



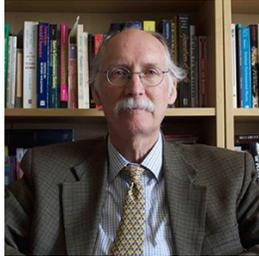
News & Views

West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association

March 2018

An Insightful Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held January 8, 2018. An appreciative audience was informed and entertained by our three guest speakers and had the opportunity to win items in a silent auction.



Dr. Charles Hardy, III

Featured guest speaker Professor Charles Hardy, III gave a fascinating presentation on the environmental history of the Delaware River told through the perspective of the American Shad. He has also produced a documentary on this subject that aired on public television. Professor Hardy is currently a professor of History at West Chester University where he has served since 1990. He has written several extensive publications regarding the history of Shad in the

Delaware River basin.

John Barry of the Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association introduced us to the work their organization is performing to protect Shad and enhance annual runs of migratory fish, including the American Shad, by keeping the waterways free from obstructions to such fish migration in the Delaware and its tributaries.



Senator Dinniman

Senator "Andy" E. Dinniman updated us on the present status of gas pipeline installation issues within Chester County, PA. Andy is also a long time member and supporter of West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association.

Thank you to all of our guest speakers for an insightful and entertaining evening.

More information on the Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association can be found at www.drfsfa.org.

Events Calendar

March 31, 2018

Regional Opening Day

April 7, 2018

Road & Stream Clean-up
Workday

April 7, 2018

Mentored Youth Trout
Day - Statewide

April 14, 2018

Statewide Opening Day

April 20, 2018

Nursery Stocking, 6 PM

April 21, 2018

Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey
Trout Rodeo

May 18, 2018

Nursery Stocking, 6 PM

May 19, 2018

Dave Heller-Bruce Rid-
dell Trout Rodeo

June 7, 2018

Members Night on the
Pond

June 16, 2018

Art Colley Bass Rodeo

July 21, 2018

Hunter Safety Class



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You Are Cordially Invited To

Member's Night on the Pond

Thursday Evening, June 7th at 6:00 PM

Paradise Farm Camp Pavilion

1300 Valley Creek Road (across from Ravine Road)

Downingtown, PA 19335

Join us for an evening of food, fishing and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. *And* your tackle to fish the pond (catch and release only).

WCFG&WA Officers**2017–2018****President**—Gary Dunn**Vice President**—Fletcher Swanson**Secretary**—George Poole**Treasurer**—Bernie McGovern**Exec. Committee 2018 - 19**

Tom Anderson, Ben Anderson, Chris Anderson (Jr. Mem.), Don Finn, David Goodroad, Inger Goodroad, John Johnson, Liz Rutter

Exec. Committee 2017-18

Mike Colley, Gary Dunn, Matt Estberg, Steve Estberg, Bernie McGovern, Andy Madsen, A.J. Miller, George Poole, John Rickards, Jim Semetti, Glade Squires, Fletcher Swanson

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

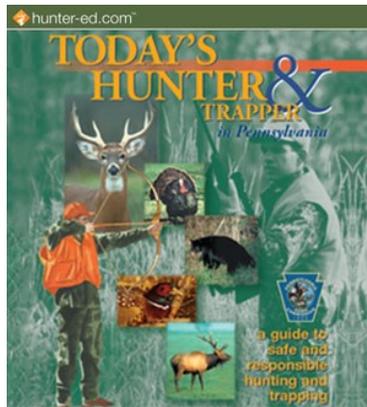
Boat Registration/Titling – 866-262-8734, (866-BoatReg)

SE Region Office: 717- 626-0228

**Turn In A
Poacher Or
Litterer**

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

610-637-6398

**Hunter Safety Class***July 21, 2018**8:00 am - 4:30 pm**East Bradford Township Building**West Chester, PA*

A Hunter Trapper Education course will be held July 21, 2018 at the East Bradford Township Building in West Chester, PA.

What does the course include?

- Responsible hunting behavior
- Basic firearm knowledge and safe handling
- Wildlife conservation and management
- Outdoor safety and survival
- Basic and advanced hunting techniques
- Trapping and furtaking basics
- Basic shooting and safe hunting skills
- Expanding your hunting opportunities

This is a one day training class. In order to prepare for your class, you must read Chapters 1, 4, 5 and 9 of *Today's Hunter & Trapper in PA*. These four chapters are part of the Hunter-Trapper Education course, but will not be covered at your class. It will be your responsibility to study this material before you attend a class.

The online version of the manual can be accessed at www.hunter-ed.com/pennsylvania/handbook. Hard copies of the manual are available at Gordon's Sports Supply, 129 Pottstown Pike, Uwchland, PA 19480 or at The Downingtown Bicycle Shop, 833 W Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, Pa 19335.

All first-time hunters and trappers, regardless of age, must successfully complete Hunter-Trapper Education training before they can buy a Pennsylvania hunting or trapping license. A training certificate, which is recognized throughout North America, is awarded when you pass a test at the end of the course.

You must be at least 11 years old to enroll in a class. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. The program is designed to produce safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved participants.

The East Bradford Township Building is located at 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380.

For more information and to register for the class, go to the PA Game Commission website at www.pgc.state.pa.us.

State Nursery Inspection



The annual state inspection of our nursery by the PA Fish and Boat Commission was held February 21, 2018. Josh Keslar, an inspector from the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Cooperative Nursery Program staff, measured the fish and checked feed quality, size and amounts. No problems were found with our nursery.

Testing of the nursery showed that the PH level and water flow are good. In fact, the water flow rate was approximately twice the level tested in 2017. The size of the fish are also commensurate with last year, with rainbow and golden trout being slightly larger than last year. Also, our fish loss this year was very low; perhaps lower than any other year.



Keslar examines a trout

The Cooperative Nursery Program, of which WCFGWA is one, is credited with supplying approximately 25 percent of the trout stocked in Pennsylvania. The majority of nurseries raise trout, but a few raise bass, catfish, Walleye or Muskegon. WCFGWA is one of 159 nurseries in Pennsylvania that, combined, receive 1.2 million brook, brown, rainbow and golden rainbow trout fingerlings from the PFBC's state fish hatcheries.

Information courtesy of the PA Fish and Boat Commission.



2018 WCFGWA Trout and Bass Rodeos

This year, we are again holding three **Youth Fishing Days** for those 15 years of age and younger. These are all open to the public and families are welcome, so please let friends and neighbors know the dates for these events.

The rodeos all begin at 9:00 am on the dates below at our nursery, located on the Paradise Farm Camp property at 900 Ravine Road, Downingtown, PA 19335.



Dates

April 21, 2018

Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey Trout Rodeo

May 19, 2018

Dave Heller-Bruce Riddell Trout Rodeo

June 16, 2018

Art Colley Bass Rodeo

See our web page and Facebook page for more information - www.wcfgwa.org

Life Jackets and the “Touchdown” Test

Boating is a lot of fun. Being a safe boater lets you have more fun. The most important thing you can do is always wear your life jacket. If you fall out or the boat turns over, a life jacket is designed to keep you afloat.

A life jacket is also called a personal flotation device or PFD. Life jackets come in a variety of colors and styles. Newer designs are comfortable to wear. Make sure your PFD is the right size. Your PFD should fit snugly so it won't come off in the water. It has probably been a few months since you last wore your life jacket. Be sure to test the jacket's fit before boating season begins. The best way to test the size is by doing the “touchdown” test.



Here's how to do it:

1. Put on your life jacket
2. Raise your arms over your head as if you were signaling a touchdown
3. Have someone lift your life jacket straight up by the shoulders
4. The jacket should stay in place

If the zipper touches your nose or the life jacket almost comes off, the jacket is too loose.

Artwork courtesy of Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission. Article reproduced courtesy of the PA Fish and Boat Commission Play Magazine



Mentored Youth Program 2018

March 24 (regional) and April 7 (statewide) - 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Take part in the PAFBC's Mentored Youth Trout Days. Youth under the age of 16 can join a mentor (adult) angler who has a current fishing license and trout permit to fish on Saturday, March 24 on Stocked Trout Waters within the 18 southeastern regional counties for regional trout season, and to fish Stocked Trout Waters in the remaining counties on Saturday, April 7.

ADULT ANGLERS

To participate in the Mentored Youth Fishing Day, anglers 16 years of age or older (adult anglers) must possess a valid Pennsylvania Fishing License and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who has obtained a Mentored Youth Fishing Permit or Voluntary Youth Fishing License from the Commission. While mentors will be permitted to fish for trout, they are not permitted to harvest trout and must release them unharmed.

YOUTH ANGLERS

Youth anglers must obtain a Mentored Youth Fishing Permit or Voluntary Youth Fishing License from the Commission and be accompanied by an adult licensed angler in order to participate. Youth may harvest up to two trout (combined species) with a minimum size of 7 inches. All other Commonwealth Inland Water regulations apply.

The Mentored Youth Permit is free. The Voluntary Youth License is \$2.90 (\$1.00 cost + \$1.90 agent/transaction fee).

Information courtesy the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Huntsdale Open House

The PFBC hosted an open house on October 22, 2017 at the Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery in Carlisle, PA and several WCFGWA members attended. The open house included amphibian and reptile displays, habitat management displays, hands-on activities and tours of the hatchery.

Huntsdale is the hatchery where our trout are hatched before coming to the WCFGWA nursery. The hatchery produces an average of 461,280 lbs of trout each year, consisting of Rainbow Trout, Golden Rainbow Trout,

Brook Trout and Brown Trout. It is one of 13 hatcheries operated by the PFBC.

Concrete raceways are used for trout production using intensive culture technology. Pond rearing (extensive culture) and indoor intensive culture of warm/coolwater fish also occurs on site.

Guests were treated to a demonstration of how the fish are propagated.

“The men stripping the eggs from the fish were interesting,” noted Fletcher Swanson, WCFGWA member. “The eggs go into a bucket in an iodine solution to kill any bacteria. After about 30 minutes to one hour, they add the sperm and put them in a controlled environment to grow. This way they get a very high percentage of eggs to hatch. In the natural environment they said the hatch was a very low percentage.”

Originally constructed in 1932, the Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery is situated on approximately 80 developed acres (167 total acres) of land owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Fish and Boat Commission.

mission.

Water supply to the facility is obtained primarily from multiple springs for coldwater (trout) culture and from a creek for warm/coolwater culture.

For more information on the Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery, go to www.fishandboat.com/Fish/Stocking/StateFishHatcheries

Information courtesy the PA Fish and Boat Commission.



Raceways for raising fish



Stripping eggs from fish



Fish in the raceway





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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.

March 24, 2018

Mentored Youth Trout Day - Regional

March 31, 2018

Regional Opening Day

April 7, 2018

Mentored Youth Trout Day - Statewide

April 14, 2018

Statewide Opening Day

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

