



# East Branch

Newsletter of the  
Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club

March 13, 2010

Volume 15, Issue 2

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## Did You Know?

- American Shad once used the East Branch of the Brandywine as their spawning grounds
- Fish have been on Earth for more than 450 million years
- The Philippine Goby is less than 1/3 of an inch long when fully grown



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## **\*\* Attention BTCC Members \*\***

**All 2009 Memberships will expire  
on March 20, 2010!!**

## **B.T.C.C. Kids Fishing Clinic**

The annual Kids Fishing Clinic will be held at the Moose Lodge in Downingtown on March 27 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Admission to the clinic is free and it will start at 9 am and will be over around 12:00 pm. There will be a short break during the clinic and at that time hot dogs and drinks will be available.

Water Conservation Officer Bob Bonney will be on hand to go over the basic fishing regulations. Mike Skurecki is back in town with the SMART Angler Program and will have some educational lessons. There will also be various presentations that cover different aspects of fishing and enjoying the outdoors. Joe Petrella will have his little aquarium full of different aquatic species such as nymphs, crayfish, minnows, and possibly some mud puppies!!

Bucky Urbine will be demonstrating different ways to clean Trout and prepare them for cooking. Tom Prusak will also be at the BTCC Kids Clinic. Tom is great with the kids and has a wonderful slideshow every year, so you can look forward to another great one this year.

## **B.T.C.C. Kids Only Trout Rodeo**

On Saturday April 17 from 8am—3pm the BTCC will be holding it's second annual Kids Only Trout Rodeo. The event will be free to children 15 yrs of age and younger. Please register at the Pavilion. BTCC Junior memberships will also be available for \$10.00 each and will include a pass for the rodeo.

Average size Trout along with some Trophy Trout will be stocked in Kerr Park at the Lower Rodeo Hole, and the Pavilion upstream to the Buttonwoods. The kids involved with the rodeo should attempt their own casting and landing of fish with limited help from their parents. This event is for the kids to learn the basic skills of angling and to help them gain a sense of accomplishment and pride.

BTCC members will be available to lend parents and children a hand with casting, baiting of the hook, landing of Trout, and any other help that may be required. Fish cleaning will also be available for a small fee.

Our club has very few junior members and as most of you know, valuable outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, are not being included into their lives. Our club aims to promote not only fishing, but also encourages respect and responsibility for the natural world that provides us with sustenance.



## President's Message by Rich Lutz

The Trout in our hatcheries have been growing nicely through the winter and have gone on a feeding frenzy the last few weeks with the warmer temperatures. As always there are a variety of sizes due to varying growth rates, but the majority of the trout are thick, 10"—12" long, with a few larger fish in the mix.

On Saturday January 29, a great group of dedicated members showed up at Kerr Park and volunteered some time out of their already busy lives to help clear the leaves away from the raceway. The grates in the raceway and above the raceway were cleaned as well. The "ponds" above the raceway were also cleared of leaves and it made a big difference with the water flow and should help the water temperature warm a bit during the day. Myself and F.J. thank those of you who helped and put in a good, honest day of work. Due to the amount of people who showed up, a job that would typically take 6 hrs only took 2 hours.

I'd like to thank the members that have volunteered their personal time to help feed the Trout in our hatcheries during the past year. It was good to see the same core group of members and also some new faces too. Without your help the trout would not be the size they are year after year.

The 2010 Chester County Trout season should be a great year as far as water flow is concerned. The snowfall that mother nature provided us this past winter has been keeping the streams full due to the slow melt. The East Branch of the Brandywine and Beaver Creek should be full of water throughout April into May and I'm sure we will get a few showers to keep the systems charged.

The water will be quite cold on opening day so please adjust your tactics for slow moving, lethargic trout. Sleeping in and waiting until the afternoon sun warms up the water temperature a few degrees is always a good bet, but there is nothing wrong with the tradition of getting up at the crack of dawn to get a spot at your favorite honey hole.

The Members Only Rodeo will be a two day event held on Saturday May 8 From 8am - 8pm and Sunday May 9 8am - 4pm. There is some work that will be necessary prior to the rodeo and I would like to ask any and all of you to volunteer some time to help your club. I would like to ask those of you that help to please do not build any dams that negatively effect our stream improvement work and impede fish movement.

Also, the biggest complaint from landowners every year is trash on their property. Please take care of our local streams and if you pack it in, pack it out. Fishing on someone's property is a privilege, not a right. Even if the trash isn't yours, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. We don't need the actions of a few to ruin stream access for everyone. If you see someone littering please call the necessary authorities.

### **\*\* B.T.C.C. Members Only Rodeo \*\***

The Members Only Rodeo will be a two day event held on Saturday, May 8 from 8am - 8pm and Sunday, May 9 from 8am - 4pm. Tickets for this years event will be \$25 for adult members and \$10 for junior members. Tickets are good for both days. Guest passes will be available for \$30 per day. Guests must be sponsored by a 2010 BTCC member. Anyone 16 years old and over must have a valid 2010 fishing license with a PA Trout stamp.

Tickets will be available to 2010 BTCC members through the mail. Applications for tickets will be available after March 17th. Check the BTCC website for updates and printable application form.

**The Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is scheduled for Saturday March 20, 2009. Meet at the Kerr Park Shed at 9:00am. Our adopted cleanup section is 3 miles in length and runs along RT. 282 from Dorlan's Mill Rd. to Lyndell. The more the merrier and it will get done faster.**

### **!! HELP THE BTCC SAVE SOME MONEY !!**

**Include your email on the 2010 membership form to receive BTCC Newsletters by email. They are in color too!!**



## B.T.C.C. Club Report

### 2010 BTCC Officers

**President** - Rich Lutz      **Secretary** - Ted Nawalinski

**Vice President** - Barry Hines      **Treasurer** - Jim Gilpin

**Membership Chairman**- Kevin McLaren

**Nursery Manager** - F.J. Paul

**Newsletter & Website** - Frank Swarner

### **Reminder**

**2010 BTCC  
Membership  
Renewals are due**

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#### To report fishing law violations

PF & BC - Southeast Region  
717-626-0228

Monday - Friday 8AM to 4PM

#### To report an incident of water pollution or a fish kill

PF & BC clean water hotline  
800-854-7365 (24 hrs)

DEP  
484-250-5900 (24 hrs)

For major accidents or water  
pollution call 911 and asked them  
to contact the Local Waterways  
Conservation Officer

## Kids Fishing Tips

Dorsey Gibson of Eagle Claw/Wright & McGill says: "Keep in mind a youngster's short attention span when taking them fishing. Let them use light tackle, go after small panfish when just learning to fish, and start them out fishing with bobbers."

"After catching a few fish, it is always a good idea to strip off a few feet of line and re-tie your lure or hook. Fish can damage your line with their teeth and rough gill covers," says Jim George, field services manager at Pure Fishing/Trilene.

A very important bit of advice comes from Roger Bills at G3 Boats in Lebanon, Missouri, who says, "Water safety should always come first. Youngsters who can't swim should always wear a PFD (Personal Floatation Device) when they are near the water, in or out of a boat. One simple investment that always pays off is to teach your child to swim."

Zebco spokesman Gary Dollahon provides this fishing tip: "For youngsters just getting started, try a packaged rod and reel that's just the right size for their little hands. And remember, spending time with the kids in the great outdoors is meant to be fun . . . catching fish is just a bonus!"

If the fish suddenly stop biting, but you know they are around, downgrade your bait and change your retrieval speed. A lot of times the bait or lure needs to be slowed down for bigger fish.

If you like fishing rubber worms but they keep sliding off the hook, try using super glue. They will hold on longer.

From the people at Berkley in Sprit Lake, Iowa, comes an interesting tip for young and old alike: "When casting artificial lures, don't forget to "sweeten" your lure occasionally with a little piece of nightcrawler or PowerBait for that extra edge."

The folks at Igloo Camping pass along this suggestion that's really good for youngsters and their parents: "For obvious reasons, always take along sunscreen and insect repellent. Follow the product recommendations for application, then be sure to wash your hands thoroughly before baiting your hook."



## National Saltwater Angler Registry

Saltwater recreational fishermen have long expressed concerns about the data used to estimate the effects of recreational fishing on ocean resources and the nation's economy. The National Saltwater Angler Registry, which launches on Friday, will help address that concern by providing a comprehensive list of the nation's saltwater anglers that will be used to improve surveys of fishermen. These surveys are used by NOAA scientists to assess the health of fish stocks and to estimate the economic contributions of anglers.

Many saltwater recreational fishermen will be required to register before fishing in 2010. The registry is open for registrations starting Friday, January 1. But if you have a state saltwater fishing license, you may already be part of the registry.

"By registering, recreational anglers will make their catch count," said Jim Balsiger, acting NOAA assistant administrator for [NOAA's Fisheries Service](#). "The National Saltwater Angler Registry is an important tool that will enable us to better estimate the health of marine fisheries so that we're able to preserve the pastime of recreational saltwater fishing for generations to come."

"Recreational fishers need the registry," says Capt. Monty Hawkins, a party boat operator and recreational fishing advocate based in Ocean City, Md. "People's lives depend on the quality of the government's information. It's the basis for management decisions on everything from creel limits to whether to shut down whole sections of the coast. I've been harshly critical of recreational fishing data in the past, but I welcome the registry as a way to improve upon the current system."

Gordon Colvin, a biologist with NOAA's Fisheries Service and interim senior policy advisor on recreational fishing to Balsiger, who has spearheaded the registry implementation, said that many anglers will not need to take any action to register, because their coastal states already have agreements in place with NOAA to share state saltwater fishing license information.

National Saltwater Angler registration is free in 2010. To register, anglers can visit [NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program](#) and click on the Angler Registry link, or call the toll-free registration line at 1-888-MRIP411 (1-888-674-7411) from 4:00 am to 12 midnight EST daily.

Anglers will need to provide their name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and will receive a registration number that will allow them to begin fishing immediately. They will receive a registration card in the mail in about 30 days.

The registry will be used as the basis for conducting surveys of saltwater recreational fishermen to find out how often they fish. It will eventually replace the use of random-digit dialing to coastal households, a system NOAA has had in place since the 1970s. The goal is to improve survey efficiency and reduce bias by making calls only to homes where people fish, and reaching saltwater anglers who live outside coastal counties.

### **Who Needs to Register:**

Recreational saltwater fishermen will need to register if they:

- Hold a license from one of 10 coastal states or territories which do not currently have comprehensive saltwater angler license or registration requirements—Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Fish for or are likely to catch anadromous species in tidal and salt waters; these are fish like river herring, shad, smelt and striped bass that live in the oceans but spawn in fresh water, OR  
Fish in the federal waters more than three miles from the ocean shore or from the mouths of rivers or bays.

**Please be sure to sponsor your Trophy Trout no later than Saturday  
March 20, 2010**



## 2009 Maryland Shad Report

The Alosa project targets American and hickory shad and river herring (blueback and alewife herring). Monitoring for these species has occurred in several major tributaries including the Nanticoke and Susquehanna rivers but stock assessment data is also analyzed from the main Bay and other tributaries.

Data collected from this project determines adult American shad stock status and biological reference points for all four species in Maryland. This project also assesses the status of American shad restoration projects in select tributaries. Successful return of Alosa adults, reproduction, and juvenile survival are an indicator of ecosystem health, in the Bay and the ocean.

Adult American shad and river herring have declined to very low levels in the main Bay and tributaries and efforts to restore these species has had little effect, although there were increases for American shad abundance in 2009. The cumulative causes for the overall decline include overfishing, predation, and loss of habitat and ocean bycatch.

Hickory shad abundance remains high in established rivers including Deer Creek and the data collected from some of these fish shows a very good distribution of ages and low mortality. Hickory shad survival may be better than the other Alosa species because of their very early spawning season and their tendency to hug the Atlantic Coast, possibly reducing their exposure to predation and commercial fishing operations.

## New PF & BC Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has a new executive director. In a special meeting held via conference, commissioners chose North Huntingdon native John Arway to replace Doug Austen as head of the agency.

The 57-year-old Arway was selected from among four finalists. He becomes the commission's 10th executive director. A 30-year veteran of the commission, Arway has been serving as chief of the environmental services division within the bureau of fisheries.

Commission president Tom Shetterly of Charleroi expressed the board's faith in him in a prepared statement. "John brings a wealth of professional experience and institutional knowledge to the executive director post," Shetterly said. "He is an avid angler, boater and hunter with a passion for the outdoors. He embraces the resource first management philosophy and understands that only by protecting aquatic resources can we accomplish the other part of our mission, which is to also provide fishing and boating opportunities."

Arway said he has three main goals going forward. First, he wants to settle on a new contract with the commission's waterways conservation officers. Second, he wants to improve employee morale. Third — and this will be the biggest challenge, he admitted — he wants to secure a perpetual source of alternative funding for the commission.



129 Pottstown Pike  
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locations, meeting  
places, and times.

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### Upcoming Events

#### March 19

WCFG&WA "Pocono  
Wildlife Rehabilitaion &  
Education Center,"  
6:30pm @ the Fugett  
Middle School Gymnasium

#### March 20

BTCC Adopt-A-Highway  
Cleanup program

#### March 27

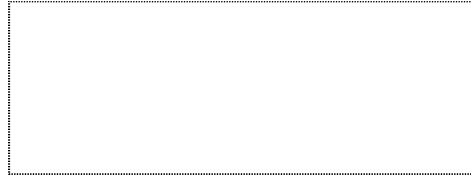
BTCC Kids Fishing Clinic  
@ the Moose in D'town

#### April 3

Regional Opening Day of  
Trout Season

#### April 17

Opening Day of Trout  
Season



### B.T.C.C. Membership & Trophy Trout Sponsor Form

Check one :  Renewal  New Member

\$10.00 Junior (under 16)  \$40.00 Family Membership - list each name for individual cards

\$25.00 Adult  \$10.00 Lifetime Senior {over 65 and member in good standing for 10 yrs.}

**Trophy Trout Sponsor:** I wish to Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ (#) Trophy Trout @ \$25.00 per fish

"East Branch" Stream Map \$2.00 each

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address for Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Make Checks payable and mail to :

**B.T.C.C. , P.O. Box 32, Downingtown, Pa. 19335**

**Join Today—Support the Brandywine Trout & Conservation Club**

**"PASS ONE ALONG TO A FRIEND"**