



# News & Views

West Chester Fish  
Game & Wildlife  
Association

March 2021

## President's Message by Gary Dunn, President

2020 was a challenging year for all of us. For WCFGWA, the pandemic caused us to cancel all of our rodeos and members nights for the year. As you know these events, along with our membership renewals and new members are our major fund-making opportunities. That being said, we did not do too badly.

Thank you to all of our renewing members who continue to give not only their dues, but donations and time. Welcome and thank you to our new members, as well, who joined in such an especially challenging year.

We had to make many changes to how we carried on the club business. Through all of the challenges, we still managed to stock over 2000 trout in West Valley Creek. We were also able to complete some repairs to the nursery, including cleaning the shed, fixing the gutters and the fascia boards, repairing the outflow pipes and putting a new roof on the bulkhead.

I and the Club thank Tony Poletto for donating his time and materials for the bulkhead roof. Thank you Dave Filano for your generous donation; Andy Shaun for becoming a life member and all the other things you do for us; Jake and Chris for helping us out when we needed some extra things done.

Last but not least, thanks to a very dedicated group of board and officers who put in extra time and effort because we could not use outside volunteers as we usually do.

We will keep safe and work accordingly and hope we can get back to normal and see you all again soon.

With all my thanks to everyone,  
Gary Dunn  
President



## Nursery Report by Mike Colley



Our trout had a good winter. All have grown and put on some inches, especially the brook trout. Despite the snowy February, the feeding team did a great job. Thank you to all of our dedicated trout feeders!

## Events Calendar

### March 27, 2021

Mentored Youth Trout Day

### April 3, 2021

Statewide Opening Day of Trout

### April 17, 2021

"Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey"  
Trout Rodeo (*Tentative*)

### May 1, 2021

Opening Day of Walleye

### May 15, 2021

"Dave Heller-Bruce Riddell"  
Trout Rodeo (*Tentative*)

### May 22, 2021

National Safe Boating Week

### May 30, 2021

Fish-For-Free Day

### June 12, 2021

Opening Day of Bass

### June 19, 2021

"Art Colley" Bass Rodeo  
(*Tentative*)

### July 4, 2021

Fish-For-Free Day



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**WCFG&WA Officers****2020—2021****President**—Gary Dunn**Vice President**—Fletcher Swanson**Secretary**—Inger & Dave Goodroad**Treasurer**—George Poole**Exec. Committee 2021-22**

Tom Anderson, Don Finn,  
David Goodroad, Inger  
Goodroad, Aidan Krechmoyer  
(Jr. Mem.), Dawn Moyer, Liz  
Rutter

**Exec. Committee 2020-21**

Mike Colley, Gary Dunn,  
Steve Estberg, Andy Madsen,  
A.J. Miller, George Poole, John  
Rickards, Jim Semetti,  
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**

**Pay Your Dues and Donate on PayPal**

You can now pay your dues and donate to WCFGWA via PayPal. WCFGWA is also enrolled in the PayPal Giving Fund. This means that WCFGWA is now able to receive matching donations from various sources including employers, GoFundme, eBay, and more. PayPal does not charge us a fee for these donations.

To pay your dues and donate, just go to *WCFGWA.org*, click on Contact Us and scroll down. To pay dues, just choose your membership level and click on Pay Now. To donate, just click on Donate.

**Work Day 2020**





## Mentored Youth Day

This year, Mentored Youth Day is Saturday, March 27, 2021. Youth under the age of 16 can join a mentor (adult) angler who has a current fishing license and trout permit to fish on stocked trout waters. Because mentored youth days were cancelled in 2020, all Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses purchased last season remain valid and will be honored during the 2021 season.

*Information courtesy of the PA Fish and Boat Commission*



## FISH-FOR-FREE DAYS - 2021

**Sunday, May 30 2021**

**Sunday, July 4, 2021 (Independence Day)**

Fish-for-Free Days allow anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish on Pennsylvania waterways on the designated days with NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED (Trout/Salmon and Lake Erie permits are also NOT required). *All other fishing regulations still apply.*

Fish-for-Free Days are great ways for families to “catch” the fun of fishing!



Additional information on fishing and regulations in Pennsylvania may be found at the PA Fish and Boat Commission website [www.fishandboat.com/Fish/FishingRegulations/Pages/FishForFreeDay.aspx](http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/FishingRegulations/Pages/FishForFreeDay.aspx).

*Information courtesy of the PA Fish and Boat Commission*



## Hunter-Trapper Education Classes



The PA Game Commission is now offering in-person Hunter-Trapper Education classes. To find a class in your area, please visit: [www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Hunter-TrapperEducation/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Hunter-TrapperEducation/Pages/default.aspx)

**Before registering for an in-person class, please note the following:**

- Classes will be limited to 50 percent capacity to ensure that social distancing can be maintained.
- Classes are limited to pre-registered students only. Walk-in students will not be permitted. A parent or guardian attending with a minor child is required to register or remain outside the facility. All persons in attendance will count towards the maximum number of people for the classroom.
- Each student shall be responsible for providing their own face covering/mask and will only be allowed to bring into the classroom a jacket, keys, phone and wallet or purse. Food and drinks will not be provided. Students should bring their own meals and beverages for consumption outside of the classroom.

Additional information can be found at: [www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Documents/COVIDHTEinpersonprotocol.pdf](http://www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Documents/COVIDHTEinpersonprotocol.pdf)

*Information courtesy of the PA Game Commission.*

## Build a Bluebird Nesting Box

Spring might not be “just around the corner,” but bluebirds will be scouting out nesting sites before you know it, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission can help bring them and other songbirds to your backyard.

Bluebird nesting boxes built by staff at the Game Commission’s Howard Nursery are available for sale, and can be ordered over the phone or purchased directly at the nursery office, the Game Commission’s Harrisburg headquarters and Game Commission region offices. Nesting-box kits also are available.

Nursery staff build bluebird and other nesting boxes during the winter for annual sales to the public. A single box sells for \$12, plus Pennsylvania sales tax. When purchasing two or more boxes, the cost is \$11 each, plus sales tax.



*Eastern Bluebird*

Customers can select pre-built boxes or choose kits that can be assembled as a wood-working project. The kits provide a great opportunity for individuals, Scout troops, summer camps and other conservation groups to get involved with helping wildlife. Special pricing is available for organized educational activities. Call the Howard Nursery or region offices for details.

“Building and placing nesting boxes is a great project for individuals, families or civic organizations interested in connecting with wildlife in a natural way,” said Bryan Burhans, Game Commission Executive Director. “What better way to usher in spring than attracting bluebirds to backyards and properties.”

A brochure of the Game Commission’s bluebird nesting boxes and other wildlife structures is available online by navigating to the Howard Nursery page at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov). Place your cursor on the “Information & Resources” tab at the top of the homepage, then click “Get Involved,” and select “Howard Nursery” to find the “2021 Wood Product Brochure.”

The nesting boxes constructed at the Howard Nursery are approved by wildlife biologists, and have been proven to attract bluebirds and other native species, such as tree swallows and house wrens. Bluebirds are beautiful songbirds native to Pennsylvania. They are cavity nesters that became less common because of a lack of suitable nest sites. Many nest sites have been lost through changing land-use practices, as well as urban and suburban sprawl. The decline in bluebird numbers is also due in part to non-native species, such as starlings and house sparrows, taking over bluebird nesting cavities.

Bluebirds are early nesters, and according to Game Commission biologists, now is the time to place new nest boxes, as well as to clean and repair existing boxes.

Boxes should be placed on a free-standing pole 3 to 5 feet above the ground, facing south, if possible, and facing a nearby tree or fence where young birds can safely land on their initial flights from the box. To reduce predation and competition from other species, no perch should be placed on the box; bluebirds do not need one.

Nesting boxes can be ordered and shipped directly from the Howard Nursery by calling 814-355-4434. Shipping and handling costs will apply. Shipping is not available from other Game Commission office locations. All purchases can be made with cash, check, money order or credit card. Sales will continue while supplies last.

*Courtesy PA Game Commission*



*Photo courtesy Jake Dingel, PGC*

## *Kids in the Wild*



Aidan Krechmoyer was out in western PA, near Punxsutawney, for a small hunting trip. “We had gone to several spots due to the snow and wind being too extreme. When we got to the last spot, I began to get sleepy and closed my eyes for a bit. When I woke up there was a deer right in front of the stand. I got up, wiped the snow out of the scope, and shot the deer directly in the heart. It fell no more than forty yards away.”



Dominic Paladino, grandson of long time WCFGWA member Jerry Paladino, harvested this 9-point buck. The buck is about 5.5 years old. Dominic scored 125 points in the PA Game Commission’s Big Game Scoring Program while bow hunting this past season.



## 2021 Fishing Rodeos –Tentative Dates

*Mark your calendars for the 2021 WCFGWA Fishing Rodeos!*

**“Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey” Trout Rodeo April 17th**

**“Dave Heller-Bruce Riddell” Trout Rodeo May 15th**

**“Art Colley” Bass Rodeo—Paradise Farm Pond, June 19th**

This year, we are planning three Youth Fishing Days for those 15 years of age and younger. *These dates are tentative* and a decision on whether or not to hold these events will be made closer to the date and based on all CDC guidelines.



These are all open to the public and families are most welcome, so please let friends and neighbors know the dates for these events. Our nursery is located on the Paradise Farm Camp property: 895 Ravine Road Downingtown, PA 19335 Visit our web page at [www.wcfgwa.org](http://www.wcfgwa.org) OR visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/wcfgwa/](https://www.facebook.com/wcfgwa/) for more information.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

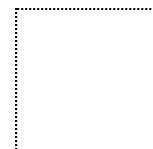
☐ Life \$500.00

☐ 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.

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

**March 27, 2021**

Mentored Youth Day

**April 3, 2021**

Opening Day of Trout Season

**April 17, 2021**

“Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey” Trout Rodeo  
(Tentative)

**May 15, 2021**

“Dave Heller-Bruce Riddell” Trout Rodeo (Tentative)

