



Adams County Trout Unlimited - September 2025 Newsletter

Guided by the tenets of Fishing, Conservation, and Community, our mission is to promote responsible fishing practices; conserve the county's waterways and associated natural resources; and actively support youth conservation, recreation, and education activities.

In This Issue

- ✓ Remembering Wayne Rogers – A Cherished Friend of ACTU
- ✓ The Adams County Giving Spree is on the Horizon!
- ✓ What's Been Happening
 - Funfest 2025
 - Rain or Shine, Young Anglers Shine in Fairfield
 - Fly Fishing Adventure Camp
 - South Central Outdoors for Youth Day
 - Lower Conewago Creek CROFFO Restoration
- ✓ Trout Don't Take Sides
- ✓ Mark Your Calendars
- ✓ Orvis Fishing Derby and Open House
- ✓ Membership Update
- ✓ Your Chapter Leaders

Remembering Wayne Rodgers – A Cherished Friend of ACTU

We are saddened to share that Wayne passed away peacefully at home on August 14, at the age of 90. A devoted steward of the land, Wayne owned and operated a dairy farm along Zeigler Mill Road.

Wayne's voice was as strong as his spirit. An avid singer, he graced our ACTU fundraising banquet with a heartfelt rendition of "God Bless America" and sang at more than 260 weddings throughout his life. He and his wife Gladys were familiar faces at our banquets.

Wayne's generosity extended beyond words. He welcomed anglers to his backyard along the Conewago Creek, supporting fish stocking and stream habitat restoration efforts. His approval of our access to his land was a gift we'll never forget.

Above all, Wayne cared deeply for people. He liked everyone, and everyone liked him. His kindness, humility, and unwavering support for our mission will continue to inspire us.

May Wayne rest in peace, knowing he made a lasting impact on our community and our hearts. *Dave Swope*



The Adams County Giving Spree is on the Horizon!

As you know, ACTU is built on three pillars: *Fishing, Conservation, and Community*.

Fishing is second nature to us anglers, but each of us is drawn to it for varied reasons, including connecting with nature, finding emotional balance, sharing time with others, or honing our skills.



Since our founding in 1977, our conservation focus has led to installing over 180 devices in county waterways to reduce erosion and enhance trout habitat. We also help stock the approved trout streams annually.

Our commitment to youth outreach has led to numerable noteworthy accomplishments in our community:

- 1,300+ students in *Trout in the Classroom*
- 10,250+ engaged through *Southcentral Outdoors for Youth*
- 1,960+ participants in the *Latimore Fishing Derby*
- 550+ students on *Environmental Day*
- 23 youths fully funded for *Conservation Camp*

That is a lot of youth that have been reached, and it's made possible by donations of time and money from members like you. To that end, we're asking you to help amplify that impact by making a donation, and inviting others to do the same, to support ACTU during the Adams County Giving Spree on November 6th.

Last year, we raised over \$6,400. With your help, and the help of those you reach, we're optimistic we can surpass that this year. Learn more at www.ACCFGivingSpree.org.

What's Been Happening?

Funfest 2025

"FUNFEST" is an event put on by the Adams County Library System. The purpose of this event, which was held on June 14th at the Gettysburg Recreation Park, is to provide activities that are fun for elementary aged children ... but also to engage them intellectually. Organizations are invited to attend and present their activity. While the organization does get "public exposure" as to who they are and what they do; that is not the goal. We are there to help the Library System put on this public activity – fun with a purpose - for the area children.

This year, ACTU hosted a "Backyard Bass" game with a twist. "Backyard Bass" is a yard game where one uses a fishing pole to cast plastic plugs at flat plastic fish. The fish have a tapered cowl on them so that if you drag the plug overtop of them... you "hook" them and can reel them in. (google it) The twist is the "educational" part that Dave Kamsler added. Dave cut out pictures of varied species of fish and taped them on the plastic fish. When a child caught a plastic fish, they were encouraged to go to our table and try to identify the species from the fish ID chart that was there.

This activity was a hit!! Frank Kozak and I were the only TU people there. We were BUSY at least 3 of the 4 hours we were there; with kids waiting for a turn. At times we were teaching kids how to cast a fishing rod for their very first time. We had several parents ask if they could try – they had never cast a fishing rod before either.

We will be back for FUNFEST 2026. We will "tweak" the setup a bit; but one thing for sure - we need more help. Another 2 or 3 people. This is not for everyone, but if you have the skill set to work with kids that may have zero background in fishing ... there is something special in helping that child go from zero experience to "catching" their "first fish". Interested? Call me. *Mike Waldron*

Rain or Shine, Young Anglers Shine in Fairfield

Young area anglers from throughout the area braved a rainy morning in Fairfield on Saturday, June 7th, to participate in a youth fishing derby co-sponsored by ACTU and Orvis Hill Country.

This event, which was a part of the Hill Country's Grand Re-Opening Weekend, saw these youngsters spend two hours in hopes of catching one of the 300 rainbow trout which were stocked earlier in the week.

Several participants earned prizes for their catches, but win or lose, all the anglers enjoyed the morning.

This was the second youth fishing derby for ACTU this year, following the annual Latimore Youth Fishing Derby held in May.

"Community" is one of ACTU's three tenets, and our work with the youngsters in Adams County brings joy to all those involved and pride to our Chapter. We're excited to keep the tradition going and look forward to hosting more youth events in 2026! *Mike Waldron*



Fly Fishing Adventure Camp

On July 9th and 10th, Mike Waldron, Britton Reed, Bob Gordon, and Dave Kamsler helped instruct at Buttonwood's Nature Center Fly Fishing Adventure Camp. This was held at Orvis Hill Country for kids ages 10-17.

Attendees were given instruction on Introduction to Fly Fishing, Fly Casting, and Knot Instruction, and then were given time to fish on the pond.

They also had the opportunity to do some fly tying, and each tied their own fly. Instructors from Buttonwood gave information as well on pond life, macroinvertebrates, and freshwater biology. Fortunately, all the kids caught fish, and our help was well appreciated. *Dave Kamsler*



Mike Waldron on the left helping to gather pond life to examine

South Central Outdoors for Youth Day

On Saturday, June 7th, the South Central Outdoors for Youth (SOY) Day welcomed an enthusiastic group of 93 young participants to the McSherrystown Fish and Game Club.

The event continues to be an enjoyable day of outdoor education and community engagement in the region, offering kids hands-on experiences with nature, conservation, and outdoor sports.

SOY, which began in 1992, offers a wide range of activities including fishing, .22 rifle shooting, trapping, shotgun clays, fly tying, black powder shooting, reptile education, and more.

A special thanks goes to the dedicated volunteers from ACTU—Lynn Rebert, Mike Waldron, Buzz Dettinburn, and Jeff Clarke—who staffed the fly tying station. Their experience and patience helped spark curiosity and skill-building among the youth, most of whom were trying fly tying for the first time.



Looking ahead to next year's event, mark Saturday, June 6th on your calendars! The event will again be at the McSherrystown Fish and Game Club. Planning is already underway, and volunteer support will be needed to ensure another successful experience for local youth.

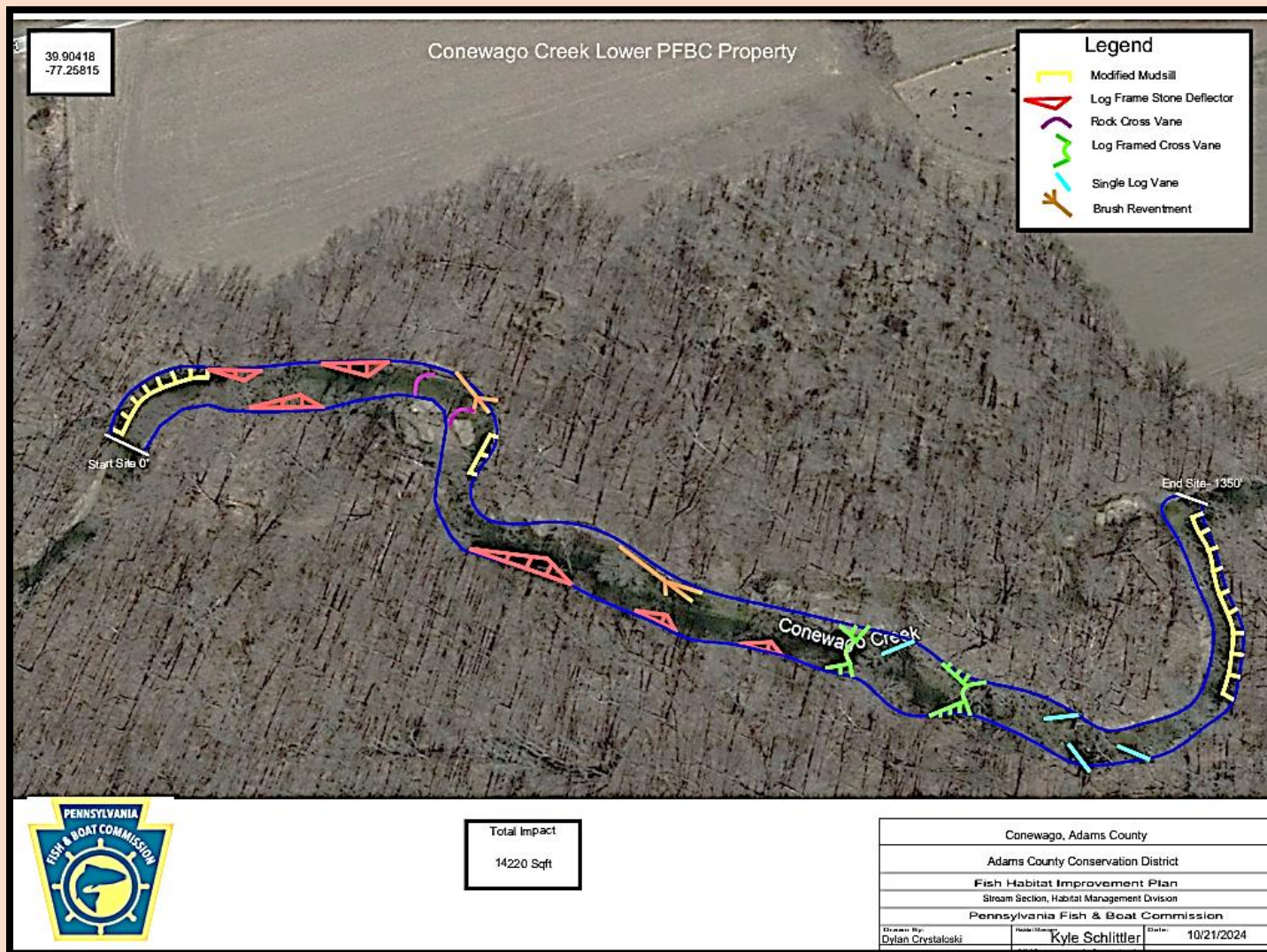
Interested volunteers are encouraged to attend planning meetings, held at McSherrystown Fish and Game, in October and next March, April, and May. Exact dates will be posted on both ACTU's and the Club's website, Facebook page, and AdamsCountySOY.org. Check the Club's website starting in March 2026 for updates and details.

Let's keep this unique youth program going - your time, energy, and enthusiasm will make all the difference.

Dave Swope

Lower Conewago Creek CROFFO Restoration

Phase II of the PFBC's restoration work on the Conewago Creek, which took place in July, extended from the walking path at the Zeigler Mill Road Access parking lot downstream to the end of the PFBC property. Combined with last year's Phase I work, the entire section on the property has now been restored. This year, the 59 structures constructed on the lower section included log framed cross vanes, single log framed deflectors, and random boulders. These CROFFO waters, which have always been a solid fishery, are now even better. A site walk of the stream led by Mark Sausser of the PFBC on July 9th attracted quite a crowd, as shown in the photo below.





Quite the crowd gathered for a site walk



Trout Don't Take Sides

We live in interesting times. Rarely has the American electorate been so divided, with little sign the rift will heal anytime soon. Political discourse grows increasingly polarized, and even casual conversations feel like navigating a minefield. Yet amid all this noise and tension, a quiet, apolitical presence reminds anglers of something simpler—and more enduring.

Trout don't take sides. Their habitat is tinted neither red nor blue, and they remain blissfully indifferent to the human tumult beyond their watery lair. No cultural ax to grind, no stake in partisan debates, no interest in the latest headlines. If trout made a campaign pitch, it would be refreshingly straightforward: clean, cold, pollutant-free water to hatch, grow, swim, eat, and procreate.

Members of Adams County Trout Unlimited (ACTU), regardless of views or affiliations, share one platform: our responsibility to conserve, protect, and restore the county's coldwater fisheries and watersheds. This mission transcends politics. It reflects a deeper stewardship, a recognition that stream health and trout vitality are reflections of our values and priorities.

In divided times, conservation offers unity. Whether planting trees, advocating for stronger pollution protections, or teaching the next generation of anglers and stewards, we engage in work that benefits all citizens. Our trout resources are more than ecological treasures, they symbolize resilience, purity, and nature's enduring beauty.

One of the most powerful ways we live out that mission is through stream restoration. By stabilizing banks, replanting vegetation, and installing structures like log vanes and rock deflectors, we reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality. Excess sediment clouds water, smothers spawning beds, disrupts aquatic insect life, and degrades critical trout habitat.

Restoration helps reestablish stream flow, deepen pools, and create the cover trout need to thrive. It also boosts flood resilience, reduces nutrient pollution, and supports watershed biodiversity. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Habitat Division recently completed two weeks of work on Conewago Creek constructing devices that will significantly reduce sediment erosion and enhance trout habitat.

So, while the world above may be fractured, the waters below remind us of what's worth preserving. In the quiet flow of a stream, in the flicker of a rising trout, we find common ground. And in safeguarding these resources, we reaffirm a truth beyond politics: clean water and thriving ecosystems are a legacy worth protecting—together. *Frank Kozak*



Mark Your Calendar

As the latter part of the year approaches, our calendar is as follows:

Board Meeting	September 17, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Stocking – Conewago Creek CROFFO	October 1, 11:00 am	Russell Tavern Road Bridge
Board Meeting	October 15, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office
Program – Taylor Hess, Appalachian Fishing Guides Followed by a Board Meeting	November 19, 6:30 pm	ACCD Office

The Adams County Conservation District Office is located at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.

Membership Update

New Members:

- Angelito Aya
- Dan Evans
- Douglas Fulton
- Joe Lysitt
- Heidi Kozak
- Sam Stover
- David Svec

Your Chapter Leaders

- ✓ Frank Kozak, President
- ✓ Jerry Gladfelter, Secretary
- ✓ Bob Miller, Treasurer
- ✓ Buzz Dettinburn, Director
- ✓ Rick Franzese, Director
- ✓ David Kamsler, Director
- ✓ Dave Swope, Director
- ✓ Dave Zimmerman, Director

Contact Frank Kozak if you have any questions about the chapter or its activities, at 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.

Adams County Trout Unlimited is Guided by Three Tenets
Fishing – Conservation – Community