

# Creamton Fly Fishing Club Newsletter



## Fall 2025

### President's Message

Greetings!

It was great seeing so many of you at our recent Farmers Picnic & Community Gathering in mid-August. It was our biggest turnout ever for our annual picnic, which I'm sure had something to do with the fact that we actually had decent weather this year! A huge thank you to Paul Lyon and everyone else who helped with the food and setup. The event is always a lot of work, but it's well worth it for the camaraderie and relationship-building with our landowners.

On the subject of our landowners, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the fundraising effort to help the Meads following the tragic fire that burned down their house in July. The response was incredible. Overall, we raised more than \$16,000, including a \$5,000 match from the general fund.



The family expressed great appreciation to the club for the donations, which have been hugely helpful to them in the recovery process. In addition to being the right thing to do, our response to this tragedy is a powerful demonstration of CFFC's commitment to the landowners and it goes a long way to burnishing our reputation in the local community.

After a hot, dry summer that has been less than ideal for trout fishing, I know many members, myself included, are looking forward to cooler weather and getting out on the stream again. Fall

is a great time to be out on the West Branch of the Lackawaxen, not only for the fishing but also for the gorgeous scenery.

If you're looking for recommendations on fall hatches and patterns on our river, check out the "Tips and Tactics" column from longtime club member Phil Mancini, aka the "Fishin' Musician." Phil has been fishing the river for more than 20 years and knows it better than anyone. We hope to continue this column in future newsletters with tips and tactics from Phil and other longtime members.

Finally, as you head out to the stream this fall, keep in mind that fall is the spawning season for brown trout. Keep an eye out for redds and avoid fishing over them so as not to disturb spawning fish and their eggs.

As we move toward the end of 2025, I want to acknowledge the great progress we've made with the club this year. I truly believe that the Creamton Fly Fishing Club is one of the best-kept secrets of fly fishing in Pennsylvania. What we have with this club and this river is truly special. We plan to keep it that way.

We will be holding our Annual Meeting on Feb. 7 where all members are invited. More details will be coming in the weeks ahead.

Enjoy the fall, and I hope to see you out on the river. Tight lines!

- Mark Lange, President

## Membership Update

It has been a busy year for our membership committee. Through the spring, we gave numerous tours and orientations for prospective new members (big thanks to Dave Miernicki and Mike Mulray for their help with these). Currently, we are at our max of 79 members with 10 more on the waiting list. We do not plan to expand beyond these numbers at the current time.

If you are new to the club, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Dave, or Mike if you have questions about club rules, access points on the river, parking, good patterns to use, etc. Again, our goal is to ensure that our new members feel supported and informed.

Looking ahead, one of our key focus areas in 2026 will be driving greater engagement from the existing membership. We plan to do a basic membership survey to learn about your unique talents, expertise, interests, and hobbies. Having this information will greatly enhance our ability to plan future club projects and potential group trips.

I know I speak for the entire Board when I say that I am extremely pleased with the progress we have made with our membership and the quality of the people in this club. What we have is truly special.

- Thom Clark, Membership Chair

## Stocking Report

I want to thank all the members who helped out with our spring stockings. So far this year, we have stocked 1,800 trout—a mix of browns, rainbows, brookies, and even a few feisty tiger trout. Along with the abundant natives and holders, the stocked trout have provided great fishing through the spring and early summer months.

We are planning a final stocking of 300 trout in September, assuming water temperatures and flow conditions will allow it. Assuming we do that final stocking, the total 2,100 trout stockings for 2025 will be a record for the Creamton Fly Fishing Club.

I will advise of the date for the fall stocking as we get closer. Pray for rain as we need higher water! As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or if you want to help.

- Mike Mulray, Stocking Chair

## Fall Tips & Tactics

As Mark said, fall is a great time to fish the West Branch of the Lackawaxen. Not only does the river offer abundant hatch activity, but it is also a beautiful time of the year to be out on the water with the fall foliage.

A significant food source for our trout in the fall is the Great Autumn Brown Sedge (*Pycnopsyche guttifer*). Also known as the Northern Caddisfly, October Caddis, Ginger Caddis, Giant Orange Sedge, or Stick Caddis, these large caddisflies emerge from mid-August through October, with the peak occurring from mid-September to mid-October.

Since these caddisflies emerge mainly during the night, the most productive times to fish a dry fly imitation are dusk and early morning. Once trout have keyed in on this big juicy fly early in the hatch, they can be successfully targeted with dry flies throughout the day.



In terms of patterns, an Amber Caddis in size 8 or 10 is an effective imitation. This large dry fly is great to use in a dry-dropper rig with a nymph or a midge. Cast near the banks where the caddisflies might be crawling to the surface, or near the tail end of riffles and runs to imitate egg-laying females. Twitch or skate the fly with short movements to mimic the fly's natural behavior.

In terms of nymphs, a cream or tan mop fly in size 10 can be used to imitate the uncased larvae. Nymphing near the banks is your best bet since the flies emerge by crawling out on shore.

As a local who has fished the West Branch of the Lackawaxen for more than 20 years, I am happy to answer any questions from newer members. Tight lines!

- Phil Mancini, aka the "Fishin' Musician"

## Buildings & Grounds Report

I want to thank everyone who helped out with our Member Work Day at the stream on July 12th.

It was a very productive day as we cleared two fallen trees at the Meadows, removed the remains of the portable toilet that was washed away by the floods after last year's Farmers Picnic, and cleared debris from Bairds. Big thanks to Mike Mulray, Paul Lyon, Phil Mancini, Chris Tompson, and Buddy Coleman for their help with the work that day.

We hope to schedule another work day in the fall to clear stream obstructions upstream of the Picnic Pool and cut knotweed at the Meadows, Barn Pool, and Danchak property. I will advise of the date via TeamReach. All help is welcome, as the more hands involved, the more work we can get done.

- Dave Miernicki, Buildings & Grounds Chair

## Calendar of Events

- TBD, Fall Stocking
- Feb. 7, 2026, Full Membership Annual Meeting (location to be announced)

## Important Reminders

Our biggest asset is our relationship with the landowners who allow us access to fish their water. Please respect them by only parking in approved spots as noted in our stream map in the Members Only section of the website.

For example, remember that only two vehicles are allowed to park at Meads at any one time (one in the drive by the stream gage, and the other along the road).

Also remember to fill out the Fishing Log whenever you get out on the stream, whether you catch anything or not. Finally, we are fortunate to have a gorgeous place to fish. Let's keep the river pristine by taking all trash, lines, empty spools, etc. with us when we leave.

## 2025 CFFC Board

- Mark Lange, President
- Paul Lyon, Vice President
- Joe Savage, Secretary/Treasurer
- Thom Clark, Membership Chair
- Mike Mulray, Stocking Chair
- Dave Miernicki, Buildings & Grounds Chair
- Jim Kerr, Marketing & Communications