

parties. Weddings, reunions- you can rent the picnic area which consist of approx. 25 picnic tables. We cater or you can bring your own food. See Lori for renting. There is also a kitchen area with stove, refrigerator, sink and counterspace.

Turkey Shoots: Thanksgiving is coming, come out and support our Turkey Shoots. It's a great way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon. Enjoy your fellow members and support the Club. The turkeys are always great. Shoots begin at 1 p.m. Dates are: Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13. See you at the Shoots.

Christmas Cash: We are now putting four tickets in each newsletter and the response has been very favorable. We hope all of our members will support this. We are planning on an addition to our pavilion so that we can accomodate more people at our activities. Hope you can help the Club with the addition.

Pheasant Stocking: We will be stocking all cock birds as usual this fall. We will increase from 360 birds to 400 birds this year- 133 each stocking. Stocking will be Sat., Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and Nov. 12 at the gameland in Laurelton and the gameland in Hartleton. All stocking will take place in the morning.

Rifle Range Users: The property committee asks members to please respect the targets. If you pull the pins out to move a target, please put them in the target and in the ground to secure the target. Put target in the middle, not on the post. Also please respect the sign when range is closed. NO metal targets please.

CLUBHOUSE APARTMENT

Our apartment is being rented regularly, so if you are interested, make sure to contact Lori to get in the book before it is too late. (570) 922-1128.

REMINDERS

Don't forget our **Mini-Golf Range** to improve your putting, as well as having fun for young and old alike. It is open at 11 a.m. Cost is \$3 for adult and children under age six are free with a paid adult.

Also remember that the **Club Driving Range** located in the rear of the Club has a 100 yd., 200 yd., and 300 yd. Range. See the barmaid for club and balls.

RIFLE RANGE HOURS:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Sat. and Sun.:
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Wed. and Fri.: 9:00 a.m. until dusk

Please continue to take your debris with you or place it in the provided disposal cans.

Please check the Calendar of Events to make sure the Range is open.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

OCTOBER

Sat., Oct. 15: Coon Dog Trials

Sun., Oct. 16: Coon Dog Trials

Sun., Oct. 16: Turkey Shoots, 1 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 23: Turkey Shoots, 1 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 29: Pheasant Stocking

Sun., Oct. 30: Turkey Shoots, 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Sat., Nov. 5: Pheasant Stocking

Sun., Nov. 6: Turkey Shoots, 1 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 12: Pheasant Stocking

Sun., Nov. 13: Turkey Shoots, 1 p.m.

Thurs. Nov. 24: Thanksgiving - Closed

Sat., Nov. 26: Hunter's Ball, 10 p.m.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 17: Party with Santa, 2 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Closing at 5 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 25: Christmas Day - Closed

FEBRUARY

Sun., Feb. 5: Super Bowl Party

MAY

Sat., May 21: Fishing Derby

JUNE

Mon., June 4: Hunter's Safety Course, 6 p.m.

Tues., June 5: Hunter's Safety Course, 6 p.m.

Wed., June 6: Hunter's Safety Course, 6 p.m.

IMPORTANT:

If your address has changed,
please notify the Club by calling 922-1128 or writing.

REGULAR DINING HOURS:

Fri. & Sat.: 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Sun.: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

—Bar Short Orders Daily—

Wed. & Thurs.: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Fri. & Sat.: 11 a.m. -11 p.m.

Sun.: 11 a.m. -9 p.m.

REGULAR CLUB HOURS:

Wed. thru Sun.: Open 11 a.m.

Closed Mon. & Tues.

CLUB AFFILIATES:

Union County Bench Rest • Mark Trutt, President
Union County Muzzleloaders • Will Zimmerman, President



Union County Sportsmen's Club, Inc And Wildlife Sanctuary

50 Sportsmen's Club Lane, Millmont, Pa 17845

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Autumn Edition

Fall 2011

Greetings to All of Our Members:

As I begin a new year as President of our Club I want to tell you how much I appreciate your trust in and support of our Board of Directors.

The Club had a good year last year by any measure but particularly when you consider the shape the economy is in and how the price of everything we use in our operation continues to rise. We have had to adjust our prices somewhat but try to keep them as low as we can and still deliver quality food and beverages, improve our Club House and maintain the events we encourage and sponsor.

Our Spring 2011 Newsletter broke the 4,000 member mark and for the first time in the history of the Club we had a membership of 4,046. We continue to grow with new members joining each month. A typical month shows about 40 new members and probably four new stockholders. Having said this, I am always amazed how many folks within the local area are not familiar with what we have here and how truly special it is. Bring a guest whenever you can and encourage their joining a great organization.

Our Stockholders meeting held July 16th was well attended but many did not take the opportunity to meet other shareholders and discuss the Club with the Board of Directors. This on one hand tells us that we are on the right track but on the other hand we need the input of as many members as we can so that we stay on that track. There were several suggestions and questions of the Board and we are considering how we can best address these in a prudent manner. I want to thank Chris Seebold and Mike Fullam for their years of service and commitment on the Board of Directors. They both contributed much and will be missed as they both chose to take a break and not run for reelection. Also, give a congratulations and welcome to our two new Board members, John Sheaffer and Mark Trutt. John and Mark have been involved with the Club for many years and we welcome them to the Board of Directors. John as Trustee and Mark as First Vice President.

We have been working with a professional kitchen design firm to take a look at our

kitchen and suggest ways we can improve the quality of service and improve operations so that we can deliver quality food faster at a fair price and in a consistent manner. For the past year we have been discussing this and reviewing plans upon plans. With Lori's input and the suggestions made by everyone we are moving forward to starting the project. It is not easy though; just try to imagine all of the possibilities and not wanting to make a mistake that future Boards and Managers will have to live with.

The Club sign at the entrance of the Club has been in need of repair and updating. This will be addressed this fall and with the help of volunteers and Pyle Brothers we will have a new mountain stone sign and planter to welcome everyone to the Club. It is important to have a nice first impression to our home.

We need to give many thanks to our partners the The A.B.A.T.E. Jacks Mountain Riders for making the inaugural Gun Raffle event a huge success. Everyone had a great time, plenty of prizes were won and both partners made additional funds for their treasuries. Held June 25th, the event was the first of its kind for the Club and we are planning on following up with another Raffle next summer. We will be putting Gun Raffle tickets in the Spring Newsletter so that all of you can take part. If you see Ray Kline anytime, tell him "Thank You" for all of the time and effort he put into making this event successful.

Hunting season is just around the corner as I write this message. The Board has approved the stocking of 400 pheasants this fall. This is an increase from the 360 we did last year. Have a great hunt and enjoy the various seasons. Hunt safely and responsibly. Be courteous to landowners and support our WCO's as they do their job.

Finally but not least important, I want to say "Thank You" to Lori our Manager and all of our staff who make your Club dining and entertainment experience what it is. Please don't



"Bear" Spangler

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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sportsmen to sit down and take the time to read your new hunting digest and understand any changes that have been implemented since last season. A brief highlight on some of the changes are:

New WMU's have been added to those WMU's that have a split 5-day antlered and 7-day concurrent antlered and antlerless season. Consult your digest for these changes.

The traditional bear season has been lengthened to four days and will start on Sat., Nov. 19th. The extended bear season is back for WMU's 4D and 4E and will run from Nov. 30th thru Dec. 3.

For fall Turkey consult the hunting and trapping digest closely. WMU 4D season runs from Oct. 29 - Nov. 12 and Nov. 24 - 26. WMU 4E season runs from Oct. 29 - Nov. 18 and then from Nov. 24-26.

Permits are now required for individuals who do not possess a valid PA Hunting or Fur Taking License to use Game Lands shooting ranges. A permitted person is allowed one guest.

Reports coming in from sportsmen for the upcoming hunting season seem very encouraging for Union Co. Small game hunters should be highly successful in their pursuit for rabbits and squirrel. Pheasants have been reported being seen throughout the summer and successful chick hatches have been seen. Their population will be complemented with the PGC's and the Union County Sportsmen Club's stocking programs. Turkey hunters should have no problem locating a flock. On a positive note sportsmen report seeing more deer than in past years and fanners working their fields have reported seeing more fawns this year. I was also show a picture from two "shed" hunters who hunted for "sheds" on Jacks, Paddy, and Shade mountains. The picture consisted of 23 large racks and 16 Y's and spikes who had made it through last season.

Finally, Bear hunters take note that Union county is again near the tops of the North Central region in bear complaints received this year. Bear are everywhere with some exceptionally large ones that have been seen and ones that I have trapped. There are quite a few 400 - 600 pound Bear roaming around Union County.

On a final note please be sure of your target while hunting. We experienced a few hunting related shooting incidents two seasons ago in and around Union County which are never fun to investigate and prove to be very traumatic to all involved. It is my hope each and every one of you have an enjoyable, successful and safe hunting season this year and I look forward to meeting you and listening to your hunting stories.

COOPERATIVE NURSERY UNIT Earl Myers, Leader

As most of you are well aware by now, June 24th marked the end of an era in the Cooperative Nursery Unit (CNU), when Steve Archer and Allen (Buzz) Russell retired from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission after 35 years and 32 years of service, respectively. Allen spent most of his career as a fish culturist and assistant hatchery manager at the Benner Spring State

Fish Hatchery (SFH), until he transferred to the CNU as a Fisheries Technician in 2007. Steve however, spent most of his career in the CNU, such that he became an icon in the unit and was well recognized by all the volunteer members of the 165 nurseries. As the leader of the CNU, I relied heavily upon him for his technical expertise and vast knowledge of the nursery locations, club personnel, and the daily operation of the unit. Buzz was our resident expert on fish disease issues. It has been quite a struggle keeping the program going in their absence, especially during the summer heat wave we all had to endure. I wish them both many long years of happy retirement.

I was hoping to announce the names of the new Fisheries Technicians we have hired to replace Steve and Buzz, but because all the necessary paperwork has not been completed, and there has been no official confirmation, I am not permitted to reveal the selections at this time. However, let me just say at this time that we have two very good candidates to replace the two outstanding individuals we will be missing. I am hopeful that they will be able to start their new positions soon.

Because of the heat wave I mentioned earlier, it has been a difficult 2.5 months of trying to keep fish alive around the state. I can tell you that Pennsylvania must have some of the hardest trout in the country as I have seen them survive water temperatures that would kill most trout. A brook trout's maximum water temperature is 65°F while rainbows and browns can tolerate water temperatures of 70°F. I visited several nurseries this summer where water flows were low, temperatures were 77-80°F and fish skin and gills were infested with Columnaris bacteria, Ichthyophthirias multifiliis ("Ich"), as well as various other forms of external parasites. Treatments of formalin or hydrogen peroxide were used to eliminate the parasites, but the fact remains that these trout endured excessive temperatures under additional adverse conditions, and still "survived." At this time I want to thank Coja Yamashita, Leader of the Pathology Unit and Mark Haffley, the assistant Fisheries Biologist of our Benner Spring Fish Production Services Division for assisting in many nursery emergency visits when I was not available.

As I write this article the environment has done a



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180° flip-flop and we are experiencing devastating floods, which are damaging nursery infrastructure, killing fish and creating havoc across the state. It will take some time before we know the full extent of all this damage to our nurseries.

Mother Nature can be cruel at times, and this glorious state in which we live is a prime example of the extreme opposite ends of the spectrum we endure when she unleashes her power. All that being said, "I know there is no other place on earth I would rather be than Pennsylvania."

SIXTH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY

Tim Zimmerman

This year marked another milestone for your Club as it held its sixth annual youth fishing derby on Sat, May 21. Like last year, the weather finally cooperated after some torrential downpours earlier in the week, and greeted all the young anglers with beautiful, sunny weather. Turning out for this event were 81 children aged 10 and under, along with dozens of parents, spectators, helpers and all the usual suspects who seem to assist the Club in all of its endeavors. This was one of our larger turnouts for this annual event.

The children participating in this year's derby arrived with lots of anticipation and left with a bit of sunburn, a lot of fish and huge smiles. The Club purchased and stocked over 300 trout ranging from nine to thirteen inches in size, along with several trophy-sized fish. The derby was held in the creek and raceway immediately next to the Club's parking lot, and is part of the Club's renowned Trout Program.

Among other things, the program encourages our youth to become engaged in outdoor sporting activities, promotes the responsible stewardship of our streams and each year raises fingerling trout for release into Penn's Creek. This is all made possible by those of you who have purchased Union County Sportsmen's Club Trout Stocking Program buttons and through the strong support of the Club's Trustees.

This event took a lot of help and planning and so many people graciously contributed their time and talents to insure that the children would have a positive, memorable experience and leave our Club eager to participate in next year's event. There are so many people to thank for the success of this year's event, and it's not possible to mention everyone who lent a hand. But certainly, we would like to thank Charlie Klauger for arranging the purchase and delivery of the trout, Baker Hollow Taxidermy in Mifflinburg who kindly donated a fish mount for the largest trout caught. The lucky angler this year was Autumn McEntee, age 7, from Summerdale. She landed a beautiful trophy trout that must look fabulous hanging on her wall. Jack's Mountain Riders, ABATE of Pennsylvania, not only donated some very cool fishing rods, tackle boxes and nets as door prizes, but also lent a huge hand in assisting the day of the event. It looked like they were having as much fun as the kids, and many, many thanks are directed to them for their generous help. A very special

thanks goes out to the Carvell's who again donated snacks for the children. And to those who registered the children, fed and watered the children, baited hooks, untangled lines, ferried ice, sold trout buttons, and set up and removed sand bags -thank you! This day would not be a success without your help.

Being a proud member of this Club, it was again a great feeling to be a part of this year's event; to see our Club actively promote sportsmanship and to actively engage our future Club members, to hear the giggles and see the smiles on little faces is something that will not be forgotten. The tradition will continue next year, with the date of May 19, 2012 selected for the Seventh Annual Children's Fishing Derby. Like this year's event, the Derby will be open to all children 10 years of age and under.

Stay tuned for more details in the Spring newsletter, and until then - please continue to practice and encourage others to "catch and release."

PENNS CREEK ANGLER

Bruce Fisher

It looks like the fall is going to start out like the spring. I'm sitting here listening to the rain on my metal roof and the thunder crash. The brook trout fishing in the small mountain streams has been great all summer with weekly rains. I caught a beautiful Brook Trout the other day that was fully dressed in his fall spawning colors. What a wonderful sight to see this fish lying in my hand before letting it swim away. It's unusual to catch a fish more than 4-6 inches but they put up a good fight on a light fly rod. I use a 2 weight that will flex all the way down to the handle. Every so often I catch a really big one that is 8 or 9 inches but we are talking small trickles that won't support any fish much bigger. The Union and Center County residence are so blessed to have such wonderful resources just a few miles in any direction.

Penns held up very well this year, the water level remained much better than the past few years. I even did some scuba diving this year on Penns, it is something I've always wanted to do! I found the water is much colder than one would expect when you get down around six feet below the surface. It was exciting to see the bottom of the creek with all the rocks and hiding spots for fish. I just want to say diving is very dangerous with all the snags and underwater boulders. If you decide to do this make sure you have a partner or stick to the shallow areas of the creek no more than 4 feet deep. If you decide to dive in Penn's Creek you will discover a wonderful new world that very few people have viewed. You will also learn that all the different bugs in Penn's Creek have locations that they prefer to live in. There are clingers, crawlers and borrowing bugs. Clingers are bugs like Black and Yellow Stoneflies, March Browns, Gray Fox and Blue Winged Olives. Crawlers included some Caddis, Quill Gordon's and Sulphurs. Borrowing bugs include Green Drakes, Brown Drakes, Golden Drakes and some types of Caddis. There are other creatures down there as well!

We have Crayfish, Hellgrammites, Fish-flies, Minnows and Tadpoles. These are all "Fish Food" and trout seek them out with abandon. Clingers are found in the fastest water on the creek. Crawlers are located in the sections between the fast water and the beginning of a slow pool. The borrowers are in the slower water that still has good oxygen levels. This fall should provide good fishing with Slate Drakes, Blue Winged Olives and the beautiful October Caddis. Good Luck to all!

WATERWAYS CONSERVATION REPORT

Steven G. Boughter, Waterways Conservation Officer

Something most may not realize is that Waterways Conservation Officers are first responders, and since we have access to watercraft, are often counted upon to take part in disaster efforts. This recently came to light during the flooding that took part in early September of 2011. On Wed., Sept. 7, I got a call from our Harrisburg headquarters, directing me to go to Walker Lake in Snyder County and inspect the dam for integrity. This dam is a high hazard dam and its failure could affect downstream areas as far away as Selinsgrove. I was instructed to take my small G3 jet drive boat to the lake, launch, pilot the boat to the dam and perform an inspection. Luckily, on the way there, the heavy rain ended and it started to clear. Just after launching my boat and heading toward the dam, it of course began to rain again. Luckily I found nothing alarming at the dam and headed back to my headquarters. Shortly thereafter I got another call, instructing me to go back to the dam and perform another inspection. This time I was to also inspect the downstream side of the dam. There is a house that sits along a stream not far from the base of the dam, and there was concern for the safety of those residing there. First I checked the access area above the dam, where this time I had to drive through about a foot of water to get to the access. Other than obviously rising water, I found no cause for alarm. I then went to the base of the dam on the south side of Troxelville, forded the stream and drove to the base of the dam. All appeared in order below the dam. I climbed to the top of the dam and the overflow was still well above the waterline. The dam also is constructed in such a way that if the water gets too high, it actually would travel around the dam via a large spillway. The water at this time was to the edge of the spillway.

The next day, which was scheduled to be the start of vacation, I got a call to go and prepare both of my boats for emergency use. Harrisburg was expected to receive significant flooding, and I was to be ready to travel to Harrisburg and perform rescue operations.

Later that day I again got a call and was instructed to go to Walker Lake and inspect the dam. It had been raining for days. This time, I was unable to enter the access area due to the high water level. At the base of the dam, I was no longer able to ford the stream with my vehicle, but there was a foot bridge that was still above water, so I crossed it and hiked to the dam. The outflow at this time was a torrent, but the dam itself seemed entirely intact. I climbed again to the top of the

dam, and this time the overflow, which had been probably at least of couple of feet above the water line, was completely submerged. The spillway was now started to overflow somewhat and there were a large number of carp visible along the edges. That was my last inspection and luckily everything turned out okay there.

However, on my way back to headquarters I got another call, requesting my boat for rescue efforts in the Borough of Northumberland. I called the emergency management director who explained there were no rescues planned, but they wanted to be ready. I told him I had a boat available and would leave it attached to my vehicle. I remained on call through the next day, but the river did not get quite as high as anticipated, so thankfully that call never came. I also never got called to Harrisburg, so things did not turn out as badly as predicted.

FLY POOL EVENTS

Mike Fullam

We have survived Hurricanes Irene and Lee. While fish don't drown, one must wonder the impact of such large levels of new water and it's impact. There could be some very unusual species showing up in very strange places in the near future. With that being said, let's talk about what we can adjust to. That would be a great big thank you to all the good folks involved in the Fly Pool events over the last few years. The club is highly committed to the fishing culture at our back door. I need to especially thank those who show up and tie flies every year as well as the staff that feeds and waters the participants.

I have taken on new responsibilities and will quietly step away from the future Fly Pools for the near future. New job, with lotsa travel and training precludes me from the very small role I have played. When I went on the board I replaced a trout icon, Bill Gamber, and I'm sure whoever steps up and continues this event will have the respect for all the fly fisherman that are members or members to be of the club. In closing, thanks for sharing all your "stuff," and never stop doin' what you love on the streams of the world. Thank you! Fish on...

NEWSLETTER BRIEFS

Hunter's Safety Course: Hunter's Safety Course will again will be offered in the Club dining room on Mon., June 4, Tues., June 5, and Wed., June 6, from 6 to 10 p.m. Register by calling the Club at 922-1128. The course is sponsored by the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen Club.

Tent Area at Penns Creek: The new Penns Creek tent area is now open for camping. If you like to sleep in a tent, you will like this tent area along Penns Creek. It is very relaxing. We will be expanding the area in the spring. It has two picnic tables and two fire rims. Remember, you must be a member to camp or pitch a tent. It is only \$5 a night per tent. Come and enjoy.

Pavilion: We rent the pavilion to our members for