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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:

New location will be determined soon. Contact board member for info.

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"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)

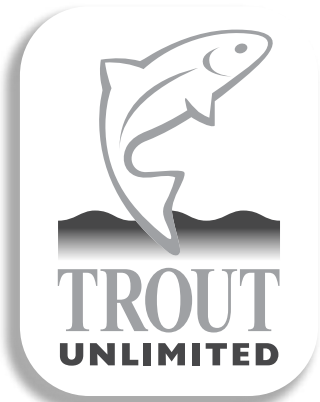
November-December 2007

Editors Notes

I was reading the April-May newsletter as I prepared to write this one. My comments from April only confirm my opinions on the weather profile for this area. It is completely unpredictable. In April two consecutive baseball games for the Cleveland Indians were snowed out. The ground was so supersaturated from the fall rain and winter snows that it was well into mid May before areas of my lawn could be cut. Then on a mid May trout expedition Aaron Monroe and I woke up to frost on the windshield two out of three mornings. A few weeks later the sun came out and the clouds went away and we went from a 6-7 inch surplus of rain to being behind at one point this fall by over 4 inches of rain. That I tell you is one wild ride.

Personally, I don't remember fishing after mid June. It wasn't a lack of time or desire, it was literally no water and conditions that were too stressful for the trout. It's late October and the first real chance for Steelhead has just come.

I don't what kind of weather most trout fishing people like, but I'm fairly sure this past year was at the bottom of the list. Let's hope for some "normal" weather for the remainder of 2007 and the 2008 trout season. Whatever normal is around these parts.



*Working to conserve, protect, and restore
North America's coldwater fisheries, and their watersheds.*

Munnell Trout Nursery

Pete and the gang have a bunch of frisky and growing brown trout in the nursery. Once again the class year of trout are doing very well to the point where some were give their freedom in local waters. They grow so fast that the fish are released when crowding in the raceway occurs. The brown trout smolts that were released were about 6-7 inches. They should be in the 9-10 inch range for the season opener in 2008.

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.



The 30th Annual Spring Banquet

N. Loprire

I can't believe we are closing in on 30 years of banquets. This year we will be holding the banquet at a new site, most likely in Sharon, Pa. We are looking at new sites and will make a decision in a few weeks. Though the location is changing the spring banquet will continue to be an event to usher in the spring season. This is a chance to renew acquaintances and set plans for the spring and summer outdoor adventures with you friends. We hope you will mark your calendar for April 5, 2008 and reserve the evening to be with us. You won't be disappointed. We are always looking for ways to improve our banquet and if you have any thoughts on improving our banquet please don't hesitate to drop me an email at steelhd789@aol.com.

A Holiday Gift from You

N. Loprire

I'm sure that many out there are thinking about the upcoming deer gun season and the chance to bag a nice buck. Many hunters will be successful this year and fill their freezers with venison. If you are like me, it will take most of the year to consume that meat. By the end it requires a little trimming of the freezer burn to use the chops, or roasts. This year consider a donation of some of your venison to the local missions, Salvation Army, or other charitable organizations. Trust me, that meat will not go to waste and will truly be appreciated. If you call your favorite meat processor,

Workday October 6th

Jeff Kremis

It was a beautiful clear and cool morning when we convened in the Coolspring parking lot and laid plans for the work crew to anchor some fallen trees in the streambed, clear brush and repair foot bridges along the Coolspring DHALO area. We then made the short trek to the trickle that was Coolspring. I do mean trickle. We all agreed that the creek was the lowest flow that anyone could remember and that my friend is a lot of memories that go way back.

We accomplished all our tasks and enjoyed a pizza lunch and some good conversation before heading home. Most of us would have spent a couple of hours angling but the water was flat out too low and warm.

If you would like to be contacted for the 2008 spring clean up/workday just 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.

It appears that the signs posted along Coolspring to discourage the ATV's from tearing up the paths have had a positive affect. There is much less sign of 4 wheeler traffic and that is a good thing.

The Chapter is involved with many in-stream & stream bank improvement projects. Trout fishermen are asked to obey the NO TRESPASSING roped off areas along the stream, also don't disturb the newly planted trees & shrubs, usually marked with highly visible yellow or orange tape.



they will let you know if they are, or who might be involved in helping distribute the donated venison. In some cases, these meat processors will donate their services to cut and wrap donated deer.

Please check this donation opportunity out before deer season and make plans to give a gift that will truly make a difference for those less fortunate this holiday season.

Good hunting, and be SAFE!!

How Many Did You Get?

N. Loppriré

It seems today that besting the other guy (or gal) determines success. You see it everywhere and it stretches back to infancy. Even babies now are required to have in the crib the “correct” bobbles hanging at the appropriate height, in the correct colors, with the most popular shapes to make sure Johnny or Joan has the edge over other babies. While I’m sure there are a number of studies done by qualified individuals to prove this out, I don’t think it’s absolutely necessary for the toddler to succeed. Einstein didn’t have and Fisher Price toys and he turned out alright I guess. He could have had a better hair cut, but when you are working on theories of relativity, a good cut isn’t at the top of the list.

Next for kids its video games, then cell phones followed by iPods, MP3s and laptops. While most of these items can be considered tools they can (and do) take away from interacting with others.

It is my opinion that the outdoors and enjoying it, is slowly being weaned away from our young people and being replaced with success in the form of winning video challenges. Winning is OK when it comes to athletic events, and such but with athletics the eventual dose of losing teaches much more than winning at some video game.

As we all know the outdoors can be a cruel competitor. The finest hunter or fisherman can be humbled in the face of Mother Nature and the conditions that one might face. This year’s trout fishing is a good example. It was too hot and with extremely low water. If you caught a fish in these conditions it most likely didn’t revive. So success in this situation was defined by letting the stressed fish alone.

Every fisherman hopes for a successful outing but realizes that “catching” does not define the event. We people who fish have been known to stretch our successes to wall hangers and ridiculous stats,

especially the number caught. Just some simple math applied to certain people’s stories will reveal the truth. Websites that track the steelhead fishing in Pa will frequently have entries that state “me and my buddy Plugpuller caught 70 steelhead today”. Figure, that each caught 35 fish at an average fight of 5 minutes from hookup to release. Allow 2 minutes to reposition and check knots. That’s 7 minutes per fish times 35 which comes to just over 4 hours of nonstop action. I figure they moved several times to catch the fish, ate lunch and may have looked up a time or two let alone getting rid of the morning coffee. I have spent over 25 years chasing steelhead and have never had a day like that. Honestly, I’ve had days with a number of fish caught and when that happens I enjoy it to the point where counting them is the last thing that I care about. I just want to move on to catch another.

The point is, to judge fishing success strictly by catch numbers, has little meaning in really enjoying the overall experience. I read in a book somewhere about a guy that suddenly discovered a beautiful stream with rising fish. He tied on a dry fly and promptly hooked and caught a 10 pound brown trout. After the adrenaline subsided he cast to the next fish and was into another 10 lb brown. After a dozen catches he figured out he had died and was in fly fisherman hell. It’s the mystery that awaits each trip that stirs our interest and desires.

On a recent outing I caught 4 fish. Not particularly great but it was a very memorable outing. I fished some new water that was bursting with the fall colors of maples in red and yellow against the bluest of skies. The water was sparkling, the day was spectacular and the cigar burned long and mild. Maybe it’s an age thing to thoroughly enjoy the “whole experience” of the outdoors vs. the number caught.

Competition and numbers caught are best left to the gridiron and B.A.S.S. contests.

Get Back to the Basics

N. Lopriore

Today there are more choices for outdoor equipment than you could possibly use in two lifetimes. Now that fly fishing has blossomed all across the North America the selection of materials, tools, rods, reels, and accessories is mind boggling. You can now request a separate catalog for fly fishing and about any other niche in the outdoor world from Cablea's. You can get a separate catalog for truck accessories, or even one for lure making. Do we really need all those choices and how confused does one get trying to decide on the correct or necessary items.

Everyone has seen the pictures taken around the turn of the 20th century where outdoorsmen have six big bucks hanging from the camp meat pole or a stringer full of 14-20 inch brook trout. They did not have GPS, range finders, flashabou, glow yarn, or \$600 fly rods. What they did have was a better knowledge of the game they pursued and an abundance of game that wasn't besieged by hoards of people. It was easier to find solitude in the wilderness. For most people then, the wilderness was a quarter mile walk.

If we could draw from the past it would tell us to spend more time learning the habits of our quarry. This should include weather conditions, moon phase, and ideal times for the best chance to succeed. How many of us just plunge into a new sport in the outdoors and figure if we throw enough money into equipment we will succeed. I know many new steelheaders that insist on fishing no matter the conditions. After a few fruitless trips they realize how weather and water levels are key to catching these silver acrobats.

We all juggle the precious discretionary time allotted

to us for our outdoor activities and don't want to waste gas, and time for a slim chance of success. A simple rule for fly fishing trout and steelhead is that the likelihood for success diminishes with the ability of the fish to see your fly. Unlike bait fishermen, the fly doesn't give off scent (don't tell me you "juice" your flies) so the fish can't track it down. Hunters are likely to fail if they want to bag a deer and the weather is a heavy rain or sleet storm. The deer don't move (naturally) in heavy weather. A light rain is ideal for deer movement. So once again, it is an advantage to know how your quarry acts in differing conditions.

Probably the best money you can spend on the outdoors is for knowledge (books, seminars, tapes, etc.) and a good pair of boots for scouting in the off season.

If you see someone catching fish and you just can't figure them out, take some time to watch very very carefully that successful angler as to exactly how and what he is doing. The smallest detail can be the difference. Slight changes to weight tippet size or length, a mend or rod position and even the type of water being fished can be the difference.

Finally make sure your equipment is in top condition and you know how to use it. It doesn't have to be the latest model or design, but it better be in top condition. How many times does someone tell a sad tale of the big one that broke off on the old fishing line or a drag that was stuck or "I thought it was sighted-in"? There is NO excuse for these failures. Get back to basics and you'll save some money and enjoy your successes even more. Now go out there and bag a big one!!



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