



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi all,
During this stressful time we are all facing, it is good to know that we still have an opportunity to get out in mother nature and enjoy what she has to offer. I am saddened to inform you that Mentored Youth Day has been cancelled. Mentoring youth is one of TU goals and helps guarantee that we will have future anglers to carry on the traditions of TU and fishing in general.

Youth Mentoring Day - A youth needs to acquire a Mentored Youth Permit or a Voluntary Youth Fishing License (available through the PA F&B web site) and be accompanied by a licensed adult in order to fish. There are a few other restrictions, best checked out at the F & B website. So, grandparents, parents, big brothers and sisters should take the time to take a youth fishing. Get the kids away from their "plugged in" distractions and take them outdoors to fish. If not fishing, you can still help our youth by taking them walking, hiking, biking, boating, anything outdoors which will improve their mental as well as physical well being.

A few words about mentoring. Be patient, kids have a short attention span, so make it fun and not just about catching a fish. The goal is to develop a love for nature. Teach the basics. Don't overload with too much information creating a poor experience. Offer praise when something is done right. A simple "good job" or "great cast" will go a long ways towards improving skills. Keep it short. Don't plan a full day on the water. An hour or less is fine, let the kid(s) explore the fishing site if they get bored with fishing. Turn over rocks, catch frogs, look for turtles and snakes, just let them enjoy nature.

This is also a good time to mention the PAF&B Commission's SMART program. SMART is an acronym for Safety First, Manners Are important, Appreciate clean water, Release some of your catch, and Teach others to be SMART anglers. "S" for safety first: don't run while carrying a rod, beware of slippery bank edges, and remember cold water is dangerous. Keep a rods length away from others, trees, and objects. Look around you before casting. Handle hooks and sharp fins on fish carefully. "M" for manners. Respect landowners, fish quietly, don't litter, and pickup any thrash you may see. "A" for appreciation of clean water. Without clean water there are no fish. Become a conservationist and protect our waters. "R" for release your catch. Keep only what you can use and carefully release those that you don't need. Releasing a catch provides an opportunity for reproduction and more fish to catch in the future. "T" for teaching which brings us back to mentoring. The future is in our young. Teach them to be SMART anglers.

Praying that we all get through this pandemic safely.

Hank Rajotte
President ACTU, Chapter 323

WHATS INSIDE

2 Access Means Everything!

Stream agreement purchase looks attainable

4 Opening Day
Preseason and In-Season stocking together





ACCESS MEANS EVERYTHING

Towards the end of last year, the Conewago Access Force Committee was meeting with local organizations in order to reach their goal in preserving the upper reaches of the Conewago Creek in the catch and release only stretch. With the PA Fish and Boat Commission signing on as one of the major partners, a stream agreement purchase looked attainable.

CONEWAGO CREEK STREAM ACCESS FUND

Your support is needed to raise the remaining \$\$\$\$ to preserve this exceptional only fly fishing section in Adams County. The upper section owned by Knouse Foods is up for sale. The chapters along with partners are collecting donations to purchase a stream easement on this property that has been opened for public fishing for over 40 + years. If funds are secured by the end of the month, this section of stream will be preserved FOREVER.

Please send your tax deductible contribution check payable to ACTU ACCESS FUND
Mail to: Dave Swope, ACTU Treasurer 601 Hanover Street, New Oxford, Pa 17350.



ADAMS COUNTY CHAPTER HAPPENINGS



NEW LIFE TO OUR OLD SIGN

Recently, the old sign took on a new facelift on the upper part on the Knouse Foods property in the catch and release section that was long overdue. Thanks to Larry Hartlaub for getting the sign repainted and Larry and Gary Perry replanted the sign so members and guests can view the partnership sign when heading for a relaxing experience on the Conewago Creek. Completed restoration was donated by Larry. The sign is complete with a ACTU mailbox with applications inside and flyers explaining the chapter need for financial support on the purchasing of a stream access easement with Knouse Foods. Paint job is fantastic. Great job guys.


HEIDLEBURG OUTDOOR SHOW

President Hank Rajotte would like to thank all of those who participated in helping at our booth at the Heidlersburg Fire Hall. The event proved successful for the chapter raising over \$139 while connecting with three new members and using this as a outreach for the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic. Thank you Richard Lewis for his expertise in designing the pictures for the TV presentation. Special thanks to VP Dave Keller for chairing this weekend event. ACTU was very represented. Also Ed McGlaughlin and Eric Wickline.

PFBC STOCKING ADAMS COUNTY

The Conewago Fly fishing only stretch is stocked to the max. From the upper cable marking the beginning of the fly stretch to Rt 34. Now is the time like no other, for you to get in the outdoors and enjoy the scenery and beauty God has created for us to enjoy. Break the jaws of cabin fever hanging over along with the Corona virus outbreak, just keep your distances. Hopefully, things get better soon.

MUMMASBURG TROPHY TROUT PROGRAM

Well, the sportsmen's club has stocked for the 21st season in a row all the streams in Adams County, preseason. This year will be missed due to the Corona Virus. Thanks to all those volunteers over the years. 

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP NEW MEMBERS

Anthony Bretzman
John Santino
Loren Lustig
Garrison Smith
David Macy
Britton Reed
Christopher Nail
James Miller
John Santino
Frank Klunk
James Gartrell
Roland Riebling
Liz Smith
Jeff Orndorff

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Leonard Andrews
Thomas Birgensmith
Roger Brown
James Carpenter
David Eline
Rick Franzese
Carl Gentzler
Jack Handshaw
Kathy Harding
Larry Hartlaub
Edwin McGlaughlin
Marybeth Norton
Daniel Popek
Jeff Rittase
Donald Reichenbush
Benjamin Smith
Deborah Wentling
Eric Wickline
Stanley Yates
Wayne Belt
James Fisher
Thomas Fitzkee
Kathy Harding
Thomas Herren
Herb Jordan
Brian Miller
Jacob Yealy
James Zinn
David & April Swope

THE SPLASH OF OPENING DAY


Trout season was an eye opener last week for all of us. It is an invitation of Spring for many of us. The issues with the Corona Virus have created a potential explosive drama for opening day in the Commonwealth. Why? Because both the PFBC preseason and inseason trout stockings will have been completed before our trout opener. More trout than ever before are awaiting anxious angler's casts. Over 48,000 legal sized trout stocked in the eight approved trout streams by the PFBC.

The PFBC stocking program is supported strictly by revenues from both fishing license sales and trout stamps. This independent agency's program is one of the largest in the nation, stocking over 3.7 million adult brook, brown, rainbow and golden palomino trout to be released in the state. A change coming from the 1st Trout Summit in 2002 has the agency gearing up this year for larger trout to be stocked. PFBC trout stocking in the Adams County streams has already been completed from the Huntsdale Hatchery.

Also, new this year will be the addition of more golden rainbow trout stocked before opening day. Plans are for more larger trout too. Also new in 2020, your fishing license does NOT have to be displayed. This may cause some anglers to complain about being harassed if they get checked by our WCO's. Although displaying your license may be better, especially on opening day.

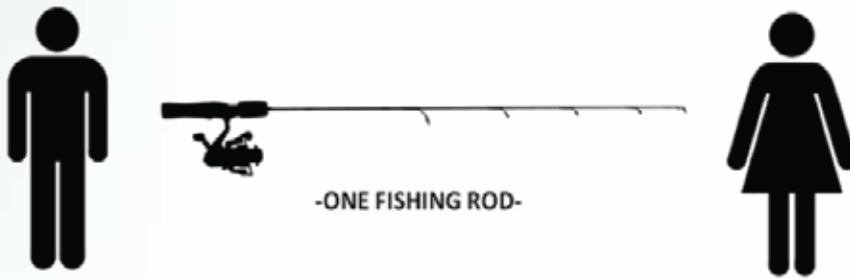
Trout season is the main locomotive that generates over 600 million in Pa. economy annually. Many businesses rely on Opening Day into May to carry their business through the year. Stream flow conditions are good and the Co-op trout are nice this year. Anglers will be looking forward to our cooperative nursery in season stocking.

Opening day of trout season generates the "Spring Fling Traditions" of the camping season. Opening day will bring anglers and families to the campgrounds, with memories of just enjoying a warm spring day, giving a chance to separate us from the cabin fever syndrome, wearing our hip boots to wade through knee deep water, a time to view God's creatures, his splendor, to reflect on our good health, to celebrate his many blessings of our great outdoor heritage, our freedoms, to relieve the stress of everyday living and signs of better times ahead.

The many traditions, we associate with opening day are almost as important than fishing. For the writer, the preparation of equipment and memories with my family in the early seventies has long passed but the relationship with trout "being so much more than just a fish" has enhanced many of my memories, in which, I still view and look forward to that traditional Opening Day. Thanks to all those volunteers who realize through their volunteer efforts, give all anglers the opportunity to enjoy opening day and the enjoyment of those Spring Traditions. 



6 Feet of Social Distance



DEAR CHAPTER MEMBERS:

For the betterment of all our chapter members, and the community, meetings and events had been cancelled at least till end of April. The virus has virtually hit near us all.

Although, we had four of our AC trout streams stocked, the rest have been completed, very differently than the first four streams. The remaining four streams have been stocked by fish commission personnel only at easy access points. WCO Rachael Thurner- Diaz did her best to spread the trout out at access locations.

In order for safe distancing, trout season surprise opener kept crowds from standing elbow to elbow. For some this was a genius idea, better than closing the trout season completely. The changing of opening day of trout season on April 3, shortened the time for the trout to spread out, looking for food or moving due to higher water flows. All scheduled stocking dates were changed and notice was given after streams have been stocked on PFBC website. After 43 years as a volunteer in the stocking program, I am sidelined along with all the rest of the volunteers.

Some good news, our local donors to our chapter on the Conewago Access Fund has been exceptional. Thank You. Our partners, NVTU and PFBC are excited as I am with the giving. We have nearly met our goal of being able to purchase the stream easement access agreement from Knouse Foods to protect the upper reaches of the fly stretch. Thank you to all members, who together, much can get accomplished. Neighbors, thank you also. We are almost there to accept the challenge.

As treasurer of this great challenge, I have received letters and cards with donation checks that touched me. Some expressed their gratitude of the chapter protecting the stream over four decades. People noticed us picking up trash along the access points, friends of TU, who remembers their father's longtime trout fishing ventures. Past trout unlimited members who helped to laid the foundation of the chapter, along with present members today. We have completed one of our missions to preserve and protect, a portion of the Conewago Creek.

Believe me, ACTU has always made a difference now especially in 2020 by protecting the upper reaches of the Conewago Creek FOREVER. 

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS WHILE FISHING?

When bank fishing or wading, please keep a distance of at least 6 feet between you and the nearest angler. A good rule of thumb is that if you can turn your rod perpendicular on all sides of you without hitting anyone, that is a safe distance.

- If fishing with a child or children, advise them to not wander into the personal space of other anglers.
- Refrain from carpooling. Sharing a vehicle with others could put you at risk.
- Avoid crowds. If you arrive at your fishing spot and it's crowded, find another location.
- Avoid sharing fishing gear with anyone. Each angler is advised to have their own fishing gear (bait, bait container, waders, gloves, hand towels, clippers, pliers, or other personal items).
- Remember to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; to clean your gear well after using it; and to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water after fishing.
- If you are fishing at a state or local park, the restrooms may be closed to protect staff and visitors. Use the bathroom before you visit or dispose of waste properly. Carry out any trash, since there are limited staff at these facilities.
- Purchase your fishing license online at www.fishandboat.com.
- Continue to follow the guidance from the CDC below:
 - Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
 - Clean surfaces frequently.
 - Stay home to avoid spreading COVID-19, especially if you are unwell.

MCSHERRYSTOWN FISH & GAME FIRST CO-OP WITH STUDENTS

In 1974, the McSherrystown F&G partnered with the Fairfield High School FFA students starting a trout lab designated by WCO Warren (Barney) Singer. First trout were received in 1975 and to this day the Fairfield facility has stocked 241,000 trout in Adams County Streams, while supporting Carroll Valley Borough with trout for their fishing derby.

I am proud to announce over the 45 years two students furthered their education after high school in fishery science in college. One student graduated in 1999 from Penn State and is presently Adams County Conservation Director and the other student will graduate from Frostburg University in May.

This year the club celebrates 45 years of rearing trout. At their recent fish committee meeting VP Richard Lewis dropped by to say “thank you” to all involved in this cooperative program. Some of the guys looked like “deer in the headlights” because this is the first time something like this happened. It was a boost to our program, for sure.

The sportsmen club plans to stock inseason on April 25 and again on May 16 in Toms, Middle, Little Marsh, Marsh and Conewago Creeks respectfully. This schedule will most likely be changed due to the current Coronavirus situation. 🐟



Dave Swope (right) receives
45 year certificate from
PFBC Cooperative Nursery
Director Brian McHail



SOUTHCENTRAL OUTDOORS FOR YOUTH - SOY

This year's event will be held on June 6, 2020 at McSherrystown Fish and Game, 2 Fish and Game Road, New Oxford. This free event is open to all youths between the ages of 6-15 years. They must be accompanied by a parent or guardian on the day of the event.



Registration is available online until May 04, 2020, or on the day of the event from 6:30 am to 7:45 am.

Various activities include fly tying, fishing, archery, BB guns, trapping, black powder, 22 shoot, and shot-guns. There are also exhibits and demonstrations with the PA Game Commission, PA Fish Commission, snakes, predators, etc. All pre-registered youths received a free t-shirt and hat; lunch was served to all who attended. Although there is open registration between 6:30 am and 7:45am on the day of the event, to ensure adequate supplies, please register prior to the day of the event. For more information, visit www.adamscountysoy.org or call 717-579-7495.

Please check in before 7:45 am, as the event starts at 8:00am sharp, rain or shine.

About SOY:

South Central Outdoors for Youth (SOY) is a non-profit organization started in 1992 for the express purpose of encouraging youth's interest in the outdoors in a safe and controlled environment, with knowledgeable volunteers on hand to instruct and promote that interest. Its founders and volunteers believe that by giving youths and their parents/guardians a free day of various out-door activities, children have the opportunity to experience various sports without cost to the family. If the child decides to continue with the sport, there are many knowledgeable volunteers available to give information and instructions.

WOW, WHAT A BUCK!

Yea, yea, yea, what's this all about? A large buck picture in the Spring of the year. Sometimes this is what happens when you don't have enough articles to add to our newsletter. Also, It's a hunting story that has lasting memories in the field.

This buck was very interesting last season. His picture was taken with my tree camera in front (30 yds) of my treestand at 1:19 PM in the afternoon. It was the last Wednesday of archery season. I climbed into my stand at 3PM. Little did I realize that until I looked at my pictures and the dates and times that I was so close again. Wow, what a buck. In the middle of the afternoon no less. Thoughts dancing in my head, like why didn't I carry in my lunch and hunt that day. I had other pictures of this beauty early before the archery season at my same location.

Needless to say, he was harvested on the last day of the season which was Saturday about ½ mile from my stand around 9AM. The archery hunter who I knew was so thrilled. I posted the same picture on facebook and we knew that was the buck. Now my picture and his buck will hang together in his mancave.

Oh yea, I was blessed to harvest an eight point on another property earlier, so I could not have harvest this beauty anyway and saved me the cost of another neck mount. Tree cameras play a vital role in scouting your hunting areas before and during the seasons. Sometimes we would never know what is lurking in the woods.



CHANGING LIVES WITH A ROD AND REEL

Back in 2003, ACTU was working organizing numerous stream projects in Adams County in open waters. This far-sighted group looked at a restoration project in the Northern tier of the County along Latimore Creek. Streambanks were eroded, a bridge needed repairs, concrete needed removed, and trees needed planted to provide some more overhead cover in the park area. This began a partnership with the Latimore Fairgrounds Committee and the PFBC. ACTU was leading the charge.

As our Latimore restoration project was ongoing, the Chapter decided on adopting a section of stream for kids only and handicap adults. Under the PFBC guidelines when adopting a section of stream, the organization is obligated to annually host a kid's fishing derby.

ACTU found their calling when the organization decided to adopt a kids and handicap section of stream on Latimore Creek, hosting their first fishing rodeo on May 17th 2005.

Over the years, the kids fishing derby grew “leaps and bounds” recruiting more and more at each annual event. Getting the kids in the outdoors by holding such an event is like “touching heaven” for some of these youngsters. The youngsters are out to learn lessons in patience, experience and the thrill of the catch. The program builds relationships, and with families enjoying the outdoors, hey, its fun for all. This program today continues on May 9 from 8-11AM and will give us the opportunity to reach future members of ACTU. The age to enjoy this fishing experience has been changed by the PFBC from 12 to 15 with adjustments being approved by our ACTU board on fishing rules for the kids.

FISHING DERBY CANCELLED

ACTU has opened up a whole new world for some kids, and maybe even changed their lives. This program opens new doors to kids in the outdoors and it proves there are heroes among us. Along with the fishing derby ACTU chapter will present prizes and hot dogs, chips and drinks during the event. Last year, ACTU members worked with Joe Weaver and others in the reconstruction of a new foot bridge which assists young anglers to fish from both sides of the stream at this great event.



ADAMS COUNTY FALL STOCKING

What a great turnout with a beautiful day for Adams County Fall Trout stocking of the Conewago Creek. Today, was a makeup stocking from early in October when we had to cancel because of low flows and higher water temps. Much excitement and a lot of tall fishing tales before the truck arrived to fill four float boxes with Trout. Our partner from the South, Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited arrived with six great helpers and they sure didn't come to watch as you can see for yourself. We were joined by students from one of our local High School, Bermudian High. Also, our good friend, Frank and Lynn from Cordorus Chapter assisted. Some float stockers with experience were extremely helpful! They seemed to know every hole to place the fish and which side of the creek to walk so no one walked into trouble. Along the way information on why a substraight had a sandy bottom compared to the rocky type. Most were interested with the instream habitat devices where trout were provided a new safe home. Special thanks to Bermudian High School students Ryan Miller, Kalen Sharrah and Wyatt Fetters along with Frank Kozak, Lynn, Dean, Eddie and NVTU Daniel Lazenby, Richard Bruns, Jim Wivell, Jon Johnson, and John Milbow and of course, PFBC Toby and Rachael.

Since the floats were covered with team members, a few of us decided to retrieve some plastic drainage pipe for future work projects. At least seven 20 ft 10 inch pieces are now under our management for protecting our runoff water into the stream. Installing drainage pipes with shotrock will prevent siltation and erosion thus will provide much cleaner water flowing through Adams County. Special thanks to Gary and Caleb Perry and Jeff Clarke for their efforts delivering and hauling the drainage tiles. 🐟



TENTATIVE CHAPTER MEETINGS 2020

May 19

Chapter Meeting 7pm

June 9

Southcentral Outdoors for Youth @ McSherrystown F&G

June 13

Women's Initiative Program @ YWCA Gettysburg 9-2

June 20

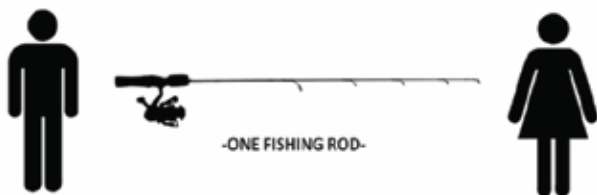
Women's Initiative Program fishing location TBA

July 21

Chapter Picnic 6pm @ ACCD pavilion

STAY SIX
FEET APART

6 Feet of Social Distance



All Chapter Meetings held at
Adams County Conservation District Building



ADVERTISE IN ADAMS ANGLER

If you are a business owner and would like to reach 200 members with a common interest in fishing and the environment, consider running your ad in the Adams Angler. There are 4 issues per calendar year.

Cost of the ads are \$25 business card and \$50 half page and full page ad \$100. Call 253-6680 to advertise.

ACTU BOARD MEMBERS

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Hank Rajotte

VP

Dave Keller

Secretary

Howard Hellyer

Treasurer

Dave Swope

Board Chairman

April Swope

Directors:

Dean Stum

Richard Lewis

Larry Hartlaub

Charles Dittenburn

