

Forks Forum

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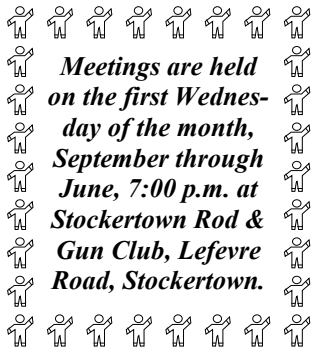
FOR SALE

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Asking \$275

Rich will donate \$50 to the Chapter



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 2nd

"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 1st

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

Upcoming MJWA Habitat Projects

On June 16-18th the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association will be conducting stream improvement projects on the Martins Creek. Last fall the Association with the help of the Forks of the Delaware TU completed two of these projects on the Martins Creek. After about 6 months it appears the projects are doing what they were intended to do and are protecting stream banks that were hit hard by floods in recent years from further erosion.

This year the two project sites will cover a longer stretch of stream bank further up stream from last years sites. One of the projects is going to be a little more challenging due to the proximity to a main road. Similar to last years projects we will be in-

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Testing the Waters

Have you ever wondered who is keeping watch over the waters we fish? Who monitors the quality of our streams? On the Bushkill, water quality is monitored and tested by students and faculty at Lafayette College, students at Easton and Pen Argyl High Schools, and local citizens of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This testing is done to identify problem areas of the stream, as well as to serve as a baseline against which to compare future water quality data.

Members of our TU chapter have also become a part of the testing through their work with RSVP. Because of the participation of Thom Beverly, Forrest Freeman, Karl Loser and Bill Heffner more sites were added to the water quality test data base. We go to specific sites and take water samples and analyze them using a LaMotte Water Quality testing kit for nitrates, phosphates, ph, alkalinity, water tem-

perature, dissolved oxygen and calculate the amount of oxygen saturation in the water. This information is sent to Jim Moser of RSVP who compiles the data we collect. The data is posted on the Bushkill Stream Conservancy web site at www.bushkill.org.

Karl and Bill are also working with the DEP to take weekly samples of specific sites. Those water samples are then taken to a lab for analysis for fecal coliform bacteria and that data is then sent to DEP in Harrisburg.

Volunteers are always needed for many projects that RSVP is involved in. If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Jill Rothrock at 610-691-7705 or rothrockj@diakon.org

Bill Heffner

The 2009-2010 Officers and Board of Directors

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Websites

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

DEP Environmental Complaints

To report a chemical spill or other environmental emergency, call the DEP immediately at 1-800-541-2050 or 570-826-2511. To report other environmental problems or concerns, call the Toll-Free Citizen Complaint Line at 1-866-255-5158 (State-wide). Press # 2 to reach Northeast Or use the on-line Environmental Complaint Form at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=1177&q=480798>

Runs & Riffles...The President's Message

As this column reaches you, hopefully most of you have had a chance to enjoy some of the good spring fishing our area streams have to offer. Perhaps a few trips out to Central Pennsylvania or up to the Catskills and the Upper Delaware system. The famed sulphurs are here and the various mayfly and caddis hatches have been going strong for more than a month now. I write this column having just finished a pontoon boat float trip on the middle Lehigh River trout water. It was the first time down this river in my own pontoon boat and it was great fun. I was fortunate enough to land my best brook trout to date, a beautiful 17-incher in the Glen Onoko area. A pontoon is a relatively cheap and excellent way to start enjoying your own adventures on our rivers, or with a few friends. The Delaware River is another great place to use a pontoon boat and chase the many feisty smallmouth bass in our stretch of the Big D.

Prior to my float trip I did some camping and fishing along the famed Beaver-kill River in the Catskills. The fishing was tough that weekend but the camaraderie and scenery was hard to beat, including the pack of coyotes that howled along the river just in front of our camp. Earlier in the spring season, I was able to land my best wild trout ever, a 19-inch brown trout, from a local, freestone stream. A #14 Red Quill fooled this spectacular wild fish that provided more proof of the outstanding potential in our local wild trout fisheries. By the end of the week, it will up to

the Adirondacks for my annual trip to fish the West Branch of the Ausable River and other Adirondack Park trout-filled streams. In September it will be New Hampshire to fish the Upper Connecticut River and attend TU's National Meeting. I know some members have more trips planned to Central Pennsylvania, Vermont, Alaska, Oregon, & Montana to name a few.

So what is my point, other than to highlight some good trout streams and fun trips? Well I guess my point is that while it's important to remember the conservation aspect of Trout Unlimited and the work all of us volunteers put into protecting and restoring our streams, it's also important to get out and actually enjoy the outstanding fishing they can provide and the many memories they produce for us to take back with us. Work hard, play hard. We are accomplishing a great deal of work here in the Forks of the Delaware Chapter, and I want to thank every member that has put in numerous hours this past year on various projects. I'm continually amazed by the amount of work many of our chapter members put in to making this chapter effective. I want to make sure you also take a break and get and enjoy some of the fruits of your labor. Many times, there can be no better medicine than just being out on the stream, catching fish. Enjoy your summer.

Thank you,
Ryan Rush
President,
Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Are You Receiving Chapter E-mail? E-newsletter?

PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN BETTER COMMUNICATE. DON'T MISS OUT ON THE LATEST UPDATES, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPORTANT ISSUES!



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

Chapter News

- April 11th, the Chapter held a cleanup along the Martins Creek, picking up any garbage that may have been left behind from opening day anglers. We concentrated on high use and parking areas.
- April 24th, the Chapter held a program at the Moravian Hall Square retirement community in Nazareth. The program featured a PowerPoint presentation on the Bushkill Creek by Brian Wagner, fly tying with Jere Haas and casting with Karl Loser. The program was well received by those in attendance
- April 25th, the Chapter held a cleanup along the Bushkill Creek and our Adopt-A-Highway. We concentrated on the catch ^ release section and parking areas, but also sent a detail to the dam area above Penn Pump Park.
- May 15th, the Chapter assisted at the Special Kids Fishing Day hosted by Stockertown Rod & Gun Club. Several members assisted in cleaning the pond, rigging rods and assisting with the kids' fishing.



Martins Creek Clean-up Crew. Ryan Rush, Karl Loser, Joe Velopolcak not in picture

Upcoming MJWA Habitat Projects, cont.
Volunteers contact Rich Budihas at
rbudi@rcn.com

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stalling log deflector devices and root wads. Volunteers are welcome! We need help with swinging a sledgehammer for those healthy enough to do so and there are other less strenuous tasks that are just as important to the project which range from keeping debris off the road, carrying hand tools to those working in the stream, directing placement of materials being delivered by trucks and taking pictures. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Rich Budihas at rbudi@rcn.com

Trout in the Classroom Report Card

For now, I would have to give us an "incomplete" on our report card, only because we still have one more release day to come, Wind Gap Middle School at Jacobsburg State Park on June 1st. The volunteers who have helped make the release days possible for Easton HS, Nazareth MS and Bangor MS get a grade of A+. The first release day of the year was Easton HS on March 25th at Penn Pump Park along the Bushkill Creek. About thirty-five students participated along with teacher Nick Henshue releasing about 130 fingerling brook trout that they had raised. We also presented to them a set of coldwater conservation library materials made possible by a Covidien VIP grant. Materials included the Underwater World of Trout DVD series, Bugs of the Underworld DVD and the following books, A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America, Stream Ecology: Structure and function of running waters and About Trout: The Best of Robert Behnke from Trout Magazine. The students had a cookout after releasing the fish and we talked about the stream and its bug life. We also had our chapter display set up for students to review. Our second release day was Nazareth MS on May 4th at Jacobsburg State Park. This was our third year for Nazareth under the direction of teacher Tim Cunningham. About 125 students rotated through five stations after releasing their brook trout. Our "TU" station featured our chapter display, a fly tying demo and casting with spinning and fly rods. We experimented this year with a "trout quiz" to get the kids to interact with our chapter display and put emphasis on our conservation message. Jere Haas and Bill Heffner were our featured fly tyers and Karl Loser, Nick Weston and Sean Carson assisted with the casting. Other activities included macro-invertebrate sampling, birding, and a nature walk. Our third release day was Bangor MS on May 11th at Pennico Park in Bangor along the Martins Creek. This was Bangor's first year in the program under the direction of teacher Larry Ott. About ninety students arrived in two groups, each releasing half of their "brookies", 130 in all. Each group then rotated through the following other activities including a visit to Greenwalk trout hatchery, a macro-invertebrate/stream assessment exercise, a fly tying demo and casting. Jere Haas was our featured fly tyer. Not only is Jere a great fly tyer, but he has a natural ability to engage the students in his talk about the bugs, trout and tying. Nick Weston and Rich Budihas assisted with the casting. Thanks went around at each release as we thanked the teachers and students for their participation and the educators at Jacobsburg for their expertise and in return they were appreciative of our efforts. We are currently making plans with teacher Chris Schuck for the Wind Gap MS release day to be held on June 1st. Each release is a learning experience for the schools and our volunteers as we hone our conservation message and ensure that the day is fun and educational for the students. Feedback has been positive. We will be sponsoring Easton Academy for 2010-2011 for a total of five schools.

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

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



Notes from the Directors'

- Website Development. Norm Benton reported on domain names and web hosting sites and costs. Board gave approval to Norm to proceed with domain name, forkstu.org and godaddy.com as the web host.
- Macro-invertebrate/fish study. The Chapter will be contacting Don Baylor of Aquatic Resource Consulting to proceed with macro/fish studies at three possible sites on the lower Bushkill. Cost is \$600/site for macros and \$800/site for fish.
- PATU donation. Board approved a \$300 donation to Pennsylvania State Council.
- Fall planting. Board budgeted up to \$1,000 for a fall riparian buffer planting slated for this Fall.

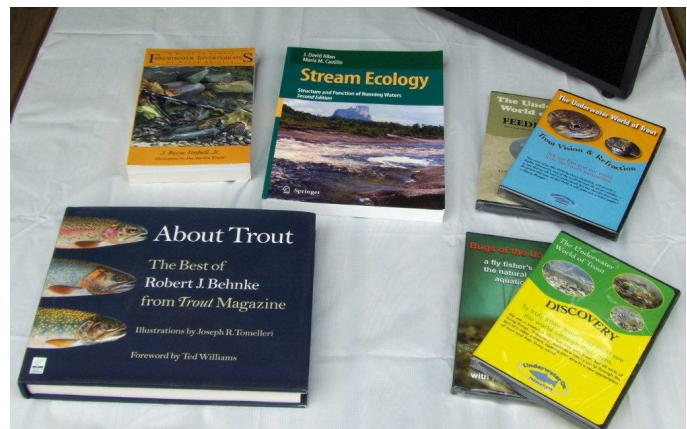
Lehigh River Fin Clipped Survey

PFBC and the Lehigh River Coldwater Fishery Alliance are cooperating on an angler survey on the Lehigh. Record your catches including location, number caught, species, and whether adipose or pelvic fins clipped. For more information or to log in a report, go to the LCFA website at www.thelehighriver.org.

Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 1 Wind Gap MS Trout Release
- 2 June Membership Meeting
- 5 Northampton County Youth Field Day
- 16-18 Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association Habitat Projects



Library materials purchased for Trout in the Classrooms