



# TIGHT LINES

[www.pacvtu.org](http://www.pacvtu.org)



Volume 21 Issue 1

Cumberland Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

January 2016

+++++++ Recipient of the 2011 Trout Unlimited "Gold Trout" National Conservation Award ++++++

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By Dave Weaver

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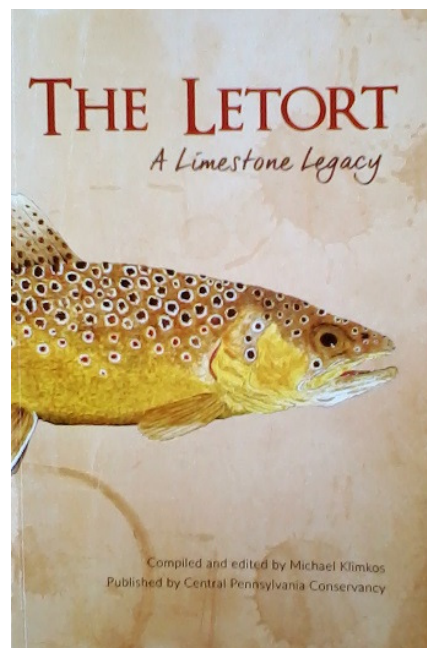
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The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) recently hosted their fundraiser for the Letort watercress farm at Pine Grove Furnace State Park's Ironmaster's Mansion. As part of their fundraising effort,

the CPC has promulgated a fine new book titled, *The Letort, A Limestone Legacy* that includes passages covering the history of our beloved stream by our friends Ed Shenk, Jerry Kerstedder, Tom Baltz, and the recollections of many others. It is nicely illustrated and contains 106 pages. Kudos to Mike Klimkos for pulling together this fine book. Purchases support the CPC's efforts to protect Letort. [Get your copy from the CPC website.](#)



### Membership Meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 20th Monroe Township Fire Hall

**63**  
**Members and**  
**Guests Attended**  
**the Nov Meeting**

Rod Rohrbach, formerly proprietor of the Little Lehigh Fly Shop at Allentown, will be our January membership meeting speaker. Just in time for our fly tying classes he will present a program on "bugs" for the fly angler. Always entertaining, Rod's talk should enable fly fishers to get a better handle on fly fishing entomology, better to match the naturals we all hope to encounter. So, please join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20th, 2016 at the Monroe Township Fire Hall. You can see Rod tying on Page 7.

Hope to see you there.

Tom Baltz

## Quick Bites and Short Strikes

Dave Weaver - Editor



### Calendar of Events

2016

Jan 20th  
Member's Meeting  
Monroe Township FH

Jan 21st  
Chapter Breakfast,  
Kimberly's Café  
Carlisle

March 18th  
Limestoner Banquet

April 2nd  
Opening Day  
Trout Season  
SEPA/SC Region



FEDERATION OF  
FLY FISHERS



Submission of articles and suggestions for this newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to [dweavflyart@yahoo.com](mailto:dweavflyart@yahoo.com), or you can call me at **338-1952**. The deadline for the next issue is the 22nd of each month.

~ The primary distribution of *Tight Lines* is currently via Mail Chimp email system. *Tight Lines* will be mailed by request only.

~ The January-March member's meetings will be held at the Monroe Township Fire Hall.  
Dave W.

~ The chapter breakfasts will continue every month after the regular meetings.  
Dave W.

~ CVTU will be holding the 22nd annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp on June 19-24, 2016, at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs. The camp is for boys and girls aged 14 to 17. The early application period is now open through March 31, 2016. For more information please see page 5.  
Clark Hall



"Yellow Breeches" Photo Courtesy D. Weaver

### CVTU Membership is 580!

CVTU receives a \$15 rebate from the **special \$17.50 first-year membership dues** when the chapter code 052 is marked on the application. Applications are available at Yellow Breeches Outfitters. **New Members** may also join online at [www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro). Be sure to select chapter 052, Cumberland Valley. You may renew your membership by mail or on the web at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org). You may also renew, or change your membership information by calling **TU Customer Service** at **1-800-834-2419**. For more information, contact **Justin Pittman**, Membership Chairman.



## President's Message

From the President, Tom Miller

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I imagine like most, the start of the new year is both a time of excitement as we look ahead to the new challenges we'll face, as well as a time of reflection as we look back at what we've achieved over the last year. As I look back over the last year, I'm humbled once again to be a part of CVTU. We had a great year with so many success stories that I could easily fill this page with them. It's hard not to. So let me just sum this up with a heartfelt thank you to everybody that makes this chapter tick and those who generously donate their free time as we continue our seemingly uphill battle to improve these waters we're all so passionate about. Thank you.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting year in front of us! With Old Man Winter finally showing up after that mild December we had, I imagine folks are finally settling into their winter activities. Winter is one of the busiest times for us as a chapter. There's a lot of planning going on this time of year, from prioritizing our in-stream projects, to organizing for the Youth Conservation Camp, Project Healing Waters, Street to Streams, and Heritage Days. A boatload of excellent chapter outings are being planned and of course our big event to kick off the new season, the Limestoner Banquet, on March 18.

So much of what we do as a chapter relies upon the success of the Limestoner. While it's a night to honor those who've contributed so much to the success of our efforts, it's also our biggest fundraiser of the year which keeps the wheels turning throughout and helps make all our annual success's possible. The banquet funds everything from our access and conservation work, to education efforts, outreach and our monthly meetings. Please keep an eye on your mailbox for the invites later this month. I hope you can make it! And if you're not able to attend, please consider sending in your raffle tickets for the 50-50 drawing, a great chance to help finance that next fishing trip you're planning! Or if you're able to contribute in another way, don't hesitate to reach out to Matt Perry or myself.

I mentioned above that we're in the process of prioritizing our projects for the year. I say this because we've got an awfully full plate of both short and long term projects on the horizon. I can't say enough good things about the work our Stream Access and Conservation Committee is doing under the guidance of Don Albright. We're currently tackling issues on many different streams, working with both public and private interests to address some water quality issues along with identifying in stream improvements elsewhere. And of course there's the continued stewardship of our own properties along the Letort and helping out our new neighbors, the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy as they acquire the former "Cress Farm" property along the Left Branch.

I've always found actually getting in the water and gettin' dirty one of the most rewarding things about being a part of TU, or maybe I just like playin' in the crick like I always have. If you'd like to help out with any of these projects, Don is always happy to have another pair of hands when it's time roll some rocks, pin some logs or cut some weeds. You can reach him off the sidebar to the left there and he'll put you on the Feet In The Stream (FITS) list. Also keep your eye on the calendar as we'll be adding more weekend work efforts so us 9-5er's can also more easily get our hands dirty.

*Continued on Page 4*



## Limestoner Update

By Matt Perry

Just wanted to remind everyone to make sure and mark your calendar for the upcoming 2016 Limestoner Banquet. The Limestoner will be held on **Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**. We will be gathering again in the grand ballroom at the **Park Inn**, located at 5401 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA. Everyone who has attended the Limestoner for the last two years has given the Park Inn rave reviews. So, if you haven't come to the Limestoner for a few years... come back and see what you've been missing! As always, we will have great food, bucket raffles, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and an exciting live auction. Also, if you are interested in joining the Limestoner committee, we could really use the help. The Limestoner Banquet is CVTU's biggest event of the year and our main source of funding for all of the great events and projects that CVTU puts together on an annual basis. If you think you could lend some of your time (anything helps), please feel free to contact me. My contact information is available on the website or in Tight Lines under, Board of Directors. I look forward to seeing all of you in March for the 2016 Limestoner!

## Winter Fly Tying Classes

By Chris Yasher

*"Cure some cabin fever and stock your fly boxes for the upcoming season!"*

CVTU will again offer a winter fly-tying course, in conjunction with the South Middleton Township Parks & Recreation Department, at the Boiling Springs High School, in room 110 starting January 19. The course will run every Tuesday for eight weeks from 1900-2100 and end on March 08. Both the beginner and advanced sessions will be conducted simultaneously; while the advanced session will learn techniques that will prepare the angler for a lifetime of fly-tying. Students in the beginner course will learn to tie 6-8 flies, while also gaining crucial skills, technique, and knowledge necessary for upcoming fly-fishing season. Each class will be limited to 20-students, advanced registration is recommended as the price doubles after January 05, 2016. The fee is \$11 for South Middleton Township residents, and \$14 for non-residents if you register prior to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 deadline. In addition, for

students in the beginner course, fly tying material, a hook kit, and instructional material will be provided for the various patterns that will be taught. A list of patterns and required materials will be provided in advance for intermediate/advanced tiers that will identify patterns tied throughout the course. While there is often extra material for use at each class, advanced tiers are responsible for their own kit (vise, hooks, and material). All individuals and families are welcome to attend this Cumberland Valley tradition, and registration will begin around the second week of December 2015. Registration can be completed on-line through the "Parks and Recreation Online Program Registration" link via: <http://www.smiddleton.com> or by calling 717-258-4441.

This is a wonderful family atmosphere filled with snacks, laughter, tradition, and provides an outstanding opportunity for all to learn under the direction of some of the most experienced and accomplished fly-tiers and anglers you will find. Questions or comments, email CVTU member Chris Yasher at [cyasher1@verizon.net](mailto:cyasher1@verizon.net) or call/text Chris at 703 254 9419.

## President's Letter Cont.

As always, I hope you can make it out to the January Chapter Meeting, Tom Baltz has lined up another great speaker in Rod Rohrbach. And also a reminder that our winter meeting place has moved to the Monroe Fire Company Hall outside of Churchtown. Note that this is not the Township Building we've used before, the Firehall is across the street and just down a ways. And as always, if you have any questions, concerns or observations please get in touch, 717/258-8265 or [tomimcmillar@comcast.net](mailto:tomimcmillar@comcast.net).

Tight Lines,

*Tom*



## **Fly of the Month Weedless Streamer Creature By Dave Weaver**

With the growing popularity of fly fishing for trout across Pennsylvania's larger rivers, more folks are playing the streamer game. With much of this fishing involving the use of drift boats or pontoons on fast flowing waters, anglers spend much of the day bombing shoreline cover: rocks, woody debris, rip-rap and such stuffs hold big browns. It also results in a lot of snags, and with the current pushing your boat, you will have to break off many of these.

The solution is to use weedless streamers. The fly I demonstrate below is a good way to think about how to do this. Frankly, you can tie whatever streamer style you want: Clousers, Muddlers, sculpins, big wool head Kelly Galloup stuff – whatever you like. However, I recommend you tie them to swim hook upward and use a mono weed guard. To facilitate this, consider buying some of the curved hooks that spin guys use for soft plastics. Note the curved shank and bend at the eye. These hooks are usually laser sharpened, and cheap to buy in half dozen packs at any department store. The curved shank tends to cause the fly to ride hook upward just like a small scud hook does with nymphs. By tying the dumbbell weight or lead wraps at the shank curve, you will enhance this effect. Note the upper photo of the hook "skeleton" that indicates this, as well as how you will tie the mono loop weed guard (don't tie the weed guard until after you finish tying the fly). By riding hook upward, this will reduce snags. The mono loop weed guard will further prevent snags and keep the hook tip from fouling leaves or drifting vegetation. I recommend 40 or 50 lb. mono for the weed guard on a typical three or four inch streamer fly. For smaller flies, you will obviously want a thinner line that allows the loop to bend a bit more easily. 20lb. line works well for streamers on hooks under about #4. Make sure you leave enough space near the eye as you're finishing the streamer. I like close to a quarter inch of behind the eye to facilitate tying in the mono loop guard.

So try a big, weedless streamer that rides hook upward next time you're fishing a big river. Your fly will (mostly!) stay in the strike zone whereas your buddies will constantly be wasting time tying on fresh flies and missing prime spots while you nail the big browns.



## **Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp By Clark Hall**

CVTU will be holding the 22nd annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp on June 19-24, 2016, at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs. The camp is for boys and girls aged 14 to 17. The early application period is now open through March 31, 2016. For a camp brochure, more information, or an application, see: [www.riverscamp.com](http://www.riverscamp.com). We are in need of gillies during the 10 fishing sessions for the Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Evening fishing begins at 6PM and ends at 9PM. Morning sessions begin at 5AM and end at 7AM. Volunteer gillies wear their own vest and carry their own favorite flies to insure they have everything to make the session a successful one for the student. We do ask that gillies NOT carry a rod. Working with these young people is a rewarding and memorable time. We hope you will join us as often as your schedule permits. We are also looking for donations of flies for the campers. We are  
*Continued on Page 7*

## **Trout in the Classroom Update**

### **By C. "Biff" Healy**

Trout in the Classroom is off to a great year. River Rock Academy enjoyed a video presentation on a major conservation project in West Virginia, followed by a fly tying demonstration on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Their trout are doing well and the foam insulation is off the front of the aquarium allowing the class to observe a "school" of another kind. Amidea Daniels and her staff from the PFBC have been doing an excellent job, coming to the rescue of one new school with a shipment of fingerlings after a nitrite issue canceled their original "class." Students at Trinity High School also saw the WV Video in December and the fly tying demonstration encouraged their teacher, Mr. Gotwols, to enroll in the chapter fly tying classes at Boiling Springs this year. I'm sure that they will reap the benefit of this instruction in the future.



"Conococheague" Photo Courtesy B. Healy

## **President's Comments to PFBC**

### **Director John Arway**

#### **By Tom Miller**

Dear John,  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Strategic Plan for Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania 2016-2017 (Draft). The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a 600 member strong group of volunteers dedicated to conserving and protecting the cold water fisheries of the Cumberland Valley and beyond. The primary focus of our work involves the protection, conservation and restoration of our local cold water resources, including, but not limited to, the Yellow Breeches Creek, Letort Spring Run, Big Spring Creek and numerous other lesser known limestone spring creeks and mountain streams within the Cumberland

Valley and surrounding forestlands. As such, we would like to provide our comments, which are primarily focused on the management of wild trout.

First, we commend the efforts of the PFBC in their efforts under the Unassessed Waters Program, as well as their continued support of wild trout habitat improvement and barrier removal. We continue to support these efforts as well as new initiatives to continue the monitoring of our wild trout populations, both thru standard methods as well as developing new 'citizen science' programs to assist the PFBC in monitoring local fisheries. We also recognize and support the Commission's efforts at improving habitat where viable wild trout fisheries may not yet exist so that we might see an ever expanding list of Class A wild trout streams in Pennsylvania far into the future.

Along with monitoring and studying our wild trout populations, we at CVTU would also like to stress the need for regulatory protection of our wild trout populations. CVTU would like to see continued and enhanced protections of viable wild trout fisheries by tying special regulations to specific trout management goals with a focus on protecting our Class A & B wild trout populations via catch and release regulations. We at CVTU are concerned about the recent reductions in mileage of special regulation waters as well as other recently proposed regulation changes which would have introduced the use of bait in certain special regulation waters. We would urge the Commission to expand, rather than contract, its protections of our wild trout populations to improve and further enhance what we feel could be an unrivaled cold water fishery.

Funding appears to be a common theme throughout the Draft Plan. CVTU being a volunteer non-profit, we understand that projects take funding and that some of the proposed initiatives mentioned above, as well those yet to be covered, will require funding to properly implement.

We also understand that a concept for a 'wild trout stamp' has also recently be floated. We at CVTU do not object to exploring new funding resources and would like the opportunity for further comment should the need arise. We would also like to stress the importance of regulatory enforcement and urge the Commission to consider increasing the budgetary resources for law enforcement.

We also commend the efforts of the PFBC to run the hatchery program in the most efficient

*Cont. on Page 7*



### *Arway Letter Cont.*

way possible. CVTU recognizes that many, if not most, Pennsylvania anglers are introduced to fishing for trout because of the stocking program and that it plays a vital role in creating the next generation of anglers and conservationists. We'd like to thank the Commission for their continued support of the Trout In the Classroom program and ask that support for TIC be expanded. Over the last two years our chapter has all but tripled the number of schools we have participating, reaching hundreds of students all throughout the Cumberland Valley.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Miller  
President, Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited



### *Youth Camp Cont.*

requesting that donors tie 3 dozen of whatever pattern they sign-up for. Sign-up sheets for gillies and flies will be available at membership meetings, or contact Clark Hall at 697-4549 or email [chall2636@verizon.net](mailto:chall2636@verizon.net).

Thanks, Clark

"Rod Rohrbach at his Tying Bench"

Photo Courtesy T. Baltz



"Letort" Photo Courtesy D. Weaver