

President's Message

Forbes Trail has just completed another successful year of community, school and stream conservation programs. I want to personally thank all of our many members who volunteered their time and talents every time there was a need. Dozens of you did the heavy lifting, sometimes having to reschedule your own personal commitments. I also want to thank our Executive Committee for their vision and wisdom in leading us back on course after major disruptions caused by the pandemic. I thank all of you who bought and sold meat raffle tickets. We were once again able to donate \$600 from the profits to the Westmoreland County Food Bank to assist those in our communities who need a helping hand. Again, a tremendous display of our members' generosity!

I hope you enjoy reading about what the Chapter has been involved in recently and what's planned for 2023. If you've never been to a monthly meeting, please consider joining us. We welcome your input on decision-making and always make time afterwards to socialize over pizza. And if you have an interest and time, there are many opportunities to get involved in activities. We can always use another set of helping hands. I hope to meet more of our members in 2023!

myersld@comcast.net

Larry Myers



Check presentation - L-R Denny Hess, TU Vice President; Larry Myers, President; Jennifer Miller, WCFB Chief Executive Officer; Ron Rodgers, TU Treasurer; Monty Murty, Past President; and, Scott Minster, Secretary

2022 Raffle

Thanks to you, our members, our 2022 fundraising raffle was another success. Although ticket sales were below last year's total, we were able to draw 7 winners of \$250 gift cards and our board recommended we keep our donation to the Westmoreland Food Bank at \$600, same as last year. Final accounting of revenue less expenses, donation and prizes showed a net profit of over \$4,300 for the chapter's unrestricted funds. Thanks to all of you who purchased and/or sold tickets. We are on solid financial footing heading into the new year!

Winter 2023 Schedule



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

February 1 **Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm**
..... PA Fly Co - 166 3-Mile Hill, Acme, PA

March 1 **Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm**
..... Special Guest Speaker T.B.A.
..... Nimick Education Center

March 18 **50th Anniversary Banquet**
..... Doors Open at 5:00 pm
..... Ferrante's Lakeview, Greensburg, PA

April 5 **Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm**
..... Outdoors "Slide Show n' Tell"
..... Nimick Education Center

www.forbestrailtu.org for more information and updates

Winter Events

This schedule is subject to change due to weather and other factors. Please check www.forbestrailtu.org for up-to-date information closer to the events.

By the time you receive this newsletter, "The Grey Hackle Gang" Adult Fly Tying Group will have already had their first session. The group meets Tuesday afternoons at the Tin Lizzy in Youngstown for lunch at noon and then fly tying. If you would like more information on how you can join in contact us at info@forbestrailtu.org.

The February and March meetings will both be on the first of the month. February's meeting will be at the PA Fly Co fly shop in Acme and January's meeting at the Nimick Education Center in Ligonier. We have much to discuss in planning our upcoming activities and wrapping up old business. In March, we hope to have a special guest speaker we know you all will enjoy. The April meeting on the 5th will feature our popular "Slide Show n' Tell". Bring photos and/or video of your outdoors adventures and we'll put them up on the big screen. (just keep your show to no more than 15 minutes so everyone can have a chance to show their photos).

And, of course, the banquet is back with our huge 50th Anniversary blowout March 18. More information on that here in *The Trails*.

FTTU Continues Work in Linn Run Watershed

CONSERVATION PLAN

All the studies, assessments and evaluations have been completed and we are now at work compiling all of the data we've collected into a comprehensive Conservation Plan for Linn Run and its tributaries. The document will outline the current state of the watershed, identify and prioritize problem areas and suggest possible solutions. The plan will help us to win grant dollars for any future projects we decide to do in the watershed. The Linn Run Watershed Coldwater Conservation Plan will be published in the first part of 2023.



Positioning limestone sand along stream bank

ROCK RUN LIMESTONE MOVED TO FINAL POSITION

Twenty-Five tons of limestone sand delivered in May was moved to final position along the stream banks of the East Branch of Rock Run in the stream's headwaters.

The sand will slowly wash into the stream and buffer acidity creating more hospitable water chemistry for trout and other aquatic organisms.

This makes a grand total of 600 tons of sand placed in Rock Run since Ralph Koscianski started the project in 2005.

Your raffle ticket/donation dollars at work. FTTU purchases 25 tons of high calcium limestone every 2-3 years for about \$2,000.

FTTU's project manager, Denny Hess was on hand to oversee the transfer



Ron Miller and Larry Myers injecting insecticide around Linn Run hemlock

and placement. Denny had the sand placed in 3 different locations.

A big Thank You to Linn Run Park Manager Corey Snyder and the Park Maintenance Staff for their help. The use of their front loader and dump truck saved many hours of hard labor.

FTTU VOLUNTEERS HELP WITH WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT

Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited volunteers assisted DCNR staff treat trees in Linn Run State Park for the invasive and destructive insect, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). The treatment was conducted on October 20 on trees near the stream. This is the second year DCNR has called on Ron Miller and his crew from Forbes Trail for assistance. Trees were treated with an insecticide, mixed by DCNR staff, and injected around the base of the tree by volunteers Denny Hess, Ron Miller, Larry Myers and Bill Somogyi. The systemic treatment is absorbed by the roots and travels through the tree to the needles being attacked by the bugs. Another option used by DCNR in other areas is a predator beetle called *Laricobius nigrinus* (Ln). The chemical treatment works short term and is effective for up to 5 years or more. The beetles take longer to develop an effective population and is

more of a long term solution. HWA is a major concern to TU because it threatens the canopy that keeps the headwaters cool where wild trout reproduce.

FINAL REPORT ON ROCK RUN MONTHLY WATER TESTS

"If I were you, I would conduct tests at the mouth monthly", is what the DEP guy who trained us on the use of the alkalinity testing kit said when we asked how best to monitor the effects of our limestone treatment project on Rock Run - and it's just what we've been doing since 2017. It only makes sense with the limestone sand at the headwaters, if the acid buffering effect can be detected at the mouth, we know it's working. Not only that, it's much more practical to test at the mouth when much of the stream is remote and not easily accessed.

Now, with 5 years of data, we can see a slow but steady improvement. In 2022, average pH at the mouth of Rock Run was 7.5, and the average alkalinity was 6.85 ppm. Compare that with the 2017-2018 averages of 6.5 pH and 5.9 ppm alkalinity. At the beginning of the project in 2005, pH was only 5.3 near the mouth.

The complete chart for 2022 can be downloaded at forbestrailltu.org.



Denny Hess conducting Rock Run water tests

FTTU Hosts Stream Girls 2-Day Event



On-stream lesson on Mill Creek



FTTU's Angie Schultheis helps some of the girls rig their rods for a casting lesson.

The Penn's Woods West and Forbes Trail chapters of Trout Unlimited were pleased to partner in bringing the STREAM Girls program back to western Pennsylvania after a several year hiatus due to the pandemic. STREAM Girls is an outdoor watershed experience for middle school aged girls that employs STEM-based education (science, technology, engineering, math), recreation and arts to explore a local stream.

Participants explored Mill Creek at the Loyalhanna Watershed Association farm in Ligonier over a two day period, making connections to their home waters as scientists, artists and anglers. Numerous volunteers shared their expertise in subjects including collecting flow data, sampling macroinvertebrates, fly tying and fly casting. Girls received certificates of completion and those who are Girl Scouts qualified for a conservation patch. The program wrapped up with all participants successfully catching fish on fly rods at Donegal Lake! Every individual is a citizen of their watershed, and through this program we're helping to build an appreciation for conservation and the environment in the next generation.

Rivers Conservation Camp Graduate, Luke Sanner



FTTU provided full sponsorship to area youth Luke Sanner of New Stanton to attend the 2022 Rivers Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp this past June. Luke, a member of our chapter, is also an active 4-H member. Luke has volunteered his services to assist the chapter in our development of a Coldwater Conservation Plan for Linn Run and with other TU activities and events. Luke made a PowerPoint presentation about his camp experience at the chapter's Annual Membership Meeting on October 5. The chapter has sponsored several campers over the years. This is one way that Trout Unlimited can help recruit and groom future coldwater conservationists to protect our streams and fisheries. We congratulate Luke on his completion of the program!

Rustic Ridge Mine Update

Rustic Ridge I Mine is operated by LCT Energy and is located on County Line Road in Donegal Township and Acme. The permit area encompasses 2,800 acres. The mine became active in 2018 and soon after impacts were felt in the community such as private water loss, subsidence damage to homes on Hellen School Road, coal dust from excessive truck traffic and impacts to road infrastructure.

LCT has filed to expand the Rustic Ridge I Mine by 1,400 acres north of the Penna. Turnpike and into the headwaters

of Four Mile Run raising concerns of impacts to Indian Creek and the Loyalhanna watershed area. The permit is currently under review with the DEP.

LCT Energy is also proposing a 2,600-acre Rustic Ridge II underground coal mine on the eastern slope of Chestnut Ridge with a new mine opening or portal on Clay Pike Road. Close to that operation is proposed a 170-acre site in Laurelville that may be a surface area operation for coal waste disposal.

Despite a history of multimillion-dollar remediations from past mining operations, a dense rural population, and recreational opportunities in the Laurel Highlands, LCT Energy is determined to focus heavy coal mining operations in

the Donegal, Acme and Stahlstown areas.

The Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited will continue to monitor the progress of these permits and proposals with the focus being on the impact on the cold-water resources that also provide economic benefits to the area such as fishing, hiking, rafting, dining, hotels, and the pride of living in such a diverse natural setting recognized nationally as a vacation playground.

The chapter is working closely with the Mountain Watershed Association to gather facts and look at future legal fundraising efforts necessary to ensure that the operations are run according to mine safety laws and best management practices to protect these resources.

Angela Schultheis on Family, Fishing and Volunteer Work with FTTU



Forbes Trail likes to include personal and behind the scenes stories from time to time about our members in our newsletters. Sometimes the account of how a member becomes involved in TU, and how that involvement influences their life and that of their family, is a fascinating story in itself.

Angie Schultheis, lives in Latrobe with her husband Tim and two school-age children. Besides being a wife, mom, and Girl Scout leader, she serves on the Board of Directors for Forbes Trail and Chairs its Diversity Committee. Because of Angie's leadership, our chapter has extended our programs to involve more ladies and families the past few years. We have a number of female members in our chapter. Angie is working to reach out to them and to engage more families in coldwater conservation and fly fishing related activities.

TU – Angie, when did you first become involved with TU and how did that come about?

My husband Tim introduced me to Trout Unlimited and we started out by volunteering with the youth group in 2012. I was new to fly fishing, and I learned to tie flies alongside the kids.

TU – What are some of the programs and activities you helped organize the past year?

"The focus isn't always on catching fish so much as making memories and sharing our love of time spent in the outdoors with our kids."

I helped to organize a women's beginners fly tying class and make chapter events more family friendly, such as by offering activities and prizes for kids at our summer picnic. We represented TU at a Super Science Saturday at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, discussing conservation from a local perspective with adults and children. In partnership with our neighboring chapter Penn's Woods West, we offered monthly fishing outings for women and brought back the STREAM Girls program after a several year hiatus due to the pandemic. STREAM Girls is an outdoor watershed experience for middle school aged girls that employs STEM-based education (science, technology, engineering, math), recreation and arts to explore a local stream.

TU – What do you see as potential activities for 2023 and beyond for the Diversity Committee?

I've been asked to host another fly tying event for women. I would also like to continue to involve more families and young people in our chapter events. Plans are already in



the works for another STREAM Girls event as well.

TU – What can TU do to help introduce more families and minority groups to fly fishing and coldwater conservation?

Fly fishing can be intimidating to a beginner with the amount of gear required, casting techniques, tying knots, etc. I think it's important to make people feel comfortable and provide them with the equipment needed to try the sport. Partnerships with other organizations can help us to reach out to new groups of individuals, such as our work at the museum and a fly fishing day that we helped Outdoor Afro to put on at North Park. Once they are enjoying time in nature and understanding how stream health affects the fish, coldwater conservation naturally follows.

TU – Tell us about how you and Tim have made fishing and fly tying a family activity?

We have included our kids in fishing outings since they were small enough to be carried on our backs. They love to take their own rods to the pond or play on the streambank while we fly fish. When the weather is colder, they enjoy creating crazy flies and ice fishing.

TU - What challenges do you face in getting young kids involved in these activities?

Our outings may only last as long as their attention span and we may not



TU - Why is it important to you to introduce kids and new participants to fishing and conservation?

It's important to me personally because I grew up fishing and I have so many great memories of spending time outdoors with family and friends. The future of fly fishing and coldwater conservation depends on us investing time in sharing our interests and passions with the next generation. There is a lot of competition for their attention, and I want to share the peace that can be found in nature and the importance of preserving it.

TU – Angie, what message would you like to share with our lady TU members to encourage them to get more involved in our activities?

We have a very welcoming group of varying abilities! Even if you've never fished before or are interested in conservation and not fishing at all, you are encouraged to join us!

TU Chapters around the country face many of the same challenges. We're not a "fishing club". We're a well-structured organization whose focus is to protect coldwater streams and their fisheries. To do that, we need a broader demographics than just guys who like to fly fish. Fly fishing is a challenging and rewarding sport the entire family can enjoy and make part of vacations or weekend get-aways. But, it is still secondary and a way to celebrate our achievements of protecting our trout streams. More importantly, we need to be recruiting and grooming the next generation of conservationists. By expanding our demographics to include more ladies, families, kids and minority groups, we will all be stronger and better positioned to serve as stewards of our environment.

get to fish as long or as often as we would like. The focus isn't always catching fish so much as making memories and sharing our love of time spent in the outdoors with our kids. And of course, we always pack plenty of snacks!



50TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Celebrating 50 Years of Coldwater Conservation

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 • DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM

Ferrante's Lakeview • 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA

RAFFLES * BUFFET DINNER * GUEST SPEAKERS * CHAPTER HISTORY

Plus your chances to win

**Cash Prizes Custom Rods Travel Packages Framed Wildlife Art
Carved Trout Art Kids Fishing Outfits & More!**

BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM

Saturday, March 18, 2023 • Ferrante's Lakeview Greensburg • Doors Open 5:00 pm
Buffet Dinner (No Dinner Choice Necessary)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
email _____

Number of Tickets _____
@\$35.00 each _____
Check One
Will Call Tickets _____
(We will send an email confirmation)
Mail Me My Tickets _____

Mail to: Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 370
Youngstown, PA 15696

Make checks payable to: Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited
Thank You!

Veterans Fishing Event October 8, 2022

After a rain-out on October 1st, we held our 4th annual Veterans Fishing Day on Saturday, October 8. It was a beautiful but chilly day as dozens of vets turned out for a day of fishing at the Kingston Veterans and Sportsmen's Club near Latrobe.

The purpose of the program is primarily to introduce veterans to fly fishing as a means to heal body and soul but they can use whatever tackle they are comfortable with. FTTU mentors were there to provide assistance, net some fish and maybe trade a few fish stories with the vets.



FTTU volunteer Michelle Dunlevy netted this trout for vet Cynthia Butler Perry



It's about more than just fishing though, Navy veteran Ed Niehenke, attending his third annual event, explained "The real joy is the camaraderie of spending the day chatting with fellow vets, more so than catching fish." But, that was offered as Ed was landing maybe his tenth fish of the day!

For retired Army First Sergeant, Cynthia Butler Perry, this was her first event and would like to see more lady veterans get involved with fishing. Cynthia enjoyed the day catching trout with her nephew, Navy veteran, Jeff Perry Jr. and friends. It had been many years since many of them had fished and they were savoring the experience.



We'd like to thank the Kingston Veterans and Sportsmens Club and Keith Riffle, Club V.P. for hosting the event again this year. A veteran himself, Keith explained, "We're doing everything we can to make this a memorable day for the veterans! We're going to do this up right!"

Other partners included Ken Sink Chapter Trout Unlimited, Project Healing Waters and Scout Troops 465 and 305. The Scouts, as in past events, prepared and served lunch for the crowd of over 100 veterans and volunteers. They also opened the event by posting colors.

A full slideshow of photos is on or website, forbestrailtu.org.

The Banquet is Back! Celebrating 50 Years



Forbes Trail will be celebrating our 50th anniversary on Saturday, March 18th at Ferrante's Lakeview just west of Greensburg. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an order form for dinner tickets. There are 175 seats available. We will give our

members a two-week head start to order their tickets before we open sales to the public. So please place your orders ASAP. Tickets will be held for you at the door. Please visit our web site for updates regarding the guest speaker and a list of raffle prizes. It's been 10 years since our last banquet. Please join us to help celebrate what our founders, and all of you, have achieved over the past 50 years to conserve our coldwater fisheries. Much of our history will be on display.

BANQUET QUICK FACTS

- Saturday, March 18th 2023 - Ferrante's Lakeview 6153 Route 30, Greensburg, PA
- Tickets \$35 - Admission and Buffet Dinner and a chance to win a \$500 Cash Prize!
- Tickets Available by Mail and at:
PA Fly Co 166 Three-Mile, Hill Acme, PA
Ligonier Outfitters - 127 W. Main St., Ligonier, PA
FTTU February & March Meetings
- Large Raffle with High-End Fly Rods, Framed Wildlife Art, Yeti Cooler, Bamboo Fly Rod, Fishing Trips and More!
- All Raffle Prizes will be "Bucket" Style Raffles so you can put your tickets toward the prizes you most want to win.

Check Our Website for Updates
<https://forbestrailtu.org/banquet>

Officers Elected - Awards Given at Annual Meeting

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS/ DIRECTORS NAMED

At FTTU's Annual Meeting held at the Nimick Education Center in Ligonier Officers for the next two-year term were elected. The new line-up looks a lot like the old, Larry Myers stays on as President, Denny Hess as Vice President and Scott Minster as Secretary. Ron Rodgers of Greensburg replaces Monty Murty as Treasurer.



FTTU Officers (L-R) President, Larry Myers; Vice President, Denny Hess; Secretary, Scott Minster; Treasurer, Ron Rodgers

The chapter owes a huge debt of gratitude to Monty who has served multiple terms as both President and Treasurer. He will stay on the ex comm and is the Banquet Committee Chairman.

The Board of Directors remains mostly the same as well. Hank Balles, Milt Claney, Rod Cross, Angela Schultheis and Doug Yocabet return as Directors and we welcome Bill Simogyi of Irwin who replaces Ron Rodgers on the Board.



FTTU Directors (L-R) Hank Balles, Rod Cross, Angela Schultheis, Milt Claney, Bill Simogyi (Not pictured) Doug Yocabet

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT ANNUAL MEETING

Also at the Annual Meeting, the chapter honored three exceptional volunteers. Ron Miller, of Latrobe was given the Russ Mowry Silver Trout for outstanding volunteer service. Ron is our go-to volunteer and is involved in pretty much every chapter activity. A Youth Group and Veterans Fishing Event mentor, water quality tester and Linn Run Conservation plan volunteer and citizen scientist, Ron cares deeply about trout and quality fishing.



Ron Miller accepts the Silver Trout Award from Larry Myers

Doug Yocabet was honored with the Ed Bordas Memorial Award for outstanding service by a business. Doug is a chapter Director and is the owner of PA Fly Co fly shop located on Route 31 at the top of 3-Mile Hill near Acme, PA. Doug's shop has hosted meetings and events for the chapter as well as selling raffle tickets and is the location for our raffle drawings.

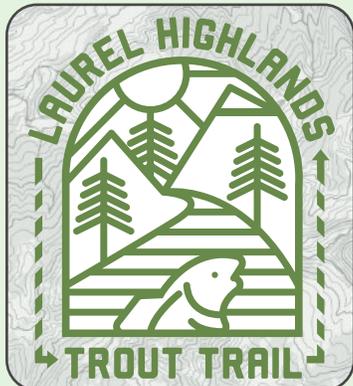


Doug Yocabet, owner of PA Fly Co, receives the Ed Bordas Award

Scott Minster was presented with a special long-term service award - a TU Life Membership. Scott has volunteered with the chapter since 2000, and has been the editor of this newsletter for over 20 years! He also designed and maintains our website and has served as a youth mentor, veterans event volunteer and has helped out on stream improvement projects on Mill Creek and Linn Run. Scott has also served as chapter Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President.

Congratulations to the awardees, we couldn't do it without you!

New and Improved Laurel Highlands Trout Trail Coming in 2023



The Trout Trail project is a joint effort with four other local TU chapters to help promote eco-tourism in the Laurel Highlands by helping anglers find premium trout streams to fish. We have developed a brochure and will soon be launching a new web site to identify our top 10 recommended streams along with other valuable, fishing related information. The link, when its ready, will be made available

on our web site. And we'll include it in our February meeting notice. You should start seeing our brochure in traveler display racks in early spring. We'll be installing signage along the 10 streams in the spring and also conducting a one-day survey of anglers to get their feedback on both the Trout Trail program and the effectiveness of advertising.

e-news Bonus
Some More Photos



Limestone sand on the banks of Rock Run



FTTU's Bill Symogi puts the finishing touches on a habitat structure for Donegal Lake



Stream Girls fly tying class



Beetles for the control of Woolly Adelgid



Measuring water sample at stream-side lab

THE FORBES TRAIL CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

CONTACTS

Larry Myers President
Denny Hess Vice President
Ron Rodgers Treasurer
Scott Minster Secretary

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 1

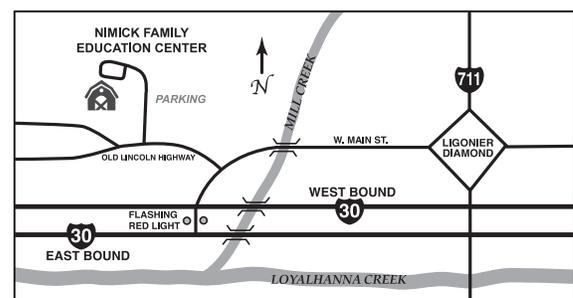
Monthly Meeting - Program T.B.A.
6:00 pm PA Fly Co - 166 Three Mile Hill,
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