

Forks Forum

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Summer, 2011



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.

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Upcoming Programs

June 1st

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

We will be meeting at the parking area at the catch and release area at Edgewood Avenue at 7 p.m.. The sulfurs should be hatching and hopefully the trout will cooperate. Bring your rod and come on out. Newcomers welcome. We will have our local experts on hand to help out.

Next regular General Membership Meeting at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club will be held on September 7th

Send your fishing pictures to fish4brian@aol.com to be included in our September Welcome Back meeting.

Northampton County Youth Day, June 4th Volunteers Needed

Northampton County Youth Field Day is June 4th We will need volunteers to help with fly casting and tying. Contact Brian Wagner at fish4brian@aol.com. Up to 200 youth will rotate through various "outdoor skill" stations including our Forks TU "Fly Fishing Experience". **We need volunteers to help out from 8 a.m. to noon or noon to 4 p.m. or both.** We offer a "conservation talk", macro-invertebrate identification, fly tying demo and casting. We need volunteers to help the kids cast the fly rods. You don't have to be an expert caster. We also need volunteer fly tyers too. This has become one of our signature events. Our goal is to provide an educational, safe and fun experience for the kids.

Upcoming MJWA Habitat Project Volunteers Needed

The Martins Jacoby Watershed Association will be conducting a stream improvement project on July 6th and 7th on the Little Martins Creek. The project involves installing one modified mud sill crib, four multi-log vane deflectors and six root wad deflectors. Volunteers are welcome to help out. Although we always need those healthy enough to swing a sledge hammer there are other jobs to be done such as directing the placement of rock when the dump trucks show up, taking pictures and handling hand tools so those swinging hammers can get some breaks. Or just come out to visit and see what a stream improvement project is like. Normally we start at around 8 a.m. and stop around 4 p.m. Contact Rich Budihas to volunteer at rbudi@msn.com

Spring Clean-ups Held on Martins Creek, Bushkill Creek and Adopt-A-Highway

The chapter conducted its Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on March 16, led by clean-up coordinator Karl Loser. The "road crew" included Brian Kress, Steve Pacovich, Forrest Freeman, Thom Beverly, Brian Wagner and Joe Velopolcak.

On April 10, the chapter held a stream clean-up on Martins Creek. We covered most of the "high use" areas above Martins Creek. Thanks to Rich Budihas, Nick Weston, Ryan and William Rush, Jay Baldwin, Brian Wagner, Al Mushlin, Thom Beverly, and Dave Kucich.

On May 11, we held a stream-cleanup on

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**The 2010-2011 Officers
and Board of Directors**

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Ryan Rush flyfishryan@yahoo.com

Vice President

Joe Baylog jbaylog@rcn.com

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Brian Wagner fish4brian@aol.com

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Thom Beverly (12) kbeverly@rcn.com,
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Kevin Cochran (13) cochrak@slhn.org
William Heffner (13) whheff@rcn.com
David Hess (12) ltdhess@gmail.com
Brian Kress (12) ssc02@ptd.net
Karl Loser (11) KWL222@rcn.com
Steve Pacovich (13) flytying09@yahoo.com
Mike Recine (12) mrecine@aol.com
William Rush (12) Rushbill@aol.com
Ray Toles, Jr. (12) scanforyou@rcn.com
Richard Worth (11) raw82643@yahoo.com

Legislative Liaison

William Heffner whheff@rcn.com

George O. Maxwell

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gmaxwellrods.ReadyWebsites.com

683 Bowers Road Phone: 484-221-5232
Nazareth, PA 18064
E-mail: gmaxwellrods@rcn.com

Websites

National TU www.tu.org
State Council www.patROUT.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

Runs & Riffles...The President's Message

This is Memorial Day weekend and summer is ready to kick-off but please take some time to remember the courage and sacrifice of all of our veterans. June arrives with plenty of water in our trout streams, maybe a little too much water on some streams, at least for many anglers liking. However, I think the trout are really enjoying it especially after last year's dry, hot summer and very low water. The good news for anglers is that the streams are coming down now to near perfect levels just as the famed Sulphurs are hatching in earnest. The size 14 morning Cornutas or "big olives" also provide reliable hatch-match fishing on a number of area streams. The first brood of Isonychias or Slate Drakes should soon be making their afternoon appearances on many of our Northeast streams, particularly the freestoners and tailwaters. The trout really love this bigger meal and I've found the saying that "one Slate Drake equals a hatch" to be very true. With this fly you don't need to see many (if any) bugs hatching to draw big strikes with a dry fly imitation.

As a chapter I think we've had another good year, accomplishing many things with more still to come. We've continued to expand our successful Trout in the Classroom program and it has become a big hit in every school we have partnered with. Our programs alone easily reaches hundreds if not a thousand or more local students and over the course of 7-8 months it provides hands-on learning for the students about the importance of protecting and maintaining coldwater habitat and good, clean water in our watersheds. Aside from the expected Biology and Chemistry disciplines, teachers have been able to incorporate a broad range of lesson

plans with TIC, from English/Creative Writing to Mathematics. This makes TIC a very valuable and efficient learning tool for all schools. No matter the subject, teachers have reported back that if TIC is involved the students are engaged.

Our successful Winter Fly-tying Class continues to draw students and grow in popularity. No doubt, due in large part to the skill and enthusiasm of our volunteer instructors. Together with our fellow Lehigh Valley chapters we again hosted another successful Spring Event. Don Baylor also completed the second half of our chapter-commissioned comprehensive trout and macro-invertebrate survey for two long-unsurveyed sections of Bushkill Creek. The full report should be available soon. The chapter is also moving forward with an informative Wild Brown Trout Stream signage program as well as looking into a future stream restoration project for the Bushkill Catch & Release section.

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. That is the type of membership every successful chapter really needs. Also please continue to visit our website, www.forkstu.org as the chapter looks to utilize this valuable tool more and more.

Tight lines and drag-free drifts,

Ryan Rush
President,
Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

www.forkstu.org



Check out the Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482 Trout Unlimited Page on Facebook

Wild Brown Trout Signage

The chapter has purchased a dozen aluminum signs promoting wild brown trout and their identification. The signs were created in-house by Joe Baylog. We are currently identifying locations and seeking permission to install the signs at strategic locations along the Bushkill Creek from Tatamy to Easton. The goal of the project is to promote awareness of our wild brown trout resource in our local streams. In due course, this increased awareness may lead to an increase in wild brown trout biomass in the creek. Talking with other anglers over the years that have fished the creek a lot longer



Wild Brown Trout

Wild trout are born naturally in their home watersheds, spend their juvenile years adapting to the stream in a never ending struggle for survival, and their adult lives in the pursuit of acceptable spawning partners and habitat. It is this constant battle for survival which makes the wild trout such a wonderful asset to our watershed as they are hardier, wrier, and more able to survive in the wild than their stocked counterparts. To protect the wild brown trout population in this stream we urge you to please consider practicing catch and release of these special fish. If you wish to keep trout for the dinner table rainbow and brook trout which are stocked as adults are a better choice. Please take a moment to review these tips for identifying wild brown trout.



than me, the current wild brown trout biomass isn't as high as it could be. This was identified by the PFBC surveys conducted in 2008 and 2010 in the catch & release area. The 2010 survey reported a total estimated biomass for brown trout of 67 kg/hectare, still Class A. This reduction in

biomass could be attributed to many factors including storm water, siltation and urbanization. Raising awareness of the brown trout resource that the creek provides optimistically will lead to solutions to some of these ailments that persist. Our own study conducted by Aquatic Resource Consulting which was performed at an upstream and downstream location indicated a biomass of just over 20 kg/hectare. Heavily fished open regulations, especially in the downstream reach, may account for the lower biomass. Promoting catch and release of wild brown trout makes sense as more anglers are already doing so. *“Seventy-five per cent of the anglers reported they released at least half of their catch in 1991, compared to 88% in 2008. In addition, based on the results from statewide angler use and harvest surveys conducted on wild trout streams in 2004 and stocked trout streams in 2005, anglers released over 92% and 63% of the trout caught, respectively (Greene et al. 2005; Greene et al. 2006)”* (from PFBC Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania 2010-2014). We hope to expand the signage program to other appropriate streams.

Trout in the Classroom “Release Days!”

All of our scheduled Trout in the Classroom releases have been completed and I want to thank Karl Loser, Nick Weston, Bill Heffner, Jere Haas and Mike Recine for lending a hand at these events and providing a quality program. Without you, the program would not be possible. I also want to thank John Mauser, who handled the macro-invertebrate session for Wind Gap's release and Bill Sweeney and Rick Wiltraut from DCNR who provided programming at Nazareth and Wind Gap's release days at Jacobsburg. I would also like to thank the teachers who administered the program at their respective schools, Tim Cunningham (Nazareth MS), Chris Schuck (Wind Gap MS), Larry Ott (Bangor MS), Richard Orner (Easton HS) and Matt Rusnock and Shawn McEntire (Easton Academy). Finally, I would like to thank the students that participated in the program; after all, that's what it is all about.

Nazareth MS had their release day at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center on April 29th. After releasing about 265 brook trout fingerlings into the Bushkill Creek, about 100 students rotated through five sessions including macro-invertebrates, birding, a historical walk, a stream velocity lesson and our Trout Unlimited session which included a fly tying demo and casting. Wind Gap MS' release day held on May 3rd was similar with 120 students rotating through six sessions including macro-invertebrates, birding, plants, a historical tour, water testing and our session. Bangor MS held their release day on May 10th with about 80 students at Pennico Park releasing 295 brook trout into Martins Creek. Their release day included a tour of Greenwalk trout hatchery, macro-invertebrates and our tying/casting session. Easton HS released 195 “brookies” at Penn Pump Park on May 20th. The water was high, but the fingerlings settled into the roots and grasses along the bank. Nazareth MS also participated in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Seedlings for Schools program, planting various seedlings along the Schoeneck Creek on school property.



Brook trout fingerlings awaiting release.

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

**P O BOX 467
STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083**



**Lehigh River Fingerling
Angler Survey**

(From Dean Druckenmiller, President, Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance)

Angler participation is vital. If you fish the Lehigh, please fill out a survey card from a all weather box or you can fill it out on-line at the LCFA website using the below link.

<http://www.thelehighriver.org/survey.php>

Please check the trout's fins that you catch this year. There should be a wide size range of trout with clipped fins in the river. The 2009 stocked fingerlings should be in the 13-15 inch range. The 2010 fingerlings might be anywhere from 8-12 inches in length. After last summers hot temperatures and low water conditions, it's imperative we try to identify as many fingerlings that may have survived.

Our goal this year is to receive between 50 and 100 survey cards. Please try to participate in this important survey year. The PFBC will be evaluating the results and determine if the fingerling stocking program is still worth the effort and cost to continue.

Calendar of Events

JUN

1 June Membership Meeting
4 Northampton County Youth Field Day

JUL

6.7 MJWA Little Martins Creek Habitat Project

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the Bushkill Creek, concentrating primarily on the "catch and release" area. Thanks to Karl Loser, Ryan Rush, Ray Toles, Dave Hess, Brian Wagner, Joe Velopolchak, Bill Heffner, Thom Beverly, William Rush, Joe Baylog and Doug.

If I missed anyone, I apologize. Our volunteers are what allows us to fulfill Trout Unlimited's mission and we thank you!

We will be scheduling a summer Adopt-A-Highway cleanup if you missed your chance in the Spring. Long sleeve shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes required. We supply bags, safety vests and gloves.