



## Adams County Trout Unlimited - March 2024 Newsletter

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If people really concentrated on the important things in life, fishing rods would be in short supply.

### President's Message

Greetings,

As a new fishing season approaches, I first would like to take a moment to look back at 2023, as it was a year of many achievements for ACTU:

- A 900-yard educational nature trail was created by chapter volunteers at the Zeigler Mill Road Access Site (420 Zeigler Mill Road).
- Multi-flora rose, an invasive species, was eradicated on five acres of land encompassing the nature trail.
- A 60-foot long muddill was installed on the Conewago Creek CROFFO section, just above Route 34.
- Some 350 trees and shrubs were planted at the Zeigler Mill Road Access site to expand the riparian buffer zone near the creek.
- The chapter again led the stocking of thousands of trout in the county waters.
- The Latimore Youth Fishing Derby had 70 young anglers hard at it.
- Trout in the Classroom got back on track after the Covid shutdown, with six classrooms participating.
- Demonstrating fly casting to New Oxford Middle School students was a blast (for many, this was the only time in their life that they would be touching a fly rod, but they were game to try it).
- We were a first-time participant in the Adams County Community Foundation's Giving Spree, where the community comes together to support its local nonprofits. ACTU raised over \$6400 via the Spree!

Looking ahead:

Stocking is underway. Approximately 69,000 trout are to be stocked in Adams County creeks this year!

The habitat devices in the upper section of Conewago Creek CROFFO are to be completely redone this summer by the PFBC Habitat Division, under a \$65,000 grant. The Adams County Conservation District office will coordinate this project, with ACTU providing labor during the stream work.

The chapter will continue with its many youth programs that were mentioned above.

Maintenance of the Zeigler Mill Road Access site will be ongoing and will include planting some 200 trees and shrubs along the nature trail.

Many thanks go out to all the chapter's volunteers who spend countless hours working to make these projects successful and to continue to move the chapter forward.

Lastly, it seems that the older I get, the faster the years fly by. Hence, the words on my email signature block, "So many rivers, so little time." So, on the water is where I want to be. And that is where I will be – on the Conewago Creek, Muddy Creek, Yellow Breeches, Little Juniata, and so on. Hope to see you on the water one of these days. Have an enjoyable and fruitful 2024 fishing season! Frank Kozak, President

## March Program

"Fishing the Yellow Breeches Year-Round, speaker Neil Sunday. Neil is a guide with Relentless Fly Fishing.

**Next Gathering:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

**Location:** Adams County Conservation District Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.



## Yellow Breeches Anglers and Conservation Association Fishing and Outdoor Show

Date – March 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location – St. Patrick's Activity Center, 87 Marsh Drive, Carlisle

The show will include fly casting demonstrations by Bob Clouser, many seminars, and gear sales. Admission is \$5 for adults; 12 and under are free.

## New On-line Stream-Level Forecasting Tool

Have you struggled with guessing when water levels in streams will return to fishable levels after a big rain or snow melt event? Well, check the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) tool. It is a stream-level forecasting tool for select stream gauges across the country that takes the guesswork out of answering that question. You may find this helpful when planning your fishing forays. A map of all the sites which NWS provides a forecast is at: <https://water.weather.gov/ahps/forecasts.php>. Checking their site, I see that Yellow Breeches Creek is one of them. To access the complementary NWS site page for the Breeches, go to: <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=cphp1&wfo=ctp>

## 2024 Calendar

Stocking dates are in bold font. Volunteer opportunities are highlighted in darker brown. Monthly speaker programs are in italics font.

Event	Date(s)	Location
<i>Program "Taxidermy - Preserving And Preparing Your Trophy Catch" and Board Meeting</i>	February 21, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Heidlersburg Sportsman Outdoor Show	February 24 and 25, 8:00 to 4:00	Heidlersburg Fire Department Hall
<b>Stocking</b> – Conewago Creek CROFFO	February 24, 10:30 am	Adams Co. National Bank-Arendtsville
<b>Stocking</b> – Marsh and Opossum Creeks	March 8, 10:30	Cashtown Community Center
<b>Stocking</b> – Bermudian and Latimore Creeks	March 18, 10:00	York Springs Fire Company Community Center
<i>Program "Fishing the Yellow Breeches Year-Round" and Board Meeting</i>	March 20, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
<b>Stocking</b> – Little Marsh, Toms, and Middle Creeks and Orrtanna Pond	March 27, 10:30	Cashtown Community Center
Mentored Youth Trout Day	March 30	Various streams across Adams County
<b>Stocking</b> - Adams County Trophy Trout	April 5	Mummasburg Athletic Association, 2501 Mummasburg Rd.
<b>Stocking</b> – Bermudian, Latimore, and Toms Creeks	April 9, 10:00	Fairfield Post Office - SR 116
Trout In the Classroom Fingerling Release Day	April 10	Strawberry Hill, 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield
Program –Board Meeting	April 17, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
<b>Stocking</b> - Conewago CROFFO	April 19, 10:00	Adams Co. National Bank-Arendtsville
<b>Stocking</b> – Marsh, Little Marsh, Middle, and Opossum Creeks	April 26, 10:30	Cashtown Community Center
Latimore Youth Fishing Derby	May 11, 7:30 to 11:00 pm	Latimore Valley Fairgrounds
Gettysburg Area Middle School Fishing Day	May 16	Local Pond
<i>WCO Rachel Thurner-Diaz and Board Meeting</i>	May 15, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
New Oxford Middle School Environmental Day	May 20, 9:00 to ??	New Oxford Middle School
Southcentral Outdoors for Youth	June 1	McSherrystown Fish and Game Club
<i>Program "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth" and Board Meeting</i>	June 19, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Board Meeting	July 17, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Board Meeting	August 21, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Annual ACTU Member Appreciation Picnic	September 18, 5:00 pm	ACCD Office
<b>Stocking</b> – Conewago CROFFO	October 2, 11:00	Russel Tavern Road Bridge
<i>Program "My 2024 Fishing Ventures" (member discussion) and Board Meeting</i>	October 16, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Program OPEN and Board Meeting	November 20, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Board Meeting	December	ACCD Office

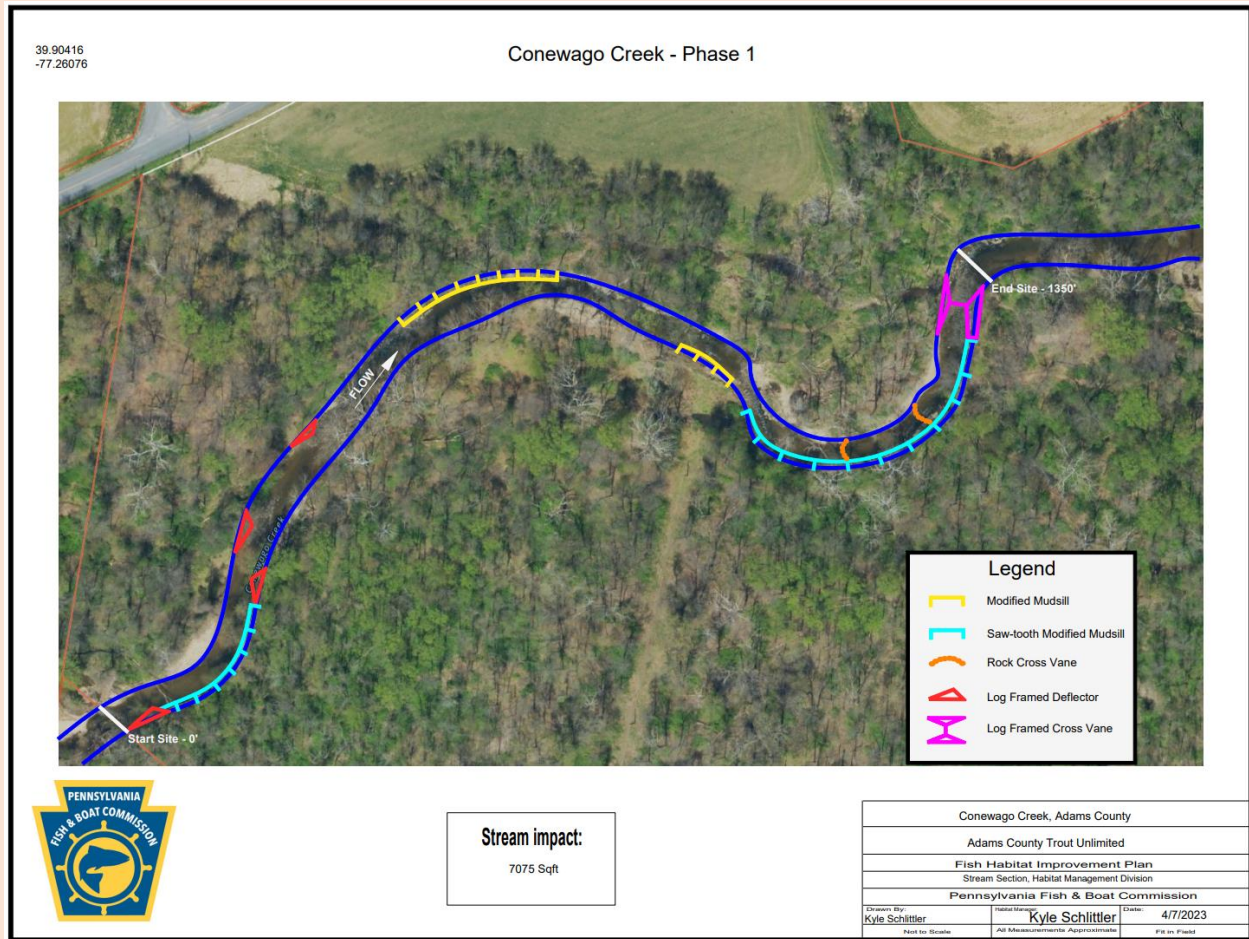
# Conewago Creek Habitat Restoration Project

This year, the chapter will take on the most significant stream restoration project in its history along the upper CROFFO section of Conewago Creek at the Zeigler’s Mill Road Access Site.

The design of the habitat structures has been prepared by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Habitat Division. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is in the process of preparing the permit application. The two-week construction period is scheduled to take place this summer. ACTU will be tasked with directing the storage of construction materials at the site and supplying volunteer labor during the construction, with support from members of the Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited chapter (NVTU). Our chapter and NVTU are to provide four members each day of the construction to assist with installing the habitat structures.

This restoration project was made possible with a \$65,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Many thanks are due to Ricky Whitmore of the Adams County Conservation District who prepared the grant application and will manage the accounting of the project.

Look for more information on the project as the date of the construction phase approaches.



## PA Fish and Boat Virtual Class Opportunities

Listed below are virtual classes offered during the next few months that will provide opportunities to improve your fishing skills and learn more about fishing in Pennsylvania.

[Introduction to Fly Tying](#): Four-part virtual program covering aquatic macroinvertebrates and the flies that imitate them, basic fly tying equipment and materials, and fly tying. No equipment is needed to participate. Registration open. Meeting dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

[Mentored Youth Trout Tune-Up](#): This virtual program will help anglers of all ages prepare for Mentored Youth Trout Day on March 30, 2024. Trout identification, regulations, equipment, skills, fishing techniques, and resources to find a spot to fish for trout will be covered. Registration open. March 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

[Virtual - Introduction to Crappie Fishing](#): This virtual class "All about Crappies in PA" covers fishing gear, fishing for crappies, and next level crappie fishing. Registration open. March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

[Virtual Intro to Bass Fishing](#): Join PFBC staff and Fishing Skills Instructors (FSIs) for this virtual program, designed to introduce you to the basics of bass fishing. Registration open. March 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

[Virtual Women's Intro to Fly Fishing](#). This virtual program introduces women to the basics of fly fishing. Topics covered include fly fishing gear, knots to know, aquatic insects and artificial flies comparison, casting, reading the water, and hooking, landing, and releasing fish. Registration open. April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

## Relationships With Private Landowners Is Key

Our chapter has a long and successful history with landowners allowing anglers to access private lands for fishing. With most of the stocked trout waters in the county on private land, this practice has benefited generations of anglers. We are truly fortunate to have access to so much property in many situations. Being respectful and considerate goes a long way in keeping properties open for public fishing.



However, as we all know, these lands can be posted at any time by landowners.

Landowners posting their land is the primary reason that trout waters are removed from active management programs (such as stocking) by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. It is understandable that landowners are prompted to post their land when anglers do not act respectfully. Landowners should not have to deal with poor behavior such as littering, trampling farm fields, and blocking driveways and access roads on their property.

Fortunately, preserving public access to private lands is a simple matter, but one that requires us to police ourselves. Anglers must recognize that the land they are treading on is private property and so act like guests. Additionally, annual stream cleanups help to maintain good landowner relations.

Since 1991, when the trout stamp was introduced in Pennsylvania, most private landowners along the county's trout streams received a free invitation to attend a pig roast at the McSherrystown Fish and Game

Please respect landowners who have opened their property to fishing. Fishing on private property is a privilege that is earned. Disrespect, littering, loud and/or foul language can easily change the landowner's mind. One bad apple can ruin it for many. Don't be a bad apple.



## Streamer Presentation: Ways to Work the Bottom

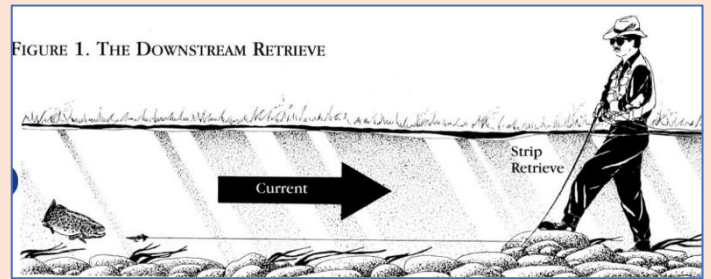
A good streamer with lots of built-in life takes even the novice angler a giant step toward hooking fish. The following techniques are described in a pure form, but these techniques are usually used in combination.

1. Drag-free Drift. As the name implies, this is a presentation in which you avoid adding action to the fly but do everything you can to prevent drag from disrupting a dead-drift. Except for exceptionally fast and deep water, a floating line with an eight- to ten-foot leader works well. Floating line is easy to control, and the monofilament leader isn't nearly as vulnerable to drag as are weighted lines.

To get a drag-free drift, position yourself directly across stream from the target. Cast well upstream to allow the streamer to sink to the desired level. Keep as much line off the water as possible by raising the rod tip and stripping in line as the streamer drifts toward you. If needed, mend the line that remains on the water to avoid drag. As the fly passes you and drifts downstream, lower the rod tip and feed line to the drift. Make several passes through the line with an unweighted streamer, then add enough split-shot to get the fly to scrape bottom.

This technique is particularly effective where a riffle drops into a pool or at the discharge of a spillway or penstock. My guess is that fish associate the drifting streamer with a life form that was stunned or killed by the turbulent waters.

2. The Downstream Retrieve. This is a killer technique that effectively mimics the true behavior of a wounded or fleeing baitfish (see Figure 1). Simply cast upstream and strip the streamer back to you. Set up your rod with a sinking shooting-taper, then take it and a handful of streamers to a place where the water is deep, dark, slow, and cold lunger country. Wade into the river as deep as you dare, launch the fly upstream, then bury the rod in the water so that the rod tip is just off the river bottom. Strip the fly toward you; the only place it can swim is directly along the river bottom. Simply deadly. Have fun trying to lift the rod out of the water with a large trout tugging your line.



3. Klamath Swing. This technique is the easiest to perfect but has never produced like the drag-free drift or the downstream retrieve. The Klamath Swing can be accomplished with either a floating or sinking line. Because the strikes are on a taut line, a heavy tippet is a must.

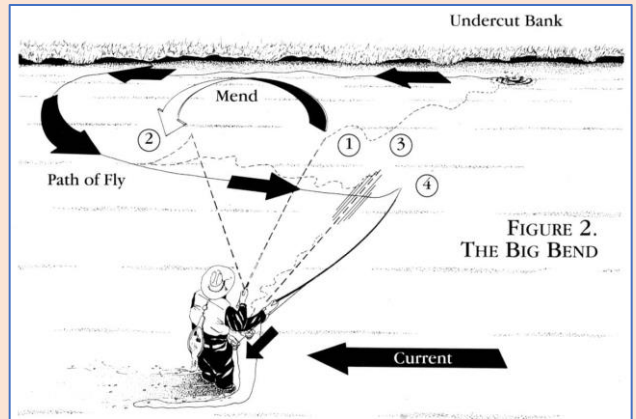
Cast quartering down and across-stream; the more you cast directly across the stream (rather than down), the deeper the streamer will drift. A reach cast is great in this situation, but a quick mend toward the far shore should give the streamer a chance to sink a bit before it begins to swing.

As the current picks up your fly line, the streamer will ferry across-stream and end up directly downstream of the rod tip. Strikes usually occur at the start of the swing or just at the end as the fly begins to slow. Allow the fly to hang in the current for a few seconds and strike on even the most subtle bump. At this point you may wish to sling the fly into another drift by using a water haul, or you might want to swim the streamer for a while.

As you play with the streamer, keep in mind that any fly will always come to rest directly below the rod tip. By simply switching an extended rod from one hand to the other, you can easily swim the streamer back and across 20 feet of river. By mending toward stronger current, you can speed up the streamer; mending into the

slower current causes the fly to slow down and sink deeper. Make your streamer come alive by altering the speed of its "swim," by twitching the streamer a few feet upstream then letting it drift back down, or by pulsing the fly by bobbing the rod tip.

4. The Big Bend. It's the finest method I know of for fishing an undercut bank (see Figure 2). Position yourself so that you're facing the undercut bank, beaver lodge, or overhanging alders. Then:



- i. Cast the streamer far upstream so that it lands as close to the bank as possible.
- ii. Mend the line so that it lays parallel with and as close to the bank as possible.
- iii. Point the rod tip back upstream toward the fly (feed slack line through the guides so that the pointing motion doesn't ruin your nice mend).
- iv. With the rod tip at water level, strip like crazy. The fly will dart downstream, right along the undercut, just begging to be slammed by any trout lurking in the cover.

*Adapted from an article by Ralph Cutter in Fly Fisherman, September 2022*

## Membership

New Members:

- |                          |                 |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ✓ Charles "Skip" Hockley | ✓ Ryan Callahan | ✓ Mason Jeffcoat |
| ✓ Raymond Mummert        | ✓ Allen Bunn    | ✓ Brian Jeffcoat |

Thank You! The ACTU Directors would like to thank Tom Ritter for his generous donations of fishing gear to the chapter. The sale of the gear at the Heidlersburg Fishing Show proved to be a successful fundraising effort. Many thanks are due to Tom!

## Your Chapter Leaders

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Frank Kozak, President      | ✓ Buzz Dettinburn, Director |
| ✓ Jerry Gladfelter, Secretary | ✓ Rick Franzese, Director   |
| ✓ Dave Swope, Treasurer       | ✓ David Keller, Director    |
| ✓ Lesa Bird, Director         | ✓ Bob Miller, Director      |

Contact Frank Kozak if you have any questions about the chapter or its activities, at [fmkozak@gmail.com](mailto:fmkozak@gmail.com).

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*Adams Angler 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](mailto:fmkozak@gmail.com).*

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

