

Pennsylvania Trout In the Classroom (PA TIC) receives PAEE “Government Partner” award

Trout In the Classroom (TIC), an environmental education program in existence for more than 20 years, is now implemented in 25 states. Using TIC as the catalyst, teachers and community partners have been working together to educate students about coldwater resources.

TIC is an interdisciplinary program in which students learn about coldwater conservation while raising trout from eggs to fingerlings in a classroom aquarium. During the year each teacher tailors the program to fit his or her curricular needs. TIC has applications in environment and ecology, science, mathematics, social studies, language and fine arts, and physical education. All classrooms end the year by releasing their trout into a state-approved waterway.

Pennsylvania’s Trout in the Classroom program (PA TIC) was recently awarded the Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Education’s (PAEE) Government Partner award on March 17, 2012. PAEE’s Government Partner award is presented each year to a government official who serves on a local, state or national level and has demonstrated significant support for environmental education within the Commonwealth. This year the award was presented to PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), PA Council of Trout Unlimited (PA TU), and PA Department of Education Environment & Ecology (PDE) for their support of Trout In the Classroom (TIC).

This year’s PAEE award is a testament to the efforts and resources that many Pennsylvania individuals and agencies/organizations have provided in order to integrate coldwater resource education into Pennsylvania classrooms. In 2006, PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), PA Council of Trout Unlimited (PA TU) and PA Department of Education Environment & Ecology section (PDE) created a partnership to implement Trout In the Classroom (TIC) as a statewide program. The partnership provides funding, technical and educational assistance, workshops, educator/program partner networking opportunities and statewide coordination/shipment of Brook Trout eggs & food from the PFBC Benner Spring Hatchery.

In Pennsylvania, the program has grown from 11 classrooms in 2006-2007 to 187 classrooms in 2011-2012. This growth is a testament to everyone involved with the program and to the program’s adaptability, effectiveness, and appeal to students. Over the last 6 “documented” years, the program has reached approximately 63,000 students statewide. During the 2010-2011 school year, teachers taught over 6,000 hours on topics such as watersheds, egg development, incubation, trout habitat and management.

Many hands are involved in helping to successfully implement Pennsylvania’s program each year. A big thank you goes out to all involved including teachers, program partners (*Trout Unlimited, Conservation Districts, Watershed Associations, Sportsmen Associations, Nature Centers*), PA Council of Trout Unlimited staff and volunteers and PAFBC staff from the Commission’s Bureau of Hatcheries (Benner Spring), Administration, Information and Technology, Law Enforcement, and Boating and Outreach.

For more PA TIC information: www.patrountintheclassroom.org

For more National TIC information: www.troutintheclassroom.org

Photo 1 Caption: The Pennsylvania Trout in the Classroom (PA TIC) program was awarded the Pennsylvania’s Alliance for Environmental Education’s (PAEE) Government Partner award on March 17, 2012, at the PAEE Annual Conference. The award was received by Amidea Daniel

(Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission) and Samantha Kutskel (Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited).