

Forks Forum

Volume 20, Issue 2

Winter, 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.

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Upcoming Programs

December 7th
"Fishing The Lamar Valley in Yellowstone National Park" with Steve Michaelchuck. Steve has been a TU member since the 1970's and was co-founder and first President of the Southern Jersey Chapter of TU. He holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Education/ Conservation with teaching and fishing experience in Siberia, Sweden, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Trinidad-Tobago, Kyrgyzstan and China. Steve has been guiding in the Yellowstone Area at [Hubbard's Yellowstone Adventures](http://www.hubbardslodge.com) for the past five seasons and is an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide. He is the Lead Instructor at the Hubbard's Guide Academy, a school for aspiring Fly Fishing Guides. During his presentation he will cover the topics of: planning your trip, time of year, equipment, where to fish, variables, and strategies. After Steve's talk on the Lamar Valley he will be glad to take your questions on other areas he is very familiar with, like the spring creeks of Depuy, Armstrong and Nelsons as well as the Yellowstone National Park rivers of the Firehole, Madison, and Gibbon. Read more at www.hubbardslodge.com

January 4th
"Fly Tying Roundtable". Bring your vise and fly tying materials and join in. New to tying. Stop by and learn how to tie or join in on some fishing conversation.

February 1st
"PFBC WCO Jeff Sabo." Northampton County Waterway Conservation Officer Jeff Sabo will give us an update on our streams and PFBC happenings.

Beginner Fly Tying Classes

"Learn from some of our best. Signup now!"

When: Monday nights beginning January 16th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (eight week course).

Where: Arndt's Lutheran Church (Arndt Rd. right off of Bushkill Drive).

Cost: \$25

Signup: Contact Joe Baylog at baylogj@gmail.com or 610-751-9116. Space is limited to 25 students.

Instruction will include the proper use of tools, material selection, and introductory tying techniques.

Equipment and materials will be provided, but can bring your own vise and tools. if you have. There will be a refundable deposit fee to borrow a tying kit for use between classes.

Bylaw Changes Approved & Officers and Directors elected at Annual Meeting

The revised bylaws were unanimously approved by the membership at the chapter Annual Meeting on November 2nd. The revised bylaws have been filed with National.

The following slate of candidates was elected by acclamation. Ryan Rush (president), Joe Baylog (vice-president), Brian Wagner (secretary), Norm Benton (treasurer), Dick Worth (director) and Karl Loser (director). Officer terms are one-year and director terms three-year.

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

President

Ryan Rush flyfishryan@yahoo.com

Vice President

Joe Baylog jbaylog@rcn.com

Secretary

Brian Wagner fish4brian@aol.com

Treasurer

Norm Benton norm2@rcn.com

Directors

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 Kevin Cochrane (13) cochrak@slhn.org
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 Mike Recine (12) mrecine@aol.com
 William Rush (12) Rushbill@aol.com
 Ray Toles, Jr. (12) scanforyou@rcn.com
 Richard Worth (14) raw82643@yahoo.com

Legislative Liaison

William Heffner whheff@rcn.com

George O. Maxwell

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Websites

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

Fall has come and gone and winter is quickly settling in around here. In between deer hunting, perhaps thoughts of Steelhead tease the brain. Or snowy afternoons spent at the tying desk. Or quietly fishing midges on your favorite limestone. Each flyfisher has their own way of weathering the winter season.

So far this chapter meeting season we've been blessed to have presented several good programs of interest to the flyfisher or trout angler. Of note were two informative and enjoyable programs by our own chapter members. In October, chapter member Dave Hess provided us with an excellent program on fishing New York's famous and sometimes infamous Salmon River. November's meeting saw chapter VP Joe Baylog's program on DIY Fishing Alaska based on Joe's own years of experience in planning his own Alaska fishing trips. We have more programs scheduled for the remainder of the year. The chapter will also begin planning for the 10th Annual Spring Event. In January, another annual chapter program, our 8-week fly-tying course begins. Under the direction of chapter members Joe Baylog, Dave Hess, and Brian Kress this course is an excellent way to get started in tying your own flies.

Of local coldwater conservation inter-

est, the PFBC has two lists of proposed additions to the Class A and Wild Trout Stream designations lists. Finally included on the Class A list is our wonderful local freestone brown trout stream, Martins Creek. Also located in Northampton County is an Unnamed Tributary to the Delaware River proposed on both lists. The PFBC is now accepting comments on the proposed additions. I urge members to submit their comments. The addition of this section of Martins Creek to the Class A list is an important goal of our chapter as well as for the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association. The Unnamed Tributary is a pleasant surprise and worthy of the additional protection inclusion on these lists provides.

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. 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

Current Chapter Membership is 187 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!

Holiday Raffle

December 7th

Please return your tickets and monies. Drawing will be held directly after our program. Thanks & Good Luck!



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

Where do Trout Come From? White trucks, brown trucks, cold water habitat, the stork, oh my!

I thought I would take a whimsical look at the eternal question, “Where do trout come from?” and at the same time highlight some of the activities that are chapter is currently undertaking.

If you asked me when I was growing up, I probably would have answered the question, “where do trout come from?”, with the answer, “from the stocking truck of course” The big white fleet of the PFBC certainly has its place, of course we would rather see this “put and take” resource not stocked over wild or native trout. There are plenty of streams and rivers where this “stocked resource” could provide recreational benefit while allowing wild trout in streams “to do their thing”. I prefer fishing for wild trout, but do fish some stocked streams, too. Recent surveys have shown that more anglers are practicing “catch and release” and angler attitudes are progressively changing. With some modest changes, I think we could enable our wild trout resource to flourish and still provide the “stocked resource” to ensure a quality angling experience for all users. Shouldn’t that be the goal?

In a related matter, The National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited is currently working on a policy offering guidance to chapters on not stocking non-native trout in streams containing native trout. In Pennsylvania our native trout is the brook trout. But, what about stocked native trout over wild native trout? We will have to wait for the final draft. Stocking isn’t really a chapter function anyway unless it would be for a restoration effort.

OK, we’ve discussed white trucks, but what about brown trucks. Brook trout eggs and food were delivered by UPS to our Trout in the Classroom schools the first week in November. The PFBC supplied the fertilized eggs and food, which were packed by PFBC and PATU staff and Trout Unlimited volunteers, for the Trout in the Classroom schools throughout Pennsylvania. Eggs were received on November 2nd and 3rd at Wind Gap MS, Bangor MS, Nazareth MS and Easton Academy. Viable egg numbers varied from 421 to 488. Easton HS received their eggs on November 16th. So far, so good. The eggs are developing into sac-fry and will soon be swimming out of the hatching baskets into the tanks

If someone would ask you, “where do you come from?”, you would probably answer with the name of your hometown. What if you asked a trout? Well if it answered you, it might be a “magical trout” or perhaps you have been on the stream just a bit too long. Well, anyhow, a trout comes from a coldwater habitat. We are blessed with a lot of coldwater habitat both locally and across the state of Pennsylvania. It is important that our trout streams are identified and properly classified, because trout streams and their connected wetlands are provided special protections.

In this regard, we certainly appreciate the work that the PFBC biologists do surveying our cold water streams and the enforcement work by our Waterways Conservation Officers.

The lower section of Martins Creek below the dam is on the list of streams to be added to the PFBC’s class A list based on wild brown trout biomass from a 2010 PFBC electro-fishing survey. For brown trout the stream must have over 40 kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre). This will afford this stream section a DEP classification “high quality coldwater fishery” and the special protection associated with the HQCWF classification. In Monroe County, several sections of Pocono Creek are also on the list.

Speaking of coldwater habitat, I attended the Army Corp of Engineers’ Lehigh River Flow Plan meeting in Lake Harmony on November 14th. I inquired about more “angler friendly” flows during the peak season of mid-April to early June. Of course it’s a balancing act between maximum allowed storage, flood control which is the dam’s primary mission, and whitewater release dates. Actual coldwater storage is limited by the maximum allowed storage. Fisheries and whitewater releases throughout the summer are subject to the amount of precipitation received. Angler input for the 2012 plan can be posted on the [Francis E. Walter facebook page](#).

Several members attended an in-district meeting with Senator Boscola on October 27th, at her Bethlehem office to discuss TU concerns related to upcoming Marcellus legislation. I also attended some meetings in Harrisburg on November 15th, advocating for some reasonable Marcellus legislation. As of this writing, both the House and Senate have passed bills. What the final bill or outcome will be, who knows? Both bills, in my opinion, do not go far enough in protecting our coldwater resources, the places where trout come from.

So, where do trout really come from? The stork? Not likely. In English folk mythology storks deliver newborn babies, but the stork is a fish eating bird, so again not likely for trout. Brown and brook trout spawn in the fall and of course, this is “where trout come from.” The idea for a trout redd survey was spawned, pun intended, from a presentation by PFBC biologist Jason Detar at a Pennsylvania State Council Fall meeting in 2008 at Fisherman’s Paradise on Spring Creek. As of this writing, we have not been able to conduct our redd survey for this year due to the big rain event on November 22nd and 23rd. I had observed a pair of trout on a redd on November 14th and was making preparations for November 25th. We have always conducted our survey after Thanksgiving as most of the spawning has taken place. In hindsight, I wish we would have conducted the survey prior to the rainstorm even though it would have been early. The rain event has made the existing redds harder to see. We will continue the redd survey next year with a more watchful eye on Mother Nature. Please be careful when wading during the winter months.

So, that’s where trout come from.

B. Wagner
Editor

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

**P O BOX 467
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Notes from the Directors'

- The chapter signed on as a member of the [Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Conservation](#) per a request from Katy Dunlap (National).
- The Board approved signing on to letters addressed to DRBC federal and state parties requesting a cumulative impact analysis before issuing Marcellus drilling regulations.
- The chapter signed on as a member to the Growing Greener Coalition per a request made by Kevin Anderson (National).
- Chapter sent a letter of support for open space in the current budget process to Northampton County Council.
- Ad-hoc committee formed to revise strategic plan. Any member interested in participating in this process please contact Brian Wagner at fish4brian@aol.com. We are planning on meeting over the winter to complete the plan.
- Accident insurance renewed.
- Annual Financial Report filed with National.
- Submitted letters of support for a Coldwater Conservation Plan grant for the Little Bushkill Creek (Plainfield Township) and an Upper Bushkill Coldwater Plan im-

Calendar of Events

DEC

7 December Membership Meeting

JAN

4 January Membership Meeting

FEB

1 February Membership Meeting

10-12 Agriculture Expo, Palmer Park Mall

24-25 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#)

MAR

7 March Membership Meeting

24 10th Annual Spring Event

- plementation grant (Bushkill Stream Conservancy).
- Chapter will host a display at the Agriculture Expo at the Palmer Park Mall on February 10th-12th during mall hours. Volunteers needed to tie flies at show.