



2017 Activities and Achievements

SCCTU Received Third Consecutive National Trout Unlimited Award

SCCTU board member **Jim Lanning**, Air Force veteran and father of a veteran, was awarded the **Distinguished Service Award for Veteran's Service**. Over four short years, Jim built a community of veterans, their families and an army of volunteers that has eclipsed every expectation, and created a model that others seek to follow. Jim has also recruited, trained and mentored several young veterans to help lead his program. The VSP assists with reintegration into civilian life, assistance in employment and other community activities and specially-designed conservation classes to help the veterans continue to serve by taking on projects for the chapter.



Community Outreach and Youth Education

➤ **Veterans Service Program:** Nationally recognized, the program is open to all veterans, active duty military and their families. The VSP has served over 500 people ages 5-95. In 2017: Over a dozen VSP members attended a public, full-day, Mental Health First Aid class. Other noteworthy events included the annual PSU Veterans Tailgate, Rivers of Recovery and the Traveling Wall (Veterans Day, PSU), a visit from the Mianus Connecticut Veterans Group, Streamside Mentoring Class, various events with Total Outdoors, and winter fly tying classes.



➤ **Get Outdoors Day Family Fishing Picnic:** Organized alongside ClearWater Conservancy, this chapter event had over 400 people in attendance with 12 partners/sponsors. Activities included fishing, fly tying, casting lessons, insect identification, kayaking, environmental education and a scavenger hunt for the kids.

➤ **Women Anglers:** A very active program for women of any skill level who enjoy or want to learn fly fishing and conservation. Monthly meetings or fishing outings include education and comradery that encourage women to participate in chapter activities and leadership.



➤ **32 Youth Outreach** events, plus **Trout in the Classroom** and **Y Trout** programs.

Conservation

➤ **NFWF Grant:** The chapter received a major National Fish and Wildlife grant to address habitat improvement of Spring Creek above the Rock Road parking lot, and from Trout Road to just above Houserville Bridge. The grant is also to address riparian planting at Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow.



➤ **Thompson Run / Duck Pond:** A rehabilitation of the chapter's first project: a dike built to separate Thompson Run from the Duck Pond. The chapter partnered with Penn State's Office of the Physical Plant to facilitate large tree and debris removal, and dike repair.

➤ **Stream Cleanups:** The chapter partnered with ClearWater Conservancy to coordinate the annual Spring Creek Watershed Cleanup Day.

➤ **Oak Hall Riparian Planting:** Multi-year planting with cleanup and maintenance was completed in 2017.



➤ **Stewardship Program:** The chapter oversaw maintenance and improvement of seven riparian sites with planting and invasive species control. An agreement was finalized with PFBC to maintain the Fisherman's Paradise property to keep it accessible for all.

➤ **Citizen Science Projects:** Multiple projects supported the watershed, including the Water Resources Monitoring Project, redd (spawning site) count survey, and numerous advocacy events.

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