

# The Flyline



***A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited***

**October 2020**

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## **President's Message**

*by Randy Buchanan*

Pat and I were sitting on the deck tonight with a glass of wine after we finished our Labor Day picnic when one of us mentioned that this summer has moved long even though we couldn't do the things we hoped to have done. Being a home owner, I was able to find many projects around the house to keep me occupied. COVID has given me time to get things done that otherwise would have been put to the side so that I could do TU projects. I miss doing those projects like TIC, stream improvement, and even the litter cleanups. I missed being with the people that would have come out to help.

The 2019 banquet/fundraiser was cancelled and it really brought to light just how important that event is to the Chapter. No new projects could be scheduled without the funds raised at the banquet. Meetings were held at Greenhouse Park for the last three months with

social distancing in place. But, colder weather will move us indoors and regular meetings will be cancelled until further notice. The Chapter officers, board members, and committee chairs will meet to continue business.

Summer is just about over and fall will be here soon without much change in sight. The Chapter will carry on the best that we can. I hope that everyone can stay safe and get out to do a little fishing and relax for a while.

Catch one!

*Randy*

*Dina Cable is the new PA Fish and Boat Commission WCO in southern Somerset County.  
Read more on page 4. Photo by Len Lichvar.*



## Twelve Days Tickets are on the Way

by Gary Cooper

The twelve days of Christmas tickets are on the way. Currently, they are at the printers.

I would like to remind you that more of you will have to get involved this year. This is due to the fact that the place at which super-seller, Dave Wright, worked was sold, so he can no longer peddle half of the tickets.

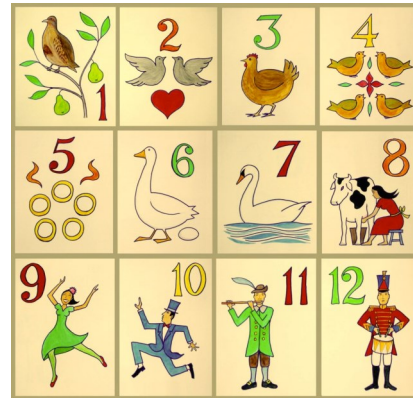
“How does this affect me?,” you ask. More of you

are going to have to sell tickets. If you sold five

tickets last year, you may have to sell ten this year.

You’ve never sold any!? Whoa, partner.

Your turn! So hitch up your Covid masks, get within six feet of your friends and loved ones, and sell those tickets. We are going to sell all 500! It’s



a twelve day ticket, two numbers per ticket, and twenty-four chances to win. If your friends are unemployed due to Covid, find some people who can afford 'em or gift them! We’re in this together.

## A Tale of Two Banquets

by Gary Cooper

This is a tale of two Trout Unlimited banquets. One was cancelled because of a virus named Corona (I thought that was a typewriter) and the second, scheduled for the last Saturday in March, the 27th, 2021, may or may not happen. Only Corona knows for sure. Given these rather unique circumstances, there are some things you should know. First, if you already paid for a ticket for the 2020 banquet, you can do one of two things: call me and request a refund or simply let your money ride until the 2021 banquet. My number is (814) 266-4763. I only answer if the caller ID displays a name or the call is on a cell.

Sponsors may apply this year’s donation to the 2021 banquet or request a refund. Call Pat Buchanan for a refund at (814) 467-4034.

This is a Dickens of a dilemma! At any rate, 2021 tickets will be available after the first of the year. Please get your tickets when we have them. Come to our banquet and live happily ever after like Charles Dickens.

### Important Dates

- ♦ October 21 - Banquet Committee Meeting - Buchanan Residence - 7 PM
- ♦ November 18 - Banquet Committee Meeting - Buchanan Residence - 7PM
- ♦ November 20 - Twelve Days of Christmas tickets due back to Randy Buchanan
- ♦ December 8 - Newsletter submission deadline. [mreckner@brandywine.org](mailto:mreckner@brandywine.org)
- ♦ January 2021 - Beginner’s Fly Tying Courses - Tentative - Dates to be announced.
- ♦ March 27, 2021 - MLTU Spring Banquet - Holiday Inn Downtown - Covid permitting

## If you only had one fly to fish with...?

by Gary Cooper

As long as fly fishermen and ladies have cast the long rod, the debate has raged! If you only had one fly to fish with, which fly would you choose? Some would argue for the Woolly Buzzer. This juicy creation imitates many things. It can imitate a minnow or a leech; it could be a hellgrammite, or, tied in rusty orange, it could be a crayfish. It can be greased and floated on top to imitate numerous big bugs. Tied in the right sizes, it can imitate almost anything and appeal to almost every kind of freshwater fish.

But the buzzer is only one choice. Dry fly fishermen might favor the Adams—with its mottled shading, it can imitate so many mayflies. In sizes 16-22, it could be an olive or a blue quill. Out west it could be a callibaetis. In larger sizes, it could be a Hendrickson, a March Brown or even a Green Drake. Old timers used to fish it as a caddis.

Nymphers could point to the ubiquitous Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear. Tied in the correct colors and sizes, this buggy beauty imitates most of the mayfly nymphs, many of the caddis, and could even be a small streamer.

I have listed only the obvious choices. What fly would you choose, and why? If you have a favorite fly, write a paragraph explaining why, and send it to:

Gary Cooper  
Rear 704 Scalp Ave.  
Johnstown, PA. 15904



or email it to me at  
[hookemcoop@hotmail.com](mailto:hookemcoop@hotmail.com).

If I get any submissions, I'll have one printed each quarter, so break out your computers and send me some short articles. It'll be fun!

## Windber Storm Drains

by Dave Wright

Kudos to Windber Borough for labeling over 400 of their storm drains "No Dumping - Drains to Waterway" along with the outline of a fish. The idea originated with Borough Manager, Jim Furmanchik. Jim was in Denver, Colorado and saw storm drains that had this message cast into the metal storm drain covers and thought it could be used as part of Windber's overall storm water management program. Now, residents are reminded that storm drains are not to be used as receptacles for unwanted household chemicals, various automotive fluids, grass clippings, etc. A borough employee also commented that some drains are, unfortunately, used to discard pet waste.

In the accompanying photo, someone carelessly dumped paint. Windber's storm water drains directly (untreated) via 150 separate outfalls into Seese Run and Paint Creek and then to the Stonycreek River.

The Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association is pleased to see this initiative implemented.



Photo by Dave Wright.

There is a new Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) in town and her name is Dina Cable. The southern Somerset County district of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has not had a full time officer since the retirement of Dan McGuire. But with Dina's assignment the county is now back to its full compliment, which includes Deputy WCO's and WCO Pat Ferko, who covers the northern portion of the county.

Dina is a native of as she says, "South Jersey," which is actually very rural Salem County New Jersey. She relocated to Beaver County, PA to attend the Penn State campus located there and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

She applied to the PFBC to become a candidate for WCO training right out of college and was accepted. After a long and grueling training course she and the other new WCO's graduated in June 2020 and were assigned to their districts in July.

As Dina points out she

chose this career path because, "I have always had a passion for the outdoors and I hunt and fish and I wanted the best of both worlds that could be combined with law enforcement and the outdoors."

Her initial impression of Somerset County is that, "It feels natural to me since I am from a very rural area much like this. I can tell that everybody knows everybody else here and everyone has been very willing to help me out."

That assistance is needed since she is in a fast learning curve because of all the outdoor activity that has occurred since the pandemic hit, especially by new users.

Dina has seen that increase in use up close.

"Many of the outdoor users, especially boaters are new to the sport. There are also a lot of first time fishermen out there too. I hope most of them can continue to pursue those outdoor opportunities now that they have experienced them."

The most challenging thing actually so far for Dina is as she relates, "Finding my way around on the huge amount of back roads in this county." Of course, that issue will resolve itself over time.

More importantly, Dina sees her role and is determined to inform and educate others that, "my job and that of all WCO's is much more than law enforcement and stocking fish. It is really all about making and establishing relationships with anglers and boater. Our role as WCO's involves far more than enforcement. We are here to protect and conserve the natural resources of the region and the state."

**"We are here to protect and conserve the natural resources of the region and the state."**

**- Dina Cable, WCO**

WCO's, as well as Pennsylvania Game Commission Game Wardens, are the front line first responders when it comes to the protection of our land and water resources. Dina seems to fit that mold well and plans to be in it well into the future by her own admission. "I want this to be my career for 20 or more years to come."

# Board of Directors

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## Fishing License Increase

*By Len Lichvar*

On July 10, 2020, the long awaited fishing license legislation finally become law without Governor Wolf actually signing it. The legislation now enables the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to determine its own license fee structure with an open public process being a major component of the decision making. The PFBC will not even begin that process until 2022.

This legislation is the culmination of years of work in front of and behind the scenes by legislators, PFBC Commissioners and staff as well as sportsmen and conservation organizations including National Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited.

The PFBC has not been permitted to increase fees since 2005 and the burden on the agency has been born by cutting back of and elimination of programs, reduced staffing and additional stress on the agency and its personnel to continue to serve the anglers and boaters of the state. Simply put, the agency has been forced to find ways to pay 2020 costs with 2005 level income. Any private business that would have had to do the same would have gone out of business. It is a testament to the leaders of the agency, both past and present, that the Commission has survived and still functions at the highest possible level under severe financial limitations.

As with any long saga, there is a back story that is not readily known. Historically the PFBC, as well as the Game Commission, have had to approach the state legislature with any proposed fee increases and then have that request debated and hopefully approved by the governing body. This encumbering process has always delayed needed income and often created a great deal of confusion and sometimes consternation among legislators, anglers and boaters and PFBC staff and Commissioners.

This antiquated business-as-usual method saw its first attempt at needed change at a PFBC legislative luncheon at a restaurant near Hollidaysburg in 2016. Former PFBC Executive Director, John Arway, began holding these regional gatherings of legislators, staff and the District Commissioner as a way of having a better two-way method of communicating. At this District 4 meeting, after discussion about the agency's financial plight, Republican State Senator from Blair County, John Eichelberger asked the question as to why the legislature has to determine license fee levels when the agency in charge should be the one making that decision. Sitting next to him was Democratic State Senator John Wozniak

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of Cambria County, who immediately agreed with Senator Eichelberger. Taken aback by this bold and bipartisan endorsement Arway, and then PFBC legislative liaison, Tim Schaeffer, politely asked if both Senators were serious and would actually back legislation that would allow the PFBC to set its own fees. They both responded that indeed they were and would. By the time the luncheon had ended, Schaeffer was already at his laptop computer beginning to draft a legislative document that could be used as the precursor to the legislation. Although the initial attempt at passing the eventually drafted bill, known as SB 30, failed during the 2018-19 legislative session it was resurrected in the House under HB 808 in the 2019-20 session and finally passed in both the House and Senate on its way to becoming law.

Over time, this legislation has had many champions. John Arway and Tim Schaeffer and past and current PFBC staff and Commissioners spent countless hours over the years to foster the political will to make it happen. Key members of the legislature such as State Representatives Keith Gillespie, Thomas Mehaffie and Mike Turzai and Senators Pat Stefano and Joe Scarnati along with many of their colleagues on both sides of the aisle also backed the cause.

However, the anglers and boaters and all the citizens of the Commonwealth who benefit from the recreational opportunities and billions of dollars generated into the economy from it, owe a debt of gratitude to former Senators Eichelberger and Wozniak who were willing to speak up and, even more importantly, act on this visionary initiative that has now become a reality. The impact of which will enable a critical natural resource agency to perform its essential assignments by providing a more secure financial future.