



## Adams County Trout Unlimited - December 2025 Newsletter

*Have a Great Holiday Season  
and a Happy New Year!*

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### President's Message

The ACTU Board of Directors wishes you and your families a Happy Holiday Season! We extend our gratitude to all who volunteered and/or donated this year in support of the chapter's many activities and events. In 2025, ACTU made a meaningful impact across Adams County for anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and especially our youth.

**Commitment to Conservation and Education** - Our projects reflect ACTU's dedication to conservation, education, and access. Through habitat restoration, invasive species management, and public engagement, we are ensuring healthier streams, richer biodiversity, and welcoming spaces for our residents, visitors, and future generations. With the support of our members and partners, we continue to build a legacy of stewardship that will endure for years to come.

**A Year of Gratitude and Community** - This season was filled with gratitude. Each event reminded us of the importance of investing in youth, caring for natural resources, and strengthening community bonds. The reward was not only in trout released or flies tied, but in the smiles, laughter, and lessons learned along the way.

**Awards and Appreciation** - ACTU was honored to receive the **Chapter of the Year Award** from Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited—for the third time—as well as the **Best Newsletter Award**. These achievements reflect the dedication of our core members, whose leadership and expertise have expanded our contributions to Adams County's young people and environment. I extend heartfelt thanks to the following members who generously

give their time to achieving ACTU's mission: Jeff Clarke, Buzz Dettinburn, Rick Franzese, Jerry Gladfelter, Bob Gordon, Dave Kamsler, Richard Lewis, Joe Lysitt, Bob Miller, Gary Perry, Steve Piper, Lynn Rebert, Dave Swope, and Mike Waldron.

**Looking Ahead to 2026** - As we turn the page to a new year, I look forward to building on the successes of 2025. I invite all members to join us in continuing to expand opportunities for youth engagement, strengthen conservation partnerships, and identify new ways to improve access for outdoor enthusiasts.

That's it for this newsletter. Have a great Holiday Season and keep warm this winter! *Frank Kozak, President*

## ACTU Achieves Fantastic Fundraising Success at the Adams County Giving Spree!

We are thrilled to announce that Adams County Trout Unlimited raised an incredible **\$17,753.53 in combined Today and Forever gifts** during this year's Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF) Giving Spree! This remarkable generosity from our supporters ensures that our mission to promote responsible fishing practices; conserve the county's waterways and associated natural resources; and actively support youth conservation, recreation, and education activities will continue to thrive.



### Breakdown of ACTU's Gifts

- **\$7,265 in Today gifts** were donated to our chapter during the Spree. We received this amount in a check from the ACCF. The amount compares favorably to the \$6,405 raised in 2023 and \$5,074 in 2022. We had 42 donors this year, including several \$500 contributions. The total also includes approximately \$350 in incentive/match funds and a \$1,750 bonus for attracting Forever gifts.
- **\$10,487 in Forever gifts**, which have been placed in a permanent charitable endowment for ACTU. Our chapter's Forever gifts will help provide a steady stream of reliable income for decades to come. This means that ACTU can expect \$500 to \$600 in interest/dividends each year, with even more growth as we continue to build the endowment.

The Giving Spree set a new record with \$4,342,196 donated to the 104 participating nonprofits. On a per capita basis, the Giving Spree remains the largest fundraising event in the entire United States, which is a true testament to the generosity of our community.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this effort and made this year's Giving Spree a resounding success, including our dedicated day-of-event volunteers Frank, Dave Swope, Dave Kamsler, and myself. *Rick Franzese*

## ACTU Chapter Awards

At the chapter's Annual Appreciation Picnic on August 27<sup>th</sup>, ACTU presented its yearly chapter awards to Lynn Rebert and Ricky Whitmore for their accomplishments in 2024.

Ricky received the Adopt-A-Stream Award. This award honors an individual whose steadfast dedication and support of Adams County and Adams County Trout Unlimited have left a lasting imprint on our chapter and the waterways of the county. Through his efforts and commitment, Ricky has advanced the health and

sustainability of the county's fisheries, exemplifying a spirit of conservation and stewardship. He has worked with exceptional diligence and devotion to improving the waters of Conewago Creek, improving its ecological integrity for years to come. Ricky is only the second non-member to receive the chapter's Adopt-A-Stream Award.

Lynn received the David A. Swope Merit and Recognition Award. This acknowledges Lynn for his significant and lasting contributions to ACTU's youth and community programs, most notably through his dedicated leadership of the highly impactful Trout in the Classroom program. He generously devoted countless hours to advancing the chapter's broad array of conservation efforts and community-based initiatives. Lastly, Lynn stood out as an enthusiastic advocate for conservation, playing an integral role in stream stocking events and diligently supporting the upkeep of the Ziegler Mill Road Access Site. Congratulations to both!



Seated L to R: Ricky and Lynn.  
Standing L to R: Frank and Dave

## Focus on Youth – What did the chapter do this year?

Spring had arrived, and with it another season of fishing and community events for the Adams County Trout Unlimited (ACTU) Chapter. Springtime has always been our busiest time of the year. Most people are surprised to learn that, since its founding in 1977, our chapter has engaged more than 14,000 local youth in a variety of programs. This year's calendar was no exception, and looking back, we are thankful for the chance to share these experiences with our community's young people.

The youth activities began on April 10<sup>th</sup> with Trout in the Classroom's Fingerling Release Day at the Strawberry Hill Foundation. ACTU has been leading this program since 2009, and on this day students from six schools, who had raised trout from January through April, released hundreds of fingerlings into Middle Creek. They also learned about watersheds, wetlands, fly casting, and aquatic communities. Watching their excitement reminded us why this program mattered, as the students connected classroom lessons to real conservation.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, ACTU hosted its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Latimore Creek Youth Fishing Derby. Starting at 7:00 am, children ages 5 to 15 stocked trout in the creek and then enjoyed the thrill of fishing with their families. Thanks to the Yellow Breeches Anglers & Conservation Association, the young anglers had plenty of trout to catch—and keep. The smiles on their faces made us realize how thankful we are for the chapter to be able to run such an event.



Just days later on May 20<sup>th</sup> (I did say it was a busy time of year!), ACTU members joined New Oxford Middle School's Environmental Day for the sixth straight year. Eighth graders rotated through sessions on ecosystems, recycling, water conservation, and outdoor recreation. Our members taught fly casting and fly tying, giving students hands on skills that connected them to the outdoors. We appreciated the chance to spark curiosity and stewardship in the next generation.

June brought even more opportunities. On June 1, ACTU participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Southcentral Outdoors for Youth (SOY) Day at the McSherrystown Fish and Game Association. Youth ages 6 to 17 enjoyed shooting, fishing, trapping, and fly tying. ACTU's fly tying instruction remained a highlight, and we were thankful to contribute to a free day of outdoor fun for kids.



Later that month, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, ACTU joined the Adams County Library's FunFest at Gettysburg Rec Park for the first time and had kids and adults alike trying their luck with Backyard Bass. The game involves casting a "lure" out onto the grass and trying to "hook" a fish as you reel the lure in. The game was a hit with both kids and adults – we are not sure who had more fun. Our volunteers were busy nonstop with the game throughout the Funfest – guiding here, teaching there, and making sure everyone had a blast. The FunFest was a new venue for us, and we valued the opportunity to share our passion with families in a new setting.

Finally, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, ACTU partnered with the Gettysburg Nature Alliance for the second annual "Go Fish, Gettysburg!" event at the GNA barn near Sachs Covered Bridge. The event featured fly casting and tying instruction, a nature walk, an invasive species walk, another session of Backyard Bass, and a stream identification presentation. We were thankful to collaborate again with community partners and broaden outdoor education opportunities. *Frank Kozak*

## Focus on Conservation – What did the chapter do this year?

As in past years, ACTU's members volunteered to help with a variety of conservation-related endeavors. Volunteers, led by Dave Swope, assisted in stocking the county's eight-approved trout streams on 16 separate occasions. Some 43,000 fish were stocked. Stream habitat restoration is discussed in a separate article in this newsletter.

As you may know, ACTU is responsible for managing the Zeigler Mill Road Access site under a 25-year lease agreement with the PFBC. Over the past few years, we have worked to transform the site into a hub for both conservation and community activities. That work continued this year under the leadership of member Mike Waldron. Mike is a professional forester and as such, has brought a unique and much needed skill set to the management of the ZMR site. This year, he led efforts to add 80 trees and shrubs to the 350+ native trees and shrubs planted last year, plant wildflowers along Zeigler Mill Road, maintain and improve the walking trail, and remove yet more invasive plant species.



A new undertaking for the chapter this year has to do with angler safety. Often times, to access trout streams across the county, anglers have to park on the shoulders of roads or in small pull offs. ACTU, in partnership with the Mummasburg Sportsmen Association, initiated a program to construct small car parking areas along streamways in the county. The first parking area was constructed on Crooked Creek Road north of Gettysburg, along Marsh Creek. We are continuing to identify suitable locations for similar parking areas where landowners and local municipalities are supportive of us. *Frank Kozak*

## Angling Forward

A Fine Piece of Trout Water Possesses More Than Just Fish.

Prior to the telecast of a “football game of the week,” a picture was shown of the stadium where the contest would soon unfold. The scene was not live—not a soul was in the arena. The commentator offered historical and statistical facts, then departed from the script to remark, “A stadium without people lacks personality.”

Isn't the same true of a trout stream? Without rising trout and without fishermen, it too lacks personality. A stadium gains luster from the game and the crowd; a stream gains luster from trout rising and anglers striving to deceive them.

The rise form itself proclaims here is a trout, and it is feeding. That signal stirs interest, sparks activity, and captures the imagination. This is the challenge sought. There is no satisfaction in casting into the trough of a hatchery. The natural tendency of wild trout to rise freely is worth more than all other assets combined.

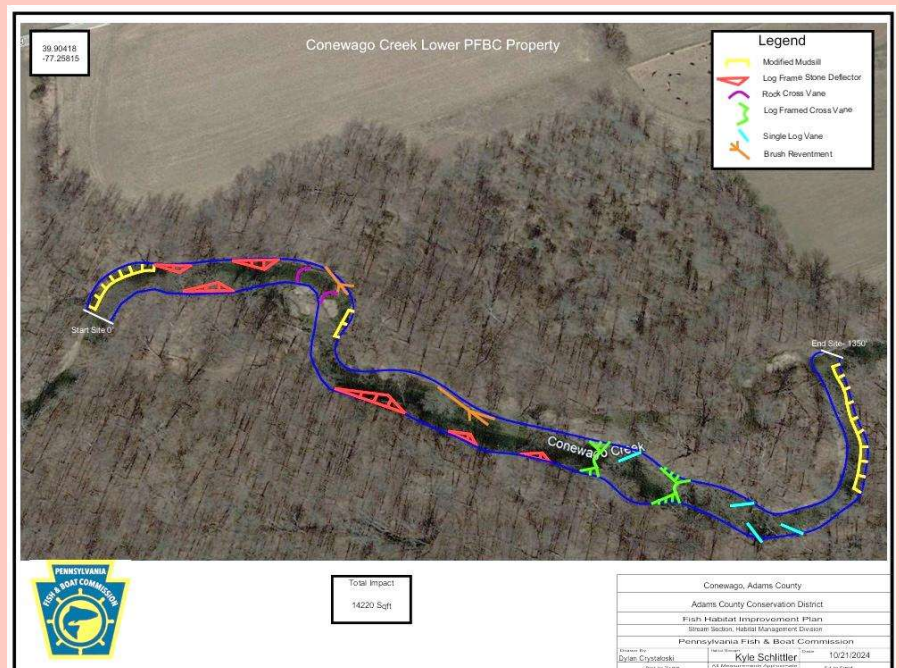
As I wrote this brief note, I came to ponder something new. That is, as anglers, we are reminded that nature moves in cycles, maintaining its own balance—until disrupted by humankind. Our responsibility lies not in governing other creatures, but in governing ourselves. Preserving the true spirit of trout fishing begins with restraint: enjoying the sport fully while practicing conservation. “The first and greatest step toward preserving true sport with trout lies in logical restraint. That means less killing, not less fishing.” *Dave Swope (aka Trout King)*



## Conewago Creek Restoration Project

Since 2007, the U.S. EPA has funded projects to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its local waterways. Reducing sediment and nutrient pollution into the bay has, rightfully so, been an important undertaking across the entirety of the bay's watershed.

Sediment in the Chesapeake Bay comes from various sources within its watershed, including our local Conewago Creek. To help reduce the sediment pollution in the bay, Phase II of the stream restoration project took place this past summer on the lower section of the Conewago Creek CROFFO waters



along Ziegler Mill Road. In addition to addressing the sediment pollution issue, this project will also have the added benefit of improving fish habitat in the creek!

Both Phase I (completed last year) and Phase II of the project were led by Ricky Whitmore, Adams County's Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Coordinator at the Adams County Conservation District, who prepared the grant application, contracted the permitting and construction work, and managed the accounting of the project. The PFBC Habitat Division designed the devices that will reduce the sediment load and improve the fish habitat, and also oversaw the construction effort, which was performed by Flyway Excavating, Inc.



The field work involved constructing 59 structures designed to reduce erosion, such as modified muddills, a variety of stone deflectors and cross vanes, and several brush revetments. Random boulders were also placed along the creek.

The project work started where the creek approaches the parking lot and extended to where the creek leaves the PFBC property.

This restoration work completes Phases I and II. In 2026, pending receipt of funding, the section of the creek from the PFBC property line downstream to the Rt. 34 bridge will undergo restoration. *Frank Kozak*

## A Heartfelt Farewell to Sarah Kipp

On Friday evening, November 21, coworkers, family, and friends gathered together to celebrate Sarah Kipp and her accomplishments in Adams County, and to bid her a heartfelt good-bye. It was an evening filled with gratitude and reflection as we honored someone who has given so much of herself to the preservation of the county land.



Sarah's successes as the Conservation Director at the Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC) were widespread, but her most enduring accomplishment may very well be the role she played in enabling the 58-acre Zeigler's Mill Road Access Site. She was a leader in the efforts to purchase what was then Knouse Foods property and is now owned by the PFBC. Thanks to her vision and dedication, the land will remain open to public for generations to come. Her achievements will remind us that one person's dedication can make a lasting difference.

ACTU Director Dave Swope and his wife April joined in expressing appreciation for Sarah's legacy. The celebration offered everyone a chance to share stories of Sarah's efforts, her commitment, and the partnerships she built along the way. As Sarah prepares to begin a new chapter in Oregon with her family, we send her off with much gratitude and warm wishes. *Dave Swope and Frank Kozak*

## Outing on the Conewago



Lunch break for these Northern Virginia TU members at the ZMR lot after a fruitful morning on water.



Lynn Rebert, on the right, joins the NoVaTU group.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Next Gathering:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 @ 6:30 pm

**Program:** Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will be the guest speaker.

**Location:** Adams County Conservation District Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.

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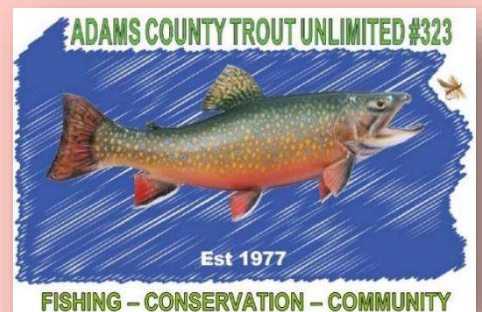
**The Latimore Creek Youth Fishing Derby** is planned for May 9, 7:30 to 11:00 am at the Latimore Valley Fairgrounds.

## New Members

- Angelito Aya
- Tim Elwood
- Dan Evans
- Douglas Fulton
- Heidi Kozak
- Joe Lysitt
- Kyrkland Pine
- DJ Stockman
- Patricia Stone
- Sam Stover

## Your Chapter Leaders

- Frank Kozak, President
- Jerry Gladfelter, Secretary
- Bob Miller, Treasurer
- Buzz Detinburn, Director
- Rick Franzese, Director
- Bob Gordon, Director
- Dave Kamsler, Director
- Bob Miller, Director
- Dave Swope, Director



Contact Frank Kozak if you have any questions about the chapter or its activities, at [fmkozak@gmail.com](mailto:fmkozak@gmail.com).

*Adams Anglers is a publication of Adams County Trout Unlimited, Chapter #323. Questions or comments about the content of this newsletter can be submitted via email to Frank Kozak at [fmkozak@gmail.com](mailto:fmkozak@gmail.com).*