

Editors Notes

N. Loprire

Double Darn is what I say about this horrendous winter and its extreme periods of snow, and cold, followed by more ugly. Unless you ski, this winter has definitely worn out its welcome. In fact, if we skip winter next year it would just about make us even for what has taken place this year.

No fishing was had (in moving water) since the beginning of the year and from what I have heard it wasn't too good through the ice on local lakes.

If you made the Winter Meeting held 2/15/14 at the "Pig Barn" at Munnell Run Farm, you were treated to a very interesting day and great lunch (many thanks to Carol Jochman). If you missed it read the article in this newsletter.

It is time to get excited about the March 15th spring banquet and to make plans to attend. **We plan to limit ticket sales** so don't wait long to purchase. **See the article about the banquet for more details.**

Check the website to get the latest info on what's happening with the Marcellus and Utica drilling in Pa or contact Jim Kearney at mayfly1278@aol.com.

Remember that the newsletter is by email only or find it on our revised website (see below). If you receive it and know someone who doesn't have email, print a copy for them or let them know to have their kids, relatives or friends check out our website (www.neshannock-tu.org) to get the latest issue of the newsletter and much more info on what is going on with the chapter

IF YOU HAVE EMAIL and ARE NOT getting the newsletter **PLEASE** send your address to Tom Jochman TomJochman@sbcglobal.net and he will put you in the mailing database. Other board member emails are on our website.

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported that the after the prior issues with bad food, the fish have responded very well. No new losses to report and the browns are averaging

about 10.5 inches. They will certainly be an inch or so longer by spring stocking. For more info on the 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 tour with your kids and to volunteer for stocking the fish. Great idea for the kids to see the fish being stocked.

Our Revised Website

WWW.Neshannock-TU.org

N. Loprire

We are slowly getting the "bugs" out of our new website and are getting more up to date usable information uploaded. The 2014 January newsletter is available there and we will get this issue loaded by February 23rd. Check it out and give us feedback if you can.

2014 Spring Banquet

Carol Jochman & Nick Loprire

The 36th annual banquet will be held this year **on March 15th 2014 at the "Park Inn by Radisson" so mark it down.** Tickets are available now so **check the website**

for details or call a board

member to order tickets or stop by

Neshannock Creek Fly shop in Volant to purchase. Adults \$37, couple \$70, under 12, \$14. Sponsor ticket \$90 (**best deal with \$110 in Raffle tickets included**).

CHECK our website to review and download individual or corporate sponsor information and call 330 544 2507 or 330 307 0884 to order tickets. We would like you to mail a check and WE will have your ticket/s waiting at the door.

Attention: We will be holding a special **GUN** Raffle. The winners don't need to be present when the tickets are drawn at the Banquet. Everyone and anyone over 18 is eligible to buy tickets. Help support our chapter and get and sell tickets if you can. Here are the details.

🕒 Three guns on display at ELITE Firearms:

- Remington ERP 1911 R1 .45 ACP
- Henry U.S. Survival .22 LR
- Marlin XT-17V .17 HMR

The guns will be handled by Elite Firearms on Rt 18 just north of Hermitage (across from Wal-Mart). They will be selling tickets there and of course we (board members) will have some and they will be available at the banquet. If you have questions, please contact Bill Melaro at bemelaro@roadrunner.com. **Stop in at Elite Firearms to check them out and buy tickets or contact any board member (phone #s on website).** We will also have a custom carving by noted local wood carver **Robert Bellino**. He will be creating a beautiful Brook Trout carving for us. You will be impressed when you see his work. Our resident expert fly tier **Dr. Charles Moxley** will be there to help with your tying questions. A Helios rod and a bamboo rod will be raffled along with many more great prizes.

A PIG ROAST menu is featured at this year's banquet. Of course there will also be roasted chicken and sliced roast beef choices for those timid souls that can't handle the roast pig. The meats will be served with:

- ⌚ Lentil salad with diced grilled vegetables in balsamic vinaigrette
- ⌚ Pasta tossed with brown butter sage
- ⌚ Dilled carrots
- ⌚ Garlic whipped redskin potatoes
- ⌚ Warm apple cobbler

The roast pork sounds delicious to me. Bring a friend (even if they don't fish) just to enjoy the food and prizes.

REMEMBER!!! This is our only fund raising effort to provide for numerous programs you read about here and to support the nursery, stocking, and keeping our trout waters healthy.

The Winter Meeting 2014

Jeff Kremis

The Winter Meeting exceeded all expectations. We had an enthusiastic crowd and very, very, interesting presentations.

After opening remarks, Hugh Clark presented a slide show on the work done by the Shenango River Watchers (SRW), and Local Lions Club to help restore the Shenango River from Pymatuning Dam to Shenango Lake at "Big Bend". This was a tremendous undertaking to get government approvals, local, state and national levels, along with getting grants,

fundraising, feasibility studies and going over more hurdles than a track meet.

All told, hundreds of trees were chain sawed and removed from the river along with literally tons of junk and debris from 50 yrs of nature's and man's abuse of this water way. Now, the 23 plus miles is listed as a **Pennsylvania Water Trail** that is used by hundreds of paddlers each season.

Everyone felt that SRW and the Lions Club put tremendous and dedicated effort into making this happen and NW Pa and NE Ohio should be very proud of these two groups. I hope you get a chance to see Hugh Clark's presentation.

WCO Jeff Giardina updated us on the latest fishing law changes and other issues before the fish and boat commission. It was very informative.

Next **Jim Law** put on a dazzling show of outdoor photography. Some of the pictures were truly amazing. Jim explained how some shots took days and some, even a couple of seasons to get. Pictures of Snowy Owls, a bear in his backyard, and humming birds were among hundreds of great shots.

After a great lunch, Renee Greiner explains the "unassessed waters" initiative. Local fishermen can, with simple instruction, help determine if wild trout exist in many of the unnamed tributaries in our watershed. This will help in protecting these waters if drilling is proposed in the area. Check out the website www.coldwaterheritage.org for more info. Our chapter will be involved so contact Jeff Kremis bentley44@neo.rr.com to get involved. It's as simple as just going fishing.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Update: School Year 2013-2014 Reg McClelland

The 2013-14 Trout in the Classroom year is underway. The Brook Trout eggs have hatches and the students are very involved in taking care of them to a point in the spring when they will be released into a local stream. A couple of our teachers are getting to be old hands at this trout raising business. Rick Stevens at the Delahunty Middle School is now in his fourth year and Luke Rust from Mercer school district in his

third year knows the routine. Jan Abernethy from East Middle School in Greenville, and Karl Rupert from the Farrell School District are both in their second year.

The students learn what it takes from, land, water quality, temperature, and air to produce the necessary requirements for trout to survive. This is part of the curriculum that students are taught each day. Hopefully, as adults they will become stewards of the coldwater resources in our surrounding country.

This year PATU and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission shipped eggs to 246 schools across the state. If you do the math that's about 75,000 eggs to be packed, shipped and delivered in three days, with food. That's impressive.

Reminder to everyone that the deadline to order a TIC shirt for the 2013-2014 school years is fast approaching. Orders are due March 1st, so if you or anyone you know wants a shirt, I encourage you to get your orders in as soon as possible!

Here is the link to order shirts:

http://www.patroutinthe classroom.org/Libraries/Resources/TIC_T-shirts_Order_Form_14.sflb.ashx

Kids Wolf Creek Fishing Derby

Richard Natoli

Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Borough of Grove City, and The Grove City Sportsman's Club is sponsoring the **10th annual Children's Fishing Derby** at the Wolf Creek Handicapped Fishing area on Greenwood Drive.

The date is Saturday, April 26th, with a rainout date scheduled for May 3rd. The derby is free and open to children 12 and under and individuals with disabilities. The location is one fourth of a mile south of E. Main Street (Route 58) on Greenwood Drive in Grove City, Pa.

Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the kids will get free hats with the Wolf Creek Fishing Derby logo. They can help carry Brown Trout to the stream in 5 gallon buckets at 9:00 am. Free hot dogs and soft drinks are provided for lunch at

12:00 noon, and afterwards, every participant will receive a prize.

Observational Fishing

N. Lopshire

If you are anything like me, there is a rhythm to how you fish. Rhythm may be kind; it's more habitual than rhythmic. That is where I feel, we are missing some of the cues that would be helpful in making us more consistent, and successful. A good example is thinking that the fish want a certain fly or spinner presented a certain way or with a certain motion. That approach was good the last time we fished this stream last year or last week. Things change in nature within minutes and to think that that the same approach, fly, depth, color, weight or time of day will produce results is to be naive.

So what is the right approach? Look at the days fishing as if it were new water and let the river, lake or stream give you some hints. Maybe it is a nice sunny day, you know, the kind of day that makes it great to be outdoors. That may not be the best conditions for fishing. Take time to note the conditions, which may indicate that fishing the shaded shore or the deeper hole may be a better choice. Fish are only concerned with survival and food, so using that fact in determining where and how to catch them is a logical approach.

What hatches or bait is evident? Take some time to study the stream to see what may be happening around you. I remember a day in late April when I tried various caddis flies with no success. I saw another fisherman catch several trout and he mentioned that they were caught on an ant imitation. Without seeing ants around, how many of us would have tried that fly in April. Be willing to change tactics and adjust your approach. Fish don't read that hatch charts.

There are some days will not yield fish, no matter what and that is mother nature's way. If you really pay attention to the surroundings, conditions, tackle, and tweak your approach you will win a few more battles with those watery foes we choose to chase with the rod.

Good luck this upcoming season. Remember that you learn something on each outing.

The trick is to not forget and keep it in your bag of tricks.

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

John Buchan