



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.



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



Upcoming Programs

Forks of the Delaware Fly Tying Class Monday nights

When: Monday nights beginning January 6th, 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 them. There will be a refundable deposit fee to borrow a tying kit for use between classes.

Steve Pacovich, Joe Baylog 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 4th

Please come and join us for a chapter movie night featuring 'The Rise', complete with popcorn. This new film, a six segment collection of individual stories shot around the world; stories that together truly reflect the attraction that fly-fishing has for all of us. Shot on location in the Florida Keys, Argentina, Idaho, New Orleans, Venezuela, and Alaska. RISE is a stunning full-length film, photographed entirely on 16mm film and mastered in HD. It should be a good night just to network with chapter members and plan next year's fishing trips and activities.

January 8th

Dave Hess from Tight Lines fly shop will update the chapter on the newest gear and techniques. Tight Lines is a full-service fly shop offering products from many of the finest manufactures in the business, fly casting classes in both single & double hand (spey), fly tying classes, guided trips in both NY & NJ, and destination trips to Canada, the Bahamas and beyond. They also offer knowledge for fishing locally as well as for those looking to do a trip of a lifetime to a near or far away destination.

February 4th

**Lee Creyer - Pennsylvania Waterway
Control Officer**

Please come and join us for an update from Lee Creyer regarding the latest news and regulations relating to our local streams.

December 17 'Kiss the Water' movie

On December 17 at the 'ArtsQuest' Center at 'SteelStacks' the screening of 'Kiss the Water' documentary will be shown at the Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas. Local TU chapters are helping promote the screening with a part of proceeds to benefit TU. More details to come as the event details get finalized.

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**The 2013-2014 Officers
and Board of Directors**

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Websites

National TU www.tu.org

State Council 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

President's Message

Hello members,

Winter has come a bit early to our area with cold temperatures and high winds being the norm these last few days as fall is now but a memory. I hope you were able to take advantage the excellent blue wing olive hatches we had in our area this fall. From what I understand, and participated in to a very limited degree, we had a nice consistent emergence on our local streams. Making your final casts with a dry fly is a bitter sweet experience for me. I am always left feeling that I should have somehow found a way to spend more time on the water chasing rising fish, but I'm sure it's this very same sentiment that will motivate me to take better advantage of the opportunities yet to come.

It's been a challenging year for our group. The dewatering of the Bushkill made us conscious of just how precarious the current situation is on our home watershed. We have also seen a rise in legislative initiatives such as HB 1576 that have the potential to adversely affect trout streams in our state and word is there will be more to come. We are as a group actively perusing a remedy for both of these issues. These are very complex situations that will continue and have taken much effort by a number of our members. I want to take a moment to acknowledge and personally thank those members; Brian, Rich, Bill and Thom who have taken the time and initiative to work vigorously on these issues. We are all indebted to your service and commitment. I also what to thank all the members that took the time to "take action" through the state and national initiatives. This is an important vehicle for us to vocalize our sentiments en mass and it is an effective tool in getting our message to representatives.

One comment that keeps coming up again and again in discussion is the need for us to be a little more aggressive about tooting our own horn. I couldn't agree more, we are lucky to have many members with a workman like get it done attitude but this does not necessarily translate to self promotion. I think it's important that our community and its representatives are aware of just how many good things we do as a group. That's one area I hope we can improve in the year ahead.

We have a nice plate of activities scheduled for this winter season starting with our first official "movie night" featuring "Rise" at our December meeting. We also are participating in the screening of "Kiss the water" Dec. 17th at the Bethlehem SteelStacks with our fellow Lehigh Valley Chapters. It should be a great opportunity to bring your spouse or significant other out for a little culture and a night on the town, fly tying demonstrations and cocktails starts at 6pm. Finally, I hope you all have a very happy holiday with friends and family and may the New Year bring the opportunity to pursue your passions.

Best,

Joe

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

www.forkstu.org



Past Events and Activities

August 31 — 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, Brian Wagner and Karl Loser helped out with this event.

September 4 — Chapter Presentation of the year's fishing events

Our special thanks to Thom Beverly for creating a presentation that displayed the chapter's fishing and environmental activities from the start of 2013.

September 21 — 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. Thom Beverly gave a short presentation on TU and macro-invertebrates. Thanks to chapter members; Jere Haas, Steve Pacovich, Joe Velopolcak, Norm Weston, Victor Rodriguez and Thom Beverly for demonstrating fly tying techniques and the basics of fly casting to the kids. After the event was over, the Rod and Gun club invited the volunteers to a wild game picnic under the pavilion behind the pond. All the kids had a great time and we look forward to helping out again next year.

September 28 — Forks of the Delaware TU 2nd annual Pig & Corn Roast

The Forks of the Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited held its 2nd annual Pig and Corn Roast on Saturday, September 28th from 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM at the Riverside Bar Grille located on the scenic banks of the Delaware River (5801 South Delaware Drive). 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.

October 2 — Tulpehocken stream overview by Jake Villwock

Jake Villwock, a TCO fishing guide, gave an informative presentation of one of Pennsylvania's finest streams, the Tulpehocken. Jake also informed us that the stocking of 1500 rainbow trout fingerling was to occur on October 12.

November 6 — 'Pennsylvania Fracking update' by Paula Piatt

Paula Piatt, Eastern Sportsmen Organizer for Trout Unlimited, told the 20 or so Forks TU members about the current regulations on drilling in the state and Trout Unlimited's efforts to make sure they don't impact wildlife populations. 'Fracking' presents a number of challenges to native wildlife in Pennsylvania. The most pressing for fishermen, Piatt said, is the impact on freshwater resources. Piatt said fracking takes significant amounts of water out of those streams in order to fracture the gas-rich Marcellus Shale. That's in addition to the long-established concerns about that fracking water polluting waterways. She's encouraging interested fishermen to join a group called Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Conservation. And, in areas where fracking is allowed, she encouraged them to monitor water quality as they fish.

Fork of the Delaware Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Karl Loser for his outstanding and dedicated service. Karl would like to say thanks to all who have made this possible and enjoyable over the years. Tom Remore, who was president when he joined, Kevin Cochrane, for his efforts in getting projects completed, Dick Worth, for bringing in the "Newton" connection, Ryan Rush, for continuing the presidency, Mike Recine for re-starting the Newsletter and according to Karl, contributing much to the start of the Spring Event. And, all the members who regularly show up to assist in our events and work parties. Karl has been a member of the Chapter for eighteen years or so, and he states that he surely believes that we have the best and most talented officers and directors ever.

Next time you see Karl, please thank him for his service to the Forks of the Delaware chapter of Trout Unlimited.

November 16 — 'Adopt a highway' cleanup

Our Chapter completed our quarterly obligated Hi-Way clean up on Saturday, November 16th. We started at 9AM and were able to finish in a few hours. Thanks to Thom Beverly, Karl Loser, Brian Wagner, Joe Baylog, Norm Benton and Joe Velopolcak.

Trout in the classroom

Brian Wagner

Wow! This is the seventh year that our chapter has been participating in the Trout in the Classroom program. Some of our first students exposed to the program are probably freshmen in college now. About 200 to 300 brook trout eggs were delivered via UPS to each school on November 5th. The eggs were packed by volunteers and PATU and PFBC staff and arrived in a white box that read “perishable” and “live fish” written on it.

Nazareth MS teacher Tim Cunningham reported that they had 237 viable eggs and that they are about a week away from hatching. Non-viable eggs appear an opaque whitish color and need to be removed. Rich Orner, Easton High School teacher, reported that he is really pleased with the quality of this year’s eggs. Only had about 25 non-viable so far and already have some hatched. Retired teacher Larry Ott, who volunteers and assists running the program at Bangor MS along with his wife, reported that they received 384 eggs. About 78% were viable. That’s probably their highest percentage ever. Larry volunteered his time at the school familiarizing all of the 7th graders with the tank, set up, how it works, PATU and the Forks of the Delaware Chapter, the PA Fish & Boat Commission and brook trout. Each of the ten 7th grade classes received about 25 minutes of instructional time. All appeared to be highly interested. Over the course of the year many of the 7th graders will have an opportunity to do water monitoring. We are also running the program again at Wind gap MS and Easton Academy.

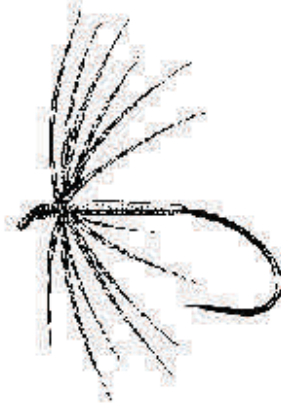
Our chapter spent around \$800 dollars this year to replace equipment at the schools. The big ticket item was a new replacement chiller for Easton HS. We are looking into getting the old one repaired so that we have a spare if needed in an emergency during the school year. One of our goals has always been to support these programs so that the schools don’t have to shoulder any financial burden. In the past, our chapter and our schools have utilized the PATU grant program to subsidize start-up costs and to pay for transportation to release days. PATU is currently running a raffle to help generate funds for the grant program. Please inquire with Thom Beverly or Brian Wagner if you would like a ticket. Cost is \$5 and the prizes are all cash. PATU is also selling Trout in the Classroom T-shirts for \$20. The green T-shirts feature a brook trout TIC logo designed by Amidea Daniel. Orders will be taken at all of our meetings. See Brian Wagner if you would like one.

The eggs are now developing into sac fry and soon will be swimming out of the hatching baskets, beginning to feed and most importantly assisting in teaching another group of eager students willing to learn. Between our five programs, we directly reach over 500 students each year.





Fly Tying Classes



**When: Monday nights beginning January 6, 2014
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (eight week course)**

**Where: Arndt's Lutheran Church, 1851 Arndt Road,
Easton, PA 18040 (Arndt Rd. and Bushkill Drive)**

Cost: \$25

**To Sign Up: Contact Thom Beverly at
kbeverly@rcn.com or call 610-393-6663**

Space is limited to 25 students

Instruction will include the proper use of tools, material selection and introductory tying techniques. New tying techniques and patterns will be introduced for the more experienced tier.

Equipment and materials will be provided, but you can bring your own vise and tools if you have them.

There will be a refundable deposit fee to borrow a tying kit for use between classes.



Forks of the Delaware Chapter of
Trout Unlimited



-- Fact Sheet --

MARCELLUS SHALE GAS DRILLING IMPACTS ON HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING

Gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region is occurring or is being planned at a very fast pace. Over time, thousands of wells are expected to be drilled in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio. Marcellus Shale gas deposits are accessed using a combination of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing (also known as ‘hydrofracking’) is a process used to create fractures that extend from the well bore into a tight rock formation, allowing gas to travel readily from the rock pores to the production well. A mixture of water, sand and chemicals is pumped in high volumes under high pressure into the shale to create the fractures.

In the heart of the Marcellus Shale region, sportsmen and women, and conservation groups are working together to identify and propose solutions to mitigate the impacts from gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing on hunting, fishing and trapping experiences. This fact sheet describes some of the impacts that are occurring or are anticipated from drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

RESOURCES AT RISK

WATER

Significant water withdrawals needed for the hydraulic fracturing process. Each well uses between three to nine million gallons of water for the hydraulic fracturing process. Water withdrawals from surface and ground water sources may decrease stream flows, threatening the survival of fish and other aquatic life.

Treatment and disposal of wastewater. Ten to forty percent of water, ranging from 300,000 to 3.6 million gallons, that is injected into each well returns to the surface as wastewater. This fluid contains chemicals, heavy metals, radioactive materials and salt water – all of which can negatively impact coldwater fisheries. Waste fluids from drilling are often taken to local wastewater treatment plants. However, most plants are designed to treat biological waste and are not equipped to treat drilling waste. As a result, local wastewater treatment does not effectively remove salts, metals and many other contaminants before this water is discharged back into our rivers. To date, facilities do not exist to adequately treat the large volumes of wastewater that will be produced through the hydraulic fracturing process. While the gas industry is pursuing technological advances to recycle and re-use drilling wastewater, progress has been slow. Nevertheless, state agencies continue to issue permits for drilling, thereby increasing the volume of wastewater that will need to be treated in the short and long-term.

Spills, leaks and illegal discharges. Spills and leaks of hydraulic fracturing waste fluids on drilling sites or during transportation are a concern, as well as illegal discharges into streams, ponds and surrounding woods.



Stormwater runoff and sedimentation. Construction of well pads and access roads and significant truck traffic, increases stormwater runoff from cleared areas. In addition, sedimentation caused by silt and sand runoff from poorly constructed roads can dramatically alter trout spawning success by burying eggs and smothering the aquatic insects on which the trout feed.

Storage of wastewater. Hydraulic fracturing wastewater contains high salinity levels and other chemicals. It is often stored in open ponds before being transported for disposal or re-use on other well pads. Leaky containment pond liners can allow this wastewater to leach and migrate into ground and surface waters, contaminating nearby streams and drinking water wells.

AIR

Air quality. Truck traffic and diesel equipment used in the drilling operations emit particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and other dangerous air pollutants. This industrial activity, in areas that are primarily rural, forested and open space, is a new source of air pollution that can adversely affect local residents, hunters, anglers and trappers.

HOW CAN WE MANAGE THE UNKNOWN?

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempted the gas industry from complying with the **Safe Drinking Water Act**; as well as the sediment and erosion control provisions of the **Clean Water Act**. No federal laws currently require companies to disclose the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process, making it difficult to know what toxins are being injected into the ground or released when spills do occur.

FORESTS & WILDLIFE IMPACTS

Fragmented forests. Fragmentation of forests and other remote wild areas can result from construction of access roads, drill pads, storage areas, feeder pipelines, compressor stations and other infrastructure necessary for the gas drilling process. Breaking up the landscape can affect wildlife migration routes and impact the health of various species, particularly those with large home ranges, that require large blocks of contiguous forest for survival. Cutting oak and beech trees for well pads, wastewater ponds and roads reduces critical food sources for game and creates openings for invasive plants to take over native habitat.

Soil compaction and truck traffic. New York agencies estimate that 1,340 truckloads of hydraulic fracturing wastewater will be removed from each well site, resulting in significant increases in heavy truck traffic. Many access roads and areas around well pads are overused and the soil is compacted, making it very difficult to successfully re-plant and re-forest. Smaller access roads and bridges that cross streams may not have the capacity to safely accommodate significant heavy truck traffic.



Wildlife attracted to open soil and wastewater. Deer and other grazing animals may be attracted to the open soil at newly constructed sites, which can contain residual chemicals from the gas drilling process. If sites are not monitored 24 hours a day and/or lack sufficient fencing, deer and other wildlife may ingest soils that contain toxins from the drilling process. Additionally, deer and other wildlife that are not deterred from daytime industrial activity may be attracted to the saline waters in containment ponds. Little prevents these species from drinking this water or water from contaminated streams. As an example, in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, a liner on a drilling wastewater holding pond deteriorated, causing leakage and forcing the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Department to quarantine 28 cattle to prevent human consumption of the contaminated beef. It will be much more difficult for state wildlife managers, hunters and trappers to know if deer or other game have consumed contaminated wastewater at drilling sites.

SPORTSMEN INTERESTS AT RISK

EFFECT ON OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

Excessive noise. Construction of well pads and access roads, using earth-moving equipment, along with seismic surveys, drilling operations and increased traffic can cause excessive noise in areas previously undisturbed. Excessive noise and activity drive away game and make it difficult for hunters to hear and track wildlife. Moreover, encountering heavy industrial development in the woods undermines the experience that so many hunters value.

ACCESS

Public lands. Lands that may have been available to sportsmen and women in the past may now be posted by a gas company, limiting access to areas where many have traditionally hunted and fished. Approximately one-third, or 700,000 acres of the 2.1 million acres, of Pennsylvania's state forests have been leased for drilling. In New York, about 12 percent of state forest acreage has been leased for oil and gas development. In August 2010, West Virginia's Division of Natural Resources announced that it is considering leasing part of its 42,577 acres of oil and gas deposits beneath eight of its state forests. Access will be restricted on public lands where there are active drilling operations. Hunters, anglers and trappers may find new or modified roads in many areas and may encounter large volumes of truck traffic in areas where active drilling is occurring. While Pennsylvania has vowed to limit heavy-truck traffic associated with Marcellus activities in many areas during short hunting, fishing or trapping seasons or on already crowded opening days, other states within the Marcellus Shale have not implemented such protection policies.

Private lands. Sportsmen may be impacted by similar limitations on access if gas drilling development or exploration is occurring during hunting or trapping seasons on private lands that have been leased. Members of hunting clubs, where land has been leased for gas drilling, could experience related access restrictions.

THIS FACT SHEET WAS COMPILED BY THE

SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE FOR MARCELLUS CONSERVATION

A coalition of sportsmen and women conservation organizations representing more than 265,000 hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoorspersons from across the Marcellus Shale region.

Trout Unlimited · Izaak Walton League of America · National Wildlife Federation · The Wildlife Society · Quality Deer Management Association
Federation of Fly Fishers · Theodore Gordon Flyfishers · New York State Trappers Association · Pennsylvania Forest Coalition · Susquehanna County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs · New York Council of TU · Pennsylvania Council of TU · Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society · Mid-Atlantic Council of TU · Virginia Council of TU · West Virginia Council of TU · Forks of the Delaware Chapter of TU · Iron Furnace Chapter of TU · Lloyd Wilson Chapter of TU · Tulpehocken Chapter of TU · Wild Trout Flyrodders · Northeast Council of Federation of Flyfishers · Twin Tiers Fiver Rivers Chapter of Federation of Flyfishers · Friends of the Upper Delaware

<http://www.sportsmenalliance.org>