

### Editors Notes

N. Loprire

I Hope everyone had a joyous holiday season that was preceded by a successful fall fishing and/or hunting season. The summation of my steelhead fishing to date has been slow with a chance for better. Not that I didn't try but I was either too late or too early to the creeks after a rain event. The steelhead returns were slightly better but certainly not the "glory" days of early 2000's.

**Remember that the newsletter is by email only.** If you receive it and know someone who doesn't, print a copy for them or let them know to have their kids, relatives or friends check out our website ([www.neshannock-tu.org](http://www.neshannock-tu.org)) to get the latest issue of the "Clearwater Gazette". There they can print a copy of the newsletter for that individual.

### Winter Meeting Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>

J. Kremis

We are planning an informative winter meeting at the **Shenango Penn State Campus Auditorium**. Plan to be there. It will be educational and a chance to meet fellow anglers.

### Agenda

7:00 - 7:10 - Introduction & Chapter Information - **Jeff Kremis**

7:10 - 7:30 - Guest Speaker from PB&BC Linesville Office - **Tim Wilson** - will talk about how streams are classified

7:30 - 7:40 - **Jeff Giardina WCO** for Mercer County

7:40 - 7:50 - Speaker from **Shenango River Watchers** - on their efforts to make the river a great recreation destination.

7:50 - Questions

**Coffee, soft drinks and light refreshments will be provided.**

### 2013 Coolspring Work Day Schedule

Jeff Kremis

Before we know it spring will be here, at least I hope, and it will be time to start getting out and chasing those elusive trout. Spring also will bring the

start of our workdays on Coolspring. As usual we will be having our annual Spring Cleanup of the DHALO Area on Coolspring. It will be on **April 6<sup>th</sup>** starting at **9:00am** and will involve trail maintenance, parking lot cleanup and the Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup along with anything else needed to keep our Delayed Harvest Area one of the nicest in the area. We will **meet in the upper parking area** and should be done by noon with **lunch provided** after the work is done.

Also on the agenda is the third and final phase of the **Stream Bank Stabilization Project**. Date is **June 29, 2013** and we will work with **Mark Sausser of PFBC**. Anyone who was involved in the workday last summer can tell you these devices take plenty of machine and manpower (womanpower welcome also) to complete in one day so please plan to attend.

More information on both these workdays will be in future newsletters and on the website so keep checking them for updates. If you are interested in helping contact me at [bentley48@neo.rr.com](mailto:bentley48@neo.rr.com) and I will make sure to let you know what is coming up. **Cut out Schedule below.**

<p><b>April 6, 2013 - Coolspring Clean up 9:00am.</b> Meet at Parking lot. <b>June 29, 2013 - Phase III Coolspring improvement</b> (PFBC will coordinate) 8:00am At Parking lot.</p>
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### Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The Munnell Run Nursery has been renamed The Pete Anthony Nursery. Pete Anthony is a long time member of Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited and a driving force behind the operation and success of the nursery. A new sign denoting the change of names for the nursery has been placed on the building at Munnell Run Farm.

Ken Tarczy and Bill Stevenson report that the crew stocked 200 browns in October on Cool spring's lower end and will stock 200 more down near Neshannock fly shop around February 1st. That will give us room for the remaining fish to grow. Ken says they have been raising trout at the nursery since 1997, at an average of between 1500 and 1800 per year. That's around 27,000 fish.

The brown trout are now in the 10-11 in. range with the golden rainbows even larger. They will be real line stretchers in the spring.

To save money the crew is looking to build a storage addition on to the nursery to allow them to make a one time buy of the fish food and store it in one place. Three to four trips to Erie, Pa cuts into the budget. Hope to have this done by spring.

Our nursery water comes from a spring and flows at a perfect temperature (about 54 degrees) year round. This makes for consistent growth and minimal problems with most common fish diseases. If you are interested in helping at the nursery or with stocking in the spring get in touch with the names below. It is fun, a learning opportunity and something you might enjoy especially if you have kids or grandkids. Call Bill Stevenson at 724.342.0472, or email [caryolnandbill@verizon.net](mailto:caryolnandbill@verizon.net), or Ken Tarczy [buggertarz@yahoo.com](mailto:buggertarz@yahoo.com) at 724.662.5765.

**Our Revised Website** [WWW.Neshannock-TU.org](http://WWW.Neshannock-TU.org)  
N. Loprire

The "facelift" on our website is nearing completion. We are now getting trained on how to load and update information to the site. Hopefully when you get this newsletter some of the updating will have begun. For sure we will get the newsletter on there as a first priority and then begin to update information on the other areas of the website. This will take some time to complete but it should make our website a very useful tool for the trout and conservation enthusiasts' out there. It will include links to get you just about anywhere you would like to navigate.

Check it out and watch as things progress. Give us feedback as to what you like, dislike, want to add, etc.

**Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Update:**  
**School Year 2012-2013**  
Reg McClelland

The most recent Trout in the Classroom update has for the most part been a positive one. Rick Stephens from the Delahunty Middle School told me recently that during the holiday break his trout population fell down to below twenty fish, but there was

no dead fish to be found in the tank. We are thinking there may have been a little cannibalism going on when no one was looking, it happens. Or someone cleaned them out of the tank and didn't tell Rick. We may never know for sure, but the remaining fish are doing well.

Janice Abernethy from East Middle School in Greenville is reporting 60+ surviving fish that are very active and feeding well. She recently sent me some photos that we will try to get up on the new web site as soon as it is fully functional. Jan is very excited with their results so far with this being their first year. There is a lot to learn about raising trout in an aquarium in a classroom. Kind of like fishing itself, you never really learn it all, something is always changing.

Luke Rust from the Mercer school district is also reporting to be having a great year so far. With at least one hundred living fry, they have started doing daily feedings. As Luke said with more feedings there will be more maintenance of the tank and water because of the extra debris left in the bottom of the tank. With the Christmas break over it should be smooth sailing to release day. The Christmas break seems to be a critical time for the fish. With not much going on in the school for a couple weeks there is no one around to keep an eye on things, Most teachers usually stop in the school a couple of times to check on the fish and do a small feeding.

There has been some reports of schools having large sudden die offs, and they have not been able to figure out why. Hopefully things will work out well enough for all schools to have some fish to release this coming May.

Thanks to all are teachers for making this program a huge success statewide.

### **2013 Spring Banquet**

Carol Jochman

The Date: **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, the place: **The Park Inn by Radisson (on RT 18 off I-80)**, the time: **5-9:30 pm**. Tickets may be purchased as single, couple or individual or corporate sponsors. We have some great prizes again this year. An Old Town Angler's Kayak or 40" Emerson HDTV for one raffle prize and numerous chances at some excellent angling and outdoor equipment

You know the food will be great and of course you will have the chance to meet up with old friends or make some new ones. We will have chapter "T's" for sale and you can join or renew your TU membership. Our Fly tiers will be there to answer questions about those tricky patterns you tried over the winter and show you a few tricks to improve your flies.

Tickets must be purchased by March 1, 2013. Please send your enclosed check along with the banquet ticket form. Don't forget to enclose your email address and a receipt will be sent to you via email. You will be able to pick up your ticket at the registration table at the banquet.

**2013 Banquet Ticket Order Form**

<b><u>2013 Banquet Tickets</u></b>	
Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ St. ___ Zip _____
Phone	_____
Email:	_____
\$30 adult ___ \$55 couple ___ \$19 kids	
<b>Forms for Sponsor tickets, individual and corporate, available at our website</b> <a href="http://www.neshannock-tu.org">www.neshannock-tu.org</a>	
<b>Mail Checks to: Neshannock TU</b> c/o Carol Jochman 711 Robbins Avenue. Niles, OH 44446	

**Catching "Better" Fish**

N. Loprire

What exactly is a "better" fish? Is it bigger, wild, from a secret place, or some other criteria? To be a "better" fish there must be some factor that differentiates that particular fish from fish like it, that you have caught before. In my opinion a better fish is one that was caught in some way with an item that you personally were involved in creating. I doubt anyone has made their own fishing line but I'll bet many of you

make lures, tie flies or jigs, or have built a rod. If so, you know how gratifying it is to fool your finned quarry with lures or equipment that you made. I will never forget the first trout I caught on a fly I made attached to the rod I built. It was one caught on Coolspring and the fly was a black/white nymph I saw in a magazine and tried to copy.

If you have had a thrill like that, then it's time you make a resolution to get deeper into whatever form of angling you're into. There are many stores or catalogs with parts to make lures and Neshannock Creek Fly Shop (Bob Shuey) has winter fly tying lessons. Yes, you will invest some bucks and time but this spring it will be well worth it.

Some advice for the fly tying is to go modest on a vise and pick a few common nymph and dry patterns (size 16-12) with matching hooks (25 packs) and materials and thread. Contact Bob and he will help.

If you tie jigs or make lures, there are many places to get supplies to get you started. **Janns Net Craft** ([www.jannsnetcraft.com](http://www.jannsnetcraft.com)) will have everything you need for making lures and jigs. My advice to make the tried and true lures and jigs and don't start out trying to "invent" the next great lure to replace the Rapala.

If you want to build your own fly or other fishing rod, you can do it. It really isn't too hard. There are kits available with instructions and every thing you will need. After you are "hooked" have built a couple rods you will probably buy some devices and tools to make it easier and faster.

Make a promise to yourself this year to get off the couch, investigate some area of you fishing that you want to get more involved and go for it. The smile on your face after a fish is on the line this spring will be a little bigger if you do.

**Fishing Safety Tip**

N. Loprire

With the thaw comes the first thought of fishing. And fishing the creeks in late winter/early spring brings about a unique set of conditions.

The ground is just beginning to thaw and that means there may be a very "greasy" surface with little rooted vegetation to secure your footing. Be careful as you start down the bank to the creek. Try to go down at angle along the bank and use your wading stick. Side stepping the bank and holding on to branches or brush as you descend is another suggestion. Another point to remember is that any felt soled (plain or studded) is nearly useless for grip in mud conditions. You must be very cautious and assess the situation before trying to go down even the smallest slope in felt boots. A mistake and your fall will result in a muddy mess and at worst it could cost you a broken rod or maybe a wrist or arm.

Like the guy said, "be careful out there".

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"Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation, for your character is what you are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." - **Dale Carnegie**

"In our family there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing."

**Norman Maclean** (1976)