

# Forks Forum



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](http://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

### Northampton County Youth Day, June 1st Volunteers Needed

Northampton County Youth Field Day is June 1st. We will need volunteers to help with fly casting and tying. Contact Brian Wagner at fish4brian@aol.com. Many 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.

### June 5th “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 6 p.m.. The sulfurs should be hatching and hopefully the trout will cooperate. Bring your rod and come on out. New-comers welcome. We will have our local experts on hand to help out.

**The next regular General Membership Meeting will be held at the Stockertown Rod & Gun Club on September 4th.**

### “Au Sable” Fishing Trip May 30-June 2nd

Many members of the Forks of the Delaware Trout Unlimited have scheduled a fishing outing at the famous Ausable and Saranac rivers in the Adirondacks.

This has been an annual event for many years. Many of our members stay at the “Wilderness Inn” in Wilmington, New York and “fish” hard all day. In the evening, after dinner, we usually congregate in one of the cabins and talk about the days events.

The wading can be a little treacherous as times, but the rewards are catching large healthy brown and rainbow trout with a chance in some areas for a “brookie”. At the end of the day, many make their last stop the “Iron Bridge” where catching lots of trout on dry flies is almost always guaranteed.

### Forks of the Delaware 2nd annual Pig & Corn Roast - Sept. 28th “Hold this date!”

Thom Beverly announced at the May directors meeting that the date for the 2nd Annual Pig and Corn Roast will be on **Saturday, September 28th at the Riverside Bar and Grille (5801 South Delaware Drive)** along the banks of the scenic Delaware River.

The public is welcomed, so invite your friends and family members to come and enjoy fine food, scenic views of the Delaware River and the camaraderie of your fellow TU members and friends.

More details will be provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brian Kress, Bill Hefner, Joe Velopolcak or Thom Beverly at kbeverly@rcn.com (610-393-6663 cell).

FORKS OF THE DELAWARE CHAPTER  
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**Websites**

National TU www.tu.org

State Council www.patrou.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**

Hello fellow anglers, I hope all of you are in a position to take advantage of the spring weather now that it has finally arrived. It sure took its time getting here but that's the way it goes sometimes. I'm a little concerned about the lack of rain, it seems our streams and water table are a little low for this time of year; hopefully we'll get some steady, not torrential, rain soon.

This spring I had grand plans, as I do every season, to try and fish more of our early hatches, the BWO, Blue Quill, Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, and Granom, but alas, I seem to have missed most of them again. A few of us have been talking about how dry fly fishing is truly a sport better suited to the retired.

I was lucky enough to trek up to the Lackawaxen with Rich Budihas a few weeks ago and witness a few March Browns popping off during the day and spinners fall in the evening but the trout didn't seem to be interested. We heard the classic "you should have been here last night" from a few anglers but it wasn't happening for us. It was my first time fishing the Lackawaxen and at lower flows the river seemed like it has a lot of potential, so put it on the early season list of places to go. A trip up to the Brodhead with Brian Kress last weekend proved a little more fruitful as the Gray Fox were coming off in decent numbers, though no surface activity was present, they eagerly hit swung wets for a short time.

Now it's just another waiting game; the Cornutas, Sulphers, Iso's, are up next and then we are into summer and the Trico's. I saw what looked like a Sulpher, probably up from the Delaware, on my screen last night so with these warmer temps it might happen quickly.

It was nice to see such a large

group and new faces and guests at our "bugs and dogs" meeting in May. I was impressed with how many people stuck it out in the cold weather; it's a testament to how good a group we have. I hope the weather is more accommodating for our June fishing meeting at 6PM along the Bushkill at Edgewood Avenue.

Also, if anybody is interested we could still use some help at the "Stockertown Youth Day" event on June first. It's a very nice day helping young people learn a little more about what we do, contact Brian Wagner for more info.

We wish good angling to the "Ausable Gang" may the fishing not get in the way of the great food and companionship. I encourage all our members to get together and enjoy this great hobby and explore new opportunities as they present themselves. Have a great summer, chase those hatches, and we'll see you on the water.

Best,

Joe

President,

Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

**www.forkstu.org**



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

## Past Events and Activities

### March 16

#### **Forks of the Delaware, Monacacy, Little Lehigh and Hokendauqua Chapter's of Trout Unlimited Spring Event**

The March 16th Spring event was a huge success. The total attendance was approximately 125 adults and children. Each chapter netted \$409 after expenses. **Guest speaker, Jack Fekula**, from the Hockendauqua chapter of Trout Unlimited, gave a presentation titled "**Yellowstone National Park and the Yellowstone Volunteer Fly Fishing Program**" which appealed to all the attendees. Thanks again to Jack for his efforts and sharing his experiences within the backcountry of one of our most beloved national parks. We would also like to thank all our local outfitters and chapter members who donated and discounted many of our raffle items. Also, we would like to thank all who volunteered to organize and help out on the day of the event.

### March 17

#### **Stockertown Rod & Gun Flea Market**

The Forks of the Delaware Chapter participated at the Stockertown Rod and Gun Flea Market. Special thanks to Karl Loser and all the volunteers. The chapter netted \$167.

### April 3

#### **Monthly meeting with Mitch Blake PATU Coldwater conf. coordinator**

Brian Cowden, the "Musconetcong Home Rivers Initiative" Coordinator, gave a presentation entitled, "River restoration and protection in the Musconetcong watershed". The talk was focused primarily on: (1) protecting existing high quality native and wild trout habitat through land purchases and conservation easements; (2) implementing "brook trout friendly" development practices for areas where land protection efforts are not possible; (3) restoring habitat by improving agricultural land management practices through activities such as streambank fencing, riparian tree plantings, and dam removals; and (4) engaging communities, TU grassroots members, and youth (including numerous Trout in the Classroom programs) in the protection and restoration of the Musconetcong River. The Forks of the Delaware chapter thanks Brian for his valuable work and sharing his presentation with us.

### April 17

#### **Martins Creek Stream cleanup**

#### **(Northampton County stewards of waterways and the environment)**

On Wednesday April 17, the chapter held a stream clean-up along the Martins Creek. We started at the Northampton county fire school and worked our way downstream to Franklin Hill Road. Thanks to the volunteers Ryan Rush, Brian Wagner, Brian Kress, Thom Beverly, Joe Baylog, Joe Velopolcak, and Norm Benton.

### April 20

#### **Bushkill Stream cleanup**

#### **(Northampton County stewards of waterways and the environment)**

On Saturday morning, April 21st the chapter conducted a Bushkill Creek Stream clean-up. We met at Edgewood Avenue (at catch and release area). Thanks to the volunteers Brian Wagner, Thom Beverly, Joe Velopolcak, and Karl Loser.

## Past Events and Activities

### April 28—PATU Youth fishing day @ Harpster's family farms

Once again our youth were invited to join Wayne Harpster at his dairy farm for a youth day of casting and fishing instructions with Joe Humphreys (FF LEGEND), entomology with Greg Hoover (PSU BUG GUY) and also joined by the Penn State University fly fishing students. Our chapter sent four students to represent us for the day; Joseph Bozzie, Zachery Pfeiffer, Sabrina Cowley and Kelly Schultheis.

The day turned out to be a bit on the cold side along with rain and wind. All the kids did get into fish with their abilities in casting and fishing improving as the day went on. After a full day on the stream, we were all invited to a cook out under the covered bridge. This being our second year attending, the kids seem to like the barbecue as much as the fishing. This is an event the chapter would highly recommend for any of our youth to participate in. The fishing is on Spruce Creek which is one of the best streams in Pennsylvania. Thanks to Brian Kress, Joe Baylog and Ryan Rush for their commitment to these kids and their participation in this great event.



### May 1 'Bugs and Dogs' cookout @ Stockertown Rod and Gun Club

The annual cookout was very well attended this year even with the slightly colder weather. Everyone seemed to enjoy the picnic food and refreshments and the talk was centered around past and future fishing trips.

## Trout in the Classroom “Release Days”

### Trout in the Classroom Report Card

On April 19th, Nazareth Middle School under the direction of 8th grade science teacher Tim Cunningham released their brook trout that they raised from eggs as part of the Trout in the Classroom program. The release was held at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (JEEC). About 100 students participated in the day's events including macro-invertebrate sampling in the Bushkill Creek, a stream velocity exercise, fly casting and tying demo, birding and a nature walk. I would like to thank all of our volunteers, the JEEC educators, the Nazareth MS teachers and the students who made the program possible. It was an educational and fun day.

Larry Ott, retired Bangor Middle School teacher, reported that on Thursday, May 9th, ten Bangor Middle School students released 114 brook trout into the Martins Creek at four different locations. He estimated that the brook trout averaged four inches in length, a bit larger than other years. At the final release site, they also sampled macro-invertebrates. The highlight at this site was a six inch American Eel. In addition, they found a blacknosed dace, an assortment of mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and caddisflies, as well as a number of water pennies. After the stream sampling, they continued on to Lake Minsi, again to sample macro-invertebrates. The highlight here was a number of tiny brown bullheads. In addition, they caught a number of bluegills, many dragonflies/damselflies, and some giant water beetles, one of which was carrying eggs. Then they compared the macro-invertebrates that were found in lentic and lotic waters.

On May 22nd, Wind Gap Middle School under the direction of 7th grade science teacher Chris Schuck held their “release” program at Jacobsburg. Although, there technically wasn't a release due to some difficulties, which were more common this year throughout the state, in raising the brook trout in their “fragile” tank environment, there is a teaching moment here. Comparisons can be made to the fragility of the brook trout's natural environment and the perils that they face in the wild. Anyhow, about 150 students participated in their day which incorporated macro-invertebrates, fly casting and tying demo by our volunteers, a nature walk and several activities with the Jacobsburg Historical Society at the Boulton Historic Site. Again, thanks to the JEEC staff, Wind Gap MS teachers and the students for making this possible.

Although we didn't have a formal “end of year” program this year, Easton High School and Easton Academy also participated in the program. During the school year our chapter had provided copies of the booklet, My Healthy Stream to all of our participating schools. We also offered the Watershed Decisions exercise, a watershed decision making activity for adults and older students, to our TIC schools. Our chapter purchased several sets from Penn State Extension for Wind Gap MS and Easton Academy. Our chapter still has several sets available for loan.

## Recent News “Fracking Moratorium”

A plea from David Masur, Director of PennEnvironment environmental group, to contact our state senators and call for a moratorium on fracking.

All of our hard work to rein in dangerous fracking in PA is starting to pay off. Just days after we delivered 100,000 signatures calling for a moratorium on fracking, Sen. Jim Ferlo (Pittsburgh) introduced legislation to do just that -- and already a number of state senators have gotten on board. Your state Senator, Sen. Boscola or Sen. Mensch, has still not signed on.

[Click here to ask Sen. Boscola or Sen. Mensch to become an original cosponsor of this important legislation.](#)

This piece of legislation would put our communities, our health and environment before dangerous gas drilling. And it couldn't come at a more important time. A new analysis by the Times Tribune of PA Department of Environmental protection records, showed that in one in six investigations the local water supplied was damaged enough to require the company replace it with clean water. That's one of many reasons its time for our legislators to enact a moratorium on fracking. [Ask Sen. Boscola or Sen. Mensch to co-sponsor moratorium legislation today.](#) Despite a majority of Pennsylvanians now supporting a moratorium on fracking, our fight will not be easy. Already, the gas drilling industry is ramping up its efforts to convince the public that fracking is safe and to push legislators to reject new environmental protections. To overcome their political power, we'll need your help more than ever before. We'll need organize in communities across the commonwealth, pushing legislators to support a moratorium. But the first step is to convince Sen. Boscola or Sen. Mensch to support a moratorium. Take action today.

Thanks,

David Masur  
PennEnvironment Director

PS. Help us get tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians to tell their legislators to cosponsor Sen. Ferlo's moratorium legislation. Forward this email to at least 10 friends today.

[1] ["Statewide Natural Gas Drilling Moratorium Cosponsorship memo"](#), Sen. Jim Ferlo, April 30, 2013.

[2] ["Sunday Times Review of DEP drilling records reveals water damage, murky testing records"](#), The Times Tribune, May 19, 2013.

By Gary R. Blockus, Of The Morning Call

10:45 p.m. EDT, May 5, 2013

Rod Rohrbach was upset when first informed last week of a plan that would remove nine dams from the Little Lehigh and Jordan creeks. The former owner of the Little Lehigh Fly Shop in the Lehigh Parkway now living in Colorado thought the plan would allow muskellunge, or muskies, to move into the Little Lehigh, creating an imbalance because of their large size and predatory skills. Experts say muskies will not move into the Little Lehigh, but Wildlands Conservancy is hoping to improve conditions for trout and other fish as a result of the \$431,000 project to remove the nine dams. The project is expected to provide better water quality while opening up approximately 25 miles of stream. The project will also include a second phase scheduled for 2014 that will provide flood plain and substrate restoration and reconnect the flood plain to the streams, as well as add fish habitat structure for the trout that live in the streams.

The project is up for bid with dam removal slated to begin in July and end by October, according to Kristie Fach, director of ecological restoration for Wildlands Conservancy. The second phase of the project will begin next year after the conservation organization has a chance to monitor how the newly free-flowing water reacts with the stream banks. "Fly fishermen will love the colder water for better trout fishing and improved micro-invertebrate life," said Abby Pattishall, vice president of Wildlands Conservancy as she and Fach were on site at the dam slated for removal from the Keystone Road area in Allentown, just upstream from the Queen City Trout Nursery, commonly called the fish hatchery. "We've been working on this project for five years and are very excited to see it get to this stage," Fach said, noting that formal monitoring and assessments were completed in order to address the highest priorities for improving the water quality and restore the aquatic ecosystem.

After those assessments, Wildlands officials met with the dam owners. In this case, the City of Allentown owns four – the Jordan Park ford on the Jordan Creek, and the Robin Hood, Trout Hatchery and Keystone dams on the Little Lehigh. Negotiations were also conducted with a private landowner on a dam upstream from the Keystone dam, and with Lower Macungie Township, owner of the Wild Cherry Lane dam. Whitehall Township owns the Helfrich Springs, Route 22 and MacArthur Road dams, all of which are slated to be removed as part of the project. Wildlands received grants from American Rivers through the Fish America Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wells Fargo, and a time commitment from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to undertake the project. "Dam removal is a high priority around the nation," Fach said. "It's unique that we're removing nine dams as part of one project, and that all landowners are on board. Typically, most projects include one or two dams."

The United States has about 75,000 dams greater than six feet along its waterways, according to [americanrivers.org](http://americanrivers.org). They are built for a number of reasons: hydropower, irrigation, flood control and water storage. But dams also can "deplete fisheries, degrade river ecosystems and diminish recreational opportunities" according to [americanrivers.org](http://americanrivers.org). Pattishall said that the dams being removed are useless, providing no flood control and only serve to back up water into pools that create sediment, which plugs up the soil in the creek beds. That plugged up soil suffocates the micro-invertebrate life that feeds the fish. Other dams that serve no purpose in the Little Lehigh and Jordan are being targeted, but not as part of this project. "Getting rid of the sediment is a very good idea," said Dave Bittner, who owns the Heritage Fly Shop on the former site of the Little Lehigh Fly Shop.

Because the stream is limestone and spring fed, it is relatively cold. The free-flowing water will probably have little effect on the temperature of the water other than in the dormant slow-moving water above the current dams, said John Buzzar, the regional habitat biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. "The Little Lehigh and Jordan have their fair share of fish with the stockings and the wild trout population," Buzzar said. "With the dams removed, you'll see that the habitat diversity will be greater. You don't have the same diversity above and below the dams right now." He also said that Rohrbach's concerns about muskies are unfounded. "They might go up to the first riffle during high water or a large rainstorm, but they won't reside there very long," Buzzar said. "Muskies tend to stick to larger rivers and the mouths where the smaller creeks feed into the rivers." He did say that even though the water will cool just a few degrees overall, it will make it less hospitable for warm water fish like white suckers, which like deeper, sluggish habitat. The creeks will see less number and smaller sizes of common carp, suckers and shiners, which will be good for the trout as well.

The creeks are not the only systems that could have dams removed. Wildlands Conservancy has a meeting scheduled for Monday with the City of Easton and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to discuss the removal of the Chain dam and the Easton dam on the Lehigh. The Chain dam, owned by the City of Easton, and the Easton dam, owned by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, are the biggest impediments to fish passage – particularly shad – into the Lehigh River. "The conclusion is that the only feasible option to improve fish passage is to remove those dams," Pattishall said. "If you can enhance the Lehigh and its streams, you can restore fish passage all the way through the Lehigh Valley."