



News & Views

West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association

December 2014

Fall Meeting A Success

Our Fall Meeting was held on Thursday evening, September 18th at the Paradise Farm Camp Dining Hall. Member turnout for the event was rather disappointing with less than 50 total attendees; however everyone present had a great time.

Guest speaker Tom Tatum, local sportsman and columnist, treated us to an excellent presentation on archery hunting strategy and safety. Tom is an engaging and entertaining speaker with years of archery experience. Everyone present, hunters and non-hunters alike, enjoyed learning more about this sport and also of Tom's personal experiences.



The results of the drawing for our general raffle prizes are as follows: 1) New 42" Flat screen television – Mike Philips ;2) 84 assorted hand tied flies by Jim Clark in Perrine Box – Joe Armstrong; 3) New Large Plano tackle box containing new and like-new vintage fishing lures – Matt Estberg; 4) One-day fly-fishing instruction school for two participants with VFTU held in May of 2015 – Dr. W.B Amand; 5) New Cortland 9' Graphite Fly rod, vintage Pflueger reel with fly-line – Joe Armstrong; 6) \$100 cash prize – Bob Rogers. The special raffle for the Remington Model 1100 Shotgun was won by Mike Patterson.

Our silent auction went very well thanks to the generosity of our bidders and donors of some great items.

Our winter *Membership Meeting* will be held on January 16, 2015 at 7 pm at the East Bradford Township Building. Our guest speaker will be Cheri Towne, author of the book "A River Again", which focuses on the massive environmental cleanup and de-silting efforts performed on the Schuylkill River during the mid-20th century. We look forward to seeing you there.



A Conversation with Our Fish and Boat and Game Commission Officers



WCFGWA sat down with Conservation Officers Robert J. Bonney and Keith Mullin to learn about their responsibilities and roles in our community.



WCFGWA: What are your responsibilities?

Bonney: I am the Northern Chester Co District officer and I am responsible for policing all the PA waterways, lakes, the rivers. We are the State Police of the waterways. My district boundaries are Route 322 all the way north to the county line.

Mullin: My district covers Southern Chester County. Bob's district and my district overlap just in the area where your club meets. We are the State Police of fields and forests. My district is just south of Business 30. My northern boundary starts at the Lancaster County line, then Highland, West and East Fallowfield, West and East Bradford, then I jump down to West Goshen, Westtown, Thornbury and back to the Lancaster County line. *(continued on page 3)*

Events Calendar

January 16, 2015

Membership Meeting

December 26, 2014 –

January 24, 2015

Deer Antlerless –
Extended Regular Firearms in Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia counties

April 18, 2015

Chip Gibson Trout Rodeo

May 16, 2015

Trout Rodeo

June 20, 2015

Bass Rodeo



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Treasurer's Report

By Bernie McGovern

**Financial Status as of
September 30, 2014**

Income YTD	\$13,906
Expenses YTD	\$10,557
Checking	\$12,971
CD Savings	\$12,527
Savings	\$5,690
Life Savings	\$7,674

WCFG&WA Officers**2014-2015****President**—Gary Dunn**Vice President**—Larry Athens**Secretary**—George Poole**Treasurer**—Bernie McGovern**Exec. Committee 2014-15**

Larry Athens, Gary Dunn, Don Finn, John Johnson, Mark Kershaw (Jr. Mem.), Bernie McGovern, George Poole, Liz Rutter, Glade Squires, Arlene Stewart, Fletcher Swanson, Rick Waltz, Sr., Ricky Waltz, Jr. (Jr. Mem.)

Exec. Committee 2013-14

Deborah Athens, Mike Colley, Matthew Estberg, Steve Estberg, Andy Madsen, A. J. Miller, Jim Semetti



**Turn In A
Poacher Or
Litterer**

**Call W.C.O.
Bob Bonney**

610-637-6398

Stream Improvement Day - by Andy Madsen

We had a great turnout at our workday on September 13th. The rock deflector work on the stream and the nursery maintenance were all completed, despite frequent rain showers, by early afternoon thanks to volunteers from WCFGWA, VFTU and The



Vanguard Group. Paradise Farm Camp provided lunch for all the volunteers at their dining hall. A future project will be to place some soil between the rocks placed along the stream to improve safety for walking and fishing in the spring. Many thanks to all of our volunteers for a great day!

**Nursery Report - by Mike Colley**

Our trout were delivered on October 2, 2014 and approximately 20 enthusiastic



volunteers turned out to help transfer the fish to our nursery. We received 2,000 Brown Trout; 1,000 Rainbow Trout and 50 Golden Rainbow Trout. The fish are doing well, with very few losses, despite the extremely low water flow of only 30 gallons per



minute, down from 110 gallons per minute last year at this time. Alan Keim, from PA Fish and Boat, inspected the nursery and measured our fish on October 8th. The average size of our fish is 7.1" for the Rainbows, 7.46" for the Browns and 14" for the Golden Rainbows. Many thanks all of our volunteers who came out to help.

**Project Healing Waters**

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. Volunteers provide their time and expertise at least twice a month on the first and third Mondays each month from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at the Coatesville VA Medical Center. Volunteers are wanted to share their fly fishing passion. For more information on how you can become involved in this wonderful program, please contact Chuck Cutshall of the Valley Forge chapter of Trout Unlimited at chuck_cutshall@ml.com. More information on Project Healing Waters can be found at www.projecthealingwaters.org.

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Bonney: Pennsylvania is the only state where the agencies are separate. Even though we are separate, in the wintertime I do game law and in the summer time Game assists us with fish and boat issues. We are both conservation officers. We can arrest you for any crimes code violation. Fish and Boat and the Game Commission have their own separate conservation schools. While Fish and Boat cadets graduate from the Pennsylvania State Police academy, Game commission holds their police academy in-house.

Mullin: What keeps us separate more than anything is that Bob enforces Title 30 which is the Fish and Boat code and I enforce Title 34, which is the Game and Wildlife code, and yet in both of those codes, there is a section of law that says this code is also enforceable by Waterways Conservation officers. So those laws give us the ability to enforce the other code.

WCFGWA: *What is the most common violation you see?*

Bonney: Lifejacket is the most common ticket I write. Then fishing license violations. Special regulations violations such as fishing with bait or taking fish, only because I have more special regulation areas.

Mullin: Believe it or not, wearing orange. Then a tremendous amount of safety zone complaints, then license violations, which covers a whole host of issues such as having a license or not, is it your buddy's license, whether you have a migratory game stamp or a Federal duck stamp or it's not signed. Basically, if you have one violation, you will find several more. Oh, and not signing a Federal duck stamp. It must be signed in ink across the front to be valid.



WCFGWA: *What is your busiest time of year?*

Bonney: All year round! It ramps up in February for fish stocking. I stock the special regulation areas in early February. Then spring when we are stocking streams and May, June, July and August for fishing season and boating. There are just more people out in the summer. I have boating accidents, boating under the influence violations, all kinds of violations. And when I am not busy, I help out the Game Commission officers.

Mullin: It is hectic all year round, and chaos during gun season for deer. Hunters are wearing orange so the public sees more and of course *BOOM*, you hear them. And when I am slow, I help out Fish and Boat.

Bonney: We have, in Chester County, an exceptional crew of officers who work well together. We can call each other for help. We serve search warrants together. We consider ourselves a family because there are so few of us. We also have a great relationship with the local municipal police departments and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Mullin: My district is very rural. If the State Police respond to an incident, for instance, where there is an issue for which I need to be involved, the State Police will stay on scene until I can get there.

WFGWA: *Are there any environmental issues you look for?*

Bonney: Pollution is easy. It is rare to not know who is polluting. Locally there are people who dump on Clover Mill Road. If you see debris, look for something that identifies who that person was. Buck Plank, one of your club members, called me often to report dumpers. He was responsible for the collection of thousands of dollars in fines from people who illegally dumped debris.

Mullin: I look for the same thing—polluters and dumpers, especially in rural areas.

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

WCFGWA: What can groups like the Club do to help you?

Bonney: Help us during stocking season. Report violators in the proper way. For instance, don't confront violators. Be discreet. Get a license plate number, take a picture with your phone or write down the license plate number. The thing to be concerned with fishermen, unlike hunters who obviously carry firearms, is that fishermen do carry knives. And call us. You can call my personal cell phone at 610-637-6398.

Mullin: Absolutely. Fill out a Violation Report Form (*located on page 77 of this year's Hunting and Trapping Digest*). The form will work for Fish and Boat, as well. As much of that kind of information as possible should be attained. Note the date and time and a description of what the violator did. Look at the violator through your binoculars, not your scope! Note the date, time and a description. The big one is a vehicle description and license plate number. That puts the violator there. The biggest thing is to just make the call. Don't tell the violator! And don't wait. If you wait, our opportunity to find any kind of physical evidence to corroborate is long gone. Call our dispatch center at 610-926-3136 or 610-926-3137 and we will get the message.

Violation Report Form	
Use this form to record as much information as possible.	
Nature of Violation _____	
Date _____	Time _____
Location _____	
Suspect's Name _____	
Weight _____	Height _____ Hair _____ Eyes _____
Customer ID Number (CID) _____	
Vehicle License Number _____	
Year _____	Make _____ Color _____
Distinguishing Features _____	
Wildlife Involved _____	
Evidence _____	
Type of Firearm _____	
Other Information _____	
Your Phone Number _____	

Probably one of the biggest volunteer things that I deal with is Hunter trapper education. Many of your club members are certified education instructors on my roster. I rely on them to organize and schedule the class. I give them the materials and equipment they need and my time. I teach the law, teach ethics and answer any questions. They are helping me. Without them there wouldn't be many hunter trapper education courses. I enjoy working with them. Your club sponsors a class. This year it was held at the Paradise Farm Camp. The Club has been sponsoring a class since I've been in this district. Let's face it, the hunter population is shrinking. In my opinion, hunter ed instructors are doing their best to stop that trend and reverse it. Enrollment has increased in the past few years. Those classes are very important, because you have to take one in order to legally get your first license.

WFGWA: Is there anything you both would like to add?

Mullin: We are both available and happy to come talk to groups of all ages. We routinely go to schools and meetings of groups like yours.



In Appreciation

Art Colley, longtime resident director of Paradise Farm Camps passed away on July 15, 2014 at the age of 101. Art had a long-term relationship with West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife, as well as with Shadyside Sportsmen's Farmer Association. "Unc", as he was referred to by family and friends, was key in securing permission for the construction of the Co-op Trout Nursery along Ravine Road. This nursery, which is sponsored by W.C. Fish, Game and Wildlife, has been in continuous operation since 1964. He was also responsible for West Valley Creek to be opened to the public for fishing. Shadyside Farmers Sportsman Conservation League has been hunting pheasant on the camp since 1957. Art not only retired as the Camp director but also as a Professor at Cheyney University and a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Randall S. Evans, an active member of WCFGWA for six years, passed away suddenly on September 5, 2014. 'Randy' was an avid hunter and fisherman his entire life. He joined our club in 2008 to participate in our stream improvement work and also to pass on his love of the outdoors to his son and daughter. He supported all of our programs through generous monetary donations and by offering his time whenever possible. He will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him.

James Startzell died September 8, 2014 from injuries received in an accident five years ago. James is the son of Larry Startzell, a past President of the WCFGWA and a good friend to all. We send our condolences to all of the Startzell family.

Kids in the Wild

We want to hear about your adventures fishing, hunting and wildlife watching! So please email your stories and pictures to News & Views at wcfgwa@gmail.com and receive an official WCFGWA T-shirt!

Lake Ontario Fishing Charter - July 8th, 2014 by Rick Hogg



Nick With King Salmon

was the largest fish Nick has ever fought and he found out quickly that it takes some work. We coached him through the do's & don'ts of his line management and he did well with preventing too much slack. Fortunately he was able to land the first salmon he's taken on.

After a stormy Monday, Tuesday morning July 8th dawned calm and almost wind-free. Our family departed before 6 am on a charter boat from the Lighthouse Marina on Lake Ontario, near Pulaski, NY. As we headed-out to 6 -7 miles off-shore, we steadily saw the Lowrance depth-finder reach 160 feet. Our local guide set up eight rods off of down-riggers at depths of 100 to 120 feet, in hopes of getting into some Chinook salmon, more commonly known as King salmon. Within half an hour, one of the rods fired and we quickly grabbed it, but there was nothing to show for it. Our guide was in contact with other charter captains and there were a few Kings landed on other boats nearby, so we adjusted course a little and it paid off.

The preferred trolling speed is 2 - 2.5 mph, so it takes some time to cover the water where boats are getting into fish. Within an hour of the first strike, it was my son Nick's turn to grab a rod when a nice 20 pound King nailed the green glow fly trailing behind a green e-chip at 105 feet. It



Nick with Lake Trout

During the next few hours, I landed a 13-14 pound King and Nick had another 20 pounder almost to the boat when some slack line contributed to it getting off. It was generally a slow morning on the lake, even for early July when salmon fishing is just starting to come-in. When we were bringing our lines in, late morning, we had a nice strike that Nick picked-up. He ended up landing a nice lake trout to finish up our morning trip. Overall, we had a great time despite it being a little slow. Had we only targeted trout, our fish numbers would have been much higher. We were happy to target Kings since boats in the area were getting into them.



Rick with King Salmon

If anyone has interest in Lake Ontario fishing, August, September and October are the peak months for salmon. In addition to Kings, Coho and Atlantic salmon are very real possibilities to land. There are also football-size brown trout and very large steelhead and lake trout. Our guide has chartered numerous trips with lake trout approaching 30 pounds and King salmon around 40 pounds. Aside from the lake, Pulaski, NY is home to the world-famous Salmon

River which has a huge salmon spawning migration up-river each fall. After the salmon run, the brown trout and steelhead follow them in to clean-up on the eggs until spring. It's truly an Alaskan-type fishing experience at a fraction of the cost. I've fished the Salmon River in the fall the last four years and I'm open to answering questions if anyone is thinking it's something they would like to experience.

If you have any questions for Rick or Nick, please email them to wcfgwa@gmail.com.



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The year 2014 marks 101 years that our family has been in the auto repair business. That's a lot of years, a lot of Phillies games, a lot of stories of survival, a lot of experiences and friendships that have stood the test of time. Yes, the family business can survive and thrive in America today!

We strive to provide the finest quality auto repair and the best possible service available anywhere. If you've been a customer before, we'd like to thank you for making our progress possible. If you haven't, come on in, we're waiting for you.

Sincerely,
Steve & Dawn Wiley
610-436-8800



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West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association

Membership Application

Date: _____

Full Name (Please Print Clearly)

New Renewal

Address:

Regular \$25.00

City, State, Zip:

Family \$30.00

Telephone No.:

Junior \$10.00

E-Mail Address:

Life \$250.00

Donation \$ _____

Make your check payable to:
West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 511
West Chester, PA 19381-0511



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West Chester, PA 19381-0511



Upcoming Events

Executive Committee
meets the second Monday
of each month at the East
Bradford Township Building.

January 16, 2015
Membership Meeting

April, 18, 2015
Chip Gibson Trout Rodeo

May 16, 2015
Trout Rodeo

June 20, 2015
Bass Rodeo

Please remember to send
your email to:
wcfqwa@gmail.com

