



HATCHES

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

Spring 2020



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



From Your President:

Let me start by saying that I truly hope you and your loved ones are well and being safe during these extreme times of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. These are trying times and yet if we keep

the faith and pull together, we will see better times ahead. I hate platitudes, but it's difficult to come up with appropriate words for where we are right now.

As you probably know, we postponed the annual fund-raising banquet that was scheduled for March 14th. Had it taken place; it would have been one of our highest attendance events in recent years. We have rescheduled it for June 13th and remain flexible as we deal with this crisis. A great collection of banquet items has been put together, and leading up to the re-scheduled banquet, we will begin previewing things. We will communicate with you in a variety of ways, but mostly by email.

Nevertheless, the chapter's business continues. Late in March I was out in the field exploring a project on Killinger Creek. If it comes together, the project will restore nearly 1,600 linear feet of this tributary to the Quittapahilla. In early March, chapter volunteers stocked the Quittapahilla and Manada Creeks. As has been the case for several years now, trophy trout were stocked in the Quittapahilla.

Circumstances permitting, there will be opportunities for volunteering on several 'adopt a highway' cleanup days. I am shopping for trees that we can plant on the Lower Snitz Project we finished over a year ago. I have also had a discussion with the Fish and Boat Commission regarding a chapter-sponsored project within Manada Creek's special regulations area. Stay tuned.

Lastly, the changes in the opening of the trout fishing season may have interfered with our fishing plans, but it won't be long until it gets here. So, until it's safe to be together once again on our local trout streams, we need to continue to practice "**Social Distancing**"!

Be safe and stay healthy,

Sincerely,

Russ Collins, President

Spring Calendar

The best we can say at this time is *Who Knows*.

Fund Raising Banquet Information

Because the response to the Covid-19 virus pandemic caused lots of cancellations/postponements across the Commonwealth, our annual fund-raising banquet scheduled for March 14th had to be postponed – with little time to notify our membership or to make plans for the future. As Russ Collins mentioned in his column on this page, a new date was set with the Holiday Inn Grantville – **Saturday evening, June 13th**. Who knows if that date will hold up? But, for now, please mark your calendars.

Details:

If you bought and paid for a ticket or tickets for the original date, chapter president Russ Collins will be in contact with you soon via email to confirm that you have purchased a banquet ticket and will confirm the new date with you.

If you bought a ticket and promised to pay at the event (a small number of members), Russ will contact you via email to confirm your reservation and make sure you are aware of the new date.

If you want to attend the rescheduled fund-raising banquet, please send a note to Russ at info@dftu.org. Russ will then create a list of people (like this newsletter editor who was out of town for the March 14th banquet) who want tickets for the rescheduled event. Russ will be in contact with that group of ticket buyers via email.

If you have not bought tickets for the banquet's premier door prize drawing – a day on a blue ribbon trout stream for two fly fishermen with Dave Rothrock – those tickets are still available. Send an email to chapter treasurer Trip McGarvey at trip@dftu.org requesting information about raffle tickets and Trip will sell you as many tickets as you want at \$20.00 per ticket. You do not have to attend the banquet to win.

Note: Email communications work best for situations like this. If you don't get emails from Doc Fritchey, please take a minute right now and send a note to Russ Collins at info@dftu.org. Russ will get your email address into our database. You will be glad you did. Thanks.

"When you're going through hell, keep going." Art Walker

First Quarter 2020 Membership Report

Members on Roster	512
Life Members	76
New Members January	5
New Members February	15
New Members March	14

New members for the first quarter of 2020:

Chris Dovey, Grantville
Mark Achenbach, Millerstown
Margaret Rash, Lebanon
Paul Zubik, Lebanon
Tyler Baer, Enola
Colin Gourley, Hummelstown
Xandra Moyer, Myerstown
Nancy Dove, Jonestown
Scott Yingst, Lebanon
Thaddeus Jastrebski, Hershey
Daniel Wagner, Palmyra
Max Bender, Myerstown
Brian Orwan, Palmyra
Bruce Knowles, Hummelstown
Henry Robinson, Duncannon
James Ryan, Dauphin
Paul Sonnen, Richland
Bob Martin, Palmyra
Gerald Fraleigh, Harrisburg
James Holtry, Lebanon
Mark Weinstein, Harrisburg
Nathan Bragunier, Duncannon
Shawn Wetzel, Millersburg
Michael Kennedy, Williamstown
Phillip Wagner, Marysville
Dana Boyer, Myerstown
Ben Schlosser, Annville
Lance Valentine, Annville
Gina Defazio, Palmyra
Jennifer Orr-Greene, Millersburg
Lindsay Stephens, Hummelstown

To emphasize our email problems, twelve of these new members did not provide an email address when they joined TU. That means we have no way of communicating with them except through this print newsletter. Please, if you don't receive regular emails from Doc Fritchey and if you want to receive (infrequent) relevant information from us, take a minute right now and send a note to chapter president Russ Collins at info@dftu.org. Russ will get your email address into our database. You will be glad you did.

Trout in the Classroom – 2019/2020

This was a difficult year for Doc Fritchey's Trout in the Classroom program. Eventually, with the closing of all schools in Pennsylvania, the surviving rainbow trout fry (which in late March should have been taken for release in a trout stream by the students that raised them) were released by the classroom teachers. That's about as imperfect a result as you can imagine.

Your TU Annual Membership Renewal

As every TU member is aware, national TU's membership department is "relentless" in making sure all members know "it's time to renew your membership."

As a former membership director for similar non-profit organizations, I understand their process/reasoning and appreciate the best way to get current members to annually renew is to apply pressure. It's a proven way to get members to continue their memberships.

However, the almost constant "pressure" is annoying. No doubt about that.

But there is a way to make that "annoyance" go away. TU offers automatic renewal. If you sign up for auto renew on the TU.org website, the annoying letters and emails go away. If you are committed to Trout Unlimited as a long-term member, and have not signed on as a Lifetime member, auto renewal works. Please consider it.

Rauch Creek Diversion Well Update

After much-needed repairs and maintenance were completed to both of the chapter's diversion wells on Rauch Creek last fall (thanks to a great group of volunteers who made those repairs possible), the wells performed beautifully all winter.

The pH readings above the limestone diversion wells continue to be troublesome (5.56) but almost perfect (7.20) below the wells. A significant number of dedicated volunteers drove out to the wells every Sunday afternoon – all winter long, not missing a Sunday - football be damned.



After they celebrated Saint Patrick's Day in style – with green hats - things changed as you can see from the photo.

With the arrival of spring, our TU volunteers switch over from working on Sunday afternoons to Monday evenings. They meet at the gate on Gold Mine Road at 6:00 PM.

"The only reason I ever played golf in the first place was so that I could afford to hunt and fish." -Sam Snead

Beginning Fly Tying Class, Winter 2020



For the third year running, the Doc Fritchey Chapter has partnered with Wildwood Nature Park in Harrisburg to offer its beginning fly-tying course.

This year, thirteen beginners signed up to take the seven-week course, taught on Thursday evenings at the Olewine Center. We had a great plan for the course, teaching the basics, including the types of tools needed, hook and thread charts, whip finishing instruction, and then the tying of different types of flies. Using a different chapter member each week as a lead tier, we started off with the simplest of flies, and each week built upon the skills learned at the previous course. Eleven chapter members volunteered to serve as "mentors" for the students, with the job of the "mentor" to stay by the elbows of the students and advise, correct, assist, and critique.

Wildwood furnished a projection set-up so that the students could watch on a large screen as the lead tier did his magic with his selected pattern. In addition, we used email to send *YouTube* videos out to the students after each class showing the exact patterns that we tied the previous evening. All the students were progressing well with the tying, coming each week with flies they had tied at home since the last class, looking for constructive criticism.

Unfortunately, after our fifth week of class, we faced the consequences of safeguarding against COVID-19, and the Olewine Center closed to prevent the spread of the virus. So, the last 2 classes became "online", via emails to students with *YouTube* videos and explanations of how to fish the flies after tying. We still don't know for certain as to whether the class is totally "wrapped up", as it would be nice to at least have a face-to-face closing session at some future time.

Chapter volunteers who served as mentors:

Jim Rauch
Joe Notorangelo (Lead Tier)
Chuck Swanderski (Lead Tier)
Steve Long
Fran Barilar
Brian Royer
Lou Samsel
Bill Byrne (Lead Tier)
Tom Hilbish
Jim Foose
Rich DiStanislao (Lead Tier)

"A trout is a moment of beauty known only to those who seek it." -Arnold Gingrich

DFTU Sponsors Student for 2020 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp



Central Dauphin freshman Mason Liartis was recently accepted to attend the 2020 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp and his tuition will be fully paid by the Doc Fritchey chapter.

Mason is a freshman at Central Dauphin High School. In addition to fly fishing, Mason plays football for Central Dauphin, ice hockey for the Hershey Jr. Bears and baseball for the Linglestown Baseball Association. Mason also enjoys snowboarding.

A year ago, Mason and his dad – Chris Liartis – attended a TCO fly fishing class and were introduced to both the sport and conservation by instructors Dusty Wissmath and Steve Parker. It was at that class where Mason learned about the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp held at Messiah College. "After learning more about fly fishing and the local waters over the past year, I decided to apply to attend the 2020 Rivers Camp and was lucky enough to get in. I look forward to learning more about our local streams at the camp and what I can do to keep them healthy."

Congratulations to Connor Meikrantz



If you still have your copy of the Winter 2020 issue of TU's *Trout Magazine*, find it and turn to page 16. There you'll find the winning essay in TU's annual Teen Essay Contest – by Connor Meikrantz, a 9th grade student from Boiling Springs High School.

Connor is a member of the Cumberland Valley Chapter and attended last year's Rivers Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp at Messiah College.

Each year, participants at TU regional youth fly fishing and conservation camps are invited to enter the TU Teen Camp Essay Contest. This year's essay was supposed to be on "Why is conservation important to fly fishing?" Connor's essay was selected as the winner. Well done Connor.

"To me conservation means fulfilling my obligation to give back to the sport and to the fish that keep me grounded: fly fishing for trout." Connor Meikrantz

Volunteer Trout Stocking on Hold Until Further Notice



Doc Fritchey members, including a good number of “newcomers” helped float-stock the Quittapahilla Creek on March 2nd - on a beautiful, late-winter day that had a lot of fishermen standing by waiting to catch a big trout.

A special thanks to Jim Rauch, James Pearson, Joe Notarangelo, Rick Kepner, Rick Wasserman, Daniel Wagner, Brad Hess, and Dave Cross for helping us stock the Quittie. The next day, March 3rd, another crew of Doc Fritchey volunteers showed up to float stock Manada Creek, on a wet, cold, miserable day, and, to make things even more interesting, Manada’s special regulations section has a number of large trees blocking the waterway (see the above photo). Our trout stocking crew for Manada included. Daniel Wagner, Trip McGarvey, Rick Wasserman, Joe Notarangelo, James Rauch, and Dennis Coffman (Photo below).



Now, with much of the state under lockdown conditions, volunteers are understandably no longer permitted to assist the Fish and Boat Commission staff with trout stocking. We reached out to Doug Deppen, our local conservation officer as soon as we heard about this significant change. Doug told us, “Our goal is to have all the in-season stockings completed before the opening day of trout season (now the 18th of April state-wide). We are working seven days a week to get all the trout in.”

Quittapahilla Watershed Monitoring Program

Last fall and winter in this print newsletter we asked our membership to consider volunteering for a significant volunteer opportunity – helping to monitor water quality in the Quittapahilla watershed. . . and we recruited a few volunteers; not enough, but a good start.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Kent Crawford, without whom this effort would have gone nowhere, the monitoring project is ready to go – except now, of course, thanks to Covid-19, we are in lockdown mode for the foreseeable future. That new reality now being a given, we think it’s important to review what the chapter is taking on with this monitoring program. (If after reading this review you are interested in helping, please email Kent Crawford at k9kentc@gmail.com).

The Program

The Quittapahilla Creek is a stocked trout stream. But, (as far as we can tell) it does not allow for trout survival through the summer and does not support trout reproduction. Natural reproduction does occur in at least one tributary and anecdotal reports from fishermen indicate trout survival throughout the summer occurs as well, even in the mainstream Quittie. We believe one issue (if not the major issue) is summertime stream temperatures. Because there is significant impervious area in the watershed, we want to investigate the possibility that sudden spates during a summer storm may bring in hot water and temporarily elevate the temperature of the stream to the point of being lethal to trout.

Further, we want to identify thermal refuges where trout may be able to withstand these spates. If we can identify critical areas causing temperature spikes, then perhaps we can implement programs (additional shade or rain gardens for example) to ease the problem. Thus, temperature profiles will be important to guide this line of action.

Further, because of the large nutrient input to the creek and the rather low velocities of much of the stream (the Quittie is a valley stream without much gradient), there is the potential for excessive rooted aquatic plant growth and periphyton production. We want to do 24-hour monitoring of DO and pH to investigate whether these pose a problem and if so, the extent of the problem.

Our monitoring program will have six sampling locations: two on the main stem of the Quittapahilla Creek and one on each of the four major tributaries to the Quittie (Snitz Creek,

Beck Creek, Bachman Run, and Killinger Creek). The main stem locations will be at Garfield Street in Cleona and at the Palmyra-Bellegrove Road which is about a mile downstream from the limestone quarry. The tributary stations will be pretty close to the mouth of each of the tributaries.

We will sample for nutrients and sediment and maybe some other constituents as well. The samples will be collected on two schedules. First, we want to collect six samples per year at each station on a schedule of one sample about every other month. So that would be 6 samples per station times 6 stations = 36 samples per year.

Second, we hope to collect additional samples during high-flow events (storms) each year. Our thinking here is that water contaminants are carried in high flow situations, so we need to quantify that. If we could get six high-flow samples at each of the six stations, then that would be another 36 samples. Total High-flow sampling is difficult because it is more dangerous and because high flows are short-lived. It is also a bit uncomfortable to work in the rain.

Third, we need to collect quality control samples (blanks and replicates). I think 8 or 10 samples per year is a reasonable number for this part of the monitoring project.

So, there would be on the order of 80 samples per year, spread across all six sampling sites.

In addition, we will be measuring streamflow each time we collect a water-quality sample. This is even more time-consuming than collecting the sample itself and takes about half an hour (or more) for each stream flow measurement.

Once the samples are collected, we must deliver them to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection laboratory just north of Harrisburg. This lab is about 45 minutes away from the Quittapahilla Creek watershed. So, that takes time as well.

Ideally, we will have a team of people who will work in concert to take the burden off any one individual. For example, there might be one individual collecting the water-quality sample, one doing the streamflow measurement, and yet another delivering the sample to Harrisburg.

We currently have seven volunteers who are willing to help, but if one person is unavailable, a substitute person would be needed.

At some point in the future, after the Covid-19 crisis has passed, Kent Crawford will conduct a

training session (or two) with the monitoring equipment to introduce our volunteers to the requirements of the monitoring.

Please consider helping with this important project. (please email Kent Crawford at k9kentc@gmail.com)

T-Shirt Sale

How about buying a good looking, quality DFTU Logo T-Shirt for ten bucks?

We are on a mission to show our presence at DFTU volunteer functions and while we are spending a day on the water on one of our favorite trout streams. Our new DFTU logo t-shirts are a great way to let people know what we do for conservation, community support, and fun.



Our initial purchase of our new logo t-shirts was a limited purchase so our current inventory is limited, but we will certainly order more shirts as we sell this first order and modify sizes to meet demand.

These new t-shirts are Gildan Ultra Cotton 6 oz. no pocket shirts. We are offering them at an initial cost of \$10. You can't beat that price! Current sizes are Large (L), Extra Large (XL) and Double Extra Large (XXL). Colors include: Forest Green, Antique Royal Blue, Indigo Blue, Military Green, and Dark Heather.

Shirts will be available at the rescheduled fund-raising banquet and all scheduled DFTU meetings. Email Chuck Swanderski (chucks@dftu.org) for information on how you can purchase shirts. During the current lockdown, Chuck will work with you to make sure you get the shirts you want.

"You can observe a lot just by watching." Yogi Berra

Fund-Raising Banquet Sponsors

The members of the chapter's board that worked on the 2020 annual fund-raising banquet decided back in December that it was time to reach out to the business community for support; not to rely entirely on the generosity of the members who attend the annual banquet. For a first-time effort, the results of this board initiative were impressive.

Platinum Sponsors - \$1,000

**Faulkner Subaru of Harrisburg
Aquatic Resource Restoration Company**

Gold Sponsor - \$750

Members First Credit Union

Silver Sponsor - \$500

**TCO Fly Shop
Seven Bridges Financial
PNC Bank**

Bronze Sponsor - \$250

**ARM Group of Hershey
Troegs Brewery
Hershey Entertainment & Resort
Company**

Doc Fritchey's Leadership Team

Russ Collins, President

Ed O'Gorman, Immediate Past President

Rich DiStanislao, Vice President

Bob Pennell, Secretary

Trip McGarvey, Treasurer

Board Members

Fran Barilar

Joseph Connor

George Dodson

Rebecca Fronk

Andy Link

Steve Long

Francis O'Gorman

Dr. Jim Suleski

Chuck Swanderski

Stephan Vegoe

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