

MUDDY MATTERS

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

TO CONSERVE PROTECT AND RESTORE THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED.



Summer 2020 Issue

From the President's Vest

The last two months have reminded me that we have a lot to be thankful for. As many of us have found solace in our beloved watershed, the work that our chapter has done to protect its vitality, then and now, is certainly one of them. I'm thankful for cold, clean water. I'm thankful for the graciousness of landowners. And I'm very thankful for our dedicated volunteers. When I assumed the post of President, last fall, I never could have imagined what spring would bring. The sun will continue to rise. And as our ability to enjoy the outdoors has become more sacred than ever, so too is our mission.



I'd first like to give recognition to our now past President, Beth Boyd. When I came back to the chapter after a twenty year hiatus, I vividly recall walking into the pizza shop in Felton. It was obvious that Beth was at the helm. Some people just have it – that natural ability to convince others to follow. Beth Boyd is one of them. During her tenure, our chapter benefitted from her vibrancy and passion. Those of you who know Beth know that she is not a fisher(wo)man. But her ability to lead and to create a sense of community enabled her to leave behind a stronger chapter than before. For that, we are grateful -- Thank you, Beth.

For those of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, I look forward to doing so. My roots with the chapter run deep. My grandfather, Jay Lehr, got me involved as a child. I grew up stocking trout from the train, working our opening day food stands, watching our Co-Operative trout nursery being constructed, and swinging wooly buggers at Bridgeton and Rocky Glen. It's an honor to serve our chapter once again alongside each of you. I strongly believe in an agenda of conservation and find great joy in bringing a wild brown to the net. That said, I also appreciate the value of a stocking program, *and ours is top notch!*

Our calendar of activity may look quite different compared to years past. If deemed safe and appropriate by our board of directors, I hope to resume regular monthly meetings at the nursery sometime this summer. We'll communicate plans via email, our website, and social media. In the meantime, if you have any questions about how to get involved or our future plans, don't hesitate to contact me at president@muddycreektu.org or 717-451-5200.

Tight Lines,

Jimmy

Upcoming Events

June 17 - General Meeting
Cooperative Nursery
Grounds Social Distancing
get together.
Meet at 6:30pm

July 15 - General Meeting
Cooperative Nursery
Grounds Social Distancing
get together.
Meet at 6:30pm

August 8 - Red Lion Street Fair
CANCELLED
Can't come? Please stop
by and say hello.

August 19 - General Meeting
@ Allegro Winery Deck
Wine and Greet 6:00 PM
Meeting 7pm

Sept. 16 - General Meeting
Chapter Elections
Cooperative Nursery
Meeting 7pm

**October 3 - Womens Fly
Fishing Clinic**

FISHING NEWS

**PLEASE CONSIDER WATER
TEMPS IN THE WATERSHED
BEFORE TARGETING TROUT
IN THE SUMMER. DON'T
TARGET TROUT IN WATER
OVER 70 DEGREES.**

**REMEMBER: THE MUDDY
CREEK WATERSHED HAS
OVER 9 MILES OF STREAM
UNDER THE STOCKED TROUT
WATERS PROGRAM WITH
THE PAF&BC.**

**ALL OF THIS WATER IS OPEN
BY THE GRACE OF
GENEROUS LANDOWNERS.
PLEASE RESPECT THEIR
PROPERTY BY NOT
LITTERING AND PICKING UP
ANY TRASH YOU MAY FIND
ALONG THE STREAM.**



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

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(Vacant) Volunteer!
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www.muddycreektu.org

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

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P.O. Box 211
Dallastown, PA 17313

Or email 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
855-FISH-KIL

**Report Fishing Regulation
Violations**

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

Muddy Matters

RIPARIAN BUFFER PROJECT UPDATE

Riparian buffer zones have an important part to play in maintaining great water quality. They're vital to ensuring the stability of the soil to prevent sediment loss. Water temperature benefits from the shade that they provide. And overall they provide great habitat.

Nearly a year ago at our June chapter meeting, local landowner Tim White joined us for the first time. Tim and his wife own a farm in Stewartstown along Leibs Creek, a Class A Wild Trout tributary of the South Branch of Muddy Creek. Tim doesn't claim to be a fisherman, but he's an overall good guy who takes great pride in maintaining what he has. His land is no exception.

After a few meetings, and in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, we settled on a plan to plant just under a thousand trees. I mentioned that Tim is an overall good guy – as part of the planning process, and after walking his property for a few hours one night, Tim asked "What can we do to make the planting pollinator friendly?" He mentioned, "I just want to do the right thing." Tim is now a chapter member, and we couldn't be more excited to have him on board.

Originally, we had planned to do the planting in late April. Life threw us a curveball. We'll work to get the effort rescheduled for this coming fall, and we can use all of the help that we can get. If you're looking for a safe opportunity to contribute to our mission and a good excuse to get your hands dirty, here's your ticket. We'll communicate more details via email and social media as plans begin to firm up again.

STREAMSIDE INCUBATOR PROGRAM CONTINUES

Incubators/Fall 2019: We planted 100,000 brown trout eggs again this year among four incubator sites in watershed tributaries. Again this year we had an excellent hatch rate of approximately 90% hatch of live eggs. The eggs were planted by chapter volunteers in late November.

By the beginning of January the majority of fry had left the incubator box overflows and were in the tribs. Dale Hinkle, John Snyder and Walt Lister spearheaded this group effort. Over 100 hours of volunteer hours went into this project. Thanks to all who volunteered their time in any way.

CABIN FEVER REPORT

On Sunday, January 26, 2020 we resurrected an event that had been offered sporadically over the last decade, and it proved to be a rousing success. Held the Sunday before the Super Bowl at the Stewartstown American Legion the event provided fly-tying demos, sale of new and gently used equipment and merchandise, great food, beverages, and fellowship.

Thanks to the volunteers and visitors who helped make this year's event successful.

Due to its popularity as a winter escape, we have decided to make this an annual event to be held the week before the Super Bowl. The 2021 event will be the afternoon of Sunday, January 31, at the Stewartstown American Legion which is on Rt. 24 just south of Stewartstown. The event will again offer fly-tying instruction, MCCTU hats and t-shirts, raffles of great merchandise, as well as gently used fishing equipment. Food and beverages will be available from the legion's dining facility. Due to several requests, we have added hands-on fly-casting clinics to the day's event, weather permitting.

Look for updates this Fall and Winter on this exciting event.

COOP NURSERY REPORT

by Fred Wilt

September and October of 2019 proved to be very challenging. We received our 8000 plus fingerlings from the State in mid September. Immediately, we had a trout kill. The PF&BC Cooperative Nursery unit for the state sent a representative to examine the trout. It turned out they had a bacterial infection called ich. A treatment plan was prescribed to last two weeks but the kill continued to increase. Another call to the coop unit, another visit, and trout samples taken back to their lab, finally resolved the issue. They had a different and additional bacterial infection. Again, with the proper treatment, we were able to stop the trout kill. But that was after we had lost 2,200 trout. A request for trout replacement was turned down. Many coops like ours also had trout kills and there just wasn't enough trout to fill the requests. So we were left with 6000 to stock this spring.

The spring stocking started in the beginning of March with no problems. Preseason stockings were going very well. Then Covid 19 interrupted everything. By mid March all stockings were suspended. Then we got a call from the state coop unit in mid April that said the governor had given us permission to resume our stockings. From April 17 to April 29, we were able to complete our preseason and in season stockings. A special thank you to the "Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Banditos" (all the stockers wearing masks)!



Additionally, some important nursery work was completed this spring. A bridge was built at the lower end of the raceway to provide a means to put the plastic over the raceway and then remove it safely. Topsoil and grass seed was spread over the areas flooded in 2018.

Without the dedication and willing volunteers, the nursery operation would not be run as efficiently as it is. I would like to thank everyone for making MCTU an organization that we all can be proud of.

HANDICAPPED FISHING AREA UPDATE

by Fred Wilt

Without the dedication and willing volunteers, the nursery operation would not be run as efficiently as it is. I would like to thank everyone for making MCTU an organization that we all can be proud of.

As you may know the 2018 August flood also devastated the MCTU sponsored Handicapped Area on Toms Run. The Fishing deck broke loose and floated downstream, the sidewalk was turned over, and the far side had significant erosion around the wall. This is in addition to the 80 year old bridge upstream that had a barrier wall topple and close the road. Since then the property had changed hands and we have been working with the new property owners to provide a safe and enjoyable place for those with special needs to fish. A new deck was built and installed by MCTU volunteers. Concrete work will be done by Restuccia Excavating. Work was to be completed by the end of May. Now everything is in limbo until further notice. But we are determined to complete this project as soon as possible.

Summer/Fall Meeting Locations

Our Summer and Fall Meetings Beginning in June 2020 will be held at the the Chapters Cooperative Nursery. We feel we can get together outside and socially distance to protect those attending..

We look forward to seeing you there!

MCTU Chapter Sponsors



**Mignano's Pizza
Pasta & Subs**
76 Red Lion Avenue
Felton, Pennsylvania
17322
(717) 417-6762

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Fax: 717-862-3271
Hours: Mon. Thru Fri. 8am-5pm
Sat 8am-12pm

Closed Tuesday and Sunday

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Phone: 717-862-3271
Fax: 717-862-3271

1268 WOODBINE ROAD AIRVILLE, PA. 17302
BoNaBassets@netzero.com



WOMENS FLY FISHING CLINIC COMING SOON

By Jim Kiern

The Muddy Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be holding A Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing on Saturday, October 3rd from 9am to 12 noon at Muddy Creek Forks. Topics covered will be casting, equipment needed and setup, insect identification, fly tying, and much more. This is a "hands on" event! We are working on having some give-aways and a lite lunch with drinks will also be provided. MCTU merchandise available for purchase (shirts, hats, Travel Mugs, etc). Club members will be available to take you fishing afterwards to try out your new skills (a PA license and trout stamp are required) and equipment will be provide if you do not have any. This clinic is open to women 18 and older. Check with our web site occasionally for any additional information when it becomes available. All participants will also be required to sign a waiver before participating.

******* Due to the ongoing health crisis, this clinic can be changed or canceled at any time. The clinic could also be restricted to the amount of participants to comply with any County/State recommendations. Please continue to check our web site for any information in the future or contact any of our Board Member to reserve your spot.*******

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM REPORT

By Dan Dellinger

Our Trout in the Classroom initiative as a chapter has grown over the years and we are now up to six total classrooms spread across four school districts impacting over a 1,000 students ranging from seniors to elementary school. These TIC setups have been made possible through grants written by teachers and awarded through various sources as well as the generous contributions from corporations such as a Microsoft and member Brett Aurand and others. The goal of this initiative is to bring trout and their life cycle into the classroom to teach students about water quality, conservation, macro-invertebrates, stream health, water pollution, and so much more.



As I am sure you can imagine this year was unlike any other and our TIC teachers had to quickly adjust in order to save fish. While many understood schools would close for a period of time we had no idea that teachers and staff would not be able to enter the buildings. This information was only provided hours prior to the end of the school day on March 13th and left us all scrambling. Alisha Good and Jeff Miller of Dallastown School District opted for an emergency release that afternoon while Sarah Thoman of Eastern York High School was able to hold off on release until later the following week. These rainbows from EYHS were released into Muddy Creek at Woodbine with Mrs. Thoman, her colleague from the high school, and myself along with our children. The trout in my room at Red Lion Junior High along with those of Mrs. Carrie Lankford's at Mazie Gable Elementary were transferred to Cape Horn Pets on Lombard Rd. in Red Lion. This was only made possible thanks to store manager Michelle Greene and staff for very graciously opening up space and offering to care for the fish as we attempted to do a student release at a later date. This opportunity never was able to happen and the fish were later released. Teachers tried to connect our students to releases through live streaming, as well as pictures and videos that were later shared with students and parents. These pictures and videos can also be found on our Facebook page.



As we look ahead to next year we are hopeful that the school year will not be interrupted. We are looking forward to once again utilizing our wonderful partnership with the York County Conservancy and release trout with our students at the wonderful Bonham Wake-Robin Wildlife Sanctuary property in Airville. All of the TIC teachers and the chapter board members and directors want to thank all of you for your continued support of the chapter and all the good that can be done with your help.

MUDDY CREEK FISHING REPORT

Spring trout fishing in the Muddy Creek watershed has been very good with many trout remaining in the creeks. Fly fishermen have had great success using Streamers, small beadhead nymphs and wetflies. While summer fishing can be unproductive due to rising temperatures. Check the USGS gauging station in Castle Fin that displays flows and temperature data. (https://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/uv?site_no=01577500) .

Look for temperatures to stay below 70 degrees for your fishing success. Temperatures over 70 can be lethal if you catch and release. Mornings with terrestrials can be a fun way to start the day before the heat reaches the creek. Summer thunderstorms can cool the creek and dirty it a little giving the opportunity to fish a clearing creek, catch this when the temps are right and the fishing can be fantastic using streamers or woolly buggers. Once fall rolls around temps will begin to drop and the fish that survived the summer will begin to fatten up for winter.

Get out there and enjoy Muddy Creek and remember to thank a landowner for there generosity.

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Merchandise

We have just received the new T-shirt design in Blue, Olive and Grey, in addition to our classic design (shown left) All T-Shirts are sized from small to XXL and priced at \$12 or \$20 if shipping is required. In addition we've added a new hat logo design donated by Nathan Frohm. Call or email for size and style availability.

Also don't forget about the Travel mugs and woolly bugger earrings \$10/pair. They would make a great gift along with the other items mentioned above.

Please contact Maurice at 717-747-5613 or BOD4@muddycreektrout.org



OUR MOST POPULAR HAT DESIGNS AND COFFEE MUGS STILL AVAILABLE



MCTU COLLECTIBLE PATCHES New for 2020 Cross Mill on Rambo Run

The 2020 MCTU Collectible Patch is in! It features a beautiful scene of Rambo Run as it flows past the historic Wallace-Cross Mill. Rambo Run is a class A tributary of the north branch of Muddy Creek. The mill is believed to have been constructed in 1826 and was operated continuously until the 1980's taking its water power from Rambo Run. Please help support MCTU and all its programs by purchasing some of our merchandise at one of our events.

