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# CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Neshannock Trout Unlimited Chapter 216



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**Website:**

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**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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**January 2005**

## Editors Notes

The holidays are past, and with that passing there are many things that have shown an increase over the holiday period. My weight, cholesterol, debt, and fuel bill returning those items I never really needed or wanted. The only thing that has decreased was my interest in television, and cookies. Is it just I or are these "reality" shows the most unrealistic and worthless use of air time since the Geraldo Rivera specials. It's a good thing that Discovery Channel and Outdoor Life Network are available.

I did get some meat for the freezer this hunting season. I hope you were also lucky or skilled and got your venison. The steelheading came to a halt just before Christmas with the short cold blast that froze over all but the fastest sections of the Erie streams. In my opinion, there didn't seem to be as many fish this year or maybe it was the fact  
*cont. from pg. 2*

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

## Editors Notes cont.

*cont. from pg. 1*

that there were so many people in “steelhead alley” that you couldn’t get to the fish. I fished on the Saturday after the first heavy lake effect snow and there were people everywhere. The scouring of the creeks made for less holding water and combined with more human traffic made for a lackluster year for me. Let me know your thoughts on the past fall’s steelhead fishing. I would like some other views.

If you have any stories or articles from your past adventures please submit 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 exploits. Don’t worry about grammar, that can be fixed, but without a story there is nothing to fix.

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](http://www.neshannock-tu.org). There is a wealth of information, past newsletters and links to the state, national TU, and other interesting sites.

When in the area, please stop by and support the local fly shops. They have what you need before heading to your favorite spot.

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## What’s Your Thoughts

I just read an interesting article in the most recent PATROUT. It concerned stream restoration and wild trout management in Wisconsin. Their approach is the result of the efforts of a few visionary people many years ago. Essentially the vision in Wisconsin was to improve the habitat on streams that could support trout and the trout population will take care of itself. The approach to repairing and maintaining good stewardship of the land and streams for the past 50 years has been a tremendous success. Please read the article. Some very good points were made. The Wisconsin DNR would offer to repair streams that passed through farmer’s meadows. Banks were

# Cabin Fever - 2005

*N. Lopprir*

We will be holding our third annual Cabin Fever Symposium on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at the Hermitage VFW. Things begin at 11:00 am. The agenda will be more informal this year. Of course, we will have some fly tying, a few displays and a raffle for a rod and other prizes. It also includes all the gossip and tall tales you can swap until its time for lunch. The good news is that lunch is on us. There will be a cash bar to help wash down the food. Look for a flyer at the fly shops or check on line at [www.neshannock-tu.org](http://www.neshannock-tu.org).

There will be two very interesting speakers to fill the afternoon. First, Don Mathews, a very well respected Steelhead guide that you might know as “D’Fishin fool”. Don is a no-nonsense guide (I’ve fished with him) that flat knows where to go and what is needed to catch those silver streaks.

Next is a local favorite, Trapper John. I don’t believe there is any nuisance animal or bug that John hasn’t dealt with over his many years. Remember to bring a question about a bug, squirrel, or other problem and John will provide the right course of action.

The weather may be cold and nasty but quit those “honey do” projects for a day and enjoy meeting your friends for a free afternoon of fun. Who knows, you may come home with a fly rod.



stabilized and riparian zones established. The cows were kept from grazing close to the bank. According to the article the quickest way to improve a trout stream is to stabilize the banks and create a riparian zone. That doesn’t sound like magic. In fact it sounds very straightforward.

Things didn’t change over night in Wisconsin but things DID change for the better with time.

Some examples of benefits to habitat improvement approach are:

- The streams are now self-sustaining so no eggs need hatched, less trucks for hauling, less

# Munnell Run Trout Nursery

(Sponsor: Neshannock Chapter TU)

Overcrowding in the trout nursery raceway started to become a problem. Some trout were showing signs of 'fin wear'. Thus, it was necessary to stock a few trout ahead of our normal 'cabin fever' stocking in January; sometimes February.

December 31st was a pleasant day to stock trout. We delivered and stocked 200 rainbow trout at the upper end of the Neshannock Creek DHALO area location. Volunteer help consisted of:

Ken Tarczy (& grandchildren) • Jim Noble  
Ray Magensky • Pete Anthony

Bob Shuey & several trout fishermen were on hand at the Outdoor Shop to help with the stocking.

Average lengths of trout were 10 inches. (There were a 'few dinks'. However, they earned their freedom too.)

Anyone interested in joining the team or helping with the stocking program, please contact Pete Anthony at 724.662.2271, or email GPANTHONY@PATHWAY.NET, or Ken Tarczy at 724.662.5765.



medicine, food and labor to raise stocked fish.

- Funds that were freed from raising fish went to more research on habitat improvement.
- More conservation officer to enforce more strict fishing laws to maintain the improve resource.
- Better relations with land owners.
- Improved working relationships between fish, game, and natural resource agencies within the state.

I'm sure the Wisconsin approach has some flaws, but it does make me think that PA could learn a few things.

# 27th Annual Banquet

N. Loprire

The 27 Th annual (I'm getting old) spring banquet is closer than you think. The banquet will also be held at the Hermitage VFW on Saturday March 19, 2005. As usual things begin at 5:00 PM. One thing is for sure, the food will be great, the beverages cold, and there will be many raffles and prizes. We haven't booked a Fly Tier at this point, but Dr. Moxley will be there and we will announce our fly tier in the Feb-March newsletter.

We will once again have a gun raffle. At this point we are planning a muzzleloader and a pump shotgun for prizes. Attention tiers, we would like some donated flies from the tiers out there in our chapter. These make nice prizes. Include your name with the flies and you might get a call from the recipient telling you about the lunker it fooled.

We hope to have some varied and different prizes to offer this year so make sure to mark that calendar you get from the dry cleaner, or the party store and plan to attend. Bring your buddies, wives, girlfriends, and kids, as it is a fun evening for all. Our goal is to break 200 in attendance. We have come close the last two years and this year we are going to do it. Remember to let us know if you want to reserve a table. Come out and the support cold water conservation. Below is an order form for banquet tickets. Remember to include a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of your tickets.

You can also pick up banquet tickets and 50/50 raffle tickets at the local fly shops, from our board members, Benjamin's Restaurant in Mercer or at the Cabin Fever event on January 29th.

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

## 2005 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!!***

# Angler's Hooked on Lake Erie Steelheading

*Taken from Sharon Herald 11/8/04*

Steve Young loves all things fish, but he loves steelhead in particular. So much so that he quit his job as a motorcycle salesman to guide anglers visiting Lake Erie's tributary waters during the fall and winter runs.

Consider him just one example of the \$9.5 million-a-year steelhead industry in Erie County, as documented recently by a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission study. The financial impact has quadrupled in 20 years. That's a stunning number, considering Pennsylvania only has about 60 miles of coastline on Lake Erie and about a dozen fishable tributaries.

Alaskan and Pacific Northwestern rivers have long enjoyed reputations as steelhead destination, but over the past decade, the Great Lakes' steelhead fishery is becoming better known. "I think it ranks with any fishing place in the world," said Young, 55 of Wexford. "The advantage of the Pennsylvania streams that attract all the fishermen is that it's sight fishing. The clarity, that's what really thrills people."

Steelhead are actually rainbow trout that spend much of their adult lives in the ocean or large lakes. They swim into freshwater to spawn but, unlike salmon, can spawn more than once before they die. Anglers pursue what many consider to be freshwater's most prized game fish with flies, bait, and lures. Lake Erie steelhead average about 24 inches and typically weigh 3 to 8 pounds. The state record was caught April 1, 2001, weighed 20 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 36.5 inches.

But Young and others lament the fishery may be getting too popular. Bud is strictly catch-and-release and nearly 80 percent of all anglers release their catch.

With the increasing number of anglers seeking steelhead come problems of access. Some

landowners have posted their land against trespassing, reducing access to the waters. One landowner did so after an angler relieved himself on the property on a recent Thanksgiving Day, in view of the family as they ate their dinner.

Gary Heubel is president of the Pennsylvania Steelhead Association and owner of Poor Richard's Bait and Tackle shops. He agrees that an increasing amount of private land is getting posted.

"We need to compensate the landowners in some way for all the money coming into this area" Heubel said. He favors some type of tax break for property owners who grant land easements.

The Pennsylvania study shows that over a half-million steelhead are caught by anglers each year, with the average angler catching a steelhead about every 90 minutes. The PFBC stocks more than 1 million smolts each year with local clubs adding an additional 115,000 smolts.

The fish out West are bigger but a 2-3 fish day is considered good. On the Erie tributaries a skilled angler on a good day can catch 20 or more fish.

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*Let me know your thoughts  
at [steelhd789@aol.com](mailto:steelhd789@aol.com)...*

*I am fond of all sorts of fishing, in fresh or salt water, in the interior of the country, or on the coast, but trout angling takes a grip on the imagination. It is more of a mental recreation than other methods.*

**Theodore Gordon (1908)**

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