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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Neshannock Trout Unlimited Chapter 216



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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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April/May 2005

Editors Notes

We look forward to the warming rays of the sun after a very tough winter. The blast of snow in early April was the last gasp of a tenacious and unrelenting winter. In my youth it was just another season called winter, which was something to endure and try to enjoy. Now it's like a bad houseguest that won't go away. I tried cross-country skiing and that was OK for a couple of afternoons. I tried to work on projects that had been delayed from last fall. I still found myself wanting a "normal" spring, whatever that is. It seems normal has come to mean cold, rainy, and high silted rivers and streams. As I write we are in a stretch of sunny days that I honestly can't ever remember occurring in April. It's usually overcast and... you guessed it, rainy. I'll stick with the sunshine and I hope it stays.

The trout season is upon us and I hope you have success in your outings throughout the year. Remember there is more to fishing than the fish! If you get a chance,
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

take a youth fishing; it's good for the both of you.

This is the last newsletter until this fall. To keep up with chapter events please check our website (www.neshannock-tu.org). We will post workday info there and we will email those on our list. If you want the latest chapter info and you haven't sent us your email address please do so. Send it to tjochman@sbcglobal.net. Thanks and don't catch them all...leave some for me.

This Year's Club Outings

N. Lopriore

Get ready for some fishing and camaraderie at the two club events this spring. First, a day's fishing at Oil Creek State Park at Petroleum center. The date Saturday May 7th and in case of rain or high water

no rain date will be held. If unsure contact a board member. We will have coffee waiting at "Shelter #1" at Petroleum Center at 7:30 am. Some skip that in favor of early fishing. A lunch of dogs and burgers with all the trimmings will be served at 12 sharp. That way we can all find out where the fishing has been good. Please contact me (steelhd789@aol.com) or Jeff Kremis (bentley48@neo.rr.com) if you plan to attend, so we will know how much food to buy.

Our annual weekend trip to Potter County will be June 3-5. We arrive Friday evening and stay at John Gavalier's camp. You will need a sleeping bag, pillow, a steak (or something to grill), any beverages (we will have soda) and fishing equipment. The club will provide all the other food. Because of this we need to know who will be attending. Please let a board member know or see above to reserve a spot. It is a very lay back weekend and with good weather the fishing can be very good. The Saturday steak fest and George Marsh's lumberjack breakfasts are not to be missed. Mark your calendars and call.



27th Annual Spring Banquet

N. Lopriore

The banquet was a bit of a surprise in that we had more people than was expected by the ticket count. The 178 attendees had an excellent dinner and a chance at numerous prizes. The interest in our fly tiers was evident throughout the evening and the kids enjoyed Aaron Monroe's "Bag the Trout" game. We don't have the final tally yet but looking at similar revenue from last year we should net around \$4500 to help with next years projects.

Once again thanks to all those who helped to make the banquet a success and please support the local businesses that traditionally help to make our banquet a great annual event.

2005 Banquet Donors

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John Bender	John Bono
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Alan Gyurek	Brad Hoffman
Tom & Carol Jochman	Nick Lopriore
Dr. Chuck Moxley	Dick & Donna Natoli

Workday Review - 2005

Jeff Kremis

What a great day and a very productive workday on Coolspring. April 9th was our first workday of the year. We had 17 people participate and it made the clean up work go very quickly. We split into two groups, one going to Wolf Creek in Grove City and the other cleaning the highway and trails around Coolspring. The litter detail covered the mile or so along Scrubgrass road. I was a beautiful day that made the hike along the road even more pleasant. We picked up over 8 bags along with the odd muffler and tailpipe. It may sound like a lot but the veterans all agreed that the highway is much cleaner than when we adopted it. The crew headed by Tom Jochman and Dick

Natoli did similar clean up work along Wolf Creek. Their effort was more directed along the stream bank. They also installed a sign along the special regulated area of the creek. This is the youth and handicapped fishing area that our chapter helped develop in 2003. We will be having a fishing derby there next month.

I want to say thanks to all who took the time to attend and we hope to see you at the next workday. We will post it on our website (www.neshannock-tu.org). Please send your email address to us (tjochman@sbcglobal.net) and we will contact you about the next workday.



Fishing Derby May 14

R. Rickert (Youth coordinator)

The second annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Wolf Creek in Grove City PA on May 14, 2005 from 9 to noon. The derby will be located at the Children and Handicapped Fishing Area on Wolf Creek .3 miles from the college on Greenwood Ave. Registration will start at 8:30 and is open to children 12 and under and individuals with disabilities. The young fishermen should bring their rods and reels and either live bait such as worms or artificial lures. They should also bring a stringer to hold their fish. Around 9:00 there will be stocking of trout, all participants will receive a hat, a free lunch will be provided, and there will be numerous prizes given out. Parents will need to register their child and sign a consent form. This was a great success last year and it is anticipated that this year's event will be even better. Major sponsors are the Borough of Grove City, Armstrong Utilities, Grove City Sportsman's Club, and of course Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Any TU members wishing to help children learn to fish

will discover that it is a great experience for both the child and the member, so anyone who would like to volunteer their help would be appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Dick Rickert at (724) 588-7047.

Also, the board has been quite active in support of youth activities. The chapter has given 2 scholarships to the Mercer County Sportsman's Club Youth Camp, and, this year we will be sponsoring two young adults to the 2005 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in Boiling Springs, PA. Tyler Micsky, a junior at Reynolds High School in Greenville, PA, and John Buchenic, a tenth grader from Hubbard (Ohio) High School are both quite excited to attend the camp and learn to fly fish as well as develop an understanding of conservation in our streams. Both young men are outstanding individuals and good representatives from our chapter.

Times are Different – Not Better

By N. Loprire

I have fished all my life and fly-fished over 28 years. It is a sport that encompasses many facets that please the others and me who pursue it with some passion. “**Some**” is the key word in the previous sentence. I fly fish for a number of reasons and catching trout or steelhead is only one reason. I don’t understand the person that fly fish without enjoying nature and all that surrounds them.

A case in point was noted on a trip for steelhead this past spring. It was early spring and it was the first really nice day (65 degrees) after the long, long winter. I was excited to see the clear, dancing water, the sun warming my back, and the blue sky. The fact that fishing turned out to be very good made for a memorable day. Of course, I was not alone on the stream. I crossed paths with a young man in his late 20’s enjoying (or so I thought) what the day was offering. He was wading, with purpose, up the middle of the area of spawning gravel I wanted to fish. He was wading so quickly I’m sure he spooked a few fish he never took the time to notice. I figured that the fish would return in a few minutes, once the area calmed. As he passed we exchanged the usual pleasantries about the day, the number of fish caught on which flies, etc. I proceeded down stream to the area he vacated and immediately noted a number of steelhead against the far bank. I can’t remember if he had sunglasses on or if he did, they may not have been polarized and he missed seeing them. In any case I had a bunch of fish to cast my fly to.

After a few casts and some prudent positioning, I had my first fish on and as we all do, I looked up stream to see if my fellow fisherman noted my success. He did and had the expression of someone who was puzzled. I’m guessing he was puzzled that I caught a fish from where he left. I hooked another fish and when I looked up I noted that the young man was also into a steelhead. I also noticed something that, at first, puzzled me. He had an odd stance as he fought the fish. It was almost a pained or strained type of stance with his head cocked to one side. I

glanced back after a several minutes and the fish was leading him downstream to me. Now, I had a closer look at his pained condition and found the reason for it. He was fighting this steelhead while **talking on a cell phone!!** The phone was trapped between his head and his shoulder as he fought the fish. I was so taken back that for an instant I forgot I was playing a fish. I cannot imagine whom this guy was talking too. **THERE IS NO WAY** that I would consider answering a cell phone while hooked to a fish. In fact the only reason I would carry a cell phone is for emergency purposes. Unless he was coaching his wife through a birth or was answering the LAST question on “Who Wants to be a Millionaire”, he should not be on a phone.

I consider my fishing time a precious piece of my life to be spent away from the day-to-day stresses that help support the antacid industry. It is a time to reflect, think, enjoy a simple breeze, and see a hawk soar overhead or just watch the water sparkle like a river of diamonds. This young man has not yet learned the true essence of the outdoor sports and that is sad. Has life for the younger generation gotten to the point where there is not enough time to enjoy a pursuit with out mixing in the mainstream of life?

Please let me know if you ever see a Saturday morning fishing or hunting show where at “the critical moment” you observe the sportsperson talking on a cell phone. I assure you that it won’t happen. Half of the visual experience of these shows is to put the viewer in an exotic place with no distractions from the outside world. The reason is that the viewing sportsperson wants to escape for just a while from reality.

I just hope this was just an exception and that I never see it again. I felt like saying something to the young man but I think in a few years he will grow to understand what he is missing or he will leave this sport and switch to playing video games on the boob tube and we’ll all be better for it.

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