



News & Views

West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association

News & Views
March, 2010

2010 Spring Meeting March 19, 2010

Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

On Friday, March 19th, we are proud to host the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center with their live show of mammals and raptors. This will be held at the Fugett Middle School Gymnasium, 500 Ellis Lane, West Chester, PA 19380. Doors will open at 6:30 PM, show starts at 7:00 PM. Admission is free and the show is open to the public.

The Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, located in Stroudsburg, PA is licensed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to care for injured and orphaned wild animals. Some of those that are not able to be returned to live out their lives in the wild, help to serve others by becoming part of their show to raise funds for the center.

In case of inclement weather, check our website, www.wcfgwa.org for any notice of cancellation.

2010 Spring Raffle - \$1,825 In Prizes!

Tickets are still available and will be sold at our Spring Meeting on March 19th.

Please be sure to support the merchants that have taken the time to support our organization; Richard Bollinger, Mickey's Wheel Alignment, White Glove Car Wash, French Creek Outfitters, Colebrook Manor Veterinarian, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sunbelt Rental, Tolsdorf Oil Lube Express, Iron Hill Brewery, Stadium Grille, Giant and Brogan Graphics.

Drawing will be held at the March 19th Spring Meeting

- 1st "Valley Creek" by Richard Bollinger, Framed, Signed & Numbered - \$375
- 2nd Weber Gas Grille - \$300
- 3rd 100 Flies, Custom Tied, Donated by Frank Swarner III - \$200
- 4th Mickey's Wheel Alignment, Tolsdorf Oil Change, White Glove Car Wash - \$200
- 5th St. Croix 4' 6" Rod, Reel & St. Croix Sweatshirt, French Creek Outfitters - \$175
- 6th Colebrook Manor Veterinarian, Basket of Pet Supplies - \$125
- 7th Schrade DU Commemorative Stag Horn Handle Sheath Knife - \$125
- 8th 2009 East Bradford Print, "Copes Bridge" by Barbara Johnson - \$125
- 9th Gift Certificates - Iron Hill Brewery - \$50, Stadium Grille - \$25, Giant - \$25
- 10th Gift Certificate - Dick's Sporting Goods - \$100

Winner Need Not Be Present

Tickets Donated By - Brogan Graphics 610-348-7110

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Chester County Trout Season Opens April 3rd

The season also opens 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 17th.



President's Message by Glade Squires

Treasurer's Report

By Bernie McGovern

Financial Status as of March 1, 2010

Income YTD	\$8,488
Expenses YTD	\$2,140
Checking	\$9,154
CD Savings	\$17,684
Savings	\$3,758
Life Savings	\$5,140
Grant Savings	\$1,546

WCFG&WA Officers

2010-2011

President—Glade Squires

Vice President—Dave Heller

Secretary—Gary Dunn

Treasurer—Bernie McGovern

Exec. Committee 2009-10

Debbie Athens, Tim Buzzelli, Anthony Buzzelli, Steve Estberg, Jim Harrison, Jeni Hartley, Andy Madsen, Allen "Buck" Plank, Bruce Riddell

Exec. Committee 2010-11

Matt Estberg, Pat Estberg, John Johnson, Jason Scott, Jeff Stout, Fletcher Swanson, James Tuerk, Rick Waltz, Ricky Waltz

Well, I am back as President for another two years and proud to say so are Dave Heller as Vice President, Gary Dunn as Secretary and Bernie McGovern as Treasurer. Just to let everyone know we all like to feel that we will serve at least another two years because we said, "Yes we would" and not because no one else stepped up to say that they would.

At the January meeting, we elected some new and reelected several existing Executive Committee members. Joining as new Executive Committee members are Jason Scott, Pat Estberg and Rick and Ricky Waltz, our third father & son team. Re-elected to the Executive Committee were Mike Colley, John Johnson, Jeff Stout, Fletcher Swanson and James Tuerk. Congratulations to all of them and our sincere appreciation for their willingness to serve our organization at this level.

We, as the Executive Committee are very proud of what we do and the time we invest in this organization. A very good friend and hunting partner of mine once described dry plucking a pheasant versus skinning it, "A labor of love". The meaning in this is that in the end, the effort and time put in will result in a much better meal when served. Well, I guess you can call what we do for West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife, a true labor of love. We invest significant amounts of time and energy and definitely feel that the results are more than worth the effort.

As a team, we are looking for more ways to develop goals and objectives that support our mission statement. In many ways, the changing face of the greater Downingtown and West Chester areas influences what we can do, must do and are not able to do. Development in the area has severely impacted West Valley Creek with runoff water and this forces us to invest both time and money into restoration work or sacrifice the stream for the future. This same development has permanently taken away hunting land that existed in the past. Thus, we no longer have local areas to hunt as an organization. However, since we live in an area that is still abundant with wildlife, one of our missions is to give our members and local residents a greater understanding and appreciation of the nature around us. Our Spring Meeting with the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center helps to meet this part of our mission.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions for new programs and modifications of our existing ones. Feel free to give your input to us via email at wcfgwa@comcast.net or attend one of our Executive Committee meetings.

Best wishes to all and thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Nursery Report by Mike Colley

The trout are doing great. We are just tired of shoveling snow and digging out like everyone else. Winter has been cold but not cold enough to have any negative impact on the nursery. The amount of snow we have had and the regular melt offs have built up the water table and flow to the nursery has been exceptional. Fish are healthy and our losses have been almost non-existent. The Coventryville Trout Club suffered a loss of nearly two thousand fish in December due to a power outage. Since we received extra Rainbows and the pens were crowded, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to donate 400 Rainbows to them. When we last checked all 400 survived the transfer and are doing fine.

It's also time to begin to make plans to stock fish. With the 2010 Trout Season opening two weeks earlier in Chester County again this year, our first stocking will be in Saturday, March 27th, 8:00 AM at the nursery, in combination with a road clean up. We hope that all of you that helped last year will be able to join us once again. Also, all members are welcome to come out and help. Anyone interested in stocking should contact me at 610.883.3460 or via email mcolley50@yahoo.com to be placed on the list to be notified of stocking dates and any schedule changes due to weather.

**Turn In A
Poacher Or
Litterer**

**Call W.C.O.
Bob Bonney**

610-637-6398



Member's Day & Cookout - Saturday, June 5th

Each year, we have a Member's Night On The Pond with a cookout. Over the past few years, our numbers have grown and last year, over 65 members and their families attended. The few hours we have in an evening to fish, eat and socialize are just not enough. This year, we are going to have a Member's Day, wrapping up the day with a cookout.

Paradise Farm Camp has been very generous and will let our member's have use of the pond to fish all day on Saturday, June 5th. As always, fishing on the pond is barbless hooks only and Catch & Release. We will stock the last of the trout from the nursery on Friday, June 4th in the section of stream immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge. However, fishing the stream will not be restricted to members only since West Valley Creek is an Approved Trout Stream and our fish are provide by the PA F&BC.

The day will be wrapped up with a cookout starting at 4:00 PM. We will provide the burgers, dogs & condiments and ask members if they would please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hope to see you and your family there!

Hunter Trapper Education Course - July 15 & July 17

This year's Hunter Trapper Education Course will be held at the East Bradford Township Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA on Thursday, July 15th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and concludes on Saturday, July 17th from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

By law, all first-time hunters and trappers must successfully complete this training program before they can buy a hunting license. A training certificate which is recognized throughout North America is awarded at the end of the course. A student must be at least 11 years old to enroll in the course and parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Students can register and obtain further information at the PA Game Commission website at www.pgc.state.pa.us

2010 Trout & Bass Rodeos

This year, we are again holding four Youth Fishing Days for those 14 years of age and under. We ask all members to help us make these an overwhelming success by coming out to lend a hand. These are open to the public so please let friends and neighbors know the dates for these events. We put a lot of effort into these and want to see as many children come out and enjoy a day of fishing. For more information about the rodeos, please contact Dave Heller at 610-269-8196.

Just a reminder, for the Trout Rodeos, we use trout from our nursery that are provided by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. Further to this, we obtain a permit from the PA F&BC that restricts fishing on the Rodeo stretch of the stream to anglers 14 and under that day until 2:00 PM. Parents or Guardians are allowed to assist the participants but are restricted from fishing themselves.

<p>Annual "Chip Gibson" Memorial Trout Rodeo</p> <p>April 24th - Meet At Nursery</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under</p> <p>Fishing from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait <u>not</u> provided</p>	<p>Trout Rodeo—PA Fish-For-Free Day</p> <p>May 15th - Meet At Nursery</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under</p> <p>Fishing from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait <u>not</u> provided</p>
<p>Bass Rodeo—Paradise Farm Pond</p> <p>June 19th</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under</p> <p>Fishing from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM meet at the nursery</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait <u>not</u> provided</p> <p>Catch & Release Only, Barbless Hooks Required</p>	<p>Bass Rodeo—Paradise Farm Pond</p> <p>August 28th</p> <p>Open to all children ages 14 and under</p> <p>Fishing from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM meet at the nursery</p> <p>Lunch Provided</p> <p>Tackle and bait <u>not</u> provided</p> <p>Catch & Release Only, Barbless Hooks Required</p>



World Record Largemouth Bass - Almost



DANIA BEACH, Fla. — The most sought after record in all of fishing has been broken ... almost. Technically, Manabu Kurita's 22-pound, 4.97-ounce largemouth bass from Japan's Lake Biwa is now tied with a bass nearly 1 ounce lighter caught more than 77 years ago in rural Georgia.

The International Game Fish Association has officially certified and approved Kurita's application for record status a little more than six months after the catch. IGFA's regulations require that a record fish weighing less than 25 pounds be surpassed by two ounces or more.

On July 2, 2009, the angling world was stunned to learn of Kurita's catch. Few realized that Japan could produce such large bass, and experts universally considered California to be the most likely location for a new record.

In establishing the new record, IGFA representatives worked closely with their sister organization, the Japanese Game Fish Association, to

examine Kurita's application and investigate allegations that the fish was caught in an off-limits area. (It was not.) More recently, IGFA coordinated a polygraph examination of the angler regarding the circumstances of his catch. Kurita passed.

The previous record largemouth was caught by George W. Perry from Montgomery Lake in Georgia in 1932. At more than 77 years, it was one of the longest standing records in the IGFA books. Many experts speculate that a record largemouth will be worth more than \$1 million in endorsements and appearance fees to the angler fortunate enough to catch it.

By contrast, the heaviest Largemouth Bass recorded in Pennsylvania in 2009 weighed 10 pounds and was caught in North Park Lake in Allegheny County. A 75 acre impoundment for Pine Creek.

Poaching & Bait Fishing In DHALO

Each year we have an ongoing problem and we need the help of everyone that fishes the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only section of West Valley Creek. This area is designated as artificial lures only and fish cannot be kept in this area until the date specified in the fishing summary of laws and regulations. Using or possessing bait in the delayed harvest is a violation. We continue to find bait containers and evidence of bait being used in this area.

If you see someone fishing with bait in the delayed harvest area or keeping trout, please do not approach or confront them, just move on. Get a license plate number if you can and call Bob Bonney, our PA Fish & Boat Commission WCO at 610.637.6398 immediately, not when you finish fishing or get home. All members have received a Turn In A Poacher card from us in the mail.

Respect For Landowners

As we head into Trout Season, and really any time we are hunting, fishing or just enjoying nature on private property, we all need to keep in mind that we are guests. Show respect to the landowners that allow us to be on their property as we fish. Pay particular attention as to where you park and with wet Spring conditions, to not damage their property. Litter is the other issue that always needs to be discussed. When you are out fishing, bring more out than you took in. Put a few of those plastic bags from the grocery store in your vest and pick up the litter you find even if it is not yours. This can make a difference when a landowner decides to keep his property open to sportsmen or close it for good.

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SHOP AT HOME WEDDING INVITATIONS

P.L.A.Y.

The Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth, or PLAY, started in 1981 as a way to get information about fish, fishing, conservation and safety in the hands of kids. Quarterly issues of PLAY newsletters are provided free to kids aged 8 to 12.

An application to join PLAY can be found at the PA Fish & Boat Commission's website, <http://fishandboat.com/education/playindex.htm>



Brandywine Trout Club Kid's Fishing Clinic

The Brandywine Trout & Conservation Club will hold a Fishing Clinic on March 27, 2010 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! www.brandywinetrout.net/home.html

Valley Forge Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School - May 16th

Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold their Annual Fly Fishing School on Sunday, May 16, 2010. Cost is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for those under the age of 16. You must provide your own fly fishing equipment and those under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please contact John Johnson at 610-873-9062 or John Dettrey at 610-857-5727. A registration form can be found in VFTU's newsletter at www.valleyforgetu.org

NOAA - National Saltwater Angler Registry

The improved quality of recreational fishing data achieved through a national saltwater angler registry will help demonstrate the economic value of saltwater recreational fishing, and will provide a more complete picture of how recreational fishing is affecting fish stocks. This kind of information is essential to NOAA's goal to end overfishing as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. All recreational anglers who fish in federal waters will be required to participate, with some exemptions for those already registered in their states.

Recreational saltwater fishermen will need to register if they:

Hold a license from one of 10 coastal states or territories which do not currently have comprehensive saltwater angler license or registration requirements—Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Fish for or are likely to catch anadromous species in tidal and salt waters; these are fish like river herring, shad, smelt and striped bass that live in the oceans but spawn in fresh water, or fish in the federal waters more than three miles from the ocean shore or from the mouths of rivers or bays

Some anglers don't have to register if they:

Hold a license from one of 15 coastal states with comprehensive licensing or registration — Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington;

Are not required under state law in one of these 15 states to hold a fishing license as is sometimes the case with seniors or active-duty military;

Are under age 16; Pay to fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats; Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit or subsistence fishing permit; Fish commercially under a valid license.

National Saltwater Angler registration is free in 2010. To register, anglers can visit NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program and click on the Angler Registry link, or call the toll-free registration line at 1-888-MRIP411 (1-888-674-7411) from 4:00 am to 12 midnight EST daily.

Anglers will need to provide their name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and will receive a registration number that will allow them to begin fishing immediately. They will receive a registration card in the mail in about 30 days.



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West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association

Membership Application

Date: _____

Full Name (Please Print Clearly) _____

New Renewal

Regular \$25.00

Address: _____

Family \$30.00

City, State, Zip: _____

Junior \$10.00

Telephone No.: _____

Life \$250.00

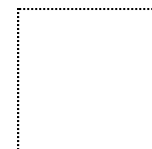
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Upcoming Events

Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at the East Bradford Township Building.

March 19th

Pocono Wildlife Show 7:00 PM

March 27th

Road Clean Up & Pre-Season Stocking 8:00 AM

April 3rd

Regional Opening Day of Trout Season

April 17th

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season

April 24th

"Chip Gibson" Trout Rodeo

