



Volume 22— Issue 2 Fall 2015

TullyGram

www.TullyTU.org



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

The Newsletter of the Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Tully Talk by Dan Shaffer

As the outgoing President, first and foremost I want to thank everyone for their volunteerism and help for the past two years. The Board of Directors has been very supportive of the work the Chapter has accomplished. I especially want to thank two people who were extremely helpful: Ron Weidner and my wife. Ron and I spent many many hours talking about what we can accomplish and how to get there. Whether he knows it or not his mentoring was very helpful. And without Pier I am sure we would be in chaos. She has been the voice and ideas behind not only what we have accomplished, but how we have done the same. Many thanks to both of you.



So here is where we are at and what we have all accomplished together:

1. Added three inner-city schools and two suburban schools to the TIC program.
2. Initiated the Unassessed Waters Program.
3. Held a successful banquet and raffle as fundraisers.
4. Petitioned the PA Fish and Boat Commission to change the Tully to Catch and Release (with no real answer to date)
5. Continued to grow our outreach to other local like-minded organizations.
6. Worked on a few essential upgrades to the Tully House, which included painting shutters, installing a dehumidifier, creating better airflow for improved air quality, shored up the first floor sag and temporarily foxed the shed roof.
7. Our membership programs were interspersed with environmental as well as fishing subjects. A special thank you goes to "Doc" for his excellent photography, wit and sharing of his fishing successes.
8. Finally, as you will read below, we are starting the wheels rolling toward at least two and possibly a third stream project on the Tully.

I know there is more and if I have slighted anyone, I apologize. As I get older it becomes more difficult as CRS continues to work against me.

With all that said and the projects in the works, we still need MORE. That MORE are members of like minds that can spend a few hours a month by getting involved. Through all the meetings that I have attended over the past years, one thing continues to astound me. Most of the organizations we work with in the county have a paid staff; we are an all-volunteer organization. We should all be very proud of what we have accomplished in the past, but that is in the past. We need your help to be able to continue to be vibrant and effective so that we can "conserve, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of cold water resources of Berks County, Pennsylvania".

Get involved, volunteer!

-Dan



Currents

— 2015/2016 —

Upcoming Events

11/16/15 at 7:30pm -Membership Meeting

Sky Blue Outfitters will make a case for fly fishing on the Manatawny.

Don't miss this event for tips of where to find some great Browns! Chef Alan's, West Reading

12/16/15 at 7:30pm -Membership Meeting

Jake Villwok from TCO will talk about Boiling Springs the new TCO location as well as a great fishing spot. Chef Alan's , West Reading

02/17/16 at 7:30pm –Membership Meeting

“The Little Juniata ...From Sewer to Class A” Bill Anderson □ President of the Little Juniata River Association; fly fishing instructor/guide; Innovative fly tyer; National Finalist for the Field & Stream □Hero of Conservation□ award 2014; and Outdoor News □ Person of the Year for 2015. Chef Alan's, West Reading

03/16/16 at 7:30pm –Membership Meeting

Innovative Reel Technologies® provides hand crafted, American made Patented Spin Power Grip spinning and fly fishing reels.

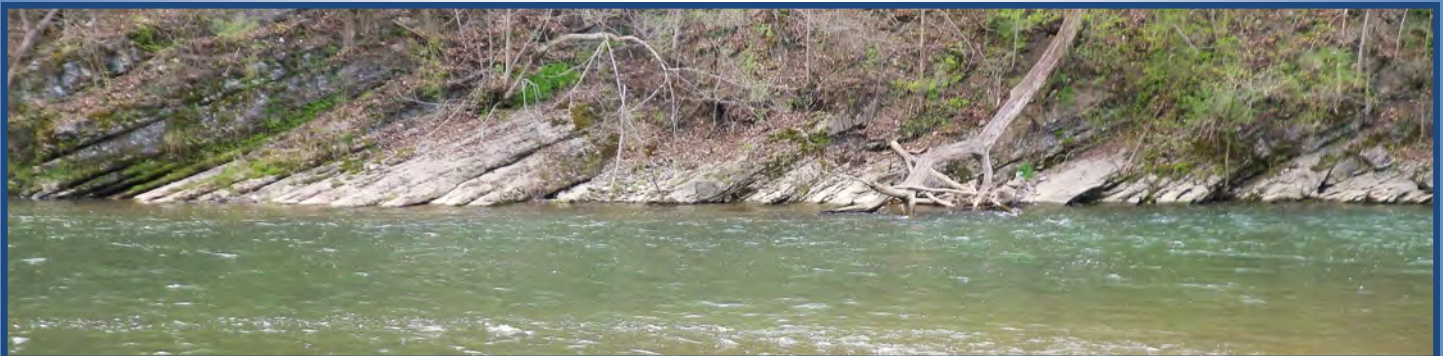
Mike Duus will introduce us to IRT Reels hand made in Pine Grove, PA. Mike will be showing us his newest innovative fly reel. Beautiful handmade spinning and fly reels. Chef Alan's, West Reading

05/06/16 at 5:00pm -40th Anniversary Banquet

Help celebrate our turning 40! Great BBC from Muddy's and Beer from Snitz Brewing. More to come! Oley Fairgrounds Building

For more information on upcoming please check

<http://www.tullytu.org/events.lasso> meetings and locations.



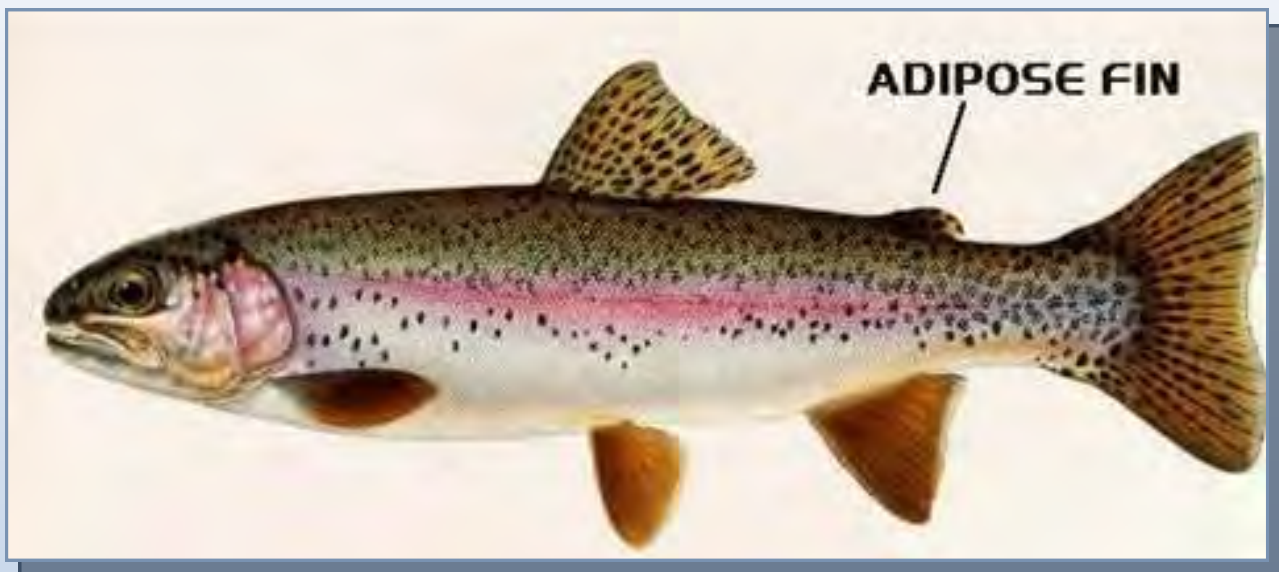
40th Tully Banquet

Oley Fairgrounds on May 6, 2016 starting at 5:30 PM

Attention 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



New TCTU chapter members get...

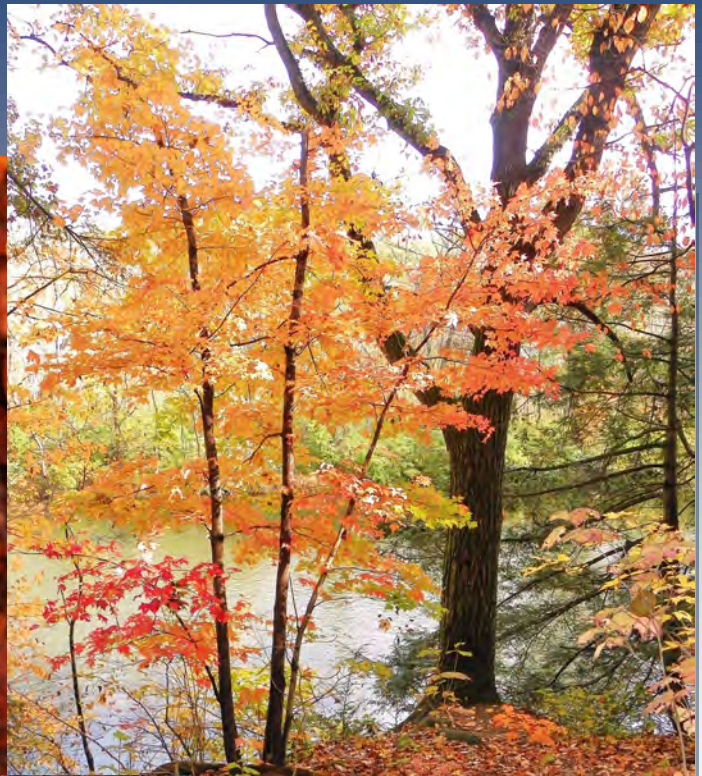
- A free TCTU logo hat,
- A free breakfast, and
- A 10% -off coupon at ***TCO Fly Shop!***

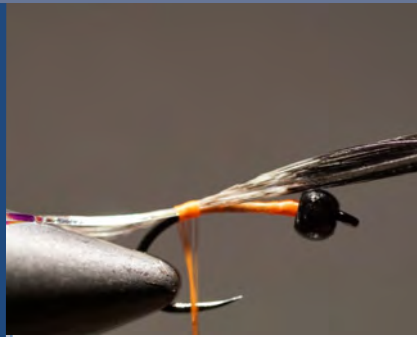
Already a member? Tell a friend about TU!



Visions of the Tully!

Tom Ham





Step 1: Slide the proper sized bead on the hook.



Step 2: Make a solid thread base, tying in your ribbing as you move towards the hook bend.



Step 3: Tie in your CDL tail, making a few extra wraps of thread to form a Hot Butt.



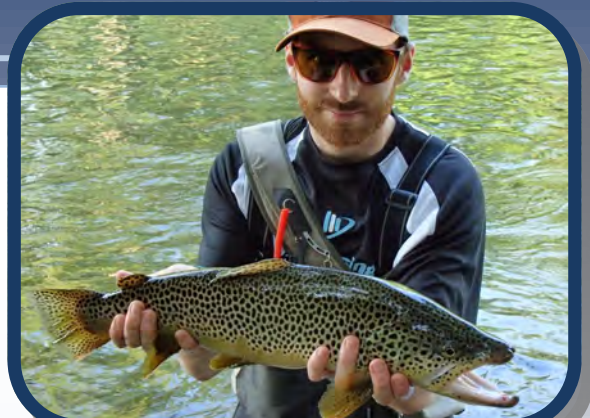
Step 4: Making tight wraps, dub the body, leaving a small space open behind the bead.



Step 5: Taking the ribbing under the tail towards the backside of the fly, make your forward ribs.

Step 6: Dub the collar with Dark Brown squirrel. While doing your whip finish, make a small "hot" collar with the orange thread.

...and the finished product!



Featured Fly

Double Squirrel Nymph

This is a very basic nymph, but it has been working well for me. Tied from size 16 up to size 10, it works well for an anchor fly or just a general attractor.

Materials:

Hook: Orvis Tactical Hook -

Wide Gape - 16-10

Bead: Tungsten Bomb Bead -

Copper or Black

Thread: Ultra Thread 170 -

Fl. Orange

Rib: Mirage Tinsel -

Opal - Sm. or Med.

Tail: CDL Fibers - Dark

Body: SLF Squirrel Dub -

Fox Squirrel

Collar: SLF Squirrel Dub -

Dark. Brown

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.

TCTU Officers and Board

President – Mark Beard
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Vice President – Mike Griffith
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Secretary – Bob Klinger
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Treasurer – Jeff Schronce
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Cathy Curran-Myers – Resource
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Tom Ham – Newsletter
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Dan Shaffer – Banquet
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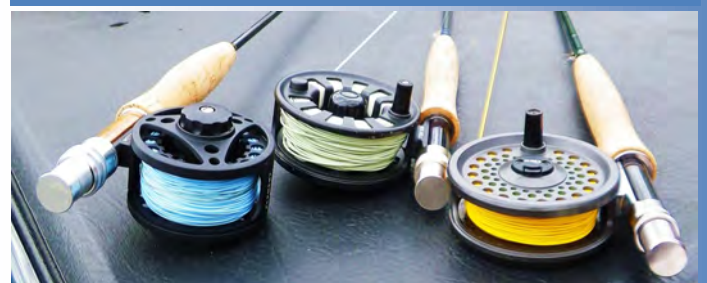
Shillington, PA 19607

tullygram@comcast.net

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



WWW.TULLYTU.ORG



Congratulations to our 2015 raffle winners!

Prize: Aleka Rod & Reel

Winner Name Joseph B. Beagle
Simpsonville, South Carolina

Prize: Overnight near Penns Creek

Winner Name Scott Sorrick
Bernville, Pennsylvania

Prize: After Hours R&R

Winner Name Andrew Null
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Prize: Fish the Upper Delaware

Winner Name Bill & Nancy Eggleston
Birdsboro, Pennsylvania

Prize: Overnight Luxury in West Virginia

Winner Name Austin Crouthamel
Birdsboro, Pennsylvania

Prize: Enjoy the Music

Winner Name Clyde Weitkamp
Robesonia, Pennsylvania

Prize: FIRST PRIZE \$500 Gift Certificate to TCO Flyshop

Winner Name Glenn m Moriyama
Danville, California

Prize: GRAND PRIZE \$1000 Gift Certificate to TCO Flyshop

Winner Name Leo Storniolo
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This nice sized Tully Rainbow was landed on Memorial Day weekend close to the first deflector. Fell for a streamer and gave one heck of a fight!
-Tom



Kylie Wirebach—Schuylkill Acts & Impacts

Before anything, I really want to thank Trout Unlimited for sponsoring me for the incredible experience I had with Schuylkill Acts & Impacts. Without that generosity, I would have missed out on what has become a significant turning point in my life so far. Thank you so much!

I am Kylie, and I am a senior now at Conrad Weiser High School. Environmental science and biology are my favorite subjects; I am heavily involved in FFA, especially by participating in Career Development Events in the competition for Aquatic Resources. Besides this, I am a garden intern for the school's Ag. Department and am leader of the Aquatics Crew, in which we manage and care for aquarium tanks ranging from an axolotl habitat to a hydroponics setup. I wanted to participate in



the SAI program because I love to learn about and work with environmental resources, and that is what I want to do well after high school. I was so excited that I got the opportunity.

On October 21st, I attended the Tully Chapter meeting at Chef Allen's Restaurant and presented a slideshow about my time on the Schuylkill Acts & Impacts 2015 expedition. Everyone was so friendly, and I was glad to be able to share it with them; and I would love to share it again and again with anyone who wants to hear it.

Not only did we travel down the entire length of the Schuylkill River, but we also learned so much about the region. The program was a week long, from July 11th to July 18th, and each and every day was absolutely packed from dawn past dusk. One of the first places our team went was the Number 9 Coal Mine and Museum, and it was also unanimously among everyone's favorite places. We went hundreds of feet into the cold, dark mine with our tour guide, who taught us all about Pennsylvania's long history of coal mining and about the harsh conditions in the mines. Another of my personal favorite locations was the Valley Forge National Park, where we worked with the Crayfish Corps to collect invasive rusty crayfish from a creek. The water was nearly up to our hips, and freezing cold, and we had no waders, but it was so much fun.

The whole journey was beautiful, even when it poured down rain or was swelteringly hot. I had never kayaked before – I had never even *camped* before – but I loved it. I saw huge rhododendrons, sunbathing turtles, and even a visiting cormorant, all from my old orange kayak. (We all named our kayaks, too; I weirdly called mine Cilantro.) I did not miss my bed, and though we only showered three days of the eight, I was okay with getting muddy because I knew we had made a difference by doing so.



As funny as it sounds, I knew I loved the environment before that week, but I was afraid that I would not love to work in it. The Schuylkill Acts & Impacts expedition helped me realize that I do! I will never forget it, and I will always be grateful to everyone who helped to give me this piece of me.

-Kylie

Fly Specks- Slate Run Pilgrimage - by Rick Bell Dec 2002

We always enjoy reading Rick Bell's Fly Specks and given the wonderful colors of this time of year thought you might enjoy reading on one of his adventures where the camera replaced the rod!

December 2002

A few weeks ago on a beautiful November day, I finally decided to do something that had been on one of my "to do lists" for at least the last twenty years. My brother had long ago visited me in Central PA. The two of us ended up with fly rods in hand, on Slate Run a well-known tributary of Big Pine Creek. Henry, a highly skilled professional watercolor painter, asked me to go back to photograph the stream with autumn color and send him the results so he could paint from them. I know that in the interim I went back there on several more occasions, always with fly rod, but never during the Fall. One reason was that during those days and maybe still, the stream was closed to fishing after Labor Day and the four-hour trip didn't seem quite worth the effort only to get some photographs. Armed with a couple of cameras, and with a planned Thanksgiving visit to my brother's home in Central Indiana, a couple of weeks later, I finally made the trek. That section of the state had gotten most of the same good rains that poured down on Reading through the Fall, and was flowing at a higher rate than I had probably ever seen in forty years of summer visits. Over the past several years, the entire area has been plagued by even more severe drought than Reading. As always it was clear as gin, a major contributor to the general lack of fishing success in the decades of previous visits. The entire watershed consists of state game lands that haven't been logged probably since before the Second World War. The resulting undisturbed valley contributes almost no sand or silt to the stream and the small quantities that do enter are quickly moved down the high gradient. I have never seen a trace of cloudiness. As with much of the rest of the state, Fall color had been delayed for several weeks. In a typical year the northern tier would have put on its show and dropped most of the leaves by November. This was actually the situation I wanted to find. I was really hoping for a melancholy late Fall look with a few leaves remaining on the trees, and even a light rain to darken trunks and branches.

What I actually found that nicely overcast day was considerably more foliage than expected along with a good cover of colorful leaves on the ground. It was an exceptionally photogenic place that day. The look was more like what you might see on a calendar, not what I was looking for, exactly, but at least a little more subtle than a white New England church in

bright sunlight, framed by a stand of Sugar Maples. I remember finding people camped along the tiny floodplain in previous summers and was a little surprised after seeing a number of parked cars downstream, not to encounter campers, or any other people. The stream gets a lot more traffic from fishermen than in the sixties when I first discovered it. The cars must have belonged to hunters and hikers. Small game season was under way, I believe archery season was going on and we were near an access point for the popular Black Forest Trail. I happily ran a couple of rolls of film through my 35mm camera, never even taking out the heavy medium format camera I had also lugged down into the ravine that is the Slate Run Valley.

Because the stream has cut a deep V-shaped valley into the hard shale, it has only a few reasonable access points in its eight-mile length between the main paved road and a narrow dirt one through the mountain upstream. The rest of the stream is guarded by steep wooded slopes with at least a forty-five degree angle, and is essentially inaccessible unless you are willing to risk life, limb, and camera. We started from a pull-off downstream from the Manor Hole and walked up the main branch about a mile, wading back and forth across the stream seven or eight times to find easier walking on the narrow flood plain that alternated sides. Walking on the slippery rocky bed was not easy, even with studded wading shoes. I was trying to make it to a couple of deep pools with overhanging rocks. Much of the bottom is very hard bedrock shale, bordering on slate, which is where the name came from. In the seventies, I had walked far enough upstream, where not very many fishermen had ever been, to find some water that held huge trout. On that occasion I watched one brown trout over twenty inches attempting to find refuge under a suspended rock only to be chased out in the open by the two significantly bigger trout that were already taking advantage of the cover. I didn't get to that spot because I had no desire to run out of light for the trip back down the creek to the car. We had already encountered two spots that no one would want to have to negotiate in the dark.

We made it out before dark with four or five rolls of exposed film and, on my part at least, the nagging feeling that I need to get back there in the deep of winter with ice in the stream and snow on the ground. I also think I'd better get back in warm weather with a fly rod, maybe during the exceptional Isonychia hatch in June. I might even find the reading glasses I dropped somewhere in the valley, that is if the river otter we saw in the Manor Hole isn't wearing them.

Cub Scout fishing day at Hawk Mountain



TU National Convention

Dan Shaffer attended the TU National Convention in Scranton this past September. A couple of highlights were that the National Leadership Council is undertaking a new headwaters project initiative, which will key in on the benefits of headwaters for cold clean water. Joel Johnson, head of marketing for National, rolled out the new logo, website and marketing plan. Help with logo design and websites are available now from National. Interestingly the motto they came up with is: "We make fishing better" opens doors to all types of connotations. The next time you are asked what we do you can start off with "we make fishing better" and expand your conversation from there.

Dan also hooked up with folks from the Doc Fritchey Chapter who wants to partner with us in the Spring for a Disabled Veterans program. With the VA located in Lebanon and the Tully headwaters in Lebanon as well we should embrace our neighbor.

Finally, Dan also met up with a number of members from the Schuylkill County Chapter. Pier and Dan attended one of their meetings and they sent a number of members to our breakfast this month. We talked at length with them about what they are doing as well as us and how we can work together. We started doing this by helping with the Cub Scout fishing station on October 17th and 24th at Hawk Mountain Scout Camp.

Hydro-Project Proposal on the Tulpehocken – Dan Shafer

In case you missed the article on the Reading Eagle on October 16th, there is a proposal afoot to install hydroelectric power somewhere near the Stilling Basin on the Tully. This is a proposal to study the possibility. It is not a permit to build, but it is the first step in the process. If you care to read the proposal in full you can go to the FERC website and look up Docket #P-14683.

While we are not opposed to sustainable energy, there are significant questions surrounding the proposal. Our primary concerns have been and continue to be three fold in the lower Tully: water temperature, oxygen content, and water flows. We want to ensure that any study, proposal or construction, does not negatively impact the waters below the dam. We are on the cusp of putting substantial time and money into the lower Tully in order to enhance the fishery. We want to know that our efforts will not be negated by the construction of hydro-plant.

There is a comment period that closes on November 9, 2015 concerning the application for permit. The Chapter will file a comment prior to that date and we will post the comment on Facebook and the Tully website.

From the Editor –By Thomas Ham

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and a nice fall so far. The holidays are soon upon us, so too is the close of another year. 2015 saw some progress by our chapter and 2016 is sure to have even more. We hope to see more of our members at meetings and events, particularly the 40th anniversary banquet!

It's amazing to think of all the hard work that past TU members have put in to protect our local watersheds, and current members continue to do. As we move ahead into the future we need to work even harder. I've said it before and I'll say it again, it all begins with getting people interested in our natural world, people will fight for what they love. Sometimes the best way to get to it is to help someone become engaged with nature. The tug of a trout taking a carefully selected fly can be unbelievably therapeutic, as we learned from our 'Casting for Recovery,' and 'Project Healing Waters' presenters. It can also spark a lifetime of enjoyment and a desire to protect the waters we love to spend our time on.

So share your passion and join us to meet some great like-minded bug slingers!

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

-Tom



Tulpehocken Chapter - Trout Unlimited, Inc.

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



Photo ©Steve Fabian