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LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

Issue 36  
September 2007

# The Lehigh River Report

## The Voice of the Lehigh River Stocking Association

### THE STATE OF THE LEHIGH

**LRSA's Running Total:**  
**Trout Stocked: 281,300**  
**Money Raised: \$544,960**



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<b>Printed on recycled paper</b>	

The Lehigh River is now in the best condition it has been since prior to the industrial revolution. I would like to point out some of the ways the water quality has improved on our beloved Lehigh. The Lehigh was named the River of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This has put the Lehigh in the spotlight for conservation of the resource. There has been a lot of great media attention in print and television that informed the public about the jewel in the Lehigh Valley which can only help our cause and mission to restore the Lehigh to its valuable economic and recreational condition. The removal of dams on the Lehigh in Palmerton in 2006 and the Heilman Dam on the Mahoning Creek in August 2007 in Lehighton will increase the cold water flow that benefits the environment for trout. The Heilman Dam removal will create three acres of public park land that will be planted with native grasses and shrubs and tree seedlings.

Two important changes in the PA Fish and Boat Commission will help the Lehigh. The PA F&B has changed its mission statement "to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities". The important thing is the care of the resource first and the use of the resource. If water quality and the proper care of the water come first the improved aquatic life and use will naturally then occur. The second change is the two PA F&B commissioners that are great friends of the Lehigh, Fred Osifat from Carbon County and Dr Robert Bachman. Mr. Osifat is a long time LRSA member who enjoys fly fishing the river. Dr. Bachman was the director of both the Maryland Fish Heritage and Wildlife Administration and Fisheries Service. He is also on the board of the Lehigh Coldwater Alliance and a strong supporter of wild trout. I'm sure these two gentlemen will prove to be great allies of the Lehigh.

The Army Corps of Engineers has begun studies on the Francis Walter Dam for the recreational use of the Lehigh for both fisheries management and the rafting community. The ACE has now included the PA F&B, rafters, conservation groups and the fishing organizations in open meetings. The LRSA is represented and our voice is being heard.

With the help of the members of the LRSA we can make a change for the better. We are seeing that happen and must continue our efforts to make the Lehigh River the premier fishing destination in the East.

Tight lines.

Bill Derhammer, LRSA President



## LRSA—Enhancing Recreational Opportunities

The honor of receiving the 2007 River of the Year award from DCNR bears witness to the hard work of many organizations, and the resiliency of mother nature. The focus of conservation groups in the continued recovery of the Lehigh River involve a number of priorities including: 1) abandoned mine drainage reclamation; 2) promotion of "smart growth"; 3) protection of critical open space and floodplains; 4) provision for fish passage with removal of unused dams, 5) effective flow management from the FEW dam headwaters; 6) prevention of raw sewage overflow from waste water plants; and 7) enhancing recreational opportunities. The LRSA can help with all of these but most specifically, item 7. Imagine what trout fishing on the Lehigh would be like without LRSA. It is your valuable sponsorship of the LRSA that makes the exciting trout fishery possible in the remarkable stretch from Jim Thorpe to Northampton. Please keep your donations coming!

Matt MacConnell, LRSA VP

- Another fine Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal Article
- Congratulations to LRSA Sponsor Fred Osifat on his election to VP of PA Fish and Boat!
- Water Quality Profiles from March through September
- Ever wonder what the distribution of LRSA membership is across cities and towns? See page 10

## Salmon River Fishing Trip

The winners of the Salmon River fishing trip are Tom Zukovich #5169 and Emmett McCall #8593. The LRSA wants to thank Joe Vivenzio of River Run Troutfitters for the two trips he and his partner Gregg Boyd donated to the LRSA. The drawing was a success that added over \$1300 to our stocking program. Tom said if this went well he would continue to help the LRSA. Many thanks Tom and Gregg. We will let the members know how our winners do on their trip

### LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOC., INC.

#### SALMON RIVER N.Y. FISHING TRIP DRAWING - SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007

7:30 P.M. at Lappawinzo

Come join us at the Texas Hold-Um Poker Tournament  
Prize 1 – (1) Day Guided Float, Walk or  
Wade Trip - (\$300 Value)

Prize 2 - Same Prize as Above

Prizes donated by Joe Vivenzio of River Run Troutfitters

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and Greg Boyd of Rivers Edge Guide Service

**DONATION: \$1.00** Lic. #06-00173

Support the *Lehigh River Stocking Assoc. Inc.*

### Fall run salmon hooked by River Run Troutfitters at the Salmon River



## Badge Changes For 2008

We are considering a change in the badges for the LRSA for the new membership year. We would like to instead of issuing new badges each year to have decal to put over the year on your old badge. This could result in a savings of about \$.75 per member which would result in an additional 200 trout stocked each year. Any new member would be issued a badge and if needed lost badges would be replaced. Please give us your feedback. If this means more trout in the Lehigh it's a good thing.

## Start Chapters Again?

The LRSA started with chapters that raised money for stocking in specific areas of the Lehigh; Walnutport, Lehighton, Palmerton and Jim Thorpe. In order to raise more income to stock trout, would there be any interest from our membership to raise additional money for areas? This would be in addition to the existing LRSA sponsorship, not meant to replace what is now in place as an organization but to enhance the club. If there are any members willing to step up please let us know contact any board member (name and numbers at end of newsletter) or better yet, come to a board meeting to present any ideas.

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## 24" CLUB

Any interest from the membership in a big trout sponsorship? If you care to donate to the stocking of large trout in the spring of 2008 please let us know your wishes. The LRSA will get prices of 20" plus rainbows and you can be a proud donor of big trout for the lovely Lehigh. If you're a catch and release guy it's the gift that keeps on giving.

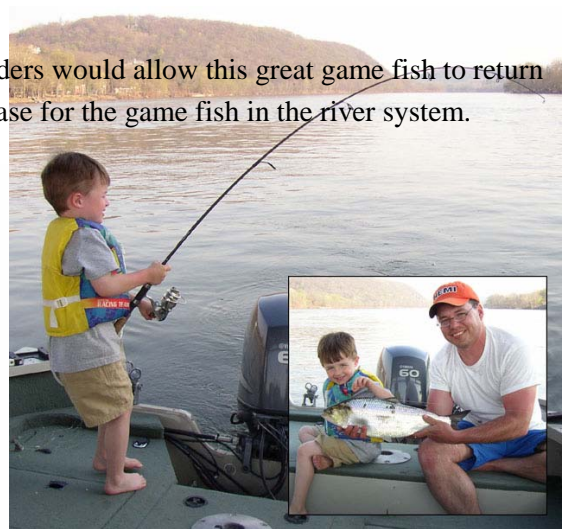
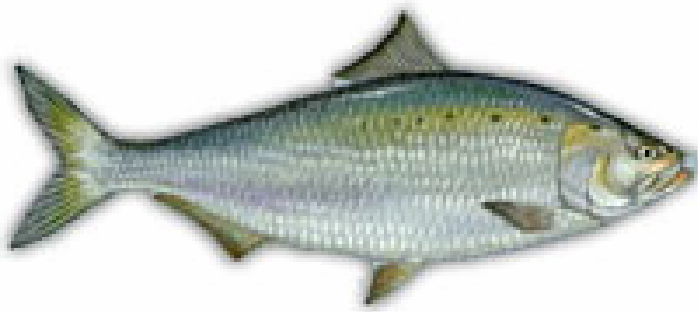
## American Shad in the Lehigh

Did you know the PA Fish and Boat was started in 1866 to restore shad to the state? Shad were an important food source to early American settlers as well as Native Americans to Pennsylvania. Thousands were caught each spring in the Lehigh by Moravian settlers. By 1800 the shad no longer entered the Lehigh, their way now blocked by dams and pollution. The Delaware shad runs were virtually over until the 1960s when they started their comeback. Shad can make several migrations from the ocean to freshwater, greater than 50% return to spawn. The shad that live on the East Coast all spend a great deal of their adult lives in the Bay of Fundy where conditions meet their needs of feeding on zooplankton. Early spring brings the migrations back to fresh water to start the new cycle of nature. Shad run up the Delaware as far north as New York to spawn in the upper reaches of the river. Juvenile shad return to the ocean in late summer to be eaten with great relish by all kinds of predator fish, trout for one. Do you see where I'm going with this? Great food source for the Lehigh trout fishery!

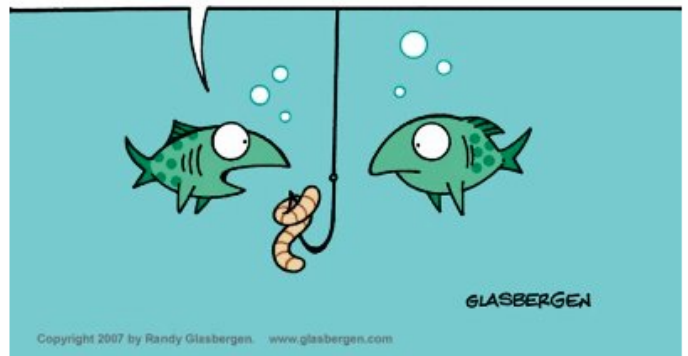
The PA F&BC has been stocking shad fry in the Lehigh, Schuylkill and Susquehanna rivers since 1985. The Lehigh and Schuylkill are the priority Rivers for the state's restoration program. The Easton Dam had 2023 shad in 2006 video taped at that site and the Chain Dam Fishway had 588.

The removal of dams at Easton, Allentown and Cementon or effective ladders would allow this great game fish to return to its native habitat and provide both outstanding sport fishing and a forage base for the game fish in the river system.

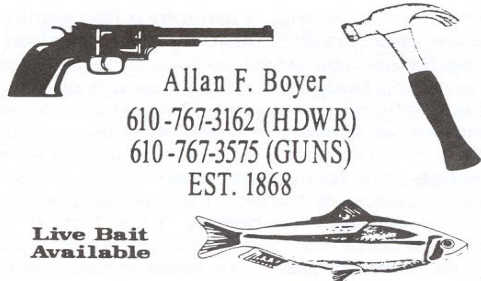
## AMERICAN SHAD (*Alosa sapidissima*)



I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING ONLINE,  
BUT I HEARD IT CAN BE DANGEROUS!



### A. F. Boyer Hardware & Guns



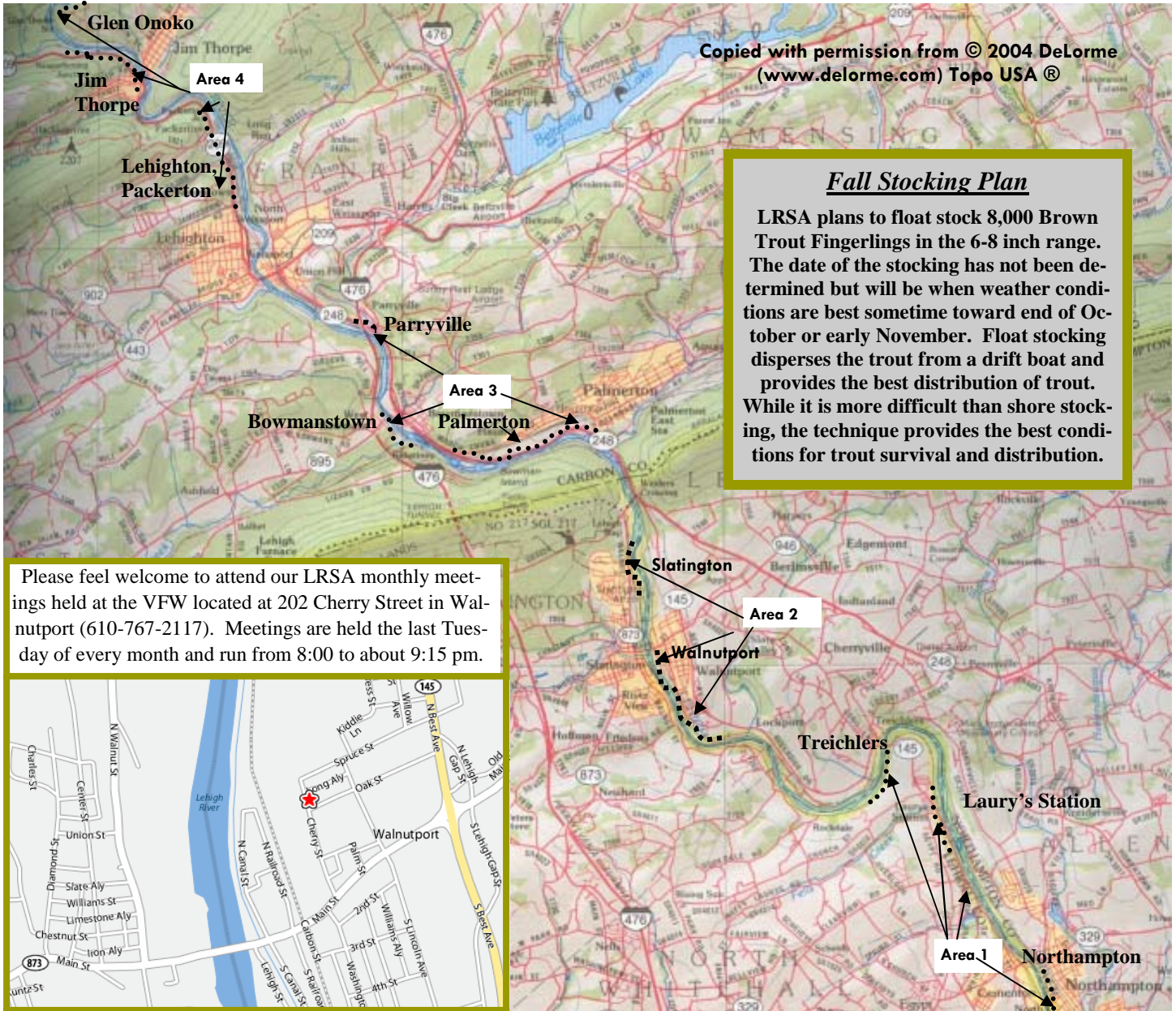
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# Stocking Location Map—Four General Areas



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## LRSA Texas Hold'em Tournament

The LRSA held their latest Texas Hold'em Tournament on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. The turn-out was smaller than normal, but the players had a grand time!! The very first hand knocked out the very first player of the evening! On the river card, one player hit an Ace high straight. Another player hit a full house. Ya just never know about Texas hold'em! The food and beverages that evening were enjoyed, especially the cold drinks. It was one of the hottest days of the year and record high humidity. The Lapp hall was air conditioned and very comfortable. The LRSA provided great entertainment and some very nice prizes. Of course, the main goal is to put more and larger trout in the big Lehigh and we were able to accomplish just that.

The next tournament is being planned for sometime in March of 2008 and should be located at the Lapp. Details of the next tournament will be announced in future newsletters. Please try and keep the date open.....the more players the more trout we can stock!!

Tight Lines, Bob Metz

## A LRSA Rainbow Headed for a New Home in the Lehigh



### Notable Quote:

According to the PFBC's web site, Fred Osifat, newly elected VP of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, sentiment is that of Henry David Thoreau who wrote:

*"Many men go fishing all of their lives, without knowing it is not fish they are after."*



"According to Wikipedia, we should have grown legs and evolved into land creatures millions of years ago. Why didn't we get a memo about this?!"



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# Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal

By Tom Gyory September 2007

Summer is coming to a close and it has been a great season for fly fishing on the Lehigh. I managed to make several trips in June, July, and August and had good fishing even through the hot spells.

In June, the rain stopped and the water dropped. Dry weather concentrated the trout in the pools so the fish were easier to



find. On one trip, I took my daughter Julia down the river and had success with sulphurs, blue wing olives, and caddis. Mornings and early evenings were the best times to fish. One of my favorite stretches was the Glen Onoko area to Jim Thorpe. When we put the boat in at the Glen we caught a few at the park boat ramp (N 40°52.963 W 075°45.582) especially early in the morning before the crowds disturbed the water. (I'm still mapping GPS information on the river as I reported in the last newsletter; pools, springs, boat ramps, and parking. It is a bigger task than I had thought but I'm making progress.) My daughter and I camped on

Boy Scout Island officially known as Bowman's Island (N 40°47.372 W 075°38.668) and had a blast catching trout watching wildlife and spending quality time together.

Also during June, Matt MacConnell and I spoke at the Wildlands Conservancy's Lehigh River Sojourn. It was a nice trip



and a good chance to speak to about 85 people who knew little about the LRSA but care a lot for the Lehigh River. I spoke on our organization in general and Matt discussed water quality efforts. We also stopped at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center where we learned about the grass planting efforts on the mountain by Dan Kunkle. Pictured here are from left to right Sojourn Coordinator Larry Rafes, Tom Gyory, Wildlands President Chris Kocher, Matt MacConnell and Marvin White (Lehigh University faculty).

In July, things started to really heat up and the trout began to slow down except on rainy days and very early or late in the day. Sometimes you needed to stay till after dark to get the trout to rise to a

caddis imitation. Accurate casts and delicate presentations were needed to fool the hold over trout in the low clear water as I discovered one evening while fishing with Irv Conway behind the Slatington airport. I started to focus on the springs and creeks that feed the Lehigh and that paid off. Many fish seek the safety of the cooler water such as the short stretch on the lower end of the Pohopoco. On another float down the river in July, member Greg Gliwa and I had a good day fishing and charting the river. It was a relatively cool day with overcast skies.

It's nice to create a vessel by combining existing ideas and adding some of my own in order to customize it as much as possible for my needs. For example, the seats will be cushioned covered 94 quart Igloo coolers. They will allow seating and water tight storage for longer camping/fishing trips down the river. Also I am designing a transom to attach a small motor for trips down larger river like the Niagra. I'm getting excited to test my boat on the Lehigh. I was able to get a



few on top water #16 blue winged olives and Greg caught a beautiful rainbow on a buck tail streamer.



In August, the trout fishing slowed and the small mouth fishing really picked up. I try not to target cold water species when the water temps exceed 75°F so as not to stress them when I am practicing catch and release. The bass are very aggressive and will chase almost anything that moves. It's fun and fills the time before the trout begin feeding heavily for their fall buildup.

In the autumn, I recommend slate drakes, caddis, and blue winged olives for top water and large stone fly imitations and wooly buggers and minnow imitations for sub surface action.

My cataraft pontoon boat is coming along as I mentioned in the last newsletter and should be ready for its maiden voyage by steelhead season in November. David Beers of Forest Inn is fabricating the 13foot aluminum framework and his welding skills are excellent. The pontoons and other accessories are from NRS of Idaho. It's nice to create a vessel by combining existing ideas and adding some of my own in order to customize it as much as possible for my needs. For example, the seats will be cushioned covered 94 quart Igloo coolers. They will allow seating and water tight storage for longer camping/fishing trips down the river. Also I am designing a transom to attach a small motor for trips down larger rivers like the Niagara. I'm getting excited to test my boat on the Lehigh.

I recently visited Rivers Outdoor Adventures in New Ringold, PA and spoke to Tim Skoraszewski and he gave me some helpful information on where I can launch my boat in the Gorge while he showed me his fly tying skills. Rivers Outdoor Adventures' shop also provides complete guide service and knows fly fishing from the Lehigh to Alaska and many rivers in between. I hope I can do a trip with them next year.



One last note, recently I have seen a lot of trash along the Lehigh while fishing and I think it is important for all members to help keep the banks of the Lehigh clean. Please try to remove trash while your on the river. I am trying once again to organize a clean up effort in

conjunction with the fall stocking. So if you volunteer for the stocking please help by bringing plastic bags and by picking up trash at all the stocking areas. The river thanks you!

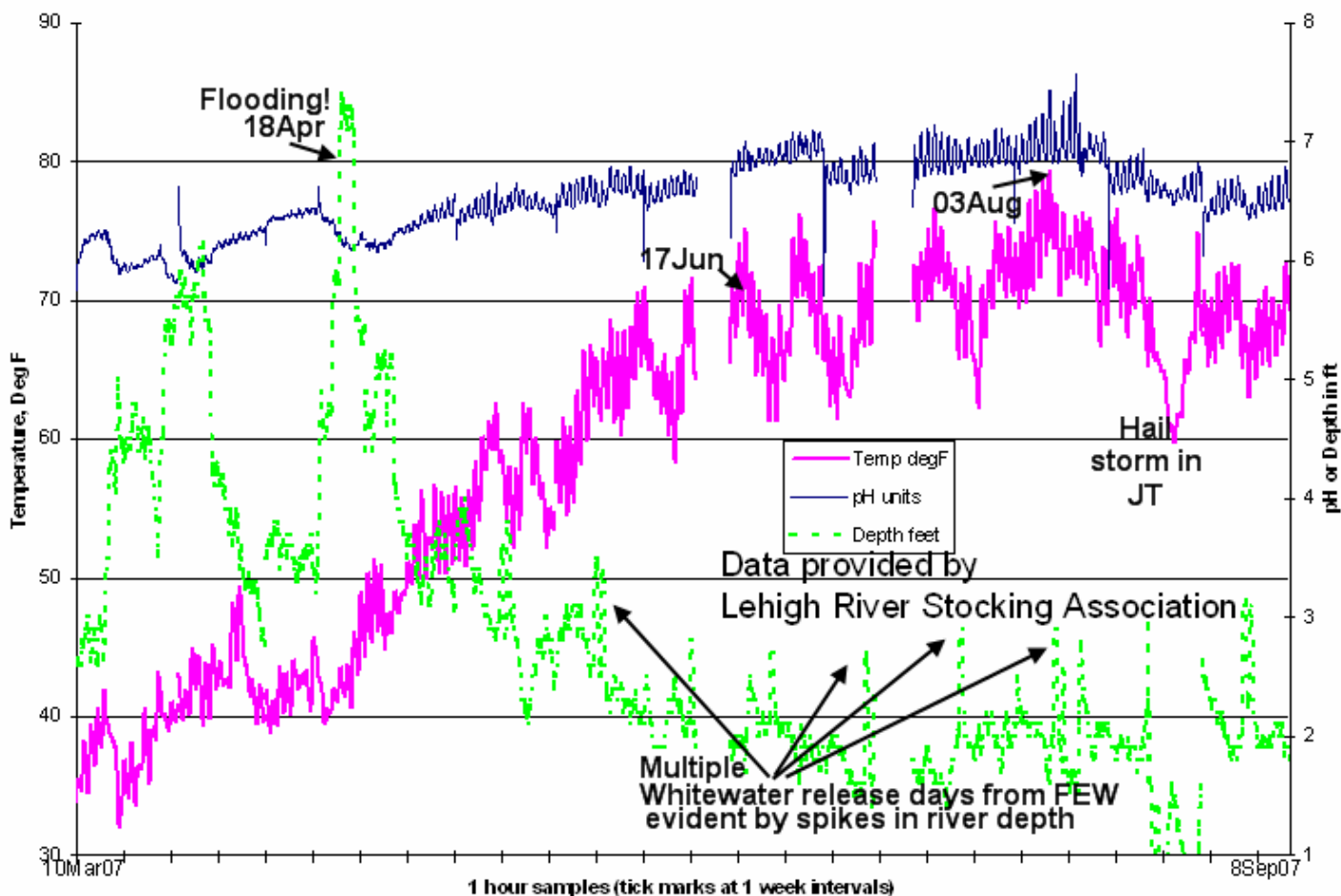
Tell a friend to join the LRSA we need the members to keep the trout fishing great. See you on the Lehigh.



# Lehigh River Water Quality Update

The LRSA has maintained 24/7 water quality monitoring with the Hydrolab probe just above Jim Thorpe since early March. This was a warm year, the river climbed above 70 deg F regularly between June 17th and August 18th. The river came alarmingly close to 80 deg F on August 3rd. The river depth data provides a window into the affect of the white water releases where depth typically increases by 1 foot. The pH steadily climbed over the summer from 6.5 to about 7.3. Daily pH cycles increased to about 0.5 during the warmest periods due evidently to dramatic increases in river algae, due to photosynthesis removing CO2 (forms carbonic acid) from the water which causes pH to climb during the day and fall at night. LRSA is proactively sharing this data with the PA Fish & Boat and other groups in a collaborative effort to better understand this complex riverine system to further improve the trout fishery. - MM

Lehigh River 0.5 Mile Upstream of Jim Thorpe Train Station - pH, Temperature and Depth  
Spring/Summer 2007 - March 10 to September 8th



## Lausanne Tunnel Abandoned Mine Reclamation—Wetland Working!

In 2007 – the third growing season, more than 48% of the total iron and 56% of the aluminum were removed from the Lausanne Tunnel Mine drainage, exceeding engineer’s expectations. The Lausanne Tunnel watershed restoration project, located on Lehigh Gorge State Park property, Nesquehoning Borough, Carbon County, had been considered the most impacting mine discharge to the Lehigh River. The water flowing from the Tunnel contributes an average of 4,000 gallons per minute of mine drainage to the Nesquehoning Creek, a tributary to the Lehigh River. The Tunnel’s mine drainage contains an average of 16,284 lbs/day of sulfates, 80 lbs/day of aluminum, 123 lbs/day of manganese, 194 lbs/day of iron and 123 lbs/day of ferrous iron .” - Excerpt from the Report by Wildlands Conservancy. Get the full report from our web site at [www.LRSA.org](http://www.LRSA.org) and go to the Watershed tab.—MM



## LOCAL ADVOCATE TELLS CAPITOL HILL TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS

(Copied from Press Release)

Allentown, PA – Rivers and streams in our region got a bigger voice in Washington, DC this week when an Allentown man and river advocates from around the country traveled to Capitol Hill to push for greater protection of rivers and clean water. Matt MacConnell with Lehigh River Stocking Association met with Representative Charles Dent, the staff of Congressman Kanjorsky to discuss ways to safeguard the Lehigh River, and support measures that ensure clean water and healthy rivers in communities across the country. He was one of more than 130 river citizen advocates in Washington this week as part of an annual effort by the national non-profit American Rivers.

“The Lehigh River is so important to our community that we’ve got to take every opportunity we can to speak out for it. The chance to make that case in Washington, DC was just too good to pass up,” said MacConnell. “Representative Dent and Kanjorsky were extremely interested when I told them about how national policies affect the river people love back home.”

The status of abandoned mine reclamation projects, particularly the Lausanne Tunnel site at the confluence of the Nesquehoning Creek and the Lehigh River was highlighted in detail. The exciting collaboration between multiple organizations on behalf of the Lehigh River and the need for continued funding of conservation projects was also stressed.

MacConnell also emphasized the importance of protecting wetlands, and small, sometimes intermittent streams, in order to ensure clean water in our rivers and lakes. Safeguarding these small waters, which are often easy to overlook, is vital to any effort to protect or enhance drinking water, fishing, swimming and other recreation in the rivers and lakes that are important to towns and cities across the country.

“It’s thrilling to see so many people in Washington, DC spreading the word that a healthy river is a valuable community asset,” said Rebecca Wodder, president of American Rivers. “Senators and Members of Congress got the message loud and clear that people back home care about their rivers, and want to see real progress in protecting them.”

The Lehigh River Stocking Association ([www.LRSA.org](http://www.LRSA.org)) is a non-profit organization that uses donations from sponsors to stock trout in the Lehigh between Jim Thorpe and Northampton, a stretch not stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. LRSA also maintains continuous water quality monitoring in the Lehigh which helps contribute important information needed to further improve understanding of the river ecosystem and trout fishery.

Founded in 1973, American Rivers is a national non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers for the benefit of communities, fish, and wildlife. American Rivers has over 60,000 supporters nationwide, with staff in Washington, DC and the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, California and Northwest regions. Visit [www.AmericanRivers.org](http://www.AmericanRivers.org).

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### LRSA Conservation Program gets Big Boost from Local Donation

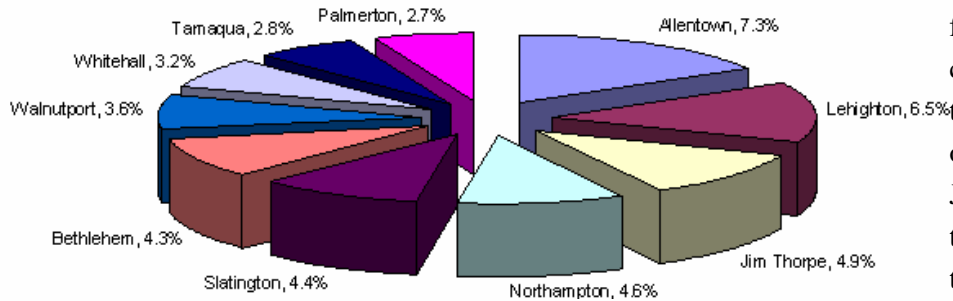
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., a multinational industrial gases company headquartered in Trexlertown, PA, has made a \$2,500 donation to the LRSA conservation program. Representatives at Air Products were particularly interested in supporting the LRSA vision of streaming water quality information to the Internet in real time. This donation will enable purchase of a wireless cellular modem to support this project. Further funds are needed to complete this project but this has provided a substantial boost. If you would like to make a donation in support of this particular project, please make your donation to LRSA and note what amount you would like applied to the river conservation program.—MM



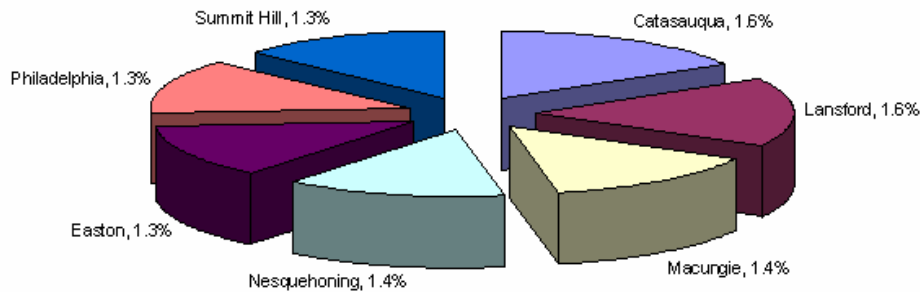
# LRSA Sponsorship Geographical Distribution

A pictorial snap shot of how the LRSA sponsorship breaks down by city or towns

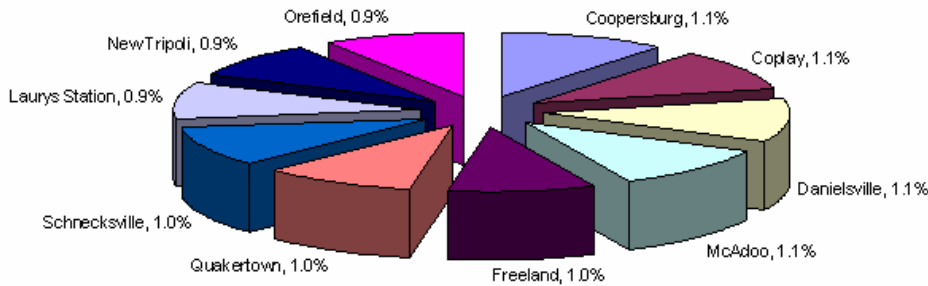
## Distribution of Towns with > 20 Sponsors Each



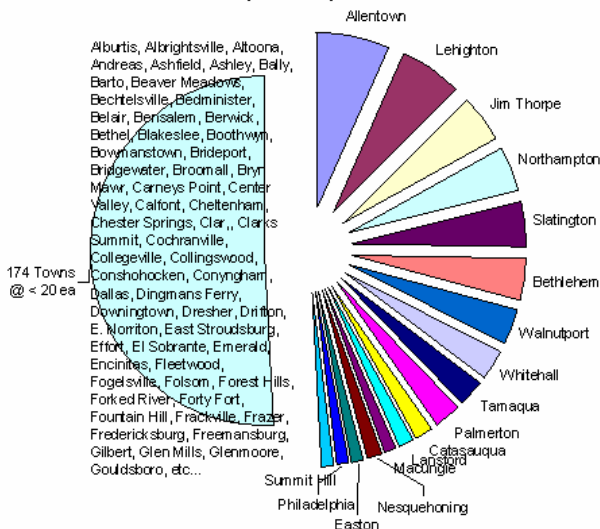
## Distribution in Towns with between 15 and 19 Sponsors Each



## Distribution in Sponsors Between Towns with between 11 and 14 Sponsors Each

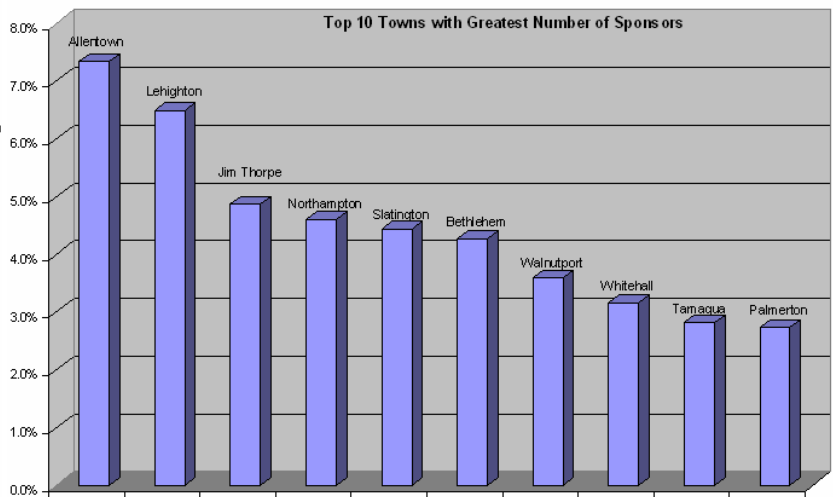


## Overall Sponsorship Distribution



As you can see from the charts and graphs, the sponsors for the LRSA come from far and wide. We see that no one city or town dominates to any great extent, Allentown leads but represents only 7% of all members. Lehigh, Jim Thorpe, Northampton and Slatington round out the top five towns with the greatest number of sponsors. About one half of all LRSA sponsors hail from towns where there are fewer than 20 sponsors. There are one hundred and forty towns that have fewer than 5 sponsors.

At LRSA, the trout stocking strategy has been to spread them out evenly among four general areas over about 29 miles of river—the four areas center around 1) Northampton/Laury's Station/Triecklers, 2) Walnutport/Slatington, 3) Palmerton/Bowmanstown/Parryville, and 4) Glen Onoko/Jim Thorpe/Lehigh. The water in these stretches hold trout very well and provide great angling opportunities for our sponsors who hail from all over eastern PA.—MM





**LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 54  
Walnutport, PA 18088

E-mail: [webmaster@LRSA.org](mailto:webmaster@LRSA.org)

A Non-Profit Organization  
Dedicated to the Restoration and  
Revitalization of the Lehigh River.

Sponsors and interested people are wel-  
come to join us at our meetings—the last  
Tuesday of every month at the Walnutport  
VFW at 202 Cherry St (see map on page 4)

We're on the web!  
[www.lrsa.org](http://www.lrsa.org)



**LRSA Board of Directors: LRSA Officers**

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- Fred Foster
- Tom Gyory, DMD
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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** — A special THANK YOU to Air Products for their generous donation of \$2,500 to support the LRSA vision of transmitting water quality information to the Internet for broad public access. As always, thanks to all the sponsors for your generous support to the Lehigh River Stocking Association. Thanks to the Foster family for providing private river access in Jim Thorpe in support of the water quality monitoring program. Thanks for the kind words of encouragement and support from the many sponsors who have expressed themselves to us in the renewal letters.

**SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Yes, I do want to support the outstanding effort to restore, revitalize and restock the magnificent Lehigh River.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please inform us. New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic sponsorship is \$15.** All sponsorships include badge, ID card and newsletter.  
Please Check this Box for Window Decal \_\_\_\_\_

**Silver Sponsorship is \$30.** You will receive a free LRSA T-shirt! State your size \_\_\_\_\_

**Gold Sponsorship is \$35.** You will receive a free LRSA Hat!

**Platinum Sponsorship is \$50.** You will receive a free LRSA Sweatshirt! State your size \_\_\_\_\_

**Platinum Sponsorship is \$50.** You will receive a free LRSA Hat and T-shirt! State your size \_\_\_\_\_

**Conservation Sponsorship (Catch and Release) is \$50.** You will receive a Special LRSA Hat.

**Diamond Sponsorship is \$100.** You will receive a custom sterling silver ring. (4-6 wks. delivery)

**Lehigh River Conservation Fund (Clean Water Fund)** \_\_\_\_\_ dollars

Enclosed is my check or money order for \_\_\_\_\_ dollars

I promise to obey all state fishing laws and rules of the Lehigh River Stocking Association, return my fish unharmed and keep only the fish I intend to consume.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to: \*~~~~> Lehigh River Stocking Association PO Box 54 Walnutport, PA 18088 <~~~~\*

**[www.LRSA.org](http://www.LRSA.org)**

## **Funding Received for Phase 1 Study Flow Study at FEW**

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has announced start of the “Lehigh River Recreational Enhancement Study” (2007) after funding was received—\$75K in federal funding and \$75K in non-Federal funds (from Commonwealth of PA) to complete Phase 1. This will last through to the Summer of 2008 and builds on the work done in the Lehigh River Water Quality Monitoring Study (2001). Phase 1 of the model will focus on temperature and flow factors over 45 miles of the Lehigh, its major tributaries, F.E. Walter Reservoir, and Beltsville Reservoir. The model proposed by the US Army Corps is CE-QUAL-W2 Version 3, which is a two-dimensional hydrodynamic and water quality model for simulating surface water systems, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) will develop the model in cooperation with the Philadelphia District. Monthly progress reports will be provided to LRSA and other project partners by ACE. If additional Federal and non-Federal funds are received, the study will progress to Phase 2 which will address low dissolved oxygen, sulfide, reduced iron and manganese, nutrients and other parameters.—MM