



The TRAILS



Forbes Trail Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter Fall 2011
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President's Message

Now, as it was in Teddy Roosevelt's time, conservation can mistakenly seem at odds with jobs, economic growth and landowner freedoms. Forbes Trail Chapter practices TU's brand of coldwater conservation. We don't lobby, we don't sue and we don't play partisan politics. Our projects and education programs convincingly show how preserving trout streams and our heritage of trout angling can have positive economic benefits. They increase tourism, employment and property values in Westmoreland County, and prepare our youth to be its future stewards.

In 2012 we will complete a major new trout habitat restoration project that advances our Mill Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan. We will design a Trout Trail to encourage fly fishing tourism along Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. We will introduce new groups, college-age young people and women to TU. We will continue our award-winning First Cast Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing course and our Trout in the Classroom programs. We will again sponsor TU's Coldwater Conservation Corps training of volunteer stream stewards to monitor trout streams near Marcellus Shale drilling sites. And, we will fish, fish, fish and help our members become better trout fishermen.

We now have more than 400 members! Don't miss out on the enjoyment and personal rewards of participation in our meetings and events.

Please consider supporting the chapter with a year-end financial contribution. We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donations are fully tax deductible.

See you at a meeting!
MM

Autumn - The Season for Spawning Trout and T.I.C.

When temperatures drop and daylight hours grow shorter, trout instinctively know that spawning time has arrived. The underside of the male brook trout turns a brilliant orange and the females seek out an area of the stream suitable for spawning. A gravel bottom and a good oxygenated flow are what's necessary for the proper incubation of trout eggs. The female will scoop out a shallow nest in the gravel called a "redd", after the eggs are deposited and fertilized, she will cover the nest with gravel. The eggs hatch in late winter or early spring. Brook trout spawn any time from late September to early December.

At the Benner Springs hatchery near State College, eggs were collected from female brook trout on September 28, fertilized, disinfected and placed in incubation trays. When the eggs reach "eyed egg stage" after about 30 days, they are ready for the Trout in the Classroom aquariums. The eggs were over-night shipped to schools on November 1st.

There will again be four T.I.C. aquariums operating in our area. Three in the Latrobe School District and one at Ligonier Middle School. Students will raise the trout to fingerling size and release them into Linn Run in May.



Eggs are stripped from a female brook trout at the Benner Springs hatchery. They are then fertilized and transferred to a incubation tray.



The eggs are left to develop in the trays until they reach the "eyed" stage.



Brook trout preparing to spawn in the wild. The female is usually the larger. Two or more males may compete to fertilize the eggs.

FTTU Receives State Award

Our chapter was honored with the Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach at the Fall PA Council Meetings. FTTU's youth efforts include our First Cast Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Program and four Trout in the Classroom projects helping 500 area 7th graders raise trout from eggs and release them in the wild.

Our chapter owes a special thanks to Drew Banas for his continued work with the youth group and thanks to all who helped with T.I.C., Idlewild Day and Sportsman's Saturday and the Y course. Thanks also to the Loyalhanna Watershed Association; Susan, Cathy and Josh.

Sign-up for the 2012 Youth Group!

Girls & Boys Age 12-16

Meetings Begin in January

Contact Drew Banas: 724-238-3290

We had a great time in the FTTU Youth Group!



Fly Tying

Stream Ecology

Fly Casting

Fishing Outings

Trout Behavior

Steelhead Trip

Major Habitat Project Completed on Fourmile Run

"We want to create a fisherman's paradise for kids" said Hank Balles, FTTU director and resident of the Fourmile Run area. Hank helped organize landowners, find funding and acquire permits for a stream habitat project completed this past summer that covered nearly 1000' of Fourmile Run. The project was done with assistance from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission and with funding from a \$23,000 grant from the Pennsylvania DEP and a \$2,000 contribution from Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited. Bank cover cribs, deflectors, log vanes, in-stream boulders and root wads were installed to stabilize banks and to create holding lies for trout. There was also a gravel parking area for anglers built near the stream. The project area is located near the Bethel Church Road bridge.



Before: An eroded bank along a section with a nice pool. Tree roots are exposed, the bank is undercut and will collapse into the stream. If nothing is done, the mature trees will eventually be lost, and the stream will become wide and shallow.



After: the same bank with boulders, log cribbing and root wads installed.



Constructing log vanes that will create a deep run



Positioning bank cribbing logs



A completed deflector

Officers For 2011-2013 Elected

Officers for the coming term were elected at the October meeting. Monty Murty is back by popular demand as President, Scott Minster moves from Secretary to Vice President, and Lyle Farr will serve as Secretary/Treasurer. We owe Don Kowatch a big thank you by going beyond the call of duty and serving three - two year terms as Vice President. Don will stay active as a member of the Board of Directors.

We need more active members! Despite a significant increase in membership, we did not have enough candidates to fill 4 officer positions. Consider becoming active with FTTU, come to a meeting, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities.

FTTU Fall Schedule

- November 16** Monthly Meeting - Steelhead Fishing
- November 19** Youth Group Steelhead Trip to Elk Creek
- December** Sign-ups Open for the 2012 Youth Group get an application at www.forbestrailtu.org
- December 21** Monthly Meeting - T.I.C.
- January 2012** Tickets Go On Sale for the 2012 Banquet

All meetings begin at 7:00 at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center. See the back page of The Trails for directions.

Check www.forbestrailtu.org for updates

A Look Back...



Here's a look at a 1970's era spring clean-up on Loyalhanna Creek at the Sleepy Hollow Causeway.

In Memory of Jim Hall

We were saddened to learn that our friend, Jim Hall passed away on October 18. Jim was a ski and fly fishing instructor and worked at Ligonier Outfitters. Jim always had a smile and friendly greeting when I would come into the store. He was patient and helpful and many have commented on what a nice guy he was. Jim was a familiar face at our banquets and a long time FTTU member. We will miss him.

- editor

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

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More From Fourmile Run



Construction of bank cribbing



Pinning down log vanes



Upstream view of finished log vanes



Another view of bank cribbing construction

Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited

Officers

PresidentMonty Murty
(724) 238-7860

Vice PresidentScott Minster
(724) 539-0422

Secretary/Treasurer Lyle Farr
(724) 837-1741

Directors

Drew Banas	Ralph Koscianski	Bob Shusko
Tom Evans	Chuck Kuchta	Hank Balles
Mike Johnson	Lou Izzo	Don Kowatch

Meeting Notice

November 16, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.
December 21, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.
January 18, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center at Saint Vincent College.

