Local youth learn the art of fly fishing

Reprinted with permission from The Sentinel
By Jason Scott; June 29, 2010

Not every kid grows up with positive role models or the means to participate in constructive activities.

Hoping to kill two birds with one stone - in this case, catch trout with a fly rod - the Cumberland County Youth Action Team has partnered with the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited to teach local youth the sport of fly fishing.

Ten teenagers, ranging in age from 14 to 18, headed down the banks of the Yellow Breeches Creek Tuesday morning at Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse with CVTU volunteers to take part in a new two-day fly-fishing program.

Funded by a state grant and local sponsorships, the intention of the “Street to Streams” program is to provide county youth interested in fly fishing with the opportunity to learn the ropes, free of charge, from a seasoned angler.

“They are learning a hobby they can carry with them for a lifetime,” said organizer Justin Pittman, who works in juvenile probation and saw fly fishing as a positive use of time for the kids, many of whom come from broken homes. “These are 10 kids that might not have otherwise experienced this.”

Each of the teens was referred by a participating county agency that serves on the CCYAT.

The CCYAT membership includes children and youth services, the drug and alcohol commission, juvenile probation, the victim...
services division of the district attorney’s office, mental health and mental retardation, Youth Aid Panel, United Way, Diakon Wilderness Center, Abraxas Youth and Family Services and the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, as well as active community members.

“We just think it’s a win-win,” said Chet Hagenbarth, chapter president of CVTU, who first met and discussed the idea with Pittman about 18 months ago. “We thought the kids could benefit. It could change their lives around a little.”

‘Take everything in’ Hagenbarth said “Street to Streams,” which includes fly-fishing and fly-tying demonstrations, is about learning to fish and taking care of the environment.

Trout Unlimited’s primary mission is the conservation, protection and restoration of coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

“It could become a national model,” Hagenbarth said, noting that the program idea is being passed along to the organization’s national leadership.

The volunteers get as much, if not more, out of this, he added, because it’s an experience that produces real results.

“I wish someone would have been around to show me,” said Jim Ritter of East Pennsboro Township, who got into fly fishing and joined CVTU about a year ago. “It’s a great sport. There is just nothing like it.”

Ritter spent his day working with 16-year-old James Ainsworth of Lemoyne.

James said the biggest thing he had taken away to that point was simply “enjoying” the experience.

“You have got to be able to take everything in,” he said about the sport, as he and his mentor prepared to get out on the stream.

Volunteers worked with the teens on their casting techniques before they suited up for the water.

“They know their stuff,” said Kraig Wiser, 18, of Newville. “They teach you from experience.”

He, too, was eager to get out on the Yellow Breeches to show off what he had learned and catch some fish.

According to Pittman, funding is available to run the program again next year. This year’s budget is about $2,200, he said.

He would like it to remain an annual event and said the CCYAT will look at all possible funding options to make that happen.

“Everything we can do to divert their time to positive stuff is a plus,” Pittman said of the students involved.

The "Street to Streams" program is being funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Coalition on Crime and Delinquency.

The two-day event, which ends today, is also being sponsored by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Albright Fishing Products, Allenberry Playhouse and Resort, Yellow Breeches Outfitters, www.allenflyfishing.com, Bass Pro Shop, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Diakon Family Life Services and 2 Generations.

Additional coverage of this program can also be viewed at the following locations:


LUZERNE COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS TO BE COMPENSATED

HB 2572(3892) was introduced on June 10, 2010 by House Majority Leader Todd Eachus (D-Luzerne) for the purpose of establishing a “Special Juvenile Victim Compensation Fund” that would be the means to restitution to Luzerne County crime victims who will not be compensated for their losses because the cases of the juveniles who owed the restitution had been vacated by Order of the Supreme Court. During the FY 10/11 budget process, SB 1042 was amended to essentially incorporate the provisions of an amended version of HB 2572. SB 1042(2141) was signed into law by Governor Rendell as Act 46 of 2010 on July 6, 2010.

Act 46 of 2010 amended the Crime Victims Act to create the SPECIAL JUVENILE VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND. The Fund, created primarily through the transfer of $500,000 transfer from the Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund established under the Crime Victims Act, will be administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

Act 46 provides that only certain crime victims in counties of the third class would be entitled to receive compensation from this fund upon meeting the specified criteria to receive compensation from the fund. These criteria, which would have the impact of further limiting eligibility to Luzerne County crime victims, include the following:

- a juvenile delinquency petition was filed in the county which alleged that the victim was a victim of a crime committed by a juvenile
- the juvenile delinquency petition was disposed of prior to May 31, 2008, by the entry of a consent decree or an adjudication of delinquency entered by a court of common pleas in the county
- after December 31, 2008, the consent decree or adjudication of delinquency previously entered was vacated by order of the Supreme Court
- following the vacating of the consent decree or adjudication of delinquency, the Supreme Court or a Special Master appointed by the Supreme Court issued a written determination stating:
  - that the victim suffered monetary loss, expense or damage as a result of the alleged crime
  - that the court of common pleas in the county had previously entered an order directing that the victim was entitled to restitution or compensation for the victim’s loss, expense or damage which was vacated prior to the victim’s receiving payment in full
  - that the victim is entitled to receive a compensation award for pain and suffering endured in connection with the victim’s contact with the juvenile justice system
  - and that the amount of compensation award to be paid to the victim for pain and suffering shall equal the amount of restitution the victim would have been entitled to had the consent decree or adjudication of delinquency previously entered not been vacated, less any restitution and compensation previously paid to the victim in connection with the alleged crime.

Act 46 of 2010 also provides that the following apply regarding the calculation of the amount of restitution and compensation previously paid to victims:

- the Supreme Court or Special Master appointed by the Supreme Court shall request, the PCCD shall disclose, information concerning applications for an award of compensation and compensation award payments previously made by the PCCD to the victim in connection with the crime
- the Supreme Court or Special Master appointed by the Supreme Court shall include any monetary loss, expense or damage that the Supreme Court or Special Master determines has been or will be paid to or on behalf of the victim by any insurance or health or welfare programs, pension

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Fall 2010 Staff Development Schedule:

The JCJC/CJJT&R Fall 2010 Staff Development Schedule has been posted on-line and is open for registrations. You can access the training registration system and/or download a copy of the training booklet by visiting the JCJC website and clicking on “Training” in the left margin. There are 18 training programs being offered this season, eight of which are new.

As is our tradition, the first program of the season is the Orientation for New Juvenile Probation Officers held in Mechanicsburg on August 30-September 3 and continuing on September 20-24. The “On-line Learners Orientation” and “Juvenile Act” online course should be completed prior to attending the second week of the live Orientation program for new probation officers in September. As a reminder, Phase I Staff Safety has been incorporated within the Orientation training beginning in the spring of this year.

As the training season gets underway, we would like to draw your attention to several workshops being held early in the season, including “Understanding Economic and Cultural Differences” scheduled for September 9, a one-day workshop, in the Allentown area as the first of our regional fall offerings. Bruce Schaffer will lead “Heroin and Other Narcotic Drug Abuse” on September 14-15 in State College. This program was held first in the spring and closed as full so quickly that we decided to repeat it this fall. “Looking in the Mirror,” a different sort of cultural competence experience will be held on September 15-16 in State College. The first of our Pittsburgh area regional trainings is a unique one-day workshop led by Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman entitled “How Our Kids are Learning to Kill and Learning to Like It: The Relationship between Media Violence and Violent Crime” on September 29 near Monroeville. The month concludes with two overlapping programs in State College including “Teaching Adolescents Anger Management” on September 29-30 and “Firearms and Weapon Safety for Juvenile Probation Officers” another one-day offering on September 30. Please refer to the staff development schedule for details.

LUZERNE COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS  Continued from Pg 3

programs including those providing for disability or survivor’s benefits, any other public funds, or under a settlement or award made by or on behalf of a party alleged to be responsible in whole or in part for the injury without regard to the party’s criminal liability

- the Supreme Court or Special Master may require, as a condition of receiving an award, that a victim disclose the amount of restitution and compensation previously received in connection with the crime

In regard to the Victim Witness Services Fund, Act 46 of 2010 provided that on July 1, 2011, the State Treasurer was to transfer the sum of $1,000,000 from the Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund to the Victim Witness Services Fund to supplement, and to be distributed together with, other money of the Victim Witness Services Fund used to provide victim of juvenile offender grants to counties.
The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 3-5, 2010
at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Sponsored by
The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

Youth Awards Program & Dinner
Wednesday, November 3

Annual Training and Awards Program
Thursday, November 4

Resource Day – 2010
Friday, November 5

Keynote Speaker, Judge Steven C. Teske

The 2010 Annual Training and Awards Program will conclude by presenting Resource Day – 2010, during which representatives from residential programs, electronic monitoring companies, drug testing companies, and other service providers will “set up shop” to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

Registration open in August: www.jcjc.state.pa.us

For vendor information, please call Rick Steele, 717-705-5633 or e-mail ricsteele@state.pa.us
On June 29 and 30, 2010, fifteen county teams received training in the utilization of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS) assessment instrument. Over sixty-five individuals participated in the event. At the conclusion of the training, thirty-two county staff were prepared for certification as Master Trainers in the use of the YLS. These Master Trainers will now be responsible to return to their home counties and train all staff on the use of the YLS assessment instrument.

The training included presentations by: Dr. Gina Vincent, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and national expert on research-based risk assessment instruments; Beth Fritz, Cindi Wess and Sam Miller, Chiefs of Lehigh, Cambria and Cumberland counties respectively; and Rick Steele of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission. The bulk of the training, however, was presented by Rita Tannous, Dawn Schantz and Ben Rea, probation officers in Northampton County, along with Shannon Semmel, supervisor in Lehigh County. These staff will be responsible for certifying the Master Trainers.

Participating counties included: Adams, Armstrong, Bradford, Centre, Columbia, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northumberland, Sullivan/Wyoming, Venango and Westmoreland. With their addition to the project, there are now twenty-six counties active in the YLS Project. Plans are for an additional ten counties to join the project in the spring of 2011. These activities are supported by a PCCD grant administered by the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

The YLS is designed to measure risk levels (Low, Moderate, High) relating to the examination of forty-two risk/need factors over the following eight domains: Prior & Current Offenses, Family Circumstances/Parenting, Education/Employment, Peer Relations, Substance Abuse, Leisure/Recreation, Personality/Behavior, Attitudes/Orientation. Any of the domains may also be identified as areas of strength, significantly impacting the final assessment outcome. Ultimately, a case is assigned an overall risk level of Low, Moderate, High or Very High based on these, and other factors gathered through a structured interview/information gathering process. A professional over-ride is available when assigning overall risk level. The risk levels assigned to the various domains, as well as to the case overall, are not directly tied with any particular disposition alternative. The YLS is designed only to assist in making structured and consistent professional decisions, and does not mandate specific actions or dispositions.

Assessment of risk is only part of the usefulness of the YLS. One of the more important aspects of the initiative is that the results from the assessment are being used to develop a more comprehensive case planning process for juveniles that focuses on reducing identified risk factors and emphasizing identified strengths. The YLS risk and need domains have been shown through research to be the strongest predictors of youth crime/potential recidivism. As such, case plans that address specifically identified risk and need areas should effectively reduce the risk to recidivate. Focused, goal directed and strength-influenced case plans also provide direction for the probation officer, youth and family throughout the period of supervision. Assessment-driven case plans are effective regardless of the level of intervention determined to be appropriate. Project counties have, or will, develop case plan documents and procedures that reflect these considerations.

For more information about the YLS Project activities, contact Beth Fritz at elizabethfritz@lehighcounty.org or Rick Steele at ricsteele@state.pa.us.
June 15, 2010

Juvenile Justice Professionals,

On behalf of the Juvenile Detention Centers’ Association of PA, I wanted to extend an invitation for our annual conference to you and your associates. I hope you and your staff take advantage of this opportunity, not only to receive the most current information on issues relating to juvenile detention, but also as time to network with fellow professionals in the juvenile justice field from across the nation. This year, JDCAP celebrates ten years of data collection and all of the new programming that has evolved from the use of the MAYSI.

Included in this packet you will find our Tentative Agenda. For registration and hotel information, please visit www.jdcap.org. The conference will be held October 6-8, 2010 at The Lancaster Host and Conference Center. The theme is Detention: An Intervention.

I look forward to seeing you in October. If you have additional questions, please contact me at the phone number above.

Sincerely,

Wayne R. Bear
JDCAP Executive Director
Register Now for National Night Out 2010 – August 3rd

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) has announced that the “27th Annual National Night Out (NNO) program will culminate on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.

Any municipality, law enforcement agency, crime prevention organization, community group or neighborhood that is interested in participating is invited to contact NATW now to receive information on National Night Out 2010. There is no cost to register. Once registered with NATW, local coordinators receive an organizational kit full of ‘how-to’ materials including planning suggestions, sample new releases, artwork, and promotional guides – and interim updates throughout the year.

NNO 2009 involved over 36 million people in 14,625 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. National Night Out 2010 is expected to be the largest ever. Once again this year, Target is a national corporate sponsor.

National Night Out, a year-long community building campaign, is designed to: (1) Heighten crime prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities and towns celebrate National Night Out with a variety of special citywide and neighborhood events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, festivals, visits from local officials and law enforcement, safety fairs, and youth events.

Don't delay! Organizing in most communities begins early in the year. For free registration material call 1-800-NITE OUT or visit the National Night Out website at www.nationalnightout.org

Contact: Matt Peskin, National Project Coordinator, 610-649-7055.

Stephen Bishop Appointed Deputy Director of the CJJT&R

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission in conjunction with the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) is pleased to announce that Stephen Bishop was appointed to the position of Deputy Director of the CJJT&R, effective July 17, 2010.

Mr. Bishop graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors Degree in Criminology/Pre-Law in 1997, and is a 2001 graduate of the JCJC-sponsored Masters Degree Program in Administration of Justice at Shippensburg University. Mr. Bishop began his career with Dauphin County Juvenile Probation in 1998, and served in various positions including a school-based probation supervisor.

In 2004, Mr. Bishop joined the staff of the Center as the Assistant Director of Training. In addition to helping to organize and administering every aspect of the Center’s training programs, Mr. Bishop was integral in expanding the Center’s training program to include web-based training opportunities, including the design of an on-line Juvenile Act course. In 2008, Stephen was appointed to the position of Coordinator of the JCJC Graduate Education Program, in which he was responsible for the direct oversight of the weekend graduate program at Shippensburg University.

In his new role, Mr. Bishop will be responsible for assisting in the oversight of all program areas of the CJJT&R. He will also continue to provide the coordination of the weekend graduate program, on-site monitoring and evaluation of counties receiving Specialized Probation Services funding from the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, and conduct court service visits. Mr. Bishop can be reached at the Center at (717) 477-1294 or spbish@ship.edu.

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Roger Strait retired as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the Fulton County Court of Common Pleas on July 31, 2010. Roger had been with the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Office for 35 years. Strait began his tenure with Fulton County as a court deputy andretires as the Director of Juvenile and Adult Probation and Domestic Relations. Chief Strait began the county community service project which has been a community asset for many years. Roger plans to spend time with his family, his wife, children and grandchildren and hopes to do a lot more traveling. Dan Miller, Supervisor, has been appointed interim director.

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission-sponsored Graduate Education program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2013 will begin classes in the fall of 2011. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2010.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a practicum study which is conducted throughout the two-year program. This practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate an existing program or practice that serves juvenile offenders in their home county, or another existing program or practice that impacts the juvenile justice system (i.e. prevention, assessment).

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled during the month of August. This program is available to county juvenile probation officers (and county juvenile detention staff as space allows) who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Other juvenile justice professionals – such as residential placement staff and victim services providers – may also apply and be accepted into the program on a “self-pay” basis (or via an employer), again, as space is available.

Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination.

Additional information about the program is available on the Graduate Education pages of the JCJC website. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact Stephen Bishop at 717-477-1294.
The National Center for Juvenile Justice has published “Juvenile Court Statistics, 2006-2007,” which was developed with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Drawing on data from the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, the report profiles the nearly 1.7 million delinquency cases handled each year by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction in 2006 and 2007. It also describes trends in delinquency cases processed by juvenile courts between 1985 and 2007 and status offense cases handled between 1995 and 2007.

Resources:

On March 27-17, 2011, the National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law will be held in Reno, NV. Sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the conference will provide presenters with a forum to address a multidisciplinary audience of professionals working in America’s juvenile and family courts.

Resources:
To submit a presentation proposal, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q2GSN19.
Proposals should be transmitted by September 15, 2010, and questions may be addressed to Diane Barnette, Director, Conference Planning and Marketing, at dbarnette@ncjfcj.org.
Further information about the conference, including registration, will be posted on JUVJUST as it becomes available. If you are not a subscriber, enroll at https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/listservs/subscribe_JUVJUST.asp.

The request was issued in connection with the Coordinating Council’s examination of federal policies and practices that affect children, youth, and families in four priority areas:
• education and at-risk youth
• juvenile reentry and transitions into adulthood
• racial/ethnic disparities in juvenile justice and related systems
• tribal youth and juvenile justice.

Interested individuals and organizations are invited to submit ideas, insights, reflections, and suggestions related to juvenile justice and related sectors.

Comments must be received by August 9, 2010, to be considered.

Resources:
To view the Coordinating Council’s Request for Public Comments and access its detailed guidance on submitting comments, visit www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-07-08/pdf/2010-16696.pdf.
Comments may be submitted online at www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R-0900006480b14b40.

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has released “America’s Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010.” The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is one of the 22 Federal agencies that constitute the Forum.

Since 1997, the Forum has published this annual report, which provides detailed information on the welfare of children and families, alternating between a comprehensive report and a condensed version highlighting selected indicators, as is the case this year.

This year’s edition reports on child welfare indicators spanning seven domains: family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. The brief concludes with a summary table displaying recent changes in all 40 indicators.

Resources:
“America’s Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010” is available online at www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp.
July 16, 2010 - Brief Examines Relationship Between Childhood Trauma and Juvenile Justice Involvement

The Justice Policy Institute has released “Healing Invisible Wounds: Why Investing in Trauma-Informed Care for Children Makes Sense.”

The brief examines the relationship between childhood trauma and involvement in the juvenile justice system. According to the brief, while research shows that up to 34 percent of children in the United States have experienced at least one traumatic event, between 75 and 93 percent of youth entering the juvenile justice system annually are estimated to have experienced some degree of trauma.

Resources:

For further information about the brief, see the Justice Policy Institute’s press release at www.justicepolicy.org/content-hmID=1811&smID=1581&ssmID=102.htm#press.

July 22, 2010 - SAMHSA Meeting To Promote Effective Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment

On December 14-16, 2010, in Baltimore, MD, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will hold its annual Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (JMATE).

Cosponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and other SAMHSA partners, JMATE seeks to enhance adolescent substance abuse treatment and recovery by providing a forum for the exchange of information among researchers, practitioners, youth and their families, policymakers, and community members. The theme of the 2010 JMATE is “Synergy Envisioned—Action Inspired.”

Resources:
To obtain further information about the 2010 JMATE and register online, visit www.jmate.org/jmate2010/.

Position Available:

Penn State Wilkes-Barre invites applications for a faculty position in Administration of Justice, Assistant Professor, (tenure-track, 36 weeks) to begin August 2011, or as negotiated.

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice