

TOBYHANNA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION 2016 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

February 2016

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 with fish from the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club. On April 15 we stocked 200 13" brook and brown trout and two 16" brown trout. We cancelled the second stocking due to low water conditions in May.
- We installed a fish food feeder at the Swimming Hole in the club stretch to attempt to keep the fish from moving out of this section of stream. It appeared to be working as the fish would be waiting for their morning and evening feeding. We used 3 bags of fish food.
- Stream improvement projects were discussed at a few club meetings and these will be explored further this year.
- Club members assisted the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission with trout stocking on the Tobyhanna Creek on April 10 and May 7.
- We are looking into opening up an access road to the Beagle Hole on the Tobyhanna Creek so the stream section can be stocked, as was done years ago.

Children's and Handicapped Persons Fishing Area

- The club held a few work sessions to do maintenance at the site. Our stream improvement work in 2014 resulted in a rise in the water level. The beavers also helped maintain the water level.
- We sent a letter to the 123 Dog Treats (the company that bought the former Coolbaugh Elementary School) asking to discuss possibilities to allow fishing access to the Tobyhanna Creek at the Children's/Handicapped Fishing Area.

Youth Programs

- **Monroe County Conservation Camp.** The Club sponsored a student scholarship to Billy Storm and he wrote a nice thank you letter. The camp is a week-long program with programs on conservation, hunting, fishing, and trapping for kids from 14 years of age to graduation. We also did a bluebird nesting box construction program and a muzzleloader program for the 24 campers.
- **Youth Field Day.** Several members assisted with the Monroe County Youth Field Day at Camp Trexler in September. This program educated approximately 176 youngsters about hunting, fishing, trapping, dog-handling, shooting, conservation, and much more.

-Club Picnic. The annual club picnic was held in August. Scott Cesari, 2006 PA State Fly Tying Champion presented a program entitled “The History of Fly Fishing in America – As Seen Through the Eye of a Hook”. The picnic raffle had many hunting and fishing equipment and everyone had a good time.

-Trout Unlimited Unassessed Waters Program. Paula Piatt from Trout Unlimited gave a presentation about TU’s assistance to the PA Fish and Boat Commission Unassessed Waters Program. We provided funds in the amount of \$500 so they could test the headwaters of Dresser Run and Hummler Run.

-PA Game Commission. Wildlife Conservation Officer Ryan Gilda and Deputy Bill McGlore attended a club meeting in November and shared information about current Game Commission issues in Monroe County.

-Insurance. – We made some changes to our property insurance including reduction in coverage and increase in deductible to reduce our cost.

-Dogs for the Recovery of Wounded Deer. We had some discussions on this issue that is currently not permitted in Pennsylvania. Some legislation is pending which would amend the game code to allow the use of a leashed dog to assist in the recovery of wounded deer. We support this legislation.

-Stream Testing. We plan on contracting for stream testing and macroinvertebrates sampling Dresser Run and Hummler Run this year.

-Property Adjacent to the Clubhouse. The owner of the lot adjacent to the clubhouse is interested in donating the land to a non-profit organization. No action taken.

-TCA Website. Thanks to Walter VanNess, the Tobyhanna Conservation Association website is back up and running. Walt welcomes input for the website. Contact him at waltervanness@gmail.com

-50th Anniversary Celebration. The Tobyhanna Conservation will turn 50 years old this summer. We are planning a celebration at our picnic to include special programs, pig in a pit, and 50th anniversary hats. We are open for any ideas. The picnic will be held August 28, 2016.

-Additional Road Opened to Vehicles near Bradys Lake. The PA Game Commission

recently opened additional vehicle access to the south side of Bradys Lake to vehicle travel. We wrote a letter to the Northeast Region of the PA Game Commission voicing our opposition to opening additional roads in State Game Lands #127 to retain some sense of remoteness and solitude on parts of the game lands.

-Bradys Lake Dock. The PA Game Commission contacted us regarding a potential grant available for building a dock at Bradys Lake. We have tabled this issue.

-Pocono Country Place Sewage Treatment Plant. A few members noticed “bird balls” on East Branch and Dresser Run, just downstream from the Pocono Country Place Sewage Treatment Plant. Bird balls are commonly used in sewage treatment plant operations. We sent a letter to the Coolbaugh Township Sewage Enforcement Officer inquiring if there has been a malfunction at the plant.

-Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Members continued participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program, and did roadside litter clean-up on seven miles of township and state roads in Tobyhanna. This year members picked up 60 bags of trash 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. 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 again successful with a good turnout of shooters.

-Grounds Maintenance. John Hay, Steve Calles, and Dave Dennis have been steadfast in keeping the grass cut at clubhouse and Kid’s Fishing Area. In appreciation for their dedication we have waived their annual dues to the Association.

-Clubhouse Maintenance. Dan Vashlishan and Bill Kreiter kept the woodpile stocked and facilitated the removal of a dead tree in the front of the clubhouse.

-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. The club provided input on 10 resolutions that were debated at the State Convention.

-Membership/Officers. We have 68 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.

**Address: Tobyhanna Conservation Association, Inc
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Website: tobyhannaconservation.org

William L. Leonard, Jr.
Secretary