

MUDDY MATTERS

The Newsletter of the Muddy Creek Chapter #875 of Trout Unlimited

TO CONSERVE PROTECT AND RESTORE THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED.



Spring 2016 Issue

From the President's Vest

Greetings fellow MCTU Members! Spring has sprung and so has our chapter, right into a technological advancement. For the first time, our spring newsletter will only be electronically distributed! In an effort to conserve budget needs, we will only snail mail our fall newsletter each year. However, if you run into fellow MCTU member who mentions they did not receive the spring newsletter, please have them contact me at 717-404-7642 so that we can send a paper version to an address of their choosing.



During the winter months, we were able to host a presentation on the Little Juniata River at our March meeting. At the time of this event we also held a raffle which generated enough money to cover the cost of the presentation, as well as, allow us to give a donation to the Little Juniata Organization. It is important to our chapter that we support other organizations with similar passions. As usual, we also had two food stands up and running for the opening day of trout fishing, more details on the event can be found inside the newsletter. We will be hosting the ForSight Vision fishing event again this year over Mother's Day weekend, a tradition that has become near and dear to many of the members. In August we will once again have our booth at the Red Lion Street Fair. Please be sure to look for us and stop by to say, "hello".

The nursery and the fingerlings have survived another winter! A big thank you to our feeders who ensured that the fish were fed and snow removed over the winter months. We are currently working to stock streams in the Muddy Creek Watershed to ensure a successful fishing season. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have given generously to our Trout Fund and have joined us as Co-Op Sponsors. We wouldn't have a successful nursery without this continuous financial support!

We are still working and involved with the Bonham Wake-Robin Wildlife Sanctuary on a project entitled "Trout in the Bonham". The student who worked with us on this project has submitted his paperwork for his Eagle Scout Award; he did an excellent job with his Vibert box Trout Incubator project. The next steps include the design and installation of informational and educational signs which will be erected within the sanctuary this spring/summer as well as a potential habitat improvement project on the stream.

I hope the weather will encourage each of you to join us at our monthly meetings over the summer. Please note these meetings will be held at the nursery. Our meetings will commence at 7pm; please feel free to bring a friend, spouse or prospective member.

Warmly,

Beth

Upcoming Events

May 7 - ForSight Vision Fishing Event

9am at the Handicapped Area on Toms Run Kennedy Road.

May 18 - General Meeting

Co-op Nursery 7pm

June 15 - General Meeting

Co-op Nursery 7pm

July 20 - General Meeting

Co-op Nursery 7pm

Aug 6 - Red Lion Street Fair Volunteer at the Booth!

Aug 17 - General Meeting

Co-op Nursery 7pm

Sept 21 - General Meeting

Co-op Nursery 7pm

Sept 24 - MCTU Fall Outing

Watershed Alliance of York Watershed Weekend Venue

FISHING NEWS

C&R FFO AREA OF MUDDY CREEK WAS FLOAT STOCKED IN APRIL AND IS OPEN TO FISHING YEAR ROUND

REMEMBER: THE MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED HAS OVER 9 MILES OF STREAM UNDER THE STOCKED TROUT WATERS PROGRAM WITH THE PAF&BC.

ALL OF THIS WATER IS OPEN BY THE GRACE OF GENEROUS LANDOWNERS.

PLEASE RESPECT THEIR PROPERTY BY NOT LITTERING AND PICKING UP ANY TRASH YOU MAY FIND ALONG THE STREAM.



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www.muddycreektu.org

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Questions or comments about the
content of this newsletter can be
submitted through regular mail:

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P.O. Box 211

Dallastown, PA 17313

Or email muddycreektu@comcast.net
Members may also contribute chapter
related stories or articles to this
newsletter by submitting them to the
above addresses. This is your
newsletter, help make it the best it
can be. Thank you.

Report Water Pollution

PA Department of Environmental
Protection
855-FISH-KIL

Report Fishing Regulation
Violations

PF&BC Waterways Conservation Officer
SC Regional Office (717) 486-7087

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Spring 2016

FORSIGHT VISION FISHING EVENT MAY 7

Once again this year MCTU will Host the folks from ForSight Vision of York for a morning of fishing on Toms Run at the Handicapped Fishing Area on Kennedy Road. Bill Rhinesmith from ForSight Vision last year presented MCTU with a plaque recognizing our members efforts toward sharing our enthusiasm toward the outdoors and trout fishing with the children and adults with vision impairment. As always our volunteers will provide equipment and bait for the fishing as well as assistance toward their success in addition to a light lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs and baked goods. Its always a pleasure to work with these kids and adults to enrich their experience in the outdoors.

YORK REVOLUTION FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

by Brita Runkle

Help our Chapter earn money by volunteering at the York Revolution playground this summer. Volunteers needed age 18 & up. All Friday games 6/17, 7/29, 8/12, All games start at 6:30 pm, Volunteers report to playground by 5 pm. Volunteers rotate in shifts to allow some game watching time. Our time ends at 7th inning so more game time at end when the game gets good. Contact Brita Runkle, 717-586-4271 or brrunkle@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer. We did this last year and everyone involved enjoyed the evening at the ballyard.

CHILD ABUSE CHECKS

by Beth Boyd

MCTU Volunteers are complying with both state and TU National guidelines regarding volunteer participation at events involving youth. If you are interested in volunteering at events that involve youth, such as the ForSight Vision fishing day, please contact Beth Boyd at ycpnurse@gmail.com or 717-404-7642 for information on how to obtain the proper clearances FREE of charge to you!

COLDWATER CONFERENCE REPORT

by Fred Hess

The semi annual PA Coldwater Conference in State College was attended this winter by immediate Past President Fred Hess. The conference is sponsored by PA TU every two years. A varied list of topics throughout the day can be attended by all. Following is a list of what was attended by our Chapter.

PA UNASSESSED WATERS INITIATIVE

The PA Fish and Boat Commission in cooperation with many local colleges are assessing previously unassessed streams to see if their status to higher quality water could be established which would afford them more protection from development and point source pollution. 10,000 miles of streams have been assessed in the state. Wild trout on one half of those assessed have been found. Upgrades of wetlands are receiving a huge benefit from this program.

SUSTAINING CONSERVATION INITIATIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

A TU National rep gave ideas in how to involve youths in their teen years with conservation projects. The idea here is that they are the future contributors to the organization.

DIDIYMO IN PENNSYLVANIA

The presenter was Matthew Shenk, Susquehanna River Basin Commission. The presentation was the results of a two year study by a team of scientists. Didymo is a microscopic alga known as a diatom that's been found our rivers and streams. *Didymosphenia geminata*, also known as 'rock snot' or 'didymo', can smother entire stream beds with mats as thick as eight inches and can ruin just about any river or creek. The Delaware River and the Youghiogheny River have had known colonies of didymo since 2007 and 2012 respectively. In 2013 didymo was first observed in the Pine Creek watershed. Didymo is most commonly found in waters with consistent low water temperatures (tailraces would be one example) and low nutrient loading mainly dissolved phosphates. There have been 91 observations of didymo in six watersheds in PA. Anglers are urged to clean their gear and thoroughly dry boots and waders to prevent the transfer of invasive species.

This is just a sampling of available topics. Another Conference will be held in two years.

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited Merchandise

We still have our black 25th Anniversary t-shirts for sale (in limited sizes) and our original design on the tan long sleeve shirts available. We have reduced the pricing to \$10 for both shirt styles. We also have some 25th Anniversary hats left; these remain at \$15 per hat. Please contact Brita Runkle via phone (717)586-4271 or email brrunkle@hotmail.com.

These items can be shipped for additional fee if local pick up cannot be arranged. Thanks for your continued support to our chapter.



NEW TRAVEL MUGS

In an effort to continue our fundraising efforts, we are excited to announce that we have insulated travel mugs for sale. These quality insulated mugs are blue with white lettering and sport the TU National Logo. The travel mugs are priced at \$10 each.

Please contact Brita Runkle via phone (717)586-4271 or email brrunkle@hotmail.com if you are interested in purchasing a mug!

Coop Nursery Report

by Fred Wilt

I am happy to report that we have a stable budget right now that has allowed us to raise and stock approximately 8,000 trout this year. This has provided us with the finances to purchase 22 more bags of feed this year than last year. Receiving the fingerlings two weeks early and having a mild winter, allowed us to feed the trout just about every day. We have been stocking some nice trout, which will include about 400 holdovers that will be stocked early in the fall.

Our work with the land owners continues. Fishermen have been respectful and are following the instructions on the posted signs. Trash has

been minimal and everyone seems to be picking up any trash they find.

However, a second owner has just approached us and wants help to monitor camp sites on his property. Trash is left behind and he has to clean up the sites. Now the owner is considering closing his property. This property begins below Orson Run at the second gate and includes Southside down to the power line. We have posted the camp site areas with signs spelling out what can and cannot be done in those areas. In addition, Darien Kephart, the WCO, is working with us and the land owner to resolve the problem.

Here are the challenges that need to be addressed:

- Continuing to raise money to keep a stable budget for the nursery operations.
- Working with landowners to keep the Muddy Creek Watershed open to fishing.
- Supporting MCTU by volunteering to help wherever you can!

Finally, a big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped stock our trout! And to everyone who fishes the Muddy Creek watershed, thank you for picking up the trash you find along the stream!

The Bonham Grant Continues

by Trent Bentzel

The chapter is continuing to work with the York County Conservation Society on grant work at the Bonham Wildlife Reserve. The spring fed creek bisecting this property becomes Spencer Run and is a tributary to the main branch of Muddy Creek entering at Bridgeton. We have provided manpower to map the waterway, identify areas in

need of Riparian Buffer plantings, earmark invasives for removal, locate bank erosion and identify locations for informative signboards to satisfy the goals of the project. There are now trout in Spencer Run from the incubator site at BWR that was put in as an Eagle Scout Project.

The ultimate goal from YCCS's perspective is to improve the property and introduce students on field trips to a natural area in conjunction with their other site at Indian Steps. Our goal is to improve the tributary, and outreach our organization to a new conservation oriented audience by working with the YCCS.

Summer Meeting Location

Please Note that our monthly meetings over the Summer will be held at the Chapter Co-operative Nursery at 7pm.

Feel free to join us for open air meetings. We look forward

MCTU Chapter Sponsors

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RECOGNITION ROLE CALL:

I would like to take a moment to recognize a few individuals who have gone above and beyond over the winter months:

- **Jeff Gross**- assisting in getting two dusk to dawn lights donated to the nursery.
 - **Chris Haag & Kelly Warren**- working diligently on quotes for new merchandise, our Buttons and Trout Fund stickers.
 - **Walt Lister**- for obtaining substantial donations for raffle prizes.
 - **Brita Runkle**- who has worked tirelessly in her role as vice president and often as chair of our Spring/Fall Fling.
- A big thank you to each of you for your continued support and dedication to MCTU!

RED LION STREET FAIR

As we have for the past several years, MCCTU #575 will participate in the Red Lion Street Fair in 2016. This year's event will be held Saturday, August 13. Our booth will be on East Broadway across from Golden Crust Pizza, hours will be 9 am – 4 pm.

The main purpose of our participation is to promote our conservation activities in the Muddy Creek Watershed by providing an educational opportunity to the public, as well as generate some funds for the club from sale of beverages, patches, hats, pins and shirts. If you are able to donate some time to help at the booth, it would be greatly appreciated. We could use assistance between the hours of 11 am and 4 pm, as well as helping with cleanup at 4 pm. Please contact Bob Shaffer, 717.817-9746 or bshaffer412@yahoo.com, if you are able to assist.

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FUNDRAISING HELP NEEDED

Don Jones has been in charge of selling patches for the club since the beginning of this fundraising effort in 2004 and has helped raise thousands of dollars through this effort. We are searching for someone to assist Don and eventually take the lead in this fundraising activity. Don maintains a list of businesses that have sold patches for us in the past, as well as over 275 individuals who have purchased from him in the past. We also maintain an email list of collectors who have purchased through our website. Our customer lists will be available to assist you in this effort.

We will be participating in the annual Watershed Weekend September 24, 2016 by conducting a picnic/raffle in recognition of the landowners in the Muddy Creek Watershed. If you have prior experience with soliciting gift items, grilling, running raffles, or simply thoughts on what type raffle items would be best, i.e., fishing equipment, camping equipment, gift certificates, etc., contact Bob Shaffer, bshaffer412@yahoo.com or 717.817-9746. With the new raffle regulations in Pennsylvania, this could become a lucrative source of revenue.

2016 Collector Patch - Bald Eagle Creek

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited is committed to continuing the collectable patch fund raiser. Our 2016 Patch boasts a Streamscape of Bald Eagle Creek with a handsome Bald Eagle perched in a tree on a light blue ring with gold trim. These can be purchased for \$7.00 at Chapter meetings, and on our website. Visit our web site to see the 2016 Collector Patch in color or to place an order at www.muddycreektu.org.

