

**Officers:**  
Aaron Monroe  
President  
330-637-9009  
amonroe@neo.rr.com

Dick 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

Richard E. Rickert  
724-588-7074  
rerblr@svol.net

Jim Mondok  
724-981-4513  
mondokjj@pathway.net

Bud Hanselman  
330-545-1906  
bkshks@aol.com

**Youth Coordinator:**  
Richard E. Rickert

**Watershed Coordinator:**  
Jeff Kremis

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


**Membership Chairman:**  
Tom Jochman  
330-544-2507  
tejochman@sbcglobal.net

**Munnell Run  
Nursery Coordinator:**  
Pete Anthony  
724-662-2271  
gpanthony@pathway.net



# CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Nesbannock 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 Meetings are held at VFW Post 6166 in Hermitage. See the web site for dates.

## In This Issue

### Editors Notes

### Cabin Fever Summary

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Banquet

### A Different Experience

### Spring Work Day

### Get Ready To Fish

### Spring Outdoor Expo

*"Once an angler, always a fisherman. If we cannot have the best, we will take the least, and fish for minnows if nothing better is to be had."*

*Theodore Gordon (1912)*

**February 2004**

## Editors Notes

Another loooong winter with little relief in temperatures, not much sun, and plenty of snow. I'm not so sure I can buy that global warming theory. A fellow chapter member and his buddy who will remain nameless have been beating the winter blues by steelhead fishing. His method is to chop a hole through the ice at his "secret" spot to get at the silver streaks. Here is a thought...is it really a secret spot or is it that it's so darn cold that no one except a hardy (or crazed) few bother to go there? "Hardy" may be just two clicks away from needing professional help. At least this friend isn't gaining weight from eating bon-bons and watching fishing shows like the rest of us. The banquet is taking shape so get your tickets as soon as you can. Check out the banquet flyer on our website (see below). 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)

*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 Cabin Fever Symposium was a great success again this year. There were familiar and new faces, good food, plenty of fishing tackle to buy, and interesting presentations. The demonstrations were all very informative and those who watched had many positive comments. I hope you bag that turkey or catch a few more steelhead from the pointers picked up in those presentations. Thanks to the fly shops, vendors, presenters and most of all the attendees for making the CFS a success. It did help to chase away old man winter for a few hours. A pat on the back for Dick Natoli who organized this year's event and thanks to all who helped to make it a success. Hope to see everyone at next year's bigger and better program.



## Spring Outdoors & Fishing EXPO

N. Loprire

Gander Mountain will hold a spring outdoors and fishing expo March 27 – 28 from 10:00 to 4:00 pm each day at the store. Donations and proceeds will go the Second Harvest Food Bank. Canned goods and money donations will be greatly appreciated. There will be demonstrations and displays from various groups and vendors. Some the participants will be Muskies Inc., Mohawk Bass Club, Ohio Pro Lure, Western Reserve Walleye Association, Birds of Prey, Erie Dearie and of course Neshannock Chapter TU. We will have a display and hope to have fly tiers demonstrating for the event. For more info contact Gander Mountain at 330 544 5800.



## Editors Notes cont.

*cont. from pg. 1*

or 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.

# A Different Experience

N. Loprire

We are all anxious to wet a line and soon that will come to pass. The weather may not be ideal and the water will be cold and gray, lacking that summer sparkle but fish we will. The season will advance and the flies will progress through their emergence. Most of us will ply the normal creeks for browns and rainbows and an occasional stocked brook trout. Don't let the year pass without trying a different experience with small creeks for native trout. Remember, there are many more small streams to fish than the more notarized and familiar waterways.

Many are reluctant due to the small size of the stream and the difficulties associated with handling a fly rod in tight quarters. Sure, you will lose a few flies to the tree gods but for those who persist the rewards can be great. I don't necessarily mean that you will catch a great number or large native brook trout. The fact that you are pursuing natives puts you in an all-together different place. First, the water will be well oxygenated, cold and probably be tumbling down the side of a mountain in a series of pools, and runs that course around some moss covered rocks the size of the vehicle that brought you. Are you starting to get the picture? It is a place of solitude and noise. Solitude in that no one else is in sight and noisy from the plunge pools and small tumbling falls. The noise of the stream is a welcome change to common sounds experienced during some angling adventures. Most brookie streams (the best one's in my opinion) are a short hike or so from the hard road so the sounds of cars are remote and the gurgling stream masks most other sounds. This leaves one's mind to concentrate on the task at hand. Tricking the wild fish that inhabit the shallow recesses of the small waters ahead. Here are a few tips to help improve your success.

These are wild fish and as such they require stealth if you want to be successful. Don't plan on wearing your Bahama yellow flats hat and forget the red

*cont. on page 4*



# 26th Annual Spring Banquet

N. Loprire

The plans are taking shape for this years banquet. It will take place on **Saturday March 20th at 5:00 pm in the Hermitage VFW on Rt. 62** east of Hermitage. 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. Our guest tiers this year will be a double treat. There will be TWO guest tiers plus local tying expert **Dr. Chuck Moxley**. **Glenn Weisner** and **Wayne Samson** of "Glenn River Fly Co." will be our guest tiers. Glenn River Fly Company sells fly tying kits that are made up of the finest materials. You can see their products and the guys that develop those patterns do their magic while you watch. If you have never seen the technique of spinning deer hair to make a fly you are in for a treat.

This year we are excited about offering a shotgun, and a new .17 caliber rifle in a raffle format. We are also working on a high power rifle and scope.

I can always use some help at banquet time and anyone who can donate, make (tie some flies) or 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. Please help if you can. Please tie a dozen flies and donate them if you can.

## Get Ready to Fish

N. Loprire

Don't wait till the last minute and expect to fine everything you are going to need at your local fly shops. Remember the "early bird"? Time assess your tackle needs, take some of that tax refund and funnel it back into the economy through the shops listed below. You don't want that fish to get the best of you because of the wrong, old, or outdated equipment (let me know if you are throwing out any bamboo stuff). Hey, You don't to find out the shop sold the last whatever the day before. Bob or Bud will be happy to get you ready.

Ticket prices are the same as last year so plan to join us for our 26th annual shindig. The buffet dinner is great along with a cash bar, and door prizes for men, women, and kids makes for a really great evening. You can have fun and support TU's cold water conservation efforts at the same time.

DON'T FORGET if you would like us to reserve a table for you, let me know. If you use the form below to order be sure to include a self addressed stamped envelope for your tickets.

*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!!*

## Spring Workday- Saturday April 3rd

Jeff Kremis

The first workday of the year will be primarily a clean up day around Coolspring. We will meet at the parking lot on Coolspring around 9:00am. The agenda will consist of litter pick up along Scrubgrass road; trail maintenance, and general clean up around the creek. We will be done by noon and lunch will be served. Plan to get out and stretch those legs. We would really like to see a good turnout. Call me for more information at (724) 588 4378 or email at bentley48@neo.rr.com.

## *A Different Experience cont.*

kerchief. Wear tan or neutral colors. Move slowly and if fishing with a friend make sure as you leap frog ahead, that you stay back from the stream so as to not spook the fish for your buddy. Plan your casts. If you are approaching a pool, look for narrow cuts with some depth or pockets with depth on the edges of the stream. Don't worry if you forget to do this. The number of good trout that are spooked will be a strong reminder. Now you have reached the pool and you scope out a prime lie at the head. Sure you may catch a fish there but how many others scurried for cover after you cast the line over them to reach the prime lie. Plan your casts to cover all the likely water.

This is small stream fishing so you need to tailor your equipment as such. If you have a 7-½ foot rod, that would be a good choice but 8 foot will do. Now let's cut that 10 foot 6x leader down to 6 to 7-½ ft and 4-5x. My suggestion is to fish a dry fly with white wings. In general I find this is the easiest fly to see on the dark canopied streams. Seeing the fly is the key. The fish are not selective so most any fly will work unless you encounter a good hatch on the stream. Stimulators with some white deer hair over the brown wing are a good choice as is the Royal Coachman.

Make two or three casts to each likely lie and keep moving. Once spooked, you will not see these fish for an hour or so and most likely you will spook a number of fish with a bad cast. A dry fly dragging across a pool will not get the job done. If you move to the left side of the stream and let your line drop over a convenient rock to help give your fly a longer drag free float, you will catch more fish. Can you reach more of the prime areas of a piece of water from a certain casting position? These are the questions to ask yourself before the fly is heading towards the target. Accurate casts with drag will get you nothing. These critters are alert.

Get out of the stream and walk on the elevated bank to better spot the next likely area to probe. Coil the line in your rod hand and you won't have to strip it out once you begin to fish again. Enter the water quietly or kneel to cast from the bank. Remember to check your back cast for those fly

eating trees and bushes. You may need your full arsenal of casts during the day.

Some day the dry fly may not be the most effective choice and a change is necessary. After trying different profiles and sizes of dry flies, try switching to a wet fly. You can fish it upstream like a dry fly but you must be able to strip in line and watch for any hesitation or odd movement of the leader, since there may not be an disturbance of the water to make you strike. If you spent a couple hours or more fishing upstream, try walking out about half the distance and begin to probe downstream with a streamer. Let it dead drift through a plunge pull or maneuver it through some likely looking spots.

Remember to lift your head once in a while to notice the surrounding beauty of the canopied woods, the flowers, and wildlife. I hope you get to fish for Pennsylvania's native trout this season. Even if the fish don't come easy the experience will be a good one.



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**  
Mercer, PA 16137  
Permit No. 43

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



**ORVIS**<sup>®</sup>

**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"**