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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

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Website:

www.neshannock-tu.org

Membership Meetings:

Are announced in the newsletter and on the website.

Board Meeting:

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

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Do to space limitations the new members list could not be worked into this issue. Go to our web site at www.neshannock-tu.org to see all our new members.

January 2003

Editors Notes

Another Christmas is done and I'm more than a few pounds heavier to prove it. Holiday treats, foods, drinks and people assaulted my will power. It was a delightful battle that raged from mid December on through January 2, 2003. I'm ready for a more normal pace, with some fishing thrown in. I hope all our readers suffered the same joyous excesses (I hate to be the only pudgy person). I'm just glad Christmas comes but once a year.

The new year for Neshannock TU should be an interesting one. We hope to get our members excited about a new project for a kids and handicapped fishing area on Wolf Creek in the Grove City area. We plan to work with the Grove City Sportsman Club and the city to bring this project to completion. We also plan to maintain more contact with our fellow beagle club sportsmen across the stream. They may need some help with their efforts to improve the access road we all use to move up and down the stream.

cont. from pg. 3

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



Get Ready for The Hatch

Nick Loppriré

I know it's winter and the snow may be falling, but soon the days will get a bit longer and winter will begin to lose its icy grip over the streams we love. Mid February and a warm spell can signal the first hatch of the year, the stonefly. Couple a sunny 48-degree day with normal flow conditions and you may have some stoneflies hatching. The best part is you will most likely have the stream to yourself. I have had some really intense dry fly action to pods of eager rising trout when conditions are right. Of course, when you come home with nothing more than a wet boot and a hungry gut you can always say conditions were just not "right" and leave it at that. But it's the chance to hit that perfect combination of factors that drives us to fish in the first place.

Look for the stoneflies to have a dark brown body with dark gray to slate colored wings that lie flat along the back. Most of the time there will be a mixture of sizes ranging from size 12 to 20 that will appear. If you're lucky the fish won't key in on any particular size. I have seen size 12 flies in one section of a stream and a 200 hundred yards away the fish are taking size 18.

Gentle runs or slower moving water below a riffle is the target area to hit. Make sure you keep an eye out for stoneflies heading for the trees. When the hatch is

on you will, no doubt find the flies landing on your person. It is my personal observation that if the fish are rising you will have a better chance for fish than nymph fishing when no rises are noted. I'm not sure if my dry fly skills are better than my nymphing technique or that the hatch just makes the fish more active in the colder water conditions. If someone has had a great early season day nymphing with stoneflies, let me in on a tip or two. I promise not to publish your secrets.

The fly I tie is very similar to a caddis with two exceptions. The body is thin like a traditional style dry fly and wings should lay flat (horizontal) to the body. When you hackle the fly make sure to trim the bottom two allow the fly to float in the film and the top to make the wings lie flat.

So when the super bowl is over and the Weather Channel is predicting a three day warm spell, break out that rod, tie a few flies, put on some 6X and have a go at it on your favorite stretch of water. You may be pleasantly surprised and at least you will get a chance to check out your equipment (legs included) to see what's needed for the upcoming season. Don't be surprised if what's needed is to drop a few pounds and stretch those legs.



Cure for the Winter Blues

After the Super Bowl but **before** the Spring Banquet we are planning another special event, the "**Cabin Fever Symposium**" (CFS). This get together will be held on **Saturday February 15** at the Hermitage VFW on Rt 62, just east of the VFW Golf Course. The doors open at 10:30 am and the Symposium will consist of fly tying demos, fly-casting, and a flea market where **you can sell** your unwanted fishing items, and a special presentation by **Greg Hoover**. Greg was our guest tier at last year's banquet. He is a doctor of entomology at Penn State University and an accomplished fly fisherman. He will make a presentation on the fishing and hatches of central Pennsylvania streams. He is a very engaging speaker and if you even think you might be fishing in the State College area this spring you don't want to miss

this opportunity to learn the inside on the hatches and fishing.

We will also have both of the local fly shops set up with tables of their wares for sale. Check your tackle now and stock up for opening day.

We will have a bucket raffle with the chance to win a fly rod and more. There will be snacks and a cash bar and the best part is the admission. It's free! Yes, you can have all this fun on a Saturday afternoon by just showing up, so bring the wife, kids, neighbors and have some fun. Remember bring those old, wrong size, never used, fishing items for the flea market and turn them into cash. If you're lucky the raffle ticket you buy with the money may win you a new rod.

Editors Notes cont.

cont. from pg. 1

This year Neshannock TU will celebrate our 25th Spring Banquet. It will be held at the Hermitage VFW and we hope to have some unique and special surprises for this special event. Our 25th Spring Banquet will be held on March 22. Mark your calendars now, but as they say, There's more. We have another special event planned. Read on to find out what is in store.

Remember we would like to hear from YOU. Please send an email to me (steelhd789@aol.com) so we can add you to our database. Lost your copy of the last newsletter, want to find out about fishing in a certain area or creek, then check out these items and more on our website www.neshannock-tu.org. There is a wealth of information and links to other interesting site.



Volunteers Needed for Stream Monitoring

Jeff Kremis

Have you been looking for an easy way to get involved in the chapter but can't, or don't want to, attend meetings? We are looking for volunteers to become "Stream Monitors". A stream monitors job would be to visit a designated stream area about 4 - 5 times a year to collect some simple data. You would be our eyes and ears for that area of the watershed reporting back to myself, the newly appointed Watershed Coordinator. These visits to the stream could be easily disguised as fishing trips

We are looking for stream monitors on, but not limited to, the following areas; Coolspring (Upper, Lower including DHALOA), Mill Creek, Yellow Creek, Neshannock (Mercer to Millburn, Millburn to Leesburg, Leesburg to Volant, Volant to etc.), Slippery Rock Creek or just about anywhere in Mercer or Lawrence Counties. It would be best to monitor an area close to your home to make regular visits easy and to keep abreast of any changes or development in the area. It could also be a favorite fishing or hiking area.

If you would be interested please contact Jeff Kremis at jeffjean@nauticom.net or call 724-588-4378. This is a new project and all the details have not been worked out but first we will need your help as monitors to make it successful.



25th Spring Banquet

Tickets for this years 25th annual spring banquet will be available at the local fly shops, Benjamin's Restaurant, and the Cabin Fever Symposium. You can also fill out the form below or phone me (330/638-2982) or Jeff Kremis (724/588-4378). You don't want to miss this event. We will have some special surprises for this year's banquet so you don't want to miss it.

This year's guest fly tier will be Walt Young a very well known Pennsylvania fly fisherman and writer. Walt's home waters are in Pennsylvania and his fly patterns reflect what works in this area. I'm also sure he will be up to date on the latest, hot patterns, for those exciting Pennsylvania steelhead. Our resident expert tier, Dr. Charles Moxley will also be there to provide answers to those nagging fly tying problems.

We will have rods, reels, nets, art, kids prizes, mixed in with a great buffet that the Normandy Banquet Center at the VFW is known for. The bucket raffle and rod raffle account for many happy fishermen at the end of the night and as the saying goes, if you aren't there you can't win. Be sure to bring your spouse, girlfriend, and kids. They will all enjoy a fun filled evening.

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

2003 Banquet Ticket Order Form

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\$25 Adult \$45 Couple \$10 Kids

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Come Support Trout Unlimited and have a great evening!!

It Seams Right

Nick Loprire

Most everyone that fly fishes knows what is meant by the “seam” when talking about water flowing in a stream. It is that transition area between fast and slow water that forms at the ends of logs, within a run, in a chute, etc. If you learn to fish the so-called seam properly you could be in for a pleasant surprise.

You may ask “why is a seam important”? Well think about it this way; would prefer to get your food delivered to you in an easy chair or fight for it like the concession line at half time of a Steelers game? It’s the same with the trout. When it can sit in relatively calm water, next to a good flow that constantly brings food within its range of sight, why would it fight, staying in that flow, to get something to eat? If there ever was a prime place to fish on a stream this is it.

There are two approaches that I use when fishing a seam. Let’s assume I’m standing in the flow and the seam is on the far side of the stream. I cast up and into the slack water, letting my nymphs (use the heaviest fly on the point) sink and work them exactly along the transition from slow to faster water (seam). The other important approach is to use more weight than you might think. The fish are looking for an easy meal so a little extra weight will move your flies more slowly across the bottom and give that hungry fish a little more time to decide on the take.

As you move downstream try to note any deeper pockets or depressions along the seam area. Larger rocks or ledges, etc. may form ideal lies. This is the best area when fishing along a seam. I once fished an area described above right after another fisherman moved out. This person caught one fish in the run. I fished the seam between the outside of the run and a back eddy without success and decided to add more weight and start again at the top. I guided my flies from the slack water into the seam area. It resulted in five fish within an area the size of a bathtub. I could hardly believe it. Most of those caught were on the point fly. The slower movement (due to the added weight) and guiding the flies exactly on the seam did the trick.

I now look for seam water more eagerly than any other type, if there is no hatch. Make your self learn to fish seams and I’m sure you will be rewarded with the results.

Fly Tying Contest

Bud Hanselman

Books and Hooks new owners, Bud & Scott Hanselman will be holding a monthly fly tying contest. Three flies of a given pattern will be submitted each month and judged. The winner is awarded \$25, second \$15 and third \$10. Flies need to be submitted by the 25th of the month. This month’s pattern is the Pheasant Tail Nymph. They are to be tied on size 12 hooks.

Call Bud or Scott at Books and Hooks for details (330 545 906).

On a trout stream only the space near to hand is important. The immediate stretch of river you confront holds enough challenge to eclipse everything beyond its strict boundaries, if just for a little while. The entire world is reduced to a single riffle.

(Glenn Law 1988)



Few trout fishermen have ever experienced a day of stocking trout, especially early spring. It has been said that ‘one picture is worth ten-thousand words’.

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