



Adams County Trout Unlimited - December 2023 Newsletter

*Have a Great Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year!*



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President's Message

The ACTU Board of Directors wishes you and your families a Happy Holiday Season! We are grateful for all of you who volunteered this year on the chapter's many activities and events. The chapter did so much in 2023 across the county for anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and, particularly, our youth.

Of all the happenings this year, I feel that the most significant was the chapter receiving the Project of the Year Award from Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited (PATU) for the Zeigler Mill Road Access Site (ZMR) project. This was a great recognition of the work put in by many chapter members. The application for the award presented a concise story of ACTU's accomplishments since 2021, encapsulating the long-term effort, partnerships, and community support that made the ZMR project a success. The work this year at the site was made possible by a grant from the South Mountain Partnership (SMP). If you have not been out to the site at 420 Zeigler Mill Road, it is worth a visit. Stroll the short path down to Conewago Creek, enjoy the nature trail, and envision the eventual woodlot next to the parking lot.

Fieldwork under the SMP grant at the ZMR included:

- ✓ Planting about 300 trees and shrubs. of a variety of species in the former farm field.
- ✓ Spraying the ubiquitous multi-flora rose in a large area in the vicinity of the planned trail.
- ✓ Creating a 900-yard nature trail for the community to enjoy. This included constructing three teaching stations, each with an educational sign. (The trail was originally planned to be 600 yards long).
- ✓ Constructing a 40-foot-long mud sill on the creek. This was done by members of both ACTU and Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited, along with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Habitat Division specialists.

And there was much more accomplished by the chapter's members.

For the first time, ACTU took part in the Adams County Giving Spree in November. The chapter received \$6,405 in donations! Wow! The generosity of the donors will help support the chapter's many programs and activities for the coming year. Rick Franzese led the way in making the Spree a success for the chapter, with assistance from Lesa Bird, Dave Swope, and Frank Kozak!

ACTU took on the lead role in the county's Trout in the Classroom Program, which the Adams County Conservation District had previously led. The program is in six schools this year.

At the annual Latimore Youth Fishing Derby in May, 62 young anglers wetted their lines and landed some nice rainbow trout. The winners of each age bracket picked out their awards, with everyone taking a fishing rod (no surprise there). All the other participants also picked a prize of their choice. And everyone enjoyed the hot dogs, chips, and sodas provided by the chapter.

ACTU members ran fly-tying and fly-casting stations at the New Oxford Middle School's Environmental Day in May. Watching how the kids took to practice casting a fly line was enjoyable – some jumped right in to get their chance, and some had to be prodded along.

ACTU led the PFBC's stocking of eight trout streams in the county earlier this year and in October.

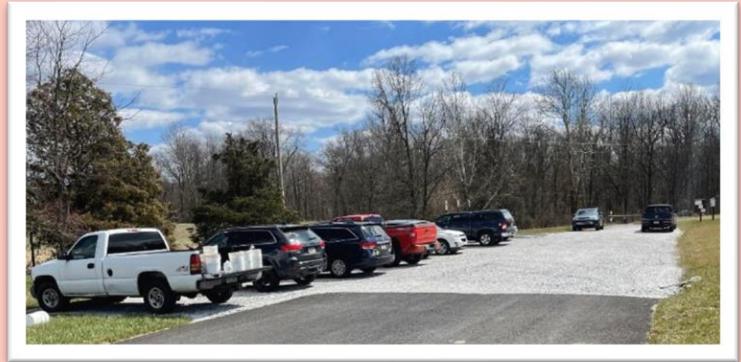
A survey of the Conewago Creek CROFFO section for zebra mussels, fortunately, did not find any.

That's it for this newsletter. Have a great Holiday Season and keep warm this winter! Frank Kozak, President

What's Been Happening?

ACTU is Awarded the PATU 2023 Best Chapter Project Award

Your chapter's achievements and long-term success continued in 2023, with the chapter receiving the Best Chapter Project Award from Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited (PATU) for the Zeigler Mill Road Access (ZMR) site. The chapter's submittal to PATU follows (with updates):



In late 2021, ACTU and 67 other county and state conservation-minded organizations and individuals came together to fund the purchase of a 58-acre undeveloped parcel (site) adjacent to Conewago Creek. In early 2022, ACTU entered into a 25-year lease agreement with the PFBC, which now owns the site, to manage and improve it.

In late 2022, ACTU finalized plans for its first phase of site improvements. This project is now essentially complete, with work expected to conclude in September. Working in partnership with the PFBC and the Adams County Conservation District (ACCD), ACTU implemented improvements worth approximately \$100,000, which, with grant funding and donations of services from local engineering and construction firms, required approximately \$1,000 in actual cash outlay from ACTU. This project included:

- *Constructing a 10-car parking lot*
- *Creating a 900-yard nature trail, including three educational teaching stations*
- *Installing a 60-foot-long mudsill to enhance the trout habitat*
- *Planting over 300 trees on retired agricultural land to further protect the riparian environment*
- *Removing extensive growths of invasive species over some five acres*
- *Installing a trail counter and suggestion box to gauge community support*

Implementing this first phase of improvements required over 600 volunteer hours, which were generously provided by ACTU, ACCD, local schools, and other community members.



As a result of ACTU's efforts, this project created a new recreational destination in Adams County, making the land and creek more accessible and inviting to anglers, hikers, bird watchers, and nature lovers of all stripes.

Sincere thanks are due to the many ACTU members who contributed to the success of the ZMR project. The leaders of the various phases of the project are due special recognition: Dave Swope, Richard Lewis, Frank Kozak, Rick Franzese, and Mike Waldron.

Zeigler Mill Road Access Site Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

State and Adams County elected officials, PA Fish and Boat Commission personnel, and many project contributors joined ACTU members in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Zeigler Mill Road Access (ZMR) Site on October 6th. The event celebrated the culmination of two years of work to bring the project to fruition.

As mentioned above, the ZMR site now includes a 10-car parking lot, an access path to the fly fishing-only section of Conewago Creek, and a 900-yard nature trail with three teaching stations - all open to the public! ACTU also planted over 300 trees and shrubs on reclaimed farmland next to the parking lot. The Chapter has a 25-year lease with the Fish and Boat Commission to maintain the property and will continue to make improvements at the site.

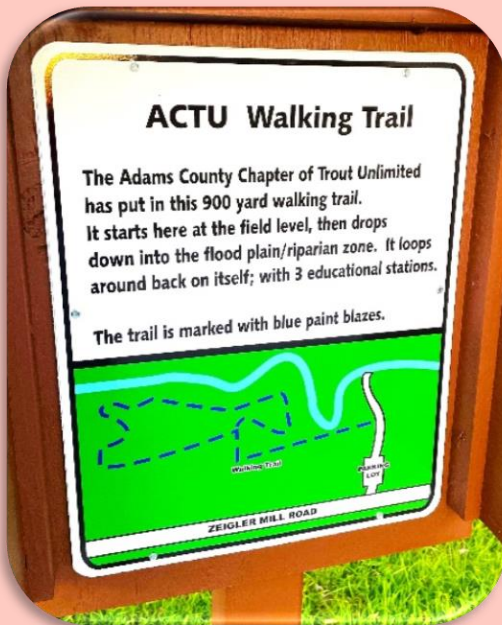


ACTU Presents Yearly Chapter Awards

ACTU recently presented its yearly Chapter Awards to Frank Kozak and Rick Franzese for their accomplishments in 2022. Frank received the Adopt-A-Stream award for his efforts in safeguarding the aquatic environment of Conewago Creek, as well as supporting Chapter goals of preserving and protecting that waterway. Rick received the David A. Swope Merit and Recognition Award for his work in supporting and advancing Chapter goals. Congratulations to both!

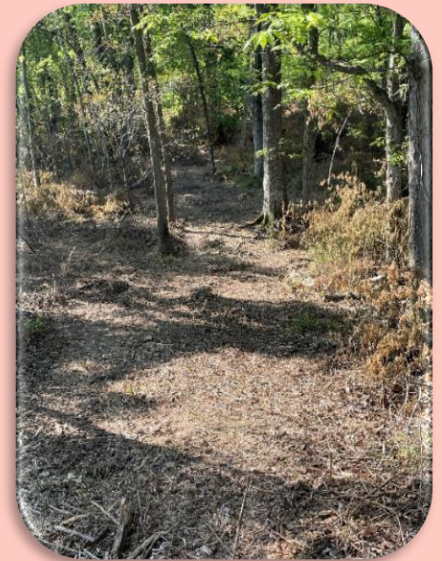


A Visit to the Zeigler Mill Road Walking Trail



Looking for a short and easy hike with environmental education opportunities? Consider visiting the recently completed Walking Trail along Conewago Creek.

This 900-yard loop trail starts and ends at the new Conewago Creek public access parking lot at 420 Zeigler Mill Road. (Coordinates: 39.90558° N, 77.26108° W)



The trail has three environmental learning stations with resting benches.

One station has pamphlets for hikers to use to identify twelve different tree species that are numbered along the trail.



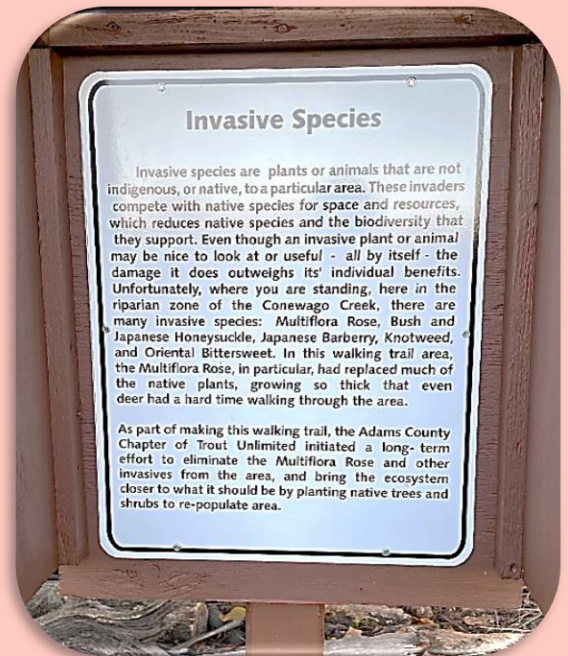
Another station outlines the importance of tree planting and describes the benefits of riparian zones.



The final station lists and describes the threats to the area from vegetative “invasive species” as well as ACTU Chapter efforts to control these unwanted plant species.



Look closely on your hike and you will see the giant (5+ feet in diameter) double “Big Tree” Tulip Poplar close to the creek in the section of the trail that winds through the floodplain riparian zone!



Also, if you hike on the trail in October, you’ll find some areas of the path loaded with delicious Black Walnut, Mockernut Hickory and Shagbark Hickory nuts!



If you are quiet, stealthy, and observe closely where the trail runs close to the creek you are likely to see the “rings” from a rising trout feeding on insects floating in the creek.



We are deeply appreciative and thankful for the South Mountain Partnership Mini-Grant that allowed our ACTU Chapter to plan, construct, and complete this Conewago Creek Environmental Education Walking Trail that is available for all the citizens of the Commonwealth to enjoy.

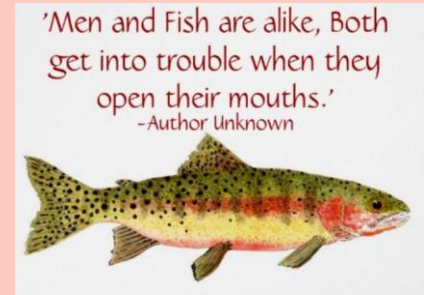


Mark Your Calendar

Next Gathering: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Speaker Program: ACTU members Frank Kozak and Lynn Rebert will give a presentation titled "What's on a Trout's Menu"?

Location: Adams County Conservation District Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.



The chapter's monthly gatherings in 2024 are scheduled for:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ✓ January 17 | ✓ May 15 | ✓ September 18 |
| ✓ February 21 | ✓ June 19 | ✓ October 16 |
| ✓ March 20 | ✓ July 17 | ✓ November 20 |
| ✓ April 17 | ✓ August 21 | |

The monthly gatherings typically start at 6:30 pm. Check our website (www.adamscountytu.org) for final details each month.

Member Spotlight – Mike Waldron

Mike Waldron originally hails from the Flemington, New Jersey area. In 1970, his family moved to a small farm in western Berks County, PA. He attended the Penn State, Mont Alto Campus for Forest Technology where his roommate was also a hunter, angler, and fly tyer! In 1978, Mike moved to the Hanover/Gettysburg area for his first job in the forestry field. He met his future wife in church, and they eventually settled in Upper Adams County, where they still live today, 44 years later.

Mike was introduced to farming and outdoor activities early in life. He caught his first trout when he was five years old and started "tying" flies at eight years old using baitholder hooks and whatever else he could find. He used a spinning rod and a piece of fly line to go "Fly Fishing". His parents got him a fly-tying kit for his ninth birthday and a fly rod that Christmas (he still has and uses that rod from time to time). Mike's time in junior and senior high school was spent helping on the farm, hunting, fishing, trapping, running track and cross country and just being "outdoors". He graduated high school bound for a "conservation" focused career.

Mike worked in the sawmill, logging, and industrial forestry fields for 21 years. He then worked for two forestry consulting firms for 15 years and then Knouse Foods for eight years. In November 2022, he retired but still does a little private forestry work and lots of volunteer work.

In January 2023, Mike attended his first Adams County Trout Unlimited chapter gathering and left with another job. He took on, and then led, the project of planting some 300 trees and shrubs and creating the 900-yard Zeigler Mill Access nature trail. This project's successful completion was celebrated at the aforementioned ribbon-cutting ceremony this past October. He has brought a wealth of "conservation" knowledge and energy to ACTU. Doesn't get any better than that for both Mike and the chapter.



How to Be Comfortable Fishing in Cold Weather

If you're putting in the effort to fish in wintry weather, do everything you can to catch fish. Being cold may be unpleasant, but being cold and not catching anything is even worse. Some guidelines:

Don't Skimp On Quality Clothing - Buy the best cold-weather clothing you can afford and incorporate it in layers. Clothes need to keep you warm and dry. Breathable fabrics make a dramatic difference in keeping you dry both under the clothing and from the outside. Knit stocking caps are necessary when fishing in winter.



Gloves, Gloves, Gloves – It's important to learn to fish with gloves on. In addition to keeping your hands warm, gloves allow for better fish handling in wintry weather. Jersey gloves that don't stretch much when they get wet are a good choice, whether you are using a casting or a spinning reel. Last, extra sets of dry gloves are a must-have. If you notice your gloves are wet, change them at once.

Cover Up – This is common sense. When you're fishing in below-freezing temperatures, wear as many layers as you can, and don't allow any skin to be exposed to the elements.

Don't Linger - Move often in freezing weather. If you're not getting bites, move to better fishing spots.

Prep Your Gear - Tying knots is tough in wintry weather. If they're biting a specific bait or fly, have a couple of them tied on to minimize your downtime and frustration.

A Safety (and Comfort) Tip – When exceedingly cold, fight the itch to go fishing. If it can wait, don't press the issue. Stay home and sit by the fire. But if the call of the outdoors is too strong, follow these guidelines to make the most of your day.

Adapted from an article by Walker Smith, Wired Fishing

PFBC Requests Anglers to Report Invasive Snakehead Catches

In August, the PFBC issued an advisory to encourage anglers who catch invasive Northern Snakeheads to report and dispose of any fish caught anywhere in the Commonwealth.

The Northern Snakehead is an invasive species, in contrast to native species like American Eel that play an ecologically important role in the aquatic community, or species naturalized in the river system, like smallmouth bass, that support a world-class fishery.

They are voracious predators and may cause declines in important sport fisheries, such as bass and panfish, and may inhibit recovery efforts for species of conservation.



If caught, anglers are to immediately kill the snakeheads onsite and report captures from Pennsylvania waters to the PFBC at the following link: <https://www.fishandboat.com/Conservation/AIS/Pages/default.aspx>.

Because Northern Snakeheads are tough, air-breathing fish that can survive outside of water for extended periods, it is recommended to kill them by removal of the head, removal of the gill arches, or removal of the internal organs.

PFBC Board Approves Proposed Fishing License Fees for 2024

Earlier this year, the PFBC approved a list of proposed fishing license fee adjustments for the 2024 license year. Under the new structure, pricing for the most common fishing licenses and permits will be \$27.97 for a Resident Annual Fishing License, \$14.97 for a Trout Permit, and \$20.97 for a Combination Trout/Lake Erie Permit, each reflecting an increase of \$2.50 vs. their 2023 cost. Separate adjustments would be applied to other license and permit categories for non-residents, seniors, and tourists. Revenues from these fee adjustments are expected to generate an estimated \$2.4 to \$2.9 million annually for the PFBC's Fish Fund to support fishing-related programs.

Holiday Season Conservation Tip

The holiday season is here! No matter how you choose to celebrate, everyone can choose sustainability this season. Wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, and tags often get tossed after their first use. Here are some ways to help make your gift wrapping and gift giving more eco-friendly:

Wrap it up -- Use newspaper, magazines, scrap fabric, reusable bags, or even your child's drawings to wrap gifts. Get creative! String, twine, or yarn can be used to hold everything together. You can find templates to make gift bags, gift boxes, and more out of pretty much anything you have lying around.

Save the scraps -- Save scraps of string, yarn, gift bags, and wrapping paper you receive to use next year. Use small bits of trimmings left over from your Christmas tree or other greenery as accents on your gifts or decor.

Reuse your cards -- Save your holiday cards to be reused or repurposed. Cut the back off of a card to use it as a postcard or create a custom-shaped gift tag. Envelopes are another great source of craft paper for name cards, etc. Some charities also accept donations of used holiday cards.

Look for sustainable options -- Can't let go of your patterned wrapping paper? Recyclable and compostable wrapping paper and ribbons are available.

Find more tips to make your holidays more sustainable from the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#).

ACTU Newsletter Call for Articles

Throughout the year, we are looking for informative articles about fishing (any kind of fishing). Submission of articles and suggestions for the newsletter may be sent to fmkozak@gmail.com in a Word document or email text.

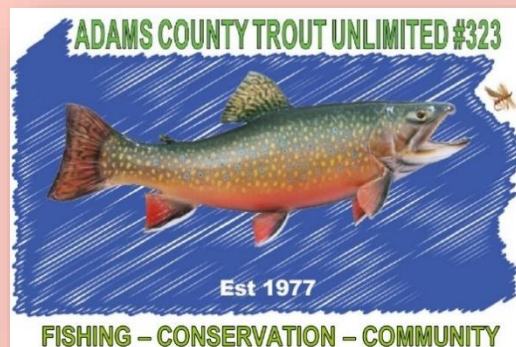
Membership Update

New Members:

- Jerry Neiderer
- Matt Lowenthal
- J. Peter Campbell
- John Campbell
- Tony Shockey
- Mike McCourt
- Tim David
- John Kellett
- William Stelger

Your Chapter Leaders

- ✓ Frank Kozak, President
- ✓ Gary Perry, Vice President
- ✓ Jerry Gladfelter, Secretary
- ✓ Dave Swope, Treasurer
- ✓ Lesa Bird, Director
- ✓ Buzz Dettinburn, Director
- ✓ Rick Franzese, Director
- ✓ David Keller, Director
- ✓ Bob Miller, Director



Contact Frank Kozak if you have any questions about the chapter or its activities, at fmkozak@gmail.com.

Adams Anglers is a publication of Adams County Trout Unlimited, Chapter #323. Questions or comments about the content of this newsletter can be submitted via email to Frank Kozak at fmkozak@gmail.com.

Adams County Trout Unlimited is Guided by Three Tenets
Fishing- Conservation - Community