

Trout in the Classroom ... and now in the stream

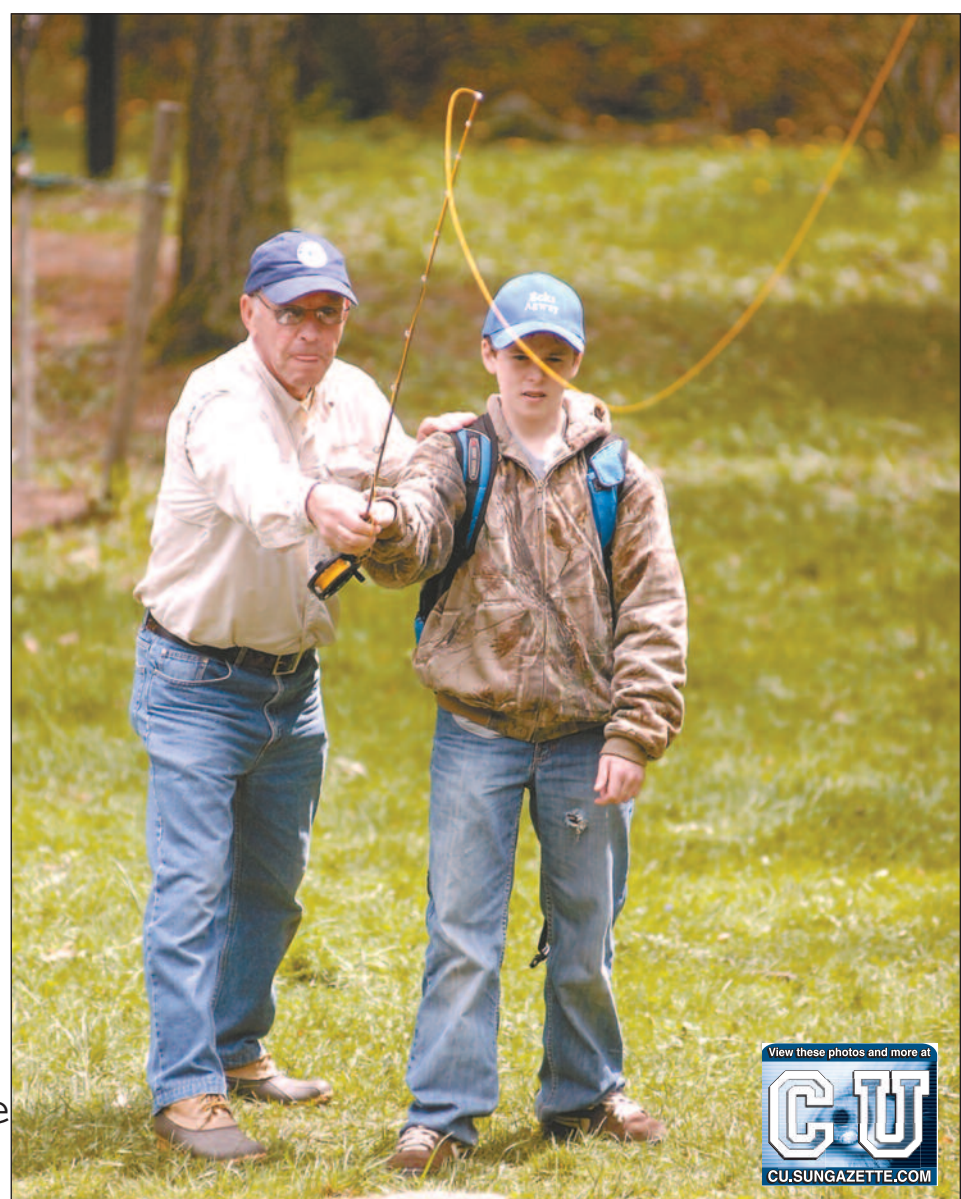


Jersey Shore science teacher Tracy Silvis, left, checks on a bucket full of trout fingerlings, inset, during the seventh-grade field trip to Ravensburg State Park on May 21. Students in Silvis' and Bill Ferguson's science classes have been raising trout fingerlings donated by the state Fish and Boat Commission. During the field trip, they released 40 to 50 fingerlings into the creek and also went through several field stations learning about aquatic macroinvertebrates; chemical parameters such as water pH and hardness; and physical parameters such as a creek's slope, run and discharge. Members of Trout Unlimited gave lessons on fly tying and fishing. At right, Cera Henry gets a little fly-tying help from Richard Rogers of the Lloyd Wilson Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



Jersey Shore Middle School seventh graders learn how to fly fish, above, from members of the Lloyd Wilson Chapter of Trout Unlimited. At left, Volunteer Aaron Bierly of Elysburg shows seventh graders Jennifer Wolfe, middle, and Katrina Rucker how to measure the run of a stream. And, at right, Bill Bailey of the Lloyd Wilson Chapter of Trout Unlimited teaches student Josh Lorson how to fly fish.

Photos by
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Want to fish for free?

Pennsylvania's second Fish for Free Day is next Sunday, June 7. All anglers — regardless of age — will be able to cast a line into any legal waterway without needing to purchase a fishing license first. The free day begins at 12:01 a.m. and concludes at 11:59 p.m., according to the state Fish and Boat Commission. For more information, visit the Web site www.fishandboat.com.

Saturday marks annual Hike Day

This Saturday, June 6, is the 17th annual National Trails Day, a long-standing celebration of America's magnificent trail system and its countless supporters and volunteers. More than 1,500 events will take place around the country, including trail maintenance, hiking, paddling, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, running and trail celebrations. "American Hiking Society's National Trails Day serves as a gateway to introduce youth and adults to the outdoors and an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to give back," said Greg Miller, American Hiking Society president.



This year's theme — Take in the Outdoors — is an open invitation to all Americans to get outside, connect with local hiking clubs, outdoor retailers, local parks and recreation departments or federal

land managing agencies to experience everything the great outdoors has to offer. Since 1993, National Trails Day has inspired thousands of people and community groups to take part in activities that promote healthy living, protect green space, educate youth and adults on the importance of trails, and instill excitement for the outdoors. Plan now to host or attend an event in your area. Events in Pennsylvania are listed at www.americanhiking.org/NTD-SearchResult.aspx?sId=38. They include a trail cleanup in Union County, organized by Boy Scout Troop 525 of Mifflinburg.



SOME lunchtime patrons visiting Bittner's General Store on Route 14 in Trout Run on May 23 were fortunate to see a rare wild sight — a timber rattlesnake basking in the sun. The adult snake stayed coiled in a ball, hissing at onlookers while rattling its tail. The photographer was able to get close to the snake, a couple feet away, as a 3-foot high cement median blocked his legs at the back end of the parking lot abutting the woods.

PATRICK DONLIN/Sun-Gazette