

Tulpehocken Chapter:

TU TEENS By Chapter Secretary Ed Ulmer

Here is some encouraging news: Teenagers still want to fish! They're also interested in conservation, stream chemistry and macroinvertebrates. I recently started a Fly Fishing Club at Wilson High School, where I teach biology and chemistry. All of the students also joined Trout Unlimited as "TU Teens".

The group is very enthusiastic about helping with stream projects, and just learning anything about trout and fly fishing. So, we are planning some activities for the Winter and Spring. They all want to try some fly tying, which we have time to do during club periods within the school day. In the Spring we will do a macroinvertebrate study on the Tully, a fly casting demo and contest, and maybe a cook out at the Tully House. We will help out at the Wilson Trout in the Classroom release, and in-tend to help with any projects which the Tully Chapter initiates.

If anyone knows a teen who would be interested in any of these activities, whether a Wilson student or not, sign them up as a TU Teen on the National TU web site for \$14. They receive the Trout magazine, a calendar, and a decal and would be-come part of the Tulpehocken Chapter, TU Teens.



Students reading about Trout Unlimited and trout species

AT THE VICE with Tom Ham

"CDC Caddis"

I made this step by step for a TIC release event. I thought it was a quick and easy pattern for middle school aged kids to learn; and see that a mere three pieces of material can turn into something "buggy!"

I left a little more room near the eye of the hook than I normally would, if you're new to tying, or new with a whip finishing tool I recommend doing the same.

Now is the time of year to tie a bunch of these for your fly-box this spring!

Materials:

Hook- Sz.14---20

Thread- Color Optional

Dubbing- Color Optional

CDC Feather- Color Optional

Step 1: Tie a thread base leaving a gap behind the hook eye.

Step 2: Remove several barbs from the stem of a CDC feather, wrap securely to the hook, snip off the rears.

Step 3: Make reward wraps to the bend of the hook, then apply dub-bing to the thread.

Step 4: With the dubbed thread, make forward wraps to the CDC feather.

Step 5: Apply more dubbing and make wraps in front of the CDC, locking it in an upward position.

Step 6: Tie off thread at the hook eye, and trim the wings.



6 Finished Product!



Remember, the greatest impact of conservation is not only in the doing, but in teaching future generations to continue the effort.
- Tom Ham, editor



TULLY TALK

I am humbled and honored to have been elected to serve as President for the next 2 years—as well as excited and hopeful. I've been involved in the Tulpehocken Chapter for the last several years and I look forward to being involved even when my term ends.



We have a great group of dedicated individuals on the board. I look forward to working closely with past President, Mark Beard, for guidance and direction. He has guided our group through a deflector project and to-wards some really fantastic goals. He's given a sense of direction to our main focus as a "conservation organization with a fishing habit."

There are also some wonderful things on the horizon for our organization. The Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program is taking off in Berks county, with the dedicated efforts of Bill Eggleston. Our Fundraising Council, chaired by Tom Ham, has some exciting things in the pipeline, including a family-friendly 5k walk/run along the Tully to help raise funds for TIC, stream restoration projects and guest speakers. We're also working through the logistics of hosting the International Fly Fishing Film tour in Reading this year! We could always use help facilitating events in all areas.

I have very big shoes to fill, but know that with our large membership and active board members that we can accomplish big things. I also want to start an open dialogue with our membership of nearly 400 members, and ask what do you want to see come from our chapter? How are you able to get involved and help? I welcome emails from our members that help guide the chapter to success. Please take a little time to fill out the member survey enclosed as well as try your luck at a chance at a YETI cooler package raffle worth over \$600!

I hope that in the next two years I am able to engage with members and help conserve our beautiful cold water habitats that we have right here in Berks county. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting, out on the stream or at one of our events in 2018! — Brenda Bittinger

For the full Winter 2017 TullyGram, please check your Inbox. If you're not receiving emails, please contact: b.bittinger@gmail.com and we'll get you on the list!

TCTU Officers and Board

- President - Brenda Bittinger
- Vice President - Mike McLaughlin
- Treasurer - Bill Eggleston
- Secretary - Ed Ulmer
- Immediate Past President - Mark Beard

Board Members -

- Tom Ham
- Chris Meyer
- Cathy Curran-Myers

TullyGram Editor - Tom Ham
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f HAS CHANGED!

We had to change to a different facebook page, please make sure you're following the right now for up to date events and information, just search in facebook for : Tulpehocken Creek Trout Unlimited

Instagram

We also have an instagram feed too, so that if you're out fishing, enjoying nature or just a member of the Tulpehocken Chapter feel free to tag us! #tullytupa

SIGNING OFF

By Mark Beard

Like many things in life - when it ends we experience mixed emotions. I'm having the expected sense of relief in not having to create agendas for every monthly meeting, or worrying about scheduling presenters and hoping their good! But I also know I am going to miss the awesome opportunity to direct and shape the future of the chapter. However, I rest easy knowing the chapter will be in the good hands of President Brenda Bittinger and Vice President Michael McLaughlin.

Looking back on the past two years there is much to proud of. The success of the Deflector Project, which required contractors hauling tons on stone to the bank and another to strategically place the stone in the stream. Also TU members, friends, and Wilson HS students placed environmental blanketing, raked and seeded the work site. Today mother nature has taken over and finished the job.

Looking forward there is much to be excited about. In collaboration with the Berks County Conservation District we've begun a project to establish the TIC program in at least one school in every Berks County school district. To ensure we have the resources needed we've engaged the Penn State Ex-tension Master Watershed group for assistance in training and supporting teachers and students.

We continue to investigate the opportunity to enhance our stewardship in the Tulpehocken Water-shed. Several Watershed associations have partnered with Berks Nature to take advantage of the collective economy of scale, operational support and insurance protection.

On the fishing front we've seen two sections of the Tully enrolled as Keystone Select waters and stocked with 18 to 24 inch fish. A third section will be classified as Keystone Select in 2018, encompassing the entire Delayed Harvest sections of the stream. The Cacoosing, from the headwaters to the confluence, has been classified as a Class A Wild Trout stream, and along with the BCCD we still believe we may see the removal of the Cacoosing dam. Discussions are on ongoing with American Rivers, our primary ally in this effort.

In closing I invite you to join us in our mission to fundamentally improve the world we live in - if not us then who will? Regards, Mark Beard



REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE FOR TULPEHOCKEN CHAPTER TU

Redner's has committed to help out the non-profit organizations whose members shop in their stores. **HOW IT WORKS:** Each member must stop at the store office or Customer Service Area to get a Save-a-Tape card. By using this card each time you Purchase merchandise at Redner's your receipt will be designated as a Save-a-tape customer receipt. Forward those tapes to support your Tulpehocken Chapter Trout Unlimited. The organization will receive 1% of the total, of all of the Save-a-tape totals on the receipts. Proceeds from these funds will be used to help protect our streams, education and other conservation projects. **AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Let's say 50 of our 300 plus members spend an average of \$75.99 per week in supermarket expenditures. If it was all spent on the save a tape program and submitted to us. The organization would receive \$1,950.00. There is no time limit and no limit. Please start saving tapes today and support the efforts of our chapter.



GIVE TO EVERYONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON - WITH JUST A FEW CLICKS!

Did you know that you can give to your local Tulpehocken Chapter Trout Unlimited while you shop for the holidays...and all year long? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. All you have to do in your profile, is set up which organization you'd like to donate to in "Your Amazon Smile". When you shop at: smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite Tulpehocken Chapter Trout Unlimited organization. It's a little thing that you can do to give back, while you give gifts to friends and families. Your donations will go to Trout In the Classroom, stream projects, presenters and much more!

TU'S CITIZEN SCIENTISTS:

The Coldwater Conservation Corps by Ed Ulmer

Trout Unlimited created the CCC (The Coldwater Conservation Corps), in response increased hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in Pennsylvania. Our state is now the number two producer of natural gas in the United States. Most of the drill sites are found in the middle of Pennsylvania where some of the best trout streams are also located.

In Berks County the main concern would be contamination of streams from gas pipelines. Several chapter members have attended training in stream monitoring from PATU. Former chapter president Bill Eggleston and I attended conferences in Wells-borough. We heard from environmental scientists from across the state. Some colleges are involved in monitoring and studying the effects of hydraulic fracturing and the waste water produced by the process. We received training in macroinvertebrate protocols for assessing stream quality.

Our chapter has several members who monitor creeks in Berks County. Jim Trout and Bob Keay monitor the Manatawny Creek. Bill Eggleston monitors the Hay Creek, and I monitor the Cacoosing and Tulpehocken Creeks. We have been provided with a scientific instrument which measures the water temperature, conductivity, and dissolved solids. We also measure the pH of the water. Water sectionals are taken to record the flow of the water on the testing date. This involves measuring the depth of the creek every foot within a measured stream width. We also check the turbidity. The data is entered on a web site which allows it to be stored and analyzed. Some of the data used to acquire the grants for the recent deflector project.

Here is a little bit about the science: First pH is a measure of the acidity of the water. One hundred percent pure water is neutral, with a pH of 7.0. The creek water can be within a range near this. The conductivity is electrical conductivity, and is a check for metal contamination or ions dissolved in the water. A high conductivity would signal contamination. The dissolved solids measure is taken in ppm, or parts per million. Typically, our creeks have a reading of 300 ppm, which is the same as most water from a faucet. Deionized water in a laboratory would be 0-20 ppm. Turbidity measures the clarity of the water. We use a meter long tube which gets filled with water at the test site. A black and white "Secci" disk is dropped down in the water. When the disk can not be seen a measurement is made. At my sites, the disk always makes it to the bottom of the tube, indicating crystal clear water.

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN OUR CITIZEN SCIENCE ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CONTACT: ED ULMER EULMER3@COMCAST.NET / PHONE : 610-301-4634

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP by Karin Wulkowicz

Penn State Extension-Berks County recently graduated the first class of 23 Master Watershed Steward students in June of 2017. These citizen scientists are now on their way toward fulfilling their first 50 hours of volunteer service, after which they will receive their name badges and will be considered fully-fledged Master Watershed Stewards. Already-completed projects include teaching eco-campers about creeks and macro-invertebrates, planting trees at Blue Marsh and Berks Nature's Angelica Park, taking part in various environmental fairs, monitoring stream health for Nolde Forest and building wood duck boxes. Upcoming projects include rain barrel workshops, helping with Trout in the Classroom for county school districts, restoring a bog garden at the Reading Public Museum, and teaching the public to fish with loaner tackle from the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Program partners include Berks Nature, the Berks County Conservation District, the Berks County Planning Commission, the PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat, and many others, without whom this program would not exist. The Master Watershed Stewards are currently accepting applications for the next class, which will begin training in early 2018.

Interested persons should contact coordinator Karin Wulkowicz- krw42@psu.edu. / 610-378-1327; No prior experience is required and people from all walks of life are encouraged to apply. See our digital newsletter for an application, or contact the editor.