News & Views

West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association

October 2017

West Valley Creek Sink Hole Update

On June 7, 2017 a group committed to the well being of the West Valley Creek walked the sink hole area of the stream to observe current conditions, review the area history and reparations and determine what can be done to improve fish habitat conditions in the affected area.

The group consisted of Amiee Bollinger (Surface Mining Conservation Inspector, PA DEP), Andrew Gutshall (Environmental Manager, Hanson), Andy Madsen (WCFGWA), Gary Dunn (WCFGWA), George Poole (WCFGWA), Martin Helmke (Professor of Hydrogeology, West Chester University), Pete Goodman (Trout Unlimited), Bob Bonney (PAFBC), Tyler Neimond (Habitat Manager, PAFBC), Colton Mueller (PAFBC), and Steve Estberg (WCFGWA).

Several key points were covered during the walk including water monitoring, habitat improvement and ongoing problem areas.

Water Flow Monitoring

Martin Helmke reviewed recent water flow rate measurements at 10 Ft3/sec upstream of the sink holearea at the bridge; 7 Ft3/sec in the area and 5 Ft3/sec below the discharge area at Boot Road.

Note: 1 Ft3/sec equates to 450 gallons/min.

Andrew Gutshall informed the group that Hanson has started monitoring the water flow well above and below the sink hole area. There have been issues with the flow meter due to vandals moving the equipment, which alters the readings.

Amiee Bollinger said DEP is monitoring the water table via wells in the surrounding area. The water table height is measured and a contour map of the water table is developed.

Habitat Improvement

Most traditional habitat improvement involves the scouring of the stream bed to create a deep pool area for the fish. Since sink hole reparation consists of filling the sink hole with concrete and layering the stream bed with a clay / silty loam to create a barrier layer, this type of habitat improvement would be counterproductive to sink hole prevention and will not be employed.

The group also discussed other forms of improvement including stream-side vegetation, ground cover and rock relocation. With all the excavation work most trees and shrubs were removed from the stream side. This needs to be replaced. Anything to help cover the rocks would be an improvement including grasses and weeds. The concern is without any shade the rocks will absorb the heat from the sun and raise the water temperature.

(Continued on Page 5)

Events Calendar

September 16 - November 25 , 2017
Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D

November 1 - April 30
Mandatory Cold Weather Life Jacket Wear

November 27 - December 9, 2017
DEER (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D:

December 1, 2017
2018 Fishing Licenses Available

December 26 -January 27, 2018
Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D

March 31, 2018
Regional Opening Day

April 14, 2018
Statewide Opening Day

Inside This Issue

Sink Hole Update	1
Paul Smith's College	2
Remington Recall	2
Love the Out-of-Doors	3
Stream Improvement	4
The Trout Are Here	5
Our Sponsors	6

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2017—2018

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Tom Anderson, Chris Anderson (Jr. Mem.), Gary Dunn, Don Finn, David Goodroad, John Johnson, Bernie McGovern, George Poole, Liz Rutter, Fletcher Swanson, Arlene Stewart

Exec. Committee 2017-18

Mike Colley, Matt Estberg, Steve Estberg, Colin Finn (Jr. Mem.), Andy Madsen, A.J. Miller, John Rickards, Jim Semetti, Glade Squires

Helpful Contacts

PA Game Commission

Hunting License Division: 717-787-2084

SE Region Office: 610-926-3136, 610-926-3137

Report a Violation: Operation Game Thief: 1-888-PGC-8001

PA Fish & Boat Commission

Pollution Incident 1-855-FISH-KIL (1-855-347-4545)

Licensing – 877- 707-4085

Boat Registration/Titling – 866-262-8734, (866-BoatReg)

SE Region Office: 717- 626-0228

Turn In A Poacher Or Litterer

Call W.C.O. Bob Bonney

610-637-6398

Paul Smith's College

When it comes to cookie-cutter colleges, Paul Smith's is anything but. In fact, it is the only 4-year college inside the boundaries of the world-famous "forever wild" Adirondacks.

Students at Paul Smith's College experience a hands-on education that combines proven career training with a meaningful exploration of self, society and the earth:

- Forestry majors play a role in the sustainable management of the college's 14,000-acre property
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Explore our 20+ degree programs to find your path to a meaningful education and career.

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- Develop your leadership qualities and business acumen
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Courtesy Paul Smith's College

PRODUCT SAFETY WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE

REMINGTON MODEL 700™ AND MODEL SEVEN™ RIFLES

Remington Arms Company, LLC ("Remington") is voluntarily recalling Remington Model 700™ and Model Seven™ rifles with X-Mark Pro® ("XMP®") triggers, manufactured from May 1, 2006 to April 9, 2014.

Remington has determined that some Model 700 and Model Seven rifles with XMP triggers could, under certain circumstances, unintentionally discharge. A Remington investigation has determined that some XMP triggers might have excess bonding agent used in the assembly process. While Remington has the utmost confidence in the design of the XMP trigger, it is undertaking this recall in the interest of consumer safety to remove any potential excess bonding agent applied in the assembly process.

You can find additional information on the recall at www.xmprecall.remington.com or by calling 1-800-243-9700 (Prompt #3 then Prompt #1) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT. You will be asked to provide your name, address, telephone number, and rifle(s) serial number.

Love the Out-of-Doors? Make it a Career!

The Chinese philosopher Confucius once said “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." Well, you can combine your love of nature and the out-of-doors with a career by pursuing an education at a school with a dedication to the environmental sciences.

Chris Ellis knows all about that. Chris is a junior at Paul Smith's College, majoring in Natural Resources Conservation and Management. He is also the President of the College's Fish and Game Club. "I have always been involved in the out-of-doors," “This has always been a passion for me and I knew I wouldn’t be happy doing anything else”.

When it came time to look at colleges, Chris said he wasn't exactly sure what he wanted to major in so Chris visited as many colleges as he could. What was he looking for? "I am a hands-on learner, so I looked for schools that provided a lot of hands-on experiences, not just classroom time. I also wanted a school with good connections and the resources to better prepare me for the workforce."

"I did not know much about Paul Smith's College, but after talking with a professor and visiting the campus, I fell in love with it. I knew this is where I wanted to go. The College is located on the shore of St. Regis lake in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains and is surrounded over 14,000 acres of forest that is owned by the school.. The hands-on aspects really grabbed me as well. There is as much field work as classroom time. For example, my friend is taking a Limnology class which is the study of the biological, chemical, and physical features of lakes and other bodies of fresh water. He is out on the lake all the time doing studies.”

Paul Smith's College in the Adirondack Park, NY offers a broad range of degree programs including: Ecological Restoration, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, Natural Resources Conservation & Management, Parks and Conservation Management, Recreation, Adventure Education & Leisure Management, Sustainable Communities and Working Landscapes, Biology, Ecological Restoration, Environmental Science, Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, Arboriculture & Landscape Management, Forestry, and Surveying Technology, to name a few!

Chris hopes to someday write land management plans for organizations to manage their natural resources such as timber and wildlife populations.

The bottom line: "There are a lot of good schools out there," Chris advised. "Look for what fits you the best." If you have any questions for Chris, you can email him at cellis@paulsmiths.edu

Or you can contact West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife board member, Steve Estberg. Steve is a graduate of Paul Smith’s College. “Any high school junior or senior considering an outdoor career in the environmental sciences should consider Paul Smith’s College,” Steve says. “ Especially if you love camping, hiking, canoeing, skiing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing…it’s all right outside your dorm room door.”

For more information on Paul Smith's College you can go to www.paulsmiths.edu

Stream Improvement Continues in 2017 *by Steve Estberg*

Our program for trout habitat improvement and stream bank protection had another successful work day on Saturday September 16. Supported by volunteers from WCU Chapter of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity, Vanguard and West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife members, we were able to construct two new deflector type devices about 200 yards downstream from the Ravine road bridge.

The work was concentrated in an area of the stream where the stream was widening causing several areas of concern. These include stream bank erosion, under cutting of stream side tree roots, shallow water and a slowing of water flow allowing a smothering sediment to coat the stream bottoms. To address these concerns two stream side devices where installed. The first was a device known as a mud sill. This consists of two face logs positioned parallel to the stream bank. The face logs are resting short sill logs perpendicular to the bank. This creates an area of cover for the trout. The logs are secured in place with rebar and backed up by tons of shot rock. The photographs show the before and after of project.

Adjacent to the mud sill a log face deflector with an extended sill log was installed. Here the log face also helps to create cover for the trout and the extended sill log redirects the water flow towards the center of the stream. This action helps to scour a deep channel in the center of the stream and lessens the tendency of the stream flow to widen and slow down.

The materials of construction are oak logs, rebar and shot rock from Hanson quarry…. Plus lots of good old fashion manual labor to move the logs, drill holes, sledge hammer the rebar in place of course to move the rock into place.

A big thank you goes out to our volunteers. Without their enthusiasm and energy none of these improvements to our beloved little stream could happen.

The Trout Are Here!

A group of enthusiastic volunteers helped move more than 2000 fingerling trout by buckets from the Fish Commission truck to their new home in our nursery. This year we will raise 700 Brook Trout, 700 Brown Trout, 700 Rainbow Trout and 50 Golden Trout.

We are looking for volunteers to feed the fish. The time slots that we need to fill are Monday , Tuesday , Wednesday , Friday and Saturday afternoons . The commitment runs from mid-October to mid -May .The feeding process only takes about 10 minutes. If you are interested in filling a time slot or two, or can be an alternate, contact Mike Colley at mcolley50@yahoo.com for more information.

(***Sink Hole Update continued)***

This temperature rise will also affect points downstream. As for relocating rock, the group noted some areas where the R4 rock can be moved to help protect some of the remaining trees along the stream bank. The group concluded that the best option for habitat improvement is the restoration of stream bank vegetation.

Problem Areas

New sinkhole

A new sink hole is forming in the drainage path from the industrial park on the other side of Clover Mill Road. The sink hole is about 10 feet deep. The old stream bed can be observed as well as limestone out crops. The sink hole is not directly adjacent to the stream but is likely connected via subsurface network.

Just upstream from the access area a slight stream of water is flowing under the bank side rocks and seems to be falling into a new sink hole or crevice. The distinct sound of falling water can be heard. This area will be monitored and will require reparation.

Exposed roots/ water convergence

Differences in stream bank heights were observed. This creates the situation in high flow conditions where the water expands into the flood plain on one side of the stream. When the water converges back into the stream channel the flow rate is increased creating a scouring condition. In these areas the clay base has been exposed and can be observed. The base seems to be intact at this point but merits monitoring in the future.

Going forward, water flow will be monitored by Hanson and periodically by West Chester University. Water table height will be monitored and mapped by DEP.

All in all, the reparation work conducted by Hanson is exceptional. With continued vigilance and improvements noted above we can maintain the quality of our beloved little stream.

FRENCH CREEK
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West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association

Membership Application

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Make your check payable to:
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P.O. Box 511
West Chester, PA 19381-0511
www.wcfgwa.org
wcfgwa@gmail.com

West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association
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Upcoming Events

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

November 1 - April 30
Mandatory Cold Weather Life Jacket Wear

December 1, 2017
2018 Fishing Licenses Available

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