



**MISSION**

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

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**NEXT MEETING:**  
Tuesday, July 21, 2015

**Annual Stream Workday Scheduled - SAVE THE DATE**

**Who:** Anyone interested in helping to maintain our Adams County home waters for trout (TU Membership **IS NOT** required)

**What:** **Conewago Creek Workday** Event hosted by Adams County TU Chapter #323

**Where:** Meet at Gladys Meadows Pavilion. This is located on the Rodger's Farm at 294 Zeigler Mill Rd., Gettysburg, PA.

**When:** Saturday, August 1, 2015, 7:30 am

**Additional Details:**

- **Lunch will be provided by the Chapter.**
- All work will be related to previous habitat structure repairs. All tools hammers, drills, nails, etc. will be provided
- **What you Need:** Bring hip boots or sneakers, drinking water, bug spray, hats/ gloves, and sunscreen. For safety make sure all cuts are covered with a bandage.

**Background:**

This year, the Northern Virginia and the Adams County Chapters of Trout Unlimited will celebrate their 33rd year in partnership of collaborative restoration project on the Conewago Creek, near Gettysburg. Our efforts will focus on stream restoration repairs of prior devices. When the chapters began the Conewago Creek restoration project in 1982, portions of the stream were choked off with silt, stream banks severely eroded, and cows waded freely in the stream. Roadways, farming, and housing all contributed to the Conewago's poor condition.

Over three decades of restoration work by the partners has resulted in stabilization of numerous eroded areas, safeguarding of mature trees, reduction of siltation sources, and habitat improvement measures including overhead cover for trout, placement of in-stream boulders, along with log, stone and channel block deflectors, mud sills, and butterfly dams.

In 1987, the Conewago Creek was officially approved under the PFBC adopt-a-stream program, now called the CHIP Program (Cooperative Habitat Initiative Program), ACTU provided financial support through multi-year Operation Restore Grants in the 1980's.

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## STRAIGHT TALK By: President, Dave Swope

### A BUSY SUMMER FOR ACTU

ACTU had a great turnout at our annual streamside picnic at Gladys Meadows. The summer season is here and is a very important time for ACTU. It's definitely a time to say "HELP"! Yes, I'm yelling for help with our annual stream work along the Conewago Creek in the Catch and Release section. It's early to start thinking about restoration work, but the time is right around the end of July to get "our feet in the stream" rolling rocks. All of our work will consist of making repairs on older habitat devices. At June's streamside short meeting, Saturday, August 1 was selected for restoration repairs on the Conewago Creek in the fly stretch. Meet at the pavilion along the FFO section at 7:30AM. The schedule is to work till noon, then enjoy lunch at the pavilion.

The Rivers Conservation Camp was held last month; the chapter financially supported one student this year and we will be anxiously waiting to hear back from his exposure to the outdoors. Some of the best in the State come to help educate the youths.

Thanks to Amy & Dean for attending the Southcentral Regional Meeting in Maryland last month; looking forward to hearing all about the meeting soon. Our partner from Cumberland Valley TU, Don Albright, gave a presentation on the Conococheague Creek Restoration Project at the regional meeting. The Pa. Fish and Boat Commission

would like the chapter to present the "jig" project at their annual board meeting in September in Harrisburg. If you are interested in receiving email notifications of our latest newsletter, please make sure TU National has your current email address. The newsletter is posted each month on our website on [adamscountytutu.org](http://adamscountytutu.org).

July 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for applying for many of the Pa. State awards for chapters or individual members, so check them out on the Pa. Trout Website. Our chapter has applied for two awards that I'm aware of, our newsletter and website. These awards are open to all members who believe someone should be recognized for their dedication or workmanship within the chapter.

Herbert Hoover once wrote, "To go fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of a brook, or with the shimmer of the sun on blue water. It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle makers, patience towards fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing of that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week. And it is discipline in the equality of men, for all men are equal before fish." See you on the stream.

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## ABC's of Fly Fishing

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

Learn to make single and double Hauls for added distance and wind resistance. It is a perfectly timed tug on the line with your line hand during the cast (not the pause at the end of either your back cast or forward cast). It will help in windy conditions and can sometimes save an otherwise bad cast.



A bad cast should be fished out. Meaning, if your cast doesn't go where you planned, don't immediately pick up the cast and recast again. That will only alert nearby trout to your presence, probably spooking the fish into hiding and gone for the day. Instead, let the fly drift down stream of the trout (fish it out) and then make a new cast.

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## Short Casts

**Newsletter Submissions:** Submission of articles and suggestions for the newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to [amystum@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:biffer1966@hotmail.com)) or Dave Stone ([dstone@stonelaw.net](mailto:dstone@stonelaw.net))

## The Environment After the Fire

Since the fire at the fertilizer plant in Hanover area, a recent storm has loosened the “biological bio-mass debris” rapidly through the Conewago Watershed from Slagle Run. The Department of Environmental Protection has not seen any significant impacts to the Susquehanna River from the watershed’s contamination and has witnessed no discoloration to the River Waters. The reports coming from the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission state the mortality rates are well over 10,000 fish and will monitor sample watershed areas to determine impacts on aquatic life. Until it all plays out, no one can determine the end results.

Watershed eco-systems can respond in amazing fashions and are resilient. As long as the water quality recovers, the fish should recolonize from mending tributaries and up-stream flows not affected by the contamination. This will help downstream, with a disaster of this magnitude.

A lot of work needs done in order to protect our sensitive watersheds that the living aquatic life depends on them. The best tool is education, everyone is responsible to protect and conserve for future generations, and not just for our use.....a Commonwealth principle. Look for regulatory reform coming from such a serious chemical fire that has major impacts on OUR environment.

## Congratulations to Phil Bietsch - Winner of the Dr. Robert J Behnke Award

At the 2015 PA Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp Phil Bietsch, a DCNR State Forester, was honored with the Dr. Robert J Behnke award. Phil is known by many ACTU members and partners through his efforts which initiated the 2-year Conococheague Restoration Project. ACTU congratulations Phil on this well deserved honor.

About the award: The Dr. Robert J. Behnke Award is presented to a graduate of the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp or any other youth camp modeled after the Pennsylvania Camp, who has gone on to further the cause of coldwater conservation.

The award has been established by the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp to honor Dr. Behnke for his years of volunteering his time and his talents in teaching at the Pennsylvania camp as well as his educating and mentoring thousands of students during his career as a professor of Fisheries Conservation and Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University. He is the author of more than 200 articles and papers, along with several books, regarding fish and fisheries and has served on numerous advisory boards for state and federal agencies. Bob began writing the quarterly column *About Trout* for *Trout* magazine in 1983. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with his wife Sally.

## Welcome Richard Lewis - ACTU Board Member

At the June Board Meeting, the open Board Member position was filled by Richard Lewis. Many of you may already know Richard from his participation in many ACTU events and coordination of the recent Birch Run Celebration. He joined ACTU in 2009 and is a retired forester.

Richard has an AAS degree in Forestry from Paul Smith’s College, a BS in Forestry from the State University of NY and a BS from Syracuse University. He has also completed a Master’s Level Certificate from the American University School of Business Administration.

Richard and his wife, Jakie, currently reside four miles west of Gettysburg in the Adams County countryside where they enjoy growing fields of wild flowers and taking their grandchildren fishing while watching the deer, ducks, herons, turkeys, fox, mink, muskrats, beavers, Kingfishers, Bald Eagles, and other wildlife along Marsh Creek that flows 75 yards from their front doorstep.

In addition to Trout Unlimited, Richard is a member and supporter of many organizations, including: the Society of American Foresters, The Pennsylvania Society of Associa-



tion Executives (he is a Certified Association Executive - CAE Ret.), Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA), the Virginia Forestry Association, Izaak Walton League, and the Maryland Forests Association. He serves on the PFA Communications and Education Committee as well as an administrator of the PFA Facebook Page and an editor of the ACTU Facebook page.

Thank you Richard for all your support to date and we look forward to working with you in this new role.



## Big Spring Trip By: Richard Lewis

Fished Big Spring near Newville, PA three weeks ago on June 17th....but just now have found the time to post a trip report. I arrived stream side to view the aftermath of a 200/300 year? interval flood on or about June 9<sup>th</sup>. The Big Spring watershed received 7 inches of rain in a little over an hour and turned the stream into a raging torrent. In some areas I saw stream gravel inside the stream side home mailboxes! The stream was back within its banks the day I fished it.

After fishing for a while, we came across a manager from Environmental, John W. Gleim the Environmental Services engineering firm that installed all the stream improvement



structures on the Big Spring. He was amazed, as we were, that the storm did not take out a single structure....they all were still intact.

Nymphed using a size 18 shrimp with a size 18 San Juan worm dropper tied off the shrimp hook bend. Caught the world's smallest rainbow and then was able to sight fish another nice wild Big Spring Rainbow. This was the stretch where I was able to sight fish the trout....they were very spooky. Also caught a small Brookie.....that of all things took both flies.



These Big spring trout are very smart/wily....I watched numerous takes and then "spit it out" rejects by trout that did not even cause a single twitch on my NZ strike indicator. Caught two fish when I was simply lifting the line for my next cast....had no indication

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## Guest Speaker: Rivers Grove - Smallmouth Bass Fishing

At this month's ACTU monthly meeting on July 21, Rivers Grove will provide an educational presentation on Juniata River Smallmouth Bass Fishing. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about some great warm water fishing opportunities. Rivers, of Rivers Guide Service (Cashtown, PA), is an experienced fishing guide who regularly runs Juniata River Smallmouth Bass fishing trips on his jet boat. He also guides on Raystown Lake, the Susquehanna River and the Allegheny Reservoir. The presentation will bring ACTU members up to date on these very productive and close by fisheries. (Picture courtesy of Richard Lewis).





## 2015 Chapter Calendar

### **JULY**

- July 21 Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm Gettysburg, PA

### **AUGUST**

- August 1 Conewago Work Day 7:30 am Gettysburg
- 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 Gettysburg, PA

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