

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE

# SpringCreek

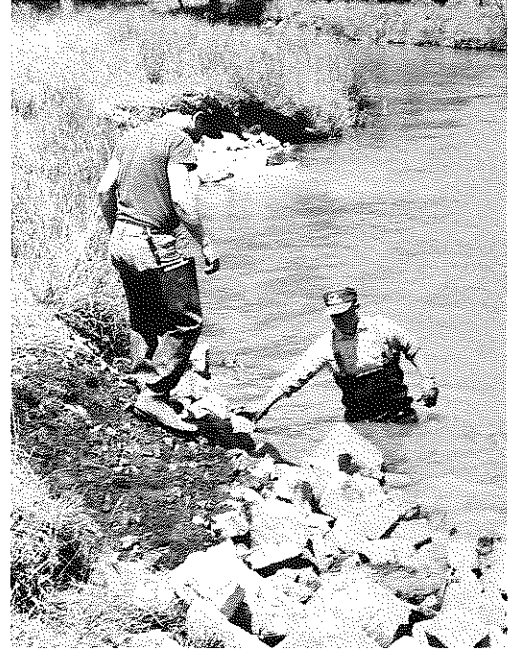
CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED



**STREAM IMPROVEMENT**

BELLIS

RALSTON



BELLIS



*Carline & Company engage in a typical T.U. stream bank stabilization project along the Penn State stretch of Spring Creek.*

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## INTRODUCTION

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This is an attempt to give a brief history of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, highlighting accomplishments and efforts of the Chapter and giving a look into the character of the organization.

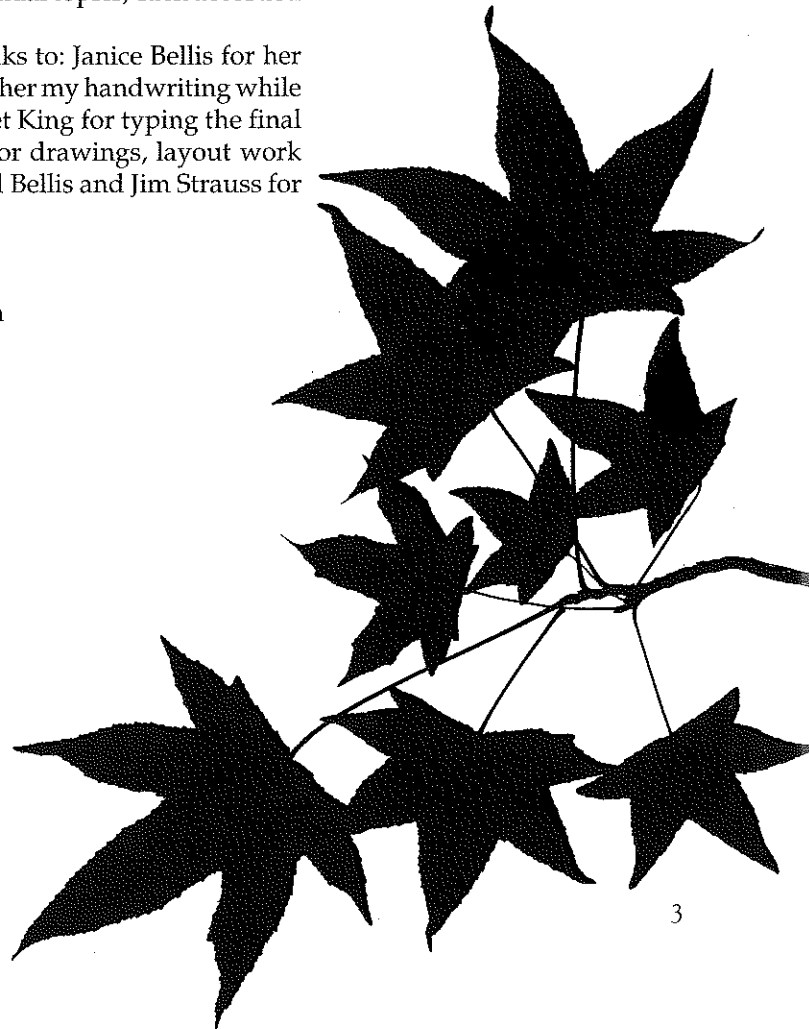
The danger in writing this type of narrative is in judging and selecting what is most important. Some Chapter members may feel that some things should have been emphasized more and that others should have been completely eliminated. I have tried to present a balanced view.

In developing this narrative, I have reviewed all copies of *Tertiary Treatment*, the Chapter newsletter, along with minutes of meetings and past correspondence. Occasionally, significant items had not been recorded and I had to refresh my memory by reviewing such items with those members of the organization who were part of the action.

The material is not presented in chronological order, but organized under individual topics, each accorded its own section.

I extend my special thanks to: Janice Bellis for her unwavering efforts to decipher my handwriting while typing the initial draft; Janet King for typing the final manuscript; Jim McClure for drawings, layout work and cover design; and to Ed Bellis and Jim Strauss for editing this work.

Frank Zettle  
State College, Pennsylvania  
1992

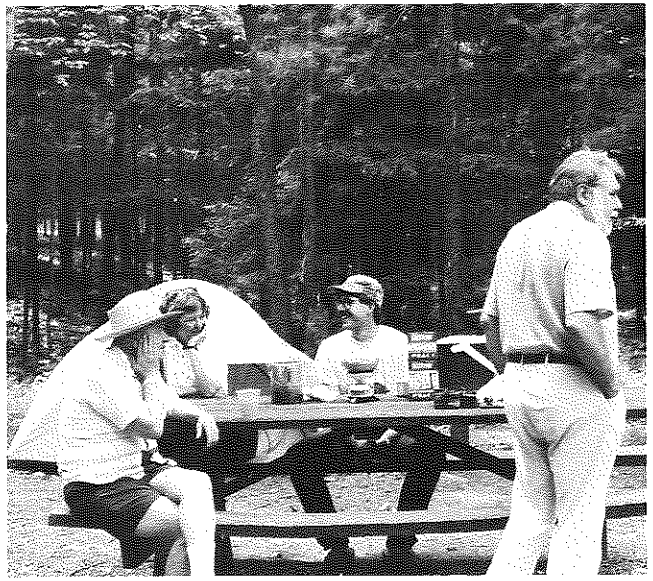




TOM DOMAN



ED BELLIS



*Poe Paddy 1990*



*Picnickers line up for Dave Butt's steaks*

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE Spring Creek Chapter OF TROUT UNLIMITED

## CHAPTER FORMATION

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited came into being with the adoption of a set of bylaws at a meeting held in the Panorama Grade School in Boalsburg on February 1, 1973. Forming a Centre County chapter had been considered for some time by local members of the Penns Creek Chapter who lived in Centre County but traveled over the mountains for meetings in the Lewistown area. At an earlier meeting at Joe Humphreys's home, the group decided to call a public meeting to see if there was sufficient interest to organize a TU chapter.

The public meeting was held at the Panorama Grade School on January 25. Gene Brown, president of the Penns Creek Chapter, chaired the meeting and explained the history and function of the national organization, how a local chapter would relate to it, and how a chapter could be organized. After some discussion there was general agreement to form a chapter. Paul Solley made a motion to prepare a set of bylaws; it passed. The Penns Creek Chapter's bylaws would be used as a model. Joe Humphreys moved that the chapter be named the Spring Creek Chapter. Other names were discussed: Central Chapter, Central Penn Chapter, Centre County Chapter and Mt. Nittany Chapter. Todd Bowersox moved that an organizational committee be formed with Joe Humphreys as chairman; it passed. Joe asked that all interested people give him their telephone numbers and said that he would meet with this group before the next meeting, scheduled for February 1.

At the February meeting, Ron Johnson served as temporary chairman in Joe Humphreys's absence. Paul Blankenhorn discussed the proposed bylaws, which called for five executive officers and six non-officers as board members. (Several years later the size of the board was reduced to nine in conformation with the uniform bylaws provided by National TU.) The bylaws were accepted by voice vote. Jim McLaren moved that the chapter's name be "Spring Creek Chapter"; the motion passed.

The following names were put in nomination and elected as officers:

Joe Humphreys - President  
Paul Blankenhorn - 1st Vice President  
Todd Bowersox - 2nd Vice President  
Vance McCullough - Secretary  
James McLaren - Treasurer

Nominated and elected as board members were:

Tom Schrenkel - 1 year term  
Charles Gettig - 1 year term  
Bob McMullin - 2 year term  
Charles Piper - 2 year term  
Dick Barton - 3 year term  
Ron Johnson - 3 year term

Presiding in Joe Humphreys's absence, Paul Blankenhorn asked for a donation from each member present to establish a treasury to help defray organizational costs. The following committees were established: public relations (Lou Delissio, acting chairman); membership (Rich Blair, acting chairman); and projects (Bill Rininger, acting chairman). With the evening's work done, the meeting adjourned.

In a letter dated February 20, 1973 and addressed to R. P. Van Gytenbeek, Executive Director of National Trout Unlimited in Denver, Colorado, Gene Brown, president of the Penns Creek Chapter, sent an adopted and signed set of bylaws for the newly formed chapter, along with the names and addresses of its officers and directors. The exact date that the new chapter received its charter is not known as some early minutes and records were later destroyed in a fire.

The Spring Creek Chapter was born at a time when Spring Creek itself was in a very precarious condition. This famous wild trout stream, on which Dr. Albert Hazzard had established his pioneering "fish-for-fun" experiment at Fisherman's Paradise, was in deep trouble. This stream, which had been fished by many truly great anglers like Gordon, LaBranche, Leisenring, Fox,

Marinero, and Schwiebert, had reached a new low. The fabulous green drake mayfly and almost all other insect life had recently been wiped out from the confluence of Thompson Run to the mouth of Spring Creek where it enters Bald Eagle Creek after a Penn State lab technician dumped cyanide down the drain. The drainage from Nease Chemical plant, entering by way of Thornton Spring, was at a deadly, toxic level in the early 1970s. Kepone, Mirex and other chemicals at the mouth of Thornton Spring were in concentrations strong enough to make one's eyes water.

A new sewage line had been built along upper Spring Creek. At places it was located in the stream, with many crossings. Tons of mud and silt had been flushed down the stream. At this time the east end of the State College bypass was being built, with little concern for environmental protection. The big spring at the head of Thompson Run had been diverted into the Duck Pond when Benner Pike was rebuilt. Thompson Run, which had been a nursery stream for Spring Creek and an excellent trout stream in its own right, was being fed by 80-90°F water in the summer from the Duck Pond. It was no longer a cold spring source benefitting Spring Creek.

Pine Grove Mills, at the head of one of the tributaries of Spring Creek, had no sewage plant and raw sewage was being discharged into the stream along its entire length. All the effluent from the State College-University sewage plant was also being dumped into Spring Creek. A tremendous building boom was taking place in the watershed at this time, without proper erosion control regulations. In fact, many of the current regulations had not yet been passed. The siltation problem was devastating. A processing plant at the state penitentiary was dumping raw vegetable waste into the creek during preserving time. Agricultural erosion was probably at its peak at this period. All the factors contributing to a degenerating ecosystem were bearing down upon this famous trout stream. Environmentally speaking, Spring Creek was near the bottom.

The real tragedy was that only a handful of individuals knew that something was drastically wrong with the stream and were willing to try to do something about it in an organized way. To most people interested in fishing, nothing was wrong. The Fish Commission loyally dumped thousands of stocked trout in Spring Creek each year. The stream was lined with fishermen shoulder to shoulder each opening day and many of them happily departed with their limit. Fisherman's Paradise was being heavily stocked with many large fish, easy to catch. Spring Creek had a reputation all over the state as a great trout stream. But the small group of enlightened sportsmen and conservationists who organized the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited knew that something was very wrong and that great dedication and effort would be needed to even get public recognition of the problem, let alone get something done about it.

## EDUCATION, SERVICE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Steve Sywensky, editor of *Tertiary Treatment*, asked retiring president Frank Zettle to summarize the status of the Chapter for the January 1979 issue. The following is from that newsletter: "I think the most important thing in regard to Spring Creek Chapter is its maturity as a viable organization. It has matured to a point that it not only provides a service to its members, and this is important, but it is now providing important service to the community."

### Chapter Meetings

The Chapter meets monthly, except in December, this meeting being omitted because of deer season. The business part of the meeting is brief since most of the business is conducted at board meetings, also held monthly. The types of programs vary to meet the myriad tastes of the membership but generally topics center around conservation, fishing and (occasionally) hunting. In recent years there has been an early spring fishing-flytying meeting, often advertised as a flytying smorgasbord, and during which four or five prominent flytyers demonstrate their varied techniques at the vise. These meetings have always been popular. In April a "kickoff" meeting is held just prior to opening day with some luminary, such as Joe Humphreys, as speaker. The April kickoff meeting usually tops all others in bringing out a large audience.

On several occasions a special program primarily aimed at the general public has been held prior to opening day. In 1981 a spring fishing seminar was held at the U.S. Army Reserve Center. Included were fishing and casting demonstrations, rod building, flytying and fishing tips. A similar type of meeting was held at the V.F.W. in State College in a later year.

With its location close to Penn State and near the fish hatcheries, the Chapter has rich program resources and has access to men from both the Fish Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Co-op Unit. The Chapter is kept well aware of activities of the Fish Commission and of current research results. Speakers from various departments of Penn State have also contributed fine programs. To discuss the many pollution problems and fisheries management policies, representatives from DER as well as the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service have often appeared before the Chapter.

Summer meetings are more active, hands on, out-of-doors affairs; for example a casting demonstration and clinic at a stream site or a visit to a research facility or other special point of interest. The Chapter has visited the research site in Stone Valley where acid precipitation is monitored, the living filter research project, a fish hatchery and a sewage plant in different summers. An August meeting at the Scotia Range for trap shooting has

proven very popular over the last several years.

The membership meeting date is the first Wednesday of each month, adhered to with few exceptions. The Chapter originally met at the State College High School; the community room at the Nittany Mall was used several times as were the Houserville Elementary School and the Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery. From 1979 through 1989 most meetings were held in the Fireside Room of the Elks Club in Boalsburg; but in 1990, when the Elks converted the room for other uses, the Chapter moved to the Boalsburg Fire Hall, a convenient, spacious meeting site. A 50/50 drawing helps defray the room rental cost and contributions pay for liquid refreshments brought by the ever dependable duo of Bob Maddox and Vince Norris. The January meeting - a let's look ahead, let-down-your-hair session - is held in the cozy, upstairs fireside meeting room of Duffy's tavern in Boalsburg.

## Newsletter

For an organization to be strong and active, its members must be informed. If the TU philosophy is to be meaningful its members must know and understand that philosophy. If members are to act on environmental issues, they must know and understand those issues. As an aid in accomplishing this, a good newsletter provides important services to its members. The Spring Creek Chapter has had an outstanding newsletter over the years; in fact it was judged the most outstanding of any chapter in Pennsylvania by the State Council in 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986 and again in 1987.

The first real newsletter of the Chapter was dated January 1976. Its first editor was Ed Rakowski, who had been serving as chairman of the publicity committee. The first 'feature article' was titled "Save That Game" and was written by Steve Sywensky. The article told how to save and preserve feathers and fur from a successful hunting trip for future use in flytying.

Early board members gave considerable thought to the name of the newsletter. Many titles were considered before *Tertiary Treatment* was decided on. Tertiary treatment is the highest level of treatment of sewage and the board felt such a name would be appropriate. Ron Evans, master of dry wit and president at the time, suggested that the president's column be named "Sludge" and the official board called the "Sewage Authority". The first issue of *Tertiary Treatment* appeared in March 1976.

In the early years there were times when the board was not sure from month to month if there would be money in the treasury to pay for printing and postage. In July of 1977, a note in *Tertiary Treatment* asked for contributions to help keep the newsletter going. Another time, just after two treasury crushing bills for stream improvement projects had been settled, a special note was sent out asking the membership for \$5 donations to keep the newsletter coming. Several advertisers have been very loyal over the years in supporting TT. Flyfisher's Para-

dise advertised in the first issue of the newsletter and has been represented almost without exception ever since. Tiffany Deli and Appalachian Outdoors have also been very loyal supporters. In recent years additional advertisers appeared in *Tertiary Treatment*, the latest being Tait's Farm, home of raspberry shrub, basset hounds and Christmas trees.

In June 1981, the Chapter obtained a bulk mailing permit from the postal service. To qualify for bulk mail privileges, at least 200 copies must be mailed. At that time, even though the Chapter had far fewer than 200 members, it was more economical to mail out 200 copies. Therefore some influential people such as legislators and state TU officers were added to the mailing list to reach the quota. This also helped to spread the information beyond the immediate membership. Currently copies are also mailed to local libraries and conservation groups. More than 300 copies are sent out by Ev Shafer, membership chairman, each month. About 20 of these go to out-of-state members and friends.

A good newsletter just doesn't happen - a good editor and writers providing fresh, well written copy are needed. The Chapter has been blessed in having both. In January of 1977 Steve Sywensky took charge and over the next three and one-half years really developed the current format and character of the newsletter. Merrill Katz helped with the art work and developed several logos. Because of the pressure of business, Steve resigned with the May 1980 issue.

Tom Schrenkel took over the job of editor on an interim basis starting with the June 1980 issue. Tony Gerace helped with several issues until Jon Nirnberger accepted the job in January of 1981. He served until February of 1982. Then Coe and Jim McClure served as joint editors. Tony Gerace replaced Coe in June 1982 and served until September 1983. At that time Ed Bellis replaced Gerace. The combination of Bellis and McClure worked out very well. Ed Bellis is a (now retired) ecologist with Penn State and Jim McClure is an artist and layout specialist with the publication section of the College of Agriculture at Penn State. Because of the expertise of these two editors, an excellent newsletter, well illustrated with drawings and cartoons, was published. During their tenure as editors, Ed's wife, Janice, typed the final newsletter draft, a considerable chore, given the rough copy she had to work with. In the fall of 1987, Bill Blair of Lemont took over the editor's reins. Bill, former editor of the *Centre Daily Times*, continued the tradition of producing a high quality newsletter until outside pressures forced him to resign in fall 1988. Currently, Mark Faulkner is the editor and the typist is his secretary, Janet King.

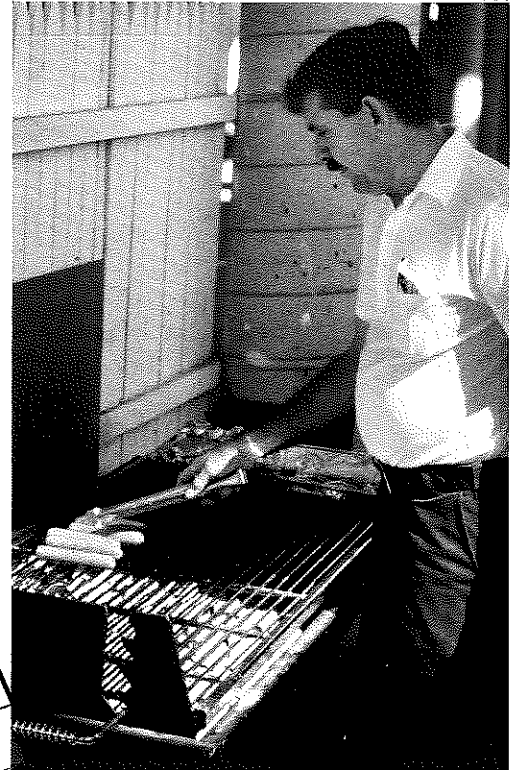
The content of *Tertiary Treatment* has been excellent. The most prolific and loyal writer has been Steve Sywensky. He wrote the first feature article and has contributed many well written, informative pieces over

TOM DOMAN

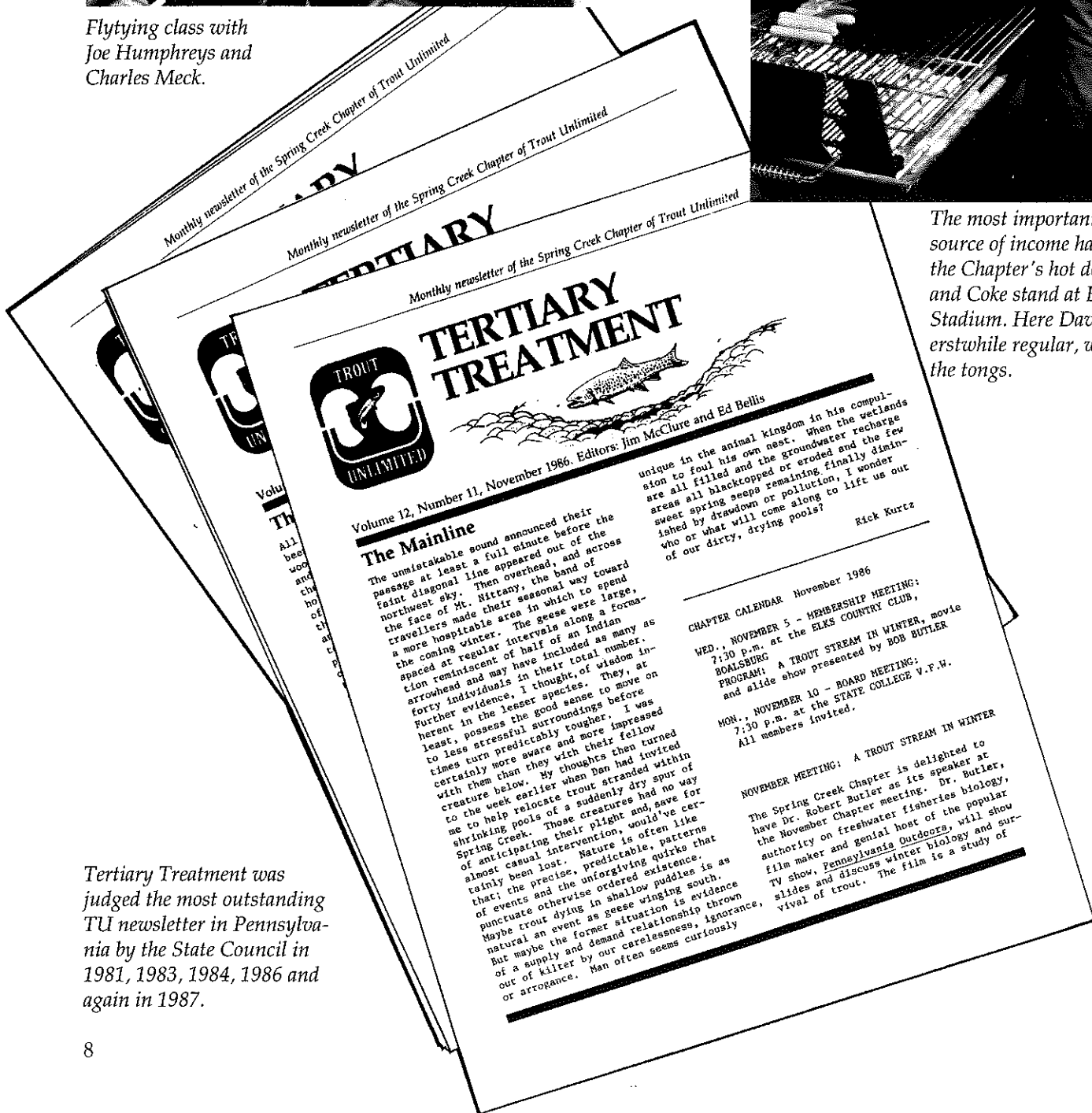
JIM STRAUSS



Flytying class with Joe Humphreys and Charles Meck.



The most important source of income has been the Chapter's hot dog and Coke stand at Beaver Stadium. Here Dave Coe, erstwhile regular, wields the tongs.



Monthly newsletter of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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# TERTIARY TREATMENT



Volume 12, Number 11, November 1986. Editors: Jim McClure and Ed Bellis

## The Mainline

The unmistakable sound announced their passage at least a full minute before the faint diagonal line appeared above the northwest sky. Then overhead, and across the face of Mt. Nittany, the band of travellers made their seasonal way toward a more hospitable area in which to spend the coming winter. The geese were large, spaced at regular intervals along a formation reminiscent of half of an Indian arrowhead and may have included as many as forty individuals in their total number. Further evidence, I thought, of wisdom inherent in the lesser species. They, at least, possess the good sense to move on to less stressful surroundings before times turn predictably tougher. I was certainly more aware and more impressed with them than they with their fellow creature below. My thoughts then turned to the week earlier when Dan had invited me to help relocate trout stranded within shrinking pools of a suddenly dry spur of Spring Creek. Those creatures had no way of anticipating their plight and, save for almost casual intervention, would've certainly been lost. Nature is often like that; the precise, predictable, patterns of events and the unforaging quirks that punctuate otherwise ordered existence. Maybe trout dying in shallow puddles is as natural an event as geese winging south. But maybe the former situation is evidence of a supply and demand relationship thrown out of kilter by our carelessness, ignorance, or arrogance. Man often seems curiously

unique in the animal kingdom in his compulsion to foul his own nest. When the wetlands are all filled and the groundwater recharge areas all blacktopped or eroded and the few sweat spring seeps remaining, finally diminished by drawdown or pollution, I wonder who or what will come along to lift us out of our dirty, drying pools?

Rick Kurtz

CHAPTER CALENDAR November 1986

WED., NOVEMBER 5 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:30 P.M. at the ELKS COUNTRY CLUB, BOALSBURG  
PROGRAM: A TROUT STREAM IN WINTER, movie and slide show presented by BOB BUTLER

MON., NOVEMBER 10 - BOARD MEETING: 7:30 P.M. at the STATE COLLEGE V.F.W.  
All members invited.

NOVEMBER MEETING: A TROUT STREAM IN WINTER

The Spring Creek Chapter is delighted to have Dr. Robert Butler as its speaker at the November Chapter meeting. Dr. Butler, authority on freshwater fisheries biology, film maker and genial host of the popular TV show, Pennsylvania Outdoors, will show slides and discuss winter biology and survival of trout. The film is a study of

Tertiary Treatment was judged the most outstanding TU newsletter in Pennsylvania by the State Council in 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986 and again in 1987.



the years. Steve, a professional flytyer and co-owner of Flyfisher's Paradise, does an outstanding job on covering the hatches in central Pennsylvania. His articles treat the natural insect, the pattern and its tying, and how to fish it. Many of the patterns have either been developed by Steve or modified from other patterns for more effectiveness in taking trout or ease of tying. For many years the *Pennsylvania Insect Hatch Chart*, compiled by Steve, appeared in the April issue. It covers the insects, approximate hatch dates, recommended patterns and the streams on which the insects can be found. It first appeared in the 1976 issue. For a flyfisherman, this information alone was worth a membership in the organization. Steve and his partner Dan Shields always had additional copies of the "hatch chart" for sale. These are still sold at their shop with the money going to the Chapter for purchasing a rod which is raffled off at the annual banquet. Recently a map giving directions to the "fish-for-fun" sites in Central Pennsylvania has been added to the hatch chart; total cost is \$1.50, a pittance, considering the vast amount of information the chart contains.

Another feature column called *Walking Around* first appeared in 1976 and continued into 1979. It was written by Vance McCullough, one of the founding fathers of the Chapter. It was a well-written nature column which urged members to "stop and smell the roses" along the stream. A humorous column written by the illustrious and anonymous R. R. Crew appeared for three or four years in the late 70s. Articles such as *Patterns to Live By*, *Get Em' While Their Redds Hot* and *Pine Creek Revisited* were thoroughly enjoyed. An article appeared in the September 1978 issue titled *Who is R. R. Crew and Is It Really His Fault That the Salmon Fly Doesn't Hatch on Penns Creek?* However, the identity of the mysterious writer was never revealed. Posterity needs to know that R. R. Crew was actually Bob Martin.

In more recent years Tom Doman, a chemist at Penn State and a member of the environmental committee of State Council has provided some outstanding articles on technical subjects affecting the environment. He interprets them for the layman. His articles have covered the Kepone pollution problem of Spring Creek, acid rain, gas and oil drilling problems, acid mine drainage and other technical concerns. Jim McClure, a graphic designer at Penn State, deals with the broad issues of environment and people. The Chapter is fortunate to have two such talented writers.

The president's column, *The Mainline*, appears each month and is more of an editorial type column on the state of the Chapter. It covers reports of scientific research as well as actions of the Fish Commission and related organizations such as the Clearwater Conservancy, Sierra Club and the newly formed Spring Creek Coalition. Information on political action affecting the environment and conservation is regularly included. The min-

utes of the official board are also published in the newsletter so that all members know what is going on.

In reviewing recent issues, a reader can stop and enjoy some fine poetry, cartoons and art work. The copy is clear, well illustrated and attractively printed. The newsletter has a balance that will prove of interest to almost any variety of TU member as well as non-members with conservation and outdoor leanings.

In addition to their contributions to *Tertiary Treatment*, several members have written articles for *Pennsylvania Trout*, the fine newsletter published by the State Council of TU and under the able editorship of Bob Petri of Erie. Ed Bellis has been a reporter on the activities of TU chapters in the northcentral region for the past few years. Our Chapter is an official sponsor of *Pennsylvania Trout*, contributing regularly to its publication.

### Annual Banquets

The Spring Creek Chapter held its first of many annual banquets on Saturday, March 16, 1974, at the Milesburg Community Hall in Milesburg. Charlie Fox of Carlisle brought Vince Marinaro, legendary fly fisherman of the Letort, as speaker. It was one of the largest banquets held, with over 150 in attendance. Charlie Piper made all the arrangements.

A brief listing of other annual banquets follows:

May 15, 1976 - Held at the Boalsburg Fire Hall. Ed Zern was speaker - arranged for by close friend Vince Norris. Members of State Council, who were attending a stream habitat training school held on Fishing Creek at Lamar, joined us.

May 6, 1978 - Eutaw House, Potters Mills. Joe Humphreys arranged for George Harvey as speaker. He told about his early days fishing on Spring Creek.

1979 - An afternoon seminar preceded the evening banquet. It included flytying, rod building, fly casting, trout habitat, fishing school and fisherman's survival. Both seminar and banquet were held at the V.F.W. Hall in State College. Banquet speaker was renowned fisherman and caster Lefty Kreh. One hundred seventy-five people were present.

April, 1980 - Milesburg Community Center - Speaker, Joe Humphreys - "great success".

April 5, 1981 - Elks Country Club, Boalsburg - Speaker, Mike Ondik - "Wild Turkeys".

April 30, 1982 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Richard Snyder, Chief of Fisheries Management Section, Pennsylvania Fish Commission - "Stream Classification and Operation Future".

May 7, 1983 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Barry Beck of Berwick - on western fishing.

March 17, 1984 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Ken and Lib Beaver - "The Great Land" (Alaska).

March 31, 1985 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Leo Samis, outdoor photographer.

March 22, 1986 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Chuck Fergus, author of "The Wingless Crow".

March 14, 1987 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Art and Neen Davis, on an Alaska canoe trip. Art Davis is currently Secretary of DER.

March 19, 1988 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Jim Bashline - "Fishing Around the World".

March 18, 1989 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speakers, Barry and Cathy Beck - "Fly Fishing Alaska".

March 24, 1990 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - no official speaker, but Frank Zettle gave a brief summary of the Chapter history and George Harvey, Dean of Pennsylvania flyfishing, spoke on the Tricorythodes hatch and how to fish it.

March 23, 1991 - Boalsburg Fire Hall - Speaker, Jim Strauss "The Angler's Eye: A Slide Review of 1990"

Since 1982 a feature of the annual banquet has been the awarding of "Order of the Green Drake" patches to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Chapter and to Trout Unlimited. The first such Green Drake awards were made to Evelyn Shafer for her outstanding contributions as a board member and to Mike Panciera for his efforts in obtaining the Beaver Stadium hot dog concession. Since that time several other Chapter members and their spouses, many of them mentioned in these pages for their unselfish contributions, have received this honor. The 1990 honorees were Elton Tait, for his work in constructing a memorial to Paul Antolosky, and Bob Carline for outstanding service, especially in stream improvement work.

### **Fishing Trips**

President Ron Evans announced in the April 1975 newsletter that the "Annual Salmo Trutta Ace High Drinking and Debating Society Outing" would meet at Sypolts Motel in Crossforks on Kettle Creek, June 7 and 8. The outing was so successful that a second was held the next year at the same place on June 4 through 6. The "Order of the Green Drake" was created and a shoulder patch designed and ordered for the second trip, each member to receive one. It was planned to order just 25 patches but this small order was not accepted so when the bill arrived it came to more than \$100. There was no money in the treasury. So the charter members attending that second fishing trip each coughed up \$10 to help pay the bill. If information is correct, those charter members of the "Order of the Green Drake" were Joe Humphreys, Ron Evans, Charles Piper, Vance McCullough, Paul Blankenhorn, Steve Sywensky, Merrill Katz, Dave Holmes, Elton Tait and Frank Zettle. As noted above, membership in the Order of the Green Drake has a different significance today.

Other Chapter fishing trips are listed below:

1978 - June 3 and 4 - Hershey Hunting Camp at Cedar Run, PA on Pine Creek. Group was guest of Bob Rosenberg, camp member. Lots of rain, limited fishing.

Day fishing trips were planned for:

Big Fishing Creek - guide, Dave Holmes

Little Juniata - guide, Charles Meck

Elk Creek - guide, Bob Hohn

Young Woman's Creek - guide, Charles Piper

Kettle Creek, Cross Fork Branch - guide, Merrill Katz

Penns Creek - guide, Todd Bowersox

Falling Springs - guide, Ron Evans

There was little participation and the trips were not repeated in following years.

1979 - Bob Rosenberg invited the group back to Hershey Camp at Cedar Run for a weekend in August. It was too late for fishing and the group did not go. An earlier weekend trip was held on July 20-22 at Poe Paddy State Park campground. A sizeable group attended.

1980 - Late May - Ole Bull State Park campground. Water was low with few fish taken.

1981 - May 29-31 - Ole Bull State Park - Tom Schrenkel, chief cook. Everyone there remembers Tom's four foot frying pan and Elton Tait's homemade wine.

1982 - Trip canceled at last minute - cold and wet weather, reduced interest.

1983 - May 13-15 - Ole Bull State Park

1984 - May 18-20 - Ole Bull State Park

1985 - May 17-19 - Ole Bull State Park

1986 - May 30-June 1 - Poe Paddy State Park

1987 - May - Poe Paddy State Park on Penns Creek

1988 - June 3,4,5 - Poe Paddy State Park. This was the year that Bob Maddox claimed he saved Ev Shafer from a nine-foot grizzly while Vince Norris cowered in his van.

1989 - June 2, 3, 4 - Poe Paddy State Park

1990 - June 2,3 - Poe Paddy State Park

1991 - June 1, 2 - Poe Paddy State Park

### **Picnics and Parties**

Although all members of the family have been invited to the regular monthly meetings, it is only when special programs are held that many come out. To include the families, friends and spouses, a number of picnics have been held. Some of the first ones were held at Joe Spino's cabin at Stone Valley in 1980 and in 1982. Joe also hosted the 1989 affair. The picnic in 1981 was held at Colyer Dam and in 1983 at the American Legion Picnic Grounds. To make up for the lack of recent picnics, a Christmas party has been hosted by Ev Shafer in her home the past several

years. The spring banquets have also been family affairs, as have the later camping trips.

### **Flytying Courses**

The first flytying course sponsored by the Chapter was held during the winter of 1974. The course, held in the State College High School, with an enrollment of 36 people, lasted six weeks; the fee was \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. Tom Schrenkel taught the course.

Additional courses:

1975 - State College High School - Tom Schrenkel, instructor

1976 - Park Forest Village United Methodist Church - Steve Sywensky, instructor

1977 - Westerly Parkway Junior High School - Steve Sywensky, instructor

1978 - Spring Creek Presbyterian Church in Lemont - Steve Sywensky, instructor; also an advanced course taught by Tom Schrenkel and a fall beginner's course taught by Merrill Katz

1979 - Westerly Parkway Junior High School - Steve Sywensky, instructor

1980 - Westerly Parkway Junior High School - Steve Sywensky, instructor

1981 - Westerly Parkway Junior High School - Ron Evans and Rege Nickles, instructors (spring). Westerly Parkway Junior High School - Steve Sywensky, instructor (fall)

Fall - Westerly Parkway Junior High School - Steve Sywensky, instructor

1982 - Instead of the regular flytying course, Mike Panciera held several evening clinics on flytying problems

1983 - Westerly Parkway Intermediate School - Dan Shields, Instructor

1984 - Westerly Parkway Intermediate School - Dan Shields, instructor

1985 through 1991 - Westerly Parkway Intermediate School - Dan Shields and Steve Sywensky, instructors

We are grateful to Steve and Dan for supplying materials used in the flytying courses from their shop in Lemont; also for the many hours devoted to instruction. The enrollment fee collected for these courses has always been donated to the Chapter. Many members have helped with the instruction and their services are warmly appreciated.

### **Rod Building**

In 1976 Gerry Lipka taught a custom rod building course held at the Park Forest Village United Methodist Church

during February. Instruction on building glass and graphite spinning and fly rods was given. Steve Pioso held another rod building course in 1977. Paul Blankenhorn and Dave Coe conducted a rod building clinic in 1980.

### **Contributions to Education**

In 1978 a mini-grant was secured from the EPA for the Chapter to buy a copy of the film "The Way of the Trout" for the Centre County Library. In 1983 a book was donated to the library in the name of Richard North, a member of the Chapter who died. In 1978 the board approved the expenditure of up to \$100 to help defray the cost of putting on a fishing school at the State College Intermediate School by the County's Waterways Conservation Officer, Paul Antolosky. In 1985, 1986 and 1987 the Chapter helped sponsor the County Envir-Olympics competition by presenting members of the winning team junior memberships in Trout Unlimited and a T-shirt with the TU logo. In 1989 and 1991, after the name Envir-Olympics had been changed to Envirothon, the Chapter again provided T-shirts to the winning team. For a number of years the Chapter has sponsored students who attend the Conservation Leadership School conducted by Penn State. In 1981, \$50 was donated toward establishing the Goddard Chair in the School of Forestry at Penn State.

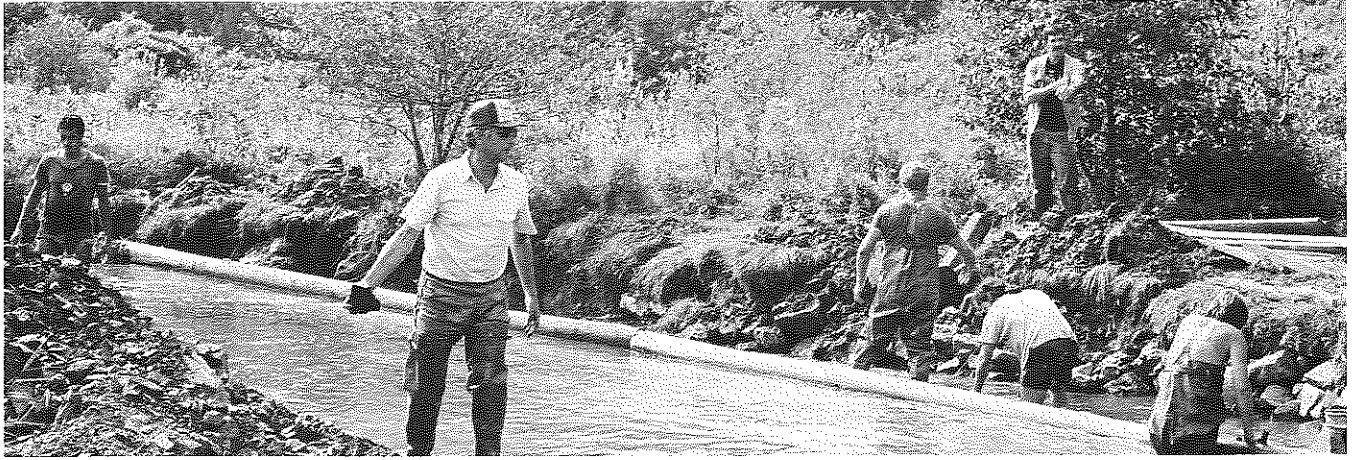
For several years the Chapter cooperated with other sportsmen and conservation organizations in helping put on a program for the National Hunting and Fishing Days held at the Nittany Mall. Flytying, continuous slide shows on acid rain, along with other activities were conducted. Joe Humphreys worked with one of the local newspaper reporters to develop a three part in-depth article on the importance of Spring Creek, which appeared in March 1976.

### **Support of Research**

In 1980 the board, having money in the bank, felt that some funds should be used to further the objectives of Trout Unlimited. They felt that support of research on fisheries biology would be important. A committee met with Dr. Robert Butler, Head of the Cooperative Fisheries Unit at Penn State, to see what could be done. After the meeting the board decided to present Bob Bachman, a graduate student in the Fisheries Unit, \$500 to further the research he was doing on wild brown trout behavior on Spruce Creek. In addition, the board applied for a matching grant from National Trout Unlimited for \$1,000. The \$500 given to Bachman along with \$500 in labor matched the \$1,000. The grant was received from National on May 20, 1980. Bachman's research has since become widely known and the results have been used in trout management throughout the country. The findings have also been published in popular form in TU's national magazine, *Trout*.

A \$250 grant was given to Greg Pierce to help support

## STREAM IMPROVEMENT



*A project to install a large mud sill at the lower end of Neidigh's quarry area was organized and led by Dan Shields in 1981 and 1982. The project was designed by the Fish Commission. Many large telephone poles and more than 30 tons of rock were used in building the sill.*

PHOTOS BY TOM DOMAN



*Bernie Robb*

*Paul Antolosky  
Paul Johnson*

*Dave Coe*

his research on stream hydraulics in relation to wild trout, also done on Spruce Creek. In February 1984, Eric Paul, a graduate student in Ecology, was granted \$500 to help support his research on the effects of catch and release fishing on Spruce Creek. Both Pierce and Paul received Masters degrees in Ecology at Penn State.

The Spring Creek Chapter must take great pride in the fact that they are able to finance research that will have long lasting effects on cold water fisheries. At the September 1986 board meeting action was taken to name the Chapter research grants made to Penn State in memory of Dennis Kulchyski. Dennis was a Chapter member who died shortly after moving to the west coast in 1986.

The Chapter recently supported a two-year research project, led by Fish and Wildlife Unit Leader Bob Carline, to identify the factors that have had the greatest influence on reproductive success of brown trout in Spring Creek. As part of its "Living Brightwater Trust" program, National TU donated \$5,000 for this study; it was matched with donations of \$2,500 cash and 1,000 man-hours of labor from the Spring Creek Chapter. Many members participated in this study.

The Chapter also gave strong support to a study on "the economic value of catch and release trout fishing" conducted on Spring Creek by Dr. E. L. Shafer of Penn State's Department of Recreation and Parks. In this work, personal interviews were conducted on-site to determine recreational fishing use, amounts of money spent, characteristics of users, number of visits per year, residences of participants, etc. The research was funded by Penn State, the U.S. Forest Service and by a grant from State Council of TU. Chapter members aided in the angler interviews.

## STREAM IMPROVEMENT

### Restoration of Thompson Run

Some thirty years ago, Thompson Run was a classic limestone trout stream. It began at Thompson Spring, located about 200 yards southwest of the Duck Pond. From the spring, Thompson Run ran down a sluiceway located where the center line of Benner Pike is now. It then joined the present streambed, flowed behind what are now Clark Motor Company and Claster's, and meandered through a meadow for a mile or so before its confluence with Slab Cabin Run, a short distance from Spring Creek. Throughout its course Thompson Run was and is the recipient of numerous limestone springs, Walnut and Bathgate Springs being the most prominent. The stream not only harbored excellent populations of brook and brown trout but provided a clean, cool flow of water for Spring Creek.

In the fifties, when Benner Pike was rebuilt, Thompson Run was diverted into the Duck Pond, which is used as a settling basin for State College's and the University's

storm water. Thus the pure, cool spring water became intermixed with the warm stagnant pond water. The flow of Thompson Run became a hot, polluted stream instead of a cool, clean one. Also, both State College and Penn State dumped their sewage effluent, originating in the PSU Waste Water Sewage Treatment Plant, into the stream. The effluent carried high levels of phosphorus, chlorine and other polluting chemicals.

Joe Humphreys, who fished this stream as a boy, saw the potential of restoring Thompson Run to its former condition. He first discussed this project with the Chapter at the June 1975 meeting. The idea was batted around and became even more enticing when Penn State announced that it was going to initiate the Living Filter concept and would no longer pour its sewage effluent into Thompson Run; rather, it would pipe it several miles away and spray it on University property and State Game Lands 176. A plan was drawn up to construct a dike which would carry the Thompson Spring water directly to Thompson Run without going through the warm, stagnant water of the Duck Pond.

The estimated cost was \$30,000, but there was only \$120 in the Chapter treasury. The president of the Chapter met with representatives from State Council to enlist support and ask for funding. Neither support nor funds were forthcoming, so the Chapter went about seeking help from local sources.

With the necessary approval from the University and DER in hand, Joe Humphreys employed his charm and tenaciousness to convince the Glenn Hawbaker Construction Company to build the dike in conjunction with their dredging operation of the Duck Pond. Whitey Glenny, Hawbaker's foreman, gave tremendous support, and Hawbaker's donation of manpower, machinery and materials made the project possible. In addition, H.R. Imbt donated the pipe for the cut through the breast of the dam, Centre Concrete and Sheesley Supply Co. gave concrete for the sluiceway, Claster's donated reinforcing wire and lumber, Neidigh's Quarry gave additional fill and the University donated a backhoe and an operator. John D. Miller (now retired) and Lloyd Niemann of the University's Physical Plant gave strong support to the operation. From the Chapter, Paul Blankenhorn, Todd Bowersox, Dave Coe, Will Hepfer, Dave Holmes, Merrill Katz, George Kelly, Vance McCullough, Ed Rakowski, Elton Tait and Regan Williams provided labor on a very short notice. With this type of support from industry, the University and Chapter members, it wasn't long before Thompson Run once again flowed in its own course and bypassed the Duck Pond. Thus in the fall of 1977, Spring Creek was again recharged with the cool clean spring water of Thompson, Walnut and Bathgate Springs.

But the dike, after its construction in 1977, was very narrow and not stabilized. Also, muskrats began working in the dike. Much repair work was required. The Chapter could not ask any more of Hawbaker and at this

time funds in the Chapter treasury were not sufficient to finance more work. But more repair work was done in August of 1979, when eight tons of fill were used, and in succeeding years. Then in 1983 the Chapter received a matching grant of \$1,400 from National TU's Living Brightwaters trust program. During several weekends in August a backhoe and enough fill were brought in to properly repair, raise and riprap the dike where needed. Seeding was also carried out at this time. The repair work was planned and organized by Dan Shields, then chairman of the stream improvement committee.

The Thompson Run project, conceived and directed by Joe Humphreys, is without a doubt the most important stream improvement project completed by the Chapter. Not only has the trout fishery of Thompson Run been restored but now upper Spring Creek is recharged with a constant supply of cool spring water. Thompson Spring itself discharges over 4000 gallons of water per minute. This restoration project improves all of Spring Creek downstream of Thompson Run. A report on the project appeared in the winter issue of *Trout*, the National TU magazine, in 1982. Moyer Jewelers donated a bronze plaque in recognition of completion of the project.

### Stream Cleanup

The newly fledged Chapter got off to a good start. Their first on-stream project, a stream bank cleanup, was carried out on March 21, 1973, less than two months after their first meeting. Bill Rininger enlisted the support of some local groups along with the Chapter membership for a trash cleanup of Logan Branch. It was very successful and gave the Chapter some well needed publicity. Pictures appeared in the local paper. Ralph Abele, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, was in the area for a meeting and visited the project. In a subsequent letter to the Chapter he stated, "we were all very much refreshed to find that Trout Unlimited is still a great organization for digging in and getting things done and not just talking about them. On behalf of the Fish Commission, and I am sure I speak for thousands of sportsmen throughout the Commonwealth, I want to thank you personally and officially and to wish your new Chapter growth and success."

Little additional cleanup work was done until 1980, when Dan Shields organized a large project on upper Spring Creek. With the assistance of his fraternity brothers from Delta Upsilon and a few Chapter members, the area from the Puddintown Road through Neidigh's quarry got a thorough cleanup a few days after opening day of trout season. Later that same fall, Bill Smith organized another cleanup on Spring Creek from Benner Pike to the Rock Road bridge and along a two mile area below Fisherman's Paradise. The project involved a large group including Chapter members, community volunteers and Boy Scouts. The latter project was done as part of the regular August meeting. For cleanups and other stream

projects, Elton Tait and his pickup truck were always available.

Another large cleanup under the leadership of Dan Shields was held in 1981 and cleanups have since developed into a regular activity of the Chapter. Other groups, such as the Clearwater Conservancy, the Lemont Sea Scouts and Tau Phi Delta Fraternity sometimes join in. As time passed new leadership came forward. In 1986 Jim Brady led a large group of volunteers and Chapter members in a cleanup of lower Spring Creek. That year Jim McClure hauled in the biggest catch - a hot water heater and a large industrial conveyor belt. Brady organized another cleanup in 1987 and in 1988 Mark Ralston and Bernie Robb led a strong cleanup campaign with rewarding results. The 1989 cleanup, held in early April and led by Vince Norris, Bob Maddox and Ev Shafer, yielded 110 bags of streamside litter. Alpha Phi Omega sent 30 of its members to aid in the work. Tom Doman led the March 1990 effort, well attended by TUsers and other volunteer groups and netting many, many bags of trash.

### In-Stream Projects

The first in-stream project was accomplished the first year the Chapter organized, 1973. For the regular September meeting, members met on upper Spring Creek under President Joe Humphreys's leadership. The group repaired several jackdams and replaced some bank cribbing in the Neidigh quarry area and later had a picnic lunch at the Humphrey's place.

Several years later, similar work was done in the quarry area. A group from the National Guard Unit on Fox Hollow Road assisted with manpower and trucks to help move the heavy timbers and rocks in building jackdams and stream cribbing. Those first projects were done with little involvement of the Fish Commission.

A more involved project of installing a large mud sill at the lower end of Neidigh's quarry area was organized by Dan Shields in 1981 and 1982. The project was designed by the Fish Commission. Many large telephone poles and more than 30 tons of rock were used in building the sill. The structure is doing an excellent job of controlling stream bank erosion and providing a sanctuary for wild trout. In addition, Dan Shields and a few members did some riprap work in Spring Creek Park near Houserville during the 1980s.

In a 1989 letter, addressed to Penn State's College of Agriculture, the board expressed its concern about the severe bank erosion and resulting stream siltation caused by cattle and other livestock on the University farms just downstream of the confluence of Slab Cabin Creek and Spring Creek near Houserville. Originally drafted by Bob Carline and his stream improvement committee, the letter requested that some form of fencing be constructed along Spring Creek to keep livestock from entering the stream. The welcome response from the College was that they would indeed fence Spring Creek where it crossed

**STREAM CLEANUP** *a long and productive day on Spring Creek*

TOM DOMAN



*"we were all very much refreshed to find that Trout Unlimited is still a great organization for digging in and getting things done and not just talking about them."*

Ralph Abele, Executive Director  
of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission



*Bob Maddox, Vince Norris, Ev Shaffer, Paul Smoczynski, and Elton Tait take well deserved rest and relaxation at the end of a good day on the stream.*



University pasture lands as a first step in resolving the siltation problem.

About this time the Chapter helped organize and joined the "Spring Creek Coalition", a consortium of organizations concerned with the preservation of and enhancement of the Spring Creek watershed. The Coalition decided to "adopt" Spring Creek as part of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's Adopt-a-Stream Program. Also at this time, the Chapter received \$35,000 from the Borough of Bellefonte (as part of a settlement made by the Borough for delay in expanding its sewage treatment plant). In 1990 the Environmental Protection Agency gave the Chapter permission to use much of this money for stream bank stabilization projects.

The upshot of all this is that, with the cooperation of the University, the Coalition, private landowners, a local limestone quarry (which has supplied many tons of rock), and the Fish Commission, the Chapter is currently involved in a comprehensive effort to effectively reduce siltation of Spring Creek where it flows through both public and private lands. This past spring and early summer many tons of rock were hauled to University pasture lands and used to construct mud sills which protect exposed banks from erosion. Chapter members and the University fenced the pasture lands abutting the creek and planted trees to provide shade. Under the direction of chapter member Mark Ralston, stream improvement work continues at Bellefonte's Tallyrand Park and on a farm property below Houserville. Additional fencing and streambank stabilization projects are planned for the Slab Cabin and Cedar Run tributaries of Spring Creek.

### **Tree Planting**

Tree and shrub planting along Spring Creek have been done over the years. The first effort was headed up by Joe Spino in 1974. An unknown number of black alders were planted in Neidigh's meadow below the quarry. These have grown very well and some are now almost a foot in diameter; also, they are now reseeding themselves in kind. These trees protect against stream bank erosion in places and are providing a cooling effect.

Another concerted effort, directed by Dan Shields, was made over a three year period starting in 1980. During that time several hundred trees were secured from the Fish Commission. Dan divided them into small packets of up to 50 trees each and gave them to interested members who planted them along the stream where they normally fished. In 1982 Dan, Elton Tait and Ev Shafer planted a large number below the Route 550 bridge near the Borough of Bellefonte. Many of these trees, mostly dogwoods and willows, survive today.

### **Bellefonte Rail Road Easement**

During 1990, chapter member Eugene Proch informed the board that an easement for a section of lower Spring

Creek was possible from Bellefonte CEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority. Negotiations by chapter members Jim Strauss and Mark Faulkner enabled an agreement to be signed between the chapter and the Rail Authority on February 11, 1991. The easement for approximately 1/3 mile of streambank includes the section of Spring Creek from the confluence of Buffalo Run downstream to the Spring-Benner-Walker Sewage Treatment Facility.

### **Other Efforts**

In June 1973, several TU members stopped a PennDOT bulldozer from changing the stream bed of Spring Creek in Boalsburg.

The "Penns Creek Submerger" came into being on the cold Sunday afternoon of November 17, 1974. A group of TU members including Todd Bowersox, Paul Blankenhorn, Joe Humphreys, Charles Piper, Vance McCullough, Joe Spino and others set out to plant 24,000 brown trout eggs in 40 Vibert Boxes in Penns Creek just above the railroad trestle at Poe Paddy. The eggs had been purchased at the Spruce Creek Trout Hatchery. The planting of the Vibert Boxes went well in spite of high water. After finishing the work, Spino attempted to cross the stream, slipped off a rock and completely submerged. The group returned to Todd Bowersox's cabin, just below the trestle and, gathering around a pot-bellied stove, warmed up while Joe stripped down and dried out. The adventures of the "Penns Creek submerger" spread far and wide.

It was not known for certain whether the Vibert Boxes worked. The boxes could not be located the next spring because high water during winter and early spring had erased all evidence of their being planted.

In the early 1980s an effort was made to reestablish the green drake mayfly in Spring Creek. The green drake, along with all other mayflies, had been wiped out of lower Spring Creek when cyanide was accidentally flushed into the Pennsylvania State University sewage system in the mid-fifties. A half dozen members worked with Waterways Conservation Officer Paul Antolosky at trapping Green Drake nymphs just before emergence from Penns Creek and placing them in Spring Creek. Bob Hohn, Bob Patrick and Dan Shields captured live duns and collected egg-masses and released them. Although a few mayflies were spotted on the stream the following year, the experiment was not successful.

In 1985 the Chapter purchased a three-quarter acre parcel of land along Spring Creek just below the intersection of Houserville Road and Benner Pike. The Chapter paid \$3,400 for the land. The main purpose for this acquisition was to demonstrate to other landowners that Trout Unlimited also has a vital stake in the future of our namesake stream. At this writing, our Spring Creek property has been sold in exchange for the original purchase price and more extensive easement privileges along properties between the Route 26 bridge and Houserville Park.



## VITAL ISSUES

### The Kepone-Mirex Pollution

The Environmental Protection Agency broke the story on the Hopewell catastrophe in July of 1976, revealing the almost complete pollution of the James River and a large part of Chesapeake Bay. It reported severe chemical contamination of shellfish and other fish in that area. EPA identified Allied Chemical Corporation as the company responsible and Kepone (a fungicide and insecticide) and Mirex (an insecticide and fire retardant) as the chemical pollutants. They pointed out that Allied had also contracted with Nease Chemical Company of Centre County, Pennsylvania, to manufacture Kepone and Mirex. Nease produced Kepone between 1958 and 1963 and allegedly produced Mirex until 1973.

The Department of Environmental Resources at Harrisburg then reported that testing had been done on Nease Company property in January 1976. These samples had been taken from Thornton Spring where traces of Kepone were found in both soil and sediment. Further sampling and testing had been done in May 1976, when three samples, in the range of 150 to 180 ppb, had been taken. These were very high values.

The Kepone-Mirex pollution is one of the most frustrating situations the Spring Creek Chapter has ever had to face. It is important to note that the Chapter was on the cutting edge of solving this problem long before the DER and EPA were involved. This author recalls a meeting, held in late 1974 or early 1975 at the Centre Hills Country Club, with several representatives from the Williamsport DER Office. Those from the Chapter included Ron Evans, Charles Piper, Paul Blankenhorn, Todd Bowersox and Frank Zettle. Chapter members pleaded with DER to test for pollutants in Thornton Spring. DER representatives asked if any fish had been killed and tried to downgrade the possible danger. No progress was made at this meeting.

The Chapter went "through channels" and in June of 1975 contacted Ken Sink, President of the State Council of TU, and asked for help; but again they received little aid. About this time, Paul Antolosky, Centre County's Waterways Patrolman, recalled that between 1960 and 1971 he had fined Nease six different times, for a total amount of \$7,438.98, for polluting Spring Creek.

In the February 1976 issue of *Tertiary Treatment*, Vance McCullough, one of the Chapter board members, had this short item: "Back in the 60's, leakage from a settling pond at a chemical plant near Dale Summit escaped into the groundwater. The Health Department (now DER) ran dye tests. It took over 14 hours for the dye to show up at the spring. Even today, over ten years later, Thornton Spring runs a white smelly chemical froth directly into Spring Creek. The Fish Commission assures us that live box tests show no immediate danger. However, no stretch of the imagination could perceive the discharge as pure,

clean water."

In spite of all the alarms voiced by the Chapter, no action was taken. Nor did any other group or individual express concern. Even the announcement of the Hopewell catastrophe by EPA and DER in July 1976 raised little alarm from people in Centre County. Once the pollution was identified, two main concerns faced the Chapter: (1) getting DER to see that the source of pollution was removed; and (2) properly managing the fisheries resource during the period of contamination. An entire book could be written about the many aspects of this problem, but space permits only brief highlights.

Because of the magnitude of the cleanup problem, it became obvious that a very concerted effort on the part of the Department of Environmental Resources to force the chemical company to take corrective action would be required. It was also obvious that in the beginning DER was not interested in putting forth that concerted effort. Their approach was to negotiate with Nease. A few cosmetic steps were taken - an open ditch was cleaned out and some old containers of waste were removed - but the real problem was not touched. This author was serving as northcentral regional vice president of TU during this time and hardly a week passed when I was not on the phone with Dan Alters or Mark Roller from the regional DER office in Williamsport. We also put pressure on Bob McCullough of Williamsport, then the president of the State TU Council, who took our case to the DER office, to no avail.

For several years Chapter members expressed their concern at meetings of sportsmens associations, wrote letters to legislators and to newspapers and discussed the tragedy with anyone who would listen. Ultimately the general public became enough interested to ask DER for public meetings on the issue. The Clearwater Conservancy was very instrumental in helping raise this public concern. And, finally, DER seriously began to pursue a solution. Larry J. Schweiger, executive secretary of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control Committee at the time, credits the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited with forcing DER to give the Nease case a high priority. They did this by raising a public outcry over the long delay in conducting cleanup negotiations.

Finally, after five years of negotiations between DER and the lawyers of the Ruetgers-Nease Chemical Company, Inc. (formerly Nease Chemical Company), DER issued cleanup orders on Friday, June 19, 1981. The cleanup action required of the company was outlined by Tom Doman in the July 1981 issue of *Tertiary Treatment*: "DER has ordered Ruetgers-Nease to maintain records of its cleanup efforts and forward them to the Department biweekly, take samples of water and analyze them according to specific protocol and establish a monitoring network by August 31, 1981 in order to 'define the extent and area of groundwater contamination by organic chemicals on the downgradient of its property'. [This includes

Thornton Springs.]

"Ruetgers-Nease has also been instructed to remove the contents of the two chemfix lagoons and the contaminated soil underneath the lagoons to a depth of one foot; excavate the former drum storage area to a minimum of 1.5 feet; locate a disposal facility which can accept the waste and contaminated soil and arrange for proper disposal there in accordance with existing solid waste management laws by October 1, 1981.

"In addition, the chemical company has been ordered to restore groundwater quality in the vicinity of the plant site by direct pumping of the groundwater continuously until (it) meets quality standards that can be maintained for at least six months. If groundwater quality should fall below specifications within five years, DER's order states the firm must resume 'the groundwater restoration program until the quality standards are again met'.

"Furthermore, DER orders the company to dispose of all groundwater pumped from (the) well either by treating it or hauling it to an approved facility."

Ruetgers-Nease's lawyers contested the order by DER but the courts upheld it and the cleanup described in the order was begun in 1982. The groundwater was found to be heavily contaminated with 22 different chemicals. How much pumping would be required was not known. The entire ecosystem was tainted with harmful hydrocarbons, which were being taken up by the animal and plant life in and near the creek. Tainted fish were detected even in Sayers Dam, far downstream. A long-term monitoring program to evaluate the recovery of Spring Creek from chemical pollution was initiated by DER and the Fish Commission. Samples of aquatic plants and insects were to be tested annually in September. Stream sediments and tissue from brown trout were to be examined twice a year - in September and March.

It is very doubtful that much would have been done about this serious problem had not the Spring Creek Chapter been in existence and had it not singularly carried out the purposes for which it was organized. But, unfortunately, no one wins in a situation like this. This was very well summarized by Tom Doman in the November 1982 issue of *Tertiary Treatment*. "The final irony, after the endless meetings, continuous postponement of litigation, the letter writing, expenditure of nearly a million dollars by the company to deny the existence of the chemical pollution and the two million dollars-plus for cleanup operations to date, is that Spring Creek is still contaminated. The final wait for the clean water to return may prove to be the most difficult of all."

### Spring Creek Redesignation

During 1990 and 1991 the chapter, state agencies, and local conservation organizations petitioned DER to redesignate Spring Creek as a High Quality Cold Water Fishery (HQCWF). This designation protects the environmental integrity of the stream and prevents dis-

charges into the stream that would degrade the stream from its current water quality. Despite the sound environmental basis for the regulation, considerable opposition, largely based on potential negative economic impact to the Centre Region, was mounted by development interests and local government organizations. Oral testimony, written record, and political support for the measure was organized by chapter members Tony Gerace, Mark Ralston and Jim Strauss. Their work enabled HQCWF designation approval by the Environmental Quality Board, State House Conservation Committee, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The final regulation was published as law in the November 30, 1991 edition of the PA Bulletin and it is hoped that the HQCWF designation will help preserve the water quality of Spring Creek for future generations.

### Management of Spring Creek

The announcement by DER of Spring Creek trout being contaminated with Kepone in 1976 caused great concern for the Chapter as well as the Fish Commission. No action levels for Kepone and Mirex had been established at that time. Neither EPA nor DER would provide the Fish Commission with guidance and so Spring Creek was stocked for the 1977 fishing season. Then, the night before the opening of the 1977 season, DER advised the Commission that fish from Spring Creek should not be eaten for health reasons.

The story immediately hit the press. As soon as it could be done (about a month later), little signs were posted along Spring Creek from the Benner Pike to its confluence with Bald Eagle Creek. The signs warned the fishermen not to eat fish caught and told them to return them to the stream. As might be expected, confusion reigned supreme. Many people were not overly concerned and ate fish caught in the stream. Others believed that the fish were contaminated and the best thing to do was to get them out of the stream and leave them on the bank. Still others obeyed the order and returned the fish to their habitat.

During the period of 1978 through 1980 trout were stocked only from the Benner Pike upstream to Oak Hall. This put undue fishing pressure on upper Spring Creek and landowners became very concerned. Some threatened to post their property against fishing. Then in 1981 all stocking ceased.

About this time a small group from the Chapter board met with the Commission's Chief of Fisheries Del Graff and some of his staff at the Pleasant Gap Hatchery to ask that a no-kill regulation be put on Spring Creek. The Chapter was concerned that some fish were being eaten and that many of those not eaten were being removed from the stream and then discarded. The Chapter argued that if Spring Creek were protected by such a regulation the stream could still provide tremendous fishing recre-

# THE KEPONE-MIREX PROBLEM



The groundwater was found to be heavily contaminated with 22 different chemicals. How much pumping would be required was not known. The entire ecosystem was tainted with harmful hydrocarbons, which were being taken up by the animal and plant life in and near the creek. Tainted fish were detected even in Sayers Dam, far downstream.

ation. The Commission, deeply wrapped up in "bureaucratic red tape", said an order had been issued that no new regulations would be issued until the stream classification work in the state was completed and Operation Future was ready to be put into effect. The Chapter made several other attempts to move the Commission on this issue, but to no avail.

During the summer of 1982, Frank Zettle, regional vice president of the TU State Council, wrote Ralph Abele, Executive Director of the Commission, that he felt, after discussing the pollution problem with an attorney, that the Commission could be considered negligent in allowing people to catch fish that contained dangerous pesticides while knowing that some people would eat them. He pointed out that a no-kill regulation would protect the Commission since it would then be against the law to remove any fish for consumption. The letter did get circulation with the Commission. It is not known how much effect it had but in January 1983 the Commission announced that it had adopted a special "Pollution Regulation" for Spring Creek, which was to be in effect as long as the problem existed. From the bridge where the Oak Hall road crosses Spring Creek to the junction with Bald Eagle Creek, fishing would be permitted but no fish could be killed or kept in one's possession.

This regulation has provided considerable protection for both fish and fishermen. Large populations of wild brown trout are now found in many parts of Spring Creek and reproductive rates are high. It is now evident that a population of wild brown trout can, with proper protection, provide outstanding fishing recreation in Pennsylvania if given an opportunity under catch and release regulations.

But the story of the management of Spring Creek trout is not yet over. Ironically, the current no-stock, catch-and-release regulations approved and enjoyed by most Chapter members were actually brought on by the Kepone-Mirex pollution. The question arises: "What will the management regulations be when the polluting pesticides disappear from Spring Creek, or are at low, harmless concentrations?" Will the no-stock, catch-and-release regulations be maintained? Will the stream again be heavily stocked and fishermen allowed to take a daily limit home? Or will some entirely new regulations be imposed by the Commission?

At the April 1986 board meeting, Bruce Hollander, Pennsylvania Fish Commission Biologist, gave a detailed report on the results of the monitoring of Kepone and Mirex levels in Spring Creek. He reported significant decreases in both Kepone and Mirex levels in brown trout filets sampled at Houserville and McCoy Dam but at Benner Springs there were no clear cut trends. In general, results were found to be encouraging but many more subsequent tests were needed. He also said that, assuming satisfactory results are obtained in the future, it is expected that the management of the Spring Creek

trout fishery will be reassessed, with organizations such as Trout Unlimited to have an opportunity to voice recommendations as to how the fishery is to be managed.

The Chapter kicked ideas back and forth among its members for more than a year after Hollander's assessment of the situation. Then in the fall of 1987 Chapter president Mark Henry named Tom Doman chairman of a committee to develop recommendations from the Chapter to the Fish Commission on the management of Spring Creek once the pollution regulation is lifted. This committee felt that, since the brown trout population had increased (as found by Dr. Bob Carline in his study) under no stocking and no harvest management, this policy should be continued. The committee also felt that the polluted designation tended to interfere with the recognition of Spring Creek as a high quality trout habitat and every effort should be made to upgrade the classification of the stream. The general membership concurred with the above thinking in a January 1988 meeting at Duffy's Tavern. Formal recommendations with rationale were then developed by the committee and passed on to the Fish Commission by the Chapter board. Early in 1989, upon being invited to discuss their recommendations with commission personnel, the committee met at the Pleasant Gap hatchery with representatives of the Commission. The meeting was encouraging, but only time will tell whether the Chapter's recommendations will be followed.

### Other Issues

It became evident in the beginning that the Spring Creek Chapter was not going to develop into just a fishing fraternity or a group of people in waders installing jackdams. In-stream activities are important but the founding fathers knew that, unless the Chapter found ways of dealing with some of the broad environmental issues impacting upon streams in central Pennsylvania, its effectiveness would be limited. It is not surprising to learn that in April 1973, at the second meeting of the Chapter, an environmental issue was targeted for action. Vince Norris talked about the Route 322 bypass around State College and its possible effects on the Slab Cabin Run ecosystem. A position was developed and the first motion to take action on an environmental issue by the Chapter was passed.

The following letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, dated May 24, 1973, and signed by C.V. McCullough, Secretary is the first of many, many such letters voicing concern about environmental problems.

Gentlemen:

The following motions were adopted at the May meeting of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

"That the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited requests that maintenance of stream quality and re-

duction of siltation be a primary consideration in all road construction on section 2 of the State College Bypass. Furthermore, we are opposed entirely to incorporating this Bypass into a larger Appalachian thruway designed to channel large amounts of traffic through the Spring Creek watershed further impairing the quality of Spring Creek.

"That the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited specifically asks PennDOT to reduce the size and capacity of the 2nd section to minimize the hazard to water quality in the Spring Creek Watershed."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Thus the Chapter took a strong stand on the State College Bypass. Their first position was to oppose its construction. After PennDOT decided to go ahead, the Chapter's position was then to try to have the size of the highway downgraded and to make sure that the design would be such as to reduce environmental impact. Few environmental safeguards were being used where the east section was built. At PennDOT's public hearing on November 19, 1980, Ron Evans, representing the Chapter, presented testimony. He stated that "Spring Creek is too valuable to jeopardize for a highway of questionable utility." In reporting back to the Chapter, he said he recognized that the Chapter's position was in the minority and that he felt the highway would be built. He recommended that TU be vigilant and oversee the construction so as little environmental impact would be felt as possible.

Again in 1982, the Chapter reviewed the impact statement of the bypass and made comments to PennDOT. Although the Chapter did not prevent the construction of the bypass, it did help influence its construction, resulting in less pollution to Spring Creek during the latter stages of construction.

While accumulating experience working on environmental issues, the Chapter came to realize early that, to be effective, they needed to learn the political action system, become a part of it and learn how to influence action. These are tough tasks and they take time. The TU board recognized that local and regional planning commissions were making important local decisions that could have long lasting effects on water quality. In the middle of 1973, a letter signed by C. V. McCullough, Secretary, was sent to the State College, Centre Regional, College Township, Harris Township, Ferguson Township, Patton Township, and Centre County Planning Commissions. The letter set forth the objectives of the Chapter. It concluded with the following two paragraphs:

"The decisions made and actions taken by you have the potential to alter the quality of Centre County's fisheries. It is our belief that Trout Unlimited can assist you in insuring that the effects of your actions enhance these resources.

"It is our request that you consider the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited as an organization eager to

work with you to return Centre County's water resources and fisheries to a high standard."

During 1975 and 1976 both the Centre County Planning Commission and the Centre Regional Planning Commission were invited to come to membership meetings and review their own operations and commission plans. Different members of the Chapter worked with the commissions as different issues arose. Vince Norris, Jim McClure and Ron Evans worked with the Centre Regional Commission at different times. Frank Zettle worked with the Centre County Planning Commission. Joe Humphreys, Ron Evans and Rick Kurtz cooperated very closely with the Township Supervisors and Planning Commission of College Township. Joe Humphreys and Ron Evans, working with officials in College Township, helped name an environmental advisory committee to the Township Planning Commission.

Representatives of the County Soil Conservation District were invited to a Chapter membership meeting in the 1970s to discuss their goals and how the two organizations might work together. This relationship has paid off over the years. First evidence of cooperation was an invitation for a TU representative to attend a District meeting on April 19, 1975 when Act 566 (as it applied to streams in Centre County) was discussed. The District considered building a flood control dam on Little Fishing Creek. Sometime later the Chapter took an official position of opposing the construction of a dam on this stream. The Chapter was invited by the Soil Conservation District to put up an exhibit at their 1975 Conservation Show at the Nittany Mall. The Chapter's relationship with the Soil District was further strengthened when the District awarded Joe Humphreys the "Wally Thompson Award" for Conservation in 1980 and when Jim McClure, a Chapter board member, was named a District Director in 1981 by the County Commissioners.

The Chapter became involved with the Centre County Environmental Advisory Board in 1975. This group had organized a year or two before as an advisory group to the Centre County Planning Commission. On this board were representatives from the Soil Conservation District, State College Bird Club, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, Cooperative Extension Service, County Planning Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen, Bureau of Forestry and Trout Unlimited. Merrill Katz was named representative from the Chapter. Over the years, other organizations have joined and some have dropped out. At different times Steve Sywensky, Frank Zettle, Paul Rebarchak and Dave Coe represented the Chapter. At the present time Charles Griffin has this responsibility; he is doing a find job. This advisory board has no official power but provides an excellent sounding board on environmental issues and gives advice to the County Planning Commission.

Individual organizations making up the board may

wish to take positions on issues if they wish, as the Spring Creek Chapter of TU did in 1976. In a letter dated February 16, and addressed to the Environmental Advisory Board, the Chapter's position on the relocation of Route 220 was set forth. The position was that the Chapter favored repairing the old road in its present location but, if relocation were necessary, a decision would be made only after reviewing the environmental impact statements on each proposed location. When the proposed Keating Dam on Pine Creek was discussed by the Environmental Advisory Board, the Chapter also took a strong stand against its construction. The Advisory Board as well as the Corps of Engineers were notified. As a part of the cooperation with the Advisory Board, the Chapter participated with National Hunting and Fishing Days by putting up an exhibit at the Nittany Mall for a number of years.

On March 15, 1978, an application for affiliating with the Centre County Federation of Sportsmen and the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen was signed by Frank Zettle and William Hepfer, president and secretary of the Chapter. Joseph Spino, Dave Coe and William Hepfer were named as representatives. Later on Paul Rebarchak became one of the representatives; he is recognized as the spokesman of the Chapter to the Federation and he is its current president. Still later, Mark Henry became active in the Federation; he also served as its president. Initially, there was considerable debate on the cost of joining. In 1978, with the Chapter's treasury almost nonexistent, the \$25.00 annual membership looked large. The Chapter board, in deciding to affiliate with the Federation, reasoned that TU's voice could be strengthened if the Federation stood behind it. This affiliation has been very positive since the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited is now looked on as the authority and voice on cold water fisheries in Centre County by the Federation.

Although the Chapter's relationship with the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) was less than satisfactory in the early life of the Chapter, a fine working relationship has developed over the years. It took a great deal of prodding to get action on the Kepone-Mirex cleanup but respect developed on both sides early on. When Frank Zettle served as regional vice president, he worked closely with Dan Alters, Field Supervisor, and Mark Roller, Regional Sanitary Engineer, from the Williamsport DER Office. Both Alters and Roller as well as other DER officials have met with the Chapter on numerous occasions. Several times Dan Alters notified the regional vice president regarding potential dangers in the counties. Because of DER's heavy work load, they often needed a request from county officials before they would step in and take action. A serious pollution problem from the Hanover Canning Company at Old Fort, an illegal heavy metals dump of Cerro metals products at Bellefonte and a leaking sewer pipe in Bellefonte were all

corrected after requests were made by telephone to DER. More recently, a Lamar slaughterhouse was put out of action by DER after a Chapter board member complained to Dan Alters about blood and other animal waste being dumped along the margins of Little Fishing Creek.

A great deal of correspondence, written and otherwise, took place between the Chapter and DER over the continuing Kepone-Mirex problem described earlier. In addition, other aid was requested of DER. In March 1975, Steve Sywensky wrote Richard Boardman, DER in Williamsport, asking for general water quality information on Spring Creek as well as asking how the Chapter would work with DER in case a pollution problem arose. A response was received and DER individuals were identified for the Chapter to work with.

In January 1976 Regan Williams wrote to Mark Roller, DER, about the request for water discharge into Logan Branch. In June 1977 Ron Evans worked with Dan Alters on a possible pollution problem in Cedar Run arising from Black Hawk Trailer Court and the malfunction of the sewage treatment plant of Pine Grove Mills. In 1978 the Chapter presented testimony at the regional hearing by DER on the recommended revisions of the water quality criteria for Pennsylvania. That same year they testified on the conservation needs of Centre County water resources. Tony Gerace and Tom Doman represented the Chapter at a hearing on the Comprehensive Water Quality Management Plan for the Central Susquehanna area held at the Holiday Inn in Lamar in January 1983.

In June 1983 the Chapter sent letters to Senator Corman and DER taking issue with a proposal to lower the phosphate removal of the Bellefonte and the University Area Joint Sewer authorities. Also, it expressed concern to DER on Spring Township Water Authority's application to remove 500,000 gallons of water daily from Axeman Spring. The worry was that the reduced flow might not sufficiently dilute the industrial waste coming out of Cerro's plant into Logan Branch. With Sunshine Review process in 1984, the Chapter wrote DER expressing support and need for the Citizens' Advisory Council and the Environmental Quality Board. The continual operation and expansion of the Eden Hill Landfill was called into question in April 1985. The Chapter has also expressed concern about the sewage problem at Rockview several times in the past ten years. No remedial action has been taken but it is planned that Rockview will hook into the Bellefonte system, which has recently been expanded.

In 1978 the Chapter president met with a representative of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service regarding the spraying for Gypsy Moths along Penns Creek. Written testimony was provided to the spray review process for several years. Written comments were provided to the Fish Commission in 1983 in sup-

port of their newly proposed fishing regulations on Fishing Creek, Clinton County.

In 1983 there was interest in discontinuing the Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit at Penn State. The Chapter strongly opposed this move and notified University officials as well as legislators, asking that the Unit be continued. The Chapter asked for, and received, State Council support on this issue. The Unit exists today.

In 1985 the Chapter opposed the proposed closing of the Williamsport DER Office by writing to DER officials and legislators. The office is still operating. That same year they wrote legislators to oppose a proposal that the state legislature take over the Game and Fish Commission's budgets. When Operation Future was about to be implemented, the Chapter contacted appropriate Fish Commission officials and legislators and voiced their full support of the plan.

A power company proposed building a dam on Rock Creek, Dauphin County in the early 1970s. The dam would destroy a good trout fishing stream. The State Council asked chapters throughout Pennsylvania for donations to help fight the issue and the Chapter contributed \$50. The money was not used, and was held in escrow. Instead of having the money returned, board members chose to donate the money to the State TU executive director's Fund. The Chapter also took action to oppose a proposed hydroelectric project on Sayers Dam.

In 1979-80 a lively public discussion developed on the proposal to designate Penns Creek a scenic river, with meetings held in Union, Mifflin and Centre Counties. The Chapter co-sponsored a public meeting with DER and the County Planning Commission. Although the Chapter endorsed the designation, the general public, particularly in the Union County area, opposed the move and an important battle was lost.

In 1981 the Chapter, along with the Sierra Club, co-sponsored a public meeting on the new Clean Air Act, held in the Senior High School. A seminar on "Zero Growth" was sponsored by the Chapter and held at the Keller Conference Center on the Penn State Campus in 1978. Panel members included Carol Herrman, Centre Regional Planning Commission; Craig Humphreys, Penn state sociologist; Bob Martin, attorney on environmental law; Lynn Miller, landscape architect; Ben Novak, attorney on zoning laws; Ron Short, community planner; John Soladay, economist, and Delores Taricani, College Township Council member. Ron Evans chaired the meeting. The media was well represented. A lively discussion developed; however, many people could not comprehend the concept.

To help keep the membership up to date, the Chapter paid part of Tom Doman's expenses to attend an Acid Rain Conference in Manchester, NH in 1984. In 1985, Jim McClure represented the Chapter at the Chesapeake Bay Conference at Millersville, PA.

In 1978, when the local power company planned to build a large, new power line that would cross a number of the tributaries that feed Spring Creek, the Chapter joined a local citizens group and provided both leadership and funds to influence the power company to use the right-of-way they already owned. The Chapter has also cooperated with a citizen's committee to oppose building a high speed railroad through Centre County. Only time will tell the outcome of this battle.

In 1989 the board established three permanent committees to better deal with the many problems facing Spring Creek and other Centre County streams. These groups deal with long range planning as well as immediate issues of concern. The water quality committee, chaired by Tony Gerace, is just what the name implies; it deals with such things as stream chemistry, temperature, siltation, point source pollution and stream quality classification. The committee's most immediate tasks are to have Spring Creek upgraded to a "high quality cold water fishery" and to prevent thermal pollution of the stream by sewage effluent.

The stream improvement committee is concerned with the physical aspects of the watershed, including streamside erosion, stream diversion, bank stabilization through tree planting and resistance to development. One of the primary projects of this group, headed by Bob Carline, is to prevent the severe bank erosion on the University farms and on other lands bisected by Spring Creek and its tributaries.

Tom Doman heads up the fish management committee, which draws up recommendations for the regulation of trout fishing in Spring Creek and other county streams. In essence, this is the same group that came up with the recommendations for management of the Spring Creek fishery mentioned previously, but it has been given a more permanent assignment.

These committees are currently seeking ways of interacting with other conservation groups involved with preserving and enhancing our cold water resources, such as the Clearwater Conservancy, the Sierra Club, various sportsmen's organizations and, of course, the newly formed Spring Creek Coalition.

## CHAPTER FINANCES

Paul Blankenhorn, newly elected vice president, chairing the organizational meeting of the Spring Creek Chapter on February 1, 1973, asked all those present for donations to help defray organizational costs. The minutes of the April 1973 meeting reported that there was \$6.37 in the treasury. This situation was typical over the next few years. Five dollar donations per member were asked for in 1977 to help keep the Chapter newsletter alive.

A number of members tied flies and made pins that were sold at the 1976 Arts Festival; \$150 was raised. In the

early years, raffles were the main source of income; the first was held in 1973. Since 1975 raffles have been held almost every year. Paul Johnson organized a raffle in 1980 that netted the Chapter \$827, topping all previous records. A side of beef, raffled off in 1981, netted \$670.

Raffles at the annual banquet have also been a principle fundraiser for the Chapter. These have been organized in recent years by Paul and Gretchen Rebarchak, the prizes coming from local businesses as well as members and friends. A rod raffle has been a mainstay of the banquets; the prize is usually a high quality Orvis rod supplied by Flyfisher's Paradise and paid for by proceeds from the sale of the popular hatch charts. The 1988, 1989 and 1990 banquets were particularly beneficial to Chapter coffers, with net proceeds of about \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2500, respectively.

As noted earlier, Steve Sywensky and Dan Shields of Flyfisher's Paradise have donated entrance fees for their popular flytying courses to the Chapter in each of the past several years. Also, there is a regular payout from a money market mutual fund.

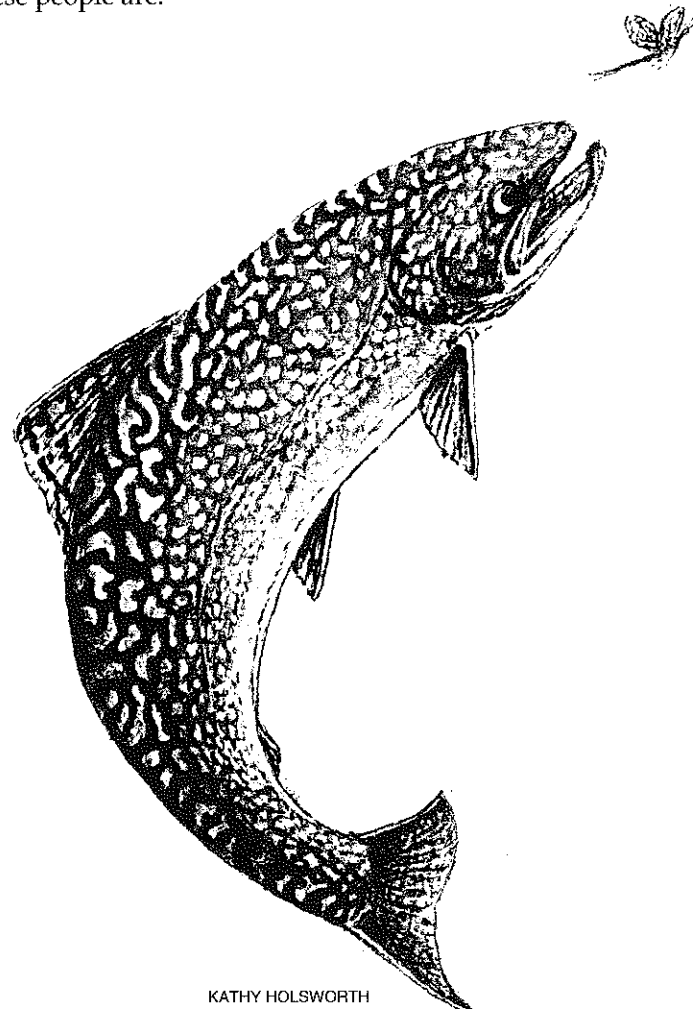
But the most important source of income has been the Chapter's hot dog and Coke stand at Beaver Stadium. Since 1981, members, sweethearts, spouses and friends have come out to home football games to pump Cokes and hot chocolate, grill and wrap weiners, and sell them and other fast food products to hungry fans on Saturday afternoons. The stand has been a consistent source of revenue for chapter coffers, averaging about \$2500 per year in recent times. Since 1981, many, many individuals have given up a fall Saturday afternoon to help run the concession. As many as 65 have worked at the stand during one football season, some coming out for two or more games simply because they like the work and companionship. Dave Coe, Mark Faulkner and Ed Bellis have been the leaders of the hot dog and Coke concession. Special Chapter friends Bob Maddox and Vince Norris are the hardy perennials of the operation; they have helped out at nearly all the games over the past several years. For a time, other groups, including the Lloyd Wilson Chapter of TU, the Wild Turkey Federation and the Clearwater Conservancy manned a second, nearby stand for us and they too took home substantial profits.

The dependable income from the banquet raffles and the concession stand has allowed the Chapter to do many things not otherwise possible, including contributing sizeable amounts to National and State TU Councils, contributing to education and research, supporting youth conservation groups, publishing a prize-winning newsletter and purchasing our Spring Creek property. The Chapter has been financially secure for the past several years, particularly when compared to the early "pass the hat" days of its existence when impromptu contributions were required to conduct routine, day to day operations. With careful management of our resources, hopefully those days will not return.

## DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

A writer always takes a big risk whenever he or she attempts to identify or highlight individuals in an organization, running a chance of being criticized for not including certain people while singling out others. Nevertheless, I shall take that risk. There are many individuals in the Spring Creek Chapter who have made outstanding contributions, many of their names being found in the preceding pages. I have exercised my judgment in individually identifying a few of them for special comment. I have not attempted to write a biography of the people but merely to mention them and highlight some important contributions. To individuals who were left out and should have been included, I extend my apologies.

The first individuals listed are the officers and official board members by years served. These are the people who give leadership to the organization and are responsible for the day by day operation of the Chapter. These are the hard working individuals who so often receive little or no recognition. However, a reader of this history will recognize how hard working and devoted these people are.



KATHY HOLSWORTH



**OFFICERS AND BOARDS OF DIRECTORS**

**1973**

President - Joe Humphreys  
 1st Vice President - Paul Blankenhorn  
 2nd Vice President - Todd Bowersox  
 Secretary - Vance McCullough  
 Treasurer - James McLaren

BOARD

Dick Barton	Ron Johnson
Paul Blankenhorn	Vance McCullough
Todd Bowersox	James McLaren
Charles Gettig	Bob McMullin
Joe Humphreys	Charles Piper

**1974**

President - Joe Spino  
 Vice President - Tom Schrenkel  
 Secretary - Ron Evans  
 Treasurer - Bob Vierck

BOARD

Todd Bowersox	Bob McMullin
Paul Blankenhorn	Charles Piper
Ron Evans	Tom Schrenkel
Joe Humphreys	Joe Spino
Vance McCullough	Bob Vierck

**1975**

President - Ron Evans  
 Vice President - Charles Piper  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Steve Sywensky

BOARD

Paul Blankenhorn	Vance McCullough
Todd Bowersox	Bob McMullin
Ron Evans	Charles Piper
Joe Humphreys	Steve Sywensky

**1976**

President - Ron Evans  
 Vice President - Merrill Katz  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Will Hepfer

BOARD

Paul Blankenhorn	Vance McCullough
Todd Bowersox	Charles Piper
Ron Evans	Joe Spino
Joe Humphreys	Steve Sywensky
Merrill Katz	

**1977**

President - Frank Zettle  
 Vice President - Ed Rakowski  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Will Hepfer

BOARD

Paul Blankenhorn	Vance McCullough
Todd Bowersox	Charles Piper
Will Hepfer	Ed Rakowski
Joe Humphreys	Frank Zettle
Merrill Katz	

**1978**

President - Frank Zettle  
 Vice President - George Kelly  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Will Hepfer

BOARD

Paul Blankenhorn	Vance McCullough
Dave Coe	Charles Piper
Will Hepfer	Elton Tait
Merrill Katz	Frank Zettle
George Kelly	

**1979**

President - Paul Rebarchak  
 Vice President - Dave Holmes  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Will Hepfer

BOARD

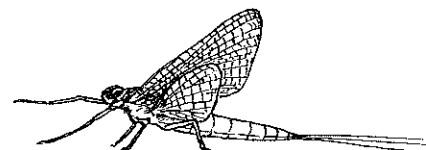
Dave Coe	Bob Martin
Will Hepfer	Elton Tait
Dave Holmes	Paul Rebarchak
Merrill Katz	Frank Zettle
George Kelly	

**1980**

President - Paul Rebarchak  
 Vice President - Paul Blankenhorn  
 Secretary-Treasurer - James Frank

BOARD

Paul Blankenhorn	Paul Rebarchak
Dave Coe	Tom Schrenkel
James Frank	Dan Shields
George Kelly	Elton Tait
Bob Martin	



KATHY HOLSWORTH

**OFFICERS AND BOARDS OF DIRECTORS**

**1981**

President - Paul R. Johnston  
 Vice President - Tom Doman  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Tom Massaro

B O A R D

Tom Doman	Jim McClure
Paul R. Johnston	Jon Nirnberger
George Kelly	Tom Schrenkel
Bob Martin	Dan Shields
Tom Massaro	

**1982**

President - Dave Coe  
 Vice President - Rick Kurtz  
 Secretary - Mark Faulkner

B O A R D

Dave Coe	Jon Nirnberger
Tom Doman	Greg Pierce
Mark Faulkner	Tom Schrenkel
Rick Kurtz	Dan Shields
Jim McClure	

**1983**

President - Tom Doman  
 Vice President - Greg Pierce  
 Secretary - Mark Faulkner  
 Treasurer - Jon Nirnberger

B O A R D

Tom Doman	Paul Rebarchak
Mark Faulkner	Evelyn Shafer
Rick Kurtz	Dan Shields
Jon Nirnberger	Frank Zettle
Greg Pierce	

**1984**

President - Mark Faulkner  
 Vice President - Paul Smoczynski  
 Secretary - Dave Coe  
 Treasurer - Jon Nirnberger

B O A R D

Tom Doman	Bernard Robb
Mark Faulkner	Evelyn Shafer
Richard Keebler	Paul Smoczynski
Jon Nirnberger	Frank Zettle
Paul Rebarchak	

**1985**

President - Mark Faulkner  
 Vice President - Paul Smoczynski  
 Secretary - Dave Coe  
 Treasurer - Jon Nirnberger

B O A R D

Tom Doman	Paul Rebarchak
Mark Faulkner	Bernard Robb
Richard Keebler	Evelyn Shafer
Rick Kurtz	Paul Smoczynski
Jon Nirnberger	

**1986**

President - Rick Kurtz  
 Vice President - Paul Smoczynski  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Mark Faulkner

B O A R D

Tom Doman	Paul Rebarchak
Mark Faulkner	Bernard Robb
Mark Henry	Evelyn Shafer
Richard Keebler	Paul Smoczynski
Rick Kurtz	

**1987**

President - Mark Henry  
 Vice President - Evelyn Shafer  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Mark Faulkner

B O A R D

Paul Antolosky	Mark Henry
<i>(honorary life member)</i>	Dave Laux
Tracey Benson	Paul Rebarchak
John Coll	Evelyn Shafer
Tom Doman	Dan Shields
Mark Faulkner	

**1988**

President - Tracey Benson  
 Vice President - Evelyn Shafer  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Mark Faulkner

B O A R D

Ed Bellis	Dave Laux
Tracey Benson	Mark Ralston
John Coll	Paul Rebarchak
Dennis Hampton	Evelyn Shafer
Mark Henry	

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**1989**

President - Ed Bellis  
 Vice President - Tracey Benson  
 Secretary - Mark Faulkner  
 Treasurer - Dennis Hampton/John Shaffer

**BOARD**

Tracey Benson	Mark Ralston
Ed Bellis	Joe Spino
John Coll	John Shaffer
Dennis Hampton	Jim Strauss
Dave Laux	

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**1990**

President - Mark Ralston  
 Vice President - Jim Strauss  
 Secretary - Mark Faulkner  
 Treasurer - John Shaffer

**BOARD**

Ed Bellis	John Shaffer
Marci Drass	Joe Spino
Tom Doman	Jim Strauss
Dennis Hampton	Tim Ziegler
Mark Ralston	

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**1991**

President - Jim Strauss  
 Vice President - Mark Ralston  
 Secretary - Mark Faulkner  
 Treasurer - John Shaffer

**BOARD**

Tom Doman	Mark Ralston
Brad Eichler	John Shaffer
Marci Drass	Jim Strauss
Dwight Landis	Tim Ziegler
Ted Onufrak	

NOTE: Officers are elected from the Board of Directors and are considered active members of the Board.



*The chapter's coveted shoulder patch.*

**Fish Commissioners**

When the Commissioner of District 3, covering McKean, Potter, Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Centre, Clearfield and Jefferson counties, finished his term on the Fish Commission in 1979, Alvin R. (Buz) Grove felt that the new person appointed to the Commission should have the conservation philosophy of Trout Unlimited. He asked who from the Spring Creek Chapter might serve in this capacity. He was given the name of Bob Martin. Bob, an attorney from Bellefonte and an outdoorsman, hunter and fisherman was serving on the board of the Chapter. He was interested and was appointed the first Fish Commissioner from the Chapter - for a six year term beginning in 1980. Bob served with distinction and provided outstanding leadership during the implementation of Operation Future. Operation Future was developed around a philosophy, espoused by Trout Unlimited, which is based on sound management and conservation of the resource. Bob resigned in 1986, before his term ended.

In the fall of 1986, Mark Faulkner was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Bob Martin. Mark, also an attorney, and a resident of Boalsburg, is an outstanding Trout Unlimited member. He has served on the official board as president, secretary and treasurer of the Chapter and served for a period as regional vice president of State Council. He has been very active in many activities of Trout Unlimited including organizing the fall 1989 State TU meetings in State College. Mark has great leadership ability. Currently he is second vice president of the Pennsylvania Council of TU. Mark's wife, Sharon, has also made outstanding contributions to the Chapter. Mark was replaced on the Commission in 1988.

Dave Coe, another outstanding Chapter member, was appointed to a six-year term on the Fish Commission as commissioner at large in the fall of 1986. Dave's varied background has proven invaluable to the Commission. In 1981 Dave was appointed chairman of the Clean Streams and Mining Committee of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. He was a member of the Boating Advisory Board of the Fish Commission, and served for many years as a local Deputy Waterways Patrolman. He also served on the official board and as president of the Spring Creek Chapter. Whenever a job needs doing, Dave is there. He provides tremendous leadership for those working at the hot dog stand on Saturday afternoons. He is extremely knowledgeable about many aspects of boating, fishing and conservation. Dave is currently the president of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

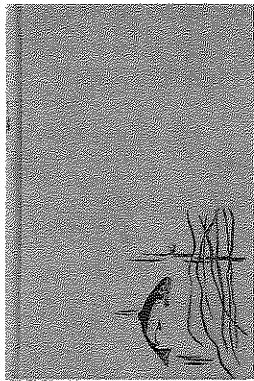
Everyone in the Spring Creek Chapter may take pride in the fact that this organization has provided three outstanding individuals for leadership positions on the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

## Regional Vice Presidents of State Council

Frank Zettle was asked to serve as northcentral regional vice president of State Council of Trout Unlimited in the fall of 1979 to replace C. W. O'Connor of Williamsport. Mr. O'Connor resigned because of business pressure. The regional vice presidents (6 in the state) work with the individual chapters in the regions to keep them aware of action by the State Council as well as communicate the concerns of individual chapters to State Council. Possibly the most important aspect is functioning as part of the policy making body of Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited. Frank, a former president of the Spring Creek Chapter and a board member, served on State Council until November 1982. During his tenure three new chapters were organized in the Northcentral Region.

In November 1982, Tony Gerace replaced Frank Zettle as regional vice president. Tony is an ardent sportsman and conservationist and has contributed in many ways to Trout Unlimited. He is a past editor and as co-editor of *Tertiary Treatment*. He served State Council well during his tenure. When Tony resigned in October of 1985, Mark Faulkner replaced him. Mark served until the fall of 1986 when he was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

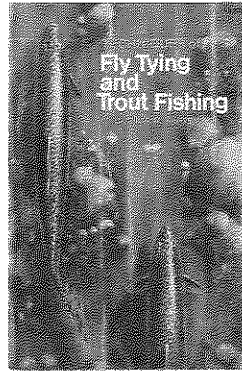
## Fishing Authors



Dr. Alvin (Buz) Grove was active in Trout Unlimited before the Spring Creek Chapter was organized. Buz was Editor of *Trout*, the magazine of National Trout Unlimited. He was a national director as well as a member of State Council, and helped to organize the Spring Creek Chapter. He was a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council of DER for many years. Dr. Grove's main concerns deal with

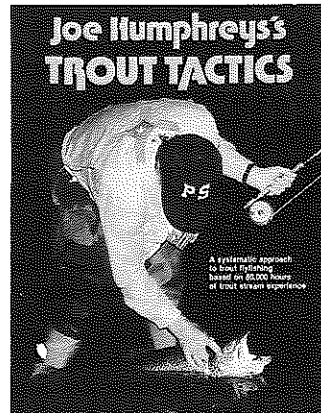
the broad environmental issues and their related politics. In 1951 his outstanding book, *The Lure and Lore of Trout Fishing*, was published. It has become a collector's item. He was outdoor editor of the Centre Daily Times for a number of years. Currently he is a member of the State TU Environmental Committee. Buz is also active in organizing and hosting water quality seminars around the state and in the activities of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Sportsmen.

George W. Harvey's booklet, *Techniques of Fly Tying and Trout Fishing*, was published by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission in 1976. This little booklet has been invaluable to thousands of flytyers and fishermen throughout the country. It is basic and yet extremely valuable for both novice and veteran fishermen. The book has recently been revised and expanded into a clothbound edition. George is also known as the first



man in the nation to organize a college level course on flytying and angling. He started his courses in 1943 at Penn State and instructed over 35,000 youngsters and adults in his 38 years of teaching. By suggestion of the Spring Creek Chapter, in December 1991, Penn State University renamed its Spruce Creek Fisheries Research Area in honor of George Harvey. George was influential in convincing the University to purchase the property in 1950's. He was probably the best fly fisherman ever to have worn a pair of waders. We are proud that he is one of us.

Joseph Humphreys is another well known author of the Chapter. Joe, a recently retired college professor, taught the flytying and fishing course started by his mentor, George Harvey, at Penn State. He is often referred to as the "Fishing Professor". Joe has been a super active member; he helped organize the Chapter and was its first president. He conceived and organized the Thompson Run Project, described earlier. Joe grew up fishing Spring Creek, has a home along it and has a strong love for the stream. In 1980 he was nominated by the Chapter for, and received, the "Wally Thompson Award". This award is given annually to an outstanding conservationist of Centre County. Joe has been very

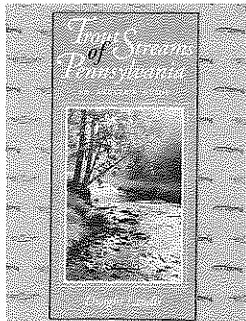


generous with his time and talents to our group and to other TU chapters around the state in providing talks and demonstrations on flyfishing and flytying. In 1977 he achieved the state record (now exceeded) for the largest brown trout caught on a fly in Pennsylvania with his 34" behemoth weighing 15 pounds, 5 ounces, while

night fishing. In 1981, Joe published his unique and informative book, *Trout Tactics*. The work deals with many of the "tactics" and methods that make Joe the outstanding fisherman he is. It is a best seller. Even more recently, Joe published *On the Stream with Joe Humphreys*, a continuation of his earlier work, with much new information and outstanding action photos showing his skilled casting techniques. Joe was recently appointed to the U.S. Fly Fishing Team. This group competed in the international tournament held in Finland in the summer of 1989.

On Joe Humphreys's retirement, Vance McCullough, another distinguished Spring Creek Chapter member

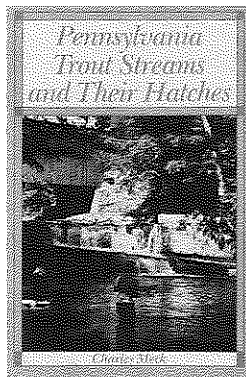
and one of the original Order of the Green Drake clan, took over the fishing-flytying course at Penn State.



Our newest author—so new we almost missed including him here—is Dwight Landis of Bellefonte. Dwight's 1991 contribution, *Trout Streams of Pennsylvania: An Angler's Guide*, is a superbly illustrated and well written survey of Keystone streams, large and small. Along with the streams themselves, he frequently includes information on patterns to use,

seasonal conditions and how to get there. The work is illustrated with clear maps and fine photographs. Dwight is currently a member of our Board of Directors and has been active in stream improvement.

Another author is Charles Meck, a fishing writer whose book *Meeting and Fishing the Hatches* was published in 1977. Meck's book is particularly valuable to Pennsylvania anglers since most of it deals with local hatches. The volume describes patterns and when and how to fish them. He has also written many articles for leading outdoor magazines. Just last year Charlie came out with a second book, *Pennsylvania Trout Streams and Their Hatches*, a veritable bible for anyone fishing the myriad mayfly hatches in the northeastern United States.

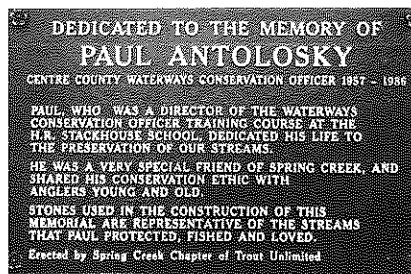


How many other Trout Unlimited chapters around the country can boast of having five members who have contributed outstanding books to the trout fishing literature?

**Other Outstanding Members**  
Paul Antolosky, Waterways Conservation Officer of Centre County, who passed away while hunting in 1987, was a dear friend of the Chapter and of Spring Creek. Space does not permit all that could be written about Paul's career and his many contributions to the protection and conservation of the streams and lakes in Pennsylvania and particularly Centre County. However, it can be stated that the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited has had no better friend and supporter than Paul Antolosky. He had a deep and endearing love for Spring Creek and he took as a personal affront any injury that befell it. At Chapter meetings he kept leaders and members aware of new developments along his "beat". He never wavered from his duty and if action was needed he could always be counted on. Paul gained the respect and love of the fishing community of central Pennsylvania. In 1981 he received the Outstanding Professional Conservationist of the Year Award from State

### Other Outstanding Members

Council of Trout Unlimited at Carlisle for his outstanding performance as a conservation officer of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. In 1989 the Chapter erected a memorial to Paul at Fisherman's Paradise. A bronze plaque commemorating him was placed in a stone base constructed of rocks taken from the streams he fished, protected and loved.



Dr. Robert Carline, Leader of the Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Co-op Unit, received the Professional Conservationist of the Year Award in 1986 at the annual State TU meeting in Brookville. He was recognized for his research on the effect of sewage effluent on the growth of brown trout. Dr. Carline also led a recent study on reproduction of brown trout in Spring Creek and he is currently heading up the Chapter's stream improvement committee, whose primary charge is stream bank stabilization and the prevention of other non-point stream pollution. Of all the members of the scientific community at Penn State, Bob Carline is the one most frequently consulted on questions dealing with stream quality and fisheries management.

Dr. Robert Butler, former head of the Fisheries Unit at Penn State has been a loyal TU member. Bob has been very generous with his time and has presented a variety of programs at membership meetings. He is well known for his basic research on the spawning of brook trout and on general trout behavior. He was responsible for securing the waters on Spruce Creek for Penn State fisheries research and he directed several outstanding research projects on that stream. Bob was awarded the Outstanding Professional State Conservationist Award in 1991 and currently hosts the popular TV show, *Outdoor Pennsylvania*.

Robert Bachman, a former graduate student of Dr. Butler, conducted outstanding research on the behavior of wild brown trout on Spruce Creek. This work was supported by the Spring Creek Chapter. In 1986 Dr. Bachman was appointed Chief of the Freshwater Fisheries Program for the State of Maryland.

**OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD**

### OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD

A fitting culmination to many years of hard work, the Edward J. Urbas Award of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited was presented to the chapter at the annual state TU banquet in October, 1991. This prestigious award honors the outstanding chapter in Pennsylvania and recognizes the untiring efforts of our members in the preservation of cold water resources, especially our own Spring Creek.

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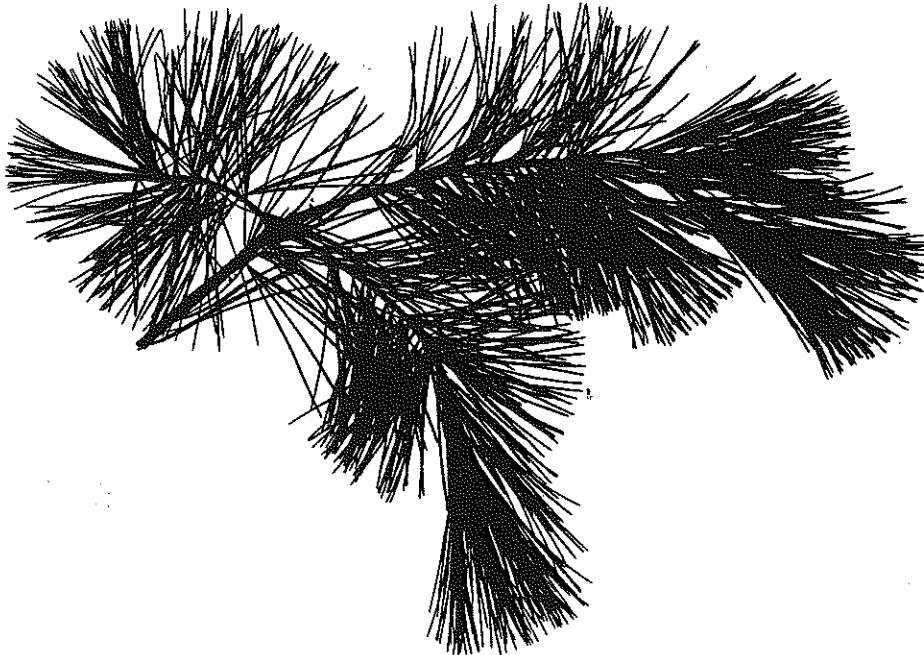
## A FINAL THOUGHT

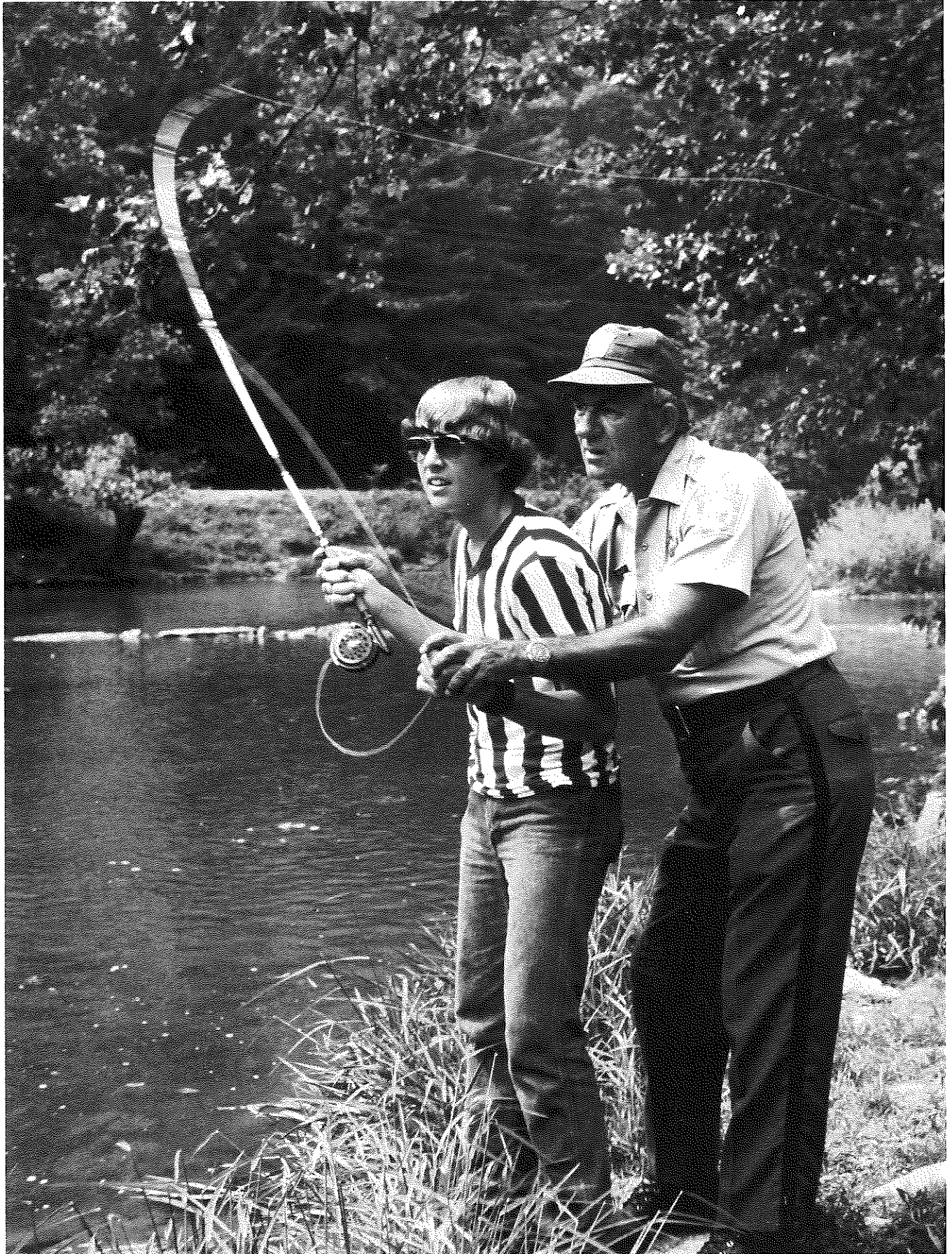
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Spring Creek flows on. Anglers from far and wide come to wade its cool waters and catch its speckled beauties. That little group that met in the Panorama Grade School on a cold winter night many years ago has done its job well. By forming the Spring Creek Chapter and by resolutely working to preserve and enhance this lovely stream, they and their followers were able to save it and to restore it to its former health.

Paul Antolosky, in a tribute to Trout Unlimited and the Chapter in the December 1986 issue of *Tertiary Treatment*, said it well: "I have personally probably spent too much time on Spring Creek but I care for that beautiful stream. I have seen it go from a classic stream to almost dying, but it never gave up. Without your help I am positive it would have died. For that, I will be eternally grateful. It's back, not the whole nine yards just yet, but it will be someday, if you don't forget it."

We won't forget Spring Creek, Paul. We will go for those whole nine yards.





*Paul photographed while teaching one of a new generation to love Spring Creek as he did.*

