**Club History**

The Club began in 1997 when a group of anglers got together to stock Atlantic salmon in the East Branch of Fish Creek. After the initial stocking club members worked with Margaret Murphy, a SUNY ESF doctoral student, to complete her field work. After completion of her field work in 2000, a hatchery in Lew Beach was found willing to hatch and raise salmon fry for the club. In 2005 the club decided to build a hatchery in Annsville to hatch salmon eggs ourselves. The hatchery was moved to McConnellsville during the fall of 2010.

**Over the past 18 years** we’ve learned to deal with snow, cold temperatures, ice, hot temperatures, floods, low water, water quality issues, transportation of eggs and fry, predation as well as the technical challenges of fish culture to successfully incubate and stock fish each year. In support of its restoration goal the Club has stocked over 1,000,000 fish. The club also stocks fish donated by the Ed Weed Fish Cultural Station in Grand Isle, Vermont when they have a surplus.

**Developments for 2017**

The club had another successful year raising about 30,000 Atlantic salmon fry from eggs. The club had some notable developments for the year.

**First,** the highlight of the year was our own Tom Schneider being honored as Sportsman of the Year.

**Second**, the Harden Furniture Factory has been sold. Harden has been our benefactor during the past few years for which club members are very grateful. We hope that our relationship will continue with the new owners.

**Third**, the club made changes to the by-laws to allow students to become members at no cost.

**Fourth**, a screen was made for the new fish tank so now we have four tanks with screens to prevent the salmon escaping and to prevent predation by wild life.

**Fifth**, the club did some investigation into the possibility of constructing a fish ladder at the dam in McConnellsville to allow Atlantic salmon to migrate upstream from the hatchery. There are two dams upstream on the West Branch of Fish Creek so additional areas for possible spawning are limited. However it does open up the entire length of



the Mad River. The Mad River, along with the addition of the West Branch, would provide more than 15 miles of additional streambed, without counting all of the bends and twists of the river.

The present dam was built in 1990 and being made of wood, will need to be replaced in the future and that would be a good time to install a fish ladder. The club received a proposal from Princeton Hydro, LLC for a study to determine the feasibility of fish ladder at the dam but it was determined that we do not have the resources at present to proceed. The Lions Club in Camden expressed interest in the project and a presentation was made to them.

**Sixth**, on May 12 club members assisted the students at the Camden Middle School stock Atlantic salmon in the Mad River. Sadly, the school lost all of their book trout but their salmon did well. The club supplied additional salmon so that all of the students got to stock fish. Club members also collected invertebrates from the Mad River for show and tell. All of the students wrote a thank you letter to the club expressing their gratitude and interest in Atlantic salmon.

On May 27, the club stocked Furnace Creek, the West Branch at Trestle Road, Forest Park, the Sand Bed and Point Rock Creek.

**Seventh,** the club got a little exposure when the Camden Central News published an article about the club stocking salmon.