

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

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April/May 2004

Editors Notes

NOW PAY ATTENTION! You and I know that that for the best trout fishing throughout the spring season a Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) area on a Pennsylvania stream is hard to beat. For those who ardently pursue trout into the summer, those sections of stream will hold more fish due to the catch and release requirements imposed from March 15 to June 15. Well there are a segment of the fishermen who use bait, that feel that they should be able to fish the DHALO areas after June 15th with bait. If you feel that is OK, then just sit there on your duff and skip this section. If you feel, as I do, that the DHALO regulations should remain unchanged then **YOU BETTER** write a note to the Pa Fish Commission expressing your feelings. Here are the addresses, email at this website www.fish.state.pa.us, see "latest news" and 2/3 down the page is a heading for "Commission seeks comment on proposed DHALO change". You can also write a note and send to:

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

Editors Notes cont.

cont. from pg. 1

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Comm., 1601 Elmerton Ave, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, Pa 17106 – 7000. Or try phoning at (717) 705-7800.

The groups that want to bait fish the DHALO areas are well organized and we need to show those in the fish commission that we **DO NOT WANT** this change to happen. **IT'S UP TO YOU!!**

The banquet was a success, my taxes are done and this newsletter is almost done. That means I can go fishing unless the "Field Marshall" comes up with some spring time requests that I can't delay until summer. I'm usually pretty good at rationalizing those jobs to a future date. Let's hope my luck holds out.

As I write this we are again drowning in excess water and cold temperatures. Give it to the people out West. They need it, we don't. All those fish we didn't get a chance to catch last year may get to grow even larger if mother nature continues to have a fit with our weather. Let's hope she is smiling on us by the time you read this.

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 or steelhd789@aol.com and we will let our readers in on your adventures. Lost your copy of the last newsletter, interested in helping at the next workday, want to find out about fishing in a certain area or creek, then check out our website www.neshannock-tu.org. There is a wealth of information and links to the state, national TU, and other interesting sites.

This is the last newsletter till fall. Check the website to keep up to date with what's happening with events and workdays or call any board member. **Tight Lines!!**

– Notice –

Watch the website this summer. There is a good chance that Glenn River Fly Co. will offer a fly tying class in the area. The price is reasonable and teachers are as good as you will get. No computer, call the fly shops below after June.

Spring Outdoors & Fishing EXPO

N. Loprire

Gander Mountain held a spring outdoors and fishing expo March 27 – 28 from 10:00 to 4:00 pm each day at the store. We participated both days and our display definitely sparked some interest among young and old. An 82 year young gentleman describe his plans for attacking the crappie at Mosquito Lake and one youngster thought all the flies we were displaying were really cool. Thanks to Bob Vesey for tying flies both days. He added a bit of flash to our display. Thanks to Tom, Jeff, and Dick Rickert for their participation.

There were demonstrations and displays from various groups and vendors. Some the participants were Muskies Inc., Mohawk Bass Club, Western Reserve Walleye Association, and Birds of Prey.



Potter County Getaway

N. Loprire

This year the annual weekend gathering at John Gavalier's camp (Buckeye Boonyaks) is the weekend of June 5-6. All club members are invited. The club will furnish all the food for the weekend except for one item. For Saturday afternoon's grill fest you are to bring a steak or other grillable item of your choosing. We will have everything else except for beer or beverage of your choosing. You will need a sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, shaving kit, and fishing equipment. The camp has a hot shower and a cook, actually it's George Marsh but he can cook, just don't tell his wife. We tally the food costs and other than gas and incidentals, you can expect to pay a whopping \$15 or so for a laid back weekend of fishing in "God's Country". You must let me or other board members know if you plan to attend. We need to plan for the food. We will provide you with directions if needed.

Summary

26th Annual Spring Banquet

N. Loprire

Glenn Weisner and Wayne Samson of "Glenn River Fly Co." along with Chuck Moxley were our guest tiers. They were great and the banquet was great. It was a fun evening and a positive effort to promote cold-water conservation in our local area. Thanks to all who worked to make it a success. A special thanks to Rich Yarabenez, Terry Williams, and Larry Wynkoop for their help that night.

The food was very good and there were a number of acquaintances and friends enjoying each other's company.

The prizes attracted many to put their tickets in the raffles and there were some great door prizes for our guests. The winner of the 50/50 raffle this year was Gary Wollensack. He took home \$432.00 for essentially no effort, just luck.

Thanks to all and hope to see everyone again next year.



Annual Spring Outing at Oil Creek

N. Loprire

Last year we were rained out. The year before was essentially the same situation; let's hope the third time is a charm. The green caddis should be "on" and if the water is good and the sun is shining all will be right with the day.

The outing will be held Saturday May 8, 2004 at Petroleum Center at Oil Creek State Park. Contact us for directions. We will have someone at Shelter #1 at 7:30am with coffee and donuts. Rich Yarabenez will probably have 1 1/2 hours fishing by then. If you don't want or need coffee then fish your buns off till lunch. We meet back at the shelter at noon for hot dogs and burgers with all the trimmings. You can swap fish stories with the gang and maybe find out the fishing was better upstream or down from where you were. Isn't that how it always is? Hope to see you there. Pray for good weather.



Gamma Technologies

Frog Hair Tippet Announces New Leader

Gamma Technologies, makers of Frog Hair High Performance Tippet and Leaders, has unveiled a new, revolutionary knotless leader that utilizes George Harvey's long sought after leader formula. This leader, emulates the knotted, Original Slack Leader designed by George many years ago. Soft and supple, the George Harvey endorsed Slack Leader lands in a series of "S" curves. These "S" curves, along with the suppleness of the Frog Hair material, results in the most drag-free, natural presentation ever achieved in a knotless leader.

In addition to its superior presentation, the George Harvey Slack Leader also possesses the high strength and "shock resistance". Many anglers will find that they can actually use a heavier tippet than normal and still achieve perfect drifts, while those who need to fish lighter tippet sizes will notice the ability to land bigger fish than before. The George Harvey Slack Leaders are available in the three most popular sizes of 4X, 5X and 6X. See them at your local fly shop.



Spring Workday

Saturday April 3rd

Jeff Kremis

The first workday of the year was held at Coolspring and at Neshannock. Yes, we had a split detail. While Aaron Monroe headed a crew at Coolspring to clean up along the road, the rest of us aimed our efforts at replacing a drainage culvert on the railroad grade near the Covered bridge area of Neshannock Creek. This repair will allow the stocking truck to travel up the railroad grade for stocking. Thanks go out to the following:

Aaron Monroe, Larry Dando, Bill Fay, Bob Schuey, Tom Jochman, John Salerno, Bud Hanselman, Rich Knauf, Dr. Tom Bost, Doug Rohrer, Nick Loprire, Rich Stoyer, Dick Natoli, Jim Mondock and Bob Vesey. Rich S. did a pile of work with his "bobcat" loader. If you want to help on the next workday call (724) 588 4378 or email at bentley48@neo.rr.com.



Bull..Trout That Is!!

Greg Chiappini

This year's fishing trip was to an area we had been to several years ago. The trip was necessitated by my memories of breaking off a large Bull Trout in one of the most spectacular pools that I have ever seen or fished. After the break off, there was no time for a second chance at the brute. The guide said that we needed to get out of there before it got any later due to the high concentration of Grizzlies and the presence of a large berry patch that we needed to pass on our way out. We fished several more days on different rivers but no "Bull" were to be found. I just couldn't get that place or that fish out of my mind.

So we made our way back to the Fernie, in British Columbia to try again for the elusive Bull Trout and some more West Slope Cutthroats. The area is beautiful and the fishing is excellent. Unlike here, though, they hadn't seen rain for a long time. We broke in gently on Michelle Creek and the Elk River. The fishing wasn't a push over due to low water levels and higher than normal temperatures but we all managed enough hook-ups. The fly of the week was a large stonefly imitation dubbed the whisk broom by one of my partners. We love throwing those huge dry flies.

After a couple days of warm up, we headed for the Wigwam. This is the most pristine river in the area. It is a no kill fly fishing only river. Only one single hook fly can be used and nothing is allowed on the line above the fly such as weight or a strike indicator (don't cheat, they watch from the mountain tops). Bill and Jay walked in on a gated logging road while my brother and I took the brush bashing route of the last trip, and hoped we would come out where we expected (we decided to save the \$350 American and guide ourselves). The river was easy to find since it

was straight down. We knew when we got to it that we were at the right place... the journey's end. The "pool" was upstream so we started fishing that way. It didn't take long for the whiskbroom to produce some 14 to 18" cutthroats.

Enough was enough, on to that pool. We walked around the next bend but it wasn't there. Then after rounding another bend, there it was. The river, about the size of Slippery Rock Creek, hit a 75-foot long boulder causing it to take a right turn and form a long deep pool. You could see the Bull trout lined up in rows from 50 feet below it. There must have been close to 100 of them. I took the 6 weight and began throwing a large Clouser into the crystal clear water. The fish closest to me in the tail out completely ignored the fly. It was difficult to get the fly down into the deeper parts of the pool but eventually I did get a strike and just missed it - too much line in the water.

I had come too far to give up so I crossed and got on the boulder. There were several huge ones lined up in a back eddy under the end of the boulder. After a few deep drifts the line paused and I set the hook. The fish surged to the bottom of the pool and I knew I had a good hookup. After a long fight and with my brother's much needed help, we landed the 32" fish of my dreams, took a quick picture and watched him swim away.

It was well worth the trip back. Sightings included one grizzly (from the van, thankfully), several moose, elk, deer, bald eagles and a mountain goat. Unfortunately, the end of the week was marred by smoke from the countless forest fires popping up. Too bad we couldn't have sent them our rain. A trip to remember for sure.

The Hatches are ON!!

Don't wait till the last minute and expect to find what you need to match that hatch. You don't want that fish to get the best of you because of the wrong fly pattern, or old, or outdated equipment. Stop by one of our local shops and get ready for the "rise". Bob or Bud will be happy to get you prepared.

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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