



Adams County Trout Unlimited - September 2024 Newsletter

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Give Now. Give Big. Giving Spree!

Since ACTU started in 1977, reaching out to the youth of Adams County has been one of the focus areas of the chapter, with accomplishments including:

- 1,300+ students participated in our Trout in the Classroom program
- 10,250+ students engaged through the Southcentral Outdoors for Youth program
- 1,960+ youths competed in our Latimore Fishing Derby event
- 550+ students participated in our Environmental Day program
- 23 youths fully funded to attend a Conservation Camp



That is a lot of youth that have been reached!

Over the same time, our conservation focus has led to scores of stream improvement projects, helping to install some 180 devices in county waterways to improve trout habitat. ACTU members also volunteer every year in stocking the eight approved trout streams in the county, with over 17,500 fish stocked since these efforts began. Overall, our members volunteer between 3,200 and 4,200 hours every year.

Both the youth and conservation achievements have been possible largely through the unselfish donations of time and money by many ACTU members such as yourself. Not surprisingly, we need to continue to attract similar commitments of time and money to continue these efforts.

Toward that end, we are asking you to invite as many other people as possible to donate to the chapter during the Adams County Giving Spree on November 7th. Giving options on the 7th include five curbside drop off locations throughout the county, staffed from 1pm to 5pm, with mail in and online donations also being accepted through the end of the day on the 7th.



Last year ACTU raised over \$6,400 through the Giving Spree, and with your help and the help of others that you spread the word to, we are optimistic we can improve upon that result this year. Details regarding the Giving Spree can be found at the ACCF website (www.ACCFGivingSpree.org) and the ACTU website (www.adamscountytu.org).

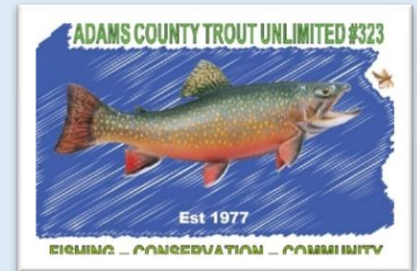
Lastly, we invite you and others to join us at a Giving Spree information session on Wednesday, October 9th from noon to 1pm at the main library (140 Baltimore Street in Gettysburg). Here, you and other potential donors will learn more about our conservation and youth efforts and have time to talk with our board members who will make the case for donating to the chapter.

Donate during the Spree so the chapter can continue its good work in Adams County!

President's Message

Important Stuff

You just read the article about the Giving Spree, and as you read on in this newsletter, you will read about the recent stream improvement work on the upper CROFFO section of Conewago Creek (above the Zeigler Mill Road Access Site parking lot).



Though quite different topics, they are of paramount importance to the chapter.

For one, the chapter needs your donation during the Giving Spree to continue with the many youth and conservation programs we lead. Any amount will help and be put to beneficial use. So, mark November 7th, the Giving Spree, on your calendar and give!

Second, to say that the trout habitat on the upper CROFFO section has been maintained is an understatement. It has been strikingly improved: in this most recent project, more than 30 log deflectors were installed, numerous mudsill devices were replaced, root wads were created, and many instream boulders were placed. The improvements will benefit the trout population and reduce bank erosion, but, most importantly, make a lot of anglers happy! If you have the time, head over to the stream, and take in all the new devices that the PFBC created.

I am so looking forward to fishing that stretch! As a reminder, the stream will be stocked on October 2nd. Tight Lines!

Calling All Members!

I am looking for a few good men and women interested in getting more involved with our chapter. We have A LOT going on, from many youth recreational and educational programs, multiple trout stocking dates, annual stream improvements, and ongoing trail and riparian buffer improvements and invasive plant removal efforts.

Or, if you are so inclined, on chapter leadership roles and community events. With the volunteer efforts from a core group of members, our impact on Adams County on a variety of fronts has been noteworthy and recognized locally and across the state.

Want to get involved with a growing, successful organization? It's easy.

- Send an email to me to make sure I have your current email address.
- Email me at fmkozak@gmail.com with questions and ideas.
- Attend our monthly meetings at 6:30 on the third Wednesday of each month at the Adams County Conservation District building, located at 670 Old Harrisburg Rd., in Gettysburg
- Check out our website at www.adamscountytu.org to find activities that pique your interest

We have a heck of a team and are always looking for great additions. Frank Kozak, President

Conewago Creek Restoration Project

Since 2007, the U.S. EPA has funded projects to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its local waterways. Reducing sediment and nutrient pollution into the bay has, rightfully so, been an important undertaking across the entirety of the bay's watershed.

The program has been a success, with sediment entering the bay decreasing by six percent from 2009 to 2023.

Sediment in the Chesapeake Bay comes from various sources within its watershed, including our local Conewago Creek. To help reduce the sediment pollution in the bay, Phase I of a significant stream restoration project took

place this past July on a one-mile section of the creek, along Ziegler Mill Road, just east of Russell Tavern Road. In addition to addressing the sediment pollution issue, this project will also have the added benefit of improving fish habitat in the creek!

The Conewago Creek project was led by Ricky Whitmore, Adams County's Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Coordinator at the Adams County Conservation District, who prepared the grant application, contracted the permitting and construction work, and managed the accounting of the project. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Habitat Division designed the devices that would reduce the sediment load and improve the fish habitat, and also oversaw the construction effort, which was performed by Flyway Excavating, Inc.

The field work involved installing more than 30 log deflectors, repairing numerous muddill devices, creating root wads, and adding instream boulders. More than 600 tons of shot rock were delivered to the project site and placed among the devices. The project work started at the upper end of the Catch and Release, Fly Fishing Only (CROFFO) section of the creek and continued downstream to the junction with the new access parking lot.



During the second week of the project, the work site was visited by noted individuals who surveyed the ongoing work, including (from left to right): PFBC Liaison Kailee Glock, Adams County Trout Unlimited (ACTU) President Frank Kozak, PFBC Habitat Supervisor Mark Sausser, PA State Senator Doug Mastriano, ACTU Stream Coordinator and Board Member Dave Swope, PFBC Commissioner B.J. Small, and Bryce Workman and Bryan Martin of Flyway Excavating.



This restoration work just completed is Phase I, with Phase II potentially coming in 2025 for the lower CROFFO section if the funding is approved. Dave A Swope

Relationships With Private Landowners Is Key

The Adams County Chapter of Trout Unlimited, together with the McSherrystown Fish and Game Protective Association, has a long and successful history of working cooperatively with landowners to allow public access onto their private lands for fishing. This is particularly important because 98% of the stocked trout waters in Adams County are on private lands.

While this cooperative practice has benefited generations of anglers in the county, it also means that fishing as we know it, not only in Adams County but throughout Pennsylvania, is susceptible to privatization. For some of you anglers, imagine the effect on your recreational fishing if access to private lands was curtailed by, say, a quarter.

Unfortunately, and increasingly, landowners are posting their properties in response to poor behavior from the public on their land. Littering, building open fires, trampling farm fields, blocking driveways and access roads, and, overall, not respecting landowners and their properties are the main reasons that trout waters are removed from active management programs, such as stocking, by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Sadly, I have seen all too many instances of such poor conduct that has prompted the posting of land.

Fortunately, preserving public access to private lands is a simple matter. For one, it requires anglers across the county to act to police themselves to maintain favorable landowner relationships. Put another way, we must recognize that the land we are treading on is private property and that we are guests, privileged to have access.

Second, in addition to practicing good behavior, I feel that the relationships between anglers and landowners would be strengthened if the sportsmen's clubs in the county participated in cleanups along the eight approved trout streams in Adams County.

NOTICE
CATCH AND RELEASE
ALL TACKLE TROUT
SPECIAL REGULATIONS APPLY

1. Fishing may be done with artificial lures, flies or streamers, natural bait, baitfish and fishbait. Spinning or fly fishing gear may be used in these areas.
2. No trout may be killed or had in possession.
3. Open to fishing year-round; there is no closed season.
4. A current trout/salmon permit is required.

Penalty for Violation as Provided by Law
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Lastly, all sportsmen's clubs should reach out to the landowners, inviting them to spend social time together to get to know one another. Adams County Trout Unlimited has been doing this for many years, and not surprisingly, has developed relationships with landowners built on understanding, trust, and friendship. Similarly, since 1991, McSherrystown Fish and Game has invited most private landowners along the county's trout streams to enjoy a pig roast, and at no cost to them!

So, preserving public access to private lands requires some effort from anglers and sportsmen's clubs. However, considering that fishing on private property which landowners have opened to the public is a privilege, the effort is well worth it.

If nothing else, though, just being respectful and considerate will go a long way towards keeping properties open for public fishing.

One other important bit of information in closing is that private landowners who open their lands and waterways for public recreation receive liability protection under the Recreation Use of Land and Water Act. Dave A. Swope

Americans Continue to Find Their "Best Selves" in Recreational Fishing

Following a record increase in participation in 2020, Americans continue to find enjoyment, companionship, and peace of mind on the water, according to data from the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) 2023 Special Report on Fishing. In 2022, 54.5 million (M) Americans ages six and over went fishing, an increase of 4% over 2021 and just under 2020's high of 54.7M.



In a sometimes challenging world, especially for youth and adolescents, fishing and boating provide an excellent opportunity for connection. Last year, only 19% of anglers typically fished alone, with eight in ten participants choosing to fish in groups of two to five.

Fishing participants ranked spending time in nature, escaping everyday stresses, and spending time with family or friends among the top benefits. In addition to these results, the report provides a look at the state of fishing participation in the U.S., showing:

- ✓ 19.8M women went fishing in 2022, a 40% increase over the past decade.
- ✓ 4.1M Americans tried fishing for the first time in 2022, up from 3.7M new participants the prior year.
- ✓ Participation among children ages 6 to 12 grew by 3% to 7.8M, over one million higher than a decade ago.
- ✓ Between 2019 and 2022, the average participation among children ages 13 to 17 grew by 6% annually.
- ✓ 5.1M Hispanic people fished in 2022, an all-time high.

"Even after many have regained a sense of normalcy and returned to old routines, people are still choosing to fish and boat," said RBFF President and CEO Dave Chanda. "With a renewed focus on wellness, fishing and boating offer an accessible outlet for those looking to unplug, escape the stresses of everyday life, and spend more time with friends and family."

Some 86% of current fishing participants started fishing before age 12, and 23% of those considering but not yet participating in fishing were under the age of 18, which underscores the importance of introducing fishing at a young age.

“Fishing is a great way for children to spend time outdoors, and we consistently see greater participation in fishing among families with children in the household vs. those without,” said Stephanie Vatalaro, Senior Vice President at RBFF. “Given all the health benefits it can provide, we hope to see more parents spending time with their kids on the water and introducing them to fishing and boating, which can be a positive, lifelong hobby.”

The Special Report on Fishing, an annual report in its 13th year, provides an overview of fishing participation in the U.S., including participation numbers among key groups, barriers to entry, reasons for participation, and more. RBFF created the report in partnership with the Outdoor Foundation. The full report and an accompanying infographic are available at TakeMeFishing.Org/SpecialReport.

Remaining 2024 Calendar

Event	Date(s)	Location
Annual ACTU Member Appreciation Picnic	September 18, 5:00 pm	ACCD Office
Stocking – Conewago CROFFO	October 2, 11:00	Russel Tavern Road Bridge
My 2024 Fishing Ventures (member discussion) and Board Meeting	October 16, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Program OPEN and Board Meeting	November 20, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Board Meeting	December 18, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office

Next Gathering: Wednesday, September 18th @ 6:30 pm at the Adams County Conservation District (ACCD) Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. The September meeting will focus on the business of the chapter.

New Members

✓ Colin Bennett

✓ Tim Smith

Your Chapter Leaders

✓ Frank Kozak, President

✓ Lesa Bird, Director

✓ David Kamsler, Director

✓ Jerry Gladfelter,
Secretary

✓ Buzz Dettinburn,
Director

✓ Dave Swope, Director

✓ Bob Miller, Treasurer

✓ Rick Franzese, Director

Contact Frank Kozak if you have any questions about the chapter or its activities, at fmkozak@gmail.com.

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 at fmkozak@gmail.com.

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