



News & Views

West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association

News & Views
December, 2013

Annual Membership Meeting & Election

Friday, January 17th at 7:00 PM
East Bradford Township Building
666 Copeland School Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Featuring Guest Speaker –M. John Johnson

Please join us for our annual membership meeting and election on Friday, January 17th at 7:00 PM. Our members will be voting for the following offices up for election this year: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Also up for election are five Executive Committee seats and three Junior Executive Committee seats.

Glade Squires, President of our organization, has informed our Executive Committee of his intention to step down as our President at the end of this year. This was a difficult, but necessary, decision for Glade which he made entirely due to the fact that a change in his employment no longer allows him the time necessary to perform his Presidential duties. He will continue to advise his successor as required. Glade will preside over our Membership meeting and will provide us with his insight as Commissioner regarding current developments at the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Please join us at this meeting to thank him for his hard work, dedication and excellent leadership during his term as our President.

All members and junior members interested in running for any of the positions stated above should contact our Vice President Gary Dunn at 610-873-1887 to have their names added to the ballot.

Guest Speaker –M. John Johnson

Our guest speaker for the evening will be one of our past Presidents, M. John Johnson. John will present a classic slide show from a 1972 Bird Shooting trip he took to Nairobi Kenya, in Africa.



View of Mt. Kilimanjaro

This will be a special opportunity for us to have John narrate his experiences of the environment, the hunting, and also of the way of life for the Maasai people native to this region. Many of the slides contain exceptional, close-up, views of wildlife and landscapes from Amboseli National Park, long considered to be the best place in Africa to get very close to free-ranging elephants and other wildlife species.



John at camp in Kenya

Events Calendar

- January 17, 2014**
Annual Meeting
- March 22, 2014**
Mentored Youth Trout Day-Southeast PA
- March 29, 2014**
Regional Opening Day of Trout Season
- April 5, 2014**
Mentored Youth Trout Day-Statewide
- April 12, 2014-Tentative-**
Annual "Chip Gibson" Memorial Trout Rodeo
- May 17, 2014-Tentative-**
Trout Rodeo
- June 21, 2014- Tentative-**
Bass Rodeo



Inside this issue:

Treasurer's Report	2
New Website!	2
Nursery Report	2
CCWA Century Celebration	3
Stream Work Update	4
New Feature—Kids in the Wild	5
New WCFGWA Sign	5
Our Sponsors	6
Upcoming Events	6

Treasurer's Report

By Bernie McGovern

**Financial Status as of
December 1, 2013**

Income YTD	\$9,806
Expenses YTD	\$11,771
Checking	\$4,098
CD Savings	\$18,115
Savings	\$5,687
Life Savings	\$6,921

WCFG&WA Officers**2012-2013****President**—Glade Squires**Vice President**—Gary Dunn**Secretary**—George Poole**Treasurer**—Bernie McGovern**Exec. Committee 2013-14**

Deborah Athens, Larry Athens, Matthew Estberg, Patrick Estberg, Steve Estberg, Jeni Hartley, Andy Madsen, A. J. Miller, Bruce Riddell, Jim Semetti, Kyle Semetti (Jr. Mem.)

Exec. Committee 2012-13

Gary Dunn, John Johnson, Bernie McGovern, George Poole, Glade Squires, Fletcher Swanson, Rick Waltz, Ricky Waltz (Jr. Mem.)

**Turn In A
Poacher Or
Litterer**

**Call W.C.O.
Bob Bonney
610-637-6398**

Nursery Report by Mike Colley

In the spring of 2013, this past trout season, we stocked approximately 2,700 trout in West Valley Creek and lost about 300 fish to disease and natural causes. A total of 1,400 pounds of food was purchased by our Club and fed to our trout by a dedicated group of members that volunteer their time throughout the year. We offer special thanks to all of you that volunteer for the twice daily fish feeding through often adverse weather conditions.

We received our current trout from the PA Fish & Boat Commission on September 24, 2013 and the member turnout to transfer the fish to our nursery was very good. We received approximately 1,000 each of Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout for a grand total of approximately 3,000 fish. The water flow and temperatures at the nursery have been favorable and the fish are doing very well with minimal losses. Our annual nursery inspection was performed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission on October 24, 2013. The water flow was about 100 g.p.m., and with water temperatures averaging around 50 degrees, conditions have been ideal for growth of our trout. The average fish sizes recorded at the inspection were: brook trout 7.36", brown trout 7.8", rainbow trout 8.12", and golden rainbow trout 11.13".

**Check Out Our Upgraded Website**

by Larry Athens

It has been close to five years since our website was originally established, so the Executive Committee decided that it was time for a modernization. I was asked to approach Justin Athens, the original designer and son of Debbie and myself, about an upgrade which he enthusiastically agreed to tackle, pro bono.

Over a period of a few months, Justin overhauled the entire site with the goal of making it more user-friendly while providing more information about the club and our activities. The site was completely recoded using the latest HTML/CSS standards with an improved layout, fresh graphics, a sharper color scheme, and dynamic drop-down menus. The categories on the site have been extended and navigation has been simplified. There is also a new e-mail account, wcfgwa@gmail.com, for members and non-members to use to communicate with the club's leadership (this can be found in the "Contact Us" section.) You can even watch video of trout feeding at the Nursery!

Justin will handle maintenance of the website and updates will be posted regularly as they become available. Please visit the site at wcfgwa.org to check out all the new features.

Also, be sure to check back frequently for the latest news and information on your club's activities and to find out how you can become more involved in strengthening your organization.



CCWA Century Celebration by P. Andrew Schaum

On Saturday, October 26, our good friends at Children's Country Week Association formally celebrated 100 years of Paradise Farm Camps. They have been connecting children to the outdoors since 1875, which is quite an incredible legacy of service. Eliza Turner was the founder of the organization and she and her merry band of sisters originally served the children on their own farms located throughout Chester County. In 1912, the then Board of Directors (all women, by the way) decided it was time to find a place of their own to continue the good work of CCWA. They searched high and low throughout the region, ultimately finding the perfect spot nestled here in what we now know as Paradise Valley.

After acquiring the original parcel, they quickly set about preparing to serve the children in their new and very special place. A farmer was hired to plant crops and buildings were constructed to house the campers. On June 28, 1913, Paradise Farm Camps officially opened for business. Since that first summer, CCWA has evolved substantially, becoming a dynamic and thriving youth development organization. Their core programs include environmental education, team building, and, of course, camping. Each year they serve more than 6,000 children, helping them along the way in their journey towards becoming responsible citizens.



(left to right) Karen Estberg, Steve Estberg, Andy Madsen, Carole Madsen, Annette Johnson, John Johnson



Steve Estberg

We are very fortunate to have a strong working relationship with CCWA. Our trout nursery has been located on their property since its inception. CCWA's President, Andy Schaum, has been a member of our organization for many years. Working with both John Johnson and Glade Squires, he helped further our true partnership. He has also been very appreciative of our efforts in improving West Valley Creek and in focusing so much of our energies on promoting youth fishing opportunities here in Paradise Valley.

During the formal dinner as part of CCWA's Century Celebration, Andy presented two of our Board Members with awards. Steve Estberg and Andy Madsen were presented with plaques recognizing their extraordinary efforts in planning and implementing seven years worth of significant stream improvements along West Valley Creek. This work was accomplished with the strong support of the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the sweat equity of many of our members and local community volunteers. It was truly a team effort each step of the way. But, truth be known, Steve and Andy were the real leaders behind everything that has been accomplished so far.



Andy Madsen

It was nice of our friends at CCWA to so appropriately honor Steve and Andy. We look forward to many more years of working with CCWA in providing stewardship to West Valley Creek and in serving youth in Chester County by teaching them the wonders of the outdoors, including the joys of fishing here in the creek or at the pond!

Stream Work Update by Steve Estberg

Our habitat improvement program and stream restoration project continued in 2013 marking our seventh year of the program. We had two very productive work dates.

On September 7 a dedicated work group constructed a log deflector and a vane deflector just upstream from the Ravine Road Bridge. The devices which are on opposite sides of the stream will provide habitat cover for the trout as well as help channel the water flow towards the center of the stream. This accelerates the water flow and scours the stream bed bottom helping to wash away the silty sediment that chokes off aquatic life.



On October 19 we constructed a cross vane deflector a little further upstream. This was a major project which involved placing two 20 foot logs in an inverted V shape facing upstream and then securing them in place with rebar and more than 40 tons of rock!



We had an energetic group of WC F&G members' as well great support from our friends at Valley Forge Trout Unlimited. This stream improvement device is already holding fish and promises to be a popular fishing spot in the future.



The work was conducted under the direction of Tyler Neimond and Phillip Thomas, Habitat Managers for the Fish and Boat Commission. Equipment and operators were provided by Knox Rental, Madsen Tree Service and Tim Stephens Excavating. We were kept safe by WCO Officer Bob Bonney who provided the traffic control.

All in all we had two great days with good weather and great enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing our work in 2014. Stay tuned.



Many thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers

**** New Feature — *Kids in the Wild* ****

Welcome to our new section featuring stories and pictures submitted by kids. 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

Drum Fishing by Colin Finn

I have been going to North Carolina Core Banks for about eight years. Every summer and sometimes in the fall I would go down there with my Uncle and Aunt. We stay in a small town called Davis with some friends. We go over to Cape Lookout National Seashore and go fishing off the beach.

Last year, however, we went out at night on a boat in the Pamlico Sound and went fishing for red drum fish. These drum fish were huge! They would take hundreds of feet of line out then, finally, they would get tired but still would be a fight to reel in. The drum were about 30 inches long and weighed about 50 or so pounds. Fishing for the drum was probably the best fishing experience I've ever had and would highly recommend it to anyone.



Colin Finn is a sophomore at Henderson High School and lives in West Chester, PA. *Colin Finn (center) holding his red drum*

Taking The Hunter Safety Course by Emily Finn



For the past few years, my brother and dad would go hunting and trapping together. They got their hunting license together and have talked about how great a decision it was ever since. This past summer, I decided that I wanted to take the test to receive my hunting certificate so that I could join them. The class was extremely helpful, and in a few short hours, I learned all that I needed so that I could be a safe hunter. At the end of the hunter safety class, we were issued a multiple choice test. I was surprised in myself that I knew every single answer and passed the test with flying colors. I received my certificate, and that very same day I bought my hunting license.

Now, I get to enjoy the experience of hunting with my family and I am so grateful that I made the decision to take the class and test. I highly suggest taking it, because even if you don't go hunting often, you have the opportunity to go, and you will have a great feeling of accomplishment once you do.

Emily Finn is a senior at Henderson High School and lives in West Chester, PA. She will be attending Bucknell University next fall.

New WCFGWA Sign Installed

Our new sign was installed on the clubhouse at the nursery in November. It looks really great, so please stop by and see it!





Gordon's Sports Supply
 129 Pottstown Pike
 Chester Springs, PA 19425
 Phone: 610-458-5153



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



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 17, 2014

Annual Meeting & Election
 7:00 PM

March 22, 2014

Mentored Youth Trout Day
 Southeast PA

March 29, 2014

Regional Opening Day of Trout Season

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

