

Donegal TU

LATE DECEMBER 2019 MAYFLYER NEWSLETTER

In Memory Of Mark McMaster



Holiday Greetings!

Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited is 50 years old. Imagine that.

Those original seven guys who had an idea to start an organization probably did not imagine an organization as large, active, and important as what DTU has become.

Did they dream this big?

Moving into year 51, what will the 750 of us who are currently members do with their success?

Like many of you, I reflect on things to be thankful for as 2019 draws to a close. As I said in my October report, time passes very quickly. Sometimes it brings –very abruptly—unwanted events.

One of the great assets that DTU has is its very dedicated, talented, and hard-working members of its board of directors as well as the chairpersons of its many committees.

Sadly, a few weeks ago our ranks were reduced by the passing of Mark McMaster. Longtime Chapter member, director, webmaster, and editor par excellence of this newsletter, his dedication to the success of Donegal Trout Unlimited was unlimited. So much of what we see is Mark's creation, Mark's work product. His success is summarized by the banner at the top of this issue of the Mayflyer: "Best Chapter Newsletter in PA".

Those who received Mark's emails know that he often included a quote or saying at the bottom of the page.

Here is a Gaelic blessing for you, my friend. May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

What a year 2019 has been!

Public acclaim by Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited for The Mayflyer thanks to Mark's talent efforts. Public recognition by Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited of DTU's outstanding conservation efforts for the Camp Andrews restoration project, which was

Awarded the Best TU Project in Pennsylvania.

Thanks to Greg and Bob for their perseverance and leadership in restoring waterways throughout Lancaster County. More than 100 new members joined DTU.

Garry continued his quest to deliver more and more quality native species of trees and shrubs for plantings on our projects. Penn State approached DTU and suggested a partnership for the tree nursery.

The Millport operation is the better for it. We continue to benefit from the generosity of our donors and the confidence of the grantmakers who support our projects.

Lydia Martin brought talents we did not have and a boundless energy to use them to improve the Chapter. Becky Whitson stepped forward to serve on two state TU committees and also to lead the DTU Women's Initiative.

There are many more blessings and people to thank, but you get the point.

This December Mayflyer is abbreviated and different than if Mark were still editor, but we wanted to reflect on the year, honor Mark for his many contributions, and send Very Best Wishes to you and yours for the New Year soon upon us.

Thanks to all for what you have done to make DTU the great organization it is today.

Tom



Conservation Committee

DTU was having a good fall with projects and planting , and then the wild storm event on Halloween did some real damage to the recently stabilized section of the Beiler tributary.

There was major damage to the tributary.



The storm also did some damage on the nearby Bob Herr project (main stem of Fishing Creek). An estimated four to five inches of rain fell in a very short time, jamming a large culvert with branches and tree trunks.

Twelve feet of water was dammed up, which then broke loose in a wave that did a lot of damage.

Thanks to multiple work days by Bob Kutz, Barry Witmer and Mike Burcin and two emergency volunteer work day, most

of the damage that can be repaired for now has been taken care of.

As many of the trees and shrub as could be salvaged have been, and shelters and stakes are now in place. Many of the new plantings are just gone.



USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service) will need to do a good bit of repair to the stream structures.

A special thanks to Bill Nolan and some of the Veterans for helping to complete the recent repairs.

The search is on to secure \$25,000 to fund the damage. We had planted more than 1,100 trees and shrubs on the above projects.

As part of the Campbell grant, DTU is hosting an informational meeting for residents of the Fishing Creek Watershed.

It will be January 23rd at Camp Andrews. The day begins at 8:30AM with a light breakfast, followed by four presentations. The meeting will end with a walk along the DTU state award winning stream project on Fishing Creek.

USFWS is currently working on a one-mile stretch of Bowery Run, a tributary of the Octoraro. This is an area with severe erosion and almost no trees. After the regrading is finished, the area will get livestock fencing and riparian buffer plantings that will provide nearly four acres of buffers.

This project is funded through The Alliance for the Bay. DTU helped coordinate with the owners. It will be a great project for that watershed.

When USFWS has completed the Bowery Run project, their workers will return to the Belier tributary make the storm repairs and to complete the remaining portion of the project. That will allow for fencing and then spring buffer planting.

We have four outstanding grant applications submitted for 2020 and are anxious to hear how many grants of them we are awarded so that we can plan project implementation.

Currently we have 2020 funding for 1) a project on the lower end of Climbers Run funded and 2) a small dam removal on Hammer Creek.

We will be resubmitting a grant request in February for the upper section of Camp Andrews.

We are awaiting designs and budgets for four sites on Lititz Run. In addition to these planned projects, there will be two more large tree planting projects in the Lititz Run Watershed, installed by the Alliance for the Bay.

These will produce 3,000 new trees and shrubs for the Lititz Run Watershed.

The Chesapeake Conservancy has agreed to visit and film six of our upcoming projects with their drone. It is great to have partners willing to help.

Finally, phase one of our joint project with Doc Fritchey TU for restoration of Hammer Creek (above Speedwell) has been completed.

Shaun McAdams has stream assessments from phase one and will be working on some designs for the necessary work in Lebanon County. PA Department of Environmental Protection has electrofished the main stem of the Hammer from its origin in Lebanon County all the way to Route 322 in Lancaster County.

This gives us a baseline to determine how successful our work on the Hammer relative to aquatic life, including trout.

There are wild trout being borne in this stream. This project is coming together and gaining momentum.

Greg



Save The Date

Spring Fundraiser



Our Annual Fundraiser is just around the corner.

On Saturday, April 4, 2020, we'll gather at the Double Tree in Willow Street for a dinner with silent and vocal auctions. More details will follow in due course.

In the meantime, mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Upcoming Events

January

8 th , 7pm	Board Meeting	Millport Conservancy	
15 th , 7pm	Membership Meeting	Farm and Home Center	John Arway Former Director, PA Fish & Boat

February

12 th , 7pm	Board Meeting	Millport Conservancy	
19 th , 7pm	Membership Meeting	Farm and Home Center	Becky Whitson Trout in the Classroom & Women's Initiative

March

11 th , 7pm	Board Meeting	Millport Conservancy	
18 th , 7pm	Membership Meeting	Farm and Home Center	Nick Raftas PA Fishing Guide

Mark McMaster Services

Mark was a graduate of Eastern High School and Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. His desire for knowledge led him to enjoy the fields of carpentry, computers, photography, tropical fish, wildflowers, orchids, fly fishing, and fly tying.

He was a member of the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Susquehanna Orchid Society, Nature Conservancy, and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

A visitation will be held on January 4, 2020 at 1 PM at the John W. Keffer Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. 902 Mt. Rose Ave. York. A Memorial Service will follow on January 4, 2020 at 2 PM with Pastor Marion Haynes Weller officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Hospice and Community Care, 685 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17604, Donegal Trout Unlimited, PO Box 8001, Lancaster, PA 17604, or to a charity of your choice in Mark's name.

