



Penns Creek Chapter Trout Unlimited

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March meeting notes

The following people were in attendance for the March meeting: Gary Parzanese, Brian Frey, Denny Peiffer, Rob Bargo, Arden Leach, Bill Hubler, Todd Bowersox, Dan Searer, Owen Welch, Fred Fultz, Cherie Zimmerman, Larry Winey and Kevin Lutz.

Penns Valley Conservation Association members Jim Zubler and Ann Glazier came to our March meeting to present us with a snapshot of what they do as an organization. I think I can speak for all the attendees in saying that we were very impressed with all the great work and projects they are involved in. This organization started when the Aaronsburg quarry opened up and potentially threatened Penns Creek. They are very involved in education activities as well as stream improvements on Penns Creek. They just recently created a Wetland education center at Muddy Paws. They offer scholarships to students from the Penns Valley area as well as performing stream cleanups and highway clean ups in that area. They are a very strong and active organization and are worthy of our chapter's annual donation of funds. After the presentation, Denny Peiffer presented them with a donation from our chapter toward their cause.

An update was given on the status of the Tea Creek Property. The PA Fish and Boat commission has submitted an agreement to purchase an easement on the property. This is very close to a firm agreement which is obviously very important to all chapter members and the Fish commission. A lot of hard work went into this area of stream and something for all of us to be proud of. Securing public access for years to come is essential for us. More details will follow at our April meeting.

Chapter member Larry Winey gave some details about an exciting opportunity for our Chapter to get involved in a program called Project Healing Waters. This project involves working with disabled veterans with fly fishing. One of the ways we could help with the project is to host the outing where they would travel to us and we would assist them 1 on 1 as they fly fish. Several of our members have participated in an event with this project and said that it is an awesome thing to do. There would be possibly 5-6 veterans traveling from a VA hospital to participate. Everyone in attendance at the meeting had a positive response to looking into this project, but requested that we pursue something in the spring of 2009 instead of the fall of 08 that has been initially requested. The main issue that we would have to solve is the property on which we would fish on that would need to be easy to access. Several members gave suggestions of areas where access on a pond or lake may be more suitable than stream fishing. We will continue this discussion throughout the coming months.

Our annual spring banquet was held on Saturday night March 29th at the Belleville Mennonite School. Over 260 people attended. Overall the banquet was a success and a good time was had by all. Joe Humphreys gave a great presentation titled "Romancing the Trout". We were able to raise some money through our raffle ticket sales to help us with our costs for the upcoming year.

Our chapter will be awarded a community grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Wal-Mart for our future efforts and projects that involve improving our local community. This came about during our solicitation for a donation previous to the banquet. When they viewed our letter that explains what we do as a chapter, they suggested that we apply for this grant as we are an organization that certainly gives back and works towards improving our community. Future discussion on projects planned using these funds will be a topic at upcoming meetings. Special thanks to Wal-Mart for this very generous donation.

Several stream cleanups are scheduled for this spring. These are very worthwhile events that certainly have a visible impact on our local waterways. The first one will be to perform a cleanup on Tea Creek at the project area on April 5th (Sat) starting at 8:30am. We also may swing over to the Kish Creek project area to clean that area up as well. The second cleanup will be held on May 3rd on Penns Creek. We will be working with Comcast employees as part of "Comcast Cares Day". We will meet at Poe Paddy at 8:30am for that cleanup as well. Much help will be needed, so grab your waders and gloves and join us in helping cleanup our valuable stream banks.

During our meeting it was decided that we continue our support of PA Cleanways and Casting for Recovery (women recovering from breast cancer) with a donations to support their cause. We also agreed to provide sponsorship to the upcoming Envirothon involving our local school students this spring.

It has been a while since I asked for email addresses of all chapter members. If you have an email address, I can put you on our electronic mailing list and send you the newsletter and chapter announcements via email. This will help us save money that we can put into projects and chapter activities. Please email me at robbargo@embarqmail.com and I will get you on the mailing list.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 9th at 7:30 PM at the Lewistown Community building. Hope to see you there !

Respectively submitted
Rob Bargo—Secretary

—Dedicated to the conservation, protection, and restoration of the coldwater fisheries of Mifflin, Snyder and Juniata counties—