfound fly-fishing sport, I was fishing toward evening when I spied several fish coming up to the water's surface and taking some light-colored bugs. I didn't know what the bugs were, but I tied on a cream-colored fly that I had found in a tree branch earlier that day and cast it around. A couple of fish came up to look, but I didn't catch anything. Downstream I saw another fisherman catch 4 or 5 trout in rather quick succession, using a similar colored fly that floated. When things quieted down, I approached him and asked him what he was using. He recognized me as a "newbie", and he showed me what he had tied on and how he had fished it. He gave me one of his light-colored flies that he said would catch fish during the next week or so, and he advised me to buy a book about "hatches". The rest is history.

The "Sulfur" Mayfly

Almost any evening toward dusk in late spring and early summer, you can experience light-colored mayflies triggering a surface feeding activity on most of our Pennsylvania trout streams. Overcast, cloudy days, particularly with intermittent periods of light drizzle, can also trigger sporadic hatches. These insects represent several species of ephemerelella mayflies that we loosely refer to as "sulfurs" due to their body color. They range in color from pale cream, to light orange, to an intense sulfur yellow, to almost chartreuse green, and mostly in sizes from 14 to 18. To me, the "sulfur" hatch signifies the real start of the dry-fly fishing season. (Nymph fishermen love these, too, as the subsurface pheasant tails work very well, but this is another story and fly pattern in and of itself).

My favorite sulfur pattern is an emerger tied parachute style, fished as a dry fly:

Hook: Klinkhamer, size 16 – 18

Thread: Lightweight thread, 8/0 – 12/0, pale yellow color

Trailing shuck: a few white sparkle emerger fibers, about half the length of the fly body

Tail: about 6 fibers from a pale dun wet fly hackle feather, tied on top of the trailing shuck

Abdomen: Sulfur colored turkey quill fiber, wrapped from the tail toward the front of hook, up to the sharp shank bend

Wing: pale dun colored Hi-Viz fibers, tied as a parachute post

Hackle: high-quality pale dun colored dry fly hackle, tied parachute style

Thorax: Sulfur colored superfine synthetic dubbing



Who's Next? This article by Rich DiStanislao is the last article we had in the queue, so if we are going to continue this popular subject, we need your help. Send your articles to newsletter editor Steve Vegoe at stephan.vegoe@verizon.net.

Veterans Home Waters

Each June, approximately 20 veterans from the Harrisburg VA Center join us for a day of trout fishing on Clarks Creek. This will be the 11th year that the Chapter provides veterans with not only a day of fishing but also an opportunity to enjoy the friendship of others. Applebees Restaurants in the Harrisburg area generously donates a buffet meal, their way of saying thanks to this group of angling veterans. If you are interested in guiding a veteran, one-on-one, please contact the event's chair, RoseAnn Viozzi, who will provide times and everything else you need to know: 717-566-7920.

"The craft of angling is the catching of fish, but the art of angling is receptiveness to those connections, the art of letting one thing lead to another until, if only locally and momentarily, you realized some small completeness." Ted Leeson

The Best Approach to Learning to Tie Trout Flies!

Think back as to how you learned to tie flies. You bought a cheap book and tried it on your own; sat down a couple of times with a friend who could tie a couple of patterns; went to a seminar or demo and watched some "experts"; checked out a couple of online videos; Or, you took a six week class taught by a group of people with real expertise, and had mentors at your shoulder correcting you, reinforced with videos of the flies actually tied, and been given a nationally acclaimed beginner's book to provide a long term reference guide, AND provided you with all the correct essential tying tools. YES!!!!!! This is what the Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU provided in its beginning fly-tying course.



Joe Notarangelo and Two Eager Beginners

Fifteen students took our six-week beginner's course to learn how to tie flies, and ten-chapter members volunteered as class "mentors" to assist the students each week. The classes were held at the Wildwood Nature Center in Harrisburg, and the facility proved to be a wonderful backdrop of the great outdoors. Each week, a different mentor would serve as the lead tier, and the Wildwood Center set up a video camera and projected the tying onto a large screen. To keep the learning process going, the students were sent YouTube videos on a weekly basis of each fly that was taught in the class, so that they could relive the tying process again and again. The students were taught to tie flies that are both skill-based and functional for fishing our local streams. Patterns included the Green Weeny, San Juan Worm, Cress bug, caddis larva, soft-hackled wets, a stonefly, wooly bugger, black beetle, caddis dry fly, and parachute dry fly. Discussions were lively, with great questions raised by the students and various insightful responses given by the mentors. As a culminating course activity, the class was treated to a special night where all the mentors demonstrated the tying of their own all-time favorite patterns.

All the students graduated with honors!

2019 Gerald L. Miller Volunteer Award Presented to Russ Collins



Since 2014, Doc Fritchey's Gerald L. Miller award has been presented to a chapter member whose volunteer work has consistently and substantially contributed to the attainment of the chapter's mission to "conserve, protect, and restore the cold-water fishery resources of Dauphin and

Lebanon counties" through education or hands-on involvement with chapter projects. The award honors the tireless conservation work performed by the late Gerald R. (Gerry) Miller who died in 2013 after serving both the chapter and PA State Council in a variety of roles since becoming a TU member in 1999.

The 2019 Gerald L. Miller Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Russ Collins, our chapter's inexhaustible president, at the chapter's Annual Conservation Fundraising Banquet on March 23rd.

Congratulations Russ. Well done.

Summer Internships Available to work on the Quittapahilla Watershed

The Quittapahilla Watershed Association is offering two paid internships for summer 2019. They are seeking two college students, who will be trained to work as a team, to undertake field work collecting environmental data in the Quittapahilla Creek watershed in Lebanon County. Interns will conduct geomorphic assessments on streambanks and streambeds. The internships pay \$12 per hour for up to 120 hours (\$1,440 per intern). Student applicants from Lebanon Valley College will be given priority. LVC students will also be eligible for Immersive Experience credit. Work must be undertaken between June 1 and August 15. Hours of work, start and end dates, and daily schedules are flexible and at the discretion of the interns.

Send your resume with a cover letter expressing your interest, with names of at least two references to: Dr. J. Kent Crawford, 1115 Stonegate Road, Hummelstown, PA, 17036. Applications must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2019. After telephone interviews, applicants will be notified of the QWA's decision by Friday, May 10. Call Kent at k9kentc@gmail.com if you have questions.

Lower Snitz Creek Restoration Project is Completed

After numerous delays due to wet weather conditions, construction work on the 1,200 linear foot restoration project on lower Snitz Creek, just above its confluence with the Quittapahilla Creek in North Cornwall Township, was finally completed in February 2019



The project, designed by Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting, and constructed by Aquatic Resource Restoration Company, was funded in large part through a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

The project consisted of reconstructing and stabilizing streambanks, narrowing the stream channel and redirecting the streamflow to reduce sedimentation, and building much-needed habitat structures. Streambank planting and overall cleanup of the property (which also includes the removal by a contractor of dozens of mature black walnut trees) will take place in late April, which means we need volunteers from Doc Fritchey to help plant the young trees we are obtaining from the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Chapter president Russ Collins will be sending out invitations via email.

Now, post construction, this "new" section of Snitz Creek looks like a natural trout stream (and, as vegetation grows in April and May, will only get better looking). Rainbow trout are swimming and feeding along the entire stretch of the newly improved water, which has been designated by the landowner as Catch and Release Fishing Only.

That's a nice touch.

Quittie Clean Up Day – Saturday, April 27th

As part of the annual Lebanon County United Way Day of Caring, several dozen volunteers from the Annville area, including a group of Lebanon Valley College students, gather together to work hard for a morning to "spruce up" Quittie Creek Nature Park. If the Quittie is your "Go To" local trout stream, please consider joining us for this Spring Cleanup from 9:00 AM to noon on Saturday morning April 27th. DFTU members typically work together on a specific project and depending on how many Doc Fritchey members show up, we have a big project in mind; removal of four large trees that fell across the stream last fall, which will require chain saws (please bring yours) and a lot of young muscle (bring yours with you). We will meet at the main entrance to Quittie Creek Nature Park just before 9:00 AM. Bring waders, water, snacks, work gloves, chain saws, and any eager, strapping youths you can convince to join you. If we work on the downed trees, we are going to need a football team to manhandle the cut logs.

Introduction to Fly Fishing Day for Women – Sunday, June 9

The Doc Fritchey Chapter is pleased to announce our sponsorship of the "Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing Day." This program is organized by Chuck Swanderski, our membership chairperson, to introduce women to fly fishing, and to align ourselves with the important diversity initiatives of TU. This year's program will once again be held at the O'Gorman property along Clarks Creek, just north of Halifax.



In 2018 Rich DiStanislao taught the finer points of fly casting in a downpour

The program consists of four educational sessions covering all the basics of fly fishing - from equipment, knots, fly tying, matching insects and other trout food, fly casting, and an opportunity to practice newfound skills with one of our chapter mentor/volunteers. (That means we need members to volunteer to come to the event to work one-on-one with one of the students, to help her as she gets into the water with a fly rod in hand.) Call Chuck at (717) 832-3657.

Fly Fishing for Women – Continued

Participation is strictly limited (and may already been sold out). If you know of a woman who has an interest in spending a day with other women learning about fly fishing (one-on-one with local experts doing the training/teaching), please contact Chuck Swanderski at docfritcheytumblememberhip@gmail.com to register and obtain additional information.

Doc Fritchey Members Assists with Spring Stocking on Two Special Regulations Streams

Although the weather on March 1st was more like cross-country skiing weather than trout stocking weather, a hardy group of Doc Fritchey volunteers, young and old, showed up to stock the special regs section of the Quittie. Because of high water and snow on the ground, float stocking was problematic, but our volunteers persisted and did an excellent job of equitably distributing hatchery fish, rainbows and browns, throughout the special regulations section of Quittie Creek Nature Park. Included in the state's allotment of fish were some large fish (the Quittie is a designated Keystone Select stream).



An almost perfect day to float stock the Quittie

Our stocking team will be at it again in late April. We will float stock Manada Creek on April 25th, and in the Quittie Creek Nature Park on April 22nd. Typically, our volunteers meet about noon and wait for the stocking trucks. Coffee and donuts are often provided.

The Fly Fishing Only section of Clarks Creek will be float stocked, where feasible, by volunteers from Dauphin County Anglers on May 20th. If you want to help, meet at the hatchery at 11:00 AM.

The Wildwood Wetlands Fair

The Wildwood Wetlands Fair will take place at Wildwood Nature Center on Saturday, April 27 from 10am - 4pm. DFTU Fly Tiers will be tying flies all day. There were over 1,500 attendees at the fair last year. Looks like a fun event.

TU Regional Rendezvous at Allenberry Resort on May 31 – June 2, 2019

For most of us who are members of the Doc Fritchey Chapter, TU's annual regional meetings are typically held far away, which means attending can be quite expensive. However, TU's 2019 Regional Rendezvous is scheduled for Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs on May 31 – June 2. Total cost is \$135 and includes:

Friday, May 31 - Free day of hosted fishing and a no host dinner with local Pennsylvania TU volunteers. Local Pennsylvania TU hosts will take you to some of their special waters, whether boulder-hopping after native brook trout in a small stream or chasing larger browns in big water. Once registered for the fishing day, you will be sent a short questionnaire asking about your fishing preferences.

- Saturday, June 1 – Workshops and Seminars
- Saturday Night, June 1 – Streamside Pig Roast and PA TU Council Fundraiser
- Sunday, June 2 – Morning Workshops and Half-Day Conservation Tour

www.tu.org/get-involved/events/northeast-regional-rendezvous/

Registration Open for the Keystone/TUTEens Conservation Camp, June 23 -29

Keystone/TUTEen has been in existence for the last 6 years and is located on the Southern Branch of Tunkhannock Creek on the Campus of Keystone College. Camp starts on Sunday June 23rd and culminates with a Family Barbeque on Saturday June 29th. Teens from 14 to 18 with or without experience can register for this fun filled week of learning and developing skills and at the same time make lifelong friends. Boy Scouts can earn Merit Badges and Girl Scouts can earn Stream Girl Patches. Instruction includes, tackle nomenclature, Casting, Fly Tying, Environmental Sciences, team building, plant identification, waterways protection, and a conservation project. Registration can be completed at www.flyfishingsummercamp.org

"I look into my fly box and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'" Allison Moir

"There's more BS in fly fishing than there is in a Kansas feedlot." Lefty Kreh

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 during chapter meetings. They are a dark-ish khaki featuring DFTU's traditional multi-colored logo. We charge \$15.00 for the hats and we typically sell several at DFTU chapter meetings.

"You can easily minimize a sport by coming at it with too sharp an angle in the manner of a technocrat. Fishing, however, is a slow grower. You start in your youth and slowly progress to the full meaning of what you experience. Day after day your memories accrete, and the fish gather and seem to own their splendor. You are living in the background movie of their lives. Since they exist comfortably within their habitat, you return to the river and think how naturally the river is also your metaphor. Who is good at fishing and who not so good doesn't generate a proper metaphor." Jim Harrison

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Clark's Valley Highway Cleanup – May 11th

Each year, rain or shine, DFTU volunteers 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 11th. We get started at 9:00 AM at the parking lot in the middle of the FFO section.

Obviously, this non-sexy – non-fishing, half-day out, walking along a fairly busy highway picking up the litter and detritus that has accumulated over a year, is not all that popular an activity, but it's a worthwhile way to help clean up a stretch of rural, forested highway, and we have a good time. Call Dennis Coffman at 717-350-8817 to let him know you want to join the "gang" on Saturday, May 11th.

Reminder: Once again, we remind all our members that because we only send out this newsletter on a quarterly basis, we rely heavily on email communications to keep you updated and apprised of the chapter's activities.

Unfortunately, we don't have good email addresses for as many as one-third of our members, which means we fail to communicate with you. If you don't receive email messages via *Constant Contact* from our chapter president, Russ Collins, Please, send a quick email to Russ so he can update our membership roster. Send a note to: rwarrencollins@gmail.com.