

## Newsletter December 2023

### News from the Spring Creek Chapter of TU

Check out our **NEW** website for the most current information about Volunteer Opportunities, Conservation Projects, and more!

[SCCTU Website](#)

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## Happy Birthday Joe!

There will be a special screening of Live The Stream- The Story of Joe Humphreys at The State Theatre in State College on January 20th at 2pm. The ticket price is \$15 and the proceeds benefit our own Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited as well as Project Healing Waters.

[BUY TICKETS](#)



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## Save the Date

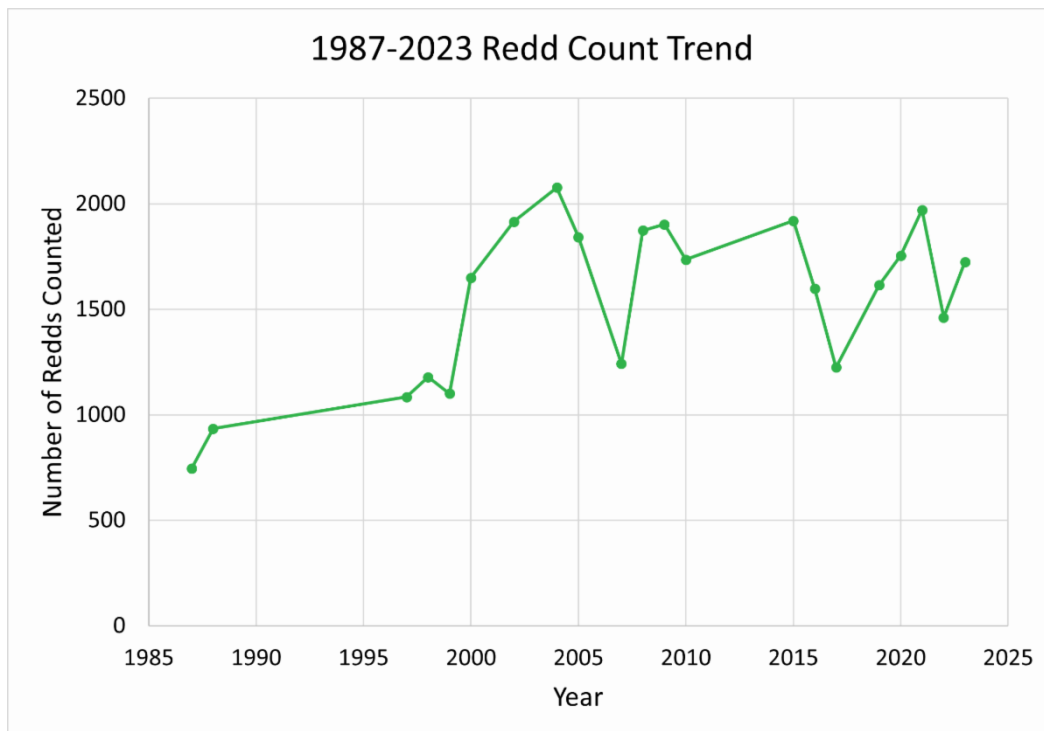
Annual Fundraising Banquet



Join us on Saturday, March 2nd at Mountain View Country Club to support local conservation. Contact Ford to learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to donate auction and raffle items. More details to come!

# Annual Redd Count

The Redd Count was started in 1987 and is an annual event SCCTU holds to count trout spawning areas in Spring Creek. All the counting is done by volunteers both inside and outside the Chapter. Counting the Redds gives us an idea of the health of the trout population in the steam and is a broader indicator of the health of the Spring Creek watershed. Pictured below is a graph of the amount of Redds counted over the years.



The Redd Count was a great success this year with over 40 volunteers helping and participating in the event. That number included multiple new volunteers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, George Daniels PSU fly fishing class students, and many familiar faces. The Clearwater Conservancy posted the event in their newsletter which also helped attract participants. The total number of Redds counted this year was 1,829, up from the 2022 count of 1,473.



## Women Anglers

The Women Anglers have increased their social media presence: “like” their [Facebook page](#) and follow them on [Instagram](#). Over the summer, they organized fly-fishing events on Spring Creek, Pine Creek, and Bald Eagle Creek. The last event of the year was held on November 12th at Fly Fishers Paradise. Owner, Dennis Charney, shared tips and techniques of dry-fly flyfishing! The Women Anglers’ 2024 plans include fly-fishing outings, hands-on workshops, social events, and even a Trout Trivia night! If you would like to learn more, please contact Diane Brown: [scctuwomenanglers@gmail.com](mailto:scctuwomenanglers@gmail.com)

[Learn more](#)



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## Youth Education Committee

Volunteers from our Youth Education Committee attended the Touch a Truck event in Pleasant Gap in November. The minnow station was a hit!

Contact Judi to volunteer: [jsittler@comcast.net](mailto:jsittler@comcast.net)



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## January General Meeting

Thursday, January 4th from 6pm-8pm via [Zoom](#)

**Rick Kustich, Fly fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead**

A complete discussion of the pursuit of steelhead in the Great Lakes region. The presentation looks at run timing, steelhead behavior, strategy, techniques, flies and some of the region's top rivers. The discussion on techniques has a heavy focus on my favorite approach to a steelhead river - swinging the fly, the use of switch / two-hand rods, and Spey casting.



Rick Kustich is a fly-fishing writer, instructor, and guide who began fly-fishing fifty years ago on the lakes and streams of upstate New York. His work has appeared in numerous national and regional publications. Rick is author of *Modern Spey Fishing* (2023), *Hunting Musky with a Fly* (2017) and *Advanced Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead* (2013) as well as four other titles including the best-selling *Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead* co-authored with his brother Jerry. He is featured in the film *Spey Daze* and is the Great Lakes editor for *Swing the Fly Magazine*. Rick has also spent time as a fly-shop owner, travel host, and fly-fishing book publisher and lives in Western New York. Find out more on Instagram/Facebook: [@rickkustich](#)

Contact [Chris](#) for more information.

[Zoom Link](#)

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## February General Meeting

Thursday, February 1st from 6pm-8pm  
Comfort Suites in State College

Our February General Meeting will be our State of the Chapter address followed

by a New Zealand Mud Snail presentation by Nicole Flanders. The nomination committee would like to present the following candidates for election:

- Betty Bloom
- Terrie Hendrickson
- Zach Quinby
- Ford Stryker

Please send all Board nominations to [president@springcreektu.org](mailto:president@springcreektu.org)

### Nicole Flanders, New Zealand Mud Snails in Spring Creek

Nicole is currently a third-year student at Penn State Altoona. She returned to school after twenty years in the railcar industry hoping to achieve her goal of a career in science. Although she started pre-medicine, she realized her passion truly lies in conservation. Outside of school, Nicole loves taking her dogs on hikes whenever possible. She enjoys kayaking, taking her UTV out on nice sunny days, and seeing how many new plants and insects she can identify. Nicole has been studying the invasive New Zealand mud snail (NZMS) population densities in Spring Creek with her mentor, Dr. Levri, for the last two years. Nicole loves being in the field, admiring our local streams' beauty and amazing biodiversity. She feels most at home splashing through the water, but also doesn't mind spending hours gathering and analyzing data in the lab. Nicole will present the data gathered as well as provide some insight into how the NZMS has been so successful and how to prevent the spread of this invasive species. She has been collecting these snails, measuring and dissecting them, counting the broods, and comparing data since the spring of 2021. Other members in her cohort are studying the effects of water chemistry on the populations as well as testing the enemy-release hypothesis. We also identified a native snail species that could be preventing the population increase of the NZMS and hope to further investigate this in the future. The population effects of the NZMS are huge on our local environment and play a role in the decline of large trophy fish like brown and rainbow trout. It is critical that we work together as nature lovers to preserve the beauty and integrity of our streams, and hopefully this presentation will help spread the word on how important it is to control the spread of this invasive species.



# Attention Fly Fishing Enthusiasts!

The Winter 2024 Fly Fishing Program Classes, Sponsored by The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Veterans Service Program

## Intro and Intermediate Fly Tying Instruction

Saturdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 - 1:00 - 3:15 PM

### Intro to Fly Tying

1. Overview of fly tying equipment and tools
2. Fundamental tying techniques and methods
3. Common materials and their applications
4. Learn several patterns that are effective locally (Vises, equipment and materials will be provided.)

### Intermediate Fly Tying (adults only, limit 8)

1. Fly Tying Skill Exercise
2. Euro Nymph Patterns
3. Intermediate Techniques (Students must have their own vises and equipment. Materials will be provided)

## Fly Fishing 101

Saturdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 - 1:00 - 3:15 PM

### Fly Fishing 101

1. Describe how fly fishing is different from other types of fishing
2. Identify where to fish in the Centre Region
3. Learn to tie several common fly fishing knots
4. Review dry fly, nymphing and euro nymphing techniques
5. Identify a brook, brown, and rainbow trout
6. Describe some of the equipment necessary for fly fishing
7. Identify stream etiquette and how to handle fish safely to return to the stream
8. Recognize the common insects and the flies that imitate them.



All classes meet at the South Hills School of Business & Technology,  
480 Waupelani Drive, State College, PA 16801

[Click here to Register](#)

Or Contact Larry Ragan, [lcr1@psu.edu](mailto:lcr1@psu.edu)

For additional information on the Springcreek Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Veterans Service Program please visit us at [www.springcreektu.org/vsp.html](http://www.springcreektu.org/vsp.html) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SCCTUVSP/](https://www.facebook.com/SCCTUVSP/)



Thanks To Everyone Who Attended  
Our Annual Holiday Party!





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## The Spring Creek Watershed Atlas

**Title:** Birding in the Spring Creek Watershed

**Author:** Margaret Brittingham

Fisherman's Paradise and Spring Creek Canyon – Spring Creek Canyon is a great place to see birds associated with riparian habitats. It can be accessed by either the Fisherman's Paradise parking area or the Shiloh Road parking lot from the south. The canyon is an easy walk along the stream and provides great views of waterbirds like Belted Kingfishers and Great Blue Herons. Over 135 species have been reported from these sites. Highlights include Bald Eagles which can be seen here year-round and nest near Fisherman's Paradise, and Ospreys which can be regularly seen during spring and fall migration. A variety of warblers including Common Yellowthroats, Northern Parulas, Yellow Warblers, and American Redstarts can be found here during the breeding season. Baltimore Orioles are common breeders along this riparian corridor and nest in the large trees around the Fisherman's Paradise parking area.

[Click HERE to read more!](#)



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Find us on Facebook!

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited | [Website](#)



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