

HATCHES

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



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

From Your President:



Rich DiStanislaio

Fall is in the air! To me, it's that wonderful time of year to start to slow down and enjoy life. Trout fishing becomes a favorite pastime, with fewer people on the streams, golden afternoon sunshine that warms the soul, and the bright autumn colors painting a beautiful backdrop to the clear waters. Finding fish isn't that difficult, and the trout become a bit more voracious as they prepare for the winter layover.

Even the coloration on the fish is deeper, more intense. I know that we will have a late season stocking on some streams, and there will be some folks chasing these fish, but most streams remain relatively free from competition.

To me, fall and winter are times to plan ahead; spring and summer are the time to implement your plans. Our chapter needs to rethink and rewrite our long-range planning document, which should span a three-to-five year period. As I enter into the final months of my tenure as chapter President, I want to ensure that our organization has a clear direction and groundwork laid to assist the President-Elect, as we will transition to a new chapter Executive Committee in March of 2023.

The chapter's proposed Killinger Creek project has received a handsome grant from the Lower Susquehanna Watershed Association, and thanks to a grant from the Giant Corporation we just purchased a Sonde water quality management device to enable us to remotely track the nuances of the Quittapahilla. Additionally, the chapter has written a comprehensive proposal for stream bank improvements on the upper end of the special regulations area on the Quittie, and we should learn of this decision in November.

Our Diversion Well on Rausch Creek has received its annual maintenance upgrades and the well is functioning perfectly. As I have mentioned before, Manada Creek needs a good work day from our chapter to clear many fallen trees. Just since the start of Fall, we sponsored a wonderful Ladies Day program, staffed informational booths at Wildwood, at the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association Field Day, at National Hunting and Fishing Day, at the Lebanon County Fair, and we will be assisting at the Family Fun Fishing Day at Italian Lake in Harrisburg.

Now it's time to tie everything together into a long-range plan!

Ken Sink Memorial Award



At the September 17 Pennsylvania Council Annual Meeting, chapter member Bob Pennell was honored as the recipient of the Ken Sink Memorial Award. This award is not necessarily presented every year but is given to an individual who contributes to PATU's mission in a notable way.

The Ken Sink Memorial Award is intended to recognize a person who has been actively engaged for a significant period of time and who has demonstrated steadfast dedication to coldwater conservation, protection, and restoration, as well as volunteerism and leadership. Bob served as PA Council Secretary for 16 years, before retiring last year.

DFTU Announces Fall Raffle Details

DFTU is pleased to announce we are conducting a Fall Raffle which offers the opportunity to win one of 7 great prizes. As a current member of the Doc Fritchey Chapter, you have received 5 raffle tickets with this Fall Issue of our Hatches newsletter. These tickets are \$20 each (and additional tickets can be purchased). Please determine how many tickets you want to purchase and mail a check (and the ticket stubs) to DFTU, c/o Fall Raffle, P.O. Box 227, Palmyra, PA 17078. The raffle drawing will take place at our chapter membership meeting on November 22.

The flier enclosed with the fall newsletter has complete details on the excellent prizes we are offering our members for this fall raffle prizes: (1) Overnight Guided Fishing Trip for 2 at the HomeWaters Club on Spruce Creek, (2) Sage X 9'0" 6wt. 4pc. Fly Rod, (3) Framed 1991 Trout Stamp Print, (4) Two Books on Caddisflies and Mayflies, (5) \$100 Gift Card for TCO Fly Shops, (6) \$100 Gift Card for The Mill Restaurant, and (7) Hand-carved Brook Trout.

Please support our fundraising efforts. The net proceeds from this raffle will be used exclusively for future stream restoration projects in Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

Summer Picnic

Our chapter held its annual summer picnic at Memorial Lake State Park on Sunday, July 24. Although the air temperatures were predicted to be in the mid-90s that day, there was a wonderful cooling breeze coming straight off the lake that blew right to our pavilion. It was a wonderful time for everyone, with lots of socializing, some games, and plenty of fishing stories floating around. Once again, the catering by Mission BBQ was outstanding, and the day proved to be near perfect!

November General Membership Meeting

On **Tuesday, November 22**, our chapter will hold a general membership meeting at the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association club house in Annville. The program, starting promptly at 7 PM, will feature a program on rod building - "*Creating the Tools of our Trade*". Two well-known rod-building celebrities will share the billing: Tom Whittle, co-author of "*Split and Glued*" (a book highlighting the rods of the late Vince Marinaro), will demonstrate how he creates bamboo fly rods. Following Tom's presentation, Barry Weaver, owner of Dream Weaver Rod Shop in Elizabethtown, will demonstrate how he builds modern glass and carbon fiber fly rods. If you want to begin to learn about rod building this is the ideal chance to learn from two master craftsmen. This is skilled handwork at its best, and both of these rod builders are tops in their field.

For your GPS: Address: 410 Sportsman Rd, Annville,

Used Tackle Exchange

Are you looking for a good piece of fishing tackle, perhaps a used rod or reel or a couple of boxes of flies or used fly lines, or custom-made spinners, or a few more fishing books to add to your ever-growing collection, and know that quality used tackle can be had for reasonable prices? If so, come to our **Used Tackle Exchange** on November 22, which will take place from 6 to 6:45 PM - before the chapter's general membership meeting at the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association club house in Annville.



Here's an opportunity to sell, buy, swap, or exchange some of your fishing gear. Tables will be set up in a common area separate from the room where the rod building program will be held. To reserve a table, or a portion of a table, simply email chapter president Rich DiStanislao at rdistani@comcast.net.

To be clear, the chapter is not selling anything. All transactions that take place during the **Used Tackle Exchange** are between members, so we are not responsible for any sales or refunds. Buyers and sellers negotiate prices and work out payment details between themselves.

So, if you have been thinking, "*I am getting older. What am I going to do with all this good fishing gear?*" Here's an opportunity to sell/trade some of it to Doc Fritchey members.

As you think about what you may want to sell, remember what the old fisherman said to his partner on the stream one recent morning. "*I sure hope when I am gone that my wife doesn't sell my fishing gear for what I told her I paid for it.*"

There are no costs involved in selling. All you need to do is contact Rich DiStanislao via email (rdistani@comcast.net) and do so before November 18th. You can make your table as fancy (or plain) as you want. Finally, no retailers permitted: members only and sales/trades/swaps/exchanges between members. DFTU will not be involved in transactions in any way.

Note: our rod builder presenters have agreed to offer their advice on repairs (costs, etc.) to your favorite rod "that needs work." Bring your rod with you so they can look at it before their 7:00 PM program.

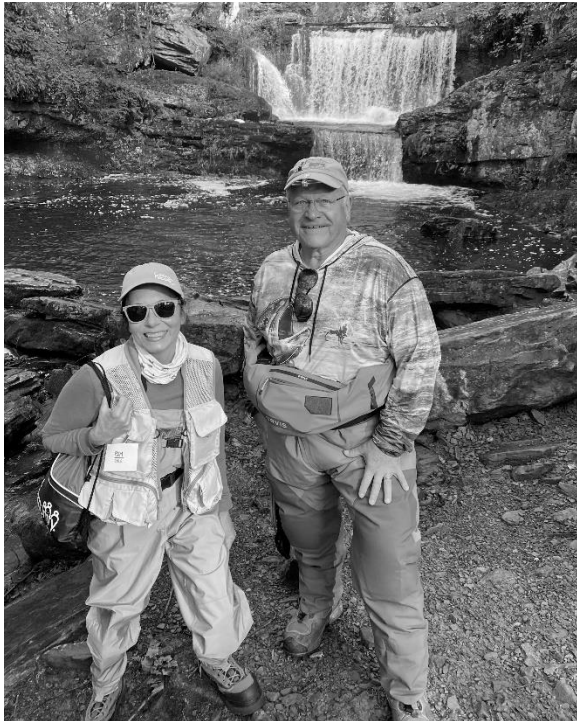
Family Fishing Day at Italian Lake

The City of Harrisburg, in conjunction with The Civic Club of Harrisburg, is sponsoring a Family Fishing Day on Saturday, October 22, at Italian Lake in uptown Harrisburg. The lake will be stocked earlier in the week with catfish and bluegills. All participants must be pre-registered, and the City of Harrisburg believes that there will be upwards of 300 people fishing. The actual fishing will take place between 10am and noon, and all children must have an accompanying adult with them. Mainly an event to introduce the sport of fishing to urban families, there is a lot of excitement attached to this program. If you don't have any equipment, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will provide bait and tackle to anyone who needs it. All participants will need to bring some type of container to store their catch. Our chapter will staff an informational booth at the lake, and we will provide some assistance to help participants. We will be setting up our information table at 9 AM and can use some volunteer help with this program. If you are available to help out, contact Rich DiStanislao at richd@dftu.org.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, one finds it attached to the rest of the world." John Muir

DFTU and Casting for Recovery

Founded in 1996, Casting for Recovery (CFR) provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer, at no cost to the participants. CFR's retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature. Casting for Recovery's innovative program focuses on improving quality of life for women with breast cancer and has garnered endorsements from medical and psychosocial experts nationwide.



Over the last several years the Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU has contributed financially to the Casting for Recovery Program. This year we sent our check along with Chuck Swanderski our DFTU VP to the Eastern Pennsylvania program. Chuck was one of the "River Guides" for the on-stream portion of this special event at the Sky Top Lodge in Sky Top. Chuck's comment was "I was humbled and honored to be a part of this program for the courageous women who have had to face breast cancer. Although I shared my knowledge and skills of fly fishing I observed and learned a great lesson in life".

"All things on earth point home in old October; sailors to sea, travelers to walls and fences, hunters to field and hollow and the long voice of the hounds, the lover to the love he has forsaken." Thomas Wolfe

"Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter." Leroy (Satchel) Paige

Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp

If you have a teenage grandchild or child that has shown an interest in conservation and fly fishing, here's a great opportunity to help them this coming summer. The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding the 28th annual **Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp June 18-23, 2023**, beginning on Sunday and ending the following Friday. The camp will be at Messiah University in Grantham in Cumberland County. Enrollment is limited to 24 selected qualified students from 14 to 17 years of age.

The camp will begin accepting applications for the 2023 camp on November 1, 2022. Applications at www.riverscamp.com.



Although tuition for the week is stated at \$550 per student, that's misleading. That's because the Doc Fritchey chapter will pay the full tuition for up to three students from Lebanon and/or Dauphin County. Your teenager simply has to state in the application that he/she is applying through Doc Fritchey. As soon as the student is accepted, Doc Fritchey will be notified, and we will pay the tuition. It's that simple.

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.

Students don't have to be accomplished fly fishers or budding aquatic biologists to attend; students only need to be motivated and eager to learn.

Ladies Day

On Saturday September 17th our Chapter sponsored our annual educational program to introduce women to flyfishing as a sport and fun family recreational activity. This year's program was again held at the Limestone Springs Preserve located in Richland, Lebanon County. We extend our sincere thanks to DFTU Chapter VP Chuck Swanderski who has been coordinating Ladies Day since 2018. The participants were given instruction and activities in flyfishing gear, equipment, knots and knot tying, entomology, fly tying, and casting. Displays, equipment, and handouts were provided by the Chapter and instructors to enhance the presentations.



Lead instructors were Jacquie Law, Cyndi Camp, Lynn Langer, Steve Long, Brett Wood, Steve Perkins and Rich DiStanislao. Assisting as mentors were DFTU members Becca Fronk, George Dodson, Byron Correll, Richard Green, and Chuck Swanderski. Always nice to see new faces from Chapter Volunteers and participants.

Our Chapter provided lunch, snacks, drinks, and the opportunity to chat with the instructors during the break. Participants were then given the opportunity to practice their casting skills on the lawn and in the stream to experience the thrill of "the take" as "Fun Flies" were used since Limestone Springs is a "Catch and Keep" facility. After a general wrap up meeting the group was again given the opportunity to fish the stream with actual flies and keep their catch. Screams and shouts were heard throughout the afternoon when the "students" actually caught fish.

A special thanks to our DFTU volunteers and the staff at Limestone Springs for making this event possible. For some great pictures of the event visit our website (dftu.org) and/or our Facebook page.

"The greatest enemy of 'good' is 'better'" - Voltaire

The Brook Trout: Pennsylvania's Misunderstood State Fish

On September 27th, board member Dr. James Suleski presented an informative program at our general membership meeting, held at the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission building. Dr. Suleski takes his brook trout studies seriously and presented a review of outstanding research on our brookie, giving the attendees a layman's term understanding of what it takes to sustain a healthy population of native fish in our local streams. He dispelled some of the beliefs that had been held by the public, such as whether certain streams are considered to be inappropriate to hold brook trout. He pointed to specific studies that proved his statements, and he introduced some definitions that clarify what type of habitat is necessary. Overall, it was an educational experience for everyone. If you missed his live presentation, you may still catch the recorded session on YouTube at our website, www.dftu.org.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

DFTU was represented by Board Members George Dodson and Chuck Swanderski at National Hunting and Fishing Day at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.



The exhibit included posters and information on the DFTU Diversion Well, stream improvement projects, educational events, and fly tying.

Visitors were shown information on insects and tying flies that resemble actual stream insects and bait fish. New to DFTU was the introduction of our QR Code that took participants directly to our website for additional information on projects, educational activities, and how to become a TU member.

Diversion Well News

The diversion well gang has switched to Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM, every Sunday until spring returns. After a rather dry summer and early fall, rain has finally returned to the Susquehanna Valley and the Stony Valley, so the diversion wells, which have been too long dormant, are now functioning properly. A great crew of 11 Doc Fritchey volunteers showed up for the last Monday evening work session of September and activated the round well.



The crew shoveled in 6 loads of limestone, approximately 1000 pounds. Rainfall recorded that week was 3.95 inches, so the wells are again working to modify the acid mine drainage issues that have plagued Stony Creek for generations. As always, TU members are welcome to visit the wells. Show up at 1:00 PM on Sunday at the entrance to the State Game Lands 211 road on Gold Mine Road and the crew will show you how they operate. Donuts for the crew are always appreciated.

DFTU awarded \$10,000 for equipment to monitor the Quittapahilla Watershed

Thanks to the superb efforts of Dr. Kent Crawford, The Doc Fritchey chapter was awarded a \$10,000 Healing the Planet Grant sponsored by Giant Corp/Giant Foods.

Since receiving the grant money, and with an additional \$2,000 provided by the chapter, DFTU placed an order for a YSI multiparameter water quality sonde. The device will be used to monitor temperature, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen in the Quittapahilla watershed, primarily on the main stem as it runs through western Lebanon County.

"We can use this device for spot checks, or we can deploy the device long term," Crawford said. "And the long-term application is really important because that means we can put the device in the creek and leave it there. And it records the data for us and stores it in memory. And then, we can come back and retrieve the data from the memory of the device. This is really important because we think that dissolved oxygen in the creek may be a limiting factor for trout. What happens is, in the daytime, if there are algae or plants in the creek, they produce photosynthesis, which generates oxygen. But at night, there's no sunshine, and so photosynthesis cannot occur. And then, respiration still goes on, which consumes oxygen.

Conservation Activities Update

As you have undoubtedly noticed as you have read our 2022 chapter newsletters, we are aggressively seeking grant money for stream restoration projects, mostly now in Lebanon County. Because of the tireless efforts of former chapter president Russ Collins, there is a tremendous amount of activity: grant requests, planning and design, land-owner meetings, and project implementations. Russ gave the board of directors a brief review of the current status, which is summarized below, and it's impressive. Thanks Russ.

Barry farm project - We recently installed groundwater wells to measure the depth of groundwater in the wetlands area where the new stream bed will be created, and also installed stream water temperature monitors to assess whether it is suitable for a thriving brook trout population. Data has been gathered every month since installation.

Snitz Creek 3 - After receiving notice of the grant award, work has begun on this project's design and permitting phase. Invoicing has started through the grant applicant DFTU. A walk-through along the property was done by the chapter's Executive Committee.

Bachman Run - Surveying and wetland delineation have been completed. Stream assessment will wait for winter to be completed due to the heavy over-growth of wetland grasses.

Snitz Creek 4 - A Growing Greener Grant application was submitted for design and permitting in the amount of \$171,512. Expected award to come in late winter or early spring.

Killinger Creek - Funding for planning, design, and permitting awarded and check received for \$129,084. Assessment has begun, wetlands delineation, and surveying the reach all have been completed.

Shuey project - Habitat structures are now in place, diverters, muddills, and large boulders have been installed. Construction is complete. Thanks to Lebanon County and the Chesapeake Community CAP program for the funding of this project for \$71,200.

Zimmerman project - Habitat structures are now in place. Root wads and muddills have been installed. Construction is complete. Thanks to Lebanon County and the Chesapeake Community CAP program for funding this project for \$36,200

Barry Farm Hammer Creek - Our grant application was held for review by DEP. They indicated that a combination of natural stream design and legacy sediment removal should be strongly considered. Working together, we compromised on a solution and our grant application was released on the cusp of the deadline.

Beck Creek - A construction phase grant application has been submitted. We applied for \$795,506, which was the low bid from four solicited contractors. Awaiting Spring 2023 announcement of the award.

Doc Fritchey Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
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