



Tulpehocken Chapter  
Trout Unlimited, Inc.



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

Volume 23— Issue 1 Winter 2016

# TullyGram

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

*The Newsletter of the  
Tulpehocken Chapter  
of Trout Unlimited*

## Tully Talk by Mark Beard

Firstly, I cannot say enough that Dan Shaffer is a tough act to follow! We can't thank him enough for his efforts, as the incoming president of the Tulpehocken Chapter I have my work cut out for me in continuing that effort. We are entering the chapter's 41st year and as always there is no shortage of work to be done.

Under the tutelage of Dan the chapter has continued to enhance its role as a key player in all aspects of protecting and enhancing our local cold water resources. The chapter has engaged at the local and state levels to ensure the voices of both the environmentalist and the fishing community of Berks County and Pennsylvania are heard and accounted for.

Even more important to the future of our cold water resources and the sport of fishing, the chapter has continued to increase their efforts with local school age youth via the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. It is essential that we continue to inspire and educate our children about the necessity of cold clean water resources.

On a local level the Chapter's project list continues to grow, beginning with requests for stream improvements in the Nolde Forest and Bieber Creek in Oley. The chapter has also become involved as a consulting party on the removal of the Cacoosing / Paper Mill Dam and still pending formal approval from local government are additional dams on the Tulpehocken to be removed. With a recent \$2000 grant from TU National the chapter continues the planning for stone deflectors at the confluence of the Cacoosing and the Tulpehocken Creeks. Closer to home we have begun discussions with a Student Veterans group at Penn State Berks on increasing the utilization of the Tully House and potential support in the maintenance and care for the House. On an ongoing basis, the Unassessed Waters Project will continue to require our volunteer resources well into the future.

In closing, I recognize the path forward will be a challenge, much like I imagine Dan felt as he took over the reins two years ago. As a relatively new member to the Tulpehocken Chapter I have not yet been blessed with the wisdom and experience of the lifelong members of the TCTU. I can only hope over time I can earn their trust and respect as we push forward on growing the chapter and protecting and enhancing our cold water resources.

*-Mark*



## **TCTU Officers and Board**

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Mark Beard

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# Currents



2016

## ***Upcoming Events***

04/20/16 at 7:30am at Chef Alans-West Reading

**TROUT FISHING & WILDERNESS SURVIVAL– Rick Rhoads**

What happens if you become lost or get put into a survival situation? Only with what you have and a flyrod, could you survive? This could even be with your car into a remote destination.

05/06/2016 at 5:00pm at the Oley Fairgrounds

## **Tulpehocken Chapter 40th Anniverysary Banquet!!!**

05/14/16 at 8:30am at the Tully House

### **Beakfast on the Tully**

Join us for a great breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, muffins, juice, coffee and toast. Bring the family and friends! The Tully House provides the perfect venue for enjoying other like minded folks just a few feet from the river. Donation still \$6.00.

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>



## Hydro Power for Blue Marsh Dam?- Dan Shaffer

A number of months ago the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) informed the local community that an individual was interested in placing two hydraulic turbines in the sluiceway of Blue Marsh Dam. There have been two comment periods for the public either for or against the idea of harnessing the water flowing out of Blue Marsh Dam. The Tulpehocken Chapter as well as the many other local, state and federal environmental agencies sent in comments during the initial comment period this past fall. Berks County followed suit again this winter with a ten point commentary as to how important the Lower Tully has become to our community.

Although the County's comment did not state it was specifically against the proposal, significant number of points made by the county centered around the recreational and water quality issues regarding the Tully tail water. Of significant interest was cold water fishing issues. Below is an excerpt from the County's comment:

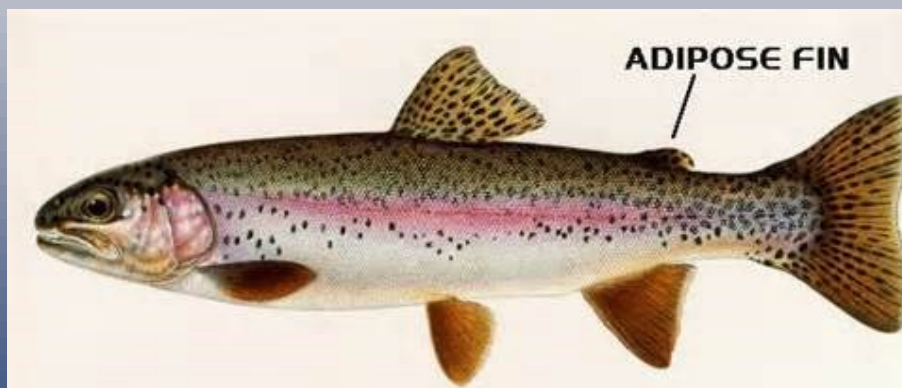
*"The downstream tail water of the Blue Marsh Dam are considered one of the best trout fisheries in southeastern PA, and are Approved Trout Waters by the PFBC. The section of the Tulpehocken Creek from the Blue Marsh Dam downstream to Broadcasting Road is managed as a Delayed Harvest Artificial Lure area by the PFBC, and is stocked with trout by the PFBC several times a year as several locations. The Water Quality Standard's Chapter 93 Designated Use for the Tulpehocken Creek, from the dam to T-921, is Cold Water Fisheries (CWF). In addition, the Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited has conducted numerous fishery habitat enhancement projects, along with streambank conservation and restoration projects in the section of the Tully. Therefore, the proposal should maintain a healthy and diverse aquatic community in the Tully, with no adverse environmental, recreational or economic impacts to the sport fishery. Appropriate stream-flow, water temperature and oxygen levels should be maintained or improved to protect the fishery resource. Improvement projects constructed by Trout Unlimited should not be adversely impacted."*

While sustainable energy should and is a resource we should use, we believe there is no economic advantage to using the Blue Marsh Dam for hydro-power and in fact the negative environmental effects of such would far out-weigh anything positive about the proposal. There are no guarantees in this world, but the community has spoken loud and clear that should this proposal get traction there will be very significant hurdles they will need to jump before they even think of breaking ground.

### 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: [dshaffer2200@hotmail.com](mailto:dshaffer2200@hotmail.com)**



# TIC at Wilson West Middle School-Tom Ham

Wilson West Middle School is offering two programs to help students appreciate our cold-water resources. By participating in our Trout in the Classroom program and starting a fly fishing club, "West" is providing avenues for young people to learn more about trout, their habits and their habitat.

Autistic Support Teacher Mr. Galan has led the charge, and has worked very hard with students involved. Having been introduced to the sport by a relative, and having many positive experiences on the streams and among other anglers he was eager to share his passion with others.

"Fly fishing is a hobby that I truly enjoy. There is nothing quite like it," says Mr. Galan recalling his principal's request for new club ideas, "I approached him about having a fly fishing club and he said yes right away, it was really that easy!"

As the year progressed some students opted to try other clubs, but the ones that stayed are really enjoying their time together. Galan is excited to for the future of the club as the interest grows and would like to continue partnering with outside organizations to share their knowledge with students during club days to enhance the student experience.

Having garnered support from TU and TCO the club seems to be headed in the right direction.

Mr. Galan and Principal Wetherhold had also approached TU for help in bringing the TIC program to West. Last summer they had acquired equipment and training to start the program this past fall. The tanks were thoughtfully positioned in a location where many students pass through and have enjoyed watching the development of the brook trout being raised from eggs.

"The entire school benefits from the TIC program, but roughly 25 students have special tasks to do, such as testing chemical levels, water changes, feeding, turning aquarium lights on and off, and planning the trout release to name a few. The program really helps the kids appreciate our water resources, and understand underwa-

ter ecosystems." says Galan.

This being the first TIC program at Wilson West, both students and faculty alike have been supportive, everyone is enjoying watching the young trout in every stage of their development.

The release is set for Saturday April 9th at Cacoosing Meadows from 10:00 am to noon. Aside from the actual fingerling release the family friendly agenda includes games, stream education, snacks, casting demonstrations and much more!

Congratulations to Wilson West Middle School on seeing the potential of fly fishing as a healthy activity for young people, and understanding the value of trout education as a critical part of conservation.

-Tom





# Women in Waders— Brenda Bittinger

I'd like to introduce myself: my name is Brenda, I'm 32, a woman, and I love to fish—and I have my boyfriend to thank for it. I found myself wondering 'Why does Ben go out into the wilderness, to stand either stream side or in the water for hours?' One day he asked me to go with him. I was a little intimidated at first, but less than an hour into it, I understood. My casting was *extremely beginner* at best and I hadn't caught a single fish, but I was out in nature, listening to the water, taking it all in. It was a type of meditation I had not known, like gardening, running, hiking or sitting on the porch with a cup of tea or coffee. I was hooked and I eventually caught my first fish!

That was a few years ago. Now I'm a member of the Tulpehocken Trout Unlimited chapter and find now, what I had found when I fished almost any stream, the lack of other women in waders. I'm constantly telling other women "Yeah! I fly fish...do you?" The answer is usually, "No, but I'd love to learn." Well to all those ladies out there, here's your chance!

The PA TU is now making a push to get more women involved in the cold water conservation efforts and fly fishing. Kandy Weader is spearheading the initiative to get women in waders in the state of Pennsylvania. She has planned several events in order to teach women to fly fish and to introduce other women who are like minded or interested in getting started. It's like book club but with a rod, reel and boots! And what gal doesn't like to add to her shoe collection?

So ladies, I encourage you to get out there! Contact your local Trout Unlimited Group, or any fly fishing group, I'm sure anyone there would love to help you get started...I'd surely like to see you out on the stream. Also, feel free to contact me if you'd like to know more about getting started, or men... if your wonder woman is interested in getting started, I'd love to introduce them to fly fishing and cold water conservation.

Brenda  
[b.bittinger@gmail.com](mailto:b.bittinger@gmail.com)

Find out more information here:  
<http://www.tu.org/connect/groups/pa-women-fishing>

Other places to find women fishing:  
<https://www.facebook.com/womensflyfishing/>



Brenda Bittinger, first trout, 2012. Berks county, Pennsylvania. I think we're both pretty excited!

If you're looking for other women anglers who are inspiring here are their links. Some of their instagram feeds have beautiful photos of them fishing.

April Vokey:  
<https://www.instagram.com/aprilvokey/>  
<http://www.aprilvokey.com/>

Rachel Finn:  
<https://www.instagram.com/RFINN/>

Kate Taylor:  
<https://www.instagram.com/kalamityk8/>

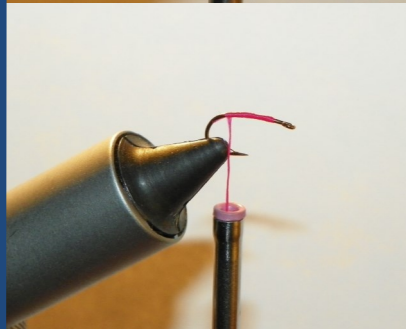
Millie Paini:  
<https://www.instagram.com/milliepaini/>

A great story about how one woman got started:  
<https://vimeo.com/66124898>

# At the Vise -Tom Ham



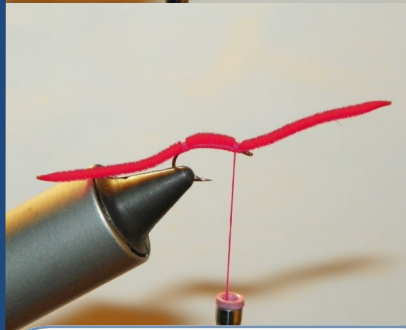
Step 1: Tie a thread base leaving a gap behind the hook eye.



Step 2: Make rearward wraps to the bend of the hook. How far you go is up to you, going further down the bend may give the worm a more dynamic shape.



Step 3: Tie in the chenille where you completed your thread base.



Step 4: Lift the chenille out of the way and make thread wraps back towards the eye of the hook.

Step 5: Lay the chenille over the hook and tie in with several wraps where you began your initial thread base, then lift chenille and complete your tying wraps, utilizing half hitch or whip finishes at the end.

## Featured Fly - "San Juan Worm"

I wanted to offer a simple yet effective pattern in this issue. Tying your own flies is a great way to enhance your enjoyment of the sport, but it can also be intimidating. Hopefully this pattern helps anglers learn a few fundamentals that can be built upon, and to realize it really isn't that hard!

### Materials:

*Hook:* Any will do, I actually prefer a nymph hook due to the bend. Sizes 14, 16, or 18

*Thread:* UNI Thread 6/0 or 8/0 usually in pink, red, brown or tan.

*Body:* Ultra chenille, usually in red, pink, brown or tan.

After cutting the chenille to the length you desire you can place the ends close to an open flame to create the "pointed tips" characteristic of most worms.

...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

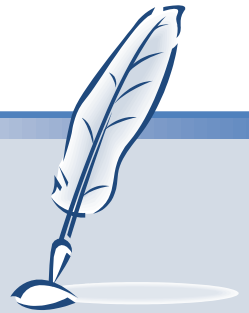
on the receipts. Proceeds from these funds will be used to help protect our streams, education and other conservation projects.

### 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 by 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 610 655-4911; then ask for unit 875. Enter this number into your cell phone so you have it when you need it.

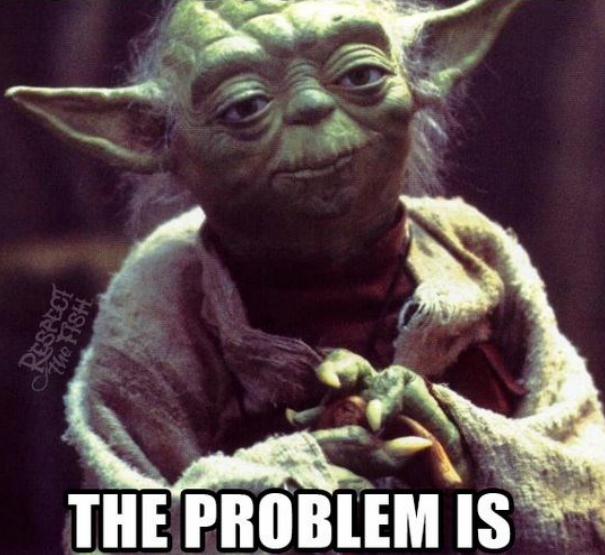


## LIKE FISHING & WRITING?

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 Fishing Reflections

**NOT ENOUGH FISHING**



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!**

Coming soon to a stream near you!



# Stream Project Updates –Notes from Dan Shaffer

The Deflector Project for the Tully (below the confluence of Cacoosing Creek) is getting closer to becoming a reality. We have cleared the endangered species hurdle and we have submitted the deflector project application to the Pa Fish and Boat Commission for design approval. Once approved it's onto the Berks County Conservation District for our permit. After we are "legal" and we have the go ahead from the County, we will start staging material near the project. We are looking toward late August to early September to do the real work and complete the project. We will need volunteers for raking and seeding and putting down matting, etc. As you may have heard, we were awarded an Embrace-a-Stream grant from Trout Unlimited National for \$2,000 and another \$1,000 for a stream improvement project from a donor at the Berks County Community Foundation. We need to raise a minimum of \$7,000 at the Banquet for the project to come to fruition.

Punches Run in Nolde Forest needs a bit of help. There is some stream bank erosion and some drainage problems at the crossroads to a couple major tails. They have submitted a request to check for endangered species (PNDI). We will reconvene with the folks from Berks County Conservation District once we know about endangered species. This is a "shovel ready" project that will need a handful of volunteers with rakes and shovels.

I am writing this before the March 21st meeting regarding the Paper Mill Dam. This past fall Tony from TCO, along with some Wilson students electro-fished the section below the dam and got 15 native brown fingerlings and a few adults over 16". This stretch is about 400 feet long, imagine what kind of fishery we could develop if the dam was out and we had a proper riparian buffer in place with riffles and pools.....oh my! The meeting is about the historic values of the dam, which is not historic, but is next to the Paper Mill, which is historic. We are hopeful this is not a deal buster and we can work around the problem. The Texas Eastern pipeline is still an obstacle, but I am told there has been some progress there.

Western Berks Water Authority (WBWA) continues to work on access to water at Blue Marsh Dam via a new pipeline. There might be some money available from both the project as well as the Army Corps of Engineers to repair the deflectors across from the WBWA as well as the deflectors from the Stilling basin down stream to the WBWA. Large water releases have damaged the deflectors across from the WBWA and need to be re-established. The deflectors up stream have created eddies behind the deflectors. These eddies have started to erode the stream banks and created silt deposits behind the deflectors. Repairing the stream bank and getting the water behind the deflector moving downstream will enhance fishing and stop the erosion.

The Bushong Dam is the first dam on the Tully just up-stream from the confluence with the Schuylkill River. The dam is about 135 feet wide with an old raceway, which is an attractive nuisance. The dam is owned by the City of Reading and some strides have been made toward the removal of the dam. With the new administration coming to power this past January, the project has shown no movement toward awarding the design. We are hopeful the new Administration sees the dam site as the attractive nuisance it is and moves forward to remove it. Larry Lloyd from Berks Nature has been spearheading this project.

Finally, once the Bushong Dam is out, there might be a possibility of taking out the Grings Mill Dam. This would then give the Tully a clear run to the Schuylkill River.....Shad?

This is what we have been talking about with some regularity, but there are some other streams that could use some help as well. We have a great resource with the Manatawny and there should be an opportunity to help create some better habitats there. Hay Creek also offers some opportunities for some stream work as well.

Stay tuned to the website and Newsletter for updates. Better yet, come to a membership meeting and get your updates first hand. We meet the third Wednesday of the month during the winter at Chef Alan's in West Reading and at the Tully house during the summer months.





# Embrace-A-Stream Grant!



## **Tulpehocken Chapter**

### **Rock Deflectors project gets \$2,000 Embrace-A-Stream grant**

**Reading, PA – March 1, 2016** – The Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited has received a \$2,000 grant through the Trout Unlimited national Embrace-A-Stream grant program to help pay for Rock Deflectors on the Tully. The chapter will use the funds to build three large 30/60/90 stone deflectors in the Tulpehocken Creek in Leesport, PA. This project will enhance trout habitat through more efficient and effective use of cold water flowing from Cacoosing Creek.

“We are thrilled to receive this Embrace-A-Stream grant from TU national to help conserve, protect and restore the Tully River,” said Mark Beard, Tulpehocken chapter president. “This grant will help our chapter and our project partners improve this important local fishery.”

The Embrace-A-Stream grant program is administered by Trout Unlimited nationally and awards funds to local chapters for coldwater fisheries conservation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, the grant program has funded more than 1,000 individual projects for a total of \$4.4 million in direct cash grants. Local chapters and councils contributed an additional \$13 million in cash and in-kind services to EAS funded projects, for a total investment of more than \$17 million from coast to coast.

The grant program is funded almost entirely by individual donations from Trout Unlimited members and conservation-minded individuals who know that local restoration projects, led by local volunteers, can make a big difference in improving the health and habitat in our nation’s rivers and streams.

“The committee agreed that Tulpehocken Chapter’s application was worthy of EAS funding in this extremely competitive year,” said Russ Meyer, chair of the Embrace-A-Stream grants committee, a group of Trout Unlimited volunteer leaders from across the country. “We are committed to helping our local chapters in their efforts to conserve, protect and restore their local trout streams.”

Trout Unlimited is the nation’s largest coldwater conservation organization, with more than 150,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America’s trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. The Tulpehocken Chapter serves over 400 members in the Berks County area. Visit us at [www.tullytu.org](http://www.tullytu.org).



## Lebanon Valley Sportsmen Association— Fly Fishing Youth Program

The LVSA of Wernersville offers ongoing youth programs in the areas of Archery, Rifle, Trap shooting and Hunter Education courses. Their dedication to youth involvement is remarkable and mirrors TCTU's own efforts to engage young people. That being said the LVSA would like to build fly fishing into their program and have asked for TU's support! We are happy to oblige and hope we can count on our members to lend a hand.

We are looking for volunteers to help teach children (ages 6 to 15) some basics of fly fishing such as fly types, fly selection, and casting. We also would ask for volunteers to lend or bring 4 or 5wt rods to use in the workshop. Tied flies would also be a help- small streamers, terrestrials, or any July hatch pattern.

The program will be in two parts. The first being July 8th from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at LVSA club grounds, where the basics will be covered. Then again the following morning July 9th from 8:30AM-10:30AM at Pheasant Valley Farms in Robesonia where the kids will have a chance to fly fish a stocked pond with the mentors. There will also be a demonstration of canine water retrieval and pheasant hunting at 10:30AM, for all those interested it is quite a show!

TCTU is confident we have some members willing to help teach the next generation of PA anglers! If you're interested in helping you can contact the following people;

Tom Ham- troutbuster8380@yahoo.com / 404-290-7966

Kim Yoh- youthprogram@lebanonvalleysportsmen.com / 610-914-8961

For more information you can visit the following website:

<http://www.lebanonvalleysportsmen.com/youth/main.html>



# 2016 Banquet!

Tully Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## WANTED

A Posse for

## BOOTS & BBQ 40th Anniversary BANQUET

**May 6th**

5:30pm til 9:30pm

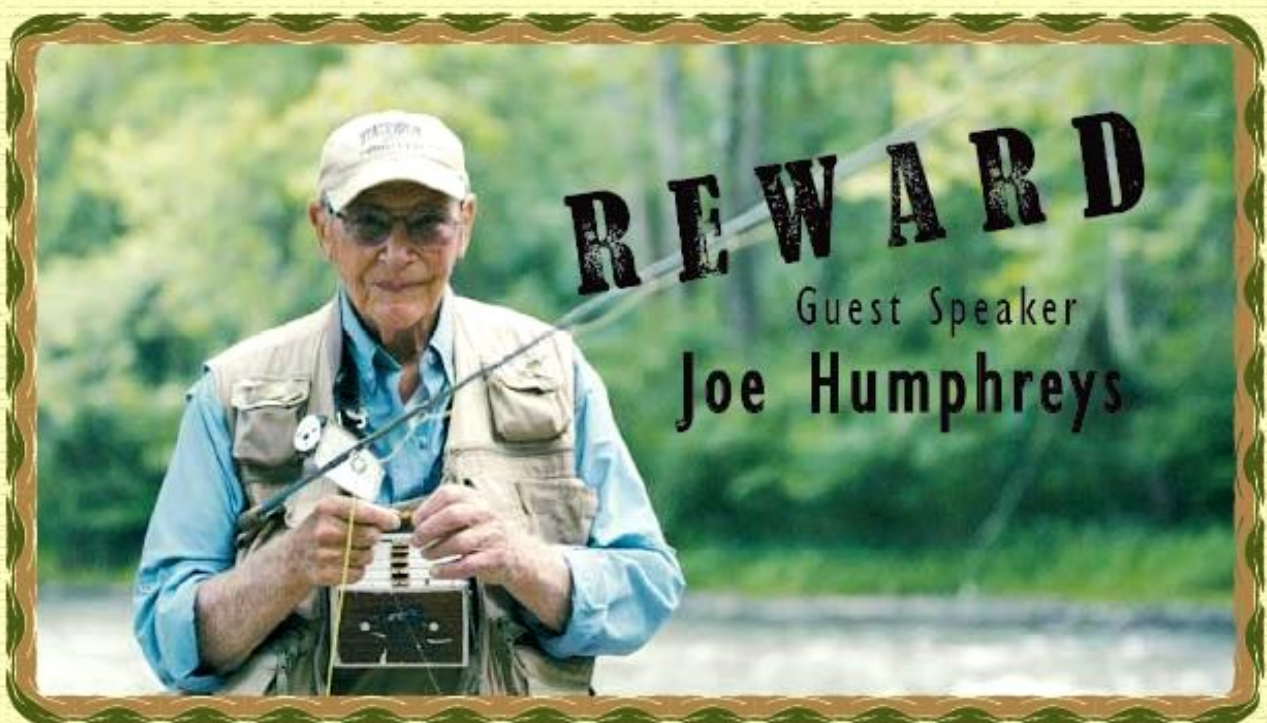
Oley Fairgrounds

26 Jefferson Street, Oley, PA

Tickets available at [www.TullyTU.org](http://www.TullyTU.org)



Sponsors:  
Snitz Creek Brewery  
LONG TROUT WINERY  
TCO Fly Shop



## REWARD

Guest Speaker

**Joe Humphreys**



# From the Editor

-By Thomas Ham

Hello TU community!

What opportunities we have before us! The deflector projects, dam removal proposals, continuing our efforts to involve and educate young people, the list goes on. As always the reality of accomplishing our goals is largely predicated on the involvement of TU members, so I continue to encourage membership involvement in any way, shape or form. Together we can accomplish so much!

Our Chapter turns 40 this year! The board is very excited for our fundraising banquet in May. I can't think of a better way to spend a Friday night than eating some good BBQ with like minded folks and fellow tellers of fish tales! And of course hearing a presentation by key note speaker Joe Humphreys. Please come and enjoy yourself!

Back in the fall some of you attended our membership meeting discussing the PA Unassessed Waters Initiative, in which TU has been working in conjunction with the PFBC since 2011. The goal of the project is to document salmonid species in locations where their presence was previously unknown. Finding naturally reproducing trout species in various streams will allow the DEP to properly classify and protect the watersheds. The program has been a success in Pennsylvania thanks to support from the PFBC, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the William Penn Foundation. Our chapter was tapped to help the Reading Area Water Authority to conduct studies in the Ontelaunee Watershed. TU members along with RAWA staff worked hard to determine what, if any, salmonid species resided in various headwaters of the watershed. As a result of the 30 assessments completed six miles of the Maiden Creek Watershed are now being considered for reclassification and special protection. The findings concluded the existence of wild brook trout and brown trout in the area surveyed.

As many of us know trout species depend on cooler water temperatures and higher oxygen levels. With proper classification of the waterways we can ensure the health of the environment stays intact when considering or allowing permits for development projects in the area.

Recently I read an article about our friends at the Valley Forge chapter of TU duking it out with the Turnpike Commission. They're attempting to check a lane expansion project and make sure that everything is done to ensure runoff from the construction does not adversely affect Valley Creek, which is already happening as it is. The turnpike being an absolute juggernaut our VFTU brethren have their work cut out for them.

Our voice in such things is critical to the health of our fisheries, making prioritizing things like the Unassessed Waters Initiative critical. Since its inception TU has strived to back their policy suggestions with scientific data, the process of surveying unclassified waters does just that, and numbers don't lie. TU, both locally and nationally, will continue to work hard with other agencies to enhance and protect our fisheries.

We thank Jesse Goldberg of Miller Environmental for involving TCTU in the Unassessed Waters Initiative and giving us the opportunity to be directly involved in the protection of our local streams.

Hopefully everyone is enjoying some stream time right about now, please share your 'Release Pics' with us!

*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