



# TALE OF THE POOL

SPRING 2016

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th, 2016, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA 7:00 p.m. **Presenter: Chad Hough-Wild Brown Trout**
- Beaver Creek Outing: Friday, June 3rd 2016, 8:00 a.m. to ??
- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, June 8th, 2016, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA 7:00 p.m.
- Youghiogheny River Symposium June 24th 2016, Penn State Fayette Campus, Lemont Furnace, PA 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. June 25th Youghiogheny Lake Outflow Area 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, July 13th, 2016, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA 7:00 p.m.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited is happy to announce the completed agenda for the 2016 Youghiogheny River Symposium. This event will be held on Friday, June 24th at the Penn State Fayette, Eberly Campus in Lemont Furnace, PA.

A planning committee consisting of several CRTU members, Krissy Kasserman of Mountain Watershed Association, Heather Fowler from the Fayette County Conservation District, Barb Wallace from Ohio State Park and Eric Martin of Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters has scheduled an exciting, informative and passionate group of speakers.

The symposium program and registration form are included in this newsletter but I would like to mention a few of the highlights.

Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Cindy Adams Dunn, will be the keynote speaker. Ms. Dunn will discuss DCNR's plans for the Laurel Highlands.

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission biologist, Rick Lorson, will discuss the recently completed management plan for the Yough River.



Youghiogheny River

Chestnut Ridge's own Scott Hoffman will join a group of panelists to discuss the conservation and restoration efforts completed to date by the area's watershed groups.

The day's final panel will examine current threats to the river and region and will include a roundtable discussion of the effects of climate change on the headwater streams' brook trout populations in the Laurel Highlands as well as the effects of warming water temperatures in the Yough itself.

The jam-packed day will end with a panel discussion by Yough River fishing guides at a "Happy Hour" to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Uniontown. The guide's 2015 creel surveys of their fishing trips and their "fish stories" will demonstrate what a quality fishery exists in the restored Yough River.

On Saturday the 25th, an informal 2nd day gathering will take place up the river in Confluence at the tailrace. Come and see  
(Continued on Page 4)

## CICADAS HAVE AN "UP" SIDE—GREAT FISHING

File this under "silver lining." While most area residents will be annoyed, disgusted, even terrified by the hordes of periodic cicadas that will soon saturate this region, one group awaits the insect legions with glee. It's those fly fishermen again. Viewed always by the non-fishing public as a bit eccentric, fly-fishers are really out there on the fringe this time. They actually welcome the cicadas' brief 17-year cyclic emergence. They know that once the trout, bass, carp and sunfish catch on to this protein lode literally dropped before them, the fish will abandon caution and gobble every cicada that crash-lands onto their stream or lake. Area fly anglers intend to be there, casting imitations of these big, noisy, colorful bugs (they are true bugs, by the way; members of the insect order Hemiptera) and enjoying fast-action fishing they may only know three or four times in a lifetime. The soon-to-appear brood of cicadas has spent the past 17 years living underground as sub-adult nymphs, feeding on the fluid of tree roots. (Continued on Page 4)

## TENTATIVE AGENDA YOUGHIOGHENY SYMPOSIUM

Friday, June 24th Penn State Fayette, Eberly Campus, Lemont Furnace, PA

- 8:30 a.m. Introduction and Welcome**  
Dr. Charles Patrick, Chancellor, Penn State Fayette, Eberly Campus  
Dale Kotowski, Chestnut Ridge TU
- 8:45 a.m. Keynote Address**  
Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



- 9:15 a.m. The Living River - Panel 1**  
Richard Lorson, Fisheries Manager, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission  
Mike Depew, Fisheries Biologist, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission  
Rose Reilly, Biologist, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Rick Spear, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- 10:30 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 p.m. Our Youghiogheny in a Global Context**  
Dr. Cynthia Walter, Associate Professor of Biology, Saint Vincent College
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch**
- 12:15 p.m. The River of Opportunity - Panel 2**  
Renee Seibert, President & CEO, Partnership & Business Development, Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau  
Eric Martin, Wilderness Voyageurs  
Ken Bisbee, Park Manager, Ohio State Park
- 1:15 p.m. History of Healing - Panel 3**  
Scott Hoffman, Chestnut Ridge TU  
Krissy Kasserman, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, Mountain Watershed Association  
Annie Quinn, Jacobs Creek Watershed Association  
Casselman River Watershed Association  
Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
- 2:15 p.m. Break**
- 2:30 p.m. The River at Risk- Panel 4**  
**Abandoned Mine Drainage** - Mark Killar, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
**Shale Gas & Active Mining** - Krissy Kasserman, Mountain Watershed  
**Water Quantity** - Eric Null, Lake Manager, Deep Creek Lake State Park, Md  
**Invasive Species** - Heather Fowler, Fayette County Conservation District
- Climate Change Roundtable - California University of Pennsylvania:**  
Dr. William G. Kimmel, Professor Emeritus,  
Dr. David G. Argent, Professor  
Dr. Derek Gray, Associate Professor
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Comments - Call to Action**

**5:00 PM "Happy Hour" Sponsored by Mountain Watershed Association**  
Just Down the Road at the Knights of Columbus  
888 N. Gallatin Ext.

**The Yough Fishery: Guide Talk**

Jim Dibiase, Laurel Highlands Guide Service  
Ernie Pribanic, Laurel Highland Guide Service  
Ryan McCauley, Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters  
Mike Steiner, Nemaquin Woodlands



protecting, preserving and restoring the Indian Creek  
and greater Youghiogheny River watersheds...

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## TENTATIVE AGENDA YOUGHIOGHENY SYMPOSIUM (CONTINUED)

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### Saturday, June 25th Youghiogheny Lake Outflow

#### "Come On Down to the Yough"

**11:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.** Saturday is a relaxed day for our guests to tour the cage culture nursery maintained by the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CRTU) in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers. We encourage you to stop by our tent at the Yough Lake outflow in Confluence, PA.

Grab a hot dog and a soda and see one of CRTU's most popular projects while taking some time to wet a line on the Yough!

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## REGISTRATION FORM

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This Form may be duplicated for additional registrations. Return to Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 483, Uniontown, PA 15401 by June 10, 2016. Online registration is available at <http://www.chestnutridgetu.org>

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Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Email

Payment of \$20 must accompany your registration form and includes lunch for June 24. Checks should be payable to *Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited*.

Check here for vegetarian box Lunch.

Penn State Fayette Campus is located on Route 119 between Connellsville and Uniontown. From Pittsburgh, take Route 51 south to PA Turnpike Route 43 South, then Route 119 north for five miles to the campus. From Harrisburg and east take PA Turnpike to Exit 8(New Stanton). Take Route 119 south through Connellsville to the Campus. The campus is approximately 25 miles south of the New Stanton turnpike exit.

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Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited  
Chapter #670  
P.O. Box 483  
Uniontown, PA 15401

We're on the web at  
[www.ChestnutridgeTU.org](http://www.ChestnutridgeTU.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)

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CRTU's trout nursery, view fly tying and casting demonstrations, have a bite to eat and wet a line!

This river, its headwaters and its surrounding lands are the life blood of the region.

Millions of people visit the area's state parks and bike, boat, fish, hike, swim and enjoy this unique resource.

Please join us for the 2016 Yough River Symposium. Invite a friend, bring your family, come and celebrate this river and region. I look forward to seeing you there!

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## CICADAS HAVE AN "UP" SIDE (CONTINUED) BY BEN MOYER

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Recently retired, Eugene Gordon of Mt. Braddock intends to take advantage of the coming cicada invasion, which will likely begin in early May and last through mid-June. An accomplished fly-tier, Gordon generally ties tiny nymphs, midges and dry flies that you have to squint to see. But right now he's tying what in the fly-tying world are huge imitations, meant to mimic the red-eyed, black-bodied, glossy-winged cicada.

"As a fly-tier, what's really interesting about these cicadas is how fly-tying methods and materials change during the intervening years between emergence events," Gordon said. "I remember back two cycles ago, it must have been 1981 or '82. I was just getting interested in fly-tying. Back then we tried to build the cicada bodies by spinning deer hair on the hook and then cutting it to shape. By 1999, the next emergence, a lot of synthetic materials were available that made it easier to build realistic imitations. This time, with what's available, our cicada flies look more life-like than ever, but it (tying one) still takes time."

While fishing cicada flies during the periodic emergence can be wildly effective, there are a few tricks to it. Experts, like Gordon, say you must build a little "heft" into the fly. It can't be all "fluff and air," according to one fly-fishing advice website. It's important that the fly "plop" onto the surface with a bit of disturbance just like the real ones, which are fairly dense and heavy. That presents an enigma for fly-anglers, who are accustomed to laying out their casts to settle on the water like a gentle breeze, with as little splash as possible. But when trout are keying on cicadas that fall, they expect to sense a ruckus.

Once the fly is cast heavily onto the surface, it's important—as always in fly fishing—to achieve a drag-free drift, so that the bug is moving along like a real insect carried by the current. If the line drags the bug faster than the current is moving, even a cicada fly won't entice a strike.

Perhaps a bit surprising, Gordon said carp can be more selective and "spooky" than trout when feeding on cicadas. Gordon fishes carp occasionally because of the brute strength they exert at the end of a fly line. "There's a trick to setting the hook when a carp takes," Gordon said. "You see that big mouth suck in the fly and your impulse is to strike immediately, but that will pull the fly out of the fish's mouth. It's better to wait a second or two to allow the fish to turn back toward the bottom, then when you strike you'll hook up. Hang on, when you hook one," Gordon warned. Gordon said no one should fear the coming clouds of cicadas. "They won't bite," he offered. "But the fish will."

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## LAST CAST

## FROM THE EDITOR

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Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeTU> and on twitter at <https://twitter.com/ChestnutRidgeTU>.

Scott Hoffman

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