



## Adams County Trout Unlimited - June 2023 Newsletter

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## Monthly Programs

Since mid-2022, the chapter has been holding monthly programs related to fishing and conservation that we think you would find informative and enjoyable.

Upcoming Monthly programs include:

- Euro nymphing (or "tight line nymphing") on June 21 by Lynn Rebert.
- Fly tying demonstration on July 19 by Dan Herrick. Dan plans to tie a Parachute Adams, Beadhead Hare's Ear, Shenk's Minnow, and Soft Hackle.

Our recent programs included:

- At the March gathering, Dave Swope presenting "Battlefield Trout", detailing his 40+ years of trout experiences in Adams County. Over 50 attendees were present!
- At the April gathering, Waterways Conservation Officer Rachel Thurner-Diaz discussing current fishing and boating topics, including the 2024 stocking notification process for non-PFBC entities that want to stock fish in PA.
- At the May gathering, Mark Mahler, who has been an Orvis fly fishing guide and instructor at the Anglers Covey Fly Shop in Colorado Springs presenting "Fly Fishing Colorado's Rivers and Streams".

Join us at the Adams County Conservation District Building, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA. Office, for these programs on the third Wednesday of the month. The

programs typically start at 6:30 pm, but check our website, ([adamscountytu.org](http://adamscountytu.org)), for final details. You'll be glad you came.

## Euro Nymphing Variations

Euro Nymphing is a tight-line nymphing method that uses very thin leaders, weighted flies, and a piece of colored-line sighter to suspend flies off the bottom and to maintain direct contact with the flies at all times. Euro nymphing practiced correctly allows anglers to be able to control the speed and depth of their nymph better than traditional nymphing and to better detect strikes.



Euro Nymphing consists of French, Spanish, Polish, and Czech nymphing, and probably 50 other variations. Despite the many versions, the basics of using a high rod tip, with weighted flies and a sighter remain the same throughout all versions. What changes from one version to the other is the length of the leader, the leader setup, the weight of the flies, the positioning of the angler, and where they target the fish from.

With euro nymphing methods, fly line is not used and no indicators and weights are added to the leaders. However, variations are used under certain situations when adding weights and/or a suspension indicator are needed.

The original **Polish Nymphing** method uses a short leader that is about 2/3rds the length of the rod, which means that a 7-foot leader is used with a 10-foot rod. This is combined with 2 or 3 heavy flies and a piece of colored mono between the top of the leader and the fly line. No fly line or almost no fly line is used when fishing and the flies are flipped out and then led down the river directly under the rod tip. This method can be excellent in faster choppy water.

**Czech Nymphing** is a modification of the Polish Nymphing method, with the sighter more in the middle of a 7-foot leader, and the flies are slowly pulled along under the rod tip. Because the flies are pulled slightly faster than the current, strike detection is immediate. Czech nymph flies are skinny and very heavy so they get down very fast and stay down in faster currents. With a short leader, you need to get very close to the fish, therefore it is best used in fast, noisy water.

**Spanish Nymphing** is described as long-line Czech Nymphing, with the leader usually double the length of the rod. That means the leader is 20 feet long on a 10-foot rod. The extra-long leader works best in shallow, clear waters where the trout spook easily. The leader uses a sighter and multiple weighted flies, like the Czech and Polish methods. The Spanish method is different in that anglers position themselves behind the fish and cast up and across. No fly line is used with this method which means that anglers are casting 30 to 40 feet with nothing but a bare leader and a fly or two. With Spanish Nymphing, you do not pull your flies through the water. Instead, they drift freely at the speed of the current and you take up the slack and maintain slight, controlled tension between the rod tip and the flies.

**French Nymphing** is similar to Spanish nymphing with the exception that the cast is



straight upriver and the flies drift back to the angler, whereas the Spanish cast up and across and let the flies pass them and continue to fish downriver. The French adaptation is meant for low clear waters with very nervous trout.

Why Euro Nymph? The simple answer is that if done right in the right type of water, you cannot beat it. Give it a try!

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## Your Chapter Leaders

Following a vote at the April meeting, the following individuals have taken leadership roles in the chapter:

- **Frank Kozak**, President
- **Gary Perry**, VP
- **Jerry Gladfelter**, Secretary
- **Dave Swope**, Treasurer
- Lesa Bird, Director
- Buzz Detinburn, Director
- Rick Franzese, Director
- David Keller, Director
- Bob Miller, Director



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## Cool Stuff That's Happening Soon

**Zeigler Mill Road Access Site** - The creation of the walking trail is planned for late May, using a skid loader, followed up with hedge trimming, downed tree-cutting, and grading of the trail. Following the creation of the trail, three "teaching" stations, environmental education signs, and a trail counter will be installed. Please contact **Frank Kozak** if you can help with the trail work and/or teaching station construction.



The installation of the habitat devices by ACTU and the PFBC in the Conewago Creek FFOCRO section is planned for August 26th.

The **Chapter's Annual Cleanup Day** is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 to noon. We will be trimming back vegetation along the trail, collecting trash, and fixing some culverts that cross the path. We will need a few hedge trimmers, rakes and shovels. Lunch will be provided at noon. Please come and help the chapter keep up the unique properties that are available to us for our fishing enjoyment. Please contact **Frank Kozak via email** or at 419-704-2755 if you have any questions.

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## Cool Stuff That Already Happened

### Fish, Fish, and More Fish!

First, many thanks are in order for the

volunteers that help make a difference for us anglers.

- On February 25<sup>th</sup>, over 500 beautiful rainbow trout were float stocked in the Conewago Creek CROFFO by eight ACTU chapter members and five Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited (NVTU) chapter members. The trout were distributed over the 1.1-mile stretch through the Zeigler Mill Road Access site and the Rogers property.
- On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 160 three-pound trout, which were purchased by the Mummasburg Sportsman Club, were float stocked in the Conewago CROFFO section. Nine ACTU chapter and seven NVTU chapter members helped with the stocking.
- On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 300 trout, provided by the PFBC, were again float stocked in the Conewago CROFFO section by seven ACTU chapter members.
- That is close to 1000 trout stocked in that section of the creek!



Add to your calendar – October 4<sup>th</sup> is the next planned float stocking.

### Trails and Trees!

The work on the Zeigler Mill Road Access site is moving along:

- Tree Planting – Led by Mike Waldron, a group of volunteers planted about 300 trees and shrubs of a variety of species in the former farm field in the vicinity of the parking area.
- Trail Clearing – The multi-flora rose was recently sprayed by Wes Harner Forestry in the area of the planned walking trail.
- ACTU members met with PFBC personnel for a stream walk on March 27 in preparation for this summer's stream improvement efforts.

**Trout in the Classroom (TIC)** - Lynn Rebert, Jerry Gladfelter, and Dave Swope have volunteered to take the lead for the TIC program. TIC involves students raising Salmonids in a classroom and then releasing the fingerlings into a nearby stream. Caring for the fish fosters a conservation ethic in the students. Contact **Lynn via email** if you would like to help with this program.

**New Oxford Middle School Environmental Day** – Seven chapter members demonstrated fly casting and fly tying to 8th grade students on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although many students had not fished before, most were eager to tie a fly and then be introduced to properly casting a fly rod. It's fun watching the students cast a fly after a little training! Environmental Day, which is organized by 8<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher Danielle Kaiser, is a great event for these students to learn and share outdoor activities with the PFBC, PGC, and DCNR.

**Youth Fishing Outing** - Fourteen students from Gettysburg Middle School participated in a fly-fishing class held at a local farm pond. This is the largest group of students to attend this class in its nine-year history! The class included instruction on the basics of fly-fishing equipment and fly casting, the environment, and angler sportsmanship.





**Kids Having a Blast!** - The morning of ACTU's 18th Annual Youth Fishing Derby at the Special Regulations Section of Latimore Creek dawned just like the last few derbies - rainy! However, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of 62 young anglers, who helped stock 300 trout from the Yellow Breeches Anglers' Association, and subsequently fished for them!



Over the three hours of fishing, some 25 anglers caught about 60 of the stocked fish. For some of these young folks, this was the first fish they ever caught! Anglers in each age group (6-and-under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-15) with the longest trout won an additional prize.

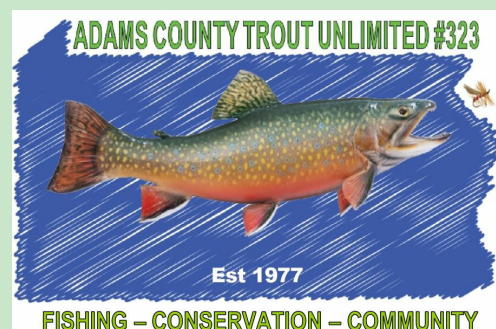
ACTU held its first derby in 2005 after adopting a section of Latimore Creek, in conjunction with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Latimore Fairgrounds Committee. This section of the stream is now restricted for fishing to only youth and disabled adults. The success of the derby over the past 18 years at this location is a direct result of the efforts of our partners, ACTU volunteers, and many wonderful sponsors. Our 2023 sponsors included:

- Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- B & B Lures
- Dave Swope
- Ed Lough
- Gary Perry
- Gettysburg Eagles #1562
- Home Association of McSherrystown
- Keurig Cadbury Schweppes
- McSherrystown Fish and Game
- Sell's Sporting Goods
- Sheetz
- Utz Chips
- Yellow Breeches Cooperative Nursery

We are already planning for the 2024 derby, including changes to make the event even more enjoyable for everyone!

### **ACTU Takes a Shot at the Gold Trout Award**

On March 23, ACTU submitted paperwork to Trout Unlimited (TU) National nominating the chapter for the Gold Trout award, based predominantly on last year's work at the Zeigler Mill Road Access Site (site). The award, TU's highest award for chapters, recognizes the chapter that over the prior year took innovative and thoughtful approaches to building community and advancing that mission.



The application presented a compelling story of our accomplishments during 2022, and we were hopeful that the reviewers would view our submission favorably.

Unfortunately, this was not the case, as we were not selected. The submittal encapsulated the long term effort, partnerships, and community support that took preservation of access to site from a dream to reality. Many thanks are due to ACTU Director Rick Franzese, who volunteered many hours as primary author of the submission.

ACTU has previously been recognized for a number of awards by:

- TU National:
  - Silver Trout Award in 2003 to Dave Swope, and
  - Gold Trout and Edward J. Urbas Awards in 2004.
- PA Trout Unlimited:
  - Best Small Chapter Award in 2020, and
  - Volunteer of the Year Awards in 2004, 2021 and 2022.

ACTU's website has a complete list of recognition awards received by the chapter and by the chapter's members.

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## Get involved with Adams County Trout Unlimited

- How can you do it? EASY!  
Email ACTU President [Frank Kozak](#) with questions, concerns or ideas.
- Make sure we have your current email address. Send an email to [Jerry Gladfelter](#).
- Attend our monthly fishing and conservation programs. Check our website at [Adams County Trout Unlimited](#).
- All are welcome to join and participate.



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## Membership Updates

### Welcome New Members

- Lesa Bird
- Chris Hill
- Mervin Kunkel
- John Lupp
- Kimberly McFerren
- Randall Miller
- Chad Smith

### Thank You for Renewing and Contributing

- James Carpenter
- Howard Cool
- Mark Egloff
- Robert Elicker
- Zachary Ewbank
- V. Farmer

- Larry Hartlaub
- Barbara Henry
- Allen Leppo
- Michael Mahoney
- James Malone
- Steven McKenna
- Michael Michaliga
- Thomas Miller
- Robert Miller
- Randall Miller
- Patrick Naugle
- Marybeth Norton
- Daniel Popek
- Martin Rickell
- Stephen Robinson
- David Schofield
- Stanley Thornton
- Murray Watt

- Steve Gotwols

***Our mission is the conservation, protection, and restoration of the coldwater fishery resources of Adams County.***

Adams County Trout Unlimited | 601 Hanover Road, New Oxford, PA 17350

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