



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year has been another busy time for the Chapter. Once again, spring brought three float stockings of the fly fishing area of Conewago Creek. Shortly after that, the Latimore Creek fishing derby was held in the special regulations area. June brought on the SOY event held at the Adams County Fish & Game in Abbottstown, where the Chapter manned a fly tying station for the children. Throw in the Trout in the Classroom release at Strawberry Hill, Chapter picnic in June, and a few days of stream projects on the fly fishing only section of the Conewago Creek this summer to round out the year!

How did this all get accomplished? With the help and dedication of many individuals working together! To the best of my knowledge, no one individual was at every event, nor did they need to be. That is what makes a group so dynamic and versatile. Knowing what your abilities are and matching them to an event or purpose that interests you, then taking the step to get involved.

This month's meeting marks the time of year when nominations for open positions on the board and executive committee will be held. My sincere appreciation goes out to all of you that have supported my tenure as president, with special gratitude to Becky Plesic for staying on an additional year as Treasurer. See you at the meeting!

Dean E. Stum

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Restoration Project



On July 26, Adam McClain – ACCD's watershed specialist, Tyler Neimond – PFBC's stream habitat director, and I performed a stream survey and discussed stream restoration designs on the upper reaches of Middle Creek along Mt. Hope Road. The overall purpose of this project is to create a game plan to fix the stream bank erosion, create trout habitat, and provide an educational opportunity for the youths of tomorrow especially our "Trout in the Classroom" students. Since 2009, the students have been releasing their trout raised in the classroom in this project site.

Within the stretch surveyed, there were four areas that were showing signs of significant erosion. Habitat devices that were discussed included root wads, muddsill, saw tooth stone deflectors, log tip deflectors, and shotrock replacement along the streambanks.

Adam McClain and I will be working to complete the necessary permitting, writing grants, and connecting with partners to further our goals in this restoration project in the coming months.



A Sportsmen's Forum: Protecting PA Wild Trout

FREE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 | 7 PM
MONROE TOWNSHIP FIRE HALL
1225 Peffer Road, Mechanicsburg, PA

with
JOHN ARWAY, PFBC Executive Director
RICHARD LEWIS, PFBC Commissioner
B.J. SMALL, PFBC Commissioner

FREE — OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Hosted by Cumberland Valley, Adams County, Codorus, Doc Fritchey, and Falling Spring TU

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CONEWAGO CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION

I begin this article by sharing the early History of the Conewago Creek.

Conewago is an Indian word meaning “at the place of rapids”. In 1734 William Penn authorized licenses to people wishing to take up land west of the Susquehanna River. About 20 licenses were issued for about 8,000 acres of land along the upper reaches of the Conewago Creek and its tributaries in the Northern part of what became Adams County. The first settlers moved into the area because it was at the intersection of two important trails, one originating in Baltimore and leading towards Carlisle in the North, the other starting in Philadelphia and leading westward and southward to the Potomac River. In 1937 the first survey of disputed land was between Lord Baltimore and William Penn. This strip of disputed land became known as the “little Conewago”.

The Conewago Creek’s headwaters flow from the South Mountain, a narrow tongue of the Blue Ridge Mountains that extends into Pennsylvania. The stream then travels east through York County where it joins the Susquehanna River which eventually flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Conewago Creek is a 510 square mile watershed with the majority of it 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, and Beaver Creek, Beaverdam Creek, Brush, Swift and Markel Runs with 13 counties located within this watershed.

Many problems faced the Conewago Creek over the years, according to a census in 2000, Adams County population increased 16 per cent from 1990 to 2000 making it the fastest growing county in Pennsylvania. Part of the rapid growth was occurring in the Conewago Creek Watershed. The stream suffered many impacts including point source pollution and non-point source pollution. Point source pollution that results from an identifiable end-of-pipe discharge such as industrial or sewage wastes. Non-point source of pollution which is not as easy to identify, measure and control, but is currently the leading cause of degradation within the Chesapeake Bay. Non-point sources include residential and agricultural runoff, urban storm water runoff. Segments of the Conewago Creek have been identified by DEP as impaired by nutrients, siltation, changes in stream flows, changes in water temperatures, changes in stream habitat, storm water runoff and surface mining.

The same Conewago Creek that seen the first settlers along the stream in 1734 is just as important today. The Conewago Creek more recently has been named the “secret hideaway” by Dusty Wissmath when writing about Lincoln Highway Trout.



It was a long time coming, but it finally got here. That’s right, our first workday on July 15th of 2017 went without too many hitches. One of the hitches was scheduling a backhoe. We hired C. E. Williams in Gettysburg for the backhoe. First, I want to thank our partners from Northern Virginia, President Jay Lovering, Bill Errico, Tim Johnson, Roy Lindquist, Donald Hart and Tim Quinn, from ACTU Dean Stum, Buzz Dettinburn, Larry Hartlaub, Eddie McGlaughlin, April Swope, and Richard Lewis. Also, the guys that did the mowing the evening before. With everyone working together we were able to remove rock on the upper mudsill so we can bolt the boards on the platform on the next workday-weather permitting, built a double deflector with added shot rock, and the group added a two log channel block on another device. The day’s work will be very evident to you on your next fishing outing. Then the next workday was scheduled for July 29th. Due to high water flows the 29th was canceled and rescheduled for August 5th. Plans are to get the platform installed and loaded with shot rock to complete a very large mudsill that was in need of repair-fortunately for us the logs installed back in the eighty’s that were under water were in good shape.

Onto the next project, the logs installed prior were reinforced with rocks and a low-level device was constructed and another project the face log was repaired. After both workday’s a nice lunch was setup by Richard Lewis with some cold refreshing drinks which everyone enjoyed. Lumber was purchased thru Klinger’s Saw Mill and stones were received from the PFBC for the projects in 2017. Special thanks to Larry Hartlaub, Dean Stum, April Swope, Richard Lewis, Eddie McGlaughlin, Chris and Becky Plesic, Buzz Dettinburn for putting in the volunteer effort in restoring the Conewago Creek fishery.





Our Great Outdoors

Our great outdoors, so much an adventure whether you may be wading in a stream with the excitement of hooking into a big trout, scouting the woods for that trophy buck, or bird watching for the most colorful specimen you can imagine, or even bike riding whatever it may be—can get your adrenaline flowing.

Since we are approaching the anniversary of this memorial event here is the story. Well I must tell you that adrenaline reached a different level on August 5th along Route 234 about 7:30 in the evening very close to the Buchanan Valley Fire Hall. It started out at a Catholic Church located very close to a cabin built by my Father, as an evening bike ride along a rural road where the mountains seem to be in full growth, dense, and hiding something deep within itself.

About half way through the bike ride, I noticed a nice buck standing along the base of the mountain and I stopped so my friend could locate him since only his neck and head was visible to the eye. As we started off again I noticed a few more deer running in the same area. Approaching closer along the tree line I noticed something running towards the frantic deer. Since the sighting lasted about 10 seconds I was in a state of thinking—Is that what I thought it was? In those quick seconds, I realized that we just witnessed what about 4000 people in Pennsylvania also witnessed. Yes, it was definitely a MOUNTAIN LION. As we continued our bike ride, I wondered of people would believe me or should I say nothing at all.

As we continue through this life and the mountains actually keep shrinking from residential buildup and logging who knows what the great outdoors will offer us in the future. Like the old saying goes, “Its my story and I’m sticking to it”.

Senate Bill 30 FISHING LICENSE INCREASE YEA OR NAY

This bill is designed for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) the power to see license fees to include fishing licenses, non-residents and tourist licenses, one-day resident license, all special licenses, net permits, permits for use of explosives, boat licenses, fishing guides and charter boat permits, permits for protection and management of particular fish, registration and titling of boats, providing for issuing agents for fees and for notice of boats and related equipment.

The Pa. Fish and Boat last fishing license increase was in 2005. WHAT? That’s right 12 years ago. The Pa. Game Commission last increase was 1999. Executive Director PFBC John Arway cited a variety of statistics and facts, chief among them 70 per cent of the agency’s annual fish fund revenue comes from licensing and another 25 per cent from the federal excise taxes on the sale of fishing related equipment. Nothing comes from the State’s general fund or sales tax.

Senate Bill 30 passed the Senate on the third consideration on March 27, 2017 the vote was 47-2 motioned carried.

The President of the Pa. Federation of Sportsmen Clubs says, he doesn’t have a problem with Senate Bill 30 on a fish license increase because the General Assembly has the right to grant and approve a fishing license increase and still have influence on how much increase in any one year.

So where is the hangup? The House has still not moved on Senate Bill 30. Presently I spoke to Representative Dan Moul and Representative Will Tallman both agree on this bill but there are some who don’t think it’s feasible to turn it over to the independent agencies.

As we wait for the outcome, the PFBC are forced to add more cuts to their programs. In 2018, if this bill gets stranded in the House as in 2016, the PFBC will be forced to cutback on the allocations of stocked trout. Will this be enough to WAKE anglers up to complain to their legislators or will it be too late?



Wild Trout vs Hatchery Trout

For anyone that thinks a trout is a trout and there is no difference concerning where that trout came from then maybe you don't want to keep reading my article. At the same time whatever type of fish you after and you enjoy doing it, then you have accomplished the most important activity in recreation.

In some ways stocked trout are a poor representation of their wild counterparts. I mean there are many differences in their behavior, food they select, appearances, and definitely growth rate. In today times the brown trout appears wild because hatcheries have come a long way in rearing some great looking brown trout. Somewhere along the way the idea occurred that humans and science could create a better product than what nature provides. With all the problems over the years with destroying our rivers from poor timber management, coal mining, chemical regulations the thought of rearing hatchery trout is "better than the real thing."

Moving forward, clean water has returned to the damaged watersheds, some rivers can now sustain wild trout again, but are we still allowing tradition and culture to dictate sensible trout management. Some things are looking up, and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission is focusing resources on stream restoration improvements and stream easements rather than hatcheries. It is a slow process, but we are moving ahead.

Are we willing to move ahead and disconnect with the hatchery trout and towards valuing sustainable wild trout fisheries wherever possible. Can anglers make the distinctions of wild trout over stocked trout? Is the best Trout the one that Nature has created? Is a Wild Trout part of the ecosystem? Native or non-Native? Is it time for us to recognize and understand the exceptional value of the Wild Trout?

On Saturday August 26, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is hosting a Wild Trout Summit concerning the future of Wild Trout in Pennsylvania similar to the Trout Summit in 2002 with break out sessions in four major categories involving what else "Wild Trout".



Left to right, Dave Swope ACTU, John Arway Executive Director Pa. Fish and Boat, Richard Lewis Commissioner Pa. Fish and Boat. attending the Wild Trout Summit.



Do drought conditions affect trout?

This is a question in the back of many angler's minds. First of all, the conditions in individual streams influence the general behavior of trout as well as the importance of their feeding behavior, and also elevated water temperatures can have a larger control overall ability of the trout surviving. As the trout's habitat shrinks from the drought and water temps elevates so does the ability of the stream to support trout life. Even if the angling harvest does not occur, the trout may not survive if low flows continue or elevated temperatures rise too high this will definitely reduce the likelihood of fishing in general.

In most cases the PFBC does not put additional restrictions during drought conditions. The PFB believes general fishing regulations are more than adequate to handle this challenge. During these conditions trout are more vulnerable to predators. Many of Pa. trout streams are managed with different regulations which will protect the habitat and will provide angling where less emphasis is on harvesting trout.

One thing for sure, is a proven fact during these types of drought conditions the act of being hooked, played, landed and released properly provides a great deal of stress that can become lethal for the trout. Certain steps are critical in these conditions for trout to swim another day. Try not to play the trout till near exhaustion, keep the trout in the water as much as possible, the longer out of the water the more stress. If handling the fish make your hands wet. Of course, catching trout in the heat of the day will add more stress on the fish. Use the proper techniques, common sense and angling opportunities will be there for generations to come.




Fall Trout Stocking In PA

Well, Autumn is here & with that comes another opportunity to go after trout. This summer, for many of us, was hot and humid. I'm sure there were many places that saw trout perish in the drought & heat. Fortunately for Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will be stocking trout across the state again soon for Adams County Conewago Creek, it will be October 3rd at 11:30 meeting at the Russell Tavern Bridge. We need volunteers to help get these trout in the fly stretch, so contact swopeda@hotmail.com

Trout fishing is so popular here in PA that there is demand from anglers to have a fall trout stocking program. Now, the fall stocking isn't as large or as spread out as the spring stocking program, but almost all the famous & popular streams get stocked. This is especially true for streams that have either a "delayed harvest" or "fly fishing only" regulation areas.

To search for the streams that will be stocked in PA this fall, check the PFBC webpage. You can also see when they will be stocked & the species of trout that will be making that stream their new home. If you have the time, you can also volunteer to help the Commission stock these trout.

Fall is my favorite time of year. After the heat of the summer, I'm ready to have some trout bend my fly rod - even if it means hooking some fallen leaves floating on the water. It's just so nice to be outside along a trout stream in the autumn that I can't wait!! 

EVENTS

September 19
Chapter Meeting

September 23
Pa Trout Fall State
Council Meeting

October 3
Fall Stocking

October 17
Chapter Meeting
noting Chapter's 40 year
celebration

ADVERTISE IN ADAMS ANGLER

If you are a business owner and would like to reach 200 members with a common interest in fishing and the environment, consider running your ad in the Adams Angler. There are 8 issues per calendar year. Cost of the ads are \$100 business card and \$150 half page and whole page ad \$300. Call 253-6680 to advertise in the newsletter.

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With
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STOCKING

*October 3rd at 11:30
meeting at the Russell Tavern Bridge*

*TIE MORE
FLIES*

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