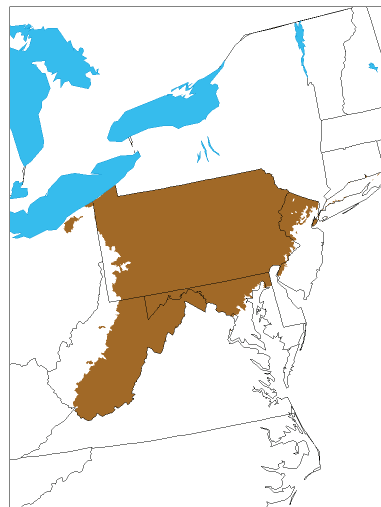


# The Eastern Brook Trout Newsletter: Mid-Atlantic Division

*A partnership between  
Trout Unlimited And the  
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture,  
Together with all who value  
Brook Trout And its Habitat*



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Please send your contributions for the next newsletter to Marcia Woolman, at your convenience.

A tentative meeting has been suggested for the Mid-Atlantic leadership in the early fall of 2007. The meeting would be in the Savage River basin in Maryland. Stay tuned for more information.

## **Important:**

***Your Response Needed!***

**In response to grassroots feedback, future issues of this newsletter will be directly emailed to TU members and agency leaders.**

**This method puts this information to the hands of brook trout leaders and volunteers directly .**

**You must respond to an upcoming email request to sign up for direct distribution.**

**Due to spamming ethics, only one request will be sent.**

## **State Reports**

### **MARYLAND**

Reported by Alan Heft, Md DNR

Efforts are continuing on the Aaron's run acid mine drainage remediation project. Funding has been secured from several sources, including the EBTJV, and the ground work will start this year. **Successful completion of the project will restore brook trout to 4 miles of native stream that they have been extirpated from.**

Field work is beginning for the Maryland Genetically Effective Population size research project, a joint effort of Maryland DNR Inland Fisheries and the University of Maryland CES Appalachian Laboratory, funded through the Federal State Wildlife Grant program. This project will develop an index of minimum population size needed to maintain genetically viable

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## **PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN**

populations, particularly in light of the increasing fragmentation and isolation occurring amongst brook trout populations in Maryland. Final report for this project will be available by December 2007.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Report from Jack Williams, Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited BTB Chair & National Leadership Council representative**

#### **EDUCATION and OUTREACH :**

PA Back the Brookie team exhibited and advocated the EBTJV at the following venues:

- The “Cabin Fever” fishing show near Pittsburgh, PA hosted by the Penns Woods West Chapter of TU.
- A PA Council Southeast Regional Chapter Presidents meeting at Valley Forge National Historic Park
- A Stormwater Management Conference at State College, PA hosted by The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and
- The West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium at Williamsport, PA hosted by National TU
- The PA Council has just completed a PowerPoint presentation describing the history of brook trout in PA and what is being done and will be done, to support the mission and goals of the EBTJV.

#### **BROOK TROUT LEADERSHIP:**

The EBTJV organizational structure in PA is nearing completion. We have reached agreement on the make-up of a Statewide EBTJV Steering Committee.

We have also reached agreement on the concept of six regional work groups. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Division of Habitat Management will organize and facilitate the work groups. Trout Unlimited volunteers and other partners will participate and contribute as regional EBTJV priorities are developed and implemented.

#### **CONSERVATION**

In response to the finding of a small wild brook trout population in Crabby Creek ( a tributary to Valley Creek just a few miles west of Philadelphia, PA), PA Back the Brookies met with members of the Valley Forge Chapter, a habitat specialist from the PA Fish and Boat Commission Division of Habitat Management and others to initiate habitat improvement work on Crabby Creek. The habitat improvement plan should be completed this summer with implementation to begin shortly thereafter.

# PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **Report from Larry & Lee Orr, WV Council Chair and BTB Chair**

#### Personnel

Randy Ash is the new BTB Education chair and Jeff Shafer is the new Advancement chair. WVCTU and BTB recently undertook a legislative campaign to combat proposed changes to WV's adoption of antidegradation rules.

#### Advocacy

Antidegradation rules are mandated by the Clean Water Act. A compromise was made on tier 2.5 designations that would allow for some degradation on streams designated as tier 2.5 as opposed to tier 3.0, which does not allow for any degradation. There were originally over 400 streams designated as Tier 2.5, but the industry groups that had agreed to the compromise designation reneged on the compromise and fought to have the list cut down to just over 300. Then once the antidegradation finally made it to the legislature the same groups that had agreed to the compromise 2.5 designation had the number of streams dropped to just over 30. Both bills then stalled, due in no small part to pressure from TU and the WV Wildlife Federation Camo Coalition. Both groups used action alerts urging members to contact their representatives. The amended bills died and the WVDEP interpretes that to mean the antidegradation rules stand as originally proposed to the legislature with the 300+ streams.

We basically used the WV state legislature's web site and members attendance throughout the session to track the bill. [www.wvangler.com](http://www.wvangler.com) and <http://www.tristatesportsmen.com/> were also used to get the word out to a broader audience than just TU. The WVCTU council chair and other TU members spent a lot of time at the legislature and it appeared to have helped a great deal.

#### Brook Trout Conservation:

About twenty volunteers supported the Big Run Riparian Restoration project on the weekend of April 28th. The volunteers planted several hundred trees to protect this headwater stream, and host to wild brook trout. The site has traditionally been used as a US Forest Service grazing allotment and with the lessee's permission, cattle exclusion fencing has been built. The area within the fencing is being planted with an assortment of silky dogwood, sand bar willows and red spruce. In addition to the TU volunteers, school children from Washington DC, and students from Warren Wilson College have also provided solid planting activities.

## **New Jersey:**

Next time....