



Adams County Trout Unlimited - September 2023 Newsletter

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ACTU is a 2023 Adams County Giving Spree Participant!

Your TU chapter received some great news on July 13th – it was selected to participate in this year's Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree!!

The event, which will take place on November 9th at the Gettysburg Area Middle School, is Adams County's annual day of giving, where the community comes together to support its local nonprofits.

Last year, the event secured close

A successful event would go a long way towards helping us meet our funding needs for years to come, positioning us to become even more ambitious in planning new projects aligned with the three tenets.

Our many youth- and diversity-oriented focus programs in particular while pursuing our objectives will serve us well in our fundraising efforts, and we intend to showcase our successes here.

We have much to do over the coming months to prepare and be ready for a successful fundraising event. Key activities we will be working on include:

- Finalize ACTU Giving Spree Committee members

to \$2.7 million in donations for the many non-profit participants; in 2023, the ACCD is targeting the \$3 million mark!

This year, approximately 100 organizations in the county will participate in the Spree, which is considered to be the most generous county fundraising event in the nation on a per capita basis.

As a first-time participant, ACTU is seeking both current and long-term funding to help us continue our mission of promoting and advancing three tenets that guide our chapter's efforts within the County: Conservation, Community, and Fishing.

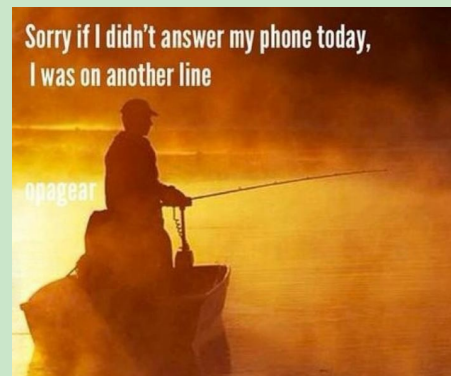
- Make the required promotional video to help raise awareness of the event and our participation
- Design and prepare materials for the event to showcase our successes and objectives
- Develop and implement an outreach strategy to alert and attract potential donors

These and other tasks will also be discussed during our upcoming gatherings. You can learn more about the Giving Spree, as well as make a contribution to ACTU starting in September, by visiting their website at [Adams County Community Foundation](#).

More news to follow as the event draws closer!

Cool Stuff That's Happening Soon

The chapter's Annual Appreciation Day Picnic will be held at the Adams County Conservation District building from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20th. If you plan to attend, please respond as directed on the email invitation that was sent out on August 20th. Don't miss out on some tasty steaks and chicken. And bring a side dish to share. If you plan to attend, register by September 6th. You can register by clicking [here](#).



2023 remaining monthly gatherings:

- September 20 – Annual Appreciation Day Picnic
- October 18 – Frank Kozak's 2023 Fishing Exploits in Belize, Ontario, and/or Colorado (I haven't decided yet)
- November 15 – Rick Franzese's Fishing in Alaska

Join us for these enjoyable fishing and conservation programs. Our gatherings, which start at 6:30 pm, are held at the Adams County Conservation District Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. Check our website and Facebook site regularly, as the program schedule is fluid.

Add to your calendar – October 4th is the next planned float stocking. We will meet at 11:30 at the Russell Tavern Road bridge.

Cool Stuff That Already Happened

Lesa Bird is involved in trying to bring the "Stream Girls" program to Adams County as a first step in getting more ladies involved in our Chapter. Stream Girls provides programs to engage young girls in STEM activities that allow them to explore fishing opportunities. After this program takes hold, Lesa will reach out to our female Chapter

members to assist with it and become involved in ACTU activities.

Habitat Improvement Work Day – 22 members of ACTU and Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited, along with PFBC Habitat Division specialists, constructed a 40-foot-long mud sill on the FFOCRO section of Conewago Creek on August 26th. The structure will reduce streambank erosion, thereby improving water quality, as well as improving trout habitat. Bobcat of Adams County generously provided equipment for the project and lunch was similarly provided by Sheetz.

At the Zeigler Mill Road Access (ZMR) site, the work to create a 600-yard walking trail for the community is nearing completion. This includes the construction of three teaching stations, each with an educational sign. The signs describe riparian buffer zones, invasive plant species, and tree identification. Tree and shrub planting on the retired agricultural land at the site and along the new trail is completed for the year. Some 300 trees and shrubs were planted this year. More planting is set for next spring. Many thanks are due to ACTU member Mike Waldron who spent countless hours leading the trail clearing and tree planting efforts.

ACTU submitted a nomination of the Zeigler Mill Road Access Site project to Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited for the Best Project Award. The application presented a concise story of our accomplishments since 2021, encapsulating the long-term effort, partnerships, and community support that took the preservation of access to the site from a dream to reality. The award winner will be announced at the PATU Annual Meeting later this month. Many thanks are due to ACTU Director Rick Franzese, who prepared the submission.

The fly fishing-only section of the Conewago Creek was surveyed for zebra mussels by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). No zebra mussels were found.

For those of you who ordered ACTU-logo shirts, the shirts should be available in September for pickup. Thanks are due to Bob Miller for arranging for the shirts to be ordered.

“On the Conewago” by MG Julian Burns, US Army Ret.

The road to Gettysburg and its streams is by diverse paths. For my great-grandfather, it was by way of the uninvited arrival of Lee's Army. For me, two generations later, it was another military connection, but through the happy introduction to trout fishing via marriage.



Here is how the great love of my life came to be, and with it, my love affair of a different sort with Adams County and its watersheds, streams, and woods. It is the story I related to Dave Swope and Dan Herrick at the 50th Gettysburg High School reunion of the Class of 1973.

Gettysburg graduate Ruth Ann Schumacher, GHS 1973, who became the first female Commander in the Texas A&M Corps, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. Posted to Fort Riley, Kansas, she was immediately well known at Fort Riley, as an officer and,

for me, in particular, as a Cavalry Officer, the loveliest gal in all of Kansas. A courtship followed, and she told me: "Call my Dad and we will marry." He was a gruff and big ole Infantry Colonel, with combat in the Battle of the Bulge and Korea, awarded the Silver Star and Purple Hearts galore.

Needless to say, I carefully rehearsed for the long-distance call to Gettysburg from Kansas to a man I hardly had met before. After my nervous first words, the big guy interrupted me to say; "Sure, you can marry Ruth Ann; but, do you know how to fly fish?"

"Of course," I replied, and far from the truth. And for the next months, I read every book I could on fly fishing! "How could it be different from the South Carolina fishing of my youth?" I thought. Wrong!

Well, the big moment of truth came on our first visit to Gettysburg. The Colonel decided we would fish the wonderful Conewago Creek -- stopping at the "Bowling Alley", struggling into my gear for the first time, losing flies in the trees and every imaginable error.

The Colonel laughed and confessed he knew I was fibbing, and then gracefully taught me all I needed to know...to include respect for that great gentleman fish, the trout, and its environment. It was the epiphany that Dave Swope and Dan Herrick relate to that the trout is more than just a fish. And the Conewago, thanks to Adams County Trout Unlimited. is more than just another stream. I thank you all for making it such a fine spot for fly fishing and for my family of anglers.



Trout in the Classroom Update

Earlier this year, Adam McClain, Director of the Adams County Conservation District (ACCD), asked ACTU for assistance with the county's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. For many years, ACCD had led the program and ACTU had funded the purchase of equipment and materials. Now, due to changes in personnel at the ACCD, they did not have the staff to coordinate the program. ACTU members, not wanting to see the program end, volunteered to take on the coordinator role. Specifically, ACTU members Lynn Rebert, Jerry Gladfelter, and Dave Swope took on the coordination role for the program.



In the TIC program, students learn about cold-water conservation while raising trout from eggs to fingerlings in their classrooms. The curriculum materials cover the fish life cycle, water chemistry, land conservation, and stream and watershed health. Aquarium tanks are provided by ACTU to the classrooms which provide

teachers with a hands-on way of presenting water conservation. Trout eggs are hatched in the tanks and the students care for the fingerlings throughout the school year until the students release the fingerlings into county waters. At the end of the year, on release day, ACTU leads the classes on a field trip to release their fish and take part in short seminars.

Currently, six teachers in the county schools are participating in the program from elementary to senior high schools.

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.



Member Spotlight - Rick Franzese

Rick was introduced to fishing at a young age on a small lake in northern New Jersey where his family had a summer cabin. Spin fishing for largemouth bass quickly became a favorite pastime, and over the following years Rick would take every opportunity to spend time on the water in search of the elusive bass.



Like many, Rick started a family not long after graduating college, at which point fishing had to compete with the myriad other responsibilities that entailed, as well as with the various other activities that were available and attractive to kids growing up in the 80s and 90s.

Jumping ahead to 2011, Rick and Bob, a work buddy, decided they would tackle a once-in-a-lifetime bucket list trip they had read about – fly fishing for rainbow trout in the wilds of Alaska! The trip was planned, taken, and a huge success – and Rick was now hooked on fly fishing (“the tug is the drug”). This September, Rick and Bob will enjoy what they now call their 13th annual, once-in-a-lifetime, bucket list trip to Alaska (yes, Rick even went in September 2020, during the height of Covid, such was the strength of the addiction).

Also, during Covid, in late 2021, Rick noticed a sign at the entrance to Lake Heritage, where he lives, that Adams County Trout Unlimited would be holding their monthly meeting at the community pavilion due to the Ag Center being closed during the pandemic. Curiosity aroused, Rick attended the meeting, liked what he heard and who he met, and has been an active member of the Chapter ever since.

Rick was elected to the ACTU Board in June 2022, and has focused much of his efforts

since then on volunteering, maintaining the quality of Chapter publications, and fundraising. He looks forward to continuing to help out and looking for ways to improve the contributions the Chapter is making to the community.

Are You Connected?

You should be getting emails from our chapter and National TU. If you are not receiving emails, or would like to change your email address, please send an email to [Jerry Gladfelter](#).

Please note that neither ACTU nor TU National shares your email address with third parties

A Continuing Conflict by Dave Swope

ACTU has embarked on what will likely be a constant battle in the management of invasive species, which are plants and animals that have been introduced into new ecosystems and have environmental, recreational, economic, or health impacts. Invasive species come in all shapes and sizes but share one thing in common: they are capable of a lot of destruction if left unattended. These invaders compete with native species for resources, which reduces native species populations and the biodiversity which they support. In Pennsylvania, the warmer winters and wetter areas make our southcentral area an attractive habitat to those invasives that previously would not have thrived here.



Our local chapter has been challenged with the removal of a few types of invasives over the last few years. Most recently, we have focused on removal of the multiflora rose during the creation of the new access trail by our chapter along the Conewago Creek at the Zeigler Mill Road Access site (420 Zeigler Mill Road).

Another local invasive is zebra mussels, which are tiny and can therefore prove very difficult to eradicate once they are in a body of water. Zebra mussels populate quickly, and will displace other aquatic life, impacting the food chain which is so important to fish. This invasive has been deemed among the worst aquatic invasives in the U.S., and locally, the PFBC has its hands full protecting our local waterways, hatcheries, and co-ops from them. Fortunately, Zebra mussels have not been found in Conewago Creek.

Other examples of invasives include Hydrilla and the Emerald Ash Borer. Hydrilla is an underwater plant that threatens native aquatic plants and fish populations in both lakes and ponds.

The Emerald Ash Borer has wiped out entire forests and adjacent lands. It is important to know that if the dead trees from such areas are cut for firewood and transferred to other areas, the borer can be spread. Pennsylvania has more invasive aquatic pests, aquatic vegetation, terrestrial pests, and



terrestrial vegetation than ever before. A regional pilot program has recently been started by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on invasive species management. Working with local and state governments, these partners will focus on addressing the growing number of invasive species.

How can individuals help? You can help stop aquatic invasive hitchhikers by following these steps:

- Know how to identify common aquatic invasive plants so you can avoid them.
- Drain water from all fishing equipment before leaving the area you are visiting. Some species may live for months in water that has not been removed.
- Thoroughly inspect your fishing gear for residue of invasives species. Clean, remove, and leave behind plants, mud, and aquatic life. Many aquatic invasive species are microscopic so it is important to clean your equipment even if it doesn't appear to have anything on it.
- Dry equipment to the touch, and then allow it to dry another 48 hours. Thick and dense material like felt-soled wading gear will hold moisture longer, take longer to dry, and can be more difficult to clean.
- When stocking from buckets or nets from the stocking truck, don't let the equipment touch the water.
- When moving from stream to stream, clean your equipment, personal watercraft, boots, and boats.

Membership Updates

Welcome New Members

Dale Byers
Leo Fisher

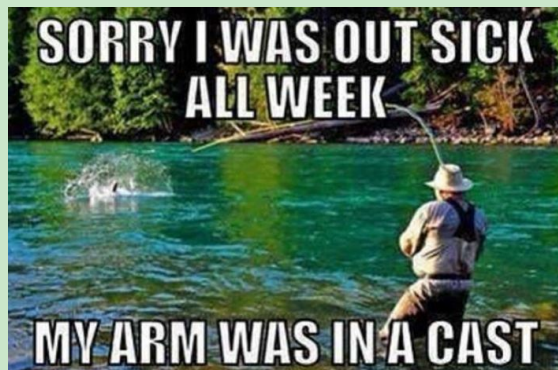
Robert Marchio
Charles Marks
Hank Rajotte
Charles Scamack
Greg Staub
Marlin Wagner
Val Walters

Thank You for Renewing and Contributing

Randy Forsythe
Dave Kaas

Your Chapter Leaders

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



Contact [Frank Kozak](#) if you have any questions about the chapter or its activities.

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](#).



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

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

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