THE YEAR IN RECAP

By Vince Spaits

With this year coming to a close I wanted to take time to thank our many Sponsors both individual and corporate for their dedication, generosity and participation. I also would like to thank the many agencies and organizations that work hand in hand with the LRSA to accomplish common goals. Groups such as Wildlands Conservancy, The Sierra Club, and Local TU Chapters, Pa. Fish and Boat and many more have all played critical roles and partnered with the LRSA to make the Lehigh River great. Much has been accomplished and significant gains have been made in several areas. However, as with all efforts like this there is much still left to do.

Being an effective nonprofit organization is a difficult task and the selfless actions of many individuals also needs to be recognized. These people give their time which as we all know is a most valuable commodity. Most work long hours and then continue to work to see their vision of the Lehigh come to life and take form. Without these people who give so much and make such effort we would not be in the position we are in today. The only thing they take is the satisfaction knowing that they are making a difference. Since this is not the Academy Awards I will refrain from mentioning them by name but the list is long and they know who they are. I thank them and want them to know that their service is appreciated and I as well as others admire their spirit. At this time I would also like to mention that any sponsor can get more involved and become part of the team that makes this all happen. We need and want your assistance, we welcome you to our monthly meetings and encourage your participation in all our efforts. From stocking to surveys please be involved as there is strength in numbers. If you have questions please feel free to call one of the board members or stop at a meeting and we would be happy to show you how you can be part of the action.

With this being said I urge you all to rejoin us in 2016 with your sponsorship. Please recruit a friend or two as well. If you did fish the Lehigh this year you have likely had some degree of success and possibly caught some great trout. This is proof that what the LRSA does works. The abundance and size of the fish has never been greater throughout the entire length of the Lehigh and we are seeing improved holdover fish, more wild fish and a better overall fishery than ever before. This due in large part to your sponsorship, so please continue to support the river as this is likely the best fishing spend you can make. Ensure a vibrant fishery in the coming year become and stay a sponsor of the LRSA.

Some highlights of this past year

- We successfully stocked 29 miles of river during the opening weeks in both opening day sections and performed an in season stocking of beautiful brown and rainbow trout
- Lunkerfest was as big as ever and some real trophies were caught not only during the contest but in the weeks following.
- Improvements made to Lunkerfest were well received with expanded length of river stocked, and this year included a kid’s pond and great prizes. We have plans for further improvements to this unique event.
- Our sponsorship exceeded 750 with several new corporate sponsors as well, our goal is to aim high for 1,000 sponsors in 2016.
- Started a small co-op nursery where we are raising 1,000 rainbow trout that will help with this year’s stocking efforts and add to the numbers of fish we can stock economically. This in large part due to board member and great friend of the Lehigh, Tom Gyory who has led this effort from start to finish and is a real game changer for us

Cont’d on Page 8
Monthly Meeting Location Change—The last meeting at Market Café, Wegmans, 3900 West Tilghman St. Allentown will be November 2015. We will not be meeting in December. Starting in January meetings will be held at Sliders Pub in Schecksville, 46650 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!

Please renew your sponsorship, form enclosed for your convenience, or join on-line at www.LRSA.org

Notes about Water Quality (WQ):
1. Treated water in the range 55-61°F. cm tolerance to mid 70's.
2. Specific Conductance is a measure of how much stuff is dissolved in the water, low numbers indicate cleaner water. Poor water has 6.0 microsiemens/cm.
3. Low extremes level are desired, the more for drinking water at 5ppm. Normal can reach into the river from agricultural sources, town facilities, waste water, etc.
4. Trout prefer dissolved oxygen (DO) levels above 4ppm. When water is below 2DO. Variation with algae photosynthesis and rapids.
5. The pH is a measure of how acidic or basic the water is. Normal range is the best and is a pH of 7.0. Variance with algae photosynthesis.

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.

Paurryville—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. Pohopoco holds fish too, particularly below the dam.

Bowmansport—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 "Muskellunge" and it is where we hold Lunkerfest.

Palmer—Head south on 248 and take the Palmer exit. Take the second dirt road to the right and head down to the "boreholes." 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 Stouffer 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.

Lehurys Station—Take River Road and head down to the "horseshoe." The river forms a big bend in that area and there is a pool just below the rapids.

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.

(below dam). The Pohopoco holds fish too, particularly below the dam.

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Shadows—by John Mosovsky

Stationary shadows on the water provide fish refuge from the heat of the sun. Moving shadows on the other hand, signify danger and spook fish. You’re probably aware of the moving shadows created from your body and fishing rod and the possibility of these shadows spooking fish. What you may not be aware of is how long our shadows can be!

Shadows change length during the day because of the earth’s rotation and the apparent movement of the sun across the horizon. The Earth’s orbit around the sun accounts for variations in the sun’s altitude throughout the year and also plays a key role in shadow length. The sun’s altitude with respect to a given point on the earth depends upon longitude and latitude (position), date, and time of day. Shadows are longest when the sun is low in the sky, e.g. near sunrise and sunset and in the winter vs. summer months. (see data table and graph).

![Graph showing shadow length of a 6 foot tall angler with a 9 foot rod.](image)

Table notes: Shadow lengths were calculated for a 15 foot high object (angler + rod); Location is W75.20/N40.36 (Allentown, Pa); solar noon designates the time of day when the sun is highest in the sky; Daylight Savings Time is included.

You may be surprised at the shadow lengths listed in the data table, but there’s more to the story. The data table row headings designating times after and before sunrise/sunset were chosen for practical purposes. Let me explain. Shadow lengths become much longer closer to sunrise and sunset. For example, a 15 foot high object in Allentown, Pa would cast a shadow 87 feet long one hour after sunrise on June 1st. This makes the point that shadow lengths can be deceiving and if conditions at a particular fishing location are right, we anglers could easily cast a shadow long enough to extend across the entire width of the Lehigh River! However, because the sun would be very low in the sky at one hour after sunrise, its rays would most likely be blocked by hills, trees, large boulders, or houses and therefore not matter to an angler concerned about shadows. Another point to make is that shadow lengths listed in the data table at solar noon are the shortest of the day but never zero. Whenever the sun is in the sky and its rays are not being blocked, we will always cast a shadow. This is true because in our part of the world, the sun is never directly above us. The sun would be directly above us if we were fishing on the equator, but even there, only on two days of the year, i.e. at solar noon on the Vernal and Autumnal equinox.

So what can we do about these pesky shadows? If the sun is at our back, we can go to the other side of the river so that we are facing the sun – not always possible but probably the best solution (fish from the west bank of the river in the morning and the east bank in the evening to keep the sun in front of you - don’t forget your sunglasses). We can crouch down and/or cast our rods sidearm to reduce the length of our shadow. We can hide behind trees, boulders, or other objects to prevent our shadow from being cast onto the water. We can also use existing stationary shadows cast from hills, trees, boulders and other objects to hide our moving shadow. Being aware of our shadows is just another part of what we need to know to be successful anglers. See you on the Lehigh!
Lehigh River Fly fishing Journal

By Tom Gyory December 2015

Fall fishing was good on the Lehigh. Lots of warm weather and little rain meant good hatches and plenty of rising fish in accessible water. Browns and rainbows were taking sulfurs and slate drakes on the surface right through October. The best action however was sub surface. Woolie buggers, stone flies, copper Johns, and caddis imitations worked well.

Members, Steve Chuckra, Vince Lehigh Gorge with our bikes. It’s a with the rails to trails bike paths area above Glen Onoko is mostly pools mixed in. We parked in the proceeded north about 1 mile. The is worth it. Vince was able to pull minnow rig while Steve and I tions with some success. The day from Francis Walter Dam reaching

In other fly fishing action, several members of the LRSA journeyed north to New York’s Lake Ontario tributaries for some big brown trout fishing. November is the time for the lake run browns to spawn which makes them susceptible to egg patterns

#14 hot glue eggs (see photo) bows in Oak Orchard Creek. by this photo of him sitting LRSA members Steve stern and I also visited the agara Falls) where we had a Josh Day. We managed to several 10 lb. browns. A spe-$80 to the LRSA stocking

One last thing, the LRSA ly. The fish are already 9-10 should be 12-14 inches by the time we stock them in May. This will be a big addition to our stocking effort for next year and we are planning to double our output for 2016.

Sean M. Heffelfinger, MD
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Fall Reflection, By Steve Chuckra

It seems another fishing year has come and gone. Since I relocated to Pennsylvania two years ago, I’ve started a personal tradition of making my last fishing trip of the season a bike-in, fly-fishing trip. I like to conclude the angling year at a favorite spot in the Lehigh Gorge above Jim Thorpe. It’s about 3 miles upstream from Glen Onoko state park and particularly pretty when the leaves are changing.

This year seemed to pass faster than most. Maybe it’s because I manage to stay really busy, or maybe it’s because now that I’m older, time passes more quickly. Regardless, there I was, loading my jeep for the last hurrah of the season. The funny thing was that this trip much like the entire summer seemed to be rushed. I even considered skipping the event because I felt hurried preparing for it and my lawn needed to be cut. Then I thought that I should make time in for the things that matter most and that the lawn shouldn’t be on that list. I’ve been fortunate to see phenomenally beautiful waters in my life and the Lehigh Gorge rivals the best of them; especially in the fall. I rarely lived within an hour of fishing during the time I spent away from Pennsylvania, what a waste it would be to start taking fishing and the beauty of the gorge for granted just because they are only 20 minutes away from my house.

When I arrived at the river, I still wasn’t entirely interested in fishing, even after catching a pretty rainbow. I looked over the water and wondered why I never fish it during the good fly hatches. That stretch would be fantastic for fishing dries. I don’t go up there much because of the effort it takes; i.e., packing a bike in addition to the customary load of fishing gear. There are also many places on the river I can get to quickly when the fish are jumping. I short, I realized that I often take a McDonalds approach to fly-fishing. I regretted not making more of an effort to fish this water and pressed on, casting for a few hours without any takes. I think the slow spell got me thinking...
about the nice times I had fishing throughout the spring and summer and I began to feel grateful and reflective. This year wasn’t my best fishing year ever and it wasn’t the worst either. I was just feeling happy to have had it.

I love the fall, partly because of the break it provides from the summer heat and because I enjoy the smells and colors. I think it’s the culmination of everything that nature is. It’s a time of change and I identify with it because I feel I’m at the fall stage of my life. Fall is a comfortable time, the days and nights are mild, and I feel that you can see far more clearly without the summer haze that seems to be present more often than not. I think that it resembles life in that respect. I’m not going to wear this metaphor out, but that’s where my head was at.

After two hours with no action, I considered clipping my fly off and reeling in: even though I needed to wade through my favorite hole to get back to my bike. I caught a 20 inch rainbow out of that spot last fall. However, if I packed up, I wouldn’t be tempted to fish long into the afternoon. Then I thought about how silly that idea was and decided to make a few casts in the spot where I caught the big rainbow (unimpaired by trout) as a way to commemorate the fish I did catch this year. I waded into what I estimated to be the absolute best spot in the hole and made my last casts with a full heart, thinking about how fortunate I was to even be there.

The air seemed to cool and the gorge darkened then as if fishing season were officially over and nature was telling me to come back next year. The sun was starting its afternoon decent and my favorite spot was now shaded and getting pretty chilly. “This is it”, and the cast was now tailing-out over the pool that turned lifeless and black from the shade that fell on it an hour earlier. I was feeling good about not even wanting to catch a fish and concluding a nice season. I was seconds from reeling it in when I caught a good brown trout: his lively fight seemed to briefly revive the hibernating pool. I also caught a bow two minutes later. I didn’t expect to catch those trout and I didn’t make any more casts after returning the rainbow to the river.

I thought it was odd that I caught the brownie on my official last cast of the season and after fishing for more than two hours without a strike. The spot I was fishing seemed very inhospitable at that point, but I was finally happy to be there. It goes without saying that the Lehigh is full of personal memories for all of us. That’s one of the reasons we go there. “That” particular moment was especially significant for me and I will remember it for a long time.
This time spent is a ritual of hair plucked from a rabbit's cheek, feathers pulled from turkey wing, mallard neck. Each thread pull, each twist, tight against the steel hook the barb surgically sharp for a deep jaw set.

I haven't seen you for years. I hear your legs are gone, the fight, gone too. And yet I'm here at my desk, tying flies and thinking of the moon on the Bushkill, pale evening duns lifting off the water like ghosts while rainbow trout slipping in and out of moonlight gorge on velvet insects. The water, cool against my hand as I release the trout, one swish of the tail and it's part of the night again.

You laughing under the willows, a pair of bats flying just above your head. I twist a little bit of that night into each set hackle, into the wings cut to catch a rise turning stillness into flight.

Grant Clauser's newest book of poetry is *Necessary Myths* (Broadkill River Press.) He makes his living (in Hatfield, Pa.) as a home technology writer, but spends as much time as possible in woods and streams away from electronic things. His favorite dry fly is the Para-chute Adams. His favorite nymph is a basic Hare's Ear with a brass bead. This poem is published with his permission.

*Thanks to Susan Weaver for providing LRSA with this poem*
To all members

2016 is almost upon us. We are going to continue with our tagging program and everyone to help out with this. We tagged a little over 200 trout last year and received reports of 50+ fish caught with tags. We are hoping to add another 3 or 400 tagged fish this year. What we need from you is to keep a look out for tagged fish and report tags to us. So far the first 200+ tags released last spring were four (4) colors—Blue, Grey, Green and Brown. They were embossed with LRSA website (www.lrsa.org) and a phone number (267-221-8837) for contact info to report tags. The importance of this is for LRSA to gather data to show PA Fish & Boat that these fish do survive from year to year and maybe get help in putting more fish into river! This years tagging program we are hoping for will include 2-300 of our coop Rainbows and another 2-300 tagged during our spring stockings. These fish will be placed at spots with good access and good chance of survivability. We are also asking that these tagged fish be released if possible to help with this study. This can be done by taking a notebook and pen/pencil along on your trips to record tag number, phone number, date, place caught. Also bait/lure and species (Brown/RB/Brook) caught, general condition of fish and kept or released. Your participation on this would be appreciated and EXTREMELY helpful in gathering this data. Thanks to all...LRSA

- We performed 2 tributary surveys with results both online and in the newsletter and we continue to monitor trib for water quality and impairments
- Our 2 sonde probes were deployed and streaming data for most of the year providing us with valuable data on the main stems water quality and being a watchdog for any issues or potential problems.
- Performed a macro invertebrate study showing some diverse results along the Lausanne tunnel and the “clean side” of the river.
- The LRSA attended several shows including the Allentown Show, The Expo in Kempton, Walnutport Canalfest, Silver Creek, Arts Quest in Bethlehem and several others to gain publicity and showcase what we do.
- Installed a third feeder pipe at the Lausanne Tunnel to provide more passive treatment to the largest AMD site on the river.
- Continued to work to gain approval for the Parryville Dam Alaskan Steep pass fish ladder to provide thermal refuge to trout and other species by giving them access to prime spawning habitat and a way to use the cold waters of the Pohopoco during stress months.
- Continued working with PA Fish and Boat to initiate a state sponsored stocking program for the Lehigh to further enhance the trout fishery. It looks likely that our efforts will pay off in 2016 with some trout potentially being allocated to the Lehigh in LRSA range. More on this to come.
- Continue to work the proper channels to create an allowance for a coop trout nursery at the former Kris Pines Hatchery.
- Initiated a tagged trout program which will be greatly expanded this year. We will continue to tag trout and record their stocking location. Subsequently when caught anglers can report via phone where the fish was landed and its overall condition. This will shed light on where the fish travel, how far, how fast and can also be related to health and holdover potential.
- Continue to work with stakeholders and agencies on the potential of dam removal in the main stem.

In the coming year we hope to continue on this path and press further on many important issues. We hope to forge stronger bonds with other clubs and organizations that focus on the Lehigh and its tributaries as we share much common ground. We will continue to reach for press and publications to highlight the Lehigh and its potential as a Blue Ribbon Class Trout Fishery. We will continue to stock the best trout we can find in Lehigh River sizes and hope with increased sponsorship to be able to expand our stocking effort. We will continue to work on and increase our conservation presence. Our web site will be updated and revamped and will become much more mobile friendly and we have had discussion around developing a fishing app that will help locate where fish are being caught. We are exploring the possibility of creating a Lehigh River map with named fishing holes and stocking points. And naturally plan to have the biggest Lunkerfest ever. I hope you had a great 2015 with respect to fishing. With your continued support and dedication we can realize the vision we all hold for the Lehigh.

I am looking forward to a short winter and an awesome 2016.
Conservation Program Summary — By Matt MacConnell

The LRSA had one of the two LRSA water quality probes installed in Slattington from April through October (location pictured below) and aggregate data from four parameters noted at right. The key takeaway is that the Lehigh River, here in Lehigh County, is well within the limits of the PA trout stocked fishery parameters. This verification was an important goal of the WQ program. The other water quality probe was used to conduct tributary surveys (see web site for report) as well as studies of the Lausanne Tunnel mine drainage remediation system. The probe was also used to survey water quality in the Lehigh and Delaware Canals as part of a project to aim to provide data to support the ultimate goal of removal of the Glendon and Easton dams on the Lehigh River, which would restore anadromous fish passage into the lower Lehigh.

LRSA has maintained the flow monitoring systems at the Lausanne Tunnel site where this year average flow through the wetland was measured at 1,700 gpm (now at design rate after our work adding a new feeder pipe last fall) and wetland bypass flow to Nesquehoning Creek is averaging 2,700 gpm. We are working on design plans for treating the raw AMD 2700gpm flow to reduce metals pollution to the Lehigh. Also, we all know how important the cool tail water from Beltzville Lake dam is to the Lehigh River. This was confirmed in August when determined that with the Lehigh at 73.5F, the Pohopoco Creek was running at 68.7F and 50 yards downstream the Lehigh River (east bank) remained below 71F. We expect to hear this month whether or not we will receive funding to put a fish ladder on the Pohopoco Creek Parryville dam (culminating 7 years working on developing this project proposal).

Fall Drawing Winners #1 Bob Knopf, #2—Edward Nestor, #3— Don & Dorthy Barwis, #4—Willie Marx, #5—Donna Torby, #6—Howard J. Billig, #7—Tom Larger, #8—Tina Garrison, #9—Michael Pramick, #10—Tina Garrison, #11—Colleen Boyer, #12—Paul Perpiglia, #13—Dennis Hocknell, #14—Yolanda Norman, #15—Daniel Braun, #16—Edward Nestor, #17—Richard Stanche, #19—William Murphy Jr., #20—Edward Erdman. Prizes: #1 and #19 are $100, #9 and #11 are $50, all others are $25. This drawing brought in $2,300 which will net $1,800 for more trout in the Lehigh. Thanks to everyone for participating.

LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

LRSA Board of Directors:

- Vincent Spaits
- Tom Gyory, DMD
- Greg Gliwa
- Karl Imdorf
- Matt MacConnell, P.E.
- Jim Deebel
- Chuck Morgenstern
- Steve Chuckra
- Gary Klein

LRSA Officers:

- President: Matt MacConnell, 610-657-2707
- Vice President: Vince Spaits, 215-272-3175
- Treasurer: Tom Gyory, 610-730-9359
- Merchandise: Chuck Morgenstern, 610-216-4022
- Secretary: Steve Chuckra
- Newsletter Editor: Matt MacConnell

Sponsors and interested people are welcome to join us at our meetings—7pm the last Tuesday of every month at the Market Cafe at Wegmans, Tilghman St., Allentown

www.lrso.org

Friend us on Facebook

Water Quality Enigma—by Matt MacConnell

In addition to providing a 24/7 profile of normal riverine conditions to support our case that the state should assist us in stocking the Lehigh River, the water quality monitor occasionally picks up abnormal events. Several years ago we discovered that material was dumped into the Lehigh in Jim Thorpe and shared our data with the state DEP. This year on September 24th we observed the phenomena graphed below from the probe located on the west bank just upstream of the pillars and about 1 mile downstream of the Slatington/Walnutport Main St Bridge. In this event we see the river temperature drop by 14 deg F while specific conductance (a measure of material dissolved in the water) spiked by 36% over a 4 hour time frame while pH and dissolved oxygen levels remained normal. The LRSA’s deep scientific staff has yet to explain what happened here. The only theory I have is that someone slowly dumped chilled waste water (perhaps containing ice) along the west bank upstream that had neutral pH but dissolved substances. Anybody else have any theories? If so, send us email or post on facebook. Also, let me know if you want to get involved with our WQ programs!

The LRSA has awarded the 2015 Sponsorship Award to John H. Berry. John, pictured at left minding the kids trout fishing pool at the 2015 Lunkerfest event while enjoying a fine cigar, has been a consummate supporter of the LRSA, the Lehigh River and Lunkerfest in particular. John has donated many hundreds of dollars for the purchase of massive trophy trout that are released at the Lunkerfest events. John is an avid supporter of many environmental causes including TU, DU, LRSA, DRSFA, PFSC, NCFSC, Sierra Club and HSA. John, as we all know, does not shy away from a fishing trip and his jocularity and good humor is legendary. Congrat’s John.—LRSA