



Ryan Scott with a nice fall brown

LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

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Issue 65, October 2016

Lehigh River Watch

Big Thank You to All the LRSA Supporters

The LRSA board is very pleased with the results from 2016. The sponsorship made it to 751, nearly to our goal of 800, we carried on with our traditional stocking program with high quality, large and super large quality trout in 14+ areas of the Lehigh from Glen Onoko to Northampton. We held a number of trophy trout releases in honor of loved ones who have passed. The Lunkerfest in May was held again attracting about 200 contestants and giving us the opportunity to expand our sponsorship rolls and most importantly to enhance the excitement of trout fishing in the Lehigh.

We could not do it without the LRSA sponsors. Special recognition to Jack Zeman of Barnesville who has been a sponsor since the beginning in 1991. We also look to recognize the many sponsors who contributed \$50 or more in 2016, thanks to everyone: **\$1,000+**—William Logan; **\$800-\$999**—Michele Cody; **\$600-\$799**—Anonymous; **\$300-\$599**—John Garrity, Leighton 912 Project; **\$250-\$299**—Kevin Gasker, Alan Schaffer, Robert Schaffer, Self Storage Station, Mike Topping, David Bachman, John Garrity; **\$190-\$249**—Lehigh Valley Sierra Club, Willard Paules, Larry Bostick, Ted Smith, Daniel Braun; **\$150-\$189**—Raymond Baker Jr., Craig Bardman, Stephen Hranilovich, Stanley Meckes, Nuclear Electric, Clinton Schafer, Edwin Palansky, Robert Skazenski, Miguel Ortiz; **\$120-\$150**—Joseph Kocon, Don & Dorothy Barwis, Jim Boehret, Bruce Connell, Ray Garrison, Stephen Breninger, William Chruscial, Edward Erdman, Joan Bauder, Robert Cooper, Michael Roth, Tony Zoppi, Joseph Schuler, Ian Webb, Bill Derhammer, Walter Fox, Robert Hill; **\$100-\$119**—Keith Alderfer, Jacob Fox, Jeff Keiser, Bryan Law, Robert Moser, John Mosovsky, Rick Ryan, Vince Spait, Randall Varilek, Tom Zukovich, Michael Pramick, Bert and Deanna Gasker, Wilbur Jones Jr, Gerhard Buschinski, William Hook, Kevin Artz, William Dunstan, Brian Farrell, Horwith Freightliner, Craig Haytmanek, Michael & Michael S Domenico Italiani, Roger Perry, Tom Seyfried, Dave Whitehead; **\$90-\$99**—Greg Berry, Gerald DeBalko, Robert Dunstan, Mike Joshepson, Edwin Kindred, Chris & Cheryl Krystopa, Edward Kubert, Robert Latsch, Michael Lee, Ron Macaulay, Melvin Madouse, Chris Rex, Joan Schisler, Mike Curran III, William McCullough III, Frank Ciekalsky, Joe Gavala, David Gibson II, Louis Holland, Scott Miller, Gerald Moulthrop, Richard Muth, Carl Reichl, David Sfarra, George Ueltzen, Michael Wester Jr; **\$70-\$89**—Jeff Balsai, William Barkley, Charles Barron, Len Benek, Joe Bnosky, Kenneth Braren, Robert Brown, Matthew Erdie Jr, Bob Exner, Greg Gaal, Mark Graber, Ed Gross, William Hudak, Richard Jacoby, Thomas Lager, Joe Lobichusky, Leonard Ludinsky, Joe & Diane Mazurek, Robert McDonald, George Millet, William Pastucha, John Punola, James Romanchik, Dan Rudloff, Richard Schnell, Richard Stanche, John Stanko Jr, Jamie Townsend, Greg Duld, Thomas Hanisits, John Kirk, Jake Markezin, Robert Mauser, Dan McDevitt, Francis Senglar, George Spencer, Dan Turner, Robert Weller, Wayne Bialy, Art Castagnola, Paul Hutchison Jr, Keith Kendall, Robert Ronyack, James Sullivan, J. Martin Weikart, Bill Danish, Eugene Cheehan, Michael Frisby, Keith Kromer, Richard Smale, Charles Sterner, Reno Salomone, Greg Berry; **\$60-\$69**—William Beers, John Bonaskiewich, David Bonaskiewich, Joe Bonner, John Boyce, Don & Sherry Buchvalt, Mike Cibulsky, Irv Conway, Thomas Ely, David Feller, Donald Fisher, Brian Hines, Denny Horton, William Hosier, Conrad Marth, William Marx, Joe and LeAnn Mucka, Ryan Oncheck, Jerry Rowan, David Shaffer, Lyle Stern, David Boyer, Timothy Groegler, Jere Reiss, Seth Huey, Wayne Sibbach, Ribello Bertoni, Michael Boehler, Christopher Engart, Jim Gower, Tom Gyory, Chad Horn, Gerard Houck, Thomas Moser, Randy Richart, Sammy Riddich, Scott Snyder, David Stoss, Eric Wilby, Donald Rice; **\$50-\$59**—Glenn Ahner Sr, Richard Callahan, Eric Csanadi, Ron Csanadi, Robert Kadlecik, Lehigh Cold Water Alliance, Edward Nestor, Lester Schall, Stephen Spait, Phil Spohn, Eugene Strohl, Michael Todorow, Fred Valania, Michael Wolfe, Cathi Zellner, Joseph Ciavaglia Jr, Howard Billig, Richard Borger Jr, Ross Buchieri, Jim Carr, Mike Clewell, Brandon Cravener, Christopher Daly, Steven Fischer, Nathan Hahn, John Hajcak, Dennis Hocknell, John Kaiser, Robert Lee Keiper, Pat Kelly, Daniel Kintz, Robert Kirk, Joe Legath, Frank Lukitsch Jr, Chris Muthard, Thomas Oliver, Glenn Poore, Shawn Quinn, Rusty Balls Tackle, Clarence Smith, Robert Snyder, Shannon Woznick, Jack Zeman.

LRSA's Running Total:

Trout Stocked: 349,900

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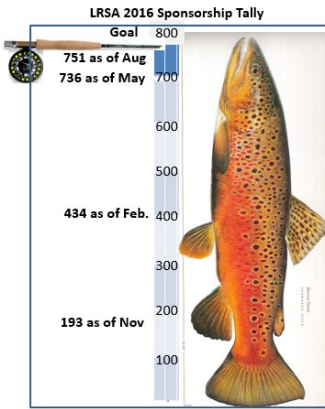
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Thanks also to our Life Sponsors (\$250): Craig Bardman, Greg Berry, William Bley, Judy Borger, Frank Bostick, Abel Boyer, Robert Burke, Dan Cerven, Bryant Chavous, James Cieslak, Charlie Dent, Neil Dorshimer, Thomas Dorshimer, Thomas Drayer, Joe Drosdak, Carol Etheridge, Roy Farber, Michael Galada, Alfred Galler, Kevin Gasker, Gary Blockus, Kurt Gustafson, Edward Habern, Richard Hausman, Paul Hedneck, Paula Jo Hirjak, Gerald Houck, Stephen Hranilovich, Mark Johnson, Paul Kanaskie, Walter Keeley, J. Kevin Kellner, Ron Kistler, Robert Knopf Jr, Eric Kuder, Dennis Keubler, David Leiby Jr, Jeffrey Lentz, William Logan, Rudy Meier, Colleen Miller, Dustin Miller, William Murphy Jr, Dale Ott, Dan Rodricks, Michael Roth, Alan Schaeffer, Robert Schaffer, Gregory Scheirer, Joan Schisler, Brian Shughart, Robert Simek, Jim Slinksy, Brian Tarter, Vaughn Terrinoni, David Thatcher, Mike Topping, Randall Varilek, Gary Visgaitis, Martin Williams, Todd Woznick.

Summer Drawing Winners

#1 Frank Ciekalsky, #2 Brandon Cravener, #3 John Michael Josephson, #4 Joan Schisler, #5 Theodore McCoy, #6 Ed

Habern, #7 Steve Kralik, #8 Ron Kistler, #9 David Stoss, #10 Bob Gooper, #11 Walter Fox, #12 Nathan Hahn, #13 Len Ludinsky, #14 Michael Italiani, #15 Joan Schisler, #16 Wilbur Jones Jr, #17 Scott Wilbur, #18 Frank Senglar, #19 Marta Haas, #20 John Stanko. Prizes: #1&19 \$100, #9&11 \$50, all others \$25.



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.

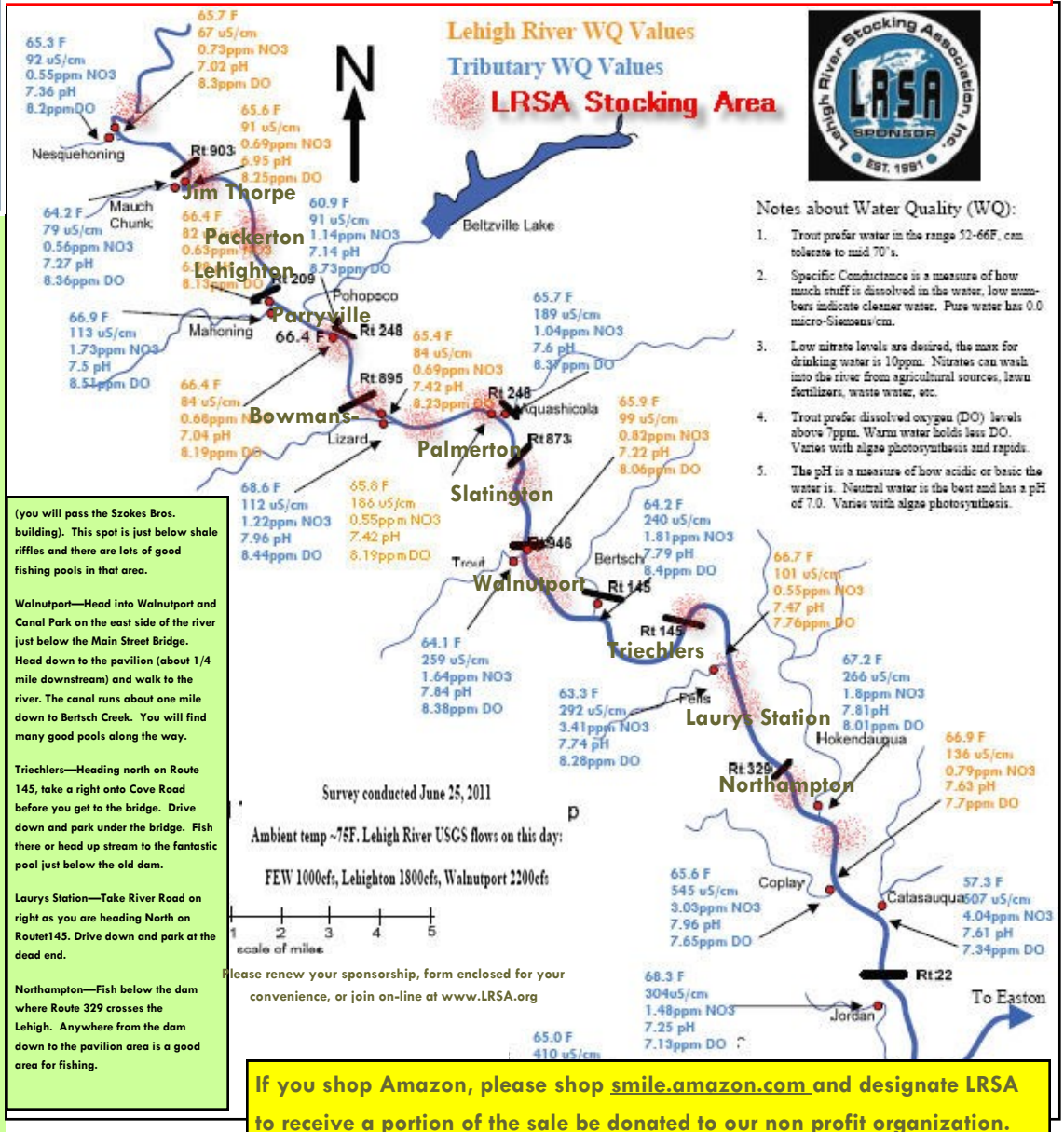
Parryville—Pull off route 248 at the Rock Hill Cement Company and park at the Canal Park area. The Pohopoco Creek confluence with the Lehigh provides very good, cold, conditions for trout. The Pohopoco holds fish too, particularly below the dam.

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 Luncheon.

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

Monthly Meeting Location—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!



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Coplay Creek Pulls a Disappearing Act by Vince Spaits

On June 27th I was walking the IRT (Ironton Rail Trail) in the area from Stiles to Hokendaqua which follows the Coplay Creek on its way to connect with the Lehigh River in Darktown. Growing up in this area, I have been walking along the Coplay Creek for almost 50 years and know it quite well. I enjoy the trail and like most people feel it is an outstanding use of the old railroad bed. It is peaceful and serene and is a valuable asset to the area. One can see many species of birds and animal life, butterflies and plants. Certainly more “urbanized” now than when I was a kid I still find it remarkable that such diversity can exist and thrive in such a populated area. However this was not the real reason for this walk.

The summer had been dry and hot up to that date and I noticed the creek was running very low. More than I remember for a day in late June and I was concerned that somehow the water was being used or lost. So I thought I would do some investigating. I noticed that the creek was nearly dry in the week prior, especially in its last 2 miles journey to the river. So whatever was taking water was doing so downstream of the Center Street Bridge off Route 145. So I started walking and every 50 yards or so would make my way to the creek to check the flow. Now say what you want about streams like the Coplay. They have significant value to all of us. Many of us learned to fish on streams just like the Coplay and our memories are full of good times had at such places. I remember building rock dams with my friends to back up the water so we could swim, catch eels and suckers and just to see how big of a dam we could build.....now I spend time trying to convince people to tear dams down. I remember going to the creek to net “butter minnows” to use as fishing bait. These beautiful minnows would wear a yellow stripe and have bright orange fins during their spawning time and were abundant. They made great bait. I also caught plenty of trout there and learned about catch and release, learned about what type of water trout preferred and how good they could hide. I watched them in late spring feed on the surface on insects and had my first go with a fly rod here as well. I strongly feel had I not grown up so close to this stream I may not have adopted fishing as my passion and sport of choice. I am sure many others have had a similar experience on other area streams. So when the creek vanished from sight I naturally had concerns. It was like losing an old friend.

As I walked further I heard an unfamiliar sound, kind of like a slurping suction type sound. I approached the bank of the creek. I was across from the Tate Family farm. The land donated to the IRT project by the family years ago when the trail first was first developed. Across the creek is the Tate property, a beautiful well cared for piece of land with a big beautiful barn and home. In the middle of the creek were 2 holes 2-3 foot wide. What the first hole didn’t take in of the Coplay Creeks flow the second did. The holes were nearly perfectly positioned in the middle of the flow. Downstream of these holes the creek was dry....not a drop of water. You could walk on what was once a flowing relatively healthy streams bottom. It was kind of surreal to see the small creek pouring down holes going to who knows where. The water was crystal clear. Upstream I could see schools of Black Nosed Dace (those butter minnows I mentioned), fathead minnow, chubs, suckers, and some small bass. Most impressively I noticed trout. A few looked to be the state stocked type but more of the wild brown trout that this creek produces. They were in the 4-6 inch range. Below the sink holes.....nothing. Dry or drying stream bottom. There were a few holes where water was still present but these cannot support life for long. So I thought of the hundreds, thousands of fish, amphibians and reptiles, insect life....a small but viable ecosystem that this situation wiped out. What once was is no more. It was complete devastation for this small stream. I was also concerned about safety in the area of the sinkholes. I mean how big would they get? How deep were they? And how would this be resolved.

Ironically that day I was alerted to an article being run about the sinkholes in the paper. It cited the fact that the sinkholes were swallowing the creeks water and there seemed to be a pending dispute over who was responsible to “fix” the problem in the creek bed. Was it the land owner’s trouble, the township? DEP? Fish and Boat? I thought of the bureaucracy that has been created around problems like this and knew it could be a



*Coplay Creek—Continued from page 3*

long time until this is sorted out as these groups tend to move glacially slow toward solutions. To me it was easy...one of the agencies should immediately explore potential fixes. I mean they have at their disposal experts, people who have dealt with these problems in the past. Geologists, engineers and all manner of educated people. Let's get this fixed, then we can sort out who pays. The wrong answer to this problem is do nothing and to me that is wrong all day long. Even better form a team of people, each experts in their own areas. I mean an ecosystem is at stake here. Now I am realistic. The Coplay creek is not the upper Delaware or Snake River but it surely deserves more than doing nothing. Even if a Band-Aid could be put on the problem temporarily so the flow of water returns to the creek as soon as possible.

I made numerous calls over the next 2 weeks. Each agency or official I talked with was intelligent, cordial and open to my discussion with them. But all ended the same. The wheels were turning but no one knew exactly what was going to happen. Who was going to take this on and how it happened in the first place. I felt, as did our organization that more should have been done and the reaction should have been swift. But feelings do not matter in cases like this so things progressed slowly. I thought of the property owners along the creek and how the dry creek bed must make them feel and how if not corrected could lead to reduced property value. But mostly I thought of the fish, and the kids, who just like you and I did, rushed home from school or couldn't wait to go fishing in the little stream. Those trips now would be missed and even if only one kid....it makes a difference. One less to take our place in these efforts, one less vigilant person fighting for these little streams, maybe one less future fisherman.

The causes of these sinkholes remains unknown at this time. The impact, obvious. Was it due to the highly invasive installation of the sewer main from a few years back? Was it due to the dry summer? Or are we just victims of our own Karst Topography that dominates our area. The most likely answer is it is a natural occurrence due to our Limestone Geology. The same geology that provides us with some awesome Limestone streams such as the Little Lehigh. This situation has happened before and likely will happen again. I have read and understand that these type of sinkholes have happened on many local streams including the Jordan, Hokendaqua, Martins and Monocacy. However, to see it firsthand leaves one hopeful it never happens again.

DEP did issue the landowners a temporary permit and the caretakers worked hard and did their best to fill the holes with overburden, rocks and clean fill. They did a great job with what they had to work with and at last view the flow has returned and the draw down the sinkholes dramatically reduced. I thank them and the Tate family for making this effort, as we all should. Hopefully over time the sinkhole will be filled with water no longer drinking the water from the Coplay Creek and things will slowly return to normal.

The Coplay creek is vital (as all tributaries are) to the Lehigh. During the time frame the sinkholes were open they were removing 450-500 gallons per minute of water from the Lehigh for several weeks. Do the math....this is significant water loss. During such a dry season water is the one essential we cannot do without. Although impaired, the creek still show the resilience of life and supports a decent population of wild trout. It is not without consequence such a trib is lost to our watershed.

I ask all to be vigilant to such situations and report what you see immediately. To many times people just walk, either not getting involved or thinking others have already done the work of reporting. Please be part of the solution. I will in a future newsletter present a protocol on reporting waterway issues to include names and phone numbers of who to call to report such things as fish kills, water loss or abuse, pollution events etc....

As I discover more about the situation on the Coplay and investigate what, if any work or funds will be dedicated to restoring the habitat I will do my best to inform our sponsors and members. Look for findings on our Facebook page.

Lastly I ask that you continue to support the LRSA and continue to recruit additional sponsors. **To grow our membership is to grow our ability to build a healthy fishery, to continue to monitor our rivers health and to provide a resource that undeniably gives back to each of us so much.** Our goal of 1,000 plus sponsors is real and reaching this goal is certainly giving the LRSA the strength of numbers to affect positive change. Best Regards, Vince Spaits

PLEASE JOIN THE LRSA IN THE FIGHT....BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

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Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal—by Tom Gyory

The Lehigh River has been low and the temperatures very warm this summer. I limit my fishing under these conditions because even after a short fight, the trout get exhausted and I would not be able to practice catch and release effectively. I will resume trout fishing when conditions improve. In the mean time I have been going on some salmon trips in New York and working on the Lehigh River Stocking Association Coop Nursery.

In New York, the conditions are hot and dry, similar to here in the Lehigh Valley and it has made the fishing slow there too. LRSA Vice President Vince Spaits and I were out on a charter with Lip Ripper Captain Ken Krott during the first week of September and saw very few fish caught. We will be heading up again next month to try our luck in the creeks.



The LRSA Coop Nursery rainbow trout are growing nicely again this year. We received 1000 3 inch fingerlings from the PA Fish and Boat in mid-June and they have grown to 6 inches in the last three months. They will be 12-14 inches by May 2017 when they will be stocked. The Coop Nursery is a very cost effective way to stock more adult



trout in the Lehigh, costing approximately \$1 per 12 inch trout in fish food. Purchasing similar size trout from a commercial nursery would cost over \$3 per trout.

The grant to expand our nursery was denied from PA Fish and Boat due to lack of funds but we will reapply next year.

Matt MacConnell and I attended the United States Trout Farmers Association national meeting in Bethlehem, PA in September. Charlie Conklin from Big Brown Trout Hatchery who supplies the

LRSA Trout is the current President. Matt spoke about the LRSA history and current projects and “What we like in a trout supplier.”

I learned a lot of helpful information about trout farming at the meeting and the attendees were pleased to help us in our efforts.

Jennifer Reed -Harry is the PA Aquaculture coordinator and she explained the role of the Department of Agriculture, Fish and Boat and Department of Environmental Protection in fish farming. Jennifer said she would assist us in opening other

Continued on page 8



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The Lehigh River Stocking Association: Victim of our own success? By Steve Chuckra

To all of our members: Thank you for your support! Your membership and the funding that it provided made the Lehigh River a fantastic place to fish this year. As we prepare for what should be a great fall trout season, the L.R.S.A. is compelled to evaluate our successes in 2016 and identify areas for improvement. By all accounts, the Lehigh fished better this year than it has in the past decade. This is largely due to the success of our stocking program and a good population of healthy hold-over trout.

Many of our members recall exceptional fishing in March and April, when they were catching respectable numbers of large trout well before the L.R.S.A. began stocking for the 2016 trout season. There is no doubt that the combination of hold-over fish and our stocking program are producing great fishing. We are also developing other fish minded initiatives to improve the Lehigh fishery; i.e., trout egg incubators and an L.R.S.A./PFBC Co-op trout hatchery. Additionally, we are asking the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to bolster our efforts with a state sponsored trial stocking near Jim Thorpe next year.

L.R.S.A. successfully fielded one trout incubator last spring that has already reared thousands of hatchlings! (We are using recycled chest style refrigerators to house the incubators. If you have a refrigerator that no longer works, please let us know. We will be happy to recommit it as a trout incubator.) The L.R.S.A. Co-op trout nursery also made its debut in 2016 and it effectively increased the number of trout that we were able to stock this year by approximately 2,000 fish. The Co-op was also re-primed with a fresh load of fingerlings that will find their way into the Lehigh next May.

Challenges: The great fishing on the Lehigh did not go unnoticed! Our board members observed substantial fishing activity on most of the river between Glen Onoko and Northampton. Trout fever was especially obvious at and below the area we use for Lunkerfest. One of our biggest hurdles at this point is to grow our membership base and funding. As we near our vision of creating a destination trout fishery, we need to attract and retain more members. Since L.R.S.A.'s stocking program is primarily funded with membership dues and donations, we need additional membership funding to counter the effects that increased angling pressure has on the Lehigh. Otherwise, the quality of the fishery may decline.

So that we can tell the Lehigh River Stocking Association's story to a larger audience and broaden our membership base, the L.R.S.A. recently launched a new website: <http://www.lrsa.org>. The new site will make it easier for people to start and renew memberships. The site is more user friendly than our old website and it is smart-phone compatible. Additionally, it contains useful links and blogs. We will also update the website with current fishing information and it has a graphical display that reports temperature and other water quality metrics in real-time.

But why stop there? To help enhance water quality in the Lehigh, we also established the aeronautical division of the Lehigh River Stocking Association in 2016. No, I'm not kidding! We purchased a camera equipped drone using funds donated from a 2015 estate grant. The drone allowed us to survey the river and our bioremediation site at Lausanne Tunnel. It also helps us to assess the effectiveness of our water improvement efforts and visualize ways to enhance the effects of the mine drainage treatment site. Unfortunately, our air force crashed during a Lehigh University orientation at the tunnel this July. The good news is that with some duct tape and epoxy, we should be air-borne again this fall: wiser and more aware of the hazards that tall growing trees present to low flying drones. In summary, L.R.S.A. membership is currently 782. By comparison, peak membership in 2015 was 722. These stats represent an 8% increase in L.R.S.A. memberships. Although we are moving in the right direction, it's obvious that we need to do more to fully realize the potential of the Lehigh River fishery and mitigate the effects that our new found popularity has on trout populations. It's safe to say that the L.R.S.A. is not a victim of our own success because this situation is a natural part of organizational growth. Whether or not we can keep pace with the trout demand that we have created depends on how well we execute the next chapter of our story.


It costs \$5 for L.R.S.A. to stock a 14" trout. As you well know, most of the fish we stock exceed 14" in length. We are asking all of our members for their continued support and to become advocates for Lehigh River fishing during the 2017 membership season: to press those who use this resource to carry their fair share. In the end, the trout in the river are not just L.R.S.A. fish, they are your fish! You pay for them.



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Fishing Poetry

Still Water Fly Fishing —by Tom Mallouk

The eighteen foot canoe left by the previous owner
blended into the tattered landscape of the barn.

Tillie, the agent who sold us the house, offered
to keep it at his cottage on Speck Pond, claimed
the pond held trout as big as his arm.

Doubts grew like crabgrass through that summer
and fall and several fishless days produced sunburn
in places I didn't know could be exposed, reflection
off still water being what it is. But for the empty
spawning beds I spied that spring in the shallows,
I'd have quit trying altogether. Getting skunked
rankled me, challenged my high opinion of my fishing.

I carried my gear in the trunk of my Datsun 710,
stopped at streams thin as a pencil crisscrossing Pennsylvania,
scared up a trout pretty much every time I set my mind to it.

This was different: no obvious holding water
save the banks, wind blowing me and the eighteen feet
of canoe all over Speck Pond, and streams were rarely deeper
than my chest highs, not Speck's 80 foot depths
that sustained the trout through the summer. Trout
I never saw though I lashed the water like a deranged
mule driver with a truculent team. Tired of fighting
the wind, sunburned, having just extricated another fly
stuck in my flannel shirt by a gust on the last day of fishing season,
I finally gave up, threw the rod down, not bothering to retrieve line
and lay back staring at the gathering clouds. The wind
caught the canoe broadside, sailed it into the middle of Speck Pond,
my fly trailing behind and then, the sudden clatter
of the rod leaping off the bottom, skittering down the canoe
as I scrambled forward to grab the rod's cork handle
and held tight to my first still water trout.

Tom Mallouk's poetry has appeared in *The GW Review*, *Pisgah Review*, *U.S. 1 Worksheets*, and *The Schuylkill Valley Journal*, and his chapbook, *Nantucket Revisited*, was published in May 2013. A psychotherapist by vocation, Tom says his favorite dry fly is the elk wing caddis and he loves fishing *Isonychia* imitations on one of his favorite streams, the Little Lehigh. This poem is published with permission.

Lehigh River Tributary Survey —Matt Mac.

We focused on nitrate and temperature this year. Results are tabulated at right along with a satellite view of the location of the creeks. Nitrate is a pollutant from agricultural or fertilizer runoff and is considered harmful if > 10 ppm. We see the Fells creek has the highest observed value with Coplay and Jordan also relatively high. Further work is planned to try and determine the source of the nitrate contamination. The Pohopoco is the refrigerator of the Lehigh given cool temps and high flow and The Catasauqua is also quite cool but the point sampled was near a spring so is lower than typical for the creek. We had used the probe to collect pH and specific conductance as well but unfortunately the electronic data files were not saved properly and lost.

Creek	Temp , F	Ppm Ni- trate
Jordan	65	2.8
Catasauqua	54	
Coplay		2.9
Hokendauqua	74	1.1
Fells	71	4.3
Bertch	70	0.9
Trout	71	0.9
Aquashicola	74	1.4
Lizard	76	1.0
Pohopoco	68	0.6
Mahoning	77	0.8
Mauch Chunk	68	0.6
Nesquehon- ing		0.7



*Continued from page 5—Lehigh Fly Fishing Journal*

coop nurseries in the future. Dr. Carole Engle of Virginia Tech calculated that the government regulatory cost per acre per year of a fish farm ranges from \$3000 to \$6000 or 25% to 45% of production. Regulatory costs have caused many fish farms to close in the US and move overseas despite the increase in demand for fish as a food and recreation product.



Brian Wisner, Director of Hatcheries and Brian Niewinski, Biologist for PA Fish and Boat discussed the history of PA Fish and Boat hatcheries and some of the new water quality technologies that they are developing. I inquired about obtaining trout eggs for our streamside hatchery pilot project where the LRSA hatches 10,000 rainbow and brown trout eggs each year. We hope to expand this to 10 locations in the future. They said "they will see what they can do and will get back to us." Let's hope they do their job and help make our project to put more trout into the Lehigh a success.

Other topics covered were fish food production and nutrition including future use of insect meal as a protein source, water quality techniques including aeration, fish transportation and anesthesia techniques, and disease control.

Overall, attending the seminars was very interesting and useful for the LRSA's efforts to hatch, raise and stock more trout in the Lehigh. Catch you on the Lehigh.

David Dunbar, Ph.D. Memorial Trout



Several trout were released in memory of David Dunbar who was killed by a passing car after a dinner in his honor last May. David was a professor at Cabrini College who was an avid fly fisherman and among his research was a study of the surprising amount of DNA diversity in macroinvertebrate nymphs. Photos include a picture of David in his lab with students (David wearing T shirt), his beloved Beth Moy and his brother Jamie release a 22" brown in the Lehigh in Bowmanstown. David's parents listen to remarks made during the release by Matt



MacConnell and Jamie and Beth prepare to carry trout from the Big Brown delivery truck (Big Brown owner Charlie Conklin in background).

This was one of 5 memorial release events carried out by the LRSA in 2016. This tradition began with a memorial event for Zachary Paules of Slatington who passed far too early. The LRSA is honored to be able to assist families in their time of mourning by conducting the trout releases in honor of people who loved trout fishing and rivers.



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Water Quality Program Update —by Matt MacConnell

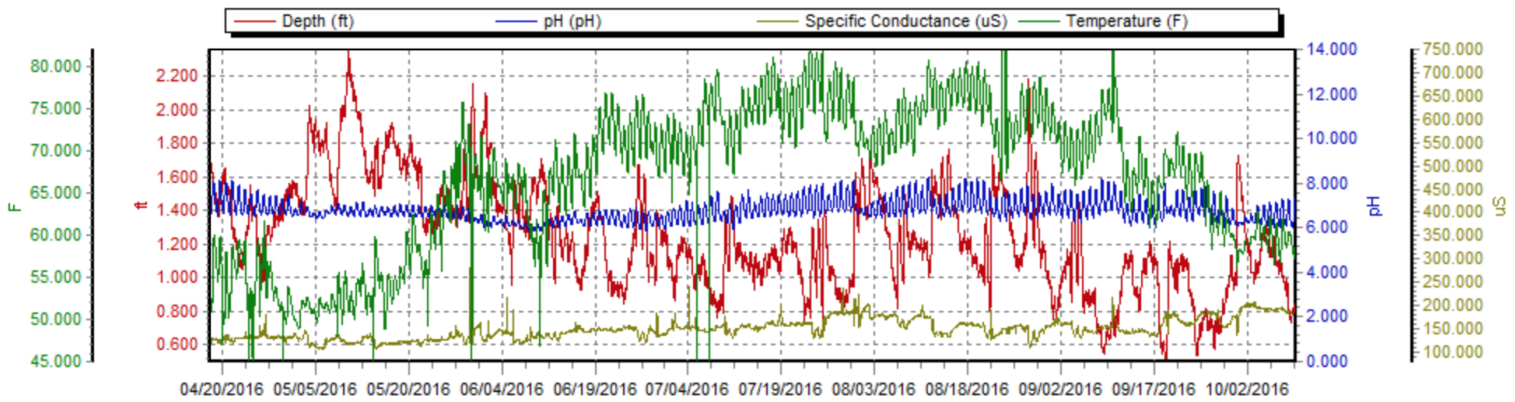
The LRSA continues with a number of conservation programs relating to water quality. There are four primary areas highlighted below.

1) Abandoned mine drainage remediation—Lehigh University Summer Engineering Institute (SEI) selected the Lausanne Tunnel Abandoned drainage site again this year for the field trip on environmental engineering. Matt MacConnell coordinated the visit by 50 select high school Juniors along with Lehigh faculty and students. The students studied the rectangular weir flow monitors that LRSA had installed as well as measurements of iron remediation and related water quality factors using equipment funded by Sierra Club. Our \$10,000 grant application to Sierra Club (Huplits Wildlife Grant Competition) was awarded to provide a solar powered aeration system to the wetland and to complete engineering work on a project cost estimate for treating the bypass flow.

2) Lehigh River main stem water quality—Data graphed below is downloaded from the internet site showing four water quality parameters from probe located in Slatington (Lehigh County) from April through October this year. The goal is to baseline normal riverine conditions in various points along the river to provide a data basis for restoration of a cold water fisheries to the Lehigh. The temperature ranged 31-82F with average 66.9 F. No pollution events were observed. Water flows have been good.

3) The annual tributary survey was completed on July 8th, details on page 7.

4) Canal studies to support the goal of lower Lehigh Dam removal—Glendon and Easton dams, is ongoing with a report funded by a \$15,000 Huplits Grant nearing completion and that addresses canal flow assessment and alternate watering strategies.



Pictures below from upper left and clockwise: Jim Deebel and Matt MacConnell measuring ferrous iron in Aquashicola Creek in Palmerton as part of the 2016 Lehigh Tributary Survey. About 20 of the students at the SEI event congregate at the inflow to the Lausanne Tunnel wetland remediation site. A drone aerial view of the Lausanne Tunnel remediation site outflow to the Lehigh River. Thanks to Fred Foster for his permission to access the Lausanne site through his family's private land.



LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

LRSA

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

www.lrsa.org

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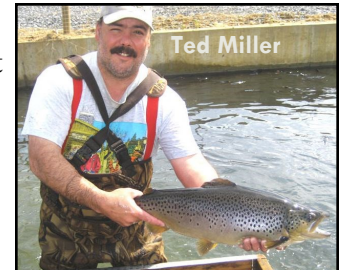
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In Memoriam—LRSA
Founder, Ted Miller



Tenkara on the Lehigh by John Mosovsky

Maybe you've heard of Tenkara, the centuries old Japanese fly fishing technique that uses only a rod, line, and fly. No reel.

It's a "fixed line" technique where the casting line, which in most cases is a fluorocarbon level line (no taper), is tied to a two inch piece of braided line called a lillian which is attached to the tip of the rod. Tenkara rods come in many different sizes and weights. From short 4 foot long micro rods weighing less than a half ounce to long 20 foot stiff river rods weighing just under 8 ounces. Tenkara rods are telescoping and collapse down to 15-26 inches, depending on the model. They're ideal for backpacking! The telescoping feature also makes replacing individual broken sections inexpensive. But the real beauty of practicing Tenkara is keeping all of your line off the water and eliminating drag during your presentation.

Tenkara was introduced to the USA in 2009 by Daniel Galhardo. I bought my first Tenkara nine foot rod from Daniel (Tenkara USA) 4 years ago, with plans to use it on small streams like the Little Lehigh. I was not disappointed. But, it's a bit short for larger streams like the Pohopoco, so I bought a TUSA Amago measuring 13½ feet long. Again, I was not disappointed. But, the Amago is a bit soft for Czech nymphing the bigger water of the Lehigh. So I recently made another purchase – a 14½ footer that's stiff enough to set a hook in deep, swift water. The rod only weighs 2.8oz. and is probably the longest rod that I can comfortably manage one-handed. This baby can reach over currents!

The 14½ footer that I purchased is a Suntech Genryu Sawanobori 45, (45 decimeters or 4.5 meters long) and was \$245. Initially I looked for a rod that would be stiff enough to handle weighted nymphs and streamers but flexible enough to cast dry flies. That was wishful thinking and I soon realized that an ideal Czech nymphing rod would not be a good dry fly rod. Dah! Besides, the Daiwa rod that I initially wanted was not in stock. Like most Japanese Tenkara rod manufacturers, Daiwa only makes one production run per year so rod distributors here in the USA can often be sold out. When I thought I finally had all the details sorted out, I learned that the 5.4 meter rod I was going to buy was a two-handed rod. That wasn't going to work for me!

Speaking of details, there are a few measuring systems that are unique for comparing different Tenkara rod characteristics. **Length** is a no brainer –match the rod length with the size of the stream you like to fish and buy the longest rod you think you can get away with. Keep in mind the primary advantage of Tenkara is keeping your line off the water when making your presentation.

Weight is another no brainer. Tenkara rods are not characterized by western fly fishing rod weight designations but rather by the actual weight of the rod in ounces. Different manufacturing processes result in different weights for rods of the same length. I believe all modern Tenkara rods are made of carbon fiber, but don't quote me on that. Regardless, the carbon fiber rods are incredibly light weight, flexible, and strong. All things being equal, the lightest rod will put less stress on your wrist, arm, elbow, shoulder, and neck.

A reasonable estimate for comparing relative **stiffness** among rods is the "penny" measurement. Basically, a rod is clamped in a horizontal position and pennies are added to a bag attached to the rod tip. The amount of pennies that deflects a rod's tip from the horizontal to a distance equal to 1/3 its length provides its penny measurement. Really soft rods have penny measurements less than 10; my 13½ foot Amago rod is a 31 penny rod; my Suntech is a 54 penny. Really stiff carp Tenkara rod penny measurements are closer to 70. You can learn more about the "Common Cents" penny measuring system and database at <http://www.tenkarabum.com/common-cents-database.html>. BTW, this website has the best selection of rods.

Another measuring system for characterizing a rod is the **Rod Flex Index (RFI)** which is determined by simply dividing a rod's penny measurement by its length in meters. This provides an equal indication of how fast or slow a rod is regardless of its length. The lower the RFI, the slower the action or more "full flex" the rod is. The higher the RFI, the faster the action or more "tip-flex" the rod is. Slow full-flex rods have an RFI range between 3 – 4.5; moderate, mid-flex 4.6 – 6.5; fast, tip-flex 6.6 – 8.5; very fast, minimal flex 8.6 +. My Amago rod has an RFI of 7.5; my Suntech, 12. Learn more at <http://tetontenkara.blogspot.com/p/rod-flex-index-chart.html>

Rotational moment or torque is a measure of how **tip heavy** a rod is and is determined by multiplying the rod's weight in kilograms by the center of gravity distance (centimeters) from the butt end. Usually only important for rods longer than 3.8 meters, rotational moment is a good determinant for how much stress an angler will experience on his wrist, arm, elbow, and neck. Important if you have a touch of tennis elbow like I do. Any number over 6 and the rod feels tip heavy. My Amago rod has a rotational moment of 10; my Suntech, 10.45 – not bad considering its 14½ feet long. The rotational moment value is often not provided for specific rods unless asked for.

For some rods you may also see a number ratio designating a rod's Tenkara Action Index. The ratios used are 5:5, 6:4, 7:3, and 8:2. The higher the individual numbers the stiffer. The number to the left of the colon represents the stiffness of a rod's butt sections while the number to the right of the colon represent the stiffness of the tip sections. So the 8:2 ratio would represent a rod with a stiff "backbone" and a flexible tip. A 5:5 rod would have a flex point closer to the rod's mid-point. This measurement system isn't used as widely as the others.

I've been able to get out on the Lehigh a couple of times with my Suntech rod. I definitely caught more fish and more variety of fish with the Suntech vs. my 11 foot "western style" Czech nymphing rod. I think the extra 3½ feet makes a big difference in presentation. The fighting action is way more exciting with the Suntech rod and I've netted a couple of 15 inch rainbows with no trouble at all.

The Tenkara technique is simple but goes "deep" (no pun intended), and it's not just for small streams. The long, stiff rods are the cat's meow for Czech nymphing on the Lehigh. Dry fly fishing can also be very productive using the softer, more flexible rods that can be "loaded" with fluorocarbon level casting line and tippet. Tenkara also supports a "minimalist" mentality that focuses on a one-fly approach (reversed hackle Sakasa Kebari), and a "zero tension" style of fishing using extremely soft rods and light lines with 10x tippets. And if you're so inclined, check out the two-handed and micro rods. Go to the websites I previously mentioned and

<http://www.issuu.com/search?q=tenkara+angler>, a free on-line magazine, for a boat load of information. Give it a try – I don't think you'll be disappointed!

