



HATCHES

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

Winter 2023



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

From Your President:



Rich DiStanislao

Happy New Year to All!

As we enter into 2023, it's great to have high expectations for ourselves. Cold winter nights are perfect for dreaming of the next trout season. It is also a time to perhaps learn some new skills. For example, you might want to enroll in our chapter's fly-tying courses that start in February - with two different skill levels—one for beginners and one for intermediate tiers.

Or you may want to try your hand at building a new rod. Our November meeting with Tom Whittle and Barry Weaver demonstrating the ins and outs of rod building may have inspired you to try your own hand at it. Or you might just want to check out your old tackle and figure out what you need to pitch and what you need to obtain before the new season starts. It's also a great time to catch up on reading, and there are loads of great books on the sport of angling.

For me, I start planning my summer destination fishing trip, reading online reports of promising places to go, and looking at lodging options. I always check out reviews of "hot flies" that worked last year and try my hand at tying some. Usually, I build a new rod each spring, sometimes for myself and sometimes for a friend or relative.

Winter is also the time for our chapter to review and critique its accomplishments from the past year and decide what changes are in order for the next year. We are preparing to write a new five-year strategic plan for the chapter. Our current plan expires at the end of our fiscal year (March 31), and we want to turn our chapter's vision into a solid organizational business plan. A planning committee has been formed and will begin to meet in January.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on March 28. We will present our chapter budget, elect officers, and reveal our new five-year strategic plan. We will be seeking to appoint new committee chairs for several chapter committees - trout stocking, veteran's program, youth programs, and others. The meeting will also feature a guest speaker. An email announcement will be sent to the membership in early March with details on the location, date, and time.

Finally, this is my last president's letter. My time as chapter president, a wonderful experience, comes to an end with the March membership meeting. Chuck Swanderski has agreed to serve as chapter president. Chuck has been an active board member and officer long enough. Now it's time for him to be president. He will do great work. Best wishes.

General Membership Meeting Tuesday, January 24

For our chapter's general membership meeting in 2023 - 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 24 - we are returning to a location that looms large in the history of the Doc Fritchey chapter, the Community Club at Fort Indiantown Gap. Those of you who were active members in the 90s will recall we held almost all our meetings at the Community Club. For those of you who don't have thirty years' experience with the chapter, the Community Club is located at 9-65 Fisher Ave, Annville. Look for the boxcar at the intersection and park in the main parking lot.

The meeting will feature two presentations. The first will be by the Lower Susquehanna Watershed Association, which is responsible for our stream restoration funding grants. Their presentation will cover projects and needs of the Susquehanna drainage.

The second presentation will be given by Lori Glace, a conservation analyst and watershed specialist for the Cumberland County Conservation District. Lori has been invited to discuss the recently completed, major streambank restoration project on the special regulations section of the Yellow Breeches. For many fly fishermen in central Pennsylvania, this stretch of the Yellow Breeches is "prime water," so we invited Lori to join us to show how this significant project was designed and implemented. It promises to be a most interesting program.

Doc Fritchey to Premier New Fly Fisherman Magazine Film - A Special Night at Troegs Brewery

Ross Purnell, editor and publisher of *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, and our Doc Fritchey Chapter will premiere a short film (*Over the Guardrail*) shot on location in 2022 in Dauphin and Lebanon counties, depicting fly fishing on the Susquehanna River and its tributary streams. When he approached us with this premier idea, Purnell offered to host the event at Troegs Brewery in Hershey to create a significant fundraiser for our TU chapter.

The premier will be held on Saturday evening, January 21, starting at 6:00, in the social room on the second floor of Troegs Brewery. This event is by reservation only and is limited to the first 100 people Register at: fly-fisherman-magazine.ticketleap.com/guardrail/

The ticket price (\$27.25) includes hors d'oeuvres and one beer from the host bar. A silent auction and bucket raffles will be conducted during the event, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Special thanks to TCO Fly Shops and *Fly Fisherman Magazine* for co-sponsoring this event, and all those who donated prizes for the auction and raffles.

Please be aware that at the time we mailed this Winter issue, most of the tickets for the event were already sold.

Doc Fritchey's Sponsors

Prior to the pandemic, this print newsletter contained no advertising. We simply budgeted the cost of printing and mailing four issues per year. But, when we realized that our primary source of revenue, our annual banquet/fund raiser, could not be held safely, (and likely not be held anytime soon) we approached a few "friends" and asked them to help support the chapter with a sponsorship investment. As we hope you have noticed, we have been using our sponsors' corporate logos in the newsletter (and on the website) to acknowledge the important funding they provide. You'll find those corporate sponsors' logos scattered, like advertising, throughout the pages of this winter issue. Our corporate sponsors truly have made a difference.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, as a corporate or individual sponsor, please contact our treasurer, Trip McGarvey – trip@dftu.org – to discuss options - Platinum (\$1,000), Silver (\$500), or Bronze (\$250).

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DFTU Winter Online Auction Goes Live on January 10

The online auction the chapter conducted a year ago proved to be a delightful success. Friends of the chapter donated a variety of prizes, stuff that proved to be appealing to our members, and we successfully raised a significant amount of money – online – to make up for the loss of our banquet fundraiser.

So, we are doing an online auction again, with another list of outstanding donated prizes.

From January 10 through the 31st chapter members will have the opportunity to bid on a variety of prizes; including Orvis, Sage, and Lamson rods and reels, guided fishing trips, a fishing kayak, Ned Smith art, fly assortments, a round of sporting clays, custom rod-building services, gear, and more.

While online bidding starts on January 10th and runs through January 31st, you will have an opportunity beginning January 1 to view the auction items at:

dftu.tulocalevents.org/winter23auction.

Winners will be notified by email at 9:00 PM after the close of the auction at 8:00 PM on January 31.

The 2023 Doc Fritchey online auction is co-sponsored by **Fly Fisherman Magazine** and **TCO Fly Shops**. All proceeds benefit the Doc Fritchey Chapter's fundraising needs for future stream restoration projects in Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

If you attend the "Over the Guardrail" screening at Troegs Brewery on January 21, you will have an opportunity to view the great prizes being offered.

Silver Sponsors



Doc Fritchey Fly Tying Courses this Spring – Sign Up Now!

Our chapter will teach two levels of fly tying this Spring. As we have for many years, we will offer a beginner's course on Monday nights, starting February 27th, and running for six consecutive Mondays, through April 3. We are holding a seventh night, April 10, in reserve, as either a make-up for bad weather, or as a night for fun tying by everyone at the end of the course.



The course will be taught at the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association club house in Annville, from 6:00 to 8:00. Cost is \$35. Students will be expected to use their own tools.

Anyone who does not yet have their own tools can purchase a complete set of tying tools from our chapter for a cost of \$65. All hooks and tying materials for the patterns each night will be provided by the chapter. To register, send an email to Rich DiStanislaio - (rdistani@comcast.net). Rich will give you information on paying in advance. Space is limited.



This year, we are also teaching an Intermediate fly-tying course, for fly tiers who have some experience.

This course will also be held on Monday nights, beginning Monday, February 20, and run for five consecutive Mondays, ending on March 20. This course will be taught at the Olewine Nature Center of Wildwood Park in Harrisburg from 6:00 to 8:00. Cost is \$35.

Students are expected to supply their own tools. (A complete set of tools is also available for purchase from the chapter for a cost of \$65.) Hooks and tying materials for each night's patterns will be provided.

Please register at the Wildwood website.

[explorewildwoodpark.org/event/intermediate-fly-tying-with-trout-unlimited](https://www.explorewildwoodpark.org/event/intermediate-fly-tying-with-trout-unlimited)

Another Year of Float Stocking

Our dedicated (but dwindling) group of TU volunteers showed up at Quittie Creek Nature Park on October 11th, on an absolutely glorious autumn day, to help WCO Mark Sweppenhiser stock the special regs section of the Quittie in Annville. The stocking truck brought a good quantity of "larger-than-normal-brown trout" for the final stocking of the season, and our volunteer float stockers were able to equitably distribute those trout along most of the special regs section, especially since water levels following the summer of little-to-no rain were "just right" for walking the float tubes downstream.

Usually when the stocking truck arrives at Manada Creek or the Quittapahilla the truck is followed by a large number of "eager-to-get-fishing-volunteers" who help carry buckets to the float tubes waiting in the creek. This last stocking of the season was an exception.



WCO Mark Sweppenhiser, filling in for WCO Doug Deppen, was all alone with the truck driver, so Mark carried buckets along with our TU crew. Thanks Mark.

Come spring and the 2023 fishing season, we need a new stocking coordinator. If you have an interest, please contact chapter vice president (soon to be president) Chuck Swanderski at chucks@dftu.org.

Quittapahilla Trash Cleanup

Following our October float stocking on Quittapahilla Creek, two of our regular float stockers, Rob Smith and Stephan Vegoe, independently spent several hours walking in the water in Quittie Creek Nature Park collecting accumulated trash from both banks and in-stream. Smith and Vegoe reported that there are significant trees down - one totally blocking the stream - trees that need to be removed in early 2023.

Quittie Invertebrate Sampling -- 2022

Again this year, DFTU members helped collect benthic macroinvertebrate organisms as part of a long-term monitoring survey of the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed. Our crew made collections at six locations – two mainstem sites on the Quittapahilla Creek and four tributary sites (Snitz Creek, Beck Creek, Bachman Run, and Killinger Creek).

As usual, the diversity of organisms was less than desired. Mayfly nymphs were almost non-existent. Caddisfly larvae were a bit more prevalent, although we certainly could not call them abundant. Probably the most common organism was the freshwater shrimp which are amphipods. Anglers typically refer to these organisms as scuds. These bugs ranged in size from very small (probably a size 20) up to maybe a size 16. Cress bugs were also fairly common and there were a few crane fly larvae.



Dr. Kent Crawford and Michael Schroeder

This is the third consecutive year that DFTU has assisted in these invertebrate collections. The collections we made will be identified and analyzed by the Lebanon Valley College Biology Department with a report to follow.

The following individuals assisted in the work: Katie Hollen, Bob Connell, Mike Schroeder, Johanna Willieme, Stephan Vegoe, and Kent Crawford

Membership Update

National TU lists 588 on our DFTU roster and this year we have added 87 new or rejoined members. Of that group, 10 are women. Reasons folks gave for joining were 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" involved.

"Life is sentimental. Why should I be cold and hard about it? That's the main content. The biggest thing in people's lives is their loves and dreams and visions, you know." Jim Harrison

Become Active in an Inactive Time

You have probably heard the old saying "Round up the usual group of suspects" from *Casablanca* 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 to TU National over 4,200 hours in volunteer work. Those hours are only the hours submitted by members. Many members don't tell us of the hours they donate to further our conservation and education causes.

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 what kind of member are you? A great New Year's goal to consider is to increase your time, talent, and treasure to one of the programs listed below.



This year we have many quality programs in need of Volunteers to Chair, Co- Chair, be a part of the committee, assist or just sign up for the day of the activity.

We have a very strong and respected Chapter and could use your help. Volunteers are needed for:

Fly tying Mentors, Ladies Day, Youth Day, Veterans Day, Development, Chapter Administration, Diversion Well, Diversity/Inclusion, Stream Improvement Grant Writing, Annual Banquet/Fund Raising, Communications, Education Programs Stream Girls/Boy Scouts, Assisting our Chapter Officers, Grant Writing, and Float Stocking. For more information or to volunteer call or email Chuck Swanderski, DFTU Membership Chairman at (717-805-8050) or chucks@dftu.org.

Quittie Floodplain Project Set to Begin

The Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium's SQ1 Quittapahilla Creek Floodplain Restoration project, along Chestnut Street between 19th and 22nd Streets in North Cornwall Township, is scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2023 with completion sometime in the fall.

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Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp

OK, the combined population of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties is 430,000 people. And, obviously, there are lots of teenagers, but not even one of them has applied for a scholarship from our chapter to attend the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp June 18-23, 2023.

Our chapter has budgeted for three full scholarships. So far no one has applied. That just does not make any sense, so if you have a teenage grandchild or child that has shown an interest in conservation and fly fishing, here's a great opportunity to give them "something special" this summer.

The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the 28th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. The camp is at Messiah University in Grantham in Cumberland County. Enrollment is limited to 24 selected qualified students from 14 to 17 years of age.

Information and applications at
www.riverscamp.com.

Online Store Update

DFTU has partnered with Travel Champs to increase our presence in the community, feature our chapter volunteers at events and help with funding of our chapter activities. We have recently added additional clothing items on our store webpage.



Selected logo apparel is offered for men, ladies, and youth. Cost is reasonable (compared to other chapters and shops), and our prices are below other similar online stores.

Chuck Swanderski will bring a limited selection of hats and tee shirts available to all of our meetings.

Please support our chapter by visiting the online store via our website: dftu.org

"In what seems like another lifetime ago, I fished the mountain streams alone and often. I miss it now. In daydreams, I sift through memories of small water, the infinite brown-green variations of spruce and ferns, moss, and bedrock. I see the variance of shadows oscillating in the wind among tree branches and impeding the passage of sunlight, from the deepest blacks to the hazy flickering shade, marbling a maple leaf canvas on the forest floor, with its fresh but dying colors of fall. I miss the brookie streams."
Domenick Swentosky

Chapter Leadership Team

Rich DiStanislao – Chapter President
Chuck Swanderski – Chapter Vice President
Bob Pennell – Chapter Secretary
Trip McGarvey – Chapter Treasurer

Board Members

Fran Barilar
Howard Bixler
Russ Collins
Joseph Connor
George Dodson
Becca Fronk
Andy Link
Steven Long
Francis O'Gorman
Dr. James Suleski
Stephan Vegoe

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



DOC FRITCHEY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WE ARE: a local organization of approx. 600 members who are one of 49 Trout Unlimited chapters in the Commonwealth of PA.

Our overall mission is the conservation, protection, and restoration of the coldwater fishery resources of Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

WE ARE: an organization that has continued to place its emphasis on the fostering and restoring of wild trout populations, wherever that is feasible.

WE ARE: an organization dedicated to the education of anglers, of all ages, in the areas of stream conservation and sportsmanlike fishing practices.

WE ARE: a group of trout anglers, a majority of whom are fly fishers who believe primarily in catch and release angling.

WE ARE NOT: fly fishing elitists.

We welcome any angler who has an appreciation of our coldwater resources and the policies as set forth by Trout Unlimited.

WE ARE NOT: opposed to the raising and stocking of hatchery trout. However, we do not believe that hatchery trout have a place in trout waters which support self-sustaining populations of wild trout.

We believe that hatchery trout should be stocked only in the more marginal waters where a respectable wild trout fishery would be difficult to sustain.

WE ARE NOT: opposed to the sensible harvesting of trout within legal possession limits, particularly hatchery trout which are raised primarily for consumption.

We believe, however, that creel and size limits need to be tailored more strictly to the preservation and enhancement of the wild trout populations in Pennsylvania.