

Fish Culture

Biomass: What is it and how does it apply to YBAC?

Biomass isn't something fisherman give a great deal of thought to, or any thought for that matter, but it affects how YBAC raises and stocks trout from the nursery. So what is biomass and why does biomass matter to YBAC?

Biomass is the number of pounds of something in an area. A simple example would be ten fisherman crowded in a small area of the Breeches on opening day of trout season. Each weighs an average of 180 pounds. 180 times ten equals the biomass of fisherman in that area of the stream. Simple, right? However, when it comes to raising fish the whole thing gets more complicated.

Anyone who has visited the nursery knows that we get our water from Lutztown run; a small spring fed run at the edge of our property. Water volume, measured in cubic feet per minute, varies throughout the year depending on the season and how much water seeps into the aquifer that feed the springs. In the Spring water volume tends to be higher with run off from melting snow and Spring rains. During the Summer months it is lower.

Now everyone knows that fish poop. Some of the waste gets pumped out when the fish runs get cleaned several times a year. The rest washes into Lutztown run which can only handle so much fish waste. Water flow volume in the run and through the nursery complicates the matter. For this reason we are limited to a biomass of 20,000 pounds of fish in the nursery at any one time as determined by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

In aquaculture, biomass is related to fish size. Our fish are being fed super premium food, so they are bigger, healthier, and more colorful than those stocked by the Fish Commission and many other nurseries for that matter. It is the "bigger" part that affects biomass. Our fish grow at about half an inch every month on average. Size is not an issue when we get 36,000 fingerlings a few inches long in July. It becomes a problem when those 36,000 fish are eight to ten inches long in March. Bigger fish means more fish waste going into Lutztown run. All of that fish waste eventually ends up in the Yellow Breeches Creek.

So how do we know how much biomass is in the nursery? Biomass is calculated by measuring a sampling of fish. Twelve and one half inches of fish equals one pound using the PFBC rule of thumb. Since Browns grow more slowly than Rainbows, the species have to be calculated separately and added together. The total number of fish inches is divided by 12.5 to find the biomass of fish in the nursery. We count fish for stocking purposes, but it also helps to know how many we have in our nursery runs when calculating biomass.

As was said earlier, our fish grow at about half an inch per month on average, so the biomass in March can be projected in December. The Spring stocking schedule is designed to manage our biomass. Randy Raudabaugh, our nursery manager, keeps a close eye on fish growth and advises Rick Fetchko, our stocking manager, when we are getting close to our 20,000 pound limit. This year Rick scheduled a rare preseason stocking event in addition to the regular events to reduce the number of fish because they were getting big. By early June the fingerlings were received last July will be gone except for a few holdovers. The runs will be drained and cleaned and prepared to start the process all over again in July.

YELLOW BREECHES
ANGLERS & CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.
Box 1, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-0001

Nursery Report

If you have stopped by the nursery lately you may probably noticed that one of our lower runs which would normally be full of fingerlings at this time of year is empty. We did receive 13,000 fingerlings on July 7, but water flow through Lutztown run which feed the nursery is very low this Summer. With limited flow and reduced oxygen, Randy Raudabaugh made the decision, with the agreement of the Fish Commission, to only take one third of our allotment at this time. Taking the all at once could have meant an unnecessary high mortality rate. When flow rate through the nursery improves, we will get the balance of our fingerlings.

Sweat Equity

When you help build your own house you get credit from the bank for your sweat equity. Your contribution to the building of your home. YBAC has the same situation with the new garage project. We are blessed to have many members who have the skills to perform a good deal of the work saving the club money. A few weeks ago our sweat equity team spent a very hot day digging a ditch to install power and water lines for the new garage project. Using some borrowed equipment and a lot of muscle, these members made a huge contribution to the project. Later they will be working to finish the inside (wiring, lights, water, etc.). Thanks to Rick Sauder and everyone on his team for their time and effort on this project.

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARLISLE, PA
PERMIT NO. 485

President Andy Madison
1st V-President Chris Kuba
2nd V-President Doug Alichwer
Treasurer Chris Brandt
Secretary Craig Sunday
Nursery Mgr. Randy Raudabaugh
Stocking Mgr. Rick Fetchko

General Membership Meeting
1st Tuesday each month except December
7:00 PM at the Nursery

Directors Meeting
1st Tuesday each month
after Members meeting

Yellow Breeches Anglers And Conservation Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania 17007-0001
ybacnursery.org



Third Quarter 2023

NEWSLETTER

Printed on recycled paper

In This Issue

Fish Culture—Biomass and YBAC—back
Sustaining Members—inside right
Garage project pics—inside right
Nursery news—back
Gun Raffle/Pig Roast—front page
Mud Snails—inside right

Barnitz Church Stream Improvement

If you haven't fished at Barnitz Church up the Pine Road outside of Mount Holly Springs lately, you've missed some significant improvements to the stream bank along the church property side of the stream. CVTU partnered with the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Barnitz United Methodist Church, and others to install logs and rock veins as a means to stop erosion of the bank. Space under the logs also provide cover for the fish and we spotted many small wild brown trout while there. Areas of the bank have been cleared of some brush making fishing from the bank a better experience for younger fishermen. It is also easier to get into the stream if you are wading. Check out the work next time you are up the Pine Road.



**Fall Stocking Schedule
Sorry. The Stocking schedule is
for YBAC members only.
Join today online!**

YBAC at Craighead House

Craighead House on Old York Road (rt. 174) is holding a free event on August 26. Our own Mike Ritts will be a featured presenter talking about and demonstrating fly fishing techniques, and YBAC will have a presence as well, selling memberships, Gun Raffle rickets and apparel. The event begins at 9:00 AM and runs until 3:00 PM. The Craighead twins were well known naturalists, Falconers, survival trainers for US Navy pilots during World War II, pioneered a study of Grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park, and were expert Fly Fishermen. In addition to the fly fishing demonstration, Falconers will be on hand to demonstrate the sport started by the Craighead twins. A number of other Conservation organizations will be on hand to answer questions on a wide variety of subjects. The event is free with parking next to and across the road from Craighead House. For more on the Craighead family go www.craigheadhouse.org.

New Website address

Our website team of Ed Lewandoski, Chris Brandt, and Doug Alichwer have been working hard on upgrades to the YBAC website. One of the new improvements is our new domain name. Our website can now be accessed directly at www.ybacnursery.com.

Members and prospective members have been asking to be able to sign up on line. That feature went active in late May. You can renew your membership and print a card through the website. More improvement are on the way. Keep checking back.

Goin fishin'?

Please keep the stream clean. Take your snack wrappers, plastic bottles, and old line with you when you go. Respect the water and the land.
OR abuse it and lose it.

Gun Raffle/Pig Roast

The Gun Raffle and Pig Roast are schedule d for September 16 at the nursery. The event opens at 11:00 AM and goes until 4:00 PM. Food service stops at 2:00 PM. Winning tickets will start being drawn at 12:30 PM.

The day will include other raffles, games of chance and music. Gun raffle tickets include a meal. For non-ticket holding guests, the meal is \$10. This is a BYOB event. Soda and water included with the meal.

The food menu includes pulled pork, macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans, chip, hotdogs and hamburgers.

This year the Gun Raffle includes twenty-five rifles and shotguns from Henry, Mossberg, Ruger, Savage Arms, Winchester, and more. See the complete list on our website or better yet, buy a ticket. Only \$20.

Set-up for the day begins at 9:00 AM. We need as many as twenty volunteers for set-up, tear down, serving, grilling, games of chance, parking, shirt and hat sales, membership, and more. Too request tickets or volunteer, contact Chris Kuba at 717-747-4990 or email Chris at chriskuba1965@gmail.com.

All unsold tickets must be returned to YBAC by September 1, 2023. Drop them at the clubhouse or mail sold and unsold tickets to: YBAC

P.O. 1
Boiling Springs, PA 17007-0001

One last thing: If you indicated that you would not attend the event, but have since changed your mind, please text 717-747-4990 or 717-713-1161 to let us know you will attend.

If you have a pop-up canopy, feel free to bring it and some bag chairs along.

Membership Report As of 7/11/23

Adult 1,291
Junior 109
Life 29
Total 2023 members 1,429
New members for 2023 307
Members not renewed

PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY

Name _____ New member _____ Renew _____ Adult _____ Junior _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

2024 Limited Edition Lapel Pins and Patches are available.

A membership card will be mailed to you for the cost of membership: \$20 adult \$3 Jr. (under 16). If you want the club membership button or lapel pin mailed to you there is a **\$3.50 s/h fee**. Multiple items can be sent for a single **\$3.50** charge. Memberships, buttons, patches, and lapel pins can be obtained at club functions without additional postage fees. All donations, whatever amount, are gratefully accepted. Our original "Feed the Fish for a Day" program has become quite expensive, almost \$100. A bag of feed is about \$40 so let those figures guide your giving and thank you very much for any donation you may afford.

Sustaining Member Club Donations	
_____ Rainbow(\$25-\$49)	_____ Brook(\$50-\$99)
_____ Brown(\$100 +)	
Amount donated \$ _____	

ADULT MEMBERSHIP (\$20)

JR. MEMBERSHIP (under 16 yrs.)(\$3) \$ _____
 # OF 2024 LAPEL PIN(S) @ \$6.50 EA. _____=\$_____
 # OF 2024 PATCHES @ \$6.50 EA. _____=\$_____
 S/H \$3.50 (FOR CLUB BUTTON, LAPEL PINS) \$ _____
SUSTAINING MEMBER DONATION \$ _____
OTHER DONATION \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

New Garage Construction under way

Construction of our new garage began in early June and was promptly delayed by several days of rain which prevented the pouring of the concrete floor. As you can see from the first picture, the new structure is built directly behind the existing garage. The equipment shed which was an add-on to the original garage was demolished and the pad for the new garage poured right next to it. When completed the new structure will house an equipment room with a roll-up door and a separate area for the stocking truck. A half story second floor is also planned. The existing garage will become the new feed room allowing the club to make bulk feed purchases to save money and store everything at the nursery.



Garage project pictures

Top left-Old equipment room demolished and forms set.
 Top right-Superstructure up for the expansion.
 Lower left-Demo work in the original garage cabinet & shelving.
 Lower right-Siding on. Equipment room door opening visible.

New YBAC Sweatshirt

A great many members have requested that the club sell sweatshirts. In response, we now have sweatshirts available for sale at the club. It may not be sweatshirt weather right now, but we have a limited quantity available, so don't wait. The sweatshirts are Kelly green with yellow sleeve print and YBAC on the front. No printing on the back. The sweatshirts will sell for \$30 and come in large, extra large and XXL. Color picture on the website.

Time to think about renewing your membership for 2024. Use the form on the opposite page or renew online at www.ybacnursery.com

Invasion of the New Zealand Mud Snails

Sounds like a title for a "B" grade horror movie doesn't it? Unfortunately for anglers in central PA it is a real threat to our stream ecology. New Zealand Mud Snails are tiny; only 6 mm long; about the size of a match head. They are already in three Central Pennsylvania streams and can easily transfer on waders, boots, wading staffs, etc. Mud Snails multiply rapidly and can easily crowd out native aquatic populations including insects that fish feed on as well as other aquatic life. One square foot of stream can hold as many as 28,000 of the tiny creatures. A square yard can hold as many as 500,000. They disrupt the natural ecosystem of streams by consuming all of the algae denying aquatic insects their food source.

YBAC recently had their 2023 Mud Snail inspection and we passed. To date we are mud snail free. In order to be as certain as possible that we remain that way, new protocols are in place to prevent the transfer of mud snails to our nursery. First, Nursery Manager Randy Raudabaugh has received permission to purchase waders to be used exclusively at the nursery. Members helping with maintenance in the runs, counting fish, etc., must wear the waders provided by the club. No personal waders will be permitted in the runs.

Now the question is, "how do I make sure I don't have any mud snails on my equipment and how do I get rid of them if I do?" Here is some advice from the National Park Service:

- Thoroughly clean all gear that comes in contact with water prior to moving to another location.
- Have extra waders and boots for use in infested waters only. Store them separately.
- After leaving the water, inspect waders, boots, float tubes, boats and trailers, dogs and any gear used in the water.
- Remove viable snails with a stiff brush and follow with a rinsing.
- If possible, freeze or completely dry out wet gear before reuse.
- Never transport live fish or other aquatic animals or plants from one body of water to another.

Remember, if YBAC gets an infestation of mud snails and the Yellow Breeches is snail free, we will no longer be able to put our fish in the stream. These snails can live for several days out of the water and it only takes one snail to start something that cannot be reversed.

For more information on New Zealand Mud Snails please refer to the following web site: [Invasive Animal Species: Mud Snails - Yosemite National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/invasive/species/mud-snails-yosemite-national-park).



Sustaining Members since the Second Quarter 2023 issue

Rainbow Brian E. Townsley William S. Miller IV Steven Switzer Troy Conrad	Brook John Kiessling	Brown Robert Grochalski Gerald Weaver Jack Myers Terry Bluge
Thank you donors		



Saturday August 26th
MT. HOLLY SPRINGS PENNSYLVANIA, 8am-5pm



PRECISIONFLYANDTACKLE.COM | 717-486-4646
 GEAR • GUIDE TRIPS • EDUCATION • LODGING • LIVE BAIT
 Mount Holly Springs, PA • Lancaster, PA • Beaver Creek, MD

Saturday's Events

Destination Trip Presentations

Northern Pike on Canadian Lakes

A where to, how to, what to take, basic primer for fishing lakes and rivers in Canada with fly tackle and conventional gear.
 - Mike Klimkos

Alaskan Adventures Trophy Fly Fishing Trip Summer 2025

Precision Fly and Tackle is pleased and excited to announce we will be hosting a 6 day/7 night trip of a lifetime to the Bristol Bay region of Alaska to fly fish for salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char, and grayling. - Tom Herr

Orvis 101 Fly Fishing Classes

Fly Fishing 101 classes are a great way to introduce yourself to the world of fly fishing.

Educational Presentations

- Summer Spring Creek Strategies with Mike Heck
- Steelhead with Ben John with Ben John
- Smallmouth on the Fly with Ben John

