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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

February 2002

Editors Notes

Mother Nature gave us a break in late January and I wasn't about to pass it up. Yea, I know it may be foolish, the water is still too cold, it's high and somewhat cloudy, but you just don't get 55° in January. When you do, you are an even bigger fool for not taking advantage. So what if I lost the feeling in my feet for most of the morning and didn't catch a steelhead, I just had to do it.

I fished hard but managed to roll just two fish. For a time I started to question my judgment. I wonder, is it possible for effects of cold water to travel up your leg and numb the brain? I was beginning to think that this was folly! Afternoon soon arrived and the additional warmth was a welcome delight. The lack of action was of little concern to most who were there. The bright sun on your back gave the impression that spring isn't that far away and that alone made the trip worthwhile.

Mailing Address:

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www.neshannock-tu.org

Membership Meetings:

Are announced in the newsletter and on the website.

Board Meeting:

2nd Monday of each month.
7:00 pm at the MCAR
Building.

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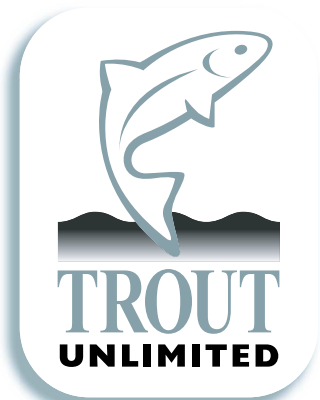
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*Working to conserve, protect, and restore
North America's coldwater fisheries, and their watersheds.*

Chapter Donations for 2001

R. Natoli

We have been successful the past few years with our fund raising efforts. The monies are meant to help promote and preserve our cold water resources. So, with that said, below is a listing of where some of the chapters funds were distributed.

Munnel Run Trout Nursery.....	\$2000
Pa. Trout Unlimited.....	\$550
3CU in care of Bob Hetz.....	\$300
Pennsylvania Clean Waterways.....	\$100
Shenango River Watchers in care of Jennifer Barborak.....	\$100
Fencing for Yellow Creek.....	\$800

Fabulous Opportunity

Jim Rafferty

For the eighth consecutive year, PATU is sponsoring the 2002 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. It is held at the Allenberry Resort Inn in Boiling Springs, Pa. The camp will run from June 16-21, 2002. It is open to qualified students, 14-17. If you know of a youth with interest in fishing, river conservation, and the outdoors please contact me or any board member for more information. We help sponsor this fine tradition. If selected, the camp is paid for by PATU.

This is a serious week of entomology, water ecology, trout behavior, biology of pollution, and politics of conservation. It will be a challenge, but it WILL be fun. The attendee will have a chance to learn from some of the biggest names in the area of cold-water conservation. Dr. Robert Behnke of Colorado State University is considered the foremost trout biologist in the world and he will be an instructor. If you have a son or daughter or know of a youth that is serious about conservation and loves fishing please call.

2002 Banquet Update

N. Loprire

Things are beginning to gel for the upcoming banquet. Greg Hoover is confirmed as our special guest tier along with our "resident" expert tier Dr. Chuck Moxley. Greg is a professor of entomology at PSU and is a passionate fly fisherman. Word has it that in the winter, he and a few friends convene on selected Saturday nights to tie flies and the sessions may last till 3:00 am. At times George Harvey has been known to show up. Wouldn't you like to be a mouse at that tying session? I suspect you could learn a few things by watching those gentlemen not to mention a few hot spots to try your luck.

Remember to try to solicit a prize or two, if possible, for the banquet. Let me know by phone or email (steelhd789@aol.com) if you have questions about soliciting. The value of the prize is tax deductible. If you tie, don't be shy, (I'm starting to rhyme) please consider donating a 1/2 dozen or so. Thanks to Joe Pantel for the beautiful flies he donated.

This year's menu will include Chicken Marsala (chicken done in a wine sauce), stuffed shells, and sliced beef. No one should go away hungry. Draft beer is a \$1.00 and the raffle tickets will be plentiful. Mark those calendars and don't be left out. Remember to buy your tickets early to get a chance at a \$100 gift certificate from Native Custom Rods (Jim Brown).

Cut this out and send it with a SAS envelope for your tickets

2002 Banquet Ticket Order Form

name

address

city/state/zip

\$25 Adult

\$45 Couple

\$10 Kids

Mail checks to:

Neshannock TU
c/o Nick Loprire
109 Southdale Blvd.
Cortland, OH 44410



Come Support Trout Unlimited and have a great evening!!

February Membership Meeting

R. Natoli

The February membership meeting will be held at the MCAR center on January 28 at 7:00 PM. We will have the election of officers that night and any members interested in a position on the board should contact president, Richard Natoli prior to the meeting.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Trapper John. He is a nuisance trapper and the author of a book, "Ask Trapper John". His real name is John Colombo and I am sure that he will be both entertaining and informative. So, bring your favorite pest story. Or, you may have a problem situation with pests that Trapper John could advise you on. Come prepared with your questions.

We will also cover the latest information on the spring banquet. If you have a prize to donate or that was solicited, you can drop it off at the meeting. Come on out and see some friends, have a cup of coffee, a cookie or two and enjoy the evening. Who needs TV.

The Invitation

Kim Sheward

When I was introduced to fly fishing four years ago I never imagined that it would become my passion in life. While on a family trip in Charlevoix, Michigan my brother-in-law invited me and my husband, Russ, on a guided fly-fishing trip. I was hesitant to accept because I knew absolutely nothing about fly fishing. Although my parents took me bait fishing several times as a young child, I had only recently rediscovered fishing and its relaxing and restorative benefits. The few times I had fished as an adult I couldn't bring myself to bait my own hooks with night crawlers. Maybe it's a girl thing, but I just don't like the texture of worms. I could recall, however, the meditative effect of concentrating on a bobber waiting for a fish to bite. I also knew the thrill of reeling in a big one. And so, with trepidation, I accepted my brother-in-law's offer for a quick casting lesson before our six-hour trip down the AuSable River. I did catch four trout that evening, including a spectacularly painted brook trout. I also managed to tangle my line in a tree and hook the guide's hat!

Needless to say, I wasn't convinced that fly fishing

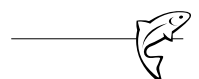
was something I wanted to do every weekend. The expense seemed enormous – there were rods, reels, lines, waders, vests, fly boxes, flies, clippers, tippets, etc. to purchase. Not to mention trying to integrate all the information on hatches, flies, tippets, stream conditions, and presentation. Honestly, I was overwhelmed by the prospect of taking up this hobby. However, my interest had been piqued that warm summer evening in Grayling, Michigan. Sitting in that riverboat as thousands of mayflies danced around my head I felt closer to nature than I ever had in my life. For a few hours my stressful job and the day-to-day insanity of the world melted away.

It wasn't until a month or two after my return from Michigan that I heard about a shop called "Boardman Flyfisherman" (now "Books n' Hooks") where you could take fly casting lessons. I figured what would be the harm in taking a few casting lessons. If I didn't like it, at least I would not have invested hundreds of dollars in equipment. So, on a late summer's day Russ and I met with Dale May for a few casting lessons in Boardman Park. The rest, as they say, is history! Dale convinced me that I didn't need to own a \$600 Sage rod to catch fish – instead I invested in a \$135 St. Croix Imperial rod

that I still use to this day. Most importantly, it was from Dale that I learned that one does not need to know everything there is about fly fishing before participating in the sport. He taught me that the best way to learn is by doing. And so, on Memorial Day weekend 1998, Russ and I loaded our new fishing gear and our Chocolate Labrador "Chevy" in our motor home and headed off to Pennsylvania's Lycoming Creek.

Four years after that momentous evening in Michigan, I have priceless memories of streams fished in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. Each year Russ and I look forward to a new destination and hope to someday visit Alaska, Montana, Colorado and Wyoming. From the petite brook trout in the Shenandoah National Forest to the reel-screaming steelhead on Pennsylvania's Elk Creek, I am enthralled by each fish that I have caught. I am truly blessed to have found a passion in life that I can share with my husband, and I am immensely grateful for my brother-in-law's invitation four years ago.

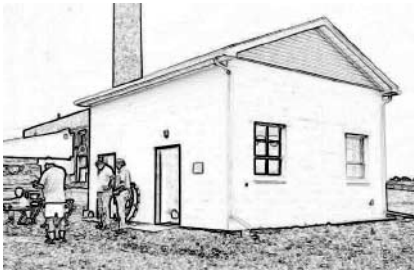
(Editor's note. It's interesting to read how people get started in this great sport)



Help Wanted

Jeff Kremis

The chapter recently purchased six complete fly-fishing outfits and six fly tying vises. We are looking for individuals that would be interested in organizing a fly tying and/or a fly-casting class for beginners. We are also looking to organize a fly fishing workshop for that can be used to fulfill requirements for a merit badge. We are looking for locations to conduct such classes. Please contact Jeff Kremis or R Natoli if interested in either of these endeavors. This is a chance to help promote the sport we love.



Cool Spring DHALOA Spring Stocking

P. Anthony

Anyone interested in helping with the PA F&B Commission's 2002 spring stocking, please contact Pete Anthony at 724.662.2271 or via internet at PANTHONY@PATHWAY.NET.

Get Started Early

N. Loprire

If you don't think you can catch a fish on top until late April, think again. You could enjoy some very good top water action in late February, or March if conditions are right. Of course there is always the chance that you might encounter a good midge hatch. That has never happened for me that early in the season. I'm talking stone flies. First you need a creek or river that has a good population of stone flies and next you need a spike in air temperatures to the upper 40's or so. If it's cloudy that is all the better. The locations that come to mind are Oil Creek, and Neshannock creek. The stone flies will range in size from 18-20 to size 14 and have a dark, brownish black body with slate wings. The fly, on

the water, looks remarkably like a slim caddis fly. Look for hatches around late morning and into the afternoon. I have seen the tail out of a riffle with 15-20 fish actively rising to these little stones. Don't give up if there is no action. It may take several attempts to get the right conditions. Make sure you note the date and conditions when you see the stones hatching. It will make it easier to time them the following season.

It can be a little chilly, but if you hit it right, the fishing can be very good. Remember to go with 6X tippets for the smallish flies. If you don't have a stone fly pattern in your box, try small griffith's gnats. They can be very effective and are simple to tie.



Recipe - To DIE For

N. Loprire

I had this recipe at a superbowl gathering and it was simple but fantastic. The biggest challenge is to get the main ingredient...duck. So get close to your favorite duck hunter and try this. FYI, I am going to try this recipe with goose. I'll let you know if it is as good.

Bacon Wrapped Duck

Cut duck breast into 1" chunks. Marinate for 2-3 hours.

Marinade: 1 cup Jim Beam
3 oz - _ jar of apricot jelly
2 Tbls. Teryaki or soy sauce



**Nesahnock
Chapter Trout
Unlimited**

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