



TIGHT LINES

www.pacvtu.org



Volume 20 Issue 4

Cumberland Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

April 2015

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

Kudos to Paul Rouse and Tom Baltz

By Dave Weaver

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CVTU's annual conservation and awards banquet, *The Limestoner*, proved to be a great success with the largest turnout your chapter has had in years, over 150 individuals signed up. Despite the snowy weather, turnout was good and a fine time was had. In keeping with past tradition, CVTU gave out two awards, the Charles Fox Rising Trout Award and the Limestoner Award. The Rising Trout award goes to an individual who has advanced the sport of fly fishing and the Limestoner goes to an individual who has made significant impact on our TU mission of coldwater conservation. This year, both awards went to CVTU stalwarts who need no introduction to anyone in the chapter who has paid attention in recent years: Paul Rouse and Tom Baltz. Paul received the Rising Trout and Tom earned the Limestoner. So kudos to Paul and Tom! They have done much for your chapter and the awards were richly deserved.



Photos Courtesy: Bill Strockbine, March 2015

51
Members and
Guests Attended
the March
Member's Meeting

Membership Meeting: April 15th
Allenberry Meadow Lodge at 7pm.

Our April meeting speaker will be Pennsylvania guide and photographer Bill Kosmer, who will recount his recent month long trip chasing monster brown trout in Tierra Del Fuego, Chile. There will also be a screening of a short 15 minute film from this year's trip. Hope to see you there. Tom Baltz

Quick Bites and Short Strikes

Dave Weaver - Editor

Calendar of Events

2015

- April 4th
Opening Day of Trout Season
Southcentral Region
- April 15th
Member's Meeting
Allenberry Meadow Lodge,
Boiling Springs
- April 16th
Chapter Breakfast
Kimberly's Café, Carlisle
- April 11th
Chapter Fishing Trip
Clarks/Stoney Creeks
- April 11th
Conococheague Dedication
Caledonia State Park and
Michaux State Forest
- April 17-20th
Chapter Trip, WV
- May 4-8th
Chapter Trip
South Holston, TN
- June 5-7th
Angler's Club Visit
- June 6th
Chapter Fishing Trip
East Licking Creek
- June 9-10th
Reel recovery
Allenberry
- June 13th
Perry County Youth Field
Day, Duncannon
Sportsmen's Club
- June 20th
Heritage Day/Fly Casting
Competition, Allenberry
- June 21-26th
Rivers Conservation and
Youth Camp, Allenberry
- June 30- 1 July
Street to Streams
Allenberry
- Aug 21st
Chapter Picnic
Allenberry
- Sep 5th
Last Supper
Vince's Meadow

Submission of articles and suggestions for this newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to 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. In the meantime, I'd encourage you to keep your info with TU National up-to-date. If needed, you can go to www.tu.org, click on "Member Login," and check your profile. If you have trouble logging in, or need help editing your profile, please call 1-800-834-2419. *Tight Lines* will be mailed by request only.

~ Fly of the Month: I'm in need of flies for this popular column. Email (to me) a jpg image of the fly and a separate word.doc with info on the fly, materials, and some tips on fishing the fly or tying it.

Dave W.

~ Don't forget, that during the colder months of the year, that the chapter conducts monthly breakfast gatherings in Carlisle. You're welcome to join. These used to be known as a gathering of senior citizens but, truthfully, any chapter member is welcome. Dave W.

~ Federation of Fly Fisher's Event: Bob Abraham Casting Club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers will hold their Sixth Annual Fly Caster's Rendezvous from 9:00 AM To 4:30 PM, 28 March 2015 at River-Bottom Park in Williamsport, Maryland. Pre-registration required. Contact rstouf@mail.com. Jim Rainey

~ CVTU will be holding the 21st annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp on June 21-26, 2015, 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, 2015. For a camp brochure, more information, or an application, see: 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. Sign-up sheets will be available at membership meetings, or contact **Clark Hall** at **697-4549** or email chall2636@verizon.net. Clark Hall

CVTU Membership is 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. Applications are available at Yellow Breeches Outfitters. **New Members** may also join online at 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. You may also renew, or change your membership information by calling **TU Customer Service** at **1-800-834-2419**. For more information, contact **Clark Hall**, Membership Chairman.

Tight Lines



President's Message

From the President, Justin Pittman

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The "Luck of the Irish" was with us in March as we celebrated our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Limestoner Banquet, and it was a great success. We had over 145 people in attendance, a great turnout and one of the best I've seen in years. We raffled off some great prizes through both our live and silent actions and raised money to continue the great work our chapter has been doing to conserve the cold-water resources of Cumberland County. During the event we presented three major awards. The first award presented was the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Award. This award was presented to Paul Rouse for his continued service in educating anglers across the region through his magazine the *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*. Our second award, the Limestoner Award, was presented to CVTU member Tom Baltz. Tom has been instrumental in many of the events and aspects surrounding the Cumberland Valley. We would like to thank Tom again for the great job he has done over the many years he has served in our chapter. Our last award, Order of the Quill, was presented to CVTU member Alan Stansbury. Alan received the award for his commitment to making the South Middletown Fly Tying course a success and for all the other things that he has done for CVTU. Alan has been very committed to CVTU and we thank you Alan for all of your hard work and many years of service. Lastly, I would like to thank Matt Perry, along with the entire Limestoner team, for their commitment. This entire event would not have been possible without the many long hours they have put into organizing and making sure our banquet went off without a hitch!

Now that we are through the "fundraising season" it is time to start thinking about some of the upcoming projects and grants that we are working on. We have received the final approval from DEP to start addressing the Trindle Springs project, so keep an eye out for more to come on this issue. If you would like to be a part of the Feet in the Stream Gang (FITS), please let myself or Don Albright know so you can be added to the email list. We are also starting to prepare for our many summer programs such as the Rivers Conservation and Youth Camp, Street to Streams, Reel Recovery, and many others. Again, if you want to help on the water with any program, please let us know. If you just desire to get on the water, don't forget about the CVTU fishing trips that are being offered. You can find out all of the details on our website.

The weather in the Cumberland Valley and across the state has been cold. I hope that everyone will be taking the opportunity once it starts to warm up to get out and enjoy some time on the water and with his or her family. Opening Day of Trout is April 4, 2015 in our area, so good luck to everyone that will be heading out. Our statewide opener is April 18, 2015. For everyone traveling, be safe and have a great time! I look forward to seeing everyone for our April members meeting back at the Allenberry Playhouse. Lastly, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call or e-mail me at flyfishing80@gmail.com



Tight Lines!

Justin

Casting & Tying Competition **By Tom Miller**

The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting its Annual Mid Atlantic Fly Casting & Fly Tying Championships on June 20th, 2015 at Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, PA. The Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum will host the competitions in conjunction with its 13th Annual Heritage Day Celebration. The Heritage Day event is a full day of celebrating the fly fishing heritage in the State of Pennsylvania with over 60 vendors and exhibitors, hands on demonstrations, special seminars, instruction, raffles, auctions and the always popular Fish Swim Race on the Yellow Breeches for a chance to win \$500! More information on Heritage Day is available on the Museum website: www.paflyfishing.org

The fly tying competition is open to all with categories for Men, Women and Youth along with an Open Division. Competitors are asked to submit sample flies with their entry and will be judged by the flies they tie on the day of the contest. Full details and contest rules will be available on CVTU's website at www.pacvtu.org. There is no fee to enter any of the amateur classes while the Open Division entry fee is \$25. Open Division entrants will be competing for cash prizes while the winning juniors, amateur women and men will be awarded with merchandise prizes and plaques.

Along with the fly tying contest, CVTU in association with the Chesapeake Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, will also host a 5-weight fly casting competition. This contest is also open to all with categories for men, women and youth along with an Open Division for more experienced guides, instructors and professionals. Competitors will be challenged by both accuracy and distance tasks with winners determined by the highest combined score. All winning competitors will receive plaques along with merchandise prizes. The entrance fee is \$25 for pre-registration, postmarked by June 12, 2015, or you can sign up the day of the event for \$30. Complete rules and registration forms will also be available on CVTU's website: www.pacvtu.org.

Cabin Fever Breakfast at Kim's Cafe **By Ken Palmer**

Last month we began to hold our Breakfast get together for anyone who is interested. We meet on the THIRD THURSDAY of each month. That is the Thursday after the membership meeting on

Wednesday. We meet at Kimberly's Cafe on West High Street in Carlisle. Kim's is just across the street from Dickinson College. Meeting time is 8:00am. All are welcome.

Bucket Raffle at Membership Meetings **By Ken Palmer**

After our April meeting we will be in need of some items to serve as donations for bucket raffles at our regular membership meetings. As you travel around and shop and look through your tackle and tying materials, try to remember CVTU. We are trying to offer 6 QUALITY items at each meeting to increase the proceeds of the bucket raffles. These raffles help to offset the speaker costs and refreshments etc. We will continue to purchase items out of the proceeds but donations are obviously accepted. An extra box of hooks or a package or spool of leader is a great item. Maybe a dozen flies. Thanks for your support and just bring your items to the meeting and give them to me or give me a call and I'll arrange to meet with you to get the item if you cannot attend the meeting.

Trout in the Classroom **By Biff Healy**

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) will be at the YBEC at Frankford on April 27-28 starting at 8:30 AM. We will be teaching basic fly casting and knot tying. Members willing to help are asked to contact me (Biff) at (717) 254-7386, or email biffer1966@hotmail.com. We hope to access a pond nearby to have the youngsters hook some bluegills.

Conococheague Dedication **By Dave Weaver**

CVTU was one of four Chapters that participated in the restoration project on the Conococheague Creek. Adams County TU is hosting a hot lunch for the members of all four chapters on April 11th beginning at 11:30 AM followed by the dedication at 1:30. The "Jig" is full of native brookies and runs through the old Birch Run Reservoir, the same reservoir that gave up the current PA record largemouth bass in 1983 - 11 lbs. 3 oz.! Come to the dedication and see the cooperative work of Adams County TU, Falling Spring TU, Northern Virginia TU, and our own Cumberland Valley Chapter. Lunch is provided. Check the CVTU website for directions and registration information.

Big Spring Update By Dave Weaver

Big Spring Creek continues its extraordinary improvements and wild brook trout continue to thrive. Since the completion of the Phase I project in the middle section of the fly fishing only (FFO) stretch in 2010 and the subsequent completion of the Phase II section just downstream completed in 2013, trout populations continue to evolve. Electrofishing surveys in 2011 after Phase I showed dramatic increases in both brook trout and rainbow trout populations in the area that had been rehabilitated. However, the very large number of rainbows caused some concern since Big Spring was historically known for its brook trout and the restoration projects were planned in part to establish habitat that would favor brook trout and enable them to thrive (as much as was possible).

Since then, if you're a fan of our state's native salmonid, you will be pleased to know that brook trout populations continue to increase in Big Spring whereas rainbows are currently declining in the restored areas and throughout the FFO. These sections were surveyed again in 2014 and this trend continues. These new surveys revealed, for example, that in the Phase I section, brook trout biomass increased in 2014 while rainbow biomass decreased in that section during the same period. In the new Phase II section, brook trout biomass also increased and there are now nearly as many brookies in that area as rainbows.

In fact, the data shows that in the total FFO section from the dam at the "Ditch" down through the Phase II section, brook trout biomass is now well above Class A while rainbow biomass (although still higher) continues to decline. Remembering that the brookies are smaller in size, when you compare numbers of fish instead of biomass, the prevalence of brook trout becomes even more striking: as of 2014, brook trout are now just over half of the trout population in this, the main part of the FFO (this is just counting adult fish, not young of the year). Clearly, brook trout are flourishing in Big Spring - just as we had hoped. The PFBC will continue to monitor these trends and populations for at least the next five years.

In some other good news relating to Big Spring, surveys have revealed a good population of wild brown trout in the lower sections of the stream - this would be Section 5 which is downstream of town below the mill dam. Most of this land is currently posted and off limits to fishing, however CVTU is monitoring the situation and will be in contact with landowners in the future. Also, a couple of the small boards in the dam at the "Ditch" were replaced recently resulting in a slightly

noticeable increase in water levels.

Fly of the Month **The Bead Head Prince** With Three Different Hooks By Biff Healy

When I started tying this fly for the FOTM in "Tightlines," I used a standard number 14 wet fly hook. Then I remembered the huge Brown Trout that I'd caught on the Manistee River last summer. I had used a curved shank nymph hook, and it was a Bead Head Prince, in what I call the "Orvis tie." It was on a #16 hook, and as I didn't get a picture, I will only say that it was possibly the largest Brown I have ever caught. So I tied this pattern on three different hooks, all size 14, and got three different profiles in the fly. In this sense, I'm doing something a bit unconventional for this article: a modified pattern in different "skeletons."

Hooks used: Mustad 3908 Sproat size 14, TMC 2488 curved shank size 14, Eagle Claw LO635 wet/nymph size 14. The main difference in this fly from the standard tie is the use of Red thread, and CDC for the legs. The CDC flutters in the water, giving it I think a rather life-like appearance. The red collar and tail was much more effective than the standard black or brown seen in commercially tied flies. The Bead Head Prince is usually the first fly I tie on, especially when exploring new waters, and it has rewarded me with some truly exceptional trout. The different hooks were a caprice at first, but the curved shank edition has proven itself, as has the short shank and standard shank hooks. Which one to use in any given situation? If I had that answer I could probably give Tom Baltz a run for his money! Have fun at the bench and on the stream.

Steps in tying the BHP:
Crimp the barb on the hook (whichever one you're using) and place the bead on the hook. Place the hook in the vise. Turn on a base of the Red thread, waxed, the length of the hook shank from the eye, (and into the bend a sixteenth of an inch if using the curved hook.) At the bend or end of the base windings, build a small ball of thread. Tie in two rusty brown turkey biots, spread in an "X" at the tail, using the thread ball to separate. Anchor these with several wraps of thread towards the eye of the hook, clip off the excess and return the thread to the tail starting spot. Tie in three peacock herls at this point,

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followed by a six inch length of gold wire. Wind the thread to the eye stopping at the bead. Wind the peacock herl to the bead and tie off, trim the excess. Wind the gold wire over the herl, making at least five turns towards the eye, so as to reinforce the herl. Tie off the wire and trim the excess. At the bottom of the hook at the bead, place a small CDC feather (Moistening makes it easier to handle and place) and tie in to form the legs. They should extend to the bend of the hook. Trim off the excess. Tie in two white turkey biots on top at the rear of the bead, making a "V" back over the fly's body. These wings should be the length of the hook shank. Wind a collar of the red thread about 1/16" wide at the wing tie in point. Whip finish and cut the thread. A drop of Hard as Nails finishes the fly.



**CVTU Fly Tying Class Coordinator
Need a New Volunteer
By Board of Directors**

After 8 years of serving as the coordinator of this signature CVTU activity, Alan Stansbury has asked the Board to find a replacement. Therefore the Board is now reaching out to our 600 members to ask you to get involved and take this opportunity to contribute to the chapter and to the public.

Following is a brief summary of what is involved in this coordinator role.

The actual course is 8 weeks long involving one night per week from 7pm to 9pm. It usually starts around the third week of January and ends the second week of March. There are two sessions, a beginners session and an intermediate/advanced session. Alan has a detailed plan in place and a core group of volunteers to help during the classes. The classes are coordinated through the South Middleton Township Parks and Recreation department and they provide the venue and some of the publicity as well as registering and collecting course fees from the participants. The printed instructional materials are in place and copies are made at a local vendor. You will need to order tying materials and prepare tying kits. All expenses for the beginner's course are paid for by the chapter. Video equipment is used during the course so the participants can see what is being done by the instructors. You and your team of volunteers are responsible for setting up and tearing down the equipment for each session. According to Alan the most challenging part of the coordinator role is finding fresh and interesting topics for the intermediate/advanced sessions, recruiting 8 guest tiers and compiling detailed session information for the participants in a timely manner. He usually starts in September to put the schedule together for this class. He currently has a group of about 24 local fly tiers who give of their time and talents. Needing only 8 tiers a year for the advanced sessions allows for some to have a year off or pinch hit in the case of an emergency. Jerry Kerstetter will continue to serve the very important role as instructor of the beginner class which utilizes a standardized approach for presenting the weekly topics.

In Summary, you do not need to start from scratch to keep this activity going. The basics are in place and you are free and encouraged to put your own spin on it. Maybe you want to team up with a friend to share the duties. Whatever works for you. It is believed that the CVTU course is one of the longest running and best quality fly tying courses in the state and we are asking you to consider getting involved. Remember, Alan will be happy to answer any questions regarding aspects of running the current program. Going forward, the Board and the course volunteers will be there to assist you along the way.

If you are interested, please contact Justin Pittman or Tom Miller, or better yet contact Alan Stansbury direct to answer your questions.

Thank you, CVTU Board of Directors

TIGHT LINES

A Monthly Publication

Cumberland Valley TU

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