



HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 www.dftu.org
Summer 2020



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



From Your President:

In this issue I want to feature the Spring Creek Watershed in the Hershey area; a hidden gem near Chocolate Town. The watershed occupies nearly 27 square miles mostly within Derry Township,

starting in the foothills south of Hershey and emptying into the Swatara Creek. This valuable source of once clean water is now designated as "impaired" by the Pennsylvania DEP. Contributing to this designation are residential development and agricultural impact.

In mid-November of 2019, a diverse group of interested individuals and organizations met in Campbeltown to explore the restoration of the Spring Creek Watershed. From this initial meeting a 'steering committee' was formed. Organizations represented on the committee are Hershey Corporation (Entertainment and Resort Co, Hershey Trust, Milton Hershey Schools), Derry Township, Trout Unlimited, Ecosystem Planning & Restoration, Center for Watershed Protection, Dauphin County Conservation District, Penn State Extension, and Stream Solutions. The steering committee's mission is to develop a comprehensive watershed implementation plan that improves water quality, enhances recreation and education opportunities, and actively involves the community. The specific plan goals include:

- assess the source of pollutants and offer solutions to remediate
- restore instream aquatic habitat
- explore flood reduction possibilities
- identify recreation opportunities
- develop outreach recommendations to educate the public and involve our youth

The anticipated outcome is to restore this spring-fed watershed to its former glory. The formation of a Watershed Association is being explored and you can be part of this effort. For further information or to help with the task force, please email me at info@dftu.org. Much of the information here was published in two local papers. From its exposure in the *Hummelstown Sun*, I received five offers to participate in the project.

The real bonus in the watershed is that a viable population of wild brown trout exists, and it is possible we may be able to get the stream re-designated from a warm water stream to a cold water wild trout stream!

Russ Collins, President

Fund Raising Banquet Information

It will come as a surprise to no one that our chapter's annual Fund Raising Banquet, scheduled for March 14th of 2020, was postponed. We tried to reschedule for early October but eventually realized that was not a viable option. Since the Holiday Inn Grantville was willing to waive the cancellation fee as long as we rebooked for March of 2021, we decided the best thing to do was call off the in-person annual fund raising banquet and hope we can host a bigger and better annual fund raising banquet in March of 2021.

However, that does not mean we are not going to raise funds for the chapter this year. There is too much good work that needs to be funded, and we have a "full creel" of items that would have been auctioned/raffled at the March 2020 fund raising banquet.



First - a bonus raffle opportunity; a unique-to-Doc Fritchey guided fishing trip in 2021, lodging and meals included, with Orvis endorsed fly fishing guide **Julie Szur** on Pine Creek. Our raffle will be held on Thursday, September 10th via *Facebook Live* at 8:00 PM. Five raffle tickets are included with this newsletter.

Second, we are working with TU national (with help from the Donegal Chapter) to conduct an on-line auction. That auction will start on the 10th of November and conclude on the 19th of November. So far, we have identified 45 items in eight categories - including rods/reels; vests and packs; flies; prints/photography; fishing trips; tours/outings; handcrafted items, and memberships.

Details on the Chapter's 2020 Fund Raising Auction will be provided in the Fall newsletter and via email and on DFTU.org, our chapter's website.

Outstanding Volunteer Award

The 2020 Gerald L. Miller Outstanding Volunteer Award will be presented on Facebook live following the raffle drawing for the Julie Szur fishing trip at 8:00 PM on September 10. This award is annually 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.

"If nothing else, a road trip amounts to several days of running conversation with friends, and since good conversation is so hard to come by these days, that in itself, is worth the effort." John Gierach

Quittapahilla Creek Watershed

Kent Crawford has undoubtedly been as frustrated as the rest of us with the impact of Covid-19. His aggressive plans for creating a significant water quality monitoring program throughout the Quittapahilla watershed came to a sudden halt in late March, just when he had recruited a team of DFTU volunteers to assist him. Now, four months later, Kent has advised his team of volunteers that training is ready to begin. If all goes well with the training, we expect our chapter's Quittapahilla Watershed monitoring program will finally get started in September. In addition to the monitoring program, Dr. Rebecca Urban, Director of Environmental Science at Lebanon Valley College, advised Kent that she was concerned her students will not be able to collect stream samples this fall. Kent assured Dr. Urban that our volunteers will take over for her students, should they not be able to collect the samples as they did in the fall of 2019. Dr. Urban assured Kent that she and her students will be able to identify the invertebrates collected in the stream samples.

Work Days in September

Clarks Creek Highway Cleanup - Sunday, September 20, 1:00-3:00 PM.

We will meet at the parking lot in the middle of the FFO section and collect trash in both directions. For more information send a note to Dennis Coffman at dencoffman@comcast.net.

Diversion Well - Sunday, September 27, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

If you are interested in helping with annual maintenance on the chapter's Rausch Creek Diversion Well, please contact Dennis Coffman at dencoffman@comcast.net.

Summer Membership Report

In the past month, fifty DFTU members renewed their annual memberships, and the folks listed below became members. Welcome aboard. We look forward to meeting you soon.

Susan Fotos, Hershey; Jonathan Mather, Harrisburg; Robert Pierce, Lebanon; Benjamin Schlosser, Annville; Scott Shearer, Harrisburg; Richard Spangler, Lebanon; Jeff Stoner, Myerstown; Adam Theurer, Jonestown; Sam Turns, Middletown

Congratulations to **Gary Zelinske** from Lebanon, the winner of the Dave Rothrock Fishing trip. We hope you had a great time.

Old Men and Dogwoods

On a cold, windy, miserable, Saturday morning in April, on what was supposed to have been the opening of Pennsylvania's traditional trout season, four old men, all board members - Russ Collins, Chuck Swanderski, Trip McGarvey, and Stephan Vegoe - came to the chapter's Snitz Creek streambank restoration project with hammers and steel rods, ready to transplant one hundred *silky dogwoods* along the 1,200 feet of the chapter's stream bank restoration project.



Chuck Swanderski and Trip McGarvey

Chapter president Russ Collins had just acquired these trees (for a very reasonable \$1,00 each) and we needed to get them into the ground ASAP. The dogwoods came to us as "*sticks*," 36 to 44 inches long and about the thickness of a raspberry cane. No roots and little obvious growth on the sticks, but we were told, once planted correctly the "*sticks*" would root and grow.

All we had to do was pound a steel rod into the topsoil about 12 to 15 inches deep, insert the "*stick*" into the hole, tamp it down a bit, and then cut off an inch or two of the top of the "*stick*." After we marked the *sticks* with orange flags, we were done. A nice little project. So, if you venture over to Dairy Road in North Cornwall Township, look for the orange flags and see if our efforts to complete this TU project paid off.

A Sad Note: Because the State's stocking truck had extra fish on Thursday, April 23rd, CWO Doug Deppen decided to do an "extra-heavy" stocking on this small stretch of stream (as many as 300 trout, including half a dozen trophy trout). Way too many fish for this small stream. Word of the stocking spread quickly, and the stream was fished hard; within 5 days the stream was devoid of fish.

Unfortunately, while this influx of fisherman was on the stream, someone decided they would pull out the newly planted dogwood trees. Not all of the trees were vandalized but far too many were removed. We were able to recover some of the "removed" trees and replant them, but we lost way too many trees.



Mark Miller at work

Note: A special shout-out to Mark Miller and Jack Longenecker who quickly responded to a phone call asking them to bring a chain saw to the creek to help us deal with two, large, downed-trees that had recently fallen over the newly-installed fence.

They quickly cut the trees and the fence sprung back into shape with no ill effects. Thanks, guys.

Another note: Mrs. Hershey's heirs sold her 33-acre Snitz Creek farm (the site of the restoration project) at auction at the end of June. DFTU is now in the process of acquainting the new owner with his or her responsibilities with this state-funded streambank restoration project.

Doc Fritchey T-Shirts Available

We mentioned in our Spring newsletter that we now have a supply of Doc Fritchey T-Shirts. We intended to sell these T-shirts at chapter events this spring and summer. Well, that plan came to a quick halt in March, and who knows when we will again be able to gather for chapter events. However, Chuck Swanderski has been selling T-shirts via mail order. Price \$10 each. \$8.50 mailing fee. Contact Chuck Swanderski at chucks@dftu.org.

Tickets for the Cancelled March Banquet?

After the decision was made to cancel our 2020 annual fund-raising banquet, Chapter president Russ Collins sent a message to everyone who registered asking them to let us know how to handle their paid reservations, with two choices; either a full refund or have us consider it a donation. The majority choose to donate. Refund checks have been mailed. If you were not contacted about this issue, please contact Trip McGarvey at trip@dftu.org.

"I might be wrong, but I doubt it." Charles Barkley

Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA),

In late July, Congress passed (and the president has signed) the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), a bipartisan bill that will permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to maintain and protect our national parks and other public lands. This means more families across the country will have access to local parks and green spaces to relax, play, and destress — which is especially great news for Pennsylvania because our state's vast outdoor spaces are integral to our well-being and economic recovery, especially as we continue to navigate a pandemic. 15 out of 20 of Pennsylvania's representatives in the House and Senate voted in favor of this important legislation.

The GAOA will prevent Congress from spending this dedicated source of funds to plug budget gaps. Instead, the money will be fully devoted to vital parks projects - both large and small - in every state across the country to give access to communities that otherwise do not have contact with the outdoors. The GAOA will also help invest in outdoor-related businesses, small and large, in urban and rural communities. This investment will bring back and create jobs, and expand access to public, close-to-home recreation opportunities.

Doc Fritchey's Sponsors

When we re-started mailing a print newsletter to the entire membership (now more than 550 strong) four years ago, we decided not to seek advertiser support; the cost of producing, printing, and mailing this newsletter is part of the chapter's annual budget. From time to time we think about seeking advertisers but eventually determine that the newsletter is cleaner and easier to produce without it. However, thanks to the initiative of several members of the Annual Fund Raising Banquet Committee, Doc Fritchey TU now has annual sponsors. We are most appreciative of their financial support.

Platinum Level \$1,000

Faulkner Subaru

ARRC – Aquatic Resource Restoration Co.

Gold Level \$750

Members First Credit Union

Silver Level \$500

TCO Outdoors

PNC Bank

SEVENBRIDGE

Bronze Level \$250

ARM Group, LLC

Troegs Independent Brewery

Hershey Entertainment and Resorts

Julie Szur

flyfishingjulieszur.com

Enjoy a day of Instructed Walk/Wade Fly Fishing for 2 people with Orvis endorsed fly fishing guide Julie Szur on Pine Creek in Northcentral PA.

Raffle includes a \$125 voucher for an overnight stay at the Waterville Tavern/Inn and a \$50 gift card for dinner at the Hotel Manor.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Facebook Live at 8:00 PM on **September 10, 2020**. All proceeds from this raffle will be used to further DFTU's conservation mission.



Waterville Inn, Waterville PA



Hotel Manor, Slate Run PA

The raffle winner will need to contact Julie Szur to arrange a date for this guided trip during 2021. Coinciding accommodations at the Waterville Tavern/Inn must be booked by the winner also.

Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited Julie Szur Guided Pine Creek Fly Fishing Virtual Raffle, September 10, 2020

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

By providing your email, you are giving us permission to keep you informed of Chapter events.



NUMBER OF RAFFLE TICKETS _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

The **Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited** is proud to be fulfilling the mission to conserve, protect and restore the cold-water resources in Pennsylvania's Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

Please enclose your check made payable to **DFTU** for the total amount and mail to:
**DFTU, P.O. Box 227
Palmyra, PA 17078**