BCTU’s Reintroduction of Brook Trout to Aquetong Creek

Presentation by Jim Searing
Solebury Board of Supervisors
May 2, 2017
Background

• Solebury Township acquired the 45 Acre Aquetong property and lake in 2009
• 2013: BOS made the decision to take down the dam after extensive community discussion
• Dam was breached in 2015
• Ecological restoration has begun with tree planting, path clearance and detailed study by Princeton Hydro
• Creek is rapidly recovering
Bucks County Trout Unlimited (BCTU)

- One of first and most active advocates to take down the dam and restore the limestone coldwater Aquetong Creek
- Long history of conservation projects in Bucks County at Cook’s Creek and Mill Creek
- Committed funds to help restore native brook trout to the Aquetong
BCTU Plan for Reintroduction

- Obtained permits from PA Fish and Boat and DCNR
- Permits allowed taking 50 native brook trout from two Lehigh River tributaries
- Expert fly fishers used traditional methods to catch brook trout
- Fish were successfully protected and transferred to Aquetong Creek on April 29, 2017
BCTU Fishing Team

Jim Valuckas, Ed Harrington, Jack Walsh, Maddie Neamand, Jeff Neamand (Project Co-Leader), Doug McCabe, Kevin Randall (Project Co-Leader), Rich Weber, Frank Nassetta, Gary Gibson, Aquetong Watershed Association’s (AWA) Craig Sutton

Photo by Jim Searing
Fly Fishing in Mountain Streams and Rugged Conditions

Gary Gibson in tight quarters
Transferring a Catch

Frank Nassetta with a good sized brook trout
Temporary Holding Pen on Stream

BCTU Co-Leader Jeff Neamand placing brook trout in holding pen
Preparing for Transport

Co-Leader Jeff Neamand, Co-Leader Kevin Randall, Maddie Neamand, Doug McCabe, Frank Nassetta, Rich Weber, AWA’s Craig Sutton
Placing Trout into Acclimating Tank

Jeff Neamand Gently Adding Brookie to Acclimating Tank Prior to Immersion in Aquetong Creek
Brook Trout Return to Aquetong After 170+ Years of Absence

BCTU Project Co-Leader Kevin Randall Gently Places the First Native Brook Trout into Aquetong Creek in Solebury at 6:30pm April 29, 2017
Aquetong Transfer Team

Sometimes Dreams Do Come True...

Aquetong Creek in Highwater Conditions at Sunset April 29 2017

Photo by Jim Searing