

# Forks Forum

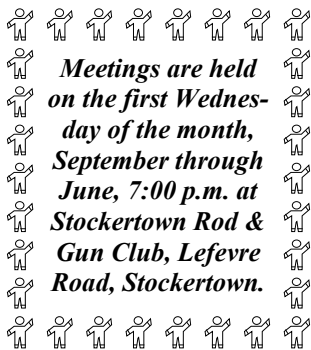
Volume 19, Issue 2

Winter, 2011



## Holiday Raffle

December 1st  
Please return your tickets and monies.



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## Upcoming Programs

### December 1st

#### “Website Debut/Holiday Raffle”

Norm Benton will introduce us to our new website. Norm will be seeking input from our members. Plus our annual Holiday Raffle.

### January 5th

“**Movie Night.**” The evening will feature several classic fly fishing videos from our library. If you have some “home” movies that you want to share, we will have our projector and laptop ready to go, too!

### February 2nd

“**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 17th, 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 Dave Hess at [lddhess@gmail.com](mailto:lddhess@gmail.com) or 610-570-4280. Space is limited to 25 students.

**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.**

## Bushkill Creek Trout Redd Survey

Our chapter is planning on conducting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual trout redd survey in late November, early December, depending on stream and weather conditions. The PFBC recommends that the survey be taken after most of the spawning has taken place, but it is not beneficial to wait until all spawning has taken place. Waiting too long makes earlier redds harder to see due to the presence of periphyton. It is not uncommon, also, to have later spawning fish utilize existing redds due to the nature and looseness of the gravel. Again, our goals are to gather baseline data in our two control sections (Newlins Mill area the and upper catch and release area), including redd count and identification of critical spawning areas and to raise awareness of the importance of wild trout spawning in the Bushkill Creek. Previous surveys have been well received by the conservation community and public. We re-

ceived a mention in the Nov/Dec Pennsylvania Angler in an article by Vic Attardo titled Top Post-Spawn Trout Streams in the East. One thing he mentions is that you have to be careful wading. The redds get darker and are hard to see as time passes. Careless wading can cause a lot of havoc. I observe a lot of redds near the edges of the stream. In early November, I had conducted a brief tour of an active redd for several Bushkill Stream Conservancy members. A substantial amount of spawning had already taken place by mid-November. A typical female brown trout produces about 2,000 eggs per kilogram (900 eggs per pound) of body weight at spawning. Viable eggs should mature into fry by late February, early March. WCO Sabo reported on a number of redds he had seen in the Easton area. Urban wild trout, you gotta love it!

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

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**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.

**Runs & Riffles...The President's Message**

Fall is transitioning to winter with some areas of Pennsylvania already experiencing snow. Except for some hardcore steelhead anglers or dedicated nymphers on our limestone streams, for most anglers the open-water fishing season is about over with. For many of us it's time to clean and put away our gear and take stock of the 2010 season.

The low-water and hot weather of this past year's mostly drought conditions provided a stark contrast to the previous year's bountiful water and trout friendly temperatures. While the fishing was good in the early spring, by early summer most streams were very low and stream temps were beginning to soar. Many anglers and coldwater conservationists became increasingly concerned about the survival of the trout. While on some streams, mostly freestoners susceptible to high water temperatures, a certain amount of trout did not survive the drought. However, as they have for centuries, many trout did persevere and survive the harsh conditions as evidenced by not only electro-shocking surveys but also the spawning activity of this fall. Spawning has already taken place in most of our freestone streams. Right now in most of our limestone streams the wild brown trout spawning is getting into full swing.

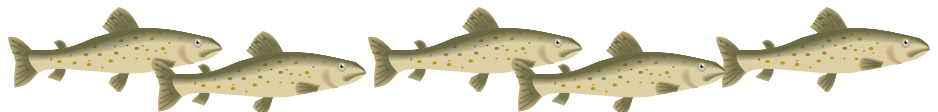
Our TU chapter is also still active. Our annual Bushkill Creek Trout Redd Survey (which has begun to garner attention from state coldwater conservation interests) is scheduled for Friday, November 26, 2010. Chapter Secretary Brian Wagner coordinates this and will provide more information via e-mail for anyone interested in participating. We

also have our annual Fly-tying Classes, which will run each Monday at Arndt's Church from January 17<sup>th</sup> thru March 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition we are partnering with the Bushkill Stream Conservancy and the Nurture Nature Foundation on a grant application to Crayola to sponsor a student artwork contest on the Bushkill Creek watershed. The winning artwork would then become a Bushkill Creek Watershed Calendar for 2012. The chapter has also sent a letter of support to the Nurture Nature Foundation for its project proposal to the National Science Foundation. The project will focus on community-wide education concerning obsolete dam removal, flooding risks, and other environmental concerns within the watershed. Planning is also underway for the annual multi-chapter Lehigh Valley TU Spring Event. So, even though the fishing season has all but ended, your TU chapter is still very active. Come on out and get involved.

On a final note, the chapter's biggest fundraiser, our annual Holiday Raffle will be drawn at the next regular meeting on December 1, 2010. Please continue to sell those tickets, if you need more tickets contact Brian Wagner now. All proceeds benefit chapter projects. Tickets will also be available for purchase the night of the drawing as well.

Thank you,

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

## “Stream Explorers” TU’s New Youth Membership

National has the right idea with their new youth membership called Stream Explorers. From a marketing standpoint, it seems to be a natural fit. After all with the proper supervision, what kid doesn’t like to explore the “great outdoors”, turning over rocks, looking for bugs, fossils, fish and such, whatever the imagination can dream? Too, I have often heard the complaint that although as an organization we do a lot of great things in youth engagement, it doesn’t necessarily pan out in greater numbers of members. Well, with the Stream Explorer membership, for just \$12, you can purchase a membership for a child. I think belonging to something is a natural condition for anyone, especially our youth. Whether this initiative increases adult membership, only time will tell. There’s no doubt in the fact that as an organization we need to attract some younger members and with it fresh ideas and energy.

From a chapter standpoint, we should keep up the great work we are doing with youth engagement. We currently have Trout in the Classroom and Northampton County Youth Day as our major initiatives, but we typically have a youth component in a lot of our activities. We are currently planning on doing a program for Scouts.

From an individual standpoint, why not give a membership to a child? What a great gift, for the price of a movie and popcorn. It’s a fact that today, children are becoming farther and farther removed from the outdoors and frankly, it’s up to us to help reverse that trend. I know two youngsters who already were stream explorers, river keepers or in this case “creek keepers”, who had taken ownership of their creek where it runs through their local park. After learning about the Trout Unlimited Stream Explorer membership, their father signed them up.

In a grassroots organization like Trout Unlimited, you have to build your base and the Stream Explorers membership can be an effective tool to build that base. We will have memberships available at our TU meetings or we can mail one to you. You can also sign up a child at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org). Look for the Stream Explorers logo.

## Gift Wrapped

We need volunteers to help wrap gifts at LL Bean on Monday, December 20th from 11 a.m. till 9 p.m. If you can help out for a few hours that day, we will have a sign-up sheet at our December meeting or contact Mike Recine at [mrecine@aol.com](mailto:mrecine@aol.com). Great opportunity to show your holiday spirit and help our chapter.



## Trout in the Classroom “Eggs in the Basket”

Each school received a plastic bag containing brook trout eggs and three different sizes of food, packaged in a foam carton stamped “perishable” with a cold pack inside, delivered by UPS the first week of November. The white (dead) eggs had to be removed from the viable eggs before placing them into the hatching basket in the tank. Number of eggs varied somewhat. But everyone should have a good starting number. Nazareth received a second shipment of eggs the second week to supplement their initial egg delivery due to lower number of viable eggs in the first shipment. Hatching didn’t take long. There were even reports from other schools of sac fry emerging in their original shipments.

Wind Gap MS is planning on operating a “trout cam” with a camera purchased through our chapter with a grant from Green Knight. So, look for two operating “trout cams” this year, Wind Gap MS and Nazareth MS.

As we move forward with the Trout in the Classroom program, it continues to be a great learning experience for the students, teachers and us.

Its not too early to start thinking about helping out at one of our trout release days in the spring.

The program wouldn’t be possible without the support of the PFBC, Spring Reilly and Amidea Daniel, and our own PATU coordinator, Samantha Kutskel. Check out the new Trout in the Classroom website at [patrouinthechapterroom.org](http://patrouinthechapterroom.org)

Fortunately, our chapter has been in a position to provide innovative support to our schools and look for ways to continue to do so.

## Chapter Stats

- **686 - Number of volunteer hours for 2010 fiscal year.**
- **201- Number of members.**
- **49% - Percentage of members who have supplied e-mail addresses.**
- **37% - Percentage of members receiving electronic version of *Forks Forum***

*Our chapter currently has **201** members! **We really need your e-mail address so that we can better communicate.** And if you would prefer an electronic copy of the newsletter, let us know. It saves us money, although I know some of us like a hard copy to read.*

*To update your e-mail address or request the electronic version of the newsletter, just shoot me an e-mail at [fish4brian@aol.com](mailto:fish4brian@aol.com)*

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

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



**Chapter News**

- Elections were held at our November meeting. We welcome Bill Heffner and Steve Pacovich to the board of directors. Kevin Cochrane was reelected to a board term. Officers elected were Ryan Rush, president, Joe Baylog, vice-president, Norm Benton, treasurer, and Brian Wagner, secretary.
- Thank you to member Doug Ditmars who generously donated books and magazines to our chapter. We will be adding the books to our chapter library and will be using the Fly Tyer magazines during our fly tying classes.
- Adopt-A-Highway coordinator, Karl Loser would like to thank everyone who came out for our Fall cleanup along Bushkill Drive.
- We would like to thank Karl Loser for mending the middle catch and release sign in the C & R stretch.

**Calendar of Events**

**DEC**

- 1** December Membership Meeting
- 20** LL Bean gift wrap

**JAN**

- 5** January Membership Meeting
- 17** Start Fly Tying Classes

**FEB**

- 2** February Membership Meeting
- 11-13** Adventures in Agriculture Expo, Palmer Mall

**MAR**

- TBA** 9th Annual Spring Event

**Special Sellers Raffle with Holiday Raffle December 1st  
For each \$10 of Holiday Raffle tickets sold, you will be entered  
into a special drawing for a \$50 Evening Hatch gift card.**