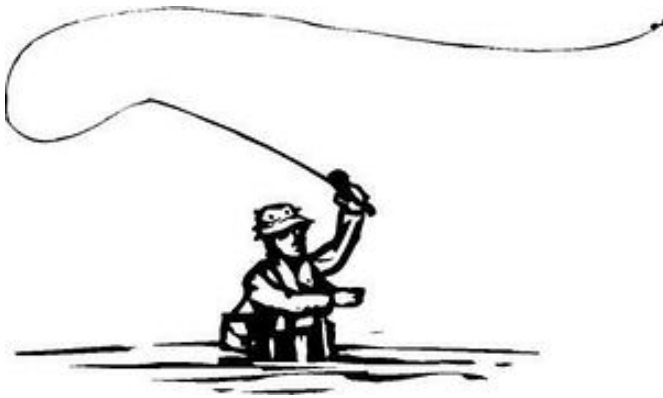


Clear Water Gazette

April 2017



Neshannock Creek Chapter #216 Trout Unlimited

2017 Spring Banquet

Jeff Kremis

Our Annual Fundraising Banquet was held on March 18th, 2017 at the Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex. We had one of the largest crowds in a while, with over 150 people in attendance. The evening was a little sad due to the recent passing of our longtime board member and banquet coordinator Nick Lopriore. However, all in attendance had a chance to win a lot of nice prizes and purchase some great artwork and hand tied flies donated by chapter members. Once again the food was excellent and all left enjoying a great event. We also managed to raise some money to keep our conservation efforts going.

Thank you to all of the board members and other volunteers who helped make for a wonderful event. A special thanks goes to Carol Jochman for all of the hard work she did to get everything ready.

Remember to get your tickets early for next years banquet. This not only helps with planning but with a near capacity crowd this year, we cant always guarantee there will be tickets available at the door.

If you have any suggestions for future banquets, please email your comments to NeshannockTU@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

May 13th - Spring Outing @ Oil Creek

June 17th - Youth Fishing Derby @ Grove City Sportsmen's Club

Sept. 20th - Munnell Run Farm Day

October 6th - Environmental Education Day @ Buhl Park

Neshannock TU Website

WWW.NESHANNOCK-TU.ORG

If you have recently visited our website, you would have noticed that you can now purchase our Neshannock TU line of clothing and Accessories. Click "Store" on the top of the page and order your apparel today!

Starting in April, every month we will be recognizing an "Angler of the Month" on our website and Facebook. If you are interested in becoming the next Neshannock TU Angler of the Month, Please email a short bio about yourself including some of your favorite streams to fish, favorite species to fish, and a few photos of you out on the water. We may have to send our winners some Neshannock TU Apparel.

Email you submissions to:

Neshannocktu@gmail.com

Stream Improvement

Jeff Kremis

We held our annual cleanup of the Coolsprings DHALO area on April 1st. A dozen dedicated volunteers braved the cold morning to help pick up trash and get the trail in shape for the upcoming trout season.

Another workday will be held later this summer to repair several culverts on the access trail to facilitate future stockings of the area. No dates have been set yet. So watch the website for dates and times to be announced. We will need some equipment, not just manpower, to complete these jobs. We are looking for a backhoe to do the digging and a front loader to get stone hauled back the trail to fill in low spots. If you can help with any equipment or want added to the email list for workdays, contact Jeff Kremis a JJKremis@gmail.com.

Veteran's Program

The Neshannock Creek Chapter of TU is interested in starting up a **Veteran's Services Partnership Program** to introduce our local disabled and non-disabled veterans and active duty service members to the healing powers of our waters, with a goal of thanking them for their service and engaging them in our chapter activities. For those interested in volunteering to help coordinate a series of events and activities associated with this new program, please **contact Matt Ceremuga** at neshannocktu@gmail.com.

Grove City Youth Fishing Derby

We will once again be holding our Youth Fishing Derby at the Grove City Sportsmen's Club on Saturday, June 17th. This event is open to kids 12 and under and those with disabilities to enjoy a day of fishing at their pond. Lunch and prizes will be provided. Watch the website for all the details.

Spring Outing @ Oil Creek

Our annual chapter fishing outing on Oil Creek will be held on May 13th. We will meet at the first pavilion in picnic area at Petroleum Center for lunch and to exchange fishing stories. Please contact any board member if you plan to attend so we know how many to expect for lunch.

Monthly Tying Night at Brewtus Brewery

On **Thursday, May 11th**, from 6pm to 9pm Brewtus Brewery in Sharon PA is hosting its monthly Fly Tying Night.

Tying flies in your basement or man cave is fun, but come out once a month and make it special with other people who share the same passion as you do. This is a great opportunity to learn new fly tying techniques and enjoy some of the valley's best beer while you are at it. More information on this event can be found on our website or by searching "monthly tying night at Brewtus" on Facebook.

If you have any questions about the event, Please contact **Chad Bauer via Facebook, or email at** Chadbauer_67@hotmail.com

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported that all is well with this year's browns. The water has been a consistent 54 degree temperature enabling the trout to grow well. Look for some 11+ inch fish this spring! Due to crowding in the raceway in the nursery, on Feb. 6 we stocked 300 Browns in Neshannock Creek near the Fly Shop in Volant, PA. On February 28th, the Nursery Crew stocked another 300 Browns in Cool Springs Delayed Harvest section in Mercer, PA.

For more info on our nursery call Bill Stevenson at 724.342.0472, or email caryolnandbill@verizon.net, or Ken Tarczy buggertarz@yahoo.com at 724.662.5765. Call to arrange for a nursery tour with your kids and to volunteer for stocking the fish. It is a great event for the kids to see the fish in the nursery and understand how they are raised. It is real excitement for them to assist in removing the fish from the nursery tanks, transporting them to the streams and helping place them in the water.

2017 TIC Program

The news for the **Trout in the Classroom** for 2017 is "some in some out" We have six programs that have been running in the years past and two programs that are trying to get up and running but have yet to do so. Currently Greenville, Mercer, Farrell and West Middlesex schools each have one aquarium running at this time. Farrell has had two in years past and has dropped down to one. Hermitage, our longest running and first **Trout in the Classroom** program has taken the year off from trout raising to renew their equipment They intend to be back in a year or two. This can be a very involved program for the teachers as well as the students and taking a year or two off is understandable.

This program is run by the students and teacher and, as a TU Chapter, we are not really involved with the actual raising of the fish. We help set the program and aquarium up and then until spring when we stock the fish raised by the students, it's one

of those "no news is good news" kind of things. We understand that it is a lot of fun but that it is a lot of responsibility for students and teachers alike. There were a couple of difficult years where some schools lost all of their fish for unknown reasons. We have even had replacement fish shipped to them. Running this program can be stressful for the teachers to run with their limited time to devote to it. The fun and educational value seem to counter act the additional responsibility and work. Thus, we have two additional programs planned for the near future. Last year our chapter purchased an extra chiller to have on hand in case one of the schools has a problem and loses theirs. The chiller is a very important part of the process. If they lose a chiller it is very difficult to keep the water at a constant cool temperature. The alternative is keeping the water cool with ice cubes, which are inconsistent, difficult, and time consuming. With our new back up chiller, if difficulty arises in one of the schools, we can now assist within a couple hours time.

PATU provides a grant program to support the classroom needs, and helps to educate the next generation on cold water conservation. The PATU grant program assists teachers in replacing outdated or non-functioning equipment, books, field and sampling equipment, as well as funding field trips to engage students in coldwater conservation activities.

This grant program is fully funded through the support of individual contributions. You can help support this program by purchasing a PA TIC t-shirt or TIC raffle ticket today! Just go to the PATU website at www.patrou.org

"Black Iron Skillet"

Reg McClelland

If any of you are like me, you have read most all of John Gierach's books. I don't remember in which book it was written, but one of his many memorable quotes is "In every catch and release fly fisherman's past, there is a black iron skillet". And I just read the article "Worms" in the new Trout magazine. And it got me to thinking about when I used bait for trout. And we would kill a few and sometimes cook them in a black iron skillet.

My dad and my cousin are responsible for this passion I have for trout. But they were both bait fisherman. My dad loved to use salted minnows, my cousin would use just about any means possible to catch them. Red worms, night crawlers, minnows, salmon eggs, Velveeta cheese, corn. You name it, he have tried it. He always joked about using "DuPont wigglers" which was dynamite (DuPont made dynamite). But he never actually went that far. But I can remember having all the latest gadgets to carry your bait. The sideways tin can that went on your belt that would spin and you carried it with the door down so when you would spin it so the door was up the worms would be on top. The other devise that went on your belt where a can of salmon eggs, preferably "Mikes Oil Packed" would mount into. You took the lid off the jar of eggs and screwed the jar to the holder and it had a lid that was spring loaded to keep it closed. You always lost the original lid so oil would leak all over you and everything else you owned and the salmon eggs would dry up so you would have to buy more. The little glass bottle with the long cord mounted to the lid so that you could carry it full of water and live minnows over your shoulder. You would unscrew the bottle from the lid and while trying to stand in the freezing stream in your rubber hip boots an keep the water from going over the top of your boots, holding your "fishing pole" in one hand, and

trying to catch a live minnow out of that little jar and get it somehow hooked on the end of your line with the other hand. If you had all this stuff you looked like a walking hardware store. No wonder we all took up fly fishing.

But I guess where I was going with all of this is we shouldn't look down at all the bait fishers out there, probably most all of us started there at some point. And if you're thinking of taking a kid fishing for the first time, don't be afraid to use bait. It still catches fish, and that is really the point isn't it? Get a shovel and take him or her out back to the garden or compost pile and dig some worms, put them in a coffee can, get your fishin' pole and go fishin'. Get your fingers dirty. It's a great learning experience for everyone involved. And maybe you will get a youngster hooked on this fishing business and eventually they will get involved somehow to help save the water and the fish we all love.