



The TRAILS



Forbes Trail Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Summer 2011

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President's Message

Don't forget to attend our annual business meeting Wednesday, September 21st at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve and let the chapter know what events and activities you'd like it to be doing next year. By the way, TU's business year runs from October through September. We've set a challenging goal for the coming year; interesting every member in attending at least one meeting, event or fishing trip.

Speaking of fishing, remember, trout season is never over! If you haven't tried steelhead fishing you don't know what you're missing. Come on out to our Youth Group steelhead training session this fall, learn along with our kids, and then join us for a weekend of steelheading on Elk Creek. We cover steelhead fly tying, go-to fly patterns, rigging up and casting techniques. Our information comes from the best steelhead fly shops and professional guides. And it's free to chapter members for just showing up!

Speaking of kids, again this school year our Trout in the Classroom programs will be helping seventh graders in Latrobe and Ligonier raise trout from eggs and release them into the wild. TIC is TU's award winning environmental education program. You don't need to be an expert to help teachers set up and maintain the aquariums, or help kids release their trout on field trips. And, TIC is tremendous education to our volunteers! I can honestly say if you want to become a better trout fisherman, volunteer.

This year I've been invited to represent PA's chapter presidents at TU's annual meeting September 14-18 in Bend, Oregon. I'll give you the inside scoop on the 21st.

Thanks for all you do for TU,
MM

Fall Meeting Schedule

FTTU's monthly meeting schedule will resume on Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center. At this meeting we will have nominations for officers for the next term and Monty will fill us in on what went on at the national TU meetings. **If you would like to serve the chapter as an officer, come to this meeting.**

The October meeting will be on the 19th. All directors are encouraged to attend this meeting since we will be electing officers.

The November meeting will be on the 16th with a program to be determined.

Do you have any ideas for speakers or activities you would like to see at an FTTU meeting? Let us know! Contact any officer listed here in *The Trails*.

Other Important Dates

- September 30 - PATU Fall meetings
Stackhouse Center, Bellefonte, PA
- November 3 - Youth Group Steelhead fly tying class
6-8 p.m. LWA Office, Ligonier
- November 19 - Youth Group Erie Steelhead Trip
(Tentative)

FTTU Awarded Grants

Our chapter has been awarded three grants in 2011. The largest of the three at \$6,000 comes from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership, a cooperative effort between Pa Trout Unlimited, the DCNR, the Pa Fish and Boat Commission and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. This grant is earmarked for a project to be done next summer on lower Mill Creek. We also received a grant for \$370 from the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited for our local Trout in the Classroom projects and Ralph Kocianski was awarded a \$250 "Hands for Service Volunteer Grant" from Prudential which was put toward the purchase of limestone sand for our Rock Run project.



Prudential



Thanks For Your Support!

Stream Improvement Update

Mill Creek

A window of opportunity opened up and then closed again for our habitat project planned for lower Mill Creek in Ligonier. The project was originally scheduled for 2012 but when an opening appeared in the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission Habitat team's schedule, it was moved up to August 2011. Ultimately the scheduling did not work out so the work has been put on hold until June of 2012. Considering the rain brought into the watershed by tropical storm Lee, it may be just as well that the work was not done this summer. The freshly constructed log and stone devices may have been damaged by high water.

The stream section involved contains a "W" shaped meander that collects a lot of brush and debris which acts like a dam in high water backing up stream flow over the banks and causing them to become soft and eroded. The project involves straightening

the stream channel and the construction of 8 devices including a mud sill crib, single and double log deflectors and boulder placement. The design was done by Mark Sausser of the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission Habitat Unit. It will tie in with the nearby Rails to Trails stream crossing project which will use old railroad bridge abutments.

Rock Run

25 tons of limestone sand purchased by the chapter was delivered this spring. The sand was moved into position along the stream bank in June by Linn Run Park Manager Doug Finger and the park crew along with FTTU volunteers Ralph Koscianski, Chuck Kuchta, Lyle Farr and Don Kowatch. Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel and young Hemlock trees were planted along Rock Run by FTTU members Ralph Koscianski, Don Kowatch, Lyle Farr and kids from Outside-In. Boy Scouts did the same along sections of Linn Run. The plants and trees were purchased by Linn Run State Park.

Chapter Activities

Youth Group and Ladies Groups

The youth and ladies groups wrapped up with a combined outing on May 21st at the Loyalhanna Creek Delayed Harvest Section in Ligonier. The kids fished from 8 to noon with the ladies fishing in the afternoon. Both groups were mentored by FTTU volunteers. Stream conditions were high and off color so the fishing was tough but some of the kids and ladies managed to hook a few trout. This was FTTU's seventh youth Group class and the first Ladies Group which is done through the Ligonier YMCA. The Youth Group will reconvene on November 3rd for a steelhead fly tying and education session and our annual Erie steelhead trip is tentatively set for November 19th.

Sportsmen's Day

Member Paul Volkmann has done an outstanding job creating an FTTU table display with colorful pictures, information and handouts promoting our chapter. We put it to good use at State Representative Mike Reese's second annual Sportsmen's Day on April 9 at the Foggy Mountain Lodge in Stahlstown. Monty Murty, Drew Banas and Scott Minster helped kids fly fishing outside, while Paul Volkmann manned the FTTU display inside.

Lunker Trout Stocking

On May 20, FTTU stocked between 40 and 50 lunker trout at various locations in the Delayed Harvest section of Loyalhanna Creek. The fish, all browns, ranged in size from 14 to 18 inches.

Ligonier Country Market

On June 18, FTTU was the featured special event at the Ligonier Country Market. Paul Volkmann set up his display and Monty Murty gave fly casting demonstrations.



↑ Kevin Figueuroa showed a lot of creativity in fly tying.



↑ Ladies Group member Terri Williams shows off one of the trout she caught just below the Route 711 bridge.
← FTTU Mentor Don Kowatch helps Dylan McKlveen tie on a new fly.



↑ Michaela Milko makes a cast while in the background, FTTU mentor Chuck Kuchta helps some of the boys rig up.



↑ Nathan Wissinger and his dad with the rainbow Nathan caught in the Greenrock Pool.

The Angler's Room

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Water Pollution Hot-Line

Who better to keep an eye on Pennsylvania's rivers, streams and lakes than we anglers, boaters and outdoors people who spend a lot of time on the water? The Pa Fish and Boat Commission has instituted a water pollution hot-line where citizens can report water pollution incidents. The number is 1-855-fish-kil or 1-855-347-4545 and answers Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you call after hours, you can leave a voice mail. For emergency incidents that pose an immediate threat to public safety or the environment, call the DEP at 1-800-541-2050.

1-855-FISH-KIL

A Look Back...



Past FTTU President Joe Trumbetta conducts a fly tying class in this late '70s photo by Russ Mason



↑ Youth Group macro collection on Loyalhanna Creek.

← Bob Shusko with one of the large browns stocked in Loyalhanna Creek.



↑ Trout stocking for the Youth Group/Ladies outing.



↑ Youth Group members study and sort macros using charts and microscopes.

Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited

Officers

President	Monty Murty (724) 238-7860
Vice President	Don Kowatch (724) 238-2169
Treasurer	Lyle Farr (724) 837-1741
Secretary	Scott Minster (724) 539-0422

Directors

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

Meeting Notices

September 21, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

October 19, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

November 16, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

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

