

The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter
Trout Unlimited

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

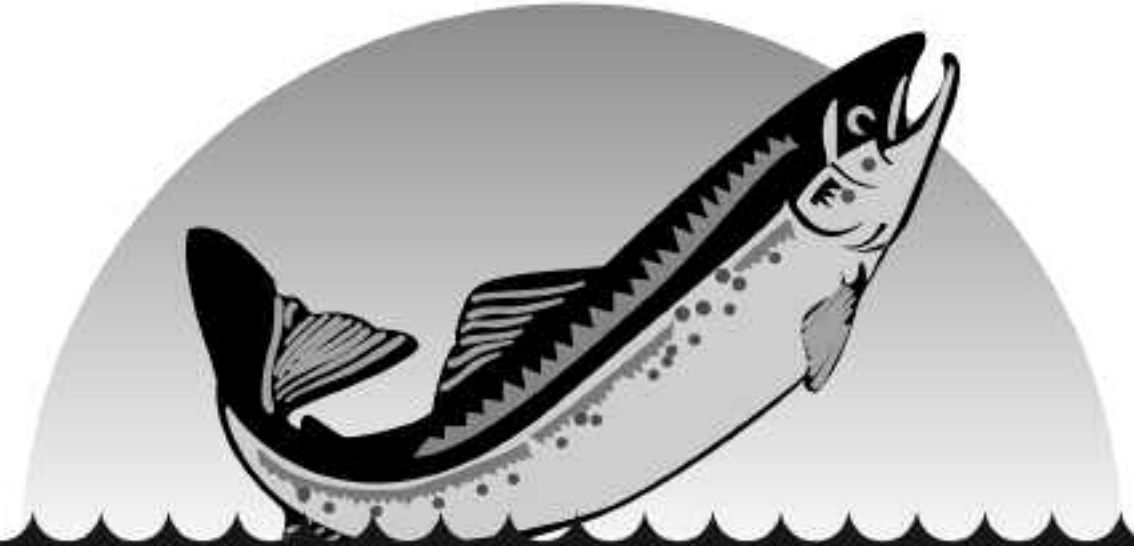
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The Flyline

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 37

SPRING 2015



TROUT UNLIMITED

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED

From Randy's Desk . . .

As we move into the spring fishing season, I would first like to stop and thank those members of our chapter, as well as spouses, nonmembers, and others who attended or helped with our spring fund-raising banquet held on March 21, 2015. It is because of you that our banquet was as successful as it was. We couldn't continue our work without you.

The Upcoming three months are a busy time for our chapter. There are road and stream cleanups to be handled. There are TIC releases that will occur. There will be state council events to attend. There will be meetings to attend. There will be new members to train. You can see a list of these activities in the

"Items of Interest to You" article in this edition of the newsletter. All of these things take volunteers.

We particularly need volunteers for the Trout in the Classroom releases. If you could help teach a class or be there to help teach fly tying or fly casting, Missy Reckner would really appreciate it.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you good fishing in this most prime of seasons. Tight lines, and may "The Drake" be with you.



Catch One,
Randy

Waxworms

I remember tying some of my first flies (now over 20 years ago!) Like most budding fly fisherman, I knew very little about the flies I was using and almost nothing about the aquatic insects they were supposed to imitate. At that time I was pretty proficient drifting bait for trout. Wax worms always worked really well for me so naturally some of my first flies were crude imitations made of yarn covered in strips of latex glove. I was matching the hatch....kinda.

20 years have passed and I have learned very much about the flies I use and the macroinvertebrates I'm imitating. Some reading, mentoring, and especially a few high school biology classes really straightened that out. In the years since my yarn and latex creations I have run across other "wax worm flies" and have heard more than once people say they thought the fish were taking a fly for a wax worm. A little research will tell you this is very unlikely. Wax worms are the larval stage of the greater wax moth. These moths are parasites that lay their eggs in beehives. The hatched larvae feed on honey until they spin a silk cocoon, transform into pupae, and then emerge into adult moths. So if wax worms are never present in a trout stream and trout don't know what they are, why do they work so well for bait.

A little more research of the macroinvertebrates found in trout streams will show you that tan caddis fly larvae and crane fly larvae are common food items in a trout's diet. If you compare an image of a wax worm side by side to a tan caddis or crane fly larvae, you might say the wax worm is a reasonable facsimile. So are the trout eating the wax worms because they think they are caddis or crane flies? That sounds good, but that's the thing about fishing. We can research, study, and analyze all we want, but until we learn to talk to the fish, we're just guessing. It's fun to think though about the possibility that any of us who have thrown wax worms early in our careers as trout fisherman were matching a hatch that we didn't even know existed. The moral to this story is to get you thinking about the bait or flies you are using and why they are (or aren't) working. Pick up your kids biology book or pick up some rocks on your next trip to the stream. The more

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Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited 2014 OFFICERS

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>President</i> Randy Buchanan 1745 Regal Drive Johnstown, PA 15904 | <i>Vice-President</i> Gary Cooper Rear 704 Scalp Avenue Johnstown, PA 15904 |
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| <i>Secretary</i> Dave Maher 417 Old Farm Lane Johnstown, PA 15904 | <i>Treasurer</i> Pat Buchanan 1745 Regal Drive Johnstown, PA 15904 |
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DIRECTORS

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Greg Shustrick David Wright | Butch Kerchenske Jassim Hassan |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

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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Johnstown, PA 15904
www.mltu.org

PRINTED BY:

Damin Printing Company, LLC

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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. 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.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Monthly Chapter Meetings

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Monthly meetings are held at the Gander mountain Lodge inside the Gander Mountain Store at 7:00 pm

Board of Director's Meetings

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Board of Director's meetings are held at the above location at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meetings.

Chapter Workdays

Saturday, April 4, 2015 Bens Creek Cleanup. Meet at Jim and Jimmies at 9:00 am
Saturday, April 11, 2015 Paint Creek Cleanup
Friday, April 17, 2015 Quemahoning Creek Stocking. Meet at Jenner Community Sportsmen at 9:00 AM If you do not know how to get there, meet at Burger King at Ferrelton on Route 30 at 8:00 am
Saturday, April 25, 2015 Yellow Creek Cleanup. Meet at New Frontier Restaurant at 8:00 am for breakfast. Meet at the same place at 9:00 am if you do not wish breakfast. Bring Boots and Gloves and Waders
Friday, May 1, 2015 Stocking of Brown Trout Fingerlings in Bens Creek and Quemahoning Creek. PA Fish and Boat Commission. Meet at Becca House at 9:45 am
Saturday, May 2, 2015 Shade Creek Road Cleanup. Meet at New Ashtola at 9:00 am
Saturday, June 20, 2015 Yellow Creek Coalition Pig Roast. Woodbury Community

Permits are pending for the Bens Creek stream projects and as more information on dates becomes available, we will let you know.

Work should begin on the over Run rehabilitation project in late summer or early fall. When specific dates are available. we will inform you.

Tuesday, September 16, 2015 National Trout Unlimited Meeting. Hilton Hotel, Scranton, PA

Social Event

Thursday, April 16, 2015 Fishing with Chuck Furimsky at Rizzo's Restaurant in Windber. Begins at 6:00 pm Cost is \$25.00. Call Randy Buchanan at 814-469-4034 for information and reservations

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you learn about the feeding habits of the fish the better fisherman or fisherwoman you will become, whether you're using bait or flies.

We've determined that the wax worms work, so lets talk about some flies. The larvae we are talking about are very easy to imitate. Dubbing a robust body of tan dubbing on a size 14-10 straight or curved shank hook and ribbing with thread or wire and your good to go. My personal go-to caddis pattern I call the Forever Caddis uses a black 5/32" brass bead on a Tiemco #12 2457 scud hook. For the body I use UV tan Ice Dub and I rib the body with the tying thread which is 6/0 tan Uni-Thread. This fly has a dark head and tan, semi-translucent body just like the natural. Aside from some extra techniques I use to make this fly bullet proof, this pattern is so easy it can be tied by a three year old (I've witnessed my daughter Jocelyn do it!) For my crane fly imitation (or water-worm as they're sometimes known) I use a pattern I call the Wacky Crane Fly that only uses 3 materials. A Tiemco #12 2457 scud hook, tan 6/0 Uni-Thread, and tan Lion Brand Thick and Quick Chenille. Some species of crane flies grow slightly larger than wax worm size and typically curl into a wheel shape when they are dislodged from the stream bottom and rolling in the current. For this fly the chenille is fastened in the center of the hook shank. A furled or twisted section is then formed extending from both sides of the hook shank "wacky worm" style. This technique is much easier explained in person! The head is then darkened with black Sharpie. The resulting fly looks like a crane fly impaled through it's midsection. This allows the body to move freely in the current and assume the rolling wheel position during the drift. The only down side to this pattern is that Lion Brand discontinued this chenille and I have only one skein left. I'm currently looking for a substitute material so feel free to experiment!

Now all you have to do is take some time to tie some of these simple patterns and give them a try, knowing with confidence what they are and what they're imitating. Remember to keep learning and you'll catch more fish. Good luck and don't forget to take a kid fishing so they too can learn to love and protect our coldwater resources!

Have fun,
Andy Fresch

State Council News and Notes

PA Trout is offering state council T-Shirts for sale to all members in the state. All money from the sale of these shirts will be used for conservation and educational projects in the Commonwealth. To pre-order a shirt, go to www.patrou.org for information.

If you know a young person from 12 to 15 years of age, that person can apply to fish at Wayne Harpster's property this summer. The program is called Wayne's Coldwater Kids and a registration form can be obtained at www.partout.org.

PA TROUT will hold the PATU 5K Trail Run and Family Festival at Whipple Dam State Park on August 1, 2015. Contact www.patrou.org for more information.

MLTU Member Survey

The chapter is considering a change as to how it will distribute newsletters in the future. We are considering having the newsletter put on-line instead of printed and mailed. Of course, we would still have a printed copy available for those members who do not have a computer. There would be a nominal charge of \$5.00 a year to cover printing costs. We want to know how you would feel about this. Please fill out the survey and return it to:

Gary Cooper
Rear 704 Scalp Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Or you may call me at 266-4763 to express your opinion. No decision has been made. Please participate in this survey.

Name _____

Check or circle one:

1. I would like to receive the newsletter on line.
2. I would prefer to continue to get a printed copy.



Natural Thoughts . . .



I first met the older fisherman along the creek one day I don't know how long ago. I had just gotten to the Schoolhouse hole and was ready to take a break. There was an older gentleman seated on the bench, and we said "Hello" as I sat down. I asked how he had done in the manner of those who pass on the stream. He said that he had had a good morning landing over twenty fish. Naturally I inquired as to what flies he had been using. He told me good mannerly, but I don't remember any more. We talked a while longer until I was ready to leave. I wished him good luck and went up the path, leaving him room to fish. That was my introduction to John "Pap" Kennedy.

After that I would encounter him from time to time. Anytime there was a stocking or a cleanup on the creek, there was John. I learned that everyone knew this lanky man from his many years on the creek. Everyone called him "Pap." As the years went by, I recognized how respected John was among the local fishing community. John Kennedy was the dean of Yellow Creek. As the years passed, John became older and more frail. Eventually cancer took one of his legs. Yet John would still fish at the dam from his wheelchair, and he still caught large trout. At coalition meetings, John would still be there to offer advice. There never was a better steward of the water. The Blair County Chapter of Trout Unlimited

changed its name to The John Kennedy/Blair County Chapter in John's honor. John served as Southwest

Vice-President of the PA Council of Trout Unlimited for several years and did a fine job. He was the embodiment of what a TU member should be.

John Kennedy passed away in early February at the age of eighty-eight. We will all miss him. Tight Lines, John, wherever you are fishing now.

News from the PFBC

At its January 2015 PA Fish and Boat Commission quarterly meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved proposed rule-making that could make significant changes to the Commission's Delayed Harvest Artificial Lure Only (DHALO) areas. The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Move the start of the trout harvest period from June 15th to the Saturday before Memorial Day.
2. Change the minimum size length limit of trout from 9 inches to 7 inches.
3. Allow the use of bait by all anglers during the trout Harvest Period.
4. Allow youth anglers under the age of 16 to use bait year round in DHALO areas.

The Commissioners will consider these proposals, most likely in July. The Commissioners could act on all, some, or none of the proposed changes.

Comments on these changes can be submitted electronically by completing the form at www.fishandboat.com/regcomments or in writing to:

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Executive Director PFBC

P. O. Box 67000

Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

Unless You have not read the paper, you are probably aware that the Commission voted to continue to stock the ten wild trout areas mentioned in the last newsletter.

The Commission announced that it will offer two mentored youth trout fishing days: one March 28 in the eighteen southeastern counties where trout season opens early and another on April 11 in this area.

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Trout in the Classroom Schools Schedule Release Dates

The following schools have tentatively scheduled release dates for the trout they have raised.

Conemaugh Township Middle School

* Tuesday, April 28, 2015

* 8:30 am – 2:15 pm

Bishop McCort High School

* Friday, May 8, 2015

* Ferndale Sportsmen's Club

* 8:30 am – 2:10 pm

St. Benedict School

* Tuesday, May 12, 2015

* Ferndale Sportsmen's Club

* 8:45 am – 2:00 pm

Shade Central City High School

* Friday, May 22, 2015

* Reitz #1 Treatment System and Central City Sportsmen's Club

* 8:30 am – 2:15 pm

Cambria Heights Middle School

* Thursday, May 28, 2015

* Patton Park

* 9:00 am – 1:45 pm

There are other schools that must still choose release dates.

For further information or for changes, contact Melissa Reckner at 814-242-4285.