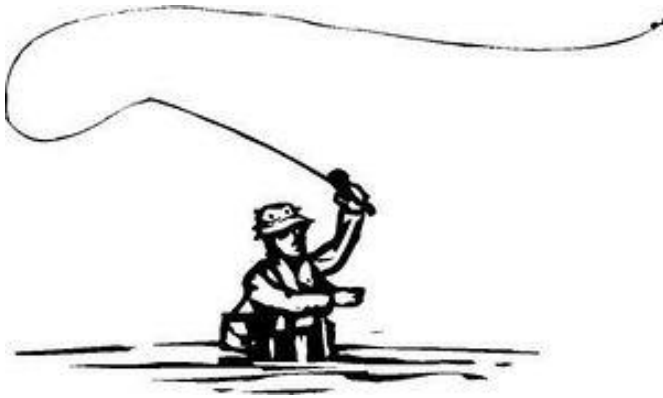


Clear Water Gazette

December 2019



Neshannock Creek Chapter #216 Trout Unlimited

2020 Cabin Fever Meeting

Reg McClelland

We will be holding a Winter Cabin Fever Meeting on Saturday, February 1st at Munnell Run Farm in Mercer starting at 10:00am. The meeting is open to Trout Unlimited members and the public and will cover upcoming chapter events and current programs.

This year the speakers are going to be Rodger Coup & Dave Allbaugh. Rodger is a wildlife supervisor from PA Game Commission and his presentation will be on Bald Eagles in Pennsylvania. Dave from Wet Fly Water Guides in Johnstown, PA will be speaking about fishing with wet flies.

A light lunch will be served so please RSVP if you plan to attend. Munnell Run Farm is located 1.5 miles outside of Mercer behind the Avalon Springs Nursing Home on Rt.58.

If you are planning on coming please contact one of our board members listed below, so we can have a general idea on the amount of food to have.

Don't forget to also mark your calendars now for our annual banquet to be held at The Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex Saturday March 21st. Get your tickets early!

Reg McClelland - vanorvis@gmail.com
Jeff Kremis - jjkremis@gmail.com
Carol Jochman - cbjochmanandcats@sbcglobal.net

Hey, all Fly Tyers

All you fly tyers, if you can, please try to tie a dozen of your favorite patterns and donate them to the upcoming spring banquet. Most fly tyers have some unique or special patterns that will definitely be a hit in our silent auction. If possible, put the flies in a box for display. If you are unsure how to present the flies, we can add yours with others to complete a nice collection. We will put a note with each box to recognize each tyer and his unique patterns. Drop off at the shop in Volant or with any board member.

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported that all is well with this year's browns. Look for some 12+ inch fish this spring! Due to crowding in the raceway, a stocking will need to take place soon.

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.

Veteran's program

We have established a Veteran's Services 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, or to register for one on the lessons above, please contact one of the following Board members:

Fred Pasini @ Fpasini@neo.rr.com
Jim Mondok @ Jmondok@verizon.net
Reg McClelland @ Vanorvis@gmail.com
Matt Ceremuga @ Neshannocktu@gmail.com

2019 Spring Banquet

The **42nd annual spring banquet** is coming sooner than you think. The date is **MARCH 21st 2019 at 5:00pm at The Park Inn by Radisson**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. You **KNOW** it will be a good time so **BE THERE!!** Sponsorship and individual ticket forms are available on our website, or at the Neshannock Creek Fly Shop in Volant.

Ticket price for a single person went up slightly to \$37 each, the sponsorship tickets stayed the same. The **BEST VALUE** is still the individual "sponsor ticket" at \$90. "Why?", you might ask! Well, look at what you get! **Admission to the banquet, 20 bucket raffle tickets, 10 rod raffle tickets and 15 meat raffle tickets. That is a \$110 value.** That's \$80 in bucket raffle tickets alone. **If you have any questions on how to purchase tickets for the Banquet please email Neshannocktu@gmail.com or contact a board member. A list of board members contact information can be found under the "Contact Us" tab on our website.**

Buffet menu will include 3 entrees and a great desert table. Cash bar with beer, wine, and liquor. Bring your friends for a fun night with a chance to win some great prizes including a great gun raffle.

Neshannock Chapter Trout Unlimited March 21st, 2019 Banquet Gun Raffle 1st Prize

Springfield 1911 Defender



2nd Prize

Taurus Judge – Public Defender



3rd Prize

Savage – 350 Legend, Stainless Barrel w/ Scope



1 Ticket for \$5 or 5 Tickets for \$20

Winner need not be present!

Tickets can be purchased at Neshannock Creek Fly Shop in Volant and from all chapter officers and directors.

Neshannock Creek Project- Plantation Park Phase I

Jeff Kremis

After a year and a half of paperwork, grant applications and fund raising on September 9th we finally got to start the actual work on the largest stream improvement project ever undertaken by the Neshannock Chapter. The plan called for the construction of 260 feet of Modified Mudsill on a sharp bend in the stream to help stop some severe bank erosion, they were losing a couple of feet of bank every year, and create some fish holding habitat. This project was a co-operative effort between the Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Mercer County Conservation District and Plantation Park.

Through the summer months all the materials needed, 50 logs-20 feet long, 120 tons of stone-12-24 inches in diameter and 12 root wads (the root balls of a tree with 10 feet of trunk attached) were delivered to the work site at Plantation Park just outside of Mercer. On Monday morning with the arrival of Cameron Englehart from the Habitat Division of the PFBC the work got started. Over the next three days with the help of many volunteers from the Neshannock Chapter, Plantation Park members and staff and staff from the Conservation District we were able to complete the project on time and on budget.

To construct a Modified Mudsill we started by digging a trench back into the bank and placing a root wad into the trench with the roots out into the stream and placing two 10' logs on each side and securing them with re-bar. Another root wad would be installed twenty feet downstream then three logs would be placed pyramid style to connect them. Holes were drilled and re-bar driven into the logs at an angle to secure them to the root wads. This process was repeated until the length of 260 feet was completed. The stone was then placed on top of the root wads and behind the sill logs to stabilize the bank and create an undercut bank for trout holding habitat. After installing the stone the bank was graded back at a 3 to 1 ratio to help

dissipate the force of the water and stop future erosion.

The total cost of the project was close to \$12,000 with funds coming from a Trout Unlimited Embrace a Stream grant, money raised through donations with a Give Where You Fish campaign and chapter money along with some material payed for by the PFBC. Also, as required by the Fish Commission, a lease agreement was signed by Plantation Park that will keep this section of stream open to public fishing.

I would like to thank all that helped, either with your time working on the project or contributing to our fund raising efforts or both. I'm not going to try and list all the names of the volunteers for fear of missing someone but we estimate at least 300 hours of volunteer time was spent on this project. I would like to thank Larissa Cassano with the MCCD for all her help in securing the grant, without that we would have never been able to take on this project.

Phase 2 of the project is also at Plantation Park and is almost 3 times as long as the recently completed project. We will start working soon to secure a larger grant that would be needed to take on this project. Stay tuned for more details on that.





Volunteer Opportunities

The Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited is always in need of more volunteers to continue our conservation efforts. Whether you have just a couple of hours to help on a work day, a special project, or have recently found some time and want to get more involved. We would like to hear from you. There are always openings on any of our committees for anyone interested in helping.

Committees:

Stream Improvement

Banquet & Fundraising

Trout-in-the-Classroom

Trout Nursery

Youth Activities

Water Quality Testing

Membership

Website & Newsletter

Veteran's Program

We are also currently looking to add a few new members to our board.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining any of these programs please contact Jeff Kremis at JJKremis@gmail.com or call 724-588-4378.