

Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited  
Chapter #670  
P.O. Box 483  
Uniontown, PA 15401



Glade Run brook trout

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Trout Unlimited's Chestnut Ridge Chapter has been a leader in coldwater conservation in southwestern Pennsylvania since 1995. With its efforts focused on the watershed of the Youghiogheny River, Chestnut Ridge TU works for cleaner streams, public awareness of water quality issues, and high quality trout fishing for the region's residents and visitors.



Tale of the Pool  
Official Newsletter of CRTU

## INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO WASHINGTON

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce will again host the International Fly Fishing Film Festival, Friday, March 8 at the Elks Lodge, 138 East Maiden St., Washington, PA. Film-makers and fly-fishers traveled the globe to assemble this collection of films that will make you want to string up the fly rod and hit the road with anticipation. The Washington showing is the only one in western Pennsylvania.

The event benefits the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Pennsylvania Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show starts at 6:00. Food and beverages are available for sale, and CRTU has assembled a tantalizing selection of fishing-themed prizes and auction items.

Get tickets at [www.washcofilmfest.com](http://www.washcofilmfest.com) and designate your purchase to Trout Unlimited. Our local Chestnut Ridge Chapter will receive that revenue.

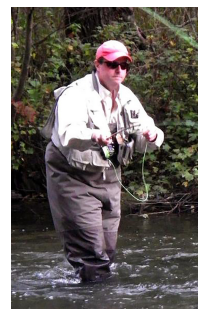
"We were thrilled to partner with Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited to host the first-ever screening of the International Fly Fishing Film Festival in Washington County," Chase McClain, Sport and Recreation Marketing Director for Washington County said after last year's festival debut. "The overwhelming response from residents and visitors alike demonstrated our community's rich outdoor heritage and commitment to conservation."



150 eager anglers attended last year's debut of the International Fly Fishing Film Festival in Washington, PA. This year's showing is Friday, March 8.

Photo by Ben Moyer

## PATU PRESIDENT TO VISIT CHESTNUT RIDGE



Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited president, Greg Malaska, has announced plans to visit and meet with CRTU on Thursday, April 4. A committee of CRTU officers and volunteers is planning a tour of our stream restoration projects, and hopefully some fishing if President Malaska's schedule permits.

"Dunbar Creek has piqued my interest," Malaska wrote in an email.

Malaska is a member of the Brodhead TU Chapter. After the long trip from his home in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County, he'll arrive early on April 4 after meeting with Penns Woods West Chapter in Pittsburgh on April 3.

"I've always said that our chapters are the lifeblood of Trout Unlimited and I've focused on finding ways to assist them," Malaska said. "I'm most interested in what CRTU hopes to do moving forward and, more importantly, how PATU can help you get there."

Official Newsletter of the Chestnut Ridge  
Chapter #670 of Trout Unlimited

# TALE OF THE POOL



## SPRING 2019



### OFFICERS:

President: Ben Moyer

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Dave Welling

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 8; International Fly Fishing Film Festival, Elks Lodge, 138 E. Maiden St., Washington, PA. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Tickets at [www.washcofilmfest.com](http://www.washcofilmfest.com)
- March 13; Monthly meeting, Knights of Columbus, Gallatin Avenue, Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- March 23; 24th Annual CRTU Banquet, Ramada Inn (Formerly Park Inn), Rte. 40 W. Uniontown. Dinner begins 7:00 p.m.
- Dunbar Creek Litter Cleanup; April 6, Game Commission Building, Dunbar. 8:00 a.m.
- June 7; CRTU Beaver Creek Fishing Outing, Beaver Creek Anglers

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lou Giovannelli  
1936-2018

Scott Hoffman  
1959-2018

Within the span of one week in late September 2018, CRTU lost two faithful and committed members. Lou Giovannelli died on Sept. 19, and Scott Hoffman passed on Sept. 25., leaving our chapter saddened and stunned. These men were close friends as well as colleagues in coldwater conservation. We will miss them every time we fish one of the streams they loved, or pitch in to carry on the chapter work to which they devoted selfless effort

and so much of their dwindling time. Our sincere sympathies go with the families of Lou and Scott. We know how each loved them, and that our chapter, though grieving, cannot really know these loved ones' depth of loss.

Lou's and Scott's contributions to CRTU are diverse and ongoing.

When you fish the Youghiogheny River, downstream from Ohio, think of Lou. His carpentry skills and his

gregarious knack for gathering gangs of pro carpenters when we needed them made those staircases that carry anglers from the Great Allegheny Passage down steep, rocky slopes to the river possible. Many trout anglers who enjoy the Yough today would never have accessed its banks without that series of stairs that Lou and his crews built. You can remember Lou, too, when you catch a Youghiogheny trout. His enthusiasm for the CRTU nursery, his mechanical skills and his countless hours of maintenance and repairs helped make what seemed like an unlikely nursery concept into a success. Lou loved to see those trout

released in the river, or anywhere an unknown angler—especially a kid—might feel the thrill of catching one.

No organization accomplishes all that CRTU has without endless and thankless administrative paperwork to keep things going—the stuff that nobody else likes to do. Scott Hoffman did all that, quietly and effectively. He administered grants, wrote reports, managed our treasury, edited this newsletter, kept up the website, and a lot of other untold tasks that we'll never be able to acknowledge, but which made possible so much we've achieved.

Scott was there, too, for the "on-the-water" grunt work. Many of us are still amazed at how Scott hiked, often alone, those steep rugged miles through the Glade Run watershed—in all kinds of weather—to gather the water samples that document our chapter's progress toward a once-degraded mountain stream that could, once again, support reproducing wild trout. Of course, it was on those solo sampling hikes that Scott acquired his stories of now-familiar rattlesnake and bear encounters. We chided him when he regaled gatherings like the Youghiogheny River Symposium with those tales, but how wonderful it would be to hear him relate them again.

Sadly, these members are gone from us, but we are better for their memories. Let's resolve to be inspired by their dedication, to continue together the work for which they strived.



Scott Hoffman, right, explains CRTU's Morgan Run acid mine drainage remediation project to State Senator, and then Senate Game and Fisheries Committee Chairman, Pat Stefano on a 2017 tour of chapter coldwater conservation work in the Youghiogheny River watershed.

Photo by Ben Moyer



## COOPERATIVE EFFORT CROSSVANE



Newly constructed crossvane on Dunbar Creek

Photo by Ben Moyer

One of Dunbar Creek's most frequently fished sections now has better habitat and open passage for trout. Last September, CRTU, California University of Pennsylvania, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission and Dominion Energy cooperated to install a crossvane habitat structure in Dunbar Creek near the upstream end of Betty Knox Road.

Crossvanes are "V" shaped structures with the tapering end upstream. Older habitat-improvement designs taper downstream, including the former jack-dam that impounded the flow near the new structure's location before a flood washed it out in 2014. Since that event, CRTU has sought a way to restore the pool habitat without blocking trout movement upstream.

Jose Taracido, director of California University's Partners for Fish and Wildlife offered CRTU the program's help in designing and installing the crossvane.

"A cross-vane forms an upstream pool but directs the outflowing water to the center of the streambed, digging another pool downstream" Taracido said. "In the past, designs would shoot the water off to the side and sooner or later would erode the banks and the structure would fail."

A unique feature of cross-vanes is

they are passable by fish in either direction. "Water from the upstream pool discharges in a chute instead of a vertical fall," Taracido explained. "All our projects must enhance connectivity within streams."

Understanding of the importance of "connectivity" has advanced in recent years. Researchers at Penn State studied wild brook trout in tributaries of Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming County. They captured trout, implanted radio-transmitters, then released the fish and tracked their movements. The team presented their findings at a Wild Trout Summit held at State College in August 2017.

"One of the things we learned is that some brook trout are 'movers' and some are 'stayers,'" said Tyler Wagner, assistant leader of Penn State's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. "Having both traits in populations favors the resilience of brook trout as a species, but they need to be able to move throughout the system."

Wagner explained that "stayer" trout maintain the species in established habitats. But "movers" are equally important because these fish find new locations that offer a refuge if some force, like a flood or sudden pollution event, causes negative change in the original habitat. CRTU won a \$3,000 grant from the Dominion Energy Watershed Mini Grants Program to fund the work.

Taracido's crew hauled in heavy equipment owned by Habitat Forever, part of the Fish and Wildlife partnership, and after two long days of work in rainy September weather, finished the job.

"We appreciate Dominion Energy's interest in and commitment to resource conservation in this region. We could not have attempted this improvement without their support, and we believe we put it to good use," said Dale Kotowski, then CRTU president.

The Dunbar Creek crossvane was the second major achievement in stream connectivity in which CRTU played a part last summer. In August, Wharton Township installed an innovative fish-passable culvert over Big Sandy Creek where a perched culvert had formerly blocked trout movement and caused local flooding. CRTU acknowledges member J.D. Ruby's consistent nurturing of that concept toward completion. The Fayette County Conservation District reimbursed Wharton Township for most of the culvert's cost through the Low-volume Road Program. Wharton has begun construction of two similar fish-passable culverts on Big Sandy tributaries in the Quebec Run basin.

## 24TH ANNUAL BANQUET

Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited will hold its 24th Annual Banquet on Saturday evening, March 23rd at the Ramada Inn (formerly Park Inn, and before that Holiday Inn), Rte. 40 west, Uniontown. Cash bar opens at 5:30; dinner served at 7:00. Fine food, raffles, wildlife prints, hunting, fishing and camping equipment and something for everyone. Dinner choices include Beef Burgundy, Lemon Pepper Tilapia, or Chicken Marsala. Tickets are \$40 per person (a bargain on the banquet circuit). For tickets or information contact banquet chairman Eugene Gordon at 724-277-8688. Ticket deadline: by mail, no later than March 9; by phone, Friday, March 15. Please bring a friend to support CRTU's work to improve water quality, trout fishing, and youth involvement in the outdoors.

## GLADE RUN PROJECT: COMMITMENT, HISTORY AND SUCCESS

Last fall, CRTU continued its work to improve water quality in Glade Run and Dunbar Creek. On Oct. 24 chapter volunteers placed over 200 tons of alkaline limestone sand from Keystone Lime's quarry at Cranestown, West Virginia at the three treatment sites on the Glade Run headwaters. The alkaline sand neutralizes acid drainage into Glade Run from abandoned coal mine works at the upstream origins of Glade Run, northeast of Chalk Hill. CRTU places alkaline sand on a regular twice-yearly schedule (spring and fall) to supplement the effectiveness of our passive anoxic drain treatment system near the mine site. Currently, sand additions are funded by a grant from the state Growing Greener program, with administrative support from the Fayette County Conservation District and Mountain Watershed Association. Funds we raise at our annual banquet also support the Glade Run project.

CRTU's Glade Run Alkaline Sand Addition Project has continued—sometimes sporadically when funding lagged—for over two decades.

Records indicate the chapter made the first additions in 1996, with a grant of \$20,500 from the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation and an \$800 contribution from Miller Brewing Company's Friends in the Field program.

CRTU, with early partners including Fayette Conservation District, California University of PA, Dunbar Sportsman's Club, The Eberly Foundation, and Fayette Forward, chose to work toward Glade Run's improvement because mine pollution there was degrading Dunbar Creek. Partners' consensus was that even a minimal investment in the Glade Run headwaters could have significant benefits downstream.

Many partners have worked with CRTU over the project's history. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Watershed Office (Mark Killar) provided technical assistance to calculate how much sand was needed at the various sites to effect improvements. Wharton Township and a local contractor helped improve access to the sites, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission has consistently provided cooperation and direct assistance in access, maintenance and sand manipulation after initial placement.

Biological surveys by California University of PA documented early on that Glade Run supported no life at the project's start. But as the project continued, a series of Cal. U. graduate students documented steady improvement in water quality, the diversity of insect life, and finally, after a transplant of wild brook trout taken from Dunbar Creek's upper main stem, that brook trout were once again spawning in Glade Run. The transfer of upper Dunbar Creek brook trout was accomplished under the auspices of Cal U.'s Dr. William Kimmel and his PFBC Scientific Collector Permit.

A small excerpt from recent water sampling (spearheaded by our late Scott Hoffman) on Little Piney tributary provides an indication of the sand project's impact on water quality downstream. In December 2017, pH above the addition site on Little Piney was 4.7, with an alkalinity value of 10. Downstream, where Little Piney enters Glade Run, its pH was 7.4 and alkalinity registered 20.

In August 2018, the PA DEP proposed to re-designate more than 40 miles of the Dunbar Creek basin, including parts of Glade Run as "Exceptional Value," qualifying the basin for the highest level of vigilance and protection by DEP should future permits be sought for mining, gas development or other disturbances. The re-designation process is ongoing and should be complete in late 2019 or early 2020. DEP noted two decades of improving water quality, and CRTU's reclamation efforts on Glade Run in its 2018 Dunbar Creek Stream Redesignation Evaluation Report.

CRTU thanks all chapter members, partner organizations, agencies, funders and banquet patrons who have supported this worthy project.



CRTU members John Gulya (with flag) and Al Crawford direct a 22-ton load of limestone sand through a "tight spot" to the acid remediation site on Glade Run main stem.

Photo by Ben Moyer