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#### LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

Circulation 800+
Issue 59, January 2015

# The Lehigh River Report

# The Voice of the Lehigh River Stocking Association

### Fall Thoughts on the Lehigh River—Steve Chuckra

LRSA's Running Total:
Trout Stocked:
338,500

Inside this issue:

Fall Thoughts on the Lehigh
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Special Recognition

A few months ago, I took a fall fishing trip on the Lehigh River near Jim Thorpe. My friends and I were watching the weather forecasts to plan what would likely be the last trip of the year. We knew that in a few short weeks we would once again be wearing mittens and watching the sun go down at 4:30. The local news said the weather would be perfect in a few days and we eagerly set a date to fish before the cold set in.

The appointed day arrived and I rode my mountain bike upstream three miles from the Glen Onoko access area. Starting out a few hours in advance of when my fishing buddies' schedules would allow them to participate, I was really pleased to find that I seemingly had the entire Lehigh Gorge to myself. It didn't hurt that the

pleased to find that I seemingly had the entire Lehigh Gorge to myself. It didn't hurt that the sky was clear and the trees were now in full color. Afternoon temperatures were also nearing 65 degrees!

After arriving at my favorite spot on that part of the river, I thought, "Let's waste no time." My rod agreed and after four hours of working prime water with my favorite wets and streamers, I did not have one strike to my name. "How could this be?" It was fall; that is how that could be. Water temps were running in the 50's and the bite was a lot slower than the last time I fished the river, nearly a month prior. While contemplating my predicament and some of the universe's other mysteries, I did the Lehigh two-step, tripped, and fell squarely on both of my knees. I had two choices: I could have dove straight into the pool that I was standing in or saved myself a 50-degree soaking by making a hard landing on my knees. I chose the latter and felt it for nearly two weeks after-

After catching the breath the ensuing pain stole away, I decided to make one last cast. I was pretty set on it being the last cast too! Not the last cast you announce to your patient wife or



friends that don't share your enthusiasm for fishing, but a real, no B.S., "last" cast! The strike indicator dully stalled two seconds after my line hit the water. "Great, last cast of the year is a snag." So I thought, and this would have surely precipitated an additional last cast. However, my snag turned out to be a 15-inch rainbow. After about a hundred more casts, two more rainbows, and a few missed strikes, I settled into a large green pool filled with exceptionally clear water. The pool is at the edge of a steep rock wall that is half-covered in white pine and mountain laurel. The opposite side of the river was painted in fall's glory. The kind of spot mentioned in almost every fishing story that you've ever read and frequently seen on magazine covers. This one was even prettier for me, because I was in it.

The pool though beautiful, was not off the beaten track. I guessed that it is fished heavily throughout the year because of how pretty it is and its proximity to the DCNR trail. I decided to try anyway. Because every spot like that should have a good trout in it, if only in our minds. Even if I did not get another strike, it would be a great place to wrap up my year of fishing and ponder good fortunes. I was about four casts into that pool when I started thinking about my nice day and something that occurred to me weeks earlier. I thought about how we painfully bide our time while we anticipate fishing trips and other events we look forward to. I

Save the Date:

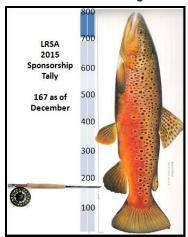
INCOMEST

2015

May 30th, 8:30-3 2015

May 30th, 8:30-3 2015
East Penn Boat Ramp in Bowmanstown. Many trophy trout
and Prizes. Special program
for youngsters this year.

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



If you shop Amazon, please shop <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and designate LRSA to receive a portion of the sale be donated to our non profit organization.

Cont'd on page 3







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 garge 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 Cemen 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 Lunkerfest.

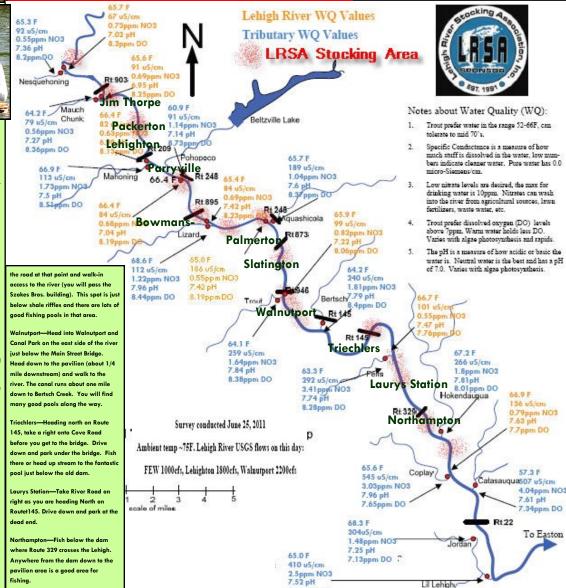
Palmerton—Head south on 248 and take the Palmerton exit. Take the second dirt road to the right and head down to the "horseshoe." The river forms a big bend in that area and there is a pool just below the rapids.

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

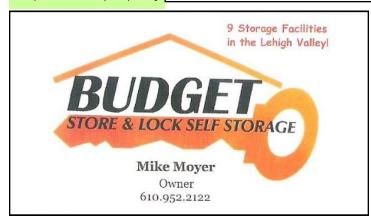
#### **Monthly Meeting Location**—

Market Café, Wegmans, 3900 West Tilghman St. Allentown. Meeting time from 7:00 to about 9:00 pm the last Tuesday of each month. We encourage our sponsors to come visit us at one or more meetings, we would love the get your input!

Thank you all who purchased Fall Tickets. The 20 winners of the total \$500 payout were posted on our web page. Congratulations! Please purchase the Spring Tickets as well to help us fund stocking the Lehigh



7.14ppm DO



# Sean M. Heffelfinger, MD Michael F. Benavage, MD Family Medicine



610.264.0411

1400 Main Street • Catasauqua, PA 18032



#### Page 3

#### Cont'd from page 1

thought about how I personally view many unrelated things as inconveniences. I realized that those things are part of each trip in a way. In the end, I believe that all the traffic jams, house chores, grass cuttings, and impromptu excursions to Home Depot help us to better appreciate our time on the water.

About half way through that thought, my nymph rig found the mouth of a circa 20 inch rainbow trout and he instantly smashed through the surface, making the water look like a crystal platter shattering on a tile floor. He revealed his size and beauty to me about four feet above the water. The rest of the fight was less dramatic, but my appreciation for the day and the fish were not. I netted him in about six or seven minutes. I am guessing that he was a bit lethargic due to the cooler water temps. I lost my hold on him while trying to take a picture to commemorate the moment. He slid out of my hand and lie beside me on the bottom just a few feet from my foot. He was beautiful, thick, and perfectly healthy. He must have stayed for an entire minute before slipping out of sight, heading back to the leafy yellow and red carpet that the current made at the bottom of the pool. I'd have to use my memory to keep his picture. I could now barely see my friends who had arrived about twenty minutes before, fishing up-stream from me on the bank.

The bite started late that day and did not turn good for flies until about 4 p.m... The fish were taking a size 16 pheasant tail emerger with a beaded head. I suppose that they looked a lot, or at least enough like the ginger quills that hatched about 30 minutes later to pass muster. Even though that particular hatch was heavy, not a single trout took a fly off the top and the action turned cold about a half hour after the quills were visible. I was surprised and happy to see gingers this late in the season since they are one of my favorite flies and not so common in early October. My friends and I fished an hour or two into the evening after the bite ended before calling it a season and riding our bikes back to the parking lot.

I have had numerous productive fishing trips this season. I have to thank L.R.S.A. and the 5 Mile High Club for putting those fish and fish like them in the river. I know that without their involvement, I would have concluded my season fishless: thinking about the beauty of the pool I fished and that it would be a great place for trout to live.



# A GRANDFATHER ADVISES HIS GRANDSON — by Karen Bashkirew

for Nathaniel

Work hard. Do the job right.

Always look a fellow in the eye when you shake his hand.

Know the names of things and the meanings of words.

Go to the dictionary to find out.

Be wary of churches.

Take to the mountains instead with rod and reel in hand.

Stand waist-deep in a river beneath a loose web of stars, watch for a hatch on the water, listen for a slurp in the riffle.

This is how you cast your line. This is how you offer your fly lightly again and again. Be still. Waiting is a kind of prayer.

This is how you set the hook, release the line and let the brookie run. This is how you net a keeper.

Learn to spin a good fish story, too. Nothing beats the telling of the tale.



Barry Storch with his 9 year old grandson trout fishing the Lehigh on opening day near Bowmanstown Bridge

Reprinted with permission from Karen's chapbook, Sanctuary, FootHills Publishing, 2007.

Poet Karen Bashkirew says:
"My Dad taught me and my
sister to fly fish...and our husbands, and our children, and
countless others. My son,
Nate, was especially close to
my father and learned to fly
fish with Dad on the North
Branch of the Au Sable River
near Grayling, Michigan."





# 3rd Feeder Pipe and 2nd Flow Computer Installed at Lausanne Tunnel Site in Lehigh Gorge State Park —by Matt MacConnell

The Lausanne Tunnel was installed in 1906 to dewater the anthracite coals field in this area of Jim Thorpe and Nesquehoning. The water draining from the tunnel represents the largest point source of abandoned mine drainage (AMD, containing iron, sulfate, manganese, aluminum and acidity) in the Lehigh River. Fortunately, the discharge water pH is not as acidic as other AMD sites and enables the passive treatment option. In 2007 a passive wetland system was installed and in 2009 flow weirs were installed on the wetland and on the by-

pass flow. A flow computer was installed at that time for the bypass flow (average of ~5,000 gal/min which bypasses the wetland, flowing directly into the Nesquehoning Creek). In 2011 devices were installed to improve aeration of the discharge flow into the wetland system, which helps to oxidize and enable further settling of iron in the wetland.

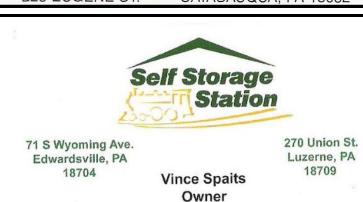
In 2014 funding was received from the Sierra Club PA Chapter that enabled installation of two new features. First, a 2nd flow computer and transmitter (solar powered) was installed for 24/7 logging of wetland flow

data. 2nd, a third 14" x 35' long feeder pipe was installed to augment flow to the wetland closer to design rates of ~1800 gal/min. The two existing feeder pipes have been partially plugged by fouling and reduced flow caused by the aerator installation causing. The flow data now available will enable management of the system and engineering of further reductions in Lehigh River pollution

Our next project under development is to construct a rig to facilitate clearing the three 14" feeder pipes. The LRSA will provide periodic manpower to clear the pipes and maintain wetland flow at design rates.







215.272.3175







## **EXPLORE THE LEHIGH** FISHING THE TRIBUTARY CONFLUENCES — by Vince Spaits

As I pen this it is nearly mid-winter and the 21.1 on the west bank) past trout season a fading memory. But what a season it was. The Lehigh fished better than ever and I spoke with many anglers who had banner years' fishing the big water. For the most part, the weather and water cooperated well and only a few times during the year was the water high for an extended time that caused us to seek fishing refuge in other area streams. I saw lots of big fish caught and heard of many more. The LRSA also saw a slight increase in sponsors and we had the biggest and best Lunkerfest ever. We are looking forward this year to continuing on the path of improving the Lehigh River Trout Fishery and naturally need your sponsorship assistance In the upper section I like: more than ever.

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the obvious when heading out to fish. What will give us the best chance for success? Where will we find the best opportunity to encounter feeding trout? One can usually catch fish in most sections of the river however finding the sweet spot will provide that awesome day we are all looking for. So it all begins with seeking out for that "fishy" looking water.

During the course of the year I often target the water at or directly downstream of the confluence of one of the Lehigh's tributaries. The fact that these areas are typically fish great is not lost on most anglers but at times we need to be reminded of these basics. Tributaries in many cases have good to excellent water quality, temps are colder and they can be full of macro invertebrate as well as prey species for our river trout. They know this and can really line up at trib confluences. Our tributaries act like food conveyors consistently providing food sources to the main stem of the river. If you haven't targeted the water near primary river tributaries you need to make it a point this year. The best way to find your way to this water is a good old fashion map or using Google Earth to track your way to confluence areas you want to fish. Following are a few to make note of.

#### In the lower section of the river tributary confluences to note are:

Coplay Creek in the Darktown area (river mile

Hokendaugua Creek in Northampton (river mile 22.6 on the east bank)

Bertsch Creek near Walnutport (river mile 30 on the east bank)

#### In the Mid river section make note of:

Lizard Creek near Bowmanstown (river mile 39.50 on the west bank)

Pohopoco Creek (Big Creek) in Parryville (river mile 41.1 on the east bank)

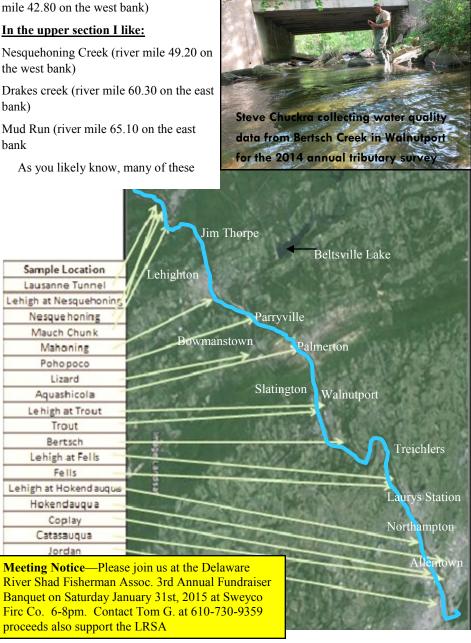
Mahoning Creek near Lehighton (river mile 42.80 on the west bank)

Nesquehoning Creek (river mile 49.20 on the west bank)

bank)

bank

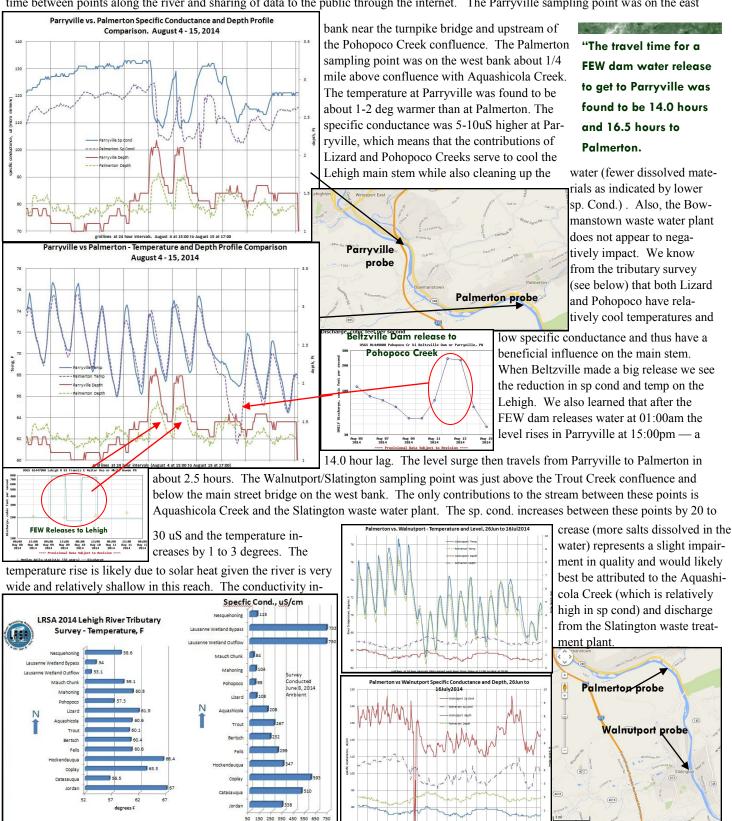
tributaries are state stocked waters and hold wild trout populations as well. These fish will swim up and down both the tributaries and main stem of the Lehigh depending on many factors thus making trout density and populations constantly fluctuate. This can make for interesting fishing. It is also fun to take a walk up the tribs to explore and fish and often ends with success. So, this year commit to fishing some new water, go out and explore and make it a point to hit some of the notable tributary confluences, you won't be sorry!



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## Differential Water Quality Profiles/Observations — by Matt MacConnell

The LRSA owns and operates two water quality monitors with cellular modems. This has enabled comparison of water conditions in real time between points along the river and sharing of data to the public through the internet. The Parryville sampling point was on the east



## Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal—by Tom Gyory

Winter time presents less fishing opportunities on the Lehigh. I usually check my equipment and fly stocks and try to get them in shape for the spring. I also try to get out fishing a few of the warmer days during the winter. Nymphing the slower pools is a good technique at this time of year because with the colder water temperatures, the fish want to expend less energy and these areas are suited for resting fish. Another area to target is where springs enter the river

This water is warmer than the main river and provides more opportunity for feeding. Just a few degrees warmer makes a big difference to the cold blooded creatures. I like to use a tandem nymph rig with a larger stone fly or caddis fly followed up with a small blue winged olive or zebra nymph. A slow presentation near the bottom is the most effective because the fish do not want to move to eat. The takes are delicate and require a float or focused concentration looking for any delay in movement of the line.

A project that I will be working on soon is the cooperative trout nursery in my pond. After all the disappointing efforts the LRSA has had with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and the other locations like the Fire Fly hatchery, I was happy with the progress we have made getting approval for my own pond. I will have my final water quality inspection by the Fish Commission in January and once approved I will begin to build the nursery. I will use the model that is shown in the photograph and we should be able to raise a thousand trout for the LRSA at a reduced cost.

An idea that was discussed at the last membership meeting was a way to count the number of trout in the Lehigh without complex techniques like electroshock-





ing. I came up with a theory that I would like to test this year. I noticed that I could approximate the number of trout in my pond by the amount of rising fish when I fed them. I think we can also approximate the number of trout in the Lehigh by a similar method. During a hatch many of the trout rise to feed on the mayflies. If we count the rises over a defined area and a defined amount of time we should be able to get a count of fish in the area. Now since more than just trout rise in the Lehigh we have to determine the percentage of trout that are rising verses all the fish that are rising. I think this could be determined by calculating the percent of trout that are caught versus all fish that are caught at that particular time or alternately by learning to recognize the rise pattern of trout and only counting these verses other fish. If anyone has any input or wants to participate in the project feel free to contact me.

Hang in there over the winter, spring is right around the corner. I hope to see you at the banquet and outdoor shows. Keep buying raffle tickets and remember to sign up some friends. More Members = More Trout.

See you on the Lehigh!



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# "Memoratus in Aeternum"

The title is Latin for remembered unto eternity. As we begin a new year with hopeful promise we also reflect and remember the past. The last several years we have had increased interest in "memorial trout" that are released in memory of a loved one that has passed or that can no longer make it to the river to fish as they once had loved to do. I myself, released 2 trophy trout each of the last few years in memory of my brothers who I lost far too early in life. I enjoy the feeling it gives me when I see them swim away and I think of the joy they will bring to the lucky person who might hook and do battle with one of them. It is a fitting tribute for someone who loved fishing, paddling or just walking along the majestic Lehigh River.



We can facilitate the release of a trophy memorial fish in memory of your loved one. We typically can purchase your choice of a Brown or Rainbow Trout and release the fish in an area of the river that you specify. We will even try our best to coordinate a time that you may be there to assist in releasing the fish.

If you are interested in discussing our tribute program further or want to arrange for a memorial for this coming year please feel free to contact me directly. I would be happy to assist you.

Vince Spaits



# In Memory of Robert G. Erle, Jr.

We are sadden to learn that one of our long time sponsors, Bob Erle, passed away at the age of 55. Bob was an active member who participated in stocking and the Lunkerfest. We see he was wearing his LRSA cap in the photo used with his obituary. Bob was helpful in offering suggestions in our work at the Lausanne Tunnel as he was drawing from his extensive experience in construction and excavation work. The LRSA will plan to stock a trophy trout in Bob's name this spring. This will be April 18th at the Musky Pool in Bowmanstown East Penn ramp at 10am.

Memorial for Lee Zellner. From the obituary: "Lee D Zellner, 55, of Whitehall, died Monday November 24, 2014. Born February 17, 1959, Lee was the son of the late Lawrence and Jean (Muthard) Zellner. He was employed as a technician at Geo. A. Kohler & Bros. in Egypt for the last 30 years. He enjoyed speaking fondly of his customers. Lee was a member of Friedens United Church of Christ, Slatington. He was an avid fly fisherman on the Lehigh River."

Lee was a Life Sponsor to the Lehigh River Stocking Association. The family directed contributions be made to the LRSA, which we are truly thankful. We have received \$640 in his memory so far. The LRSA plans to stock a memorial trophy brown trout in Lee's name on April 8th at the 873 bridge boat ramp in Slatington about 11:30am.



Memorial for Joeseph Kenzakoski— From the obituary: "Joseph Kenzakoski Jr., 72, of Bald Mountain, Bear Creek Township, passed on Dec. 15, 2014, at his pri-

vate residence, surrounded by his loving family. Surviving is his wife Marilyn, at home."

Donations of \$200 were made to the LRSA were made in Joe's memory by: Rich and Kim Kenzakoski and sons, Jim and Elaine Kenzakoski and family, Steven Kenzakoski and Megan Squires and family, Richard Kenzakoski, Sr.



### Special Recognition of Sponsors who Contributed at or above \$60 in 2014 —TI

The LRSA donations noted at right are from our sponsors who donated at or above \$60 in 2014. The top donation amount was from Carol Etheridge who told us that she really liked the conservation work LRSA was doing, especially at the Lausanne Tunnel site. Her contribution will be allocated to further the LRSA conservation work. Air Products continues to also donate generously for our conservation programs. The totals listed at right are the sum of all contributions, including sponsorships and funds from our drawing ticket sales.

There were too many sponsors donating at the < \$60 level to list here but we appreciate all of these generous donations, without which we could not purchase trout in the quantity needed to sustain the trout fishery on the Lehigh River.

1		
Carol	Etheridge (1)	\$1,105
	Air Products	\$1,000
Lee	Zellner	\$640
Zachary	Paules	\$550
Brian	Tartar	\$515
Boeing	Boeing	\$405
John	Garrity	\$260
Stephen	Hranilovich	\$250
Moyer Mooney LVD		\$250
RiverWalck Saloon		\$250
Self Storage Station		\$250
Todd	Woznick	\$250

Vincent Keith	Spaits Alderfer	\$240 \$200
Robert	Bialy	\$160
David K.	Bachman	\$150
Jim	Febbo, Jr.	\$150
Willard	Paules	\$150
Savage Servi	ces	\$150
John	Mosovsky	\$140
Clinton	Schafer	\$140
Joan A.	Bauder	\$130
Ted	Smith	\$130
Scott	Cope	\$125
Bill	Derhammer	\$125
Ray	Garrison	\$120
Anthony P.	Gutsie	\$120
Elmer	Keiser	\$120
William	Dunstan	\$115
Edward	Erdman	\$115
Brian	Farrell	\$115
Mike	Curran III	\$110
Roger H.	Perry	\$110
Tom	Seyfried	\$110
Charles	Barron	\$108
William J.	Hudak	\$105
Lyle	Stern	\$105
Roger	Strohl	\$101
Craig	Bardman	\$100
Gerhard	Buschinski	\$100
Richard	Fanslau	\$100
Richard	Fires	\$100
Paul	Kanaskie	\$100
Robert B	Latsch	\$100

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Ian Webb Insurance Agency		\$100	Chris	Kerstetter	\$70
Robert M.	Knopf Jr.	\$95	Chris	Muthard	\$70
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Steve	Chuckra	\$90	Richard J.	Muth	\$68
Jim	Transue	\$90	Francis C.	Senglar	\$68
Daniel	Braun, D.D.S.	\$85	John	Wasilowsky	\$68
Frank M.	Ciekalsky	\$85	Robert	McDonald	\$67
Stanley	Meckes	\$85	Edwin	Palansky	\$66
Carl	Reichl	\$85	Raymond	Baker Jr.	\$65
Joseph	Schulter	\$85	Dennis	Hocknell	\$65
Thomas O.	Moser	-	William	Ketner	\$65
Jim	Spaits	\$83	David	Sfarra	\$65
Gerald A.	DeBalko	\$82	Charles	Snyder	\$65
Ron	Macaulay	\$80	Charles	Sterner	\$65
Melvin	Madouse	\$80	William	Barkley	\$60
Scott	Miller	\$80 \$80	Ribello	Bertoni	\$60
			Irv	Conway	\$60
George E William	Millet Pastucha	\$80 \$80	Josias	Cooper	\$60
Kevin P.	Spieles Sr.	\$80	Curt	Davis	\$60
Robert	Vorholy Jr.	\$80	John	Fisher	\$60
David E.	Shaffer	380	Matthew	Gibas	\$60
		\$79	Steve	Gombocz	\$60
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William J.	McCullough		Kirk D.	Hawk	\$60
NY -1	III	\$77	Karl	Imdorf	\$60
Nathan	Hahn	\$75	Ronald	Kehley	\$60
Rusty	Held	\$75	Robert Lee	Keiper	\$60
John	Minnich	\$75	John	Kirk	\$60
Chris	Rex	\$75	Dave	Linde	\$60
James M.	Romanchik	\$75	Jeff	Linton	\$60
Dan	Rudloff	\$75	Leonard	Ludinsky	\$60
Richard J.	Schnell	\$75	Mark	Maholick	\$60
Wayne	Sibbach	\$75	Sam	Maholick	\$60
Glenn T.	Bachman	\$73			
Thomas	Hanisits	\$72	Tim Shawn	O'Donnell,Sr Quinn	\$60 \$60
Eric	Morgantini	\$72	Jere	Reiss	\$60
Richard	Bartholomew Jr.	\$70	Richard	Stanche	\$60
Kenneth	Boyer	\$70			•
Walter	Fox	\$70	John E.	Stanko, Jr.	\$60
Jacob R.	Fox	\$70	Jonathan	Steigerwalt	\$60
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		1			

#### **LRSA**

PO Box 97

Trexlertown, PA 18087

LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

**LRSA Board of Directors: LRSA Officers:** 

Karl Imdorf

Matt MacConnell, P.E.

Jim Deebel

Chuck Morgenstern

David Carl

Gary Klein

Email:

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

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



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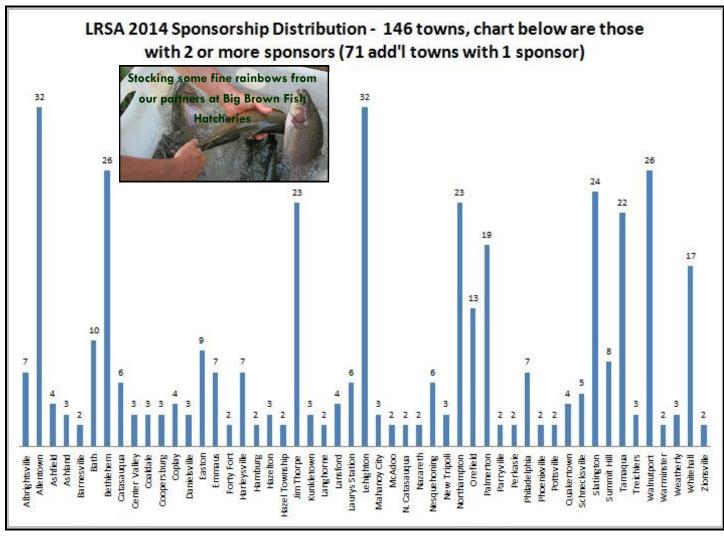
**Newsletter Editor:** Matt

MacConnell

In Memoriam—LRSA

Founder, Ted Miller





Congratulations and many thanks to our leading communities who have demonstrated the greatest collective commitment to the Lehigh River trout stocking programs! Top rankings to those with > 20 sponsors including: Allentown and Lehighton, followed by Walnutport,

Slatington, Jim Thorpe, Northampton and Tamaqua. You can see the distribution above and you can't see that there are 71 towns with one sponsor each. Surprisingly, not a single sponsor from Bowmanstown, the site of our famous Lunkerfest contest. Everyone counts, sign up a friend!