



# HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 [www.dftu.org](http://www.dftu.org)  
Winter 2019



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



## From Your President:

In previous quarterly letters, I have outlined the important conservation work that your chapter is doing (either in partnership with other entities or on our own) to "conserve, protect and preserve"

our streams in Dauphin and Lebanon counties. This list bears repeating as a reminder for a couple of reasons.

The current list of projects includes: Lower Snitz Creek in Lebanon which is currently under construction, in addition to Snitz Creek near Cornwall, Beck Creek east of Fontana, Spring Creek in Derry Township, Hammer Creek in eastern Lebanon County, Powell's Creek near Halifax, Armstrong Creek near Halifax, Bear Creek (an abandoned mine-acid impacted tributary of Wiconisco Creek), and Armstrong Creek in upper Dauphin County; all in various stages of planning and/or funding.

Reason number one for listing the work that your chapter is doing is that our **Annual Conservation Fundraising Banquet** is scheduled for Saturday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. You will soon receive a banquet invitation along with Door Prize Raffle tickets which will give the winner an opportunity to spend a day fly fishing with well-known professional guide and fly tier Dave Rothrock. This guided trip is available for either one or two people on a central or north central stream of their choice. The proceeds from the sale of the Door Prize raffle tickets, along with the proceeds from our banquet auctions and raffles are the principal source of funding for our conservation projects, so we hope you will not hesitate to purchase the raffle tickets as well as come to our banquet. And as a bonus, everyone attending the banquet will receive a gift of six hand-tied flies as a thank you from the chapter.

The second reason for listing the conservation efforts we are involved with is because it is our chapter's stated mission. But equally as important, I wanted to appeal to the very reason you became a member of Trout Unlimited; to support the organization that is dedicated to protecting the habitat for the very thing we all love. . . the trout and fishing for them!

To sum up, help your chapter at this key event and join in the fun and camaraderie. You can help make this a record attendance year and raise lots of conservation funds in the process! Tight lines,

Russ Collins, President  
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## 2019 Calendar – Board and Membership Meetings

At their regularly scheduled board meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, the chapter's board looked at the 2019 calendar and realized they needed to modify the meeting schedule; to get more membership/social meetings scheduled in the first quarter. All DFTU meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM at the Giant Community Room on Linglestown Road unless notice is sent out in advance. Members are always welcome to attend board meetings (with the understanding that that kind of interest in DFTU will often lead to your being asked to get more involved!) and guests are always welcome to join us at membership meetings.

## 2019 Chapter Meeting Dates

January 22 (Membership Meeting)  
February 26 (Board Meeting)  
March 23 (Annual Fund Raising Banquet at Holiday Inn)  
April 23 (Board Meeting)  
May 28 (Membership Meeting)  
June 25 (Board Meeting)  
July 23 (Membership Meeting)  
August 27 (Board Meeting)  
September 24 (Annual Meeting)  
October 22 (Board Meeting)  
November 26 (Membership Meeting)

## Beginner Fly Tying Classes Start on Thursday, February 21st

If you have always wanted to learn to tie your own flies (and who among us hasn't?), put down this issue now and go online to register for the annual Doc Fritchey chapter beginner fly-tying course. The reason for haste is because the number of available spots for this exceptional opportunity to learn to tie flies is very limited. The course will be held at Wildwood Lake Nature Center from 6 to 8 PM on consecutive Thursday evenings starting on February 21<sup>st</sup> and runs for seven evenings.

Our chapter's fly-tying program is now under new leadership. With the retirement of Rick LaTournous, Rich DiStanislaio is now managing the program. Rich is assisted by half a dozen of the finest fly tiers in the Capital Region. Cost is just \$20.00 and includes a vise and supplies, and books. That's a heck of a value. Register at [www.wildwoodlake.org/events](http://www.wildwoodlake.org/events).

*"Some wise guy once defined a fishing line as a piece of string with a worm on one end and a damn fool on the other. This is a silly definition, of course, for many fishermen use flies instead of worms." Ed Zern*

## January 22, 2019 – Membership Meeting

Our first membership meeting of the 2019 will feature Dave Rothrock; well-known fly-fishing guide, author, fly tier, and casting instructor. Dave will join us to talk the streams of central and north central PA on which he guides his clients. As always, the monthly membership meeting starts at 7:00 PM in one of the community rooms at Giant Foods on Linglestown Road, above the food court.



Dave Rothrock has been pursuing trout and other species with a fly rod since the mid-1960's, and he's been tying flies for a bit longer than he's been fishing them.

He has fished throughout the East, into the Midwest, and in Europe. Dave's informative writing regularly appears in *Fly Fisherman*, *American Angler* and *Pennsylvania Angler*. Dave is also a co-author of the book "Keystone Fly Fishing: The Ultimate Guide to Pennsylvania's Best Water."

## Annual Conservation Fund-Raising Banquet – Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the chapter's most important fund-raising event, our annual banquet. We are returning to the Holiday Inn in Grantville. As Russ Collins mentioned in his letter on page one, you will receive an invitation in the mail. That invitation will also include tickets for the Main Raffle Prize, a guided trip with Dave Rothrock, on a trout stream of your choice. If you are unable to attend the banquet, you may still purchase as many raffle tickets as you like. Indeed, the winner of this Main Raffle prize often goes to someone who was unable to attend the banquet. That's a great way to support DFTU.



### John Arway Will Be our Featured Speaker

If you attended the 2018 Fund Raising Banquet, you'll recall that we broke tradition (no speaker at the banquet) and

invited legendary fisherman, teacher, and writer, Joe Humphrey's to talk about his life and times. Joe was so well received that the banquet committee decided we ought to invite someone with a similar background to talk to our DFTU crowd, to interrupt the silent-auction and fishing story-telling for a few minutes.

## Banquet, continued

Thus, we reached out to recently-retired Pennsylvania Fish and Board Commission Executive Director John Arway. John told us he would be delighted to come to our banquet to talk about his life and times. Those of you who have heard John Arway speak know "he tells it like it is."

## Old Men and Wire

Four DFTU board members – George Dodson, Trip McGarvey, Russ Collins, and Stephan Vegoe – showed up one late December morning on the site of the Snitz Creek project to remove salvageable wire from the falling-down fence posts along Snitz Creek. . . in anticipation that the construction crew from Aquatic Resource Restoration Company would soon be sending in their heavy equipment.



Russ Collins, George Dodson, and Trip McGarvey

The four of us pulled hundreds of stubborn/large steel staples from wooden fence posts for three hours and were able to save a mile of wire that we will be reused after the streambank restoration work is complete and new fence posts are installed. While Aquatic Resource Restoration will be doing most of the restoration work along the stream, DFTU volunteer man hours are an important component of this project. Please consider investing some of your time to the project. Periodic requests will be sent out (via email) in the first months of 2019, especially to DFTU members living in Lebanon County.

## Sunday Afternoons on Rausch Creek

If you are looking for a DFTU activity that will introduce you to some of our most active, eager members, we recommend taking time out of your Sunday schedule to help work on the chapter's award-winning diversion well project. Sundays at 1:00 PM at the gate on Gold Mine Road. For more information and directions contact Dennis Coffman at 717-350-8817 or [dencoffman@comcast.net](mailto:dencoffman@comcast.net)

## Snitz Creek Project Update

Although the region received even more rain at the end of December, raising stream levels across Lebanon and Dauphin Counties, the heavy construction equipment needed for the chapter's long-delayed streambank renovation project on lower Snitz Creek was finally moved into place the third week of December.



If the mild weather we have been experiencing in December continues, the contractor, Aquatic Resource Restoration Company, expects to promptly get underway right about the first of the New Year, with an expedited construction schedule. You should be able to stop by any day in early January to watch the "magicians" at work as they transform lower Snitz Creek from a shallow, silted-bottom stream into a "real trout stream." We extend our thanks to chapter president Russ Collins and chapter member Kent Crawford for their exceptional leadership. This project would not have been possible without their stewardship.

## Preliminary Work Begins on Hammer Creek Restoration

Our Doc Fritchey Chapter and the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited have recently begun working to identify Hammer Creek landowners willing to permit streambank improvement projects (to remedy poor riparian buffer and erosion issues) on their properties. Hammer Creek starts high up in the game lands of southern Lebanon County where its headwaters are well forested. As it runs downstream into Lancaster County, it goes through farm land with barren banks, high eroding banks, and grazing livestock that lead to erosion. Somehow, Hammer Creek and its tributaries support some native Brook Trout. Our two, neighboring TU chapters have identified this stream as an opportunity to strengthen native trout populations. Already, we have identified landowners who are willing to cooperate, and organizations like Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay that are willing to provide trees.

*"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."* John Steinbeck

## Hammer Creek, continued

The Chesapeake Conservancy is helping us out with maps illustrating where we lack tree buffers on the Hammer's banks. Donegal TU has already planned a culvert removal on a key tributary of the Hammer and a dam removal with planned in-stream work in the main stem. A lot is happening on the Hammer these days; with large-scale landowner buy-in, Hammer Creek has the potential to become a fine native trout fishery.

## Membership Update

According to Chuck Swanderski, DFTU's Membership Chairperson - As of November 28<sup>th</sup> our DFTU Chapter membership stands as follows

**489** members listed on our DFTU roster.  
**434** members are in good standing.  
**55** members are late in paying 2018 dues.

Chuck is looking to increase participation in both our general membership meetings and our Chapters projects. Please e-mail Chuck (chucks@DFTU.org) with meeting suggestions or to be placed on a project/program volunteer list.

As always, projects and other activities can be found on our website DFTU.org.

## 2019 Rivers Conservation and Fly-fishing Youth Camp - June 16-21, 2019

One of DFTU's favorite programs, the Rivers Conservation and Fly-fishing Youth Camp at Messiah College, hosted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is now accepting applications for the June 16 to 21 camp. Cost of tuition for the five-day camp is \$550 - but DFTU sets aside funds in our annual budget to fully fund two scholarships for students from Dauphin or Lebanon County.

This special camp is limited to boys and girls between 14 and 17. If you know someone, a son or daughter or grandchild or neighbor who would like to have fun, work hard, and engage in a unique experience, get your application in early. Up to 32 students will be selected to attend.

Go to <http://www.riverscamp.com> to apply online (Listing Doc Fritchey as your TU Chapter) or . . . contact Bob Pennell at (717) 395-5124 or [rpennell37@comcast.net](mailto:rpennell37@comcast.net) for more information.

**Please note:** Not all applicants are accepted for the camp. Usually there are more than 32 applicants, so the students are evaluated based on the letters they submit, and the recommendations received from their science teachers or guidance counselors.

*"As you tumble down the rapids, you wonder if you are getting your cigarettes wet, not if you are drowning."* Jim Harrison

## **My Favorite Fly – Bob Pennell’s Green Weenie**

My introduction to the Green Weenie came one day in the mid-1990s as I was finishing up what was not a very productive day of fishing on Clarks Creek. As I was stowing my tackle in the car, I got to talking with another angler from Lancaster who told me he had just had a great day fishing the Green Weenie. Since at that time I had only been into fly fishing for a few years and was still in need of a lot of help, I of course had to ask him to see this “fly” that I had never heard of before.

Well, that was the start of my love affair with the Weenie, and soon thereafter I found myself at a local fly shop buying the materials needed to tie this pattern.

Initially, I used a straight shank hook and no bead head, but as I fished it more and more and talked with other anglers, eventually my version of the Weenie incorporated a curved pupa hook and tungsten bead head. The Weenie was most likely created to imitate the green inchworms that suspend themselves from overhanging tree branches on a very fine thread, often falling into the water when the thread breaks. Or, as some have observed, it might also be mistaken for a green caddis larva.

I don’t know who was the first to create this pattern, or whether its name originated from the green hot dogs that Pittsburgh Pirate fans waved to jinx opponents and bring luck to their baseball team in the late 1960s, or possibly from the term used to denote that a Marine had been “screwed over” by the Marine Corps. . . but what I do know is that the Weenie is an incredibly effective “fly” that should have a place in every trout angler’s fly box. And it works equally well to entice bluegills, and sometimes even bass.

There are just 4 materials needed to tie my version of the Weenie; size 10 or 12 curved pupa hook, gold tungsten bead head corresponding to the hook size, medium size chartreuse chenille, and matching color tying thread. Start by slipping the bead over the hook. Cut a piece of chenille about 1-1/2 inches long and tie one end in at the bend of the hook. Form a loop with the chenille about 1/4 to 5/16 inch in diameter and tie down with several wraps at the point where you first tied on. Wrap your thread up to the bead and let it hang there. Take the free end of the chenille and wrap it tightly around the hook up to the bead, making sure that you work it into the back of the bead. Secure the chenille with several wraps of thread, then do a couple of whip finishes to finish it off at the back of the bead and trim off any excess chenille.

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