



The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter
Trout Unlimited

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Johnstown, PA 15904

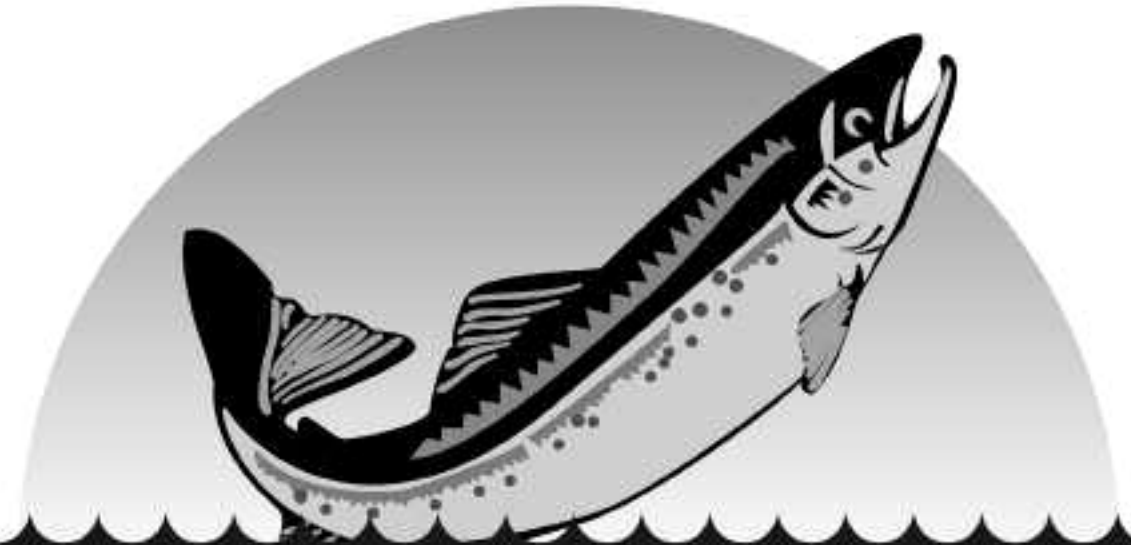
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The Flyline

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TROUT UNLIMITED

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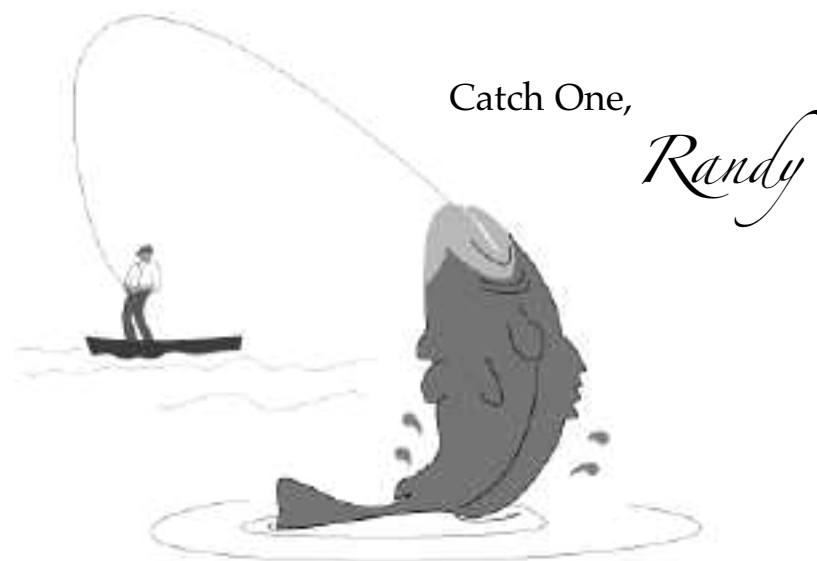
From Randy's Desk . . .

Summer has arrived, and it is time for summer work days for Mountain Laurel Chapter. I know that many of you will be engaged in numerous summer activities, but I hope that you will find some time to help out with our summer work projects. This year we will be working again on Benscreek. (See the dates for workdays in Upcoming Chapter Events) This work should only take two days. Come on out and have a good time with the guys. There will be a habitat improvement day on the Que in August. I'm still having trouble getting a permit for Potter Creek, but if I do, We may be working there also.

I would like to thank all those volunteers that showed up to help with clean up days on Yellow Creek, Clear Shade Creek Access and Paint Creek. All events were very successful because of you.

I would like to encourage more of you to join our water-monitoring team. This is very important work. It will help us to keep a sharp lookout on Marcellus Shale Drilling in our area.. George Mostoller is heading up this team. Call him at 814-266-6780 or E-Mail him at fishprof@atlanticbb.net if you wish to help.

As for the fishing, get out there and have fun. Use terrestrials or small flies and have a ball. A lot of fishermen have quit, so you should have more solitude. Explore other streams. Try some new ones. But fish!



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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.

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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 . . .



Keeping A Watch Out for Drakes

For years my friends and I have watched the black locust trees to see when they would produce their elongated clusters of flowers. This usually occurred around the twentieth of May or later. We knew that when the locusts bloomed near Yellow Creek, the Green Drake (E. Guttalatta) would put in its annual appearance. For years this combination worked almost perfectly - till this year!

Green Drakes began to hatch about May tenth or earlier. Many locust trees still had no leaves and certainly no blossoms. So much for our idea. By the sixteenth the peak of the hatch had passed, but the fish were still on the drake nymphs and emergers. Golden stoneflies were hatching also, complicating things even more. Mornings were for stoneflies, while the drake nymphs and emergers produced better in the afternoon.

I didn't stay for the spinner fall. In fact, I never put a dun or a coffin fly on. I had caught enough. The next day a friend and I were on stream again. There were a lot more people there. (The word was out) Many people came to fish the coffin fly that evening. My friend and I sat and watched. Lots of fish rose, and fish were caught. During the day I had seen only two drakes hatch. The magic was over for another year. (We both caught our share of fish using nymphs)

So next year watch the black locust trees - unless we have no winter again! When the drakes appear, fish a nymph and the hatch will be as magical as it is supposed to be.

Trout in the Classroom - A Report

During the 2011-2012 school year, The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and MLTU supported nine Trout in the Classroom (TIC) projects at the following schools: Berlin-Brothersvalley High, Conemaugh Township Middle, Forest Hills High, North Star East Elementary, Penn Cambria Middle, Saint Benedict, Shade-Central City High, and Cambria Heights Middle, which participated for the first time.

Most projects were extremely successful, with students consistently engaged and exposed to the early life cycle of brook trout and high numbers of 3-5" fingerlings to release. One project at Penn Cambria struggled with trout mortality for unexplainable reasons. Still, the goals of TIC are to create enthusiasm and interest in the care of trout and in the conservation of their natural habitats, and I believe we accomplished that.

Several school projects culminated in release day activities, which, for most, 3-6 outdoor workshops that expanded upon lessons learned throughout the year in the classroom. Thank you to the following for assisting with these activities: Beaverdam Run Trout Nursery and Co-op, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, MLTU, Natural Biodiversity, Pa Fish and Boat Commission, SCRIP, Shade Creek Watershed Association, and Somerset Conservation District.

Funds from a GenOn Energy grant received by the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, PATU grants, MLTU, schools, and volunteers supported these projects and activities.

Trout in the Classroom is an ever-expanding, highly successful TU initiative, and I cannot impart how important and necessary it is for more than 2-3 MLTU members to participate in our local schools' programs. Randy Buchanan and Bill Conlin kindly and patiently taught students from Forest Hills, Conemaugh Township, and Saint Benedict Schools how to cast a fly rod, but the demands of the program need to be and should be shouldered by the chapter as a whole. Also, at this time, there are no funds to support the significant time I invest through the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team in Trout in the Classroom next year, so my involvement will diminish, and the time I volunteer will focus on schools new to the program. Next year in MLTU's area Bishop McCort High School will be joining the aforementioned schools in TIC. If you would like to help, please contact me at mreckner@kcstreamteam.org or at 814-444-2669. Thank you and have a great summer!

Monitoring of Clear Shade Creek and Cub Run

Initial CCC baseline monitoring by the Mountain Laurel Chapter occurred on May 4th and May 14th at two sites on Clear Shade and one on Cub Run. These three sites are located as follows:

- Clear Shade Creek - CS1 - Riffle under the Iron Bridge at Crumb Road
- CS2 - Approximately 100 yards upstream of the Iron Bridge and 100' feet above Cub Run at the Stone Pile
- Cub Run CR1 - Approximately 100 yards upstream from Clear Shade Creek in the riffle below Iron Pipe Cap

I expect to do additional testing this week and to collect water samples to be sent to AALARM.

At my initial meeting and testing activity with Larry Hutchinson, President of the Shade Creek Watershed Association on May 14th, he told me that he had been taking pictures of the historical Iron Bridge because there were plans to replace it. With this information and knowing the locations of Berwind #9 and #11 drill permit sites, we surmise that the bridge is being replaced to accommodate heavy trucks. In addition, I was told that the Windber Water Authority has leased sites in the Clear Shade Creek Watershed.

Another monitoring site planned on Clear Shade Creek is near the site of the breached Windber Water Dam. I will let you know the location of this site later.

George Mostoller

Chapter Musings

Did you know that we have a Pennsylvania Champion in our chapter. Andy Fresch won a state fly tying competition last year. Congratulations to Andy! Keep up the good work.

The yellow Creek Coalition Pig Roast was held on June 16, 2012 at Ron Lundquist's picnic grounds on Jack's Corner Road. About 120 people attended. A good time was had by all.

The YCC is getting close to having easements in place for the fly project. It's been a lot of work, but with the help of the Fish and Boat Commission, we hope to have this soon.

If you are young and just beginning to get into fly fishing, take advantage of what MLTU has to offer. Call Randy Buchanan for lessons on fly tying or casting. You will find no better on stream teacher of nymph fishing than Randy. Bill Conlin is a rod builder extraordinaire. Check with Bill for all of your rod needs. There are also many others in the chapter who are willing to offer help, if asked. Don't try to do it all yourself. Get help!

Charley Whitman is considering setting up a web-site to let fishermen know stream conditions on Yellow Creek. We'll keep you posted.

Perhaps only God can get us a permit for more work on Potter Creek. Randy has resubmitted the application for the umpteenth time. Maybe, if we are lucky, this one will be granted.

Yellow Creek Coalition Pig Roast

If you missed the fifth annual Yellow Creek Coalition Pig Roast you missed a great time. The event, held on Saturday, June 16, 2012, drew a crowd of well over 100 people

to Ron Lundquist's picnic ground on Jack's Corner Road. Prize chairman Barry Moldovan had assembled well over 200 prizes for guests to buy tickets to. Among the prizes were a Hardy reel, two Winston rods, and a gas grill. Guests had a chance at the prizes through a general raffle, silent auctions, a three dollar a ticket table, and special raffles. Charley Whitman was selling Yellow Creek Coalition tee shirts and hats, and tickets were sold for a 50/50 drawing.

Guests were treated to a fine meal, prepared by Holland Brothers of Duncansville and served by members of the John Kennedy/Blair County Chapter of Trout Unlimited. John Kennedy himself was in attendance. The event began at 1:00 p.m. and ended just after 4:00 p.m. MLTU volunteers worked the tickets with able assistance from Wayne Sherlock and his children. Other people helped out with various tasks. Thanks to Rick Buchanan, who provided the tent and chairs and tables. The event raised a good deal of money to support the efforts of the Yellow Creek Coalition. Thanks to all who helped out, and to all who attended.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Regular Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Meetings are held at the Gander Mountain

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Lodge in the store at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Board of Directors Meetings

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Meetings are held in the Gander Mountain

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Lodge in the store at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Chapter Elections

Nominations for chapter officers and one-and two-year Board of Directors positions will open as the first order of business under "New Business" at the July 10, 2012 meeting. After all nominations are made at that meeting, nominations will close. They will reopen as the first item of business under "Old Business" at the August 14, 2012 and the September 11, 2012 meetings. After all nominations have been received, the election of officers and board members will take place as the first item of business under "New Business" at the September 11, 2012 meeting.

Reminder

Twelve Days of Christmas Tickets, which are used to provide funds to buy prizes for our spring banquet, will be available in September or early October!

Chapter Work Days

June 29th and 30th, 2012

Work Days on Bens Creek

July 13th and 14th, 2012

Rain dates for Bens Creek work days.

Saturday, August 4, 2012

Habitat Improvement workday at the Quemahoning Dam. 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Habitat Improvement - Que Dam - 5:00 pm