

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
- Provided coldwater restoration plans in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2012
- 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



Photo by Jim Searing

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

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



Photo by Jim Searing

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



Photo by Craig Sutton

Kevin Randall (BCTU Project Co-Leader), Ed Harrington, Jim Searing, Frank Nassetta, Jeff Neamand (BCTU Project Co-Leader), Doug McCabe, Gary Gibson, Maddie Neamand, Richard Weber, Jim Valuckas. Not pictured: AWA's Craig Sutton (photographer)

Sometimes Dreams Do Come True...



Photo by Jim Searing

Aquetong Creek in Highwater Conditions at Sunset April 29 2017