

FALL 2022 SCHEDULE

September 7 ... Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm
Nimick Education Center
Nomination of Officers/Directors

October 1.....Veterans Fishing Day
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Kingston Sportsmen's Club, Latrobe

October 5.....Annual Membership Meeting
6:00 pm - Nimick Education Center
Election of Officers

November 2 Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm
Location T.B.A.

DecemberAdult Fly Tying Group Begins
Tuesdays 12:00 pm for lunch then
fly tying. Tin Lizzy, Youngstown, PA.

www.forbestrailtu.org for more information and updates

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been a rather challenging couple of years for all of us, dealing with the Covid pandemic and all the related deaths, illnesses and disruptions to our lives. My thoughts and prayers go out to all who have suffered loss of loved ones, jobs or are still dealing with long-term health issues. I wish you all the best in your recoveries and putting some semblance of order back into your lives.

Forbes Trail is working to re-establish itself as well with our school programs and community activities. We're almost back to full swing. I want to thank all of our members who volunteered the past several months with our school programs, field trips, Linn Run studies and stream projects. We continue our efforts to teach our coldwater conservation ethics and to train our next generation of conservation leaders. I also thank those who attended and helped make our summer picnic a success. It requires a lot of hands-on-deck to do that. You volunteers are the backbone of TU!

We'll be holding another meat raffle this fall. This has become our major fundraiser to support many of our activities. I ask all of our members to help either sell tickets, or buy the ones that will be mailed to you to support the effort. In terms of fundraisers, this one requires very little effort yet produces strong revenue and lots of happy winners. Please give us your best effort.

Thank you all for all you do for TU!

Larry Myers

MORE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sign-Up for our Military Veterans Fishing Day

Our 4th Annual Veteran's Fishing Event will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at the Kingston Sportsmen's Club.

- 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, October 1, 2022
- Free to all veterans
- 30 spots reserved for disabled vets (til 9/1/22)
- Veterans Welcome to Bring a Friend
- Stocked Trout, Catfish and Panfish
- Expert Mentors
- Equipment Provided
- No Fishing License Required
- Grilled Lunch Cooked and Served by Boy Scouts

To register, Go to forbestrailtu.org, click on the Veterans Event tab fill out and submit the form or call 724-771-1922.



The "Grey Hackle Gang" at work. This is serious business!

Join The Grey Hackle Gang

Before you know it, cold weather will be here and with it the perfect winter activity for trout fishermen – fly tying. The Grey Hackle Gang is an informal group that meets for lunch and fly tying Tuesdays at noon at the Tin Lizzy restaurant in Youngstown, PA., beginning in December. Share patterns, tips and techniques or learn to tie if you're a beginner, the "Gang" is eager to help! If you would like to join or know more, contact FTTU at info@forbestrailtu.org.

CONSERVATION

Linn Run Conservation Plan Nearing Completion

This spring, habitat assessment and water sampling was completed on the final sections of Linn Run and an electro fishing survey was done. A team of Forbes Trail TU members and Josh Penatzer from the Loyalhanna Watershed Association completed a fish study on Linn Run. The crew netted wild brook trout, stocked rainbows, sculpins, blacknose dace and an abundance of stone flies. Josh, who is licensed to use the equipment and conduct the survey, used battery operated probes to stun the fish enough that volunteers could capture them in nets. Once identified and measured, they were all released back into the stream unharmed. The crew sample four sites on Linn Run, including the headwaters, and one location on Rock Run, a major tributary. The detailed results will be made available in the final CCP report later this year.



Beautiful Linn Run Brook Trout

Acid Remediation Project Continues on Rock Run

Denny Hess led chapter volunteers Joe Bilotta, Bob Shusko and Monty Murty in a successful project to replace limestone in the headwaters of Rock Run, the largest tributary of Linn Run. Without the large volume of Rock Run's cold waters, Linn Run may not be a trout stream in warm weather. Unfortunately the headwater springs that form Rock Run emerge from the ground at pH 4.5 and sometimes lower – way too acid for trout.

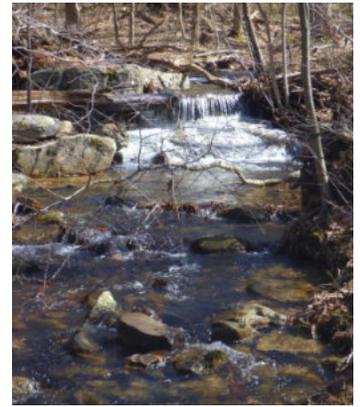
With a Growing Greener grant in early 2000's Forbes Trail Chapter did something about that. Spearheaded by our own Ralph Koscianski, we built a hardstand dump station in the Rock Run headwaters, and with a site prepared to facilitate gradual leaching of fine glass-grade limestone sand into the stream we began delivering acid-reducing limestone into the stream. It was left to us to keep funding the limestone. These



Limestone Sand Delivered to Rock Run Headwaters

sites are extremely remote and difficult to reach hiking, much less driving to, especially with a semi-tractor/trailer hauling 25 tons of limestone.

May 17th we received the bi-annual delivery, and the huge and full truck got stuck in the mud! One of the personally satisfying things about volunteering with FTTU is working with friends who know how to work. Once Denny made the call that the truck wasn't going to self-extract, the team instantly dived into organized work. Key to extracting the truck was Joe Bilotta driving back down the mountain and returning with his big Ram dually. Salvaging a big hook and clevis pin from Denny's Jeep, and with buckets and shovels we got the wheels to grip and with Joe pulling we got the monster out of the mud "Highway from Hell" style!



Remote stretch of Rock Run

Result; a fresh batch of limestone is ready to be moved into the stream over the next two years when we'll do it again.

After almost 20 years of chapter hard labor and funding, brook trout have been restored to Rock Run to the extent that this past February the PA Fish & Boat Commission reclassified Rock Run from dead to a Wild Reproducing Trout Stream, brook trout no less, our only native stream-dwelling trout.

Well done good and faithful servant Ralph Koscianski and the members you've trained to follow in your footsteps restoring native trout.

With sore hands and aching backs we just stood there and looked downstream dumbfounded and thinking "The things we do for trout"!

Citizen Science Monitoring of Rock Run Shows Progress

Each month, FTTU volunteers take pH and alkalinity readings at the mouth of Rock Run. Through 8 months of 2022 pH is averaging 7.5 and alkalinity averages 5.1. Compare those numbers with readings taken at the beginning of the remediation project in 2005 when pH ranged from 4.7 to 5.3 and alkalinity was zero in many areas of the stream. And, of course, any improvements to the water quality of Rock Run will benefit Linn Run as well.



The Linn Run Watershed is Loaded with Stoneflies

WOMEN/DIVERSITY OUTREACH

Super Science Saturday

The Women's and Diversity Initiatives of the Forbes Trail and Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited chapters partnered at the March 19th Carnegie Museum of Natural History's (CMNH) Super Science Saturday to connect the CMNH's Monster Fish exhibit to conservation and fishing in PA. Monster Fish highlights ancient fish and the importance of their habitat. Eighteen volunteers from across the two chapters, along with CMNH's Climate and Rural Systems Partnership, connected the exhibit to our local rivers and streams by inviting participants to learn about relationships between trout, insect life cycles, fishing and environmental change.



These girls really enjoyed the Super Science Saturday activities.

The activities the two chapters facilitated included fly-tying demonstrations, trout and macroinvertebrate coloring sheets, measuring kids and comparing their height to the largest fish caught in Pennsylvania, and just generally engaging people in conversations about trout, fishing, and conservation. Kids and adults alike enjoyed comparing preserved macros to the imitations created by the TU volunteers. Volunteers explained how they recreate the anatomy, physiology, and behavior of the insects. The tables were stationed right outside of the Monster Fish exhibit, so the activities made great local connections as visitors were entering or exiting the exhibit.



Tim Schultheis and other FTTU mentors provide one on one instruction

Ladies Fly Tying Class

Sub-freezing temperatures and nearly a foot of snow didn't stop lady fly tiers from getting together for a class Sunday afternoon, February 6. Ladies from the area, including members of Forbes Trail, Penn's Woods West and Mountain Laurel Chapters, met at PA Fly Co fly tackle shop on Rt. 31 east of Mount Pleasant to practice some new patterns.

Angie and Tim Schultheis of FTTU organized the event in an effort to introduce more ladies to fly-tying and start building a small group to tie and fish together. Angie is Forbes Trail's Diversity Committee Chair, and serves on the Board of Directors. She has been collaborating with Amidea Daniel, PA TU's Women/Diversity Initiative Chair and Judy Sittler, PA TU's Youth Education Chair, as well as Penn's Woods West's Diversity Committee for two years to formalize and grow the group of fishers. Husband, Tim, was one of the first Forbes Trail youth members to learn fly-tying in 1995 from the chapter founders. "We want to reach out and help mentor others so they can experience the fun our entire family enjoys fishing and fly-tying" noted Angie.

SAVE THE DATE

Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited is turning Fifty! Join us for our 50th Anniversary Banquet

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

Ferrante's Lakeview • Greensburg Pennsylvania

IN MEMORIAM – TOM EVANS

We were saddened to learn that Tom Evans has passed away. Tom was a charter member of FTTU attending the first meeting in 1973. He was a Director and organized stream improvement projects on Loyalhanna Creek and other area streams from the 70's through the early 2000's. After the widening of Rt. 30 in Ligonier and Hurricane Agnes devastated Loyalhanna Creek, Tom Evans helped lead the charge in restoring the creek's fish habitat and earned FTTU the National Golden Trout Award. Much of the good fishing found along Upper Loyalhanna Creek and the Delayed Harvest section in Ligonier is thanks to Tom Evans and other early FTTU leaders.

H. Lee Hufton and Kenneth Barbao are two other long-time members and supporters of FTTU who recently passed on. We extend our sympathies to the families and thank them for including FTTU in memorial donations.



Tom Evans (2nd from left), with Don Robb and other early chapter leaders

YOUTH EDUCATION

After a two-year covid hiatus, FTTU mentors were excited to get back to working with kids this spring and to pass along their knowledge of fly tying, fishing and the cold water conservation ethic.



FRSD students "geared up" and ready to get on the water

FTTU hosted fishing days on Loyalhanna Creek's DHALO section in Ligonier for students from the Franklin Regional School District (March 24th) and the Ligonier Valley Middle School Outdoors Club (May 12th). In both cases, the students received on-stream instruction from FTTU mentors in casting and mending, knot tying, fly selection and getting a drag-free drift on the stream's tricky currents. They also explained the value of practicing "catch and release" and how to release a fish safely without harming it.

Although we could have had a little more cooperation from the trout, some of the kids had hook-ups with one eighth-grader latching into a nice sized rainbow.



Fish on!

"I thought the help your TU members gave the kids was invaluable". "I saw so much improvement in the kids and their casting. Your guys are helping us to build the next generation of fly fishers and stream conservationists!"

Jim Passarelli FRSD Environmental Science Teacher



Electro-fishing turned up a nice brown trout in Mill Creek



Fly tying at the Nimick Center

April 5th FTTU sponsored a field day for the Ligonier Valley Middle School Outdoors Club on Mill Creek and the Nimick Education Center in Ligonier. The club learned about the variety of fish species inhabiting Mill Creek by participating in an electro-fishing study led by Josh Penatzer of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association. Afterwards it was a fly tying cram session and fly casting fundamentals at the Nimick Center led by FTTU instructors.

"Thank you so much for giving up part of your day for my learners. I know they loved the experience and learned a lot of valuable life lessons. It is so important to get these kids out of the classroom and into the real world as much as possible. What you teach them about fly fishing, cold water conservation and life will stay with them forever."

Ryan Podlucky LVMS Phys Ed Teacher

Our work with youth is getting well known. We were asked to do a presentation at Cub Scout Pack 416's April 7th meeting at the Good Shepherd Church in West Point. After quickly adjusting for a younger audience, we did a fly fishing 101 class explaining how it differs from the type of fishing many of the scouts have done with bobber and worm. The kids got into some hands-on activities tying a "crazy fly" using feathers, pipe cleaners and paperclips. They also got to try their hand at flycasting using an indoor practice rod – a short rod with yarn line that mimics the feel of a real fly rod.



Knot tying and fly selection are fundamentals



Fly casting instruction at the Nimick Center

OTHER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Larry Myers Honored with Don Robb Award

FTTU President Larry Myers was presented with the Don Robb Memorial Award for long-term service to the chapter at our May meeting at the PA Fly Co fly shop in Acme, PA.



Chapter representatives present Larry with the Don Robb Award

Larry has served the chapter as President for two terms. During his tenure he initiated Forbes Trail's highly successful Disabled Veteran's Fishing Day, and the Linn Run Watershed Conservation Plan. By securing grants and through several successful fundraising campaigns, he strengthened the chapter's financial standing and with his public relations skills he raised the profile of FTTU attracting volunteers and new members. Our membership roster increased by at least 100 during his time in office.

Larry has spent countless hours coordinating with partner organizations, volunteers and schools to make FTTU projects and events happen.

For all of his efforts, the membership presented Larry with the chapter's highest honor, the Don Robb Memorial Award along with a beautiful wood carving – "Linn Run Brookie" hand crafted by Rod Cross. This work of art incorporates actual driftwood from the Linn Run stream.

The membership, officers and directors would like to thank Larry for all of his tireless efforts making FTTU what we feel is the premier TU chapter in Pennsylvania.



Kids activity table at the picnic



Enjoying a summer day at the FTTU picnic



Latrobe litter crew (L-R) Ron Miller, Denny Hess, Bill Simogiy and Angie Schultheis.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

6:00 pm - Nimick Family Education Center
6 Old Lincoln Highway West • Ligonier, PA 15658
Elections of Officers and Directors
Members are encouraged to attend

Advocacy Committee Formed

FTTU recently formed an advocacy committee led by Rod Cross. The purpose of the committee is to keep abreast of current events and to act when our local cold water resources are threatened. Currently, the committee has been working with the Mountain Watershed Association attending meetings and commenting to the DEP on the permitting of the proposed expansion of the Rustic Ridge coal mine located in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County and Saltlick Township, Fayette County. The proposed expansion would add another 1,452 acres to the existing permit and would bring the mine into the Loyalhanna Creek watershed.

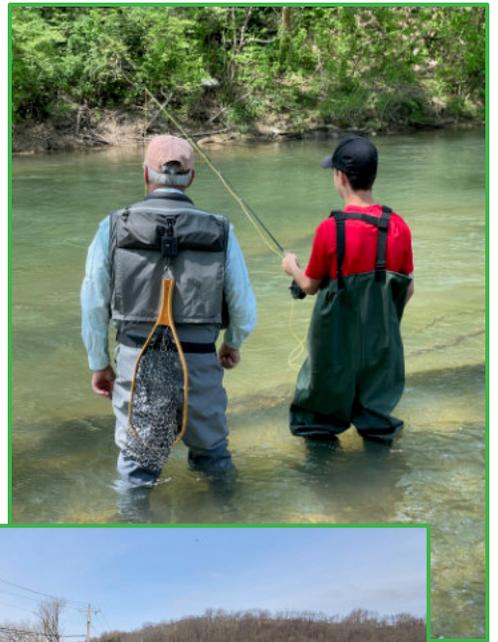


Summer Picnic

The chapter held a summer picnic July 16 at the Kingston Sportsmen's Club with about 65 in attendance. Food was catered by the Forks Inn with a cake from the Pie Shoppe. There were games and activities for both kids and adults and we raffled off some nice prizes including a Yeti Roadie Cooler, fly rods and kids fishing outfits. Although not intended as a fund raiser, thanks to strong raffle and 50/50 ticket and chapter merchandise sales, we were able to make a small profit. Thanks to all who attended and purchased raffle tickets.

Streamside Litter Cleanup April 20, 2022

FTTU honored Earth Day as volunteers picked up trash in two locations on Loyalhanna Creek. The Ligonier Crew removed 13 bags of trash and other junk from the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures section and the Latrobe Crew collected 9 bags in the Mission Road Section of the stream.



THE FORBES TRAIL CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

CONTACTS

- Larry Myers
- Denny Hess
- Monty Murty
- Scott Minster

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

SEPTEMBER 7

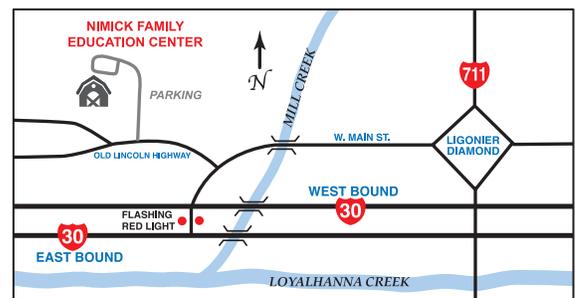
Monthly Meeting - Nomination of Officers
6:00 pm Nimick Education Center

OCTOBER 5

Annual Membership Meeting - Elections
6:00 pm Nimick Education Center

NOVEMBER 2

Monthly Meeting
6:00 pm - Location To Be Announced



For More Information - www.forbestrailtu.org