



# Lehigh River Watch

## 2017 LRSA Spring Stocking Schedule

LRSA's Running Total:

**Trout Stocked: 349,900**

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The plan detailed below will proceed rain or shine. However, if the river is high (example, ~1000 cfs at Lehighton) the LRSA reserves the right to delay the stocking as required for safety and to avoid fish losses in high water. If in doubt check the LRSA facebook page or webpage for updates.

**Saturday April 1st**—Meet at 9am at the Northampton Pavilion on Canal Street. The stocking truck will contain 900 lbs of rainbow and 900 lbs of brown trout in the 12-15 inch range. In addition a number of 20+” trout will be stocked as memorial fish. Stocking stops will be Canal Road, Cementon Dam, Laurys Station pull over, River Road, Cove Road (Treichlers Bridge), D&L Trail on west side of river with stops at old dam, cliffs, opposite Bertsch Creek and Pillars. Next stop on east bank at Walnutport boat ramp, Walnutport pavilion, west side again at Slatington Szokes Brothers and finish at the 873 Bridge boat ramp where a number of large memorial trout will be released.

**Saturday April 15th**—Meet at 9am at Glen Onoko at the rocky beach. The stocking truck will contain 900 lbs of rainbow and 900 lbs of brown trout in the 12-15 inch range. Stocking stops will be the Glen pool, Nesquehoning Bridge, Jim Thorpe Train station beach and lower end, Packerton Dip (straight in, pump house and behind Kovach’s), Dunbars Beach, Parryville turnpike bridge, Bowmanstown 895 bridge, East Penn park, D&L Trail on West side of river with stops at islands and finishing opposite the Horseshoe in Palmerton.

**Saturday May 6th**—Meet at 9am at Jim Thorpe Train Station. The stocking truck will contain 900 lbs of rainbow and 900 lbs of brown trout in the 12-15 inch range. In addition their will be several 23” class trout for memorial trout releases at Dunbars and at the East Penn stop. Stocking stops will be the Jim Thorpe Train station beach and lower end, Packerton Dip (straight in), Dunbars Beach, Parryville turnpike bridge, Bowmanstown 895 bridge, East Penn park, Horseshoe in Palmerton, Slatington at Szokes Brothers, Walnutport boat ramp, Walnut-

port pavilion, Treichlers Cove Road, Laurys Station pull over, Cementon Dam and finish at Northampton Pavilion.

**Saturday May 13th**— 7th Annual Lunkerfest Contest at East Penn Park in Bowmanstown. Contest runs 8:30 to 3pm. See flyer for more details on page 7. 1400 hundred rainbow and brown at 17”, more than ten at 26+” , five at 22-25”. Nearly 70 prizes for winning anglers.

As you may know, this newsletter is only being distributed to members who have paid the 2017 dues. We hope that this information helps you in your angling plans on the Lehigh. Please plan to meet us at one or more of the stocking events listed above and introduce yourself, happy to have you along and we could probably use the help and don’t forget your waders!

## PFBC to Stock Lehigh Main Stem in Jim Thorpe by Matt MacConnell

This has been a long time in coming, but thankfully we have confirmation that PA Fish and Boat will begin assisting LRSA and other private stocking clubs in stocking the main stem in Jim Thorpe area. In response to our letter sent to PFBC Director Arway in January of 2012 requesting assistance and providing detailed water quality data that LRSA has compiled over the years to support this request, he replied in 2012 that this request would be studied. LRSA had a visit from PFBC in 2015 indicating they were considering it but bridge construction delayed this. LRSA followed up with a letter to Director Arway in Jan 2016 requesting an update. At long last we have received the following from Daryl Pierce at PFBC: “...now that the SR 903 Bridge construction is complete, we are moving forward with initiating a new stocking section for the Lehigh River. The new stocked section will be from 0.33 mi upriver of the Railroad Bridge in Glen Onoko downriver 3.1 miles to the confluence with Mauch Chunk Creek, inclusive of the Jim Thorpe municipality. For the 2017 season, the stocked section will be managed under the Regular Opening Day. It will be stocked with Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout on a preseason basis only. We anticipate stocking about 800 to 1,000 adult trout on April 13, just two days prior to the Regular Opening Day. The Carbon County Commissioners have graciously agreed to provide free parking access for anglers in Lot B of the municipal parking lot located downtown Jim Thorpe. Anglers will be required to present a valid PFBC Pennsylvania Fishing License to the lot attendant. Please note anglers can also access the new stocked reach at the Glen Onoko access, located in the Lehigh State Gorge Park or along the Delaware & Lehigh Rails-to-Trails.” Congratulations to LRSA for this perseverance and many thanks to PA Fish and Boat for this welcome support!

**Monthly Meeting Location** —Meetings now held at Sliders Pub in Schnecksville, 4650 Main St. (Rt 309).

610-769-4004. Meetings 7-9 pm the last Tuesday of each month. Please visit us, we would like to meet you and get your input!

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LRSA stocks trout in four main areas along the 29 miles of river between Northampton and Jim Thorpe. A listing of most popular spots are:

**Jim Thorpe**—use the train station parking lot where the rafters put in (it is just below the 903 bridge). Or, you can walk up river a bit. Also try Glen Onoko—follow 903 over the river and stay left into the park. There is a great trout pool a short walk from the parking lot, or you can walk or ride a bike upstream into the gorge to Park Bench, Bear Creek trib area is also very good.

**Packerton**—pull off 209 where the road dips down steeply between Lehighton and Jim Thorpe. You can park and walk straight back to the river, lots of good access there. Head down river about 100 yards to pump house and you will find a riffle with a deep pool behind it.

**Lehighton**—Make a right off of 209 at Dunbar's Beverages and take the road all the way back to the rocky beach near the river. Or, drive down stream on the access road that runs parallel to route 209 and walk in.

**Parryville**—Pull off route 248 at the Rock Hill Cement Company and park at the Canal Park area. The Pohopoco Creek confluence with the Lehigh provides very good, cold, conditions for trout. The Pohopoco holds fish too, particularly below the dam.

**Bowmanstown**—Fishing is good above or below the Route 895 bridge. You can park under the bridge. Or, drive down to the new boat ramp about 1/2 mile south of Lizard Creek, on west side of river: we call the large pool the "Musky Pool" and it is where we hold Lunkefest.

**Palmerton**—Head south on 248 and take the Palmerton exit. Take the second dirt road to the right and head down to the "horseshoe." The river forms a big bend in that area and there is a pool just below the rapids.

**Slatington**—Heading east on 248, take a right over

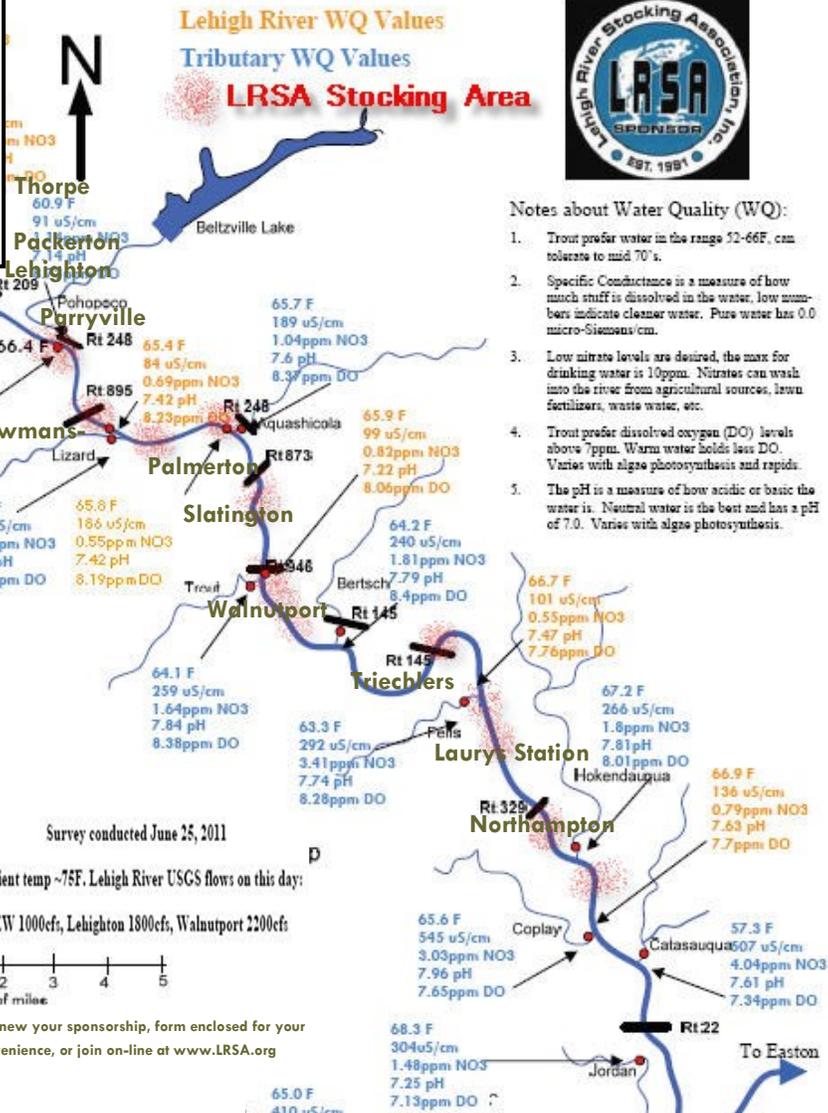
the 873 bridge and you will see Slatington Fabricators on your left. You can find a place to park along the road at that point and walk-in access to the river (you will pass the Szokes Bros. building). This spot is just below shale riffles and there are lots of good fishing pools in that area.

**Walnutport**—Head into Walnutport and Canal Park on the east side of the river just below the Main Street Bridge. Head down to the pavilion (about 1/4 mile downstream) and walk to the river. The canal runs about one mile down to Bertsch Creek. You will find many good pools along the way.

**Trichlers**—Heading north on Route 145, take a right onto Cove Road before you get to the bridge. Drive down and park under the bridge. Fish there or head up stream to the fantastic pool just below the old dam.

**Laurys Station**—Take River Road on right as you are heading North on Route 145. Drive down and park at the dead end.

**Northampton**—Fish below the dam where Route 329 crosses the Lehigh. Anywhere from the dam down to the pavilion area is a good area for fishing.



- Notes about Water Quality (WQ):
1. Trout prefer water in the range 52-66F, can tolerate to mid 70's.
  2. Specific Conductance is a measure of how much stuff is dissolved in the water, low numbers indicate cleaner water. Pure water has 0.0 micro-Siemens/cm.
  3. Low nitrate levels are desired, the max for drinking water is 10ppm. Nitrates can wash into the river from agricultural sources, lawn fertilizers, waste water, etc.
  4. Trout prefer dissolved oxygen (DO) levels above 7ppm. Warm water holds less DO. Varies with algae photosynthesis and rapids.
  5. The pH is a measure of how acidic or basic the water is. Neutral water is the best and has a pH of 7.0. Varies with algae photosynthesis.

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# Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal — Tom Gyory



The Lehigh River provides a unique opportunity to catch trout in the preseason because while fisherman are restricted from fishing in trout approved waters during the early spring, the Lehigh (in the LRSA stocking area) is open to fishing year round. Many fishermen took advantage of this opportunity during an unseasonably warm weekend in February when LRSA Board member Gary Klein and I drove around to check out the fishing conditions. We saw several LRSA members at the Treichlers Bridge and Walnutport boat ramps including the ever present and always positive “Flying Hawaiian” Mookie of Palmerton who said he was catching a few early season rainbows on Hendrickson and Quill Gordon nymphs. We also ran into two environmentally concerned LRSA members, Shawn and Kat picking up trash and keeping the river looking beautiful. Everyone is ready for the winter to be over and the trout fishing to begin.

Here is a follow-up on the trip to Chile that I mentioned in the last newsletter, that Vince Spaits, Mark Kuebler and I took last month. The trout fishing (with grasshopper dry flies) was fantastic. The scenery was breathtaking. The accommodations at El Saltamontes Lodge were exquisite and the company was thoroughly enjoyable. I recommend the trip to anyone who can do it. The photos in this article are a few of the ones we took in beautiful Patagonia.



In Coop Nursery news, I attended the annual PA Fish and Boat meeting for Coop Nurseries in January. It covered the topics of veterinarian prescription requirement for medicating nursery trout, nutrition and transportation suggestions. The rainbow trout are growing nicely at both of our Coop Nurseries. We will be adding over three thousand more 12” -14” trout to the Lehigh this year; 1000 from Gyory’s Pond, 1000 from BC Bait in Lehighton and 1000 from the PA Fish and Boat in addition to the 8000 lbs. of larger trout we normally purchase and stock. This should be a very plentiful year for trout fishing on the Lehigh River. I can’t wait. See you on the Lehigh.



The probe remains in the river through November and is maintained periodically through the deployment. This data can also reveal pollution events, we have detected cases in the past and reported them to DEP. **The 2nd PROBE** — The second WQ probe will be used for the tributary survey, field studies at the mine drainage sites and other ad-hoc requirements. **Field Test Kits**— The field test kit that measures iron, aluminum and nitrate will be used to determine extent of pollution and effectiveness of the abandoned mine drainage sites that LRSA is looking after as well as special tributary investigations. **The SPECIAL PROJECTS** — The LRSA continues working on the grant request for the Parryville Dam Fishway. The application has been submitted to the Palmerton Zinc Pile Super Fund Trustees again (third time we hope is a charm), we are asking \$237,000 to complete this project and are working very closely with the Palmerton Borough and Municipal Authority who own the Parryville Dam. LRSA also continues defining project work at the area mine drainage areas and will be doing hay bale placements at the Lausanne Tunnel site this summer to improve wetland flow patterns. Anyone interested in helping out with any of these programs contact Matt at 610-657-2707.




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## LRSA Conservation Work Planning—Spring 2017 By Matt MacConnell

**The PROBE** —The LRSA will be deploying the Lehigh River water quality monitor this month and will locate the probe in the Treichlers/Laurys Station area. This will provide riverine baseline conditions needed to characterize how well the river can hold trout over the course of the year. The LRSA has accumulated 8 years of river baseline data so far, including: 4 years in Jim Thorpe, 2 years in Palmerton, 2 years in Slatington. This data will help to make the case to PFBC that the Lehigh from Jim Thorpe to Northampton are well within trout stocked fishery criteria (Per PA Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards). The system consists of a probe that lies on the river bottom 24/7 measuring temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, ORP, specific conductance, nitrate and depth. The probe is wired to a cellular modem and data is transmitted to the modem via a Modbus RS485 protocol and over a wireless Sprint service to an Internet Page. Go to our web page and click on the River and Water Quality Probe to view or download data. The probe remains in the river through November and is maintained periodically through the deployment. This data can also reveal pollution events, we have detected cases in the past and reported them to DEP. **The 2nd PROBE** — The second WQ probe will be used for the tributary survey, field studies at the mine drainage sites and other ad-hoc requirements. **Field Test Kits**— The field test kit that measures iron, aluminum and nitrate will be used to determine extent of pollution and effectiveness of the abandoned mine drainage sites that LRSA is looking after as well as special tributary investigations. **The SPECIAL PROJECTS** — The LRSA continues working on the grant request for the Parryville Dam Fishway. The application has been submitted to the Palmerton Zinc Pile Super Fund Trustees again (third time we hope is a charm), we are asking \$237,000 to complete this project and are working very closely with the Palmerton Borough and Municipal Authority who own the Parryville Dam. LRSA also continues defining project work at the area mine drainage areas and will be doing hay bale placements at the Lausanne Tunnel site this summer to improve wetland flow patterns. Anyone interested in helping out with any of these programs contact Matt at 610-657-2707.

## Lehigh River Tailwater by Mike Stanislaw

There are many factors which influence the trout fishery and the over potential of the Lehigh to be a world class trout fishing destination. Things like reducing Acid Mine Drainage pollution, or opening access to cold tributaries so that fish can take refuge in the hot summer heat. One of largest influences is the Francis E. Walter tail water release dam in the Lehigh's headwaters above Whitehaven PA. Generally speaking, tailwater release dams across the country provide some of the best trout fishing opportunities. The main reason is they allow dams to release naturally cold water from lower down in the reservoir instead of a top spillway that draws off the warmer water from the surface. Releasing this cold water into the river below tends to keep river temperatures close to 55 degrees year round for many miles below the dam. Keeping water temperatures cool in the summer and above freezing in the winter, allows fish to feed and grow year around. Some of the more famous ones are the Cannonsville Dam on the West Branch of the Delaware, Shoals Dam on the Arkansas White River, the Big Horn, Lower Madison, and Missouri rivers out west.

So if the Lehigh has a tailwater release dam, why is it not in the same class as those rivers? In 1961, under direction from congress, the Francis E. Walter dam was constructed. While built as a tailwater release, the initial design was far from perfect and built primarily for flood control. The first issue was the normal storage pool height was limited due to road crossing below the dam crest. Less water storage meant that there would be less cold water in reserve to be available during the summer months. A smaller reservoir size also does not allow the water coming in to the reservoir enough time to cool before getting released downstream. The other major design issue is the release tower at the dam, which can only release water from the very bottom of the lake. This means that the dam is always releasing its coldest water even in times when it was not needed. For comparison, the Beltzville Dam built at a later date has the ability to pull water from multiple levels in the reservoir, and is able to save the coldest water at the bottom until the warmer months when it is needed the most. So in most years the cold water reserves are used up before the middle of summer (typically around mid June). When this happens the dam no longer has the benefits of being a tail water release. Some years the temperatures coming out of the dam can reach 80 degrees or more. When that happens the river actually cools as it moves away from the dam as cold water tributaries help reduce the high temperatures. This is completely opposite to what you expect on a tailwater river.



So with those design limitations in mind, several recreational groups came together over the years to change things. The first major improvement was passing of congressional legislation in 1998 which made recreation an official part of the dams purpose. Until then it was only allowed to operate for flood control. With the mandate in place, came moving the low road across the dam to the crest, which allowed the ability to raise the storage level of the reservoir. Now more cold

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*Tailwater, continued*

water could be stored each year. These accomplishments paved the way for the annual flows plans which maximize both whitewater releases as well as fishing and conservation releases. Now annually as part of that flow plan in early spring the storage pool is raised by 70', and used from spring into early fall. These flow plans includes a mix of whitewater release as well as augmenting low flows (conservation releases) in the warmer summer months. These conservation releases add up to 100 cfs of additional flow from the storage pool. More water flowing during the summer when flows are typically low, greatly increases trout's survivability. While it maybe a pain to have to deal with the weekends during which there is a whitewater release, remember that is a big reason they increased storage and with that comes the extra cold water. The balance between the whitewater and fishing groups has been a major reason these flow plans have worked so well for all. Each year the US Army Corps of Engineers ACOE (The agency which constructed and manages the dam) holds an annual meeting to discuss next years flow plan. Its encouraged that everyone check their website ([www.nap.usace.army.mil/Media](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Media)) for this date and attend. The more the fishing community is in attendance during these meetings the better we can ensure it benefits the fishing community. You can also keep up to date via their facebook page.

Now with the storage increases and the flow plans tweaked, we are seeing this river act a bit more like a tailwater. More fish are surviving the summers and the really hot water temperatures are being kept in check. The next and final hurdle is to get authorization to construct a new release tower, thus allowing water to be released from multiple levels in the reservoir. There have been several studies on the effect this would have on water temperatures. There is the potential to have a true tailwater release of 55 degree water from the dam downstream for nearly 35 miles. If that can be put into place, that would be a significant game changer for this river. It would seriously have the potential to put the Lehigh amongst some of the best tailwater rivers in the nation. This would have a huge impact on stocked trout, by greatly increasing their survivability, food supply as well as supporting an even greater wild trout population. Also with the more regulated temperatures the fishing seasons would be extended into summer and persist longer into winter months. A non-fishing benefit to help getting this through, is colder water downstream would make for safer and higher quality drinking water for the cities of Bethlehem and Allentown. This is something the state DEP is starting to get interested in. So how do we get there? The next step is to get our local representatives to help push for a feasibility study of the Frances E. Walter dam to formally document the potential impacts of this improvement. If this study gets completed and shows that the positive impacts outweigh the investment in improvements, then it will make the final steps of acquire funding for ACOE more of reality then a congressional pipe dream. Anyone that would love to one day see the Lehigh join the ranks of some of the finest tailwaters is strongly encourage to reach out to our local representatives. Ask that they work towards getting the feasibly study of the dam for the ACOE to determine potential improvements and recreational benefits. This river holds so much potential, and while it's currently a great river to fish, making these final improvements to the dam will make it even better.

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## Fly-fish or spin, there's nothin better than reelin em in!

By Steve Chuckra

Remember that line? That was the Mercury Marine jingle in the early 1980's. I remember seeing their commercial a lot when I watched fishing shows as a kid. The jingle was so catchy I still remember it 35 years later.

It was warm this February, so I started to think about fishing, and the Mercury jingle that's been in my head for over three decades made me feel nostalgic. As a teenager, watching fishing shows on Sundays was one of my favorite pre-trout season desperations. My father wasn't a believer in cable, so we relied on his homemade antennas to bring us the latest in fishing entertainment. This often meant trying to take in all the action through flurries of UHF interference. Sometimes you actually had to imagine what was going on, because it was nearly impossible to see what was happening on screen. I likened it to the early days of radio: except with a "TV". "We all gathered around the television on Sundays to listen to the fishing show."

You might ask, "Why didn't you change the channel?" I didn't change it because the most of the other channels were worse! And, the channels we could see featured golf or lousy Sci-Fi movies. So it was either put up with fishing fuzziness or watch "Godzilla versus the Smog Monster" on channel 48.

The Mercury jingle implies that all anglers have something in common: a love of the sport. It also sort of compares spin fishing to fly fishing. That's an interesting comparison to make. And, it is often the subject of uncomfortable conversation. People often debate which is best? In my opinion, there is no wrong answer to this question. Ultimately it comes down to individual tastes and preferences. For some people it's a numbers game, for others it's about aesthetics. Interestingly enough, one person's aesthetic can be another's annoyance and there are also many other variables that come into play here. Eventually, all analysis leads back to personal preference, and debating which method is best is a lot like arguing that beef tastes better than chicken.

It's personal, which means this discussion can get personal! Fishing in many ways is a form of self-expression that also happens to be many people's greatest passion. It stands to reason that anglers can get testy when their self-concept is challenged. Getting a fly fisherman to fish with bait or a spin fisherman to fish with flies can be like convincing your dog to eat salad. He's just not wired that way. There are of course exceptions and my dog will eat salad if you pour enough gravy on it.

Whether your thing is heaving a Kastmaster from the Bowmanstown boat launch into the passing lane of 248 or naming off your favorite flies in Latin, we all have one thing in common. Yep, the river, and we love to fish the big Lehigh. It's the common ground that unifies all river anglers. And that's good, because a united approach is what is needed to maintain and improve the Lehigh fishery. The LRSA is making some good strides on issues like dam removal and Abandoned Mine Drainage remediation. Additionally, we just reapplied for a project to install a fish ladder on the Parryville dam near the confluence of the Pohopoco Creek. The fish ladder will help Lehigh River

trout access the cool waters of the Pohopoco when river temperatures get dangerously high in the summer. This will also enable the same trout to spawn in the fall. Both aspects of this initiative should increase fish numbers in the river and the Pohopoco.

However, this isn't the end of the story, it's just the beginning! LRSA is currently partnering with other fish-minded organizations to help us increase the effectiveness of our conservation and fish stocking efforts. For example, Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited recently donated \$2,500 in good faith money to help the LRSA secure an annuity for fish ladder maintenance. We are also planning to partner with local sporting and fishing clubs to help increase trout populations in the Lehigh. Last year the LRSA reared thousands of trout hatchlings using

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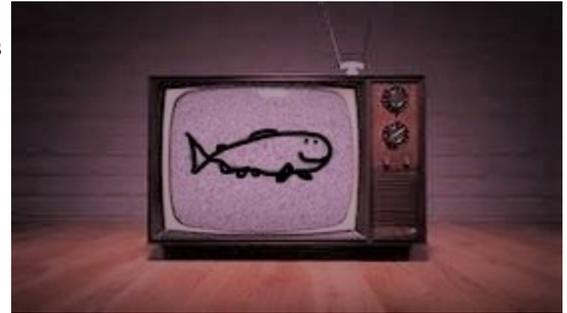


*Fly fish or spin, continued*

Whitlock-Vibert box incubators. (If you are wondering what those are, check out this link: <https://vimeo.com/95470915>). We seek to further develop this initiative by asking our members and like-minded sporting organizations to get involved. And, did you hear, the PFBC is going to stock 1000 trout between Glen Onoko and Jim Thorpe this year! Those are all great mile stones and they need teamwork to endure.

I want to conclude by saying that the LRSA truly values our members and the support you provide. I originally started writing this article thinking that it might be entertaining to poke fun at the different obsessions and stereotypes that anglers have. But, I think it's more useful to emphasize shared interests and goals. Whether you prefer minnows or streamers, it doesn't pay to have different communities of anglers. It's best for us to move forward as one team.

As always, we ask that you spread the word about the LRSA and get the guy who is always talking about joining to make the commitment this season. Our membership goal for 2107 is to have 1,000 LRSA members. I am confident that with your help we can reach that goal!



The 2016 Lunkerfest winner Craig Mangold with his 28.3" rainbow.

- Past Lunkerfest Largest Trout Winners:**  
 2016: Craig Mangold  
 2015: Jason Christman  
 2014: Fred Foster  
 2013: Cole Kerschner  
 2012: Josh Eichler  
 2011: Gregg Kovatch

## Lunkerfest 2017

### 7th Annual LRSA Trout Fishing Contest More Fish, a Kids Fishing Pond, and Great Prizes!

**When:** Saturday, May 13, 2017, (High Water Date: Saturday, May 20)  
 Sign-up starts at 7:00 am. Fishing contest runs from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Where:** Lehigh River, East Penn Boat Launch, Bowmanstown, PA

**Fee:** Non-member Adults and Youths \$25, (Members \$20), Kids under 12 fish free

**Details:** The LRSA will stock over 1400, 14 to 28 inch trout. More than 12 of these fish will exceed 20 inches in length (more Lunkers than ever before!) **Ten 26" trout will also be stocked for this event!**

**Official Boundaries:** Lunkerfest official boundaries run from the confluence of the Lehigh River and Lizard Creek to the bottom of island just below the East Penn Boat Ramp. This section of river is .9 miles long and contains exceptional trout water. LRSA extended the contest area two years ago to enable anglers to fish a wider variety of exceptional trout water. The LRSA will also stock a kids pond with trout for ages ≤ 12.

LRSA memberships, and raffle tickets will be available at sign-up. Food, drinks and bait available for purchase. The LRSA plans to give away free prizes. There are picnic tables and a bathroom on-site. **No alcohol allowed!**

**Prizes:** Rods, Reels, Fishing Equipment, Guided Trips, Art work, Gift Certificates and more

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**LRSA Membership / Lunkerfest Application**  
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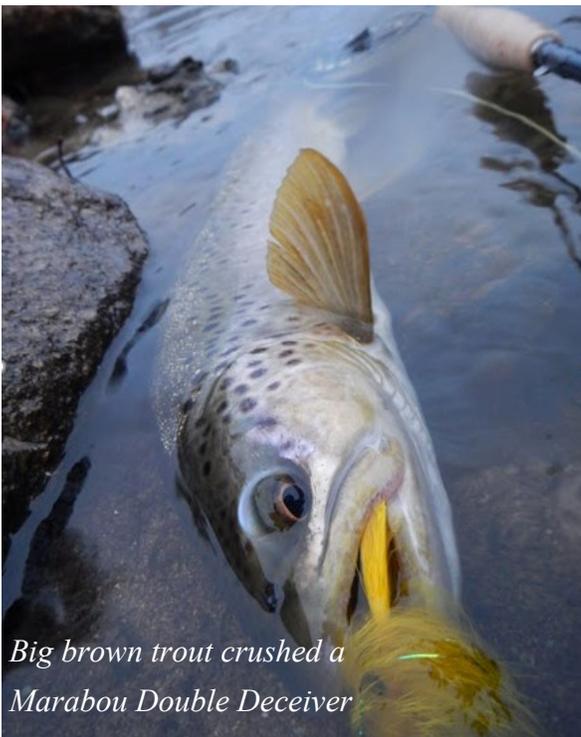
**Membership Fee: \$25-basic**

## Streamers: Does Size Really Matter? By Nick Raftas of Sky Blue Outfitters

There are no hard or fast rules to fly fishing and I am all about breaking the rules but I cringe when I hear the phrases "maybe I should tie on a size 12 wooly bugger" or "this fly is too big" or "maybe I should go back to the thingamabobber rig." Throwing a thingamabobber rig is like being up to bat in the World Series and bunting every time you step up to the plate. Sure, you might get on base but you're never going to hit a home run by bunting and you are never going to catch that big predatory brown trout on a size 22 midge!

I don't necessarily believe the saying "the bigger the fly, the bigger the fish" because many of the biggest fish I see caught every year are caught on small nymphs and dries but there is something special about catching a big brown trout that looks like it is barfing up your streamer when you pick it up out of the water.

My trout streamers tend to top out around 5 to 6 inches. Anything bigger than 6 inches here on the Lehigh seems to result in fewer hook ups. That's not to say big fish won't attack a 6-7 inch streamer but I do believe that significantly less fish are caught once you start to fish streamers over 6-7



*Big brown trout crushed a Marabou Double Deceiver*

inches. There are still occasions where I will fish oversized streamers but I do so with the understanding that my catch rates usually decrease. I also fish those big streamers with the hope that I will stick the biggest and baddest fish in the river.

When fishing oversized streamers, I notice that I get more swipes and not actual eats. It boils down to common sense



*Late fall into early winter is the time to break out those big streamers*

fishing. Trout eat fish that are smaller than them. If the streamer is too big it is no longer a food item to trout but viewed more as competition which results in territorial behavior. It's up to you to find out what size fish are living in your river and fish the appropriate sized streamer. A lot of time this territorial behavior which is usually a swipe or charge is mistaken for the fish trying to eat. I repeatedly hear people say, "Awwwww man, he missed it! Did you see that?" My response is "they didn't likely miss your streamer. If they wanted



**Fishing Poetry****My Son Catches His First Fish**

by Joe Cilluffo

His left hand braces the rod  
as his right  
makes tiny circles in the air  
– tracing Oh and Oh and Oh  
as he cranks the reel –  
and almost I hope  
the fish will slip its hook  
– the liver-colored flower of gills,  
their wasted flapping, never seen.  
No riot and contortion  
of its muscles in his hand  
as he clamps down to still the fish.

My dog never forgets  
how once, behind some logs  
stacked against our house  
she found a field mouse,  
how she dug it out of its hole,  
pulled it from the ground  
between her teeth, wrung  
its neck with one sharp snap  
– the smallest of sounds, a twig being  
stepped upon.  
*Oh, no! look what you've done!*  
She laid it at my feet, so proud.  
Every time we let her out  
she goes there first, sniffing.

Joe Cilluffo is a practicing attorney who lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania and spends his free time writing, weeding his vegetable garden, and playing with his three children. His poems have appeared in journals such as *Apiary*, *Philadelphia Poets*, and *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, where this poem was first published. His new book of poetry, *Always in the Wrong Season*, is available on Amazon.com. Joe's son got his own rod for Christmas, so they're anticipating the new season.

*Does Size Really Matter? —Continued*

to eat they would have crawled up your arm to eat it.” If this happens more than several times I usually downsize the streamer or change up colors and patterns.



*Fish Skull Sculpin Helmet streamer getting some love.*

## Army Corps Did Not Always Operate FEW Dam Beneficially for Fishery

By Matt MacConnell

The Tailwater article on page 4 and 5 does a nice job describing the potential benefits to the Lehigh fishery given proper management and capital equipment at Frances Walter dam. However, some of you may not realize that LRSA advocated for years to the Army Corps for better flow management practices. **In those days they were not as disciplined in maintaining minimum flows necessary for survival of the fisheries in summer and also did not avoid blowing out nesting birds during high water events.** The management seemed to be driven by other forces (profits?). LRSA teamed with Raymond Proffitt Foundation and sued the Corps, lost and filed an appeal but lost that too back in 2003. But in the end it was worth it, Army Corp got the necessary message and now everyone can see better symbiotic relationships in place between boaters, anglers and flood control purposes. The Title and Overview of our lawsuit appeal are provided below.

**RAYMOND PROFFITT FOUNDATION; LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSN.,  
Appellants v. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS; DEBRA M. LEWIS, LT.  
COL., DISTRICT COMMANDER**

No. 02-3565

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

343 F.3d 199; 2003 U.S. App. LEXIS 18174; 33 ELR 20265

July 9, 2003, Argued

**OVERVIEW:** The two foundations were organizations whose members fished, hunted, boated, rafted, and otherwise recreated in and along a river downstream of a dam. Congress originally authorized construction of the dam primarily for flood control, but later expanded the mission of the dam, requiring it to be operated in such a manner as will protect and enhance recreation. The foundations filed a 12 count complaint against the Corps seeking declaratory and injunctive relief mandating the Corps to change its policy and operations at the dam to reflect the judgments of the foundation regarding the proper operation of the dam. The appellate court found that the district court erred in concluding that there was no law to apply in reviewing the administrative decision. Overall, the appellate court did not see clear and convincing evidence that the Corps did not unlawfully withhold agency action or otherwise act not in accordance with law. Further, the appellate court agreed with the district court that they were enough to satisfy the minimum action required of the agency under the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C.S. § 500 et seq.

**LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION**

**LRSA**

PO Box 97  
Lehighon, PA 18235

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Lehigh.River.Stocking.Association@gmail.com

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

Sponsors and interested people are wel-  
come to join us at our meetings— 7pm the  
last Tuesday of every month at Sliders  
Pub, 4650 Rt 309 in Schnecksville.

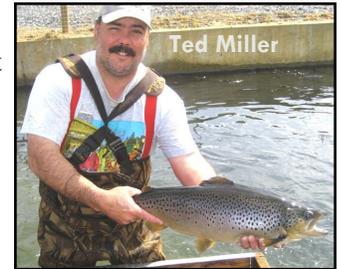
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**LRSA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Yes, I do want to support the Lehigh River Stocking Association in the effort to restore, revitalize and restock trout into the magnificent Lehigh River. Is this New or Renewal Membership \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**Basic Membership --- \$25.** All Memberships include badge (or badge decal) ID card and subscription to Newsletters

**Silver Membership --- \$45.** You will receive a LRSA T-Shirt. State your size: Sm \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lrg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_ Don't send T)

**Gold Membership---\$65.** You will receive a LRSA Hat (or \_\_\_\_\_ don't send hat)

**Husband and Wife Membership -- \$45.** \_\_\_ Same as Basic. / **Family Membership -- \$65.** Husband, Wife and Children < 16 \_\_\_ same as Basic

**Platinum Membership --- \$100.** You will receive a LRSA Hat and T-Shirt or you will receive a Sweatshirt. Circle your preference and state your size Sm \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_ Lrg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_ Don't send merchandise)

**Life Time Membership --- \$250.** You will not to renew each year.

**Conservation Membership --- \$70.** You will receive a special LRSA Hat and \$20 will be allocated Conservation Program. ( \_\_\_ don't send hat)

**Diamond Membership --- \$500.**

Amount of Membership you would like to direct toward LRSA Conservation Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to : [www.lrsa.org](#) Lehigh River Stocking Association | PO Box 97 | Lehighon | PA | 18235

Amount of Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Join (or renew at ) or web site : [www.LRSA.org](http://www.LRSA.org). Check out our facebook page or send us email at: [Lehigh.River.Stocking.Association@gmail.com](mailto:Lehigh.River.Stocking.Association@gmail.com)

Thank you for supporting the Lehigh River trout fishery

LRSA is asking all members to fill out this small questionnaire concerning electronic deliver of future

newsletters Name \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return with tickets in enclosed envelope Thank you

