

HATCHES

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

Summer 2019



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



From Your President:

Summer greetings to everyone, I hope it's been a good start and that you are doing lots of 'family things', including getting out to your favorite stream!

One of the chapter's goals is to engage members in the work of the chapter. When I talk to a new member, I encourage them to consider taking a small part in one of our activities or meetings. It is not necessary to become a board member or committee chair to help the chapter grow; just come out and join us and get to know what we are all about.

One of the things I'm proud of is the chapter developed a strategic plan which serves to keep the us focused on our mission of conservation. In the next few months we will be revisiting our plan to do any necessary course corrections. Watch our website calendar for these planning meetings and consider joining us. I know that there must be a lot of hidden talent in our membership base, come to any of our membership or board meetings and share yours.

We are always looking for interesting topics to present at our membership meetings. If you come across something that you feel would be of interest to others, please let me know by sending an email to info@dftu.org with your contact information.

This past weekend we had our veteran focused Home Waters event and our Second Annual Ladies Day. Both were very enjoyable and outstandingly organized. Thanks to **RoseAnn Viozzi** for her tireless work on Home Waters and **Chuck Swanderski** for his flawless organization of the Ladies Day.

Look us up on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/261267476474/>

Please feel free to contact me at russthepres@dftu.org or (717) 580-3958 (cell #)

Russ Collins, President
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Summer Calendar

July 23 - Chapter Picnic at Quittie Creek Nature Park
August 27 - Board Meeting at Giant Community Room
September 24 - Annual Meeting at Giant Community Room

Chapter Picnic on July 23rd at Quittie Creek Nature Park

Enclosed with this issue of the chapter's newsletter is a flyer inviting members, friends, and family to join us for a full-blown chapter picnic – in Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville. Cost is \$10.00 for the first person from a family and just \$5.00 for everyone else you recruit to come with you (children, spouses, friends, significant others, neighbors).

Because we are planning an impressive buffet picnic meal, we need reservations, so please complete the reservation form at the bottom of the flyer and mail it to chapter VP Stephan Vegoe.

Everyone attending will receive a raffle ticket. We will be pulling names right after dinner for four nice prizes: A custom-built 9 ft, 4-wt fly rod; a Penn, 9 ft, 5-wt fly rod; a Fly Logic FLP 3,4,5 reel with backing and fly line; and an on-the stream lesson with Dr. Jim Suleski. Extra raffle tickets will be available for \$5.00 each at registration. Must be present to win!

In addition to food and fellowship, we have recruited three Doc Fritchey Chapter board members to give lessons.

Jim Suleski will get in the water to give lessons on the basics of fly fishing below the surface – wet flies, streamers, and nymph fishing. Jim has selected a spot just above the Swingholm bridge that will work well. Chapter members can stand on shore and Jim will present in-stream.

Rich DiStanislao will give beginner fly casting lessons in the meadow. If you or your family members want to learn the very basics of fly casting, Rich's presentation will get you started. No need to bring a rod. We will supply fly casting equipment.

For those of you who know the basics of fly casting but would like a one-on-one, tune-up, **Cyndi Camp** will be in another part of the meadow to work with you to improve your casting techniques. Bring your fly rod if you want or use one of the chapter's rods.

The picnic starts at 5:30 and runs until sunset. Casting Lessons and In-Stream Demonstrations from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Food served at 6:30 PM.

Because picnic tables and chairs at Quittie Creek Nature Park are limited, please bring your own chairs (and small tables if you have them). Please note – No alcohol in Quittie Creek Park.

Keep Current with WWW.DFTU.org

Chapter Annual Meeting – Sept 24th at 7:00

The chapter's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, 24 September at the Community Room at Giant Foods on Linglestown Road starting at 7:00 PM. Chapter president Russ Collins will present a review of the chapter's accomplishments (and its financial status) during the past twelve months. Officers will also be elected. In addition, **Rick Nyles**, owner of Sky-Blue Outfitters will be with us for a presentation on dry fly-fishing techniques. It does not matter if you are a novice or experienced fly fisherman, Rick will increase your understanding and skill level when fishing for rising trout.

Quittie Creek Cleanup Day

Although we were hoping for a football team to assist us on April 27th with the annual cleanup day on Quittie Creek (part of the United Way's Annual Day of Caring) we ended up with four chapter members and a friend, which looked like it might limit the amount of in-stream cleanup we could accomplish.



Thanks to Jim Rauch's chainsaw, ingenuity, muscles, and motivation, our intrepid crew of three old men and two "youngsters" removed debris that had accumulated in the creek over the past twelve months of heavy rain.



Joe Connor and Steve Vegoe Wrestling with a Picnic Table

The highlight was the removal of a picnic table that had been lodged in a downed tree for the better part of a year. Thanks to the great help of the Annville Public Works Department, that ruined picnic table is now in a landfill.

Snitz Creek Project – Trees Planted

You never know how many volunteers are going to show up to help with a project on a Saturday morning, so we were delighted on Saturday morning May 18th when ten chapter members and two friends turned up at 8:00 AM on a glorious spring morning to plant riparian buffer trees along the east bank of the chapter's now-completed Snitz Creek streambank restoration project.

Chapter president Russ Collins, ably who coordinated this chapter project, obtained a dozen species of appropriate trees (about 160 trees in total) from the Donegal Chapter's nursery, and Chapter VP Stephan Vegoe contributed fifty disease free American Liberty Elms he purchased from the Liberty Tree Society.

Thanks to the gracious support of Mrs. Hershey, the property owner, our chapter, with the financial assistance of the PA Fish and Boat



George Dodson and Randy Wright Planting Elms

Commission, and the technical support of Rocky Powell (Clear Creeks Consulting) and our contractor, Aquatic Resource Restoration, restored 1,200 linear feet of lower Snitz Creek. If you have not visited this project, please stop by to see it. When you are there, please note the property owner has posted her section of the creek – *Fishermen welcome, catch & release only.*

My Favorite Fly



Although we hoped we could start a long-lasting series of articles featuring the favorite flies of chapter members, it looks like last issues' favorite

fly was the end of the series. Unless we hear from a member (or members) who wants to write an article on his or her favorite fly for our fall issue, we will put *My Favorite Fly* to bed. The articles we did publish are available on the Chapter's website at www.dftu.org.

Rausch Creek Diversion Wells

Dennis Coffman posted this photo on our DFTU Facebook page in early June. Although this crew looks like all they do is have fun, that's not the case



Masks were appropriate on this June evening

The chapter's diversion well on Rausch Creek, off Gold Mine Road in far northern Lebanon County, has been making a difference for thirty years. If you are unfamiliar with the project, here's a quick primer. Acid Mine Drainage is a serious problem throughout Pennsylvania's extensive coal mining regions. Acid draining from abandoned coal mines kills trout streams. For more than thirty years, two generations of Doc Fritchey chapter members have been maintaining two diversion wells on Rausch Creek. Basically, concrete pits/wells are filled with limestone chips and the water from the creek is diverted into these wells and the water flows into, around, and through the stone chips, and, when everything works properly, the amount of acid in the water flowing out of the diversion wells is substantially less than the water that flowed in. It's a simple process but it requires weekly maintenance. Thanks to Pennsy Supply, who provides the stone, and Sensenig Excavating who hauls the stone from the Annville quarry to the site, (both at no cost to the chapter) DFTU makes a big difference in the Stony Creek Valley.



Emily and Her First Clarks Creek Rainbow

"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning." Theodore Gordon

Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing – 2019

Thanks to the outstanding organizational efforts of Chapter membership chairman, Chuck Swanderski, the second annual Women's Intro to



Rich DiStanislao and His Daughter Sarah

Fly-Fishing program on Sunday afternoon, June 9th was a solid success.

Twenty-one women from central Pennsylvania joined us for an afternoon devoted to the "basics of fly-fishing." The "students" were separated into four groups and as groups they rotated through four training sessions.



Cyndi Camp Demonstrating the Davy Knot

Rich DiStanislao and his daughter Sarah taught them basic Fly Casting. Amy Coen from TCO taught them about the gear they need to get started in fly fishing. Steve Long and Joe Notarangelo introduced them to fly tying (and gave them flies), Lynn Langer showed the students the aquatic insects that she seined from Clarks Creek earlier in the day, explaining the difference between mayflies, stoneflies, caddis flies, hellgrammites, and scuds. Cool stuff. Cyndi Camp and Fran Barilar taught the students how to assemble a fly rod with fly line, leader and tippet, and then taught them basic knots. After their classes concluded, half a dozen of the women put on waders and went into Clarks Creek (on the property graciously provided to us by former chapter president Ed O'Gorman).

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take." Wayne Gretzky

Home Waters – 2019



A Successful Day on Clarks Creek

For eleven straight years, thanks to the efforts of board member RoseAnn Viozzi, our local TU chapter has offered an afternoon of fishing to veterans in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. This program, which evolved from a national effort called Project Healing Waters, gives twenty or more chapter members the opportunity to spend quality time with a veteran.



A Veteran Getting Fitted with Waders and Boots

Because of the generosity of former chapter president Ed O’Gorman and his family, who own property along lower Clarks Creek, and who make their property available for the chapter to use for Home Waters (and for the Women and Fly Fishing program the next day), we have an ideal place to host our veteran guests – plenty of parking, portable toilets, a large pavilion, and a recently-stocked trout stream. Our chapter members (and

Home Waters, Continued

others from other TU Chapters in the region) volunteer to serve as one-on-one guides for our veterans. We feed everyone well (thanks to the Applebee’s Restaurants in central Pennsylvania that provides the meal) and then we go fishing. This year, the weather was ideal, but the catching was not what we expected. Oh well. We had a great time, made new friends, and heard some interesting stories. We’ll do it again next year, that’s for sure.

TU Regional Rendezvous at Allenberry Resort – May 31 to June 2



Chuck Swanderski, Bob Pennell, Stephan Vegoe, and Russ Collins

Four members of Doc Fritchey’s leadership team – Russ Collins, Bob Pennell, Chuck Swanderski, and Stephan Vegoe – represented the chapter at TU National’s meeting, which they call a Regional Rendezvous, at Allenberry Resort at the beginning of June. Two of those four, Collins and Vegoe, hosted visiting TU members from Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Connecticut for a half day of fly fishing on local streams; Collins on a favorite brook trout stream in Cumberland County and Vegoe on the FFO section of Clarks Creek. TU members, and not just chapter leaders, from Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia, along with a good delegation from the PA Council of TU, about 130 TU members in total, spent two full days in workshops and planning sessions at the newly renovated Allenberry Resort. FYI, fishing in the catch and release section at Allenberry Resort was outstanding during the two days that TU took over the stream, far better than the places to which we traveled to host our visiting guests. Our thanks to John Leonard, president of the Cumberland Valley Chapter for his great effort to make this TU Regional Rendezvous a great success.

"The solution to any problem -- work, love, money, whatever -- is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." John Gierach

Kids Day at Dauphin County Anglers

Five-chapter members, Greg Silva, Cyndi Camp, Andy Link, Steve Long, and Rich DiStanislao, plus our good friend Bobby Clouser, volunteered to help on June 8th at the annual Kids Day at the hatchery and kids fishing section operated by the Dauphin County Anglers and Conservationists.



Greg Silva and Two Eager Fly Tiers

These veteran fly tiers, all experts that's for sure, showed the more than sixty children who participated in the annual Kids Day how to tie trout flies. In just a short period of time, many of the children learned to tie Green Weenies.



Bobby Clouser and a Young Student

Our friend Bobby Clouser patiently taught these children the basics of fly casting. Thanks Bobby.

Clarks' Creek Fly Fishing Only Section - Update

One of the breakout sessions at the annual TU Regional Rendezvous that our Doc Fritchey board members attended focused specifically on the benefits of woody material (trees, etc.) in trout streams.

TU's national staff went into great detail on how streams are improved, habitat-wise, when trees are added or fall into trout streams. According to these experts, good things happen in a stream, especially for trout and insects, when the flow of water in a stream is disrupted by fallen or purposely added trees. During the Q&A session, one of us asked about Clarks Creek, specifically asking if there can ever be too much downed/fallen material/trees in a stream.

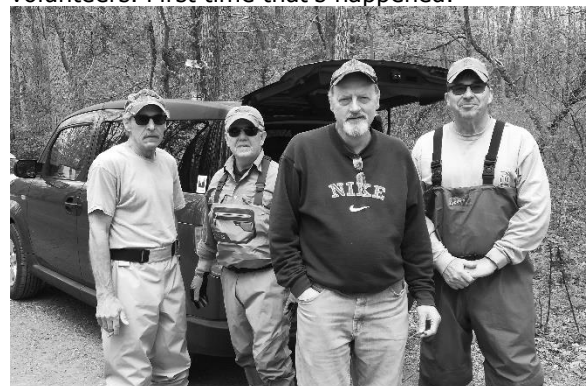


As you can see from this photo, right now there are sections of Clarks Creek that are so thoroughly blocked that you cannot see the water; this section, in particular, is more than 100-yards long and appears it will block the stream for five-hundred years.

TU's staff responded by saying that they did not think it was possible to have too much fallen/woody material in the waterway. Although fly fishing is very difficult in many sections of Clarks Creek's FFO section, according to TU's national staff, the benefits to the stream and the trout that live there outweigh the inconvenience.

Area Trout Streams Are Float Stocked

Thanks to high water and late snow, our chapter's efforts to help the PA Fish and Boat Commission float stock the special regulations sections of trout streams in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties was a bit restricted in the spring of 2019, but eventually we got plenty of fish stocked. Turnout among chapter member volunteers was down from what we have been considering normal. Indeed, our float stocking efforts on the Quittie were restricted because we did not have enough volunteers. First time that's happened.



Jim Rauch, Dennis Coffman, Jim Pearson, and Mark Pochak

"The catching of fish is but an incident in fishing. To be out in the open where fish are; to watch them at their great business of living; to see them in the water or out of the water; to fish for them, and even to hook them and have them get away - all this is wonderfully worthwhile - wonderfully better and more worthwhile than merely to catch and keep the stiffening fading body of one of the most beautiful forms of life." Gifford Pinchot

Float Stocking, Continued

However, all three special regs sections – Clarks, Manada, and the Quittie – received plenty of fish. We'll help float stock the Quittapahilla Creek one last time on October 17th (Clarks Creek gets stocked the same day).



Dennis Coffman, Chuck Swanderski, and ten-year-old Sam O'Gorman

In addition to those regular float stocking efforts, four members float stocked Ed O'Gorman's family's property on Clarks Creek two days before the Home Waters and Women and Fly-Fishing events on June 8 and 9. A special thanks to ten-year-old Sam O'Gorman who helped Chuck Swanderski and Dennis Coffman "equitably" distribute trout throughout the creek.

Membership Report

Since January we have welcomed 30 new members into our chapter, with almost half of them signing up in April and May. Seems like our spring chapter activities are doing the recruiting for us - be it in fly tying, stocking, conservation projects, children's programs, Bugs and Brews, our Home Waters veterans' event, or most recently our Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing a.k.a "Ladies' Day." We recruited 6 new women members this year (prior to the June 9th event) which is in line with one of TU's goals: to introduce more women to conservation and fly fishing.

April and May new members: Emily Kieffer, Karla Trout, Dave Guertin, Robert Kline, Joachim Huerter, Shari Massini, Jack Smith, Charles Knerr, Steven Martinez, Paul Campanini, John Caporaletti, and Blair Kitlinski.

We welcome them into our Chapter and look forward to them attending our **chapter picnic on July 23rd at Quittie Creek Nature Park.**

"Take care of the fish, and the fishing will take care of itself." Art Neumann

*Newsletter writer and editor: Stephan Vegoe
(717) 269-8420 or stephan.vegoe@verizon.net*

Doc Fritchey Chapter
Of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 227
Palmyra, PA 17078



Please Join Us!

Doc Fritchey Chapter

Summer Picnic

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

5:30 to Sunset in Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville
(The picnic will take place on the large lawn near the main parking lot)

In addition to a hot and cold buffet picnic – with cold beverages - (catered by the Chapter's leadership team), we have recruited three of our chapter's board members to give fly casting and fishing lessons.

Cyndi Camp and **Rich DiStanislao** will give fly casting lessons (group and/or one-on-one) from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The chapter owns a good supply of teaching fly rods so there is no need to bring a fly rod, unless you want to fish the Quittie before the picnic starts.

Dr. Jim Suleski will give an **in-stream demonstration** on various wet-fly-fishing techniques. Jim will be in the water (starting at 6:00 PM) and will teach various nymphing and wet fly-fishing techniques to those of us standing on the shore. This should be a great opportunity to learn some new (under-the-surface) techniques.

Cost: \$10.00 for first person. \$5.00 for additional family members/significant others
Everyone receives a raffle ticket at sign-in

Raffle: A custom-built 9 ft, 4-wt fly rod; a Penn, 9 ft, 5-wt fly rod; a Fly Logic FLP 3,4,5 reel with backing and fly line; and an on-the stream lesson with Dr. Jim Suleski. **Must be present to win!**

Please bring your own Chairs and Tables (there are a limited number of picnic tables in Quittie Creek Nature Park, so we need you to bring your own chairs and tables, large or small. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not permitted in Quittie Creek Nature Park. We are providing cold non-alcoholic beverages!

Obviously, **we need to know who's planning to attend**, so please use the form below to register for the picnic. Mail your forms and checks (made payable to Doc Fritchey TU) to:

Steve Vegoe, 10 Oak Knoll Circle, Lebanon, PA 17042-9483. You will receive an email confirmation.

Doc Fritchey Summer Picnic Registration – July 23, 2019 – First ticket \$10.00, extra tickets \$5.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ tickets



Checks Payable to Doc Fritchey TU - Mail to: Steve Vegoe, 10 Oak Knoll Circle, Lebanon, PA 17042-9483