



# 2014 Winter Edition



## *A Letter From Our President*

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Our Ridge & Valley chapter has been very busy again this off-season, preparing for conservation projects this coming spring, tying flies for various causes, mailing out a state-wide raffle to support our efforts, and even sneaking in a few fishing trips to keep the winter's blues at the cabin door.

The state-wide raffle brings us an excellent opportunity to build funding to begin some hands on conservation projects to improve the fishing we all love for trout here in Warren County, home to some of NJ's finest trout waters. Please generously support our raffle and maybe you'll be one of our lucky winners with a \$1,000

gift certificate to Cabela's or a \$500 gift certificate to LL Bean. The funds we are generating will enable the chapter to help restore our wonderful local streams.

If you are so inclined, we'd love to see you at one of our meetings held the 3rd Thursday except August at the Pequest Trout hatchery in Oxford, NJ right off route 46.

Please keep an eye on our chapter website

and our Facebook page for updated information as well as news about chapter fishing trips.

Fredy DeLeon—President



## *Upcoming Conservation Projects—volunteers needed*



On Saturday, March 29th, we will be cutting native willow "stakes" at the former Tilcon Quarry which is part of Allamuchy Mountain State Park. The quarry entrance is off Kennedy Road which connects Waterloo Road in Allamuchy with Waterloo Valley Road in Mount Olive Twp. very close to the Musconetcong River. Park near the metal gates and you'll be di-

rected from there. Please wear old clothes and bring gloves and hand shears or lopping shears to cut the willows into short stakes. On Sunday the 30th, we will be plantings these willows at sites on the lower Musconetcong and likely along the Pohatcong Creek. Stay tuned to our chapter website and Facebook pages for more

details as spring nears for our trout waters. Willows help stabilize eroding banks and shade the streams. R&VTU covers some of New Jersey's finest trout waters and our work to restore and protect them has a direct impact on our love of fishing for the beautiful trout that live in them..

## *Sparse Gray Matter—a fly tying event*

Shannon's Fly & Tackle and Dettles Flies invites you to our 4th annual Sparse Grey Matter Fly Fest on Sunday Feb. 23, 2014 from 10am to 4 pm at the Califon Fire House in Califon, NJ. All are welcome to come tie flies and/or watch some of the areas finest tyers. This is an informal gathering of tyers and fly fishermen and a great way to spend a cold Sunday in February. There is no charge, but donations are gladly accepted. Food and beverages are available.



## *March Madness Fly Tying Event*

Join members from across the state at this joint venture between our friends at the Rahway River chapter in Cranford and our NJ State Council. Members from all chapters are invited to come out for a day of tying and food while donating the flies to two great causes, Project Healing Waters for wounded war vets and Casting For Recovery for women's breast cancer survivors, both organization that use fly fishing to help heal body and mind.

The event is held at the Cranford Community Center at 220 Walnut Ave, Cranford on Saturday, March 22nd beginning at 9 am until 3pm. Free giveaways for all who attend!

Right: Some of the many flies tied and donated in 2013 to Project Healing Waters and Casting For Recovery.



**"It is not required that we know all of the details about every stretch of the river. Indeed, were we to know, it would not be an adventure, and I wonder if there would be much point in the journey."  
— Jeffrey R. Anderson**



## *Coldwater Conservation School June 2014*

The Coldwater Conservation School is a collaborative effort between the

NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the NJ State Council of Trout Unlimited and its supporting chapters.

The goal of the school is to foster knowledge and appreciation of trout and coldwater habitats through a variety of hands-on activities and interactive learning methods. The Coldwater Conservation School will give students

practical knowledge about trout, their coldwater habitats, and provide information they can use to protect and improve the habitat trout need to flourish.

The school will be held at the NJ School of Conservation in Stokes State Forest from June 26 - June 29, 2014.

Cost is \$275.00 per student and includes food, lodging and equipment. Students must be 11 to 14 years old at the time of the program in order to

participate.

For more information, visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) or contact:

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Oxford, NJ 07863

908-637-4125 x 112

[Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us)

## *Annual Musky Clean-Up April 12th*

Come out in support of our partners at the Musconetcong Watershed Association for the annual Musconetcong watershed clean up on Saturday, April 12th from 9 am until noon. TU members typically gathers at one of three locations and bring our waders so that we can reach debris that has made its way into the river. Local youth including Scouts, church groups and others clean the sides of the roads throughout the watershed because

roadside trash always makes it way into the river when it rains or when the wind blows.

Members can meet at Hampton Borough Park right off route 31 (Valley Road or Main Street to Park Drive into the park next to the river). Volunteers clean up the middle section of the river from this location. The lower river meets at the former paper mill at Cyphers Road off rt. 627, Riegelsville Warren Glen Road

and works downstream to the Delaware River.

Our upper river clean up crew meets at Hackettstown's San Bar Park/Alumni Field off Willow Grove Street which is off route 46 in town. Garbage bags, gloves and bottled water will be supplied and collections sites will be told to our volunteers at the 9 am meeting time at the location of your choice.

Contact Brian Cowden for more details at: [BCowden@tu.org](mailto:BCowden@tu.org)



*TO volunteers cleaning up the Musky in previous years near Hackettstown*

## *Ramsey Cast and Blast February 22nd—volunteers needed*

Volunteers are needed to man a table to introduce perspective new members to join TU. You can tie flies or just chat with folks as they stop by booths during this annual event that is always well attended.

Ramsey Outdoor Store in Succasunna is holding this, their

5th annual Cast & Blast with guest speakers and fishing and hunting as well as conservation organizations' booths spread throughout this large store. If you can help the chapter on this day, please contact:

Chapter President, Fredy DeLeon at: [Fredy@ridgeandvalleytu.org](mailto:Fredy@ridgeandvalleytu.org)

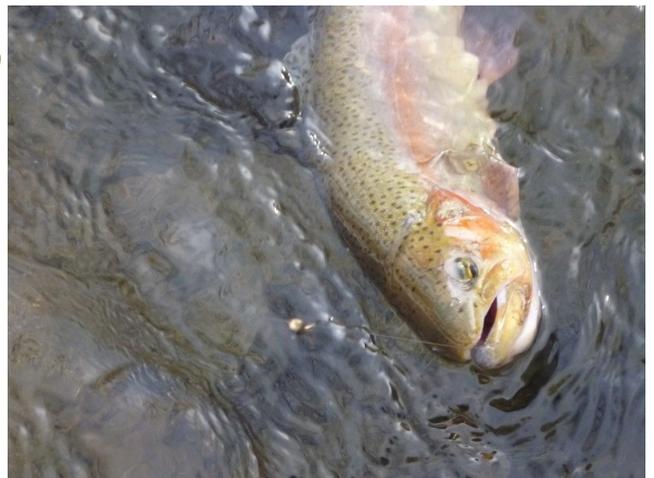
**"Life is like the river, sometimes it sweeps you gently along and sometimes the rapids come out of nowhere."  
— Emma Smith**

## *Pequest Open House—March 29 and 30*

A few volunteers are needed to man a Ridge & Valley TU chapter booth at the Pequest Trout Hatchery to promote TU locally. Volunteers may tie flies or simply engage interested attendees that day and recruit new members. If you can help on one or both days, please contact chapter Presi-

dent Fredy DeLeon at: Fredy De Leon ([fredy@ridgeandvalleytu.org](mailto:fredy@ridgeandvalleytu.org))

This is our chapter's meeting location and we need to put on a strong appearance to help spread the word about our still-new Trout Unlimited chapter.



## Chapter Fishing Outings.....



Above: A Little Lehigh outing and all the chapter outings are great ways to learn new water, meet interesting folks like yourself, and enjoy a day on the water.



Above: A Ken Lockwood brown. Remember, this TCA is no a year round no-kill and all trout are to be released unharmed.



Above: Large Brook trout and below, a big South Branch wild brown



Above: None other than Captain Chaos himself!



Below: Musky gold!

## Chapter Fishing Outings.....



Above: The smile gives it away, a very nice brown from the Musky caught by Steve Hoppe, our Treasurer when he's not fishing.

Below: A Point Mountain TCA bomber is sent back to the Musky to fight another day



## Winter along the restored Musconetcong, a reflection back over two years



Restored Musconetcong River during mid-winter, 2 years post project....

Previously channeled upstream which caused sediment loading in this stretch, covering pools, riffles and runs over decades.

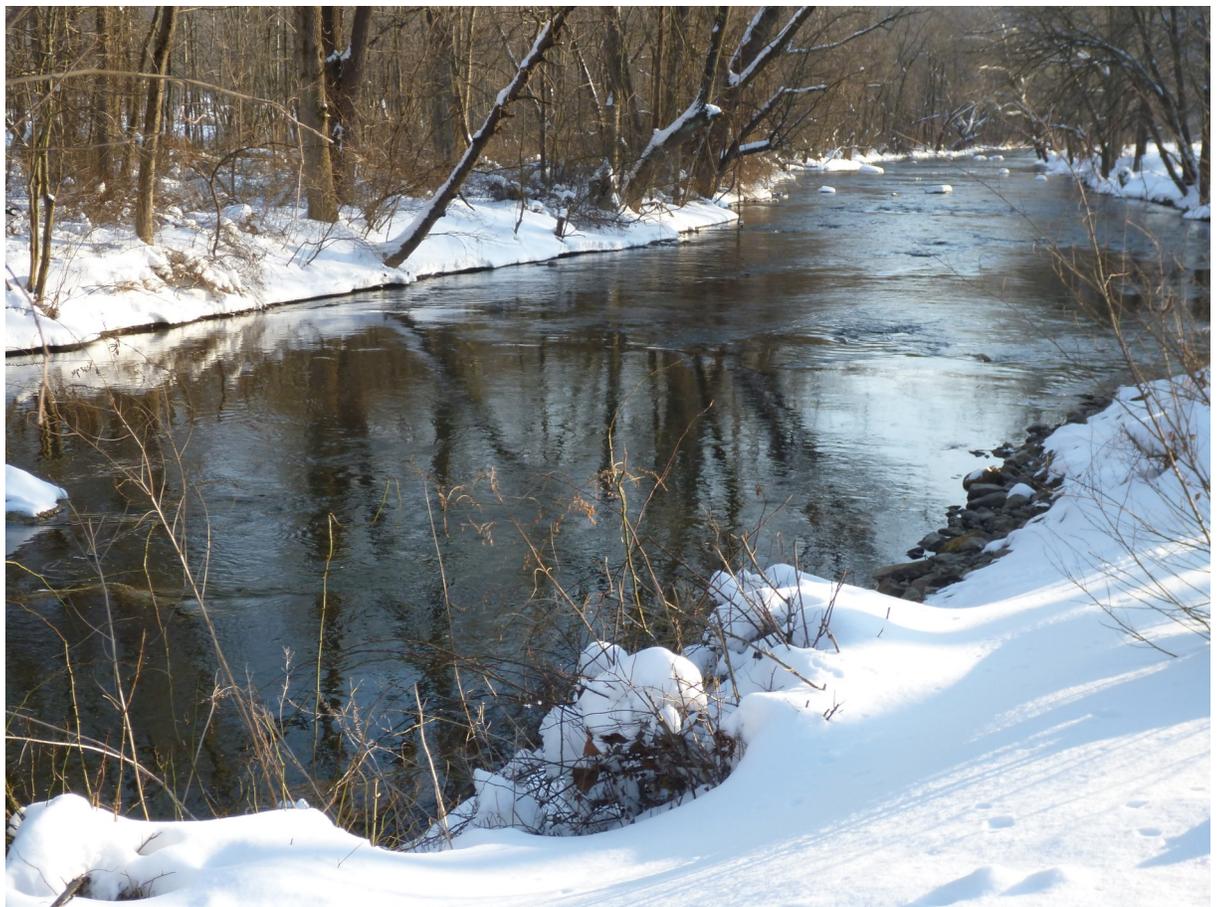
Below left: Pool restoration showing helical flows that scour sediments and keep deep thermal habitat for our trout.



Winter Along a Restored Musconetcong, a reflection back over two years



Top: A restored outhouse near the banks of the Wild & Scenic Musconetcong River in lower Washington Twp. in Warren County. That's Hampton Borough in Hunterdon on the opposite bank of the photos.



## Ridge & Valley Trout Unlimited - Warren County's TU

Ridge & Valley Trout Unlimited

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We're on the Web!

[www.ridgeandvalleytu.org](http://www.ridgeandvalleytu.org)

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Please attend one of our monthly meetings! We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Pequest Trout Hatchery in Oxford, NJ



*Today TU is a national organization with more than 160,000 members organized into about 400 chapters from Maine to Montana to Alaska and south to Georgia. This dedicated grassroots army is matched by a respected staff of lawyers, policy experts and scientists, who work out of more than 30 offices nationwide. These conservation professionals ensure that TU is at the forefront of fisheries restoration work at the local, state and national levels.*

*TU's mission is: To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

*TU's Vision: By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again*

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## Ridge & Valley TU is NJ's newest chapter

No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.

[Heraclitus](#)

Ridge & Valley TU members are a broad based group of conservation-minded anglers that work to protect and restore Warren County's numerous trout streams and rivers. R&VTU is fortunate to be surrounded by more wild trout water than any other area of the state including native brook trout streams teaming with our state's fish and New Jersey's only native salmonid. In addition to native brookies, Warren County streams have a bounty of wild brown and rainbow trout as well as stocked trout from all three species, brook, brown and rainbow.

Volunteers from the chapter involve themselves with hands on conservation and education projects as well as stream monitoring and advocacy for proper protections when threats to our coldwater resources arise.

Public education and outreach remain critical ways to get our message out as well as planting native trees and shrubs along the river, angler surveys, river clean ups and other "rock rolling projects" drive our passion to protect and restore trout waters in New Jersey and beyond. Please join us in our collective efforts!