



**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

**Trout In the Classroom - Year-End Wrap Up** by: Adam McClain

This year proved to be another successful year for our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program in Adams County. The ACTU supported 8 programs: Annunciation BVM, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Gettysburg Montessori Charter School, New Oxford, St. Francis, and Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. As the final lesson for the students, each of the schools released the trout they raised into Middle Creek at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve at their respective "Trout Release Event". This year the schools released some very stunning fingerlings.

One of the greatest rewards for us was the opportunity to provide hands-on education to 400+ students and parents. ACTU and the Adams County Conservation with a handful of partnering organizations including the Watershed Alliance of Adams County, Adams County Office of Planning and Development, and Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve help provide 4 Trout Release events. There was an Elementary, Middle, High School and a public event. Each event was designed a little bit different based on the age of the students and the request of the teachers.

Some of the subjects included wetlands, watersheds, macroinvertebrate collection and ID, fly casting, spinning rod casting, fishing knots, fishing ethics, west Nile virus monitoring and control, nature hikes, and land use and planning exercises.

In October, we will meet again with all of our partnering schools for our local kick off meeting to discuss the success and failures from the past school year and changes to the upcoming year. The schools will receive their fertilized eggs around the beginning of November. Some exciting news for next year includes the addition of 4 new programs from Bermudian Springs, Gettysburg, Harrisburg Area Community College, and Biglerville.

ACTU and the Adams County Conservation District wanted to give a special thanks to Shawn Abma, Gettysburg High teacher. He helped get our TIC program started in Adams County by administering our 1<sup>st</sup> TIC program starting back in 2009 which has continued through this year. He has been a great example and resource for the new teachers each year. Shawn has resigned from Gettysburg High School, but fortunately, he will be living in the area and intends on staying active with ACTU. Thanks for all the great work Shawn. Refer to page 6 for pictures from this year's launch events (photos courtesy of Richard Lewis and Andrew Murray).

**Do you shop on Amazon?** If so, you can now make a donation to ACTU every time you shop through Amazon Smile. There is no additional cost to you and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to ACTU. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2222233> for more information.

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## STRAIGHT TALK By: President, Dave Swope

THINGS MOVING FAST FOR ACTU IN 2015. This year is flying by! Where do I start? Recently, the chapter reached out to youth through the Trout in the Classroom release program conducted for the Fairfield Elementary School at Strawberry Hill. This program has been directed by Adam McClain since the very beginning in 2009. Great job Adam, and thanks to the members who made the event joyful while educational for the kids: the Murrays, Joe Whitmore, Richard Lewis, Wayne Belt, and Greg Green.

Following this venture is our long-time partnership with the Southcentral Outdoors for Youth (SOY) Field Day. This year's event was held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at McSherrystown Fish and Game. The chapter again instructed a fly tying station; a big thank you goes out to the chapter's excellent fly-tying group spearheaded by Joe Whitmore. I understand on Saturday, 222 kids were registered. I want to give Joe, Sue Cipperly, Hank Rajotte, Greg Green, and Jeff Clark a pat on the back for their effort to help our youth learn fly tying; thanks to Jeremy and Ricky Whitmore also. The SOY Field Day stations have 11 groups of kids going round-robin most of the day. It seems kids never stop coming and the day is very long and tiring. Although we had a successful day, our thoughts were on the recent passing of SOY's longtime President and friend Mr. Vern Black, two weeks before this event.

During the writing of this president's message, we are just wrapping up a very busy month of May and it could not have been as successful as it was without such a great Board of Officers and Trustees. We have had volunteers doing something every week for the entire month of May. *Again, thank you and please continue your support.*

Since our last stream walk with Karl Lutz from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Habitat Division, our restoration work will be directed on making improvements of old habitat devices on the Conewago Creek. Restoration work on repairs will be scheduled soon for late July or early August. With your help, we can continue to make the necessary repairs on some older habitat devices installed back in the 80's.

Hey, come on out to the streamside family picnic at Gladys Meadows and enjoy some great food and fellowship on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Meal starts at 6:30 PM; bring a lawn chair. I plan to have the grass mowed and hope its not too muddy.

There is a call going out for conservationist's to become more involved in restoration work on one of our local trout streams being headed up by Calendonia State Park, right across from the Michaux Forest office. Check it out. See you on the Stream.

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## June Family Picnic

The June chapter meeting/picnic will be held on the Conewago Creek's fly-fishing only section Tuesday, June 16th at Gladys Meadows Pavilion on Zeiglers Mill Road. At the Wayne Rodger's farm, follow the lane between the barn and house, past the wagon shed and drive into the woods; look for signs.

Members will begin meeting at **6 p.m.** for some fellowship; dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. A BRIEF meeting may follow at 7:30 p.m. The picnic is open to ALL family members, please bring lawn chairs and a covered dish for all to enjoy. The Chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, plates, cups, and utensils.

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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))



## Youth Volunteer Clearances Required

In 2014, the Pennsylvania State legislature passed the Child Protection Act. This ACT requires ALL volunteers working with youth to obtain and maintain current PA State Police Criminal Record and PA Child Abuse History clearances **starting July 1, 2015**. To comply with this law, ACTU is required to maintain a list and copies of clearances for all volunteers involved in youth activities.

Your Board wants to make it as easy as possible for you to get your clearances with no cost to you.

**Step 1: Obtain the PA State Police Criminal Record Check.** Go online to <https://epatch.state.pa.us>, click on "Submit a New Record Check" and follow the instructions. You will need a credit card for the \$10.00 charge to get your record. If you do not have a computer, a hardcopy form is available from the Treasurer, Becky Plesic. After several days, your record will be e-mailed back to you. Save the e-mail and print copies for your file.

**Step 2: Obtain the PA Child Abuse History Clearance.** Obtain a copy of the form from [http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/form/s\\_001762.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/form/s_001762.pdf). Complete the form

AND include a copy of the State Police Criminal Record Check. You may choose between mailing the forms in yourself or bringing them to the next ACTU monthly meeting. All forms collected by ACTU will be sent together with the \$10 fee. If you choose to mail your forms yourself, please provide a copy of the money order to Becky for reimbursement. In 2-3 weeks, the Child Abuse record will be mailed back to you. Keep the original and make a copy.

**Step 3: Provide a copy of your PA State Police Criminal Record and PA Child Abuse History clearances and any remaining receipts to Becky Plesic.**

*Note – you may blackout your Social Security number on any forms; ACTU does not need to know that information.*

For those who may have existing clearances due to employment or other volunteer activities, please provide a copy of current clearances to Becky Plesic. Becky will keep a current list of the volunteers with clearances for Chapter leaders and will notify the volunteer when it is time for them to renew their clearances (every 3 years).

If you have any questions, please call Dave Swope (717-253-6680) or e-mail your questions to [swopeda@hotmail.com](mailto:swopeda@hotmail.com). Thank you again for volunteering to work in ACTU's youth activities.

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## PA Fly Fishing Museum Heritage Day - June 20

This will be the PA Fly Fishing Museum's biggest Heritage Day event ever! Angling enthusiasts and supporters come from all over to take part in a great day of fly fishing activities in the meadow and picnic pavilion at The Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs. The day's activities (which run from 9:00 AM till 4:00 PM) will be filled with fun from beginning to end, with over 60 vendors and exhibitors, speakers and demonstrations. There will be all-day fly casting instruction, a fly casting competition, fly tyers in action, raffles, and the always popular fish swim race on the Yellow Breeches. Several additional programs will take place in the museum at the Allenberry.

Two new events have been added to this year's Heritage Day. The Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum will be hosting The Mid-Atlantic Fly Casting Champion-

ship. This event will be sponsored and conducted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CVTU). Full details, registration information, and contest rules are available on CVTU's website at [www.pacvtu.org](http://www.pacvtu.org). You must register to participate in the fly casting competition.

There will also be a Bamboo Rod Building Seminar, with a hands-on class in building a bamboo rod. A \$20 fee and registration is required at [www.paflyfishing.org](http://www.paflyfishing.org). Help us celebrate our fly fishing heritage. Don't miss out on this year's events. Come join in the fun on June 20. You can pay at the door or on their website with PayPal at [www.paflyfishing.org](http://www.paflyfishing.org). Admission is \$10 without lunch or \$25 which includes the Allenberry's famous resort picnic lunch. Admission for children 15 years old and younger is free, and a youth lunch is \$12 each.



## On the Water by: Amy Stum

Although I have been fishing for many years, and have even been known to out-fish my husband Dean on occasion, I am a newbie to fly fishing and completely green. I attended the ladies' fly fishing course hosted by Jetsy & Andy Murray, which helped me get some basics under my belt – never envisioning how much I would learn about bugs as I endeavored on this path to learn fly fishing.

At the Chapter fundraising banquet in March, I was fortunate enough to purchase all 3 fishing trips available at the live auction and took all 3 trips in May. Tony Dranzo of the Addicted Angler ([www.theaddictedangler.com](http://www.theaddictedangler.com)), Thom Livingston with Yellow Breeches Outfitters Guiding (717.880.7505), and Warren Miller with the Conewago Conservationist Fishing Club all provided outstanding instruction and insight to fly fishing, while demonstrating much patience with all the mistakes I made. Thom and Warren led me to private sections of the Conewago Creek for our outings. With Thom's instructions, I was thrilled to land a native rainbow trout, approximately 4". At the Conewago Conservationist club section, I tackled learning to fish over dams and was able to land several large brown and rainbow trout.

With Tony, I got to explore the Yellow Breeches. The trip started out with approximately 2 hours of instruction on the basics of fly fishing, the equipment, and casting. Following the instruction, we headed out to fish the evening Sulphur hatch – where I happily landed a small native brown trout. 2 hours of instruction sounded like a lot of time when we first started, but I was surprised how quickly the time flew by and reminded again how little I know about fly fishing. With everything I'm trying to remember to do and not do as a beginner, sometimes I forget this is supposed to be relaxing! I know with time and practice, I will get

better...maybe even out-fish Dean again.

If you are new to fly fishing, I highly recommend contacting a professional guide for some instruction and guidance. I will also share that having 3 different instructors in a short period of time was probably not my best decision. While all 3 were very knowledgeable and patient with this newbie, like all of us, each had his own methods and preferences which created some confusion for me. In my opinion, even experienced folks can benefit from a professional guide's knowledge of fly fishing mechanics and/or how to fish their local waters. If any or all of these guided trips are available at future auctions, please consider bidding on the trips for yourself or another family member. You will not be disappointed!



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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.

Most mayfly and caddis fly species tend to be darker in color in the early spring, with species hatching later in the spring being lighter in color, with the ultimate White mayfly hatch in August. Then, the later species tend to be darker again up to the end of the season.

You owe it to yourself to fish unfamiliar streams out of your normal area. Save your money and plan a trip to big

water. Hire a guide if you can. They fish nearly every day and are a fountain of information. You will become a more complete angler capable of handling any situation wherever you may fish.



## July Guest Speaker: Juniata River Smallmouth Bass Fishing

Be sure to mark your calendar and save the date! At the ACTU monthly meeting on July 27, our guest speaker will be Rivers Grove. The meeting will kick off with a featured presentation on Juniata River Smallmouth Bass Fishing by Rivers of Rivers Guide Service located in Cashtown, PA. He 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. Rivers' presentation will be educational in nature and is designed to bring ACTU Members up to date on these very productive and close by fisheries. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about some great warm water fishing opportunities. (Pictures curtesy of Richard Lewis).



## TU's 11-Mile Challenge

*How does it work?* The Challenge is simple: fish on any stream, track your miles, and share your stories. Anglers that sign-up and share their stories will automatically be eligible for gear and prize drawings (Tenkara kit, full day guided on trophy water just to start).

*Why 11 miles?* Thousands of road-stream crossings exist in the region and with them come impassable culverts that are barriers to fish passage. TU's Southeast Conservation Program, headed by Damon Hearne in Asheville, with help from partners will re-connect 11 stream miles through the removal of bad culverts. These native brook trout fisheries will be more resilient and have better fishing for decades to come. The TU communications team will be posting participant's stories and progress on social media. Post pictures to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using #11mileChallenge and tag friends to challenge them to sign up. The Challenge combined with social media outreach is a great tool to get young anglers involved with TU. Go to [www.facebook.com/TUSoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/TUSoutheast) or visit us on Twitter and Instagram @tusoutheast to get involved.

*Icing on the cake.* TU will give away some awesome prizes at the WNC Fly Fishing Expo in Asheville, NC on December 4-5, 2015. Everyone who participates will be eligible and will also be eligible for some random drawings throughout the season so stay tuned!

*I want in.* Visit [www.tu.org/11milechallenge](http://www.tu.org/11milechallenge) for more info and suggestions on how to track your progress. Tara Granke, TU's Southeast Communications Specialist will send out monthly emails to see how you are doing. Email Tara with questions at [tgranke@tu.org](mailto:tgranke@tu.org).

If you plan to fish this season, then plan to join the 11-Mile Challenge and help TU conserve and protect native trout!

## Pictures from TIC Release Events - May 19 & 20, 2015 at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve



## Pictures of SOY Field Day, June 6th

A huge "Thank You" to Joe Whitmore and his team of helpers at the recent SOY Field Day event. The group taught over 220 youth fly tying. Each and every child left with a fly of their own. Each group had 14-20 children and Each session lasted 30 minutes. ACTU volunteers did a great job of helping the kids with their tying. Photos courtesy of Hand Rajotte.



## Adams County Stream Suffers

On Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Adams County suffered a severe agriculture fire in Hanover, Pa. Boating, fishing and swimming in the Conewago Creek is prohibited until further notice in East Berlin and New Oxford, as well as the townships of Hamilton, Mt. Pleasant, Oxford, and Reading.. Local authorities are still trying to determine the contaminants which entered the waterway by Slagle Run, a tributary to the Conewago Creek. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission are aware of the presence of contaminations in the water causing major concerns for wildlife and aquatic life.

As of Wednesday afternoon, all attempts are being made to prevent any more runoff from getting into the waterways. Everyone involved realizes this is a unusual event that requires a short term goal which is three-fold, with emphasis being placed on: preventing more pollution into the creeks, getting the creeks running clear again, and getting New Oxford Water Authority back on track serving their customers. Some early testing by DEP indicated ele-

ments consisting of metals, nitrates, pesticides consisted in chemical fires.

According to the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, it's too early in the process to determine the loss of all types of aquatic life and the damages caused by the runoff to one of the best trout streams in Adams County. Streams will continue to be monitored and have been showing improvements in clarity; although a 50 percent chance of rain over the weekend may cause some concerns. Everyone needs to use there best judgement as a safety precaution.

The Conewago Creek is a 510 mile watershed with the majority located in Adams and York Counties. Tributaries or streams that flow into the Conewago Creek include: the South Branch Conewago, Bermudian, Latimore, Opossum, Quaker Run, Beaver Creek, Beaverdam Creek, Slagle, Brush, Swift and Markel Runs; there are 13 counties located within the watershed.



## 2015 Chapter Calendar

### *JUNE*

- June 16 Chapter Picnic 6:00 pm Streamside at Rogers' Farm, Conewago FFO section
- June 21-26 Rivers Conservation Camp Allenberry Resort
- June 24 ACTU Board Meeting 7:00 pm Gettysburg, PA
- June 28 - July 2 TU Teen Summit Cullowhee, NC

### *JULY*

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

### *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 Gettysburg, PA

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