



The TRAILS



Forbes Trail Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter Spring 2011

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www.forbestrailtu.org

President's Message

Thanks and A Promise

Thanks to all who attended our 38th annual Conservation Banquet, and all who donated raffle prizes, sent in cash donations, and staffed the event. It was another sold-out success allowing the chapter to continue trout stream restoration projects, keep our Youth Group and Trout in the Classroom projects going for another year, repeat the Women's Fly Fishing course and start new programs like Marcellus Shale monitoring and Fish With A Member. Once again as a thank-you we're stocking a significant number of trophy-size trout in the chapter's Loyalhanna project area. Watch for dates on our website.

Again this year we've had outstanding trout-oriented programs every meeting while keeping the business sessions to a minimum. And, we've enjoyed burgers and brew together afterwards. We discovered Duquesne is available again, and it's brewed in Latrobe, who knew? So by coming to a meeting you'll be helping the local economy!

We promise, if you come to a meeting we won't ask you to volunteer for anything. We also promise you will learn lots more about trout fishing than you can get from The Outdoor Channel, a DVD or your fishing buddy. For example, if you came to our fly tying meeting you learned to tie the new weighted Czech and woven Polish nymphs. If you came to our bamboo rod meeting you learned how bamboo rods are really made, and that our chapter has several first-class cane rod makers! If you came to the Youth Group fly casting meeting you got a free lesson from a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor worth hundreds of dollars.

We look forward to seeing more of you at our upcoming on-the-stream meetings. Check out our Website forbestrailtu.org for the places and dates.

Let's go trout fishing! *MM*

FTTU 38th Annual Banquet 3.5.11

Our chapter's annual banquet and raffle was held last month with a packed house at the Latrobe American Legion. Over 220 attended giving us our most profitable event in years. More than 100 prizes were raffled off including a Sage TCX rod and reel outfit and an Orvis Helios rod and reel combo each worth nearly \$1,000 retail! Lucky prize winners walked away with framed art prints by Ned Smith, Joe Mattock, Susan Yoder and more. We also had a replica H.L. Leonard bamboo fly rod, an Orvis steelhead rod and many more great prizes.

Without many hours of volunteer service, our chapter could not function, so at each banquet we take time to honor those who have given of their time and efforts. This year Russ Mason was

honored with the Lifetime Conservation Award, one given only once a decade or so. Russ has been a TU member for 42 years and an active member of FTTU since almost the chapter's beginning. Monty Murty was given the Russ Mowry Silver Trout Award for his outstanding service to FTTU. As President, Monty puts in countless hours attending meetings and planning chapter activities.

Thanks to all those who attended the banquet and/or helped out by donating prizes, we will now have the means to fund all of our projects and programs for 2011-12. For a full list of donors, see the Banquet Page at www.forbestrailtu.org.



FTTU President Monty Murty presents Russ Mason with the Lifetime Conservation Award.



Monty Murty receives the Russ Mowry Silver Trout Award from Director Chuck Kuchta.

Meeting Topics and Events

Planning for FTTU's Coldwater Conservation Corps stream water quality testing program will be the topic for our April meeting. Attendees will have the opportunity to view maps of Loyalhanna Creek tributaries using a computerized Geographic Information System (GIS) and to participate in prioritizing sites for FTTU's CCC program. Member input is valued and welcome. The meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center.

The May meeting will be held outdoors at the DHALO section of Loyalhanna Creek. Bring your fishing stuff and meet us at the swinging bridge at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18th. Come early and stay late.

On June 15th we will have a picnic meeting at the Adam's Falls pavilion at Linn Run State Park. Enjoy a picnic lunch and some small stream fishing with the FTTU gang. The meeting will be at the pavilion at 6 pm.

2011 FTTU Spring Schedule

- April 20 Monthly Meeting - CCC planning - 7:00 p.m. Palmer Nature Center
- April 21 Youth Group fish hatchery tour - LWA office 6:00 p.m.
- May 12 Youth Group macro collection and analysis LWA office 6 p.m.
- May 18 Monthly Meeting - Loyalhanna Creek DHALO area 6:00 p.m.
- June 15 Monthly meeting - Adam's Fall picnic area, Linn Run State Park - 6:00 p.m.

Check For Updates www.forbestrailtu.org

FWAM? What's That?

Ever wanted to fish a stream but didn't know how?

Fish With A Member.

Now that spring is here we'll be starting our new Fish With A Member program to get more of us on local trout streams we want to fish but don't know how. FWAM will give you information about how to get there, where to park, how to fish the stream, and what flies to use. We want these trips to be informal and easy to join. For example, if someone is planning a day-trip to Stony Creek they could alert members, pick a place to meet, answer questions about what to bring, and give an informal advice session at the stream. Convoys, lunches, and after fishing happy hours could add to the event. We still have to work out the process for alerting members to trips, lining up volunteer "guides" and loaning equipment for the day if necessary. Let us know your ideas, and if you'd be willing to lead an informal trip.



Jinnie Woodward of ALARM instructs members of the Penn's Woods West chapter on the proper use of the LaMotte tester.

CCC Training

A packed house was on hand to undergo training for TU's Coldwater Conservation Corps on January 15 at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center in Latrobe. The day long training session was conducted by Dave Sewak, TU's Marcellus Shale Field Organizer in Pennsylvania and Julie Vastine and Jinnie Woodward of the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring of Dickinson College. The training included an overview of the drilling and fracing process, resources for locating well sites and permits, a strategy for choosing testing sites, and hands-on practice in using the testing equipment. Volunteers will visually assess testing sites for sediment, turbidity, oily water surface or bubbling gas. The testing equipment will detect elevations of total dissolved solids and conductivity, the telltale signature of frac waste water contamination. Once sites are selected, we will establish base-line data with initial testing. At FTTU's April meeting we will be discussing a way forward with our testing program. The meeting will be on the 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center in Latrobe.

Youth Group

The 2011 FTTU Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing First Cast Program is well under way. This year 13 boys and 1 girl are enrolled in the program. So far, the kids have tied flies including the Green Weenie, Wooley Bugger, Pheasant Tail and Hare's Ear Nymphs and a caddis larva pattern. They've learned about trout behavior, knot tying, rods and tackle and had a introductory fly casting lesson. Coming up are the on-stream fly casting outing, the macroinvertebrate collection and analysis kick net survey on Loyalhanna Creek and the big fishing outing in May.

See photos on the last page.

Stream Improvement

Rock Run Limestone

Ralph Koscianski reports that he expects a shipment of 25 tons of limestone sand to be delivered to the Rock Run headwaters in late April. We are planning to do a macro survey there this spring. Volunteers needed!

Mill Creek Restoration Grant Announced

The chapter is proud to announce it has been awarded a grant to begin restoring the trout habitat and stabilize stream banks on lower Mill Creek in Ligonier. This long-overdue stream work will not only help trout fishing but contribute to prevention of flooding in Ligonier Borough, and protect the new Ligonier hiking and biking trail bridge.

This grant is the first of its kind to be given by the Coldwater Heritage Partnership to implement the priority projects identified in our Mill Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan developed under the leadership of our past President and Director Ken Vallino. Trout anglers, visitors to the Laurel Highlands, and residents of Ligonier Valley residents owe a great deal thanks to Ken and all the chapter members who developed that plan.

On a more serious note our VP Don Kowatch got this reaction from his cousin Jim Kurtz, "My brother drowned in Mill Creek in 1941. An unstable bank collapsed when he and a friend (against parental warnings) snuck off to scout promising trout hot spots. He was 5 years old. Trout fever runs in our veins. Let's get those banks stabilized."

A Look Back...



Forbes Trail members get ready to float stock Loyalhanna Creek in this 1970's era photo

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

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Youth Group Fly Casting Outing

April 7, 2011

We finally had a day with decent weather to get the kids out on Loyalhanna Creek for their on-stream fly casting lesson. Casting instructor Leo Vensel instructed the kids on the basic fly cast, tension cast and the roll cast. He also went over mending techniques.

UPPPER LEFT: Drew Banas talks about water temperature and trout behavior.

LOWER LEFT: Leo demonstrates mending.

BELOW: Leo shows how it's done. Yes, the kids got to get in the water and do some casting and fishing too!



Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited

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Meeting Notices

FTTU's April meeting will be on the 20th and will involve planning Our CCC testing program - 7:00 pm. May's meeting will be at the swinging bridge on the Loyalhanna Creek DHALO section at 6:00 p.m. on May 18. The June meeting will be at the Adam's Falls picnic area in Linn Run State Park at 6:00 p.m. on June 15. See www.forbestrailtu.org for updates and details.

