

Forks Forum

Volume 20, Issue 3

Spring, 2012



Check out the web. No, not the one at the bridge that you look at to see what's hatching. I mean the world wide web.

www.forkstu.org

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, September through June, 7:00 p.m. at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club, Lefevre Road, Stockertown.

Upcoming Programs

March 7th

"Bushkill Creek Expedition." Join Brian Wagner on a tour of the Bushkill Creek from the Blue Mountain to the Delaware River with many stops in between. The fish, access, habitat assessment and more.

April 4th

"Marcellus Shale." Presentation by Mitch Blake, PAIU Coldwater Conservation Corp coordinator for Marcellus shale stream surveillance.

May 2nd

"Bugs & Dogs." Our annual macro-invertebrate and hot dog sampling night! Casting instruction for beginners. Fishing tips and stories included.

June 6th

"Fishing Night @ Edgewood Avenue, Catch & Release Area." We

2012 Conservation Raffle

The chapter is currently selling tickets for a special raffle. Ticket sales will be limited to 200. Grand prize is a Sage ZXL 590-4 (5 wt. 9', 4-piece) fly rod with a Lamson Konic 2 reel.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available for sale at our monthly meetings. Drawing date is June 6, 2012.

This drawing was made possible by a generous donation by member Jim Richards. Thanks Jim!

will be meeting at the parking lot at the catch and release area at Edgewood Avenue at 7 p.m.. The sulfurs should be hatching. Casting and fishing tips for beginners.

Forks of the Delaware, Monocacy, and Hokendauqua Chapters of Trout Unlimited 10th Annual Spring Event
Stockertown Rod and Gun Club
March 24, 2012, Doors open 9 a.m.

Featuring Loren Williams, Fly-Fishing Team USA Member
Nymph Tricks: Taking You Beyond the Perception of Dead Drift

Loren is a life-long fly angler with over 35-years of experience. His roots originate in the native brook trout streams of northeastern Pennsylvania and have since spread across the globe. Various mentors and experiences have molded him into the angler, teacher, and guide that he is today; perhaps none more than his ongoing tenure with Fly-Fishing Team USA. In 2005 Loren was selected as the team's first fly tier. In 2007 he was selected as an angling member, a role he proudly continues to maintain. In addition, he is the past head coach of the US Youth team and continues to serve on the coaching staff where he eagerly engages the talented youth of our country.

Raffles and Door Prizes

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**The 2011-2012 Officers
and Board of Directors**

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Runs & Riffles...The President's Message

Winter, if you call what we had winter, seems to be fading into memory. Spring bulbs are already up and I suspect the regular hatches that we fly-fishers all look forward to won't be far behind.

As a chapter we've had a really good year with some excellent programs. Our annual Spring Event is coming up March 24th. This is our 10th year putting on this great program.

We also have our TIC trout releases to look forward to in the coming months. Our chapter proudly sponsors 5 TIC projects in 4 different school districts!

We are also sponsoring several young anglers for a PATU Youth Fly-fishing day at Harpster's Farm on famous Spruce Creek.

One more thing, as a chapter we have been patient in awaiting the addition of

the lower section of Martins Creek to the Class A list of stream sections. Over the years repeated surveys have been completed and this section of Martins Creek continues to easily exceed Class A minimum standards. Although PFBC hasn't officially acted on designating the lower section of Martins Creek class A, we were informed that it has been added to the DEP's designated use list as HQ-CWF.

As always I urge all chapter members to get as involved with chapter projects as they possibly can. See a potential project you think is beneficial? Please jump in and take the lead.

Tight lines and drag-free drifts,

Ryan Rush
 President,
 Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

George O. Maxwell

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Websites

National TU www.tu.org
 State Council www.patrou.org
 Chapter www.forkstu.org

Report an Incident

To report a chemical spill or other environmental emergency, call the PA DEP Northeast region headquarters at 570-826-2511.

To contact Law Enforcement at the Southeast Region office of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, call 717-626-0228 or 855-FISH-KIL

**Stockertown Rod & Gun Club is hosting a Fishermen's
 Night, March 16th, 7 p.m.
 Free. Raffles for fishing prizes throughout the evening.
 Kitchen will be open.**

***Current Chapter Membership is 197 plus 5 youth
 members. Need a membership application, contact an
 officer or director. pick one up at a meeting or click [here](#). For
 Stream Explorer Youth Memberships, click [here](#).
 To renew your membership click [here](#).
 Thanks to all of you, for making our chapter great!***

Stockertown Rod & Gun Club Fishing Flea Market Sunday, March 18th, 8-noon

We need donated items for our table. New, used, old junk, we will take it to sell. Any fishing, hunting, camping, outdoor items. Contact Brian Wagner or Karl Loser to make a donation or drop off at our March meeting.



[Check out the Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482 Trout Unlimited Page on Facebook](#)

Trout in the Classroom Report

All is well with our Trout in the Classroom tanks as we have begun to plan some details for our release days with the teachers. Tim Cunningham (Nazareth MS) reported in with over 400 fingerlings. Larry Ott (Bangor MS) reported trout are growing faster this year. I talked to a Wind Gap MS student at the Ag Expo who reported that she was enjoying the program in Mr. Schuck's class. We need volunteers for the release days. Having a good number of volunteers for these days makes it easier on everyone and ensures a well run and enjoyable day for both the volunteers, teachers and students. Nazareth MS and Wind Gap MS bring a large contingent of students (120 to 150) to their release days at Jacobsburg EEC as does Bangor MS at Pennico Park in Bangor. Volunteers are needed from roughly 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to assist with fly tying demo and casting with the students as they rotate through a number of stations. I have been planning the release day with teacher Shawn McEntire at Easton Academy. This is a much smaller group and we are planning on a series of events for their day.

April 26th, Easton Academy

April 27th, Nazareth MS

May 17th, Wind Gap MS

TBA, Bangor MS

TBA, Easton HS

Northampton County Youth Field Day is June 6th We will need volunteers to help with fly casting, Contact an officer or director.

Chapter Coldwater Conservation Library

The chapter is providing coldwater conservation materials to loan to members, partners and Trout in the Classroom schools. Materials will be available for perusal and loaning at our regular monthly meetings. Arrangements can also be made to loan materials by contacting Brian Wagner at 484-894-8289. The list of materials is continuously being updated, as new appropriate materials are added. If a material is out on loan, you can be placed on a waiting list. Please make every effort to return materials at the next meeting cycle or sooner.

Why am I doing this? Although this is a small simple effort, I see coldwater conservation education as being critical to preserving our coldwater resources and ultimately our sport for future generations.

To view the list of materials, go to www.forkstu.org

Stream Clean-ups Slated

April 11th, Martins Creek. We will be meeting at the Northampton County Fire School at 5 p.m.. Clean-up crews will be dispatched from there to areas in need of clean-up. We will be concentrating on areas that may have received litter from opening day, parking areas and areas prone to litter.

April 21st, Bushkill Creek. We will be meeting at the catch and release area at Edgewood Avenue at 8 a.m. We will be concentrating on the special regulations area from the dam to 13th Street. This is in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup and TU Stream Cleanup Day.

Long sleeve shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes required. Bags, safety vests and gloves will be supplied.

Keystone Coldwater Conference Review

Joe Velopolcak, Matt Glennon, Bushkill Stream Conservancy president, and myself attended the Keystone Coldwater Conference on Responsible Land Use: Protecting Habitat and Native Species. The first keynote speaker talked about the economics of conservation. The take home point was that spending on conservation comes from the discretionary side and that we need to focus on the relationship between conservation and changing demographics. The take home point from the second keynote speaker was that >5% impervious surface has a detrimental effect on key species like brook trout and Pteronarcys stoneflies. Take home points from some of the breakout sessions I attended include: The amount of sediment from dirt and gravel roads is worrisome considering the projected build out of 50,000+ Marcellus wells in PA. The amount of sediment can be greatly reduced if roads are built and maintained using BMPs from the Dirt and Gravel Road Program. Anglers need to inspect, clean and dry waders or have dedicated equipment to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Learned about Chapter 102 buffer regulations, the effects of a buffer on sediment removal and that at least a 60% canopy (shade on the ground) is necessary to achieve maximum benefit. Learned about some innovative BMPs like storm water wetlands, rain gardens, green roofs that can be used in urban planning. John Arway, PFBC Executive Director, gave the conference summary address which included a historical look at Pennsylvania's conservation leaders and a look ahead to the future and a need for conservation groups, academia, regulatory and environmental businesses, all of whom have similar goals, to work together.

The Bushkill Stream Conservancy received an implementation grant for the upper Bushkill Creek and Plainfield Township received a planning grant for the Little Bushkill Creek.

**FORKS OF THE DELAWARE CHAPTER OF
TROUT UNLIMITED #482**

**P O BOX 467
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Notes from the Directors'

- The chapter sent a letter to DEP in support of removal of the three lowermost dams on Bushkill Creek.
- A revised chapter strategic plan was approved by the Board. The Plan can be viewed at our chapter website.
- Jere Haas and Brian Wagner tied flies at Grace Bible Fellowship Church's 9th annual Sportsmen's Night on January 27th and 28th.
- Chapter hosted a table at Adventures in Agriculture at Palmer Park Mall on February 10th through the 12th. Members tied flies and greeted the public. Thanks Paul Dickerson, Bill Heffner, Jere Haas, Forrest Freeman, Thom Beverly, Brian Kress, Steve Pacovich, Karl Loser, Norm Benton.
- Several members attended programming at the [Nurture Nature Center](http://nurturenaturecenter.org/) in downtown Easton on climate change. I would encourage everyone check out their website for upcoming science based programming, discussion and art. <http://nurturenaturecenter.org/>
- Chapter Fly-tying classes are wrapping up. Thanks to Joe Baylog, Brian Kress and Steve Pacovich for making these classes possible. This year students shared some of their favorite patterns.

Calendar of Events

MAR

- 7 March Membership Meeting
- 18 Stockertown Rod & Gun Club Fleas Market
- 24 10th Annual Spring Event
- 31 PA Southeast Regional Opening Day

APR

- 4 April Membership Meeting
- 7 Martins Creek Stream Clean-up
- 14 PA Statewide Opening Day
- 21 Bushkill Creek Stream Clean-up
- 26 Easton Academy TIC Release Day
- 27 Nazareth MS TIC Release Day

MAY

- 2 May Membership Meeting
- 17 Wind Gap MS TIC Release Day

JUN

- 2 Northampton County Youth Day
- 6 June Membership Meeting