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CLEARWATER GAZETTE

A Publication of Nesbannock Trout Unlimited Chapter 216



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P.O. Box 1362
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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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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)

March 2007

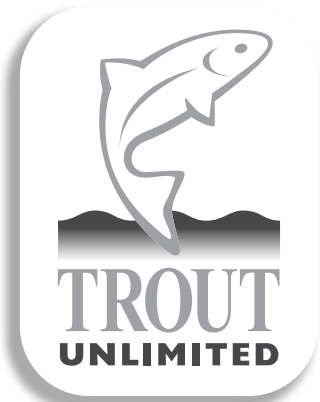
Editors Notes

Did I mention how much I was enjoying the mild winter? Duh, that must have been a blizzard and two Arctic cold blasts ago. The memory of 50+ degrees and fishing are but a vague permanently frozen, can't make it out through the whiteout in my mind, chunk, lodged somewhere in my brain. They say after trauma your mind represses things. I can't recall anything but bone chilling cold, snow, more snow, and hibernating. Punxsutawney Phil is LIAR! I will never put my faith in him again.

With this horrendous weather we all need to think about our pets and mother natures creatures that live in this harsh environment. Get some sunflower seed for the birds, and squirrels. Thistle for the Finches and a bag or two of corn for the turkeys and deer will be appreciated by those creatures. The deep snow will be a problem for the deer, especially if we get some mild conditions followed by a freeze that forms a frozen crust over the snow. That will not be a good situation for the animals that need to dig the ground to get their food. Hopefully when you read this you won't need to act.

Clear a spot in the back yard or on your deck and scatter the feed. Don't put it in one big pile. The

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

dominant animal will feed but others will not. Spread the sunflower seeds or corn over an 8-10 foot area and that added room will allow many different creatures to feed.



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 _____

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!!

Workdays in 2007

Jeff Kremis

We have been discussing some likely projects for Coolspring in the upcoming year. We will have a spring workday after the "opener" on Sunday, April 15th. We will meet at 12 noon in the parking lot. We plan to do our spring cleaning of Scrubgrass Rd. and along the stream.

We would love to see a bunch of members 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. Work a few hours, learn the stream a bit, and then go fish. Sounds good to me.

We have posted signs along Coolspring after discussing the issues with landowners about the ATV's tearing up the paths. It appears that the signs have reduced the 4 wheeler traffic and hopefully that will carry over into the spring.



Membership Meeting January 29th

A. Monroe

Things don't always go as planned in life. That goes for meetings as well. Yes we did have the membership meeting on the 29th and those requiring re-election were confirmed. The deviation came in the form of our program that night. We were scheduled to have long time member and expert mushroom hunter (I guess he plays a mean game of golf too) Chuck Allen to give us a pictorial look back at the early days of the chapter. Unfortunately Chuck came down with the flu and was not able to make it. We will reschedule Chuck's show as I know it would be great to see some of the past history of the chapter, the work done on Coolspring and the members from the early years.

To the rescue came Gary Beatty of the NWTF (Nation Wild Turkey Federation) chapter here in NW Pa. Gary gave us an excellent presentation on the general aspects of turkey hunting and calling. It generated a number of questions from the attentive listener. Gary and his chapter are also very active with the community youth. It was a pleasure to have Gary present to us.

The 29th Annual Spring Banquet

N. Lopprine

The Spring Banquet is taking shape. It will be on Saturday, March 24th starting at 5:00 pm. We have booked Glenn Weisner and Wayne Sampson as guest tiers along with our resident expert Dr. Charles Moxley. Glenn and Wayne hail from the Toledo Ohio area and are absolutely some of the best tiers you will ever see. We had them several years ago and everyone enjoyed them. Best of all, both Glenn and Wayne made it point to say how much they enjoyed the people at our banquet.

They have a small company called the Glenn River fly Co. that specializes in "kits" that will provide the tier with all the materials required to tie a dozen flies of a chosen pattern. We have arranged to have them here prior to the banquet to show interested fly tiers how to tie patterns from their kits. So, if you buy one or more of their kits, they will personally instruct you on how to tie that fly. If you have trouble with a March Brown nymph or a Light Cahill dry they can help and you will complete the others at home. We are arranging for some tools and vises to be available at the banquet. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED CALL (330) 638-2982 for details and to hold a seat. This will take place around 2pm Saturday before the start of the banquet.

If you haven't attended our banquet I can assure you that won't go home hungry. The VFW's food is outstanding. There are 3 entrees and everything to go with it. There are numerous prizes in the raffles, auctions, and games. It is family friendly environment so bring the kids. Kid's tickets are \$10 so there's no excuse.

Banquet tickets are now available from any Board Member, Neshannock Creek Fly Shop, Benjamin's Restaurant (Mercer) or through any Board member. (see the cover of the newsletter.)

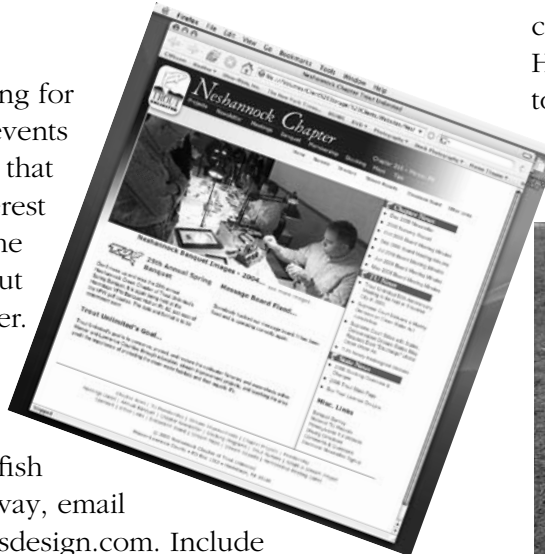
The traditional rod raffle, bucket raffle and art auction will be there. Also, someone will win about \$400 in our 50/50 raffle. Last year we had fun with the "Scale the Trout Game", pick the right scale and win money up to \$50. You could be the lucky one. The bean bag toss will win you bucket raffle tickets.

There are a number of ways to have fun at this year's banquet but that won't happen if you aren't there. Please set aside March 24th and plan to be there to enjoy the friendship, food, prizes and support TU.



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.



Annual Spring Stocking

The usual spring stocking of Coolspring by the fish commission is the first Wednesday in March (the 7th). Help is needed to carry buckets to the stream and to float stock (weather permitting). Call numbers in above paragraph for details and to sign up. Let's hope the weather cooperates.



I Think I Know the Secret

N. Loprire

Fishing contests and professional fishing don't interest me in the least. Any contest that involves besting another for money or prizes is like most of life...competition. The better tree chopper gets paid more than a mediocre one. A guy that can remove your innards, fix a problem and put them back, (in the correct position without an extra surgical towel) gets paid more than a shoe salesman. That's the way life is. I fish to escape that situation so there is no interest in putting up some of my money in hopes of catching the most, biggest, longest or whatever dimension will get me a better prize than the next guy.

There is one area that is an exception for me and almost every other fisherman and that is the secret lure. It could be a special fly, plug, spinner, hook rig or whatever, but it IS the secret lure that will catch more than any one else that just happens to be around that day.

It usually starts out on a day where fishing is tough. A fish here and there but certainly there is no "matching the hatch". If only I had the right fly, lure, etc. So deep in the recesses of the tackle or fly box a lure is discovered that has not seen the water since the Hoover Dam was built. You say what the heck, tie it on, and as they say the rest is history. You slay the finny friends one after another. If you planned a fish fry that weekend then the fish become important but usually they are released and it's on to the next one. It's not the fish that cause the excitement; it's the discovery of the secret fly (lure).

Back at the bench the plan is laid to make more of the "killer" fly in different sizes and with ever so subtle improvements. If it's a lure then its miles, phone calls and catalogs looking for more of the exact same, non mainstream, funky lure. Of course not a word of this holy grail of fishing is shared with your fishing buddies. After all, they, at one time or another flogged you good on the stream or lake. No, this is payback time and you are about to unleash the secret on them at the next outing together. So you tie, or buy different sizes and types to make sure you are well armed. The secret is a tremendous responsibility and must be guarded in lunchtime and bar conversations until the appointed hour. Then, the secret will be unleashed

and it will stagger all those who witness its piscatorial power. Friends and strangers alike will look to you as the next coming of Lefty Kreh or Bill Dance.

The time has come the conditions right and the "secret" is attached to the line. It is time to put on a clinic for your buddies. As you approach the spot where the previous success took place you position yourself so all around will have a undisturbed view of what is about to happen. You make the first cast. "Hmm, that probably got their attention and this cast will result in a savage strike", you think to yourself. Nothing, followed by nothing and continuous casts produce more of the same. How can it be? Just last week this secret lure was magic and now...nada. Of course your buddies are doing mo-better than you and have rightfully indicated their successes by a series of whoops and yells. You can't understand it. It just can't be, but that is the beauty of the sport of fishing. Fishing of any kind is like dealing with little kids and Russian cars...on any given day you never know what might happen.



Youth Fishing Derby

R. Rickert

Youth News — The annual **Wolf Creek Trout Fishing Derby** will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the Children's and Handicapped Fish Area of Wolf Creek in Grove City on Greenwood Ave. Registration begins at 8:00 am (free) and is opened to all children up and including age 12, and all handicapped individuals. Free hats, prizes, and food will be available, so bring a child, grandchild, or little friend and some equipment and enjoy the morning!

Also, applications are being accepted for the Fly Fishing and Rivers Conservation Camp to be held June 17-22, 2007. All applications must be completed and in by March 15, and then selection will be made by the Pennsylvania Council of TU. Some scholarships are available from Trout Unlimited.

Any questions about either of these activities please contact Board Member Dick Rickert. (724) 588 7047 or rerblr@svol.net.

Telephone 588-3012

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