

Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—February 2, 2023

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

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

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:00 PM):

Call to order

Quorum

Board for 2022

- President—Ian Brown
- VP—TBD
- Secretary—TBD
- Treasurer—Ed Barger

Ed moves, Jamie seconds **<passed>**

****We need a volunteer to serve as Secretary****

Committees, etc., will be figured out at a later date.

Review of January 2022 Minutes. Ed moved to approve; Bryan seconded. **<passed>**

Officers and committee chair reports: see below

Old Business:

1) Cabin Fever

- a) Table Covers
 - i) Per specs we saw from Nick.
 - ii) Ian proposes we buy two, Nora seconds. **<passed>**
 - iii) Nora will arrange, Nick will FTP the design.
- b) Stick City – Canning Day is 2/20. Dinner and Fly Tying.
 - i) Bryan will send blurb to Chuck to advise the members of canning, the tying and the dinner.
 - ii) Need to get info out to local chapters as well.
 - iii) Can we get something in the PG?
- c) T-Shirts—set and ready, orders available on web site.

- d) Signage—can we get a half-dozen stands that will accept posters? Nora will send link. Looking for something cost-effective and easily stored.
 - e) Volunteers
 - i) 33-34 volunteers and we are essentially full and ready.
 - ii) Chuck will send out the list
 - iii) Clean-up will be the challenge
 - iv) Ron will pick up donuts & coffee for the early AM; Bryan & Ed will likely get Costco pizza for volunteer lunches.
 - f) Bennett Rods—we have a list from rod-builder John Mlakar with recommendations on pricing.
 - g) SGOC 1-day—Ed will arrange next week.
 - h) Vendors—10 slots remaining
 - i) Conservation Corner—10 total so far
 - j) Bucket raffle looks very good
 - k) Food court—going to cancel this since the hotel came back and indicated that there'd have to be a minimum of \$2500 in sales.
 - l) Having issues with pipe & drape vendor. Several suggestions provided to Alex. Ed will look through old records.
 - m) Flea Market—available online and it's possible that the sellers can set up their own bar code tags.
- 2) Status of Virtual TiC at Chatham
 - a) Tank is up and running, will endeavor to get this up and running very soon.
 - b) Several schools are missing chillers and would likely be happy to jump in on this.
 - c) Looking to nail this down this week.
 - 3) Membership Initiative/Brochure (complete)
 - a) Brochure looks great and we'll see it at the next meeting.
 - 4) Trout Trail update
 - a) This is pretty much complete. Ed has 100+ brochures. Web site will likely soft-launch next week.
 - 5) Free Fly-Fishing class
 - a) Moving ahead with this.
 - b) Ed needs a laptop—Bryan may have a spare that is suitable. If not, then we may want to buy one.
 - 6) Service Award—moving forward.

New Business:

- 1) Clearances
 - a) <https://pwwtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-April-Youth-policy-Approved-link-updated-feb-22.pdf>
- 2) Stream Keepers 2023
 - a) Volunteer Training 4/29 (Ian will get write-up for Bryan for PA TU)
 - b) 2023 Event 6/3 & 6/10
- 3) Communications Committee

- a) Content calendar—Ian agrees strongly with this and would like to get us and all the groups that we work with used to using it. As an example, announcements will be moving to the end of our meetings, so that the focus of the meetings can be our speakers. Having the announcements available on web sites will also facilitate the majority of our members, who don't attend meetings, having access to them.
- b) Facebook/Instagram presence is growing
- 4) Tim Flagler on 3rd Monday in September? No opposition from the board to doing this even if it means changing Mondays.
- 5) Mentoring program. Do we want to revisit? Some discussion, no decision.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:05 PM

Important Dates:

2/13/23, 3/13/23, 4/10/23, 5/8/23 – Monthly meetings

2/27/23, 3/27/23, 4/24/23, 5/22/23 – Bar flies

2/26/2023 – Cabin Fever

3/25 & 3/26/2023—Free fly-fishing school (PWWTU & Days on the Water)

4/1/2023 – Trout opening day (state-wide)

4/29/2023 – Stream Keepers Volunteer Training/North Park

6/3/23 & 6/10/23 – Stream Keepers, North Park

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For January Year: 2023

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Membership Committee Chair: Charles Buffington

We now have a spiffy brochure, thanks to Nick for putting his graphic artist skills to use. Thanks to Jamie for getting the project going. And thanks to Tom Gavett from Bethel Park Printing for prompt printing of 750 copies. Board members should take a few and drop them into schools of potential fly fishermen. Plus, they're available for the Sportsman show, Cabin Fever and the Free Seminar. RUTU...catchy once it catches on.

Nick features on the Cabin Fever Flea Market front as well. He's produced a wonderful logo for the event that we'll use to indelibly brand it to the public.

The Outdoor Adventures group is holding a weekend-long camping/fishing/eating event in April for the membership. The event will be centered on Little Pine Creek at a very nice campground in North Central PA. All are welcome. Contact Andy Andrews for more information. (Campfire451@gmail.com).

Several years ago, the Chapter hosted events for new fly fishers under the Mentor Program. This is a good way to meet new fishers and get them involved in other activities in the chapter. Would this be a good program to revive?

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Ian Brown

Vice President: open

Outdoor Adventures: Andy Andrews

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

We currently have \$45,843.75 in the bank, of which \$5,000 is reserved for setting up the Chatham Virtual TIC facility. One outstanding bill - \$552.70 from In-House Graphics for setup of Cabin Fever info +

PayPal tix for banquet & Fly Tying. So far this fiscal year, our web site maintenance work has cost us \$1571 (including new bill). Web hosting runs us another \$305. Just something to think about.

Below is image of Quicken listing of transactions through 1/31. Last month's major expenditures include \$2500 to Chatham for our support of a Tom Walsh Memorial Scholarship; \$175 to me for reimbursement of the rental costs for the Wilkins School Community Center for March 25 and 26; \$235.43 to Christian Shane for gift cards given to Fly Tiers at our January meeting and some TIC expenses; Board-approved \$1071.40 to the Environmental Charter School for TIC Setup costs; \$986.20 to Revival Print Co. for our Cabin Fever T shirts; and \$239.68 to reimburse Charles for purchase of our new brochures. During this period, we have received from PayPal \$3402.47 (\$3500 gross - \$97.53 in processing fees) for Cabin Fever. An additional \$4503.15 is currently available (including payments made in February) for downloading, for a total received to date from vendors, banquet attendees, and fly tying class attendees, of \$7905,62. As of January 31, I have payments made for 47 vendor tables, 6 banquet reservations, and 4 tying class enrollments.

Bryan and I spent Wednesday at Stick City Brewing, helping (minimally) to help at the brew day for the Cabin Fever Pale Ale. Looking forward to helping at canning day.

I am picking up tomorrow from Scott Loughner 2 gift certificates from TFO, good for ANY of their rods, including their high-end ones. I believe that these will be in a separate raffle. We need to make sure that we have enough unique ticket colors for the various planned raffles. I will be contacting the Allegheny County Treasurers Office next week to obtain our games of chance licenses for Cabin Fever. From what I understand from talking to the Forbes Trail folks (see below), we will need both a standard Games of Chance license (\$125) and a special raffle license (\$25)

Last night, I attended the Forbes Trail TU meeting. I picked up over 100 Laurel Highlands Trout Trail brochures from them for handing out at Cabin Fever and at the free class. We can get more if we need them. I also picked up 2 posters for their upcoming 50th Anniversary banquet in March. I would like to have this displayed somewhere in our booth setup as a gesture of our appreciation of their cooperation with various programs in the past year or so.

Not much to report on the free class. I created an updated writeup for our website. We currently have 7 signed up for Saturday and 3 for Sunday. I will have signup sheets available at Cabin Fever. I plan to give info to John Hayes of the PG to further publicize the event. Thanks to Nick for dressing up a PowerPoint presentation on TU and our Chapter for presenting at the class. I am still in need of a laptop for use in the presentations. If no one can supply one, I am recommending that we purchase an inexpensive one (\$500-600 or so seemed to be reasonable ones that I saw at Costco today) and pay for the yearly subscription of MS Office. It might be useful for other events & chapter activities.

I will have a money box and \$100 in small bills for Ron on Monday night, for use at the upcoming Sportsmans show, and will get more later in the month for use at Cabin Fever.

Ex-officio: Charles Buffington

Communications Committee: Nick Cobler

1. Membership brochures printed and web version for download was sent to Joe Birch to post to website. (not sure if he did it though)

2. Cabin Fever - beer label / collab with Stick City is finalized and sent to Stick City; social posts have been created for the info I have so far and are going strong and being shared across Facebook. We should re-run them in February to keep the event top-of-mind. Can also start a countdown to event series.

I'm booked at the hotel for Saturday. Looking forward to the dinner with my Dad. And I'll be ready to set up early Sunday morning.

3. I also inquired about an "off-site" Bar Flies at Stick City. Nick was receptive and said that could work. They already do some of those, but usually a weekday evening. Something to keep in mind.

4. Communications Committee - Alex and I will brainstorm some ideas and goals for the committee and will have some ideas to share with the group soon. (John Mlakar is willing to also help us out there when he can.)

5. Trout Trail - website is being worked on and the goal is to launch by the end of January. Stream information has been difficult to obtain from chapters, so we will launch with what we have. Brochures have been printed. Larry Myers has though - however Ed may have some?

6. Free Fly Fishing - I put together an initial PowerPoint template for Ed to use as a start. Once populated with content I can fine tune.

7. Clearances - can you send me that info again for what I need to do to get the required clearances, etc. I slacked last year, so want to get those out of the way! Alex may need to do that as well.