



LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

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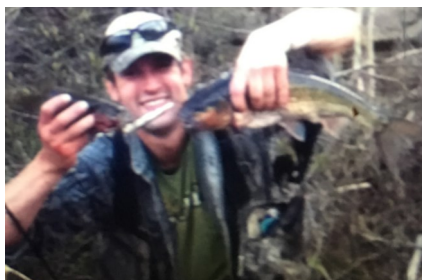
Lehigh River Watch

LRSA's Running Total:

**Trout Stocked:
341,900**

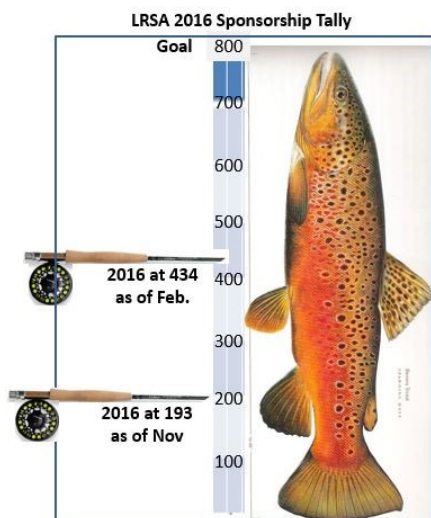
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Nevan McGovern in Bowmanstown with both a fall fish and a smallie caught on Rapala at the same time!

Newsletter Editor—Matt MacConnell



The Voice of the Lehigh River Stocking Association

Spring Stocking Schedule and Plan

Saturday April 2nd—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, 2 rainbow at 19", 1 brown at 21", 2 brown at 23" and 1 brown at 25". Stocking stops will be Canal Road, Cementon Dam, Laury's 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 at Walnutport boat ramp, Walnutport pavilion, Slatington at Szokes Brothers and finish at the 873 Bridge boat ramp where a large memorial release will be made for the Thompson Family.

Saturday April 23rd—Meet at 9am at Glen Onoko at 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.

Sunday April 24th—This will be the first time LRSA will be releasing our own Cooperative trout nursery fish raised at Tom Gyory's pond. Given first time, the exact logistics and timing are not well defined but general plan is to stock about 1000 of the near 12" rainbow trout along D&L Trail between Treichlers and Slatington in the afternoon.

Saturday May 7th—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 the following trophy size trout, three 21", two 22", one 24". 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, Walnutport pavilion, Treichlers Cove Road, Lauries Station pull over, Cementon Dam and finish at Northampton Pavilion.

Saturday May 21st—5th Annual Lunkerfest Contest at East Penn Park in Bowmanstown. Contest runs 8:30 to 3pm. See flyer for more details on page 7. Four hundred + rainbow and brown at 17", two at 18", twelve at 24", three at 25"+. Nearly 70 prizes for winning anglers.

L.L.Bean

Come visit our LRSA table at LL Bean at the Promenade Shops in Center Valley Sat and Sun March 19 and 20. We will be working on selling new memberships and supporting LL Bean who have been extremely generous to LRSA for Lunkerfest prizes.

Monthly Meeting Location Change—Meetings now held at Sliders Pub in Schnecksville, 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!



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 Lehigh 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.

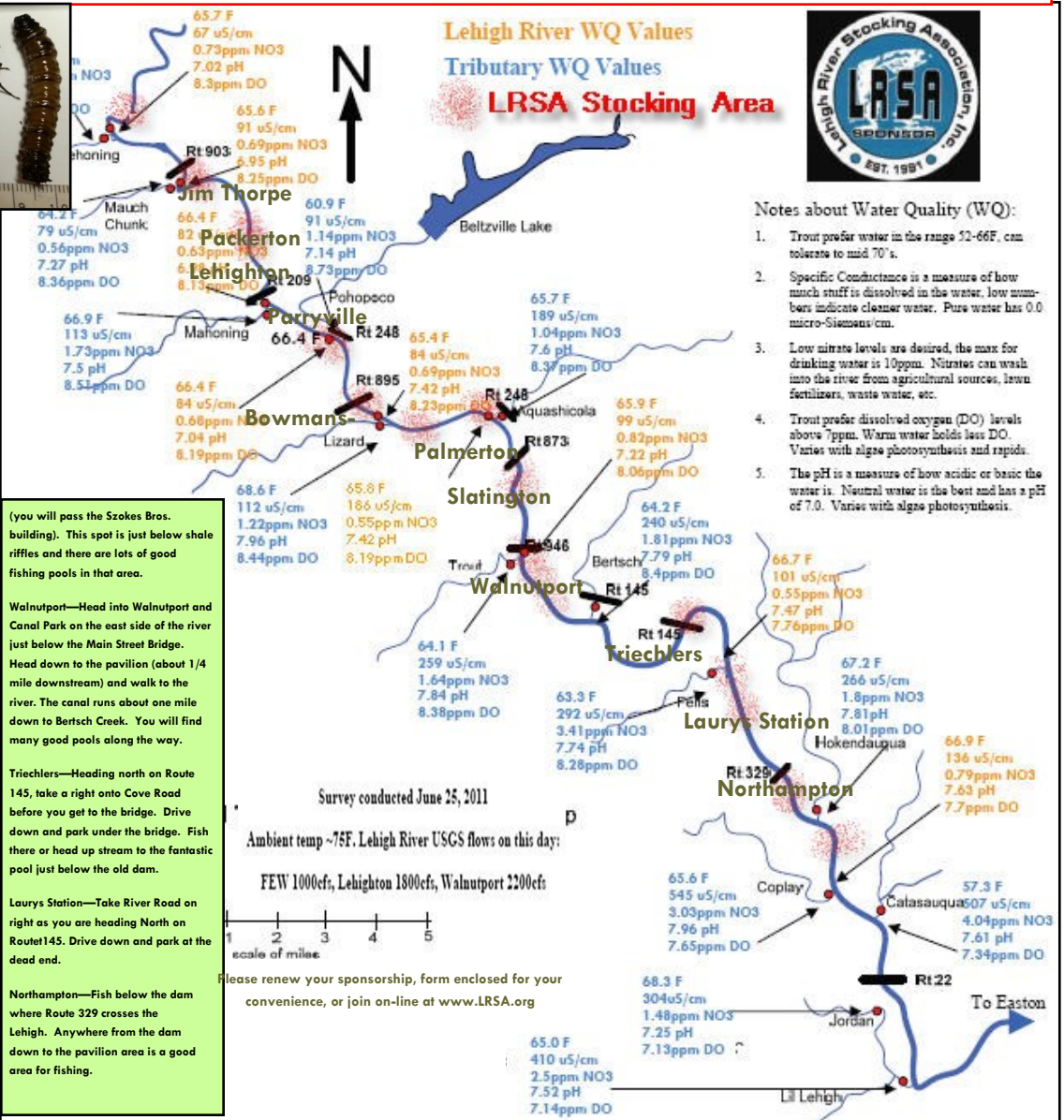
Lehigh—Make a right off of 209 at Dunbar's Beverages and take the road all the way back to the rocky beach near the river. Or, drive down stream on the access road that runs parallel to route 209 and walk in.

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.

Bowmantown—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



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Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal , by Tom Gyory

Spring's around the corner. The Lehigh is still cold but the days are getting longer and the water is getting warmer. The first fly hatches are waiting to bust loose. The small black stonefly or Plecoptera hatches are the first. You can go down to the river on an early spring day in the afternoon and see the tiny flies crawling out

on the rock near shallow pools then taking off in mating swarms, eventually falling back into the river or onto left over snow banks thus the nickname "snow flies". Near the tributary streams where the water is slightly warmer than the main stem of the Lehigh, the trout will feed subsurface on the nymphs of the stoneflies usually early in the afternoon when the sun is at its zenith and the temperature gets above 30 degrees. A size 18 black stonefly or copper john usually does the trick.

The first mayflies of the year will be the small blue winged olives followed by Quill Gordons and Hendricksons in mid to late April. Notice that all the early flies are dark in color which enables them to absorb the sun's energy for warmth. Flies that are dark grey or black work best in the early spring and a slow presentation is suggested because the fish are very sluggish. Some top water action begins at this time but it can be sporadic. Remember the general rule that it is best to fly fish at the most comfortable time of the day all year long. You should fish in the

Lehigh River Stocking Association									
Hatch Chart									
courtesy of Brian Tatar, Silver Springs Outfitters									
	Hook #	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Hatch Times
Mayflies									
Blue Winged Olive	16-18	xxxx	xxx						early afternoon
Blue Quill	18	xxx	xxx						late morning and early afternoon
Quill Gordon	12-14	xxxx	xxx						early afternoon
Hendrickson	12-14		x	xxxx					afternoon
Large Sulfur	12-14			xxx	xx				afternoon to early evening
Pale Evening Dun	18			xxx	xx				late afternoon to evening
March Brown	10-12			x	xxx				sporadic daytime
Grey Fox	12			xxx	xxx				sporadic daytime
Brown Drake	12-14			xxx	xx				sporadic daytime
Pale Evening Dun	14			x	xxxx	x			morning and evening
Light Cahill	10-12			xxx	xxxx	xxxx			afternoon
Blue Winged Olive	14-16			xxx	xx				morning and cloudy rainy days
Tiny Blue Winged Olive	20-28			xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	afternoon
Trico	22-28				xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	midmorning to early afternoon spinner fall
Yellow Drake	8-10				xxxx	xxxx			very sporadic on mid river
Slate Drakes	10-12			xxx	xx		xxxx	xxxx	sporadic daytime
Stoneflies									
Tiny Black	18	xxx							warmest part of day
Early Black	14-16	xxxx							early afternoon
Early Brown	8-10	xxxx	x						warmest part of day
Golden	8-10		xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx			nighttime
Eastern Salmon Fly	4-6			xxxx	xxx				dusk to midnight
Great Brown	6-8		xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx			nighttime
Caddisflies									
Little Black	16-18	xxxx							late morning and early afternoon
Grannoms	14-18		x	xxx					afternoon
Green Sedge	16		xxx	xxx	xxxx				afternoon to dusk
Dark Blue Sedge	14		xxx	xxxx					evening
Spotted Sedge	16-18		xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx			afternoon to evening
Little Tan Sedge	16-18			xxxx	xxxx				midday to evening
Ginger	12-14					xxxx	xxxx		sporadic
Terrestrials									
Flying Ants (red, black)	16-22			xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	sporadic, mornings
Inchworms	10-14		xxxx	xxxx	xxx				good searching pattern when no hatch
Beetles	14-18			xxxx	xxxx	xxxx			good searching pattern when no hatch
Grasshoppers	6-12				xxxx	xxxx	xxxx		hopper with a dropper is deadly!

warm afternoons when it is cold and the cool morning and evenings when it is warm.

For more information on hatches for the entire year see the Lehigh River hatch chart on our newly updated website www.lrsa.org or on the back of the LRSA trifold.

LRSA coop nursery update: The first year LRSA trout survived the winter well. The water stayed unfrozen most of the winter and the fish grew well. We are predicting that the 1000 rainbows should be 12-14 inches by the time they are stocked in May. There were some losses early in the process due to competition and natural selection but there have been very few losses lately. We are planning to double the size of the nursery next year to 1000 rainbows and 1000 browns.

The LRSA is also sponsoring another coop nursery at B.C. Bait in Lehigh. Owners Joe and Kathy Sterling have been raising bait fish for many years in their indoor cement tanks and want to expand to raise trout. The Sterlings have been very generous supporters of Lunkerfest in the past and this coop nursery relationship should benefit both parties for the future. In order to enter the PA Fish and Boat Coop Nursery program the LRSA needed to co-sponsor B.C. Bait which includes paper work filing and contributing for the fish food. We will pay \$1.00 per trout that will be stocked in the Lehigh. This is a great way to get more fish (up to 1000) in the river at a very reasonable price. For comparison, a 12 inch trout cost approximately \$3.50 when purchased from a supplier.

Things are looking promising for great fishing on the Lehigh this year and for the foreseeable future. It requires time, effort and money from individual members, so please help the cause by signing up new members, purchasing merchandise and volunteering in our efforts. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone out on the Lehigh.



Lehigh Brown caught by Mike Stanislaw

To ALL CURRENT members—by Gary Klein

There have been some questions coming from membership concerning newsletter distribution. Some are wondering why friends and people they know are getting same newsletters WITHOUT being current year paid members. The reason we have been doing this as you will notice we have been doing raffle ticket drawings FOUR(4) times a year instead of just two or three! This brings us additional funds which in turn helps us purchase more fish each year. As we have already ordered fish for the 2016 season except Lunkerfest, we have spent in excess of \$25K. This Newsletter mailing with Stocking info (which has changed a little from normal dates) has all the specifics on page 1 and will only be mailed to sponsors with current 2016 dues paid. As noted, the stocking will be as follows: 1st Sat. in April(2nd) Lower half of River from Northampton to County line where state opener is Two(2) weeks later. 2nd Stocking due to conflicts will be moved back a week(1 week AFTER state wide opener) From Glen Onoko St park beach South to area that ended 1st stocking. That date would be April 23rd. 3rd stocking will be sat in May where we do full length in certain areas but not all. Lunkerfest is scheduled for May 21 at Bowmanstown boat ramp again. We will also be doing a mini stocking on April 24th using LRSA Co-op fish (approx. 850+ Rainbows).

Watch FB for time and places or contact LRSA through email or Gary Klein @ gdklein58@gmail.com or ph. 267-221-8837. Don't forget show schedule April 16 and 17 at Cabela's in Hamburg, PA. Come out and see us. As usual, the stocking information will not be advertised on FB or website, just this mailing as per LRSA board. We felt this should be member ONLY info and please let us know your feelings on this. Also check out "NEW" LRSA website that should be up and running by the time of this mailing!!!

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From Pheasants to Pheasant Tails, by Steve Chuckra

If you are like me, you may find the doldrums of winter testing your patience. Why not find a way to commemorate the memory of autumn days spent in the field by using that bag of feathers in your desk to replace flies lost, worn out, and donated to the riverbed.

The last day of hunting season always brings a sense of profound disappointment to me. This is a constant thing, regardless of whether my tags are full. If you love being in the field, there is nothing worse than knowing that another year stands between you and your favorite past time. That's why it's nice to have other seasonal past times! Now, I find my thoughts turning to spring days and jumping trout. Unfortunately, there is a pretty big stretch of time between -4 and leaping rainbows. That's o.k. though, there are a lot of flies to tie between now and May too.

I like reflecting. I like to analyze what's gone and apply lessons learned to the promise of the new season. I can't think of a better way to get into that frame of mind than tying flies. Last year I discovered that pheasant tails are really easy to tie. Funny, I tie allot of other flies, but had pretty religiously avoided even attempting to wind out a pheasant tail until last year; after I lost the last of a bunch that were tied on reverse-bend emerger style hooks. They worked really well and since I didn't buy them locally, I had to tie a new batch or switch to something else. Well, I didn't want to switch just because I was lazy, so I tied four or five size 14 flies with beaded heads on the reverse bend hooks.

Tying flies made with feathers from birds personally mastered in November is very satisfying. It brings back memories of days well spent with your favorite dog and for me it added a new dimension to my fly box. The tails from the locally stocked birds are lighter in color to what you normally find at the fly shop. Cranking out flies made with the lighter material was interesting because I thought they might pass for emerging Quill Gordons, Ginger Quills, or Sulfurs. Judging on how well they went over with the trout, I'd say that I was correct on at least one of those counts.

If you, plan on tying some, don't forget to rib the bodies with copper wire, quill, or a heaver thread that enhances the color of the fly. Pheasant tail bodies give up pretty quickly and ribbing the body will add a little more survivability to your selection. This year I plan on tying several variations by using different shades of pheasant. I want to make a few grey bodied versions in addition to the usual line-up to see how well they work during Hendrickson hatches. If you fish the Lehigh in areas where there is a good amount of current, consider using a 3-4X tippet. I lost a few exceptionally nice trout last year and would have done better if I had followed this advice.

You can fish the pheasant tails on a nymph rig, like a wet fly, or even under a big dry fly, using the latter as an almost eatable strike indicator. I sometimes like to nymph the pheasant tails and then stop mending my line so the current drags them up from the bottom and makes the flies tail out over trout that are rising intermittently.

I hope this information inspires you to test your creativity at the vice. I'm trying to work up enough inspiration to take my bird dog for a walk in the 10 degree weather.



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LRSA Partner Notes:, by John Berry

1. Lehigh River Trout Stocking Totals:		2016	YTD
A. LRSA		5,000	341,900
B. LRSA LUNKERFEST		700	2,800
C. Nesquehoning Conservation Club		TBD	5,500
D. 5 Mile High Club		800	4,005
Totals	360,005		
2. Co-op Nursery Program Totals:		2016	2017
A. LRSA- Tom Gyory Pond		1000	2000
BC Bait (Lehighnton)		1000	
B. Nesquehoning Conservation Club (Site OK pending)			TBD
C. 5 Mile High Club		TBD	
D. DRSFA (Easton Shad Tank)		TBD	TBD
3. Whitlock-Vibert Box Pilot Program Totals:			
A. LRSA- Tom Gyory Tributary		25 Boxes	TBD
B. Nesquehoning Conservation Club		25 Boxes	TBD
C. 5 Mile High Club		TBD	TBD
D. DRSFA		25 Boxes	TBD

N.B.- LRSA and Partner Members:

We need your help to put more fish in the Lehigh River! Please help us identify additional sites for Co-op nurseries and Whitlock-Vibert Box Programs. Please call us at 215-850-4839 or 610-625-2113 if you have any questions.

LRSA Motto: Fishermen First

Tom Gyory's Theory of Relativity:

$E=MF3$

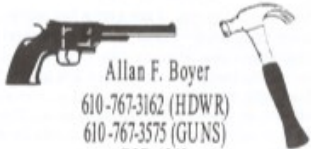
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$MF2$ = More Fishermen


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Lunkerfest 2016

Lehigh River Stocking Association



*Jason Christman with
24.5" winning fish from
Lunkerfest 2015.*

What: 5th Annual Fishing Contest for Great Prizes.
More Fish, Kids Fishing Pond, Extended Stocking Area, and Water Rescue

When: May 21st 2016, (high water date June 4th 2016)
Sign up starting at 7:00 am
Fishing from 8:30am-3:00pm

Where: Lehigh River, East Penn Boat Launch, Bowmanstown, PA
Fee: Nonmember Adults and Youths \$25, (\$20 Members), Kids under 12 free

Details: The LRSA will stock about 500 14" to 28" trout with six or more 20"+ (more than ever before). Lunkerfest contest runs 0.9 miles from the confluence of the Lehigh River and Lizard Creek to the first island below the East Penn Boat Ramp. This extended stocking area enables anglers to spread out with a range of river conditions to fish. A kids pond stocked with trout for kids 12 and under will improve the fishing enjoyment and safety of the younger fishermen. 100 trout will be tagged. Free giveaways, LRSA memberships, and raffle tickets available at sign up. Food and drinks available for purchase. Bait available for purchase. Picnic tables and bathroom on site. Sponsor's demonstration tables will be on display. No alcohol allowed.

Rules:

For safety reasons, Lunkerfest will be postponed due to high water if the water flow is greater than 1000ft/sec from Frances E Walter Dam as measured on the USGS website on the day before the contest. Sign up begins at 7:00am. A wrist band will be given to each participant to wear during Lunkerfest. Please check our web site (www.lrsa.org) and Facebook page for status updates

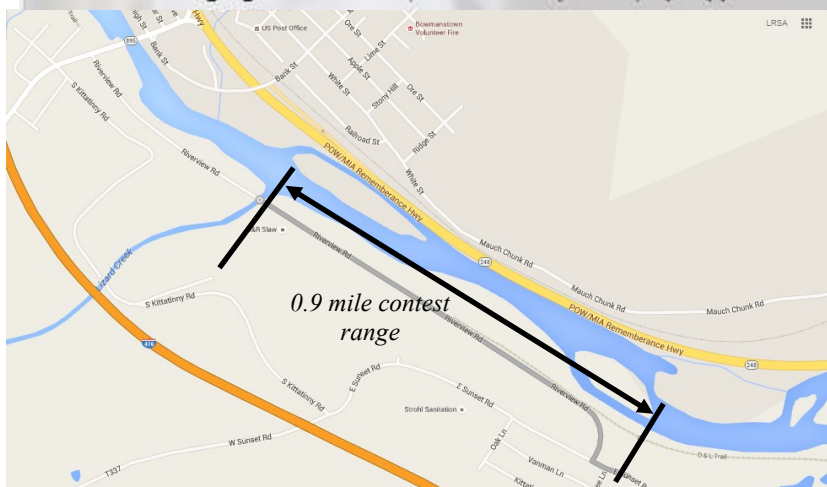
Fishing begins at 8:30am until 3:00 pm. All Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission rules apply. Wading and boat fishing is permitted. All legal baits, lures, and flies are allowed. Any fish, with or without a tag, caught on the day of Lunkerfest, is eligible for prizes. Each fish caught must be brought to the measuring table. Fish may be released after measuring.

Length of fish will determine prize choice order. For example, the longest fish gets 1st choice of prizes, second longest gets second choice, and so on. Ties in length will be broken by the time of measurement. Fish prizes and raffles will be awarded at 3:00pm. Any prizes not awarded on the day of Lunkerfest will be awarded in the extended contest which is open until June 28, 2016.

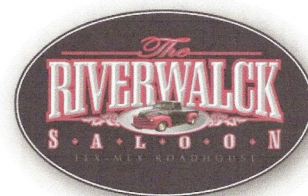
All LRSA members are eligible for the extended contest. Only tagged fish are eligible for the extended contest. Tags must be mailed in by June 28, 2016 to LRSA, P.O. Box 97, Trexertown, PA 18087 or be brought in to a monthly meeting either on May 31st or June 28th, 2016 at or meeting 8:00 pm at Sliders Pub 4650 Main St in Schnecksville where a drawing of the tags will determine the prizes for the extended contest. See www.lrsa.org website and our facebook page for updates.

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

Sponsors: LL Bean, Cabela's, Acme Markets, JBS Meats, Skinner Guide Service, Rivers Outdoor Adventure, Wayne's Rod, BC Bait, Boyers Hardware, Wildlands Conservancy, Bob's Taxidermy, Archery at the Glen, RiverWalck Saloon, Catfish Creek Cabins, Flies by George, Big Daddy Reels, Wink's Wildlife Studio, Renaldo Enterprises, Clear Water Angling Guide Service, Timberwolf Spinners, Lip Ripper Charters, and more.



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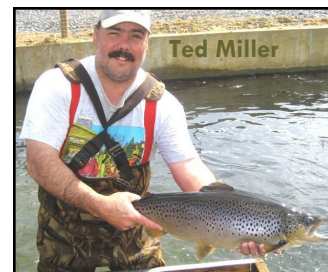
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ra

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In Memoriam—LRSA
Founder, Ted Miller



If you shop Amazon, please shop smile.amazon.com and designate LRSA
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Winter Drawing Winners from 23Feb2016 drawing

In order of ticket drawn: 1. Brune Labichosky, Barnesville, 2. John Stanko, Ladsford, 3. Richard Rhimes, Harpers Ferry, 4. Jere Ross, Coopersburg, 5. Steven Fischer, Palm, 6. Robert Snyder, Lehigh, 7. Michael Wester Jr, Tamaqua, Marty Weikart, Walnutport, 9. Steve Gombocz, Ore-field, 10. Bryan Law, Warminster, 11. James Sullivan, Mahanoy City, 12. Bill Derhammer, Emmaus, 13. J. Roney, Doylestown, 14. Joe Scelsa, Aston, 15. Gary Visgaitis, Hazelton, 16. Shawn Quinn, Palmerton, 17. Willie McDonald, Schuylkill Haven, 18. Stan Meckes, Jim Thorpe, 19. Melvin Madouse, Allentown, 20. Richard Chetson, Philadelphia. Drawing order prizes: #1&19 \$100, #9&11 \$50, all others \$25. Thank you all for participation, this netted \$2,100 for more trout in the Lehigh!

Water Quality and Conservation Program —M. MacConnell

The conservation work planned for 2016 is extensive and exciting. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

1. Lower Lehigh Canal Study—The Easton and Chain dams were put in place to water the canals to move coal more than 100 years ago. The dams however block anadromous fish passage (specifically Shad and American Eels), have altered the historical riverine system and contribute to river accidents/fatalities. Sierra Club has funded a study of alternate means to water the canals while enabling dam removal. The study will include measurement of canal flow rates to aid in the engineering work involved. It is understood that there are many interest groups who enjoy the current situation with the dams in place. The fishing above and below dams is different than natural river fishing and many people enjoy it. The jet skiing and motor boating is another recreational activity made possible by the dams. These interests groups will need to be engaged in the plus and minus discussion relating to dam removal but the LRSA will be advocates for restoring the river's natural free flow.
2. Metals Analysis—Sierra Club has funded purchase of a new stream side metals analysis kit that will enable evaluation and optimization of the iron removal at Lausanne Tunnel mine drainage site in Jim Thorpe. The kit will also enable evaluation and optimization of the aluminum removal system at Buck Mountain Creek mine drainage site in Weatherly. The kit also include nitrate analysis capability, which is very useful.
3. 24/7 Water Quality monitoring with Internet data streaming will commence in March. The No. 1 probe will be located in Slatington again

this year. The No. 2 water quality probe will be used to conduct the annual tributary survey as well as other survey work as needed at the mine drainage sites and other studies on the Lehigh to further support our objectives in getting PFBC to assist us in stocking the Lehigh with adult trout.

4. The Parryville dam fishway project proposal (\$180,000) on Pohopoco Creek is nearing what we believe will be approval. LRSA is now detailing the operation and maintenance plan for the proposed fishway as requested by the Trustees of the Palmerton Zine Pile settlement fund.

5. Lausanne Tunnel Optimization—Will be estimating a solar powered supplemental aeration system to further help oxidation/settling of soluble iron. Will work to reduce channeling through wetland as well.



Horwith Freightliner and Western Star

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