



# TALE OF THE POOL

FALL 2006

**OFFICERS:**

President-Allen Tedrow  
Vice President-Eugene Gordon  
Treasurer-Bernie Manyak  
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Dave Gilpin  
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**COMMITTEES:**

Resource Mgt.-Tom Shetterly  
Nursery-Rick McClintock  
Banquet- Eugene Gordon  
Membership-Al Budinsky  
Youth Education-Tom Wilson

**Upcoming Events:**

- Membership Meeting, October 11, 2006, Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.
- Membership Meeting, November 8, 2006, Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.
- CRTU Christmas Party, December 13, 2006, Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to announce that Chestnut Ridge is the proud recipient of Trout Unlimited's 2006 Silver Trout award! The Silver Trout Chapter award is Trout Unlimited's second highest honor for chapters that have made the most noteworthy contribution to the cause of coldwater conservation during the previous year. This honor is an accumulation of the efforts of the entire chapter over the last ten years, from founder Eugene Gordon seeing the need for a chapter to protect the Youghiogheny watershed to the present efforts of our membership.

When Chestnut Ridge chapter was formed in 1995 we established a chapter motto of "Restoring the Past, Protecting the Future, Preparing for the Future." In 1997 we hosted the first Youghiogheny river symposium, bringing together watershed groups, government agencies, sportsmen clubs and other concerned stake holders to establish a long range plan to conserve, protect and restore the Youghiogheny watershed in southwest



**CRTU Wins Silver Trout Award**

Pennsylvania. Today we are starting to see the fruits of our labor. After fifty years of being seriously impacted Glade Run now has brook trout and hopefully by next year Jonathan Run will produce natives as well. Many thanks to all who made this award possible, especially Eugene Gordon, Tom Shetterly, Ben Moyer, Dale Kotowski, Al Budinsky, Scott Hoffman, Dave Gilpin, both past and present officers and board members, and our many partners.

More good news! This month the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited will honor Resource Management Chairman Tom Shetterly as their 2006 Outstanding Cold Water Conservationist of the year. As you know Tom is the new Pennsylvania Fish and Boat commissioner for southwest Pennsylvania and was awarded Trout Unlimited's Distinguished Service award last year.  
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## NOVEMBER MEETING SPEAKER: AMY WOLFE

For the November 8, 2006 membership meeting Amy Wolfe from Trout Unlimited will present a program on "Trout Unlimited's Kettle Creek and West Branch Susquehanna Initiatives". Amy will talk about the work done over the past 7-8 years in the Kettle Creek watershed and then discuss the newer focus on AMD cleanup in the West Branch Susquehanna River basin. Amy G. Wolfe is the Director of Abandoned Mine Programs and the Kettle Creek Home Rivers Initiative for Trout Unlimited. Under Ms. Wolfe's leadership since 1999, the Kettle Creek Home Rivers Initiative has grown into a 4.1 million dollar model watershed restoration program that focuses on abandoned mine drainage abatement, fish habitat improvement, and landowner stewardship education. In 2004, she began expanding Trout Unlimited's successful Kettle Creek abandoned mine drainage program into the rest of the West Branch Susquehanna watershed. Ms. Wolfe has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and Ecology from Lock Haven University. It was here that she first became interested in abandoned mine drainage after learning why the beautiful West Branch Susquehanna River and many of its tributary watersheds were devoid of aquatic life. Ms. Wolfe was recently featured on a PBS documentary, "Water: An Endangered Resource" which discussed the problems of abandoned mine drainage in the Commonwealth. She and her husband, whose career is also dedicated to the cleanup of abandoned mine drainage, reside with their 6-month old daughter in Mill Hall.

## DRAKETOWN RUN RAPID ASSESMENT

Chestnut Ridge recently requested TU national in conjunction with the Pennsylvania DEP to perform a rapid assessment on Drake-town Run. The stream is a small tributary to the Youghiogheny River. It has been identified as a source of pollution under the Middle Yough River’s Conservation Plan. The figures to the right shows the sampling points collected by Hedin Environmental.

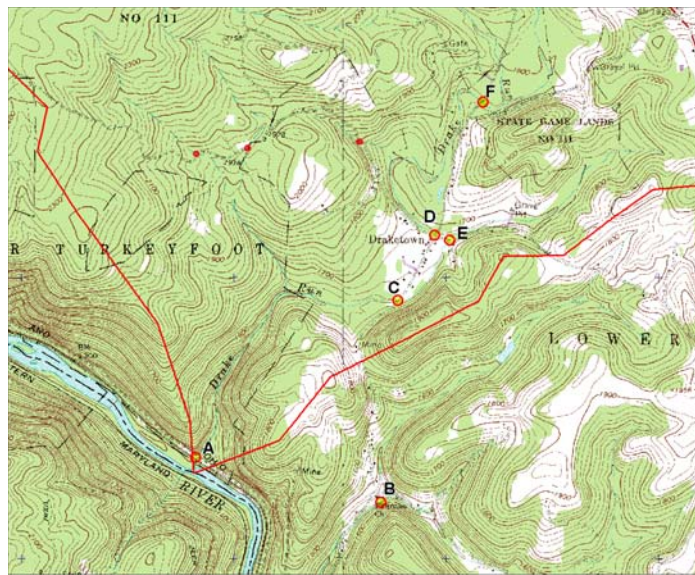
The following is the report submitted to the chapter by the environmental scientist for the assessment.

The Middle Youghiogheny River Rivers Conservation Plan lists Drake Run as being degraded by inflows of contaminated mine drainage. The Chestnut Ridge chapter of Trout Unlimited requested assistance in assessing the problem. Hedin Environmental conducted a rapid assessment of the stream quality by surveying water quality and making qualitative biological observations. The survey occurred on August 25, 2006 under fair conditions. There had not been significant rain in the 3 days preceding the survey. Five stream crossings and the mouth were investigated. Water samples were collected and analyzed for standard mine drainage parameters. The streambed at each location was inspected for discoloration due to the precipitation of metal solids associated with contaminated coal mine drainage. The presence/absence of fish was noted.

The results of the assessment are provided below. The stream was NOT polluted with acid mine drainage. The pH of the stream and its flowing tributaries was 6 or greater at all five locations. Elevated sulfate concentrations (>100 mg/L) are an indicator of mine drainage inflows. The Drake Run samples contained 7-11 mg/L sulfate. Alkalinity concentrations were less than 50 mg/L at all locations. The net alkalinity of Drake Run above Draketown and at the mouth was near zero. The stream is very weakly buffered and is likely vulnerable to acid rain impacts.

No staining of the streambeds with mine drainage precipitates was observed.

All sampling stations contained minnows. A local resident reported that the stream supports native trout.



In summary, Drake Run is a poorly buffered stream that supports fish and is not substantially degraded by mine drainage. If TU plans to manage the stream, attention should likely be focused on the weak buffering and vulnerability to acid rain.

An unnamed stream located immediately east of Drake Run was sampled because it was accessible from a bridge in Fair Oaks Church (name obtained from USGS map). The stream sample was alkaline with low metals. However, this sample contained 200 mg/L sulfate – an indication that mine drainage is likely present somewhere in the watershed. The aluminum concentrations were 0.7 mg/L – a level that is considered harmful to aquatic life by some aquatic ecologists. Minnows were observed in the stream. It is possible that an acidic discharge is present in the headwaters of this stream. The USGS map shows a “Mine” on the watershed divide between Drake Run and this unnamed stream. An investigation of this feature might be warranted by TU. As noted, the impact of the acid flow, if present, appears negligible with respect to the Youghiogheny River.

### DRAKETOWN SAMPLING DATA

Point	Date	pH	Temp.	Cond.	Alk.	Flow	Notes
A	8/25/2006	6.43	19.6	49	1	250	Mouth Drake Run-lots minnows-no bugs,rocks scoured clean
B	8/25/2006	6.22	20.1	431	35	20	Trib. Before Drake Run/Draketown-minnows, frogs
C	8/25/2006	5.99	18.7	59	32	150	New cement bridge,-lots minnows, few natives,some bugs
D	8/25/2006	6.69	20.2	53	19	120	2nd open grate bridgeDraket. Rd.minnows, few bugs
E	8/25/2006	6.8	20.2	95	50	15	1st trib from right after D, some minnows
F	8/25/2006	5.99	19.2	30	25	120	dirt rd./left above Draketown@ sharpe turn-minnows, few bugs
Tribs/State Game Lands						DRY	all three tribs from State Game property were dry at road crossings
No staining or any evidence of AMD							

Draketown Run contains a remnant population of native brook trout. It is hoped that improvements could be made to enhance this population. While the stream is mainly a victim to acid rain there is some AMD occurring in the headwaters that could be remediated. The resource management committee will be passing the report on to Skelly & Loy to see if a project may be feasible. Our thanks to Amy Wolfe and Bob Hedin for providing this most useful information.

## FISHING NEW YORK FOR BIG BROWNS

For our October 11th Membership meeting, Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited will be presenting a program on fall brown trout fishing in New York with Jim Jankovic. Jim, affectionately known as “Jiggy” is a top-notch fisherman and guide on Pennsylvania waters. Jim fly and spin fishes using a variety of flies, bait and lures. He is especially adept at using jigs to fool big browns, salmon, and steelhead. Jim will discuss the different waters to fish, times to go and popular flies and tactics. Jim will focus on the famous Oak Orchard fishery, along with other streams in the area.

Oak Orchard Creek is an hour northeast of Buffalo near the little town of Albion. With the arrival of fall, thousands of giant brown trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead are making their annual fall migration up Oak Orchard Creek, and anglers after the trophy of a lifetime are there to meet them.

Please join us for this informative presentation. Our membership meetings are held at the Knight of Columbus in Uniontown. Visit our website at [www.crtu.org](http://www.crtu.org) for directions.



Jim Jankovic

## STEELHEAD FLY RECIPE THE PERCOLATOR

Steelhead season is just about here. The October meeting will feature a program discussing the Oak Orchard and other Western New York Streams.

With the salmon runs these streams are awash with the by product of reproduction. Steelhead and big browns follow the salmon upstream and feast on eggs and the flesh of dying salmon. Egg flies are very effective during this time of years. A pattern I came across in a local New York shop consisted of three balls of chenille with a flossy glow bug yarn at the head. My cousin Andy coined the fly “**The Percolator**” since locked jaw fish seemed to “perk” up when it hit the water.

**Hook:** size 6 or 8

**Thread:** 3/0 Red or fluorescent orange

**Body:** Chartreuse/Orange vernille

**Head:** White glo bug yarn

**Instructions:**

Tie in vernille. Form a small ball. Wrap down end and trim close. Make several more wraps of orange/red thread. Tie in second ball. Repeat the previous steps and work up to the head. Tie off last vernille ball. Add glo bug yarn at the head and then whip finish.

Submitted by Al Budinsky

Editor’s Note: The giant browns of Oak Orchard have a two-fold purpose during their fall migration, first they are there to spawn, and second, they love to eat salmon eggs, as do migrating steelhead. However, when the browns get ready to spawn, they will stop eating for several days, maybe even a week. During this time, you need to use a large, colorful streamer that will either irritate them or make them feel that their eggs are in danger of being eaten by an intruding minnow. After they’re done spawning, they’ll resume feeding on salmon eggs as well as nymphs and local minnows. (Courtesy of Fly Fisherman Magazine)



Fly before floss head



Finished fly

Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited  
Chapter #670  
P.O. Box 483  
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**We're on the Web!**  
**www.crtu.org**

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Trout Unlimited's Chestnut Ridge Chapter has been a leader in coldwater conservation in southwestern Pennsylvania since 1995. With its efforts focused on the watershed of the Youghiogheny River, Chestnut Ridge TU works for cleaner streams, public awareness of water quality issues, and high quality trout fishing for the region's residents and visitors.



*Tale of the Pool*  
*Official Newsletter of CRTU*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The PFBC will start their fall stockings the first week of October. Local special regulation streams of interest being stocked are Dunbar Creek, Meadow Run, Laurel Hill, Loyalhanna, and Indian Creek. The Youghiogheny River is also scheduled for stocking.

CRTU Youth Committee chairman Tom Wilson will apply for a grant through the PA Council of Trout Unlimited to fund the Trout in the Classroom project in the West Greene school district. Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program was designed specifically for teachers who want to incorporate more hands on environmental education into their curriculum and need outside help. It gives TU members the opportunity to get involved with their local schools, while teaching kids about water quality, aquatic life, and other environmental issues. Teachers set up an aquarium and incubate trout eggs or raise trout fry in their classroom. The teacher and students are responsible for daily maintenance and observation of the fry. The final result is aquarium of trout fry that is released into a state-approved body of water during a class field trip. Trout in the Classroom is an extremely rewarding program for students, teachers, and mentors.

For those members with internet access, check out Trout Unlimited's website at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) and click on the new "chapter tackle box" feature. It contains a lot of useful information on running a successful chapter by providing many tips and tools for conservation projects, youth education, member services, and business practices.

Many thanks to all of you who have helped stock trout over the last months. Attendance for our work details have been great and it is most appreciated. We need to stock the rest of the trout from the nursery before the fingerlings arrive on November 1, 2006. Our next stocking is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 15th.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the upcoming membership meetings. The holidays will be upon us in no time and CRTU's annual Christmas party will be held December 13th. Thanks to Al Budinsky for his contributions to this issue. Look for the Winter 2007 issue of Tale of the Pool the first week of January. Visit our website at [www.crtu.org](http://www.crtu.org) for the latest news of the chapter.

Take care,  
Allen Tedrow  
President CRTU