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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

April-May 2002

Editors Notes

It is only April and already it has been a year to remember. A mild winter with a to date, ugly spring. A spring banquet that was down on attendance, but for those present, a night that was unforgettable. As the "MC" of the banquet, I don't have too much of an opportunity to enjoy the proceedings. This year was different and I sensed an upbeat, relaxed, and good time atmosphere amongst the participants. Maybe it was the new hall, the food, the weather, but it was genuinely a great time for the people I observed. It was an especially great but expensive night for Tom and Carol Jochman. See "Banquet News" for an explanation.

The spring weather brought more ugliness than the cast of a Jerry Springer show. Steelhead fishing has been good when you can get on the water, but there has not been enough consistent water, or weather to provide a good plan of attack for the finny creatures. Maybe when this newsletter is complete the fish gods will smile on us. At this point opening day looks to be beautiful. Tight lines.

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Membership Meetings:

Are announced in the newsletter and on the website.

Board Meeting:

Board Meeting are at the MCAR Buillding. See the web site for dates.

In This Issue

Editors Notes

2002 Rivers Conservation Camp

Simple Steps to Protect Small Streams

2002 Banquet Review

Up Coming Calendar of Events



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

2002 Banquet Review

N. Loprire

To say it was a special night would be a serious understatement. The attendance this year was about 160 people, and they were out to have a good time.

I'm sure the surroundings helped.

The Normandy Banquet Center in the Hickory VFW Post was spacious, well appointed, and lent a unique atmosphere to the affair. The TV monitors really helped convey the TU message, whether it was a video

of trout stocking, a close up view of our two masterful fly tiers or to help convey information from the PA Fish Commission. The monitors provided the message to everyone.

The food, in my opinion, was excellent and from the comments I gathered, most agreed. Couple the excellent service with the spacious surroundings and it made for an extremely enjoyable evening. A special thanks goes out to Tony DeGennaro and his staff for their help in making the evening a success.

"Lucky dog", is all I can say for our 50/50 winner this year. Long time member and TU supporter, Charles Allen walked off with \$443. That should keep Chuck stocked with plenty of Bordeaux for the mushroom season. Now, if I could just get him to divulge one of his morel honey holes. Other lucky individuals won rods (Mike Bires...again) reels (Greg Hoover, our guest tier) and other great prizes.

There was a constant crowd around Greg Hoover who worked his fly tying magic with some woven stone fly imitations. Several people got a hands on lesson tying those flies. The video monitors made it easy for everyone to get a close up view of our guest tiers.

By far the highlight of the evening was the verbal auction. There have been numerous items go through the verbal auction over the years, but none like the "September Sky" salmon fly tied by our own Dr. Charles Moxley. The full dress salmon fly was tied to remember the incidents of September 11. The fly has the colors of our flag and is truly a remarkable work of art. Chuck sent the first fly to Vice President Dick Chaney who is an avid fly fisherman and tier. The receipt of the fly was noted in a letter to Chuck from

President Bush's chief of staff. The fly can also be seen on page 36 of "Fly Tyer Magazine". With that said I began the bidding and believe it or not



there were 4 or 5 active bidders when the price reached \$500. When the bidding was winding down it became a heavyweight match between Mike Barney, and Tom and Carol Jochman. They slugged it out past \$700, then \$800, and when the

gavel fell Tom and Carol had purchased the beautifully Shadowboxed fly for \$990. That is an auction record that may never be topped at our spring banquet.

Congratulations to Tom and Carol and thank you to Mike for making the evening one that no one will soon forget.

Here are some of the statistics:

Total Gross Receipts \$13,052. Though all the bills aren't paid, we should net about \$6,000.

Here are the attendance figures.

9 Children, 13 guests and landowners, 23 women, and 106 men for a total attendance of 151. This is down from 2001 but the extra enthusiasm of the crowd was a match for our largest past groups. Imagine over 200 people next year. If you enjoyed yourself, make sure you let your friends know about the banquet next year. It will be our 25th and we will try to have something special to celebrate. It's just not for fisherman. Bring your golfing and partying friends along for a good time.

To Our Donors

Our heart-felt thanks goes out to all who donated not only prizes and gifts, but also the gift of time and efforts. It takes a lot to make this the great event it has become.

Thank You from the officers and board of Neshannock TU. Please forgive me if I missed someone.

Newsletter Note

This is the last newsletter till fall. We will communicate through website neshannock-tu.org. Check it out. See you on the stream - Nick

Thank You to Our 2002 Donors

Chapter Members

Pete Anthony
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Dick Natoli
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2002 Rivers Conservation Camp

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, age 14-17. If you know of a youth with a serious interest in fishing, river conservation, and the outdoors please contact any board member for more information. We help sponsor this fine tradition. If selected, the young person's fee for the camp will be 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.

Up Coming Calendar of Events

Chapter Outing- May 11, at Oil Creek State Park. Donuts & Coffee at Shelter #1 at 7:30 AM otherwise meet at noon for hot dogs & hamburgers with a side of fishing stories. It should be caddis time on Oil Creek. Call any board member for more details. **Let us know if you will attend.** We need to plan for food.

Potter County Weekend

Once again John Gavalier and Chuck Grameth are opening their camp to us for a weekend of fishing, food, and fun. As usual it will be held the first weekend in June. Specifically we will arrive at the camp on Friday night May 31 and depart the morning of June 2. In between we will fish and eat more than you probably will the rest of the fishing season.

If you want to attend **Let A Board Member Know.** We need to plan for food. Bring sleeping bag, pillow, shower kit, towel (We have a hot shower and indoor plumbing) and any special libations (beer/soda) that you may require. Of course bring appropriate clothes and fishing tackle. Also, bring what you want to grill for Saturday evening. I highly recommend a good steak. It is a tradition. But anything grillable will do. We will supply all the remaining food for the weekend. The cost for this normally runs about \$15-\$20 total, not counting those special cookies or other secret items your wife would kill you if she knew you brought them. It's a fun weekend and the fishing is usually terrific. Don't worry; we will get you directions if you plan to attend.



Simple Steps to Protect Small Streams

Paul Brohn Courtesy of Paul Williamson

Small streams are treasures. They are the sources of our trout streams and major rivers. They supply clean water and support a variety of plants and animals. However, it is easy to damage small streams – they need our care and protection.

Landowners can enhance and protect streams flowing through their properties by implementing a few, inexpensive practices. These practices will reduce flooding and benefit fish, mammals, birds, and other life forms that depend on healthy streams. The first practice to protect streams is to prevent erosion and sedimentation. Erosion from poorly managed lands and unprotected stream banks contribute large amounts of sediment to streams. Sediments harm aquatic life by covering habitat, choking gills, and raising water temperature (because cloudy water absorbs more heat from the sun than clear water). Landowners can take steps to prevent any vehicles from fording their streams. Vehicles can destroy streamside vegetation and destabilize stream banks, causing serious erosion problems. If vehicle crossings are necessary, permitted culverts or wooden bridges can minimize erosion.

Similarly, domestic animals can damage streams by trampling protective vegetation and wearing down stream banks. Fencing farm animal away from streams helps prevent erosion. Some landowners unknowingly destroy habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms by removing logs and other woody debris from streams. Research on small streams clearly shows that woody debris benefits aquatic life, including trout. Tree trunks and other large pieces of wood create small dams that delay water flow and reduce erosion and flooding during severe rainstorms. These dams also create a complex stream channel with series of pools and riffles, which provide habitat for a

variety of aquatic organisms. Debris dams also trap leaves, twigs, seeds, and other plant matter that sustain aquatic food chains.

Some property owners believe that straightening stream channels and clearing vegetation from banks will

eliminate flooding. On the contrary, these actions merely increase stream velocity, resulting in rampant bank erosion, especially downstream from the straightened area. Meandering stream channels are full of natural pools riffles that hold fish and provide feeding areas. Landowners can plan trees and shrubs near streams flowing through open pastures or other areas lacking woody vegetation. A few of the shrubs and trees recommended for streamside planting Pennsylvania include smooth alder, black willow, red osier and silky dogwood, box elder, black ash, pin and swamp white oak, river birch, sycamore, cottonwood, and silver maple. Streamside vegetation helps shade streams. Shading is important because it keeps water cool. Cooler water holds more oxygen and thus supports more aquatic life. Streamside trees and shrubs also help control erosion, absorb nutrients, attract terrestrial animals, and provide food to trout and other aquatic organisms when leaves and branches fall into the water. A final suggestion for protecting streams is to avoid applying pesticides and fertilizers too close to streams. Even minute quantities of some chemicals can gravely harm aquatic plants and animals. Landowner should make prudent use of these products for their own safety, as well as for the health of stream organisms.

In summary, landowners can protect small streams by preventing soil erosion, allowing natural stream channels and accumulation of woody debris, planting streamside trees and shrubs where they are lacking, and being very careful when using fertilizers and pesticides near streams. By following these simple steps, landowner can enhance their stream and ensure the well being of plants and animals that depend on high-quality water.



Cool Spring Work Day - Big Turnout

Jeff Kremis, Cool Spring stream coordinator, was very pleased with the turnout of volunteers for the April 20th work day on Cool Spring. Number one item on the agenda was picking up litter along the TU 'adopt-a-highway' section of Scrubgrass Road. Also, litter was picked up along Houston Junction Road (Old Dump Road). The cleanup resulted in a total of 30 bags of litter. This is another way TU volunteers show their appreciation to landowners of the Cool Spring project. Participants were: Jamie Hamilton & son, Tom Bost, Reg McClelland, Bill Fay, Pete Anthony, Tom Jockman, Chuck Rohrer, Doug Rohrer, Dick Natoli, Nick Loprire, & Jim Rafferty. Other participants who worked on rebuilding the trout float boxes were Bill Jones & Bill Livengood. Chef Jeff Kremis provided delicious hotdogs, chips, & beverage for a noontime snack. **Thanks A Billion Guys.**

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