

HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 www.dftu.org
Winter 2021



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

From Your President:



A couple of years ago, we featured Eric Richard of Coveted Waters Guide Services at a chapter meeting. It was a dynamic presentation; however, this is not an article to endorse but to

highlight something I think we need to do to get back to our organization's roots "that if we "take care of the fish, then the fishing will take care of itself."

In Pennsylvania, the Extended Season Regulation has a creel limit of 3 fish over 7 inches. After reading Trout-Biology, Ecology, and Management, and Ecology of Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout, I believe that Brown trout need protection and management. After all, they are here to stay, and we need to take care of them. We have programs in Pennsylvania to protect and manage Brook trout. Why not Brown trout?

There is a blog posted on our website, dftu.org, that elaborated on the subject. There is also a *button* directing you to a petition to sign in support of managing and protecting Brown trout. Below is the outline of the study to be requested of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Instead of being a state that historically stocks hatchery trout over wild, naturally producing trout, Pennsylvania could take the lead in trout fisheries management. We will be proposing the following study to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission:

- Select a cold-water stocked stream that is considered a nursery stream
- Do a baseline survey noting young of the year and age class structure on the selected stocked stream
- Stop further stocking
- Survey twice annually, pre-spawn and post-spawn, noting age class and size.
- Include genetic sampling for identification and to distinguish between migratory (movers) and other resident Brown trout

Today, exposure through social media presents a threat to the survival of these trout and an urgent need for protection. I urge you to go to dftu.org, locate the blog, and sign the petition.

Yours in conservation,

Russ Collins, President

First Quarter 2021 Calendar

January 26 at 7:00 Online Membership Meeting
Featuring a presentation by **Rick Nyles**
(Details Below)

February 23 at 7:00 Doc Fritchey Chapter Annual Meeting
- featuring a presentation by **Henry Ramsay**
(Details on page two)



MEMBERSHIP MEETING
with special guest Rick Nyles

The Hatch Factory

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26
7:00PM

TROUT UNLIMITED
DOC FRITCHEY CHAPTER

For our January General Membership Meeting, we will host special guest **Rick Nyles** of Sky Blue Outfitters. In this online presentation entitled "The Hatch Factory," Rick will cover his experience fishing Penns Creek and its hatches throughout the year. He will also discuss proven fishing techniques he's been using for years to catch some of the big fish in Penns using dries, nymphs, and streamers.

Due to the ongoing restrictions surrounding COVID-19, this presentation will take place online via *Google Meet*. To join, visit meet.google.com and enter the meeting code "**aza-bvgn-aws**" to participate. Alternatively, a direct link to the meeting will be available at www.dftu.org – or on the chapter's Facebook Event page.

Doc Fritchey's Leadership Team for 2021

At the beginning of the Chapter's online annual meeting on February 23rd (see page two for details), outgoing chapter president Russ Collins will nominate a new slate of officers and board members to serve the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited for the coming year. **Rich DiStanislaio**, who has served as chapter vice president will be nominated to serve as chapter president. The vice president's position is not yet filled so **Russ Collins** has agreed to serve as Vice president until a chapter member is nominated. **Trip McGarvey** will continue as chapter treasurer, and **Bob Pennell** will continue to serve as chapter secretary. Board members to be nominated are listed on page two.

"The older I grow, the more I appreciate smart." Guy de la Valdene

Officers and Board Members to be Nominated

Officers

Rich DiStanislao - President
Bob Pennell - Secretary
Trip McGarvey - Treasurer

Board Members

Russ Collins - Conservation Chair
Jim Suleski - Conservation Vice Chair
Stephan Vegoe - Newsletter Editor
Chuck Swanderski - Membership Chair
Andy Link - Webmaster
Fran Barilar
Francis O'Gorman
Steve Long
Becca Fronk

February 23 at 7:00 - Doc Fritchey Chapter Annual Meeting (and a presentation by Henry Ramsay)

The February 23rd Annual Meeting (online details below) will begin with comments from outgoing chapter president Russ Collins, and the nomination of officers and board members for the coming year. That portion of "business" will probably take about thirty minutes.



our special guest **Henry Ramsay**.

Henry is the author of "*Matching Major Eastern Hatches, New Patterns for Selective Trout*" and co-author of "*Keystone Fly Fishing Guide*." Henry is a well-known and respected custom fly tier, fly fishing and fly tying instructor, photographer, and sought-after presenter.

In his presentation ("*A Walk on the Wild Side*") Henry will discuss the value that Pennsylvania's Class A trout streams offer as a resource and their unique value as angling opportunities. Henry will discuss how to fish these streams, with the tactics, tackle, and flies that he uses. The program should run about one hour, meaning the entire chapter meeting should conclude before 9:00 PM.

Due to the ongoing restrictions surrounding COVID-19, this presentation will take place online via **Google Meet**. To join, visit meet.google.com and enter the meeting code "**kiy-zsou-ade**" to enter. Alternatively, a direct link to the annual meeting will be available at www.dftu.org – or on the chapter's Facebook Event page.

Following our chapter's annual business meeting, Russ Collins and Rich DiStanislao will introduce

Reminders for these Two Meeting

Because our January and February meetings are virtual/online, we will be sending email reminders to all members a week or so in advance of the meetings, and we will post more information on the chapter's website – dftu.org. Obviously, if we don't have a "good" email address for you, you will not receive these reminders.

Thank You, Russ Collins



When he was elected to serve as chapter president in Sept. of 2015, Russ Collins probably did not expect to serve this chapter for more than 5 years. But we are sure glad he did.

Chapter president
Russ Collins

His five years leading this chapter were certainly eventful, productive, and truly inspiring. No TU chapter anywhere could have asked for a better leader than Russ Collins. Yet, even though he is no longer going to lead the chapter, we know that Russ will continue to serve this chapter as he takes on a new and critical role as conservation chair; a role that is close to his heart.

Online Fund Raising Auction Recap

As you all know, the chapter conducted our first-ever online fund raising auction – November 10th to the 19th. Thanks to the great help we received from Bob Pennell, Andy Link, Trip McGarvey, Russ Collins, and Rich DiStanislao (and the donation of so many great auction items from members and friends of Doc Fritchey) the auction was a success. Overall gross income was \$6,556.

- 43 of the 48 items offered were sold.
- There were 26 successful bidders and 13 of those bidders bought more than one item.
- The bid prices captured 78.3% of the fair market value of all the items.
- For comparison, at our 2019 Annual Banquet, the silent and live auctions each brought in approximately \$4,000.

Books from John Wilk's Estate

The chapter has received an exceptional bequest from the estate of the late John Wilk, a former president of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU – his entire collection of fishing books, including a few rare books, like *A Wedding Gift: A Fishing Story* by John Taintor Foote. It's an eclectic and vast collection and a real treasure. The books now reside at Rich DiStanislao's home in Harrisburg and the board is in the process of deciding how we want to manage the bequest.

Winter Fun at the Diversion Well

Doc Fritchey's Rausch Creek Acid Mine Remediation Volunteer Crew of a masked Santa Claus, reindeer, and elves are shown here just outside a gate of State Game Lands 211. They put their hands up pleading guilty to caring about our environment and cold water conservation.



A Fun, Devoted, and Hard Working Crew.

Old Men and Redbuds

Thanks to the generous help of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation which supplied trees and equipment, on November 1st of 2020 the chapter planted additional trees along the east bank of our streambank restoration project on Snitz Creek in North Cornwall Township, Lebanon County.



George Dodson, Jim Rauch, and Joe Connor

As you can see from the photograph, this time we had plastic tubes and wooden stakes to protect the plantings, which were a mix of eastern redbud, river birch, and basswood. We planted about 100 new trees, and, because we had supplies, put plastic tubes and stakes on about 50 trees (primarily dogwoods and American elms) that were planted in the spring of 2020. These trees had somehow survived in spite of a large herd of whitetail deer that frequents the stream most nights.

We extend our thanks to chapter president Russ Collins who procured the trees and equipment; to chapter treasurer Trip McGarvey who organized the tree planting; and to Jim Rauch, Joe Connor, Gary Zelinske, George Dodson, and Stephan Vegoe who all put in about four hours to get a successful riparian buffer started. From now on, the chapter's responsibilities for this project mostly will be maintenance and keeping debris out of the stream.

Doc Fritchey TU Chapter to offer Virtual Advanced Fly-Tying Course

Due to the health risks created by the Covid-19 virus, our chapter cannot in good faith offer our customary face-to-face fly-tying course in the Spring of 2021. For obvious reasons, we don't think we can effectively teach these techniques virtually.



However, for those members are already **beyond** beginner level, who have mastered basic tying methods, who already

have all their own tools, and who are knowledgeable enough to purchase tying materials that are needed for specific patterns, our chapter wishes to offer them an **advanced tying course**, done VIRTUALLY.

The course will be offered **FREE**, but you must be advanced registered.

DATES: Thursday evenings, February 18 through March 25, 2021 (Six meetings total)

TIMES: 7:00pm start time, each session lasting about 1 hour

HOW: *GoogleMeet* (you **MUST** have a computer with camera and microphone to participate.) Links and login information for each session will be sent out in advance of each class meeting.

WHAT: Each session will involve the tying of one specific trout fly. The session will begin with an instructor leading a discussion of the fly: how, when, where to fish it, water type, history of fly, etc. Then, a video will be shown with specific tying instructions, followed by a live "chat" between instructor, mentors, and students.

HOW to REGISTER: Registration will be online at the chapter's website (dftu.org) and will be limited to a total of 15 students. , first-registered/first included in class. Online registration will open on **January 4, 2021**. Only tyers who consider themselves at an intermediate level (or higher) will be considered for the class.

COST: FREE, but you must be registered and accepted into the class

Donate to Doc Fritchey – It's easy.
www.dftu.org

Doc Fritchey's Sponsors

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

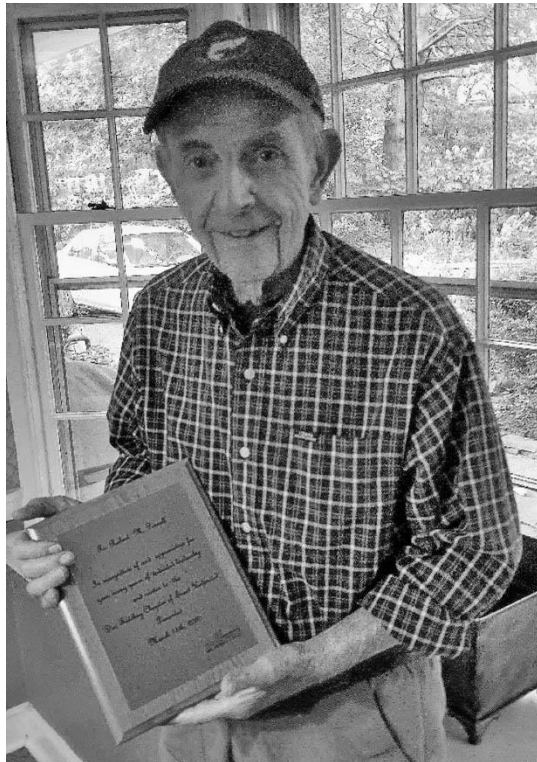
SEVENBRIDGE

Bronze Level \$250

ARM Group, LLC

Troegs Independent Brewery

Hershey Entertainment and Resorts



Chapter president Russ Collins presented Doc Fritchey's long-serving secretary (and many other positions including president over a career with our TU chapter that now spans twenty-five years) **Bob Pennell** with a plaque on September 10th. The presentation had the unanimous backing of the Officers and Board of Directors. The plaque reads as follows: "In recognition of and appreciation for your many years of dedicated leadership and service to the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited."

DFTU Membership Report

Congratulations to the members that continued their membership in Trout Unlimited Doc Fritchey Chapter. You should have by now received TU National's 2021 TU calendar. The photos are beautiful. Sort of makes you want to get involved in something. We welcome the following new members:

Justin Massar, Myerstown
David Sproull, Duncannon
Robert Hankey, Harrisburg
William Pounds, Harrisburg
Douglas Brady, Harrisburg
Dawn Morder, Millerstown
Aaron Morder, Millersville
James Funk, Lebanon
Jonathan Hall, Lebanon
Leon Hoover, Fredericksburg
Joseph Carpenter, Cornwall
Dean Gaspari, Lebanon
David Dormer, Harrisburg
Kenneth Mix, Annville
Amber Nabors, Enola
John Abbott, Harrisburg
Thaddeus Jastrzebski, Hershey
Marshall Fisher, Dauphin
Ben Schlosser, Annville
Stuart Halsell, Lebanon
Joseph Cooney, Harrisburg
Robert Smith, Lebanon
Isn Johnson, Halifax
Gautam Mishra, Hummelstown
Jennifer Orr-Green, Millersburg
Keith Kendall, Harrisburg
Matt Waneck, Harrisburg
Matthew Shindel, Harrisburg
Gerard Mackarevich, Middletown

Thanks to our members for recruiting-by-example to further our mission to "Conserve, Protect and Restore our cold water fisheries and their watersheds in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties."

As of December 20, 2020, we are carrying 548 members on our roster BUT 47 memberships are up for renewal. The membership dues are really a great investment when you consider all the programs we normally sponsor. To view some of our activities or more importantly become an ACTIVE Chapter member/volunteer please visit our website at dftu.org.

Doc Fritchey T Shirt Sale

Congratulations and all our best to our top salesperson, Dennis Coffman. We are still selling t-shirts at the great price of \$10. Information can be accessed on our Chapter website (dftu.org) or by E-mailing Chuck Swanderski at: chucks@dftu.org. We are selling these at next to cost to get our Chapter name out to the public, enhance our visibility at chapter events, and showcase our volunteers.

"If people don't occasionally walk away from you shaking their heads, you're doing something wrong."
-John Gierach

Quittapahilla Creek Watershed - Update on Water-Quality Monitoring

Since we last reported, our chapter's water-quality monitoring for the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed has had some ups and downs. On the positive side, volunteers from DFTU and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association (QWA) have installed five streamflow monitoring stations with staff plates and pressure transducers. There are four stations on the major tributary streams to the Quittapahilla and one on the mainstem of the Quittie. A sixth location is a USGS streamflow monitoring site on the mainstem at the Palmyra-Bellegrove Road. The newly-acquired pressure transducers we installed provide a continuous record of the water level in the stream.

In October, DFTU volunteers collected macroinvertebrate samples at all six monitoring locations, normally a task that our partner, Lebanon Valley College, undertakes. Because of the pandemic, Dr. Rebecca Urban asked DFTU to do the collections this year.



Dr. Kent Crawford

Our volunteers responded beautifully, and we completed that task in a couple of days, being careful to wear our masks and maintain our social distancing. What we found was disappointing. There were precious few organisms at some of the sampling stations,

and many of the organisms we found were indicative of poor water quality. The bottom line is that if you are fly fishing on the Quittie, a zebra midge or a caddis fly larva might be a better choice for a fly than a parachute Adams.

We also held a field training session to teach our volunteers how to measure the volume of flow in a stream. The training went well, and the volunteers caught on quickly. But our velocity meters did not perform correctly. Our velocity meters are donations from the USGS, and they use outdated technology, so we have sent the meters out for refurbishing and upgrading. When they are returned to us, they should be perfectly suitable for our needs.

Also, the COVID-19 pandemic has exploded and at present, it would be unwise to proceed with our water-quality monitoring activities. So, we are in a temporary holding pattern, until the number of COVID-19 cases tapers off.

"We don't remember everything, but I'd like to know who's in charge of what we forget. If there's a system, it escapes me." Thomas McGuane

Trout Unlimited Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative

Our existing members have been the backbone of efforts to conserve, protect and restore cold water fisheries in our area. In addition, we sponsor programs to introduce members and potential members to conservation and fishing opportunities.

We reach out to fly fishing anglers, veterans, women, people of diverse backgrounds, and youth. We act as speakers, mentors and leaders in the conservation and fly fishing arena. As I follow our membership demographics it is pleasing to note that the diversity of our membership is expanding.

As we look to the future as a Chapter and National Organization, we are working with the TU National Leadership Council via the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup to develop a DEI Handbook and Best Practices to ensure we are and will continue to be an organization that welcomes and engages members.

In the words of Chris Wood, President and CEO of TU: "Trout Unlimited's ability to remain effective in the future will hinge, in part, on our ability to bring more women, people of color and younger members into the organization. This is not a nod to political correctness. The simple fact is that the more our members and supporters resemble the broader fly-fishing demographic - if not the nation, itself - the more resonant our messages and calls to action."

Donate to DFTU

The next time you go to the chapter's website - dftu.org - you'll find a new **DONATE BUTTON** that makes it easy to help the chapter's ongoing conservation efforts.

Because we created a new **Stripe** account for November's successful online auction, we were easily able to use that credit card processing tool to accept online donations from members and friends. Shortly after the button was in place, the chapter received its first donation (from the United Kingdom) from Bob Pennell's daughter. How about that!

Tom Gilmore - RIP

We are sad to report that Tom Gilmore, author, conservationist, and a true friend to Trout Unlimited, died in early November. Tom worked for the New Jersey Audubon Society for almost 30 years and was the author of *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *American Angler and Fly Fishing Saltwaters*, *Flyfisher's Guide to Pennsylvania*, and *Fly Fisher's Guide to New Jersey*.

17-Year Cicada Emergence Coming in May and June of 2021



Every seventeen years here in south-central Pennsylvania, fly fishermen "tend to go nuts" over the emergence of the 17-year cicada.

Fishing guide Domenick Swentosky calls this emergence "the most fun you will ever have fly fishing." Although the emergence of these extra-large bugs is dramatic – they come out of the ground in massive numbers and are an especially large insect (little-finger-size, more or less) - the cicada is otherwise not only harmless, but its appearance is also one of life's great occasions, akin to the occurrence of a total solar eclipse or the arrival of a comet in the night sky, but far more tangible.

Seventeen (and 13-year) periodical cicadas appear in many states east of the Great Plains, but they are staggered from calendar year to year by brood. Next year's Brood X covers one of the largest geographic areas and is known as the Great Eastern Brood.

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

How to Tie a Cicada Video – Coming Soon

Sometime in late winter, early spring, a newly produced video from our new chapter president Rich DiStanislao will go up on the chapter's website with detailed written instructions on how to tie his favorite (and quite simple) version of the Brood X cicada.

US Army Corps Denies Bristol Bay Permit

In a move welcomed by millions of Americans, Alaskan communities, and admirers of the most prolific wild salmon fishery in the world, in late November the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) denied the application for the key permit for the proposed Pebble mine.

The Corps had said the mine would cause significant degradation and significant adverse effects to the waters and fisheries of the Bristol Bay region. "The Corps' denial of the permit for the Pebble Mine is a victory for common sense," said Chris Wood, president and CEO of **Trout Unlimited**. "Bristol Bay is the wrong place for industrial-scale mining, and we look forward to working with the people of the Bristol Bay region, Alaska's Congressional delegation, the state, and other partners to permanently protect Bristol Bay and its world class fisheries."

Millport Conservancy

The Donegal Chapter is selling **Millport Conservancy access buttons**. (\$20.00 plus postage of \$3.95) Contact Donegal Chapter president Tom Hall at phallcat@comcast.net.