



HATCHES

Newsletter of the Doc Fritchey Chapter
P. O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078 www.dftu.org
Summer 2022



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



From Your President:

The volunteer spirit is alive and well! Special thanks to everyone who has signed up to work, to staff booths, and to assist in mentoring in our upcoming projects.

As noted in earlier communications, we have a calendar planned with lots of opportunities for involvement by members.

On June 11, we had a good turnout for a tree-planting workday on Snitz Creek; our picnic staffing sign-up is healthy, and so is the booth staffing for a special day at the Ned Smith Center; Ladies Day, scheduled for Saturday, Sept 17, still needs mentors and helpers.

We'll be advertising several of our events later in the summer and in the fall through our Constant Contact emails, and we will be seeking additional help at these events from our members. So, if you haven't had an opportunity to sign up yet, don't despair. There will be other chances as we progress.

National Trout Unlimited's 2022 Annual Meeting will be held in Portland, Maine, July 20-24, and our chapter will be represented by former chapter president Russ Collins. Russ will be a presenter. In addition to everything else he is involved in, Russ has been busy acquiring grant funding for our projects on Hammer, Bachman, Snitz, and Spring Creeks.

Because the varied projects in the Hammer Creek watershed will, when fully funded, be the most impressive projects in which this chapter has ever been involved, we are talking with Russ Collins and Dr. Jim Suleski about organizing a Hammer Creek walk-through informational session so members can see the area where the complicated stream restoration work is now and will be taking place.

Also, we want to schedule a workday for the special regulations area on Manada Creek. The stream really needs to have trees and logs removed and pathways cleared. Many areas on the stream are now so obstructed that it is impossible to float stock.

Tree Planting Workday on Snitz Creek

Many thanks to the 14 chapter members who came out to help plant trees on a perfect Saturday morning on the Snitz Creek in North Cornwall Township, Lebanon County on Saturday, June 11.



Trip McGarvey and Travis Witt

Our volunteers planted new trees, reestablished trees that had been previously planted, cleared logs that were obstructing the creek, and picked up trash and litter along the banks (but not too much). The group also planted a memorial tree to honor Richard "Dick" Puerzer, a longtime member of our chapter and mentor for our fly tying courses, who passed away last November. Thanks to the good idea of several of our members, who thought we ought to plant a memorial tree along one of our chapter project streams, we solicited chapter members for contributions and raised enough to purchase a nice tree with an informational plaque.

The tree our volunteers planted is a young weeping willow, recommended by Nolt's Nursery as perfect for the riparian buffer. Our volunteers also buried a good-sized piece of concrete with a metal plaque fixed to the smooth face of the stone. Dick's wife, Margaret, visited the site that same afternoon to see the tree and to thank the chapter for creating this memorial to her husband.

Thanks to the efforts of two local, cooperative nursery programs, there are healthy trout in Snitz Creek, and they will be there until the creek warms up in July.

"We tend to eat the avian species that sing less well." Jim Harrison

MEMORIAL LAKE STATE PARK, GRANTVILLE, PA • 3PM TO 7PM

Near Fort Indiantown Gap, off Rt. 443, Boundary Rd. to Middle Rd.



MIDDLE PAVILLION
Catering by:
MISSION BBQ®
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Menu: (4:30 to 5:30pm)
*Pulled Pork and Chicken
and Sliced Brisket
8 Various BBQ Sauces
Slider Rolls and Cornbread
Maggie's Mac-n-Cheese, Baked
Beans w/Brisket and Cole Slaw
Various Cookies and Brownies
Summertime Lemonade, Sweet
Tea and Bottled Water*

Activities & Games:
*Horseshoe Pit and Cornhole
Fly Rod Casting w/Prizes
Fly Rod Casting Demos
Park Boat Rentals (pay your way)
Park Playground and more!*



**TROUT
UNLIMITED
DOC FRITCHEY
CHAPTER**

**Picnic
by the
LAKE**

SUNDAY, JULY 24!

Make a day of it for the whole family! For directions, parking, middle pavilion site, maps and park activities, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/MemorialLakeStatePark. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

DFTU 2022 Membership Picnic Reservation Form • Must be received by July 14!

NAME(S): _____

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 ADULT PICNIC RESERVATIONS _____ (13 AND OLDER) @ \$15.00 each \$ _____

NUMBER OF YOUTH PICNIC RESERVATIONS _____ (12 AND YOUNGER) FREE each \$ 00.00 _____

☐ I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT I AM ENCLOSING A DONATION TO DFTU OF \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (non-refundable, rain - or - shine event) \$ _____

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

Gerald Miller Award – Becca Fronk



In our spring issue we recognized Rebecca Fronk as the 2022 recipient of the chapter's prestigious Gerald Miller Volunteer Award. Chapter president Rich DiStanislao presented the award to Rebecca at our May 31st chapter meeting in Hershey. Congratulations!

Thank You to the Ames Companies

Before the chapter's May meeting got started, Richard Green, a lead engineer with the Ames Companies, mentioned he could arrange a tool donation to help with the chapter's upcoming tree planting work day. He said all he needed to know was what tools we needed, and he would bring them to the work day.



Ames really delivered – various shovels, pick axes, mattocks, and hammers in various sizes. The chapter is certainly now fully equipped to continue our riparian buffer plantings on the various projects that are currently under construction and in the design and planning stages. Thanks Richard and Thanks Ames.

Annual Clarks Valley Highway Cleanup

On what can only be described as “a perfect spring morning,” six volunteers from the Doc Fritchey Chapter conducted our annual highway cleanup on Clarks Valley Road – along the two miles of the Fly Fishing Only (FFO) section of Clarks Creek. As you can see from the photo, with all six resplendent in Hi-Vis Yellow, they clearly were dressed for the occasion.



Because the chapter conducts this cleanup annually, litter collection is not an overwhelming task, just the usual assortment of bottles, cans, wrappers, and assorted car parts that are obviously the results of hitting white-tailed deer at speed on Route 325. However, it's always interesting to find the trash that some folks think is appropriate to discard along the highway. This year's prize went to the “slob” who thought it was ok to leave a trash bag filled with soiled diapers in one of the pull-offs along the highway. Oh well, it's now in the landfill.

Thanks to Fran Barilar, Stephan Vegoe, Joe Notarangelo, Bob Bauer, Rick Frazier, and Dennis Coffman for investing four hours on a beautiful Saturday morning to help keep Pennsylvania beautiful.

Chapter Volunteers at Ned Smith

If you are looking for a family activity with an outdoor theme, may we suggest you mark your calendars for the last Saturday in July, the 30th, for the annual Ned Smith Nature and Arts Festival. Since 1994, the Center has held its annual festival, which began as the “Ned Smith Tribute Festival.” Now, more than 25 years later, this event is still going strong, bringing free family-friendly, educational entertainment to thousands of people from all over central Pennsylvania. Somewhere in the maze of activities that day you'll find a booth with some of our chapter's leadership. They'll be tying trout flies and talking about conservation. Stop by to say hello and let them know you are a chapter member.

Learn to Fly Fish on Ladies Day

Our chapter will sponsor its annual "Ladies Day" on Saturday, September 17, at Limestone Springs Preserve, in Richland, PA. The event is devoted to introducing women to the sport of fly-fishing. Our fishing pastime has long been thought of by the public as being a man's sport, and that women were being left out. To counter this, we hold an educational day on the stream, teaching all the nuances of fly fishing. There are several sessions, including the explanation of proper use of fly fishing tackle, aquatic insect identification, artificial fly patterns that are typically used, learning the knots needed for fly fishing, fly casting, and actual fishing on the water with a chapter "mentor."



Rich DiStanislao helping a student

Advance registration is required and includes a fee of \$25 to offset the cost of some of our Limestone Springs expenses.

These expenses include admission to the preserve and our use of the pavilion for the day, and offsetting some of the costs of the trout that are caught. We will apply \$18 per registrant towards the fish that are caught upon check-out. Limestone Springs is a "catch-and-keep" preserve, which means that you must keep and pay for the fish that you catch. Limestone Springs has been generous with us in allowing our registered group to initially fish for a period of time with "hookless" flies so our "students" can learn how trout take flies, how you can see and feel the "take" and see the drift of trout flies on the water. After a period of fishing with "no-hook" flies, our students will then have the opportunity to actually catch rainbow trout. With the understanding that all the rainbow trout that are caught must be kept and taken home for dinner.

If you are interested in being part of the group, either as a student or a volunteer, please contact chapter vice president Chuck Swanderski - chucks@dftu.org or (717) 832-3657. More Information is on our Doc Fritchey Facebook page and on our chapter website - www.dftu.org.

"I learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." Henry David Thoreau

Raffle Winner (and friend) on the Delaware

This past February, our chapter offered a raffle drawing, with a top prize of a day of flyfishing on the Delaware River; a float trip featuring Lee Hartman as the river guide. Winning raffle tickets were pulled at the first night of our fly-tying classes, and the big winner was Chuck Swanderski. I (Rich DiStanislao) was fortunate enough to accompany Chuck on his day of the float trip with Lee Hartman. Lee has long been recognized as one of the "legends" of the Upper Delaware River, and his knowledge of the river is amazing. We spent a day in the first week of June with Lee and caught fish.

Under a high cloudless sky on a hot sunny day, there were some slower afternoon times, but late morning and early evening produced hungry trout brought to net. We fished mainly dry flies, as the late spring hatches were on, and the fish were large and strong when hooked. The trip included overnight lodging at Lee's cabin on the Delaware, and it was a charming evening, sharing stories with Lee and his black Labrador retrievers. Chuck and I had booked a second day with Lee, and this one was more difficult, as we fought very strong winds and driving rain all the second day, but Lee kept us focused on searching for fish and catching some. He was an incredible rowing machine, as the wind was pushing us UPRIVER, Lee was rowing to take us downstream. The fish were less cooperative, but you can't do anything about the weather. Lee certainly worked hard for us. The Upper Delaware is a precious treasure, and hopefully we will make opportunities to fish it again

Native Brook Trout? "Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou?"

Dr. James Suleski, our chapter's brook trout researcher, will offer a presentation on our state's fish on Tuesday, September 27, at our general membership meeting, to be held at 7 PM at the Bellevue Park Community Building in Harrisburg. Finding and preserving the habitat for these precious fish is a passion with Dr. Jim, and he has spent countless hours learning their habits and working to preserve their populations. He has thoughts about how to handle the future of these game fish, and his presentation will truly be something special. Mark your calendars now so that you don't have any conflicts for that night. More information will be emailed out to our membership as we approach the start of fall.

"The best fisherman I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead, they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and to remember what they learned from them." John Gierach

Improvements on the Hammer Started

After nearly a year's delay for the permitting process, construction on our first projects on Hammer Creek, both rather modest projects, has begun.

Starting with a stretch of Hammer Creek on what we are calling the Shuey property, streambank restoration construction started in early June, and by the time you read this article this reach of the Hammer Creek will be vastly improved.

The stream banks were graded to provide a bit of a flood plain where high water can spread out rather than scour and erode the banks as before.



From historic records, this streamside site was the location of a colonial-times mill and the large block above is believed to be part of that old mill. Too large to be moved, we decided to bury it deep in the stream bank.

The project should be completed by the first week of July. After the Shuey project is completed, the construction crew will move upstream about 4 miles to start a similar restoration project on what we are calling the Zimmerman project.

"I've gone fishing thousands of times in my life, and I have never once felt unlucky or poorly paid for those hours on the water." William Tapply

Trout in the Classroom

Covid 19 messed up lots of plans the last couple of years, including for the 2021-2022 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) year. Two long-time teachers were not able to participate and one teacher who planned to start this past year could not and one new teacher did start, meaning we only had four classrooms raising fingerling trout from eggs in chapter-supplied aquariums.



Gretchen Miller carrying buckets with Nick Wright behind her

Both fifth-grade classes from ELCO Middle School in Lebanon County had an extremely successful/productive year and released their fingerling trout into Tulpehocken Creek in Fairlane Park near Myerstown on May 26th. Approximately fifty students and their teachers, Gretchen Miller and Nick Wright, bid farewell to about 125 gorgeous little rainbow trout.

After the release, the children stayed on in the park for an activity borrowed from the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art that engages them as though they were a simplified aquatic food web. The activity vividly demonstrates what happens if any single part of the web is removed or limited through various means, including pollution.

Trout in the Classroom is a national Trout Unlimited program. In Pennsylvania it is a cooperation between the PA Fish and Boat Commission and Trout Unlimited. TIC began in Pennsylvania with eleven schools and now reaches children of various ages in over 400 classrooms across the Commonwealth. Our Doc Fritchey chapter has actively sponsored schools in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties for more than fifteen years.

"I frankly don't make much of a living, but I make a hell of a life" Jack Gartside

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

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