



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
P.O. Box 67000
HARRISBURG, PA 17106-7000
717-705-7801 – 717-705-7802 (FAX)
E-MAIL: JARWAY@PA.GOV

July 14, 2015

Trout Unlimited – National Office
1777 North Kent Street
Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22209

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to provide a letter of support regarding the 2015 Trout Unlimited National Gold Trout Chapter of the Year Award. The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, based in State College, Pennsylvania has been an extremely active chapter that has completed numerous projects to further the interests of coldwater fisheries conservation within its namesake watershed – Spring Creek, in Centre County. This stream is primarily a wild brown trout fishery, with headwater populations of brook trout, located within an urbanized landscape that has been under high development pressure for at least the past fifty years. State College is the home of the Pennsylvania State University and has seen a steady growth in the student and permanent resident population since the 1960's. Despite a wide variety of anthropogenic stressors on this stream over this time frame – including stormwater runoff; agricultural and industrial sources of water pollution; invasive aquatic species; increasing volumes of treated waste water from sewage treatment plants; ground and surface water withdrawals; increasing land coverage by impervious surfaces; surface and underground mining; and stream sedimentation from earth disturbances associated with land conversion to more intensive use by buildings, roadways, and other infrastructure – Spring Creek supports one of the best wild brown trout populations in Pennsylvania. The stream has become a destination fishery for anglers from all over the world.

The quality of this trout fishery has been perpetuated in part through the activities of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The high level of interest and activity by this chapter's members has provided both protection and enhancement of this aquatic resource. The members volunteer for a high number of diverse activities which maintain the quality of this coldwater fishery. In recent years, these volunteers have collaborated with my staff to improve instream fish habitat through the removal of a large dam on the main stem of Spring Creek; installation of fish habitat structures; streambank stabilization; riparian plantings of trees and shrubs; completion of a 4.5 month angler survey; and periodic counts of trout redds. Independent of this agency, the members of this chapter have also initiated a variety of public education and outreach activities, which include an instructional fishing program for veterans and their families, a Watershed Watch program to identify and report water polluters, and a

Our Mission:

www.fishandboat.com

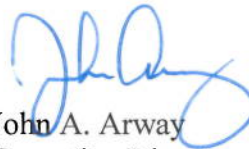
To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

back-yard makeover program to educate landowners adjacent to Spring Creek on making improvements to their riparian landscapes. The chapter also does political advocacy on issues of local and statewide significance that affect coldwater fisheries conservation.

I am pleased to provide you with my endorsement of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited as the next recipient of the National Gold Trout Chapter Award.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this recommendation and for all the work your organization does, as exemplified by this chapter, in the interests of coldwater fishery conservation.

Sincerely,



John A. Arway
Executive Director