

TOBYHANNA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

2015 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

March 2015

Conservation, a state of harmony between man and the land, and the proper harvesting of fish and game so as to retain nature's delicate balance, shall be the purpose of this organization. In the belief that nature's bounty in providing man with fish and game is not inexhaustible, and that man, through sincere efforts, may aid in the propagation of fish and game species, and the improvement of their environment, the members have united to form an organization dedicated to the preservation of hunting and fishing in the spirit of true sportsmanship through example. Members are dedicated to aid nature's species in their struggle for existence.

From the Tobyhanna Conservation Association Charter, May 1966

Trout

- The club stocked our fly-fishing area twice in 2014 with fish from the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club. On April 8 we stocked 200 13" brook and brown trout and six 16" brown trout. On May 7 we stocked 100 13" brook and brown trout. Total cost of trout purchased in 2014 was \$1338. Thirteen inch trout cost us \$4.20 each, and 16" trout cost \$13.00 each.
- Club members are asked to keep track of trout caught on club waters to give us an indication of how well the trout are holding in the stream, angler pressure, and catch and release data. If you have not yet sent in your survey form for 2014, please do so with your dues, or e-mail your form to bdleonard@verizon.net. Trout survey results from 2013 are attached. Please keep track of trout caught in 2015. Survey form is attached.
- We continued discussion about stocked trout hold-over and movement. To evaluate potential temperature impacts on trout, we installed thermometers at 10 locations on the club waters and ask club members to check them when they are on the stream. Record station number, date, time, water temperature, and air temperature and send them to bdleonard@verizon.net. Initial readings showed water temperatures ranging from 36 degrees on April 8 to 55 degrees on April 14. Thermometers are at the following locations marked with chartreuse flagging;
Station 1- Leonard Lane Bridge Station 6 - Round Hole outlet
Station 2 - Swimming Hole Station 7 - Singers Run outlet
Station 3 - Gleogler's Plank Station 8 - Round Hole inlet
Station 4 - Long Hole Station 9 - Crusher
Station 5 - Below spring outlet
- Stream improvement projects, feeding trout in the stream, and raising trout were discussed at a few club meetings and these will be explored further in 2015.
- Club members assisted the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission with trout stocking on the Tobyhanna Creek on April 7 and May 6.

Children's and Handicapped Persons Fishing Area

- The club held a few work sessions to do some work at the site including stream improvement resulting in a slight raise of the water level and posting signs at the upper wire. Waterways Conservation Officer Kurt Tereschak asked us to consider moving the upper wire downstream. Thanks to Dave Dennis for keeping the grass mowed.
- We continued to discuss possibilities to protect the riparian area upstream from the Children's/Handicapped Fishing Area. The former school property is now owned by a dog food company. We also discussed the Lynch property.

-Club Picnic. The annual club picnic was held in August with 36 attendees. Paula Piatt, Eastern Sportsmen's Organizer for Trout Unlimited, presented a program about Marcellus Shale Drilling in Pennsylvania. Members donated many hunting and fishing equipment, and other miscellaneous items for the raffle and auction. Everyone had a good time and the auction and raffle netted over \$350.

-Sportsmen's Alliance for Marcellus Conservation. TCA joined this affiliation of sportsmen and women working together to identify and mitigate the impacts of shale gas drilling and its associated activities on hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor sports activities.

-Unexploded Ordnance on SGL. The club sent a letter to PA Game Commission Executive Director Matt Hough expressing our concern with the UXO activity on State Game Lands #127. Mr. Hough responded indicating that contractor activities are limited to spring and summer to minimize impacts on major hunting seasons and once completed the Commission will be able to manage the land without restrictions. Over 2800 acres have been cleared so far with approximately 187 acres remaining, and all activity should be completed in 2015.

-PA Fish and Boat Commission Un-assessed Waters. We contacted the PA Fish and Boat Commission about sharing our macroinvertebrates and water quality data, but they indicated that all streams large enough to be assessed for wild trout have been surveyed in the upper Tobyhanna and Lehigh drainages except for a few short unnamed tributaries.

-Tobyhanna State Park Hunting Expansion. A few members attended public meetings at the State Park to discuss expanding waterfowl hunting in the lake.

-Finances. In review of our expenditures for 2013, we showed a negative cash flow. We noted that taxes, insurance, and trout purchases were our largest expenses. We are reducing our building insurance coverage to reduce our premiums.

-Fundraising Ideas. Discussed the possibility of having a hunting and fishing items swap meet perhaps at the picnic or in conjunction with other local sportsmen's clubs. We also discussed raffles, more claybird and muzzleloader shoots with entry fees, and a possible fly casting competition at the picnic.

-Dues Increase. In order to correct a negative cash flow, the membership voted at our July 2014 meeting to increase the annual dues from \$35 to \$45, and junior members would increase from \$2 to \$5.

- Trout Unlimited Raffle Prize Winner. Locally renowned fly tyer, Scott Cesari won one of the “Fishing Day on TCA Waters” prizes at the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited fundraiser dinner raffle. Scott and a fellow angler had a good day on the stream and in appreciation he donated a 4-fly display of Henryville Special variations for the club picnic auction. The item sold for \$40. Scott’s website is www.scottcesariflytying.com

-Memorial Plaque in the Clubhouse. Thanks for Bobby Knecht for updating the plaque with names of deceased club members.

-Wayside Exhibits at Coolbaugh Township Park. Some of the faded posters at our wayside exhibits on the Thelma Leonard Nature Trail at Coolbaugh Township Park were replaced with fish and reptile posters from the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

-Tobyhanna Army Depot Deer Management. Depot representatives indicated that their most recent surveys showed no need for further deer culling at this time.

-Monroe County Conservation Camp. The Club sponsored a student scholarship to the Monroe County Conservation Camp, a week-long program in July with programs on conservation, hunting, fishing, and trapping. We also did a bluebird nesting box construction program and a muzzleloader program for the 32 campers.

-Youth Field Day. Several members assisted with the Monroe County Youth Field Day at Camp Trexler in September. This program educated approximately 200 youngsters about hunting, fishing, trapping, dog-handling, shooting, conservation, and much more.

-Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Members participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program, and did roadside litter clean-up on seven miles of township and state roads in Tobyhanna. This year 40 bags of trash were picked up during 2 cleanup events.

-Coolbaugh Township Assistance. The Coolbaugh Township Board of Supervisors provided an appropriation to the Tobyhanna Conservation Association for conservation work in the township. This funding will be used for to pay for steam water quality testing and other projects/programs to benefit the citizens of the township.

-Member Donations. Many members made donations to the club for the general fund, for Junior Membership/Youth Programs, in memory of George Learn, and in memory of Nelson Saxe. Thank-you for your generosity!

-Christmas Tree Recycling. Local residents dropped off Christmas trees at the clubhouse and they were recycled for fish and wildlife cover.

-Claybird Shoot. Our annual Labor Day Saturday claybird shoot was successful with 15 shooters smashing claybirds.

-Clubhouse. John Hay, Calvin Lane, and Steve Calles did grass cutting and landscaping at the clubhouse all summer. Dan Vashlishan and Bill Kreiter kept the woodpile stocked

Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. TCA continued to be active in the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and also at the Monroe County and Northeast Division levels.

New Members. Recently accepted members include; Jeff Heberley, Steve Merchant, and George Mateson

In Memoriam. Two longtime club members died recently:
George Learn, a very knowledgeable and extraordinary gentleman passed in December 2013.
Nelson Saxe, club treasurer, ice harvester, local historian, avid fisherman, hunter, outdoorsman, conservationist, story teller, railroad nut, Navy guy, boxcar restoration specialist, boatwright, woodwright, mechanic, critic, jack-of-all-trades, and friend to all, died in March 2014.

Membership/Officers. We have 65 members in the Association.

OFFICERS
President.....Dan Vashlishan
Vice President.....Dave Radle, Jr.
Treasurer.....Jim Connor
Secretary.....Bill Leonard, Jr.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gary Beehler
Dennis Regan
Norm Gardner

Monthly Meetings. Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 pm at the clubhouse on Lakeside Drive.

William L. Leonard, Jr.
Secretary

**Tobyhanna Conservation Association, Inc
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