



HATCHES

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

Winter 2020



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



From Your President:

Where did the year go? I know I'm not the only one asking myself this question.

First things first. I want to wish you and your family a belated Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a very Happy New Year!

Despite the conservation battles we have been presented with from Harrisburg to Washington, DC, your chapter continued to pursue clean water and protecting trout. Unprecedented reaches into environmental funding sources here in the state and the administration formally announcing that the Clean Water Rules were repealed on September 12, 2019, have made our work harder.

Three projects are pending in the Cornwall area, on tributaries to Snitz Creek. A grant for a 4th project, was just submitted. Likewise, we are continuing to partner with the Quittapahilla Watershed Association for a project on Killinger Creek near Palmyra.

What I'm most excited about though, is that there is strong interest in the Spring Creek watershed that courses through Hershey. A meeting of more than 20 interested parties gave rise to potentially forming a new watershed group to care for this precious gem running through Chocolate town.

Representatives from Hershey Trust, Hershey Entertainment & Resort (HE&R), Milton Hershey School, PA DEP, and surrounding municipalities, including Derry Township, South and North Londonderry were at the initial meeting. Stay tuned to coming developments.

The real bonus in the watershed is that a very viable population of wild Brown trout exists, and the stream could be re-designated from a warm water to a cold-water stream!

Till next time, yours in conservation,

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


Russ Collins, President
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Winter Calendar

January 28 – Chapter Meeting at Giant Community Room

February 13 – Beginner Fly Tying Class Begins

February 25 – Board Meeting at Giant

March 14 – Fund-Raising Banquet at Holiday Inn Grantville

Chapter Meeting on 28 January

The first speaker of our "2020 Speaker Series" is Ross Purnell, editor and publisher of *Fly Fisherman* magazine. In his 23 years on staff at *Fly Fisherman*, Ross has fished in fabulous far-off places - like Patagonia, New Zealand, and Kamchatka, and across North America, from Alaska to Key West.



For our January 28th general membership meeting, Ross Purnell will present a special, test-screening of a new documentary film about fly fishing in the Amazon. Purnell will host a Q&A session after the film, so be prepared to ask questions about Amazon fish species or about filmmaking in the jungle.

A Special Offer from *Fly Fisherman Magazine*

The first 30 individuals at the chapter meeting on the 28th will receive a one-year subscription to *Fly Fisherman* magazine.

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

Keep Current with WWW.DFTU.org

Save the Date for Our 2020 Annual Conservation Fundraising Banquet

In early January, all Doc Fritchey Chapter members will receive an invitation to join us for the chapter's 2020 Annual Conservation Fundraising Banquet, to be held at the Holiday Inn Grantville on March 14. This year, we will be celebrating our 49th year as a TU chapter (since our founding as the Dauphin Chapter of TU in 1971).

Of special note, (included with the banquet invitation) each active chapter member will receive five Door Prize Raffle tickets (\$20.00 each) for a chance to win a full day guided fly-fishing trip for one or two people with our chapter's good friend, well-known professional guide and renowned fly tier Dave Rothrock. Dave's donated trip will be conducted on a stream, creek, or river of your choice in central or northcentral Pennsylvania. (*This trip was a HOT Ticket item at the 2019 fund-raising banquet*)

This annual banquet is the major source of funds to support the chapter's conservation and education activities, such as stream restoration projects, fly tying instruction, and Trout in the Classroom. We will be offering an array of live and silent auction prizes to bid on, as well as bucket raffles, and a "Yard Sale" table where you will find a wide assortment of gently used fishing gear.

Trout in the Classroom at ELCO



Gretchen Miller and Nick Wright from ELCO Fifth Grade

It was a very exciting time in the Eastern Lebanon County (ELCO) 5th grade classroom of Gretchen Miller on Tuesday, Oct. 8, when eggs and just-hatched rainbow trout sac fry arrived via UPS. This year, because a brook trout parasite has been found in a few Pennsylvania streams, PFBC decided to change to rainbow trout.

The 2020 Doc Fritchey Chapter Gerald L. Miller Outstanding Volunteer Award

Annually, at our March fund raising banquet, the Doc Fritchey chapter selects a chapter member to receive our Outstanding Volunteer Award. We hope you will consider submitting a nomination for a member who has done outstanding work for the Doc Fritchey Chapter during the past year.

The Doc Fritchey Chapter's annual Outstanding Volunteer Award honors the work of Gerry Miller who died in 2013 at the age of 66. Gerry became a member of our chapter in 1999 and served as treasurer, board member, and chair of the Stocking Committee.

If you are interested in submitting a nomination, please go to our website (DFTU.org). You'll find the nomination form there. Please submit nominations by February 15. Questions should be directed to Chuck Swanderski at chucks@dftu.org or 717-832-3657. Printed copies should be mailed to Chuck Swanderski, 50 Manor Circle, Palmyra, PA 17078.

Russ Blessing, creator of the Woolly Bugger *by Bob Pennell*

During the early 2000s, I had several opportunities to fish with Russ Blessing on his "home" stream, Manada Creek. Often, I would find Russ sitting streamside, smoking his pipe and contemplating conditions before tying on whatever fly he deemed appropriate for the occasion.



You may not know that Russ is best remembered for creating the **Woolly Bugger**, but he was equally creative at tying and fishing dry flies. I asked him one time about the origin of the Bugger's name, and he told me that while at his vice one day, his daughter remarked, "that sure is a wooly bugger!" that he was tying . . . and the name stuck.

With the widespread fame that the Woolly Bugger had achieved with the angling community, I asked Russ if he had ever thought of copyrighting the pattern and collecting royalties from the commercial tiers who were marketing his pattern. I'm not sure if a copyright was ever obtained, but Russ did reach a royalty agreement with Umpqua who at the time was probably the largest supplier of commercially tied flies.

Blessing, Continued

This arrangement only lasted for a couple of years, until Umpqua began to market a bead head version which they insisted was not part of the original pattern.

One rather sultry day when the deer flies and black flies were particularly pesky, I spotted Russ on the stream, and something about him appeared to be different. As I got closer, I noticed that his hat was literally covered with a variety of dead insects. Noting my quizzical look, but before I had a chance to ask, he simply said "flypaper!" Russ's inventiveness often resulted in his finding simple solutions to everyday problems such as this.

Russ was active in the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, having served as chapter president at one point, and later as treasurer. He was also instrumental in bringing attention to the degradation of Manada Creek caused by tank training maneuvers at Fort Indiantown Gap in the stream's headwaters, conditions which were later corrected through a major remediation project by the National Guard.

After a long battle with cancer which led to Russ's death in 2009, the Doc Fritchey Chapter installed a memorial bench on the bank of Manada Creek at the spot where Russ could usually be found sitting and smoking his pipe, contemplating a day on the stream; a fitting tribute to a true gentleman who contributed so much to the art and sport of fly fishing.

TU Rivers Camp Accepting Applications

We mentioned in our last newsletter that the application process for the annual Rivers Conservation and Fly-Fishing Youth Camp at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, would soon be open. Well, it's now time to convince your sons, daughters, and grandchildren that they need to begin the application process.

The summer camp is limited to 32 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. Applicants must have been born between June 21, 2001, and June 16, 2005. The 32 students will be selected through an application process where they must state why they want to attend camp and obtain a support letter from a school science teacher or guidance counselor.

Tuition is \$550 which includes all meals and accommodations. Doc Fritchey TU will pick up the cost for two students from either Dauphin or Lebanon County. Applications must be received no later than March 31, 2019. For more information, a camp brochure, or to apply, visit the camp website at www.riverscamp.com.

Quittapahilla Monitoring Initiative

In our last newsletter we mentioned that a comprehensive monitoring initiative is about to get started in the Quittapahilla Watershed. We asked chapter members to volunteer to help and received one call from an enthusiastic member. However, one is not enough; we need to recruit six dedicated volunteers to make the monitoring program successful.

Details: Kent Crawford has been leading the charge for the chapter and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association. Here's what Kent has been doing to get the monitoring stations up and running. (It's an impressive amount of work).

"I have been working on getting permission from landowners to access the monitoring sites through their properties and that is almost complete. We have permissions signed from all bridge owners and from four of the six landowners. We have a verbal go-ahead from the fifth landowner. The sixth landowner is for the Killinger Creek site. I have contacted the landowner a few times but have not made any headway.

I have also contacted the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW). They are environmental professionals who offer help to watershed organizations. They will train us in how to install streamflow monitoring stations. They will go into the field with us and put in a couple of station installations and then we will do the rest on our own.

We have three velocity meters on hand that were donated from the USGS but we have only one top-set wading rod to go with them. My efforts to obtain additional wading rods have been futile, so far.

In the meantime, Dr. Rebecca Urban and her students at Lebanon Valley College are on top of things and have already collected macro-invertebrate samples from five of the six sites. The sixth site is the Killinger Creek site where we still do not have permission to cross the landowner property."

If you are interested in helping maintain and operate one of the monitoring stations, please send an email message to Kent Crawford at k9kentc@gmail.com

"Angling is extremely time consuming. That's sort of the whole point." Thomas McGuane

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope." John Buchan

Fly-Tying Materials Donation

In mid-November our TU chapter received a contact from Tom Hoffmaster (President of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Association) that he would be distributing a donation of fly-tying materials to organizations who plan on conducting fly-tying courses for the public.

Tom was aware that DFTU is offering its annual beginner's fly-tying course this coming spring, and he presented Chapter vice president Rich DiStanisla with a large cardboard box full of very nice tying materials to be used in our instruction. The materials are a donation from Mr. Richard Kurtz, of Pittsburgh.

Annual Beginner's Fly-Tying Course

Our DFTU chapter will once again offer our annual Fly-Tying Course for Beginners on Thursday evenings, beginning on February 13 and continuing for seven evenings through March 26, from 6pm – 8pm. The classes will be held at the Olewine Nature Center of Wildwood in Harrisburg. Advance registration is required, and registration has begun. For detailed information and registration, please go online to <https://www.wildwoodlake.org/events/>, and scroll down to February 13.



The course fee is \$20, and students will have the loan of fly-tying tools for each evening that the class meets. Our chapter has some great volunteers who will serve as "mentors" (assistants to the students) and as guest tiers each class meeting.

This course is offered each year and is designed to take the novice tier to a level where she can effectively tie basic flies that will catch trout in our local streams. In addition to regular weekly class meetings at the Olewine Nature Center, students will receive electronic communication with weekly tying tips and alternative fly pattern instructions.

If you are interested, hurry to sign up, as the number of seats is limited. Students must be at least 12 years old, and any students age 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Congratulations to George Daniel

The Department of Kinesiology at Penn State announced in December that George Daniel has been named lead instructor and director of its renowned fly-fishing program.

Daniel follows a list of legends in the sport and leadership in the Penn State fly fishing program, including George Harvey, Joe Humphreys, Vance McCullough, Mark Belden, and most recently Greg Hoover. Daniel has a strong history at Penn State, where he has served as a part-time assistant to Mark Belden in the same fly fishing and fly tying courses that he is now teaching, including Principles of Fly Tying and Fly Fishing for Trout, and an advanced-level section through the Enhancing Mastery in Physical Activity course.

"Teaching fly fishing at Penn State has been a dream of mine since I began reading Joe Humphreys' book *Trout Tactics* at age 14," Daniel stated. "This is by far the most exciting job assignment I've had, and I cannot express how honored I feel to have the opportunity to teach this legendary course."

Downed Trees in Trout Streams

There is one subject we discuss here in *Hatches* that always gets comments - fallen trees, especially those in the FFO section on Clarks Creek. When we saw this rather long article by Danielle Rhea, DEP's Extension Educator, we decided we ought to include it in this issue of *Hatches*.

The Benefits of Large Woody Debris in Streams

Large wood provides multiple benefits in stream systems, such as stabilized streambanks, improved floodplain connectivity and more diverse aquatic habitat. Large woody debris, also known as large wood, provides multiple benefits in stream systems, such as stabilized streambanks, improved floodplain connectivity, and more diverse aquatic habitat. Large woody debris, also referred to as large wood, is typically described as fallen trees, logs, and branches that are at least four inches wide and six feet long. Traditionally, large wood is removed from streams in an effort to clean up stream channels and to prevent localized flooding.

Studies have shown that public perception of large wood in waterways is typically negative, often associating flooding, bank erosion, and infrastructure damage with the presence of large wood.

Many people consider streams having wood lying in or around the channel to be less attractive, more hazardous, and needing more improvement than those without wood; however, large wood has many physical and biological benefits to stream systems.

The presence of trees and other woody material that have fallen from the riparian area helps connect the stream channel to its floodplain.

During rainstorms and snow melts, large wood can act as an obstacle to flowing water, forcing high flows into the nearby floodplain along with any sediment and nutrients it may be carrying. The floodplain acts as a giant sponge, storing water, sediment, and nutrients while reducing the volume of water carried by the stream channel itself.

Allowing water to access the floodplain reduces flooding impacts downstream where it may be more difficult to address high flows.

Large wood present within the stream channel also slows the flow of water as it is forced to flow over and around logs. As the velocity of water is reduced, its ability to erode and carry sediment is decreased as well.

Large woody material helps create more diverse aquatic habitat. Exposed logs are also used as basking and perching sites for reptiles and birds. Fallen trees create cover and hiding places for fish and other aquatic organisms.

As water flows over and around large wood, localized scouring of the bed and banks creates pools and undercut banks that provide additional shelter and act as resting areas for fish, such as trout.

Finer substrate, such as small gravel, is typically deposited upstream of large wood as flows are slowed, which is an important spawning habitat for some fish species.

Large wood helps feed the aquatic food chain from the bottom up. Wood provides a surface for algae to grow on and often traps smaller sticks, leaves, and other organic material, all of which are food sources for a variety of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Aquatic macroinvertebrates are an important element of fish diets, and by improving the habitat for aquatic macroinvertebrates, streams can support more diverse fish populations.

Because of the benefits of large wood to aquatic ecosystems, it is often a component of stream restoration projects.

In 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation published a National Large Wood Manual to assist with assessing, planning, designing and maintaining large wood in streams and rivers.

Restoration with large wood can be as simple as strategically cutting and placing trees in a stream and as complex as engineered structures that are constructed from logs and secured within the stream channel.

While the benefits of leaving or placing large wood in streams have been confirmed by many studies, it is always important to assess any threats downstream to public safety, property, or infrastructure that could be caused by large wood.

For information on helping landowners understand what they can and cannot do with a permit in or adjacent to streams, read DEP's Guidelines for Maintaining Streams in Your Community

Quittie Creek Improvement Project



If you have been to Quittie Creek Park in the last six weeks, you may have noticed a significant project has been completed.

Annville Township worked with USDA to improve a section of badly eroded streambank. The project is far more substantial than any of us working with TU and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association expected.

This streambank restoration project - a total of 330 linear feet on the north bank of the creek - is a nice addition to the previous work done on the creek. All in all, a good looking, well done project, and, as a bonus, a significant improvement in the fishability of the trout stream (This may well now be the best pool along the length of the stream), but the "old swimming hole" is gone forever. The Amish girls that have been swimming in this "special place" will have to find a new spot to get wet on a hot summer day.

"One of the great sorrows of sub-surface fly-fishing is that it doesn't give you any excuse to rush out and acquire a bunch of new gear." Dave Hughes

Update on Membership.

Currently we have 472 members listed on our TU roster. The good news is that 53 Conservationists and Anglers have joined since January 1, 2019 but the bad news is that 57 of our current membership will be in the late with dues payments as of January 1, 2020. It's our mission to get these members active so they continue their membership and remain active in our chapter. We have a lot to offer our members. Please refer to our new website dftu.org and our active Facebook page.

Top five mailing addresses for members are:

Harrisburg	11%
Lebanon	11%
Hummelstown	8%
Palmyra	5%
Dauphin	4%

Annville
Middletown
Duncannon

These areas make up 47% of our membership.

We welcome the following new members to our Chapter. If you know any of these folks invite them to our January meeting featuring Ross Purnell, Editor of *Fly Fisherman Magazine*. Attendees will learn about fly fishing the Amazon River and have an opportunity to get a great discount on an annual magazine subscription.

August New Member:

Jacob Estes

September New Members:

Chris Liartis and Obed Pizarro-Duran

October New Members:

Mark Leach, Chad Weber, Gus Smith, Heath Auxt, Ian Johnson, Michael Crider, David Gomer, Elwin Fisher, Eugene Beam, Jon Kiessling, Shawn Pulford, Tanner Herr, and Robert Serafini

November New Members:

Greg Beitzel, Robert Bauer, and Ronald Blouch

Please note: TU is often slow to add members to our chapter roster so some of our newest members may not have been added to the latest report.

Doc Fritchey Chapter
Of Trout Unlimited
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