

The Flyline



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MLTU Looks to the Future

by Gary Cooper

2022 was a tough year for the chapter because of change. Now, we are faced with 2023. Rather than consider what we have lost, MLTU is looking to the future and to what we already have. We are a strong chapter with about 400 members. When the March elections are over, we will have filled our vacant positions with capable people who will carry on the work of those before us. Many old friends are still around, and many young volunteers are stepping up to help where they can. We will be engaged in projects in Ebensburg and on Yellow Creek. We will carry on cleanups and react to environmental emergencies. Our website has been updated, and the newsletter will keep you informed. Fly tying classes are beginning in January. The banquet committee is hard at work securing sponsors, ads, and prizes. You can help by soliciting prizes, baskets, and restaurants. We want you to go out and get prizes. We accept anything. Don't forget that the banquet is March 25, 2023.

Change is inevitable. In fact, change is what life is, and we are in a period of change. It shouldn't scare us. We will adapt and come out stronger. Let us remember the past and plan for an even better future. We are MLTU!

MLTU Annual Fundraising Banquet

This year's banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. Watch for tickets in your mailbox or contact Gary Cooper. Your support is critical, as this is our main fundraiser of the year that will allow our many fantastic projects to continue and expand. Plus, it's just a fun night out!

Inducted into the PA Fly Fishing Museum

by Len Lichvar

Chuck Furimsky, who resided in Rockwood in Somerset County for many years, was inducted into the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum on November 5, 2022 at the Museum's Induction Ceremony in Mount Holly Springs. The Museum is located just outside of Carlisle and houses many displays and artifacts of legendary fly anglers and is open to the public.

Chuck is the originator and long time manager of the Fly Fishing Show that he began on a small scale at Seven Springs Mountain Resort and has grown to show sites across the country. These shows highlight celebrity fly anglers and fly tyers as well as the latest fly fishing and tying products. Chuck retired as manager of the show six years ago, and his son Ben is now the manager of the Fly Fishing Shows. The Fly Fishing Show corporate office is still located in Somerset, PA. Chuck still independently organizes and operates the International Fly Tyers Symposium that is held each Autumn. He also organizes the Annual Fly Tyers Reunion Show held at Laurel Highlands Sporting Clays Lodge in Somerset County. Chuck has presented various programs at MLTU functions over the years.



Photo of Chuck Furimsky by Len Lichvar.

Things You Can Do to Help MLTU

by Gary Cooper

As a member you can help out the chapter this year or at any time. "How?" you might ask. Go out and solicit your friends and neighbors for prizes for the banquet. We are always looking for first level prizes. We accept almost anything (gift certificates, baskets, oil changes, a box of flies tied by you). Why not ask? They can only say, "No."

Ask your wife to make a basket that we can use for the basket raffle at the banquet. Volunteer to help get gift certificates from area restaurants. Volunteer to be on the set-up committee for the banquet.

Come to a cleanup this spring or to a work day this summer. Take pictures at a work day and upload them to our website. Recruit new members.

Come to a TU meeting (held the first Thursday of each month). Bring a friend. Read your newsletter. Check the website for updates (mltu.org).

If you don't get involved, you will miss out on a lot of good guys and gals and a lot of fun.

Get involved!



by Len Lichvar

It took almost 14 years and filmmaker Josh Fox’s documentary and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro’s legal charges to make it happen, but Cabot Oil and Gas has agreed to pay 16.29 million dollars to Pennsylvania American Water to construct a public water system for the residents of Dimock, Pennsylvania.

Some of you may remember, others no doubt have forgotten, and yet more do not know that the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) invited and hosted nationally known film maker, Josh Fox, and presented one of the first public airings of the acclaimed documentary, “Gasland.” Fox came to North Star High School in Boswell to personally present the landmark film. SCRIP initiated this effort, which was supported by MLTU, to draw the public’s attention to the potential impacts of improperly regulated unconventional gas well drilling in Pennsylvania and its potential impacts to water quality.

For years, despite what the documentary accurately portrayed and is now confirmed by the settlement, the company denied responsibility for the damage to the small rural town’s water supply that was a clear violation of the Clean Streams Law.

For more detailed information on this nationally known water quality impairment that SCRIP and MLTU helped focus attention on, visit: <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/> and, if necessary, search “Gasland.”

The documentary “Gasland” is also available to view on YouTube. If you have never watched it, you should.

MLTU member, Len Lichvar, has been elected President of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU). Len previously served as the Co-Chairman of PATU’s Trout Policy Committee and was the Western Regional Vice President. He has served MLTU as Stream Improvement Chairman and Board Member.

In this statewide expanded volunteer capacity, Len will be responsible for overseeing all state council operations including supervising two state council staff members. He will chair meetings of the Council’s Executive Committee that considers recommendations from the Council’s various sub-committees on everything from trout policy, conservation, women’s diversity, membership, development, youth education, communications, and more.

PATU also facilitates the bi-annual statewide Coldwater Conference, administers project funding programs, coordinates the Trout In the Classroom program, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and works closely with National Trout Unlimited on state and national issues.

PATU is comprised of 49 local Trout Unlimited chapters and 17,000 members across the state.

NatureWorks, a free, family-oriented event sponsored in part by MLTU, is returning and will be held **Saturday, March 11** from 10 AM – 2 PM at the BottleWorks Ethnic Arts Center in the Cambria City section of Johnstown. Visit MLTU and over 20 other organizations to learn more about our local natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities through hands-on, fun activities!



**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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

Save the Dates!

- ◆ Jan 5 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ Jan 10 — Budget meeting for MLTU officers and directors, 6:30 PM; Dave Maher's House
- ◆ Jan 18 — Banquet Committee Meeting @ Dave Maher's house, 7 PM
- ◆ Feb 2 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ Feb 15 — Banquet Committee Meeting @ Dave Maher's house, 7 PM
- ◆ Feb 25 — Pies and Flies @ Richland Municipal Bldg., 9 AM
- ◆ March 2 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ March 7 — MLTU newsletter submission deadline, 4 PM. Submit materials to Missy.
Newsletter covers April 1 - June 30, 2023.
- ◆ March 11 — NatureWorks @ Bottleworks Ethnic Arts Center, 10 AM—2 PM
- ◆ March 15 — Banquet Committee Meeting @ Dave Maher's house, 7 PM
- ◆ March 22 — Banquet Committee Meeting @ Dave Maher's house, 7 PM
- ◆ March 25 — Annual Fund Raising Banquet at the Holiday Inn, downtown Johnstown, 5 PM

Fly tying class dates: Mondays, January 16–February 20, from 6:30 PM–9 PM and Saturdays, January 14–February 18 from 9 AM–Noon. Both sessions are at the Richland Municipal Building.