

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

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Image Courtesy: D. Weaver

A Pivot to Projects

By Dave Weaver

Your TU chapter follows the rhythm of the seasons. I'll bet you do too! Typically springtime gets us out of the house and back out on the trout streams and this brings with it a renewed focus on the details of the waters we're fishing. For me, I often note large eroded banks and make a mental note that that section definitely needs some rip-rap. Perhaps for you, it's noting the riparian zone, or perhaps the ideal characteristics of a section suitable for a kid's derby or volunteer clean-up. Of course, such dreaming and pondering rarely leads to an actual restoration project, but it's important that we continue to maintain this frame of mind because it keeps us grounded and focused on our cold-water mission. By summertime, your chapter has pivoted to project implementation, youth education, and other hands-on tangible things we do so well. In the meantime, next time you're out fishing in the Cumberland Valley take a couple pics of things you note and bring 'em to the next chapter meeting. The discussion will be fruitful and – who knows? – may lead eventually to action when we pivot back to projects next year.



Image Courtesy: D. Weaver

Upcoming Meetings:

The membership meeting for June will be held on the 22nd at 7pm. Our meeting will be stream side on the Yellow Breeches at Messiah University's Starry Fields located at 236 N Grantham Rd, Dillsburg, PA 17019. We will be joining the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Come out to enjoy an opportunity to spend time with fellow chapter members and camp participants as the campers put their newly learned knowledge and skills to use! Light refreshments will be provided.

- July 20th - Shawn Holsinger presenting on Euro Nymphing Bob's Creek, Yellow Creek & Frankstown Branch of the Juniata.
- August 20th - Family picnic at Carlisle Fish & Game.
- Sept. 10th - Last Supper at Vince's Meadow
- Sept. 21st—Bill Anderson on Little Juniata.

Quick Bites and Short Strikes

Dave Weaver - Editor



~ After nearly a decade as your faithful newsletter editor, this will be my last year compiling and editing *Tight Lines*. It has been a pleasure. If you or anyone you know would like to take over as editor in June 2023 (or at any time), please feel free to contact me to discuss. I would be happy to help you get started and show you the ropes.

Dave W.

Calendar of Events

2022

Jun. 18th
Fly Fishing Education
Bosler Library
Carlisle

Jun. 19-24th
Youth Camp
Messiah University

Aug. 20th
Family Picnic
Carlisle Fish & Game

Sep. 8-29th
Carlisle Water
Conservation
(Thursday evenings)
Bosler Library
Carlisle

Sep. 10th
Last Supper
Vince' Meadow
Carlisle

Sep. 18th
PATU Conference
Lambert Hall
Bellefonte

~ 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 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. The deadline for the next issue is the 25th of each month prior to the next newsletter. *Tight Lines* is published in Mar., June, Sept., 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. 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



CVTU Membership is Currently 639!

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. 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 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

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:

(Open)

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)

Spring is always a very busy season for our chapter. We're all trying to squeeze in our own personal fishing around the many activities we support. Ken Okorn led a group of around 20 members to East Licking Creek for some great fishing and fellowship. We listen to your feedback on stream environmental conditions and shape our projects accordingly. Currently, we're seeking grant money to put the Barnitz Church stream bank restoration project in motion; there's still a chance it could happen this year, but more likely it will happen in 2023. Similarly, our work with PA Fish and Boat to stop erosion at the mouth of the Letort has been delayed by lack of grant money this year. We will not give up on these projects, even while we address other needs.

Additionally, we've increased engagement with other like-minded conservation agencies to learn from each others' expertise and experience, as well as looking for ways to combine resources. Jonathan Daniels highlights several successful Letort activities elsewhere in this edition--be sure to check it out. We're actively engaged with county officials in the initial steps of a future project on Mountain Creek to mitigate erosion by stabilizing stream banks and reconnecting the stream to the flood plain. This will be a large project involving public, private and other non-profit groups and take some time to organize, but it appears momentum is growing in a positive way.

We've continued our in-person monthly membership meetings at the Bosler Library in Carlisle. In addition to being a great venue for these meetings, the library has helped us network better with other community groups with similar missions to ours. Attendance by Zoom meeting continues to attract nearly as many attendees as those who come in person, so we'll continue to meet this way to reach the greatest number of chapter members. Please check Upcoming Meetings to see what's coming up (there are some exceptions over the summer). In person or on line, come join us!

Finally, you may have noticed that our long time, faithful *Tight Lines* editor Dave Weaver has announced he's in his final year of that service to our chapter. He's thoughtfully given us plenty of advance notice so that he can train his replacement over the next few editions. He assures us that he learned the ropes without any special publishing or technology skills, so all you need to succeed is a desire to contribute and a willingness to learn. Please give strong consideration to filling this important role for our chapter.

See you on the water!



Yellow Breeches. Image Courtesy: D. Weaver

Tight Lines,
John

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 was limited to 24 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. The applicants must have been born between June 24, 2004, and June 19, 2008.

Applying via our website is preferred. For more information, or to apply, visit the camp website at 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 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, or call 717-254-7386.



Kudos to YBAC By Dave Weaver

If you have been fishing Breeches lately you may have caught some very fine looking rainbows. These fish are stocked by the Yellow Breeches Anglers and Conservationists. I have been very impressed with the quality of fish the YBAC has raised this year.

Stripers on the Fly By 1LT Samuel C. Rob

"Are you a trout nerd or what?" the local guide interrogated me as we strung up the rods enroute to the boat launch south of Columbus, Georgia on the Chattahoochee River. It was a fair question since I had just inquired about his familiarity with the native Gila trout when he mentioned he was from New Mexico. Yet that day we were far away from any trout stream, instead hoping for striped bass on their annual migration up the river. We were taking out a raft with an oar rig instead of a johnboat with an outboard and 9' 6wt Orvis Recons instead of hefty spinning rods. Excitement was in the air. I didn't know much about stripers, other than they were supposed to be good game fish, and that they were an anadromous species like salmon. I remember former fisheries biologist and long-time licensed guide Ken Okorn telling me stories of catching stripers on the fly in New Jersey and I was intrigued.

There isn't much of a fly-fishing community in Columbus, GA. In fact, the guide had just moved to town and was trying to boot up the service as part of the local white water rafting shop so he didn't set high expectations for snagging our quarry. Yet exploration is always a part of fishing and it seemed to be worth the shot as I was far away from the limestone trout streams of home.

We rowed upriver passing underneath a towering brick railroad bridge and I imagined what the industrial town must have been like during the Civil War when it produced most of the munitions for the Confederacy, long before Fort Benning began training infantrymen. We went ashore at a sandbar in the middle of the river and the guide gave me some pointers and a Clouser Minnow while he worked with an Army buddy I brought along new to the sport.

I am no expert at fishing big waters, I will always prefer the tiny tailouts of streams like the Breeches. I tried to break it down into small "streams" and fish it like a small micro-grid, something the legendary tight-line nymph Steve Parker taught me as he chided me to make "every cast my best cast" back in the Rivers and Fly Fishing Conservation Camp at Allenberry. Sometimes I thought his wading staff might serve two purposes if I didn't listen, but he left me a skill that has stuck to this day.

Sure enough, focusing on the cast, I

Stripers Cont.

hauled as much as I could of the sink -tip line down to a 0x tippet with the Clouser Minnow unfurling at the tip out into a series of ripples coming off a large rock. With stop of the rod tip, I managed to place the fly right where I wanted to drift it. I stripped it erratically back to me and felt a slam on the line. I set the hook with excitement, assuming it to be one of the local shad species, but after a few minutes of heavy fighting and a splash I surfaced none other than a striper! The guide was as shocked as me and after the photo and a hearty handshake I decided to see if I could repeat the magic trick. "Every cast is your best cast." I uttered the mantra under my breath as I heaved and hauled the line out to the same spot to mimic the drift.

I felt almost foolish to think I could catch two of the prized game fish but sure enough I felt an shock on the line a few strips later and this time I had a hefty fish. I can't be sure how long I fought the fish, but long enough for my arm to be good and tired, when the fight started to feel more like gym routine than landing a fish. He ran me into my backing several times, and I had to play him off the reel, abandoning my old trout techniques of fighting off the strip, to be sure I could pull in as much slack before his next run. Eventually the bass played himself out and I surfaced him to the net and stuck my thumb into his gaping mouth for a quick photo.

It was quite a different experience from trout on the fly, but no less intriguing in terms of the story behind the species. Like salmon, stripers in the south have been battered by hydroelectric dams. While once stripers would have made their return journey from the ocean all the way to Columbus to spawn, after a bit of research I deduced these fish were only migrating between a series of reservoirs on the Chattahoochee where dams do not totally block their travel. Even so, they are the same species that once roamed free, and now survives through state stocking programs (though stripers have interbred with other bass species to produce a parallel "hybrid" striped bass, which turned out to be the first fish I caught).

As we drifted down the 'Hooch back to the boat ramp and chatted about the success of the day, the fly-fishing greats like Vince Marinero, Charlie Fox, and Joe Humphreys set the backdrop for the discussion and I realized how special it is to be a fly fisher from central

PA. To me, still the kid running down the banks of Allenberry to catch his first trout on a fly, the "greats" are men like Steve, Ken and Gene Giza, and I plan to keep exploring the waters of this great Nation with the lessons they taught me.

Fly Tier's Corner

Upright Nymph with Beads and Legs

By Dave Weaver

Perhaps the greatest advantage afforded nymph design by the advent of bead heads in the last generation is the tendency of such flies to drift hook upward. Typically tied "in the round," such flies look the same to the fish from any angle and by drifting hook upward tend to snag the bottom less. This in turn enables the angler to get his flies right down on the bottom. This hook upward effect can be enhanced by using a hook with some curve in the shank with the bead placed a bit further back, or with some wraps of lead behind the bead. Tying the tail so that it comes out from the hook bend at an angle also serves to flip the fly and keep it drifting hook upward. These characteristics are essential to this pattern that I describe. This is why the photo shows the fly in the vise upside down. This is a go-to pattern for me in the early springtime and well into the season if I want a heavier point fly. Try this pattern with a wet ant dropper about a foot above it in early summer after a rainfall!

HOOK: Any style nymph or scud style hook with some curve to the shank; most of mine are #14.

TAIL: Brown grizzly hackle fibers tied in so as to protrude upward when drifting.

BODY: Brown thread with gold wire ribbing; brown dubbing for collar.

LEGS: Mottled rubber.

WEIGHT: Tungsten bead with several wraps of lead under the collar.



CVTU's 'Diversity' of Project Work 2022

By Jonathan Daniels

It has been a busy spring and promises to be a summer full of opportunities for helping support TU's goal of "bringing together diverse interests to care for and recover our rivers and streams." [TU-Strategic-Plan-Framework.pdf](#)

I was thrilled with the response to our efforts earlier this year to work on riparian areas both at the chapter's Vince's Meadow property and at South Middleton Township's Wittlinger Nature Preserve where CVTU helped facilitate installation of almost \$100,000 in stream structures over the last several years. Through these events in celebration of Earth Day we were able to strengthen working relationships through collaboration with many area organizations like our neighboring landowner on the Letort, The Central PA Conservancy (CPC), The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (whose Keystone 10 Million Trees Initiative contributed trees and tube shelters), the Cumberland County Conservation District (CCCD), and many others. A broad spectrum of people who care about conservation of our watersheds took part in these events. Some were long time CVTU members whom I had not met before, many were new CVTU members, and quite a few were not TU members.

Look to hear more going forward about TU's new engagement model which is geared to encourage a more diverse corps of people and partner organizations allowing us to strengthen our collective advocacy for protection of clean cold waters. We hope to build on what was started this spring through further cooperation with CPC, CCCD, and other stakeholders on improvements to the upper Letort in line with the 2019 Letort Spring Run Cold Water Conservation Plan. [Letort-Spring-Run-Coldwater-Conservation-Plan-Rt34-to-I-81.pdf \(coldwaterheritage.org\)](#) We are looking forward to a more comprehensive riparian buffer planting plan for the Wittlinger Preserve north bank area above the old Boiling Springs mill dam, thanks to the efforts of South Middleton Township, CCCD and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation who are all working to clarify planning, funding and best management practices. CVTU members can be an integral part of the installation of plantings and their maintenance into the future. Without consistent



Walk Through Mount Holly Marsh Preserve.
Photos Courtesy: G. Leone

and effective attention in the first few years, establishment success for these buffer plantings is severely reduced.

Despite disappointments this winter in failure to secure grant funding for stream projects on the mouth of the Letort Spring Run where it joins the Conodoguinet and on the Yellow Breeches along Church Lane upstream from Stuart Park, there has been recent movement on preparing the foundation for a very significant amount of project work on Mountain Creek where it flows through the old lakebed of the Upper Holly Dam, now the Holly Marsh Preserve. CVTU is working with Stephanie Williams, Senior Planning Manager at the Cumberland County Planning Department, who represents the Preserve owner, Cumberland County, to make application for funding from the American Rescue Plan Act early in June. Cumberland County's Climate Action Plan Coordinator, Erin Letavic, is also helping reveal funding sources and bringing her formidable resources and project planning experience as a Senior Project Manager for HRG

bear on this project. [Climate Action Plan | Cumberland County, PA - Official Website \(ccpa.net\)](#) Lori Glace, our CCCD Watershed Specialist is also integrally involved.

As a follow-up to a site visit CVTU Board members made this winter with a project designer from the PFBC, on May 18th 2022 CVTU Board Vice President Justin Pittman, CVTU Board members Gary Leone and I along with Stephanie Williams, Erin Letavic and Lori Glace walked along Mountain Creek to assess the Marsh Preserve section and discuss the potential for ways to move forward. Pending a commitment of cooperation from the Alstrom-Munksjo Filter Plant ([Ahlstrom-Munksjö - Discover our plant in Mount Holly Springs \(ahlstrom-munksjo.com\)](#) who owns the land which would allow equipment access, Ms. Williams, Ms. Letavic, and Ms. Glace were all optimistic about the value of a project there, the will to support one by the County, State and even potentially Federal agencies, and the ability to find funding. Stay tuned for updates.

Our partnership with Bosler Library has been significant this spring as they have hosted our chapter meetings, but I have also been working with their staff to coordinate educational programming that promotes TU's goals. CVTU members are needed to help support these events this Summer and Fall. These opportunities sprang from interest expressed by the Library's Community Relations Department in developing educational programs geared for the public about fly fishing and TU's broader conservation goals. This has become a very productive opportunity to utilize the Cumberland County Library System's major audience of community members in our area and to build better working relationships with many of our area's other groups and agencies already working on water conservation issues.

CVTU members will be instructing an 'Introduction to Fly Fishing' program to be presented at Bosler Saturday June 18th, 10AM to Noon followed by a hike on the Letort trail. This presentation, targeted for those who are interested in learning about fly fishing, will provide an overview of what makes fly fishing distinctive, highlights of the local history of fly fishing in the Cumberland Valley, and practical information for anyone interested in learning more about getting started in fly fishing. Please

let your friends, family members, and anyone you know who has expressed an interest in our beloved sport, know about this program.

On a larger scale, CVTU and Bosler Library have been coordinating the development of a 'Water Conservation' series of educational programs and field days for the public to raise awareness in our community about the truly exceptional wealth of water resources we are blessed with in the Carlisle area. It will also help new people see how those resources connect to their lives, and to help them better understand where our water comes from and where it is going. As it stands now, there are four one-hour evening presentations scheduled for Thursday evenings, September 8th-29th, 6:30PM at the library. We will start with Local Water History and Intro to Watersheds for the first week, Geology/Hydrology of the Cumberland Valley and Stream Ecology during the second week, Community Water Infrastructure for the third session, and conclude with examining Recreation and Conservation Opportunities. There are also field day events scheduled to compliment the conference room presentations. These will include a Geology/Hydrology walking tour 'From the Bubble to the Breeches' in Boiling Springs by a member of the PA Geology Survey, a hands-on look at stream-side study of the Letort Spring Run in Carlisle with the PSU Master Watershed Stewards, a tour of the Carlisle Borough Water Treatment Plant, a guided tour of the restoration work done on the former the watercress farm on the East Branch of the Letort along South Spring Garden Street by the Central PA Conservancy, as well as a float trip on the Conodoguinet Creek with members of the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association. We are joined in developing and presenting this project by Dickinson's ALLARM, the Letort Regional Authority, Cumberland County Conservation District, the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards, The Conodoguinet Creek and Yellow Breeches Watershed Associations, Carlisle Borough's MS4 Coordinator, and many others.

If you would like to know more about these and other CVTU projects and would like

to help, we want to hear from you! We are hoping to carry TU's message to more diverse community members and let people know about the Water Conservation series by being represented at the Juneteenth event at Hope Station Community Center in Carlisle on the afternoon of June 18th. We are looking for members to help with promoting the Water Conservation series and all the groups involved through helping with family focused activities and a fly tying station at the Bosler Carlisle Summerfest Craft Show booth on June 25th. Along with all the other traditional CVTU supported events at this time of the year, we hope you will find something that fits for you and allows you to take action by joining us in our efforts to protect and preserve our clean, cold waters.



Introduction to Fly Fishing!

Educational Session Covering *Local Fly Fishing History, Basic Fly Fishing Gear, Flies, and Techniques*



Presented by
members of
Cumberland Valley
Trout Unlimited

SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER



Saturday, June 18
10:00 am - 12:00pm
Free and open to all!

PA FORWARD STAR PROGRAM

PA FORWARD STAR PROGRAM

PA FORWARD STAR PROGRAM

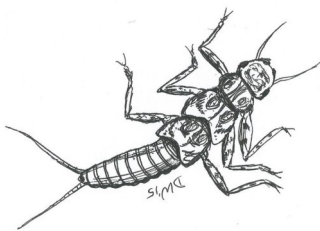
PA FORWARD STAR PROGRAM

PA FORWARD STAR PROGRAM

PA FORWARD STAR PROGRAM

Informal gathering afterward for those interested in hiking the LeTort Trail!

Register at <https://cutt.ly/FlyFishingIntro>. Or contact Community Relations at 717-243-4642 ext. 2226!



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.



Mountain Creek. Image Courtesy: J. Daniels



"Charlie's Pipes." Image Courtesy: B. Mummert