

The Flyline



A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

April 2019

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President's Message

by Randy Buchanan

April 6, 2019; I hoped you marked your calendar, as this is the date of the chapter banquet. This is our major fundraising event of the year. You can help make the banquet a success by attending. There is still time to purchase a ticket! The success of this fundraiser supports the many projects and events that your chapter undertakes each year and helps protect our cold water resources. To the banquet committee and everyone else who helped, I would like to say thank-you! Gary Cooper, our banquet committee chairman, starts to work early in the year to prepare for this night. But, the work does not stop there; thank-you letters are sent to the many sponsors and then the committee evaluates the outcome of the banquet to start building for the next one.

I hope that you will take home with you the banquet program as it includes the list of dates for upcoming work projects

and our Trout in the Classroom release days. The work projects, for the biggest part, in the early season, are mostly road and streamside litter clean-ups. Doing litter pick-ups is pretty much a thankless job, but, when you look behind, it looks nice. The TIC projects, on the other hand, may include a written thank-you from some of the schools, but they will most likely be in the form of a smile from the students that you helped. If the weather cooperates, we may get some in-stream habitat work done this year.

I hope that you can find some time to come out and help. It will make you feel good about a job well done.

Catch one!

Randy



Q: Why were the police called to the church fish fry?
A: Because the fish were battered!

There are many people who love the outdoors, and I am one of them. Here at MLTU we have worked hard to protect and improve the streams and waters in our area. We have partnered with many other conservation groups to achieve our goals. We have a lot of good members, and we remember fondly those who have passed. I am proud of what we have accomplished, but it may not be enough. There are forces out there that want to further pollute our vast natural resources, water included. These people serve only the almighty dollar. They support only big business and want to allow it to do what it pleases with our natural resources.

Now these same people want to strip away protections for wetlands and headwater streams. These protections were fought for by you and me. We cannot allow these actions to go unchallenged. Read the piece below and go to the TU website (tu.org) and put yourself on record as being opposed to these actions. We must fight to protect cold, clean water before we have none.

Clean Water Act Replacement Rule

The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are proposing to significantly narrow the scope of protections for our nation's waters. The proposal would replace a positive, TU-supported 2015 rule (the Clean Water Rule) designed to clarify the scope of Clean Water Act protections, which includes protections for headwaters, intermittent and ephemeral streams, and wetlands. The new proposal (Replacement Rule) would ***substantially weaken the Clean Water Act, one of the Nation's most effective natural resource laws.***

Opportunity for public comment is now open.

The comment period will close on Monday, April 15th at 11:59 PM Eastern.

The proposed Replacement Rule would end Clean Water Act protections for millions of stream miles across the country -- streams that contribute to the drinking water supplies of 117-million Americans and provide essential fish and wildlife habitat that support a robust outdoor recreation economy worth \$887 billion. The proposed rule would also erase protections for millions of acres of wetlands, a critical part of functioning watersheds, including groundwater recharge, pollution filtration, as well as protecting communities from flooding. In eliminating these protections, the Replacement Rule would deregulate a host of development activities, such as pipeline construction that will, over time, degrade hunting and fishing opportunities in every state in the country.

Stand up for Clean Water.

The Clean Water Act and the 2015 Rule are vital to TU's work and to anglers across the nation. Whether TU is working with farmers to restore small headwater streams in West Virginia, removing acidic pollution caused by abandoned mines in Pennsylvania, or protecting the world-famous salmon-producing, 14,000-jobs-sustaining watershed of Bristol Bay, Alaska, we rely on the Clean Water Act to safeguard our water quality.

TU members, and sportsmen and women nationwide, want to ***move forward with progress on cleaning up our nation's waters, not go backwards.*** Please join us in writing to tell the Agencies that the Clean Water Act needs to be improved, not weakened. ***The proposed Replacement Rule should be rejected.***

Source: <http://standup.tu.org/stand-up-for-clean-water/>



TU Members, Shane Rudnik (foreground) and Gary Cooper represented MLTU at NatureWorks. Photo by M. Reckner

Seven members of MLTU represented the chapter at “NatureWorks” at the Bottle Works in the Cambria City section of Johnstown. The event took place on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Many outdoor groups were in attendance, each one providing some aspect of the outdoors on a level children could understand and get involved in. You could hear turkey calls, hold a lizard or a snake, learn about gardening, and get seeds for common milkweed to plant for food for monarch butterflies, or ride in a canoe.

At the MLTU booth, you could learn about aquatic insects, see actual specimens live in little tanks, learn a bit about fly tying and tie a fly, and make a lure. We had brochures for the public, candy for the kids, and a lot of fun for all.

What a delight it is to see children of all ages touching, handling, and learning about aquatic creatures and water quality!

Each year the show delights hundreds of kids, not to mention moms and dads. If you have never been there, plan on coming next year. It doesn't matter if you are six or sixty, you will learn something. NatureWorks 2020 is slated for March 7.

Winter Fly Tying Classes

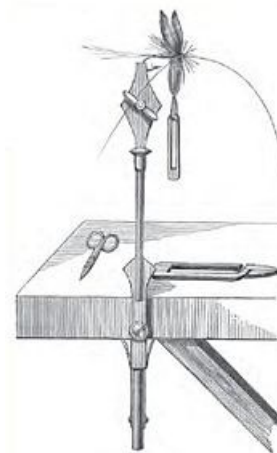
By Gary Cooper

MLTU volunteers completed two beginners fly tying courses recently. Approximately twenty students came on Saturday or Monday evenings to the Richland Municipal Building to learn to tie flies. Each course lasted five weeks. Courses were free to participants, and tools and materials were provided to the participants.

Andy Fresch, Dave Wright, Dave Maher, Bill Conlin, Shane Rudnik, Randy Hillegas, Rick Buchanan, Randy Buchanan, and Gary Cooper helped out with the teaching. Students learned the techniques necessary to tie wet flies, nymphs, dry flies, streamers and terrestrials. The emphasis was on

learning basic skills which can be applied to all flies. We do not worry about patterns. All of the teaching staff agreed that this year's classes went well. We enjoyed the classes, and the students did too.

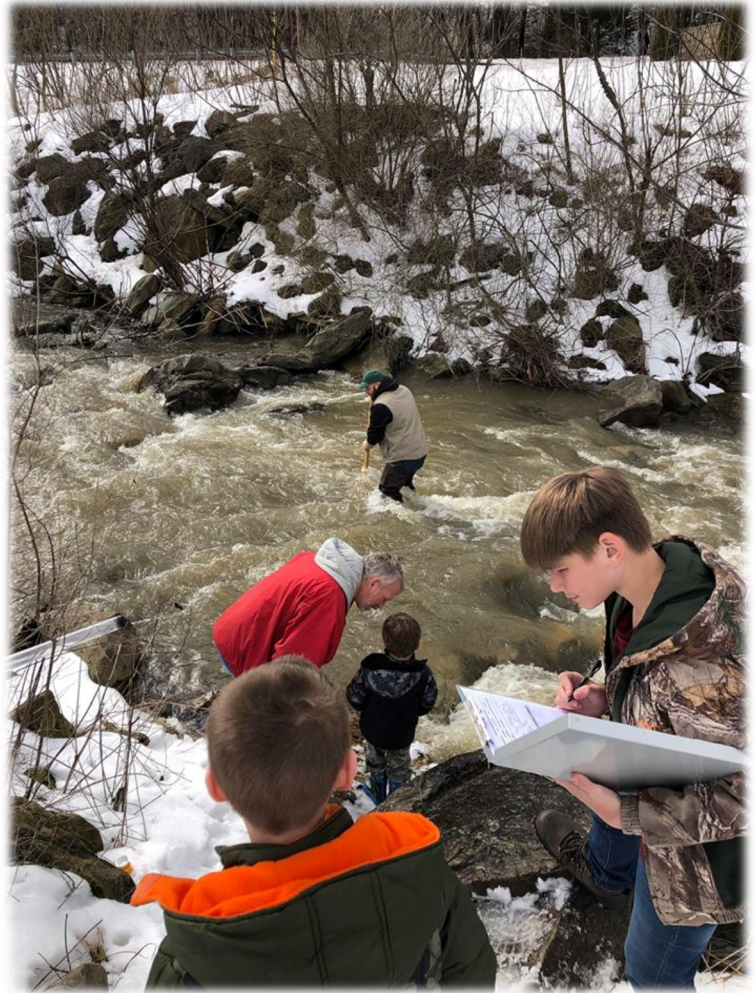
We are considering offering an intermediate class in the future. More on that later. Remember, when winter drags on, you can always tie flies.



TU's Coldwater Conservation Corps

At the February MLTU monthly meeting, I waited for my turn on the agenda to report on our "Stream Monitoring" program. As usual, I gave a brief update on the three sites that I recently began to monitor and I also relayed a message from George Mostoller; that he planned on trying to do his "bug counts" a little bit earlier this year in March and April. After my brief report, a little discussion began about the program and a few questions were asked: Where is the collected data being stored? What is it being used for? If someone was interested in looking at the data, is it public information and, if so, where could the data be viewed? After answering the questions, the statement was made that I should write an article for the newsletter to get that information to TU members.

When I became a TU member in 2012 and started to go to the MLTU meetings, I too sat there and listened to the reports as Randy Buchanan conducted the meeting and went down through the agenda and the reports were given by different members. I found myself getting more involved with the chapter through the "Trout In The Classroom" program and began to help out as much as I could on stream improvement projects. It was a good fit having summers off as a school teacher and I wanted to get even more involved with the chapter. I grew up "playing in the creek", catching "critters", and taking an interest to what I could find under each rock or log that I turned over, so it piqued my interest even further when George Mostoller or Jon Gindlesperger gave reports on stream monitoring program and macroinvertebrate "bug" counts. At one of the summer meetings in 2017, George reported that he was starting to gather data on Sandy Run and Topper Run and I was hooked when he mentioned that he could use some help with the bug counts. I approached George after the meeting asking if I could get trained on the process and also help out when he started to go "play in the creek and count bugs." Later that summer, George gave me a call and asked if I was still willing to go help with the next bug count, and he gave me information where we would meet up to begin.



Shane Rudnik makes monitoring a family event! Here, he collects macroinvertebrates from Sandy Run, while his father, Mark, and nephew, Colton, watch from the streambank. His other nephew, Carter, in the foreground, watches while Shane's son, Eli, records data. Shane's brother, Chad, took the picture.

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I went through a few more training sessions from George and Jon, helped out with a few more bug counts, and the rest is history. Now, I have my father, brother, son, daughter, and two nephews “deputized” going along with me to help collect data. To make the article complete, I felt that I had to share my own background of how I got started in the program.

Here is some information on what the program is for and where you are able to go look at the data we have been collecting. *TU’s Coldwater Conservation Corps (CCC) teamed up with CitSci.org in fall 2012 to develop a user-friendly online data portal, so that CCC volunteers’ data can be stored in one central location. CitSci.org is a non-profit organization based out of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. CitSci specializes in providing citizen science volunteer CitSci.org groups with tools for the entire research process including: creating new projects, managing project members, building custom data sheets, analyzing collected data, and mapping of monitoring or survey locations. TU’s online data portal was launched in January of 2013. Through the CitSci site, CCC members can now compare their conductivity and TDS measurements to flow online, map their monitoring locations and see where others are monitoring in their area, and utilize a variety of educational materials available on the project homepage! (Information cited from CitSci.org’s website: “[Make Your Data Count](#)” article).*

If you visit the site, there is an abundance of data and additional resources that you could view. When we go out to collect data, we take our stream monitoring kit to collect: current air temperature, water temperature, stream flow, turbidity (clarity), water conductivity, total dissolved solids, pH level, stream width, and cross section (square feet). After collecting the data from the site in the field, it’s saved and entered into the online database. Occasionally, a water sample is sent in to a lab to validate the results and even more data is collected when we conduct the macroinvertebrate counts. Although the data was originally collected to help detect the impacts of the Marcellus Shale drilling, we continue to collect data and monitor for any major changes that would affect our water quality. Through the continuous collection of accurate data, we can use this database to identify changes in the water quality and protect our coldwater resource.

To view MLTU’s data (and others), visit the Citizens Science website at: www.citsci.org. From their webpage, click on the “Projects” tab (below their logo). On the next page you can either scroll down through the list or simply type in the provided search box: “Trout Unlimited Coldwater Conservation Corps Water Quality Monitoring.” Once you locate the project in the list, click on it to be directed to the project’s page. You may find other links to valuable resources here, but if you want to view MLTU’s stream monitoring collected data, locate the “View Data” tab and click on it to begin. After clicking on the “View Data” tab, you will see a list of stream identification names from all Trout Unlimited chapters that are involved in this project. The information will be listed from the most recent entry from whoever entered data; this includes many other chapters that are included in the same project. You may choose to view project

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TU's Coldwater Conservation Corps continued

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locations from a map. If so, simply click on the "Map" tab to view a map of all of the locations within this particular group. Use the map to locate a monitoring site and click on it to retrieve data. You may find it easier to search for a specific stream by location name; click on the "Locations" tab and you could enter one of MLTU's locations in the search box.

Here is a list of our streams and locations:

CLSHCR001	Clear Shade Creek 1 @ Crumb Rd. Bridge	N40.1705	W78.7462
CLSHCR002	Clear Shade Creek 2 upstream of Cub Run	N40.17101	W78.74645
CUBRU001	Cub Run @ first riffle above Clear Shade Cr.	N40.17138	W78.74565
SFLCORI001	South Fork of Little Conemaugh River @ 12" Water Pipe approx. ¼ mile above Rt. 869	N40.311	W78.689
FOXRU001	Fox Run @ Old Bedford Pike Bridge near Elton	N40.27503	W78.79115
TOPPRU001	Topper Run @ Topper Road	N40.32021	W78.77083
SANDRU004	Sandy Run Tributary @ Weaver Drive	N40.31419	W78.79592
SANDRU005	Sandy Run @ JMA Collision Center	N40.34572	W78.78296

The naming system will have very similar names (ex. SANDRU001 is not an MLTU monitoring site, but SANDRU004 & SANDRU005 are).

A map of these monitoring locations may be viewed on page 9.

I hope you find the article helpful in locating the information that interests you. If you have any questions, come to a chapter meeting and let us know. You may also e-mail me at: rud4757@hotmail.com or George at: fishprof@atlanticbb.net.

George Mostoller invites you to view an 8-minute video clip of the CCC. Go to: <http://crowdandcloud.org/watch-the-episodes/episode-two> and advance to the 35:30 mark.



In November 2018, the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited updated its directory, which lists the name and contact information of officers, administrators, committee leadership, and staff. The list may be downloaded from PATU's website: www.patrou.org.

MLTU's annual fund-raising banquet will take place on April 6, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. For those of you who forgot to send in your tickets, you still have time. Send them to:

Gary Cooper
Rear 704 Scalp Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Don't forget a check and be sure to check your dinner choices. You may also call 266-4763 for information or if you need tickets.

The Last Frontier: A Life Changing Trip to Alaska

Kylie Hogan, a member of MLTU, was fortunate to spend a month in 2018 in southern Alaska as part of a Trout Unlimited program in partnership with Costa Del Mar Sunglasses. She will present a program about her experiences from this trip on April 9, 2019 at Rizzo's of Windber. The chapter will host the program featuring Kylie and a few tyers to entertain you. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with Rizzo's Italian Feast dinner served at 7:00 PM. The cost will be \$25. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 7, 2019 by calling Randy at 814-467-4034.

Economic Value of Water Public Meeting

A study funded by the DCNR is determining "The Economic Value of Water in the Conemaugh, Loyalhanna, and Youghioghney Watersheds." Three public meetings on the draft document will be held in May. We recommend you attend one of these meetings, because putting a dollar figure to our natural resources and the quality of life they provide is essential in protecting and conserving them.

May 14

Ligonier

3:00-4:30 PM

Loyalhanna Watershed Assoc.

Nimick Family Education Center

May 15

South Fork

7:00-8:30 PM

1889 Park

Disaster's Edge

Environmental Center

May 16

Champion

7:00-8:30 PM

Seven Springs Resort

Sunburst Forum Room

For more information, driving directions, and to RSVP, go to

<https://www.keylogeconomics.com/laurel-highlands.html>.

Save-the-Dates

Being a TU member is more than just paying your dues. MLTU and its key partners are going to be extremely busy this spring. Please consider helping with one or more of the following events. For more information on any of the TIC Days, contact Missy at mreckner@brandywine.org.

April 4 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.

April 5 – Fly Tyers Reunion, 6 PM at Seven Springs Sporting Clays Building – Admission: FREE!

April 6 – MLTU Annual Banquet, 5:30 PM, Holiday Inn downtown Johnstown – Ticket required!

April 6 – Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day

April 9 – Kylie Hogan presents her trip to Alaska, 6 PM, Rizzo's Restaurant in Windber;
\$25 includes the Italian Feast – RSVP to Randy (see page 7 for details)

April 13 – Opening Day of Trout

April 20 – Yellow Creek cleanup. Meet at 8 AM at New Frontier Restaurant for breakfast; 9 AM for the work day

April 23 – Bens Creek stocking. Volunteers to meet at 9:45 AM at the Becca House on Rt. 985

April 25 – Shanksville TIC Release Day

April 25 – Clear Shade Creek stocking. Volunteers to meet at 9 AM along Rt. 56 in Ogletown or at 9:30 AM at the “Old Iron Bridge.”

April 26 – Shade-Central City TIC Release Day

April 27 – Shade Road litter cleanup. Volunteers to meet at 9 AM at the “Old Iron Bridge.”

April 29 – Blacklick Valley TIC Release Day

May 2 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.

May 3 – Trough Creek stocking, 10 AM. Call Butch for details. 814-915-0702

May 5 – Yellow Creek Coalition Meeting, 2 PM at Bowser's Cabin

May 7 – Forest Hills TIC Release Day

May 8 – Mahoning Creek stocking. Call Butch for details.

May 10 – Divine Mercy East & West TIC Release Day

May 11 – Rec the Alleghenies event, 11 AM–3 PM, Greenhouse Park. MLTU will be present.

May 14 – Shanksville's Outdoor Day, 9:30 AM–2 PM at Central City Sportsmen's Club

May 15 – The Economic Value of Water Public Meeting, 7–8:30 PM, Disaster's Edge

May 15 – Clear Shade Creek stocking of the Fly Fishing Only section, 9:45 AM, WAA access road

May 16 – Yellow Creek stocking. Volunteers to meet at 9 AM at the New Frontier Restaurant.

May 17 – Bishop McCort TIC Release Day

May 21 – Conemaugh Township TIC Release Day

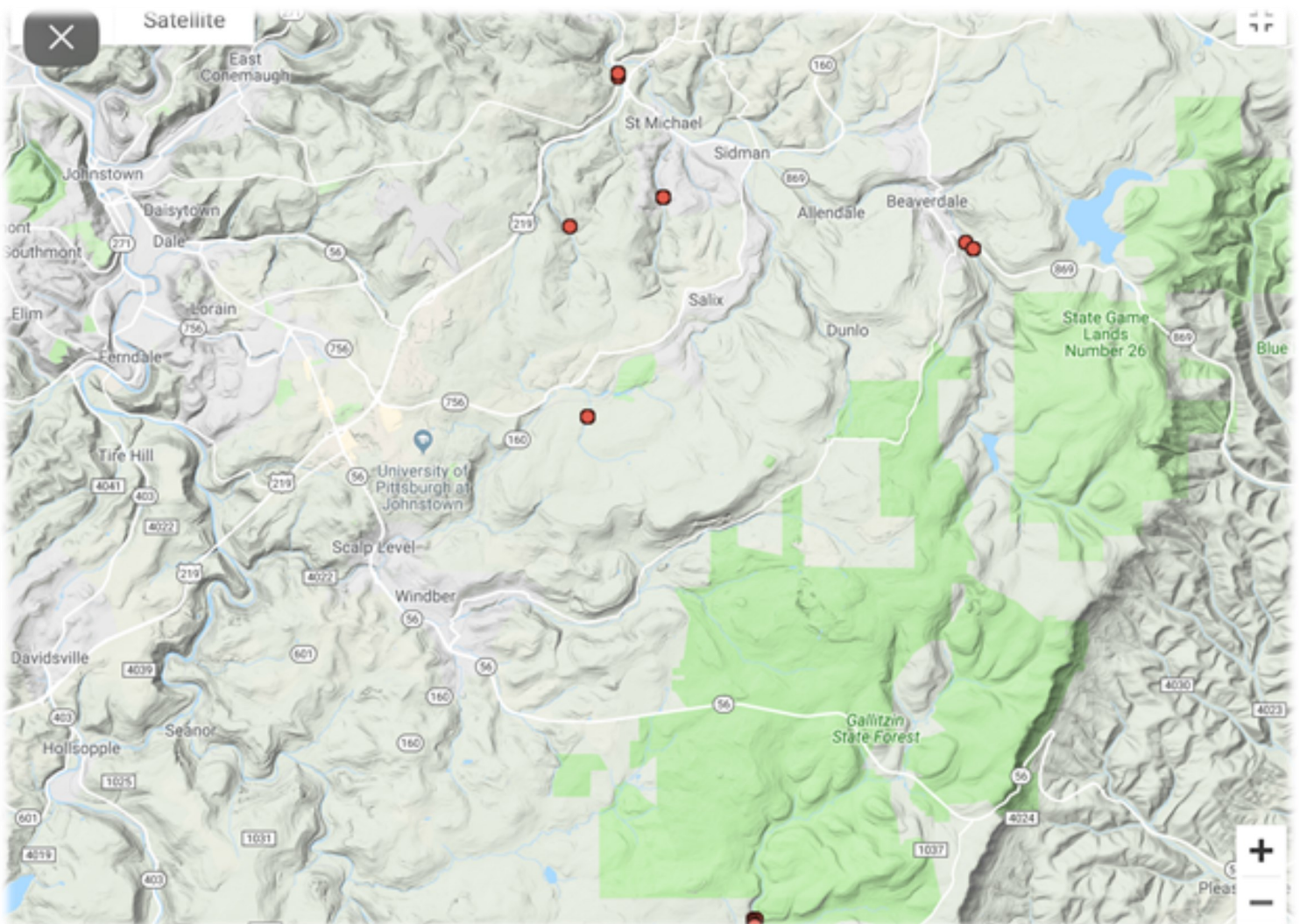
June 2 – Yellow Creek Coalition Meeting, 2 PM at Bowser’s Cabin

June 6 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.

June 8 – Yellow Creek Coalition Pig Roast. Ticket required. Contact Randy for details.

June 11 – MLTU Newsletter Submission Deadline for July–September, 5 PM. Contact Missy.

Ladies – There is a Facebook page called PA Women Anglers (PAWA) that posts news of fishing-related events across the state geared towards women. Some events are in Clearfield, others are in Erie or State College, but it seems that, occasionally, a few are in MLTU’s geographic focus. For example, in August, there will be a fishing excursion to Yellow Creek in Bedford County. Check it out and “like” their Facebook page to receive notifications!



A map of MLTU’s Coldwater Conservation Corps’ current water monitoring sites. Map courtesy Shane Rudnik.

State of the Environment 2019

Every year the President gives the State of the Union address. Perhaps it is time to make a State of Our Environment address. So here it is.

The Keystone State's natural resources have been infringed upon, altered, reshaped and often degraded for over 100 years. Of course the reality is much of the use and abuse of those natural resources also allow us to have the comforts and lifestyle we now enjoy. There does need to be a trade off.

However, thanks largely to public funding and public sector federal and state programs and regulations as well as professional conservation organizations and countless volunteers and non-profits the abuse of our natural resources is not any further out of balance with the use of them.

That balance, which is often out of balance in favor of the abuse, is potentially going to get worse unless there is motivated support for actions to be taken to counter the trend.

For example the PA Department of Environmental Protection which is in charge of protection and oversight of our natural resources has seen a 30% reduction in staff since 2002 equating to a loss of over 900 staff. The ability to regulate air and water pollution, require proper safeguards for development, address climate change and dozens of other essential conservation initiatives has been crippled for going on two decades.

At the local level conservation district funding was also cut a number of years ago and partially replaced with funds from the natural gas impact fee under Act 13. However, the work load of Districts has increased and so have expenses while the funding levels have been stagnant that has forced District's to curtail and limit their locally driven programs and projects.

Pennsylvania's hallmark legislative conservation funding known as Growing Greener has been very successful in empowering local organizations to achieve significant conservation goals for years. However, the program funds have decreased from over 200 million dollars a year in the mid 2000's to only 57 million this year. No viable method has been put forth by the legislature to re-create the funding levels that are still very much needed. Even worse, the Governor's recent budget request transfers funding from the Keystone Recreation and Conservation Fund and Environmental Stewardship Fund to pay for operating costs of DEP and DCNR that will further reduce the available funds for Growing Greener thereby robbing Peter to only partially pay Paul.

On the national level the current White House Administration has initiated an assault on the federal Clean Water Act. The EPA's current politically driven effort to amend the Clean Water Rule would eliminate protection on 20% of the state's wetlands and leave countless other high quality waterways around the country at risk of degradation.

To make the point locally in order to maintain the much heralded water quality improvements in the Cambria-Somerset region at least 1.5 million dollars are still required to upgrade and maintain the AMD abatement systems that have returned life to the Stonycreek River and tributaries

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along with renewed economic vitality. Without this rehab work the systems are and will further fail to function. Add to that the millions of dollars required for a long term trust fund for maintenance of these and many other systems well into the future throughout the region continues to be funded at exactly zero.

To add to the growing current level of unmet need is the as of yet inability of the state legislature to provide a requested small increase in a user fee, known as a fishing license, that would enable the PA Fish and Boat Commission, that receives no contributions from state tax dollars, to properly meet its charge of protecting our water resources and enhancing angling and boating recreation that generates over 2 billion dollars a year to the state economy.

Unfortunately, the political will to address and support funding for conservation measures has fallen on hard times.

Well then what can be done to improve these shortfalls and counter the imbalance? Actually a partial but important example was the foresighted passing of the state transportation legislation Act 89 in 2013 by the legislature that added significant funding support for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program. This statewide initiative is actually a water quality conservation program since its primary goal is to reduce erosion and polluted runoff coming from unpaved roads by properly designed road and culvert improvements and yet has a secondary benefit of improving rural transportation.

The additional good news is there are very viable alternatives to directly taxing citizens. On January 31, 2019 Governor Tom Wolf proposed a 4.5 billion dollar 4 year Renew PA Initiative to fund community and environmental infrastructure that would include funding for AMD abatement and other essential conservation programs. The problem is, however, it is intended to be funded by a severance fee imposed on the natural gas industry that is unpopular with the gas industry and therefore not surprisingly has opponents on the political end.

Another innovative user fee funding source is a water extraction fee that actually had a state legislative bill introduced last year that if enacted would raise hundreds of millions of dollars annually even by exempting farmers and public water suppliers. Water is the state's most available natural resource and the PA Constitution states that the water is the common property of the people. When this common property is used by for profit entities the citizen owners deserve a return on that use. Currently major water users in the state usurp the resource for free.

Only when the citizens demand that the elusive even balance between use and abuse of our natural resources is created and maintained will the political will be powerful enough to offset the imbalance and forthcoming environmental and economic disasters we heading straight toward.



*Oven Run Site A
AMD treatment system.*

Photo by M. Reckner.

Approved by PATU Executive Committee - 2/9/19

Trout Unlimited was founded as a conservation organization dedicated to ensuring that wild and native trout populations are allowed to thrive as nature intended. The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU) is comprised of 49 local chapters representing over 14,000 members. Our mission is, “To conserve, protect, restore, and sustain Pennsylvania’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, especially our wild trout resources.” Both PATU and its parent organization, National Trout Unlimited, believe that conservation should be a true partnership between landowners, agencies, municipalities, and all stakeholders. We work to protect critical habitat, to reconnect degraded waterways, and restore populations of coldwater fisheries. We strive to ensure that our decisions and programs reflect the very best information available.

The following statements communicate PATU’s policy on the management of wild trout populations. All Pennsylvania chapters, as well as their individual members, are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines and to adhere to this policy when representing Trout Unlimited.

PATU strongly favors conservation programs and projects that preserve or enhance existing populations of wild trout and facilitate re-establishment of native brook trout populations in water bodies within their historical range. The goals of these programs are:

- ◆ Improvements to water quality
- ◆ Habitat improvement
- ◆ Re-establishing connectivity within watersheds.

PATU strongly believes that conservation efforts should be based on sound science and will support programs and policy decisions that meet these requirements. PATU will make every effort to advance our knowledge of coldwater environs and the trout that reside therein.

In the execution of its mission, PATU will work cooperatively with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, as well as with other agencies of the Commonwealth, other conservation organizations, county conservation districts, landowners, business and industry, local government entities, and elected officials.

PATU will work to educate its members and others regarding the importance of protecting and enhancing wild trout populations. Conversely, it will advocate against measures that will result in adverse impacts on wild trout.

Given the historically deleterious impacts of human activity on the state’s waterways, hatchery trout provide recreational fishing for anglers in a variety of waters. PATU supports the stocking of hatchery trout in waters that cannot support naturally sustaining numbers of wild trout. PATU defines naturally sustaining as a wild trout population that is able to maintain a stable population in both size and age over an extended period of time, while recognizing the typical year to year variability of wild trout populations.

Further, PATU supports the stocking of fingerlings or advanced fingerlings in waters where this

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approach would prove successful. Recognizing that not all waters are suitable for sustaining a successful fingerling stocking program, waters possessing the characteristics best suited to this stocking approach could be added to the program and surveys conducted to determine success or failure.

PATU advocates that no hatchery trout be introduced to any waters holding naturally sustaining native brook trout throughout the entire year. Acknowledging the PA Fish & Boat Commission's classification system of Pennsylvania's wild trout waters, we support cessation of all stocking in Class A, Class B, and Class C waters. Instead, we support actions directed at enhancing those populations. We also recommend periodic resurveying of Class B, Class C, and Class D waters to determine if changes or improvements in habitat or water quality may be appropriate to enhance the wild trout population.

PATU also encourages consideration of the stocking of sterile rainbow trout (triploids) as a potential method of reducing or discontinuing the stocking of hatchery brook, brown, and non-sterile rainbow trout species. This will allow for wild populations of both brook and brown trout to be more accurately assessed, and the chance of introducing species specific diseases will be greatly reduced. Waters should be selected for introduction of triploids for a trial period, and data gathered for evaluation of the impacts on those waterways and watersheds.

PATU recommends that streams in watersheds that support migratory populations of wild brook or brown trout be managed on a watershed level for the resource opportunities afforded during all seasons of the year. There are sustaining numbers of wild trout in fisheries that are currently classified as Warm Water Fisheries. Two examples are the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River and Sherman's Creek. PATU believes that wild trout populations existing in entire watersheds such as these are not being documented due to the surveys being conducted only in mid-summer.

These riverine migratory wild trout populations should be identified and then managed on a watershed level to protect these wild trout seeking thermal refuge during the spawning season. This approach could also set the stage and provide an example for managing trout populations on a watershed level rather than by the current method of utilizing stream segments and determining management decisions based on those sections alone.

**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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Johnstown, PA 15904



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We're on the web!
www.mtu.org

Upcoming Events - See pages 8 & 9

MLTU meetings are held the first Thursday of every month.
The board of directors meet at 6:30 PM and
the general membership meets immediately after at 7:00 PM.
Meetings are held at the Richland Township Municipal Building,
located at 322 Schoolhouse Road.
Meetings are open to the public!
Join us to learn more about local happenings!

April 6

MLTU's Annual Fundraising Banquet

Get your ticket NOW!

See page 7 for details!

