

HATCHES

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



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

From Your New President:



Rich DiStanislaw, Chapter President

I'm extending hearty greetings to the Doc Fritchey chapter membership and want to thank all of you for making our chapter such a vibrant and successful organization. As your newly elected president, I first need to recognize the terrific leadership that has existed and brought us to this point. Russ Collins was at the helm for 5 years, a mean feat, no doubt challenging at times, but he not only kept the ship on course, but he also steered it masterfully.

Stephan Vegoe was the immediate support as VP, and I don't know how the chapter could continue without the experience and guidance from Bob Pennell, who thankfully has agreed to continue on as our secretary. Trip McGarvey, our treasurer, is our financial conscience. What a wonderful supporting cast I have, with Chuck Swanderski, my fishing buddy and friend, with whom he and I often share thoughts and ideas, agreeing to serve as our chapter VP, and Andy Link, our webmaster who can turn our thoughts and needs into digital magic.

The entire previous Board of Directors has agreed to continue, and for this, we are all fortunate. They are an experienced, dedicated group, knowledgeable of conservation and strong on volunteering, and I look forward to this time with them and all of you.

A little introduction to me, so that you know who I am and perhaps can find things that I can bring to the table to benefit the chapter. I am a retired educator/administrator (Indiana University of Pennsylvania for 39 years), moved to Harrisburg in 2012 (shortly after retirement), and joined the Doc Fritchey chapter in November 2012.

Previously, I was an active member of the Arrowhead chapter of TU (Armstrong County, western PA) since its inception in the late 1970s, serving on its executive board for many years. I have been a fly fisherman since the mid-70s, and an instructor and guide for nearly 25-years for the South Hills Rod and Reel shop in Pittsburgh, and 5 years with Tom Zaco's "Masters School for Fly-Fishing". (This doesn't mean that I catch a lot of fish).

I have taught chapter sponsored fly-tying courses for over 40 years. I enjoy working with Ladies Day and the Veteran's program and helping out with chapter-sponsored community events.

Some goals that I have include increasing our chapter's general membership volunteer involvement and creating a blueprint for our conservation work on local streams. We have made a significant impact upon our local watershed and need to organize our objectives and tie them all together.

Beginning right away this spring, I want the chapter to create a list of stream restoration projects on which our members can directly get their hands dirty; to appreciate the personal efforts we contribute to making a difference and I want to invite you to join in our many chapter events.

Clarks Creek Highway Cleanup on May 8th

Years ago, DFTU agreed to sponsor an annual highway, roadside cleanup (Adopt-A-Highway) along Route 325 in Dauphin County for the entire length of the Fly-Fishing-Only section on Clark's Creek, about two miles. That annual cleanup is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 8th. We start promptly at 9:00 AM. Obviously, we never have enough volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, call Dennis Coffman 717-350-8817 to let him know you want to join the "gang" on Saturday, May 8th. We will meet at the parking lot that is located five miles from the turn off unto Clarks Valley Road if coming from the West. The parking lot is on the north side/left on a hill/raised area above the main road. We supply everything you will need to help, but please bring gloves and your masks. You may also want to bring your fly-fishing gear because many of the "cleaners" will stay to fish the FFO section after we pick up trash.

Chapter Picnic Planned for August 24th

With the Covid-19 pandemic hopefully becoming a decreasing public threat, our chapter is anxious to have a social get-together to celebrate a return to "normalcy". We are absolutely planning a chapter picnic/gathering for Tuesday evening August 24th, which will be a family event, featuring some fun educational exhibits, fly rod casting lessons, great food, and a flea market. We are not far enough along yet to provide time and location but want you to know that this picnic/gathering is going to take place; it's definitely time to get back together.

Three Students Receive Scholarships for Rivers Conservation Summer Camp

Because of the pandemic, the students we funded for the annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp for 2020 were not able to attend, but the 2021 Camp at Messiah University will be held Sunday Through Friday, June 20-25, 2021. The Doc Fritchey Chapter will fully fund three students from Dauphin Counties - Mason Liartis, Evan Kocher (both from Central Dauphin HS) and Collin Gourley - Lower Dauphin HS. They will have a great week on the Yellow Breeches.

Guest Speaker Programs in 2021

In lieu of actual face-to-face chapter meetings for the general membership, for the past year we have been forced to provide guest speakers using an evolving (and improving) digital delivery system, in the GoogleMeet format.

For our January 26th meeting, Rick Nyles, owner of Sky Blue Outfitters offered a narrated slide presentation entitled, "*Fishing the Penn's Creek Hatches*". Rick's expertise on insect identification, emergence tables, and methods for fishing imitations on Penn's Creek was something that certainly got us thinking about a spring trip to Penn's Creek. More than sixty members were on the GoogleMeet session for all or most of the presentation. That's far more participation than we ever got at a chapter meeting at Giant Foods.

Then, not to be outdone, our February 23rd membership meeting featured Henry Ramsay, one of Pennsylvania's notable flyfishing authors, who provided a narrated slide tour of "*Fishing Pennsylvania's Wild Trout Headwaters*". Tips for locating and catching wild trout in our smaller streams was a fascinating anticipation of hiking adventures back into our lesser-known jewels this summer. Participation dropped off from the high number of January but was still better than a meeting at Giant Foods. We think the reason for the fall-off in participation is related to the timing of our member communications, and we are working on fixing that issue.



And just recently (just after we completed this print newsletter), with the expected emergence of Brood X of cicadas throughout our part of Pennsylvania set to begin, our April 27th general membership meeting featured Greg Hoover, perhaps the most highly respected aquatic entomologist in

the Eastern US, who provided background on cicadas: what to expect - when it will start, where to find them, how to tie a great imitation, and how to fish them - a complete report on everything you need to know to successfully "match the hatch".

Doc Fritchey's GoogleMeet programs are always free events and the weblink to join in is always located on our www.dftu.org website. Our chapter's programs of guest speakers will continue throughout the year, and we are shooting for at least three more in 2021.

When possible, advance information will be included in our print newsletters, but always check **DFTU.org** for programs and information about the chapter's activities.

We Need Your Email Addresses

Once again, and we suspect you are getting tired of us asking, if we don't have a good email address for you, we have a hard time telling you what's coming and how you can participate. In addition to his new role as Chapter Vice President, Chuck Swanderski is our membership chairman. Please send an email to Chuck at chucks@dftu.org to tell us you want to receive communications from Doc Fritchey. Then you will be on the general membership roster and will receive updates. Thanks.

Doc Fritchey Volunteers Helped Stock Special Regs Trout Streams

A year ago, trying hard to keep volunteers from exposure to COVID-19, the PA Fish and Boat Commission decided to not permit volunteers to help stock the Commonwealth's trout streams and lakes. The commission modified that approach for 2021 and permitted organized conservation groups, like the Doc Fritchey Chapter, to provide some/limited manpower to assist the commission's professional staff. In March and April our volunteers helped stock Manada Creek in Dauphin County (twice) and the Quittapahilla Creek (twice) in Lebanon County.

Normally, our volunteers float stock those streams to provide an equitable distribution of trout throughout the special regs sections of both trout streams but float stocking did not occur this year because water levels were insufficient and/or our volunteers were reluctant to float stock.



Jim Rauch, Greg Silva, Cyndi Camp and Willie Bixler, ready to carry buckets of trout.

The PA Fish and Boat Commission sends out its fleet of stocking trucks during the work week, which immediately limits the number of volunteers we can recruit from the Doc Fritchey Chapter, and we have almost the same volunteers today that we had six years ago, so we are all that much older. Float stocking, in particular, is a physical activity (volunteers are in the water and man-handling a large float filled with several hundred trout) that can quickly lead to a "dunking" in a cold stream.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone that helped stock our two special regulations streams. You are the best!

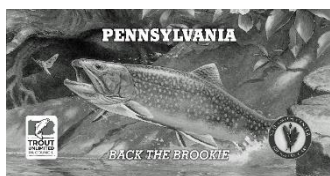
"Fishermen are bad with numbers. We're notorious for embellishing the size of our catch and the numbers of trout in the net. We overstate, exaggerate and overestimate everything. Okay, admit it — fishermen are a bunch of liars."
Domenick Swentosky

Doc Fritchey Chapter Volunteers at Wildwood's "Wetlands Festival"



On Saturday, April 24th chapter volunteers, including George Dodson, Steven Long, Joe Notorangelo, Rebecca Fronk, and Rich DiStanislaio staffed an exhibitor table at the annual Wildwood Nature Center's "Wetland Festival." The festival, a family event, featured music, animal displays, nature crafts, informational booths, and conservation demonstrations. The Doc Fritchey chapter provided information about the chapter, with lots of conversation about conservation and streambank improvement projects. Our renowned fly tiers tied flies all day.

Buy a New "Back the Brookie" License Plate to Support PA's Wild Brook Trout



In collaboration with the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, the PA Council of Trout Unlimited (PATROUT.ORG)

has just released a new license plate design featuring artist Ned Smith's "The Last Drake." Proceeds from the sale of this non-registration front license plate will be utilized by the PA Council to support projects dedicated to the conservation, protection, and restoration of wild Brook Trout populations in PA.

Chapter secretary Bob Pennell is also the merchandise manager for the PA Council. Bob has just completed the details of acquiring this new "front plate license plate" so DFTU members can be among the first buyers. Go to patrout.org and click on the merchandise link to place your order.

Membership Report

As of the end of March 2021, the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited has reached a new high of 577 members. Including 79 Life members. We added 34 members since the beginning of the year. 62 memberships have recently expired; if that's you, please consider sending a check to TU National to continue to support Trout Unlimited.

PA Trout T-Shirts Available



The PA Council has also introduced a new PATU T-shirt design, which incorporates the new PATU logo on the front with a larger stylized interpretation of the logo on the back. The shirts are Gildan pre-shrunk 100%

Ultra Cotton in an ash gray color and are available in adult sizes Small through 3XLarge.

You can place an order online at www.patrout.org either by using a credit card or by printing the order form and mailing it (and a check payable to PA Trout) to Bob Pennell at 2319 Valley Road, Harrisburg, PA 17104

Note: While you are on the PA Trout Merchandise page take note of the interesting "stuff" Bob Pennell has assembled for sale (all to benefit PA Trout), and especially look at the hand tied leaders. The Harvey-style dry fly leaders are superb; you will not find a better hand-tied leader at anything close to that price. The wet fly leaders are hand-tied by one of Pennsylvania's premier fishing guides and are this editor's favorite wet fly leader.

Fly-Tying Materials Donation

The family of the late John Wilk recently gave the chapter a large quantity of fly-tying materials from Mr. Wilk's extensive private collection: boxes and boxes of quality material. John was a past president of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited and directed the chapter's fly-tying classes for years. The family's gift included materials which will be used for future chapter beginner-fly-tying courses. The Wilk family also gave the chapter 80 of John's precious fly fishing books, many of them dealing with fly-tying. We are grateful to the family for these generous contributions.

Advanced Fly-Tying Course

This past winter, our chapter sponsored a six-week online fly-tying instructional course for advanced tiers. We enrolled 18 students and learned that the next time we offer the program we can increase the class size. Eleven chapter members served as helpers (mentors) by adding commentary to the instructional videos.



We demonstrated six patterns, one per week, and as each class ended, that video was added to our dftu.org website.

"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling, I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish." Sparse Grey Hackle

Thanks to Our Webmaster

Many thanks go to Andy Link, our chapter webmaster, whose creativity has made a big difference in the way we communicate with our members, especially with on-line fly tying. Andy wants to encourage other chapter members to contribute their skills as tiers and presenters. If anyone is interested in serving in this role, please contact Andy Link at andy.link@dftu.org.

DFTU Partners with Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

By Tyler Frantz
DFTU Member and POWA Board Chairman/Past President



In 2018, the Doc Fritchey Chapter joined the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, the largest state outdoor writer organization in the country, as a supporting member. POWA provides a strong and resounding conservation message to the public, enhances the skills of its members, holds

its membership to the highest ethical standards, and provides a legacy for future generations of outdoor communicators.

As a supporting member organization, DFTU has the opportunity to highlight its projects and services to other members of POWA through mailings and emails, at yearly conferences, and in POWA's print and online newsletters. This group of professional communicators includes writers, bloggers, television and radio producers, podcasters, outdoor industry associates, state agency representatives, and other non-profits like DFTU.

A few years ago, when POWA held its annual conference in Grantville, then DFTU President Russ Collins assembled a small team of DFTU volunteers to host POWA writers on a fishing outing to the Snitz and Quittapahilla Creeks, where DFTU-driven stream improvement projects have significantly improved trout habitat.

It was a great opportunity to make some new friends, catch some fish, and most importantly, showcase the conservation work completed in our local area. In fact, one of those writers took home 2nd place in the following year's *Excellence in Craft Awards* for a story he wrote about our very own Lebanon County home waters. Written by Dave Barus, the article was titled, "*Gurgle, babble & slurp – the welcome language of a reborn trout stream.*"

And in case you missed it, I wrote a piece in the January/February 2020 issue of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine called "*Keepers of the Stream – Volunteers Breathe*

Life into Broken Trout Waters," which highlighted the ongoing work of DFTU at the Rausch Creek Diversion Wells.

POWA recently launched a monthly "*POWA Spotlight Series,*" an online Zoom webinar that connects Supporting Members with Active and Associate Members for info sharing, networking, and story material highlights. We run these sessions for our members on the first Thursday of every month from 7-8pm. DFTU is slated as a guest for the July 1st Spotlight session. This Spotlight program will give POWA communicators information about the Doc Fritchey Chapter, which will likely lead to future newspaper and magazine articles about DFTU and its activities.

This Trout and That One

Domenick Swentosky (Troutbitten)

Anglers often don't want to believe this, but the trout in our region can be far more difficult to catch than just about anywhere else that I've fished. The easy assumption is that selectivity is a result of angler pressure. But that's not it. These trout are especially selective because they feed every day of the year, and they have a ton of food in front of them. There is no off season here. In other regions and rivers that have large temperature swings, the feeding season is much shorter. So, the trout eat now or die later. (Alaska for example.) However, our trout have an abundance of food, and they live in temperatures favorable for feeding every day of the year.



Another huge factor is wild vs stocked. Wild fish eat as they should, and they grow as nature intended. But most stocked trout are genetically selected to feed aggressively and grow quickly. They are simply more eager.

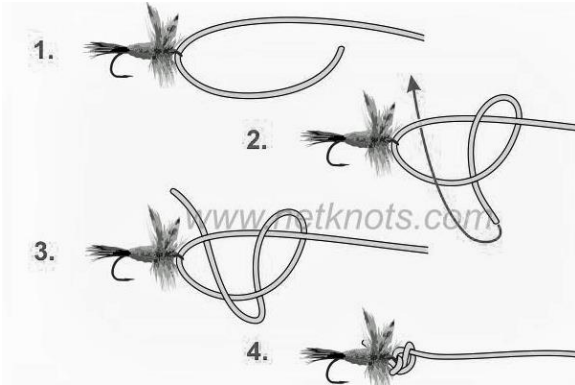
The old adage that a stocked trout becomes "just like a wild trout" once it's been in the water for a while is false. They surely become more like their wild brothers, but if they are from hatchery stock then their genes never change — they will always feed more aggressively and grow more quickly.

So, trout in areas with a shorter feeding season are more apt to take an attractive presentation than trout that feed 365. Likewise, a stocked trout, bred to feed aggressively, is more likely to take an attractive presentation than its wild counterpart.

"There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot." Steven Wright

Knots You May Not Know

Davy Knot

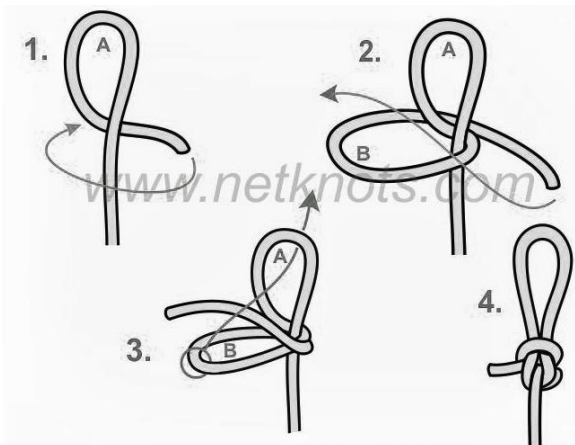


If your regular tippet-to-fly knot is the clinch knot, give the **Davy Knot** a try. It's quicker and likely stronger. If you change flies a lot — or if you just want to feel free to change flies a lot, without shortening your tippet — use the Davy knot and use the Double Davy on larger flies.

Double Davy Knot

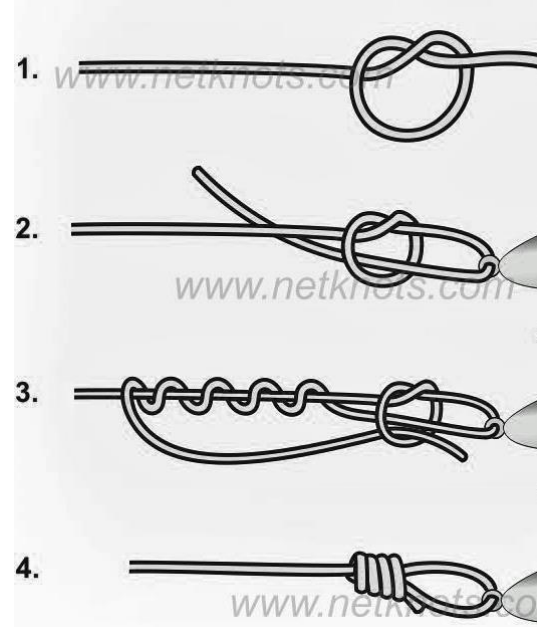


Perfection Loop

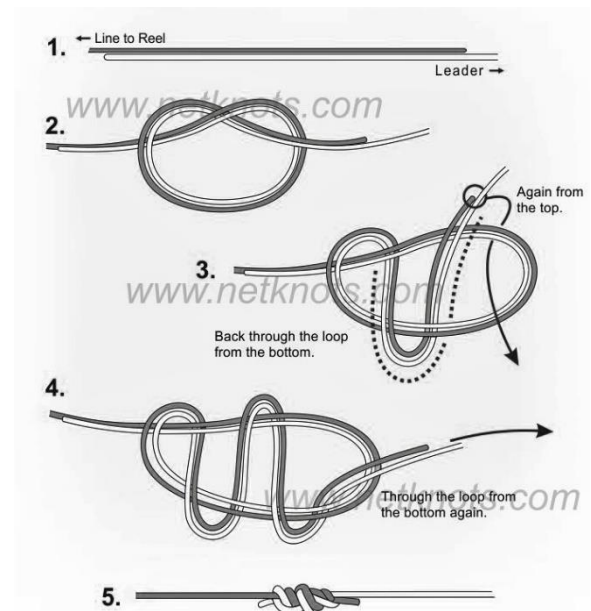


The Perfection Loop is a useful knot because it allows you to quickly add a new leader to the loop at the end of a fly line. But it is also an effective way to tie a streamer to the end of your tippet. Use this loop, or a Kreh Loop Knot, instead of your standard knot, which gives that streamer a more lifelike action.

The Lefty Kreh Loop Knot



The J Knot



The J Knot is in all probability the strongest leader to tippet knot. It starts out similar to the Surgeon's Knot (double or triple) but the wraps alternate, which may put less stress on the lines.

Thanks to www.netknots.com. You will find instructions for tying dozens of great knots.

**Doc Fritchey Chapter – 2021-2022
Officers and Board Members**

Officers

Rich DiStanislao - President
Vice President – Chuck Swanderski
Bob Pennell - Secretary
Trip McGarvey – Treasurer
Russ Collins, Past President

Board Members

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

"...buying a fly rod in the average city store, that is, joining it up and safely wagging it a bit, is much like seeing a woman's arm protruding from a car window: all one can readily be sure of is that the window is open."

Anatomy of a Fisherman by Robert Traver



"A Master in the art of living draws no sharp distinction between his work and his play; his labor and his leisure; his mind and his body; his education and his recreation. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence through whatever he is doing, and leaves others to determine whether he is working or playing. To himself, he always appears to be doing both."

Francois Auguste Rene Chateaubriand

Doc Fritchey Chapter
Of Trout Unlimited
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