

# MUDDY MATTERS

The Newsletter of the Muddy Creek Chapter #575 of Trout Unlimited

TO CONSERVE PROTECT AND RESTORE THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED.



Winter/Spring 2012 Issue

## From the President's Desk



My name is Fred Hess and I was elected as your new Chapter President this past October. When relocating back to York County four plus years ago a check of the Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Website was confirmation that this was a Chapter that is busy. One that has multiple opportunities for involvement. One that proved to be the right decision for me to transfer to. It wasn't much of a

gamble. Everything that was read on the website and in the newsletters was right on the money. No glitz and glitter here. It's grassroots members doing the right thing. Doing a lot of hard work for a very long time. Your welcoming friendliness and open, honest dialog is very much appreciated. Members have openly and without hesitation shown me around the watershed, explained to me the business end of the chapter and guided me through the Coop nursery operations. And without hesitation they also put me to work!

It is very pleasing for me to go out into the Muddy Creek Watershed. The feeling of "remoteness", the beauty of the landscape and of course the great fishing opportunities is a testament to all of those who have been involved with this Chapter since its inception. And to you I say "thank you, it is very much appreciated".

Speaking of fishing, as of this writing the watershed has been fishing well. Water temperatures on the main stem have been in the 40 degree range. Consecutive warm days have been bringing some trout to the surface in the afternoons. Approximately 650 holdover brown trout from our nursery have been stocked this past fall. Fish were stocked in the main stem from the Muddy Creek Forks, through the fly fishing area to well below Woodbine. (The above photo is an example.) In addition Chapter members floated 300 rainbows supplied by the PA Fish & Boat Commission in the FFO section in October.

Meeting more of you would be a good thing. Check our Winter/Spring Meeting Schedule on the right sidebar and please consider trying to attend one or more and bring a guest if you can. Our own Maurice will be making an interesting presentation at the March Membership Meeting. Also in this newsletter is information on upcoming Chapter projects. We need your help.

The Board of Directors met twice since the October election of officers. We made a budget for 2012 which was presented at the December membership meeting. The chapter will work from this budget framework each year. This month the BOD met to establish a plan for the Chapter looking ahead three to five years. Suggestions for committees were made and a draft established. The committees are posted in this newsletter. We are looking for volunteers to serve so please consider helping on one or more committees with whatever time you can offer.

Regards,  
Fred

## Upcoming Events

**February 15 - General Meeting**  
Lions Pride Restaurant - 7pm

**March 21 - General Meeting**  
Collinsville F&G Club - 7pm  
Presentations on stream restoration and wild vs. stocked trout identification.

**March 31 - SEPA Trout Opener**  
Visit one of the MCTU Food Stands in Woodbine or High Rock.

**April 18 - General Meeting**  
Collinsville F&G Club - 6pm  
Fly Casting and Fly Tying at 6pm. Refreshments.

**May 16 - General Meeting**  
Cooperative Nursery - 7pm

**June 20 - General Meeting**  
Cooperative Nursery - 7pm

**SE PA TROUT OPENER IS MARCH 31.**

**BEGINNING MARCH 1 NO HARVEST IS PERMITTED ON PA TROUT STREAMS**

**FISH FOR FREE DAYS IN PA MAY 28 & SEPTEMBER 3, 2012**  
No fishing license is needed to fish on either of these days. It's a great way to introduce someone (PA residents or non-residents) to the world of fishing. This year the days are conveniently selected for Memorial Day and Labor Day! Check the Commissions website, [www.fish.state.pa.us/](http://www.fish.state.pa.us/) for further details. Remember that all other regulations apply.



**Muddy Creek  
Trout Unlimited  
Chapter 575  
Executive Staff**

**President:** Fred Hess 650-6556  
**Vice Pres:** Billy Boyd 244-7388  
**Secretary:** Ron Heuston 244-1851  
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**Riparian Buffer**

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**Water Quality Specialist**  
(Vacant) Volunteer!

**WAY Representative**  
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**Co-op Sponsor Chairman:**  
Steve Francis 862-3485

**Co-op Nursery Manager:**  
Jan Pickel 382-4402  
**Communications Chairman**  
Maurice Chioda 747-5613

**Newsletter Support Staff**  
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Copywriting  
Fred Hess, Bob Shaffer, Ron Heuston  
Bill Boyd - Mailing labels  
Fred Hess - Folding and Mailing  
[www.muddycreektu.org](http://www.muddycreektu.org)

Muddy Matters is a publication of Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited, Chapter no. 575.

Questions or comments about the content of this newsletter can be submitted through regular mail:

**Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited #575  
P.O. Box 211**

**Dallastown, PA 17313**

Or email [muddycreektu@comcast.net](mailto:muddycreektu@comcast.net)  
Members may also contribute chapter related stories or articles to this newsletter by submitting them to the above addresses. This is your newsletter, help make it the best it can be. *Thank you.*

## Report Water Pollution

PA Department of Environmental Protection

717-705-4741

After Hours: 877-333-1904

Report Fishing Regulation Violations

PF&BC Waterways Conservation Officer  
SC Regional Office (717) 486-7087

## WINTER/SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

**TAKE NOTE OF THE LOCATION CHANGE FOR FEBRUARY'S MEETING** by Fred Hess

The February 15 membership meeting will be held at the Lion's Pride Restaurant in Red Lion in the dining room in the back of the restaurant. The starting time of the meeting will be at 7:00P which is the same as all meetings. However, if you want to eat supper, socialize a bit and swap fishing lies then come at 6P. If you do not want to eat, then just show up at 7P. The chapter will provide a bit of food for the 7:00 meeting. Ask for Muddy Creek TU if you don't know where the room is and someone will show you where we are.

The March 21 meeting will be held at our normal meeting place, the Collinsville F&G starting at 7P. Maurice will give two presentations that night. One on stream restorations and how they work to protect sections of streams. The other will be on brown trout, wild vs. hatchery. If you have a desire to conserve the wild trout in our watershed by practicing catch and release and cannot tell the difference between wild and hatchery trout, then this is a meeting that you don't want to miss. Both presentations will be informative and entertaining.

The April 18 meeting will also be held at Collinsville F&G. Show up at 6P for hot dogs and hamburgers supplied by the Chapter. You can cast different models of fly rods while munching. We will also tie some of our favorite Muddy Creek flies. The "we" is anyone that wants to bring their rod(s) for demonstrating and whomever wants to tie some flies or maybe you just want to bring some of your favorite patterns to swap with someone. A membership meeting will follow. This would be a good time to bring a friend or youth to learn the basics of fly fishing.

## Incubator Program 2011

by Ron Heuston

Once again the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission provide 100,000 eyed Brown Trout eggs for the Stream Side Incubator Program. This years supply of eggs were of excellent quality and were spawned at the Huntsdale Fish Culture Station. The hatch rates at all three sites were in the high 90% rate.

Unfortunately site #2 experienced a malfunction when the

intake system got clogged sometime after Thanksgiving. Flows were lost in one incubator and greatly diminished in the other. Sad to say we lost most all of the fry in one incubator and possibly 40% in the other. This is the first system failure we had since the programs inception in 1999. The failure is fixable and will be addressed. However tens of thousands of fry hatched at sites #1 & #3.

A more accurate account of hatch rates and fry will be documented in the official report.

We appreciate all the volunteers who helped preparing the incubators, picked up and delivered the eggs to the sites, placing the eggs into the Whitlock-Vibert Boxes, gathering and cleaning boxes at conclusion of process.

## Coop Nursery Report

by Fred Hess

We received 8,000 fingerling brown trout from the PAF&BC in September. Overall mortality rates have been low and the trout are growing to a nice size. A quick check of a few browns the first week of January resulted in measuring some of these fish at 8 inches or a little better.

A matching grant for the nursery has been approved by the COOP Nursery Unit of the PAF&BC. We will be purchasing stone to be spread around the raceway, new

plastic for the hoop house winter roof, air diffusers for our oxygen system and a dissolved oxygen meter to monitor raceway and stocking barrel oxygen levels.

We are planning to have two stocking crews this spring. One crew will stock on weekends and be led by Jan Pickel. The other crew will stock on weekdays led by Fred Wilt and Fred Hess. As always, we need your support. Call either Jan, Fred or Fred or email the chapter if you can assist.

The COOP Nursery is self supporting through the sponsorship mailings sent by Steve Francis, the Trout Fund Letter sent by the Chapter President and the yearly Trout Fund Buttons sales. Thanks to all for your continuing financial support. Without it, we would not be able to continue the number of trout we raise. Thanks also to the dedicated feeders who not only feed but monitor Nursery operations every day.

## North Branch Muddy Creek Phase-1 Stream Monitoring

by Ron Heuston

MCTU is required through the Growing Greener Grant to monitor the North Branch Muddy Creek Phase-1 project five times after construction has been completed.

On December 23, 2011 the cross sectioning portion of the monitoring was completed by Mike Cavanaugh, Ronald Heuston and Jeff Strevig from Aquatic Resource Restoration Company who provided the necessary equipment. Cross sections were taken at four monument stations, which included two pools, and two riffles. ARRC processed the information.

On December 26, 2011 the walk through visual monitoring was conducted by the following volunteers: Mike Cavanaugh, Scott & Brita Runkle, Bob Shaffer, Jakob Shaffer and Ronald Heuston.

The visual monitoring consisted of identifying each structure and location on the project site. We looked for deficiencies throughout the project such as erosion, rock displacement, and structure integrity. We also assessed the riparian buffer and documented the findings including invasive plants.

We supplied comments throughout project and made recommendations to repair areas of deficiencies. 38 photos were submitted with the 4<sup>th</sup> year Monitoring Survey.

We appreciate the volunteers for taking the time to be educated on this process.

2012 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> and final year for Monitoring the North Branch Phase-1 project. Tentatively dates for final monitoring in late spring early summer will be determined. Volunteers are welcome.

## Opening Day Food Stand Volunteers Needed March 31

by Bob Shaffer

Opening day food stands have proven to be a very profitable fundraiser for the club over the years, and we would like to continue that tradition. We will be running our usual stands at High Rock and Woodbine. If we get enough volunteers, we also plan to operate a stand at Muddy Creek Forks this year.

Our presence on opening day not only provides some

additional revenue to help cover the costs of feeding and raising 8,000 fish, it also helps us educate anglers and landowners on our mission in the Muddy Creek watershed.

Help is needed to operate the stands, prepare food items and sell patches, hats, buttons, etc. You don't have to be there all day; volunteering for 2-3 hour is usually all that is necessary.

These can be very profitable ventures for the club, especially for those who don't want the on-stream hassle of opening day!

Help will be needed from 6:30 am until 2 pm. Contact Bob Shaffer at 246-4512 or [bshaffer412@yahoo.com](mailto:bshaffer412@yahoo.com) if you can volunteer for a few hours.

## Fly Tying Help Needed

by Bob Shaffer

As you are probably aware, the club sells flies at sports shows, on our website, on opening day and at chapter meetings. As the result of these efforts, a few of our bins need some re-fills. When you are tying any of the following ( or other patterns you prefer), consider tying a few more to donate to the club. You don't have to be an expert, as Charlie Meck says, even an imperfectly tied fly will sometimes catch trout since

not all flies in nature are perfect.

We currently have a shortage of the following, both with & w/o bead heads:

- Green Weenie
- Red Hots
- Wooly Buggers
- Egg patterns
- Honey Bugs (assorted colors)
- Sucker Spawn
- Hares Ears
- Pheasant Tails

You can bring them to a chapter meeting, , mail them to:

MCCTU # 525  
PO Box 211  
Dallastown, PA 17313

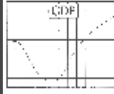
or drop them off at :

412 Summit Drive  
Red Lion, PA 17356  
(use the mailbox on the front porch).

IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PAPER NEWSLETTER MCTU WILL PRINT AND SEND ONLY TWO (2) NEWSLETTERS PER YEAR.

FOR MORE FREQUENT UPDATES CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR PROVIDE US WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR UPDATES ON CHAPTER EVENTS AND PROJECTS. SIMPLY SEND AN EMAIL TO [MUDDYCREEKTU@COMCAST.NET](mailto:MUDDYCREEKTU@COMCAST.NET)

## MCTU Chapter Sponsors



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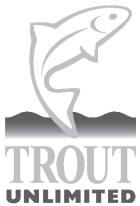
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## Camp Otter Creek Grant

The Chapter was awarded a \$500 grant from the new operators of Camp Otter Creek, Paula and Kevin Cochran. They offered the \$500 grant money to each of ten non-profit groups within a 25 mile radius of their campground. The money is to be used for youth activities. We applied providing them with a

letter describing our support of the Rivers Conservation Youth Camp, and our day of fishing with the visually impaired youth from "Sight for Vision" Earl March, Brita Runkle Ron Hueston and Fred Hess attended a presentation of the checks to the ten groups at the campground on December 10. The \$500 has its place in our 2012 budget

for youth activities and sponsorships. We will offer "Sight for Vision" another fishing day again this year at the Handicap Fishing Area. If you pass by Camp Otter Creek, don't hesitate to go in and thank them for their generosity. Thanks to Ron Hueston for his work on this project.

## 2012 Collector Patch South Branch Muddy Creek

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited is committed to continuing the collectable patch fund raiser. Our 2012 Patch boasts a scene of the South Branch of Muddy Creek white bridge with a gold trim. These can be purchased for \$6.00 at

Chapter meetings, and on our website. Visit our web site to see the 2012 South Branch of Muddy Creek patch in color or to place an order. [www.muddycreektu.org](http://www.muddycreektu.org)

