

Forks Forum

Volume 18, Issue 2

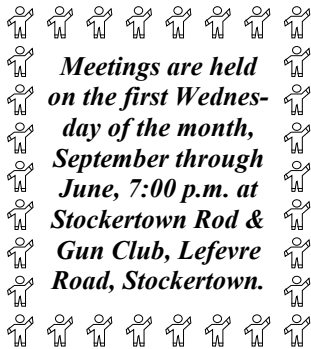
Winter, 2010



Communication is



Don't be left out. Do we have your e-mail address? Reply to fish4brian@aol.com



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 2nd

"MJWA Habitat Projects" by Rich Budihas. Take a tour of several habitat projects completed by the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association on the Martins and Little Martins Creeks.

January 6th

"Fly-fishing Yellowstone National Park" by Brian Wagner. Explore Yellowstone National Park on the fly with Brian Wagner. Beautiful cutthroat trout, the rivers, lakes and backcountry will all be featured.

February 3rd

"WCO Jeff Sabo." Our local Waterways Conservation Officer will provide us with an update on local issues and PFBC happenings.

Chapter Hats! Available at our December Meeting

Get your chapter hat at the December meeting in time for the Holidays. Two-tone or solid color available for \$20.



Beginner Fly Tying Classes, Starting January 11th "Signup now!"

Our chapter will hold a beginners Fly Tying Course starting Monday, January 11, 2010. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Arndt's Lutheran Church, 1851 Arndt Rd, Easton. The course will be 8 weeks long and will focus on patterns that are effective in our local streams. The class is limited to 20 participants and there will be a \$25.00 materials fee. Contact Dave Hess at dhess@kobfire.com or 610-570-4280 after 5 p.m. Instruction will include the proper use of tools, material selection, and introductory tying techniques. Tools and materials will be provided for use during the class, but students are encouraged to bring their own tools if they have them.

Revised Chapter By-laws to be voted on at January's meeting

Copies of the revised by-laws will be available at our December meeting. By-laws were reviewed and updated by the officers/board to keep current with guidelines from National Trout Unlimited.

Fall Raffle December 2nd Please return your tickets and monies. Drawing will be held directly after our program.

Good Luck!

Bonus Rod Raffle for Ticket Sellers!

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

The last leaves of autumn are falling quickly as another winter approaches, except you wouldn't know it by the warm weather we have been experiencing lately. Hopefully all of you have had the chance to enjoy some of our trout streams in all of their fall glory this season. Being careful of where you wade of course, our wild trout are busy spawning this time of year (have you joined in our annual trout redd survey yet?) For some of you the trout season is over and your attention has turned to hunting our fields and forests or tying your flies for next spring, still others will be out there braving the winter weather in hopes of more tight lines.

At October's general meeting we were entertained with an outstanding and informative presentation on "Erie Steelhead" by two of our own chapter members: Joe Baylog and Dave Hess. It was an excellent presentation and if you didn't make the meeting you really missed out on a good one. Many thanks to both Dave and Joe. Once again we will be hosting an 8 week fly-tying class at Arndt's Church organized by chapter members Brian Kress, Dave Hess, and Joe Baylog, see this edition for more details. The chapter is once again in the planning stages for more riparian planting projects for the upcoming spring. We are also again planning for the annual Lehigh Valley TU Chapters Spring Event, this always is our biggest event and takes quite a bit of effort and coop-

eration to pull off. The trout have all hatched in our TIC classrooms and the students are busy feeding them and learning all about trout and coldwater conservation needs. The fingerling trout will be released in the spring.

I am pleased to announce that the chapter has designed and now has available for sale Forks of the Delaware TU embroidered hats in two colors. The hats feature two spawning wild brown trout along with the chapter's name embroidered on the front. The hats are \$20 apiece with the proceeds going towards future chapter projects and conservation efforts. The embroidered chapter design is also available for use on shirts and other clothing items. Thank you to Karl Loser for his work on this effort. I also want to thank Brian Wagner for his efforts not only in seeking grants for chapter projects but also for organizing our annual December raffle. Finally, I also want to congratulate Brian Wagner on his election as a Vice President of Pennsylvania State Council. Brian also deserves congratulations for being selected as the winner of the 2009 Inky Moore Award for Outstanding Service to PA Trout State Council.

Thank you,

Ryan Rush
President
Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

Newsletter going Green!

The Chapter is offering a PDF electronic edition of the Forks Forum for members who no longer wish to receive a hardcopy This will save the chapter money on newsletter costs and be more environmentally friendly.

If you wish to receive the PDF edition, please send me an e-mail at fish4brian@aol.com including your name and you will be added to the Forks Forum electronic copy list. If you are currently receiving the electronic edition and would prefer the hardcopy, please let me know that too!



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

MJWA Habitat Projects Little Martins and Martins Creeks

On September 9th and 10th our chapter partnered with the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association to install fish habitat enhancement structures along the Little Martins Creek and Martins Creek. The MJWA paid for all of the cost of the project through funding from several grants. At the first site we helped stabilize banks by installing two log vane deflectors and one root wad deflector. At the second site we installed four multi-log vane deflectors and three root wad deflectors. Both of these sites were severely affected by Ivan several years ago and have continued to erode. We are hoping the devices we installed will help stop further degradation.

The project started in March, 2009 when the PFBC Habitat Manager Tyler Neimond visited these sites along with several others to scope out the work. Tyler then did a detailed design at no charge and the MJWA's John Mauser then proceeded to apply for a DEP permit to conduct the work. Tyler and his partner Keith then returned in September to help supervise the work and pitch in with some of the sledgehammer work (which I very much appreciated). Lower Mount Bethel Township donated equipment and manpower that was instrumental in getting the job done in the short amount of time we had (Thanks Fred!). Helping out on the project from TU were: Brian Wagner, Nick Weston, Breve Conover, Joe Velopochak and Brian Kress. Brian W and Breve did a great job capturing the work with a camera and you'll get to see some of those pictures at the December meeting. Nick coordinated our rock deliveries which totaled over 140 tons!! And last but not least Brian K and Joe V saved my back by doing the sledgehammer work on day two. I would like to personally thank all of those involved for making it a safe and successful project. We will be doing two more projects that are even bigger in scope in 2010. Please consider coming out to give us a hand.

Rich Budihas

Retired? Looking for something to do? Join the RSVP Water Monitors

The RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) is looking for local retirees to assist with their stream water monitoring program on the Bushkill Creek. If interested, or would like more information, please contact Bill Spafford at Billsp@epix.net or 610-462-2612.

Each team collects samples from their site one time per month on a specified day to keep the collection of samples uniform. Collection of samples and basic testing takes approximately two to three hours.

RSVP has been collecting water quality data in the Bushkill Creek watershed at seventeen different locations.

Trout in the Classroom A New Season Begins

The Chapter is currently sponsoring the Trout in the Classroom program at four local schools, Nazareth Middle school, Bangor Middle School, Wind Gap Middle School and Easton High School. The schools received their brook trout eggs from the PFBC on Wednesday, November 4th via UPS. From initial reports, each school received about 400 eggs, with about 75% being viable. Non-viable eggs turn white and are removed. Tim Cunningham from Nazareth reported on Monday, November 16th that their eggs have hatched and the alevins are developing in the hatching basket (about 254 alevins). Larry Ott from Bangor reported that the majority of their eggs hatched between November 11th and 13th. Mr. Ott is giving updates to the student body at least twice weekly on the daily announcements. Chris Schuck from Wind Gap and Nick Henshue from Easton (about 209 alevins) reported that their eggs are currently hatching too with a similar survival rate.

The Chapter is currently seeking funding to start a "coldwater conservation" library in each classroom as well as a chapter master library for use by teachers, our partners and members.

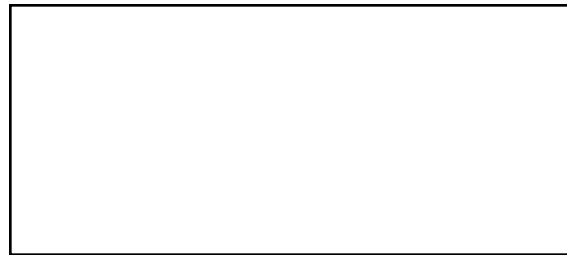
Lehigh River Update 2010 Flow Plan Comment

This is an update from the October stakeholder meeting regarding the F. E. Walter Flow Management Plan for 2010. The meeting was cordial between the different user groups and there was much discussion on ways to tweak the plan to benefit the trout resource, mostly in wet years. The success of these plans is highly dependent on Mother Nature. The following points should be considered in writing a letter for comment. Address letters to Mark Hartle at PFBC at mhartle@state.pa.us

- Any additional water for the fishery should be front loaded to maintain a 100 cfs above inflow augmentation through the majority of August. There is a risk if we don't receive rain, but we saw the benefits of front loading in this year's plan.
- After there is enough water to guarantee the scheduled white water releases and fishery augmentation, additional water is allocated to the fishery and whitewater on a 50:50 ratio. We would like to see this ratio changed so that any additional water is allocated more favorably to the fishery, perhaps 70:30.
- We discussed the need for a ramp down on any "mega" release. In a wet year like this year, there was enough water for a mega release on October 5th (4,000 cfs). There also seemed to be some room for compromise on the "mega" release from some of the paddlers. This "mega" release is the lowest (last) priority in the plan and is not guaranteed.

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

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



**Schoeneck Creek
Surface Water Assessment**

As reported in the Summer 2009 issue, several stormwater events in spring precipitated a major sediment load being transported into the Bushkill Creek from the Schoeneck Creek drainage and the need for further investigation. Finding some answers should be facilitated by a Schoeneck Creek Surface Water Assessment to be conducted by the Northampton County Conservation District. The Schoeneck Creek assessment is one of three, countywide, DEP Grant funded, Watershed-based Surface Water Quality Assessment projects. The purpose is to pinpoint sources and causes of siltation from urban and agricultural practices and develop remediation and restoration measures accordingly. Sampling sites and activities will be reviewed with a DEP biologist before work commences late this fall/early winter; activities may include field and lab water chemistry testing, habitat assessments and macroinvertebrate testing. Water sampling will take place during stormwater events and during the growing season in both dry and wet weather conditions. The Northampton and Lehigh County Conservation Districts will partner with shared staff, supplies & equipment on water assessment projects in both counties, with volunteer support from local watershed organizations. Project results will be incorporated into the DEP Water Quality Assessment Database & will be used in compiling the 2010 Integrated Report for EPA in 2011

**Adventures in Agriculture
February 12th-14th**

Visit our new display at the Palmer Park Mall during Adventures in Agriculture, February 12th-14th to promote cold-water conservation. Bring the kids and enjoy the scavenger hunt. Our question is “how many fins does a trout have?” The event is sponsored by the Northampton-Monroe Farm Bureau.

