



The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Attn: Gary Cooper, *Editor*
Rear 704 Scalp Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15904

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The Flyline

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FALL 2012



TROUT UNLIMITED

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED

From Randy's Desk . . .

Each year it gets more difficult to operate the chapter due to new regulations. This year we must revamp some of the things we do at the banquet because of changes in the rules for the "Small Games of Chance License." By the time you get this newsletter, we will have gathered new information from State Council on how to handle the banquet. Thank heavens our State Council provides us with updated information on these changes. Another problem is that we have been unable to secure a permit from DEP for our work on Potter Creek. Why does DEP make it so difficult for organizations that want to improve local waters to get a permit? It didn't used to be this way.

I would like to thank all those MLTU volunteers and others who assisted with our work projects on Bens Creek and on the Claycomb farm on Potter Creek. Because of you

The water has been improved on Bens Creek, and fishermen have nice, safe fence crossings on the Claycomb farm.

Don't forget to sell your tickets for the Twelve Days of Christmas ticket sale which you have already received or will receive in the mail. These tickets support our banquet by providing money for us to buy prizes. We need to sell all five hundred tickets.

I would like to invite any of you who are interested to participate on our Banquet Committee or as instructors in our winter fly tying courses. Times and places for each are listed in "Upcoming Chapter Events." All you have to do is to show up. If you have friends who are interested in learning to tie flies, tell them to sign up at Gander Mountain's front desk.

Finally, thanks to all who serve this chapter as officers, board members, or volunteers.

You are the life blood of our chapter!



Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited 2011 OFFICERS

President
Randy Buchanan
1745 Regal Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

Vice-President
Gary Cooper
Rear 704 Scalp Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15904

Secretary
Dave Maher
417 Old Farm Lane
Johnstown, PA 15904

Treasurer
Pat Buchanan
1745 Regal Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

DIRECTORS

Mark Lee
David Wright
Butch Kerchenske

Jassim Hassan
Len Lichvar
Andy Fresch

Mountain Laurel Chapter, Trout Unlimited meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Gander Mountain Store in the old Wal-Mart store building beside the Galleria Mall at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted in this newsletter. Board of Directors meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the same day as the regular meeting at the Gander Mountain Store.

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Official Publication of
Mountain Laurel Chapter, Trout Unlimited

This newsletter is published quarterly; winter, spring, summer and fall by MLTU. All articles are due on the 20th day of the first month of each quarter.

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Membership Application and Renewals

If you are already a member of the chapter, you will receive a renewal notice in the mail. You may renew by check, credit card, or online at www.tu.org. If you are not a member, Go to www.tu.org to apply. We will not have application forms any more. New memberships will be handled at the national website.

Regular Membership\$35

Family Membership\$50

All other types of memberships will be listed on the TU website.



Natural Thoughts . . .



A bare patch rubbed raw on a six inch sapling. Bare spots pawed in the leaves, moist and filled with tine marks and hoof prints. Licking branches dangle overhead. Worn and not so worn paths cross the woodlands. A grouse drums. A grey Squirrel barks. The forest is alive.

Two slender forms wiggle together in a shallow run. A cloud of milt spreads out over the freshly deposited eggs. The female twist and swishes her tail to cover the eggs with gravel. Downstream a rainbow awaits any loose eggs.

It is a time of plenty in the forest and along the stream. Both soft and hard mast hang in profusion. The "thunk" of an acorn hitting the ground sets the squirrels, chipmunks, and turkeys to scrambling and scratching, looking for these tasty treats. Most of these will be stored for winter. A bright yellow hickory tree is filled with fox and grey squirrels alike, snatching the hanging nuts or knocking them loose to be picked up later. Turkeys and grouse feed on purple wild grapes hanging from gnarled wild vines. A stream the riffles and runs are alive with browns and brooks migrating to spawning areas. Rainbows feed heavily on loose eggs in the drift. Cool days bring back hatches of Baetis and other small olives. Fall leaf-eating caddis are hatching providing yet another food source which the spawned out trout will need to survive the winter.

For the outdoorsman, it is a time of plenty too. To sit in a squirrel woods and enjoy the scarlets, oranges, and golds of the trees on a frosty morning stirs the soul. The raucous cry of a pilated woodpecker echoes through the forest. His brilliant red head flashes as he darts among the branches of the trees. Chickadees and nuthatches clamber up and down tree trunks searching for insects embedded in the bark. The noisy cacophony of a flock of crows as they pass overhead interrupts the relative peace of the morning.

A fisherman has hooked a large brown. As he brings it in, he notices that it is a female swollen with eggs. He does not touch the fish but carefully uses his forceps to dislodge the barbless fly. He hopes he has not harmed the fish and that it will spawn successfully.

He has been very careful not to disturb pairs of spawning fish as he wades carefully upstream. Nevertheless he has caught and released a fair number of fish. The cooling waters are refreshing after a long, hot summer.

Autumn is the most wonderful time of the year in the outdoors.

Chapter News and Notes

Chapter members Jassim Hassan, Dave Wright, Rick Buchanan, Don Buchanan, Gary Cooper, Bob Wardrop, and Randy Buchanan, along with Fred Sherlock and Charley Whitman from John Kennedy/Blair County Chapter helped to install new electric fence crossings on the Clyde Claycomb farm on Potter Creek. The old crossings were climb over crossings which were rotten and rickety. These crossings were removed, and pass through crossings were installed. The group worked about six hours to install four new crossings. Now fishermen can cross the electric fences safely. Thanks to all who helped.

Chapter members Butch Kerchenske, Gary Cooper, Randy Buchanan, and Pat Buchanan attended the fall meeting of Pa Trout held at the Stackhouse Building at Fishermen's Paradise on Spring Creek on September 29, 2012.

The chapter recently completed a work project on the Benscreek on the Steve and Belinda Showalter property. The chapter installed four log deflectors along the property providing holding places for fish and better opportunities for anglers. Thanks to all who participated in the work days on this property.

The chapter elected new officers and one and two-year board members at its September meeting. Officers are Randy Buchanan - President, Gary Cooper - Vice President, Pat Buchanan - Treasurer, and David Maher - Secretary. One- year board members are Andy Fresch and Dave Wright. Two-year board members are Mark Lee and

Jassim Hassan. The new officers will begin their terms in October. Congratulations to all.

Changes to our by-laws have been approved by PA Trout. We will begin to read the changes at our October meeting. We will also read them at the November and December meetings. We will hold a vote under New Business at the December meeting.

George Mostoller reported that monitoring is going well on Clear Shade Creek and its tributaries. He feels that currently Marcellus Shale drilling is not posing a major threat in our area. He will keep us posted. George asked for more chapter members to become certified in water quality monitoring.

Len Lichvar reported the possible pollution of a tributary to the Quemahoning Creek along Rte. 985. In Somerset County. A coal company has purchased the old Black Timber sight and is dumping over a bank near the creek. He will investigate.

Missy Reckner again asked for help this school year with Trout in the Classroom projects. We have 10 schools in our area. Volunteers should contact Missy.

Winter Fly Tying Courses for Beginners

Mountain laurel Chapter will offer two beginners fly tying courses for the public during January and February 2013. One course will be offered on Saturday mornings. The other will be offered on Monday evenings. Each course will only be offered if six students sign up for that particular course. The public should sign up at the front desk of the Gander Mountain store by the end of December 2012. The courses cost twenty dollars per course, payable at the first session of each course. The courses will be offered at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Dates for the courses are as follows:

Saturday	Monday
January 12	January 7
January 19	January 14
January 26	January 21
February 2	January 28
February 9	February 4
February 16	February 11

Friends and members may use this form to sign up. Send the form to:

Gary L. Cooper
Rear 704 Scalp Ave.
Johnstown, Pa. 15904

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Day Preference (circle one) **Saturday** **Monday**

Did you ever tie flies before?

Do you have your own fly tying tools?

Upcoming Chapter Events

Regular Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Monthly meetings are held at the Mountain Lodge in the Gander Store at 7:00 pm The public is welcome.

Board of Directors Meetings

Same dates as Regular Meetings

Board of Director's Meetings are held at Gander Mountain Lodge in the Gander Mountain store at 6:30 pm

Installation of Officers and Board Members

Officers and Board members will be installed as the first item of business after the Pledge of Allegiance at the October 9, 2012 meeting.

Banquet Committee Meetings

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Banquet Committee Meetings are held at the home of Randy and Pat Buchanan at 7:00 pm.