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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Neshannock Trout Unlimited Chapter 216



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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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February/March 2005

Editors Notes

We have had a healthy dose of winter throughout January and February. The idea of a mild winter is not a reality. The lakes are frozen for the second time and I guess that makes the ice fishermen happy. In the limited reports that I have received the ice fishing is OK but the catching is as poor as last year for most. I think the unusual weather of the past two years has thrown everything out of whack.

Banquet time is approaching and it's time to get your tickets. Get some friends together and have a good time. See the fly shops or send in the form in this newsletter. A flyer is posted on our website.

Take time to read the article about the proposed steelhead tournament. Voice your opinion.

If you have any stories or articles from your past adventures please submit via email to tjochman@sbcglobal.net or
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

steelhd789@aol.com and we will let our readers in on your exploits. Don't worry about grammar, 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.

Cabin Fever - 2005

N. Loprire

The CFS was well attended this year by over 90 people. I was busy with tying flies while other displays of antique tackle and demonstrations occupied others. The crowd was treated to two fine presentations. Don Mathews and his guides put on an excellent presentation on steelhead fishing in "Steelhead Ally". There were many little secrets and tips revealed if you paid careful attention.

Our second speaker was "Trapper John" and he entertained us with solutions for the tribulations of others with critter problems. He covered lawn grubs to raccoons for those in attendance. John is truly an interesting and entertaining speaker.

The lunch was great and we did have a successful raffle of a nice 4-wt rod for spring fishing.

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!!

27th Annual Banquet

N. Loprire

The 27th annual spring banquet will 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, and the beverages cold, and there will be many raffles and prizes. This year we will have Kim Boal as our guest fly tier. Kim hails from Pennsylvania and is a very accomplished tier. She has demonstrated her skills across the US and in Europe. Kim is also an enthusiastic angler that creates flies that work! So, if you have a question about what to use and when to use it, Kim will have the answer. Pairing up with Kim will be our resident tying expert Dr. Charles Moxley. Those two will do their best to entertain you throughout the evening.

We will once again have a gun raffle. At this point we are planning a muzzleloader and a pump shotgun for prizes. We will also be raffling a Bamboo fly rod of your choice. Yes I said a beautiful Bamboo rod with two tips. Don't miss this chance.

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.

Mark that calendar you get from the dry cleaner, or the party store and plan to 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.

Workday Review - 2004

Jeff Kremis

During the past year we had three workdays that covered a wide variety of projects. We started off in the spring with some much-needed work on the parking area and railroad access near the covered bridge on the lower end of the DHALO area on the Neshannock. We improved the railroad access with some stone at the entrance and the removal of fallen trees and replacement of a culvert that had been washed out by high water. A new gate was also installed at the entrance at the request of the property owners. This will provide access for the stocking trucks that haven't been able to get back for several years. The parking area was also graded and stone added to smooth out the entrance. Thanks to Denny Salmon of Wallace Builders and Rick Stoyer of Stoyer's Nursery for supplying and operating the equipment needed for this size of project. Also thanks go out to Rich Knauf, Bob Shuey, Larry Dando, Tom Jochman, Dick Natoli, Jim Mondok, Doug Rohrer, Aaron Monroe, Nick Loprire, Bill Fay, Tom Bost, John Salerno, Bob Vesey and Bud Hanselman for their help.

During the summer workday we concentrated on the Glory Hole, which had been affected by rock that had washed down from a small tributary during

high water. Under the watchful eye of Pete Anthony and Jim Mondock and with the cooperation of the Beagle Club, Doug Pears used his backhoe to remove the excess stone. Aaron Monroe and Dick Natoli also helped with some weed whacking and trail cleanup. Hopefully, with some help from Mother Nature, this area will return to its glory soon.

The fall workday was spent on smaller projects on the Coolspring DHALO area. Trail maintenance, including brush removal and footbridge repair, along with deflector repair was needed due to floodwater this summer. The beagle club's swinging bridge was also washed away so a new path off the main trail was cut in to provide access to this often fished area. Thanks to chapter members Jim Williams, Pete Anthony, Ken Tarczy, Jim Mondock, Doug Rohrer, Dick Natoli, Rich Knauf, Aaron Monroe and Nick Loprire for their help.

Mark your calendars now for next April 9th and we will get things started for 2005. If you are interested in helping next year contact me at 724-588-4378 or bentley48@neo.rr.com to volunteer. Think how much better the waters around us can be if we had more volunteers.



Munnell Run Trout Nursery

(Sponsor: Neshannock Chapter TU)

The stocking is about to begin. Coolspring will be stocked March 1st at 10am. Meet at the gate on the railroad bed. Contact Pete for more info. People will be needed to float stock and haul buckets to stream areas.

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.

Proposed Lake Erie Steelhead Tournament

(Condensed from Letter by NWPATU)

There is a proposed steelhead tournament on the Erie County streams in March. A permit has been issued but it appears that not much has been thought out about the impact such a "fish for money" tournament would have in a number of areas. At present about 80% of the steelhead caught are released by anglers. Obviously this would not be the case in a contest where the conditions to win are dependent on bringing the fish in to be weighed. In quick bites here is a list of some other concerns.

cont. from pg. 4

The Reel World

By Barry Adler – (Former editor of the NY Times)

Joel doesn't like golf. He had been in a bonding mood of late-something that seems to happen to men at midlife-and since hitting the links wasn't an option; he had decided an adventure was the way to go. Fly-fishing may not be as macho as kickboxing or crocodile hunting, but it was, we decided, on the "A" list of activities. We had seen A River Runs Through It, and envisioned ourselves casting in grand waters like Brad Pitt, making catch after masculine catch. So we went west (to Michigan). The fact that we'd never been fly-fishing surely wouldn't be an obstacle. We signed up for lessons and found ourselves not in the rugged wilderness but on the grass of a golf course. Here by the sand trap we would master the art of casting. Dave was our instructor and while highly knowledgeable, there was no mistaking him for Brad Pitt. There was much to learn, here in the north of Michigan and Dave was right to bring us along slowly. Finally, after the better part of two days on land, we graduated to a river. It wasn't just any river. It was the Boardman, fished on by none other than Hemmingway in his youth. Unlike the golf course the river actually moved. So we walked over a slippery bottom of rocks and mud, stepping unsteadily like newborns, our line snagging branches and bushes along the shore. I could be wrong, but I think the fish were enjoying this more than we were.

What we lacked in skills we made up in style. Well, at least Joel did. He was wearing one of those horribly expensive fishing vests that have all manner of pockets and zippers, the classic hallmark of a manly garment. Just as good was the cigar (could it be anything but Cuban?) that jutted out of his face, lost now and again in the fitful plumes of smoke that mark the novice puffer.

The fish had nothing to fear, I hooked a log and Joel got a rock. With no fish to measure or weigh, we wound up comparing tugs, imagined or otherwise.

We returned to the school humbled and embarrassed. "You guys did great," Dave said, revealing a shockingly low standard for awarding praise. The next and last day found us back on the golf course, polishing our "skills". We fished in a pond, going over

our casts again and again-and giving another day's golfers something to call home about. How'd we do in the pond? Let's just say there was no need to restock.

By midday, we had graduated from fly-fishing school. Dave had done his best, but clearly we were not star pupils. We had a couple of days before going home and Joel was determined to catch a fish.

The next day we hauled our gear back to the river, and this time something funny happened. No, we didn't catch anything on the river but we became strangely part of it. At one point I had to wade into the middle of the river to position myself, and then there was the transcendent moment. I turned and looked downriver at Glenn and Joel. They were framed in sunlight, and the water that swirled past them glinted with the gold of a late summer afternoon. All I could hear was the burbling of the river. All I could feel was the peace of being along with friends. And I savored the moment. It was worth much more than the fish we didn't catch or the golf we never played.



Steelhead Tournament cont.

cont. from pg. 3

- Increased injury to smolts
- Increased trash
- Parking issues
- Landowner issues
 - Trespassing
 - Increased traffic
- Will this lead to more and varied tournaments.
- Increase workload for WCOs

These are just some of the concerns. Relations with landowners are already strained and this doesn't appear that it will have a positive impact. Express your opinion to your state representatives and to the fish commission if you feel the permit should be pulled.

A description of the tournament can be found at:
<http://www.fishingderbies.com/>

The rules for the tournament can be found at:
<http://www.fishingderbies.com/registration.html>

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