



# TIGHT LINES

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



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Cumberland Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

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## Winter in the Cumberland Valley

By Dave Weaver

January is a transition month for countless reasons. We in the TU and angling communities traditionally tend to think of winter months as a time for indoor focus: reading, fly tying, rod building, or maybe some other activity unrelated to trout. That's fine and understandable. We're not generally a younger crowd and, speaking for myself, my tolerance for cold weather has ebbed as I've moved into middle age. I doubt you love freezing temps either. So it goes. However, you should consider getting outside on our Cumberland Valley streams in January anyway. We're truly blessed to have spring fed creeks that are fishable throughout the winter. Frankly, I think getting around Letort is just easier when the grass is down and meadows are frozen (be careful along the stream's edge anyway). Yellow Breeches is pretty reliable in January too. I was out on Breeches on New Year's Day and found lots of wild trout in riffles and shallow areas. Finally, we all know we could use some more exercise and this time of year brings with it tremendous temptations to a sedentary condition. Even if you don't care to fish with frozen guides, why not take a walk along Big Spring or the Letort nature trail. In addition to our own health and mental welfare, frequent walks along our beloved streams help us keep an eye out for their welfare. So let's resolve to get outside in the Cumberland Valley a bit more this winter.

**Membership Meeting:  
Wednesday, Jan. 18th at 7PM  
Monroe Township Fire Hall, Boiling Springs**

**34  
Members and  
Guests  
Attended the  
Nov. Meeting**

Captain Steve Hancock is a Harrisburg area native who grew up fishing in Central PA. His early guiding experience focused on Smallmouth Bass, Carp on fly, Walleye and Musky. He started fishing the Lower Keys and Key West area in 2005 and has been guiding there for the past 6 years. His presentation at our January membership meeting will begin with an overview of the geography of the Keys, a map of the islands showing points of interest, hotels, restaurants, etc., then move into describing the flats, the species available, proper tackle, lines, leaders, flies and tactics for each species. Finally, he will give a brief description and introduction of the Bonefish Tarpon Trust conservation group, their mission, how to support them and donate, and provide brochures on the organization. If you've ever dreamed about testing your fly fishing skills on saltwater flats, this meeting will give you a great overview of what it's all about.

Hope to see you there.

John Zazworsky

# Quick Bites and Short Strikes

Dave Weaver - Editor



## Calendar of Events

2017

Jan 18th

Chapter Meeting  
Monroe Tsp. Fire Hall  
Boiling Springs

Jan 19th

Chapter Breakfast  
Mama Spriggs Restaurant  
Carlisle

Mar 17th

Limestoner Banquet  
Park Inn, Carlisle

Jun 18th-23rd

Youth Camp  
Messiah College  
Grantham



Mountain Creek, Photo  
Courtesy: D. Weaver

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.

Dave W.

~ If you move, change your phone number, or e-mail address, notify us by emailing CVTU at: [cvtu052@gmail.com](mailto:cvtu052@gmail.com) I can change your info at TU National for you. TU also has a "Do Not E-Mail" option for members who do not want to receive TU reminders and solicitations via e-mail...they'll still get it through USPS. You will have to call TU's membership services to make that change.

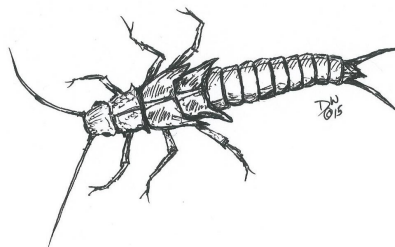
John Leonard

~ CVTU is a member club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. IFFF publishes a periodic newsletter that is available to CVTU members. Go to the CVTU website and click on the "IFFF NEWSLETTER" link to access the October issue to read about: new member benefit program; The Loop, the journal of fly casting professionals; info on IFFF activities nationwide; fly patterns; and conservation news. For info on the IFFF, contact Jim Rainey at [2rainey@comcast.net](mailto:2rainey@comcast.net), or go to [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org).

Jim Rainey

~ The Fly of the Month column has been changed to Tier's Corner. Please feel free to continue to submit flies and their tying instructions. But future issues of *Tight Lines* may not always have a fly tying column.

Dave W.



## CVTU Membership is Currently 548!

CVTU receives a \$15 rebate from the **special \$17.50 first-year membership dues** when the chapter code 052 is marked on the application. **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 **John Zazworsky**, Membership Chairman.

# President's Message

From the President, Tom Miller

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Happy New Year! I hope everybody had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season as we moved into 2017. As always, the turning of the calendar is a time for a bit of reflection and a whole lot of anticipation for what we've got in store for the next year. Looking forward to 2017, I'm excited about some new programs we have in the works. As we're all probably aware, with shrinking government budgets and fewer personnel, some of the watchdogs we've relied upon in the past just don't have the resources it takes anymore to keep up with all of the challenges our local streams face.

Which is where we come in. There's been a recent push for 'citizen science' where folks like you and I become the watchdogs to help fill the gap. I'm excited to see us become more involved in this movement as we begin a new partnership with ALLARM to supplement their testing of the waters of the Letort and we'll also be tackling the proposed construction of Sunoco's Mariner East II gas pipeline. I've been through some recent pipeline monitor trainings with TU's Coldwater Conservation Corp & Shale Gas Monitoring Program and plan to implement this locally in the spring.

Although we're not in the Marcellus Shale region and not directly affected by the shale gas extraction, this new pipeline will affect our local streams as it crosses through the Tuscarora State Forest and down into the Cumberland Valley. This pipeline will cross not only the lower Letort and lower Yellow Breeches as it makes it way east, it will also affect a handful of our native brookie headwater streams up in the state forest. Laurel Run, Shaeffer Run, Fowler's Hollow and the headwaters of Sherman's Creek near Big Spring State Park in Perry County will all be affected by this pipeline. If you're not familiar with these waters, they are some of the closest nearby streams we have for you brookie aficionados and represent the purest of the pure. We'll have more information about how to get involved with these programs at our upcoming membership meetings and we'll also be coordinating to bring further trainings to a more local venue for our interested members.

Of course, in addition to these new projects, it's amazing how quickly the rest of the calendar fills up. Our winter fly tying course will be starting shortly after you read this on January 10th. Chris Yasher has put together another great course this year with some very skilled and knowledgeable instructors, great way to beat the cabin fever!

And on March 17th, we'll be having our annual Limestoner Banquet at the Mechanicsburg Park Inn. In addition to recognizing those that have given so much to our conservation efforts, this is our primary fundraiser and is the event that ensures we'll be able to continue doing what we do throughout the year. While many of our major stream projects are financed by grants, everything else we do comes out of our own pocket. The Limestoner is what enables us to help with the start up of new Trout in the Classroom installations, sponsor our Youth Camp, provides for the upkeep of our properties along Letort, and smaller emergency stream projects we might need to undertake as the year progresses along with helping us bring in the great speakers we have lined up for our monthly member's meetings, etc. In other words, the success of your chapter is dependent upon the success of our Limestoner Banquet, so if you haven't penciled it in on your schedule yet, please save that date and I hope to see you there!

As always, if you see something out on the water or have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch, [tomimcmillar@yahoo.com](mailto:tomimcmillar@yahoo.com).

Tight Lines,  
*Tom*

## Chapter Activities for 2017

By Biff Healy

It's time to start thinking about all the great activities you would like to enjoy again, or new challenges that get your casting arm twitching. We had a great year in 2016 with several new venues, and the old standby's still made getting the waders on a worthy labor. The plethora of trips has one caveat: We need to have leaders! This doesn't mean that you have to be the guide. Just coordinate a date, place, and cost, how many people can be accommodated, and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Please email Biff Healy or Dave Stone with your favorites, new ideas, and if you would be willing to lead. "It ain't hard," and can actually be fun. Biff: [biffer1966@hotmail.com](mailto:biffer1966@hotmail.com); Dave: [dstone@stonelaw.net](mailto:dstone@stonelaw.net)

## Winter Fly Tying Class

By Chris Yasher

Want to learn the art of fly tying? Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU) will be conducting beginner and experienced/advanced sessions for eight weeks at the Boiling Springs High School. Students in the beginner course will learn to tie 6-8 flies while also gaining crucial skills, knowledge, and techniques necessary for the upcoming fly-fishing season. For students in the beginner course, fly tying material, a hook kit, and instructional material will be provided. A list of patterns and required materials will be provided in advance for the 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 (i.e. vise, hooks, and material) and are encouraged to tie alongside the guest instructor. HD video of the respective week's pattern will be available for viewing on the CVTU Facebook page.

This is a wonderful family atmosphere filled with snacks, laughter, and tradition, and provides an outstanding opportunity for all to learn under the direction of some of the region's



most experienced, respected, and accomplished fly-tiers.

**Ages:** 16 years and older. Under 16 are encouraged and welcome; however, must be accompanied by a registered adult.

#2017 - Beginner Tyers

#2017 - Experienced Tiers

Tuesdays, January 10 – February 28

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Boiling Springs High School Room 110

Instructor: Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited

Fee: \$15/RES, \$21/NR, early bird

\$25/RES, \$31/NR, after 1/3



## 2017 Limestoner Banquet

By Matt Perry

Just wanted to remind everyone to make sure and mark your calendar for the upcoming 2017 Limestoner Banquet. The Limestoner will be held on **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. 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 three 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 your 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 2017 Limestoner!

## **Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp By Ken Palmer**

The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding the 23rd annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp June 18 - 23, 2017. This year the camp will be at a new venue, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. The camp begins on a Sunday and ends the following Friday. The highly structured curriculum is based on college level classes. Students are instructed in ecology, aquatic biology, geology, hydrogeology, erosion and sedimentation control, ichthyology, riparian corridor protection, watershed management, entomology, and much more. Students also participate in a hands-on stream habitat improvement project. But it's not all work. There are 10 fishing sessions and fly tying instruction. Over 25 instructors, all experts in their field, teach the various classes.

Admission will be limited to 32 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. The applicants must have been born between June 23, 1999, and June 18, 2003. The 32 students will be selected through an application process where they must state why they want to attend camp. The camp tuition is \$400 per student. All meals and accommodations are included for the residence camp. A student doesn't have to be an accomplished fly fisher or a budding aquatic biologist to attend. The student only needs to be highly motivated and willing to learn.

The Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp was founded in 1995 through the efforts of the late Dr. John R. "Jack" Beck and the late Enoch S. "Inky" Moore, Jr., Fish Commissioner. Their goal was to select 32 teenagers each year who were the leaders in their class. The thought is that today's leaders in high school become the leaders of tomorrow's communities. In a few short years, they will be the bankers, lawyers, realtors, municipal officials, and the leaders in their communities. If the camp can implant a kernel of knowledge in today's students about the importance of clean water, when those students become the decision makers in their communities, it may have a positive impact on how water resources are used.

The camp will begin accepting applications for the 2017 camp on November 1, 2016. All applications for early acceptance must be received no later than March 31, 2017.

Applying via our website is preferred. For more information, or to apply, visit the camp website at [www.riverscamp.com](http://www.riverscamp.com). Questions may be submitted at the website or via email to [riverscamp@gmail.com](mailto:riverscamp@gmail.com).

## **Youth Camp Ghillies and Flies By Clark Hall**

We are in need of ghillies 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 5:30AM and end at 8AM. Volunteer ghillies 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 ghillies 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 requesting that donors tie 3 dozen of whatever pattern they sign-up for. Sign-up sheets for ghillies and flies will be available at membership meetings, or contact Clark Hall at 697-4549 or email [chall2636@verizon.net](mailto:chall2636@verizon.net) or contact Biff Healy at 254-7386 or email [bifer1966@hotmail.com](mailto:bifer1966@hotmail.com).

## **Allenberry Access Update By Dave Weaver**

As of the issuance of this newsletter in early January, public access to the Allenberry resort remains closed. However, anglers seeking to fish the special regulation section may continue to do so as long as they *remain on the south side of the stream*. If you park at The Run, you can walk down to the lower special regulation section. Do not cross over the stream to the north bank as this remains a construction area. The matter of angler access here has been in flux. Keep an eye on the chapter website and Facebook page for future changes.

## Fly Tier's Corner Seasonal Soft-Hackle By Tom Miller

Soft hackles, one of the simplest and most effective flies you can have in your box with infinite recipes to match most any hatch. I tie these simple partridge hackled flies with a variety of thread colors; greens for olives or various shades of yellow or orange for hatching sulphurs for example. You can also mix up the pattern with different shades of feathers to match what you're trying to imitate. The pictured fly was tied with a bit of a holiday theme to match the season.

Start the fly by anchoring the thread 2 or so eye lengths back on the hook, and wrap back towards the bend. The traditional version of this pattern stops the thread body even with the hook point, so if you're tying in a wire rib, plan accordingly for the proportions. Anchor your rib, then continue wrapping back to the hook point then reverse back towards the eye with nice even wraps. Next, wrap the rib wire forward thru a few evenly spaced turns and tie it off, leaving yourself room for the hackle. Final step is to tie in the partridge hackle and then I like 2 or 3 turns of hackle to produce a sparse, but buggy looking fly that'll look alive in the water. Tie off the hackle and finish it with your preferred half hitch or whip finish and a drop of cement if you're so inclined. As mentioned, the combinations are endless with these flies, so don't be afraid to experiment and discover your own secret recipe that the trout just can't resist. Good luck and happy tying!

Hook: Mustad 94840 (or your preferred wet fly hook.) Sizes 14/16/18  
Thread: Pearsall's gossamer silk, green.  
Rib: Fine wire, red.  
Hackle: Partridge.



Yellow Breeches, Photo Courtesy: D. Weaver