



# TIGHT LINES

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



Volume 27 Issue 1

Cumberland Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

March– May 2022

+++++++ Recipient of the 2011 Trout Unlimited “Gold Trout” National Conservation Award ++++++

## CONTENTS:

Limestoner.....	1
Member's Meeting.....	1
Quick Bites & Short Strikes.....	2
Tight Lines Distribution and Mail Chimp.....	2
Calendar of Events.....	2
Membership Info.....	2
Address Change.....	2
Senior Discount.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Officers & Directors.....	3
2021 Youth Camp.....	4
Online Auction.....	4
YBAC.....	4
Keystone Conference.....	5
Youth Essays.....	6
Winter Tying Recap.....	8
Growing Greener.....	10
Yellow Breeches.....	10



**47**  
**Members Attended**  
**the Feb. 16th**  
**Membership**  
**Meeting (24 in**  
**person, 23 on Zoom)**

## The Limestoner Fundraising Banquet

By Garrett Keiffer

The banquet will be held at the Carlisle Country Club on March 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 PM with dinner at 6:30. We want this event to focus on fellowship...a good time to get reacquainted with old friends and to make new friends. We will have bucket raffles and a live auction, but it will be scaled back from what we have done before. There will be displays showing our work on the completed Wittlinger project. Author, fly tier, and supporter of Rivers Camp, Henry Ramsay, will receive the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Award for his significant contributions in advancing the sport of fly fishing and conservation. We will also be recognizing two of our members' work and achievements by presenting them with the Order of the Quill Award and the Limestoner Award, our highest award given to a CVTU member. There is a lot to celebrate!

We will be served a three-entrée buffet. The menu is Mixed Baby Green Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings – Rolls with Butter – Chicken Breast Cutlets with Wild Mushrooms, Artichoke Hearts, and Roasted Red Peppers in a Fresh Thyme, Vermouth Butter Sauce – Herb Roasted Pork Loin with Apricot Dijon Mustard Sauce – Orecchiette Pasta and Fresh Garden Vegetables in a Parmesan Cream Sauce – Green Beans Almandine – Grilled Marinated Vegetables – Roasted Red Potatoes with Herbs and Garlic – Freshly Brewed Colombian Coffee and Hot or Iced Tea – Assorted Fruit Pies and Cakes. There will also be a cash bar.



**Next Meeting:**  
**Wed. March 16th, Bosler Library Carlisle**  
For the March meeting we will have Bill Anderson on the Little Juniata.

# Quick Bites and Short Strikes

Dave Weaver - Editor



## Calendar of Events

2022

Mar. 19th  
Limestoner  
Carlisle Country Club

Jun. 19-24th  
Youth Camp  
Messiah University



Photo Courtesy D. Weaver



~ If you want to continue receiving *Tight Lines*:

- Share your e-mail address with CVTU. We will not share it with anyone else. You can always unsubscribe.
- Drop a note to CVTU, PO Box 520, Carlisle PA 17013 and ask to have future publications mailed to your home.
- You can go to our web site, [www.pacvtu.org](http://www.pacvtu.org) and read the current and past publications.

~ Submission of articles and suggestions for this newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to [cvtu052@gmail.com](mailto:cvtu052@gmail.com). The deadline for the next issue is the 25th of each month prior to the next newsletter. *Tight Lines* is published in Feb., May, Aug., and Dec. 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). We 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.

~ If you're a senior citizen, you're entitled to a membership discount.

[www.tu.org/senior](http://www.tu.org/senior)

~ The Big Spring Watershed Association has kept busy this year in our efforts to restore, protect, and enhance the Big Spring. We had tremendous participation by members of the community and BSWA in our activities--from helping maintain the bird and pollinator garden, to participating in trash cleanup, and guiding wounded veterans as part of Project Healing Waters. Thank you to all of the volunteers! Your tireless work has made all of BSWA's accomplishments possible. We encourage all members of the community to take part in BSWA's activities. Membership dues support all our activities.

(Courtesy M. Spicka from BSWA Newsletter)



D. Albright Leads Fly Tying Class

Photo Courtesy: J. Daniels

## CVTU Membership is Currently 637!

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 our Membership Chairman.

# President's Message

From the President, John Zazworsky

## 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 Zazworsky, (24)

### **Vice President:**

Justin Pittman, (22)

### **Secretary:**

Daryll Kuhn, (23)

### **Treasurer:**

Jeb Betar, (22)

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Dave Weaver

### **Stream Access & Conservation Chair:**

Neil Sunday, (22)

### **Information & Education Chair:**

Keith Tyler, (22)

### **Activities Chair:**

Dan Zazworsky, (23)

### **Membership Chair:**

(Open)

### **Limestoner Banquet:**

Gary Leone, (24)

### **Online Auction:**

Garrett Kieffer, (23)

### **At Large:**

Bob Lipscomb, (22)

Tom Baltz, (23)

George Reilly, (23)

Eric Naguski, (24)

Jonathan Daniels (24)

Ben Richwine (24)

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and you're tolerating the cold weather while preparing for the renewal of spring time. I'm writing this letter after having just attended the Keystone Coldwater Conference in State College with fellow board member Jonathan Daniels. The conference was a gathering of federal, state and county conservationists, along with academics and students as well as multiple volunteer organizations--all focused on preserving and restoring our coldwater resources. See the article elsewhere in this issue for a summary of the seminars we attended. I'm encouraged that we have like-minded partners in many organizations, and I was impressed by everyone's passion for preserving and improving outdoor resources. We continue to strengthen our community connections to maximize the positive impact on our local streams.

In February we resumed in-person monthly meetings at the Bosler Library in Carlisle. The meeting room is well-suited for our size group and has great audiovisual support. We made attendance possible by Zoom meeting, and as many people attended virtually as were attending in person. It was good to see everyone in person, and we'll continue to meet this way as long as health risks continue to decline.

Unfortunately, grant applications were not approved for the projects to reconstruct and preserve the rapidly eroding banks at the mouth of the Letort, and to re-channelize the flow and reduce bank erosion in the Barnitz Church stretch of the Yellow Breeches. Both PA Fish & Boat Commission and CVTU will continue to pursue additional grants to keep these projects on track. Elsewhere in this edition, you'll see information about pending legislation for the Growing Greener grant program, an important source of funds for our chapter's stream conservation projects. Please reach out to your state representatives and tell them how important this program is for preserving our local coldwater resources.

Finally, the Limestoner Banquet is right around the corner on Saturday March 19, at the Carlisle Country Club. The new format of the banquet will emphasize the social gathering, while allowing us to do fund-raising. If you can't attend in person, please make a donation to enable the many programs we support as a chapter--and don't forget to purchase some 50/50 tickets for a chance at a cash prize. We'll follow the banquet with an on-line auction of big ticket items to augment our fund-raising efforts. Look for more detailed information from project leaders Gary Leone & Garrett Kieffer elsewhere in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the Limestoner banquet or out on the water this spring.

Tight Lines,

*John*



Fox's Meadow - Photo Courtesy D. Weaver



## **CVTU's Online Auction**

### **By Garrett Kieffer**

The Chapter will be holding our online fundraising auction from March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>. Over the years, the auction has been a major source for CVTU's discretionary funds. With your support, this auction will help our chapter stay committed to our coldwater conservation, education and stream improvement work throughout the year!

We'll have a variety of items that will interest anglers and non-anglers alike! Guided trips, fishing getaways, artwork, gear, handcrafted items and much more will be available for you to bid on. Additionally, we're always grateful for donated items from our chapter members as long as they're in good condition/lightly used. Please contact Garrett Kieffer at [gckieffer@gmail.com](mailto:gckieffer@gmail.com) if you'd have anything you'd like to donate.

When the auction starts, you will be able to visit the auction webpage to see what we have available and place your bid on anything that you're interested in. Over the course of the auction you will be notified if someone has submitted a higher bid and you'll have the opportunity to increase your bid if you'd like. As the auction ends, you will be notified if you won any items. You will need a TU account to bid on items. The auction webpage will direct you to create an account or sign into your existing account to submit a bid. As we get closer to the auction, we'll be sending out additional information and instruction for the auction.

Don't miss out on your chance to win some of these spectacular items while supporting a great organization and the coldwater fisheries that we all love!

## **YBAC Outdoor Sports Show**

### **By CVTU**

After two years of Covid cancellations, the Yellow Breeches Anglers and Conservation Association's Outdoor Sports Show is back on! This year the Yellow Breeches Anglers and Conservation Association will be conducting their 50<sup>th</sup> annual outdoor sports show on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the St. Patrick Parish Activity Center at 85 Marsh Drive, Carlisle. Doors open at 8:00 AM. Come hear speakers, meet vendors, guide

services, conservation groups, artists and craftsmen. There will be plenty of great food, raffles and door prizes. The show will feature children's activities, including fly tying and a photo booth. Additionally, YBAC members will conduct tours of the trout nursery. Cost of admission is \$3.00 for adults. Children 12 and under, active military and first responders are free.

## **Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp**

### **By Clark Hall**

The Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding the 27th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp June 19-24, 2022. The camp will again be at Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

Admission will be limited to 24 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. The applicants must have been born between June 24, 2004, and June 19, 2008. All applications for the regular acceptance period must be received by February 29, 2022. Registration will be extended if the camp roster is not full until April 30, 2022.

Applying via our website is preferred. For more information, or to apply, visit the camp website at [www.riverscamp.com](http://www.riverscamp.com).

We are looking for donations of flies for the campers. We are requesting that donors tie 2 dozen of whatever pattern they sign-up for. Signup sheets for flies will be available at membership meetings, or email Clark Hall at [chall2636@verizon.net](mailto:chall2636@verizon.net) or call 717-697-4549.

We are also looking for gillies for the 10 fishing sessions for the camp. Evening fishing begins at 6 PM and ends at dark. Morning sessions begin at 5:30 AM and end at 8:00 AM. 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. To sign-up for any or all fishing sessions, contact Biff Healy at [biffer1966@hotmail.com](mailto:biffer1966@hotmail.com), or call 717-254-7386.



## **Keystone Coldwater Conference**

### **By CVTU**

CVTU was represented by board members Jonathan Daniels and John Zazworsky at the 2022 Keystone Coldwater Conference, held in State College PA February 24-25, hosted by PATU and the PA chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The biennial conference “provides an opportunity for grassroots conservation organizations, environmental professionals, college faculty, staff, and students to share ideas, concepts, and network in order to protect, conserve, and restore Pennsylvania’s coldwater resources.” [www.coldwaterconference.org](http://www.coldwaterconference.org) The organizers from PATU and PAAFS did a remarkable job of providing a wide range of relevant presentation topics and varied formats paced to keep things focused while still allowing opportunities for socializing and networking. For us, the majority of the focus during the conference was directed toward understanding how we can strengthen our chapter’s effectiveness in executing our mission to protect, conserve and restore our waters.

There were plenty of scientific presentations and descriptions of collaborations between organizations and the legislative issues. It was interesting to hear a number of the scientists speak about topics like their work with brook trout populations or their efforts to maintain the presence of American eels in the Susquehanna watershed. A broader awareness of these sorts of specific projects allows us to speak more authoritatively about the value of our conservation work. There is no shortage of foundations, departments and associations that operate in the field of waterways conservation and management. Improving our awareness of their specific missions and the relationships between the various government, NGO, and business groups helps us be more effective at building future partnerships and utilizing shared resources and skills more efficiently. We had the pleasure of seeing and speaking again with Emily Baldauff, TU National’s Mid-Atlantic Organizer who toured CVTU’s projects and spoke to our general meeting last November. This is her area of expertise and she’s planning future training events to better equip our members for navigating the legislative labyrinth. Right now, she’s coordinating wildlife and sporting group partners to set up tables at the

state capital in Harrisburg this April to raise awareness and educate our legislators about the environmental resources we love and need their help to protect. She suggested perhaps CVTU could partner with the Doc Fritchey chapter to lend our voices and some gear and fly tying demos. Keep an eye out for more details.

On a group level, it was motivational to hear about simple steps we as a chapter can take to grow our sense of connection as a team and expand our reach in our local communities. It’s abundantly clear that, in the face of the monumental environmental, scientific, governmental and societal challenges our waters face, we must work together. Yes, we must partner with other organizations, but in order to be a more healthy and effective organization, there are some simple steps, implemented with success in other TU chapters, that can help us to not only grow the number of members to carry the load, but make our involvement more fun and rewarding for everyone. Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited is a strong chapter in many ways (our history, our numerous stream projects, our support of various educational programs), but we have room for improvement.

Jonathan had the pleasure to speak at length with Gerald Berrafati of the Mianus chapter of TU which is based in the south east corner of Connecticut. [www.mianustu.org](http://www.mianustu.org) He described how productive it has been for their chapter to schedule a variety of regular, smaller events during different time frames, which allow a larger number of different people with varied interests to take part. On regular evenings they offer stream tours. Every week, anyone is invited to meet for an hour or so to hike along a section of a local waterway, or organize a car tour of various project areas to inspect and maintain and fish, or review maps of the creeks sharing experiences about fishing various sections. Seasonally, they have riparian planting events, trash pick-up outings and the like. These simple ideas, and others like them, often allow newer interested individuals and families to come out and enjoy the fellowship of others around activities related to TU’s goals.

One of the goals in the Trout Unlimited 2021-2026 strategic plan summary is to “Inspire a diverse corps of staff, volunteers, and partners to advocate for and participate in the care and recovery of our lands and waters.” A case study of this was presented by Amedia Daniel, who works for the PAFBC and has been a long-time active force in PATU, and Kelly Williams, of the

Clearfield County Conservation District and PATU, who started the Women, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative in 2016. Their goal is to “introduce females and diverse audiences to the world of waterway conservation, fishing and the variety of ways to enjoy PA’s waterways.”

[www.patuwdi.weebly.com](http://www.patuwdi.weebly.com)

Their description of the steps they took to grow from a committee of two to an organization of many active members serving hundreds in just a few years was compelling. Aside from benefit of their personal dedication and professional skills, they described the importance of Planning, Communication, and Building Relationships. They developed a calendar of a variety of scheduled events at the beginning of each year allowing participants to plan to attend. Many of these events were designed to prepare and prime the participants for the following events, encouraging a sense of continuity and community among the returning participants. They formed a strategic plan to articulate their goals, methods and time frames. They created a Facebook page and a website to get that calendar out there and to allow participants to contribute and interact. They set up promotional tables at conferences and events. They followed up with participants. They drew on the relationships they already had with PAFBC and PATU, local TU chapters and other organizations to utilize tools and resources already in place that could support their initiative. Because of the importance they placed on encouraging and empowering their participants in the process of learning about the world of opportunities surrounding our waterways and remembering to define success for each participant relative to their own scale of experience, strong inter-personal relationships were built. Some participants stayed in touch and were asked to help teach newer participants, establishing a foundation of sustainability.

The success of the WDI Initiative has contributed to and paralleled the growth of women members in other groups like the Spring Creek chapter of TU in State College. [www.springcreektu.org](http://www.springcreektu.org) Their current president, Jamie SanFilippo, and a past president, Judi Sittler, spoke with us about the importance of inviting women and diverse members into positions of responsibility and allowing them the freedom to contribute new ideas and new approaches if we are committed to growing new strengths within our chapter. Almost by definition, this will be uncomfortable and challenging to

our established methods and thinking, but the payoff can be a more vital, fertile and effective environment, within our chapter and ultimately for the waters we love.

In 2024, perhaps more CVTU members can attend the Keystone Coldwater Conference together. Next time we might have to stay an additional day. Someone said they might have a couple decent trout streams up that way...

### **Trout Unlimited Youth Essay Contest Winners By Clark Hall**

The following two contest winners attended the 2021 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. The 2021 contest prompted teens with this question: Public lands and green spaces are those places where we can go to walk a greenway and listen to the birds, sit in the shade of a tree to escape the summer heat, camp, fish, hike, and explore. Why are these places an important part of your life?

#### **Elizabeth Bruner, Blairsville, Pa., 11th grade:**

When I was 5-years-old, I asked my parents what the black, round things were scattered all over the lane to our farm. They told me they were black walnuts and could be cleaned, cracked and the meat inside could be eaten. Ever since then, I've been fascinated with nature and the magnificent world in which we live.

The wilds of nature have offered me a unique business venture. Once I found out about black walnuts, I began collecting and processing them. Our family developed a way to husk and wash simultaneously about 8,000 black walnuts per hour by adapting an old corn sheller, mounted on a trailer, and run by a tractor power take off. Once clean, the nuts are dried and hand cracked using a special device. These half and sometimes whole pieces are used by local bakers and friends, especially around the holidays. The smaller pieces which cannot be eaten are pressed to extract oil. Black walnut oil is a hot commodity used in the massage industry as well as cooking, specifically in dressings. The discards

after pressing can be mixed with lard to make suet cakes for the birds.

The outdoors has provided my family with other sustenance. There are so many things I've harvested from nature. I fly fish for trout in our local streams. We preserve and cook both large and small game animals we hunt such as whitetail deer, wild turkey, ringneck pheasant, and Eastern gray squirrels. We pick wild blackberries, elderberries, black raspberries, and morel mushrooms to eat. And we collect other types of nuts for consumption – butternuts, Chinese chestnuts, and shagbark hickory nuts, to name a few.

When life gets crazy, nature helps me to re-center. It's a way to relax and rejuvenate. I enjoy hiking in the woods and capturing memories through photography. Whether looking from a worm's eye view of the world, or down with a bird's eye view, there is always something new and exciting on which to focus – squirrels jumping from log to log, the sky filled with falling leaves of many colors, great blue herons wading in shallow waters searching for a meal, a pair of mallard ducks swimming ahead of six little ducklings. Another way our family uses nature to reconnect is by trail riding on horseback. I often ride my paint pony named Chief through the woods listening to the crunch of the leaves under his hooves and to the birds calling above me.

Because I want these memories to live forever and for future generations to enjoy, I want to leave nature in better shape than I found it. I volunteer with my local Trout Unlimited chapters during the spring and fall conducting macroinvertebrate surveys, water quality testing, and habitat assessments. In addition, I collect data for the Evergreen Conservancy, a local organization with the goal to conserve the environment.

I've been involved in several activities that have shaped me into the person I am today. First is the 4-H program. Through completing wildlife, forestry, and aquatics projects, I've qualified to represent Pennsylvania at the National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program in Junction City, Kansas. I was able to observe a true prairie habitat, the Flint Hills region, and learn how to manage that type of ecosystem. The second activity is the Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA). I've participated in all their field schools including Brookies (brook trout), Bass, Ursids (black bear), Bucktails (Whitetail deer), Gobblers (wild turkey), and Drummers (ruffed grouse). I've worked my way up from a student to assistant

team leader, to academy support team. WLA has helped to develop my leadership and public speaking skills and provide an outlet to make important connections with agencies. I'm currently president of the Pennsylvania Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation. Serving in this role has helped me understand how important conservation legislative issues really are and how much of an impact a youth voice can make. Lastly, one of my favorite activities has been attending the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp sponsored by Trout Unlimited. There, I caught my first trout on a fly rod. After that experience, you could say, I was hooked. All of these organizations have given me breadth and depth of knowledge that will benefit me long into the future.

Being outdoors, whether in a fresh water stream or in a woody forest, has helped to carve out a career path I intend to pursue. My goal is to become a wildlife biologist and travel the world to study nature: aquatic, terrestrial, and plant life. From my earliest recollections, the forces of nature have had a positive impact on me and, as the 4-H motto states, I believe in "Making the Best Better" both in my backyard and beyond.

#### **Joseph Troelsch, Bethlehem, Pa., 9th grade:**

Imagine a sunny morning in the middle of fall and walking through woods. You hear the sounds of trees swaying in the gentle breeze. The sounds of animals surround you while slowly walking through on the path in the woods. As you look around you see the white tails of deer disappearing into the nearby brush, you see rabbits settled in the fallen leaves observing you from afar. The squirrels, only a short distance away from you, rattle through the shrubs in an attempt to hide their nuts for winter.

Continuing along, you approach a stream full of fish that rise to the surface of the water to feast on unseen life. The slow, gentle flow of the stream is relaxing and reminds you of distant memories. As birds diligently work in the trees above, you begin what you came here for – searching. You have arrived to search for two things: the beauties of nature and trash.

Walking down the path in the woods a large black bag is already half full with garbage. The collection of litter is a mandatory practice in order to keep wildlife healthy and their habitat clean. A misplaced piece of trash can cause harm and is, of course,



unsightly

Pondering how the bag can be so full already, you come across something unusual, a large black object. A large black rock? A dead animal? When you arrive at the feature, you grab a stick and poke it. You realize that it is not a rock or an animal. It is a black bag nearly identical to the one you carry. Looking around you wonder who would have been crazy enough to drag a large garbage bag out into the middle of a trail.

Behind the bag there is a trail of garbage. The path of garbage leads to a puddle and in the mud there is a paw pattern. The pattern is too big to be a fox or stray cat, and it is not the pattern that a hoofed animal would have left. One option remains – a bear! Still following the trail, but now in a more cautious manner, you go on for another 20 minutes picking up debris and soon realize your bag is starting to fill up. But there is more trash and more room in the bag so you continue on.

Arriving at 15-foot cliff it feels like a logical place to turn around, but something catches your eye. Down below is a bear and not just one, but four. The large bear, likely the mother, is just finishing breakfast as her cubs wrestle and play. After observing and admiring the bears for an hour, they wander into a nearby cave.

Retracing your steps throughout the day you think of all of the beauties of nature that must be defended and you think of what else you can find if you only just look.

The experience described here can teach us many things about understanding why outdoor spaces should be a major part of our lives. We can learn that we must all enjoy and thoroughly explore the surrounding environment. The simplest things can be done to both protect and clean the public lands privileged to us. We must all come to understand that experiences in the outdoors are good because they allow us to recognize the full beauty of nature.

Being outdoors teaches us how to respect animals in ways that we never would have thought. We must remember that public lands and green spaces are important in our lives. While many people protect the beauties of nature, those who are not warriors for nature must only knock and the door shall be opened.



## Winter Fly Tying Classes 2022 by Jonathan Daniels

When I took the Beginners Fly Tying Class in early 2020, I was not thinking much about history. Having just started fly fishing the year before, it was all new and very exciting. I specifically remember palmering my first Wooley Bugger and thinking, “Oh, Wow! That looks just like what I’ve been buying from the fly shop! And I just made it! Me! Hee–Hee!” It did not occur to me at the time just how many students over the years had probably experienced that same thrill of creation in the decades of classes that had gone on before me.

Jerry Kerstetter was my teacher in that class and, if the pandemic hadn’t interfered, he would likely have instructed them last year and this year too. When I spoke recently with Jerry to learn more about the history of the CVTU Fly Tying Classes, he told me he had started attending them back in the mid 1970’s and took over teaching them in the late 1980’s. He said that in the early days the classes were held at the Carlisle Fish and Game club. In those years many of the big names in the history of Cumberland Valley fly fishing, like Charlie Fox, Vince Marinaro, Ed Shenk, Ed Koch and others, would come to socialize and give demonstrations. Bob Clouser used to set up a table to sell materials long before his famous Clouser Minnow pattern became so widely known. Wow!

Jerry has led the instruction in the Beginners class for over thirty years, but he has not been doing it alone. Many different people have helped with the coordination of the Beginners and “Advanced” classes over the years. (I took the liberty of renaming it the “Experienced” class this year in the hopes of making it sound more inviting for the 99.8% of us who have tied flies but don’t consider ourselves “Advanced” tyers.) Most recently, Ken Palmer, and before him, Alan Stansbury, attended to the legwork of coordinating with South Middleton Township, lining up the assistants for the Beginners class, finding different proficient fly tyers for each week of the Experienced classes, as well as keeping on top of the paperwork.

I believe one of the great strengths of these classes has been the small army of dedicated assistants who float around the Beginners classroom watching the students and offering guidance when needed. Jim Sidlarczyk,



Ken Okorn, Don Albright and Clark Hall are all helping again this year after many previous years of service in the classes. Biff Healy has stepped into Jerry's shoes for this year and is doing a great job leading the Beginners instruction. Gary Greybill, who is a new member of the team, has been a big help on the technical end of things, setting up and monitoring the hybrid zoom meetings we now offer to allow folks another way to attend. I thank you all for your dedicated service to our Beginners class students.

The Experienced class has had some great guest tyers this year. The opportunity to get insider tips won by years of experience with tying and fishing a variety of flies is priceless. From simple nymphs to elaborate streamers, the guys who have been leading the classes have been doing a wonderful job. Thank you to long time Experienced class leaders, Don Albright, Ken Okorn and John Capowski, and to Rege Dinkel who did a great job sharing his favorite patterns for the class for first time this year.

Though Tom Herr, Steelhead guide through Precision Fly and Tackle and of [artisticflytying.com](http://artisticflytying.com), wasn't able to make it this year, I hope you will check out his website and maybe pick up the February 2022 copy of Fly Tyer magazine which featured his otherworldly artistic flies. A particular thanks go out to the three guides from Relentless Fly Fishing: Neil Sunday, Brendan Ruch, and Eric Naguski who have supported the class. They have brought an exceptional standard of quality fly tying and professional fishing tips to the class. Keep them in mind the next time you are considering hiring someone to get you onto good fish on new or even on familiar waters. I can't imagine you could do any better. Check them out at [RelentlessFlyFishing.com](http://RelentlessFlyFishing.com).

I hope you will keep our CVTU Fly Tying Classes in mind next year when the hatches of May feel a long way off and you are looking for a way to brighten the doldrums of mid-winter. Helping with the classes is a great way to enjoy the fellowship of kindred souls and to rekindle the excitement about fishing for the upcoming season. It is also a wonderful way to refresh and improve your own tying skills by sharing them with those who are excited to discover the amazing world of fly fishing and tying their own flies for themselves.

In listening to the instructors and preparing for the class this year, I have been struck by the remarkable way tying our own flies allows us access to a deeper relationship with the

insects the fish favor on a particular stretch of water – or in a particular season – or even at a particular hour of the day, we will see things we overlooked before. New worlds open to us as we become more sensitive to the complexities of the environments surrounding us on the water. Our fishing experiences become more compelling when we experiment with variations in size or shape or shade of the flies we have tied. We feel the thrill of anticipation to fish them and our successes becomes that much sweeter. We better understand the preciousness of these waters and why we want to protect them.

Thank you all for this opportunity. Looking forward to seeing you around the vises next year!



Breeches Project. Photo Courtesy: G. Kieffer



## **Growing Greener**

### **By PennFuture**

Two critical pieces of legislation will be debated by lawmakers this spring in Harrisburg, both of which would use federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to bring about enormous positive change for clean water across Pennsylvania.

The first bill, called “Growing Greener III” – also known as Senate Bill 525 in the Senate and House Bill 2020 in the state House of Representatives – would reinvigorate a popular conservation program created under former Gov. Tom Ridge two decades ago.

Specifically, the Growing Greener program provides critical support to community-driven work that improves and protects our cities and towns. Since 1999, Growing Greener has been a lifeline to conservation and clean water projects across the state. These investments bring lasting benefits to communities across Pennsylvania from clean water to open spaces to recreational pursuits for Pennsylvanians and tourists alike.

SB 525 and HB 2020 would replenish the Growing Greener Fund with \$500 million in federal funds allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act.

The second bill, called “Clean Streams Fund” – known as Senate Bill 832 in the state Senate and House Bill 1901 in the state House – would create a new program to tackle water pollution from nonpoint sources such as agriculture runoff and drainage from abandoned mines. Specifically, this new Fund would establish new programs and give a boost to existing programs. It would create the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program to help farmers and the Municipal Stormwater Assistance Program to provide funding to local governments to manage stormwater.

SB 832 and HB 1901 would allocate \$250 million in American Rescue Plan funds for clean water initiatives.

Our state lawmakers received \$7 billion in federal funding last year, and instead of using that money to better the lives of everyday Pennsylvanians, they stowed most of it away for a rainy day. Act now and tell lawmakers that funding clean water initiatives isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do.

•

Do your part today and contact your elected officials in both chambers of the General Assembly. Ask them to use this money for the common good by supporting SB 525/HB 2020 and SB 832/HB 1901, both of which would have significant positive impacts on clean water in Pennsylvania

## **Yellow Breeches Project**

### **By Neil Sunday**

Over the Winter there was work done to the Catch & Release area on the Yellow Breeches. Dave McMullen, of Spruce Creek, along with Allenberry Resort, The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pa Department of Environmental Protection & The Cumberland County Conservation District are the groups involved in this habitat enhancement project.

Several “open house” dates were permitted during the work, and Members of CVTU's Board of Directors were in attendance. We are excited to see the work completed on our catch and release section, and look forward to fishing it in the upcoming season!

Phase 1 of the project went from the stone-arch bridge downstream to the dam at Allenberry.

Phase 2 will be completed Mid Summer and will start at the Dam at Allenberry and go downstream on their property.

In addition to visible log sills and stone deflectors are numerous boulders placed in the stream at strategic locations providing holding areas and protection from overhead prey.



Image Courtesy: Neil Sunday