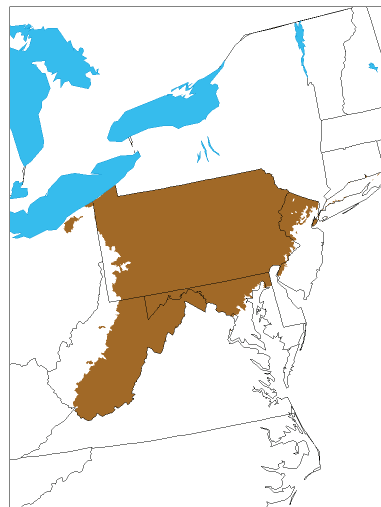


PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

## 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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### **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.**

### **Calendar**

**TU National Meeting in Boise, ID, Sept. 13, 12, 16.**

EBT Work Group will have a 90 minute meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, please attend if able.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

-Report from Jack Williams, BTB Chair & NLC

### **EDUCATION & OUTREACH :**

PA Council Back the Brookies exhibited and distributed information at the 2007 Northwest Regional Watershed Conference sponsored by the Venango Conservation District. The Power point presentation, noted in the last Newsletter, that highlights the brook trout in Pennsylvania; its history, basic requirements and what is being done and proposed for its protection, enhancement and restoration, is up and running.

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

To date we have given presentations at two chapter meetings and at the 2007 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Chapters are now scheduling for fall presentations and available slots are filling fast.

In the Autumn 2007 issue of the PA Council Newsletter, the Back the Brookies team published a brief guide for individual and chapter participation that promotes local advocacy, education and projects to support the mission and goals of the EBTJV. The guide includes the elements of an angler survey to help confirm or expand knowledge of wild brook trout populations in Pennsylvania.

The PA Council submitted a letter to the PA Fish and Boat Commission urging addition of the Eastern brook trout to the PA State Wildlife Action Plan.

In late spring, The Mountain Laurel Chapter of TU (MLTU) performed exemplary work educating the next generation about stream ecology, habitat, trout, the threats to native brook trout and the EBTJV. Over 1000 students participated in Outdoor Heritage, an event sponsored by Natural Biodiversity,

The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and the National Wildlife Federation. MLTU gave the same presentation to Trout in the Classroom participants in a local school district.

### **CONSERVATION:**

PA Council and a number of chapters have accepted an invitation to participate in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) Watershed Improvement Needs Coalition (WINS). The WINS Coalition is being developed to spearhead stream and watershed restoration efforts on the Forest. WINS acknowledges watershed restoration as a critical component in the conservation and recovery of native fish and a host of other plant and animal species on the Forest. The goal of the Allegheny WINS Coalition will be to address water quality and fish habitat concerns by restoring natural flow conditions, stabilizing eroding streambeds and banks and improving in stream and riparian habitat. The Allegheny WINS Coalition is an opportunity to further the mission and goals of the EBTJV on over a half million acres of northwest Pennsylvania and provide abundant opportunities for volunteer work by PATU chapters in and around the ANF. WINS expects to be organized and selecting projects in the next few months.

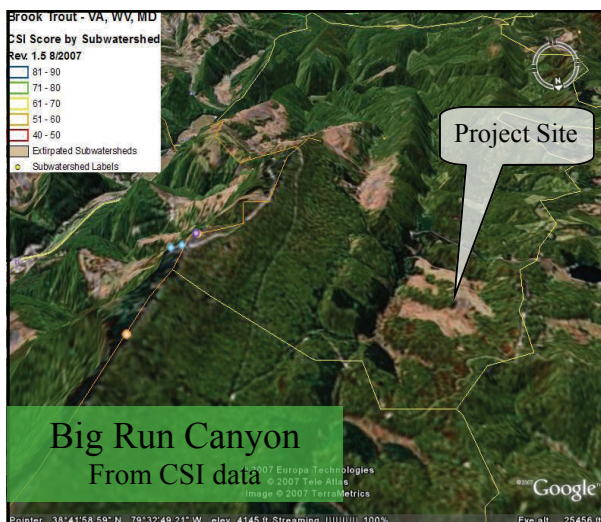
With lots of help from PA Trout Unlimited volunteers together with the Kettle Creek Watershed Association, the Quehanna Prison Boot Camp and the Potter County Trailblazers, the Cross Fork brook trout habitat improvement project is now 80 percent completed. The project covers a three and a half mile reach of Cross Fork Creek, a tributary of Kettle Creek in north central PA. The installation of devices are being used to reduce high stream flow velocities, stabilize eroding stream banks and to provide pool habitat and overhead cover. Project design, permitting, construction oversight and equipment operation were provided by staff of the PA Fish and Boat Commission Division of Habitat Management. Local residents assisted in riparian plantings at project sites. The Cross Fork project is the first project in Pennsylvania to receive a grant award through the EBTJV.

## WEST VIRGINIA

Report from Gary Berti, TU staff

### Potomac Headwaters Home River:

The Potomac Headwaters Initiative has been making steady progress on the headwaters of the North Fork, the South Branch, and The North Branch and based on the results, it is working. Restoration efforts on Big Run of the North Fork are showing as brook trout are able to access headwater streams which were un-accessible— perhaps for generations of farmers who grazed cattle prior to, and ever since the US Forest Service took ownership in the early 20th century. Brook trout and benthic dwellers have rebounded since cattle pressure was removed in the fall of 2006. This summer, additional fencing, alternative water supplies and fish friendly stream crossings have been installed. Based on the stream changes seen on the earlier work, and with the help of Trout Unlimited volunteers, cross section measurements have been documented on the latest tributary to track the effect of cattle exclusion on channel dimensions over time.



Other volunteer efforts include culvert identification/assessment efforts and temperature monitoring on the Big Run watershed. Trout Unlimited's CSI identified Culvert passage in the watershed as an inhibiting factor for brook trout passage (as a function of Habitat Integrity) and Potomac Headwaters Volunteers have been locating and assessing the culverts in order to ground truth the model. Additionally, volunteers have provided the legwork to monitor and measure stream temperatures along large rip-rapped areas of coldwater streams. This data will help project managers determine the most appropriate treatment for identifying and mitigating temperature loading zones along brook trout streams. Preliminary indications show temperature loading, but additional information is needed to ascertain the cause/effect relationships.

Members of the Potomac Headwaters committee met in August for a CSI workshop presented by Nat Gillespie (TU—Arlington) and to discuss future efforts, training needs and partnership opportunities. Members left the discussion with a better understanding of the CSI and began exploring its uses immediately. Thanks to Nat for his patience and knowledge, and for his skill at conveying complex modeling.

## **New Jersey:**

**By Lisa Barno, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife**

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife continues with efforts to identify the distribution of brook trout by surveying headwater areas of stream systems where non-native trout (primarily brown trout) occur. A monitoring schedule was also developed to re-inventory trout production streams (i.e. streams or stream segments having reproducing populations of brook, brown, and/or rainbow trout) surveyed over the last 40 years. Of 178 streams, 26 that have not been sampled in more than 20 years have been targeted for survey in 2007. Over 25 electrofishing surveys have been conducted thus far (this summer) as part of this ongoing effort to fill data gaps regarding the status of brook trout in the Garden State. In addition, water temperature data collected over the last 40 years on trout production streams was analyzed to assess the range of temperatures that trout can tolerate during the critical summer months. The data showed that 75% of the summer water temperatures (for all trout species) fell below 20°C. This information will be used to develop a “not to exceed” temperature criteria for trout production streams in the state’s surface water quality standards.