



# News & Views

West Chester Fish  
Game & Wildlife  
Association

March 2024

## WCO Bob Bonney Retires

After a more than 30 year career with the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC), Waterways Conservation Officer Bob Bonney retired on January 5, 2024. Many of you may have met Bob while fishing as he patrolled our local streams and rivers.

Bob began his career with the PAFBC as a Deputy WCO and after three years became a full WCO, responsible for Northern Chester County. Through his career, he has been a constant and reassuring presence, educating the fishing and boating public on the rules and regulations, keeping us safe, stocking fish in our local streams, making sure our waterways are clean and free of litter and protecting the natural beauty and life of our area.



WCO Bob Bonney

“Bob’s dedication and passion for conservation law enforcement is unmatched,” noted Chase D. Rhoads, Captain, Southeast Region, PAFBC. “He was an asset to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and represented the agency in an exemplary manner on and off duty. His ability to foster teamwork and network with other agencies, sportsman, and civic clubs is phenomenal. That network benefitted the sportsmen and the PFBC. It’s a true testament of who he is as an officer and a person.”

Bob also worked with a corps of Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers, including Paul Marchese, who worked with Bob for 27 years. “If there was ever a person wired to be a Conservation Officer, it is Bob Bonney,” Marchese said. “Being partners for 27 years, I have never seen anyone more dedicated to law enforcement. Bob is always willing to help kids who are out fishing. Bob’s dedication to the job and unique sense of humor made me enjoy every minute working with him.”



Bob assisting young fisherman  
at the Bass Rodeo

Gary Dunn, President of the WCFGWA also commented, “Bob is an individual who cares about the environment. He would go out of his way to make sure things were right. Bob is a supporter of our club and its goals and attended our rodeos. His presence will be missed by all of us at WCFGWA, and we wish Bob a long, healthy and interesting retirement and hope he comes out to join us in an unofficial capacity.”

You will most likely continue to see Bob out and about practicing his other passion, photography. Thank you, Bob for your tireless stewardship and advocacy for our rivers and streams. We wish you a fulfilling retirement.

## Events Calendar

**March 29, 2024**—Trout Stocking West Valley Creek

**March 30, 2024**—Mentored Youth Trout Day

**April 6, 2024**—Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season

**April 12, 2024**—Trout Stocking West Valley Creek

**April 13, 2024**—Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey Trout Rodeo

**May 3, 2024**—Trout Stocking West Valley Creek

**May 4, 2024**—Dave Heller-Bruce Riddell Trout Rodeo

**May 26, 2024**—Fish for Free Day

**June 15, 2024**—Art Colley Bass Rodeo

**July 4, 2024**—Fish for Free Day



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**WCFG&WA Officers**

**2023—2024**

**President**—Gary Dunn

**Vice President**—Fletcher Swanson

**Secretary**—Inger & Dave Goodroad

**Treasurer**—George Poole

**Exec. Committee 2023-24**

Jacob Allen (Jr. Mem.), Don Finn, David Goodroad, Inger Goodroad, Liz Rutter, Glade Squires, Peter Watkins

**Exec. Committee 2024-25**

Mike Colley, Gary Dunn, Steve Estberg, Andy Madsen, A.J. Miller, George Poole, Jim Semetti, Fletcher Swanson, Rick Waltz

**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

# Fish Nursery Maintenance



The nursery received some much needed restoration work this summer.

After some torrential storms that washed mud and stones into the nursery and down Ravine Road, the Township dug out the rocks and gravel in the feeder stream to our nursery and hauled the gravel away. The aerator pipes were cleaned and re-installed in the raceway. The pens were then power washed and given a new coat of sealant.

When the trout arrived, they were moved into the newly restored pens!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who labored to restore the nursery pens to like-new condition!



## The Trout Are Looking Good!



On Oct 13, 2023, the WCFGWA nursery received its fingerling trout from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission..

On Nov. 17, 2023, John Cingolani, Fisheries Technician for The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission inspected the trout for gill lice and found no problems.

So far this winter things are going well. The mild temperatures have benefited the trout’s growth.

Thank you to our dedicated group of volunteers who come out to feed the trout. We couldn’t do it without you!

Next up is stocking West Valley Creek!



## 2024 Trout & Bass Rodeos



Spring has sprung! Let's go fishing! This year, we are again scheduling three Youth Fishing Days for those 15 years of age and younger. These are all open to the public and families are most welcome, so please let friends and neighbors know the dates for these events.

**“Chip Gibson-Dave Dempsey” Trout Rodeo April 13th -** Meet At Nursery at 8:00 am; Open to all children ages 15 and under; Fishing from 8:30AM until 2:00 PM; Raffle Prizes Provided.

**“Dave Heller-Bruce Riddell” Trout Rodeo May 4th -** Meet At Nursery at 8:00 am; Open to all children ages 15 and under; Fishing from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM; Raffle Prizes Provided.

**“Art Colley” Bass Rodeo—Paradise Farm Pond June 15th -** Meet At Nursery at 8:00 am; Open to all children ages 15 and under; Fishing from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM; Raffle Prizes Provided; Catch & Release Only; Barbless Hooks Required.

Meet at our nursery 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/](http://www.facebook.com/wcfgwa/) for more information.



## FISH-FOR-FREE DAYS - 2024

**Sunday, May 26, 2024**

**Thursday, July 4, 2024 (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*





# 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 3534  
 West Chester, PA 19381-3534  
 www.wcfgwa.org  
 wcfgwa@gmail.com

Or Pay Dues and Donate with Paypal  
 click on Contact Us and scroll down. Choose your membership level and click on Pay Now.

**William W. Macknis**  
 Financial Services Representative  
 16 Campus Boulevard  
 Newtown Square PA 19073  
 wmacknis@lcreative.com  
 Tel: 610.492.7254  
 Cell: 484.678.5145  
 Fax: 610.325.6230  
 www.lcreative.com



**West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association**  
**P.O. Box 3534**  
**West Chester, PA 19381-3534**



### Upcoming Events

#### Executive Committee

Meets the second Monday of each month either at the East Bradford Township Building or via conference call.

**Email us at:**  
**wcfgwa@gmail.com**

**March 30, 2024—**  
 Mentored Youth Day  
 Statewide

**April 6, 2024—**  
 Statewide opening day  
 of trout season

**April 13, 2024—**  
 Chip Gibson-Dave  
 Dempsey Trout Rodeo

