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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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Milestone

"Once an angler, always a fisherman. If we cannot have the best, we will take the least, and fish for minnows if nothing better is to be had."

Theodore Gordon (1912)

February 2007

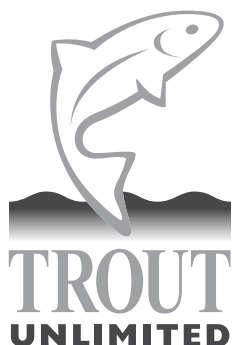
Editors Notes

Another holiday season in the books and another notch in my belt let out to show for it. I don't remember eating and drinking too much but the bathroom scales don't lie...or do they? I may have to take that darn thing in and have it recalibrated as soon as I finish this third piece of this double meat and cheese pizza.

I hope you all got a deer or at least got out to steelhead or trout fish with the mild winter we have had. This is the latest I can remember chasing steelhead in the month of December without using gloves and double long john layers. The fishing was good, but most of the fish are in the upper sections of the Pa streams and few are fresh. The Ohio fish haven't made a major run as of late December but that could change with the next storm.

I'm sure many out there are anxious to try out the new equipment they got for Christmas so let's cross fingers for a continued mild winter. I hope no one got coal in their stockings and that everyone is ready to attack the New Year with energy and ambition. Don't forget those resolutions that were made. Based on the first paragraph you might be able to guess one of mine.

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

Some of my time was spent at the tying bench this holiday season. I inventoried my flies and culled the bad and ugly ties that were from my earlier, less skillful tying days. I tied some killer Blue Wing Olives and I vow to be successful with them this year. For some reason, I just don't seem to have luck fishing this pattern. I also have restocked on Sulfur duns and Light Cahill's for Oil Creek and the Potter County trip.



Munnell Trout Nursery

The brown trout are eating and growing themselves out of a home. The nursery crew has made a couple of stockings because of the crowding in the nursery. The fish are very healthy and should do well where they have been stocked.

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



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

2007 Banquet Ticket Order Form

name

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Mail checks to:

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



Come Support Trout Unlimited and have a great evening!!

Workdays in 2007

Jeff Kremis

We have been discussing some likely projects for Coolspring in the upcoming year. We will have a spring workday in April after the "opener". We will announce the date in the next issue. Please plan to get involved if you really want to see more improvements in the Cool Spring fishery. Six guys or so from the board are not going to make as much progress as we are planning so get ready to lend a hand.

We have posted signs along Coolspring after discussing the issues with landowners about the ATV's tearing up the paths.

Make one of your New Year's resolutions to participate in the workday next spring. All that is needed is to send a name, phone and/or email address to Jeff Kremis (bentley48@neo.rr.com) to get put on our "call" list. We would love to see you there.



Membership Meeting January 29th

A. Monroe

We are holding a membership meeting on Monday the 29th of January at the Hermitage VFW on Rt.62, to elect officers, explain what the chapter is planning for the New Year and to entertain you. First, we need to elect board members and officers to keep us legal with National TU. This should be very quick and painless. Next, we will have Chuck Allen give a presentation on trout fishing that will take many of us back to the early days of the chapter and Coolspring Creek. You see, Chuck was a one of the earliest of members in our chapter and an avid shutterbug. He has some fascinating pictures of the early years (80's) and the people that formed what we have as a chapter today. It should be fun and if any of you know Chuck, it will be interesting. Be sure to tell any of the "old timers" of the chapter to attend that night. It will be great to look back to when we had more hair and smaller waists.

The business meeting begins at 6:30pm and all are welcome. The Presentation by Chuck will be around 7:30 pm. See you there.

2007 Donations to the Spring Banquet

N. Loprire

We are planning to introduce some new ideas to the banquet. One is to reduce the length of the banquet. We have several ideas that should keep all the raffles and auctions and still get everyone out by 9:30 or so. We will let you know more as we get closer. Mark the calendars now for March 24th, 2007. We look forward to seeing you there. Maybe you will be the big winner of the 50/50 raffle, a fine fly rod, or even a new sporting arm. Remember to bring the kids and the wife. The kids are the future of the outdoors and the wife deserves a great meal and a fun night out.

Tickets will be available at the January 29th membership meeting, Neshannock Creek Fly Shop; Benjamin's Restaurant or contact any board member.



**We need
your
help
with
the
website...**



I'm always looking for pictures, ideas, events and other things that would be of interest to members of the Neshannock Trout Unlimited Chapter. So if you have any good ideas, or want to share an image of the fish that didn't get away, email them to john@jpsdesign.com. Include in the subject "Neshannock TU" and we will get them up on the website.

In addition, for over several months (October through mid-December) we had problems with a hacker from Amsterdam on the discussion board. That problem has been cleared up so please feel free to use the discussion board for stream reports and other fly fishing related topics.

Helpful Environmental Hints

N. Loprire

We have all been in the great outdoors whether on a serious fishing expedition or just a brisk walk through the neighborhood and encountered some form of "man" induced blight on the landscape. It could be a bait container, wrapper from fast food or some catch-em-all lure package. Many times the debris is stuck in mud and retrieval for stuffing in one's pocket is not an option.

A way to help keep the areas we frequent looking like nature intended is to carry a simple plastic bag with you. This will allow retrieval without worrying about soiling a jacket or pants pocket. Take a look around the house and I'm sure there is a plastic grocery bag or other small shopping bag that could be stuffed into fanny pack, vest or back pocket.

Use some common sense when becoming a steward of the land.

Note the discarded item on the way into an area for your adventure and plan to pick up the debris as you leave. That way there is no toting of the discarded items during your planned activity.

It would be nice to see bags available at trailheads, parking areas and boat launches for just this purpose. This would be an excellent way to help keep areas void of unwanted litter. Discarded hamburger wrappers and other such items are a fact of life that will only change as more social consciousness is taught at school or home. Many complain if they don't have the right to access certain areas to recreate and when given access, a few will always "mark the territory" with refuse. I really don't understand how a person longs for the outdoor experience and could then proceed to abuse it.

Society has always had to give a helping hand to others and I guess we will always have to follow after those slobs who abuse the privilege of enjoying Mother Nature.

Spring Tune Up

N. Loprire

My best new friend is a Latino named El Nino. I'm sure the ice fishing faithful are cursing the warm winter, but for me it is just fine. No salt constantly was off the cars and no freezing your #%&*@ off getting around town or to work.

A positive about the warm winter is that you can more easily visualize spring trout fishing. If you're like me you can't wait to numb those toes and fingers in the early season. Every winter there are several nice 45-50 degree days where the sun is shining and the stream beckons. Then you think, the stream has been frozen over for a month and two or three days of mild temps aren't going to mean squat. Then it's back to tying flies and college basketball. This year could be different so be prepared. First, take that Christmas money from Aunt Louise and get your license. Next take a look at your fly boxes and do an inventory of the early season flies you will need. Do you have some small stonefly dry flies? This is one of the most fun hatches of the season if you catch the hatch. When the stream is flowing and there are several mild days with light wind and sunshine, you can expect some stone fly hatching to occur. To get at those fish you will need size 14-18 dry flies. If you don't tie a stonefly imitation, a good attractor fly is a Griffith's Gnat in 16-18. You will also need some Hare's Ear and Prince Nymphs (12-16) for probing the holes when no stones are hatching.

The point is to get cracking to make sure all your equipment is ready for the early season. With the warm winter, the spring fishing could be upon us before we normally would expect.

Don't neglect the leader. Nothing short of throwing rocks in the hole will put a brown trout down quicker than a poorly cast dry fly. "Poorly cast" can mean many different things, but a leader that is too short, kinked, with too heavy tippet or too short tippet will ruin that presentation and any chance for that rising fish. Go change or rebuild that leader to 9 feet with at least 24-30 inches of 5X or 6X tippet.

When you know that your equipment and fly is correct it makes you a better caster. Not just because the leader is correct, but because your mind is focused on

the trout and the presentation, with no subconscious doubts as to whether the knot will hold or that the trout see the leader or any number of gremlins that can screw up your chance at that trout.

Look at the barbs on flies used last season. You know, those with the hunk of tippet hanging off the eye. A number of them will have damaged or dull barbs from rocks, trees, etc. A good way to sharpen them is a cheap diamond dust finger nail file from the local drug store. Drill a hole through the plastic handle and hang it on your vest. I always keep on at the tying bench.

Make sure the leaky boots get fixed. Buy some good polar fleece socks to keep the feet warm and don't forget a warm hat and possibly a neck gaiter. The hat and the gaiter on a cold day will greatly help to keep you warm. The majority of body heat is lost through the head and neck area.

Take some trail mix or other high energy bars to keep the body fueled in the cold temps. The body will burn many more calories in frigid conditions than you might think. ALWAYS have some extra dry clothes just incase you take a dunk. Nothing will end an early season fishing trip quicker than cold wet clothes.

I have tried many different style gloves for cold weather fishing and it is my opinion that nothing works better than fingerless wool gloves. The wool remains warm after a plunge in the creek to land a fish. Also, a wool glove is used by many steelhead guides even in warmer weather to land a fish by grabbing its tail. The wool really grips the fish well. The wool rinses out and dries easily and remains functional after fraying around the ends of the cut off fingers. Another trick for the coldest of conditions is to put on latex rubber gloves and then the wool. The tight fit of the latex gives you a fairly good feel for knot tying and handling flies and that thin latex layer is amazingly warm. If you need to, cut off some of the latex on your index finger for better knot tying in the frigid temperatures.

Don't let cold weather stop you from some good fishing opportunities. As a friend of mine always says "the weather dictates what you wear not what you do".

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