



*Founded 1983, we are an award-winning chapter of Trout Unlimited:
1989 Gold Trout Award, Best TU Chapter in the World;
1990 Silver Trout Award, Best TU Chapter in the Northeast U.S.,
Best Chapter in Pennsylvania and Best National Membership Increase;
1992 and 2005 Sam Slaymaker Award, .The Gusher. newsletter
recognized as the Best Chapter Newsletter in Pennsylvania*

THE OIL CREEK GUSHER

The newsletter of the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited #424 www.oilcreektu.org Fall 2011



IN MEMORY OF WAYNE WILSON AND PETE STRAUB

In the past 9 months OCTU has lost 2 of its faithful members/ Board Members, both unexpectedly. Last December Wayne died while cleaning his vehicle of snow on a Sunday morning. Although Wayne had been a member only a few years, he was an asset to the organization, and always had a smile on his face.

In April of this year we lost Pete. Pete was a Charter Member of the Chapter and was always there to help when he was available. He was a strong advocate for coldwater resources. Pete made many donations to and for the Chapter during his tenure. Upon his passing, the chapter received numerous monetary donations in his memory.

Both Wayne and Pete will be sorely missed by all of us.



Presidents Letter:
Gary Ross

Fall of 2011

This years stream fishing with the high water and followed by along dry warm spell made for an interesting year to say the least. However in any case a bad day on the stream is better than a good day at work. It's always great to enjoy the out of doors and spend your day along a quiet stream.

We had some new TU volunteers get involved this year and a big thanks to all that helped the organization this year.

The NWPATU Regional meeting was held at Oil Creek Petroleum Center this past May and five OCTU members attended. We all agreed it was very informational, as well as getting to meet some old and new faces.

This year all chapters need to update its Chapter Bylaws to comply with PA Council and TU National Bylaws by the end of this year.

PATU Council shared a PATU Chapter Effectiveness Criteria which has been around since 2005. I thought I would share this with you so you would have an idea what is expected of a TU chapter.

PATU CHAPTER EFFECTIVENESS CRITERIA

In 2005 National TIJ representatives met with PA Council (PATU) officers and introduced a plan to assess if chapters in the council were active and functioning to carry out the TU mission and goals. The plan, the Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI), tasked PATU with developing a set of minimum criteria by which chapter effectiveness would be evaluated by PATU.

Even though the PATU minimum criteria are filed with National, National plays no role in evaluating PATU chapter effectiveness. PATU chapter effectiveness evaluation is the sole responsibility of PATU and is initiated in each Region by the Regional Vice President.



How are the minimum criteria as indicators of chapter effectiveness used? The primary use of the criteria is to determine if a chapter is indeed active and functioning. Failure of a chapter to reasonably comply with one or more of these criteria will be used to indicate the chapter needs assistance to better address its area(s) of weakness. The only criterion for which there is an absolute mandatory compliance is: File Yearly financial reports with National TU within the required time frame. For all other criteria some discretion can be applied during assessment of a chapter's effectiveness.

However, chronic failure to reasonably comply with one or more of these criteria will lead to a chapter being placed on probation. If during the probationary period the chapter makes no attempt to seek assistance or address its failure the chapter will likely be recommended to National for de-charter.

Minimum Criteria

1. Participate regularly in restoration/enhancement/conservation activities that focus on coldwater fisheries conservation. Specifically: a) Chapter projects and b) Cooperative ventures with other conservation groups and/ or TU chapters.
 2. Advocate for coldwater conservation.
 3. Have a system (newsletter/website/telephone or email network, etc.) for communicating with members on a regular basis.
 4. Conduct at least four (4) meetings each year and an annual meeting with elections.
 5. Hold a yearly fundraising event.
 6. Actively solicit new memberships.
 7. File yearly financial reports with National TU within the required time frame.
 - a) A chapter shall be on probation the first it fails to file a financial report.
 - b) A chapter shall be de-chartered after a second consecutive failure to file.
 8. File quarterly progress reports for publication in PA Trout (Pa Council Newsletter).
 9. Have a slate of officers consisting of at least a president, secretary and treasurer.
 10. Have representation at PA Council's annual meeting and at regional meetings.
- Each of the six PATU regions will have at least two chapters evaluated each year.

Please come and join us at our next Board of Directors meeting (open to all TU members and the public) held on Sept. 21 2011 at Kings Family Restaurant located north of Franklin, Pa Route 8&62 at 6:30 pm, or you can come early and have dinner prior to the meeting. You can also visit our web site at www.oilcreektu.org. We are trying to set a goal of having a program after each meeting.



CHAPTER MINUTES E-MAIL LIST

I would like to update the list to E-mail Chapter meeting minutes to chapter members. However, I've found that a quite a few members' E-mail addresses are no longer valid as listed on the Trout Unlimited National website. If you would like to receive the Chapter minutes and bulletins/news items by E-mail, please update your personal information on the National TU website. Chapter meeting minutes can also be read on Oil Creek Chapter's website at www.oilcreektu.org.

Vaughn MacGregor
OCTU Secretary

CHAPTER STORAGE BUILDING

The long awaited storage building that the Chapter had approved for purchase should have been delivered to the Young property by the time you read this article. This will save us the monthly cost at a rental site. A BIG thank you goes out to Life Member and strong supporter John Terejeko who donated money for the ENTIRE cost of this 10' X 14' unit.

Thanks again John.

2011 BANQUET SUMMARY

OCTU's, 28th annual banquet was attended by 126 people. It was held on April 9, 2011 at the Quality Inn in Franklin, PA. The entire event went very well. From set up in the morning till the final drawing that evening. The committee is wonderful and they are the reason why the banquet goes so smoothly every year. The food and staff at the Inn are excellent and accommodating. The banquet generated a profit of \$5400.

Next year, the banquet will be held on March 31, 2012. The first weekend in April is Easter and the second weekend is the opening day of trout season.

There may be something special put together for a drawing at this event. More about that later! Be sure to check the website.



DIRT & GRAVEL ROADS

On July 14, 2011, the committee met to discuss plans and approve projects for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The committee is comprised of Mark Richard from the Venango County Conservation District, Mark Kerr, WCO for Venango County, and Tom Young from OCTU. This year we had \$44,355 to work with and projects to review. After deliberation the following plan was approved:

AMOUNT	PROJECTS
\$12,000	Allegheny Township
\$ 4,798	Cornplanter Township
\$13,000	Clinton Township
\$ 9,688	Mineral Township (1)
\$ 4,169	Mineral Township (2)

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Meadville Area Middle School and Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited partnered to support (TIC) Trout In The Classroom to the eight grade science class. The program exists state wide due to a partnership between the Pa Council of Trout Unlimited, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Trout In The Classroom is an interdisciplinary program that introduces cold water education in Pennsylvania schools by raising brook trout, a native cold water species, from eggs to fingerlings. Throughout the year students monitor and record aquarium water quality as well as trout behavior. Students will care for the trout on a daily basis, while, their teacher incorporates Coldwater Conservation into their existing curriculum. The program culminates by releasing the trout into an approved stream. On Friday May 6, 2011 the students released 131 fingerling trout at Woodcock Creek.





VENANGO COUNTY YOUTH FIELD DAY

OCTU volunteers Ed Atts, Walt Zinno, Vaughn MacGregor, Frank Emanuel, Justin Hutzell, Regis Senko and Gary Ross set up and manned a fly tying station.

The goal was to teach each child on basic fly tying and different types of fly's. We had approximately 130 children tie a wooly worm which they took with them.

OCTU donates each year to this event and this year we donated \$300.00 plus we supply fly tying tool kits and material. This year the event went very well with the extra volunteers. And the kids were enthused and seemed to have a great experience.



SENIOR PROJECT – NEW TROUT STOCKING TRANSPORT BOXES

Through the craftsmanship and hard Work of local high school student Matthew Hite, the county has acquired two (2) new trout stocking transport boxes which will replace the current pair that have been in use for well over a decade. These transport boxes will be utilized to deliver trout to waters in those areas inaccessible by traditional stocking methods.

Additionally, the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited provided monetary reimbursement for materials used in the construction of this project. Thanks and accolades for a job well done go to Matthew. Through his hard work and ingenuity anglers will continue to have recreational opportunities on those more remote sections of the county's Approved Trout Waters.



On April 19 2011 OCTU stocked trophy trout at both Oil Creek and Little Sandy project areas.





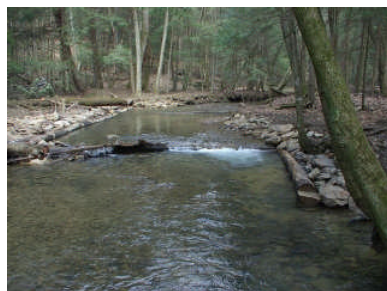
2011 FLY TYING CLASS

Meadville Area Middle School asked OCTU to instruct fly tying classes at the school for the 8th grade science class. Vaughn MacGregor, Walt Zinno and Gary Ross taught two separate groups over a three week period. The students did a great job and I was told by the teacher Mr. Chris Oblich that some of the students brought him some of the fly's they tied at home.

Mr. Oblich is pictured center of the back row of this picture he also is the Trout in The Class Room coordinator.

UPDATE ON ROSS RUN PROJECT

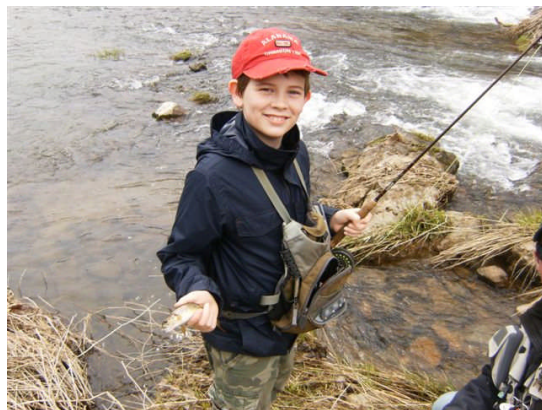
Several years ago the Chapter was approached by Forest County WCO, Eric Shellgren asking if we would offer any support to the local sportsmen's clubs in their work on Ross Run. Ross Run is a small trout stream in Forest County. We agreed to provide some financial help since Forest County is part of our coverage area. A section of the stream has been designated as a Children's Only Area for the first sixty days of each trout season. The sportsmen's clubs have constructed a number of stream/habitat improvement devices in this section. The pictures below were submitted by WCO Shellgren to show what the funding has been used for to accomplish this project.





WAYNES COLD WATER KIDS

On Sunday, April 3rd five OCTU members left in the early morning for Spruce Creek. In each of the last several years, Wayne Harpster, along with Penn State University, has a day for 40 young people. They experience a day of instruction from Joe Humphrey and fishing a beautiful waterway. Chase DeWoody and Zach Lyons both applied and were accepted into the program. They were sponsored by the Chapter. At the end of the day both boys landed and released wild brown trout. It was a great experience for all who attended. Chase and Zach provided a program for our April meeting about their experience.





LITTLE SANDY CREEK STREAM SURVEY

OCTU would like to thank all those who participated in our Stream Survey. Participation was down this year. We urge you to fill a survey when you fish even though you have filled out one the previous year. We learn a lot from these surveys. We learn how you feel about your experience and about the diversity of insect life on the stream. Our biggest complaint is the stream needs more devices and law enforcement. On law enforcement, our WCO Kerr does patrol the project. He cannot be there all the time. Many people carry cell phones and if you witness a violation (ATV's or bait fisherman) you may contact WCO Kerr at 814-572-0042. Be sure to give time, date, a description and license number (if possible) and a call back number. The Chapter will be working on some projects for next year, but we need more member involvement. Currently, we have about 12 to 15 members who are active. Please come to our meeting and see what the Chapter is all about. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, September thru April, at King's restaurant Banquet Room at 6:30 p.m. You may come at 5:30 p.m., before the meeting, as several members have dinner before the meeting. Hope to see you on the stream or at a Chapter meeting.

ANGLER STREAM SURVEY

1. How often do you fish Little Sandy per year?
(A) 0-5= 10 (B) 6-10=5 (C) 11-15=2 (D) More than 15=7
2. How far do you travel to get to Little Sandy?
(A) Less than 10 miles=3 (B) 10-30 miles=7 (C) 30 to 75 miles=11 (D) more than 75=3
3. What is your age?
(A) Under 20=0 (B) 20-40=12 (C) 40-60=11 (D) Over 60=1
4. How would you rate your fishing experience on Little Sandy?
(A) Excellent=5 (B) Very Good=7 (C) Good=9 (D) Poor=3
5. How many fish did you catch and what kind?
(A) 78 Rainbow (B) 43 Brown (C) 16 Brookie (D) ___ Other

(continued on next page)



ANGLER STREAM SURVEY (continued)

6. What was the size of the fish?
(A) Under 6"=3 (B) 6"-10"=19 (C) 11"-15"=105 (D) 16" and over=6
7. What did you catch your fish on?
(A) Dry Flies=5 (B) Wet flies=2 (C) Nymphs=13 (D) Streamers=7
8. What were the stream conditions?
(A) 1 High and Colored (B) 9 High and Clear (C) 13 Low and Clear
9. What kind of insects did you observe?
Mayflies, Tan Caddis, BWO Grannoms, Green Drailes, Black Stonefly, March Browns
10. Any suggestions for OCTU on how to improve Little Sandy?
Nice Job, More Stream Improvement, WCO patrol more, Bait and ATV's, More Log Deflectors.
11. Would you be interested in helping OCTU work sessions?
Yes 7 No 10
12. If yes, how can we contact you? Phone _____ Email _____



Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited #424

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