

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy as we adjust our lifestyles to address the pandemic. Hopefully you've been able to enjoy some time with family and friends and maybe you made a few extra trips to the streams before the hot weather set in. With people vacationing closer to home, we've found that our membership has risen significantly this spring. Fishing is one thing we can still enjoy while social distancing. Maybe anglers are learning more about TU's role in conserving cold water fisheries. We want to thank all of our new members for joining and invite them to our next formal meeting on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 PM at Mammoth Park, Pavilion #3.

I want to take this opportunity to remind our members that Forbes Trail sends out a hardcopy newsletter several times a year, but most of our communications are done via e-mail. If you did not provide an e-mail address when you joined, we can't reach you. TU will not share your e-mail address with other

organizations and we'll keep our contacts to a minimum. But, we want to keep you informed of upcoming meetings and events. Please consider going to www.tu.org and under "My TU" set up or edit your personal account.

Also, while we have over 500 members in our chapter, not everyone attends meetings or activities. That's OK. Many of us support a list of non profits because we believe in their mission, but don't want to necessarily become directly involved. However, if you do want to become more involved, you might want to join our "Active Members" group. I stay in touch with them a little more often and we sometimes hold informal meetings to socialize and conduct a little business. If you want to join, just e-mail me your name and e-mail address and we'll keep you plugged in. myersld@comcast.net. We currently have roughly 50 active participants. I hope to see you in September!

Larry Myers

FTTU SCHEDULE - FALL 2020

September 2 Monthly Meeting - Nomination of Officers/Directors
6:00 pm Mammoth Park Pavilion #3

October 7 Annual Meeting - Election of Officers/Directors
6:00 p.m. - Bear Rocks Community Club

November 4 Monthly Meeting - Program To Be Announced
6:00 p.m. - Nimick Family Education Center

See page 4 for directions to the Nimick Education Center
Schedule subject to change. See forbestrailtu.org for updates

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on our 2020 schedule causing the cancellation of meetings and events. We plan to resume our regular monthly meetings in September with a meeting at Mammoth Park on Wednesday the 2nd beginning at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Pavilion Number 3. This location will allow for some additional social distancing and it will be nice to be outdoors now that the evenings are getting cooler. The meeting will be held rain or shine.

At this meeting, we will accept nominations for officers and for members of the board of directors. If you would like to be nominated for any of these positions, please attend this meeting. See www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/735/Mammoth-Park for directions. Click on *Park Map*.

Notice of Annual Meeting

FTTU will have it's annual meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at the Bear Rocks Community Club near Acme, PA beginning at 6:00 pm. At this meeting, we will elect officers and directors for the next two-year term. We will go over our budget and discuss plans for 2020-2021. Members are encouraged to

attend. The Bear Rocks Community Club is located at 161 Big Springs Road, Acme PA. Take Route 31 east from Mount Pleasant, or west from Donegal and turn right (eastbound) on to Bear Rocks Road (look for Acme Corner Pizza). Proceed a short distance and then make a right on to Big Springs Road. Look for the Club on the right.

This meeting was originally scheduled for the Nimick Education Center but due to restrictions on numbers of group gatherings there, we have switched this meeting to the Bear Rocks Club.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be back at the Nimick Center on Wednesday, November 4th at 6:00 pm. There is no program in place for this meeting at this time. Check forbestrailtu.org for updates.

There is no formal meeting scheduled for December.

Of course, the pandemic may force changes to our schedule so again, check the website for updates.



Before you know it, leaves will be falling in FTTU Country

STREAM IMPROVEMENT - ROCK RUN

Water testing continues at the mouth of Rock Run monthly, only April was cancelled. We continue to get good pH readings in the mid 6's. Alkalinity fluctuates with flow. High flow brings low alkalinity and low flow results in high alkalinity. The Linn Run gauge on August 1st was the lowest recorded since we began



Setting a Leaf Pack in Rock Run

testing in October 2017. Rock run was down to a trickle at the mouth, but we recorded the highest alkalinity of the year at 11.4. In times of high flow from rain and snow melt, it can be seen that the stream's ability to buffer acidity is being put to the test. FTTU has been treating Rock Run with limestone since 2007 which is the reason for the monitoring.

Macro Study

Instead of the traditional kick net method,



FTTU V.P. Denny Hess set 4 leaf packs in Rock Run in late 2019. In March 2020 and again in May we pulled the leaf packs sorted and counted the macroinvertebrates collected and scored the results on the E.P.T. index.

Leaf packs are mesh bags that are stuffed with leaves from the surrounding area and then anchored to the stream bed. In time, macroinvertebrate organisms take up residence in the leaves. The E.P.T. index is a water quality scoring system based on the quality and diversity of organisms living in a stream. The more pollution intolerant an organism is, the higher the score it receives.

E.P.T. stands for Ephemera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies),

and Trichoptera (caddisflies), high quality organisms you want living in your stream. Pollution tolerant organisms such as blackflies and aquatic worms may also be present but score low on the scale. The E.P.T. score is compiled from a 200 organism sample. The number is determined by the quality, diversity and quantity of the sample. Above 40 is good, 20-40 fair and less than 20 is considered poor. Rock Run scored a 41, just enough to put us in the good range. In our sample we had at least three varieties of stoneflies, mayflies, cased and net spinning caddis, cranefly larvae, hellgrammites, sowbugs and crayfish. Roachlike stoneflies are the most prevalent, they love to crawl through the leaf litter munching on leaves. Mayflies are harder to come by but are present. We think that



Opening a Leaf Pack

a kick net study may turn up better numbers of mayflies since rocks and gravel are a habitat more to their liking.

Denny Hess, Scott Minster, Ron Miller and Monty Murty participated in the survey. While Denny, Ron and Scott counted bugs, Monty took



The Sorting Table - Inset: A Roachlike Stonefly

readings for total dissolved solids - low (good) and dissolved oxygen - high (also good). Hopefully some meaningful rain will move into the watershed soon.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have experienced an influx of sign-ups this year adding 60 new members in 2020. We sent out a welcome letter to the newbies introducing ourselves and who we are and what we do and inviting them to join in on our meetings and activities. You'll get an education on local conservation efforts and trout fishing in our area by attending FTTU meetings.

If you know of someone who would like to join, there is a link on the homepage of our website forbestrailltu.org for a discounted membership. FTTU will receive \$15.00 for each new member recruited that way.

Facebook and Social Media

Don't forget we have a facebook page. FTTU Social Media Manager Doug Yacobet reports that new followers are joining us on Facebook everyday, another way to keep up with chapter news and activities.

Become an Active Member

While it's always great to sign up new members, we need workers to help out with all of our activities. I don't think there's anyone who doesn't have a talent or ability that isn't of value to a TU chapter. Fundraising, youth education, women's initiative and getting your boots wet in a local conservation project are all

options for volunteers. The more workers we can count on, the more we can do.

If you would like to learn about volunteer opportunities with FTTU and other chapter activities, see the President's Message on Page 1 and get signed up with Larry's Active Members email list. We will not sell or give your information to any other group and we will not bombard your inbox with a lot of unwanted emails. You will receive no more than 1 or 2 emails per month. Meeting notices are sent through TU National to all who gave their email address to TU when they joined, other emails come direct from FTTU to the Active Members list.



Instructor Rod Cross gives a casting lesson. Several members took the Fly Fishers International Bronze Level Skills Challenge August 5 at Mammoth Park. One kind of activity you'll learn about from Active Members email alerts.

THE FORBES TRAIL CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

CONTACTS

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Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited - P.O. Box 370
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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

September 2

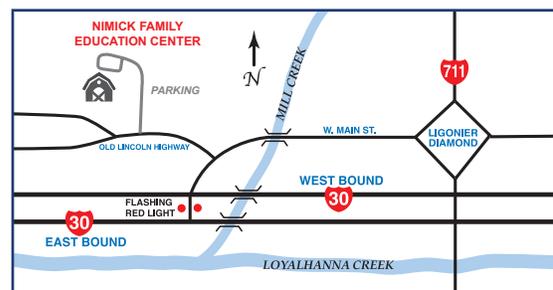
Nominations for Officers and Directors
6:00 p.m. - Mammoth Park Pavilion #3

October 7

Annual Meeting - Election of Officers/Directors
Outdoors-Themed Flea Market
6:00 p.m. - Bear Rocks Community Club

November 4

Topic TBA
6:00 p.m. - Nimick Education Center, Ligonier



For More Information: www.forbestrailtu.org  Find Us On Facebook