

MUDDY MATTERS

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

TO CONSERVE PROTECT AND RESTORE THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED.



Spring 2023 Issue

From the President's Vest

In December, my wife Megan and I were fortunate enough to spend a few days in the Bahamas, fishing for Bonefish. The experience was incredible, and I'd recommend it to anyone that gets the opportunity. Those Bones are aggressive and they love to run. However, it was a stark reminder of the value of habitat, and what it means to lose it. The Bahamas were crushed in 2019 by Hurricane Dorian, and it was obvious that the fishery hasn't yet returned to its former glory. Many a shoreline are covered by acres of dead mangrove trees – a key component of Bonefish habitat. Efforts are underway to restore the mangroves, though there's a lot of work to be done. Within the Muddy Creek watershed, we're blessed with some incredible habitat for fish, and my trip served as a good reminder as to why we *Conserve* and *Protect*.



I'm Muddy proud of the great work that the chapter continues to engage in. Another season of our streamside incubator program recently concluded – an effort to grow the wild trout population in the watershed. As you read this, school children are sitting next to tanks of developing Rainbow Trout – an effort that we sponsor to educate youth on the lifecycle of a trout and the importance of clean, cold water (Trout in the Classroom or *TIC*). Our Cabin Fever Fly Tying event was an incredible success. It was a great fundraiser for the chapter, but even more than that it was great to engage with fellow anglers from multiple local organizations. In March, we have an opportunity to treat *The Hemlocks* that overhang the lower end of the FFO stretch, to protect them from woolly adelgid. In April, we'll host another event to introduce women who may be new to the sport and the cause – an effort to bring more diversity to the fly fishing and the chapter. And a crew of volunteers is already busy stocking the watershed in waters where trout don't otherwise hold over well.

We may not be facing the devastation of a hurricane, but there's still an incredible amount of opportunity to make an impact. It's important work, and I'm proud to serve alongside you.

Tight Lines –
Jimmy

Upcoming Events

March 15 - General Meeting
Chanceford Township
Community Building
Meet at 7:00pm

April 1 - Opening Day of Trout
Volunteer at a Food Stand
Meet at 7:30am

April 19 - General Meeting
Chanceford Townsh
Community Building
Meet at 7:00pm

May 17 - General Meeting
MCTU Co-op Nursery
Meet at 7:00pm

May 20 - VisionCorps
Fishing Day
Lend a hand at this worth
while event!

June 21 - General Meeting
MCTU Co-op Nursery
Meet at 7:00pm

FISHING NEWS

**OPENING DAY IS RIGHT
AROUND THE CORNER**

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT 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.**

VisionCorps Fishing Day - Volunteers Needed! Save the Date!

- What:** Join us as we host the vision impaired children and their families of Vision Corps for a day of fishing, food, and fun on Tom's Run. Volunteers needed! Contact Fred Hess to volunteer - 717-818-9026.
- When:** Saturday, May 20th
- Where:** Handicapped Fishing Area on Tom's Run



2023 CABIN FEVER FLY TYING EVENT REPORT

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 870-6111
 Bill Glass 676-7982

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Incubator Program Co-Coordinators
 Fred Hess 818-9026
 John Snyder 870-6111
Environmental Co-Chairmen
 Maurice Chioda 747-5613
 Jim O'Connor 451-5200
Riparian Buffer
 Adam Miller 324-7820
Water Quality Specialist
 (Vacant) Volunteer!
Stacking Coordinator
 Fred Wilt 309-8098
Co-op Sponsor Chairman:
 Nate Cozzens
Co-op Nursery Manager
 Fred Wilt 309-8098
Communications Chairman
 Maurice Chioda 747-5613
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 Adam Miller 324-7820
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 Maurice Chioda - Editor
Copywriting - Jimmy O'Connor Bob Shaffer, Celia Andersen Davis, Walt Lister, Fred Wilt, John Snyder, Dan Dellinger

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 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

The third annual Cabin Fever/Fly Tying Event was held on Saturday, Feb. 4th at the Stewartstown Legion and it was a huge success. We had over 100 participants, including members from Hopewell Fish and Game, Codorus TU, Maryland TU, and the general public. Food and beverages were available from the Legion dining facility.

Fly-tying demos were provided by Guest Tyers:
Bobby Clouser, Bass Pro Shop/White River Fly Shop, RJClouser@basspro.com;
Henry Ramsay, fly tyer, presenter and author, "Matching Major Eastern Hatches, New Patterns for Selective Trout", and co-author "Keystone Fly Fishing Guide", ramsayflies.com, henry@ramsayflies.com;
Tom Herr, a truly artistic fly tyer, and steelhead guide, artisticflytying.com, tomh@precisionflyandtackle.com
 MCTU Tyers: Fred(fritz) Hess and John Snyder.

There was a large selection of fly-tying materials, MCTU merchandise (hats and shirts), and gently used fishing equipment for sale. In addition, we had over 25 raffle items including: Precision Fly & Tackle \$250 Gift Card; White River Fly Shop Deluxe

FlyTying Tool Kit & Premium Fly-Tying Material Kit; 3 Tom Herr Presentation Fly Prints; Cabela's Trout Fly-Tying Kit; Prestige Fly Fishing Outfit-7'6" 4 wgt.; Prestige Fly-Tying Station; Reddington Fly Rod 9' 4 wgt., donated by the following businesses and individuals:

- ALLEGRO Winery
- Adam Miller
- Brown's Orchards & Farm Market
- Fred Wilt
- White River Fly Shop/Bass Pro Shop
- John Snyder
- Cloud 9 Salon & Spa
- Ed Bosley
- D & K Surplus Grocery Celia Davis
- Messina's Pizza & Italian Rest.
- Henry Ramsay
- Midtown Pet Studio
- Bobby Clouser
- Sky Blue Outfitters
- Tom Herr
- Slate Run Tackle Shop
- Stewartstown Smokehouse
- Taylor Haus Family Restaurant
- Precision Fly & Tackle

A great time was had by all, can't wait until next year's event.

INCUBATOR REPORT

I am excited to report another successful year is in the books for our incubator project at TU Chapter 575. We received 100,000 eyed brown trout eggs from PA Fish and Boat Commission Huntsdale Hatchery on November 21, 2022. The eggs were placed in our incubators at four locations near spring heads in the Muddy Creek watershed. We began to see hatching activity right after Thanksgiving. The trout spend a few weeks in the sack fry stage while they are sustained by their yolk sac. Once consumed, the fry gets hungry and becomes a "swim-up". They begin to look for additional sustenance and are directed to a standpipe at the discharge of the incubator and find their way into the Muddy Creek Watershed. They live in small tributaries until they are approximately three inches in length. At that point they are ready to join the rest of the bigger trout and move down stream into the larger water in Muddy Creek. We estimate the survival rate at about 85% for this year's program. I would like to thank all of the volunteers for their time and good work as we continue to improve the fishing experience in our watershed by increasing the number of wild trout that live in Muddy Creek.

John Snyder / Director





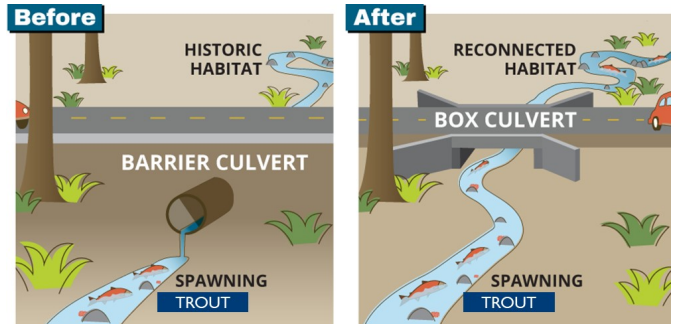
ADVOCACY FOR SPENCER RUN CULVERT REPLACEMENT

On February 7th, a small group of MCTU volunteers and an interested landowner attended the Lower Chanceford Township Supervisor’s meeting to advocate for the replacement of the culvert on Piney Hill Road, at the Spencer Run crossing. Funding is available to the township for the replacement of the culvert, and we believe that the township should pursue the project, for the following reasons:

Benefit to the Community: The style and age of the culvert are of such that a high water event would likely wash it out, leaving the road impassable until the permits and funding could be obtained to have it replaced. Proactive replacement of the culvert would ensure that Piney Hill Rd would be closed for a much shorter period of time in comparison.

Benefit to Trout: The culvert exists as a barrier to fish that try to access the cooler waters of Spencer Run to protect themselves from the high temps of Muddy in the summer months, and to access Spencer Run for spawning purposes. Reconnecting the stream would yield a significant benefit to the wild trout population.

Benefit to Water Quality: The culvert is currently to blame for Gully Erosion, a type of erosion that occurs when a stream bed is unnaturally altered to support this style of culvert. As such, significant erosion and sedimentation continues to impact the water quality in Muddy Creek.



Fortunately, the York County Conservation District has a program called the Low Volume, Dirt, and Gravel Road Program that provides funding for projects like this one. The YCCD is very interested in engaging with Lower Chanceford Twp on this project, and others like it. We will continue to encourage the township to engage with YCCD and pursue the replacement of this culvert.

COOPERATIVE NURSERY REPORT

This winter has been for the most part mild with very little snow. That has allowed the raceway water temperature to remain relatively mild. The 8000 brown trout enjoyed the milder water by feeding steadily through January and February. Even the size of the brown trout is just under 9 inches, which is exceptional for this time of the year. Reminder, the stocking of our trout will begin in March and run through early May. If you want a schedule and/or would like to help stock the trout, contact Fred Wilt at 717-309-8098.

Finally, this is an update on the stream section below Woodbine. Joe and Linda Koepper have been very co-operative with us regarding their property. In the fall we put in an additional pathway leading from James Cooper’s property to the open field where it joins with the existing path to the trestle bridge at Orson Run. Fishermen are not to use the rail bed or the trestle bridge as a walking path until they have crossed Orson Run which by the way is closed to fishing. Then climbing up to the rail bed and using it to continue downstream is permitted. Elderly and handicap are permitted on the rail bed and bridge as needed. Also, people continue to bring their dogs to this area. The signs says, “NO DOGS”! People don’t read the signs or just ignore them. We need to remind them to “READ THE SIGNS” and then obey the guidelines listed.

Thank you to everyone for your support and help as we continue to move forward as proud MUDDY CREEK TU!

CHAPTER MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Wednesday, March 15th: Chanceford Twp Community Building, 700PM

Wednesday, April 19th: Chanceford Twp Community Building, 700PM

Wednesday, May 17th: MCTU Co-Op Nursery, 700PM

Wednesday, June 21st: MCTU Co-Op Nursery, 700PM

Address for Chanceford Twp Community Building: 33 Muddy Creek Forks Road, Brogue, PA 17309

Address for MCTU Co-Op Nursery: 14190 Ted Wallace Rd, Brogue, PA 17309



MCTU VOLUNTEERS BRING IT

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited conducts business and improves the health of the watershed through an all volunteer basis. Our mission is to Conserve, Protect and Restore the Muddy Creek watershed for future use. While our membership is approximately 200 people we have been able to make some amazing progress in and along Muddy Creek regarding our mission statement and the efforts to promote coldwater conservation. Each year we must log volunteer hours of the chapter to Trout Unlimited in Arlington Virginia.

During the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year the members of MCTU Chapter #575 volunteered 3,316 hours in total as a group. This was our biggest year in the past decade regarding volunteer hours and much of it went to tree plantings of riparian buffers along the stream and its tributaries. Many more hours were contributed by individuals for managing the nursery, caring for and feeding the trout on a daily basis, inspecting and taking care of the incubators on the tributaries, and doing various outreach opportunities such as the Women on the Fly event, One Fly Competition, Landowner Appreciation Event, Red Lion Street Fair, and the Cabin Fever Fly Tying Event.



Throughout the last ten years Muddy Creek TU and its members have volunteered nearly 23,500 hours of time toward our mission. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering please reach out to the chapter by messaging us on our Facebook page, emailing us through our website <http://www.muddycreektu.org/> or coming to our monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM. We will have many opportunities this spring and summer to get involved, meet some great people, and make an impact. We look forward to seeing you!

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Fly Fishing Outing
Sunday April 16, 2023
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Shrewsbury, PA

Hosted by Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Chapter #575

Instruction and equipment will be provided.

Program covers: rigging, knot-tying, casting, safely releasing fish, all followed by fishing with volunteer guides!

Registration is required due to limits on available equipment.

Bring a lawn chair, sunglasses, outdoor shoes and clothing.

For more information, please contact:
Celia Davis at (443) 829-1292

Cdavis2501@gmail.com

www.muddycreektu.org

Facebook: MCTU575

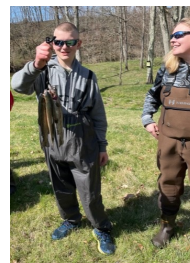
OPENING DAY ANGLERS

You are invited to stop by the food stands at Muddy Creek Forks and High Rock Road.



Saturday April 1, 2023
7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For sale: breakfast and lunch items, hot and cold drinks, fishing flies, T-shirts and hats. Credit cards accepted.



All proceeds benefit Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Chapter #575 projects:

Conservation: riparian plantings, fighting invasive species

Fish raising: cooperative trout nursery, trout incubators

Education: Trout in the Classroom, Intro. to Fly Fishing programs

For more information: www.muddycreektu.org

Facebook: MCTU575

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

By Dan Dellinger



Although it has been an abnormally snowless winter and warmer than average, the winter months are an exciting time for students in our TIC classrooms and their teachers. As a brief reminder, MCTU is again sponsoring and supporting five classrooms across three school districts. These districts include Dallastown, Eastern York, and Red Lion and provide opportunities for over 500 students across our local communities to experience trout, their life cycle, and the importance of cold water conservation. As we look toward the spring months the kids in these classrooms are actively monitoring water chemistry parameters such as ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels as well as temperature and even dissolved oxygen. Students are also doing daily equipment checks on the tank, feeding the trout, and monitoring for any mortality.

As the leaves begin to change and the morning air feels brisk TIC teachers are beginning to prepare their rooms and aquariums for another year. Trout in the Classroom is a program made possible through the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the PA State Trout Unlimited Council, and your local Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Chapter #575.

TIC provides students with the opportunity to learn about coldwater conservation through the raising of rainbow trout from eggs to fingerlings. During the timeframe of January to May students manage the tank, learn about trout life cycle, habitat for trout, and the importance of cold and clean water. These tasks and the learning activities that go with them culminate in the spring with the releasing of the trout. Some of the learning experiences across the schools involving TIC are art projects in the elementary classrooms, junior high students looking at stream comparison data, and high school students working on aquaponics with their trout tank.

In our Fall TIC Update, I brought to your attention the overall costs for starting up a Trout in the Classroom setup and the possibility of components running up against their usage limit of being effective. On Friday February 17th, a Fluval tank filter ceased working at one of the tanks in the Red Lion Junior High. The tank was unable to filter or circulate the water. If this had continued throughout the weekend it is likely that there would have been a large mortality event in the tank. Luckily, the teacher noticed over their lunch period and was able to pick up a new \$199.99 filter system at Cape Horn Pets. This new Fluval filter system was put in place before the end of the day and no fish mortality occurred. While this change was made with little disruption to tank life or learning it was an expensive purchase and the \$600 chillers would be a much larger purchase and take much longer to acquire. I bring these instances to your attention so that any donations sent to MCTU with a dedication in the memo for TIC will be used for this specific purchase.

Additionally, with five classrooms doing releases in the spring we are in need of volunteers to help coordinate some of the stations we organize for the event. If you happen to have your clearances and would like to help out please reach out to the chapter and we will keep you informed on the release day come the spring. Lastly, it was recently discussed at the annual PA Trout Unlimited Council meeting that they have now qualified to use EITC to help fund the Trout in the Classroom program. The Earned Income Tax Credit allows for tax credits to be applied to businesses that offer funding to educational outreach programs. This opportunity is a new development for PA Trout Unlimited Council. If you or someone you know owns a business and would like more information on how your business could help fund Trout in the Classroom please reach out to Dan Dellinger the TIC Coordinator for Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited. Overall, the TIC program is a great outreach opportunity to teach cold water conservancy and without the efforts of our teachers and your help it would not be possible. Thank you.





Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited
PO Box 211
Dallastown, PA 17313

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring 2023
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Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Merchandise

We have just received a new inventory of T-shirt design in Blue, Olive and Grey, Ian and even Pink addition to our classic design (shown left) All T-Shirts are sized from Small to XXL and priced at \$20 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 Wooly Bugger Earrings \$10/pair. They would make a great gift along with the other items mentioned above.

See our Website for merchandise or contact Maurice at 717-747-5613 or BOD4@muddycreektu.org



MCTU COLLECTIBLE PATCHES — New for 2023 High Rock

The 2023 MCTU Collectible Patch is in! It features a beautiful scene of the High Rock Bridge crossing the North Branch of Muddy Creek. It is a handsome patch trimmed in gold with a green ring and white lettering. Please help support MCTU and all its programs by purchasing some of our merchandise at one of our events. Pick one up Opening Day or by contacting Maurice at BOD4@mctu.org.

