

Editors Notes

N. Loprire

The Holidays are over and it's time to address a pressing need to eat more salads. Seems like rich foods leave more lasting effects the older I get. Funny how that works. Back to longer hikes and closing my yapper after the plate is clean. I hope you fared better.

Of course the rains came just as Christmas came. At least we will have more consistent water levels though the winter as we get into late January. Should be some decent runs of steelhead especially in Ohio waters.

ATTENTION !!! ATTENTION !!!

We have, (Matt Ceramuga) redone our WEBSITE and it is up and running. Information is updated and we will soon be on FACEBOOK. The address is not changed so you can still find it at www.neshannock-tu.org/. Check it out and you should be able to easily find more and better info about what is happening with the chapter, both local, state, and national.

Neshannock TU Winter Meeting

Jeff Kremis

The winter meeting is **ON** for Saturday January 30th at **10:00 am at the "Pig Barn" on the Munnell Run Farm grounds**. Contact any board member (see website) for directions or Google Munnell Run Farm. There will be two great speakers for sure and possibly a third. We also hope to get an update from our Waterways officer Jeff Giardina. Our first speaker is Don Feigert from the "Herald" newspaper. Don is an avid wild trout fisherman and will provide a very informative and entertaining talk. Next is Bill Anderson of the LJRA (Little Juniata River Association). Bill is president and has worked tirelessly to protect and improve the great brown trout fishery that the "Little J" has become. After Bill's talk, if you want to stay, he will tie some of his unique flies that are deadly on the Little J.

Carol Jochman will take care of Lunch and I know you won't go hungry. PLEASE, if you plan to attend, let us (board

members) know to make sure we can have food and chairs for everyone.

2016 Spring Banquet Heads Up

Carol Jochman & Nick Loprire

The **38th annual spring banquet** is coming sooner than you think. The date is **MARCH 19st 2016 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!! Ticket prices will be the same as last year. \$35 for a single, but the BEST VALUE is 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. Buy your ticket by **March 5th and you are entered in a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card**. See website for ticket forms or call a board member or available also at the Neshannock Creek Fly Shop in Volant.

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 (see below).

2016 Spring Banquet Gun Raffle

Again this year the first prize for the chapter's raffle will be a Ruger SR 1911 in .45 ACP. However unlike last year, a second handgun **and** a 22 rifle will be among the prizes. **Gun Raffle tickets** will enter the ticket holder in drawings for **all** guns listed. Tickets will cost **\$5.00 each** or five for **\$20.00**. Tickets can be purchased **at Shooters' Supply at 9 Short Street, West Middlesex, PA and from all chapter officers and directors**. **Also, you can get tickets at Neshannock Creek Fly Shop in Volant, Pa.** Additionally, they can be ordered by mailing a check payable to Trout Unlimited Chapter 216 and sent to 1092 Hadley Drive, Sharon, PA 16146 - include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your ticket stubs sent to you. The complete prize list is below. Drawing is at the Banquet.

**Drawing March 19, 2016 -
Tickets \$5 each or \$20 for
five tickets**



1st Ruger SR 1911 .45 ACP



2nd Henry Lever Action 22 LR



3rd Ruger LCP 380

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported that all is well with this year's browns, even with the very dry summer. The water was a consistent temperature for the trout to grow well. Look for some 11+ inch fish this spring. Due to crowding some of the fish will have been "freed" to local waters by this mailing. They should be wary by spring.

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 tour with your kids and to volunteer for stocking the fish. Great idea for the kids to see the fish and be able to understand how they are raised and to see them stocked.

Hey all Fly Tiers
N. Loprire

All you fly tiers, if you can, please try to tie a dozen of your favorite patterns and donate to the upcoming spring banquet. Most tiers have some unique or special patterns that will definitely be a hit in our silent auction. If you can, put them in box and if not, we can add to others to help fill the box. We will put a note with each box to recognize the tier/s and any unique patterns. Drop off at the shop in Volant or with any board member.

April 9th 2016 Work Day at Coolspring

N. Loprire

We are planning to have a workday at Coolspring the Saturday before the opening of trout season. We have some culverts to replace, debris to pick up, and still some left over tree tops to be cut up and moved from pathways. Mark the date. You will be reminded in the banquet program and of course on our newly updated website www.neshannock-tu.org.

**January 2016 Trout in the Classroom Up
Date**

Once again the TIC program is in full swing. We had a few stutter steps as usual again this year. A couple leaky filters repaired or replaced and a few spare parts needed and everyone was off and running. The same schools that we have had the last few years are still with it. Rick Stephens at the Delahunty Middle School has been at this the longest and Luke Rust at Mercer and Jan Abernethy at Middle School in Greenville is not far behind. It's been so long now I don't really remember how many years it has been.

We also help support Carl Rupert at the Farrell School System that in years past been running two of these trout machines.

All reports that I have gotten at this time has been good with large numbers of fish hatching and fish "swimming up" to feed. Then they have to go through the dreaded Christmas break. That's when most schools, if they run into trouble, this is when it happens. Mysterious stories of fish disappearing, strange things happening, starting break with 300 fish, coming back from break to find only a

hand full. It's always an interesting process.

This 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. It's a lot of messing around with ice and a very difficult procedure. So now hopefully, if there is a problem, we can have a working chiller in their possession in a couple hours.

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 nonfunctioning 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

We as a chapter have also been trying to get as many students as we can to join Trout Unlimited. Where they can continue to learn about conservation and get a chance to use some of the things they have learned.

You can find out more information on ordering a TIC T-shirts at PATU's website, <http://www.patrou.org/> Thanks for helping this great program to be a continuing success.

Don't Be Late

N. Loprire

So far, the winter has been an easy one compared to the past two. Let's hope it continues that way, my apologies to the skiers. We fisherman must not be lulled into reading the calendar and thinking that it's a long way until spring fishing. Now is the time to get ready.

There are many ways to do that and prevent the usual, "where is my gizmo", I thought it was in this compartment?

One way to approach being ready is to take a serious look at your equipment and ask yourself, "am I in the 21st century with this stuff or do I need to consider upgrading?" If the answer is to upgrade, there are numerous after holiday sales that may help your efforts and save you some money. My friend just bought a new "fish finder" for his boat. The new unit has sonar, gps, down scan and side scan and he got it for 40% off. The fish won't have a chance.

Personally, I went over my fly reels and found a problem with a classic Hardy reel that had a rivet that was failing on the clicker pawl. If it failed, my day of fishing would be done. Now is the time to look for these issues on all your equipment, whether it be a reel or the boat motor, battery, etc. I can't tell you how many "failed launches" I've seen while at Mosquito lake, walking or fishing in the launching area. Trust me, the enthusiastic anticipation of a family outing with wife and kids, quickly turns sour when the engine won't start and the wife starts questioning her hubby.

Look at those fly lines for cracking and get them replaced. I suggest buying a double taper line so when one end is cracking, you can simply turn it around and you have a "new" line. With the cost of fly line today, it is a smart move. Next look at your fly or lure boxes for spaces that need filled or items that need retired. Start tying, or look for best prices on flies and lures. Sharpen those hooks on your lures.

Look at your rods and check the guides and tip tops for wear. Put a cotton swap in the tip top and run it around the inside edge. If there is any burrs or nicks, you will find them. Is the cork handle grime covered? Take some "gojo" or similar hand cleaner, wet the cork and with some cleaner in your hand rub it up, down and around the handle. Rinse and it will look like new.

Make sure waders and boots are in good condition (no leaks) and also spray a good treatment on your rain jacket. Fishing can be good on a drizzly day but getting soaked will end the trip early.

Here is one area we are all guilty of being forgetful. I bet most of you have no idea how old your tippet spools are. If it is more than a couple years, replace it. If you buy some new tippet, get a pen and mark a date. The tippet least used is 6 and 7X and when that spooky 16 inch brown finally takes, you don't want the tippet to fail.

Miscellaneous items will always bite you come spring's first outing. I used to have one handy container of split shot, but after several years of going from a chest pack for steelhead to a vest for trout and forgetting to swap out the split shot, I now have two containers...problem solved. Look at fly floatant, "frog's fanny", nippers, forceps, strike indicators, line cleaner, leaders, and the list goes on.

Trust me, if you don't go through a routine like this a problem will raise up and put a crimp in your outing. Now get down in that basement or garage and get cracking.

The day was fine—not another hook in the brook.

Daniel Webster 1835