

Officers:
Aaron Monroe,
President
amonroe@neo.rr.com

Rich Natoli,
Secretary
(330) 545-4576
dnatoli@peoplepc.com

Jeff Kremis,
Treasurer
(724) 588-4378
bentley48@neo.rr.com

Directors:
Bill Fay
(724) 588-8222
wlfay@nauticom.net

Thomas Jochman
tjochman@acninc.net

Nick Lopriore
(330) 638-2982
steelhd789@aol.com

Reg McClelland
(724) 588-6429
vanorvis@pathway.net

Jim Mondok
mondokjj@pathway.net

Jim Rafferty
jjraff@zoominternet.net

Watershed Coordinator:
Jeff Kremis
(724) 588-4378

**Newsletter Editor &
Banquet Chairman:**
Nick Lopriore
(330) 638-2982
steelhd789@aol.com

Membership Chairman:
Thomas Jochman



CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Neshannock Trout Unlimited Chapter 216

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1362
Hermitage, PA 16148

Website:
www.neshannock-tu.org

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

Summary - Cabin Fever Symposium

Are You Read?

Volunteers Needed for Stream Monitoring

Fly Tying Contest

25th Annual Spring Banquet

Shenango River Watchers

Congratulations

February 2003

Editors Notes

I got a new reel, you know, with the large arbor, sure to keep up with the frantic run of a silvery steelhead. I thought I was doing the right thing when I bought it. The night I loaded it with backing and a new line the wind was howling at over 30 mph. That was early February and the foul weather hasn't gone away. Can there be such a thing as a cursed reel? This winter is nasty... Mother Nature needs a good talking to.

This year Neshannock TU will celebrate our 25th Annual Spring Banquet. It will be held at the Hermitage VFW and we hope to have some unique and special surprises for this special event. The Banquet will be held on March 22, starting a 5:00pm. Mark your calendars now. Call 330 638 2982 or 724 588 4378 for tickets and more information.

Remember we would like to hear from YOU. Please send an email to tjochman@acninc.net or steelhd789@aol.com so we can add you to our database. When there is important chapter news we can contact you. Lost
cont. from pg. 3

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

Congratulations!

Congratulations go out to Aaron Monroe as our new chapter president. Aaron will bring a lot energy and skill to guide us through the next few years. A special thanks to Richard Natoli as our outgoing president. Dick has been a solid leader for our chapter and we have seen significant growth during his tenure. Dick was very involved on a local, state, and national level and he deserves a solid handshake and pat on the back for all his efforts. Dick will now take on the role of Secretary.



Shenango River Watchers

Jennifer Barborak

The "Shenango River Watchers" are also planning a spring banquet. This dedicated group is focused on improving the environment in and around the river and thus improving the recreational opportunities. This worthy group will be holding their first annual banquet on Thursday evening, April 24, 2003 also at the Hermitage VFW.

There will be a great buffet dinner (3 entrees, salad, desert) followed by auctions, 50/50 raffle and prizes. There is a cash bar with all your favorite beverages. It will be a great time to meet with friends and enjoy a fun filled evening. Come and learn more about the Shenango River, have some fun and a great meal. The banquet starts at 6:00pm and runs until 8:30pm. The cost is \$20 and for more details or tickets call Jen at 724 342 5453.

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 monitor's 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.

So far there have been about ten individuals and groups that have expressed interest in being a monitor. This is a great start but we can always use more. We can use more than one monitor per stream as most cover a large area and information gathered at different points on the same stream can help in identifying any problem areas.

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, and it could also be a favorite fishing or hiking area.

If you would be interested, please contact Jeff Kremis at bentley48@neo.rr.com 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.

Summary - Cabin Fever Symposium

N. Lopprir

The first Cabin Fever Symposium was held February 15, at the VFW in Hermitage. The turn out was very good and we had a chance to meet many new people. There were demonstrations, a raffle, free lunch, and an excellent presentation by Greg Hoover. Greg is an entomologist by profession and is really into insects, especially as they pertain to trout. I certainly learned some things that will allow me to better imitate those flies. Hopefully it will result in a few more fish on the end of my line. It's

too bad we had to be out by 3:00 pm. I think Greg was just getting warmed up.

We sold 30 banquet tickets and many 50/50 tickets and generally turned part of a cold winter day towards some more pleasant thoughts. I want to thank all those who helped to make it happen and we look forward to seeing you at our banquet in March.

Lunker Trout Fund Donations

R. Shuey

There's a good chance you will miss the opportunity to enter the rod raffle this year to support the Lunker Trout Fund (March 8 drawing) at Neshannock Creek Fly Shop, but you can still support this cause on your next visit. There is always a container there, where you can make a donation and if you're new to the creek you can buy a stream map of the project area for \$1.00 the proceeds of which go into this fund.

The next time a big one breaks the line, if you donated, you may have caused your own momentary heartbreak. On the home you will think...it was worth it.

Editors Notes cont.

cont. from pg. 1

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 sites.



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



25th Spring Banquet

The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning; no matter how long we have been at it, we are constantly making some fresh discovery, picking up some new wrinkle. If we become conceited through great success, some day the trout will take us down a peg. – Theodore Gordon

Tickets for this years 25th annual spring banquet (March 22 5-10pm) will be available at the local fly shops, and Benjamin's Restaurant. You can also fill out the form below or phone me (330 638 2982) or Jeff Kremis (724 588 4378). Don't forget to send a self addressed stamped envelope for return of tickets. We will have some special surprises for this year's banquet so you don't want to miss it. Once again it will be held at the Hermitage VFW, Normandy Banquet Center, on Rt. 62 a mile or so east of the Shenango Valley Mall.

This year's guest fly tier will be Walt Young a nationally known Pennsylvania fly tier, 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. He is doing a special salmon fly for us again this year. Get ready for some lively bidding.

The banquet will be Saturday March 22 from 5:00 to 10:00 pm. 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

name _____

address _____

city/state/zip _____

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

Mail checks to:

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



Come Support Trout Unlimited and have a great evening!!

Are You Ready?

N. Lopriore

Even though winter has us in her icy grip, we all know that spring will eventually win out. The absolute sign that spring is upon us is opening day of trout season in Pennsylvania. The question looking for an answer is; will you be ready for it? Oh sure, you will be mentally ready, but is all your tackle up to the task of pursuing the wily trout? Let's examine a few critical areas that, if they go wrong, can ruin your fun.

If you are a spin fisherman, take a good look at that reel. First, strip off the old line and give that reel a good cleaning, and oiling. If you don't want to do it yourself, look up a tackle repair shop and get it done now, before the rush. Next put on new line. You say you would like fluorocarbon line but it's too expensive. Try going together with your buddies and splitting a spool. Use regular mono (4 lb test) on the reel and add a 6-8 foot section of the fluorocarbon. The fish only see, or don't, a couple feet of line so when the leader gets short, just add another section.

If you are a fly-fisherman don't forget to clean that fly line. You would be surprised how much grime is collected on the surface of the line during the season. Remember how the end of the line, where it joined the leader, kept sinking. That is caused by a dirty or cracked line.

First strip off about 40 feet into a tub, or basement sink with some warm soapy water. A little dish detergent will do the trick. Let it soak for 10 minutes. With a cloth held under the water pull the line through the cloth and deposit the cleaned line into a bucket of clear water. Then take a dry cloth and pull the line out of the clean water through the cloth and let the line lay on a table to dry for 15 minutes. After that, apply a good dressing to the line. Believe it or not the cleaner used to polish your dash is an excellent dressing. It is basically a silicone liquid.

Now for the single most cursed problem on opening day...the leaky boot. If you wade fish for trout in a stream you have experienced a leak. That's bad enough, but couple that with 42-degree water and it spells a numb foot at the least or possibly a ruined day. You say the boots were okay when put them away last fall. Did you pound four large spikes into

the basement joists and hang them by the boots? Even if you did, it is best to seek out a local pond or stream to give them the preseason test. You may be glad you did. A good precaution is to carry some shoe-goo, or similar tube of leak patch in your vest. I always carry a small amount of duct tape. It will work in a pinch to get you through the day.

A good resolution before opening day is to learn a new knot. Everyone knows the clinch and a couple of other knots, but if you are like me you have difficulty tying certain special knots because you don't use them often. Get a spool of line and while your watching Frasier or cursing at the weather channel, you can practice that troublesome knot until you can tie it with gloves on. Which in all likelihood is how it will be on opening day.

These are but a few common sense things to do during the cold days leading up to, what for many of us is, the real beginning of spring. Good luck and don't catch them all.



Though it is now covered with ice, it won't be long until the waters of Coolspring flow clear and crisp again – winter will be over soon!

Telephone 588-3012

THOMAS L. BOST D.M.D.

Office Hours 126 College Avenue
by Appointment Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125

Rafferty's Printing

Quality Commercial Printing

724.662.1415

**108 Timber Village Center/Sharon-Mercer Rd.
Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137**

H. & D.
Distributors



Proprietors
AUGGIE DONOFRIO

228 W. Venango Street • Mercer, PA 16137
(412) 662-4590

Beer Pop Coolers Snacks Party Wagon



Spirited Dining

787 Mercer-Grove City Rd.
Mercer, PA 16137

Phone: (724) 662-4301
Fax: (724) 662-4740

William L. Fay

Financial Counseling

Suite 100, Masonic Building
312 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335
(614) 724-1733

136 Goetech Road
Greenville, PA 16125
(724) 588-1637

REDDING RELOADING
EQUIPMENT

TWIG'S RELOADING DEN

8388 SHARON-MERCER ROAD
MERCER, PA 16137

PHONE: (724) 662-3357
M-F 8-6 P.M.
SAT 8-4 P.M.

OWNER-MANAGER
ITWIGI
GLADYS MOHNEY



Books & Hooks

Your Fly Fishing Shop

Located in:
The former Maple Ave. School
110 Maple Avenue
Girard, Ohio 44420

Phone: (330) 545-1906

Fax: (330) 545-4097

Quick On/Off from I-80

We are a full-service fly fishing shop featuring the largest selection of fly fishing books in the Tri-State Area

We carry your favorite brands of rods, reels, fly tying tools, materials, etc., etc. Bad jokes and stale donuts are standard fare.

FLY TYING AND CASTING LESSONS

Directions: Girard exit off of I-80. Travel south on 422; take first left turn, which is Maple Avenue.

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Sharon, PA 16146
Permit No. 62

Neshannock
Chapter Trout
Unlimited
P.O. Box 1362
Hermitage, PA 16148



ORVIS[®]

SAGE



Neshannock Creek Fly Shop

on the Neshannock Creek

MAIN STREET • VOLANT, PA 16156
(724) 533-3212

"Full Service Fly Shop"

1000 ft. of Groomed Stream Frontage
Fly Tying Materials • Books & Flies

Home of the
Lunker Trout

Free Shipping on all Mail
Orders over \$100
No Sales Tax on Shipments
Outside of PA.

Fly Fishing Instructions
by Appointment
"Guide Service Available"