

MUDDY MATTERS

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

TO CONSERVE PROTECT AND RESTORE THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED.



Fall 2023 Issue

From the President's Vest

It's been a good run. When I accepted the nomination to lead the chapter four years ago, in some ways I did so to carry on a legacy and pay homage to my grandfather. Jay Lehr was an active member in the late 80's through his passing in 1999. As I understand it, he was part of the foundational group of early members that laid the groundwork for what MCTU is today. He helped to build the nursery, planted numerous trees in the watershed, led the opening day fundraiser, and ran the train for stocking. He taught me to fish, taught me about the importance of water quality, and taught me about the need to protect wild trout. And as a kid in his formative years, those lessons never left me.



Jay Lehr - Opening Day at Rocky Glen, Circa 1998

I look back on what the chapter has accomplished over the last four years, and what brings a smile to my face is the incredible group of volunteers that we have at MCTU. The Volunteers who have worked with the watershed community to keep miles of water open to the public. The Volunteers who have planted thousands of trees. The Volunteers who have stocked thousands of fish. The Volunteers who have raised thousands of dollars to support the mission. The Volunteers who have supported our TIC (Trout in the Classroom) program to educate thousands of students. You get the picture. The power of investing your time and energy for the greater good creates a vibrancy that's infectious.

I look forward to seeing the chapter continue to grow and thrive as new leaders step in to carry the torch. I know that if Jay could see the progress we've made and the mission continue he would be smiling, just as I am.

Enjoy the day.

Jimmy O

MCTU Chapter elections for Officers and Directors will be held at the Monthly Chapter meeting to be held at the nursery on Wednesday September 20. The meeting starts at 7PM.

The following members were nominated at our August 16 monthly meeting:

President: John Snyder
Vice President: Ed Bosley
Secretary: Maurice Chioda
Treasurer: Bob Shaffer

Directors: Dan Dellinger, Bill Glass, Steve Roser, Craig Porterfield.

Nominations will re open prior the election vote at the September 20 meeting. We encourage additional nominations. Throw your hat in the ring!

Upcoming Events

Sept. 20 - General Meeting
MCTU Co-op Nursery
Chapter Elections
Meet at 7:00pm

Oct. 14 - Fall Fest and Landowner Appreciation
Stewartstown American Legion
Event Noon to 3:00pm
Set up at 11am. Volunteer!

Oct. 18 - General Meeting
See Website for Location
Meet at 7:00pm

Nov. 15 - General Meeting
See Website for Location
Meet at 7:00pm

Dec. 20 - General Meeting
See Website for Location
Meet at 7:00pm

FISHING NEWS

FALL FISHING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER WATER TEMPERATURES SHOULD SOON BE IN THE RANGE SUITABLE FOR TROUT. THE FLY AREA WILL BE STOCKED IN OCTOBER AND MCTU HAS HOLDOVERS PLANNED TO BE STOCKED IN SEPTEMBER.

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.



2023 Vision Corps / Handicapped Fly-Fishing Event

President: Jim O'Connor 451-5200
Vice Pres: John Snyder 870-6111
Secretary: Dan Dellinger 495-0602
Treasurer: Bob Shaffer 668-1490

Directors:
 Fred Wilt 309-8098
 Maurice Chioda 747-5613
 Ed Bosley
 Bill Glass 676-7982
 Steve Roser

Committees
Incubator Program Coordinators
 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!
Stocking 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
Webmaster
 Adam Miller 324-7820
Newsletter Support Staff
 Maurice Chioda - Editor
Copywriting - Jimmy O'Connor Bob Shaffer, Celia Andersen Davis, 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

One of the most rewarding events that we sponsor at Muddy Creek TU is the annual Vision Corps event to give children and adults who have vision related challenges in life an opportunity to enjoy a day of trout fishing. Our chapter has built and maintains a handicapped only fishing area on Tom's Run, a tributary in the Muddy Creek watershed.



On a beautiful morning in May this spring we again sponsored this event to support our community. There were approximately fifteen participants plus family members in attendance. The creek was well stocked by our Chapter as well as additional contributions from Hopewell and Collinsville Fish and Game Associations. The fish were cooperating very well and there is nothing more satisfying than the looks on their faces, and the excitement in their voices as they feel that first tug on the line and play the fish to the net.



I joined Trout Unlimited to be part of something bigger than myself. To give something back to my community. This event, and others like it, fulfills that mission. If you, or someone you know, are looking for an opportunity to be part of a great community organization we are always seeking new members who want to get involved and support their local community through conservation of clean water. You can join Muddy Creek TU Chapter 575 or donate to our chapter at our website listed in this newsletter.



Enjoy the Day!
 John Snyder V/P Muddy Creek Chapter 575

INCUBATOR REPORT

If you are fishing the Muddy Creek Watershed with any regularity, you may have noticed that there is a considerable number of wild brown trout in Muddy Creek. Well, there's a reason for that. M C T U 575 has been working in conjunction with the PA Fish and Boat Commission utilizing Stream Side Incubators to hatch brown trout eggs directly into our watershed. This program has been in place for nearly twenty years now and the results have been exceptional, and exciting! There are four locations in the watershed and work is underway to expand the program to a new location as well as the replacement of some existing incubators that have given good service over the years. If you are fishing in Muddy Creek, you may see signs posted to help you identify wild brown trout. Please join us in sustaining this wild trout population in our watershed by releasing wild trout so other anglers can enjoy this rewarding experience. Hope to see you out on Muddy Creek!



John Snyder / VP/ MCTU 575

IN HONOR OF WALT LISTER

By Jimmy O

We lost one of our own just a few months ago, as Walt Lister passed away. A Director on our board, Walt's contributions to the chapter over the past ten years can't be overstated. Walt served as our Assistant Treasurer, founded our Watershed Scholarship Program, led the planning and execution of many outreach events, helped with stocking, picked up a shovel for riparian buffer plantings, and everything in between. Walt didn't need to be heard. He was one of those people that just got it done. And everything that he touched was done well. He was the first one to show up, and often the last one to leave.

One of the projects on Walt's bucket list (that he never got around to) was to start a Veteran's Service Partnership program in our chapter. He very much had an appreciation for those who served our country, and he knew the solace that fly fishing could bring them. In honor of Walt, our chapter seeded a campaign with \$100 that ultimately raised over \$1500 to sponsor a Warrior, through the Warrior's & Quiet Waters Foundation. WQW is an organization that "guides post 9/11 combat veterans and their loved ones to thrive and find peace, meaning, and purpose through fly fishing and other inspirational activities in nature." We can think of no greater cause to support to honor Walt.



Tight lines, Walt. You will be missed, dear friend. You made us Muddy Proud.

COOPERATIVE NURSERY REPORT

By Fred Wilt

This year the brown trout that were raised did exceedingly well. Average size in March was 9 inches; April we were at 10 inches; May around 11 inches; and now as September approaches we have holdover trout that average 12 inches and a few that are 16 plus inches. The reason for this increase in size is because the trout feed was changed this past fall. The new feed was higher in protein which definitely made a difference in the size of brown trout we raised this year.

For those of you not familiar with the term "holdover", it means not all brown trout are stocked by mid-May. Instead, we keep some of the brown trout, which are fed through the summer, and then stocked in September. These brown trout are called holdovers. This September 700 holdover brown trout will be stocked in all sections of the Muddy Creek watershed. Dates will be schedule after Labor Day beginning in early September and should be completed before September 22, when we receive 8000 fingerlings from the state. In addition, once the holdovers are stocked, the raceway will need to be cleaned for the new fingerlings and any repairs completed. So, September will be busy. Plan to help if your schedule permits.

Finally, Linda and Joe Koepper continue to keep the section below Woodbine open for trout fishing. They are still though encountering those persons who are disrespectful and not following the established guidelines that were posted. To help alleviate additional problems with individuals crossing their bridge at Orson Run, we have completed a new path from Orson Run to their lower gate. No one is to be on the rail bed between the upper and lower gates! If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact one of the MCTU board members.



If you are interested in helping to stock or feed the trout contact Fred. My number is 717-309-8098. Thank you for your commitment to MCTU!

MCTU THIRD WOMENS FLY FISHING OUTING A GREAT SUCCESS

by Celia Anderson Davis

On April 16, 2023 MCTU sponsored another Fly Fishing Outing for Women, Benjamin Judd, the gracious landowner who allowed us to use his beautiful grounds and pond at “Heron’s Hollow.” Thanks to Ed Bosley, John Snyder, and Fred Hess for preparing for the event, taking down, hauling equipment and for serving as instructors and guides.



We had 10 participants, 4 of whom signed up to join our Chapter and two who are members of the Codorus chapter who would like to join our organization.

We used the new rods, cases, and rod rack that we obtained through a 2022 PATU Forever Wild grant to provide a fly fishing program at no cost to the participants. There were some first-time fly anglers and one person who was fishing for the very first time in attendance. Each person was provided with an information packet with a copy of the Muddy Creek T. U. Chapter #575 newsletter, a fish identification guide, knot-tying instructions and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission handbook.

This program advanced our Chapter’s goal of engaging members of the local area with an outdoor activity in the Muddy Creek watershed and providing information about the coldwater conservation efforts of Trout Unlimited. Also, by providing an event geared toward women, it is one project aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion within our Chapter.



OPENING DAY FOOD STANDS

by Celia Anderson Davis

The food stands fund-raiser on Opening Day of Trout Season, April 1, 2023, was a success!



We set up tents at High Rock Road and at Muddy Creek Forks with the goals of engaging with the community of anglers on Muddy Creek, providing sustenance, and sharing information about the Chapter.

Sales of food, drinks, MCTU merchandise, and flies brought in funds for the Chapter to use in future projects. Lots of familiar-looking trout (raised by MCTU and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and stocked by MCTU volunteers) were caught by the avid anglers.

Thanks to the 13 Chapter members and volunteers who helped!



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

The big yellow buses are rolling back down the country roads and the leaves are about to start changing colors as Trout in the Classroom heads into its 10th year at Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited. 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. While our rainbow trout eggs do not arrive until January there is much to be done in the classroom prior to the iced down and insulated bag of red eggs show up in the main office come January.



TIC teachers are beginning to prepare their rooms and set up their aquariums for another year. In addition, teachers are reviewing their curriculum and planning lessons to strengthen students' understanding of what makes a good trout habitat and what trout need to survive. Mrs. Alisha Good of Dallastown Intermediate will be teaching her 4th Graders all about watersheds in an ecology unit. Mr. Lansberry at Eastern York High School will be taking students out to do a stream study to determine if it supports trout. Mrs. Carrie Lankford will be working with students to create MWEE lessons (Meaningful Watershed Environmental Education) for our elementary schools in the Red Lion Area School District. All of this excellent work by these teachers is made possible with the support of the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the PA State Trout Unlimited Council, and your local Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Chapter #575. Understanding the importance of coldwater conservation is vital to healthy ecosystems and communities because cold and clean flowing streams are good for everyone. We are happy to help support the teaching of these topics to future generations.



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.

BRIDGET KILGORE AWARDED THE MUDDY CREEK TU WATERSHED CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP

In late-May I took the stage at the Kennard Dale High School awards night to recognize senior Bridget Kilgore. Bridget is an incredibly accomplished young woman, and as a chapter we were excited to present her with the Muddy Creek TU Watershed Conservation Scholarship of \$1000, to put toward her ongoing education. Bridget is now attending Virginia Tech and has ambitions to pursue a career in watershed science.

I have no doubt that she'll get where she wants to go. As I sat and listened to one teacher after another talk to the exceptional level of her educational pursuits, I was awestruck at what she had been able to achieve during her four years at KD. Clearly, we found the right student to invest in. In comparison, I passed on a "Thank You" to Bridget from my father, for finally giving me a reason to get on stage at a high school awards night, albeit 20 years too late. As Walt Lister remarked, sometimes it's just a matter of right time, right place.

Go get after it, Bridget. We look forward to seeing you do great things!

RED LION STREET FAIR REPORT

MCCTU #575 participated in the Red Lion Street Fair on Saturday, August 12, 2023.

The purpose of participation is to promote the activities of our organization in the Muddy Creek Watershed by providing an educational opportunity to the public, as well as generate some funds for the club from sale of merchandise. With a large supply of T-Shirts and hats, in addition to buttons and patches and the convenience of credit card sales, this year's event generated record setting revenue for our mission.



Once again, we benefitted from good weather, which yielded strong interest at our booth. We were able to distribute literature and materials designed to promote and inform the public of our efforts to improve, protect, and preserve the Muddy Creek Watershed. Thanks to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for its contribution of materials.

Much appreciation to the volunteers and visitors who helped make this year's event the most successful to date.

Fall 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.

