



Tulpehocken Chapter  
Trout Unlimited, Inc.



*"To Conserve, Protect, and Enhance the  
Quality and Quantity of the Cold Water  
Resources of Berks County, Pennsylvania"*

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# TullyGram

[www.TullyTU.org](http://www.TullyTU.org)

The Newsletter of the  
Tulpehocken Chapter  
of Trout Unlimited

## Tully Talk by Gene Markle

### Marcellus Gas Drilling

Most of my topics are conservation and fishing related and on the lighter side of things. This topic is of a much more serious nature. Unless you've been living in a cave somewhere you've undoubtedly heard of Marcellus shale drilling for gas.



One of the hottest topics relative to the environment in recent years has become the Marcellus gas drilling operations taking place here in Pennsylvania. The United States consumes natural resources at an alarming rate and some of those resources are natural gas, coal and oil. The United States holds 5% of the world's population yet we consume 24% of the world's natural resources. We may eventually pay a high price for our standard of living.

There are potential benefits as well as harm stemming from gas drilling. The benefits are quite obvious; it is an economic boom to portions of Pennsylvania. Many of the wells are drilled in areas that are economically depressed and have a relatively low population. This did not happen by coincidence. The gas companies doing the drilling will make billions of dollars from the gas extraction and the people employed by them will benefit from employment by the gas companies. The land owners leasing the land benefit from royalties for their lease. If we look at it from an economic view, it is looked at as a positive thing. If you listen and watch advertisements paid for by the gas companies, they paint a very pretty picture and what they are doing is a win win situation for everybody.

Now let's take a look at the environmental side of drilling: Gas drilling incorporates a process known as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking". It is a method by which gas is extracted from the Marcellus Shale deposits. Horizontal wells are drilled as far as 10,000 feet below the surface; they are then pumped with over a million gallons of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure to crack the Marcellus shale. The fissures are held open by sand particles so that the gas can be extracted from the shale.

Some of the concerns with this process are what chemicals are used and how harmful are they. The Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974, have recently been amended with the Bush/Cheney Energy Bill in 2005, which exempted natural gas drilling companies from

having to disclose all of the chemicals used in Hydraulic Fracturing and from regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The wastewater (flowback) has a high content of salt (the Marcellus Shale deposit was once the part of an ancient ocean) as well as all of the chemicals used in the fracking process. The fracking process uses over a million gallons of water per well being drilled. Some pads have 5 or 6 wells drilled so we can easily see the demand on our water supply.

Roads have to be built through which in many cases was non disturbed forested areas of Pennsylvania. These roads will carry hundreds of tanker trucks per day to keep up with the water demand used in drilling. The waste water that does come to the surface needs to be treated so tankers are filled with this chemical, brine mixture and is taken to be treated. Where and how the water is treated is also a major concern for people who live in and around the well sites. There have been incidents with tanker spills in the past and I am sure it will happen again. Nobody really knows what happens to the water that is not recovered. It is estimated that only thirty to forty percent of the water used is recovered so we now have well over half a million gallons of water per well lying underground mixed with toxic chemicals. When will that mixture show up in our drinking water and rivers?

We need to closely track what is going on with respect to drilling. The drilling will continue at an alarming rate but we can educate ourselves on the process and get involved in monitoring streams to help identify any problems caused by gas drilling. For more information on the process and how to get involved, please see <http://www.tu.org/conservation/eastern-conservation/marcellus-shale-project/stream-surveillance>

Regards, *Geno*







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# Currents

**Jan. 19** • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM

**Jan. 26** • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM  
**History of TCTU by Rick Bell**

**Feb. 16** • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM

**Feb. 23** • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM

**Mar. 16** • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM

**Mar. 23** • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM

**Apr. 16** • **Opening day for Regular Trout  
Season in South East PA**

**Apr. 20** • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM

**Apr. 23** • **Stream Cleanup** - Watch for details

**Apr. 27** • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM  
**Author Mike Heck - Limestone  
Streams of Cumberland Valley**

**May 14** • **Breakfast on the Tully** - 8:30 AM  
Held at the Tully House  
\$4.00 donation suggested

**May 18** • TCTU Board Meeting - 7:30 PM

**May 25** • TCTU Chapter Meeting - 7:30 PM

**May 30** • **PA Fish & Boat Commission  
Fish for Free Day**

**June 11** • **Breakfast on the Tully** - 8:30 AM  
Held at the Tully House  
\$4.00 donation suggested

**June 15** • TCTU Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

**June 18** • **Meet & Fish Clinic  
Meet at the Tully House**

**June 22** • TCTU Chapter Meeting, 7:30 PM  
Program to be Announced

**July 9** • **Breakfast on the Tully** - 8:30 AM  
Held at the Tully House  
\$4.00 donation suggested

**July 16** • **Meet & Fish Clinic  
Meet at the Tully House**

**July 20** • TCTU Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

**July 27** • TCTU Chapter Meeting, 7:30 PM  
Program to be Announced

**Aug. 13** • **Breakfast on the Tully** - 8:30 AM  
Held at the Tully House  
\$4.00 donation suggested

**Aug. 17** • TCTU Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

**Aug. 24** • TCTU Chapter Meeting, 7:30 PM  
Program to be Announced

**Sept. 10** • **Breakfast on the Tully** - 8:30 AM  
Held at the Tully House  
\$4.00 donation suggested

**Sept. 17** • **Meet & Fish Clinic  
Meet at the Tully House**

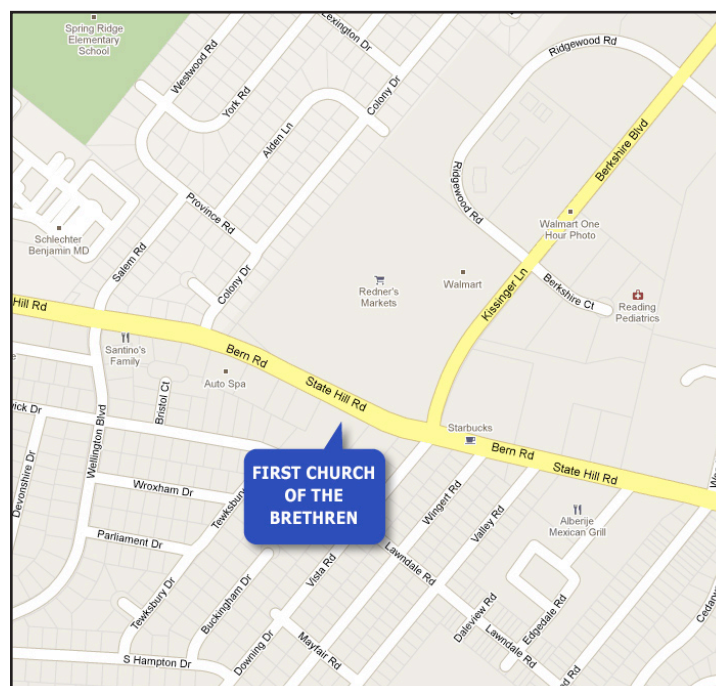
**Sept. 21** • TCTU Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

**Sept. 28** • TCTU Chapter Meeting, 7:30 PM  
Program to be Announced

**Oct. 19** • TCTU Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

**Oct. 26** • TCTU Chapter Meeting, 7:30 PM  
Program to be Announced

**MOST TCTU MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
2200 State Hill Road, Reading, PA 19610-1904



## DIRECTIONS TO THE TULLY HOUSE:

Take the Bypass (Route 422/222) going West from Reading. Exit onto Broadcasting Road. Go North on Broadcasting Road (follow the signs to Penn State, Berks Campus). At the bottom of the hill turn right onto Tulpehocken Road. Turn left to enter Grings Mill Recreation Area (across the street from Penn State). Make the first right toward the tennis courts. Go to the end of the parking lot and down the gravel road to the house. If the park is closed, enter at the secondary gate, just South of the main entrance. Please be prompt. The gate will be open 15 minutes prior to and 5 minutes after the meeting time.