
Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Lititz Run - Lancaster County - 24.Nov.11

Re: Lititz Run - Lancaster County - 24.Nov.11

Author: : salvelinusfontinalis

Date: : 2011/12/7 0:31:50

URL:

I thought the last few posts warranted a reply.....

Midge,

I'm not sure why you think the C&R project water is far better than the Conservancy. All in all they have two different faces. The Upper Project water is filthy with aquatic vegetation and has all the critters that go with that type of biological make-up (cress bugs and scuds). The most abundant life in this section are midges larva, sow bugs, shrimp and caddis larva. The Conservancy has trees and a ton of restoration work, there is a "dead area" from the pond downstream to the old dam site. The Banta Property, the Conservancy and downstream of Riparian Park have all the attributes of a classic spring creek. The C&R project water has more deeper pools than the Conservancy. It also has some far superior hatches than the Conservancy (light cahills, tricos and various caddis to name a few. What the lower project water lacks is trees. I talked to a DTU member just the other week and they finally got permission to start planting in the upper C&R area, they have already started on the lower end. While the lower end has scuds and cress bugs, they are far less abundant than in the Conservancy. (this is all supported by the lancaster county conservancy macro-invert data). The C&R area, while still a spring creek, is much more degraded than the Conservancy. However, the recent floods have washed all the silt out of the Conservancy and the C&R area, this is good news.

IMO, the Conservancy is a better section of stream, but it really depends on what you like.

As far as warm water species blocks from the Conestoga River, I completely disagree. Rettew had removed the dam at the end of Creek Road to enable fish passage. The reason for this is historically Lititz Run had a shad run in the stream long long ago. With the PFBC struggling to return shad to the Susquehanna River drainage and all the shad fingerlings planted in the Conestoga, you just never know. Personally I hope it is a success. Catching a shad run in Lititz would be something else. Another benefit from the removal of the dam is the macro life slowly working their way back into Lititz Run from the Conestoga Watershed. While the Conestoga is a very degraded waterway, its bug life is far more diverse than Lititz. Matt K. (Lancaster County Watershed Specialist) and I have discussed this matter a few times. It is his and my feelings that the return of several caddis species and the light cahills are likely from the migration of the Conestoga River. On a side note, since rettew has removed the dam I have caught more and more bass in Lititz Run. All small so I believe the bass have little effect on the stocked trout.

As far as "piss and shot" going into the creek.....keep reading.

CRS,

Poaching and the pellet hatches are a problem. Poaching being the worse of the two. I disagree that these are the two biggest problems. The Biggest issue is nitrate filtering into the headwaters or spring source at Lititz Springs park from the Manhiem farms along Doe Run Road. The nitrate levels have dropped dramatically since the wetland was constructed for Santo Domingo Creek, but are still too high in the headwaters to allow good spawning success for all the holdover trout in the stream. Wild Bows do turn up as you know, but I feel those numbers would be much higher if something is done about the farms above the spring source that feed the krast aquifer. Unfortunately, trying to get a family owned farms that have been handed down for hundreds of years to stop bad land practices is like trying to pull teeth with chopsticks. If they would stop the bad land management, it could still take hundreds of years possibly to decontaminate the nitrate that has made its way deep into the krast. The poaching and pellets sure do hurt the fish now, your right. But if a good wild trout population ever took hold in this classic spring creek, they would be as hard as any falling springs branch rainbow and could handle the pressure.

So its no so much the poo and pee going into the stream at the lower C&R area midnigh. The problem is far worse, much farther upstream. Jeff (wgmiller) is correct that Warwick Township certainly has gotten much better with the concerns of the creek since the project started. Kudos to them. I dunno if a badge system is best or not, it could be but I think 1 section should be open to the public. I would like to see the Banta Property open. IMO its the best section really, the most classic in nature and is a total wetland (a mini letort if you will 😊).

We have missed each other many times by 100's of yards, or a few hours or 1 day, yet I'm shocked I have never run into you also. I would love to fish with you also. I spend most my time in CV anymore. Ill send you a pm because you wont be able to get me here.