



Hatches

•••• DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION & RESTORATION OF THE COLD WATER RESOURCES OF DAUPHIN & LEBANON COUNTIES ••••



From Your President:

I can't believe that the last two years as your president flew by so quickly. I was, and still am, amazed at the number of activities and programs our DFTU Chapter coordinates. Russ Collins gave me some advice when I became president. He said, "as the new president, don't pardon anybody and refuse the salary." Thanks, Russ. At

our March chapter meeting the DFTU rod, vest and waders were donned by our new/old president, Rich DiStanislaio. Rich had been president and has graciously stepped in to serve our chapter once again. As the new "Past President," I'll continue serving on the board and helping with chapter activities.

Some of our programs are almost automatic, such as the diversion well. Other programs require obtaining volunteers, getting our materials together and coordinating with our outside partners such as Wildwood Park, Ned Smith Center, PA Fish & Boat Commission, PATU and Palmyra Sportsman's Association.

In the past two years, our chapter has had many accomplishments. We obtained a record amount of grant money for stream improvements; purchased a new 10' X 20' pop-up canopy which advertises our chapter's participation in local events; purchased chapter AV equipment to assist at meetings and outreach activities; increased the number of fly-tying classes to three; increased the Trout In The Classroom program by four schools; and solidified our online presence via social media, the website and email. We arranged to have our board and general membership meetings at set locations at no cost to our chapter, provided our members with a diverse group of meeting speakers and updated our meeting attendees on chapter activities. We engaged with other chapters in joint projects and activities, maintained membership in the Lebanon County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, partnered with TU to reach out to legislators, introduced fly fishing to Harrisburg HS Leadership Academy, held a chapter picnic, and, for the fifth year, conducted a Ladies Day event. We have also participated in the "Casting for Recovery" program, serviced (on a weekly basis) the diversion well on Rausch Creek, stocked local streams, coordinated stream clean-up days and tree plantings, and sponsored a number of youths for conservation camps. This is by no means a complete list, as volunteers speak at schools, churches and civic groups and work at local conservation events. All of the above-mentioned accomplishments would not have been possible without our core of volunteers.

Our chapter has a new board member – Doctor Brett Ernst. Brett spoke to our chapter and became involved in several

activities. He feels this would be a great place to engage with fellow conservationists and anglers. Welcome Brett!

As we move forward in 2025, with Rich at the helm, I encourage you to become a more active member. Suggestions are always welcome. Currently we are discussing an introduction to fly fishing course, adding a youth board member, relaunching a veteran's program, holding a film festival and a chapter fishing outing.

Take the next step. Attend a meeting or activity, contact a committee chairperson or coordinator, and above all: **volunteer your time.**

Thanks again for your help this past year. I hope to see you at one of our chapter's activities and meetings.

Chuck Swanderski
Past President, DFTU

Gerry Miller Volunteer Award

Since 2014, the Gerald L. Miller Volunteer Award has been presented annually to a chapter member whose volunteer work has consistently and substantially contributed to the attainment of the Doc Fritchey Chapter's mission to "conserve, protect, and restore the cold-water fishery

resources of Dauphin and Lebanon counties" through education or hands-on involvement with chapter projects.



This award honors the tireless conservation work performed by the late Gerald L. (Gerry) Miller who passed away in 2013 after serving both the chapter and PA State Council in a variety of roles since becoming a TU member in 1999.

This year's award goes to Joe Notorangelo, whose longtime involvement with the chapter has included work on a number of stream improvement projects, as well as being a regular contributor to the weekly maintenance of the Rausch Creek diversion wells. Joe has also volunteered his time over the years to represent the chapter at many of our outdoor events such as the Wildwood Wetlands Festival and Ned Smith Festival.

Our congratulations to Joe for a job well done!

Annual Passing of the Net



Frank Moosic and Bill Zeiders

Our chapter has a long-standing tradition of the "Passing of The Net."

This is an honored and fun tradition, whereby the current holder of the net names the next chapter member to use it for the following year.

Bill Zeiders, newsletter editor and our new chapter vice-president, was the most recent recipient of the net, who received it from Willie Bixler. At the recent March meeting, Bill passed the net on for its next year of adventure to Frank Moosic.

The original landing net was first owned by Frank Viozzi, a past chapter president, and the net-passing tradition is a special memorial to Frank. Each year, the recipient of the net carries it on their fishing expeditions, adding to the variety of places the net has been and to the numbers and sizes of the fish that the net has landed.

The net has been to Ireland and Iceland, to Argentina several times, to remote areas of the Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone National Park, Vermont, and, of course, well-known and lesser-known streams here in Pennsylvania.

Youth Board of Directors Member

The chapter has determined that we need to involve our local youth more in our activities and conservation planning. Youth involvement can create regular memberships by engaging with their parents now and creating desire in the young folk for down the road. We discussed creating a position for a youth representative on our Board of Directors. A committee will be formed very soon to solicit candidates for the position.

*"There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a gentleness of spirit and a pure sincerity of mind."
-Washington Irving*

2025-2026 Officers and Board Members

The Doc Fritchey chapter of Trout Unlimited Board of Directors, as elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting on March 25, 2025:

Three Board Members were elected for a new 3-year term:

Brett Ernst
Francis O'Gorman
Brian Royer

The Officers for the new year are:

President: Rich DiStanislao
Vice President: Bill Zeiders
Recording Secretary: Trip McGarvey
Treasurer: Willie Bixler
Past President: Chuck Swanderski

In addition, Russ Collins is in our new ex-officio position as our chapter's Executive Conservation Officer.

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors. For a complete listing of Board Members, please consult our www.dftu.org website.

2025-2026 Officers

President	Rich DiStanislao
Vice President	Bill Zeiders
Secretary	Trip McGarvey
Treasurer	Howard (Willie) Bixler
Past President	Chuck Swanderski

Exec.

Conservation Officer (ex-officio)	Russ Collins
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2025-2026 Board Members

Joe Connor
Bryon Correll
Brett Ernst
Harrison Langly
Andy Link
Steve Long
Francis O'Gorman
Bob Pennell
Brian Royer

DFTU Summer Picnic Scheduled

At the February Board of Directors meeting, it was agreed that our chapter should hold a summer family picnic again this year, near the end of August, before Labor Day.

Several venues were explored, and after examining the positives of each one, we once again determined that the most suitable place is Memorial Lake State Park. The Middle Pavilion has been reserved for our chapter, and the date is set for Sunday, August 24. The rest of the plans have not yet been discussed, but the chapter membership should know that they can mark their calendar to hold this date.

Spring Fly Tying Classes Follow-up Report



We had a successful chapter offering of fly-tying courses this past February and March.

We tried a little bit of a different approach this year by offering Beginning Fly-Tying courses at two different sites, using the same course syllabus for each one. One of the courses was offered at Palmyra Sportsmen's Association in Annsville, and the other one was offered at the Olewine Nature Center of Wildwood Park in Harrisburg. These courses produced a total of 11 students between them, and both courses were well received, with glowing remarks from all the students.



Also, we offered an Intermediate fly-tying course at Olewine Nature Center, with nine students enrolled. Of these nine students, five had been enrolled in our fly-tying courses in previous years. It's good to know that we are using our Beginner classes to serve as "feeders" for students to enroll in the next spring's Intermediate course. Because we change the patterns that are tied each year in the Intermediate course, we are experiencing a set of returning students from previous years.

On Wednesday, March 26th, our chapter had an "Open Tying" night at Palmyra Sportsmen's Association for all the class students and anyone from the chapter who wished to come in and do a tying demonstration.



We had a wealth of tyers and mentors from the chapter this year, and we want to express our deep thanks to all of them: Bill Byrne, Steve Long, Tyler Namatska, Jim Rauch, Jim Foose, Brett Ernst, Joe Notorangelo, Lou Samsel, Brett Wood, Rich Frazier, Bill Zeiders, Kent Wilson, Harrison Langley, Steve Perkins, Steve Hendricks, Joe Connor, Willie Bixler, Bryon Correll, and especially to our class coordinators – Chuck Swanderski, Brian Royer, and Rich DiStanislaio.

DFTU Participates in PSU/Lebanon County Community Water Day



On March 29th DFTU exhibited in the Penn State Extension Lebanon County Community Water Day. The event was held at the Mt Gretna Volunteer Fire Department. We provided information on our Diversion Well, stream clean up, decomposition of various refuse, fly tying, chapter programs and of course membership opportunities.

Of special interest to the kids was fly tying, bug identification and several brochures on trout. One family stopped on their way to the Youth Mentor Day fishing so we gave them a small bag of tied flies. Over 10 vendors participated in this event with public participants showing a genuine interest in conserving and protecting our freshwater resource. DFTU members manning the booth were Willie Bixler, Steve Hendricks, George Dodson and Chuck Swanderski.

"Most fishermen use the double haul to throw their casting mistakes further."
-Lefty Kreh

Upcoming Events:

April 26 - Wildwood Wetlands Festival: Saturday, 10AM – 4PM, at Wildwood Park in Harrisburg. We will have a booth and display and discuss our various chapter conservation projects. We will demonstrate fly-tying as well as. It is an annual family event with lots of informational booths by conservation organizations and exhibits. Typically, nearly 1500 people attend.

April 26 - Sat. morning, Quittapahilla Nature Park. Quittie Clean-up, United Way Day of Caring. Clear stream of downed trees and obstacles, pick up trash. Bring chainsaws if you have them. Interested volunteers contact Steve Vegoe Stephan.vegoe@verizon.net

May 10 - Youth Effort – Teaching Cub Scouts to Fish: Saturday, 10AM – afternoon, at Palmyra Sportsmen's Association. Volunteers needed from the chapter to assist. Discussion about fishing in general followed by actual fishing activity on the Quittie.

May 13 – 11:30AM, Manada Special Regs Stocking.

May 27 – 7:00PM, General Membership Meeting

Trout Stocking



DFTU members once again answered the call and turned out to help stock the Quittapahilla and Manada creeks in March and April. Thanks to all the volunteers who braved the cold and the rain. A big thanks to Dennis Coffman, who took the reins in coordinating our chapter's stocking efforts again this year.

We will float stock the special regulation section of Manada Creek May 13th at Furnace Road. If interested in helping, please contact Dennis Coffman (dcstreamwalker@gmail.com).



Volunteers ready to stock the Quittie on a chilly afternoon.

May Membership Meeting to Feature Presentation on Night Fishing

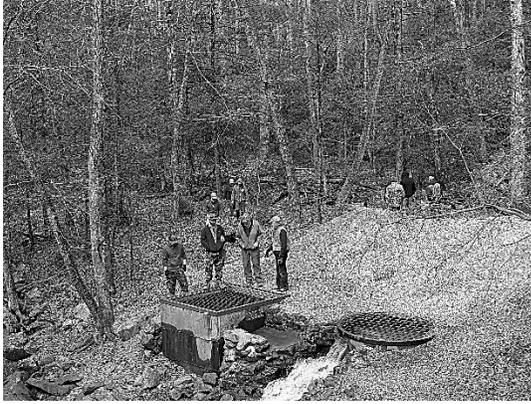


Frank Landis has been fly fishing since he was in elementary school and fishing in general since he can remember. He is on his 5th season of guiding with the Relentless Fly Fishing team and continues to run classes and seminars through TCO Boiling Springs and State College. Frank guides both the Cumberland Valley as well as Central PA. Frank spends most of his time targeting wild brown trout throughout the state, and is well traveled, having spent months of time fishing and exploring the Rocky Mountains over the past 10 summers. Whether dry fly fishing, tight line nymphing, fishing small streams, or night fishing, Frank provides a well-rounded set of skills to help you grow as an angler.

Lately, Frank has been spending a lot of time focusing on targeting wild trout after dark, and is offering trips focusing on learning the night game on a limited basis. Frank also runs the Relentless Fly Fishing Blog and works as a teacher when not on the water.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, starting at 7:00pm at the Arrowhead Lounge at Fort Indiantown Gap. Photo ID is required for every person at the military gate entrance to the Gap.

The Stony Valley Group



On April 7th, the crew shifted to the spring/summer schedule, meeting on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. The group has kept busy, having to pick ice away from the limestone on a few occasions. The round well has been running continuously when water levels allow. The square well was opened for a few weeks, but remains closed at this time, pending more rain and higher creek flow.

Recent readings show a pH downstream of the project at 7.91, while upstream readings were around 5.66.

A big thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who regularly come out to help shovel stone, clear trees, and maintain the intakes at the Rausch Creek project. Many hands make light work, as they say. The project would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers.

Online Store Update



DFTU has partnered with Travel Champs (one of our sponsors) 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 to our store with selected logo apparel offered for men, ladies and youth. Cost is reasonable (compared to other chapters and shops) and our prices are below other similar online stores. Please support our chapter by visiting the online store via our DFTU website: (dftu.org).

Annual Wetlands Festival at Wildwood

Our chapter has a great partnership with Wildwood Park and Nature Center and will again participate in the annual Wetlands Festival on April 26, 2025 from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM. We will be demonstrating fly tying and discussing our many conservation projects in our footprint of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. Visuals are provided by our chapter so bring your vise and have some fun. This is a very well attended public event and affords our chapter exposure to local people interested in conservation and the outdoors. We are looking to have at least 5 volunteers staff the booth. If interested, please contact Rich DiStanislao (rdistani@comcast.net)



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.

Doc Fritchey Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
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