



News & Views

West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association

November 2016

From the President

As we make plans for 2017, I look back on what we accomplished in 2016 and, in most cases, we exceeded our plans. The Club had three successful Kids Rodeos with good attendance and many fish caught.

We also did some major stream improvements with the help of many volunteers from Paradise Farms, Vanguard, West Chester University, Trout Unlimited, Shadyside and our own members. I am constantly surprised with the level of volunteerism that we are fortunate to have. The Club is also the recipient of donations of food, prizes and materials which are used for prizes for the kids who participate in our rodeos and for our ongoing work to keep West Valley Creek a viable fishery and recreation area.

All of this could not be accomplished without people like Dave Filano, from Wawa; Jim Simetti; French Creek Outfitters; Gordons Sporting Goods; and Andy Schaum and his group from Paradise Farms.

A special thanks also to PA Fish and Boat, WCO Bob Bonney and his group for their time and expertise.

Last, but not least, I am so fortunate to have a very diversified group of Board and Officers who are committed to making everything we are involved in a success. There are too many people including our members to single out for kudos, so thank you all! Please continue to help us by becoming a new member or renewing your membership as this helps us to keep doing the things that make us a great Club. I hope to see you along the stream.

Many thanks to you all,

Gary Dunn
President
WCFGWA



The Fingerlings Are Here



One of the Golden Trout

Our fingerlings arrived on October 5th. A group of dedicated volunteers, using buckets and muscle, moved 2,000 fish from the Pa Fish & Boat Commission truck to their new home in our nursery. Many thanks to all who helped with the move!

Events Calendar

Nov. 28-Dec. 10, 2016
WMU 5C, 5D, Deer,
Antlered & Antlerless

**Dec. 26, 2016-Jan. 28,
2017**
Allegheny, Bucks,
Chester, Delaware,
Montgomery and
Philadelphia counties),
Deer, Antlerless

Dec. 1, 2016
Fishing Licences and
Vouchers Available

January 20, 2017
Membership Meeting

April 1, 2017
Regional Opening Day
Trout Season

April 15, 2017
Statewide Opening Day
Trout Season



Inside This Issue

President	1
Fingerlings Arrive	1
Kids in the Wild	2
Matt Johnson, WCO	3
Trap Shooting	4
Hunter Trapper Ed	4
Stream Improvement	5
Our Sponsors	6

WCFG&WA Officers**2016–2017****President**—Gary Dunn**Vice President**—Fletcher Swanson**Secretary**—George Poole**Treasurer**—Bernie McGovern**Exec. Committee 2015-16**

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

Exec. Committee 2016-17

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

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

Kids in the Wild

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 and receive an official WCFGWA T-shirt!

Flounder Fishing at the Shore *by Ben Anderson*

Last July my Dad, my brother, a couple of friends, and I did some fishing in the back bays of Avalon, NJ and experienced some of the best flounder fishing of our lives. We fished from my Dad's boat, the Boy 'n Sea, and in two half days of fishing we caught over 55 fish (most of which were flounder), including a personal best of 13 keepers. Keeper flounder must be 18 inches in length. Our previous personal keeper record in one day was 3. As with all fishing, there was a lot of luck and some skill involved.

On Monday we primarily fished the Middle Thorofare behind Sea Isle City. We caught just one keeper and the rest shorts. On

Tuesday, we first fished the Paddy Thorofare behind Avalon, also known as Paddy's Hole. We then fished the area behind Cedar Island, near the Anchorage and Avalon Marinas. We caught a variety of species including black sea bass. We pretty much did the same drifts on Thursday.

The best fishing action occurred during the first two hours of the outgoing tide and also during the last two hours of the incoming tide, as well. We think the water temperature (72 to 74 degrees) was a factor in our success.

This was truly a remarkable and memory for me. I hope that we can have some similar luck next summer!

**Clover Mill Road Clean Up a Success**

A small but determined group from WCFGWA met Saturday, November 5th to clean up our state Adopt-A-Road area of Clover Mill Road. We had just enough volunteers from our Club to do a great job on Clover Mill Road and the tunnels on Valley Creek Road, as well.

Thank you to all our volunteers!



Introducing Matt Johnson, Game Commission WCO

Recently WCFGWA sat down with Matt Johnson, the new Game Commission WCO for our region.

What is your background?

I graduated from the Academy in February 2015. Prior to that I worked in the IT industry and prior to that I was in the military. I grew up in Chester County and am now serving in this district.



What are your primary responsibilities?

My primary responsibilities are law enforcement for Title 34 Game and Wildlife, managing the Hunter Ed Program, answering any wildlife complaints, and managing roughly 2500 acres of game commission land for wildlife management, hunting, recreational and family use. We want the game lands to be safe and an enjoyable experience for everyone. We also have overlapping responsibilities with Fish and Boat. I cover Northern Chester County and, because there is a vacancy right now, five townships in Southern Berks County.

What is the most common violation you see?

Most of what I see is unauthorized use of game lands, such as use of narcotics, alcohol, littering, graffiti. Also violations over use of the rifle range.

What is your busiest time of year?

Hunting season is the busiest, but it is interesting, late spring and early summer are busy because there are more wildlife issues. The weather is warmer, people are getting outside. Wildlife have their young and are more active. There are more human/wildlife encounters such as where people will see an abandoned baby squirrel or raccoon and want to help it. Because of the high population of people and animals in this area, I see more of these types of encounters. I had a call from someone who saw a fox and called the Game Commission. I had to call back and explain to them that this is not a problem. It is normal to see a fox in this area.

Do you look for any Environmental Issues?

We have a staff that concentrates on maintaining the game lands for the management and benefit of wildlife. We also work with the State land management office for the benefit of wildlife.

What can groups like WCFGWA do to help you and the Game Commission?

Since my duties lean heavily to law enforcement, so much of what we are able to do comes from tips. An officer rarely catches someone in the act. Most prosecutions come from someone calling us directly and giving us information. So, if you see something wrong, let us know. Call the Southeast Region at 610-926-3136. You will speak directly to a dispatcher. An officer will be sent out right away. There is also a link on the Game Commission website and a form in the Hunting booklet, but I strongly recommend calling. This is the most timely and effective way to give us information.

Welcome WCO Johnson!

Trap Shooting with The West Chester Gun Club



Grey skies did not dampen the enthusiasm of the group gathered for a day of fun October 1, 2016 at the West Chester Gun Club. Many clays were dispatched during intense heats of competitive Trap shooting. WCFGWA had the Club for its exclusive use for the day from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

When not shooting, everyone also enjoyed beverages, snacks and a free lunch.

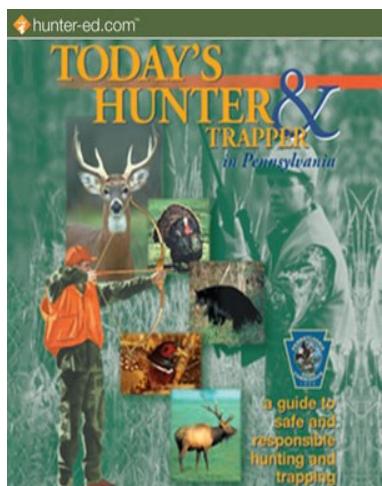
Many thanks to the West Chester Gun Club for their fine hospitality.

The West Chester Gun Club and Athletic Association is located at 200 E. Boot Rd, West Chester, PA. It is open to the public and club members on Tuesday nights and Sunday, mid days.

More information on the West Chester Gun Club can be found at www.westchestergunclub.com or by calling 610-696-4577.



Another Successful Hunter-Trapper Education Course



All twenty six students attending this year's Hunter Trapper Education course passed! The course was held July 16, 2016 at the East Bradford Township Building in West Chester, PA. They become one of the 2 million students to graduate from the Game Commission's Hunter-Trapper Education program, which first became mandatory in 1969.

Many thanks to the volunteer instructors who made this class such a success.

The Hunter-Trapper Education program has been successful in training new generations of hunters to be safe and responsible. The results are impressive. More than 38,000 students received their basic Hunter-Trapper Education certification in 2015. And 2015 also was the safest year on record for hunting in Pennsylvania, with only 23 hunting-related shooting incidents occurring statewide. Decades ago, hundreds of incidents a year were commonplace.

Hunter-Trapper Education plays a big part in making hunting as safe as it is for all of us.

Today we made a difference !

This was the theme of the enthusiastic work force that contributed to another hugely successful stream improvement work day on West Valley Creek. With many thanks to West Chester University National Honors Fraternity Phi Sigma Phi, Shadyside Conservation Club, Valley Forge Trout Unlimited, Vanguard, and West Chester Fish Game and Wildlife Association a lot was accomplished.

We had a very aggressive work schedule for the day, September 17. Fortunately we had great weather and an energetic group. Our to-do

list for the day included reinforcing three existing log deflectors with additional rock, creating a new deflector by utilizing a fallen oak log, clearing a log jam, removing an old tractor tire and removing a decaying tree that was creating a safety hazard in the work area.

Three of the four projects required moving rock to the nursery side of the stream... hand by hand and rock by rock the rock brigade was in full force. Rock by rock the group moved 40 tons of rock in the course of the day. Hard work for sure, but the impact on the stream in terms of stream back erosion protection and habitat creation was outstanding.

Just look at some of the before and after photos.



Moving all that rock to the work site on the stream requires one lane of West Valley road being closed. Traffic control for the heavy end loader equipment and our stream side workers is a key part of the day. We'd like to say a special Thank You to West Chester Fish and Game patriarch John Johnson for keeping us safe all day long:



Wiley's Car Care

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

737 Downingtown Pike • West Chester, PA 19380 • www.WileysCarCare.com



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.

January 20, 2017
Membership Meeting

April 1, 2017
Regional Opening Day
Trout Season

April 15, 2017
Statewide Opening Day
Trout Season



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