

Hatches & Rises



September/October 2010

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Meet the New Faces of TU By Joe Kline

The faces of one of our chapter's stalwart old officers and one of its old board members are changing. The faces of the new guys taking their places are much more youthful.

After 20 years of serving with distinction as treasurer, **Chuck Meyers** is retiring. A job well done, Chuck.



He will be replaced by **Stew Stringer**, MBA,ChFC. Stew is CEO and President of Stringer Financial Associates (412-586-5722), a consulting firm specializing in fee based financial planning, financial retirement strategies and insurance. With his long experience in financial matters, Stew is the right guy to manage the chapter's fiscal health.



*(Editor's Note: Though he is too humble to mention it in this article, I will on his behalf. **Joe Kline** will be stepping down as the Membership Chairman.*

From Membership to Publicity to Secretary to H&R Writer, he has worn many hats over the 25 years as an Officer. We hope to at least keep Joe on as a Board Member. Our Chapter can't thank you enough for your service as well, Joe!



Rob Walters has accepted the Board position of Membership Chairman. He is currently the Membership Director of Venture Outdoors, a 6,000 plus member organization that sponsors and promotes outdoor activities like hiking, rock climbing, bicycling and kayaking. Rob knows how to solicit new members and retain present members. *(See Rob's article, the Membership Mend, on Page 2).*



The chapter's publicity activities will be handled by **Dave Fahrner**. He is an optician with Costco Wholesale, a national warehouse club that sells directly to businesses and consumers. Previously, he worked as a professional photographer for over twenty years specializing in commercial photography for business applications. Dave's long experience in dealing with the public makes him the perfect people person to work well with media persons.

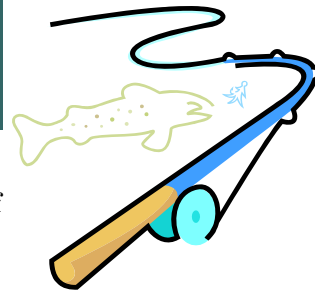
The chapter is grateful to **Stew, Rob** and **Dave** for volunteering their time, talent and experience for PWWTU's benefit.



Volunteer & Win This Fly Rod! (See details on Page 3)

Membership Mend *By Rob Walters*

“Only through volunteer, activism and critical financial support from members is TU able to carry out its vital resource protection programs.”



I am overly excited to serve as the Membership Chair for the Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited Chapter, one of the largest in Pennsylvania. My goal is to work with each of you to make our chapter the largest in the country. The first step to achieve this is to make sure that all of you have a current TU membership.

How do I find out if I am a current TU member?

- *Check your membership card.
- *At each meeting, I will have a full list of our members and their renewal date.
- *Have your member number in hand and visit www.tu.org, then create an account.

How do I begin a new membership or renew my current TU Membership?

- *Sign up online
(For New) www.tumembership.org/member
(For Renewal) www.tumembership.org/member/renew
- *Print up the online form (I will have extra copies at each meeting)
www.pwvtu.org/join.htm

Please feel free to contact me anytime: **Rob Walters (412) 855-1132** or rob@ventureoutdoors.org



Trout in the Classroom Raffle Tickets *By Christian Shane*

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU) is once again offering the opportunity to win some outstanding prizes in the Trout in the Classroom Raffle. Support one of the most important programs that PATU and PWWTU have undertaken for our youth. Donations are **\$5.00 for one ticket** or **\$20.00 for five tickets**. Tickets will be on sale at September's PWWTU meeting. The winning tickets will not be drawn until the PA Council of Trout Unlimited fall membership meeting in October. Winner(s) need not be present.



PATU 2010 PRIZE LIST

- 1st Prize - Winner's choice of ANY Orvis Graphite rod*
- 2nd Prize - Hand Carved Brook Trout Plaque*
- 3rd Prize - Guide Trip for two with Dave Rothrock*
- 4th Prize - Ned Smith's "Unfinished Business" Framed Print*
- 5th Prize - Two Nights for two at Kettle Creek Adventures B&B*
- 6th Prize - \$100 Cash Card*

For additional information, call **Christian Shane, H&R Editor & TIC Coordinator**, for details **(412) 916-2979**.

The students of **McKnight Elementary (Mr. Shane's Second Grade Class)** in the **North Allegheny School District** will again be participating in the 2010-2011 PATU Trout in the Classroom project. Details will be forthcoming in the *November/December* issue of *H&R*.

Volunteers Needed for Pine Creek Workday By Tom Walsh

Saturday, September 11th from 8:00 am to Noon

This year's work project on Pine Creek is located on **Bryant Road in Hampton Township**. From Route 8, turn onto Duncan Avenue and proceed through the four way stop. Pass the Golf Driving range on the right and Bryant Road is on the right.

All volunteers who attend will be entered into a raffle to win a beautiful 8 foot 5 weight graphite fly rod crafted and donated by **Greg Caldwell** of PWWTU (*See Page One for a picture of the rod*). Coffee and donuts are available before the workday at 7:30 am, and a hot lunch will be served at noon.

For more information, call **Tom Walsh, Pine Creek Chairman**, at **(412) 486-5356**.



Rachel Says Thank You By Joe Kline

The **Student Conservation Association** is a national organization that recruits college level students to volunteer some of their summer vacations to work on environmental projects across the country. As in the past sponsorships, this year **PWWTU** sponsored Rachel. Here's what she wrote about her time on the trail:

Dear Penn's Woods/Trout Unlimited,

Thank you so much for sponsoring me and allowing SCA to grant this experience. It truly was amazing. This past month I was placed outside my element and exposed to so many things I wasn't familiar with before. I was born and raised in South Florida, so being assigned to the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia was extremely exciting for me. Not only did I climb my first mountain, but I climbed to the summits of three of them. I saw my first bear (outside of a zoo), picked raspberries fresh off the bush, listened to live bluegrass performances (and learned what bluegrass is), explored a cavern, made lifelong friends and helped the community.

For our work project, the crew and I did trail work, built water bars and worked on the Abbot Lake boardwalk. It was rewarding knowing that our work would be there for generations to see. The boardwalk was especially rewarding because it is handicapped accessible, allowing people wheelchair bound and the blind to be able to enjoy the trail. It was hard work, but being on the SCA crew gave me a hands-on lesson about teamwork and overcoming challenges.

On our days off, we had the opportunity to explore the Appalachian region – something I had only seen from a couch, through a television screen. The mountains, the animals, the insects, the waterfalls, the swimming holes - EVERYTHING was so beautiful. Being so close to nature allowed me to appreciate it. This experience has impacted my life in a great way and I want to personally and sincerely thank you for your contributions and support of this program. It was a summer not to be forgotten and your help was not forgotten either. I really appreciate your sponsorship. Thank you so much! - Rachel



President's Beat by Walter Reineman

Hello fellow anglers! As you read this, the dog days of summer will hopefully be coming to a close. With the cooler weather, we will be having our work day on Pine Creek on **Saturday, September 11th**. A variety of habitat improvements are planned and your help would be appreciated. (*See above for details.*)

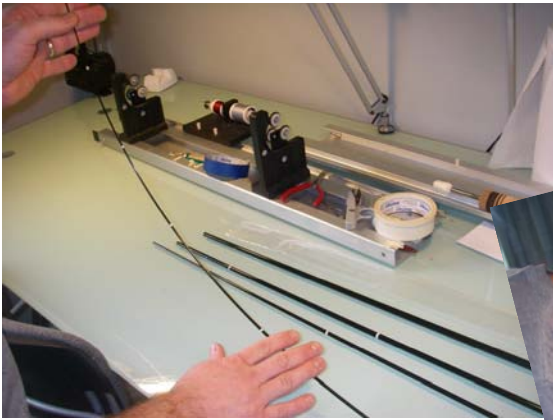
In an effort save on mailing costs, the State TU newsletter is now online. You can still get the quarterly publication by mail for a fee, otherwise it is available – along with loads of other stuff – at www.patrou.org. This decision to go online was not easy. With a tightening budget, PATU felt the mailing costs for up to 10,000 newsletters could be better utilized elsewhere.



Please enjoy this issue coordinated by *Editor Christian Shane*, and I will see you September 11th at Pine Creek.

-Walter

Customizing Rods...



(Checking the blank for the spine)

What do pennies have to do with rod building? Just ask Paul, Chas or John from **One By One Custom Rods** about the “Common Cents of Fly Rod Building.”

I was lucky enough to follow the entire rod building process from beginning to end while interviewing the members of the One By One crew, each with his own skill to add to the rod building process.

In creating over 100 rods, **Paul** started his craft while learning how to fly fish. He admits that now he spends more time rod building than time on the water.

Q: *What is the most enjoyable part of the rod building process, and what do you find most difficult?*

A: *“I like that it (rod building) has a certain level of creativity, especially the small subtleties that we add to the process. At first, learning to wrap the guides was difficult; but when I regimented my time and equipment, it became a routine.”*

Paul especially enjoys creating decorative thread cross wraps. He also takes pride when he hands over the finished product to his customers and they say “Wow!”



(Epoxying the tip section)



(Measuring the weight & frequency)



(Turning down the cork handle)



...One By One Article & Pictures by Christian Shane



(Assembling the butt section)

John's enthusiasm lies not only assisting during the rod building process but also in interacting with his customers and trying out the finished products with them. Since John spends a lot of his time on the water, he's become aware of what many fishermen want and need to target a certain species or type of water.

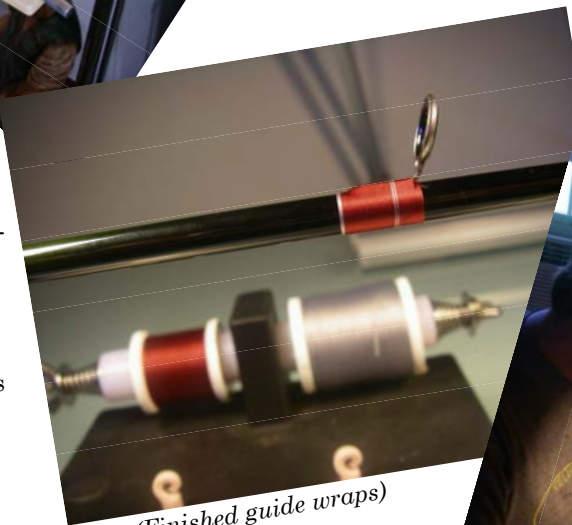
Q: *What is your favorite aspect of being a custom rod builder?*

A: *"The greatest part of the whole process is the good friends you meet and get to fish with. I found that the relationships we build throughout the rod building process are the most important to our company."*

Chas shares that part of the overall process for his customers is figuring out what is the right fit for them. He enjoys specifically tailoring the rod for the person as well as for the application. Chas's main function for One By One is to talk the customer through ordering the specific components of each rod, and he's become quite an expert on what's available.

Q: *"What would be the main components to choose for building a rod from scratch?"*

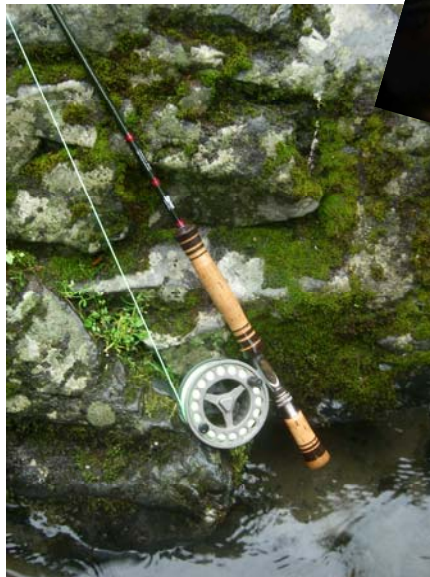
A: *"First, we ask our customers what their intentions are for using the rod. Where will they be using it the most and in what capacity? Then we tailor it to fit their needs. We start with a comfortable length of the rod and materials for the blank. Then we move onto the reel seat (with hundreds of options and inserts available); Next, the guides are chosen based on application and technology. Finally, the grip and other accents are customized to each customer's wishes."*



(Finished guide wraps)



(Wrapping the guides & ferrules)



(Finished product makes it to Alaska with Christian!)

If you are interested in seeing the craftsmanship and rods that One By One Custom Rods offers, visit www.onebyonerods.com or their blog www.onebyonecustoms.blogspot.com.

Notes From God's Country:

A Beginner Fly Fishing With *Myotis Lucifugas* *By David Vtipil*

I love going to Potter County to fish. For the last ten years we have gone in the second week of May. Our troop consists of my brother-in-law Dave, his son David and his buddy Josh. For months ahead all we talk about is how we are looking forward to going. Our plans are made with care. There is something special about going there. I guess it is the beautiful scenery, or the distance from home which makes it like an adventure and not just a day trip. But probably most of all, it is the idea that anything can happen being in the mountains of Potter County.

My adventure occurred one Sunday evening. I had been wanting to fish the big pool at Cross Forks Creek. Being a Sunday I figured there would be very few people there. No one else wanted to go. So I went alone and to my delight I had the pool to myself. The biggest decision was "What to use?".

I had learned to tie a swarm of flies in my beginner tying classes from Jim Hoey and the late Rudy Mion. You know how it goes in the beginning, every tie looks great and you tie twenty of each with out any knowledge of "Will they work?" or "Will you actually use them?". Plus, hatch charts were Greek to me!

So I picked out a dry Caddis. The basic fly. Gave it a cast to some rising trout in the growing dusk. Nothing! So I picked out a white Mayfly. My "logic" was that since it was white the fish would see it easier in the growing darkness.

A decent cast and good drift.... Success! I landed two fish with this gem. I was getting cocky and couldn't wait to get back to the cabin to tell the guys what they missed.



I made another cast in the growing darkness. Drift was going well. Then all of a sudden my fly disappeared! *Where did it go?* Then the slack went tight in my line, and it started to rise out of the water! It was another predator of insects; "*Myotis Lucifugas*". A small brown bat had taken my fly! Now it was circling about me in a holding pattern. Line was dropping in loops on me. I was starting to look like a spiral cut ham.

Ladies and gentlemen there was no "Miracle on the Cross Forks" that evening. The bat took a nose dive and came up splashing, perhaps the bat stroke? I put the line over my shoulder and dragged the victim to shore with the lyrics of "The Volga Boatman" from seventh grade music class ringing in my brain. All along praying the first time for a foul hook!

Lucky for me, it was hooked in the wing. I removed the fly with my forceps. I tapped the bat with my wading staff. He flapped his wings, dried them and off he flew. I went back in the pool and caught three more fish before calling it a night. A fantastic evening for a beginner like me, even with the bat.

Back at the campfire everyone was full of doubt at my story. Fortunately I have a reputation for not being a fabricator of fish tales. There were congratulations on my success, and a few toasts with beer in hand.

That night I happily relived that evening's events and put those memories in the Potter County file forever. As I laid in bed, once again Potter county put me to sleep. From my open window I could hear the seductive whispering of the tall pines above our cabin and the soft rush of Little Kettle Creek down over the hill. All was right with the world that night. *I love God's Country!*

PWWTU Meetings & Greetings

Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited meets the **second Monday** of each month September through June at **Brentwood VFW Post 810**, 3801 Clairton Blvd., 3.5 miles south of the Liberty Tubes, on the corner of Rt. 51 and Marlea Street (near McGinnis Sisters). **Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome to attend.

Hatches & Rises is published 5 times yearly: Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Sep/Oct, & Nov/Dec by Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited to enhance communication among members & share information with the public. H&R is supported by tax-deductible underwriting, reader donations and the group's general fund. Views, opinions and advice contained herein do not necessarily reflect the position of PWWTU or its Board of Directors.



Thanks to our H&R Sponsors



***Please make a \$10 donation to our chapter newsletter!**
 (Send check to Chuck Meyers, Treasurer, 5233 Siesta Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236)

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September/October Meeting Speakers By Peter TenEyck

September 13th - Dave Rothrock (President of PATU)

We're delighted to have **Dave Rothrock**, *President of the PA Trout Unlimited Council*, as our first speaker for the 2010-2011 season! It's been too many years since Dave last visited with us here at PWWTU. In addition to his considerable TU duties, Dave manages Salmo-Trutta Enterprises, which is a company that offers guide trips, fly fishing instruction and presentations. Dave will present, "**Hatches of the Eastern U.S. and Effective Imitations**". His program will showcase many of the major hatches that we encounter and the various fly patterns that can be used to suggest them. Many a fly fishing trip is scheduled around when a particular hatch should have the trout feeding heavily. Add a few good trout streams and some trout to the mix and you have a full equation to be successful on your next hatch-matching adventure.



In addition to his presentation, Dave will comment on PATU's activities to prevent the damage that can be caused by Marcellus Shale drilling, and suggest some actions that we can take on the local chapter level.

October 11th - Dave Allbaugh (Wet Fly Water Guides)

Dave Allbaugh specializes in the classic art of wet fly fishing. His mission is to educate new and seasoned fly fisherman about this largely forgotten method of fly fishing and to show how productive wet flies can be throughout the year. Over the last 25 years, Dave has spent countless hours on the stream and at the vice perfecting and designing new, highly effective wet fly patterns and customized wet fly leaders. Dave is a licensed Pennsylvania guide and exclusively fishes wet flies on some of Pennsylvania's premier free-stone and limestone streams in the central and north central areas of the state. Dave's presentation will cover the equipment, flies, leaders and tactics to use on different types of water to become a successful wet fly fisherman. Learn more about Dave Allbaugh at his website, www.wetflywaterguides.com.





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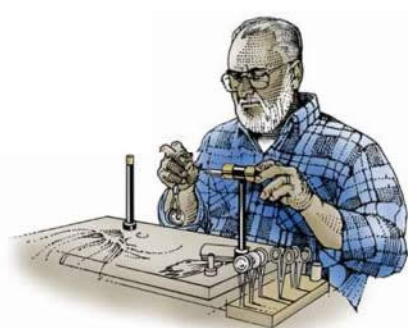
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PWWTU September & October Meeting information (See Page 7)

Fly Tying Needed *By Joe Kline*

Time has a way of slipping by unnoticed. Soon the days will become colder and the nights longer. Ahead of us are preparations for the holiday season and welcoming in 2011. And of course, there's also PWWTU's traditional **January Great Fly Sale**. It's not too early to now begin tying flies for this popular and profitable chapter event.

Over the coming months when you sit at your vice to tie flies for late season fishing or for next year, consider tying up a few extra half dozen patterns for the sale. You choose the patterns and sizes. The chapter will package and label them including the tier's name. You can turn in your fly contributions at any general meeting from now through December.



If you can't attend a meeting, call **Joe Kline (412) 761-9762** or **Christian Shane (412) 916-2979** for shipping instructions. Thank you for your time and efforts!



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