

The Flyline



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President's Message

by Randy Buchanan

This is a difficult letter to write because of all the changes to our lives the past few months. Because of COVID-19 the chapter, National TU, as well as ourselves, have had our lives upset. But, most importantly, I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

Usually at this time I'm telling everyone how great our banquet was and passing along information about our upcoming stream projects and other summer events; however, the banquet was cancelled and our projects were put on hold.

As I have heard, there is always a light at the other end of the tunnel, and this

chapter will start to function again. On July 2, 2020, we will hold our first meeting in four months. This meeting will be held at Greenhouse Park in order to enable us to social distance and still be able to meet again. The meeting time will be at 7:00 PM, and, if you would like to bring a lawn chair for your own comfort, please do so.

Maybe this small step of holding this meeting will help get the chapter moving back to normalcy.

Catch one!

Randy

The MLTU chapter meeting for July will be held on July 2, 2020 at Greenhouse Park, located at 120 Green House Road, Johnstown, at 7:00 PM.

The board of directors will meet at 6:30 PM. Please bring a lawn chair and plan to keep a safe distance between yourself and others in attendance. Future meetings will be determined on a month to month basis.



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has released its draft Trout Management Plan for 2020 to 2024 for public comment due by June 24. The PA Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU) Trout Policy Committee, with assistance from National Trout Unlimited, is creating a comment document that will be the official Trout Unlimited submitted comments to the agency. The document will be reviewed by the Committee and approved by PATU Executive Committee prior to submission.

The PFBC-generated draft document has a number of important positive management strategies in regard to wild trout including the creation of a stocking permit and the cessation of all brook trout stocking in the state.

PATU will attempt to move the management even further toward the enhancing and protecting of the wild trout resource throughout the state.

From their May 28th news release, the PFBC says, "The goal of this strategic plan is to ensure that adequate protection is afforded to Pennsylvania's wild trout resources, and that fisheries provided through the management of wild trout and stocking of adult and fingerling trout produce high quality angling opportunities in Pennsylvania.

The plan is available [online](#) for public review and a 30-day public comment period will remain open from May 26 through June 24, 2020. Comments can be submitted through the [comment portal](#) on the PFBC website or mailed to PFBC, Attention: David Nihart 595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

The plan will be finalized during summer 2020 following consideration of public comments."

If you receive this newsletter electronically, you'll have time to review the Trout Management Plan and submit comments before the June 24 deadline. View the Plan at www.fishandboat.com/Fish/Fisheries/TroutPlan/Documents/TroutPlan2020.pdf.



Due to concerns of COVID-19, the MLTU banquet/fundraiser scheduled for September 12, 2020 has been cancelled. Anyone who already purchased a banquet ticket will be refunded within the next few weeks. If you do not hear from us, feel free to contact Pat Buchanan, Treasurer, at (814) 467-4034 with your name and address. The chapter will begin looking at a new date for 2021.

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Tool Time

By Butch Kerchenske

At our February meeting, it was proposed that the Chapter look into purchasing a chain saw to be used at our work projects. At the March meeting, Andy Fresch shared the details of such a purchase from Ray's Lawnmower in Summerhill. The proposal included a Husqvarna saw and accessories to meet the needs of the Chapter. Several days after the March meeting, I was privileged to be in the company of Bob Wardrop stocking trout on Ben's Creek and mentioned the proposal. He offered to donate his saw to the Chapter. The next day, March 12, he delivered the saw to me with various accessories. I cleaned the saw, did some minor maintenance, and took it to Ray's in Summerhill to obtain some items I felt would be needed in a project environment. I selected the items, some of which were a new chain, bar sheath, gas, oil, file, and sharpening of two used chains. With the items on the counter, Jeff instructed Karen to donate all the items to the Chapter—a value in excess of \$100! Thank you Ray's Lawnmower!

The saw is a Husqvarna 353 and is larger than the one initially considered for purchase. I built a “Saw Caddy” so that all the items are on one board and ready to use. This equipment has been added to the tool inventory. I assessed the value at \$450.

Thank you, Bob, for your generosity and tireless efforts to the Chapter.



**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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For the kids: Draw a fish on the end of this line!

