

LJRA Minutes for August 11th, 2016 Meeting

The August meeting of LJRA was held at the Edgewater Inn and Riverside Grill near Alexandria, Pa. There were 25 people including 3 new attendees.

Treasurers Report -Charlie Hoyer gave the treasurers report : Our checking account balance as of August 11th is \$28,489 and has increased by \$4,567 year to date. The treasurers report was unanimously approved as presented.

President Bill Anderson reported that he gave his presentation, **“Little Juniata – From Sewer to Class A”** to 14 TU chapters, fishing clubs and others since last fall. He estimates that these presentations have resulted in from 2 to 3 new members each time. Most new **LJRA** members have joined as life members.

Recent electroshocking surveys by Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission –

In June the PAFBC led by Fisheries Manager, Kris Kuhn conducted surveys of several Little Juniata stretches. The purpose was to determine and classify the wild brown trout population in the river upstream from Tyrone. Two stretches were chosen. The first was from the upper limit of the DHALO, Rt 220 bridge upstream 300 meters and the 2nd was from the Logan WTP upstream to the Lower Riggles Gap Bridge where Sandy Run enters the river, slightly more than 300 meters. While we have not seen the final report from PFBC as yet, there is a good chance that both stretches will prove to have a Class A wild trout population. The importance of a Class A wild trout listing is that PFBC will recommend a change in Designated Use by DEP from “Warm Water Fishery” to “High Quality Cold Water Fishery”, a substantial increase in protection from pollution thereby resulting.

PFBC also electroshocked the stretch from Barree Bridge to the Junction with the Frankstown Branch in June. It is hoped that this stretch will also soon be added to the list of Class A waters on the Little Juniata.

Warm Water effects on the river- We have been monitoring a large group of trout gathered at a spring outflow upstream from the Little Bald Eagle in Tyrone. Main river water temps in the high 70's and at times exceeding 80 degrees have threatened trout from Grier School upstream to Altoona. This season, any trout in this 18 mile stretch will find refuge at a spring or perish. A large spring capped off in Gracerville by the paper mill 8 decades ago flows several miles through a 14 inch pipe to a pump. When the mill is not using this spring, it flows into the "j" and attracts a large number of wild trout to its 54 degree water. The mill uses this spring, along with the flow from several others, in its paper making process. As a result of seeing the trout under stress, Bill A. met with Mike Grimm, American Eagle President/CEO, and initiated discussions regarding the mill's extensive use of cold water and possibilities for improvements in water quality and the trout fishery. Specifically, LJRA has a goal to remove the barrier to fish passage at the mill dam, thus opening many miles of potential spawning habitat in the Little Bald Eagle. LJRA would also like to see the hot water returned to the Bald Eagle, reduced and cooled down and the further cooling of the LBE through the use of a bottom release at its dam. LJRA appreciates that Mike Grimm is willing to discuss these issues and has offered to come to our September meeting. Mr. Grimm will explain the paper making process at American Eagle Paper and answer questions regarding opportunities for improvements in the river and its environment.

Brown Trout Telemetry study- LJRA and Juniata College are discussing ways to follow up with the use of smaller, short term transmitters during the spawning period this fall. It is believed that smaller transmitters will not be expelled as readily as the 500 day transmitters used last year. Questions regarding where trout go for warm water refuge, will remain until next summer.

Tyrone Quarry and Logan Spring Run – Kris Kuhn reported that wild brown trout have vanished from Logan Spring Run. This brought up the question as to what impact the quarry (through which LSR flows) is having. A permit allowing NES&L to increase the quarry size was issued 10 years ago. At that time LJRA and other groups objected on the grounds that lowering the quarry floor by an additional 50

feet might open polluted ground water sources that would be released into LSR. LJRA has asked DEP to review the provisions of this permit and its possible effects on wild brown trout.

Environmental plan for the little Bald Eagle Creek – Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Juniata College and LJRA have committed to study the LBE. Juniata College students will join with WPC personnel this fall to study water chemistry of the LBE.

Posting of the “Yellow House” stretch – Landowner Mrs. Morrow, reacting to several acts of vandalism against her religious signs, has posted her property and has effectively blocked access to a large stretch of prime water. LJRA Director Joe Reese has talked with Mrs. Morrow as has Bill Anderson. We are hopeful that the postings will be removed in time.

Life member Bob Decker reported that he has discussed fish habitat improvements on his stretch of Kelso Run, a “j” trib., with PATU. LJRA will participate with volunteers and funding for this project.

Minutes by Director Bill Bressler reviewed by Bill Anderson