

2019 Activities and Achievements

SCCTU has been busy conserving, protecting and restoring Spring Creek's cold-water fishery and watershed.

Our all-volunteer chapter does all this through outreach, conservation and advocacy. Accomplishments are made possible by the hard work of many member volunteers and generous donations.

Community Outreach and Youth Education



- **General Meetings:** We learned casting techniques from an expert and advanced nymphing techniques from an expert. We learned how fly rods are built. We discovered trophy trout inhabit the Lehigh River, and a review of the sulfur hatch on the Little J. We had fun too at our Holiday Party, Get Outdoors Day, and popular Mt Nittany Vineyard and Winery meeting.
- **Veterans Service Program:** Open to all veterans, active duty military and families. VSP has served over 1000. The program features semi-monthly mentored streamside fishing sessions and winter learn to fish and fly-tying classes. Began taking program to 7 assisted living centers to reach shut ins. Camp Breac opened as program headquarters on Spring Creek. Participated in PSU Veterans Tailgate offering the program to the 10,000 attendees.
- **Women Anglers:** Our good friend Jean Brenchley was with us in our hearts, on and off the stream. Jean established an endowment to support women angling and created the Al Phillips Mentorship Award to recognize individuals who significantly contributed to women angling. We enjoyed 2019 fishing on the Little J and Spring Creek including a few Sundays with the VSP group.
- **Get Outdoors Day Family Fishing Picnic:** Organized with ClearWater Conservancy, the event had over 300 attendees. Activities included fishing, fly tying, casting lessons, insect identification, kayaking, and environmental education.

Conservation and Advocacy

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant:** Chapter working with 19 partners restored 1.12 miles of Spring Creek's streambank and 4.29 acres of riparian habitat at a total value of \$315,288.98. Project restored the habitat needed to support a self-sustaining wild eastern brook trout and brown trout fishery in the watershed and improved water quality.
- **Stream Cleanups:** The Chapter partnered with ClearWater Conservancy and many other local groups in the annual Spring Creek Watershed Cleanup Day, over 400 volunteers worked to clear and properly dispose of trash from roadsides, parks, streams, and sinkholes. Over 13 tons of trash were cleared in 2019, and over 6.195 million pounds since 1997!
- **Sparrow Run:** Chapter received grants from Hamer Foundation (\$105,710) and Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream (\$9,000) to improve bank stability and brook trout habitat on Sparrow Run, a tributary of Bald Eagle Creek. Work scheduled for 2020.
- **Stewardship Program:** The chapter oversaw maintenance and improvement of several riparian sites including the McCoy Dam riparian planting, Oak Hall, Rock Road parking lot, and Deer Creek lane. We continued to maintain much of the Fisherman's Paradise property.
- **Citizen Science and Advocacy:** The chapter supports Keystone Water Resources Centre (Water Resources Monitoring Project), an annual count of spawning sites (redds). Chapter volunteers participated in the revision to the Spring Creek Watershed Plan, the Watershed Atlas, and permit