

The Flyline



A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

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President's Message

by Randy Buchanan

I am writing this just after returning from the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show, and it was one of the best attended shows I've been to in two years. I mention this only because I hope that the membership receives this newsletter before our banquet and our membership responds with a good turnout.

The last two years have been a challenge for us all. The turnout at the show, with many people still wearing masks and social distancing, seemed to reflect that people were trying to bring back a little normalcy to their lives. Hopefully, this will continue with a good turnout for this year's banquet.

Looking ahead into the months of April and May, the Chapter will be doing several clean-ups. This is a great way to social distance and get lots of fresh air and make the environment look better. Please check the dates and times elsewhere in this newsletter and come out to help.

In the month of May, the Chapter will be busy with TIC release days, and we can always use the extra help with this program. The summer newsletter in July will have the dates and times for the in-stream habitat project on Yellow Creek. This habitat project is a great way to come out and help make some fish very happy, giving them more places to hide from us.

I am sure that these are only a few of the ways that you can come out to a TU project and realize why you purchased a membership in Trout Unlimited.



Catch one!

Randy

Trout in the Classroom

by Melissa Reckner

After a few delays, our Trout in the Classroom schools received rainbow trout eggs the week of February 7th. Over the next few months, school students will observe the magical transformation of trout from a small, rounded bead to a 3" fingerling that they will release in a state-approved body of water. Then, in small groups, students will participate in "Outdoor Discovery Workshops" that are led by MLTU and its partners. Volunteers are needed to help with these Release Days. We especially need help from MTLU members to help teach kids how to fly cast with rods and reels that MLTU uses just for these occasions. We also need help with the days that have a fishing component. You just need to have your child abuse and criminal clearances to work with students and your fishing license if you're helping with that. Lunch will be provided to you in appreciation for your time.

For details on any of the releases, please contact me at mreckner@brandywine.org or at 814-242-4285. Thank you.

- ◆ Shade-Central City High – May 12* **
- ◆ Divine Mercy Catholic Academy – May 13*
- ◆ Forest Hills Middle – May 24*
- ◆ Conemaugh Township Middle – May 25*
- ◆ Blacklick Valley High – TBD* **

* casting lesson ** fishing



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Native Perennials

Melissa Reckner, our newsletter editor, works at Penguin Court, a private preserve of the Brandywine Conservancy that is located in Laughlintown. Penguin Court is growing hundreds of native plants for sale this spring and summer. Details on these sales will be posted at

www.brandywine.org/conservancy/events.

Pre-orders will be required for most sales; however, an in-person sale will be held June 12 at Historic Hanna's Town in Greensburg during their Antiques and Collectibles event.

Educational programs, both virtual and in-person, are listed on the same website. View it for details and to register for these informative activities.

Oven Run Trust Fund

A brief in the recent SCRIP newsletter indicated that the Oven Run AMD Trust Fund held at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies stands at \$50,572. The purpose of this fund is to financially support ongoing operation and maintenance as well as future reconstruction of the four Oven Run AMD passive treatment systems for which the Somerset Conservation District is responsible. The successful operation of these systems is critical to the Stonycreek River's health.

To donate:

https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=3178

Tree Planting

The Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) is hosting a tree planting day on Saturday, April 9 from 9 AM–Noon as part of a reforestation initiative on previously strip mined land in the headwaters of Paint Creek near the Gallitzin State Forest. Volunteers are needed to help plant hundreds of Red Spruce seedlings, which is a small task compared to the larger plan by DEP and others to plant 40,000 trees representing 16 different native species at this site.

To help with planning and to receive event details, please register by April 4 at <https://forms.gle/nx1hXKzity9FdqqH9> or email info@scripPA.org. Lunch will be provided!

Litter Cleanups

MLTU will be participating in several litter cleanups this spring. Please spend a few hours with us cleaning up after the pigs who spoil our landscapes and give fishermen a bad name.

- ◆ April 23 – Little Paint Creek, meet at 8:30 AM at pull off along Berwick Rd.
- ◆ April 30 – Yellow Creek, meet at 9 AM at the old Frontier restaurant
- ◆ May 7 – Clear Shade Creek, meet at 9 AM at old iron bridge

**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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www.mltu.org

Save the Dates!

- ◆ April 7 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ April 16 — SCRIP tree planting, 9 AM—Noon, headwaters of Paint Creek
- ◆ April 23 — Yellow Creek fish stocking
- ◆ April 23 — Little Paint Creek litter cleanup. Meet at 8:30 AM, Berwick Road
- ◆ April 30 — Yellow Creek litter cleanup. Meet at 9 AM, the old Frontier restaurant
- ◆ May 5 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ May 7 — Clear Shade litter cleanup. Meet at 9 AM, old iron bridge
- ◆ May 12 — Shade-Central City High TIC Release Day
- ◆ May 13 — Divine Mercy Catholic Academy Release Day
- ◆ May 24 — Forest Hills Middle TIC Release Day
- ◆ May 25 — Conemaugh Township Middle TIC Release Day
- ◆ June 2 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ June 7 — MLTU newsletter submission deadline, 4 PM. Submit materials to Missy.
Newsletter covers July 1 - September 30, 2022.