

Draft: Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—November 3, 2022

TU Mission: To conserve, protect and restore North America's Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Attendees: Ian, Bryan, Jamie, Chuck, Nick, Ed, Ron, Alani, Nora

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:00 PM):

10/3/2022—No quorum. October meeting cancelled.

Review of September Minutes. September will be sent, vote by e-mail.

Officers and committee chair reports: See below.

Old Business:

- 1) Status of Virtual TiC at Chatham
 - a) Budget has been received from Dr Wetzel; it is in line. We need to cut the TiC check and everything should be up and running for December. Bryan will send budget numbers to Ed (he'll eventually need invoices).
 - b) Shift Tom Walsh award to Virtual TiC support – Bryan has a document from Chatham and the terms of the award have been changed such that the student supports Dr Wetzel's work in cold-water conservation. This will keep things better aligned to what our chapter wants. Bryan will send the document to the board in the next couple days.
- 2) Membership Initiative/Brochure.
 - a) Brochure looks very good; Nick is waiting on a couple of final pieces from Bryan and he's working to get it from Allegheny Cleanways. Several board members also provided feedback.
 - b) Bryan also noted that we could use better signage/table throw for events like the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.
- 3) Cabin Fever
 - a) See conservation chair's report for details. Waiting on final contract with main speaker. Once signed we can get the marketing out.
 - i) Motion (Nora, second Ed) – provide T-shirts for all volunteers, have additional T-shirts available for purchase by visitors **<passed>**
 - ii) Bryan is looking for additional speakers
 - iii) Bryan would like the web site updated to allow for vendors to pay for booth via the site
 - iv) Will need bucket raffle help; Chuck is planning on taking the flea market

- b) Flea Market forms
 - i) Chuck is looking at a bar code system and looking for feedback
 - c) Volunteer form
 - i) Jotform via the mailing list
 - d) Website update – Chuck would like to move things around on the website (Board is happy to let him have at it).
- 4) Trout Trail update
 - a) Kudos from Ed to Nick for the trout trail pamphlet and how well-received it was at Forbes Trail last night (11/2).
 - b) Next step, if Forbes Trail gets the grants they expect, then they can start building out the web site (Nick has secured the site for them).
 - c) Discussed an additional education grant that we and other chapters can apply for.
 - 5) Free Fly-Fishing class
 - a) Ed has contacted Wilkins School and reserved March 25/26, 2023.
 - b) Ed will need a couple volunteers for each day.
 - c) Service Award (Rob Reeder). Chuck proposes a service award for Rob’s 10-year commitment to this. Ed seconds. No objections.
 - 6) Need for outside financial reviewer—no longer needed. Ed has arranged for monthly reviews.

New Business:

- 1) Continue Zoom subscription? \$160 per year. Board and other meetings seem best facilitated by Zoom. Board approved of this in discussion.
- 2) Outdoor Adventures Committee – name?
 - a) Review of 2022 outings
 - i) Pine Creek went very well, and the committee has worked on getting some others done (scouting) this summer
- 3) Board nominations. Chuck has discussed with Dale; Dale is working on it.
- 4) Conservation
 - a) Allegheny Cleanways events, success, and lessons
 - i) Bryan will write something up once he has the data – we will discuss next month
 - b) Cancellation of stream project with Arrowhead chapter
 - i) Note in the conservation chair’s report.
 - ii) Bryan moves we scrub the commitment to Arrowhead until we find a project that is moving. Ian seconds. <passed>
 - iii) Chuck will send a letter to confirm it
 - c) Equitrans would like to support both TiC and stream work in the Greene County area via a Stream Keepers program. Ian mentioned our Stream Keepers training session on April 29 in North Park. Equitrans would also be willing to support us in getting TiC into schools in SWPA.
- 5) February show is asking for speakers in return for the booth. Ron will approach others for additional speakers.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 7:58 PM

Important Dates:

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For September/October Year: 2022

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Conservation:

- October 21st was the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water act and PWWTU represented the chapter at the festival in Millvale. Great opportunity to connect with all of the water conservation organizations in Pittsburgh that we shut down due to COVID. Talked to many of them and working on building alliances and get their attendance at Cabin Fever for the Conservation Corner
- Allegheny Cleanways - change of leadership, working with their Head to talk about what next year's clean up schedule would be, the attendance and tons of trash we helped clean up out of the three rivers. The intent is to set a schedule way in advance and advertise to our members. If we can get this scheduled, I would like to propose to the board to renew our \$5,000 commitment to them. The organization does great work with not only our watersheds but also dump busting where people just continue to throw junk. We just need more organization ahead of time to make this worthwhile for the chapter
- Recommending to the board to release our commitment of funds to the Arrowhead TU chapter for work on Buffalo Creek - after talking to the president there has been no movement on the part of the conservation chair, and he is MIA.
- Virtual TIC - We are greenlighted to move ahead with the system and aquarium set to be ready by December. Intent is to do a live/virtual session in December either at the facility or via web to show capabilities and explain the program. Currently looking for pilot classrooms who would like to do TIC but use the virtual aquarium and additional programming around the curriculum.
- Tom Walsh Scholarship - working with Chatham University we have agreed on terms for guiding the scholarship money to students who are more dedicated to watershed conservation and/or the Virtual TIC program. This allows us to see a tangible deliverable towards TUs overall goals as well as offer Dr. Wetzell much needed assistance in the programs we want to see and he would have to administer as head of the aquaponics facility and faculty.
- Cabin Fever -
 - We almost have a contract with Kelly Galloup but he has verbally committed to Cabin Fever 2023
 - We need 3-4 more speakers - looking for topics, Josh Miller has a new book, Jeff Blood always good, do we want a discussion about the status of our local watersheds from a water quality standpoint/pollution and things we need to be pushing our townships on?
 - Discussion about authors corner and/or having authors speak - not sure about the draw
 - About to push out the letter to Vendors to sign up - really want to use the online PayPal system to capture fees

- Speaking of fees - strongly considering raising the cost for vendors - inflation, this is out fundraiser, and it is really cheap compared to all other expos, We will have Kelly Galloup speaking
 - I do need help and will work with Chuck to get a volunteer list out to the membership - I need a right hand to help prepare/plan and day of help vendors set up, I will need someone to run the raffle table, ticket table, floaters that can watch a vendor's booth when they need a quick break
- Equitrans Midstream - They reached out to me to explore a bigger partnership. They really like the virtual TIC program and asked if we would be willing to work with some Green county girl scout troops to do streamgirls down there. I said we would have to talk about it - we would be funded for this by them and could get more/better gear. We could propose other programs/ideas we could do instead or in addition that would help further our mission and chapter growth. New members are a good thing, even if they don't attend but support us.

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

The women had a wonderful time at Buffalo Creek in October where they fished for the stocked brook trout. Nine women attended including women who were beginners and women who were very experienced.

We are looking forward to our last event of 2022 which will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving. As is our tradition we will meet for fishing on Neshannock Creek.

We are already planning for 2023 and have identified dates and are just working now on identifying the locations for our events which will begin with a flight time event in January and end, as always, the week before Thanksgiving with a final fishing trip of the year.

Among the highlights of 2023 will be a trip to Spring Creek where we hope to meet up with the Spring Creek Trout Unlimited women anglers.

We will also be hosting Stream girls in 2023. We plan to do this at North Park and we will be offering an introduction to stream girls training session in late April not only for our chapter but for other chapters who may be interested in participating.

January 21 (probably fly tying)

February 25—weather dependent but could be trout or steelhead

March 25—likely trout or steelhead

April 22—Trout or early bass

April 29—Stream Keepers Training, North Park

May 19-21—PA Women Anglers Retreat, Godspeed Hostel, State College

June 3 & 10—Stream Keepers, North Park

June 23-25—central part of state weekend

July 22—Bass

August 19—likely bass

September 23—Trout or bass, possibly W MD or WV

October 21—Trout

November 18—Trout or steelhead

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

New members continue to find us via the National TU site and word of mouth. Personal email responses to those who reach out helps them feel welcomed and I look forward to the next in person meeting so we meet and greet face to face.

Membership brochure has been updated and awaiting some content pieces. Once final content is inserted, proofed and it is board approved — final production and asset generation will be completed.

Link to draft here (copy and paste in browser):

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wCdVT6wQIU6kidhrCAnUk43LUGLwg-5_/view

(Nick Cobler)

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

(September, N Cobler)Continued Bar Flies through the summer months at Howard’s Tavern in Westview from 7pm - 9 pm. Themes for the evenings included open tying — where folks had the chance to work on fly patterns individually, ask questions and learn from others. We also held an Iron Fly event where fly tyers were given specific materials and tasked with using their imagination to create patterns from only those items. (Nick)

Designed and created a logo, and draft brochure for the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail initiative. Currently the brochure is being reviewed and will be shared with Go Laurel Highlands at an upcoming meeting for their feedback and guidance. After that, revisions will be made and it will be produced and provided to the chapters, as well as GLH to promote area tourism and conversation. Also, a website will be created to support the brochure content and Laurel Hill Trout Trail initiative.

Link to draft here (copy and paste in browser):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17dnWle4wN-NIH1XEXYEmkoH-HeKJAcGf/view?usp=sharing>

(Nick)

Not sure if I should add this here too, but I do create fly pattern articles for the TROUT newsletter each season. Summer issue included an ant pattern. Link to latest issue here (copy and paste in browser):

<https://patrout.org/index.php/about-us/newsletter-current/>

(October, R Milavec) BarFlies -

We had 9 tiers and tied the Squirrel & Herl Bugger and 2 versions of the White Death - next session will be November 28th and will be an Open Tie

Sports Show -

February 17, 18, 19, 2023 at the Monroeville Convention Center - now produced by Family Festivals Assoc, of Greensburg - They will provide us with a complimentary booth - They ask that we do a 20-30 minute presentation each day - We have done that in the past

I will coordinate the presentations and volunteers - we will need to cover 3 shifts on Fri & Sat and 2 on Sun - 2 people each shift - I will be there for all shifts - I will have a sign-up sheet at the meetings
Will sell the remaining flies and have the 'Tie a Fly' again - that has been well received the last 2 shows -
Will the brochures be finished by then?

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

(September) Chuck Buffington It's cool and rainy today, a reminder that Autumn is on the way. The summer was pretty quiet from a PWWTU standpoint. The Board approved spending \$150 for each monthly chapter meeting held at Christ Church Grove Farm by email. We really do need an independent set of eyes to go over the books, both from legal and fiducial standpoints. If you know a member who has some accounting experience, give me his name and contact information.

(October) Cabin Fever is creeping up on us. After a 2 year hiatus, we may be rusty. Bryan has asked me to round up volunteers and I have constructed a Jotform online request for that purpose. I've asked to run the Flea Market this year and have worked to do registration online and sales with barcode technology. Ed Barger has graciously volunteered to organize the Free Fly Fishing seminar and Scott Loughner will continue in his role as primary teacher. Volunteers are needed to help students tie knots and learn casting techniques. MANY Thanks to Rob Reeder for his long and effective stint in the position.

Vice President: Ian Brown

Represented PWWTU along with Bryan Mathie at the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act at Millvale Riverfront Park on 10/15. Will be repping PWWTU at Fish & Boat Commissions Intro to Steel heading on-water classes on 11/6 & 11/7.

Outdoor Adventures: Andy Andrews

Committee Chair Outdoor Adventures: Andy Andrews

My suggestions for your consideration for the 2023 fishing season for the TU chapter are listed below. Check my dates to make sure I haven't run up against any holidays or restrictions in the dates suggested. Please keep in mind that the list is just suggestions and is not cast in stone. You may want to check with friends you know and are able to give an opinion from their experience on the dates chosen, or lengths

of stay. I've done some research and I think I'm in the ballpark with my ideas, but the books don't tell you everything.

I would like to have a committee meeting in my home on February 11th at 7:00 so we can finalize the schedule and get it out to the chapter members. I will remind you of the February date after the New Year.

On a personal note, I will be having cataract surgery on one eye in November, and surgery on the second eye in December. And lots of doctors appointments in those months with a final release in January. No persistent problems, just getting older.

- April 12 - 17 Pine Creek
- May 10 - 15 Spring Creek
- June 14 - 17 Yellow Breeches
- July 12 - 16 Wallenpaupack (lake fishing)
- August 9 - 14 Lake Arthur (lake fishing)
- September 13 - 18 Young Women's
- October 11 - 16 Loyalsock Creek

I think the list will give you something to think about and plan for in 2023.

Best to all,

Andy

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

(September) Currently recovering from COVID. Files containing all transactions from summer period (5/1/2022 to 8/27/2022) along with QUICKEN summary file documenting reconciliation of QUICKEN ledger with August 2022 account statement from FNB.

Income during period \$65.00 (Target Employee giving campaign donations)

Expenditures:

- \$5000 to Allegheny Cleanways (as requested by Bryan Mathie to fulfill prior commitment by PWWTU)
- \$1324.42 for equipment establishing new TIC facility in Slippery Rock School District (\$693 for new chiller and \$631.42 for TIC startup kit) as requested by TIC lead Christian Shane

Current balance (including outstanding checks) is \$49,687.82. This includes \$5000 in restricted funds from the grant by Equitrans to establish a virtual TIC facility in the North Hills campus of Chatham University.

I also am looking for a volunteer to serve as an account auditor. Our prior treasurer was supposed to be providing this function but has not responded to recent requests for reviews (still outstanding audits from December & March). With Cabin Fever coming up with its large cash flow both into and out of the account, I would like us to better follow the guidelines from National TU regarding audit frequency. You can read about what the responsibilities are for the chapter financial auditor in the below

Link (copy and paste in browser):

<https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/chapter-leader-resources/chapter-financial-reviewer/>

Since the formal financial reviews have been very irregular, I have tried to provide monthly transaction and account reconciliation info to all board members and welcome any queries regarding any of the listed transactions. My job as treasurer is likely to get more hectic over the next few months as Cabin Fever approaches, so I welcome any support offered by other board members during this time.

(October) I have emailed board members with details of transactions over the last 60 days. They include payment of \$900 to Christ Church at Grove Farm for use of their facilities for monthly meetings, reimbursement to the October meeting speaker, John Mlakar, of material costs for his rod building demonstration, and payment to In-House Graphics for web site work. We also received \$90 in rebates from National TU for new members. Currently we have \$ 48,127.32, of which \$5000 is grant money allocated toward development of a virtual TIC facility at Chatham University. None of this grant money has yet been spent. One outstanding debit is for \$114, to Dr. Buffington for a bar code generator system for use in tagging flea market items.

I have been in contact with the Wilkins School Community Center to be the prospective host for our annual Intro to Fly Fishing Seminar. I have tentatively reserved dates of Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26 for the seminars. Rob Reeder has stepped down as the organizer, but Scott Loughner has volunteered to continue as the primary instructor. I need two volunteers to assist with running the program, and assisting students, as needed.

As for Cabin Fever volunteers, I recommend that we also announce signups during the meetings in November, December, and January as several volunteers that I know do not use the internet.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg

Communications Committee