

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's always a pleasure to recap the chapter's activities since the previous newsletter and to thank our members for their dedication and service. As you will read throughout, we had a busy winter and spring with in-school and on-stream programs. Some of these we have been conducting for years. Others are relatively new in response to demand as word gets out about what we can offer young anglers and budding conservationists. None of this would be possible without our Education Committee Chair, Angie Schultheis and all of our volunteer mentors. Give yourselves a pat on the back! This is our opportunity to share our passion for fly fishing with the next generation and to help groom coldwater conservationists.

We had another fun fishing trip at Kettle Creek Lodge this past May. This is always a fun time to relax with TU members, find some new streams to fish and enjoy delicious meals prepared by both our own professional and "wanna be" chefs! In my personal view, this is some of the best scenery, hatches and fishing east of the Rockies. And the camaraderie is the frosting on the cake. Unfortunately, this year, we started the week with high streams and ended with heavy rains. But there were several days in between when the weather and fish cooperated.

We held our chapter family picnic in June to honor our volunteers for all of their hard work over the past year. While this was not intended to be a fundraiser, we did finish in the black thanks to all who donated raffle prizes. We did purchase a nice rod and cooler to give away. But the rest of the prizes were either purchased or handmade by members. This was possibly the nicest selection of raffle prizes in a long time.

We took the opportunity with everyone together to honor our Education Committee Chair, Angie Schultheis, with a thank-you gift for her hard work and leadership this past year. Everyone at the picnic had a nice time catching up with friends. Chef Dan prepared another unbelievably delicious lunch for us. And all except a few of us volunteers escaped before the clouds opened up. I thank all who attended and especially those who donated prizes!

In October, we will hold our annual election for officers and directors. That meeting will be on Wednesday, October 1 at 6 PM at the Loyalhanna Watershed Barn in Ligonier. I will be stepping down as president. I want to thank everyone for their support for the past seven years. I know I've told many of you already that, of my 40-year professional career, serving this chapter has been some of my most rewarding experiences. Ninety-nine percent of that is because of the members with whom I have had the privilege to work. We have a very well structured organization loaded with talented individuals who are willing to donate their skills and time to serve our communities. Once again, this year, our volunteers have clocked over 2,400 hours of service! I fully expect this to be a seamless transition and look forward to working with all of you as we continue to make a big difference in the communities and schools we serve. In the meantime, I thank you for all your support and the camaraderie we have built. It has been fun and fulfilling!

Larry Myers  
[myersld@comcast.net](mailto:myersld@comcast.net)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Forbes Trail Chapter Annual Membership Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Nimick Family Education Center - 6 Old Lincoln Highway West, Ligonier, PA  
We will be having elections of officers and directors for the upcoming term. Members are encouraged to attend.



## FALL 2025 SCHEDULE

**September 3 .... Monthly Meetings Resume- 6:00 pm Nimick Center**

**September 20 ..PATU Annual Meeting- Mill Hall, PA**

**October 1.....Annual Meeting - 6:00 pm Nimick Center**

**October 4.....Vets & First Responders Fishing Day - Kingston Club 9 am**

**November 5.....Monthly Meeting - 6:00 pm Nimick Center**

Schedule is subject to change. Cancellations or changes will be posted on our website as soon as possible. Check [www.forbestrailtu.org](http://www.forbestrailtu.org) for updates

# CONSERVATION

## Linn Run News

We started treating the headwaters of Linn Run with limestone sand last fall. Readers may recall that our Coldwater Conservation Plan for Linn Run in 2023 identified that the headwaters of the main stem were not retaining young-of-year brook trout. Brook trout breed in the fall of the year and seek coldwater high in the watershed. The water chemistry suggests the problem is due to high levels of aluminum (Al) leaching out of the soils. Elevated levels of Al can be very toxic to the newborns. It could be fatal, or at the very least, force the young-of-year trout to move elsewhere.

We will continue to monitor the water quality for pH, alkalinity and aluminum as we treat the stream with limestone. This fall, we intend to survey the headwaters to count the number of active nesting sites (redds) for the wild brook trout. Next spring, we will do another round of electroshocking to determine if the newborn trout are staying where they were born. Water quality sampling, macroinvertebrate surveys and electroshocking will continue for many years to determine the effectiveness of liming.

We have been approved for a \$25,000 Coldwater Heritage

Partnership grant. The funds will be used for additional limestone, new water quality test equipment and repairs to Fish Run Trail that parallels Linn Run. The stream has flooded and eroded the trail to where it is dangerous for hikers, fishers and mountain bikers.

## Woolly Adelgid Update

We received good news from Linn Run Park Manager Corey Snyder about the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) situation in the park. FTTU volunteers assisted DCNR staff in treating hemlock trees with HWA insecticide in 2021 and 2022. In April of this year, DCNR Forestry Specialists conducted a follow-up assessment and their findings confirmed that the treatments were highly effective with little to no HWA in evidence. The park is not 100% free of HWA, some trees under 4 inches in diameter were found to have the white puffy masses, a sign of Adelgid infestation, however most of these masses crumbled when rubbed between the fingers indicating that they were old and inactive.

If you find these white masses on a hemlock tree branch and it crumbles easily between the fingers, it is old and dormant, if it is soft and spreads with a light orange hue it may still be active.



Limestone sand dropped off in the headwaters of Rock Run



Limestone delivery to the headwaters of Linn Run



"Neither rain nor snow..." Monitoring of Rock Run in the bitter cold of January 2025

## Earth Day Clean-Up

TU member volunteers took to the stream banks along Loyalhanna Creek to celebrate Earth Day. But this time they weren't fishing...they were picking up litter.

The first crew descended on the banks and roadway near the bridge over the creek on Mission Road in Latrobe. This area is plagued by motorists littering as they drive through. Volunteers removed nine bags of garbage from this area and prevented it from entering the Loyalhanna Creek.

A second crew of TU volunteers spread out along the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) section of Loyalhanna Creek in Ligonier. Several bags of litter were collected around the Two Mile Run bridge over the stream as well as at the confluence with Mill Creek. Other volunteers cleaned the banks from Mill Run up to the Rt. 711 bridge.



Volunteer John Anderson at work in the Delayed Harvest area



## EDUCATION



Our Education and Outreach committee was busy this past school year, carrying out some well established programs as well as exploring some new opportunities.

We completed another year of the long-standing Intro to Fly Fishing course at Ligonier Valley Middle School. Each week, students learned about a coldwater conservation topic, a new fly or two to tie, and skills such as casting and knot tying. These students then became mentors for 5th grade students at their field trip to Four Mile Run in April.

Forbes Trail TU also coordinated a new Conservation Club at LVMS, covering a variety of topics with weekly guest speakers including representatives from FTTU as well as Westmoreland Cleanways, Powdermill Nature Reserve, PA Game Commission, Westmoreland Land Trust, and more.

At Greater Latrobe High School, volunteers again worked with students in the Capstone program coordinated by biology instructor Patrick Roberts. FTTU held a two-day program in

the classroom for these students covering fresh water conservation and fly casting lessons. This year, a fly fishing field trip was added at a local lake to put those skills into practice. Representatives from FTTU also assisted this group of students as they helped PA Fish & Boat Commission to stock fish at Keystone Lake.

Several of these Capstone students served as volunteers at the first annual kids' fishing day at Unity Township lake. This event was a partnership between Greater Latrobe School District and FTTU and allowed students to experience a great morning on the water catching fish.

We welcome these and other opportunities to work with youth to teach the importance of protecting our streams. It is critically important that our next generation understand that it is their responsibility to protect coldwater fisheries from climate change, pollution and neglect and programs like these help us to work toward that goal.

## FTTU VOLUNTEERS HELP WITH TIC PROGRAM

On January 8th, 2025, five FTTU volunteers traveled up to the Benner Springs fish hatchery near State College to help pack and ship trout food out to Trout-in-the-Classroom Schools all across Pennsylvania. Did you know our state has the largest TIC program in the nation with 460 participating classrooms? Look at all those boxes! One week later, FTTU volunteers returned to Benner Springs Hatchery to assist with packing the fish eggs. That's right, live trout eggs are packed in ice and shipped out to over 400 schools across Pennsylvania. Our guys have plenty of experience with this having helped out for several years now.



FTTU volunteers with trout food ready to ship out to PA schools



# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## Awards

At our monthly meeting on November 6, Forbes Trail TU took the opportunity to recognize members who have selflessly volunteered their time and talents and demonstrated leadership skills while performing critical administrative duties as well as working with schools, Scouts, and local community groups.

Dan Ferguson was presented the “Ed Bordas Memorial Award” in recognition of Outstanding Service by a Business or Professional. The “Russ Mowry Silver Trout Award” in recognition of Outstanding Volunteer Service was awarded to Tom Keller and Ron Rodgers. And the “Drew Banas Education Award”, in recognition of Outstanding Service in the Field of Education, was presented to Brian Zimmerman.

Forbes Trail Chapter congratulates our award recipients and thanks them for their dedicated service.



Awardees (L-R) Dan Ferguson, Tom Keller, Brian Zimmerman and Ron Rodgers

## 2025 Summer Picnic

The 2025 FTTU Summer Family Picnic was held Saturday, June 28th. There were 82 in attendance. We had a gourmet lunch prepared by Chef Dan Ferguson, a FTTU member and Director and there was a nice selection of raffle prizes, including an Orvis rod and reel combo and a Yeti cooler. We also had a lot of nice prize selections donated by members and friends.



The Timken Plaza Pavilion at Latrobe's Legion Keener Park made a great location for this year's picnic

In addition, we honored Angie Schultheis for her outstanding volunteer work in taking over the Education Committee, the busiest part of the chapter's work this year.

County Commissioner and FTTU member Doug Chew offered a few words to the guests, praising our chapter's work in the county. Commissioner Chew said that after attending our 50th anniversary banquet in 2023, he was so impressed with our chapter that he immediately signed up as a new member after the banquet!

Although not intended to be a fundraiser, thanks to the prize donations, the chapter cleared over \$500 profit. Thank you to all who attended and to our prize donors for making this a memorable event.

## Climate Change Discussion

FTTU's March meeting at the Westmoreland Conservation District's Barn in Greensburg featured presenters from Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) and Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR) who shared recently completed research findings and facilitated a discussion on how climate change is impacting our lives, and of particular importance to Trout Unlimited (TU), and our coldwater fisheries.



A full house at the J. Roy Houson Conservation Center in Greensburg

Laurie Giarratani, Director of Learning for CMNH, and Alexis Thorbecke, Public Programs Manager at PNR were the guest speakers. The purpose was to help educate TU members and the local community on the science behind climate change, its potential adverse impacts on our planet, and how we can get involved to help remediate some of those problems. After explaining how and why we're seeing radical changes in our climate, the group discussed means by which individuals can get involved in making changes that will help minimize our collective carbon footprint on the earth, and they talked about specific projects already making positive changes in the local region.

## Other Meetings

You're missing out if you are not attending our monthly meetings. We had “Slideshow ‘n Tells” on Montana, Falling Spring, Colorado and Yellowstone Park and the PA Fly Fishing Museum. In April, Chuck Furimsky talked about his relationship with fly fishing legend George Harvey and played portions of his 1980's video interview with him.



# AUTUMN MEAT RAFFLE 2025

Forbes Trail will once again be partnering with Werry's Provisions meat market in Scottdale on our annual fall raffle. Winners will receive a \$250 gift card to Werry's or cash. Tickets will be \$10 each as in previous years. This is our Chapter's primary, annual fundraising event. It has been very successful and requires so little of our members. We will be mailing all members a letter in the near future along with ten tickets. We encourage all of our members to sell the tickets or buy them for themselves or friends. The funds we raise are unrestricted allowing us to do more activities and purchase supplies that are not covered by grants. The Chapter is strong financially, due in part, to your past help with this raffle.

*Check Your Mailboxes This Fall!*

## FUND RAISING

### 2024 Raffle

We would like to thank all who made last year's raffle a huge success. We beat our ticket sales record by one with 844 tickets sold. The deal is to draw for one prize for each 100 tickets sold. We decided to round up so we drew 9 winners.

The chapter cleared a profit of \$5,268.18 and shared \$700.00 of our profits with the Westmoreland Food Bank.



Lights, Camera, Action! Winning numbers are drawn live on Facebook

### Fort Ligonier Days

2024 marked our 3rd year operating the handicapped shuttle at Fort Ligonier Days. FTTU volunteers worked in shifts for three days transporting folks up and down the Main Street Hill. We are permitted to have donation receptacles onboard the carts and the loose change and dollar bills added up to over \$1,400 in contributions to our general fund.



Bill Somogyi was one of many volunteers driving shuttles at Fort Days

## ABOUT TROUT

Each month Forbes Trail submits an article titled "About Trout" to be published in the Ligonier Echo and Latrobe Bulletin newspapers. We've been doing this for a couple of years. We want to make our members aware that even if they don't live in the area served by the newspapers, they can read the same articles on our web site. A few weeks after the articles appear in the local newspapers, we post them on our web site. They can be accessed through a dropdown window on our web site's front page. We cover a variety of topics from preserving wild trout, youth education, history of fly fishing, seasonal fishing and even a story about the Carters fly fishing in PA.

<https://forbestrailtu.org/about-trout>



# Laurel Highlands Trout Trail POKER RUN 2025



Forbes Trail just wrapped up its Poker Run the end of July with 29 registered adults and 3 youth. This was a program intended to introduce local anglers to new trout streams in the Laurel Highlands. The Laurel Highlands Trout Trail was initiated with a grant from Go Laurel Highlands a couple of years ago to promote ecotourism in the Laurel Highlands. Anglers, and particularly fly fishers, are always searching for new mountain streams to try. In a day's quest, they buy gas, a few new flies and tippet at the local tackle shop, possibly lunch or dinner, and sometimes even stay overnight. All of this brings new business to local merchants and helps stimulate the tri-county economy as well.

Registration was \$20 for adults and \$5 for youth age 15 and

under. One raffle ticket is issued for registration, and additional ones as anglers fish streams. Anglers must take a selfie with the stream sign in the background and email it to us to qualify for a raffle ticket. There is a total of ten premier trout streams in the program.

The raffle drawing was held live on August 6th at the PA Fly CO tackle shop on Rt. 31 near Donegal. The adult winner received a Douglas ERA 5 wt rod and a Cheeky preloaded fly reel. The youth winner, received an Echo Gecko youth 5 wt rod/reel combo.

Stay tuned for our Poker Run in 2026. We may be changing the raffle prizes to ones that are even more exciting!

**Breaking News! The prize drawings were held and Tim Schultheis was the winner of the adult prize, and Finn McGinity won the youth prize. Congratulations!**

## FTTUers HELP WITH EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

You may have noticed some changes at the Delayed Harvest section of Loyalhanna Creek this past spring. Used fishing line receptacles, replacement of rotting parking lot wheel stops and a new bulletin board/sign were all a part of the Eagle Scout Project completed by Jack Knopsnider of Mt. Pleasant Township. Jack's crew which included FTTU volunteers also relocated two creekside benches away from flood prone areas.

Jack coordinated the project, acquired materials and recruited help from friends, family and FTTU volunteers.

He graduated from Mt. Pleasant Area High School and plans to attend Penn State majoring in Electrical Engineering. Congratulations Jack and good luck with your future studies!



*Monofilament fishing line can take up to 600 years to decompose, and along the way it can get entangled with wildlife, sometimes with fatal consequences. In addition, fish hooks and lead weight can also be injurious to wildlife. These used fishing line receptacles make a convenient place to discard tangled line, strike indicators and hooks.*



# A Look Back... The Trail(s)

From the days of typewriters and mimeograph machines to today's layout software and digital photography, *The Trails* newsletter has been delivered to members mailboxes since 1973.

April 1980 issue

Mike Graboski, Skip Shafer and Curt Henry were the first editors. Sam Hossler took over in 1974. In 1976, it was Larry Larese and Joe Trumbetta and in 1977, Denise Gault, the first female member of FTTU, did the typing, proofreading and layout chores. Her brother-in-law Ben Gault handled the printing and mailing.

Dan Lewis, George Mellinger, Mike Sajna and Paul Volkmann were *Trails* editors in the '80s and '90s. The current editor has been at it since 2001. Geez, get a life!

Mike Sajna was a real journalist who was the Outdoors Editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He had several books published and wrote for many other publications. He was a big part of reviving interest in FTTU in the 1980s.

Russ Mason handled the sorting and mailing - attaching address stickers by hand for many years.



One of the first issues in 1973.  
Not yet *The Trail*.

The Trail masthead shows up in 1975

25th Anniversary Issue in 1998

The name got changed in the 1980s

## VETERANS

Saturday, October 5th 2024 turned out to be a perfect fall day on the lake. The morning air was cool, which was perfect for fishing. With the leaves just starting to show some fall color, and the smell of a campfire in the background, everyone was in the mood to welcome in the new season.

This was the Forbes Trail Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) sixth annual fishing event for military veterans and first responders. The event took place at Kingston Veterans Sportsmen Club east of Latrobe. Forty-seven registered veterans and first responders spread out around the lake and started catching fish immediately.

FTTU is very grateful that Kingston Sportsmen agreed to partner with us again this year. Their manicured club grounds provide ADA access to their lake, pavilion and restroom facilities. The perfect setting!

Boy Scout Troops 465 and 305 provided lunch for over 100 veterans, first responders and volunteers. "They have made this a simple turnkey operation" noted Larry Myers, president of

Forbes Trail TU. "We tell the Scouts how many will be in attendance, they buy and prepare the food, then hand us the bill making our job so much simpler".

We thank our event sponsors... Fish USA, Home Depot, four local Giant Eagle Supermarkets, Westmoreland Case Management and Bubba's Kitchen and Bar.



The 2025 event will be held on Saturday, October 4th at the Kingston Club and is free to all First Responders and Military Veterans. It's not too late to get registered. Visit our website [forbestrailtu.org](http://forbestrailtu.org) for more info and to submit a registration form.

# ADVOCACY

## Rustic Ridge Mine

In the spring of 2025, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approved the permit for the 1,400 acre expansion of the Rustic Ridge coal mine in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County. This will bring the underground, room and pillar mine north of the turnpike and into the Loyalhanna Creek watershed.

It is feared the mine expansion could result in dewatering and possible acid mine discharges into the headwaters of Fourmile Run.

The Mountain Watershed Association is mounting a legal challenge to the permit approval.

For more information, see the Mountain Watershed website at

<https://mtwatershed.com/rustic-ridge-coal-mine/>

## Stocking of Hatchery Trout in Freeman Run

At their quarterly meeting in July, the PA Fish and Boat Commissioners with a vote of 7 to 2, decided to move ahead with plans to put a three mile section of Freeman Run in Potter County back on the stocking list. The stream was stocked up until 5 years ago when it was determined to be a class A wild trout stream and according to a 2021 survey, the biomass of wild brown trout increased 40% after stocking ended.

The plan calls for an amendment to the Fish and Boat Code to manage this section of Freeman Run under Miscellaneous Special Regulations as catch-and-release for brook and brown trout, and harvest permitted for rainbows.

A study on the effects of the releasing of rainbow trout will be conducted through 2030, and stocking will be halted if it is found to be damaging the wild trout population.

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited stands against the proposal. Speaking out against the plan was PA Trout Unlimited President Len Lichvar and former PAF&BC Executive Director John Arway.

Lichvar said the Commissioners are “putting social and political pressures ahead of resource science” Arway added that stocking would be contrary to data that shows hatchery trout are detrimental to resident wild trout populations and would violate language in the

Fish and Boat code that “prohibits commission actions detrimental to the protection, preservation and management of fish”.

The commission is expected to have a final vote at the October meeting.

[Good article from the local newspaper \*Potter Leader Enterprise\*](#)



## 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 3

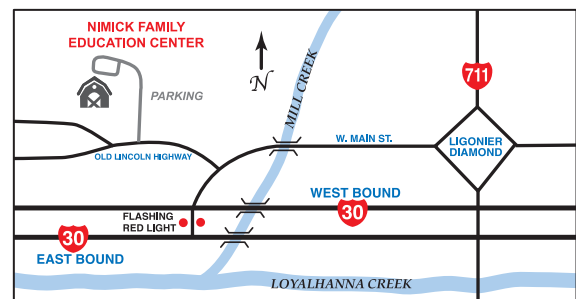
Officer/Director Nominations  
6:00 pm Nimick Education Center

#### OCTOBER 1

Annual Meeting - Election of Officers/Directors  
6:00 pm Nimick Education Center

#### NOVEMBER 5

Monthly Meeting  
6:00 pm Nimick Education Center



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