

# The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter  
*Trout Unlimited*

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

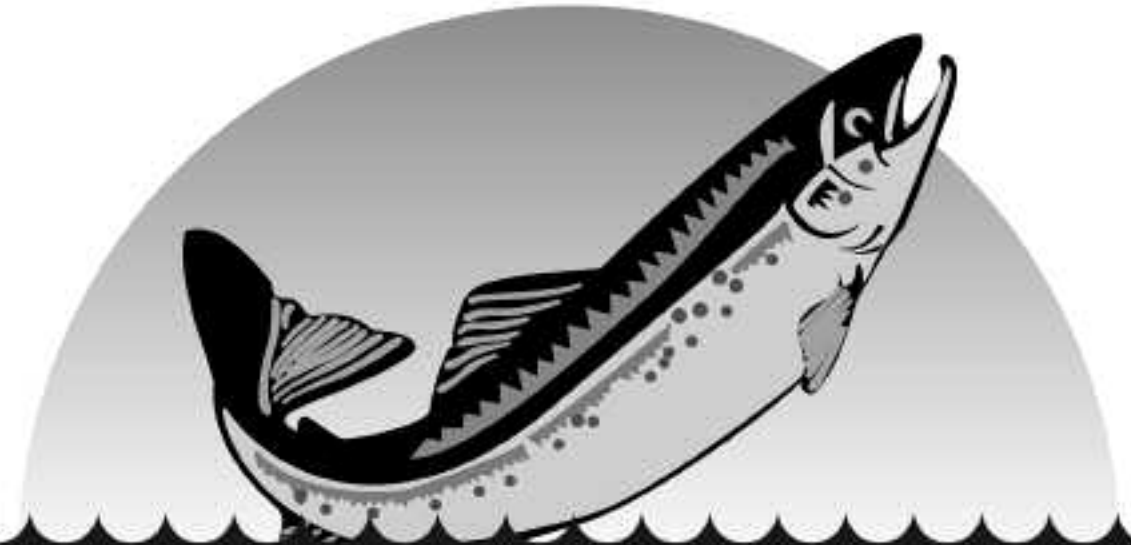
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# The Flyline

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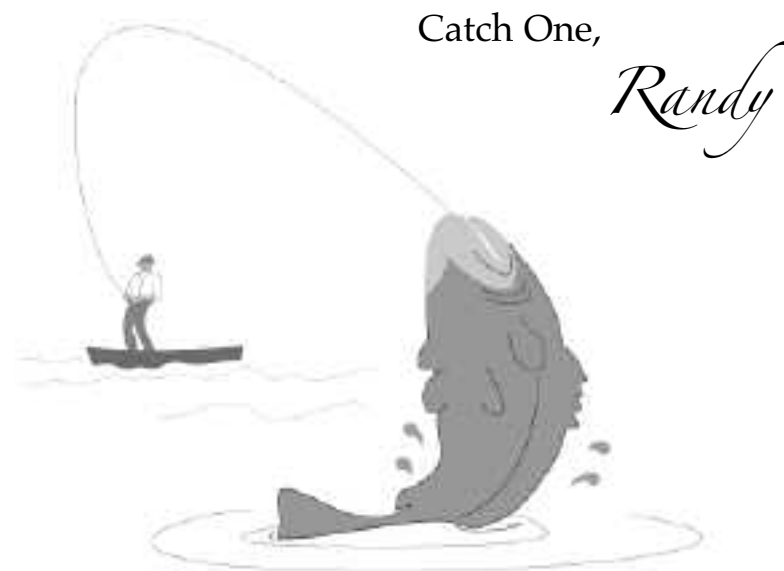
# TROUT UNLIMITED

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

# *From Randy's Desk . . .*

Another fall is upon us. Though our on-stream work is pretty much done for the year. There is still plenty to do around here. Our new officers and board members take their positions on October 1st. Our first Banquet Committee meeting occurs on October 16, 2013 at the Buchanan residence. The meeting is at 8:00 p.m. and anyone who is interested may attend. Also our Twelve Days of Christmas tickets are now on sale. We used to use these to buy prizes for our banquet. Now, due to the new small games of chance laws, We must use this money for stream improvement. We will use non gambling funds for our banquet. If you are one of our members who receives ticket, please sell them as we still need to raise money for stream work. We will also be planning our winter tying classes in the months to come.

I want to thank all those volunteers who helped with work projects this summer. You are the heart of MLTU. This winter, as you have time to think, come up with some ways to get more young members involved with MLTU. We need more young blood in the chapter. I will listen to any ideas presented. Thanks for your help.



## **Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited 2011 OFFICERS**

*President*  
**Randy Buchanan**  
1745 Regal Drive  
Johnstown, PA 15904

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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.

**The Flyline**  
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.

## **The Flyline**

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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](http://www.tu.org). If you are not a member, Go to [www.tu.org](http://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 . . .



Fall offers the outdoorsman a chance to combine things he or she enjoys. The fact that different seasons for both game and fish run concurrently makes for an interesting but enjoyable problem. Suppose it is mid October, a bright sunny day. One can spend the early morning, back against an old oak tree with a twenty two across one's lap, hunting bushy tails. The brilliant colors and the lazily falling leaves make the perfect backdrop

to an early fall hunt. If you are lucky enough to bag a few grays or foxies, you'll need to have a cooler along to protect the meat from the warmer temperatures of the rapidly warming day. An added bonus is that you can preserve the hides when you get home to use for fly tying.

Once noon approaches, the warmth of the day may draw one's thoughts to the fine fall fishing for trout. If a stream is nearby, it is but a short trip and a quick change of gear and one will soon be plying the waters. Bright fall days should bring returning hatches of olives and fall caddis species. Streamers and egg patterns also produce good results. Brown Trout should be beginning to spawn. One should never disturb fish on the redds,

but rainbows can be caught lying below the redds, stealing eggs. Brookies are also spawning, so if one prefers small water, go find some brookies. Just not spawning ones.

Many consider Autumn the best time of the year. Combine two hobbies into one as a way to enjoy better sport simultaneously.

## *Return to Potter Creek*

Beginning about 1990 and continuing for fifteen years or so. MLTU held regular summer work sessions on Potter Creek in Bedford County. We did bank stabilization and trout habitat improvement on wide sections of this fertile spring creek. Hundreds of tons of rock were installed along the stream. Fish and Boat Commission surveys showed that the population of wild brown trout had tripled. If you were to look at the stream today, you would be hard pressed to notice any of the work. Nature has covered the areas with vegetation. Potter Creek was and is one of our crowning achievements.

We were set to begin another section on Potter creek in the mid-two thousands when the owner suddenly leased the land to Donny Beaver. This ,of course, killed our plans to work on that property. Up until this year, we have not returned to Potter Creek.

Last year chapter President Randy Buchanan received a call from two landowners on the lower end of the creek. They asked for help with bank stabilization and the replacement of a bridge that had been washed out by high water. The chapter decided to tackle the project. Getting permits proved quite a chore for Randy. Working with DEP can be almost impossible, unless you want a permit to drill for Marcellus Shale. Some Bedford County Conservation District officials were not very helpful either. However, we finally received the permits, and on August 9, 2013, we returned to Potter Creek for the first time.

Chapter members Randy Buchanan, Rick Buchanan, Don Buchanan, Bob Wardrop, Butch Kerchenske, Jassim Hassan, Andy Fresch, Dave Wright, Bill Conlin, and Gary Cooper, along with John Kennedy Chapter members Chuck Winters, Fred Sherlock,

Charley Whitman, and Carl Reed helped to install eleven in-stream devices, replace the old bridge, and level and reseed disturbed ground. This was done on August 9 and 10 and on August 16 and 17. Rick Musselman was hired to move rock for the project and did his usual stellar job. Butch Kerchenske donated the use of a bobcat, which also helped out greatly. Once again clear gravel can be seen in this stretch of Potter Creek as the devices are beginning to wash away the accumulated silt. Thanks to our two landowners for cooperating with MLTU. Thanks to all volunteers who gave of their time to help. Potter Creek is a jewel, and it is better for our work there!

## *Vensel Site*

The Stonycreek River has once again received recognition for its water quality improvement and recreational fishery. Leo Vensel is a fly fishing instructor and guide. He is also working on a writing project about waters and the people who have and are involved with them in a variety of ways.

Vensel recently posted a brief piece on his web site about the Stonycreek River and its fishing opportunities with a link to a document prepared by Len Lichvar that details the who and how the Stonycreek River watershed water quality improvements occurred.

To view Vensel's site that also has information on many other angling destinations, flies and angling techniques visit [paflyguide.com](http://paflyguide.com).

## North Fork Outdoor Page

The Somerset Conservation District is currently embarking on an analysis and study of one of Somerset County's smallest, but perhaps most unique watersheds. The District received a Coldwater Heritage grant to create a Coldwater Conservation Plan for the North Fork of Bens Creek watershed located along the western slope of the Laurel Ridge in northern Somerset County.

The North Fork and its even smaller tributaries have been mostly unencumbered by man's negative impacts unlike the downstream waters that the North Fork is a tributary of such as the main stem of Bens Creek and the Stonycreek River.

According to Greg Shustrick, Watershed Specialist for the District, "The North Fork is one of our near natural waters. All the smaller tributaries are designated as Exceptional Value by the PA Department of Environmental Protection and the tributaries as well as the North Fork contain a highly diverse macroinvertebrate community as well as populations of wild trout."

Unlike other waterways in the region that have fluctuating water quality and fish and insect life the North Fork has maintained its high level of all of these water quality indicators over a long period of time.

The North Fork's sister stream, the South Fork of Bens Creek, starts out very much the same with good populations of aquatic insects and wild trout. However, the downstream reaches of the South Fork have had its bouts with intrusions such as abandoned mine drainage (AMD) pollution. So far the North Fork has escaped these impediments.

A primary reason the North Fork watershed is less impaired is that about three quarters of the watershed is owned by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority (GJWA) and the remainder is either PA Game Commission State Game Lands or part of Laurel Ridge State Park.

With that in mind the District is working on the project in cooperation with the GJWA, Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited and state agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

The project will include analysis of not only the current status of the watershed, but potential threats such as water use and consumption, thermal impacts, nutrient loading as well as natural gas extraction in the coming years.

Although downstream waters such as the Stonycreek River have received much attention, improvement and acclaim in recent years the best water quality in the region is found in the headwater streams such as the North Fork. As Shustrick points out, "The North Fork provides us a measure as to how far our downstream resources have to still improve to reach their true potential."

Another very unique characteristic of this only 12 square mile watershed is what is contained within it. There are game lands, a state park, four historic 19th Century cemeteries, a golf course and country club, a water reservoir, historical structures and Johnstown's oldest and still active sportsmen's club all within the watershed boundaries.

As Shustrick claims, "The North Fork watershed is a real life example of how man's needs and uses can coexist with nature without either detracting from the other."

Len Lichvar

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Regular Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Monthly Meetings are held at the Gander Mountain Store lodge at 7:00 p.m.

### Board of Director's Meetings

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Board Meetings are held at the Gander Mountain Store Lodge at 6:30 PM

### Banquet Committee Meetings

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Meetings are held at the Buchanan Residence at 1745 Regal Drive at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome.

### Installation of New Officers and Board Members

The new officers and board members will begin their terms at the beginning of the meetings on Tuesday, October 8, 2013.

### Spring Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, March 22, 2014

Holiday Inn - Downtown Johnstown. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$30.00 per ticket. Call Gary Cooper at 266-4763.