

MUDDY MATTERS

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

TO CONSERVE PROTECT AND RESTORE THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED.



Winter 2021 Issue

From the President's Vest

Greetings Muddy Creek TU!

A few weeks ago, standing on the banks of Elk Creek outside of Erie, a friend of mine asked me what it is that makes our chapter so special. I stood for a moment, staring into the late fall sky, and the answer came easily and brought a warm smile to my face. It's the people. It's each of you - contributing in your own way and doing what we can as stewards of a watershed. And what we've accomplished together over this past fall was no small feat.



September 18th – a Big Day.

Jim Keirn championed our first ever Women's Intro to Fly Fishing clinic in partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Thanks to Jim's passion, nearly twenty students were introduced to a life-changing sport and were welcomed into a community that lives to give back. Welcome, Ladies! We're glad to have you.

Later that day, the chapter brought home an unprecedented three awards from the PATU Annual Membership meeting. It was recognition for your efforts, and well deserved. That recognition echoed throughout the fall as our local and state legislators followed suit.

It didn't stop there. Weeks later we hosted a dozen vision impaired children and their families streamside along Tom's Run for an incredible morning of trout fishing. We held our inaugural MCTU One Fly Tournament. We honored local landowners with a Landowner Appreciation Day. And to close out the fall, thirty-plus volunteers planted 700+ trees on multiple acres along Class A trout water in Stewartstown.

It's the people. After many years of leadership within the chapter, Fred Hess decided to take a hiatus from the board of directors to provide an opportunity for someone else to lead. We're indebted to Fritz for his many years of leadership. Adam Miller stepped up to take the role of Vice President, and John Snyder was excited to accept the nomination for the open board position. I look forward to their continued contributions to the chapter.

It's the people. One volunteer has been notably absent from chapter events over the past year or so – Denny Leicht. I was saddened to learn of Denny's passing this week. Denny had often volunteered with stocking efforts and our fundraiser with the York Revs. He was also a fixture at our VisionCorp fishing day each year – Denny loved helping those kids to fish. Rest well, Sir – you were MCTU.

After a long climb, it's important to turn around and look at how far you've come. Because of volunteers like you, we have quite the year to look back on. I couldn't be more proud of what we accomplished, together. Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill recently asked me, "What's next?"; the good news is – much like the flow of the river, it never stops.

Enjoy the day.
Jimmy

Upcoming Events

January 19 - General Meeting
Mignano's Pizza and Subs
Meet at 7:00pm

February 6 - Cabin Fever Fly Tying Event
Stewartstown American Legion - Noon to 3PM

February 16 - General Meeting
Mignano's Pizza and Subs
Meet at 7:00pm

March 16 - General Meeting
Mignano's Pizza and Subs
Meet at 7:00pm

April 2 - Opening Day of Trout Volunteer at a Food Stand

April 20 - General Meeting
Mignano's Pizza and Subs
Meet at 7:00pm

FISHING NEWS

FALL STOCKINGS BY THE F&BC AND THE MCTU NURSERY PROVIDE YEAR ROUND FISHING IN THE WATERSHED. GIVE WINTER FISHING A TRY. BUT REMEMBER THAT THE OPEN WATER SECTIONS CLOSE FEB 20 - OPENING DAY

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

President: Jim O'Connor 451-5200
Vice Pres: Adam Miller 324-7820
Secretary: Dan Dellinger 495-0602
Treasurer: Bob Shaffer 668-1490

Directors:
Fred Wilt 309-8098
Maurice Chioda 747-5613
Walt Lister 993-3491
John Snyder
(open BOD position)

Committees
Incubator Program Co-Coordinator
Fred Hess 818-9026
John Snyder
Environmental Chairman
Maurice Chioda 747-5613
Riparian Buffer
Adam Miller 324-7820
Water Quality Specialist
(Vacant) Volunteer!
Stocking Coordinator
Fred Wilt 309-8098
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Nate Cozzens
Co-op Nursery Manager
Fred Wilt 309-8098
Communications Chairman
Maurice Chioda 747-5613
Webmaster
Adam Miller 324-7820
Newsletter Support Staff
Maurice Chioda - Editor
Copywriting - Jimmy O'Connor Bob
Dan Dellinger, Celia Andersen Davis,
Adam Miller, Walt Lister, Fred Wilt,
Fred Hess

www.muddycreektu.org

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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

president@muddycreektu.org

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

Winter 2021

CABIN FEVER - FLY TYING EVENT

Due to its popularity as a winter escape, we have decided to make this an annual event to be held the weekend before the Super Bowl.

The 2022 event will be held the afternoon of Sunday, February 6th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm, at the Stewartstown American Legion, 19222 Barrens Rd. (Rt. 24 just south of Stewartstown). The event will offer fly-tying demos by Bobby Clouser, Henry Ramsay and MCTU members, raffles of fly tying and fly fishing items, sale of MCTU hat and t-shirt merchandise, as well as gently used fishing equipment.

We have also added a hands-on fly-casting demo/clinic to the day's events, weather permitting.

Food and beverages will be available from the legion's dining facility.

GUEST TYERS

Bobby Clouser, Bass Pro Shop/White River Fly Shop, will be coming to tie some flies and tell some stories.

Henry Ramsay, will be coming to tie flies, sell and sign books. "Matching Major Eastern Hatches, New Patterns for Selective Trout", and co-author "Keystone Fly Fishing Guide"

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

ONE FLY TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

We held our first ever "One Fly" event the morning of our annual Fall Fest. Approximately one half mile beats were designated for a team of two to each beat. Beats were marked in both in the Fly Fishing Only section of Muddy Creek as well as open water on the main stem and North branch. Entrants picked from a hat, chose their beat and then their choice of one fly pattern. After a morning of fishing the entrants returned to the Fall Fest for a meal and "true" fish stories.

Winning entrants were:

Largest Wild Trout Caught - Wade Lady
Largest Stocked Trout Caught - Dan Dellinger
Most Stocked Trout Caught - Colton & Brian Jones

Thanks to all who participated. We hope all had a good time. If anyone has suggestions for improvements, please submit an email to our Chapter Website.

CO-OP NURSERY REPORT

"Tis the season to be happy" is often heard at this time of the year. And in the case of the trout nursery that is true. After having many repairs to be complete at the nursery; catastrophic flooding requiring additional nursery repairs as well as rebuilding and repairing the handicap areas; and caring for some "sick" trout; the worst of our problems are now behind us.

All the major repairs at the nursery and the handicap area are completed. Only normal maintenance functions are now required. In September, 8000 brown trout fingerlings were received from the state. The brown trout are healthy and have good size for this time of the year. Also, a new, higher protein feed was purchased from Zeiglers this fall. We are monitoring the trout to see if we have bigger trout this coming spring than we have had in the past. And there are approximately 40 holdover trout averaging 14 plus inches ready to be stocked.

It won't be long, usually the end of January, until many of you will be receiving an email. It will ask you if you want a stocking schedule, if you are willing to help stock, and if so when or what days would suit you. Your responses help establish a list of volunteers for the coming stocking season. If you don't receive an email please contact me at 717-309-8098.

We are also looking for additional volunteers as regular weekly feeders. Please give me a call if you would like to lend a hand.

I was honored to receive The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited outstanding volunteer award for 2021. But it goes without saying, if I didn't have such a dedicated group of MCTU members, who feed and stock the trout, help with the maintenance of the nursery, and step up when there is a need, this award would be meaningless. Thank you to all the volunteers for making my job as nursery manager so enjoyable.

**Buy a chance to win this Fly Tying Kit
donated by Bass Pro Shops.**

**This is a great starter kit for beginning tiers.
Tickets are \$5 ea or 3 for \$10.**



www.muddycreektu.org/cabinfever for details.

VISION CORPS FISHING EVENT REPORT

The morning of Saturday October 9th started foggy and with a bit of a drizzle in the air as approximately a dozen Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited volunteers assembled at the trout nursery. Everything was loaded up including some 30 fishing rods already spooled and rigged up ready to be put to good use. In a matter of an hour participants from VisionCorps would be arriving to enjoy a morning of trout fishing at a special section of Tom's Run designated for handicap access. Chapter members and several York College Nursing Program volunteers began setting up an area for the grills and food as well as putting out fishing rods and directing parking. The local landowner helped to make this event possible over the years through their generosity. Donna Garcia of Vision Corps arrived shortly after and as the non-profit's Youth Enrichment Specialist and Life Skills Aide she was so thrilled to see this opportunity happening again after a year without due to COVID restrictions.



Between 9:00AM and 10:00AM we had 8 youth and 2 visually impaired adults with rods in the water. Chapter members helped wherever needed with throwing out lines, baiting hooks, untangling snags, or unhooking fish. Since the water was low and clear the fish were identifiable and the golden rainbows really stood out in the stream bed. This generated lots of excitement among those participating in the event! Unfortunately, with the water conditions being so low and clear the bite was not very quick and it took lots of patience and adjusting of tactics to get some fish to the net. Eventually, several youth got hooked up on some good sized trout and there was much laughing, smiles, and pictures taken by all involved. The newly replaced platform overlooking the stream that had been washed away during 2018 flooding was a favorite spot and several of the young participants found success along the adjacent wall. At lunch everyone had their share of hotdogs and cheeseburgers with chips, cookies, and drinks before going back to fishing. Before the end of the day every one of the participants had caught a decent sized trout.

This event is always a chapter favorite and we were so glad that it worked out this year to get it back on the schedule! We are already planning on possibly moving it to late spring when the bite might be better. Stay tuned and enjoy some pictures of the event. Lastly, if you or someone you know is disabled and it makes typical fishing difficult please reach out to the chapter or come to one of our meetings so that we can direct you to this wonderful location and give you some information. This opportunity was only made possible through the dedication of chapter members, the outreach and coordination of Donna Garcia at VisionCorps, and the willingness and generosity of the landowner.



CHAPTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opening Day Fundraiser Lead: Role responsible for planning and leading our annual fundraiser on the Opening Day of trout season

Membership Chair: A vital role responsible for welcoming members to the chapter and maintaining membership records

Women's Initiative Coordinator: Chapter leadership position focused on providing opportunities for women to engage with TU locally

IF INTERESTED – CONTACT TIGHTLINEJIMMYO@GMAIL.COM

RIPARIAN BUFFER PROJECTS CONTINUE

On October 30th, roughly 30 volunteers from MCTU, Codorus TU, Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay gathered along a tributary to the South Branch of Muddy Creek to plant nearly 800 trees! Roughly 600 more trees were planted a few weeks later. Both of these plantings connect with the 500 trees that we planted in the fall of 2020, creating a contiguous 8.5-acre riparian forest buffer of over 1900 trees!

Riparian forest buffers are one of the most efficient conservation practices for improving water quality. As the trees grow, they will stabilize the stream banks, filter nutrients and sediment from nearby agricultural fields, and eventually provide shade for the stream. As leaves and other woody debris from the trees make their way into the stream, they will establish the basis of the ecosystem by generating food and habitat for insects.

Thank you to Tim White and his family for being such gracious hosts and allowing us to plant not one but two riparian forest buffers on their property! Thanks to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for bringing the expertise, funding, and trees to these projects. And thank you to all of our volunteers, including but not limited to Codorus TU and Penn State Master Watershed Stewards. Projects like these and volunteers like you are bringing cleaner water to the Muddy Creek watershed!



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - CELIA DAVIS



We recently welcomed a new member to the chapter – Celia Davis. Celia joined us at our August meeting at Allegro Winery and immediately became active in volunteering. Celia's dedication to the cause and her passion for learning are equally impressive. On top of that – she has an impressive story. Celia characterizes herself as “self-taught”, though finding success in fly fishing came only recently. She enrolled in our Women's Intro to Fly Fishing clinic in September and immediately put those lessons to work. Soon after, she enrolled in an in-person Steelhead Class put on by the PAFBC, though ended up not being able to attend. With encouragement from fellow chapter members, and riding the advice of friendly anglers along the way, Celia embarked on a trip to fish one of the tributaries of Lake Erie, on her own. After nearly seventy-two hours of low water conditions and short on luck, Celia threw a black Woolly Bugger into the depths of the creek, and the rod bent. Moments later, she had landed her first steelhead. Well done, Celia! Your determination is impressive, and we're proud to call you MCTU.

You Should be #MuddyProud! MCTU Recognized at the State and Local Level

You know Pennsylvania as home to some incredible trout waters. And the 49 local chapters which make up 16,000 TU members statewide do some incredible work. Yet our chapter in the corner of #SoYoCo has a lot to be proud of. Thanks to your passion, support, and hard work, we took home an unprecedented three awards at PATU's annual membership meeting in September. My hat is off to you!

Best Project in PA: We were awarded for our work on the White Family Farm along Leibs Creek. This project represents a rebirth of our chapter's commitment to conservation work, and we're not done yet. Only weeks ago, 30+ volunteers put a shovel in the ground as we again partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake to dramatically expand the riparian buffer zone that we planted last year.

Best Newsletter in PA: Our chapter newsletter garnered a lot of respect, described as current, well-presented and clear, and visually attractive. Great job by Maurice Chioda and all of the contributors!

Outstanding Volunteer - Fred Wilt: Fred may be 1 of 16,000 TU members in Pennsylvania, though if you know Fred, you're not surprised that he was awarded this honor. He's a leader, a caretaker of trout and the watershed, a teacher, and an incredible member of the community. Congratulations, Fred!



Local and state legislators followed suit, as Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, PA State Representative Stan Saylor, and the York County Commissioners office all issued proclamations in recognition of your great work. Well done, MCTU!

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

By Dan Dellinger

Throughout the past two years the Trout in the Classroom program has been put on the back burner or altered dramatically due to COVID related restrictions. As school district administrators dealt with ever changing guidance from the state and federal government it created schedule, monetary, and priority changes. Many teachers were not able to be in their rooms for most of the day or were adapting lessons for hybrid or remote learning. Fortunately, this school year all teachers are back on board and the schools are okay with us conducting Trout in the Classroom again! Our 80 - 100 brown trout eggs will be shipped by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and arrive at schools on January 11th where they will live and grow in our specially designed tanks until April when we gather on a Saturday at the York County Conservancy Bonham Wake-Robin Wildlife Sanctuary in Airville for the release of our fingerling sized trout.



Our chapter is lucky to be partnering with five teachers across four different buildings in three school districts. The students that are able to participate in the TIC Program through one of the five teachers ranging from 3rd Grade to high school seniors. Our lowest grade of students are from Ore Valley Elementary in Dallastown School District with Mr. Jeff Miller who has approximately 75 students learning about the life cycle of rainbow trout. At Dallastown Intermediate 4th Grade teacher Mrs. Alisha Good teaches approximately 100 students about

various habitat needs of trout and students help with tank maintenance. Mr. Dan Dellinger and Mrs. Carrie Lankford at Red Lion Junior High School teach 220 students between 7th and 8th grade. Students help with monitoring water quality within the tank, learn about watersheds, and investigate necessary habitat to support stream life. At Eastern York High School Mrs. Sarah Thoman and Mr. Nick Lansberry use a hydroponics system to maximize the learning opportunities for approximately 80 students. All told these teachers partnering with Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited are providing an enriching learning opportunity for over 475 students.

Currently, all teachers are working on getting their tank equipment up and running after a long dormancy. We are hopeful that our systems will work and that our chillers will start up and keep our water in the mid 50s so our trout can grow. If you have a child, nephew, niece, or grandchild in one of the districts mentioned above we hope they can experience the Trout in the Classroom program. If you have provided any financial assistance to our chapter throughout the past few years dedicated to the TIC Program, know that it is put to good use. If you know children in other schools or districts that do not have a TIC program perhaps make someone they're aware of the program. If you'd like to volunteer for our trout release in April please contact the chapter and we will be sure to give you additional information!



WOMENS INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING CLINIC

By Celia Andersen Davis

On Saturday September 18, 2021, the Muddy Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited hosted a Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing program offered by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PAF&BC). Gracious landowners Jeff and Leah Shplet allowed the use of their expansive property along the banks of Muddy Creek at Bridgeton Road for the day-long outdoor event attended by 18 female anglers. PAF&BC instructors Amidea Daniel and Andy Desko led hands-on sessions set up at different stations covering fly fishing equipment, how to rig a rod and reel, basic knots, stream entomology, and casting techniques. Chapter members Walt Lister and Fred Hess demonstrated then assisted participants in tying a fly.



After a quick lunch, the participants were paired up with volunteer guides and spread out for an afternoon of fishing on Muddy Creek. One angler who traveled from Philadelphia landed her first fish on the infamous "Green Weenie." Special thanks to Jim Keirn for his efforts in planning, organizing, and promoting this successful event! Chapter members Owen Snyder, Adam Miller, John Snyder, Fred Hess, and Jim Keirn guided the participants during the afternoon session. Dale Hinkle offered valuable support in setting up for the event, handling merchandise sales, and cleaning up afterward. A salute to Fred Wilt for making arrangements to use the beautiful property and to him and his crew for stocking holdover trout from the Cooperative Trout Nursery prior to the event. Fred Hess led three generations of family fly anglers, as his daughter and granddaughter attended this program. Volunteers from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Lancaster Fly Girls also assisted in running the program and in guiding the fly fishing portion of it.

The Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing program was supported by generous donations from sponsors including (but not limited to): Precision Fly & Tackle, Bass Pro Shops (Harrisburg), Big Y Fly Company, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Myers Flies, J.L. Miller Sons Meats, Romberger's Appliances, The Mill of Red Lion, and Texas Roadhouse. The PAF&BC offers this program at no cost to the attendees, including a waiver of the fishing license requirement for the day. The Muddy Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to partner with the PAF&BC in this effort to promote diversity in the fly fishing community.





Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited
PO Box 211
Dallastown, PA 17313

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Winter 2021
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MUDDY CREEK TROUT UNLIMITED PRESENTS

CABIN FEVER FLY TYING EXPO

FEATURING BOBBY CLOUSER & HENRY RAMSAY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH
NOON – 3PM

STEWARTSTOWN AMERICAN LEGION
19222 BARRENS RD., STEWARTSTOWN PA

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WWW.MUDDYCREEKTU.ORG

