



# The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter  
*Trout Unlimited*

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

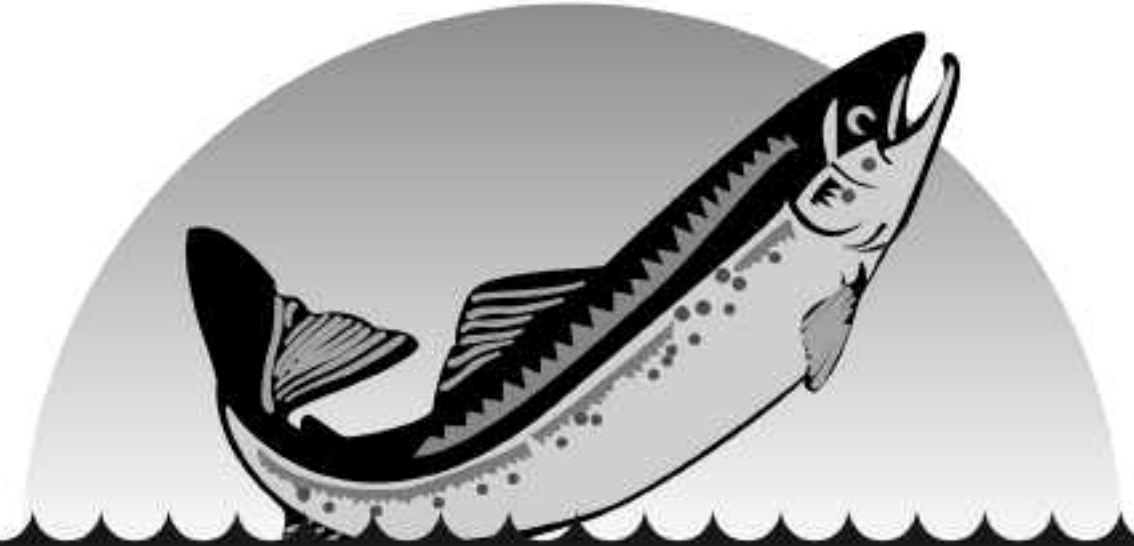
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# The Flyline

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 25

SPRING 2012



# TROUT UNLIMITED

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

# *From Randy's Desk . . .*

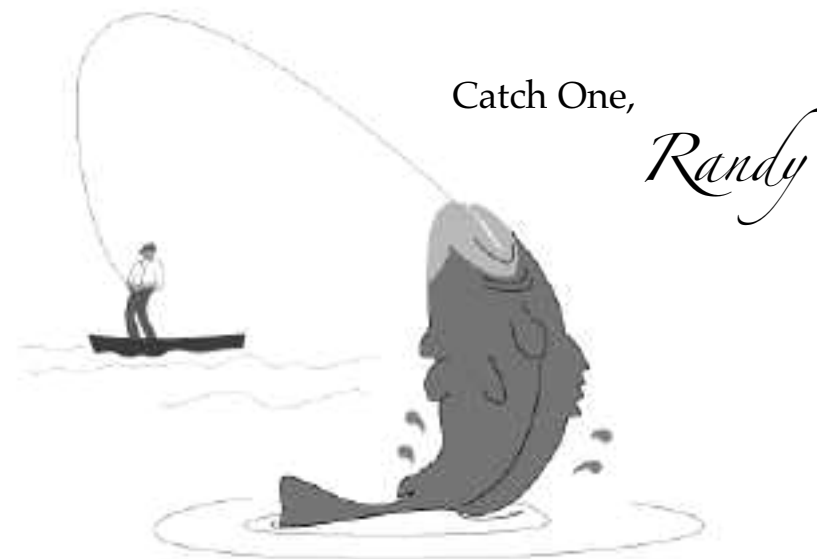
This past March 24th, MLTU held its annual Fund-raising banquet. I would like to thank all who attended. The money raised will be used to help improve our coldwater resources. In February 2012, the chapter hosted a Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction Monitoring Program. This program was designed to train interested people on how to monitor stream water quality. I would like to thank those chapter members who attended.

A special thank you to George Mostoller for volunteering to head the committee.

If you aren't living under a rock, I am sure that you have heard that the Stonycreek River has won the Pennsylvania River of the Year Award. So many people and groups deserve our thanks, led by SCRIP. As I sit and write this, I know of many new threats that will impair and degrade the river. Among them are new mining permits, Marcellus gas drilling, and deep-well injection sites along the banks and in the headwaters.

In order, acid mine drainage (AMD), agricultural run off, and thermal pollution are the three leading causes of stream degradation in Pennsylvania. I hope issues with Marcellus Shale extraction don't become the fourth.

If reading this is not a reason to cause concern, maybe you should be living under a rock.



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

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David Wright  
Butch Kerchenske  
Dave Sewak

Jassim Hassan  
Len Lichvar

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 meetings are held on the Thursday before the regular meeting date at the Gander Mountain Store at 7:00 PM.

## **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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PRINTED BY:

**Damin Printing Company, LLC**

122 South Locust Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Ph: (814) 472-9530 www.daminprinting.com

## **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 . . .



What an unusual winter this has been! Daffodils in full bloom, forsythias blooming early, skunk cabbage coming up in early February. I fished a full-blown Baetis hatch on February 7, 2012. Temperatures have been twenty degrees above normal for weeks. We have had very little snow. I have seen caddis flies, stone flies and midges in abundance in February. March is usually a gamble because of snow melt. What we don't have cannot melt.

Have you taken advantage of this great weather to wet a line? The only problem is the hordes of anglers who have. Since March 1st, the only place to fish is in a fly project. This concentrates the anglers. It also takes a toll on the fish. I can't get used to fishing in shirt sleeves in March. Who knows what the rest of the year will bring. I guess we will just have to enjoy what we have. Tight Lines!

## *A look at the Past*

We here in Johnstown don't have a lot of famous fishermen from our area. One who had some national notoriety was John Crowe. Crow first moved to our area in about 1946 from the Erie area. In 1947 he had a book, *The Book of Trout Lore*, published by the A. S. Barnes Company. He also authored articles for *Outdoor Life* and *Field and Stream*. Later in 1965, he wrote another book, "*The ABC'S of Freshwater Fishing.*"

Perhaps John Crowe is most famous as the inventor of the Crowe Beetle. This is still one of the best patterns that a summer angler can carry. It plops, which foam beetles do not. Plus one can tie a dozen and a half in an hour. We should all be thankful for the contributions that John Crowe made to angling history.

## *Cold-Water Conservation Corps Training*

On March 3, 2012, the chapter hosted a PATU Cold-Water Conservation Corps training session at the Disaster's Edge Environmental Center in St. Michael. The training course was developed by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring from Dickenson College. Natural gas extraction from shale has the potential to damage our cold-water resources if not managed and monitored properly. The speakers were Katy Dunlap (national TU), Mitch Blake (PA CCC Trainer), and Bob Volkmar of the "God's Country Chapter. There were 15 in attendance, 7 from our chapter. One person attended from Ohio.

The day began with each person receiving a Marcellus Monitoring Manual and an overview of the Marcellus Shale extraction process. This included land disturbance, spills and discharges, water withdrawals, and gas migration and leakage. Next the presenters covered the role of a volunteer stream steward and the role of each chapter. Then we were instructed on how to access DEP websites that show where existing and planned well sites are located. The instructors then went over the process of how sampling is to be done. Sampling kits were issued, and instructions for their use were given. We then practiced testing and learned how to record and publish the data collected. We learned who to contact is something seems amiss. The chapter received two monitoring kits

George Mostoller has agreed to chair our stream-monitoring committee. George will need everyone's help with this project. As a sportsman, if you have a favorite watershed or just want to sample the stream that is closest to where you live, please volunteer. We need to get started on this important work. Please contact George Mostoller at

fishprof@atlanticbb.net or call at 814-266-6780. Important numbers to report pollution are DEP - 412-442-4000 and PFBC - 814-445-8974.

## *Annual Fund-Raising Banquet Report*

On Saturday, March 24, 2012, Mountain Laurel Chapter held its annual fund raising banquet at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. Over 130 people attended the affair and were treated to a unique assortment of prizes, a fine dinner, and a brief, but enjoyable, awards program. Prizes included a nice assortment of fly rods and fishing gear, an LED television, Prints, old books, and many flies, tied and donated by chapter members.

There were prizes for kids, a nice assortment of prizes for ladies, lottery tickets, restaurant certificates, and chapter gear. Bill Conlin's fly rod brought over \$1000.00 for the chapter and was the last and most coveted prize raffled off.

Dinner was well prepared. Guests had a choice of flank steak or stuffed chicken breast. Green beans and red potatoes accompanied the entrees. Chocolate moose cake brought a delicious end to the meal.

The evenings award program included a brief speech by President Randy Buchanan, and the awards of three presidential pins to Brian Adams, Tom Papuga, and Chris Mahla. Randy then presented an award to Phil Gardner and to Eric Robertson for their work in the area of cold-water conservation. Chapter Secretary Dave Maher presented the chapter's top award, "The Order of the Mug," to Melissa Reckner, who heads up our chapter's Trout in the Classroom Program. Finally chapter Vice-President Gary Cooper Presented the Joseph Arcuri, Jr. Award to Gerald "Fred" Sherlock. The award is given for a lifetime of service to cold-water conservation. Mr. Sherlock is the president of the Yellow Creek coalition and has been instrumental in preserving access to the Yellow Creek Watershed.

As always, the banquet committee did a wonderful job in putting the banquet together. They would like to thank all donors, prize sponsors and attendees for helping us to raise a significant amount of money to continue the work of the chapter. Those people who worked at the banquet are also to be thanked. We hope to see all of you at next year's event.

## **Upcoming** Chapter Events

### **Monthly Chapter Meetings**

Tuesday, April 10, 2012  
Tuesday, May 8, 2012  
Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
Tuesday, July 10, 2012  
Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Monthly Chapter Meetings are held at the Gander Mountain Store. Meetings take place at 7:00 pm in the Gander Mountain Lodge.

### **Board of Directors Meetings**

Tuesday, April 10, 2012  
Tuesday, May 8, 2012  
Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
Tuesday, July 10, 2012  
Tuesday, August 14, 2012

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

### **Chapter Work Days**

Friday, April 13, 2012  
  
Saturday, April 21, 2012  
  
Saturday, May 5, 2012  
  
Sunday, May 6, 2012  
  
Friday, April 13, 2012  
  
Saturday, March 31, 2012  
  
May 10, 2012  
May 16, 2012  
  
April 20, 2012  
  
June 29 and 30, 2012  
  
July 10, 2012

Quemahoning Creek Stocking. Meet at the Burger King on Route 30 at 7:45 a.m.  
  
Yellow Creek Clean Up. Meet at the New Frontier Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast. Work assignments will be made there.  
  
Shade Creek Road Clean Up. Meet at Ashtola at 8:00 a.m.  
  
Yellow Creek Coalition Meeting - Carl's Pavilion. 2:00 p.m.  
  
Quemahoning Creek Stocking - 8:00 Jenner Community Sportsman off Rte. 30. Meet at the Burger King on Rte 30 at 7:30.  
  
Annual Paint Creek Litter Cleanup - 8:30 -Meet at the pull off where Paint Creek crosses under Rte 160.  
  
Berlin Trout in the Classroom release.  
  
St. Benedict's TIC release - Bens Creek. Meet at the soccer field.  
  
Charlie Whitman Tree Planting along the Project. 1:00 p.m. at Charley's place.  
  
Tentative Work Days on Bens Creek Meet at the BP station at 8:30 a.m.  
  
Nominations for Officers and one and two-year Board members opens.