

## DREW BANAS

We at FTTU received devastating news in March when we learned that longtime member and our dear friend Drew Banas had passed away.

Drew was one of the most important and influential leaders in chapter history. He served as an officer and was on the Board of Directors for nearly two decades. He helped with stream improvement projects, our veteran's outing, fundraising and just about all of the chapter's activities.

Drew's passion and greatest contribution however, was the Forbes Trail Fly Fishing and Conservation Youth Group which he founded in 2005. The youth program ran until 2020 when it was temporarily halted due to COVID. More than 250 boys and girls learned about cold water conservation through fly fishing in the youth group over the years. Some of the kids enjoyed the program so much they came back for a second, and in some cases, a third time! Drew was very proud of the kids who went through the youth group and stayed in touch with several of them, following their accomplishments in college and as adults.

The curriculum Drew developed received state-wide recognition and influenced other TU youth education programs. As a result, he was asked to serve on the board of the Rivers Conservation Camp, the state-wide youth conservation camp held each June near Yellow Breeches Creek.

One of Drew's lesser known contributions is just how many friends he made and brought in to FTTU. Many of the names



Drew with members of the Youth Group class of 2014 on Loyalhanna Creek

of volunteers and helpers you see here in the pages of *The Trails* were folks Drew encouraged to become involved.

More recently, he started a weekly fly tier's roundtable and luncheon that is popular with retirees and beginner fly tiers. Many have commented about Drew's infectious enthusiasm and can-do attitude. In addition to his contributions to the chapter, Drew will be sorely missed as a friend and fishing companion.

In memory of Drew, and in honor of his youth education efforts, Forbes Trail has established the "Drew Banas Memorial Education Fund". Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so with a check made out to Forbes Trail TU with a note for the Fund. Send the donations to, Forbes Trail TU, P.O. Box 370, Youngstown, PA 15696. The donations received will be restricted to educational activities and managed by our chapter. Donors will receive a written thank you letter.

## FALL 2021 SCHEDULE

**September 1..... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm**  
Nimick Center (the barn), Ligonier

**October 2 ..... Military Vets Outing - 9 am - 3 pm**  
Kingston Sportsman's Club, Latrobe

**October 6 ..... Annual Meeting - 6:00 pm**  
Bear Rocks Community Center  
161 Big Springs Rd, Acme, PA 15610

**November 3 ..... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm**  
Nimick Center, Ligonier

**December 1..... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm**  
Nimick Center, Ligonier

*Due to COVID uncertainties, this schedule is subject to change! Check forbestrailtu.org closer to event/meeting times for updates.*

The chapter will resume its regular first Wednesday monthly meetings in September when we meet on the 1st at the Nimick Center in Ligonier. Meeting starts at 6:00 pm. At this meeting, there will be an overview of activities at the Rivers Conservation Camp by Nicholas Vargo, the student we sponsored to attend this year's camp.

### 2021 Annual Meeting

Each chapter is required to have an annual membership meeting. FTTU's annual meeting will be on Wednesday, October 6 at the Bear Rocks Community Center – 161 Big Springs Road, Acme, PA 15610 – at 6:00 pm. This year, we need to fill two positions on the Board of Directors.

### Attention Members! Check Your Mailboxes!

FTTU will be partnering with Bardine's Smokehouse and the Westmoreland County Foodbank again this year for a fundraising raffle. Look for your raffle ticket package to arrive via USPS sometime this fall.

## LINN RUN CONSERVATION PLAN

For several years the chapter has been wanting to do a conservation plan for the Linn Run watershed. Finally, in 2021, with funding from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and with help from our partners at the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Western PA Conservancy, Powdermill Nature Center, Westmoreland Conservation District and PA DCNR, we started work on this important project.

### Training

We had an overwhelming response for volunteer workers from chapter members and local residents and the first step was to get everyone trained as citizen scientists. Greg Schaetzle of the Western PA Conservancy Watershed Assistance Center held several training sessions on visual assessments via Zoom as well as on-stream instruction. For macroinvertebrate collection and identification, entomologist Andrea Kautz of the Powdermill Nature Center conducted training via Zoom and on-stream with Josh Penatzer of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association.



Badly eroded bank on upper Linn Run noted in the visual assessment.

### Visual Assessment

After training, volunteer teams put boots on the ground and covered the entire length of Linn Run and its tributaries from the top of Laurel Mountain to its mouth below Rector. The teams looked for and recorded problems such as erosion, lack of riparian cover and sedimentation and scored their sections in categories such as bank stability, vegetative cover, riffle/run frequency, embeddedness and channel flow.



Lyle Farr (L) and Denny Hess test alkalinity on a sample.



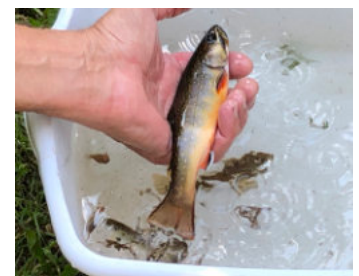
Macroinvertebrate counting and sorting.

### Water Quality

The next step involved the teams collecting water samples throughout the watershed and bringing them back to our on-site “lab” at the Grove Run Picnic Area where the samples were evaluated for pH, alkalinity and dissolved oxygen among other parameters. Samples from key sites were further tested by Dr. Daryle Fish at Saint Vincent College.



Testing for dissolved oxygen.



What it's all about - Linn Run Brook Trout and stonefly.

### Macros

On June 16, multi-person teams did kick net sampling on the stream sections. The samples were brought back to Grove Run where, with help from experts Andrea Kautz and Josh Penatzer, they were counted and sorted to the genus level. Each section was scored with the E.P.T. Index. Ephemera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), and Trichoptera (caddisflies) are pollution sensitive organisms that are good water quality indicators.

We will do another macro study in the fall and the conservation plan will be released sometime in 2022.

### Volunteer Appreciation and Media Day

On June 29, we had a picnic and volunteer appreciation day at Adams Falls on Linn Run and invited local media to attend. Josh Penatzer conducted an electro-fishing demonstration and Andrea Kautz demonstrated a kick net macro survey to give a representation of the living organisms that call Linn Run home.



Electro-fishing and the results. brook trout, sculpins and crayfish.

A few native brook trout along with sculpins and crayfish turned up in the electro-fishing survey while mayflies, stoneflies and caddis were revealed in the kick net study.

The Conservation Plan is the first step in identifying problems that impede the native brook trout population of the Linn Run watershed and to suggest potential solutions. It will also help us to acquire funding for those future projects. Look for the report to come out next year.

## MONTY MURTY RECEIVES DON ROBB AWARD



Larry Myers (L) presents Monty with the Don Robb Award.

At our May meeting, chapter Treasurer Monty Murty was presented with the Don Robb Award. This award is given in recognition of long term and outstanding service to the chapter. From chapter President to litter clean-ups Monty has done it all with FTTU. He has served multiple terms as chapter

Treasurer and President. He was instrumental in starting the Trout in the Classroom program in the Forbes Trail Chapter area. He has spent countless hours with our Youth Education program, the fly fishing program for women, stream improvement projects on Mill Creek, organizing banquets and fundraisers and filing grant applications and annual reports. Most recently Monty has been putting in a lot of work with chapter President Larry Myers on organizing the Linn Run Watershed Conservation Plan as well as doing boots-on-the-ground work there at Linn Run State Park. Monty has also been a great advocate for the chapter working with the media and doing numerous presentations promoting FTTU and cold water conservation.

In addition, he has served as Regional Vice President with The Pennsylvania Council of TU and on the National Leadership Council where he attended national meetings all over the country.

FTTU owes a great deal of gratitude to Monty Murty. Our chapter is thriving today due in large part to his dedication and hard work.

## MILITARY VETERAN'S OUTING



In partnership with the Kingston Club and Project Healing Waters, our veterans fishing day is back in 2021 and will be held on Saturday, October 2nd (rain date is October 9th) at the Kingston Veterans and Sportsmans Club at 138 Kingston Club Road in Latrobe.

This year, the event is open to all U.S. military veterans with 30 spots reserved for disabled veterans. Participation is free, but you will need to register to join in the fun.

**To register, email us at [info@forbestrailtu.org](mailto:info@forbestrailtu.org).**

Fishing will be done at the Kingston Club lake for stocked trout and panfish. All fishing equipment will be provided along with volunteer mentor assistance for the disabled and instruction for those who would like to learn how to fish. A grilled lunch will be served by a local Boy Scout Troop. All free of charge. You will not need a fishing license to participate.

There are also volunteer opportunities for mentor/helpers. If you would like to help out or would like information, contact us at [info@forbestrailtu.org](mailto:info@forbestrailtu.org).

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Latrobe crew at Mission Road and removing junk from the DHALO area.

### Litter Clean-Up

We had two crews out picking up litter on Earth Day, April 22nd. Angie Schultheis led one group that cleaned up the area from the Route 982 bridge to the Mission Road Bridge in Latrobe while another group took care of the Delayed Harvest area in Ligonier. In all, we filled 15 large trash bags and collected several large pieces of junk. The Loyalhanna Watershed Association provided the bags and PennDot picked up the trash.

### Zoom Meetings

Like a lot of other organizations, FTTU utilized Zoom to keep in touch and conduct meetings. Turns out, it makes a good forum for presentations. This past winter, we had Zoom presentations from the Yough Riverkeeper and fly tiers Tim Flagler and Tim Cammisa

In May, we returned to in-person meetings at the Bear Rocks Community Center where we had a memorial for Drew Banas and presented the Don Robb Award to Monty Murty.

# 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

### SEPTEMBER 1

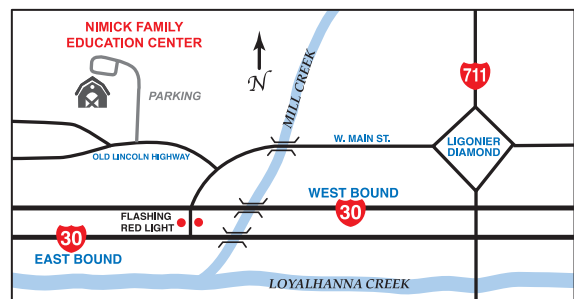
Monthly Meeting  
6:00 pm - Nimick Education Center

### OCTOBER 6

Annual Meeting  
6:00 pm - Bear Rocks Community Center  
161 Big Springs Rd, Acme, PA 15610

### NOVEMBER 3

Monthly Meeting  
6:00 pm Nimick Education Center



For More Information - [www.forbestrailtu.org](http://www.forbestrailtu.org)