



THE TRAILS



The Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited Newsletter • Fall 2018

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND FALL SCHEDULE

FTTU's annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Nimick Family Education Center, 6 Old Lincoln Highway West, Ligonier, PA.

We will install our line up of officers for 2018-2019. They are:

President - Larry Myers - Greensburg

Vice President - Denny Hess - Irwin

Treasurer - Monty Murty - Laughlintown

Secretary - Scott Minster - Derry Twp.

Our New President

FTTU welcomes Larry D. Myers of Greensburg as our new chapter president. He has been a member of TU for 13 years and is currently serving as chair of our Veterans Committee. Larry brings with him over 40 years of corporate and nonprofit, environmental management, and natural resource conservation experience. He is an avid fly fisherman and enjoys fall trips to Montana with friends. Larry notes, "I have always been impressed with how many activities and projects the Chapter has going in the community at any one time. Our members are doing everything from stream sampling and rehab work, to in-school assemblies, conservation education programs and teaching students how to fly fish. I welcome

the opportunity to work alongside our members continuing the proud tradition of serving as cold water conservationists and mentors in our communities."

Past President Monty Murty will take over as Treasurer and has been elected Executive Vice President of the PA State Council for the SW, NW, and NC regions.

Denny Hess returns as Vice President and Scott Minster will serve as Secretary.

October 3 - Steelhead Primer and Fly Tying

After the business meeting, we will have a roundtable on Steelhead fishing and some fly tying demonstrations. If you have a steelhead fly pattern you'd like to show, bring your vise and materials and share it with us! Extra vises and tools will be available for those who would like to try fly tying.

November 7 - FTTU History Slideshow

At our November meeting, we will have an old-school style slide show (with real slides and a projector) of photos from Russ Mason's collection. Russ was present at chapter activities from day one and took a lot of photos. Stream projects, float stocking, stream clean ups, even the old sandwich booth at Fort Days. 7:00 pm, Nimick Education Center.

GILL LICE FOUND IN LINN RUN BROOK TROUT

As if our state fish, the brook trout, didn't already have enough challenges to its survival – habitat loss, water quality and temperature problems and acid rain – to name a few, now we can add gill lice to the list. During a PA F&BC 2017 survey, gill lice turned up in Linn Run brook trout. The following is an excerpt from the report.

"...gill lice have infested both wild and stocked brook trout in some sections of Linn Run. 77% of brook trout collected from the main stem were infested. All were hatchery stocked trout. 84% of brook trout collected from the Grove Run tributary were infested. All were wild trout. None of the 11 brook trout collected from the Rock Run tributary, the site of the ongoing Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited acid remediation/wild trout restoration project, were infested. All were wild trout."



Brook trout habitat on Grove Run

Here are some of the facts surrounding gill lice:

- They are a form of parasite that attach to the gills of brook trout
- Gill Lice are classified as a copepod, a tiny crustacean
- They are species specific and generally don't affect brown or rainbow trout
- They are not invasive and have co-evolved along with brook trout
- Infestation is not necessarily lethal to the trout, but young-of-the year are particularly vulnerable to mortality

Biologists believe that low, warm summer flows have led to this outbreak. The trout tend to group together in pools containing cooler water during periods with these conditions allowing the lice to be passed on. The three warmest years on record have been 2017, 2016 and 2015. Under normal stream flow conditions, gill lice are poor swimmers and have trouble attaching to the gills of trout. Gill lice have also been found in other locations in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, North Carolina and West Virginia. What can anglers do? Just continue best practices by cleaning your waders and gear to prevent the spread of gill lice and other harmful species such as didymo algae.

DISABLED VETERANS FISHING DAY

Fly Fishing to Heal the Body and Soul

It was a year in the making but the first FTTU Disabled Veterans Fishing Day finally became reality on May 12, 2018. It was a beautiful spring day on the lake at The Foggy Mountain Lodge in Stahlstown with 18 disabled vets participating with some arriving by bus from the Aspinwal VA Hospital. Each vet was paired up with a mentor/helper. Some of the vets were in wheelchairs and needed more help than others, but all caught fish and had a great time. FTTU stocked the lake with some large rainbows but the resident panfish and bass provided plenty of action as well. Some of the vets caught 30 or more fish and the VA bus went back with a cooler full of rainbow trout. The event went from 9 am to 3 pm with a lunch at the lodge pavilion provided by FTTU - cooked and served by Boy Scout Troop 465.



Each vet was paired with a mentor/helper



Fish on!

No event like this can be such a success without a little help from our friends. FTTU would like to thank our partners; Project Healing Waters, for their experience and expertise and for recruiting some of the vets; Boy Scout Troop 465 of Greensburg for preparing and serving lunch and for helping get the vets safely to and from the lake, The Foggy Mountain Lodge owners Jim and Karen Dunn for hosting us and of course to our dependable FTTU volunteers who always do a great job. Last but not least, kudos to event organizer Larry Myers who came to us with this idea more than a year ago. Larry worked tirelessly to pull this all together - planning and forging relationships with our partners and attending to every detail. Thanks, and well done, Larry!

Already plans are being made for next years event, stay tuned for details. You can view a slideshow of this year's event on the News Page of forbestrailtu.org.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

LWA Fourmile Run Project

FTTU Director Hank Balles represented the chapter by providing over 50 hours of labor on the Loyalhanna Watershed Association's project on Fourmile Run in June. The project covered 2,400 feet of stream and involved 30 in-stream devices to improve bank stability and habitat. Partners included the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Westmoreland Conservation District and was designed by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. The flooding of June 20 occurred during construction and delayed work by a few days but caused little damage. The site is located near Ligonier Road in Darlington upstream of Red Rocks.

On-going Rock Run Monitoring

We continue to conduct monthly pH and alkalinity testing at the mouth of Rock Run. Until July, alkalinity readings ranged from a low of 1.5 in March to a high of 8.1 in October. July's alkalinity reading jumped up to 11.6 and August's number was 18.1. Higher numbers are better. The PA F&BC looks for an alkalinity of 10 as a minimum for stocking trout. We think the increase is due to the heavy rains moving more limestone sand through the stream channel. pH readings remain steady at around 6.0 - 6.5. Denny Hess, Todd Griffith and Scott Minster are the testers but anyone is invited to participate.

FTTU Website

Work is underway on an updated design for our website, forbestrailtu.org. Look for a debut soon!

FLOODING IMPACTS LOCAL STREAMS

An intense storm on the afternoon of June 20 dumped 3.5" of rain on Laurel Mountain causing flash floods in the Upper Loyalhanna Creek Watershed. There was widespread damage reported in the Linn Run watershed and upper Loyalhanna Creek including a washout of Linn Run Road above the park office, the destruction of the historic swinging bridge on Loyalhanna Creek in Ligonier and lots of fallen trees and debris. A nice pool at the mouth of Rock Run where we conduct our monthly tests, has filled in with rubble and debris. Assessments are still ongoing, but Linn Run State Park has identified 15 sites in need of attention. FTTU's role, if any, is to be determined.

The rains were concentrated on the mountain near the Linn Run area and did not seem to have the same impact on the headwaters of Mill Creek several miles to the north.



Cross Vane on Fourmile Run

45TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC

FTTU held its 45th Anniversary Celebration on July 14th at the Kingston Sportsmens Club. The event was a great success. It was a perfect summer day with 80 in attendance including guests of honor Tom Evans and Jim Elliot who were present at the very first FTTU meeting in May of 1973. We also had former presidents Joe Lester, Mike Johnson and Lou Izzo and former officers Chuck Kuchta, Hank Balles, Don Kowatch and Ralph Koscianski. Please forgive me if I left anyone out, you are all such important figures in the chapter's history. Food was supplied by The Forks Inn and we had all the chapter's awards and some old photos and memorabilia on display.



FTTU Birthday Cake

What started out as a way to get the old-timers together for a reunion, turned out to be a great fundraiser as well. Response to our mail appeal to members exceeded expectations. We sold over 600 raffle tickets through the mail and another 160 at the picnic! The mailing had at least a 20% response rate and we were getting orders in almost up to picnic day. Thanks to all who participated by buying raffle and/or picnic tickets. The chapter received a much need financial shot-in-the-arm. We now have funds to better equip the youth group and meet other chapter goals.

Congratulations to all the Raffle Prize Winners

Sage Rod

Rick Lynch - Jeannette, PA

\$450.00 Anniversary Jackpot

Jim Shusko - Slickville, PA

Regal Medallion Vise

Darrel Zezzo - Irwin, PA

Orvis Encounter Rod Combo

D.K. O'Lear - Greensburg

Loop Fly Rod

Don Kowatch - Ligonier, PA

TFO Bug Launcher Rod Combo

Rod Cross - Bear Rocks, PA

TFO Bug Launcher Rod Combo

Al Ludwig

Abel Tool

Ron Miller - Latrobe, PA

Dr. Slick Tools

Ted Adamerovich - Latrobe, PA

Lanyard

Angela Schultheis - Latrobe, PA

Rep Your Water Hat

Ben Onusko - Latrobe, PA

TU Hat

G. Matteo

BORDAS AWARD GIVEN TO THE FOGGY MOUNTAIN LODGE

Jim and Karen Dunn, owners of the Foggy Mountain Lodge in Stahlstown, were so generous to FTTU and instrumental in the success of our Disabled Veterans event that we really wanted to show our appreciation. Therefore, on July 18, we presented Jim and Karen with our Ed Bordas Memorial Award for service to the chapter by a business or organization. FTTU Veterans Chair Larry Myers had this to say, "Jim and Karen, thank you so much for the use of the lake and your facilities. Foggy Mountain Lodge was the perfect setting for the event. The scenery, wildlife and fresh air were rewarding in themselves. Everything was within easy access and in perfect



The Beautiful Lake at the Foggy Mountain Lodge



Standing L-R - Larry Myers, FTTU Vets Chair; Jim Dunn; Karen Dunn; Monty Murty, FTTU President; Rod Cross FTTU Volunteer
Seated L-R - Bob Shusko, FTTU Director; Milt Claney, FTTU Volunteer and Drew Banas, FTTU Youth Chair

condition. We know you went to special effort to make the facilities extra nice for the veterans. It was obvious from our first meeting that you held a special place in your heart for veterans. I ask all of our event friends to please stop back for lunch or dinner and spread the word. I can attest that the food and service is fabulous!"

The award was presented at a luncheon at the lodge by FTTU representatives. Ed Bordas was a prominent Industrial Arts Instructor and FTTU volunteer. Past winners of the award include The Angler's Room, Ligonier Outfitters, John Hardeman Excavating, Folly's End Campground, Outside-In and the Lincoln Highway Experience.

THE FORBES TRAIL CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

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The Nimick Family Education Center

Directions: From the west, exit Route 30 at the first Ligonier exit. Cross the west-bound lanes at the flashing red lights and make the first left onto the Old Lincoln Highway. Make the first right onto the gravel road and proceed straight to NFEC located in the remodeled barn. There is limited parking at the barn and farmhouse. There is plenty of overflow parking in the Country Market area to the right of the gravel road.

MEETINGS

October 3

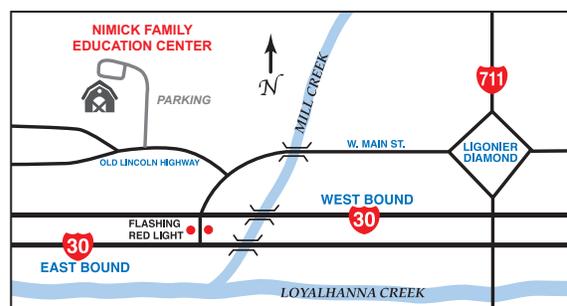
Annual Meeting/Steelhead
7:00 p.m. - Nimick Center, Ligonier

November 7

FTTU History Slide Show
7:00 p.m. - Nimick Center, Ligonier

February 6, 2018

Fishing Trip Slide Show & Tell
7:00 p.m. - Nimick Center, Ligonier



For More Information: www.forbestrailtu.org