



MISSION

To conserve, protect, and restore North America's Cold Water fisheries and their watersheds.

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Conewago Workday Completed

After meeting the requirements for DEP permits and the PNDI search from National Fish and Wildlife, the Chapter received approval just in time to stay on schedule for our planned work day. On August 1, seven members from ACTU and three members from Northern Virginia TU made restoration repairs by installing a new mudsill located upstream from the old wooden sign off Zeiglers Mill road. Materials included 44 tons of R-5 shotrock, lumber the Chapter recovered from an old barn, and a few pieces of rebar. After locating and cutting two sycamore trees for the face logs, the backhoe removed the deteriorated mudsill; shotrock had to be removed from the stream after the mudsill platform collapsed. Logs were installed, braced, and ends pinned. Then the platform was installed and covered with shotrock, as well as the stream bank. Two members posted new signs for the catch and release, while Chris' friends cut trees along the road. Lunch, including some desserts, was provided by Amy and Pat Stone. After lunch and a few far fetched fishing stories, the group decided it was time to get back to work. It was discovered the picnic table had been moved during the recent high waters; it was located and returned it to the pavilion area.



the Chapter.
Top photo: old device; bottom photo: repaired device.

From Amy's prepared luncheon to all the volunteers, I want to say thanks for a job well done. Special thanks to Chris Plesic for his efforts all day on the backhoe and obtaining the equipment for

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STRAIGHT TALK By: President, Dave Swope

SUMMER IS THE TIME FOR STREAM RESTORATION.

The anglers tell me we have some nice big fish in the fly stretch but the fish are real spooky. Did anyone notice—It's hot. But we had ample rainfall the past 30 days to sustain some of this dry weather. When the weather gets hot and the stream flows are low, it's prime time to begin restoration repairs.

This past month was a real busy time locating most of the GP-I permits from the 80's in order to start our habitat restoration repairs in the fly stretch. In order to make repairs on any of the habitat devices we need to provide a permit issued back then or prepare a new one to be approved. So, any restoration repairs require a permit whether it being an old one or new device before starting in 2015; that was news to me. Then there was a little confusion when doing a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) search of the fly stretch after getting a hit, which was most likely on bog turtles. When this happens things get more complicated. The Pennsylvania PNDI Environment Review Tool enables us to perform online searches for potential impacts to threatened, endangered, special concern species and special concern resources in Pa. This is a regulation required when applying for any environmental permit.

Even though the older habitat devices from the 1980's may not be compatible with the latest designs from the PFBC today, we had to be careful not to sway into something differently than what was installed on the permit.

Finally, I started seeing some progress, but the timeframe of

getting in the stream may limit our in-stream work until October through March, unless the National Fish and Wildlife comes through lifting their regulation. The variance has been issued and we have been approved to start August 1st with the proper permits. Shotrock has been delivered and Chris is anxious to operate the backhoe once again for the chapter. The first order of business is getting the stone better located and cutting some trees for face logs on the devices that are missing. This could easily take half a day depending on the volunteers attending. Look for all updates on the website. Remember, we are getting close to board nominations, so if you or someone you know would like to become a member of the board or you need more information about it please contact myself or any board member?

My hats off to Cam, our youth conservation school attendee who spoke at our last meeting on his life changing experiences at the Carlisle Rivers Conservation School and thanked the chapter for their support.

Let me know how I can adjust our programs to meet your needs as a member; your likes and dislikes or suggestions on what you are looking for as a member. What would it take for YOU to become more involved in ACTU?

See you on the Stream

Do Your Duty and Fear No One..... R. W. Abele Executive Director PFBC 1921-1990

ABC's of Fly Fishing

Do you have any tips you'd like to share with others? Please send them to amystum@comcast.net. Look for more hints each month.

Stealth is the name of the game, especially if the water is low and clear. Stay out of the water, keep false casts to a minimum, false cast away from the trout, keep your shadow away from the trout and consider using a dull finished fly rod. Trout are especially afraid of danger from above. When the water temperatures approach 70 degrees, leave the trout alone. Get your 6 to 8 weight fly rod and go

fishing for bass and carp instead. Bass are great fighters, and a carp is a wary adversary that will improve your stealth skills. And there is nothing like the pull of a carp over 10 pounds. It WILL take the kinks out of your fly line!



Reminders

Newsletter Submissions: Submission of articles and suggestions for the newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to amystum@comcast.net in a Word document or email text. All submissions are due by the 1st of the month for that month's newsletter.

Fishing Trips: Cumberland Valley TU has generously opened their trips to our chapter members. If you are interested in participating in an organized trip, please visit <http://cvtu.homestead.com/CalendarEvents.html> to see all the scheduled trips and contact Biff Healy (biffer1966@hotmail.com) or Dave Stone (dstone@stonelaw.net)

HELP WANTED

Are you looking for ways to be more involved in your community? ACTU has several volunteer opportunities available. Our success and ability to maintain or expand our programs/projects depends on the support of volunteers; we need **YOU** to make that happen!

Criteria/Guidelines:

- These positions are open to all interested parties, regardless of age, gender, etc.
- Time commitment can be as little or as much as you have available to contribute
- Current ACTU membership IS NOT required

Family Coordinator – Women and children have long been interested in fishing and conservation activities, looking for ways to enjoy the Great Outdoors – this IS NOT a “men’s only” organization. ACTU is

looking to expand Chapter programs for women and families. Opportunities include expanding current activities and events for all ages, development and implementation of new family events.

Public Relations Coordinator – ACTU has a great story to share and message to get out to our local community. Existing relationships with newspaper reporters and other media contacts can be utilized and expanded to assist in sharing this great message. Opportunities include coordinating press releases for Chapter events and providing input to Chapter publications (newsletter, website, etc).

Please contact ACTU Vice-President Dean Stum (deanstum@comcast.net or by phone at 717.379.6270) or ACTU Secretary Amy Stum (amystum@comcast.net or by phone at 717.343.1683) to obtain more information or apply for these positions.

Sportsmen Mark 40th Anniversary

This year, the McSherrystown Fish and Game Protective Association's marked their 40th year of raising trout to supplement local stream stockings; the achievement was recently recognized by the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission. There are 163 Cooperative Nurseries in the Commonwealth where volunteer sportsmen rear trout to supplement the PFBC stockings.

Since 1975, the sportsmen club has been operating the trout nursery on a spring located behind the Fairfield High School. Maintenance of the nursery and rearing of the fish is a joint venture with the McSherrystown Fish and Game Club and the agriculture class of students.

Dave Swope has been the nursery manager since 1992 for the McSherrystown Club. He said the constant 55 degree temperature of the spring and the 120 gallons per minute output make it ideal for raising trout. The Pa. Fish and Boat Commission provides the fingerlings in early July. These young fish are fed medicated fish food until reaching four or five inches in length. Their diet is then changed to a high fat and protein content. The following spring, when the trout have matured, they are released in the Adams County waters to supplement the PFBC's stocking program.

The 2015-16 school year will mark the third year the fish feeding and rearing will be under the responsibility of Ricky Whitmore. Ricky has risen to the task and made the trout program very successful. Trout stocked in late May measured 17 inches "pretty impressive." The facility had numerous visitors this past rearing season, including: school classes, Scout groups, church groups, and editors/writers of local newspapers.



Fingerlings being received at the Fairfield Nursery in late June 2015.

Pictured right to left; in the raceway Dave Swope-mgr, Joe-PFBC, Cleason Stoner Sr, Gary Stone, the McMaster kids, and Cleason Stoner Jr . Photo courtesy of Dave Swope.



Fly of the Month: American Shad Fly Darts

Materials:

- Hook – Eagle Claw 1197N , Tiemco 5262 , Mustad 3366, - All size # 6
- Cone Head - Large or ¼ “ L, Chartreuse or Red
- Tail – Slinky Fiber or calf tail or marabou – White or Chartreuse
- Tail Flash – Krystal Flash or similar – silver, pearl, etc.
- Body – Var. Tinsel Chenille, Medium, White/Pearl, or Fl. Green/Pearl
- Thread – Danville’s Flat Waxed Nylon – White or Fl. Yellow or Chartreuse

Tying Instructions:

- Crimp Barb, Optional
- Lay down 1/16 or less thread in front (eye) ¼” end of hook to stabilize cone (optional)
- Tie in thread behind cone and wrap shank back until above the barb
- Tie in tail material
- Fold 1 strand of Krystal Flash 4 times and tie in middle at tail material on back side, bring second half of the Krystal Flash to tiers side and tie in with 2 or 3 wraps.
- Strip off ¼” chenille material and tie in at tail.
- Wrap thread to behind cone
- Palmer (wrap) chenille to behind cone snugly
- Wrap thread firmly several times followed by 4 half hitches
- Cut Krystal Flash loops and trim tail = body length



Fly courtesy of Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Images courtesy of Mark Binsted and Nick Weber

2015 Chapter Calendar

AUGUST

- August 18 Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm Gettysburg, PA

SEPTEMBER

- September 15 Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm Gettysburg, PA
- September 16-20 TU Annual Meeting Scanton, PA

OCTOBER

- October 3 PA Council Fall Meeting State College, PA
- October 20 Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm Gettysburg, PA

NOVEMBER

- November 11 Board Meeting 7:00 pm Cross Keys Diner, New Oxford

Monthly Chapter meetings are held at the Adams County Conservation Building on 670 Harrisburg Road, across from the Adams County Bank.

Restoration Works - What is a Mudsill? By: Amy Stum

As a relatively new TU member with zero restoration knowledge or experience, I found myself very confused by some of the terminology and process associated with stream restoration projects. Fortunately for me, Dean has coached me along the way and located a reference from the PA Fish and Boat Commission. For anyone who may have similar questions, the following is an excerpt from *Habitat Improvement for Trout Streams* (published in 2007), which explains what a mud sill is and how it is constructed. The full document is available at http://fishandboat.com/water/streams/habitat_improve_trout.pdf.

Mud sill cribbing is an excellent overhead cover device that is best suited for lower gradient streams with steep, eroded banks found next to a deep main channel. They provide stream bank stability and create a stable undercut bank effect for fish cover. They can be constructed on a straight stretch of stream or they can follow the contour of an outside curve. In most situations, a backhoe is very helpful, if not necessary, to construct a mudsill.

To begin construction, it's often desirable to grade any steep banks back to a 3:1 slope. The next step is to set the sill logs, usually 8 to 10 feet in length, into a series of trenches dug perpendicular to the stream flow. A properly dug trench

should allow a sill log to sit in a level position with about two 2 to 4 inches of water over the log. If using an 8-foot sill log, 5 feet should be in the bank and 3 feet should extend out into the stream (a 6-foot and 4-foot split, if using a 10-foot sill log). Once the sill log is in proper position, hand place the stone on the back end until it is stable. Now the backhoe can dump additional stone into the trench and can be topped off with soil. The first and last trench should contain only one sill log, while the ones in between should be doubled. The widest point between sill logs should be 8 feet or less. After all the sill logs are in position, attach face logs running from the tip of one sill to the next using 2-foot pins. Drive these pins only to the point where they are flush with the bottom of the sill log so no debris catches underneath. Next, nail 2" x 6" x 8' oak flooring from sill to sill, running from the face log to the stream bank, to create an overhanging or "front porch" effect. If the sills are set properly, this flooring should remain slightly underwater. To complete the framework, a wing log should be added to each end of the structure, running from the tip of the last sill to the bank. This log should slope slightly upward and enter a bank trench at a 30-degree angle. To provide some extra cover, oak flooring can be nailed to the wing logs, running at a downward angle toward the stream bank. To finish, single stone over the flooring, fill the wings with stone and place stone on the stream bank up to bankfull height. As always, reinforce the wing logs where they enter the bank.

