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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

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Are announced in the newsletter and on the website.

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

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Editors Notes

Snow, warm, wind, rain, wind, cold, more snow, colder, and comparisons to the winter of 1977-78 that essentially eliminated the quail population from northern Ohio and killed many deer in Pa. This all occurred in all in a two week span. I hope it is not a sign of things to come.

My Pennsylvania hunting friends did not fare well in the deer gun season. Weather was certainly a factor. Let's hope the late season hunts have better conditions and more success.

Christmas snuck up on me again this past year. I just used to be able to keep up with things but lately it's a supreme push at the end to get all that needs done, completed. It maybe that the season is enough to enjoy without all the rushing to shop with the hoards and the aggravation that is Christmas shopping. Will Rogers once said "the older you get the fewer things there are worth waiting in line for". I agree with that.

There has been a lot of grumbling
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

about the steelhead fishing this past fall. Numbers of returning fish were down by most estimates and the number of fisherman up. More stories of posted land and abuses of the fishing laws. Even though it is mentioned each and every year the absence of fishing etiquette is appalling. My article from the last newsletter about the crowded streams struck a nerve with one of our readers. He wrote back saying that he feels the same way and that he has seen over use of some of his favorite trout streams. Maybe the national and state publications have done too good a job promoting the trout and steelhead opportunities. Certainly since I began to fly fish almost 30 years ago there has been an enormous increase in interest. It is ironic in that a key attraction to the sport is that trout (in general) live in beautiful places. Just being there puts one in a relaxed state, away from today's frantic life style. Now you get up two hours earlier to beat the other guy to "your spot". Good gone bad.

If you have any stories or articles from your past adventures please submit via email to tjochman@sbcglobal.net or steelhd789@aol.com and we will let our readers in on your exploits.

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.



Gimme Five

Steve Abel (submitted by Paul Williamson)

All it takes is five.

As you leave the stream, as you climb out of your boat or float tube, as you break down your pontoon, as you stop for lunch, as you walk up the beach, as you stow your gear in the trunk, take five – just five minutes – to pick up any litter and leave the area cleaner than you found it.

Gina and I resolve to do it around our home waters on the Bitterroot River in Montana. We don't care who accidentally dropped the empty leader pack, if either of

Cabin Fever – 2006

R. Natoli

It's COLD and there is nothing to do. Bah Humbug! With that, you are all invited and tell your friends about our Fourth annual "Cabin Fever Symposium" which will be held on Saturday January 28, 2006 from 11-3pm at the Hermitage VFW.

Again this year the event is free including lunch at noon. There will be demonstrations, and displays from local businesses. We will also have presentations on Pike & Muskie fishing by Karl Menges and trout fishing. There will be a 50/50 raffle and other raffle prizes. It is always a fun event and an excellent way to chase the winter doldrums for a few hours. Call any officer or Dick Natoli (330)545 4576 for more information.



Munnell Trout Nursery

It may be winter but its business a usual at the nursery. The brown trout are reaching stocking size as you read this. Due to crowding (1700 fish) some have already been given their freedom.

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



us see it we'll pick it up, if we spot a beer bottle cap, we'll pick it up.

If we each take five minutes and if we each enlist five fly-fishing friends to do the same, it won't be long before we clean up every fishing access, beach, boat landing, parking lot and river bank. No government, no mandates, no committees. It's just us.

(Ed. Note – Fold up a two gallon sealable bag and stash in your vest. A ready place for the trash and many other uses.)

Spring is Coming

N. Loprire

I know it's the dead of winter and the thoughts wander towards activities involving snow. But just for a moment consider what you can do now to prepare for the spring fishing season. One important thing is to get more physically active. Remember how whipped you were after the opening day of trout last year. The legs and wind were el-gone-oh at the end of the day. Maybe your day only lasted a few hours. NOW is the time to do something about it. Get the snow boots on and get a walk around the block or two to start. After a while stretch the walk to a mile if possible. If you are over 40 don't forget to stretch before you begin your walk and then stretch a few minutes AFTER your walk. You don't want to just sit and have those muscles tighten up. Check with your doctor before any serious exercise program. Walking is an excellent way to loose some pounds while getting some cardio exercise. The goal is to be able to walk two miles in under 30 minutes. This is about a 4 mile per hour pace and should raise your heartbeat and metabolism. Next promise to skip the wavy chips and corn snacks

at night. Oranges are the best in winter and bananas are always a good snack. The potassium in the bananas along with plenty of water helps prevent cramps.

If you walk on the neighborhood roads don't forget to walk against the traffic and use a flashlight if it is dark. Take the car and drive a likely route you might walk and observe the odometer. It should be simple to determine the length of the route you might want to walk. Once you have a pace that allows you to walk two miles in a half hour you can then easily determine the approximate distance walked by your watch.

Try walking the local trails or roads in the state camping areas or around the local lakes. You can observe the wildlife and get your exercise.

Walking is low impact, doesn't require special equipment or permits, is always available and when trout season comes you will out pace your buddies to the next good area on the creek.



Spring Banquet 2006

N. Loprire

Don't mess up and miss the 28th annual Neshannock Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited's Spring Banquet. It is again being held at the Hermitage VFW Banquet Hall on Rt. 62, just east of the VFW golf course. The date is April 8, 2006 at 5pm. We hope to have bigger and better prizes, including more art and again some fine raffle prizes including guns, and fishing tackle. A guest tier to accompany our resident expert Dr. Charles Moxley will be announced in the next newsletter. Ticket prices have been maintained at \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids under 16.

We will have some special art from Ned Smith and a special piece that will include the PA trout stamps and patches. This is the last year for the trout stamp as we know it. Get ready for some lively bidding on these items.

Of course there will be a terrific buffet dinner to fill you prior to all the bidding and there will be fun for the kids and prizes aimed at the ladies in attendance.

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

2006 Banquet Ticket Order Form

name _____

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\$25 Adult \$45 Couple \$10 Kids

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c/o Nick Loprire
109 Southdale Blvd.
Cortland, OH 44410



Come Support Trout Unlimited and have a great evening!!

Stream Fishing Etiquette – A Primer

N. Loprire

It is discussed at least once a year in a leading magazine, on the internet fishing sites and on TV, yet many people still don't get it. There is not a fisherman I know that has not experienced another angler that has shown a complete lack of fishing etiquette. Just this year I had a guy walk up to within 3 ft of my boots, began chatting about his new rod and waders, then without any hesitation took a step to the left and started to cast to the same piece of water I was working. Fishing was poor and it was late so I wished him luck (not really) and left. How can a person learn to tie knots, know what rod and reel is needed, what waders are best, what flies are required...and have not a clue about fishing manners? When did a person like that learn to say "please, thank you, etc."? This lack of manners is not as isolated as one would think.

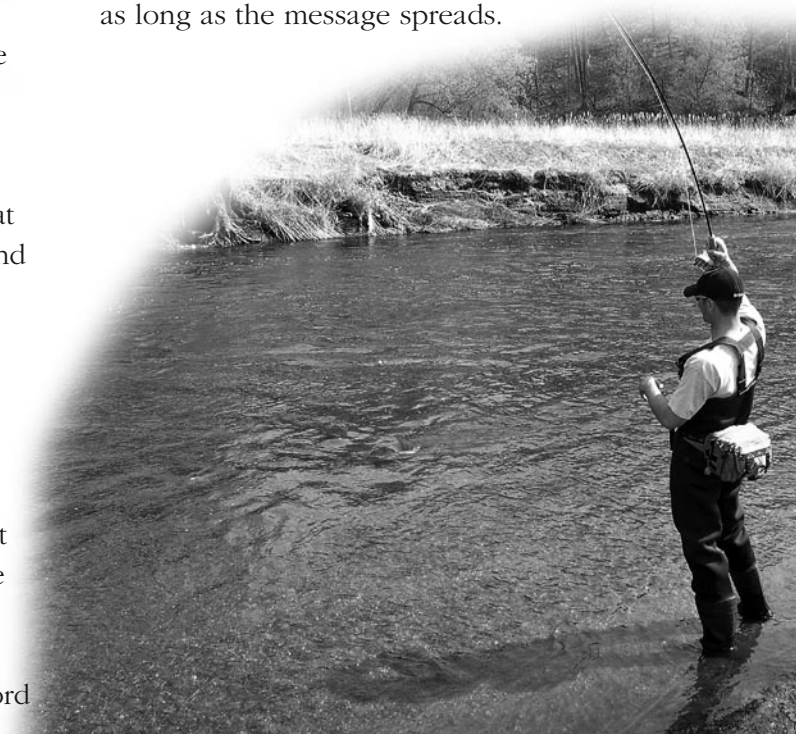
Fishing etiquette is not hard to understand. If you reach back into the dusty closet of your primary education and Sunday school training you most likely will know what follows. The golden rule certainly applies here. It boils down to a few clear rules.

- When fishing a promising hole or run don't camp there all day. You may find a better area or at least get some exercise looking. After a while you either fooled enough fish or they are on to you and nothing will work. **MOVE on!**
- Most good runs or holes in the average stream are no more than 3-4 feet deep in a flowage that is 30-40 ft wide. **DON'T** stand in the middle and fish to the sides. You are most likely standing where the fish want to be and occupying more prime area, thereby limiting others.
- As mentioned above, give the fisherman next to you "his space". Out west on most rivers, a 100yards is bordering on too close. On Pa trout and steelhead streams 30 feet or more from the next angler is appreciated. **Don't under any circumstances** move to another's spot that he has left to fight a fish. **RUDE** is the kindest word

I could use for this behavior. If the guy fighting the fish was 6' 5" with linebacker qualities, I'll bet his spot would be safe. If intimidation is part of your fishing demeanor, take up another sport. Trust me, you won't be missed.

- When crossing a stream, do so at least 50 ft up or down from the area occupied by another. Cross perpendicular to the flow. Never wade through a hole parallel to the flow just outside of another angler's casting range.
- There are areas where "combat" fishing is the norm. I find it akin to "Black Friday" shopping and don't do it. There may be a set of rules for combat fishing. You will have to go elsewhere for help on that subject.
- Respect the landowners who graciously allow you to access the stream through their property. **Leave ALL areas better** than you found it. Pick up after the few slob that would ruin things for the majority.

Feel free to cut out, enlarge, post or whatever, as long as the message spreads.



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