

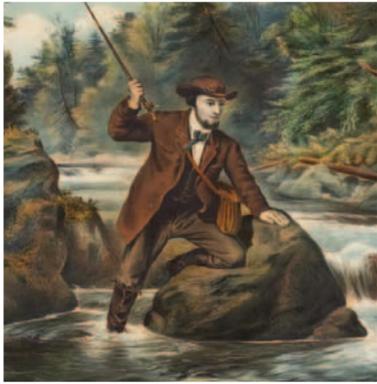
Dedicated to the Memory of
Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.



PLAY

Winter
2016

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth



Flowing through Time with PFBC

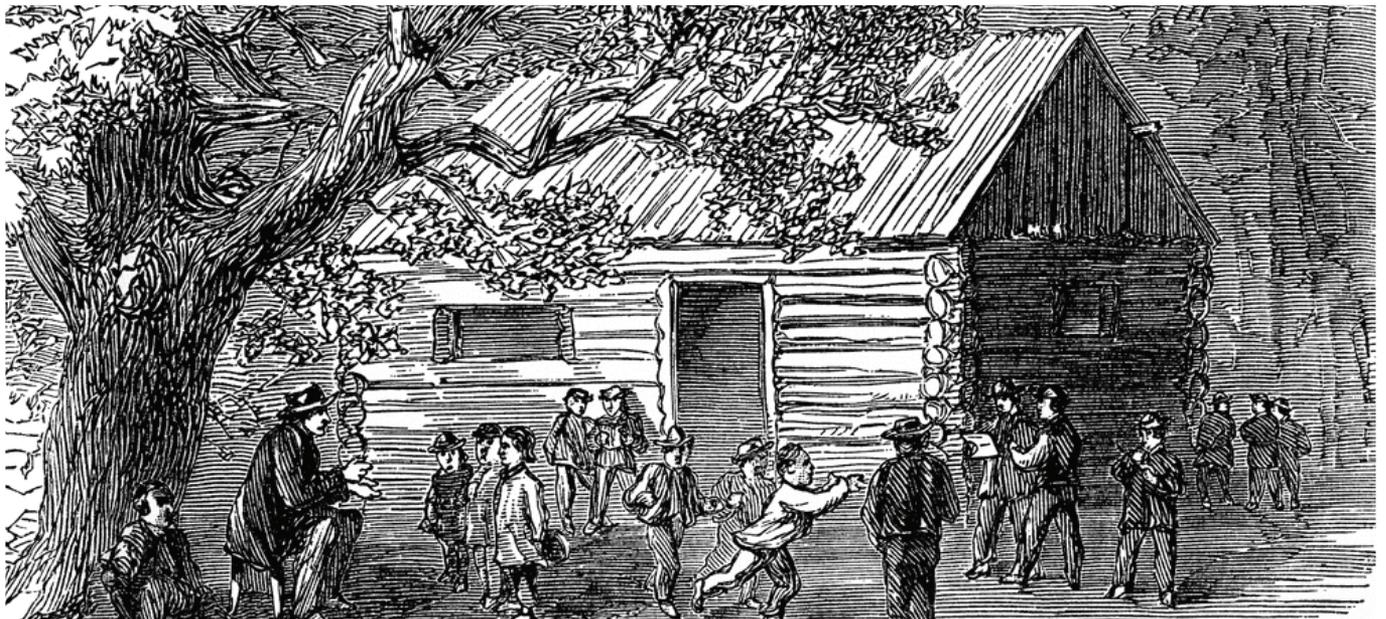
*"An Anxious Moment,"
Currier & Ives, painted
by A.F. Tait on stone by
C. H. Parsons.*



The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) was established on March 30, 1866. Pennsylvania's Governor Andrew Curtin signed a law creating the Commissioner of Fisheries. He appointed Colonel James Worrall to be the first Commissioner.

Back then, kids went to one-room schools. All of the grades were taught together in the same room. Chalk and pieces of slate were used to do their work. Candles

and lanterns were used for light. Kids of that time could not have imagined the technology used in schools today. While much has changed since 1866, the importance of education has not. This issue of *PLAY* looks at the Commission's history of using education in carrying out its mission. Happy 150th Anniversary, PFBC.



A one-room school

1866-1941: Launching the Agency

The Civil War had just ended, and conservation and migrating fish became important. In the beginning, the Commissioner worked hard to convince people of the importance of conservation and fishways for migrating American Shad. He spent a lot of time travelling to meetings talking about American Shad and other fish, often travelling by train.

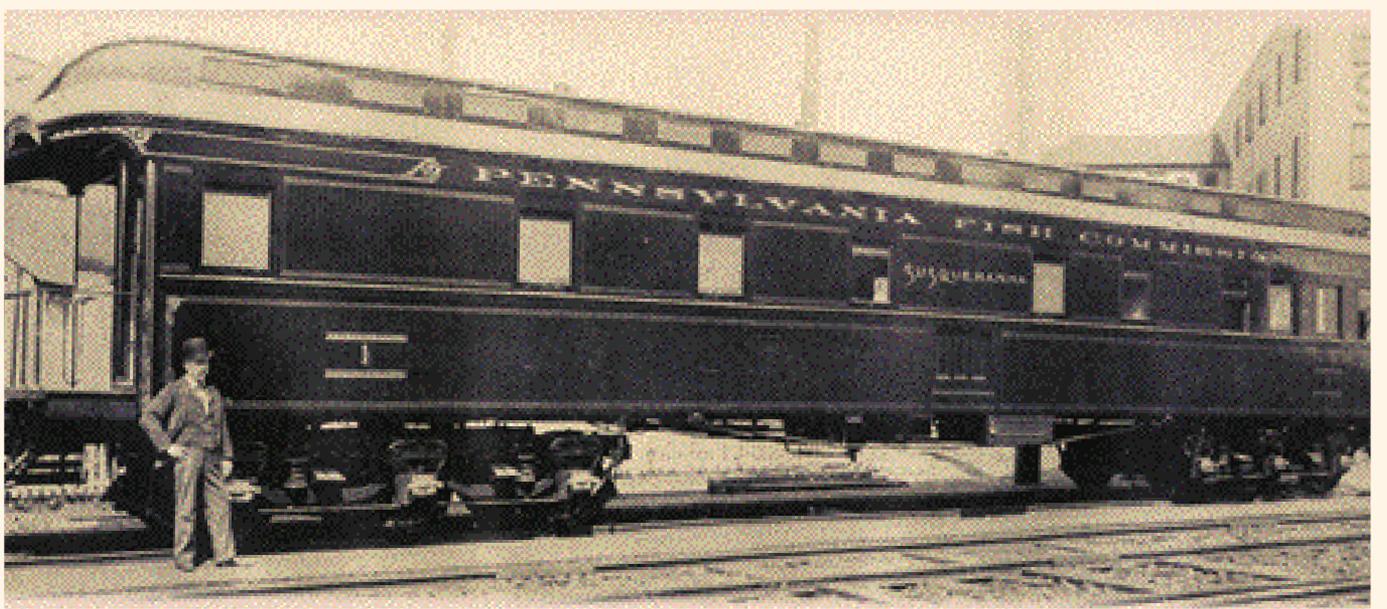
In 1892, the agency built a special railcar, named the "Susquehanna." It was used to haul fish that were stocked in waters around Pennsylvania. In 1893, it was used to carry live fish and displays to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Then, it went to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The railcar was in operation through 1914.



American Shad being netted by commercial fishermen, Susquehanna Flats, Maryland, 1900.



The PFBC's exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893



The "Susquehanna"

In 1912, the Commission used displays in schools. The displays helped people learn about fish and clean water. The Commission started using motion picture films to help tell that story in the 1930s. In 1931, the Commission produced a magazine called *Pennsylvania Angler*. Articles in the magazine were about Commission efforts and ways to be a better angler. The magazine continues today as *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*.

Highlights from PFBC History

- 1908-A tugboat, named the *Commodore Perry*, was built to help with law enforcement and fish and water studies on Lake Erie.
- 1923-The first license button was issued.
- 1925-A Board of Commissioners was established.



Moving trout in milk cans for stocking from the hatch house, Pleasant Gap State Fish Hatchery, circa 1920.



A vintage fishing license button



The Commission's tugboat, the *Commodore Perry*

1941-1991: Casting Forth the Mission

The next 50 years of the Commission were very busy. The PFBC grew and so did the education efforts. The Commission was involved in summer camps during the 1940s. The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen were important partners in these camps. Many of these camps continue today.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Commission and its partners taught about fish and fishing in schools and community centers. These programs taught basic fishing skills and how to clean and cook fish. Waterways Patrolmen (now called Waterways Conservation Officers) often instructed these programs.

Teaching people about safe boating increased during the 1970s and 1980s. Education about the proper wear and use of a life jacket was most important.

Displays were installed at PFBC hatcheries and hatchery tour booklets about fish were produced. The Commission

began producing maps to guide anglers and boaters to fishing and boating locations. Slide shows and videos were also used at this time by PFBC staff.



The Commission was involved in summer camps during the 1940s.



In the 1950s and 1960s, education efforts grew. The Commission and its partners taught basic fishing skills and how to clean and cook fish.



Teaching people about safe boating increased during the 1970s and 1980s.

Highlights from PFBC History

- 1965-The first class of cadets who would become Waterways Patrolmen graduated from training.
- 1966-The PFBC celebrated its 100th anniversary.
- 1967-The First Fish-for-Free Day was held.
- 1974-Amphibian, reptile and aquatic insect education began.
- 1980-The first issue of the *PLAY* newsletter was published.



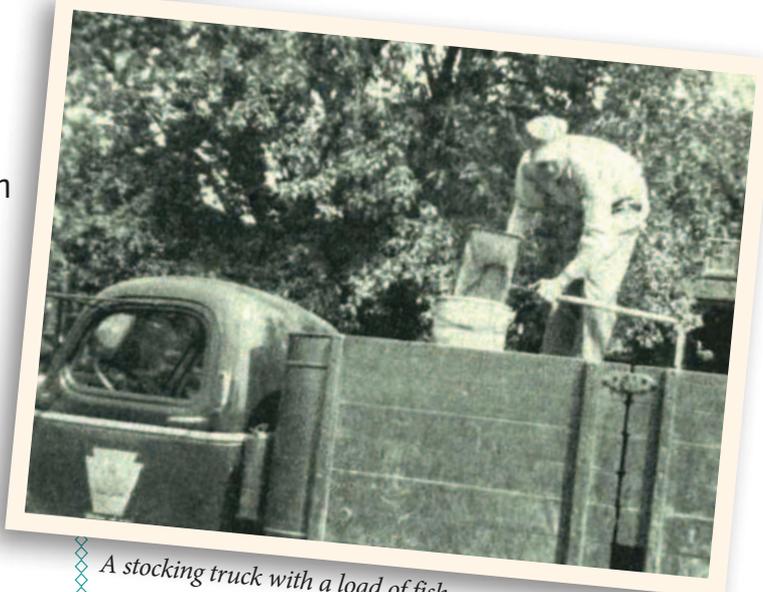
- 1984-Waterways Patrolmen changed their name to Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs). The first female WCO was hired.
- 1987-Resource First became the agency's philosophy.



- 1991-The agency changed its name to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.



Stocking a Pennsylvania stream by bucket



A stocking truck with a load of fish



First graduation class of cadets from H.R. Stackhouse Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety School in 1965.

1991-2016: Propelling into the Future

Today, you may use a laptop or whiteboard in school and a smartphone to do your homework. You may use digital books instead of printed textbooks or even go to a cyber school. Your education has changed with the times.

The PFBC has also changed. Boating education courses can now be taken online.

The agency's website contains links to every Pennsylvania fishing and boating subject imaginable.

You can enjoy online issues of

Pennsylvania Angler & Boater magazine from 1931 to the present. You can print copies of past *PLAY* newsletters, like the one you are reading today. You can even visit staff at



a show in-person one day and watch them on YouTube the next day.

Technology used in education has changed a great deal since 1866, but the goals for education have remained the same. The Commission uses education to help people become better anglers, safer boaters and protectors and stewards of the aquatic resources.

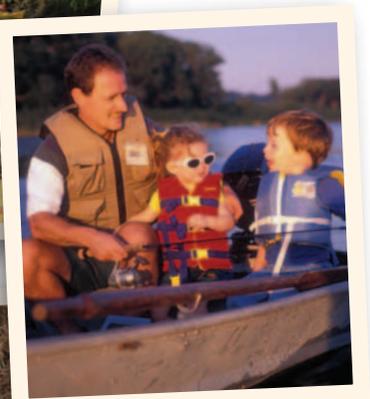
Technology is fun, and video games can be great. Still, it's even more fun to get outdoors with a friend and go fishing or boating. It's healthy, too. So, put aside that Kindle, iPad or Notebook, and prepare to launch into the next generation of conservation education—your own.

Stay Connected with PFBC



Highlights from PFBC History

- 1997-The magazine changes its name to *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*.
- 2002-The Fishing Tackle Loaner Program is started.
- 2006-Family fishing programs began.
- 2008-Trout in the Classroom began.
- 2013-The first Mentored Youth Day was held.
- 2014-The Voluntary Youth Fishing License becomes available. Money raised from the sale of this special license continues to be dedicated to providing programs to youth.



Make a Time Capsule

Sometimes when businesses or schools have a special anniversary celebration, they make something called a time capsule. They take different objects or news articles, place them into a special box and close it up with directions that it cannot be opened until a date in the future. Then, when the box is reopened, the items become a reflection of the past that brings back memories. Complete the following and start creating your own time capsule.



Illustration - Andrea Feeney

Name _____ Age _____ Date _____

Who do you fish and boat with?

What baits, lures and other equipment do you use when fishing?

What months of the year do you fish or boat?

Where do you usually fish or boat?

Why do you like to fish and boat?

With your answers filled in above, save this anniversary issue of the *PLAY* newsletter in your own time capsule, and take it out again in a couple of years. You will have many special memories to enjoy.

PLAY

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Photos: PFBC archives

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