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# CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Neshannock Trout Unlimited Chapter 216

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 1362  
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**Website:**

www.neshannock-tu.org

**Membership Meetings:**

Are announced in the newsletter and on the website.

**Board Meeting:**

Board Meetings are held at VFW Post 6166 in Hermitage. See the web site for dates.

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*“A trout is a fish known mainly by hearsay. It lives on anything not included in a fisherman’s equipment.”*

*H. I. Phillips (C. 1925)*

**January 2004**

## Editors Notes

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. If you got a deer, the gift you were hoping for, your college team won their bowl game, and that defective bathroom scale says you only gained 2 pounds, consider it a success. If you also spent time with family and loved ones you can consider it a “Maavelous” (Billy Crystal) holiday.

2004 looks to be a good year for us trout fisherman. I can safely say this because anything short of famine and pestilence would be an improvement over the 2003 season. There should be no question about having sufficient flows for the streams and there will be a number of holdover fish since most were spared the fry pan last season. I’m already planning to tie some different style sulphur patterns for this spring’s adventures.

Two big events are in the planning stages. First, the **Cabin Fever Symposium (CFS)** and of course, the **2004 Spring Banquet**. You can read below to get more details.

*cont. from pg. 2*

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



## Summary

# Cabin Fever Symposium

N. Loprire

The second Cabin Fever Symposium (CFS) is planned for **January 31, from 11 to 3 pm** at the VFW in Hermitage. We are happy to have noted steelhead expert **Karl Weixlmann** as a guest speaker. He will cover steelhead fishing from the Cattaraugus in New York to the Grand River in Ohio. It should be very interesting. The cost for the CFS is **FREE**. Both **Neshannock Creek and Books and Hooks fly shops** will be there to supply those fishing necessities to prepare you for spring steelhead and trout. We will have demonstrations and a flea market. **REMEMBER**, the flea market is **open to all** so call your friends and let them know. The table is free if you call to reserve ahead of the banquet and \$10 the day of the event. Call Richard Natoli (330 545 4576) to hold a table. You **do not** have to be a member of TU. So, gather that unneeded stuff and plan to sell it or barter with other vendors at the symposium. A **free lunch** will be provided along with a cash bar. Plan to grab your buddies and chase the winter blues at the **2004 Cabin Fever Symposium**. Look for flyers at the fly shops, Benjamins (Mercer) and other local shops. Call Richard Natoli for more information.



## Editors Notes cont.

*cont. from pg. 1*

The chapter is discussing some serious work on the "glory hole" area on Coolspring. The past years rains have moved a significant amount of rock from the Beagle Club hillside into the creek. This has turned the hole into a run. We will let you know of any workdays to help correct this situation.

Remember we would like to hear from **YOU**. Let us know about any good fishing trips or other pertinent news. Please send a story via email to [tjochman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjochman@sbcglobal.net) or [steelhd789@aol.com](mailto:steelhd789@aol.com) and we will let our readers in on your adventures. Lost your copy of the last newsletter, want to find out about fishing in a certain area or creek, then check out our website [www.neshannock-tu.org](http://www.neshannock-tu.org). There is a wealth of information and links to the state, national TU, and other interesting sites.

# Workdays – In Review

Jeff Kremis

The past year was another busy one for the volunteer workers of the Neshannock Chapter. Work on Coolspring was scaled back a little this year do to a large project planned on Wolf Creek in the Grove City area. That project has already been covered in earlier additions of the "Clearwater Gazette" but I wanted to recap the years other workdays.

The first workday of 2003 was held on April 26th with Tom Jochman, Aaron Monroe, Hank Pajack, Pete Anthony, Jim Rafferty, Ray Magensky and myself in attendance. Tom, Aaron and Hank preformed the most disgusting job ever asked of a chapter member on this day. These three removed at least a half a dozen rotting deer carcasses from the parking area so the rest of us didn't have to smell them for the remainder of the year. Pete should also be thanked for doing this at other times, as this dumping has been an ongoing problem. This was the first workday for Hank and I promise you that if he returns for another one he will get a much better job. The rest of the day was spent doing bridge repair along the path, moving logs, picking up trash and we also stocked 225 trout from our nursery. Lunch was provided although appetites seemed a little off which was understandable. I'm sure it was the deer episode, and not my cooking.

A second workday was held on July 19th with Pete, Tom, Nick Loprire, Doug Rohrer, Rich Knauf, myself and two more first timers George Pricher and Steve Veres helping. On this day we concentrated on in stream work. The crew secured two logs that had been deposited in ideal positions along the bank in earlier high water that provided stream bank protection and fish habitat. We also built up rock deflectors at the Glory and Crossover holes. The hotdogs, drinks and chips were quickly consumed after all the work.

Thanks to all who volunteered this year and keep an eye out for days and times for the 2004 workdays in future newsletters. Remember an improved stream habitat means better fishing. Without volunteer help Coolspring would not have the quality habitat areas to maintain holdover trout.

# The Plan

N. Loprire

I am a fairly good shot but that doesn't always put venison in the freezer. That was the case in this falls tree stand adventures. Like most experienced outdoorsmen, I had put together a plan for this year's Ohio deer gun season. The plan involved moving my stand about 50 yards north to give me a better look at a crossing area between to ridges. The valley between is about 70 yards wide with a small creek and grassy areas to feed. In years past the deer that crossed there would be just out of range. I also decided to forgo a shot at a 1-½ old buck or yearling deer, a good buck or doe, that's it. The plan was set and of course, in hunting, it doesn't usually go as planned.

Monday broke as the windiest day I ever spent in the woods. No self-respecting mature buck would move voluntarily in those conditions. Since most hunters in the area take stands, my prediction of not seeing many

deer came true. No one in our party saw a good buck.

I did see some deer and of course one was a 1-½ year old buck and then two yearlings. Finally two mature doe came by and I thought my hunt was about to end. I took careful aim, shot, and watched the doe spin and jump into some thick brush. I thought it was a lung shot and she would momentarily collapse. To my amazement she took two quick bounds through the thick brush to join her friend. The next thing I know, the two emerged about 150 yds away and began to feed. How did I miss? I lined up the shot I took and there, was a clean cut on a half-inch diameter branch about a foot from the muzzle, Just enough to deflect the slug from its mark. I surveyed where the deer stood and saw a neat pile of brisket hair. I shaved that doe clean. Not one drop of blood, just hair. I think there is enough for a few streamers.



## 26th Annual Spring Banquet

N. Loprire

The plans are taking shape for this years banquet. It will take place on **March 20th at 5:00 pm in the Hermitage VFW** on Rt. 62. Some things will remain the same while some new directions have been taken with prizes. This year we are going to offer more varied prizes. We will, of course, have a rod raffle. This year we will offer a gun raffle. We will also offer a chance at fishing and hunting adventures so make sure you mark your calendars. As I write this we haven't booked a guest fly tier (local tying expert Dr. Chuck Moxley will be there) but we should know this by the end of January. Come to the Cabin Fever Symposium and we'll let you know.

Anyone who can solicit a prize for raffle or silent auction please let us know; it is tax deductible and we will get the form for the contributor. Contact me (330 638 2982) for any questions. Ticket prices are the same as last year so plan to join us for our 26th annual shindig.

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

### 2004 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!!***

# The Right Stuff

N. Loppriré

No I am not talking about adventures in outer space or other heroic deeds, I mean outdoor gear. When the word fishing gear comes up most of us will first think of the most exotic rods and reels with all the trick and latest features. Let's be honest, the trout or walleye never see the rod that catches them. You may think that you can make a better cast with the latest techy rod but a neighboring angler with an old South Bend that simply was a better fisherman or knew the creek secrets, has humbled us all at one time or other.

My point is that most of us, in the early stages of our sport would spend our disposable fishing monies on rods and reels, or rifles or shotguns. Granted, you can't fish without a rod and reel, but lets look at other items that are just as important. If you trout fish you will need waders or hip boots, preferably a pair that doesn't leak. Nothing ruins trout outing quicker than cold water in your boot. Today's breathable waders are the way to go. They can be layered for cold spring outings and are comfortable in the summer. Get decent wading shoes for stability and support, and get studded shoes for slippery conditions (Oil Creek) and late fall steelhead (algae). I like insulated boot foot hip boots for steeheading in Pa. The air space around your foot helps keep your feet warmer. The downside is that they are not as comfortable and don't supply the hiking support of a wading shoe. For me, I opt for warm feet. Conneaut and the Grand River in Ohio are larger water with deeper holes, requiring waist high or chest waders to navigate more effectively.

Next, get the best raingear you can afford. Breathable shells that have sufficient room for layering

underneath are the most versatile. Personally, I like a parka length versus waist length jackets. I fish a lot with hip boots and if it rains the waist length jacket drains the water down my hippers. Also, the parka is a better choice when boat fishing and in subdued colors a real help for rainy days in archery season. Look for a jacket with multiple pockets, and is adjustable in the sleeves, and hood for those really nasty days.

Here is a list of smaller items in order of importance to a trout or steelhead fisherman: polarized sunglasses, good hemostats (flat gripping jaws, serrated are useless with smaller hook sizes), line nippers, hook file (buy a diamond dust fingernail file).

The final and probably the most important item to assure success in the field is the one most people spend the least time in obtaining...knowledge. Yes, that means reading books, attending seminars, and practice in the field. Each chapter read, each trip afield and interaction with fellow sportsmen will improve your knowledge and skills, making for more enjoyment in your sport.

When I read about a new technique for fishing it really doesn't sink in until I put that knowledge to use in the field. It's then that the finer points become apparent or the previous mistakes are made evident. Make a commitment to read for knowledge this year instead of the exploits of the guy who got the big one. With more knowledge, maybe this year you will be the guy to get the big one.

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## Stream Map Available

**Still Available *The Pennsylvania Stream Map and Guide*.** We still have copies available at a special price of \$15. This 35" x 57" map is improved, with this version showing major roads along with every tributary in Pennsylvania. Contact any board member or pick one up at the CFS, January 31st.

## Important Numbers - Your Local Fly Shops

Call for availability of needed materials or just stop on by to get the latest gossip and pickup needed items

### Neshannock Creek Fly Shop

Volant, Pa; Bob Schuey; (724) 533 3212.

**Books and Hooks** Girard, Oh; Scott & Bud Hanselman; (330) 545 1908 or (877) 545 1906



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