

# HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter  
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 [www.dftu.org](http://www.dftu.org)  
**Winter 2022**



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



## From Your President:

2021 was a very good year for DFTU, but certainly one that was different in so many ways. We successfully conducted all our speaker's programs for the year, albeit online, and taught our Spring 2021 fly-tying course as an advanced course, also online. For the first half of 2021, all of our Board meetings were online, which worked far better than we expected.

Once summer arrived, we returned to in-person Board Meetings, using my porch which just barely had enough chairs. Despite restrictions, we remained flexible. We kicked off our celebration of getting-together-again with a chapter picnic at the end of the summer, produced a successful Ladies Day in early October, applied for and received a record-setting amount of grants for stream improvements, stocked streams for trout season and late season, replaced and restored parts of the Diversion Well on Rausch Creek, attended several community exhibition days (Wildwood Festival and Palmyra Sportsmen's Association Field Day), held successful raffles for guided fishing trips, and we have just announced – with this Winter issue - a major fund-raising raffle and have started to register members/friends for two late-winter-fly-tying courses.

In the past month we have more than doubled the number of our chapter's corporate sponsors/partners. Last fall our chapter's efforts were recognized with two significant awards from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited: Best chapter website, and to Russ Collins, who received the coveted Doc Fritchey Conservationist award. We published an outstanding quarterly newsletter, which reaches nearly 600 people, and I'm certain that I have left some volunteer contributions out of this listing. These are all significant achievements for a year in which uncertainty ruled.

Unfortunately, we also missed celebrating fifty-years of Doc Fritchey as a Trout Unlimited chapter. This is something we definitely want to formally celebrate this coming year, so I am seeking a few members to help me plan a special event. Let me know if you want to help. As we mentioned in our fall newsletter, we decided our annual fund-raising banquet could not be scheduled for 2022, as covid variants are rearing their ugly heads.

Working together, we are making a difference! Let's carry these successes into 2022!

Rich DiStanislao, Chapter president

## Winter Raffle Features Six Outstanding Prizes

As we advised you in our fall newsletter, due to ongoing Covid concerns, the Doc Fritchey Chapter has cancelled plans for an Annual Banquet in the spring of 2022. However, as we also indicated in that newsletter, our need for on-going fund raising has not diminished, so in place of an annual fund-raising banquet we are offering the opportunity for our members and friends to participate in a substantial Winter Raffle, with the Grand Prize being a guided fly fishing trip on the Delaware River with professional guide Lee Hartman.

For complete descriptions and photos of the six prizes, see page 7 or visit our website at [www.dftu.org](http://www.dftu.org).

Included with this issue of *Hatches* are 5 raffle tickets. If you want more than five tickets, please contact Trip McGarvey at [trip@dftu.org](mailto:trip@dftu.org) or 860-367-1516. Ticket stubs should be mailed along with your check payable to "DFTU" to DFTU, P.O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078.

The winning tickets will be drawn at 8:00 PM on February 17, 2022. The drawing will be broadcast live on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/DocFritcheyTU](https://facebook.com/DocFritcheyTU)). Winners need not be present to win, and all winners will be notified by phone immediately following the drawing.

## In Memoriam

Dick Puerzer, a long-time member of our chapter, passed away in November of 2021. Dick was active in our membership meetings (he rarely missed a meeting), and for years served as a mentor for our spring fly-tying programs. Through an email solicitation to our membership, we collected more than \$250.00 in donations for a memorial tree. Once the weather improves in April, we will plant a native Pennsylvania tree along one of our stream projects in memory of Dick, with an appropriate plaque. Thanks to everyone that contributed.

## PA Council Names New Regional Vice President

Jimmy O'Connor from Marietta, Lancaster County has replaced our own Russell Collins as South Central Regional Vice President for the PA Council of Trout Unlimited. Congratulations Jimmy. We look forward to seeing you at chapter events in 2022.

"Every long term angler, or fisherman on his first pair of waders realizes that the trout are not the ultimate prize. It's the experience. It's the wild. It's the chase. It's the friends and family that we fish with. These are priceless things we fish for, every day on the water." Domenick Swentosky

## January 25<sup>th</sup> - "Creating the Tools of our Trade" – Master Rod building with Tom Whittle and Barry Weaver

Although many fishermen dabble in "rod building", the Doc Fritchey chapter of Trout Unlimited is blessed to have as members some true master craftsmen of fishing rods.

We are delighted to return to in-person meetings with a chapter program devoted to the art and science of custom-rod building. The program features a bamboo rod builder, **Tom Whittle**, and **Barry Weaver**, a custom graphite and glass fresh and salt water rod builder.



Tom Whittle - Stony Creek Rods - builds exceptionally fine, split-cane fly rods. Tom designs his own rod tapers, experimenting constantly to create a truly custom rod for the discriminating angler who wants to fish a traditional bamboo fly rod; his rods are nationally recognized for their superior craftsmanship.

Tom is the co-author of "*Split and Glued*" (*Biography of Vince Marinaro and his rods, history*). Tom is a past president of our Doc Fritchey chapter.



Barry Weaver is always excited to dig in and find the newest and best of the synthetic rod blanks and fittings.

In his Dream Weaver shop in E-Town Barry works with his customers to determine the most appropriate blank to suit their individual needs, and then creates a piece of art for its owner. Barry's reputation as a rod craftsman is ever-growing.

Our first in-person chapter membership program in way too long will be presented on **Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** starting promptly at 7:00 (socializing starting at 6:30) at the Hershey History Center, located at 40 Northeast Drive, Hershey, PA 17033. There is a large parking area in front of the building.

As with all TU chapter events in this time of Covid-19, please do not attend if you are not fully vaccinated.

## PA Council of TU Website Award



Andy Link, our webmaster and Rich DiStanislao with our 2021 Best Chapter Website Plaque

## Doc Fritchey Chapter Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on March 22, 2022, probably online, although that may change if virus conditions improve. At this meeting, the Board of Directors and Executive Officers for the next year will be elected (our TU year runs April 1 through March 31). Since there were so few opportunities in 2021 for our general membership to gather in-person, there was little opportunity for non-Board members to jump into leadership roles. We are now looking for two members to assume the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, and for several new board members. These are all two-year service commitments. We are also looking to encourage chapter members to step into positions where they can spend a year learning practices and routines, and then accept a nomination for the following year. If you wish to nominate yourself or another member for a chapter leadership role, please contact Rich DiStanislao (rdistani@comcast.net) by March 14.

## Friends of Doc Fritchey

Starting with this issue of *Hatches*, we have added a significant number of names to the mailing list that receives our print newsletter. We realized that we have a lot of friends, from members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to the leaders of the Fish and Boat Commission and its conservation officers to the leaders of other TU chapters. So, if you opened this newsletter and are wondering where it came from, now you know. We added you to our mailing list.

## Congratulations to Russ Collins



We mentioned in the fall issue of the chapter's print newsletter that the PA Council of Trout Unlimited honored Russ Collins with its highest award, *the Doc Fritchey award for Outstanding Conservationist*. Russ received his plaque on October 28<sup>th</sup> at our fly-tying program. Congratulations Russ. Well done.

## Beginner Fly-Tying Course

Later this winter our chapter will offer a traditional beginner fly tying course - for individuals who have never tied a trout fly. This Beginner's course will be offered in the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association club house on Monday evenings, from 6 to 8 PM, beginning on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, running for six consecutive Monday evenings. Beginners must furnish their own tools (vise, scissors, etc.), but if a student does not own his or her own fly tying equipment, students may purchase a complete high-quality-tool-kit at our special TU discounted rate of \$50. This option is available at the time of registration, and the tools will be delivered at the first meeting.

Students must be at least 16 years old. The cost for the course is \$35, and the class size will be limited to a total of 15 students, based upon the earliest registrations. To register for the course, please go to [DFTU.org](http://DFTU.org) and find the link for registration.

## Advanced Fly-Tying Course at Wildwood

The Doc Fritchey Chapter is happy to announce that we will offer our acclaimed Advanced Fly Tying course in 2022. Our chapter's exceptionally talented fly-tying mentors will be teaching this course for those who have mastered entry-level tying techniques and have been fly tying for at least two years. Note: This is not a beginner's course. Advanced only, please.

The course will run for a series of six consecutive Thursday evenings at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Nature Park north of Harrisburg beginning on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and ending on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Classes will run from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Advance registration is, of course, mandatory. Register online at: [explorewildwoodpark.org](http://explorewildwoodpark.org). Click on Events and scroll to February to find the Advance Fly-Tying Course.

## Become Active in an Inactive Time

You have probably heard the old saying "Round up the usual group of suspects" from an old movie but sometimes it applies to our core of volunteers. We generally "round up" the same members for our projects. The good news is that we have gained a new list of volunteer members as their first experience with our chapter was fun and rewarding. Last year our Chapter reported over 4,200 hours in volunteer work. Almost half of the hours were dedicated to conservation efforts.

Members served in the areas of administration, conservation, stocking, outreach, education, or general volunteering. Based on our current membership the numbers average out to 9 hours per member. I guess the question is what kind of member are **you**? A great New Year's goal to consider is to increase your time, talent, and giving to one of our programs listed below.

### Volunteers are needed for:

Fly Tying Mentors	Ladies Day
Youth Day	Veterans Day
Diversion Well	Diversity/Inclusion
Stream improvements	Grant Writing
Communications	Education Programs
Stream Girls	Stream Stocking
Annual Banquet/Fund Raising	

For more information or to volunteer call or email Chuck Swanderski, DFTU Membership Chairman at (717-805-8050) or [chucks@dftu.org](mailto:chucks@dftu.org).

## Millport Conservancy 2022 Button

For those of you who regularly purchase a Millport Conservancy access button from the Donegal Chapter, the 2022 buttons are now available. Cost went up to \$25.00. Buttons are available from the Precision Fly and Tackle Shop on Fruitville Pike in Lancaster or from Tom Hall, former president of the Donegal Chapter - [phallcat@comcast.net](mailto:phallcat@comcast.net).

## Membership Update

Here's a bit of good news for 2021. National TU lists 588 members on our roster. Some of these memberships will or have expired but this year we have added 87 new or rejoined members. Of that group 18 are from Harrisburg, 13 from Lebanon, 6 from Annville and Duncannon and 5 from the Hummelstown and Palmyra areas. 10 new members are women. Reasons folks gave for joining were our half price rate, social media, website, talked to a member, and participated in one of our programs. It appears our outreach, communications, and social media programs are giving us some great exposure. Now we need to get you more involved.

## Russ Collins featured on State Impact PA



On December 8, 2021, Rachel McDevitt, writing for State Impact PA, wrote, "Whenever long-time fly fisherman Russ Collins looks at streams around Lebanon County, the wheels in his head are turning about how to protect them from pollution and help them run faster to flush out sediment."

Rachel's long and extensive story on our friend Russ Collins' efforts to protect Snitz Creek in Lebanon County, and, indeed, the entire Quittapahilla watershed, was "picked up" by public radio stations and local newspapers across the Commonwealth. A quick Google search will bring up the article. It's worth your time.

## Update on the Madison River

For anyone who has fly fished in Montana, you are certainly familiar with the Madison River. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the turbines failed in the Hebgen Dam and the river flow right below the dam dropped to a drastically-low 200 cubic feet.

Thousands of trout of all sizes were stranded in backwaters, and trout redds were exposed to air, sunlight, and heat. An emergency call went out to volunteers to come to the aid of the river, to chase and hand-carry stranded trout into whatever deeper water could be found and soak the redds as best as possible . . . and keep doing this until the problem at the dam could be repaired. Over 200 volunteers answered the call and worked hard to save as many trout as possible. Subsequently, the problem was repaired, and the river is now back to its normal flow: a great relief to everyone who treasures this spectacular river.

## Trout Magazine

The Fall issue of *Trout Magazine* arrived at the end of November with a cover photo of **Remove the Four Lower Snake River Dams** glowing in red on the face of the dam; dramatically highlighting the lengthy article on why National TU is so involved in this strategically important environmental issue. Indeed, the full-color, fold-out map inserted in the issue made it abundantly clear how important the Snake River drainage is to the short and long-term survival of Pacific salmon. An annual TU membership for most of us is a minor expense, about the cost of lunch for two at a nice restaurant. Yet, for that modest amount, TU and its numerous environmental partners are able to carry out strategic campaigns that make a difference for all of us. Thanks for your support.

## Rivers Conservation Camp Applications

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp will be held at Messiah University June 19-24, 2022. Admission is limited to 24 qualified students from 14 to 17 years of age. Camp tuition is \$550 per student but the Doc Fritchey chapter annually budgets tuition expenses for at least two students from Dauphin or Lebanon Counties. All meals and accommodations are included for the residence camp.

The highly structured curriculum is based on college level classes. Students are instructed in ecology, aquatic biology, geology, hydrogeology, erosion and sediment control, ichthyology, riparian corridor protection, watershed management, entomology, and much more. Students also participate in a hands-on stream habitat improvement project.

But it's not all work. There are 10 fishing sessions, casting, and fishing instruction and fly-tying classes. Over 25 instructors, all experts in their field, teach the various classes. A student doesn't have to be an accomplished fly fisher or a budding aquatic biologist to attend. The student only needs to be highly motivated and willing to learn.

We expect you know someone, a child or grandchild or a neighbor, who may have an interest. To apply, visit the camp website at [www.riverscamp.com](http://www.riverscamp.com).

## Freeman Run in Potter County

Starting in November and throughout December, TU chapters throughout the Commonwealth responded to an urgent request from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU) to provide input/feedback to the PA Fish and Boat Commission on the Council's position against the stocking of Freeman Run in Potter County.

Approximately 12 miles of Freeman Run are classified as Class A Wild Trout waters, with the uppermost section qualifying for brook trout and the lower three sections qualifying for brown trout. Historically, parts of Freeman Run have been stocked by a local cooperative hatchery. PATU's position, and the position adopted by the Doc Fritchey Chapter and numerous other TU chapters across the Commonwealth, opposes continuing to stock this Class A wild trout stream.

Currently there are 12 stream sections within the 9 Class A streams in Pennsylvania where stocking is permitted. PATU is concerned there appears to be a trend toward providing more exceptions. Should Freeman Run be added to the exception list, the total will continue to increase, and pressure will mount for continued rollbacks.

## Keystone Coldwater Conference Feb. 25-26

The Pennsylvania Council of TU (PATU) will host the biannual Keystone Coldwater Conference in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society February 25-26, 2022, at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College. Each year the conference provides an opportunity for grassroots conservation organizations, environmental professionals, college faculty, staff, and students to share ideas, concepts, and network in order to protect, conserve and restore Pennsylvania's cold water resources. [Coldwaterconference.org](http://Coldwaterconference.org)

Our Doc Fritchey chapter has written a check for \$250 to help make this quality event possible.

## Palmyra Sportsmen's Association Field Day



At least a dozen TU volunteers, including a few members we don't see very often, turned out to help the Chapter on a gorgeous October Sunday at the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association's Annual Field Day.

Chuck Swanderski teaching fly casting

With shotguns, hand guns, and long guns blasting on ranges all around us the chapter taught several dozen people, youngsters and oldsters, the basics of fly casting.

We took half a dozen of them to the Quittie to fish over a large pod of just-released rainbow trout from PSA's cooperative nursery, and we showed them how to tie a variety of trout flies. Thanks to everyone who helped. It was a special day.

## Macroinvertebrate Sampling in the Quittie

For the second consecutive year, volunteers from the Doc Fritchey Chapter, led by Kent Crawford, extensively sampled six locations on the Quittapahilla Creek and its tributaries for macroinvertebrate life. The process of sampling took place in late October.



The collection process requires two volunteers, one to hold the sampling net and the other to aggressively kick the stream bottom for sixty seconds.

Once that sample is collected, the "slow bit" takes place on the streambank.

## Macroinvertebrate Sampling, Cont.

The volunteers then sort through the debris and pick out all the invertebrates found in the sample.



Those collected invertebrates then go into an alcohol-filled bottle for identification by Dr. Becky Urban's Biology students at Lebanon Valley College.

It was a cold November morning

Eventually, a report from the students is provided to Kent Crawford. Unfortunately, as was the case in 2020 when we started this sampling process, the numbers of mayflies and caddis flies collected is not ideal. As anyone who regularly fly fishes along the Quittie or its tributaries will tell you, the Quittapahilla watershed simply does not have much in the way of insect life; scuds and sowbugs are the main source of macroinvertebrate life in the watershed.

## Quittie Data Sampling



A year ago, we were excited to report that a team of volunteers had successfully installed data sampling stations in six locations throughout the Quittapahilla watershed. However, thanks to equipment issues and Covid, it took a year to restart,

Kent Crawford

but restart we did, and we are delighted to report that two volunteers, Kent Crawford and Stephan Vegoe, have gotten all the sampling stations working properly (and now reporting every fifteen minutes) and the first accurate measurements of stream temperature and stream flow have been recorded.

In the middle of December Crawford and Vegoe manually sampled the stream flow in five of the six locations (one location is monitored by USGS), using the repaired streamflow devices that did not work properly a year ago. It's anticipated that streamflow measurements will be taken in these five locations about every two months.



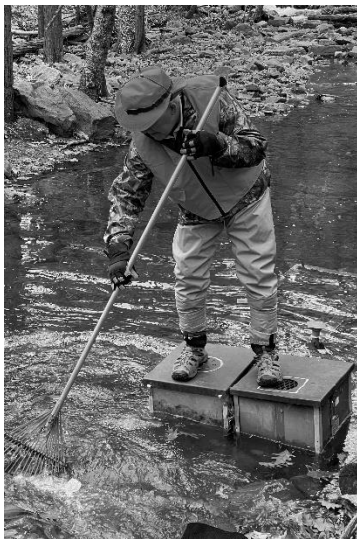
## Snitz Creek Tree Damage



The Susquehanna Valley was hit hard on the first of September by a one-day rainfall event of six inches (the remnants of Hurricane Ida). Although for the most part flooding was not much of an issue, in one place in particular, the northern section (downstream from the small bridge) of the chapter's streambank restoration project on the Nolt property along the Snitz Creek, flooding had a major impact.

Ninety percent of the tree protection tubes and stakes that our chapter put in place to protect newly-planted-young trees were swept away by the flood. In many cases, but not all, even the young trees were swept away. Fortunately, we were able to salvage some of the tubes and stakes. They were scattered all along the creek - in the trees, bushes, and weeds far downstream. However, it appears we salvaged enough trees that replanting will not be necessary.

## Diversion Well Maintenance



The Diversion Well crew had a busy fall. The well needed a substantial amount of not-so-routine maintenance in the last half of 2021.

Fortunately, the dedicated crew that works on the Rausch Creek diversion well was up to the task.

The crew is "managed," if that's the appropriate word, by Dennis Coffman.

## Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants

In October of 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded over \$4.1 million to 13 projects statewide that will help communities restore impaired local watersheds.

The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants program supports projects that carry out best management practices (BMPs) specified in Watershed Implementation Plans for 36 watersheds around the state, with special consideration for projects in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The program also supports development of new Watershed Implementation Plans for additional impaired watersheds.

### Two of those 319 grants were awarded to the Doc Fritchey Chapter.

\$161,081 to restore 2,781 linear feet of stream and plant a 35-foot-wide streambank buffer along Bachman Run on two properties in South Annville Township. In addition, the project will convert heavily impacted pasture into a half-acre of emergent wetland in the adjacent floodplain.

\$132,759 to develop a Watershed Implementation Plan for Spring Creek Watershed in Palmyra Borough and Derry, South Londonderry, North Londonderry, and Conewago townships. The watershed is 91 percent impaired, primarily by siltation, but also by organic enrichment, habitat alteration, and flow modification. The plan will prioritize sites that contribute high pollutant loads to streams in the watershed; prioritize best management projects and quantify how much pollution they'll remove; and identify project cooperators, approximate financial costs, and an implementation schedule.

## 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  
Joseph Connor  
Fran Barilar  
Francis O'Gorman  
Steve Long  
Becca Fronk  
George Dodson

# Doc Fritchey Chapter 2022 Winter Raffle

## 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

### Guided Fishing Trip on the Delaware with Lee Hartman



This full-day float trip for 1 or 2 people will also include overnight accommodations and breakfast and lunch on the day of the trip to be booked during 2022.

## 2nd Prize

### **Orvis Fly Rod/Lamson Reel Combo**



An Orvis 7'9" 3wt. 2pc. Silver Label TL rod and a Lamson reel is the perfect combo for small stream fishing with an ultra-light touch. Both are in very nearly new condition. Complete with rod sock and Cordura rod tube.

## 3rd Prize

### **North Fork Gateway Photo Print on Canvas**



Photographer and flyfishing guide Bill Kosmer took this spectacular shot at the entrance to the Canyon of the North Fork of the Blackfoot River while fishing in Montana. The color photo is printed on canvas with overall dimensions of 20" wide by 30" high.

## 4th Prize

### **\$150 Gift Card for TCO Fly Shops**



Enjoy shopping with \$150 to spend at any of the four TCO Fly Shops in Pennsylvania.

## 5th Prize

### **6 Dozen Dry Flies tied by Rich DiStanislao**



An assortment of hand-tied dry flies to match the major Eastern hatches, in a double-sided waterproof fly box.

The flies include 6 of each of these parachute style dry flies: Blue-winged Olive, Red Quill, Female Hendrickson, Quill Gordon, March Brown, Sulphur, Cornuta, Mahogany Dun, Isonychia and Light Cahill, plus 2 fluttering caddis patterns: Grannom caddis and tan caddis.

## 6th Prize

### **Hand-carved Rainbow Trout**



A beautiful 9" long rainbow trout by Showcase Carving. Mounted on a wooden base with river pebbles.

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

## Doc Fritchey's Sponsors

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