
Upcoming Chapter Events

Regular Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, July 8, 2008
Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Tuesday, September 9, 2008

All meetings are held at Gander Mountain Lodge at
7:00 p.m.

Board of Director's Meetings

Thursday, September 4, 2008
* Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Gander Mountain Lodge - 7:00 p.m.

Chapter Work Days

Saturday, July 12, 2008
Saturday, July 28, 2008
Saturday, August 9, 2008
Saturday, August 23, 2008

Bens Creek Work Days - Meet at the Ben's Creek
BP station on Rte. 403 (old Somerset Pike) at 8:30
a.m. if you have not been to the work site before.

North Star Project - Times and dates to be announced at regular meetings.

September 18, 2008 - Tentative- Habitat Improvement project at Que Dam. Details at meetings.

Social Outings

Quemahoning Classic - Fishing Contest - Saturday, June 28, 2008 - 7 a.m. 12.p.m.

August 24, 2008 - Somerset Conservation District Fundraiser - Sporting Clays. Contact Len Lichvar for details on how to enter.

2009 Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Holiday Inn - Downtown Johnstown.

Girl Scouts, Dads, Grandfathers, and MLTU

On June 14th MLTU helped celebrate Father's Day with a fishing event at Lake

Rowena in Ebensburg. Close to twenty young ladies and their dads or grandfathers enjoyed the outdoors while catching many “little guys.” Fred Jacobs and Tom Murray provided rods and bait for those in attendance. They also assisted the girls with casting and safety skills. Food and prizes were provided by several mothers and scout directors.

A little more excitement was added to the day when a large snapping turtle decided to join the group. Mr. Watt, an environmental science teacher, gave everyone an impromptu lesson about the reptile. Everyone was surprised by the speed of the turtle as it moved and attempted to bite.

Fred Jacobs, a longtime MLTU member, never loses his interest in passing along fishing skills to youngsters. Thanks Fred, for your many years of service to MLTU.

Natural Thoughts

The Trout season has hit the summer mark. Most of the major hatches have passed, and the season of terrestrial fishing is upon us. Now the brown trout will settle into bank side nooks and tiny pockets of slack water. Here they will feed all day in the shade sipping a diet of whatever comes along. Maybe it will be carpenter ants or tiny cinnamon ants falling from the trees or bank side vegetation. Tiny green worms dangle from the trees on long silken strings. Inevitably, they fall into the water where the browns wait eagerly. Beetles are a treat seldom passed up. Crickets are good early and late. Later in the summer, hoppers will be a good choice in midday.

How you fish for these browns is your choice. On top or with a sunk imitation, it doesn't matter. Just be cautious, and go slow. Longer leaders and soft casts will produce better results. Cast to likely spots, and be ready.

State Council Notes

Pa. Trout is asking local chapters to cooperate with the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission in making their new 'resource first' commitment a reality.

Please continue to identify brook trout waters and make them known to Dave Sewak. All of this is part of the ongoing Eastern Brook Trout Initiative.

Pa. Council is going to develop a policy on wind farm siting.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant money will be increased from \$5000 to

\$7000 this year.

National Notes

National TU is looking to expand and coordinate its various educational programs in order to reach a wider audience. National would like to reach more women and nontraditional groups.

Have you seen TU's *On the Rise* on T.V. It is on the outdoor channel.

In regard to access, TU has a stream access working group to listen to concerns of chapters.

From Randy's Desk

Summer has arrived , and that means a busy work season for MLTU. We have work days on Bens Creek in July and August. We have a project scheduled on the Stonycreek River at North Star East Elementary School. June brings the Quemahoning Classic. August will bring the sporting clays fundraiser for the Somerset Conservation District. In September we have a habitat improvement project at the Quemahoning Dam.

The Yellow Creek Coalition Pig Roast, held in June, was an important fundraiser for the coalition. It signals our continuing commitment to maintaining public access on Yellow Creek. I hope you were there. If you are fishing Yellow Creek and haven't donated to the coalition yet, see Fred Sherlock or me to make a donation to this worthy organization.

We have many dedicated volunteers in MLTU. We do so much with limited resources. Please come out and help us with some of our work. See this issue's "Upcoming Chapter Events" for dates and locations. Trout Unlimited is you. Be an active part of our work.

Catch One,

Randy

*By Missy Reckner,
Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team*

While the official season of summer is a few days away, the heat and humidity are here and kids have been released from another year of school, which brought an end to two MLTU-sponsored Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs.

For the second year in a row, sixth grade students in Mrs. Eva Strang's science class at North Star East Middle School raised trout fingerlings through this coldwater conservation education program; however, new this year, was the fact that they raised the trout from eggs, not fry. It added a new dimension to the program and the students responded well.

Berlin-Brothersvalley High School students in Mr. Dan Miller's classes delved into TIC for the first time. All was going well, until the power went out in the middle of the night during an ice storm in December, which caused the aquarium water to warm to a lethal level and kill all the sac fry. It was a disappointing blow, but an important lesson! Fortunately, the administration directed the janitors to wire the aquarium unit into the back-up generator, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission provided new fry to continue the project.

While learning about aquarium care, fish anatomy and habitat, macroinvertebrates, watersheds, water quality, wetlands, and the fine art of fly-tying, North Star students successfully raised and released 56 three to four inch brown and rainbow trout fingerlings, and Berlin students released 71 brown trout fingerlings into the Stonycreek River.

All the students thoroughly enjoyed the project, and I'm sure many "SMART" anglers learned to appreciate our coldwater resources.

Special thanks to the New Baltimore Sportsmen's Club, who provided the matching funds necessary to implement TIC at Berlin; Jenner Rod and Gun Club, who provided funds to purchase a new chiller at North Star and also gave us a supply of fish food when the little pigs went through the given quantities; Mrs. Eva Strang and Mr. Dan Miller for overseeing their respective TIC projects; PA Fish and Boat Commission for leading a Family Fishing Program with Berlin students; PA Council of TU for all their support; and, of course, the members of MLTU for initiating TIC in area schools.

MLTU just learned it was awarded a grant to purchase replacement materials for both the North Star and Berlin TIC projects *and* another grant from the PA Council of Trout Unlimited to implement TIC in Forest Hills High School next year! Mr. Brain Madison will oversee that project.
