

# 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.

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 👤 *Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, September through June, 7:00 p.m. at Stockertown Rod & Gun Club,* 👤  
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## Upcoming Events

**Sober's Run-Bushkill creek planting Saturday, November 24—9:00 AM (Bushkill Stream Conservancy)**  
 Volunteer day of planting some 1,000+ live stakes on two of the three PPL power line stream crossing sites in the Upper Bushkill Creek Watershed.  
 Meet at 9am at the Sober's Run Loop Trailhead Parking Lot on Belfast Road in Jacobsburg State Park—Junction of Keller & Belfast Roads in Bushkill township-Tools provided (rebar & hand sledges). If you have hand sledges, please bring them along. Also, please bring work gloves & appropriate footwear. If you have hip boots or waders, please bring them. BSC will be providing coffee & doughnuts for the morning & lunch for the afternoon; however, you might want to bring water with you.

## Fly Tying Classes Monday nights Jan. 14th – March 4th

**When:** Monday nights beginning January 14th, 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 Thom Beverly at kbeverly@rcn.com or (610-393-6663 cell). 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.  
 Steve Pacovich and Brian Kress will lead the class.

FORKS OF THE DELAWARE CHAPTER  
 TROUT UNLIMITED PO BOX 467  
 STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083

## Forks of the Delaware Wednesday night programs

### December 5th

Don Baylor, President of the Broadheads Watershed association and Environmental chair of the Broadheads chapter of Trout Unlimited, gives a presentation entitled, "**Prospecting for Golden Trout in the Wind River Range of Wyoming.**" The program details a horse pack trip to fish several lakes and inlet & outlet streams in the Winds, including spectacular scenery and fishing for cutthroat, brook, rainbow, cutbow, and golden trout. It also includes fishing for fine spotted cuts and browns outside the wilderness. See page 4.

### January 2nd

Dave Hess, a Tightlines Fly shop Outfitter guide, gives a presentation entitled, "**Oregon Steelhead fishing.**" Dave is a very accomplished Steelhead fisherman who has many years in the sport and is willing to share his secrets of success.

### February 6th

"**PFBC WCO Jeff Sabo.**" Northampton County Waterway Conservation Officer Jeff Sabo will give us an update on our streams and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission happenings.

**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

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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 (11) raw82643@yahoo.com

**George O. Maxwell**

**Rod maker**

**Split Bamboo Fly Rods &**

**Rod making Classes**

**Websites**

National TU [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

State Council [www.patROUT.org](http://www.patROUT.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

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

**Presidents' message**

**Runs & Riffles- The President's Message, Fall 2012**

First and foremost I hope everyone made it thru Hurricane Sandy okay and my prayers are with those families that may not have. From a trout stream standpoint, the trout usually make it thru these storms just fine and spawning should be in full swing very soon. Hopefully many of our members were able to enjoy some of the fine fishing and spectacular scenery fall fishing has to offer. For some of the harder anglers amongst our membership I know they've eagerly anticipated the start of another season chasing chrome- steelhead fishing! While at this time of year others have traded fishing for hunting. Still others opt to just pack the rods away until next spring and gather 'round a warm stove, busying themselves with the task of tying flies for next season.

For me, this issue marks my last President's Message column. On November 7<sup>th</sup> our membership will welcome our current chapter VP, Joe Baylog, as our next chapter president. It's been a good run, one that started as temporary plan to be president for one year that soon turned into six or seven years. To be honest, I'm not really sure how long it has been. The point is it has been long enough and I've enjoyed it and learned quite a bit along the way. Most all of it is thanks to the invaluable work and dedication of our officers and board of directors and a handful of members. These folks are the heart and soul of our wonderful chapter and deserve your thanks for all they do to keep this chapter vibrant and effective. It's been an honor to work with every one of them. We are blessed to have such a great chapter that continues to further the very important mission of Trout Unlimited. I have no doubt that will continue under Joe's watch. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served as president of the Forks of the Delaware Chapter. Thank you.

Tight lines and drag-free drifts,

Ryan Rush

President (outgoing), Forks of the Delaware Chapter #482

**Chapter Update**

The Fork of the Delaware chapter held its elections at the November 7th Wednesday night meeting and welcomed a new president to our chapter. Joe Baylog, the former vice president, will now be the new president and Thom Beverly will assume the position of vice-president vacated by Joe. We welcome Joe and Thom to their new positions.

Ryan was a very dedicated president and served our chapter faithfully for a long time. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

**[www.forkstu.org](http://www.forkstu.org)**



## Past Events and Activities

### September 8 — Forks of the Delaware first annual Pig & Corn Roast

The Forks of the Delaware first annual Pig Roast was a big success. There were 65 attendees and the chapter netted \$440 after expenses. The raffle winners were Bill Rush—50/50 and Kathy Gray—Sage 9' 4wt. Fly Rod. Our special thanks goes to the Riverside Bar & Grill for hosting the event and to Thom Beverly and Joe Baylog for their work organizing the event and directing the ticket sales.

### September 22 — Youth day at the Roseto Rod and Gun club

Many slate belt boys and girls attended a youth day at the Roseto Rod and Gun club accompanied by their parents. They participated in many events including fishing, shooting, and archery. Our chapter had several members who demonstrated fly tying, fly casting and a Brain Wagner gave a short presentation on TU and macro-invertebrates. Jere Haas, Steve Pacovich and Joe Velopolcak demonstrated fly tying techniques to the kids and Norm Weston, Brian Wagner and Ryan Rush demonstrated the basics of fly casting. After the event was over, the Rod and Gun club invited the volunteers to a wild game picnic under the pavilion behind the pond. The Elk steaks, pheasant soup and venison chili were all very tasty. All the kids had a great time and we look forward to helping out again next year.

### September 22 — Jacobsburg family fishing day

The chapter participated in a Family Fishing Program held at the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center where Lauren Forster, JEEC Environmental Education Specialist, presented the PFBC basic fishing skills program. Chapter members, Bill Heffner and Mark Miller helped out with this event.

### October — 'My Healthy Stream' distribution

The chapter has been distributing "My Healthy Stream: A Handbook for Streamside Owners" to our municipalities, schools, landowners and other conservation organizations. The book is a publication of Trout Unlimited and the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Our goal is to promote awareness of stream health in our watersheds.

### October 24 — Small games of chance meeting

Norm Benton, our chapter's treasurer, attended a seminar held by Representative Emrick on October 24th explaining changes in the small games of chance laws. Norm gave an informative review of the new and existing small games of chance laws at the Board of Directors meeting. The Board discussed what we need to do to be compliant.

### November 6,7 — 'Trout in the Classroom'

Our Trout in the Classroom schools received their brook trout eggs and three sizes of food from the PFBC on November 6th. The tanks have been set up for weeks and the water is now chilled to the low fifties. Fortunately, Hurricane Sandy didn't disrupt the program too much. Upon arrival of the eggs, the teachers must separate the dead non-viable eggs from the healthy viable eggs. The non-viable eggs appear opaque or white in color. The viable eggs will have visible eyes and an orange/clear orange color. Nazareth reported 327 viable eggs and 222 non-viable. Bangor reported 381 viable and 170 non-viable. This is normal. Dead eggs are a natural occurrence. In nature only 1-2% of eggs laid by a female brook trout will survive to spawning age of 2.

### November 14 — 'Adopt a highway' cleanup

Our Chapter completed our quarterly obligated Hi-Way clean up on Wednesday, November 14th. We started at 3PM and were able to finish before dark. Thanks to Bill Rush, Thom Beverly, Stevie Pacovich, Karl Loser, Brian Wagner and his lovely wife, Lisa.

## December 5

"Prospecting for Golden Trout in the Wind River Range of Wyoming."

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## PFBC Biologist report for the 'Bushkill Catch and Release section

Staff from the PFBC's Fisheries Management Area 5 (Bushkill) office and the Coldwater Unit (Pleasant Gap) performed an electrofishing survey on July 19, 2012 as part of long-term monitoring of wild brown trout abundance and biomass in the [Catch-and-Release Area](#) of Bushkill Creek, Section 06, extending from the Dam at Binney-Smith downstream to the 13th street bridge. Prior to this survey the population was last quantified in 2010 when results indicated that it continued to meet the Class A minimum biomass standard for brown trout of 40 kg/ha (or approximately 36 pounds/acre). See the [2010 Bushkill Creek C&R web report](#).



Two tow-boat electrofishing crews with backup netters

The 2012 survey results indicated brown trout biomass fell below the Class A minimum standard. Total brown trout biomass was estimated to be 33.36 kg/ha, which was nearly 34.00 kg/ha lower than the 2010 estimate of 67.13 kg/ha (Figure 1). This was the second time over the time series monitoring period (1982 -2012) the wild brown trout population was documented to fall below the Class A minimum standard. The first occurred in 1989, when total brown trout biomass was estimated at 34.98 kg/ha.

The brown trout population's decline in 2012 was evident in noticeably fewer trout in the 7 to 13.9 inch size range. This resulted in the lowest estimated number of trout per mile (209/mile) within this size range to date (Figure 2). The weaker showing of trout within this size range in 2012 may be attributed to abiotic or biotic events, and/or habitat alterations that may have negatively influenced the trout population within this section of stream. The estimated abundance of larger trout (greater than or equal to 14 inches), has also declined from 71 trout/mile in 2008 and 72 trout/mile in 2010, respectively, to 42 trout/mile in 2012 (Figure 3). Since Catch-and-Release regulations prohibit trout from being taken by anglers, harvest should not have an impact on the trout population within this section of Bushkill Creek. Therefore, factors other than angler harvest are contributing to the recent declines recorded in the trout population. Flood events in 2004, 2005 and 2006 have resulted in the deposition of gravel and have led to the alteration of fish cover and habitat. This appears to have diminished habitat quality in key locations where historically more older and larger size trout were present. The loss of such important habitat and the streams capacity to attract and hold fish may be accounting for the current decline in the trout population. On the positive side, a substantial increase in the estimated number of sublegal size trout (less than 7 inches in length) was recorded in 2012. This provides an encouraging sign that young trout are available in greater abundance to potentially recruit into adult sizes in the near future.

The PFBC will continue to monitor the status of the trout population's abundance on this stream by conducting another survey in 2014. At which time the section's management can be reevaluated.