

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



Meadow Run brown trout

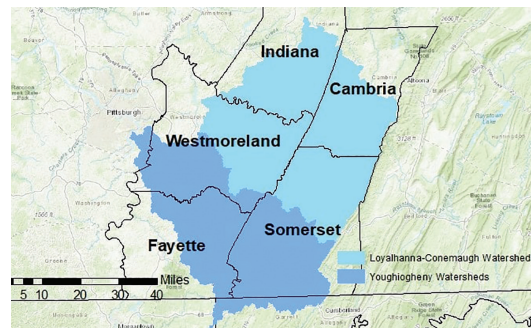
We're on the web again at
www.ChestnutridgeTU.org

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

CRTU AND PARTNERS DOCUMENT WORTH OF CLEAN WATER IN THE LAUREL HIGHLANDS



Map courtesy of Key-Log Economics

benefits of watershed conservation and restoration, and to adopt policies designed to produce water quality improvements in the region.

Key-Logic notes that the study region represents a place of unique opportunity within the Mid-Atlantic United States, where watersheds and their natural resources, though degraded in the past, remain relatively intact, attractive to tourists and businesses seeking a high quality of life for employees. The study region embraces nearly 250,000 acres of protected conservation lands, nine state parks, five National Park Service sites, 100 miles of Class A trout streams, plus Pennsylvania's highest peak and deepest river gorge.

"Our study has already shown that these watersheds offer us \$3.7 billion worth of clean water assets, said Deb Simko, CRTU's study steering committee member. "We could be using that to market this region to the world."

For study updates and a link to the final report go to www.keylogeconomics.com

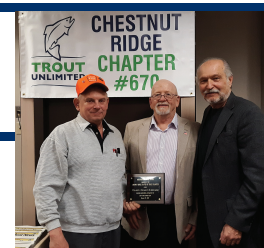
CRTU has teamed with prestigious partners to document and spread awareness of the importance of clean water to the economy and environment of the Laurel Highlands region. The partnership, which includes CRTU, Mountain Watershed Association, Forbes Trail Chapter of TU, Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Somerset County Conservation District, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council commissioned Key-Log Economics consulting firm to study the economic impact of fishable, swimmable clean water in the Youghiogheny, Conemaugh and Loyalhanna watersheds.

When complete, the partnership recommends that government agencies, municipalities, and funding institutions use the study findings to weigh the economic

WHARTON TOWNSHIP HONORED FOR BIG SANDY CULVERT

CRTU presented Wharton Township its Outstanding Conservationist Award during the 2019 chapter banquet in March. The award recognized the township's installation of an innovative fish-passable culvert on Big Sandy Creek, funded through the Fayette County Conservation District's Low-Volume Road Program. The new structure replaced an old "perched" culvert that prevented trout migration and caused flooding of Fayette Springs Road and nearby properties. Wharton has begun construction of two more fish-passable structures over Big Sandy headwaters in the Quebec Hollow area of Wharton Township, Fayette County.

The Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors also honored Wharton for the fish-passable culvert with first-place in its 2019 Bridge Design and Construction awards program for municipal bridge projects throughout Pennsylvania.



Wharton Township supervisors Jim Means (left) and Jack Lewis (center) accept the CRTU Outstanding Conservationist Award from CRTU president Ben Moyer at the 2019 chapter banquet. Not shown is Wharton Township supervisor Joe Henning.

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

TALE OF THE POOL



SUMMER 2019



OFFICERS:

President: Ben Moyer
Vice-President: Vacant
Treasurer: Cyndi Kotowski
Secretary: John Dolan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dave Welling
John Gulya
Paul Gulya
Bernie Manyak
John Ruby
Eugene Gordon
Jim Tobal
Dale Kotowski

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 14; Monthly meeting. Knights of Columbus, Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 11; Monthly meeting. Knights of Columbus, Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 14; PATU Annual membership meeting. Petersburg, PA (near State College)
- Oct. 9; Monthly meeting. Knights of Columbus, Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 13; Monthly meeting. Knights of Columbus, Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 11; Annual Holiday Party. Knights of Columbus, Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 15; Deadline to order TIC T-Shirts. c-awilmont@pa.gov

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CRTU members are fortunate to live in a place with attractive and unique natural features, especially coldwater streams and rivers. PA Council president Greg Malaska brought our region's appeal into statewide focus with his message in the Spring 2019 PA Trout newsletter.

Accompanying his attractive photograph of Dunbar Creek, where CRTU members had guided him for some early-season fishing, President Malaska wrote: "I then visited with Chestnut Ridge TU. Eugene Gordon, Joe Gudac, and Dale Kotowski gave me a grand tour of Fayette County. I had heard many rumors about this region, few of which were flattering. To the contrary; I found the landscape rugged and beautiful and its people dedicated and passionate.

"These folks showed me several projects which enhanced fish passage, improved habitat and managed the massive

impact of acid mine drainage," Malaska continued. "I was really impressed."

Since our founding in 1995, CRTU has devoted most of its money and members' time and energy to restoring our streams. That's what we're known for. It's a well-earned reputation in which we can all take pride. Our efforts on Glade Run, Dunbar Creek, Morgan Run, and Jonathan Run have improved or rejuvenated these streams' fisheries and attracted the attention of state agencies and larger conservation organizations who can apply yet more funding and expertise toward coldwater renewal across the Laurel Highlands.

The payoff from our stream work will happen as the public—residents and visitors alike—grows more aware of our region's remarkable natural resources, interacts positively with those resources, and feels motivated to support and protect

them. A natural way for that affiliation with this place of ours to happen is through fishing.

CRTU's educational initiatives to promote fishing have been growing steadily in recent years, but this spring our members ramped up CRTU's public outreach to new levels. Through the dedication of so many members who sacrificed their own fishing time we ran the second-annual Fly-Fishing Film Festival, helped veterans learn to fly-fish, made it possible for urban kids to catch the first fish of their lives, continued our chapter's leadership in Trout in the Classroom, helped dozens of TIC students learn to cast with a flyrod, and supplied trout to a half-dozen kids' fishing events around the region. We also now have a rejuvenated website that invites the world to learn about these efforts to engage people in the outdoors, to the benefit of people and streams.

As CRTU president, I could not be prouder of our members, sharing their passion for trout fishing with others. It's a risky venture to thank individual members publicly for the long unselfish hours that made these projects possible because, inevitably, someone might be left out. I prefer to think of our accomplishments as chapter achievements, in which everyone's contributions add up to a sum that's greater than its parts. You'll read more about these outreach efforts throughout this newsletter. CRTU is a positive force in southwestern Pennsylvania, and that's a great way to end this message... Ben Moyer



CRTU members Dennis Croft (left in stream) and John Gulya help students from Hatfield Elementary School release their Trout in the Classroom fingerlings into Meadow Run during a high-water event this spring.

CRTU HELPS KIDS CATCH THEIR FIRST FISH



A'Zhiyah Belt (10) of Uniontown with a trout she caught during a fishing experience offered to East End Community Center in Uniontown by the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The event was held May 24 at Ohiopyle State Park.

On May 24, Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited teamed with East End Community Center in Uniontown to offer a fishing experience to kids who had never gone fishing before.

All youth fishing events are well-intentioned and positive. But CRTU wished to go beyond many such outings by offering the experience to kids who had never fished before and were not likely to ever fish unless someone pro-actively offered the opportunity.

Members discussed the concept at several chapter meetings, and compiled a list of organizations that worked with kids.

CRTU approached the East End Community Center in Uniontown and explained the concept. East End works primarily with urban kids, offering day-care and after-school programs at their Uniontown headquarters, but with no opportunity for outdoor pursuits such as fishing. Community Center leaders were excited about the prospect, identified a dozen children, and transported them to Ohiopyle State Park, with adult supervisors from the Center.

CRTU worked with Ohiopyle State Park staff to coordinate the event and stocked a remote pond inside the park with rainbow trout raised in our PFBC cooperative cage-culture nursery in the Yough Dam tailrace, operated under an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

S&S Bait and Tackle of Chalk Hill offered kids' rod-and-reel combos to CRTU at a discount for the East End event and future kids' outings. Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters of Ohiopyle provided life-jackets to the kids just in case someone took an unplanned dip in the pond, which nearly happened. Ask John Gulya for an account of that incident and its happy outcome.

CRTU volunteers strapped on the kids' life-vests, spaced the youngsters around the pond to reduce the chance of tangles, and the fishing commenced. After a lot of patient coaching, every one of the 12 participating youngsters caught at least one trout. For all but one of the kids, the catch represented their first fish.

Another distinction between the CRTU kids's event and many fishing "derbies" is that our members made a deliberate effort to avoid any sense of competition. No prizes were offered for "first fish" or "biggest fish," and no fish were measured or counted. The message conveyed to the kids was that fishing is its own reward, and everyone's legal, ethical experience is as valid as the next angler's. We did, however, provide photographs of the kids with their catches—before release—to East End Community Center, which had the photos reproduced for the kids to keep.

On a day of spectacular spring weather in the mountains, everyone took a break from fishing for a lunch of hotdogs grilled on the shore.

"I can't wait to tell everyone at school I caught a fish," one boy gushed while he gripped a 'dog.

"The kids had a great time enjoying the outdoors and trying

something new. Everyone caught at least one fish and were very proud of their accomplishment," said Marilyn Calloway, East End Community Center administrative assistant, who accompanied the kids to Ohiopyle.

CRTU plans to offer more such fishing experiences to kids in the future.

HOFFMAN FAMILY GIFT TO GLADE RUN MATCHED BY BATTELLE FOUNDATION

At the 2019 chapter banquet, the family of late CRTU member Scott Hoffman presented CRTU with a donation of \$3,600 in Scott's memory, to be used in the Glade Run Project. One of Scott's sisters, Amy Dindal, works for Battelle Corporation, which operates a charitable foundation that supports philanthropic work of its employees. When Amy reported the Hoffman family's CRTU donation, Battelle matched the amount, resulting in a total \$7,200 gift to support water sampling and acid mine drainage remediation on Glade Run. CRTU thanks the Hoffman family and Battelle for their generosity.

VETERANS FLY-FISH WITH CRTU, FRIENDS OF OHIOPYLE AND BEAVER CREEK PARTNERS

By Dale Kotowski

"It's good for what ails you." My great grandmother's adage was often used to describe her favorite pastime; a day spent "a-fishing."

In recent years fly-fishing has been used as a salve for all sorts of ailments:

- Casting 4 a Cure uses fly fishing to aid families dealing with Rett Syndrome.
- Soul River connects inner city youth and veterans and uses fly fishing for their mutual benefit.
- Casting for Recovery uses the therapeutic aspects of the sport to enhance the quality of life for women with breast cancer and survivors.
- Project Healing Waters is one of several veterans' organizations using fly-fishing as a healing tool.

The repetitive casting motions, mental and physical concentration, maybe the sound of the river, surely the peace, all make fly-fishing a perfect medication for any hurt.

On May 17-19, Chestnut Ridge TU partnered with Ohiopyle State Park, Friends of Ohiopyle (FOO) and Beaver Creek Anglers to conduct the third annual Veteran's and Active Duty Personnel Fly-Fishing Retreat.

The weekend retreat provides lodging, meals, instruction and guided fly-fishing for 12-14 participants.

The military personnel have ample time in the evenings to share camaraderie. This time spent with each other as well as with park staff, FOO members and CRTU volunteers is vital to the healing process.

They arrive on Friday night; spend a full day on Saturday and half of Sunday. The fishing on Meadow Run and Beaver Creek was outstanding! CRTU's nursery crew stocked a section Meadow Run before the event.

On Memorial Day, a veteran named Mike went "a-fishing." Confined to a wheelchair and unable to use his left hand, this previously avid outdoorsman hadn't fished in over 15 years. We found a perfect place for his chair along Beaver Creek. A Tenkara fly rod is easy to use and Mike was a quick learner. One-handed, he hooked and landed several trout.

CRTU wishes to thank our volunteer river helpers, the state park staff, FOO and Beaver Creek Anglers for helping to make these events possible.

So much more, we thank our veterans and active duty military personnel who make everything we value possible!



National Guard veteran Nate Barndt of Connellsville served two tours in Iraq. Nate caught this nice rainbow on Beaver Creek during the 2019 Veteran's and Active Duty Personnel Fly-Fishing Retreat.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM A CRTU PRIORITY



Trout in the Classroom is an educational partnership between the Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited. Nearly 400 schools participate across the state. Students raise trout fingerlings, supplied by Fish and Boat, in their classrooms using equipment, training, and grants provided through the partnership. Spearheaded by CRTU member Jim Tobal, CRTU sponsors nearly two dozen schools in Somerset, Fayette, Washington and Greene counties in the program.

The objective is for kids to learn that trout have needs, tolerance and limitations within stream habitats. As the fingerlings grow, students understand that trout can thrive only within a certain range of temperature and water quality. A highlight of the experience is a field trip to release the trout into an appropriate local stream. This past spring, CRTU worked with Washington County Parks and with state park interpretive staff to conduct meaningful release-day experiences at Mingo County Park and Ohiopyle State Park for participating students. Besides seeing their trout liberated into a stream, students learn about aquatic ecology and how to cast a flyrod.

Jim Tobal won the PA Council of Trout Unlimited 2017 Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach for his exemplary work to promote and enhance Trout in the Classroom in southwestern Pennsylvania.

CRTU's Jim Tobal takes a last look at brook trout fingerlings raised in Hatfield Elementary's Trout in the Classroom project, before their release into Meadow Run, Ohiopyle State Park.