

What is Electroshock Surveying?

The process recently done in Paradise Stream is part of the larger stream remediation project made possible by a local grant.



If you were walking along Beach Road near the Grimm cottage last Friday morning (August 4, 2023), you were witness to a strange, yet fascinating, operation underway. Thanks to a Local Share Authority Grant received in 2021, Paradise Falls has undertaken a stream improvement project to improve the habitat for our fish and other stream creatures, birds, and insects.

In mid-2021, PFLA was awarded this LSA grant of more than \$100,000 over three years by Paradise Township to finish repairing the dam and to perform a planned stream remediation project.

On August 4, Don Baylor, an aquatic biologist with Aquatic Resource Consulting in East Stroudsburg, his assistant Chris Hartzler, Bill Simolike, chair of PF's Hunting & Fishing Committee, and his brother Jerry, performed the first part of a two-year survey to record the marine life in Paradise Stream.



They made two passes of roughly 180 feet of the stream just below the dam and scooped up 130 trout, several eels, some white suckers, two kinds of minnows (black-nosed dace and cutlips), and a few small, large-mouth bass. Of the 130 trout counted, 129 were brown and one was a rainbow.



In order to capture the fish safely, a harmless electro-shocking process was used, rendering them inert for a few moments with low-voltage electric shocks—long enough to be scooped up in the men’s nets and deposited into a large trash can. The fish were then counted, weighed and measured, and returned to the stream, unharmed.

Over the next few weeks, rock cross vanes—a system of rocks of different sizes placed underwater on angles—will deepen the stream, give the fish places to hide and help prevent stream bank erosion. According to Bill Simolike, this should also help improve insect life, helping birds as well as fish.



“After a year or two, we will survey the same section of the stream again and compare the results,” says Bill. “In most cases, an increase in size and number of fish will be recorded during the second survey, which proves the benefits of the stream improvement project.”

Positive results from the second survey can then be used as validation when applying for subsequent grants, he adds.



A second stream remediation project (using grant money) is scheduled for this fall or next spring on a section of the stream below the Falls.

