

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 WINS LAUREL HIGHLANDS TOURISM GRANT



CRTU members display the Tourism Grant certificate presented in a ceremony at the State Theater in Uniontown. (From left) Paul Gulya, Doc Welling, Jim Johns, nursery committee chairman; Ann Nemanic, Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau executive director, and Carol Gulya.

the lengthy grant application, noting in the narrative that cleaner streams and improved fishing have great potential to draw more visitors from outside the region. Cleaner streams have their own inherent value, regardless of tourism, but CRTU believes that a stronger tourism economy, supported by water-recreation, including fishing, is an effective argument to present to policy makers in advocacy of better water quality.

CRTU's nursery is part of the Fish and Boat Commission cooperative nursery program, but is the program's only cage-culture facility, which does not use raceways, but a moored cage in the tailrace flow. Trout reared supplement the Youghiogheny River fishery and support numerous youth fishing events.

In a ceremony at the State Theater in downtown Uniontown, the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau (LHVB) and Fayette County commissioners awarded CRTU a grant for \$3,768.00 to be applied toward operation of the cage-culture trout nursery in the Youghiogheny Reservoir tailrace.

At the presentation, Ann Nemanic, LHVB executive director, recognized CRTU's history working to restore trout streams, the long success of the trout nursery, and the contribution of both in drawing visitors to the Laurel Highlands region. County commissioners congratulated CRTU for boosting Fayette County's outdoor recreation economy.

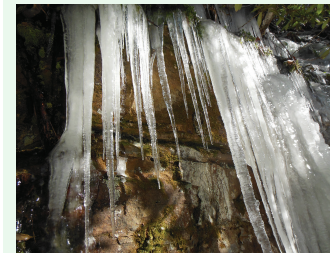
CRTU members Carol Gulya and Doc Welling prepared

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

TALE OF THE POOL



WINTER 2020



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:

- March 11; Monthly meeting, Uniontown Columbian Assoc., Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m. (Meetings are 2nd Wednesdays)
- March 21; 25th annual CRTU Banquet, Ramada by Wyndham (formerly Holiday Inn), Rte. 40 west, Uniontown. Cocktails served 5:30 p.m.
- March 27; International Fly-Fishing Film Festival, Washington Elks Lodge, 138 East Maiden St., Washington, PA. 5:30 p.m.
- April 4; Dunbar Creek litter cleanup day, Game Commission shed, Betty Knox Road, 8:00 a.m.
- April 8; Monthly meeting, Uniontown Columbian Assoc., Gallatin Ave., Uniontown. 7:00 p.m.
- April 18; Trout season opens statewide

CRTU'S 25TH ANNUAL BANQUET, MARCH 21

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited has many accomplishments to its credit over a quarter-century of coldwater conservation. But none of those achievements could have happened without the financial foundation set in the chapter's early history by our annual banquet. Those first banquets enabled us to leverage grants for Glade Run and Morgan Run, jump-start the Glade Run Alkaline Sand project, get started in Trout in the Classroom, sponsor young students to the Fly-fishing Conservation Camp, and so much more. As CRTU's president, it gives me great satisfaction to announce our upcoming banquet on Saturday, March 21, at the Ramada Inn by Wyndham (formerly the Holiday Inn) on Rte. 40 west in Uniontown.

This special event will be CRTU's 25th annual banquet. Planning, selling tickets, soliciting

prizes, shopping for bargains, and setting up for an event like this takes an immense amount of work and time. Yet, our chapter has held an annual fund-raiser to support our many programs for 24 consecutive years.

Even more impressive, we've had the same—the only—banquet chairman for every one of those 24 dinners. That do-it-all chairman is Eugene Gordon, and without Eugene and his right-arm helper, wife Candy, the rest of us would be scrambling to pull off such an event, let alone make it as profitable as we've come to expect of our annual fund-raisers.

What sustains a person in giving so much time and effort to an organization like ours? What drives that kind of commitment?

"Well it is hard to put into words," Gordon said. "It is enjoyable to see a lot of the same people come and enjoy the banquet every year, and

it's gratifying to work with other CRTU members to set up and run the dinner. But mostly it's something that Candy and I just push ourselves through until it's over for the year. I'm pretty much a nervous wreck that whole night. Then, just about the next day, we start thinking how we can make the next one better in some way.

"I guess I do this for the same reason I got the idea to start this chapter in the first place," Gordon continued. "I grew up fishing Dunbar Creek, and that meant a lot in my life, and I want Dunbar, and all the trout streams in this region, to be as good as they can be for those who come after."

Eugene estimates the banquet has earned an average net revenue of \$5,000 per event, which means Eugene's and Candy's efforts have raised approximately \$120,000.00 for CRTU since 1995.

This year's dinner will offer some special prizes and fishing trips to commemorate the banquet's 25th anniversary. Dinner choices are Beef Burgundy, Lemon-Pepper Tilapia, or Chicken Marsala. Cocktails available starting at 5:30 p.m., and dinner is served at 7:00 p.m., with all the fun and excitement of the best outdoor gear and art prizes to follow. Seating is limited. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, call—who else—Eugene Gordon at 724-277-8688 and let him or Candy know you want to come and be a part of this milestone in CRTU's coldwater conservation history... Ben Moyer



Celebrating presentation of a special Senate proclamation at the 2014 CRTU banquet are (from left) past CRTU vice-president Frank Steck, past-president Dale Kotowski, past-president and 24-year banquet chairman Eugene Gordon, and former State Senator Richard A. Kasunic.

HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR TALE?

Because CRTU communications guru Carol Gulya has painstakingly updated our list of members' email addresses, we have an opportunity to potentially save hundreds of dollars in printing and mailing this newsletter by U.S. Mail. If you are currently receiving TALE OF THE POOL by "snail-mail," but would prefer to get it by email as a PDF, thereby passing on the "hard copy," please send us an email at crtu670@gmail.com. Tell us your name and be sure to include the email address where you wish to receive TALE OF THE POOL. And please type "Newsletter by email request" into the subject box. Thanks much...Editor

CRTU POURS A FLOOR FOR THE CORPS



CRTU volunteers finish the concrete floor poured in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers new picnic pavilion at Youghiogheny Reservoir tailrace. The Youghiogheny dam can be seen in the background. Photo courtesy of USACE

CRTU has many partners with which we work to restore streams, educate youth, promote fishing, and simply encourage people to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Our chapter's belief is that getting outdoors can be a person's first step toward developing a personal commitment to conservation—and maybe learn to fish along the way.

One of our partners is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). CRTU and USACE have a signed memorandum that governs operation of our cage-culture trout nursery in the Youghiogheny Reservoir tailrace. Trout that grow to adults in the flow-of-river nursery supplement the Youghiogheny River fishery, and enable CRTU to offer fishing experiences for kids at various locations, such as the children's fishing area at Virgin Run Lake in Fayette County, and at our own kids' fishing event at Ohiopyle State Park.

Last fall, CRTU learned that USACE was hoping to build a new picnic pavilion in the day-use

area near the tailrace and campground. But with a limited budget for the project, the Corps needed manpower to make the structure a reality, particularly with pouring the concrete slab floor.

On a classic, crisp September day in the mountains, CRTU's crew showed up at the site with muscle and expertise, poured and finished the new pavilion's floor.

"We honestly could not have accomplished finishing the concrete without everyone's help," said Nicole Govan, USACE natural resource specialist at Youghiogheny Reservoir. "The finished pavilion will support our mission in a couple different ways, the first being that we needed it for Special Recreation Day held every May. This is our biggest event to provide kids with special needs a fun-filled, educational day in the outdoors. Before, we had to put up multiple tents for attendees to have shelter in case of inclement weather. The pavilion will provide a more stable and permanent shelter for this event. The pavilion will also provide another picnicking option for the public, and it's more handicap accessible because it is much closer to the parking lot and has paved pathways to and from the parking area. We are anticipating much positive feedback on the pavilion and its support of our mission to provide public recreation."

"It was a rewarding experience to help with a project that will benefit the community for decades to come," said CRTU member and volunteer concrete finisher, Dennis Croft. "I hope one day my daughter and her family will visit that beautiful area and tell the story about how grandpa helped with the pavilion where they enjoyed a picnic."

INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL PLAYS WASHINGTON, PA, MARCH 27

The Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency and CRTU will once again present the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4), March 27 at the Elks Lodge, 138 East Maiden St., Washington. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show starts at 6:00 p.m.

Film-makers and fly-fishers traveled the globe to assemble this menu of films that will whet your excitement for the fishing season.

Food and beverages are available for sale by Elks Lodge. Tickets are \$15.00, available at www.flyfilmfest.com. Ticket proceeds support CRTU's coldwater conservation and youth education programs in Washington County and southwestern Pennsylvania.

GLADE RUN SAMPLING RESUMED; WATER QUALITY BOOST FROM ALKALINE SAND

Results are in from CRTU's resumed water sampling of the Glade Run basin. The data show a clear positive influence from our alkaline sand additions on Glade Run and Dunbar Creek downstream.

In the fall, a team of CRTU volunteers including Al Crawford, John Gulya, Eugene Gordon, and Ben Moyer collected the samples, which due to the numerous sites and remote location requires an "all-day" commitment. It would be an oversight here to neglect remembering the efforts of Scott Hoffman, who often did the sampling alone.

CRTU volunteers were accompanied by Eric Harder, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper with the Mountain Watershed Association (MWA). CRTU and Mountain Watershed are considering entering an agreement by which Eric and other paid staff from MWA would assume responsibility for Glade Run sampling. Their services would be reimbursed from itemized CRTU grant funds earmarked for water quality sampling and laboratory analysis. The samples collected in the fall were analyzed by Geochemical Testing Laboratories in Somerset.

A "big picture" analysis of the results suggests two important points: 1; CRTU's anoxic limestone drain treatment system continues to have a beneficial influence on the water quality of Glade Run's main stem. 2; Without our alkaline sand treatments on the downstream tributaries, Big Piney and Little Piney, those streams' poor quality would negate the benefits to Glade Run's main stem, and consequently to Dunbar Creek.

The table below shows a simplified comparison of samples collected in the fall of 2019. Only values for pH and alkalinity (two key indicators of trout habitat) are shown here. Our lab analysis also quantifies concentrations of metals such as aluminum, manganese, and iron, which, as with pH and alkalinity, indicates improvement in those variables downstream of alkaline sand additions.



Eric Harder, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper (background), and Al Crawford, CRTU, collect water samples in the Glade Run main stem, downstream of all tributaries and alkaline sand additions. Alkalinity at this site was 26 mg., and pH registered at 7.59.

Table 1. pH and alkalinity values for Glade Run and tributaries; fall 2019

| | pH | alkalinity |
|---|------|------------|
| Glade Run upstream all sand additions | 6.60 | <10 |
| Glade Run downstream of main stem sand | 7.35 | 19 mg |
| Big Piney trib., upstream of its sand | 4.80 | <10 mg |
| Big Piney trib., downstream of its sand | 6.93 | <10 mg |
| Little Piney trib., upstream of its sand | 4.89 | <10 mg |
| Little Piney trib., downstream of its and | 7.83 | 44 mg |
| Glade Run downstream all tribs and sand additions | 7.59 | 26 mg |

pH values less than 7.0 indicate acid. Alkalinity values greater than 25 mg are desired for trout habitat.

A review of the table suggests some modifications that might be warranted, at least experimentally, in the Glade Run Alkaline Sand Project. For instance, it might prove informative to add a new sampling site downstream of the mouth of Big Piney, and upstream of Little Piney's mouth. Also, we might consider increasing our sand dosing on Big Piney or shifting some sand from the main stem site to the Big Piney site, to improve Big Piney's downstream alkalinity value.

It's noteworthy that the fall 2019 samples were taken after we missed our normal sand placement in the spring. That brief "gap" suggests the project's residual benefits to the Glade Run basin but underscores the importance of continuing regular twice-yearly additions in the future.

After sampling was completed, CRTU resumed treatment of the Glade Run headwaters in late September 2019, placing a total of 253 tons of high-carbonate alkaline limestone sand at the three treatment sites.