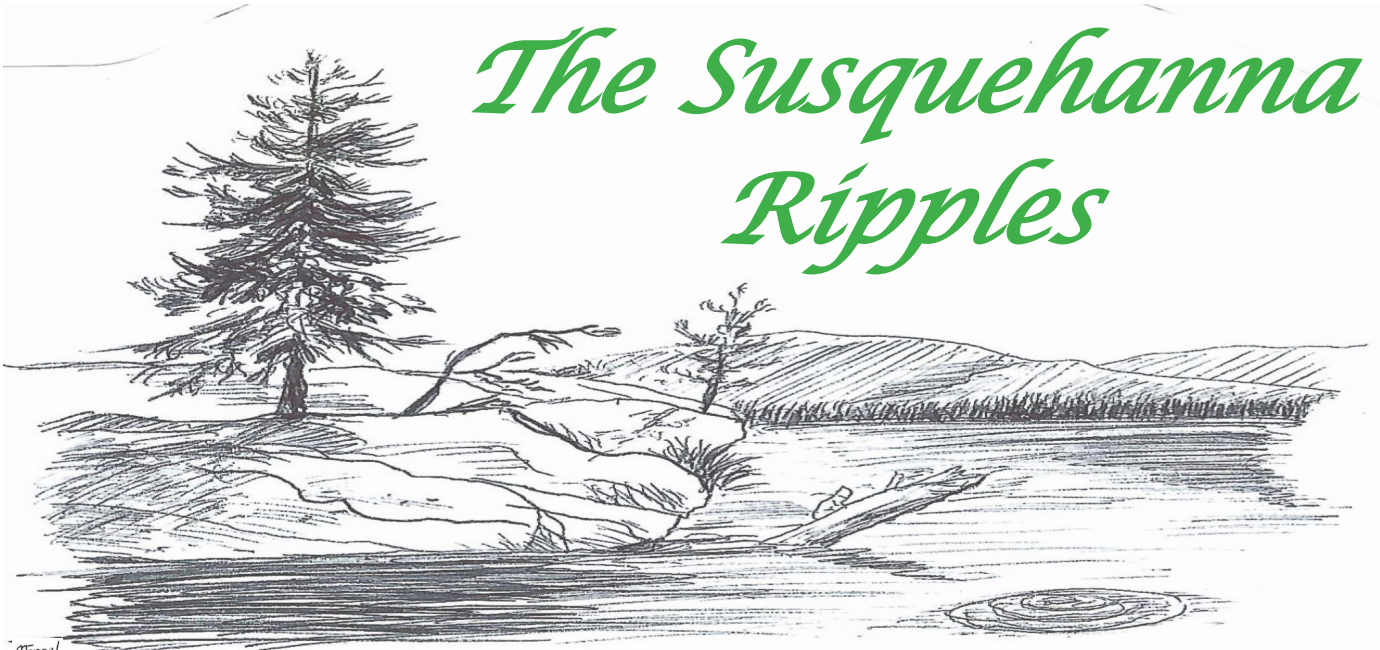


# *The Susquehanna Ripples*



*The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044*

## **Susquehanna Ripples Special Edition**

It is hard to believe that summer is upon us, the kids will be out of school soon, summer vacations / day trips and picnics and cookouts with family and friends. There is a lot of great fishing during the warmer months and we hope that you are able to get out and enjoy your time in the outdoors with your family and friends. Don't forget to take time for yourself as well and try and sneak away from time to time to be by yourself and reset. The Chapter has been involved in some events since our last Chapter meeting and we wanted to share what we have been doing and to remind you of some great events over the next few months in our area. Please go out and support our friends and partners because we all share in the same mission of introducing kids (as well as adults) to the great sport of fishing and to preserving and protection our great waterways and watersheds. We hope that you like this special edition and as always, we welcome any feedback you have.



## Veterans Service Program Report May 2024

By: Charlie Knowlden



The chapter currently has in inventory, two 9' 4-piece 4/5 wt. fly rod kits, three 9' 2-piece 4/5 wt. fly rod kits, one 9' 2pc. 4/5 wt. fly rod kit, and eight 2 pc. 8'6" 6 wt. fly rod kits available for any veteran or first responder who wishes to build one. People eligible to build one of these kits free of charge include any veteran of the armed services, any law enforcement personnel, anyone employed in the medical field, firefighters, and EMT's, or anyone retired from any of those positions. We purchased handles, reel seats and guides for the rods. Plus they come with a reel loaded with the proper weight forward floating line. That gives us 14 complete kits. Recently, I was able to purchase at a yard sale a rod wrapping and drying machine in addition to the four hand wrappers that we have. This cuts the time needed to build a rod in half for most people. A rod can be built in 6 to 8 hours by hand which I recommend for a beginner or you can start by hand and switch to the machine at any time you feel comfortable. I am available through the month of May to set up a class with a maximum of five participants or work individually with any interested person(s). I will be available through the Fall and Winter, too. They can contact me at: [cjknow@comcast.net](mailto:cjknow@comcast.net) or (570)971-1296.

Please promote this program to anyone you know that might be eligible to build a rod. Also, I would like to recruit additional TU members that might like to be part of this committee. I would be glad to teach two or three people how to build a rod even if you don't qualify for a free one. Since some of these materials were donated, the average cost of building a rod would be in the neighborhood of \$60. The blanks we have are all high quality blanks and the finished rods commercially would retail for at least \$200. Since we also have some donated Spey rod blanks, the cost of building one of those would be a little higher because of the double handles. We would order those parts and reels separately based on the builder's preference.

Since taking over the former Project Healing Waters Program and transforming to the current Veterans Service program, we have helped more than 25 people build fly rods. With the loss of Bill O'Connor and Bob Spencer, the duties have been almost all mine. I can testify that the time spent in this project has been extremely rewarding for me as I have been able to accompany some of the participants when they have caught their first fish using the rod that they built with a fly that they tied. I built my first fly rod about fifty years ago and remember catching that rainbow on a Mickey Finn in Slate Run. You keep those memories and of the men who taught me forever.



Service Partnership participant Dan Smith with the first trout he caught on his fly rod that he built in our Service Partnership Program. He was fishing in the delayed harvest area of Lycoming Creek. The fish was seduced by a green Woolly Bugger

## Susquehanna Chapter of TU Holds Stream Cleanup on Lycoming Creek

By Steve Martin  
Chapter President

Although the morning was cold, cloudy, and windy, that did not deter the 15 individuals who showed up to participate in the Susquehanna Chapter's Lycoming Creek cleanup on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Three different groups dispersed from the Trout Run Park pavilion shortly after 9:00 AM with one group working from the Park downstream to Wolf Run, another group working from the Park upstream to the old Mill in Trout Run, and a third group jumping in vehicles and cleaning up some of the places on Lycoming Creek where the PA Fish Commission stocks trout. Unfortunately, a tremendous amount of trash was collected including not just the normal plastic bottles, bags and aluminum cans, but also many large items including 7 tires, aluminum siding, old burner barrels, deck chairs and a vacuum cleaner! After the trash was delivered to the dumpsters at the Lewis Twp. Building, all participants returned to the Trout Run Park pavilion for a hotdog lunch which tasted "oh so good" after spending the morning working outside in the cold and wind. Many good stories were shared over lunch and good, friendly fellowship was had by all. It was the Chapter's intent to have some fly fishing and fly casting instruction after lunch, but due to the inclement weather, that segment was postponed. It was a wonderful feeling to see all the trash that was collected from the streamside and the creek's floodplain, knowing that fishermen, hikers, and the fish, animals and birds themselves will have a much cleaner and healthier environment to live and enjoy nature in.

Please consider becoming more active in your Susquehanna Chapter and participating in future projects and programs. A tremendous amount of satisfaction is gained by giving back to the resource. I guarantee you will be welcomed with open arms and you will have fun. Besides, we want to hear your fishing stories too!





## Youth Fishing Event

By Walt Nicholson  
Past President

On Saturday, April 20th, about a dozen members of our Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited came out to help at a youth fishing event held along Lycoming Creek near W. 4th Street in Williamsport. Rep. Jamie Flick organized the outing with Williamsport Mayor Derek Slaughter. Trout were stocked that morning and our member volunteers helped the several dozen children and families bait hooks, cast and learn the basics of stream fishing. Many were from the nearby Williamsport neighborhoods and had never been fishing. Spin fishing outfits were supplied from the collection stored at the office of the Northcentral PA Conservancy with whom we partnered on the project.

For the very young future anglers, we set up a blue tarp "fish pond" stocked with laminated cutouts of PA fish species. The little anglers caught them with our special velcro fish hooks using mini bamboo rods and then matched their catches' characteristics to poster pictures of the species for identification.

Lycoming College Clean Water Institute also participated by collecting aquatic macroinvertebrate and crayfish specimens from the stream near the fishing area and set up a demonstration which identified the various scientific families of the aquatic life captured. There was an amazing variety and numbers of species represented which attested to the high water quality of Lycoming Creek and the good base of the fishery's food chain.

It was also a great opportunity to talk to our community's leaders and residents about our watersheds and need to protect Lycoming Creek's water quality as an important resource for our community's water supply and recreational amenities.

We'd like to thank everyone who planned, carried out, and participated in this event.







Photo by Ralph Wilson, Williamsport Sun Gazette



(Left) 5 year old Addie Knowlden identifies a fish that she “caught” in the Velcro fish pond. Walt Nicholson adds “Sorry she had to find out it was catch & release. It was so cute watching her putting it into her little fishing pack.”



Photo Williamsport Bureau of Police, taken off their facebook page

## Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club hosts girls only days

In an attempt to attract more kids, especially girls, to the great sport of fly fishing, David Weigle, Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club Advisor, started hosting a girls only day. He states “Not one girl had ever tied a fly before today” and they were all successful. Chapter members Charles Knowlden and Walt Nicholson were able to help the girls successfully tie their first fly, a San Juan worm. Dave stated the second week, that all the girls all showed up and they brought some friends with them. Members of the club (the boys) helped and instructed the girls the 2nd week. He feels this is a tremendous success and “this sport needs more girls.” The HHS Fly Fishing Club is finding creative ways to make that happen.” Great Job Dave, Charlie, Walt, and everyone else for introducing these young ladies to fly tying. Now, lets get them on the water!







Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club all girls fly tying





Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club all girls fly tying



## Help Find a Lost Fishing Pole



### MONTOURSVILLE PA REWARD INCREASED AGAIN!

Update: we haven't been contacted by anyone saying that they found the rod and reel. We are still hopeful that this will reach whoever found them.

I must admit that we are overwhelmed with the number of amazing people who have reached out to us to offer their kind words and of course those who have offered a reward. The number of genuinely caring people here in Central PA is amazing!

The reward pot has recently grown again and we are humbled by the generosity of all that have reached out.

Please share our post and just maybe we will be lucky enough to get the rod back to Garrett.

Desperate plea and hoping for a good human!

This Fenwick fly Rod was left at Indian Park in Montoursville Monday, April 22nd. It is EXTREMELY sentimental to Garrett, as it belonged to his great grandfather who passed away.

Edit to add Vince DiSalvo, Mark A Maddy and RJ Mundrick have each offered a \$100 reward if the rod and reel are returned to DiSalvo's. Andy Klinehas also offered the same if it is returned to him. I was also contacted by Ed Alexander and he has also stated he would like to add \$100 to the reward. Troy Laura Kitner have graciously offered to donate a new 8 wt fly rod and spinners and tackle up to a value of 100 on behalf of TK Tackle.

We are overwhelmed by their generosity. I cannot adequately express how much the kindness of strangers has meant to us. Please know we appreciate each and every one of you.

Garrett has called the borough and the local police in case it gets turned in. We have hung signs in the park near the pond. We were there yesterday and scoured the pond and weeds around it.

Thank you to each and every person who has shared this post and sent us your kind words. We are still hoping for a kind human to contact us!

Feel free to contact me with any information.

Amy Cunningham facebook page to contact her <https://www.facebook.com/amy.cunningham.564>

You can also contact us as [susquehannatu@gmail.com](mailto:susquehannatu@gmail.com) and we will forward your messages.

# Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited - May 2024 Special Issue

## Chapter Contacts

### President

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### Vice President

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17ftkayak@gmail.com

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kevinmcjunkin@comcast.net

### Treasurer

Bob Baker  
boblbaker@comcast.net

### Board of Directors

Charlie Knowlden (2024)  
John Kolb (2024)  
Mike Ditchfield (2025)  
Joe Radley (2025)  
Bill Worobec (2026)  
Dave Walter (2026)

### Director Emeritus and Chapter Adviser

Dave Craig

### Chapter Advisor

Steve Szoke

### Past President / Financial Reviewer

Walt Nicholson

### Conservation/Legislative Affairs Chair

Dave Walters

### Membership

Bob Baker

### Service Partnership Coordinator

Charles Knowlden  
ckknow@comcast.net  
(570)971-1296

### Youth Committee

Wes Harvey Co Chair  
Asher Ulmer Co chair

### Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Bob Baker  
boblbaker@comcast.net

Web page: [susquehannatu.com](http://susquehannatu.com)  
Email: [susquehanntu@gmail.com](mailto:susquehanntu@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4, 2024 Opening day of Walleye and Sauger

May 4, 2024 Customer Appreciation day at Wolfes General Store / Slate Run Tackle

May 5, 2024 Dick Harner Kids Fishing Derby in Picture Rocks

May 23, 2024 PFBC Virtual Intro to Kayak Fishing Program (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206960>)

May 26, 2024 Fish for Free Day, no license required

June 1, 2024 Summer Membership meeting of the Slate Run Sportsmen. RSVP by May 25.  
<https://slaterunsportsmen.com/calendar/>. Bill Kosmer will be the Featured Presenter

June 8, 2024 Statewide Opening of Bass

June 29, 2024 PFBC Family Fishing Program at Rose Valley Lake (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206965>)

July 4, 2024 Fish for Free Day, no license required

September 7, 2024 Fall Membership meeting of the Slate Run Sportsmen. RSVP by August 31.  
<https://slaterunsportsmen.com/calendar/>

September 11, 2024 Chapter Meeting

September 29, 2024 National Hunting and Fishing Day Event at Bald Eagle State Park (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206966>)

October 9, 2024 Chapter Meeting

November 13, 2024 Chapter Meeting

## 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](mailto:susquehannatu@gmail.com) / [boblbaker@comcast.net](mailto:boblbaker@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





We're excited to hit the stream again this year for the *Sportsmen's Annual Dick Harner Kids' Trout Derby*, which will take place the first Sunday in May -- May 5, 2024.

Time: Registration begins at 12:15

Who: Kids 12 and under

Fishing Schedule by Age:

4 and Under: 1:00 - 1:30

5 and 6: 1:45 - 2:15

7, 8, 9: 2:30 - 3:00

10, 11, 12: 3:15 - 3:45

Food and refreshments available. Bring the whole family for a day by the stream.

Summary of rules. Complete rules provided at check-in.

We fish rain or shine with an exception for flooding.

Bait fishing only.

Limit 3 trout per child.

Keep all trout. No catch and release.

For more information, please see their webpage at <http://muncycreeks.org/index.php/kids-trout-derby/> or you can contact them at [MuncyCreeksSportsmen@gmail.com](mailto:MuncyCreeksSportsmen@gmail.com)



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## Slate Run Tackle Shop's first Customer Appreciation Day May 4, 2024



You will be able to try out the new Orvis Helios 4's and Pro LT waders. By doing so you will be entered to win a new pair of Pro LT waders

Vendors and groups include:

The Hughesville High School Fly Fishing Club will be demonstrating how to tie flies.

DCNR will have a tent with displays and outdoor recreation information for the area.

Slate Run Sportsmen members will be available.

Cassel Vineyards will have wine tasting.

Old owners Tom and Deb Finkbinder will be here along with fly fishing legend Joe Humphreys who will be stopping by to have lunch and say hi to everyone. It's going to be a great day in Slate Run!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 4, 2024 Opening day of Walleye and Sauger
- May 23, 2024 PFBC Virtual Intro to Kayak Fishing Program (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206960>)
- May 26, 2024 Fish for Free Day, no license required
- June 1, 2024 Summer Membership meeting of the Slate Run Sportsmen. RSVP by May 25. <https://slaterunsportsmen.com/calendar/>. Bill Kosmer will be the Featured Presenter
- June 8, 2024 Statewide Opening of Bass
- June 29, 2024 PFBC Family Fishing Program at Rose Valley Lake (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206965>)
- July 4, 2024 Fish for Free Day, no license required
- September 2, 2024 Last day of Regular Trout Fishing
- September 3, 2024 Extended Trout Season
- September 7, 2024 Fall Membership meeting of the Slate Run Sportsmen. RSVP by August 31. <https://slaterunsportsmen.com/calendar/>
- September 11, 2024 Chapter Meeting
- September 29, 2024 National Hunting and Fishing Day Event at Bald Eagle State Park (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/206966>)
- October 9, 2024 Chapter Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Chapter Meeting
- November 20, 2024 Virtual Intro to Ice Fishing by PFBC (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/211480>)



Do you want to go fishing, but don't have the equipment? Are you taking your kid's friends fishing but need another rod and reel?

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's fishing tackle loaner program is here to help! The program uses local hosts, like NPC, to get fishing gear into communities for people to borrow.

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited have teamed up to maintain the equipment and provide volunteers for some events.

We have spinning and fly rods available for you to borrow. The spinning rods are set-up and has a hook and bobber and you'll need to provide the bait, but we can provide some extra hooks and other tackle. The fly rods come with some flies.

Contact the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy and we'll set-up a time for you to pick up the equipment you need and return it. You can borrow it for a couple hours or a couple days. There is a form that needs filled out to initiate the loan. Give us a call at 570-323-6222 or email at [rcarey@npcweb.org](mailto:rcarey@npcweb.org). The hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 am until 4 pm.



April 20, 2024

Re: Notification – Draft Loyalsock Creek Stream Evaluation Report for Public Comment

Dear Sir or Madam:

Under 25 Pa. Code § 93.4d (relating to processing of petitions, evaluations and assessments to change a designated use) the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gives notice that the Loyalsock Creek Draft Stream Evaluation Report is available for public comment on DEP's website for a 45-day comment period. Any comments received on the draft report will be reviewed and considered in the evaluation.

The Loyalsock Creek (Lycoming and Sullivan Counties.) evaluation was conducted in response to a petition submitted by the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association and accepted by the Environmental Quality Board on February 19, 2008. The petitioner requested that the Loyalsock Creek mainstem be redesignated to High Quality – Trout Stocking from the Lycoming/Sullivan County line to the confluence with the West Branch Susquehanna River. Initial mainstem sample results coupled with the DEP's regional probabilistic data collection efforts April 30 – May 1, 2007, and April 25 – 27, 2006 indicated that the evaluation should be expanded to the entire basin. The Loyalsock Creek basin from the source to Pole Bridge Run is currently designated Cold-Water Fishes. The tributaries to Loyalsock Creek from and including Pole Bridge Run to the confluence with the West Branch Susquehanna River are currently designated High Quality - Cold Water Fishes, with the exception of several named tributaries that are currently designated Exceptional Value. The Double Run, High Rock Run and Little Loyalsock Creek basins are currently designated Cold-Water Fishes. Kettle Creek and Noon Branch Wolf Run basins are currently designated Exceptional Value and Mill Creek East and Mill Creek West basins located in Loyalsock Township are currently designated Trout Stocking.

The draft report is available for review on the DEP's eComment website at [www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment](http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment).

The Department has asked all relevant local jurisdictions to make a copy of this notification available to any and all interested citizens, including those who own real property in the relevant municipalities and to any other parties the municipalities believe may be interested in these evaluations and draft reports.

Interested persons may submit written comments on this draft report through Tuesday, June 4, 2024. All comments, including comments submitted by e-mail must include the commenter's name and address. Commenters are encouraged to submit comments using the Department's online eComment tool at [www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment](http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment) or by e-mail to [ecomment@pa.gov](mailto:ecomment@pa.gov).

Bureau of Clean Water  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Fl | Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717.787.5017 | [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov)

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April 20, 2024

Written comments can be mailed to Department of Environmental Protection, Policy Office, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063. All comments received on the draft report during the public comment period will be reviewed and considered in the Department's evaluation. For further information, please contact Mark Brickner, Water Quality Division, at [mbrickner@pa.gov](mailto:mbrickner@pa.gov) or (717) 787-9637.

Persons in need of accommodations as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact Mark Brickner directly at (717) 787-9637 or through the Pennsylvania Hamilton Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD users) or (800) 654-5988 (voice users) to discuss how the Department may accommodate their needs.

Sincerely,

Michael (Josh) Lookenbill  
Program Manager  
Water Quality Division



# TO FISH OR NOT TO FISH

## WATER THERMOMETER



### ABOVE 68°F

Too hot for trout!

Trout are feeling stressed and need a break. Mortality chances increase, even with proper catch-and-release. Try finding an alternative location to fish or try again when it cools down.



### 65°F - 68°F

Trout are slowing down and feeling the heat.

Rope up with heavier tippet to land the fish quicker. Keep them wet and skip the pictures to minimize their time out of the water. Be patient, they may need more time to revive before releases.

### BELOW 65°F

Trout are happy, hungry and ready for a fight!

You can feel confident that the fish will survive after proper catch-and-release.





**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.

[www.tu.org/join044Susquehanna](http://www.tu.org/join044Susquehanna)

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**