

Susquehanna Ripples

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

October 2020

Susquehanna Ripples named Newsletter of the Year

At the annual meeting of the PA Council of Trout Unlimited (held via zoom in September), the Susquehanna Ripples was named the Samuel Slaymaker Best Newsletter for the State of Pennsylvania.

Our Chapter is only 1 of 49 Trout Unlimited Chapters in the State and to be picked as the best newsletter is quite an honor.

As editor of the newsletter, I work hard to make the newsletter interesting and worth reading. Countless hours are spent looking for articles and putting together the newsletter.

I can not take all the credit for this newsletter as there are countless other people who have contributed, given comments or direction, and general support for the growth of our newsletter.

Congratulations to everyone who has helped make the Susquehanna Ripples a great newsletter!!

Bob Baker

Clarification on Past Donation

In the September issue of the Susquehanna Ripples, we reported that a donation was received from Inflection Energy in the amount of \$13,333.00. We want to clarify that Inflection Energy entered into a plea agreement with the PA State Attorney General's office and part of this plea agreement was the donation to our Chapter. Judge Marc Lovecchio approved this plea agreement

Chapter Elections - Your Help is Needed

We are hopeful to have our Chapter meeting in November thus having our annual chapter elections. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 Director positions are open.

Please consider giving some of your time to the Chapter and help guide us into the future. This is your Chapter and want you to have a voice in the direction and future of our Chapter.

If you have any questions or would like information on the duties of any of the positions, please let us know.



For those of you who follow the Presidential Debates, a little humor

No Chapter Meeting for October. We are hoping to be able resuming Chapter meetings and activities in November

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Bob Baker
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Director Emeritus and Advisor

Bill O'Connor

Board of Directors

Bob Spencer (2020)
Bill Worobec (2020)
Isaac Bragunier (2021)
Dave Craig (2021)
Dave Wonderlich (2022)
Joe Radley (2022)

Media Liaison

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Be Safe while fishing this Hunting Season

Hunting season is upon us in Pennsylvania and we want you to be safe. Although many people stop fishing when the fall / winter seasons arrive, there are others who fish year round.

You can still enjoy fishing in your favorite mountain streams if you keep a few things in mind when heading out.

- 1) Know when the hunting seasons are. The main hunting seasons are from now until the end of January 2021. There are three Sunday's approved to hunt this year for big game and those days are November 15, November 22, and November 29, 2020. There is a spring turkey season and limited hunting opportunities throughout the entire year so become familiar with when the seasons are so you are prepared.
- 2) Where Blaze Orange or other brightly colored piece of clothing that sticks out. Hunters are required to where this to identify themselves and so should you. If you fish on Pennsylvania State Game Lands between November 15 and December 15, you are re- quired by law to wear fluorescent orange.
- 3) Make noise when you are moving about. You don't need to scream but normal talking will let others nearby know you are there.
- 4) As a general rule, hunters go out early and stay out late. Many go back to their camps or else where for lunch and mid day breaks so heading out late morning and early to mid afternoon may reduce your chance of encountering hunters.
- 5) Probably the most important thing to remember is to be respectful. Everyone has a right to be outside and doing what they want to do. If you come upon a hunter, try to be quiet so that you do not disrupt their hunt.

Alternatively, you can go fishing some- where hunting is not allowed or fish areas closer to towns or other places that hunters are not likely to go..

DCNR Releases Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

On September 24, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined officials in the City of Reading and others in the release of the new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The plan, Recreation for All, is a blueprint including 20 recommendations and 70 action steps for meeting the outdoor recreation needs of all Pennsylvanians.

“Now more than ever, we have experienced the impact of outdoor recreation on our mental and physical wellbeing,” Dunn said. “Pennsylvania’s new outdoor recreation plan serves as a blueprint on how we can make outdoor recreation accessible to every Pennsylvanian.”

Guided by a 40-member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the plan’s priorities, recommendations, and actions were finalized before the challenges of COVID-19 and protests around racial injustice, but the framework for state outdoors recreation addresses those and other pressing challenges of today.

Above taken from <http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2020/09/dcnr-releases-releases-statewide.html> . For more information on the Recreation Plan, please go to <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/PAOutdoorRecPlan/Pages/default.aspx>

The brook trout at the top of page 1 was caught on Boulder Mountain in Southern Utah. The picture was taken by Jason Morrison and was featured in the 2014 Trout Unlimited Calendar for the month of April. The picture is used with his permission and we thank Jason for allowing us to use it.



President's Message

**From Charles Knowlden
President, Susquehanna
Chapter of
Trout Unlimited**

September 2020

It has been said many times that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade, Kentucky Lemonade if you are of age! We started off this spring not knowing what to expect from the pandemic and how it would affect our lives. Due to the social distancing guidelines, we have been "encouraged" to revise our pattern of engagement with others. The result has been for many to distance ourselves in the vast environment we have at our doorsteps and to explore other areas. There has been a 20% increase in fishing license sales for PA. Many other states have seen similar increases in fishing and other outdoor activities.

Our chapter meetings were suspended as well as group activities. Our fly tying classes were cut short. The National TU meetings scheduled for Bangor Maine in August were cancelled but a re-scheduled for next August at the same place. The good news is that many of the sessions scheduled for Bangor this year were conducted by ZOOM meetings. Both Walt Nicholson and I have been able to participate in several of these sessions. The PA TU meeting scheduled for early September was also cancelled but conducted by ZOOM meeting. 47 of the 49 chapters were represented at this meeting which was the highest number ever represented. Chapters have been using ZOOM to conduct business and even fly tying classes. Membership is up for our chapter and has reached over 15,000 statewide. This past year, there were 410 trout in the classroom programs in the 501 school districts in the state. More people have been involved in habitat projects than ever before. PA TU has been responsible for leading the charge to reclaim 217 miles of dead water where wild trout are again reproducing in the West Branch watershed.

The goals set for the next year include continued monitoring and reclaiming of threatened watersheds. Some of the officers and directors accompanied by Steve Szoke and others from Lycoming College and TU have toured the Upper Loyalsock near Lopez and checked on the Acid Mine Drainage abatement from two abandoned mines. We dis-

covered that some of the drainage was bypassing the treatment pond and emptying into the Loyalsock Creek. A number of other organizations have joined with TU in an effort to remedy the problem.

Another goal is to increase the diversity in membership. Statewide there has been an increase in the number of women and youth but this growth is slow. Today's youth seem to be concerned about the environment so TU is a good opportunity for them to help preserve the environment for the future. Walt and I had the opportunity to mentor two young women from my extended family this summer in the art and science of fly fishing. I can say it is one of the most rewarding things I have done during this time of social distancing. My two daughters-in-law have also started to fly fish and one has joined TU with my son in Cincinnati.

With not having any meetings since March, Bob Baker has been trying very hard to keep the chapter membership aware of the activities and other information which the members can find useful. For his efforts, the PA TU Board of Directors awarded the Susquehanna Ripples newsletter as the Best Chapter Newsletter for 2020. The rewards for his efforts are well deserved. The chapter will be receiving a banner to be displayed at our meetings and other events.

Speaking of meetings, we hope to resume normal activities and meetings in November. Our next general meeting will be held on November 11 at 7:30 at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church. We are going to try to meet in the large room in the basement so we can observe social distancing. Election of officers will take place at that time. If you have a nomination, please see that one of the former or present directors gets that nomination. Also check with the person you nominate to make sure they are willing to run. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors are being voted on.

Last, this has been a great year for me in spite of all the limitations placed on us. I have learned a lot about quality streams and also how fragile the environment can be. I have also spent more days fishing than any other year of my life. The people that I have met are of top quality and have the best interest of the planet and the people who inhabit it. It has been a pleasure.

Fish and imbibe responsibly!

Changes to PA's Clean Stream Law still being pursued

The Clean Streams Law now says, "contamination of any waters of the Commonwealth such as will create or is likely to create a nuisance or to render such waters harmful, detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, municipal, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life."

And it is DEP that determines whether a discharge constitutes pollution. The bill shifts the responsibility to make the determination if a spill or discharge causes pollution to the person causing the spill.

The bill also says spills and contamination to groundwater don't even need to be reported to DEP, NOT when they "create a danger of pollution of the waters, or would damage property," as in the current regulations, but rather only when

- The individual or company first makes a determination the spill violates a specific, numeric surface water quality criteria under DEP's regulations; or
- If it exceeds federal reporting requirements (1,000 gallons in any one incident or 42 gallons in each of 2 discharges) and only after they take into account the steps they have taken to control or remediate the impact of the spill; and
- Only after taking into account any control and remedial measures they have taken.

There are very few numeric water quality standards in DEP's regulations because judgments are made based on whether pollution harms people, aquatic life or the environment.

Under the change in definition of pollution in this bill, neither DEP nor the Fish and Boat Commission could require the cleanup of a spill, require the company to fix the problem that caused a spill or take other enforcement actions like assessing penalties or natural resource damages against an individual or company unless a spill violated the "numeric water quality criteria under DEP's regulations.

If a spill temporarily or irreparably harmed aquatic life, temporarily or permanently prevented a stream or river from being used according to its designated use, without violating a numeric standard, neither DEP nor the Fish and Boat Commission could take any action. Importantly, the new language would also rule out taking any action against anyone causing a spill that affected groundwater and not surface water, if the spill did not violate a numeric water quality criteria in Chapter 93.

The practical realities of making a determination if numeric water quality standards were violated during a spill emergency under this bill would require a company or individual to--

- Know the precise chemical composition of the material being spilled and the amount and if it isn't known, to take, analyze and report those results

[getting test results in an emergency timeframe would not be possible and even the amounts are frequently not know at the time of a spill, especially to groundwater];

- Know the classification, designated use and any special numeric water quality standards in place at the precise point the spill would enter a surface water [possible, but unlikely, especially in circumstances where a spill happens from a tank truck, pipeline or similar sources]; and
- Taking, analyzing and reporting the results of water samples upstream, at the point of the spill and downstream of the spill to determine if the numeric standard was violated at the exact time of the spill [not something that can be accomplished during an emergency caused by a spill].

Likewise, if DEP or the Fish and Boat Commission wanted to take any compliance or enforcement action for a spill with the change in definition of pollution proposed in Senate Bill 619, they would have to prove a numeric water quality standard was violated at the exact time of the spill, which would not be possible after the fact.

The sweeping changes made by Senate Bill 619 would fundamentally change how Pennsylvania's surface and groundwater is protected from pollution, significantly restricting the ability of DEP and the Fish and Boat Commission from taking action to require the cleanup and prevention of spills and to assess penalties and to the requirements for reporting spills.

PA Trout Unlimited Chapters, PennFuture and other groups issued a call to action for Pennsylvanians to oppose Senate Bill 619 (Yaw-R- Lycoming) which makes fundamental changes to the definition of water pollution.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation said, "Senate Bill 619 will make it easier to pollute the Commonwealth's rivers and streams and with fewer consequences. Water quality in Pennsylvania should not be regulated by just the limited list of numeric water quality criteria. Timely response and remediation are critical.

"A spill or discharge caused a fish kill in the Donegal Creek. The Mariner East II liquid natural gas pipeline has been plagued with spills. In 2017, 63,000 gallons of natural gas drilling waste spilled into the tributary of the Loyalsock Creek. If Senate Bill 619 passes, spills like these may go unchecked.

"We urge members of the House to consider the consequences Senate Bill 619 could have on aquatic life, recreation, and drinking water supplies."

The above article was taken from the online PA Environment Digest (posted September 23, 2020) <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=51125&SubjectID=>

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Headwaters	Fishing life	Pine Creek	Tailwater
Bait	Hook	Rainbow trout	The Stretch
Bamboo rod	Hopper	Regulations	Trout Unlimited
Bass	Hunters Lake	Ripples	Vest
Brooke trout	Leader	Rose Valley Lake	White Deer Creek
Brown trout	Little Pine	Sinking line	Woolly Bugger
Carp	Loyalsock Creek	Slot limit	
Coldwater	Lycoming Creek	Spinner	
Conserve	Minnow	Splitshot	
Cricket	Muncy Creek	Spring Creek	
Dropshot	Nightcrawler	Susquehanna Chapter	
Fishing Creek	Penns Creek	Tackle	

The following is a copy of a letter sent by Greg Malaska, President of the PA Council of Trout Unlimited in response to Senate Bill 619.

September 29, 2020

House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Re: Informational hearing on SB619, proposed amendments to the Pa. Clean Streams Law concerning spill requirements

Honorable Chairman Representative Daryl Metcalfe, the Honorable Democratic Chairman Representative Greg Vitali, and members of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee:

Trout Unlimited is the largest Coldwater conservation organization in Pennsylvania, representing over 15,000 members. TU opposes SB619 as harmful to aquatic ecosystems and human health and respectfully submits the following comments for consideration regarding the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law as proposed in the bill.

1) SB619 would limit reporting of spills to those constituents with established numeric water quality criteria. However, many constituents contained in spilled materials do not have numeric water quality criteria associated with them; per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are an example. This family of chemicals is known to have contaminated groundwater as a result of the use and spills of firefighting foam nationally at army installations, including one in Horsham, and other facilities. They are known carcinogens, proven to impact public health. In Pennsylvania, alternate water supplies for Commonwealth citizens have had to be provided at significant cost to ratepayers and

public dollars are often spent on remediation activities at these sites.

2) Karst geology underlies a significant portion of the lands of the Commonwealth. While connection between ground and surface waters is a scientifically proven fact with soils acting like a sponge in absorbing and percolating spill materials to underlying groundwater, in areas of karst geology, the ground can function essentially as swiss cheese, creating direct connections to groundwater aquifers transporting any spills quickly and allowing them to be transported miles to other surface and groundwaters, including residential wells utilized by private citizens. A recent example of the ground/surface water connection and the potential for migration of spilled materials was from the Mariner East Pipeline in Chester County where bentonite materials used for drilling were transported via karst geology to Marsh Creek Lake in the Marsh Creek State Park. This contamination via groundwater resulted in the closure of the lake to both Commonwealth citizens and tourists who provide significant economic support to small businesses in the Commonwealth, which is critical during times when record numbers of businesses are closing their doors.

3) Pennsylvania is one of only a handful of states that does not have residential well standards. Because of this, spills, both those on the surface and those that reach groundwater, can cause well contamination, creating a public health risk. Depending on the nature of the constituent spilled, this can cause risk of cancer, endocrine disruption, gastrointestinal illness, and other conditions such as blue baby syndrome.

4) Both state and federal authorities and regulations prohibit materials from causing contamination of both ground and surface waters. As defined in 25 Pa. Code § 93.7(c), pollution is a broad term. If a substance does not have a numerical water

quality criterion, pollution includes substances that “may not be inimical or injurious to the existing or designated water uses”. In addition, under 25 Pa. Code § 91.33, spills must be reported to DEP if they “would endanger downstream users . . . otherwise result in pollution or create a danger of pollution . . . or would damage property”. Besides Commonwealth statutes, the Department of Environmental Protection is delegated the responsibility from the federal Environmental Protection Agency to implement programs that protect both surface and groundwaters from pollution. Both the Safe Drinking Water Program, authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act and 40 CFR 141, which provides for protection of drinking water sources from pollution, and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, authorized under the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 121-123, which provides for protection of surface waters from pollution, safeguard citizens from the effects of pollution, including pollution as a result of spills. The NPDES Program specifically also creates a framework in which upstream dischargers cannot create pollution that downstream dischargers must treat. In effect, while protecting public health, these state and federal programs also protect dischargers from each other.

5) Lastly, self-reporting from the regulated community is not realistic and the regulated community generally does not have the expertise to make decisions regarding the potential for environmental and/or public health requirements of constituents of a spill. This also creates, for many regulated entities, a resource burden. Many entities, especially small regulated businesses, may experience increased costs due to increased staff and monitoring equipment as a result of the shift to increased self-monitoring. Additional costs may also come from laboratory analyses and consulting

Continued on next page

Fly of the Month
October Caddis Skater

Hook: Standard nymph hook (here, a Dai-Riki #730), size 14.
Thread: Burnt orange, 6/0 or 140-denier.
Wings/Tail: Dyed-orange deer body hair.
Abdomen: Burnt orange rabbit-fur dubbing.
Back: Orange craft foam, 2mm by 4mm.
Thorax: Burnt orange rabbit-fur dubbing.
Adhesive: Head cement.



Tied by Tim Flagler
 Taken from <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-tie-october-caddis-skater>

Letter from PA Council TU on SB619 continued

fees as regulated entities may not know if spilled materials contain constituents which have established water quality standards and thus would require reporting. This is certainly an unintended consequence of legislation with the goal of reducing regulatory burdens.

Trout Unlimited appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to the committee on this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Jennifer Orr-Greene at jen.orr@tu.org or (717)364-4368. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Greg Malaska Jennifer Orr-Greene
 Council President Eastern Policy Director
 Pa. Trout Unlimited Trout Unlimited National

Jennifer Orr-Greene
 Eastern Policy Director
 Trout Unlimited National

Cc: Sarah Iversen, Executive Director, House Environmental Resources and Energy

Fishing Knots

In the September issue of the Ripples, Walt Nicholson presented an article on Improving the Improved Clinch Knot. This was an interesting take on a knot that has been around for quite sometime and one that is used by almost all anglers.

That article got me thinking about the other knots that anglers use daily in pursuit of fish. We each have our favorite knot(s) and knots that we rely on all the time. Are we using the best knot for each situation or do we just use it because that is what we were taught or learned?

There may or may not be a better knot to use for our

many uses but it is worth looking into to see if there is. If nothing else, it would be a great refresher on knots that we use.

The internet is a great place to find information on any knot that you can imagine. For those of you who have smart phones you can download applications that have fishing knots on them, give descriptions of uses, and they show you how to tie them.

One program is Fishing Knots Lite and this is an encyclopedia of knots for angler's and is a step by step guide.

Ultimate Fishing Knots is another that provides 58 different knots with easy to follow instructions.

The Chapter does not endorse either of the above applications but does find them useful. When you have time, look them up, or any of the other knot programs available for your smart phone and refresh your knot knowledge.

We all know that a poorly tied knot is the worst thing that we want to have when we have a fish on the end of our line.
 Bob Baker

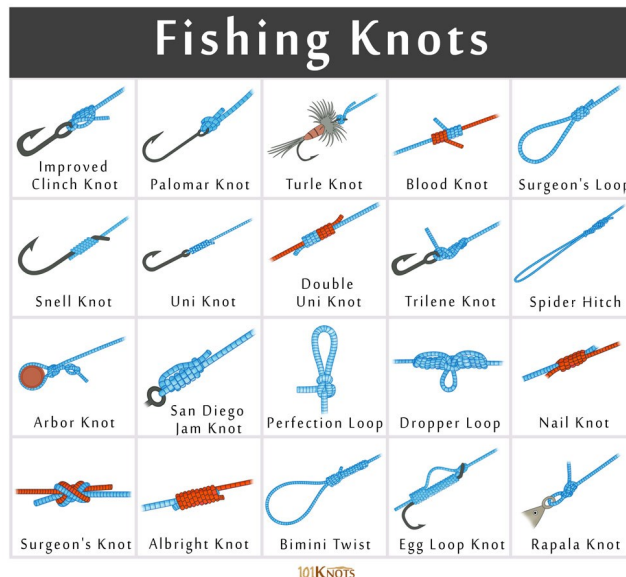


image taken from <https://www.101knots.com/category/fishing-knots>



Susquehanna Ripples
Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 1132
Williamsport, PA 17703 - 1132

Since 1964, the Mission of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to work to conserve, protect and restore Central Pennsylvania's Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

Upcoming Events

October 14, 2020

Cancelled - Chapter Meeting

November 11, 2020

Chapter Meeting

December 1, 2020

Fishing Licenses for 2020 on sale

January 13, 2021

Chapter Meeting

February 6 - 14, 2021

Great American Outdoor Show in
Harrisburg

February 10, 2021

Chapter Meeting

March 10, 2021

Chapter Meeting

April 14, 2021

Chapter Meeting

Chapter meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). Meetings are held at the **Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W 4th St, Williamsport, PA 17701**, in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted). Parking is at the rear of the Church and enter off of Campbell Street.

No meetings are held in May, June, July, August or December

The ***Susquehanna Ripples*** is the official newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is published 8 times a year: January, February, March, April, June/July, September, October, and November. Please consider submitting something of interest to our readers; a story, stream report, recipe, photograph, gear review, etc. Submissions received will be placed in the next available issue. All submissions can be sent to susquehannatu@gmail.com or boblaker@comcast.net.