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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)

December 2008

Editors Notes

What a spectacular fall this has been. We have had beautiful weather to enjoy for any and all outdoor pursuits including the chores that needed done. I just hope that most of you were able to make more trips afield vs. that "fix it" thing. I'll bet there is a lot of painting that was left until spring.

The only drawback to this fall is that it has been too dry to keep the trout streams in prime condition thus making the fish very spooky and difficult to catch. I hope the fall season has been great for everyone and now you are ready for the upcoming holidays.

The chapter board enjoyed being off for two months this summer. We are now back and ready to move on with the business of conservation of our cold water resources. Make sure you make an effort to do your part to be a steward of our great natural resources. Plan to get involved and participate in some way to improve the environment around us. It can be as simple as taking a plastic shopping bag in your fanny pack and using it to gather refuse as you leave the stream or woods.

The board is the discussion phase of some new events and changes to the banquet in spring of 2009. We will keep you posted in subsequent newsletters.

Good luck to all the deer hunters out there and remember to be safe and enjoy the days afield.

The next newsletter will be in January, so all of us on the chapter board want to take this time to wish all our readers a joyous holiday season with family and friends.

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



Thanks to Everyone

Aaron Monroe

As I approach the end of my second three year term as President of the Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited I want to extend my thanks to everyone that has supported the chapter's many efforts. Since I joined the board I have met many new friends and become reacquainted with some from the past. It has been a pleasure working on the various projects and events with everyone involved. The conservation projects have proven to be very rewarding and the leisure outings fulfilling. I will be taking a temporary break from the Chapter Board to address some personal situations but plan on returning in the near future. Again I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such a great group of people.

I also would like to take this opportunity to make a request of all the newsletter readers. I would like to appeal to you that if you aren't already, consider becoming involved in the Neshannock Chapter's efforts to carryout the Trout Unlimited mission,

“To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds”. The chapter has needs on many

levels; board members with innovative and fresh ideas, involvement in conservation and stream improvement projects, and fund raising ideas and efforts are just a few of the areas where your help could make an impact. Even if you as a reader cannot commit time maybe a family member or acquaintance is looking for a way to become involved in a conservation effort such as TU. I can testify that your efforts will be repaid through satisfaction and friendship. As outdoors persons and specifically people who enjoy fishing in the clean waters and beautiful setting that trout occupy we owe some effort to keep the habitat available for current and future users. Please contact any of the board members listed on the newsletter cover to see how you can help. Again I want to extend my sincere thanks.

See you on the stream – Aaron Monroe
President, Neshannock Chapter TU #216

The 31st Annual Spring Banquet

N. Loprire

Please mark your calendars for APRIL 4th, 2009 to attend our 31st annual banquet. The festivities begin at 5:00pm. We will once again hold the banquet at the Shenango Valley Civic Center (SVCC) in downtown Sharon Pa. The SVCC is located on the corner of Shenango and Pitt Street just north of State Street in Sharon. The food is excellent and there will be plenty of free parking.

We are excited to offer a **SPONSOR** program again next year. This is available for individuals and on a corporate level. The sponsor ticket includes dinner, numerous raffle tickets, and portions of the cost may be tax deductible. **YOU** can learn more the sponsor program details on our website www.neshannock-tu.org or email Tom Jochman and he can send the detail sheets. The **SPONSOR** ticket is a great value over buying all the tickets separately. We are also looking at a possible raffle for a **BIG SCREEN HD TV**. More on that later.



Munnell Trout Nursery

Fall stocking is well underway and the brown trout are doing especially well this year. Some of the local streams already have this year's class of brown trout swimming in them. We have had to release some young trout this fall to prevent over crowding.

Feed prices are up due fuel, grain, and other economic factors. Because of this the personnel at the nursery are planning to make fewer trips for stocking next spring. We won't be stocking less trout, just making fewer trips to distribute them. 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.

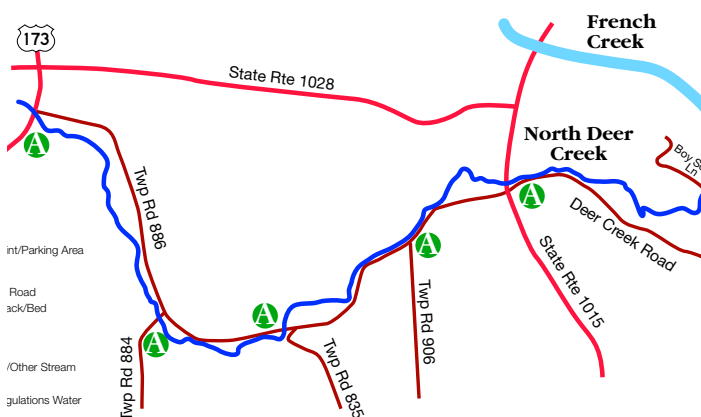
Deer Creek Project

P. Anthony

Jerry Przybylek (pronounced “zybilick”) and Gail Hil Kirk and their people have worked over 6 years with the landowners that border Deer Creek to remove posted signs along the stream. Deer Creek is located north of I-80 on Rt 173. They have asked for support from our chapter in their efforts to help restore areas of this creek.

With the “posted “ signs removed their group held its first work day this past September to improve the stream bank in selected areas. This is work that was laid out and approved by the PFC. The contacts there are Dave Kellar, and Mark Saucer. They have also had a tremendous amount of support from WCO John Hopkins. The group installed two stream deflectors with help from Pete Anthony, Jeff Kremis, and Jim Mondok of Neshannock TU. Plans in 2009 are for installation of a mudsill upstream of the completed deflectors.

Their report to the chapter was full of enthusiasm and hope that they will improve Deer Creek to be a much better stream in the very near future. Their group will work with the Custaloga Town Boy Scout Camp. The work done by the scouts will lead to merit badges while the scouts learn fly fishing skills from the Deer Creek supporters.



News for Youth

R. Rickert

At the last meeting of the Neshannock TU board, Kyle Petty made a presentation on our scholarship he received for the PA Trout Youth Conservation and Fishing Camp on the Yellow Breeches that he attended this past July. Kyle was enthusiastic and quite positive concerning his experiences at the camp. Each day was a busy one, from an early breakfast to classes that concluded at 10:30 pm.

Some of the learning experiences were dealing with Limestone and Freestone Streams, stream habitat, conservation of cold water resources, fly tying, and of course, lots of individual instructions in the fine art of fly fishing. Numerous trout were caught and released, including one very memorable lunger. Instruction on the stream consisted of a “class size” of one instructor to four students maximum, so a great deal of individual attention was given to the students. Kyle was also happy to report that the food was outstanding!

Kyle came away with increased knowledge about the physical make up of different stream types. All the youths received some nice gifts such as books, fishing vest, and other items. It was a positive experience that was also a fun time.

The Neshannock chapter has sent many young people to this camp, and, all their experiences have been positive. In the future Kyle would like to pursue an occupation that would involve either fishing or conservation, and this camp reinforced his desire to work towards that goal.

We will announce the requirements again next year so watch for a notice in the spring newsletter if you have a youth that is conservation minded and might be interested in this fine program.

A Pleasant Meeting

N. Loppriré

When I was young man, mine and the parents of most young people thought that the youth of the day were ruined. It was because of the music, hair styles and the general mistrust of young people towards the adults that controlled our society. So it is today, with adults not understanding what drives the actions and interests of the younger generation. I for one can't accept "rap" as legitimate music. I just don't see where there's any talent, value, or art in it.

Maybe it's because we are detached from that generation by the responsibilities of adult life. We just don't fit with their likes and what they find interesting, and we fear they are "lost" when it comes to having a chance to grow into a productive part of society as they mature into adult life.

The media has a tendency to show a much more negative side to most issues and that might make some of us think that this whole young generation won't achieve its potential.

I want to relay a recent experience and show that all is not lost and there are decent, responsible young people out there. I was fishing a few weeks ago on Elk Creek after the first good rain event in 2 weeks. I thought I timed my trip properly but soon found that the creek was still dirty but the flow was good. My past experiences told me this was not going to be the best of days for a fly fishing purist and I was right. Two hours of fishing and I had caught but one steelhead. I began to fish a pool that I knew would hold fish and spent twenty minutes and 2 or 3 fly changes without a touch. I thought I might try one more combination of flies before giving up when I noticed two young men, in their early twenties, coming towards the hole on the side opposite from me. One said to the other "let's try here, this is usually and good spot. They put their packs down and rigged up with skein on their noodle rods. No more that two or three casts

later one of them was into a steelhead and by the time he landed it his friend was hooked up. I watched for another 10 minutes as they landed another fish and I decided it was time for me to move on. It was just too dirty for the steelhead to see my flies. Maybe I could find some fish holding in thinner water.

I fished down stream for about 1-½ hours and was headed back to the car when I noticed that the two young men were still fishing that hole. As I was walking by I commented that the fishing must be pretty good and they both coyly admitted that indeed it had been. No sooner than his comment was complete and he was hooked to another steelhead. I was ready to leave and they asked what I was trying. I told them I fly fished and they immediately offered me some egg sacks and the prime area of the hole. I respectfully declined the bait, saying I would be back when the water was clear and my flies would be more effective. They insisted I try the area of the run they were in and they watched as I made futile effort with my tandem rig of an egg and a stonefly nymph. After I gave up they made a couple of casts and the fish responded by stretching their line.

They caught fish ... I didn't.

We talked about bow hunting and steelheading and I could tell they were very passionate about the outdoors in general. I enjoyed hearing their take on fishing, and hunting and their general enthusiasm.

Though those two young men aren't a true cross section of that generation I would bet that there are many more like those two than most of us old timers would like to admit. Let's not give up just yet on the youth of today because of a few "bad apples". Remember how it was when you were young and how you viewed the "older generation". I'll bet it wasn't too much different and look how we turned out.

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