

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our members! 2021 was a very trying year for all of us with the pandemic and restrictions on our activities. While we're not completely out of the woods yet, we're making progress, as well as plans for the upcoming year. Forbes Trail has a number of success stories to report. Some are covered in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter. First, we've made tremendous progress on our Coldwater Conservation Plan for Linn Run. We have just a couple more studies to complete. We thank all of you who volunteered your time and talents. The final report should be complete by the end of June. Our meat raffle was a smashing success thanks to all of you who sold tickets. We sold 843 tickets, gave out eight \$250 gift cards to Bardine's Country Smokehouse and donated \$600 to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. You're helping to fight hunger right here in our neighborhoods!

Our plan is to hold in-person monthly meetings beginning in February. February 2nd will be our annual "Show and Tell" so gather up those fishing photos and videos. See the schedule included in the newsletter. Please consider joining us at one of our meetings to see what all is going on. There's no pressure...just opportunities.

We will also offer guest speaker presentations via Zoom and we'll be able to join many others offered to us by neighboring chapters. It's a great way to enhance your fly tying and fishing skills from the comfort of your home. Zoom is no cost to you. Just download the app on your computer or phone.

Please note that this hardcopy newsletter is the only means of direct contact we have with some of you. If you have not provided your e-mail address in your TU membership profile, you're not getting chapter meeting notices or other alerts. I understand you may not want bombarded with announcements and promos from the National TU office. But, if you want to stay plugged in with just our chapter activities, there's a way to do that.

I maintain a group e-mail for about 60 of our more active members. They are the ones who attend at least some meetings, participate in some activities, and help with some projects. If you provide your e-mail to me, I do not share it with anyone else. But I can at least keep you better informed of chapter activities. You can get involved as much as you wish. The link to our guest speaker Zoom calls is also only available via e-mail directly to you. We do not post that on our web site because of the risk of Zoom bombers.

In any case, please go into the TU membership database (www.tu.org) and make sure all the information you want included there is accurate. We've had cases where people didn't get raffle tickets or newsletters because their mailing address was inaccurate.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and prosperous 2022!

Larry D. Myers

WINTER 2022 SCHEDULE

DUE TO COVID CONCERNS, ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK forbestrailtu.org OR CONTACT US AT info@forbestrailtu.org FOR UPDATES.

January..... Adult Fly Tying Group - Tuesdays
12:00 pm for lunch then fly tying.
Tin Lizzy, Youngstown, PA.

February 2..... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm
Virtual on Zoom

March 2..... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm
Nimick Education Center
Agenda TBA

April 2..... Trout Season Opening Day - 8:00 am
One opening day state-wide in 2022.

April 6..... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm
Nimick Education Center
Agenda TBA



Follow Us on Facebook

Another way to follow FTU is with our Facebook page. We now have over 600 followers. There is also a private women's group and videos of chapter activities.

Adult Fly Tying Group



The adult fly tying group started by Drew Banas is starting up in January. The group is open to all including beginners. To learn more, contact us at info@forbestrailtu.org.



Zoom Meetings

We are in the process of setting up some on-line seminars of interest to trout fishers, fly tiers and conservationists. Once confirmed, these events will be announced with instructions on how to join in via chapter-wide email and on our website and Facebook page.

Slide Show 'n Tell

POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

GIVING BACK

There's More to It Than Just Fishing

A carload of Trout Unlimited (TU) members were returning from the Spring Creek Fish Hatchery where they had assisted the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) staff package trout eggs for the Trout in the Classroom program. It was a cold and dreary January day when about 10 TU friends made the three-hour trek to Bellefonte, PA. On the way home, Denny Hess expressed to the group, "You know, that was a lot of fun. It was something different. We've all caught plenty of trout. But this was part of a bigger program to help kids".



Denny, Jay and WCO Dan Wilson enjoy a chat on the ADA fishing platform at Indian Lake in North Huntingdon.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a national TU program to introduce students to the lifecycle of trout. The teachers are trained by the PFBC, they purchase and set up aquariums in their classrooms, then eggs are delivered to them. Lesson plans are provided by TU and the PFBC. More about TIC can be found at www.patrouinthe classroom.org

The point Denny was making is that TU is about more than just trout fishing. Our passion goes well beyond catching fish. TU as an organization is the voice for the trout and for cold water conservation. TU's members are ambassadors and mentors in schools and in the community. We share our passions via fishing events for military veterans as well as field days and in-school programs for school students. And sometimes the outreach our members do is completely outside the TU framework.

Several years ago, Denny Hess, VP for Forbes Trail TU, who lives in North Huntingdon, PA was introduced to a young student and was asked if he would consider mentoring him fishing. Sharon Secrist, M. Ed., and Certified Mobility Instructor is a teacher of the visually impaired with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Her 19-year-old student, Jayshaun Hampton, is a senior at Clairton. He has been diagnosed with SCA 7, a degenerative disease that causes loss of all motor functions.

Jay loves to go fishing. It's one of the few things he enjoys as he is blind and wheelchair bound. Sharon and Denny met through

a friend in 2018, and Denny offered to take Jay fishing during a school mobility field trip. Since that day, Jay and Denny have enjoyed many fishing trips together at Indian Lake and Twin Lakes in Westmoreland County. "Denny has made fishing such an amazing and rewarding experience for Jay", noted Sharon. "We are honored to have Denny help Jay with fishing. Jay really looks forward to these fishing trips together." Jay has a 7-year-old brother Darryn who has the same disease. Denny has invited Jay to bring Darryn along on the next fishing trip.



I told Gram I would try to bring some big ones home for her to cook

When Denny agreed to do this story, it was with the understanding that the story would not be about him. He did not want the attention. Denny is very humble, but he appreciated the value of sharing this story as a means to inspire other TU members to become involved in their communities. This story is not about Denny. Nor is it solely about Jay. Its about connecting people to share the joy of fishing and help them find peace and pleasure on the water. More specifically about bringing TU members together with members from our communities.



Jay having a successful and fun day on the lake.

Fishing has been proven an effective therapy for veterans dealing with PTSD as well recovering surgery patients dealing with pain and trauma. In fact, national nonprofit organizations such as Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. and Casting for Recovery, Inc., have been developed specifically to meet those needs. A few hours of fly fishing can help heal the body and soul. Ironically, Jay's grandmother (Gram) is a military veteran and can appreciate the healing powers of fishing.

This story is just one of many by TU members who have shared their time and talents to help someone with disabilities forget about their limitations for an afternoon and focus on having fun with a fishing rod. These are exciting experiences as they occur. But they also make for wonderful memories to be recalled during

those slow days, or when life isn't quite so exciting. Times when we might be dwelling too much on our disabilities and limitations.

This story is a call to our TU members to get involved in your communities. There's someone out there who could benefit from your skills as a fisher and the generosity of your time. If for just one afternoon, the student can enjoy the passion we've developed for our sport. Our reward might be hearing the one we're mentoring yell... "Hey...Mr. Hess, get the net! I think we got a big one!"

GIVING BACK... TO VETERANS

3rd Annual FTTU Veterans Fishing Event

FTTU partnered with Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Association and Project Healing Waters to provide 22 military veterans a day of fishing on Saturday, October 2. The objective was to teach fly fishing as a means of healing both body and mind. It has been a proven technique for many disabled veterans. We had nearly 100 participants including Boy Scouts and volunteers. The Scouts prepared a grilled lunch for everyone. We gave away numerous door prizes donated by the sponsoring organizations including fly rod and reel combos. Plus, the vets and scouts caught lots of fish!



Veteran Jack Merchant hooks into a big rainbow.



Top: FTTU's Rod Cross give these vets a lesson on flycasting. Bottom: FTTU's Hank Balles helps a vet land and unhook a nice rainbow.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Trout in the Classroom

This program will continue starting in January with participating schools receiving eggs directly from the PF&BC hatchery. Because of COVID restrictions, we will not be able to assist teachers in the school but can serve as advisors.

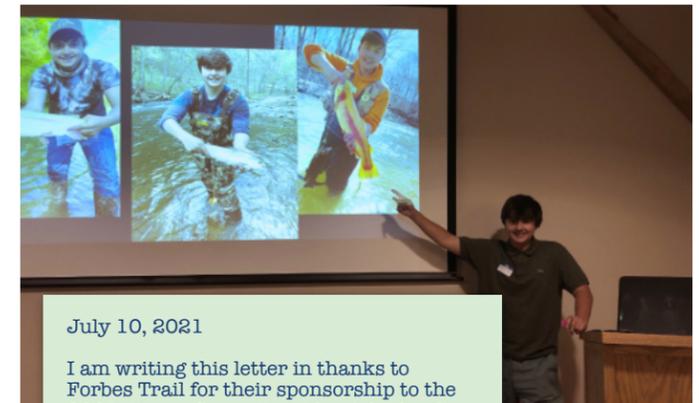
Ligonier Valley Middle School Outdoor Club

As of this writing, plans are being made for FTTU instructors to assist with the coldwater conservation education and fly tying sessions during the winter months. The program typically includes a tour of a hatchery and concludes with an afternoon of fishing on the Loyalhanna. School COVID guidelines will dictate how the program is conducted. An alternative is for students to meet without in-person FTTU instructors and participate via Zoom and prerecorded fly tying videos. We'll do what it takes to keep the momentum of the Outdoor Club going.

Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp

Forbes Trail once again sponsored a local student for the RCYFFY Camp at Messiah College this past June. The Camp is co-ed for ages 14 to 17. Instructions include fly fishing, fly tying, the principles of stream ecology, coldwater conservation and much more. Students experience on-stream and in-classroom training and work on a stream project to repair habitat.

The 2022 camp will take place June 19th through the 24th. The deadline for applications is February 28. FTTU is interested in sponsoring at least one local student to attend the camp. To apply or for more information visit www.riverscamp.com.



July 10, 2021

I am writing this letter in thanks to Forbes Trail for their sponsorship to the 2021 Rivers Camp. I am thankful for the opportunity that was given as it helped me not only understand the art of fly fishing, but also improved my knowledge of the conservation of our rivers and streams. During Rivers Camp I realized the absolute need to protect our natural streams and environment. Not only for my generation, but for many more after me. Not only did I learn about protecting our streams and habitat, I also learned how to fly fish. Even as a child I always had an interest in fly fishing, but I never had someone to teach me. In this camp, I learned techniques of casting and also about life in streams and how to identify them. I feel as my life and career continue, I will always think back to this amazing opportunity and remember the importance of the conservation of streams.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Vargo

Nicholas Vargo gave us a slide show and talk on his experiences at the TU Rivers Fly Fishing Youth Camp at our September meeting.

Looks like he's catching on to this fly fishing thing pretty well and by the contents of his thank you note, he really "gets it" about TU's mission too.

CONSERVATION

Linn Run Conservation Plan Update

Forbes Trail members and local volunteers wrapped up three days of water quality sampling and macroinvertebrate (trout bugs) studies on Linn Run and its tributaries in mid-November. They enjoyed beautiful weather for two of the days. But, the last day of macro, they had to deal with rain, falling temperatures and working under a dark pavilion to sort and identify the bugs. All in all, they collected a large quantity and wide assortment of bugs and the water quality in the stream is looking good.

Andrea Kautz from Powdermill Nature Reserve and Josh Penatzer from Loyalhanna Watershed Association were the bug experts assisting volunteers with sorting and making correct identifications. Strict protocols have to be followed for collecting the bugs from the stream, including the length of stream sampled, how long to kick the stream rocks and debris, and specific mesh nets to be used. The sorting and identification are a very tedious and eye-straining activities. Many of the bugs must be picked from leaf packs with tweezers.

Water quality samples were first analyzed stream-side by TU members for a number of parameters including pH, alkalinity and dissolved oxygen. Duplicate samples are being analyzed at St. Vincent College for additional parameters using a Microwave Plasma Atomic Emission



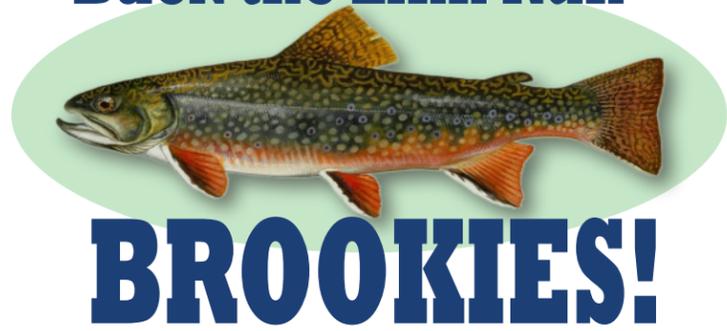
Left: Elizabeth Bruner inspects rocks for macroinvertebrates while Luke Sanner collects them in his net as they are flushed downstream.

Center: Elizabeth and Luke sort trout bugs into trays before identifying them as part of the study.

Right: Denny Hess and Ron Miller collect water samples at the mouth of Rock Run.



Back the Linn Run



Spectrophotometer. Analyses there include nitrates, phosphates and metals. Collectively the results will tell the overall health of the stream and its ability to support wild trout.

We thank all of the TU members and volunteers who gave of their time and talents to complete this portion of the study. We've had several volunteers from the PA Master Naturalist program offer their skills and expertise over the past year. We offer a special thank you to Elizabeth Bruner who is a 4-H and TU member and homeschooled senior from Blairsville, and Luke Sanner, 4-H member and sophomore at Hempfield High School for their participation. Elizabeth is President of the Governor's Youth Council for hunting, fishing and conservation. She has received her 4-H Diamond Clover Award and will attend Penn State Dubois for Wildlife Technology. We are pleased to see the younger generation taking such an interest in coldwater conservation projects.

CONSERVATION

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment

Volunteers from Forbes Trail responded to a request for assistance from Linn Run State Park Manager, Corey Snyder, to treat hemlock trees for an invasive insect. The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has been devastating hemlocks forests in the eastern U.S. for several decades. Once they get a foothold, they spread rapidly and within just a few years, a stand of 200-hundred-year-old hemlocks are dead. The insects, believed to have arrived here in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states from Asia around 1920, is spreading quickly through Pennsylvania threatening our state tree.

Of particular concern to FTTU is the effect it could have on our streams. The canopy of hemlocks along Linn Run and its tributaries could be wiped out, allowing the sun to penetrate and warm the stream. Linn Run is classified as a High Quality Coldwater Trout Stream by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. That classification, and of course the fishery and supporting aquatic insect population, are at risk.



One means of control is with predator beetles. But it would take years to establish a population that could naturally control the HWA. On October 14, FTTU volunteers assisted park staff in treating 9,000 inches (measured diameters) of hemlock trees by injecting the insecticide Xytext into the ground at the base of the tree to be absorbed by the root system. Foresters from the

Bureau of State Forests measured the diameter of the hemlocks to determine the appropriate dose, then had volunteers inject the chemical into the ground. Volunteers were trained on site and told how to protect themselves while using the chemicals. The chemical works systemically by the tree absorbing it through its root system up to the branches and needles where the HWA sucks out the sap. This is a very expensive and labor-intensive operation. But our state tree and historic stands of hemlocks are at stake. Coupled with the impact of warming weather from climate change, our coldwater streams are at high risk. FTTU wants to help do its part. We may be calling for more volunteers in 2022. Corey Snyder expressed the Park's gratitude for TU's quick response to this matter. "We couldn't have completed it this year without your group's help!"

Top: Bill Somogyi and Sam Testa treating hemlocks. Inset: The cottony white egg sacs of the Woolly Adelgid. Bottom: Ron Miller injects insecticide into the base of a tree.



THANK YOU MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Fall Fundraiser a Huge Success

Our 2nd annual "Autumn Special Meat Raffle" fund-raiser was held this fall with ticket sales wrapping up on November 12 and the prize drawings on November 17th.

Thanks to our members stepping up, ticket sales topped 840 this year, well above last year's total of 517.

Many members bought and/or sold all 10 tickets sent out in the mailing.

The ticket sales allowed us to give out eight \$250 Bardine's Smokehouse gift certificates – one for every 100 tickets sold.

Of course, the whole idea was to earn unrestricted funds for the chapter's operations, activities and projects. Less expenses and the prizes, Our profits topped \$6,400 allowing us to make a \$600 donation the the Westmoreland Food Bank.



Fulfilling a Promise - Treasurer Monty Murty, Secretary Scott Minster, and Vice President Denny Hess present the \$600 donation check to Lauren Hill, Director of Development for the Westmoreland Food Bank.

CONSERVATION

ROCK RUN SAMPLING COMPLETE FOR '21

Water tests at the mouth of Rock Run, a major Linn Run tributary, wrapped up in late November. Results can be seen at the chart at left. While pH numbers remain consistent it is typical for alkalinity to go down when stream flow goes up as the water chemistry works hard to buffer acidity in the increased water volume.

In 2021, we saw the best average alkalinity and pH averages since testing began in 2017.

The tests are done to monitor the effects of limestone sand dosing in the Rock Run headwaters.

More limestone sand is scheduled to be placed in the headwaters in 2022.

DATE	AIR TEMP	WATER TEMP	LINN RUN GAUGE	LINN RUN DISCHARGE	pH	ALKALINITY	TURBIDITY	LAST PRECIP
1/2/21	39	40.5	2.88	22.0	6.8	2.6	HIGH/CLEAR	1/1/21
1/30/21	19	29.5	1.91	21.8	7.6	3.2	MED/CLEAR	1/27/21
2/27/21	37	41.5	2.16	19	7.3	3.1	MED/CLEAR	2/25/21
4/5/21	55	46	1.95	21.3	7.3	3.9	MED/CLEAR	4/4/21
5/1/21	39	44.5	2.17	33.4	7.4	4.3	MED/CLEAR	4/29/21
5/29/21	48	52.5	2.08	28.1	7.5	7.4	MED/CLEAR	5/28/21
6/29/21	81	66	1.36	2.87	7.5	10	LOW/CLEAR	6/22/21
7/31/21	61	62	1.32	2.4	7.5	11.7	LOW/CLEAR	7/29/21
8/28/21	75	67.5	1.44	2.6	7.5	12.3	LOW/CLEAR	8/26/21
10/2/21	54	53.5	1.55	3.99	7.5	9.6	MED/CLEAR	9/28/21
10/30/21	51	50	1.99	15	7.6	8.4	MED/CLEAR	10/29/21
11/27/21	25	34.5	1.76	7.95	7.7	7.8	MED/CLEAR	11/26/21
	48.67	49	1.88	15.03	7.43	7.03		



And the winners are... FTTUers with the winning raffle tickets at th PA Fly Co November 17. L-R: Officers Monty Murty and Larry Myers, Directors Doug Yocabet and Milt Claney.



FTTU Officers. L-R: Secretary Scott Minster, Vice President Denny Hess, President Larry Myers and Treasurer Monty Murty.



Veterans enjoying a beautiful day on the water at the FTTU Veterans Day Outing.



Plenty of door prizes were handed out at the veterans event. This vet won a nice TFO fly rod combo.

THE FORBES TRAIL CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

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Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited - P.O. Box 370
Youngstown, PA 15696

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

FEBRUARY 2

6:00 pm Zoom

MARCH 2

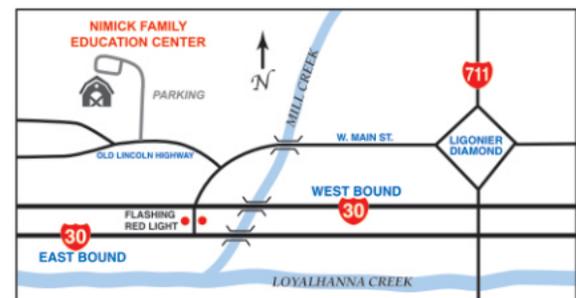
Agenda TBA

6:00 pm Nimick Education Center

APRIL 6

Agenda TBA

6:00 pm Nimick Education Center



For More Information - www.forbestrailtu.org