



News & Views

**West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association**

March 2016

Fellowship and Information at the WCFGWA Membership Meeting

An appreciative audience listened as guest speaker, Steve Estberg, gave a fascinating presentation on WCFGWA's West Valley Creek stream improvement program. This joint effort is part of the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Adopt-A-Stream Program, which provides technical assistance in planning, supervision of construction and a limited amount of financial assistance for materials to the cooperator of an approved project on a qualified water.

Steve discussed all aspects of the program from the extensive planning and initiation eight years ago to coordination of materials and labor, to the impact of recent changes in the Commission's program priorities.

An extensive photo library showing before and after stream photos, as well as our volunteer work force hard at work moving tons of rock by hand, illustrated the significant impact a dedicated volunteer work force can make to the quality of our stream. "Volunteers are the keys to our work," Steve commented. "We are very lucky to have such tremendous support."

Business conducted included elections and welcoming Dave Goodroad to the Executive Committee. Fletcher Swanson was elected to the Vice President's position to fill the seat vacated by Larry Athens upon his retirement. Bob Bonney updated us on the sinkhole repair. It was an informative and enjoyable evening.



Events Calendar

March 26, 2016

Trout Stocking

Mentored Youth Trout Day - Regional

April 2, 2016

Regional Opening Day

April 9, 2016

Mentored Youth Trout Day - Statewide

April 15, 2016

Trout Stocking

April 16, 2016

Statewide Opening Day
Chip Gibson Trout Rodeo

May 20, 2016

Trout Stocking

May 21, 2016

Dave Heller Trout Rodeo

June 11, 2016

Art Colley Bass Rodeo



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Sink Hole Repaired Area Now Open to Fishing

The sink hole is repaired, reported Bob Bonney at the WCFGWA Membership meeting. Hansen Aggregates scraped the substrate and brought in clay to line the bottom and sides of the hole. They also added good side rock and poured 10 yards of concrete to complete the repair. "It looks like a nice job," Bonney commented. The area above the DHAL wire is now safe to access and open to fishing.

Treasurer's Report

By Bernie McGovern

Financial Status as of February 2016

Income YTD	\$1,711
Expenses YTD	\$690
Checking	\$11,702
CD Savings	\$12,542
Savings	\$5.694
Life Savings	\$8,180

WCFG&WA Officers**2016–2017**

President—Gary Dunn

Vice President—Fletcher Swanson

Secretary—George Poole

Treasurer—Bernie McGovern

Exec. Committee 2015-16

Mike Colley, Matt Estberg, Steve Estberg, Colin Finn (Jr. Mem.), Beth Kershaw (Jr. Mem), Andy Madsen, A.J. Miller, John Rickards, Jim Semetti

Exec. Committee 2016-17

Gary Dunn, Don Finn, David Goodroad, John Johnson, Bernie McGovern, George Poole, Liz Rutter, Fletcher Swanson, Arlene Stewart

**Turn In A
Poacher Or
Litterer**

**Call W.C.O.
Bob Bonney**
610-637-6398

President's Message

It is once again the time of year when we are the busiest. The plans and ideas become reality. It does not happen without a large amount of help from many individuals.

First we have an excellent group of officers, board members and volunteers who work together to make the West Chester Fish Game and Wildlife Association go smoothly. We also have help from people like Paradise Farm Group, ARA Services, Wawa, French Creek Outfitters, Gordon Sporting Group, Turkey Hill and also Officer Bonney of the PA Fish and Boat Commission. They have all stepped up to help make our events a success (the rodeos, Night on the Pond and our raffles) and last, but not least, our member volunteers who donate their time and labor, and in some cases, donations of items for us to raffle and raise money to continue our efforts to keep West Valley Creek a viable fishing and recreation area.

We are always looking for new members as this is one of our main sources of income. Please join the West Chester Fish Game and Wildlife Association and make our plans a success.

All of the above mentioned, helped us reach and in many cases, exceed our goals for 2015. We are looking forward to a successful 2016.

On behalf of the club, I extend a very large thanks to Debbie and Larry Athens. Their long time participation on many levels of the Board and officers group, and their input and ideas, along with labor, donations of goods, among others, have helped the club to be a successful entity. We wish you both well in your retirement.

Respectfully,
Gary Dunn
President
West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association

Member's Night on the Pond

Our Member's Night on the Pond is being scheduled for a Thursday in June. We will let you know the date when it is finalized. We will be raffling off :

Remington 870, 12 Gauge, Slug Gun

Remington 870, Ventilated Rib, 12 or 20 Gauge Shot Gun

Savage Rifle, Mark 2, with Heavy Barrel

Other Great Prizes !

So check your mail for updated information on this fun Night on the Pond.

We would like to thank Gordon's Sports Supply Inc. of Uwchland, PA for supplying the guns for our raffle and for all of their assistance and support.

Chester County Trout Fishing Waters

Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only Areas:

East Branch Brandywine Creek – 1.2 miles; from SR 4019 (Dorlan's Mill Road) downstream to SR 4004 (Dowlin Forge Road)

Pickering Creek – 1.5 miles; from SR 1019 (Charlestown Road) downstream to 330 yards upstream of the railroad bridge

 **Middle Branch White Clay Creek** – 1.67 miles; from SR 3009 (Good Hope Road) downstream to the confluence with the East Branch — *This is a Keystone Select Stocked Trout Stream*

West Valley Creek – 1.2 miles; from the confluence with the unnamed tributary (locally known as Colebrook Run) upstream of SR 2020 (Boot Road) downstream to 0.25 miles downstream of the railroad tunnel

Stocked Trout Waters:

Beaver Creek (at Downingtown) – Big Elk Creek – Buck Run (Compass Rd. downstream to SR 372) – East Branch Brandywine Creek (SR 4031 in Glenmoore downstream to US Business Route 30 in Downingtown) – East Branch Elk Creek – East Branch White Clay Creek – French Creek – Middle Branch White Clay Creek – Pickering Creek – Pocopson Creek – West Branch Brandywine Creek (SR 4005 near Cedar Knoll downstream to SR 0340) – West Valley Creek – White Clay Creek

Catch And Release Fly Fishing Only:

French Creek – 0.9 mile; from the dam at Camp Sleepy Hollow downstream to Hollow Road

Catch and Release all Tackle (Chester and Montgomery Counties):

Valley Creek – at Valley Forge and tributaries including Little Valley Creek. Be aware that Valley Forge National Historic Park has imposed special bait restrictions. Check local posters.

Courtesy of the PA Fish and Boat Commission



WCFGWA on Facebook

Check out our new Facebook page at

Westchester Fishgameworks

Many thanks to Beth Kershaw for all her hard work designing this great page.

How to Release Fish

The idea for both voluntary catch and release and catch and release required by regulations is that the fish survive to grow larger, and perhaps reproduce, and perhaps then can be caught again. The number of fish that survive depends on several factors, including the length of the fight, where the fish is hooked, water temperature, and how the fish is handled and released.

To give fish released the best chance for survival, follow these recommended guidelines:

- ◆ **Use barbless hooks.**

- ◆ **Play fish quickly.**

Try to land your fish as quickly as possible and don't play the fish to exhaustion.

- ◆ **Use a landing net.**

- ◆ **Keep the fish in the water.**

The chance of a fish being injured increases the longer it is held out of water.

- ◆ **Wet your hands.**

Wet your hands, your net, and other materials that may come in contact with the fish.

- ◆ **Hold the fish upside down while removing the hook.**

This can often pacify the fish and reduce handling time.

- ◆ **Remove hooks quickly.**

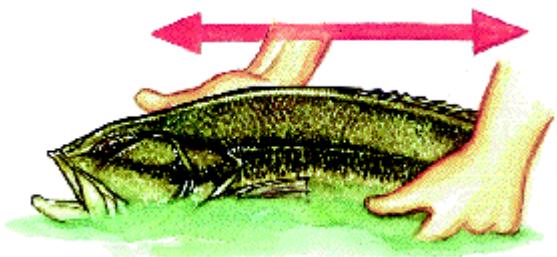
Hemostats or long-nose pliers are essential tools for quickly removing hooks.

- ◆ **Cut the line.**

When it is not possible to remove the hook without harming the fish, cut the line.

- ◆ **Don't touch the gills.**

Do not handle fish by placing your fingers in the gill slits.

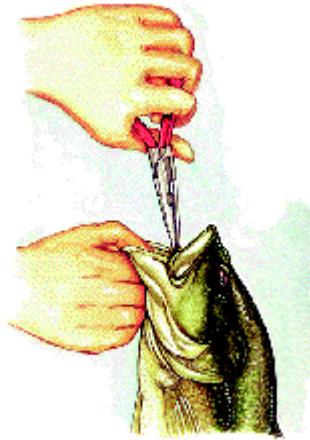


- ◆ **Hold the fish upright underwater after hook removal and allow it to swim away under its own power.**

If necessary, hold the fish out of the current until it revives.

- ◆ **Fish that are bleeding from the mouth or gills due to hook removal do not survive after being released back into the water.** Anglers may be charged with violating the Fish and Boat

Code by failing to immediately release the fish unharmed. If regulations permit, the angler should keep the fish and have it count towards his or her daily limit.



Kids in the Wild

We want to hear about your adventures fishing, hunting and wildlife watching! So please email your stories and pictures to News & Views at wcfgwa@gmail.com and receive an official WCFGWA T-shirt!

A Day I Will Never Forget - by Quin Madsen



Ever since I was little I wanted to hunt with my dad. Seeing him bring back small game and deer, and helping him process the game was exciting. Last year I sat with my dad opening day to see what hunting was like. I thought it was fun. In July of 2015 my dad took me to the Hunter Safety Course to get my education and license.

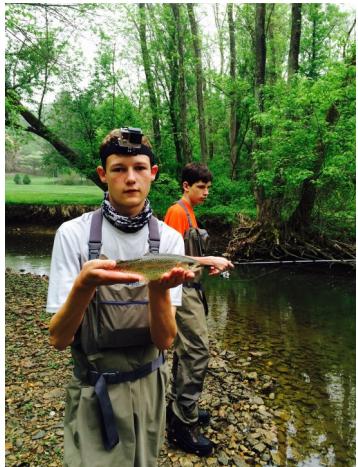
This year I went out on opening day and we sat in the stand a long time, only stopping for lunch onetime. Towards the end, the buck came out and I took a shot. What an exciting rush I had seeing the deer fall. I never had that feeling before. My dad was so excited for me. We tracked the deer, tagged it, took it to the butcher, and now we are getting it mounted. This was a day I will never forget.



Quin is in the 6th grade at South Brandywine Middle School.



One of My Favorite Past Times - by Ben Anderson



I woke up early one spring morning, excited for a day of trout fishing with one of my best friends. The sun had not yet risen as I strapped on my waders. I put on a jacket and gloves, knowing it would be a cold, early-spring morning. After gathering my gear, I hopped in my friend's car and we drove to the West Valley Creek in Downingtown.

As we arrived, I noticed that the conditions were perfect. The sky was overcast and the stream water was crystal clear. The air was cold and crisp and the trees were just beginning to grow leaves. We waded downstream until we arrived at a deep, slow-moving pool that sat under a steep rock ledge. We drifted salmon eggs through the pool, and, almost immediately, my friend hooked a small brown trout. He caught several other fish in this spot using salmon eggs. We soon spooked the remaining trout and waded downstream to our next spot. This spot was set in a skinny portion of the stream, where a large tree grew out of the bank. We had discovered a huge school of trout there the previous weekend, and knew we could catch plenty of fish. Again, my friend was able to catch several trout, while I did not catch anything.

After several hours, we headed back to the parking lot. I decided to take a few more casts before we left, and, sure enough, I hooked a nice sized rainbow trout on my first cast! This day was our best trout fishing day last season. Trout fishing has become one of my favorite past times during the spring. Opening Day can't come fast enough!

Ben is a Junior at West Chester East High School.



Wiley's Car Care

The year 2014 marks 101 years that our family has been in the auto repair business. That's a lot of years, a lot of Phillies games, a lot of stories of survival, a lot of experiences and friendships that have stood the test of time. Yes, the family business can survive and thrive in America today!

We strive to provide the finest quality auto repair and the best possible service available anywhere. If you've been a customer before, we'd like to thank you for making our progress possible. If you haven't, come on in, we're waiting for you.

Sincerely,
Steve & Dawn Wiley
610-436-8800

737 Downingtown Pike • West Chester, PA 19380 • www.WileysCarCare.com



West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association

Membership Application

Date: _____

Full Name (Please Print Clearly)

New Renewal

Address:

Regular \$25.00

City, State, Zip:

Family \$30.00

Telephone No.:

Junior \$10.00

E-Mail Address:

Life \$250.00

Donation \$ _____

Make your check payable to:

West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association

P.O. Box 511

West Chester, PA 19381-0511

www.wcfgwa.org

wcfgwa@gmail.com



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



Upcoming Events

Executive Committee
meets the second Monday of each month at the East Bradford Township Building.

April 2, 2016

Regional Opening Day

April 16, 2016

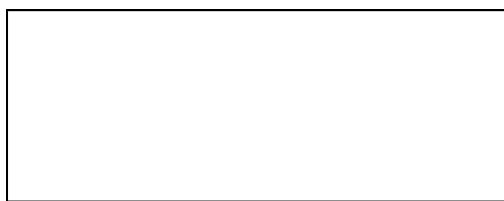
Statewide Opening Day
Chip Gibson Trout Rodeo

May 21, 2016

Dave Heller Trout Rodeo

June 11, 2016

Art Colley Bass Rodeo



**Please remember to send
your email to:
wcfgwa@gmail.com**