



News & Views

West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association

News & Views

March 1, 2007

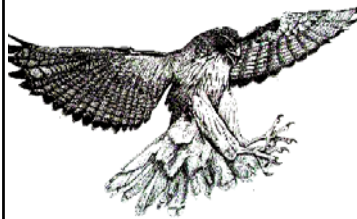
Annual Spring Meeting

Red Creek Wildlife Center

Live Birds Of Prey!

Friday, March 16, 2007
7:00 PM

East Bradford Township Building
666 Copeland School Road
West Chester, PA 19380



Please join us for our Annual Spring Meeting. This year, we are featuring the folks from the Red Creek Wildlife Center in Schuylkill Haven, PA. There will be a 50 minute talk and a live demonstration featuring a hawk, owl, vulture and falcon.

Founded in 1991, Red Creek Wildlife Center is a full time state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation and education center, taking in 400-600 animals per year, including a variety of exotic, domestic animals that have special needs. The birds in their demonstration have been too injured to return to the wild to fend for themselves. Their participation earns funds to provide rehabilitation for other birds and animals so that they can be treated and hopefully returned to the wild or sent to a good home.

We will also hold our annual Spring Raffle at the meeting along with bucket prizes. Drawings will take place after the Red Creek presentation.

Trout Season Opens March 31st



Don't forget that Trout Season in Chester County opens two weeks earlier this year. This early opener also happens in Adams, Berks, Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York counties. The remainder of the State will have its opening day on April 14th.

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2007

PA Fish & Boat Commission Trout Stocking

Total Streams (745)

Brook = 463,890
Brown = 877,550
Rainbow = 1,394,060
(inc. 7,485 trophy golden)
Total = 2,735,500

Total Lakes (128)

Brook = 95,210
Brown = 43,690
Rainbow = 545,200
(inc. 1,415 trophy golden)
Total = 684,100

Total Trout to be Stocked =
4,486,600



President's Message by Glade Squires

Treasurer's Report

By Bernie McGovern

Financial Status as of January 31, 2006

Income YTD	\$ 2,975
Expenses YTD	\$518.25
Checking	\$11,498
CD Savings	\$11,031
Savings	\$2,596
Life Savings	\$3,013

WCFG&WA Officers

2006-07

President—Glade Squires

Vice President—Dave Heller

Secretary—George Brautigam

Treasurer—Bernie McGovern

Exec. Committee 2006-07

John Johnson, Jeff Stout,
Scott Wallace, Ken VanGilder,
Mike Colley, James Tuerk

Exec. Committee 2007-08

Debbie Athens, Steve Estberg,
Jim Harrison, Andy Madsen,
Bruce Riddell, Allen (Buck)

First of all, I would like to welcome our two newest Executive Committee members. Steve Estberg and Andy Madsen were elected at the Annual Membership Meeting. We also welcome back to the Executive Committee for another two-year term, Debbie Athens, Jim Harrison, Bruce Riddell and Allen (Buck) Plank. We thank all of them and the current officers and members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and commitment to WCFG&WA.

Currently, in Pennsylvania, private lands border 83% of our stocked trout waters, about 70% of our wild trout waters, and approximately 59% of our class A trout waters. What this amounts to is that we all need to focus more than ever on landowner relations. Being aware of how we treat the land that we are allowed to use as we fish our favorite streams is more critical than ever. Just because you possess a fishing license, fish a stream that is stocked and listed as an approved trout water, does not give anyone the right to trespass.

Weather we realize it or not, we are guests of the landowners that keep their land open to allow us to fish. We have to respect the land that is open to us and do everything possible to keep that land open. Further, efforts need to be made on all streams to open up more land to access for fishing. As you fish, if you see litter left behind by someone who has shown disrespect for the land, please take the time to pick that litter up and dispose of it properly. Parking on private land is another major issue with landowners. Please take the time to park in an accepted area, do not block the landowner's access to his own property and do not cause damage to the area where you park. Treating the land we fish as if it were our own and in a manner we would want strangers to treat our land, will go a long way to keeping this land open for the future.

If you meet landowners while on their land, take the time to introduce yourself and thank them for the access they provide. A few minutes of positive interaction with landowners can go a long way to keeping their land open in the future. If they have complaints about previous damage to their land or littering, hear them out and suggest that they contact the local WCO or you offer to take the time to contact the local WCO and have him visit the landowner. We all have a stake in keeping land open and we all have to actively work to keep it open.

Nursery Report by Scott Wallace

Overall, our fish are doing great with the mortality rate running very low. Water flow is excellent with water temperatures running between 32 and 40 degrees.

With the air and water temperatures so low in the past few weeks, icing conditions in the pens have become a problem. This has resulted in extra maintenance time for those that are already braving the cold to feed. On one occasion, the third pen outflow froze causing a seri-

ous overflow problem that eventually corrected itself.

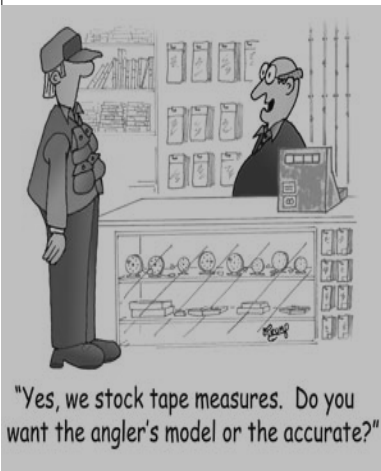
Our thanks to Mike Colley for cleaning out the pens each week particularly in these low temperatures. Mike's efforts have really kept the nursery looking good and the fish healthy.

Glade Squires represented WCFG&WA at the bi-annual PA Fish & Boat Commission Cooperative Nursery meeting. This is always a great opportunity to pick up cur-

rent information from the F&BC as well as a chance to interact with other regional co-op nurseries.

We are always in need of members willing to lend a hand feeding the fish even if it's as a back-up for the regular feeders. Anyone that is interested in feeding should contact me at 610-701-5685 or via email at sdwallace@comcast.net

Think Spring!



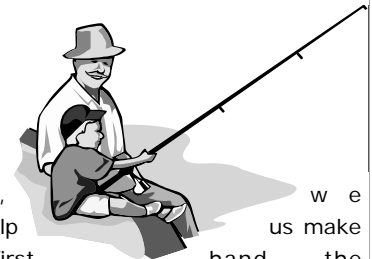


Stocking Help Needed



Even though there is snow on the ground and overnight lows are in the single digits, it's time to begin to make plans to stock the trout that have been in our nursery since July. With the 2007 Trout Season opening two weeks earlier in Chester County this year, we will be stocking two weeks earlier than in the past. Last year we had a great turnout of volunteers and saw many new faces that took the time to come out and help stock. We hope that all of you that helped last year will be able to join us once again. Also, all are welcome to come out and help. Stocking presents a great opportunity to meet members of the club and get an up close look at the fish before they take up residence in West Valley Creek. Anyone interested in stocking should contact Jim Harrison, Stocking Manager, at 610-873-6167

2007 Youth Fishing Days



In support of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's initiative to get youth involved in fishing, we are hosting and sponsoring a total of four Youth Fishing Days this year. We ask all members to help these an overwhelming success by coming out to lend a hand. This is a great opportunity to see first-hand the value of this program and to see the next generation of anglers in action. We ask that you please spread the word to family and friends and let them know that all of these events are open to the public and are free of charge. For those that do not know how to fish, this is a great opportunity to get hands-on help from our members. We have a limited amount of loaner equipment available for those that do not have fishing tackle but would like a day out fishing with their children. We will receive support again this year from Wal-Mart Kids All-America Fishing Program with give-aways for all and prize drawings.

<p>First Annual Chip Gibson Memorial Trout Rodeo</p> <p>April 28th</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under.</p> <p>Fishing from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM meet at the nursery</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait not provided</p>	<p>Trout Rodeo—PA Fish-For-Free Day</p> <p>May 26th</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under.</p> <p>Fishing from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM meet at the nursery</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait not provided</p>
<p>Bass Rodeo—Paradise Farm Pond</p> <p>June 16th</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under</p> <p>Fishing from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM meet at the nursery</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait not provided</p> <p>Catch & Release Only, Barbless Hooks Required</p>	<p>Bass Rodeo—Paradise Farm Pond</p> <p>September 8th</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under.</p> <p>Fishing from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM meet at the nursery</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait not provided</p> <p>Catch & Release Only, Barbless Hooks Required</p>



Road Cleanup - Saturday, March 17th

In preparation for the Opening Day of Trout Season, we will have a road clean up on March 17th. We will meet at the Nursery at 8:00 AM. Clean up will be on Clovermill Road and West Valley Road from Boot to the Nursery. We have adopted these roads and taken a pledge to keep them free of litter. How well they look is a reflection on the image of our organization. Please take a few hours out of your Saturday to lend a hand.



PA F&BC News - Bob Bonney, WCO

2007 Opening Days Set

Trout & Salmon -- April 14
 Trout, southeast PA -- March 31
 March 1, Approved Trout Waters Closed Until Opening Day
 Pike, Pickerel, Muskellunge -- Year round open season
 Walleye, Sauger -- May 5
 Bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted) -- June 16

Fish for Free Days -- May 26 and June 3

Fish & Boat Commission Website Highlights

Link to Dr. Douglas Austen's Annual Report to the House Game & Fisheries Committee: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/newsreleases/2007/hgfc_report.htm

2007 Trout Stocking Schedule: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/stock.htm

Interactive County Maps For Locating Approved Trout Waters, License Agents, Class "A" Trout Streams, Etc.:
http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/county.htm

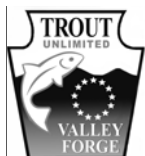
2007 Trout Stocking

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is stocking longer, heavier adult trout in 2007. Stockings will start March 1 and as in previous years, will be spread throughout the spring, fall and winter months.

The Commission will stock some 3.4 million adult trout in Pennsylvania waters open to public angling. Overall, there will be a 30 percent increase in the weight of these fish, and the average length will increase to 11 inches – with more than a few trophy-sized fish mixed in as well.

Quoting Dr. Douglas J. Austen, "By making the change to raising fewer but larger adult trout, the Commission is responding to the preference expressed by anglers through input at public meetings, correspondence, and on-the-water angler surveys".

If you witness a violation such as poaching or littering, do not say a word to the violator. Write down their Tag Number, Date, Time and Place of the violation and contact me at 610-637-6398 or Deputy Dave Breyan at 610-454-8194. If we are not available, please leave your name and phone number so we can contact you.



Annual Trout Show - March 22nd



The Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its 2007 Trout Show at the Valley Forge Middle School. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$2.00 for adults with children under 16 admitted free.

Featured speaker will be Craig Matthews, author, angler and co-owner of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, Montana. Craig's talk will focus on fishing "Out Of The Way Places" in Yellowstone Park.

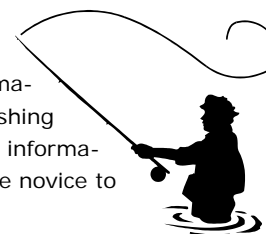
The evening will also have Door Prizes, Raffles, New Member Rod Raffle, Artwork, Environmental Displays, Book Signings, Fresh and Salt Water Flies For Sale and more. All proceeds from the show will be used for the environmental restoration and preservation of Northern Chester County Trout Streams. Directions; from Valley Forge, take Route 202 South to the Devon Exit, right on Route 252, the Valley Forge Middle School is 400 yards on your left.

Valley Forge Chapter TU Fly Fishing School

Interested in learning to Fly Fish? Well, here is a great opportunity at a wonderful price. The Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its annual fly fishing school on May 20th at the Paradise Farm Pond and on West Valley Creek. Cost is \$50.00 per adult and \$25.00 for children under 16. You must supply your own equipment. For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact Dave Macaleer at 610-942-4254

If you are looking for a good reference of fly fishing basics to get

acquainted with fly fishing terms and tackle before the school, or if you just want to better understand what fly fishing is all about, go to www.Orvis.com. Click on Fly Fishing on the left menu. At the bottom of the Fly Fishing page is a wealth of information from a Beginner's Glossary of Fly Fishing Terms to an Animated Knots page. This information will be of value to everyone from the novice to the expert.





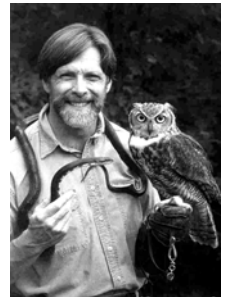
Kid's Fishing Clinic

The Brandywine Trout & Conservation Club will hold a Fishing Clinic on March 24, 2007 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon, rain, snow or shine, at the Moose Lodge #1153 located on Route 30 in Downingtown. This is open to the public and is free of charge. The clinic will include seminars, videos, and how-to demonstrations. Hot dogs & sodas will be provided as well as fishing grab bags for all children that attend. This is a great opportunity to get the entire family ready for the opening of Trout Season. Bring the family.....bring a friend!

Celebrate Earth Day - Saturday, April 28, 2007



Join the Chester County Parks and Recreation Department, along with a host of organizations, as they celebrate Earth Day 2007. Their goal is to illustrate how organizations are conserving natural resources, practicing sound stewardship, and promoting conservation. A secondary goal is to promote the variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in southeastern Pennsylvania.



A feature exhibitor will be Jack Hubley's Wild Neighbors. Jack is the host of Wild Moments, a half-hour syndicated nature show airing weekly on more than 140 network stations from coast to coast. He also produces A Wild Moment 1-minute vignette airing every Friday on WGAL TV Channel 8. Jack will be presenting nature programs and also staffing an educational exhibit. Beginning at 10:00 AM enjoy hands-on activities with the Kid's Fishing Rodeo along French Creek. At the Warwick Outdoor Fest you will also experience archery, RV/ travel trailers, outdoor survival skills, introduction to backpacking, rock wall, community conservationists, outdoor ethics, alternative energy sources, geocaching, hiking, cycling, and kid's nature activities.

Aluminum Cans Needed

Please remember to save your aluminum cans and drop them off at the nursery. Can donations increased in 2006 and with aluminum prices on the rise, we have been able to increase the revenue from this worthwhile program. Our goal is to be able to cover our annual cost of the trout food from the recycling of aluminum cans. In 2006, we came close to meeting our goal and fell just a little short.

If each member can spread the word to one or two others; family, friends or neighbors, and have them save their cans

for us, we will be able to reach our goal in 2007. Not only is this a great environmentally responsible program, it also helps us to keep costs down and keep annual membership dues at a very affordable level.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all that take the time to drop their cans off at the nursery! It's also a good reason to stop by the nursery and see how this year's trout are doing or take a walk on the trail and enjoy a winter day outdoors.

How Much Does That Fish Weigh?

Formulas: **A = Length** **B = Girth**

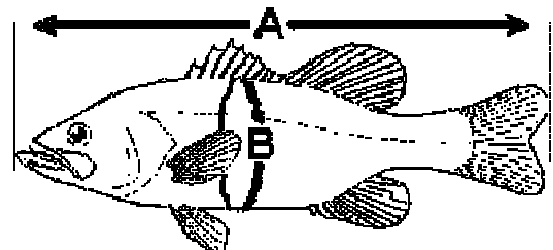
bass weight = (length x length x girth) / 1,200

pike weight = (length x length x length) / 3,500

sunfish weight = (length x length x length) / 1,200

trout weight = (length x girth x girth) / 800

walleye weight = (length x length x length) / 2,700



For example, you catch a 16 inch walleye. Using the formula for walleye above: (16 x 16 x 16) / 2,700 = 1.5 pounds. Your walleye would weigh approximately 1.5 pounds.



West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association

"Our Sponsors" - Please Support Them



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New Castle, Delaware 19720
302-328-9747

<http://www.millersguns.com>



West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association
Membership Application

Date: _____

Full Name (Please Print Clearly)

_____ Regular \$25.00

Address:

_____ Family \$30.00

City, State, Zip:

_____ Life \$250.00

Telephone No.:

_____ New Renewal

E-Mail Address:

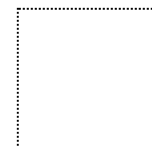
_____ Donation \$ _____

I wish to receive future newsletters via email only _____

Make your '**Tax Deductible**' check payable to:
West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 511
West Chester, PA 19381-0511



West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 511
West Chester, PA 19381-0511



Upcoming Events

Executive Committee meets
the first Wednesday of each
month.

March 16th

Spring Meeting, 7:00 PM

March 17th

Road Cleanup, 8:00 AM

March 22nd

VFTU Trout Show, 7:00 PM

April 28th

Chip Gibson Memorial
Trout Rodeo 9:00 AM

May 26th

Trout Rodeo 9:00 AM
Fish-For-Free Day

