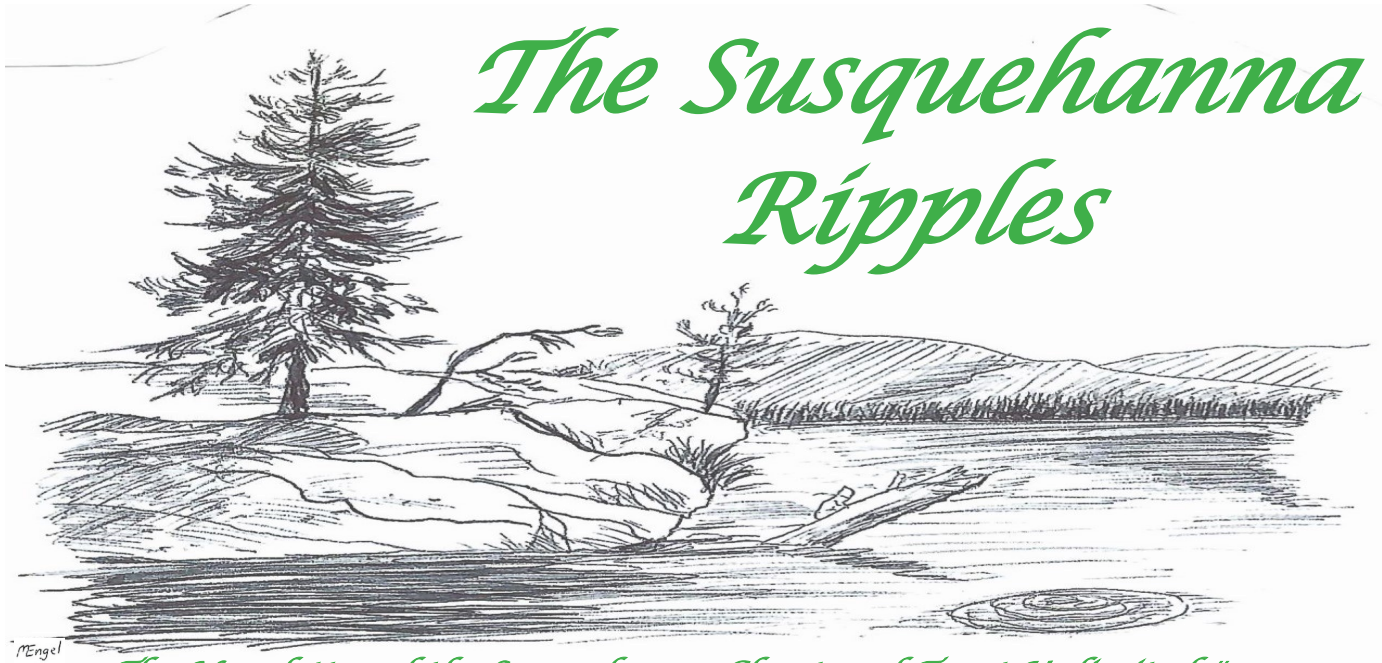


The Susquehanna Ripples

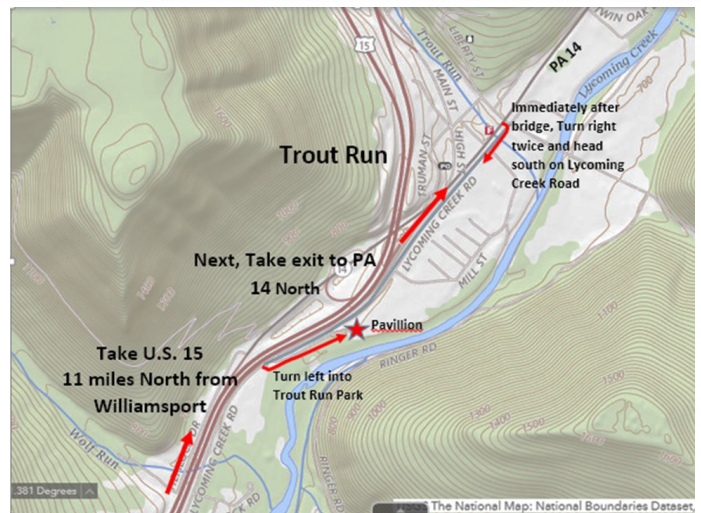


The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited September 13, 2023 Picnic and Meeting at Trout Run Park

Want to learn about our TU chapter activities and conservation project updates, perhaps try out fly casting as a first-timer or sharpen your skills under the instruction of experienced fly fishers? The public is welcome to a picnic and outdoor meeting of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited at Trout Run Park on Wednesday, September 13th. Several rod and reel outfits will be available for those to use who do not have them. You can also observe the fishing platform on Lycoming Creek constructed by our members and some of the habitat structures placed along the stream to create fish habitat and control bank erosion. Free first-time TU memberships will be available for those in attendance.

Meet, greet and demos will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Trout Run Park pavilion followed by a picnic with hot dogs, corn on the cob and drinks provided.



Participants can bring some desserts or side dishes to share. A map and directions on how to get there from Williamsport can be found on the link to [Google Maps at Trout Run Park - Google Maps](#) or as found below and on the Susquehanna TU website at <https://susquehannatu.com>.



Photo by Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Photo by Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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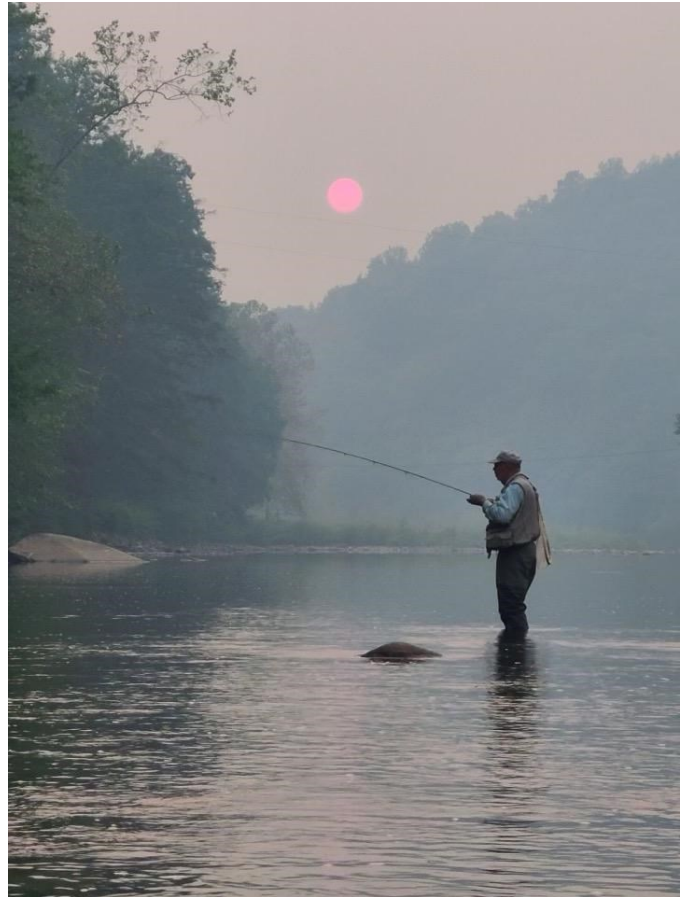
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"Fish On" at my happy place
June 7th evening rise with the Canadian fire
smoke .
Photo by WCO Jeremy Yohe of Steve Szoke
Submitted by Steve Szoke

Our Official Newsletter

The **Susquehanna Ripples** is the official newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is published 8 times a year: January, February, March, April, June/July, September, October, and November. Please consider submitting something of interest to our readers; a story, stream report, recipe, photograph, gear review, etc. Submissions received will be placed in the next available issue. All submissions can be sent to susquehannatu@gmail.com / boblaker@comcast.net.

Chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) and are always free and open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm . Meetings are held at the **Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W 4th St, Williamsport, PA 17701**, in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted). Parking is at the rear of the Church and enter off of Campbell Street.

No meetings are held in May, June, July, August or December



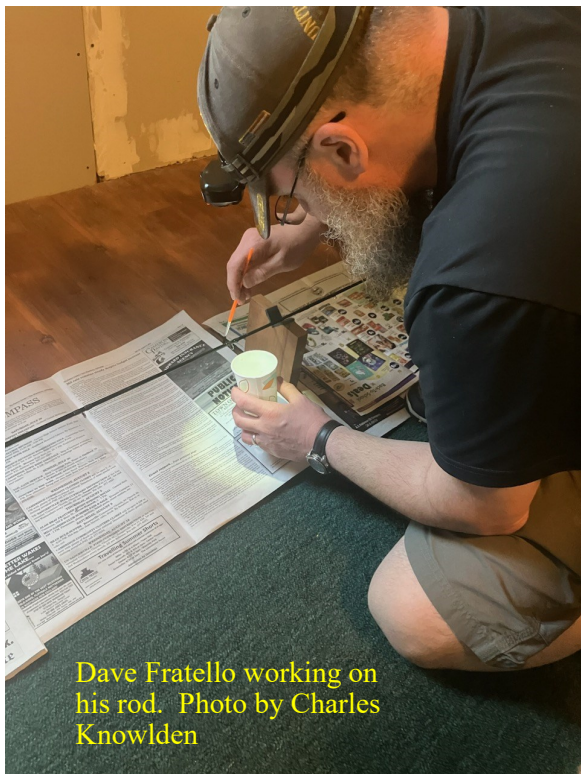
Veterans Service Program Report By: Charles Knowlden



On August 28, 2023, Walt Nicholson and I attended a Veteran's Expo sponsored by the Lycoming – Clinton Counties Veterans Coalition at Penn College in Williamsport. The purpose of the Expo was to highlight opportunities for veterans in our area. Susquehanna TU was one of about thirty organizations and agencies that provide benefits for veterans and their families which participated in the Expo. Walt had a fly tying demonstration and I did a rod building display. I will say that although it was not very well attended, a couple veterans took information from us. Hopefully we will hear from them in the future. Following the Expo, there was a roundtable discussion where the government agencies were able to answer questions posed by the veterans concerning benefits that they were eligible to receive. The best result from this afternoon was that other organizations and agencies were informed about the opportunities available to veterans and will be able to refer veterans to each other according to their needs and desires. One veteran who was in attendance with his wife seemed really interested and his wife encouraged him to contact us as she said to me, "He needs a hobby."

On my last trip to Maine, Dave Fratello, a navy veteran who is now living in Maine, built a beautiful fly rod with one of our kits. It was a kit that I had ordered for another veteran locally who backed out for health reasons. Dave is a husband and father of four girls ages 9, 6, 4 and 1. He is an IT employee of the power company in Bangor, Maine. Growing up in Virginia, he fished a lot when he was younger but hasn't had much of a chance in recent years with family and work obligations. He does get a chance to spend weekends at a friend's camp on Moosehead Lake which is where I met him a couple of years ago. He showed a lot of interest in fishing as we got to know each other. We talked a lot about fishing and conservation. The power companies in Maine are working with organizations like TU to redirect their sources of power from hydroelectric dams that have impeded the natural migration of Salmon and Trout to and from their spawning areas. If you read the Trout Magazine, there have been articles about how the dams on the lower Kennebec River are being decommissioned and removed to allow this migration to resume. Since his profession is directly involved with reorganization of the power structure, I am glad to see that he is recognizing the importance of the conservation and recreation aspects of the operation.

I have ordered and received three more fly rod kits from Lure Parts, Inc. There are one four piece rod and two three piece rods available from that order. We have also received a donation of two piece rod blanks that I will order handles and guides for when we have more veterans or first responders requesting them. Almost all of the participants in our program have been word of mouth. If any of you know anyone who might want to construct a rod, talk to them and let them know what we have available. I purchased some rod building equipment and it has significantly reduced the time it takes to assemble a fly rod. Four to six hours seems to be the average with a maximum of eight hours with little skill or experience. Have interested persons contact me at: (570)971-1296 or cjknow@comcast.net.



Dave Fratello working on his rod. Photo by Charles Knowlden



Dave Fratello working on his rod. Photo by Charles Knowlden

Stream Etiquette Crucial to Maintaining Public Access and Enjoyable Fishing

By Walt Nicholson

Following the recent COVID period when “nature bathing” was discovered by more people as a way to beat the lock-downs, there has been a resulting surge in outdoor recreation including kayaking, bicycle rail trails, mountain biking, hiking, cliff jumping, and now expanded ATV trails penetrating the “Pennsylvania Wilds.” Combined with the ability of social media to instantly broadcast information and publicity about special recreational locations, this trend has had an unintended consequence of creating the potential for degradation of the nature experiences and qualities of the very environmental attributes, public access opportunities, and attractiveness of our wonderful northcentral PA woods and streams that people held dear and drew them to those areas.

Our trout fishing opportunities are also beginning to suffer from the same recent trends. The PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) Keystone Select stocked waters program and a similar trophy brown trout project on Pine Creek near Slate Run have highlighted the ability of such programs to draw increasingly large numbers of anglers to our area. Fishing over good populations of gorgeous hard-fighting rainbow and brown trout on beautiful mountain streams has now been recognized by our state bureaucrats and legislators for its potential to create a destination tourism recreation economy business. While these programs are being recognized for their potential to increase fishing license sales and local commercial cash flows, serious thought must also be given to dealing with the very real potential for negative impacts they will produce. Our ability to fish many of these most popular local trout waters and enjoy a quiet day out on the stream is threatened by the consequences of overuse and poor etiquette by increasing numbers of anglers.

We all need to do our part to help maintain access to private properties now open to fishing and being respectful to private landowners and other anglers on both private and public areas while we enjoy our day on the stream. The following article found on the website of the CrossCurrents fishing shop in Montana is a spot-on discussion of proper angler behavior that we all need to take to heart. With permission and some editing for Pennsylvania conditions, here it is:

It used to be that most new anglers were gradually introduced to the sport of stream fishing by a family member or friend who had a fishing background, and various rules of behavior would be acquired over time and adhered to as a matter of course. Nowadays, we welcome many adult newcomers to the sport with no tradition to rely on for guidance, so streamside misunderstandings can easily arise.

The rules of streamside behavior are few and easily observed. Mostly they revolve around common sense, courtesy and consideration of others sharing the stream. A section of water belongs to the first person fishing

it. It is inconsiderate to crowd him/her, and just “how close” an approach is permissible is an obvious variable. A slow moving or stationary angler has every right to remain just where he is (although it is common etiquette on some large popular pools for anglers to rotate down through the pool by stepping down after a few casts). If you are moving, leave the water and walk around, if possible out of sight of the fish, being certain not to disturb his/her fishing or the water being worked. In a similar vein, an angler may be resting a pool or planning the next move. It is still his/her water, and you should not jump in without permission.

An angler working in an upstream direction generally has the right of way over someone coming downstream. Wading upstream against the current forces you to move slowly, cover less water and you are approaching the fish from behind. The angler working in a downstream direction, such as in spin fishing or streamer fishing, covers more river quickly, and has the potential to disturb more water, i.e. careless wading could send silt or debris washing downstream and long downstream casts can alarm fish someone downstream is working over. [Once disturbed, wild brook and brown trout on smaller, clear streams may not return to their feeding positions for hours unless there is a very heavy “hatch” of food going on and the fish are very focused on it.]

Many streams flow through private property. Recognize that access across that land is a privilege, not a right. Respect private property. If unsure about access, ask the landowner politely. On farm properties, don't trample crops, disturb livestock, or leave gates open. Leave no litter at stream side. In fact, get in the habit of picking up discarded monofilament, cans and other trash, and carry them out to be discarded properly.

Recognize that skilled anglers and/or heavy fishing pressure with excessively liberal limits can greatly reduce the available fish populations in any stream unless voluntary restraint is practiced. A legal limit is not a quota, let your fishing motto be – “limit your kill, don't kill your limit.” Orvis and CrossCurrents encourages a catch and release philosophy of angling, allowing fish to mature, reproduce, and live to challenge other anglers in the future. [The PA Fish & Boat Commission has discontinued stocking of our state fish, the brook trout, so anglers should think seriously of returning them unharmed to the water to perpetuate the wild strain.] Montana is unique in that it has not stocked any river or stream with hatchery fish since the late 1960's. It relies solely on wild trout to produce more wild trout. So the fish in the river today have the awesome responsibility of perpetuating the species. Therefore, it should be our awesome responsibility to protect those wild trout and their habitats so they have the best chance to make lots of strong, healthy fish in future!

Continued on next page

Stream Etiquette Continued

A few years ago, the hunting of big game animals on "game farms" in Montana was outlawed with the understanding that there is a difference between wild animals and "domesticated" versions of those animals. We have a fair chase ethic with hunting wild animals – we too should have a fair chase ethic with fishing for wild trout.

Multiple recreational uses of streams are common. We may share the resource with tubers, canoes, drift boats, rafts and other float crafts. It is the responsibility of the floater to recognize that the wade angler has established a position before the boat floated into view. The floater should try to pass behind the angler. If the space doesn't permit this, the floater should float by quietly and with minimum disturbance. [Polite communication by both the rower and wader is always a help in this circumstance, thereby avoiding many of the contentious issues that surround the hotly debated "Row vs. Wade" on our rivers!]

In summary, behave on the stream towards other anglers, as you would like them to behave towards you. Welcome to the wonderful world of fishing and have fun!

Trout Season Again

The extended trout season began on September 5.

Only stocked trout waters are open to harvest during this period, and the daily limit is three combined species. Additional regulations may apply.

See the summary book for more information: <https://ow.ly/NLMW50PAvmq>



Tall and True submitted by Kevin McJunkin and used with permission from Bob Rinn's daughter Melanie. Kevin added The "Great Debater" (misspelled in the column) is Justice Baum, a former SCTU member. Bob had nicknames for all of his friends and their spouses.

*~ Tall and True ~
by Robert Rinn*

Nostalgia provides pleasant moments.

Dad had a 1919 Maxwell which we used for transportation in the mountains during my early years. It carried a spare tire at the rear. Directly above were two oval windows.

Recent generations of Americans have missed an important feature of those earlier vehicles. I am referring to running boards, devices which kept mud from splashing the sides of the car and made entering a pleasure. Running boards also offered fine seats for eating lunches and changing footwear. A special fence could be attached to hold luggage and food. Here is where we carried lemonade in a metal cased jug with an oversized aluminum screw cap.

The old timers referred to our Maxwell as a machine. "Park your machine over here, Harry," was often heard when we would drive into a farmer's dooryard.

Dad performed all of the maintenance work on our machine. Much of this ritual extended into the nighttime hours when brother Fred and I were commissioned to hold the extension light. We never seemed to attain the right position for the yellow beam, although we were repeatedly directed, "over to the right, left, down or up."

Fishing trips along Pine Creek were real safaries. The Lost Hunting and Fishing Club, often our goal, required a treacherous ford at Cammal but the big wheeled Maxwell always came through.

The roads were narrow and muddy. Some places were too narrow for passing with sharp drop-offs, and no guard rails. I remember the green strip of grass in the center of the road, and the fallen trees which blocked our progress until the axe had been used to advantage.

We seemed to have a lot of tire trouble so extra tubes, patching kits and a generous supply of tools were included in the cargo. My brother and I always thought that flat tires added to the adventure. We

handed the tools to Dad who remained solemn throughout these periods of entertainment. Somehow, it seemed, he didn't share our degree of enjoyment.

Our Maxwell had side curtains which snapped into place when bad weather was encountered. I remember passing a rod through those curtains while the car was parked on a bridge or alongside a pool. Traffic did not exist.

And the trout! Every rivulet, every run and creek held a generous supply. We were especially fond of hemlock trout, dark colored fish living in deep pockets shrouded by dense woods. A wet fly, or worm, properly introduced brought action.

Wildlife was abundant - we watched for Gollywoblins which are birds resembling gigantic Great Blue Herons with wings spanning a distance of seventeen feet. Dad

startled one which was resting atop a woodcutters cabin. It became so frightened that it neglected to release the roof as it flew away. I saw the evidence - the roof was discovered in the woods 200 yards distant. The next time you watch a Great Blue Heron flying overhead, it might be a Gollywoblin flying at 3000 feet altitude.

I told the Great Debator about Gollywoblins who was not impressed and recalled the true facts about Mince Birds. Many years ago these wild birds were numerous in the higher Catskill elevations. They could not fly: Running speed offered their escape. You see, their left legs were shorter than their right legs which allowed them to travel around the steep mountainsides. A chase in the opposite direction, however, caused them to topple: this was the scheme used to harvest Mince Birds in the early fall. Their meat was carefully processed and shipped to New York City in time for Thanksgiving mince pies.

So much for folk lore.

4-12-84

Is a 7-inch trout too small to keep in Pennsylvania?

By Bob Pennell
July 25, 2023

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is studying whether or not to raise the minimum size for trout that anglers can keep. Most stocked trout, like this rainbow, average 10 to 11-inches long. The minimum size to creel is 7-inches long. A change in the regulation may help young wild trout grow to a larger size.

Since 1983, the minimum size for trout, found in public waterways, to be kept has been 7 inches.

In an effort to protect young, wild trout, the agency is undergoing a study to see if the minimum size should be increased.

During the regular trout season, which starts the first Saturday of April and runs through Labor Day, anglers are permitted to keep five trout that are at least 7 inches long. During the extended season, the day after Labor Day through the third Sunday in February, the creel limit is reduced to three trout with the same 7-inch minimum size.

"A thorough review of the biological and social data is needed," David Nihart, chief of fisheries management for the Fish and Boat Commission, said during a June 27 Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee meeting.

The agency has been collecting data on streams for decades, and staff members can access that information to review distribution sizes of stocked fish as well as looking into wild trout numbers and sizes.

This spring, when the agency conducted a survey with anglers, one of the questions involved the minimum size and creel limits. The rough draft of the survey results is still being reviewed by agency staff members.

"It's premature at this point to say what we learned in regards to these specific questions," Nihart said. The last similar survey was done in 2007.

The staff is planning a boots-on-the-ground survey of anglers on different waterways in 2024 that will include the minimum size and creel limit for trout.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks brown trout that average 10-11 inches in length for public waterways.

The agency will be reviewing how an increase on the minimum size will impact fish stocked by the agencies, its cooperative sportsmen group partner hatcheries and private stockings.

Dan Pastore, fish commissioner from Erie County serving the first district, said the reports on the state's hatcheries reveals the stocked trout are "significantly larger than 7 inches, and my understanding is that most co-op (nurseries) stock larger fish, around 9 inches. The question really is: If we and the co-ops are stocking fish significantly larger than 7 inches but we are allowing you to take a fish just over 7 inches, we're effectively authorizing the harvesting of wild trout."

Pastore said it will have to be a policy decision whether the agency wants to allow the harvesting of wild trout in that size limit.

"If we were to go with a size increase, it would be intended to protect additional wild trout, but it would also have implication to our stocked program," Kris Kuhn, director of the Bureau of Fisheries for the agency, said.

The vast majority of the wild brook trout in the state are under 9 inches.

"We're going to look at data that supports an 8-inch limit and data that would inform a decision on 8 and 9 inches," Kuhn said. If the minimum size is changed to 9, most wild brook would be catch and release.

The average length of a stocked trout from the agency's hatcheries is between 10 and 11 inches long, but some trout are smaller.

"In looking at sizes of fish that were stocked in recent years, the vast majority of those are greater than 10 inches. A minimum size of 9 inches would not be problematic on the surface. However, we need a better understanding of how many fish are stocked below 9 inches, there would be very few. But we can't be in the business of stocking trout less than the minimum size. The stocked trout program is intended to be a put-and-take fishery," Kuhn explained.

The agency is planning an in-depth multifaceted evaluation through 2024. Afterwards, the staff will present its findings to the agency's Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee for consideration.

"We're just starting to consider this in detail," Kuhn said. "We have a lot more work to do to make an informed recommendation to the board based on sound science."

The above article was taken from the PATU website at <https://patrout.org/index.php/about-us/news-and-notes/>.

Bob Pennell is an active member of the Doc Fritchey Chapter and served as a long time Secretary for PATU, and web editor.



Upcoming Hunting Seasons

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Crow - Thrs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only; Aug. 24- Mar. 24, 2024	No limit
Starling & English Sparrows Closed during regular firearms deer season	No limit
Doves Sept. 1 - Nov. 24 and Dec. 19 - Jan. 6, 2024	15
Woodcock Oct. 14 - Nov. 24 and Dec. 11 - Dec. 20	3

Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, Canada Geese, Light Geese, Brant and webless birds can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Table can be found on the Game Commission's website and in the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

Applications for Goose Blinds and Other Special Hunts may be submitted online at HuntFish.PA.gov or at any Game Commission region office or Harrisburg headquarters.

BEAR bear license required

Only one bear may be taken during the license year. Bear must be checked within 24 hours of harvest.

Archery

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D	Sept. 16 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included
WMU 5B	Sept. 30 - Nov. 17, Sun., <u>Nov. 12</u> included
Statewide	Oct. 14 - Nov. 4
Muzzleloader - Statewide	Oct. 14 - Oct. 21
Special Firearms - Statewide participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility	Oct. 19 - Oct. 21
Regular Firearms - Statewide	Nov. 18 - Nov. 21, Sun., <u>Nov. 19</u> included
Extended Firearms	
WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E & 5A	Nov. 25 - Sun. <u>Nov. 26</u> and Nov. 27 - Dec. 2
WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	Nov. 25 - Sun. <u>Nov. 26</u> and Nov. 27 - Dec. 9

TURKEY

Fall Season - bearded or unbearded birds (Shotgun and archery only, statewide) 1 bird limit

WMU 2B	Oct. 28 - Nov. 17 and Nov. 22 - Nov. 24
WMUs 1A, 1B, 4A, 4B, 4D and 4E	Oct. 28 - Nov. 4
WMUs 2A, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4C	Oct. 28- Nov. 11
WMU 2C, 2D and 2E	Oct. 28 - Nov. 11 and Nov. 22 - Nov. 24
WMU 5B	Oct. 31 - Nov. 2
WMUs 5A, 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting

Two bird Spring Season limit (1 daily) with second spring gobbler license

Spring Season - bearded birds only, hours vary, check Digest
 Jr. and Mentored Hunters under 16 Apr. 27, 2024
 Statewide May 4 - May 31, 2024

DEER with required licenses/permits

One antlered deer per hunting license year.
 One antlerless deer with each required license or permit.

Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) with required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 16 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included, and Dec. 26 - Jan. 27, 2024
Statewide	Sept. 30 - Sun. <u>Nov. 12</u> and Nov. 13 - Nov. 17 Dec. 26 - Jan. 15, 2024
Muzzleloader (Antlerless only) Statewide with required muzzleloading license	Oct. 14 - Oct. 21
Special Firearms (Antlerless only) Statewide: participation restricted, check Digest for eligibility	Oct. 19 - Oct. 21
Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless)	Nov. 25 - Sun. <u>Nov. 26</u> and Nov. 27 - Dec. 9
Flintlock (Antlered & Antlerless) with required muzzleloading license Statewide WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26 - Jan. 15, 2024 Dec. 26 - Jan. 27, 2024
Extended Regular Firearms (Antlerless only) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26 - Jan. 27, 2024

SMALL GAME

Unless otherwise noted, possession limit = 3x daily limit

Daily Limit

Squirrel-Jr. Hunters (Combined)	Sept. 9 - Sept. 23	6
Squirrel (Combined species)	Sept. 9 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included, and Dec. 11 - Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 29, 2024	6
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 14 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included, and Dec. 11 - Dec. 23	2
Rabbit - Jr. Hunters (Cottontail)	Sept. 30 - Oct. 14	4
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Oct. 14 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included, and Dec. 11 - Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 29, 2024	4

Pheasant - Jr. Hunters*	Oct. 7 - Oct. 14	2
Pheasant* <i>*with required permit</i>	Oct. 21 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included, and Dec. 11 - Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 - Feb. 29, 2024	2
There is no open season for taking pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Area, without an executive order.		

Bobwhite Quail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 24, <u>Nov. 12</u> & <u>Nov. 19</u> included, and Dec. 11 - Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 - Mar. 30, 2024	unlimited
Snowshoe or Varying Hare	Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2024	1

Woodchuck
 July 1-June 29, except during regular firearms deer seasons.
 No hunting on Sundays, except Nov. 12 and Nov. 19. No limit.

Hunting is permitted on the following Sunday's
SUNDAY, NOV. 12
SUNDAY, NOV. 19
SUNDAY, NOV. 26



Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 1132
Williamsport, PA 17703 - 1132

Since 1964, the core mission of our Chapter is to work to make positive contributions to the protection, conservation and restoration of our Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds of North Central Pennsylvania

Membership Application

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

TU does not make email addresses available to outside parties, for any reason, ever.
 Please help us conserve resources by providing your email address.

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:



Trout Unlimited
PO Box 98166
Washington, DC 20090

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*

- New Members Only \$17.50
- TU Teen (\$14) (13 - 18 y/o)
- Regular (Renewal) \$35
- Life Membership (\$1500)
- Family (\$55)
- TU Business (\$295)
- Stream Explorer (\$12)
12 years old and under

PAYMENT METHOD

- Check
 - Visa
 - MC
 - AMEX
 - Discover
- Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law

To ensure correct New Member Rebate, enter Chapter/Council #:

#044