



# News & Views

West Chester Fish  
Game & Wildlife  
Association

December 2015

## Sink Holes Open Up In West Valley Creek Area Above DHAL Wire Off Limits

Several very large sinkholes opened up on West Valley Creek immediately above the DHAL wire, WCO Bob Bonney reported. "This presents a very dangerous and potentially fatal situation for anglers who frequent the area. So for the time being the area is now off limits until this dangerous situation is eliminated." The area has been posted and roped off. Anyone found within this area will be arrested and face charges for criminal trespass. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) are actively investigating the cause of the sink holes.

Hanson Aggregates has agreed to assist West Whiteland Township and the property owner with repairs to the sink holes.

The DEP and the PFBC are also investigating a long stretch in the middle of the stream that became bone dry over the summer.

We will keep you informed in future newsletters as more information becomes available.



## Annual Fall Meeting a Success

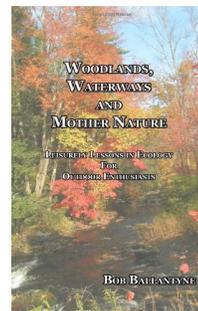
The annual Fall Meeting was held September 18th at Paradise Farm Camp. Members enjoyed fellowship, delicious desserts and were able to bid on silent auction items, participate in a raffle and enter to win a basket of cheer. Glade Squires won the raffle for the Remington Model 1100 shotgun. Congratulations Glade!



Our special guest speaker was Bob Ballantyne. Bob gave an entertaining and informative talk entitled *The Fish and the Fisherman in Yellowstone National Park*, containing a lot of information on where to go in Yellowstone National Park from a trout fishing perspective. Bob's comments were en-

hanced by many beautiful pictures of his favorite spots to fish in Yellowstone.

Bob is a lifelong outdoorsman and fly-fisherman. He is a member of the PA Outdoors Writers Association and is the author of *Woodlands, Waterways and Mother Nature*, published in 2012.



## Events Calendar

January 14, 2016

Membership Meeting

December 26-Jan. 23

Deer, Antlerless, Extended Regular Firearms

March 26, 2016

Trout Stocking

April 2, 2016

Regional Opening Day

April 15, 2016

Trout Stocking

April 16, 2016

Statewide Opening Day  
Chip Gibson Trout Rodeo

May 20, 2016

Trout Stocking

May 21, 2016

Dave Heller Trout Rodeo

June 11, 2016

Art Colley Bass Rodeo



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**Treasurer's Report**

By Bernie McGovern

**Financial Status as of  
October 2015**

Income YTD	\$9,907
Expenses YTD	\$7,030
Checking	\$14,026
CD Savings	\$12,542
Savings	\$5,693
Life Savings	\$8,178

**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, Bernie McGovern, George Poole, Liz Rutter, Glade Squires, Arlene Stewart, Fletcher Swanson, Rick Waltz, Sr., Ricky Waltz, Jr. (Jr. Mem.)

**Exec. Committee 2015-16**

Deborah Athens, Mike Colley, Matthew Estberg, Steve Estberg, Colin Finn (Jr. Mem.), Elizabeth Kershaw (Jr. Mem.), Andy Madsen, A. J. Miller, John Rickards, Jim Semetti

**Nursery Report - by Mike Colley**

Thursday, October 1st we received 1000 Brown trout, 1000 Rainbow trout, 1000



*Courtesy of Ted Walke  
PA Fish & Boat Commission*

Brook trout and 50 Golden trout at the nursery. The Browns averaged 5.6 inches in length, the Brooks averaged 6 to 7 inches, the Rainbows averaged 6 to 7 inches and the Goldens averaged 9 to 10 inches. With the help of our friends from T.U., we unloaded the fish in a record time of 30 minutes.

The nursery was inspected Wednesday, October 21st by Brian McHail, Unit Leader of the PFBC Cooperative Nursery Unit. The pH of the water was 7. Dissolved oxygen in pen 1 was 11.6 and 10.63 in pen 2. Our water flow was only 60 gallons per minute, which is very low and not good for this time of the year. Twenty five of each species of trout were measured. The results are as follows: Brook trout 7.3", Rainbow 7.7", Brown 6.7" and the Goldens 10.2". As you can see they are growing at a good rate.

There was a small problem in late October and early November with the Browns. We lost about 100 fish. Under the direction of Allen Keim, Fisheries Technician of the Coop Unit, we salted and cut down on the amount of the food. Low water flow and a build-up of waste may have contributed to the problem.

Many thanks to the feeding gang of Tony, Betsey, Rick, Jeff, Debbie, Paul, George and Neil and family for doing a great job.

**WCFGWA In the Community**

The Club participated in several community events this year including the following:

**Earth Fair—April 24th, West Chester University**

The fair brought together WCU campus clubs, local environmental groups and eco-friendly businesses in the area, including the VF Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County, among many others.

**Kids Fest—June 13th, Great Valley Middle School**

This family-centered event, organized by Representative Duane Milne, included activities sponsored by many local clubs, service organizations, and educational entities. Families also enjoyed other activities including face painting, a Philadelphia Zoo show, a special appearance by Captain America, and an indoor slide, to name just a few.



*Peter and Ryder Kim*

**Volunteer Fair—Sept. 16th, West Chester University**

West Chester University hosted the Fall Volunteer Fair on September 16th. University students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to meet representatives from local non-profit agencies and explore local service opportunities. The Volunteer Fair seeks to connect students, staff, and faculty with community partners and included more than 50 community agencies from a variety of non-profit and governmental agencies, including WCFGWA and VFTU.



*George Poole (left) & John Johnson*

**Turn In A  
Poacher Or  
Litterer**

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

**610-637-6398**

# Stream Improvement Continues - by Steve Estberg



On Saturday September 19 another work party was held in our ongoing program for the improvement of West Valley Creek. We were supported by an energetic group of volunteers from West Chester Fish & Game, Trout Unlimited and Vanguard Corp. After a full day of work we were able to complete the improvement projects identified earlier in the year



by Tyler Neimond, Habitat Engineer PA Fish & Boat Commission. These projects included reinforcing the willow tree at the cross vane deflector and refurbishing with additional rock an existing stone deflector.



What made this work day unique from previous work was that two new deflectors were created which utilized large tree trunks which had naturally fallen into the stream. The tree trunks were slightly repositioned to a more functional angle, pinned in place with rebar and reinforced with rock.



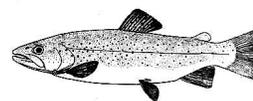
by rock via a "rock brigade". Hard work for sure but the results were worth the effort. We now have two new deflectors utilizing natural material and

Two of the projects were on the nursery side of the stream which meant that the reinforcing rock had to be transported



two existing deflectors refurbished with additional rock. We have improved habitat for the trout and we have protected key areas of the stream from further stream bank erosion.

Traffic control was provided by WCO Bob Bonney and Deputy WCO Ed Guthrie. Lunch was provided by Paradise Farms Camps. All in all, it was a hard but a very successful and safe day.



## FishBoatPA App and the GoHuntPA Toolkit Launch

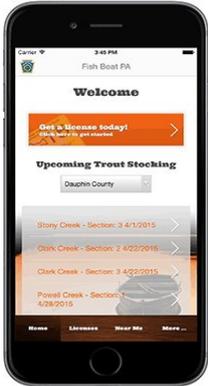


Photo courtesy of PFBC

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) recently unveiled *FishBoatPA*, a new app to help anglers and boaters better navigate the state's streams and lakes. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) launched its new *GoHuntPA* Toolkit, as well, with information on where, when and what to hunt, safety features, GPS functionality and more.

The *FishBoatPA* app lists which streams have been stocked with trout, how to get to those locations easily, and what other access areas are near their current fishing spot. Users can see upcoming stocking dates and types of fish stocked, as well as get directions to stocking sites & trout waters. The app also includes links to help get a fishing license and a fish ID guide, among many other helpful features. The *FishBoatPA* app is available for free at Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store.



Photo courtesy of PGC

The PGC's *GoHuntPA* app is designed to be handy for hunters, whether they're at or in the field. Using augmented reality, the app allows users to see the locations of nearby game lands. The app has many helpful links including a "route" link for directions, links for weather and daylight conditions, and viewing hunting regulations, seasons and bag limits. A tracking feature allows members of the same hunting party see the locations of others, and mark the sites where they parked or set up camp, to make sure they make it back. An SOS safety feature allows users to notify friends and family of their exact GPS coordinates in the event of an emergency.

You can download the *GoHuntPA* Toolkit for free, at [GoHuntPA.org](http://GoHuntPA.org), or on both Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store.



## Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters Program

Trout anglers will have the opportunity to catch 14"-20" trout in the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters Program.

Under the program, approximately 3,200 large trout will be distributed among the eight waters, one in each commissioner district. The trout will be stocked at a rate of up to 250 trout per mile, which is comparable to the numbers of fish of this size in Pennsylvania's best wild trout waters.

The eight waters include:

- Chester County, Middle Branch White Clay Creek, Section 3 (1.67 miles)
- Dauphin County, Wiconisco Creek, Section 3 (0.74 miles)
- Lackawanna/Wyoming Counties, South Branch Tunkhannock Creek, Section 4 (0.99 miles)
- Lawrence County, Neshannock Creek, Section 3 (2.67 miles)
- Lycoming County, Loyalsock Creek, Section 5 (1.49 miles)
- Potter County, First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek, Section 4 (1.67 miles)
- Somerset County, Laurel Hill Creek, Section 3 (2.33 miles)
- Westmoreland County, Loyalhanna Creek, Section 3 (1.67 miles)

The waters are regulated under Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) regulations. Under DHALO regulations, waters are open to fishing year-round. But anglers may harvest trout only between June 15 and Labor Day and the trout have to be a minimum of nine inches. From the day after Labor Day until June 15, these waters are managed on a catch-and-release-only basis and the creel limit is zero. Tackle is limited to artificial lures and flies.

*The above articles are courtesy of the PFBC & the PGC.*

## *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](mailto:wcfgwa@gmail.com) and receive an official WCFGWA T-shirt!

### Duck Hunting - by Colin Finn



Two Christmases ago I had the opportunity go duck hunting in North Carolina. It was nothing like I expected. We had to wake up very early to get out to the blind before the sun came up. Being December and out on the water, it was very cold. Then the sun came up and the ducks came. A few arrived and then a lot more flew in. Seeing all the ducks come toward me, I thought it would be easy to shoot them. They kept getting closer and closer. Finally BANG! BANG! BANG! Shots started going off and the ducks started flying in every direction. Afterwards, I noticed we didn't shoot a single duck and realized this would be a lot harder than I originally thought.

After sitting there all day there were not many ducks flying by. Then about an hour before sunset, off in the horizon, a black line appeared. It got closer and closer until it reached us. The sky was black with ducks and cormo-

rants. It was easy to spot the difference because the ducks flew low and very fast while the cormorants flew up high in a V formation. Again we shot at the ducks, but they seemed to dodge the shots. Nothing the first day so we went back at it again the next day. Same thing as before and no luck getting anything.

The third day was something different. We missed all of our shots in the morning rush and I figured it would be just like the previous two days. Around noon, however, a small group of ducks flew in and circled us a few times, getting closer and closer. When they were close enough we shot and two went down. Another one was hit but it was able to recover and fly away with the rest of the ducks. Finally we got something!

Duck hunting is a lot more exciting than deer hunting and if you like to hunt, but have never been duck hunting, I suggest you try it. *Colin Finn is a senior at Henderson High School.*



*The Core Sound, North Carolina*



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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  
www.wcfgwa.org  
wcfgwa@gmail.com



**West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association**  
**P.O. Box 511**  
**West Chester, PA 19381-0511**



### Upcoming Events

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

**January 14, 2016**

Membership Meeting

**April 2, 2016**

Regional Opening Day

**April 16, 2016**

Statewide Opening Day  
Chip Gibson Trout Rodeo

**May 21, 2016**

Dave Heller Trout Rodeo

**June 11, 2016**

Art Colley Bass Rodeo

**Please remember to send your email to:**  
**wcfgwa@gmail.com**

