



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

Volume 22– Issue 1 Spring 2015

TullyGram

www.TullyTU.org

The Newsletter of the Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Tully Talk by Dan Shaffer

Wow, another cold winter in Berks County. If you did go fishing this winter for steelhead or salmon, I hope you had some luck and stayed warm! Looking forward now to warm weather and breakfasts on the Tully!

Just some updates; Over the year there were a number of meetings about Hay Creek. We met with PAFB folks, Conservancy members and individuals from the Johanna Furnace Historic Association. I am saddened to report that at this time there is not much we can do about the ravaging the creek takes under hard rains. We talked about longer term problems of storm water run-off and moving the road. We will soon try to stabilize a portion of the stream bank with tree planting. Check the website and Facebook as we get closer to the date.

On October 1st a small group of volunteers; Len Good, Bill Eggleston, Ron Weidner, Brenda Bittinger and Dan Shaffer, showed up at the Sonon Farm west of Womelsdorf to tear out fencing and restore/repair a portion of the Upper Tully. We were also joined by Karl Lutz who is the current head of the PAFB Habitat Division. He was there to check the finished work, but lent a hand pinning down mat. I revisited the site about a week later and there was grass growing already. Nice job crew!

We're in the midst of very exciting projects for 2015. First, we had been working with the Berks County Conservancy and the City of Reading to investigate whether the time is right to eliminate the Bushong Dam on the Tully near the confluence with the Schuylkill River. The dam site is an attractive nuisance and serves no purpose as the paper company that built it no longer exists. Later in this newsletter is an update on that project. Truly a great win for the Chapter and our namesake stream!

Next up is the PAFB Unassessed Waters Program. We had a presentation this summer from the folks at PAFB and decided to embrace the project. We have had two more meetings regarding the project and will be "rolled out" a plan at the March Meeting. We are working with some great partners, which include Miller Environmental, SSM Group, Reading Area Water Authority, Stroudt Water Research, the Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Conservancy. We hope to add the Western Berks Water Authority and the Berks County Water and Sewer Association. Your help as a member of the Chapter will be key to identifying small tributaries you fish where there are wild trout. A Survey will be forthcoming soon about the tributaries on the Blue Mountain area. Please take a look and fill out what you can.

The Board of Directors passed a resolution to investigate the potential of forming a Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Association. Our partners for this investigation will include the Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU in Lebanon, the Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Conservancy. The Tully represents a large watershed that has never had representation of an association.

The above three projects involve community outreach and partnering with other organizations for the betterment of our environment. The Board thinks that embracing all involved will benefit the Chapter, potentially enhance our chances for new members, and get our Chapter some well deserved and needed publicity.



Continued on page 3

TCTU Officers and Board

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Currents



— 2015 —

Upcoming Events

06/13/15 at 8:30am at the Tully House

Breakfast on the Tully-Bring a friend and enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, homefries and beverages. Requested donation \$6, view and company.....priceless!

06/17/15 at 6:30pm at the Tully House

George Daniel - Fly Fishing Techniques-Special Guest and author of the best seller "Dynamic Nymphing", George Daniel will do a hands on program TBD.

07/11/15 at 8:30am at the Tully House-

Breakfast on the Tully

07/15/15 at 7:30pm at the Tully House

Casting for Recovery-Marsha Benovengo will talk about the benefits of fly casting and breast cancer survivors. The mission of Casting for Recovery (CfR) is to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing. The retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life and experience healing connections with other women and nature. CfR's retreats are open to breast cancer survivors of all ages, in all stages of treatment and recovery and are free to participants.

Please check <http://www.tullytu.org/events.lasso> for more information on upcoming meetings and locations.



DIRECTIONS TO THE TULLY HOUSE:

Take the Bypass (Route 422/222) going West from Reading. Exit on 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.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tulpehocken-Creek-Trout-Unlimited/146487052067775>

Tully Talk-

Continued from page 1

You will also read in this newsletter, some information regarding regulation changes and habitat improvement in the Tully. Our intention is to restore the waterway and create habitat for wild trout to reproduce and thrive!

NO BANQUET THIS YEAR! BUT we did a major raffle with an announcement/rollout at our March Membership meeting. Next year is our 40th anniversary and yes there will be a banquet.

Before I wrap up, we are up on Facebook. Check us out on Facebook at Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Thanks to Tom, Chris, Steve and Pier for their help with the website and Facebook!

I hope everyone had a bountiful Holiday Season, New Year and now Spring!. Peace be with all of us.

- Dan

New TCTU chapter members get...

- A free TCTU logo hat,**
- A free breakfast, and**
- A 10% -off coupon at *TCO Fly Shop!***

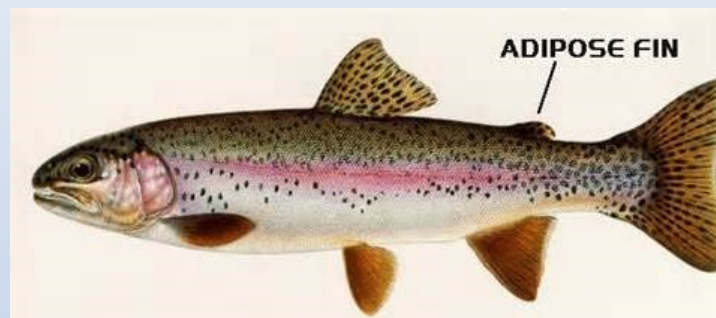


Already a member? Tell a friend about TU!

Tully Anglers

If you catch a Rainbow Trout with a clipped adipose fin please make a note or photo w/ date stamp & send the information to:

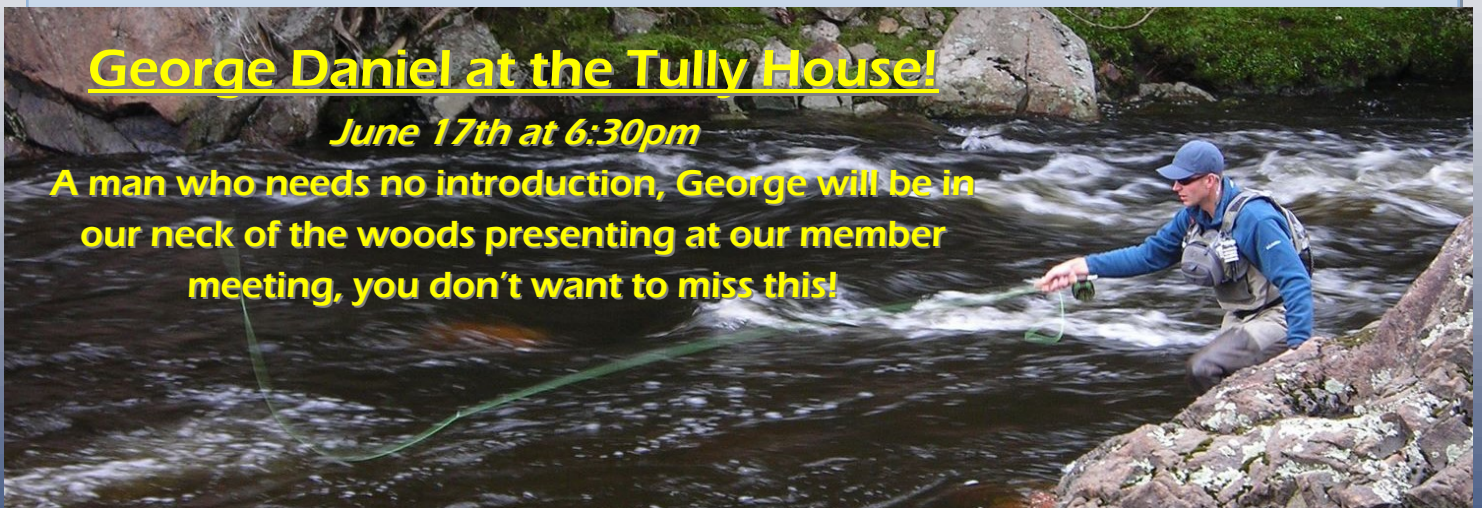
Daniel Shaffer: (610) 334-2615 or dshaffer2200@hotmail.com



George Daniel at the Tully House!

June 17th at 6:30pm

A man who needs no introduction, George will be in our neck of the woods presenting at our member meeting, you don't want to miss this!



Trout in the Classroom at Twin Valley!

Trout in the Classroom

By Tabby Gresko

I'm going to tell you a little bit about the trout that my classroom got. We got the trout from a company called Trout in the Classroom. When we first got the trout, they were eggs. My teacher, Mrs. Sanger had to take out eggs without an eye, which is a black dot on the egg. Trout need fresh water to survive, flowing water, cold water, food and shelter. If any silt gets in the water, they can die. We give our trout food once a day. They don't get very much food. Their food looks almost like coffee grounds.

I hope you enjoyed my story about the trout.

Our Trout

By Damon Miller

Trout need air and water, food and dark and quiet. They need moving water, cold water and clean water. They need a calm environment. They live in rivers, streams and they are called Brook Trout. They live in cold, moving water. There are some that only live to be a sac fry. There are some that are called pin heads. They don't know how to eat. The ones that do live are called alevins. They are the ones that eat. When they do their swim up, that's when we started feeding them.

Brook Trout Life Cycle

By Dominique Lovejoy

Do you know the stages of a brook trout's life? If you don't, then I'll teach you in this essay.

Stage 1: Eggs. The first stage is the eggs. When the female trout first lays her eggs, they are fertilized by the male trout so they can hatch. After they are fertilized, they are light yellowy-clear. After a few days, the eggs get a black eye in the center.

Stage 2: Alevin (sac fry): After the egg hatches, it becomes a sac fry or an alevin. The alevin is only about a centimeter long and still has its egg sac attached. The sac provides food for about a week or more and the alevin does not need food. When the egg sac comes off, the fish is still an alevin.

Stage 3: Fingerling: The third stage is a fingerling. A fingerling is a trout one to three inches long.

Stage 4: Adult. The last stage of a brook trout's life is an adult. The adult trout is five to eighteen inches long. The female trout lays her eggs and the male fertilizes them.

You are able to catch trout in creeks and take them home for dinner.

A Special Thank you to Sue Sanger for Leading her class in our TIC program, the kids had great fun and learned a ton. Thank you for sharing the stories, great Job!



Trout in the Classroom at 12th and Marion!

Elisa Wounderly and Judy Treichler lead a TIC program at 12th and Marion Elementary school. They received approx. 500 eggs to begin with.

Over the winter we received this update-

"Our TIC program is going very well! My students are becoming experts on these little Brook Trout. At the moment I'm having my class create a presentation that they will use to teach the other classes in our school, about the trout. I'm hoping that we'll be able to start presentations to other classes by the end of January. My students are excited to share what they have learned about the trout with students in the rest of the school. I've gotten a lot of great information on the TIC website and have shared this info with my students"

The Class at 12th and Marion did a wonderful job studying and raising their trout and earlier this month successfully released 256 trout! Great Job!

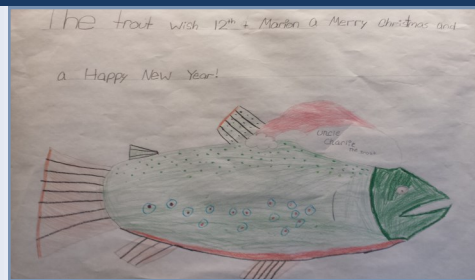


Photo Courtesy of
The Reading Eagle.

A 4th grader releases
a trout fingerling into
the Tully!



Trout in the Classroom makes the news!

WFMZ 69News

TULPEHOCKEN CREEK, Pa. - Some elementary students in the Reading School District are fishing around for a good grade. About 100 fourth-graders from Amanda Stout Elementary made the trip to Tulpehocken Creek Thursday. They released trout they've been raising. Teachers said the students received trout eggs last August and have been watching them grow for the past few months. The students learned about the fish and the environment.

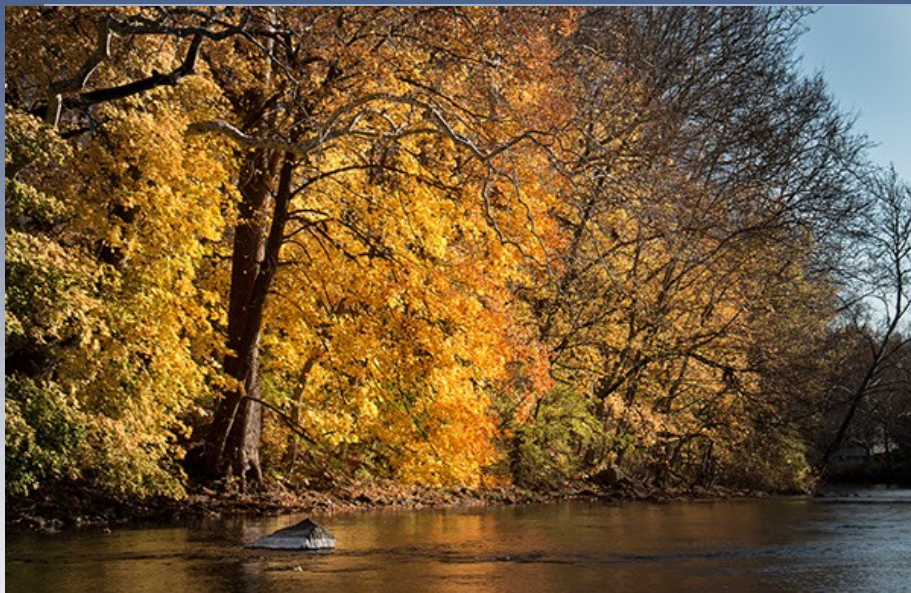
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WFMZ.com <http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-berks/amanda-stout-elementary-fourth-graders-release-trout-into-wild/33156942>

Reading Eagle <http://readingeagle.com/news/article/reading-students-release-trout-they-raised-from-eggs>

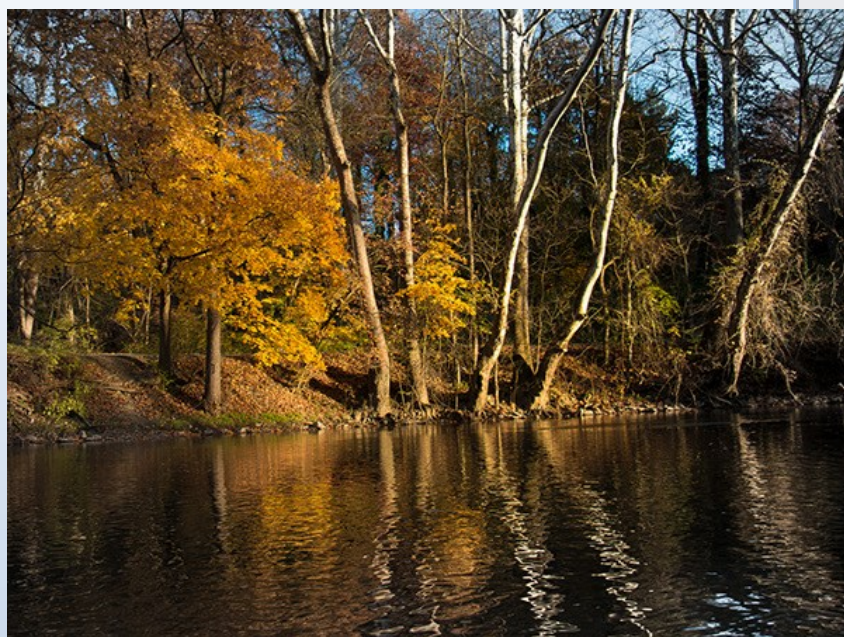
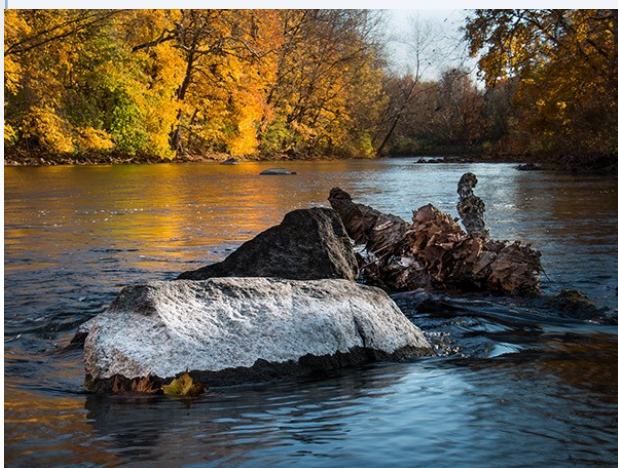
A Sincere Thankyou to ALL who make TIC possible!

Visions of the Tully!



These wonderful autumn photos were provided courtesy of Chris Wiederspahn who enjoys spending his free time capturing the Tully through the lens. Thanks Chris!

Keep them coming!



*Our resident Bald Eagle and
a nice December Rainbow—
Tom Ham*



All Things Fly

-From the blog of TCO guide Jake Villwock

<http://www.allthingsflyfishing.blogspot.com/>



Step 1: Tie a thread base behind the bead and tie in the wire and flash

Step 2: Keeping the Krystal flash on top of the hook and the Ultra Wire on the side, wrap your thread back to the bend of the hook. Then bring your thread forward.

Step 3: Rib the body. Leaving about a hook eye gap between the last wrap and the bead. This is where you will make the "thorax"

Step 4: Tie in the Z-Lon and Trim

Step 5: Tie in, wrap, and trim the herl

Step 6: Whip finish and cut thread.

Featured Fly - "Emerging Zebra Midge"

A great little midge variation I have fished on the Tully and Big Spring with a lot of success. A great fly for tail water fishing anytime of the year, and a awesome winter spring creek bug.

Materials:

Hook: TMC 2457 or 206bl

sz. 18-24

Thread: UNI Thread 8/0 - Black

Rib Ultra Wire sz. Small - Gold

Bead: Cyclops Bead - Gold

Tail: Krystal Flash - Pearl

Wing: Z-lon - Ginger or Tan

Thorax: Peacock Herl - Natural

...and the finished product!

Redner's Save-A-Tape

Redner's is committed to the communities that they are part of. They have 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 the total of all the Save-a-tape totals

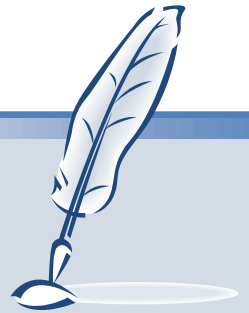
on the receipts. Proceeds from these funds will be used to help protect our streams, education and other conservation projects.

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.

HELP PROTECT YOUR STREAMS!

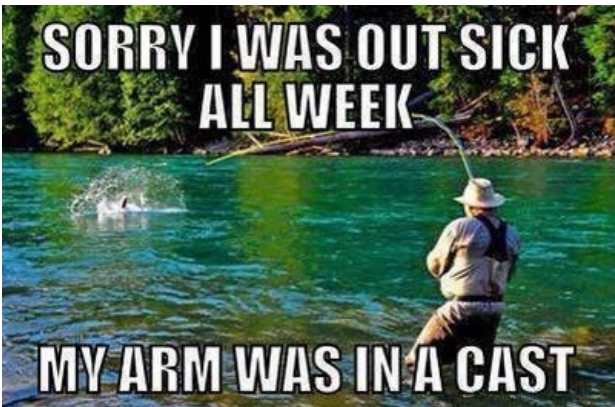
Unfortunately not everyone respects the regulations and rules of our waterways. The Tully in particular has special harvest regulations along with bait restrictions that aim to protect and enhance this fishery, the effectiveness of which are directly correlated to how many fisherman abide these rules. If you witness poaching, pollution, or other problems on the stream, do not confront the violators. Please call the SE Region of PFBC non-emergency dispatch at (717)626-0228. Enter this number into your cell phone so you have it when you need it.



LIKE FISHING & WRITING?

We are looking for enthusiastic writers and photographers to submit images and pieces for use in our monthly on-line newsletter to members. Because we will be accepting articles we must point out that the views in the TCTU On- Line newsletter do not reflect the views of TCTU but rather the views of the writer.

Winter Issue Funnies



Your Invited.....

Breakfast on the Tully

Sit next to the stream and allow someone else to do the cooking and the clean-up. It is Saturday morning and **you deserve a break!**

New this year... fishing flea market. Swap or sell your old gear!

**2nd Saturday May thru Sept
8:30AM til 10:30AM - \$6.00**



Spring Updates –Notes from Dan Shaffer

Catch and Release on the Tully—As you may or may not be aware, a proposal has been submitted to the PA Fish and Boat Commission to change the Special Regulations Section of the Tulpehocken (the Tully) Creek from Delayed Harvest to Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only. In January our Chapter President (Dan Shaffer) attended a meeting of the Fish and Boat Commission and discussed the regulations on the Tulpehocken Creek. Our chapter objective is to create a high quality put-and-grow tail water fishery at a very limited cost to the state for trout that look, fight and act like wild trout, with the possibility of creating or enhancing a wild trout population. To accomplish this we countered with a proposal to change the Special Regulation area of the Tully to Catch and Release only.

First we need to thank **Tony Gehman, Francis (Doc) Plucinsky & Bob Bachman** for all their guidance and support. We also need to thank those folks who sent in letters of support for the proposal as well. Finally we need to thank the **over 1,200** individuals that signed the petition to change the Special Regulations Section to Catch and Release Artificial Lure Only.

At a Commissioners meeting on May 2, 2015 in Wilkes-Barre a second presentation and “ask for action” was made. The petition results, letters of support and plea for simplicity was heard. The Commissioners stated that the “proper” way to get the change through was to check with staff and their recommendation. They were unwilling to put it to a vote at the meeting, however, they did promise to give us an answer within 30-40 days.

As mentioned we also are working towards the Bushong Dam Removal – Earlier this month on May 11th, the City of Reading unanimously passed a resolution to remove the dam. Our next meeting with those involved will be on May 21st. This is will a complex project and we want to acknowledge those who have been and are helpful toward its success: Council and Mayor of the City of Reading, Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), Berks County Conservancy, American Rivers and the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Also of special note is the double duty of Cathy Curran-Myers and Pier Ignozzi-Shaffer (EAC and TU)

New Deflectors below the Paper Mill – Ron Weidner and Dan Shaffer measured out three large deflectors for river right on the Tully below the confluence of Cacoosing Creek. This will displace almost 500,000 gallons of water that gets warm in the sun and will push the colder water from the Cacoosing into the main stream of the Tully. Mark Powell has donated rock from his Heritage project at the intersection. We have talked with Len Snyder of High Excavating about the project and have rescheduled a meeting with Commissioner Leinbach for early June. We will need to raise funds for moving the rock to the project, building the deflectors and replanting the bulldozed pathway to the deflectors. Our bottom line is unknown, but we will be moving about 1,500 cubic yards of stone.

(note: if the deflectors push too much water against the left bank, then we will further enhance the habitat with 2 or 3 J-Hook rock vanes to create plunge pools and help to protect the river banks)

Cacoosing Dam Removal – According to Laura Craig of American Rivers this project has been “in the works” for over 5 years now. The hold up is an 8” gas pipeline owned by Texas Eastern. From what we are told, the DEP is ready to grant a permit with the contingency that if the pipeline becomes uncovered, then it must be protected. It is unclear who will pay for that. Furthermore, American Rivers and PAFBC is not willing to take out the dam and see what happens. The liability for problems is unknown. They continue to work toward a solution.

Please follow us on Facebook for current updates on all Tully TU projects!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tulpehocken-Creek-Trout-Unlimited/146487052067775>

The Following Page contains an article published by the Reading Eagle promoting our chapter’s goals. While our President Dan Shaffer has done a wonderful job representing the interests of TU and made great efforts to do so, we also want to thank Tony Gehman of TCO Flyshop, whose devotion to the health of the Tulpehocken Creek cannot be marginalized. Also to PFBC Stream Habitat Section Chief Karl Lutz, whose guidance & interest in this project has helped the Tully TU get off the sideline and onto the playing field.

And to all others named in the article, Thank You!

When good people make a great effort, the extraordinary can happen!

Tully TU in the news-Reg Change Proposal

Trout Unlimited seeks Tully change

Sunday April 19, 2015 12:01 AM

By Roger Mallon, Reading Eagle

The Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited has initiated a proposal to change the Delayed-Harvest-Artificial-Lures-Only stretch of lower Tulpehocken Creek to a Catch-and-Release only fishery.

A recent proposal by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission that would have allowed bait fishing on the state's DHA-LO waters was recently withdrawn by the agency, due largely to resistance from stewards of DHALO waters, like members of Tully TU.

The PFBC expressed concern about conditions on the Tully, such as increased bank erosion, silting and occasional high water temperatures, which it believed were unsuitable for supporting trout populations.

In its proposal to change the local Tully to a Catch-and-Release fishery, Tully TU addressed all of these issues and emphasized the economic and environmental benefits of increased local stewardship.

In a letter dated April 6 to PFBC executive director John Arway, Tully TU president Dan Shaffer submitted a petition signed by more than 1,000 supporters of the Catch-and-Release proposal, plus copies of letters endorsing the idea from the Berks County Commissioners; Dr. David Osgood, biologist at Albright College; State Representative Jerry Knowles of the 124 Legislative District; Dan Grieg of the Berks County Conservation District; Karen Schreiber of Muhlenberg Parks and Recreation; and Crystal Seitz of the Greater Reading Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In his letter, Shaffer indicated that Tully TU would be meeting with PFBC Stream Habitat Section Chief Karl Lutz, and that Lutz "has expressed a strong interest in the Tully and offered his expert guidance to assist the Chapter."

Shaffer also wrote that Tully TU has "the ability to source a Pennsylvania 'grown' warm water rainbow trout. Our hopes are to use this trout on the Tully for fall stocking. We have ordered 5,000 fingerlings for delivery in the first week of October and we will be fin clipping all of the fish. A published study shows little support of the claim to being a warm water rainbow; this particular breed has been used very successfully on the Upper Youghiogheny River tail water in Maryland for the past 20 years.

"Additionally, we would like to note," wrote Shaffer, "the first goal under Conservation in the (PFBC's) Strategic Plan is, 'Through June 2017, continue efforts to improve Pennsylvania's tailwater trout fisheries.' We understand the Tully was not selected as a tailwater trout fishery. We, at a local level, choose to improve this tailwater and transform the Special Regulation Section into a successful 'put and grow' fishery. We will be attending the May 4, 2015, Commissioner's meeting."

Contact Roger Mallon: 610-371-5060 or sports@readingeagle.com

TU National President & CEO Chris Wood

also offered his support of our proposal in a letter to Director Arway

Excerpt from his Letter-

"The volunteers of the Tulpehocken Chapter are dedicated stewards of their local waters who are active in a range of conservation activities. They are hard at work to improve habitat in the Tully and their Catch and Release proposal is a logical step to take in tandem with the restoration efforts that are underway."

THANKYOU CHRIS!



TULPEHOCKEN CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED 2015 ANNUAL RAFFLE \$5/TICKET

GRAND PRIZE



\$1,000 GIFT CERTIFICATE

FIRST PRIZE



\$500 GIFT CERTIFICATE

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

- **ALEKA ROD & REEL** - Winner's Choice of length and rod
- **AFTER HOURS R&R** - Basket of select liquors, a box of cigars and a glasstop humidor
- **OVERNIGHT near Penns Creek** - 2-night stay for two at The Feathered Hook and framed PFBC Print (stay expires Aug. 30, 2016)
- **OVERNIGHT Luxury in West Virginia** - 2-night stay for two at Harman's Luxury Cabins, November to March 2016 and framed Game Commission Print (stay for mid-week, no holidays)
- **FISH the UPPER DELAWARE** - Guided fishing trip to the Upper Delaware and overnight stay with author and guide Lee Hartman
- **ENJOY the MUSIC** - 2 front row seat tickets to concert of your choice:
2016 Jazz Fest with hats and shirts;
October 15, 2015 Season of the Reading Symphony : 4 loge tickets
and \$50 *It's All About You Salon and Spa* Gift Certificate
(gift certificate expires February, 2016)

Drawing will take place at the Annual Membership Meeting on September 16, 2015 at Chef Alan's. Entries must be postmarked no later than September 10, 2015. Checks should be mailed to: Tulpehocken Chapter TU, PO Box #91, Shillington, PA 19609.

Tickets may be purchased through the website at: www.tullytu.org

Call or email Dan Shaffer with any questions at (610) 334-2615 or dshaffer2200@hotmail.com

Winners of prizes with a value of over \$600 will be issued a 1099. *Tulpehocken Chapter Trout Unlimited is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization registered w/IRS and PA* Small Games of Chance #: PA SGOC Lic.# G-13-059

Trout Grow on Trees!

Stroud Water Research Center, located in Avondale, PA, invites participating Trout in the Classroom schools to engage in an integrated program called 'Trout Grow on Trees' which increases knowledge of aquatic resources and restoration activities in your watershed. These efforts include the Stream Bug Monitoring through the Leaf Pack Network. Teachers and their students engage in, collecting real data that can be used to protect and restore life in Pennsylvania watersheds.

Here is a photo of Tara Muenz, Education Manager & Leaf Pack Network Administrator™ Stroud Water Research Center, preparing Leaf Packs on the Tully and the Upper Perkiomen Creek. These packs will be used for education for Trout in the Classroom release days for 12th & Marion and Hereford Elementary Schools.

From the Editor

-By Thomas Ham

Hello TU community!

Sorry this TullyGram was a long time coming, rest assured the board & members have been working hard on several projects through the winter. We've had wonderful member meetings and presenters, it's been a great year for Tully TU camaraderie, and we hope to see it continue. As you have read we will forgo a banquet this year, but are still putting on one heck of a raffle, as to focus on a great celebration for a landmark chapter anniversary next year. I hope you all noticed and signed the petition we created seeking regulation changes for the Tully, and as discussed in this newsletter we are also looking to complete some major habitat improvements as well. As always we're continuing our efforts to give youth the opportunity to learn about conservation and help get them outdoors. We also look forward to bringing you more information regarding a new initiative for PA's unassessed waters, a great program helping to determine priority levels for waterways not yet researched. TU's involvement could expedite PFBC processes in classifying these waters and guaranteeing the future health of the watershed. Great things are certainly to come!

Remember, the greatest impact of conservation is not only in the doing, but in teaching future generations to continue the effort

-Tom

