

Barnitz Church Stream Improvement Project on the Yellow Breeches

Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU) is pleased to announce that a stream improvement project on the Barnitz Church property along the Yellow Breeches Creek west of Mount Holly Springs will commence in June 2023. The project has been planned for several years, and CVTU, working in partnership or in collaboration with non-profit environmental and conservation organizations throughout the Cumberland Valley, has raised the necessary funds to complete the project this summer. The total cost of the project will be about \$35,000.

The Barnitz Church Council is to be commended for its critical role in approving the project. The Council's support will result in significant improvements to a popular stretch of the Yellow Breeches and become a showcase of what can be accomplished by like-minded non-profit conservation organizations.



A view of the Yellow Breeches as it flows downstream through the Barnitz Church property. Various structures will be installed to stop the erosion of the banks and random boulders will be placed in the stream to improve water flow and increase habitat for aquatic life in the stream.



An upstream view of the Yellow Breeches at Barnitz Church. This project will include adding plantings of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to create a riparian buffer zone adjacent to the stream to improve stream-side habitat for native insects, birds, and animals and reduce sediment and nutrient pollution from surface runoff along the Yellow Breeches.

FUNDING

The South Mountain Partnership (the Partnership) is providing a significant amount of funding for the project. Launched in 2006, the Partnership operates as a public-private partnership between Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The Partnership has grown into an alliance of citizens, businesses, non-profits, academic institutions, and local, state and federal government agencies and officials collaborating to envision and secure a sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape.

Another source of significant of funds came from the Trout Unlimited Embrace A Stream (EAS) program. The EAS program supports local cold-water conservation efforts across the country. Since its inception in 1975, EAS has funded more than 1,150 individual projects with more than \$4.9 million in direct

cash grants. Through this program, CVTU received a standalone grant and raised additional funds for the Barnitz Church project through an EAS matching program.

The Cumberland County Conservation District (CCCD) has been an active partner and champion of CVTU efforts to improve the Yellow Breeches at Barnitz Church. To that end, CCCD, through the Countywide Action Plan, allocated funds for the project and played a significant role in communicating with other conservation minded organizations to gain a diversity of approval for the project. Other environmentally conscientious community organizations like the Penn Cumberland Garden Club, The Carlisle Rotary Club, and the Carlisle Rotary Club-Sunrise have also contributed funds and their members have expressed interest in contributing volunteer labor to help with the riparian buffer part of the project.

CVTU has been successfully raising funds for the Barnitz Church project for several years. Through its annual Limestone Fundraising Banquet and the financial generosity of its many Chapter members, CVTU demonstrated to National and State environmental agencies its capacity and commitment to protect and improve the cold-water resources of the Cumberland Valley.

Project Management

The Barnitz Church Stream Improvement Project will be managed by the Division of Habitat Management of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. John Gleim Construction was selected as the contractor to do the stream work. CVTU and John Gleim Construction have a long history of working successfully together on many past stream improvement projects. Their expertise on the Barnitz Church project will be greatly appreciated. Volunteers from CVTU and other like-minded conservation organizations will collaborate on the installation of the riparian buffer plantings. Lastly, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is coordinating the administration of all aspects of the permitting process and the support to the contractors and suppliers during construction. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has been key to obtaining the necessary permits to proceed with the project.

Summary

CVTU and its many mission partners are committed to the success of this significant stream improvement project on the Yellow Breeches at Barnitz Church. Everyone is welcome to come out and observe the actual stream work once it begins. Please follow the progress of the project on our various social media outlets. Please let your friends and families know about the project and encourage them to support CVTU's efforts to preserve and improve the cold-water ecosystems and watersheds throughout the Cumberland Valley.