



# TIGHT LINES

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



Volume 25 Issue 3

Cumberland Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

May - Aug. 2020

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

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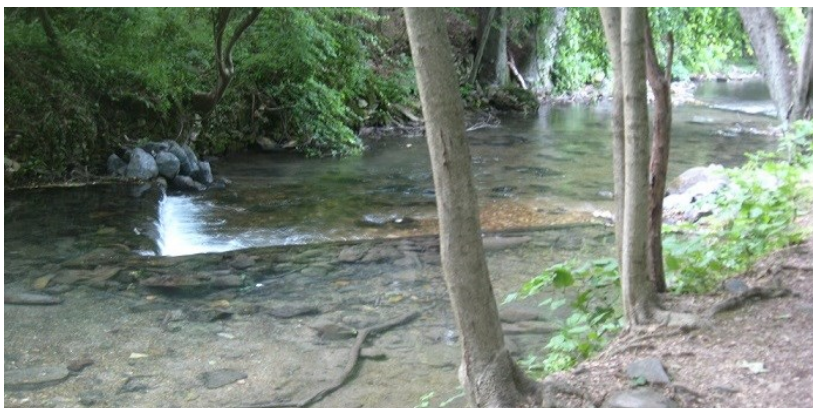
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## Our Need for Streams By Dave Weaver

Not to get all new-agey here, but CVTU has long been a proponent of the restorative power of cold-water resources. Our many projects that guide anglers with cancer or a troubled youth are well known and we're proud of them. There is, of course, a reason why wading into a trout stream and immersing oneself in the experience of nature has benefits. In these uncertain and difficult times, it is worth remembering that we're all in need of this restorative power these days. I think we are all thankful that angling and outdoor recreation is allowed and widely available for those of us fortunate to live close to trout streams. Of course we need to keep in mind the appropriate precautions – stay at least six feet away from other anglers, drive alone or only with household members, wear a mask when required... but get out there on the water. Take a hike on the Letort trail or fish a mountain stream. Our beloved waters have seen many tough times and will continue to flow through this one. We have spent much time taking care of these streams. Let 'em take care of us for awhile.



The Run. Image Courtesy: D. Weaver

**64**  
**Members Attended**  
**the Feb.**  
**Membership**  
**Meeting.**  
**Mar. & Apr.**  
**Meetings**  
**Cancelled.**

**Membership Meeting for May is Cancelled**

# Quick Bites and Short Strikes

Dave Weaver - Editor



## Calendar of Events

2020

Aug. 15th  
Chapter Picnic  
Location TBD

Sep. 12th  
Last Supper  
Vince's Meadow

Oct 3rd  
Limestoner Banquet  
Carlisle Country Club

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.

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

~ If you're a senior citizen, you're entitled to a membership discount.  
[www.tu.org/senior](http://www.tu.org/senior)

~ Thank you, Robert Berish of Bethesda MD, for your very generous gift to Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited of \$5,000 to be used to restore Letort Spring Run. What a pleasant surprise!

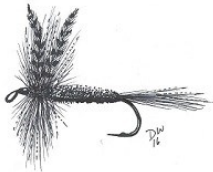
John Leonard

~ The 2020 Charles Fox Rising Trout Award was conveyed to Henry Ramsay.

John Leonard

~ The chapter is considering a live stream Facebook fly tying demonstration in lieu of our May membership meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

John Leonard



## CVTU Membership is Currently 610!

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.



Mountain Creek. Image Courtesy: D. Weaver

# President's Message

From the President, John Leonard

## Cumberland Valley Chapter Officers and Directors (term)

To contact any of the following individuals, please use:

[cvtu052@gmail.com](mailto:cvtu052@gmail.com)

### President:

John Leonard, (21)

### Vice President:

Mark Albano, (20)

### Secretary:

John Zazworsky, (21)

### Treasurer:

Jeb Betar, (22)

### Newsletter Editor:

Dave Weaver

### Webmaster:

Mark Albano

### Directors:

Eric Naguski, (21)

Neil Sunday, (22)

Don Albright, (20)

Tom Baltz, (20)

David Stone, (22)

Mary Shughart, (21)

Gary Leone, (21)

Robert Shaw (20)

Justin Pittman (22)

Daryll Kuhn (20)

Keith Tyler (22)

Hello fellow CVTU members! I hope this finds you and your family healthy and doing what you need to do to protect yourselves from Covid-19.

We are back to e-mailing our Tight Lines this quarter because our printing company has been deemed non-essential. Hopefully by August, everything will be back on schedule. The annual CVTU picnic is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>...please mark your calendars now. All our May activities are cancelled. TU has closed all TU gatherings until May 15<sup>th</sup> and has instructed all chapters to follow their state's Covid guidelines after that. However, as you know, this is a very fluid situation. We will keep you updated as changes occur.

The Limestoner Conservation Banquet and Fundraiser has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Carlisle Country Club. Tickets are on sale at [www.pacvtu.org](http://www.pacvtu.org) – all the information regarding the event is there on our web site.

All our annual June special activities have been cancelled – the East Licking Creek trip, Reel Recovery, Rivers Camp, and Street to Streams. We may be able to have a chapter membership meeting, but that has yet to be determined, so stay tuned.

CVTU has donated \$1,000 to help preserve permanent access to the C & R area on the Conewago. The permanent easement on the Conewago was spearheaded by the Adams County TU chapter. The cost of the property easement is \$100,000 with \$84,000 coming from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. ACTU is still accepting money to cover the cost of the gravel access road and the parking lot. If you would like to make a personal contribution, you can make your check out to "ACTU-Conewago Access Fund" and mail it to Dave Swope – ACTU Treasurer, 601 Hanover St., New Oxford PA 17350. Thank you!

If you want to keep up with all the conservation news across PA, I suggest you subscribe (free) to the PA Environmental Digest - <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/>. It usually published once a week and it is loaded with conservation news and legislative action related to conservation funding.

Enjoy the outdoors and fishing (once the levels drop) and I hope you and your families stay well

You're welcome to contact me at [president@pacvtu.org](mailto:president@pacvtu.org) or (717) 512-4620. Have a Happy and Prosperous 2020!



Tight Lines,

*John*



Image Courtesy: D. Weaver



## 2020 Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp Cancelled

by Clark Hall

Messiah College has cancelled all events through the end of June. Regretfully, there will not be a 2020 Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Applicants accepted for the 2020 camp are automatically accepted to the 2021 camp, provided they notify us of their intention to attend. The 2021 camp is scheduled for June 20-25.

We are requesting that individuals and organizations that are sponsoring students for the 2020 camp extend their sponsorship to the 2021 camp. If the student or sponsor requests, we will issue a refund.

Thank you to all who signed up to ghillie and tie flies for the camp. For those who have flies tied for the camp, wait until TCO or Precision Fly Fishing opens and drop them there or bring them to a CVTU meeting when they resume.

### In Memoriam: Ed Shenk

By Dave Weaver

In sad news for the fly-fishing community and the Cumberland Valley in particular, Ed Shenk passed away this week. He was 93. Ed was among the founders of CVTU, serving as the chapter's first vice-president in the late 1960s.

Ed was one of the last of a well-known generation of Pennsylvania fly fishing innovators from the Greatest Generation. He is often mentioned in the same breath with Charlie Fox, Vince Marinaro, and other central Pennsylvania fly fishers who were central to advancing the sport in the mid-twentieth century. Like Fox and Marinaro, Shenk is best known for his association with the Letort, our state's best-known stream for the development of innovative fishing methods.

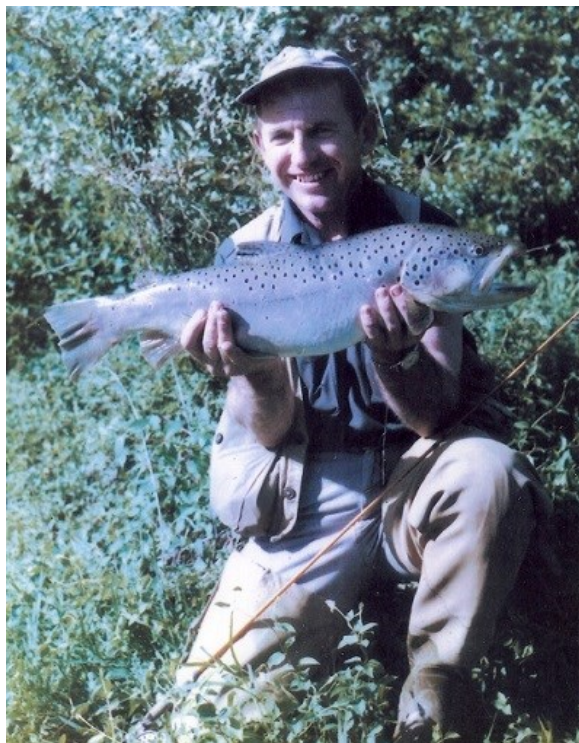
Many of us knew Ed and fished with him. While he could be opinionated, Ed was always willing to help and was eager to share his knowledge and experience. An innovative fly tier, Ed has long been associated with a variety of well known and [still productive patterns](#), in particular the Letort Hopper, Letort Cricket, Shenk Sculpin, and Shenk's White Minnow among others.

Ed was a guru of short fly rods, and was handy at building custom glass rods. This short rod school has made a lasting impression on many of us who still love to fish with rods under six feet long, almost a sort of rebellion against the new fad for longer rods.

Ed was particularly skilled at targeting large trout with streamers, sculpin patterns in particular. This too affected many of us. I remember an article by Ed, "Sculpinating Trout" from (I think) *Fly Fisherman Magazine* in the mid 1980s. When I recently told Ed that that that article had hooked me on sculpins, still one of my favorite flies, he was delighted and surprised someone would remember an article from back then.

Ed published a book, *Fly Rod Trout* (Stackpole, 1989) that should be in any Pennsylvania angler's library. In it, Ed recounts what is, I think, Pennsylvania's greatest fish story: Old George. This was a great trout Ed pursued for a long time in Letort, finally catching him in 1964.

(This report originally appeared on [paflyfish.com](#) and is reproduced here slightly changed.)



Ed Shenk with "Old George," c. 1964.  
Image Courtesy: PA Fly Fishing Museum

## **Big Spring Flow Problems**

**By Dave Weaver**

In recent days Big Spring has exhibited some strange and much lower flow rates. This is mainly in the section below the Willow Tree parking lot and becomes more noticeable at Nealy Rd. The low water extends downstream some distance. There are reports of some other anomalies in the watershed as well. The flow up in the fly fishing only section up through the ditch appears unaffected. At this point, we don't know the problem but some sort of karst shift appears to have occurred or perhaps a sinkhole. CVTU has considerable experience with sinkhole remediation and perhaps we will have to roll our sleeves up again in this case. In the meantime, you may wish to avoid fishing in the stocked water below Nealy Rd. and perhaps avoid the lower fly-fishing section as well.

## **2019 Trout Population Data for the Cumberland Valley**

**By Dave Weaver**

### **BIG SPRING:**

Rainbow and brook trout total biomass declined slightly in the FFO during 2016-2018 but increased to 90kg/ha in 2019. Brook trout in the FFO are 72% of the population and rainbows are 28% which is keeping with PFBC goals. Brook trout populations in the Phase II section (lower FFO restoration section) grew dramatically in 2019 and there are now more brookies in this section than up in Phase I. 2019 also produced a strong young of the year class of brookies in Big Spring.

### **LETORT:**

Bonnybrook was 80 kg/ha in 2019, which is a bit below the long-term average for this section. Down at Post Rd and the Turnpike, the biomass increased a bit over 2017 with slightly more fish at the Turnpike section. The long-term average for lower Letort is about 139 kg/ha. During the summer, about 200 trout died in a side section of the stream in the Carlisle Barracks stretch. This fish kill was confined to this section and may have been a result of an infusion of hot water.

### **FALLING SPRING:**

2017 produced very poor results for reasons that are not well understood. The PFBC did a study to try to shed light on this but the study was inconclusive and showed no parasites or disease. In 2019 in the FFO section, biomass for both rainbows and brown trout was under 40 kg/ha. Although this was a slight improvement, it's still less than half the long-term average. The 2019 study revealed an estimated population of adult brown trout in the Skelly section to be the equivalent of 301 fish per mile with a lower number for rainbows. The good news is that 2018 and 2019 show good young of the year numbers in Falling Springs.

### **HOGESTOWN RUN:**

Hogestown has not been surveyed in a generation but is scheduled for 2020.

(This is a summary of a presentation by AFM Bryan Chikotas in February)



Mountain Creek. Image Courtesy: D. Weaver