



# The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter  
*Trout Unlimited*

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

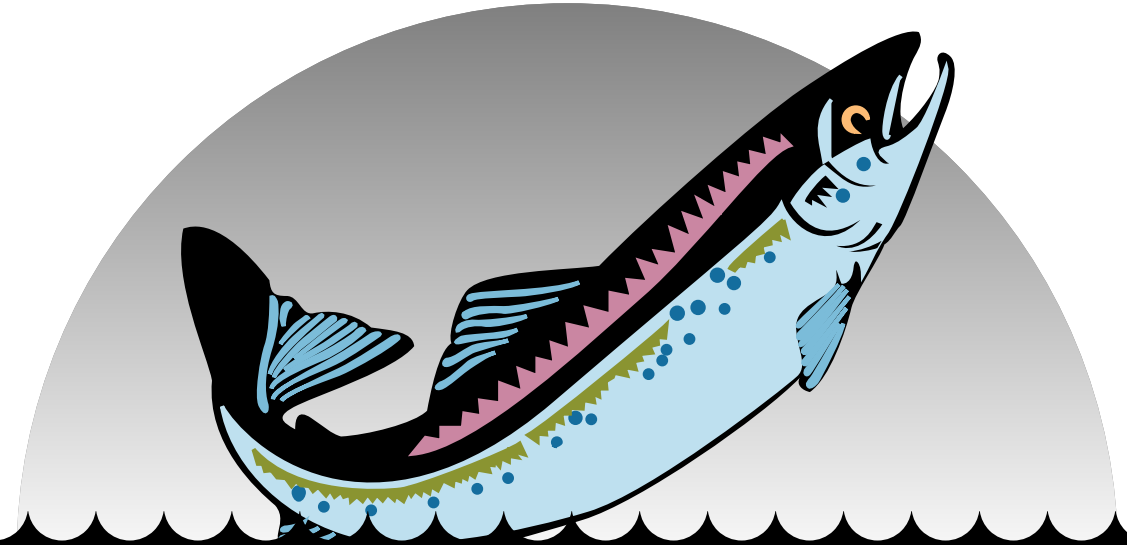
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# The Flyline

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# TROUT UNLIMITED

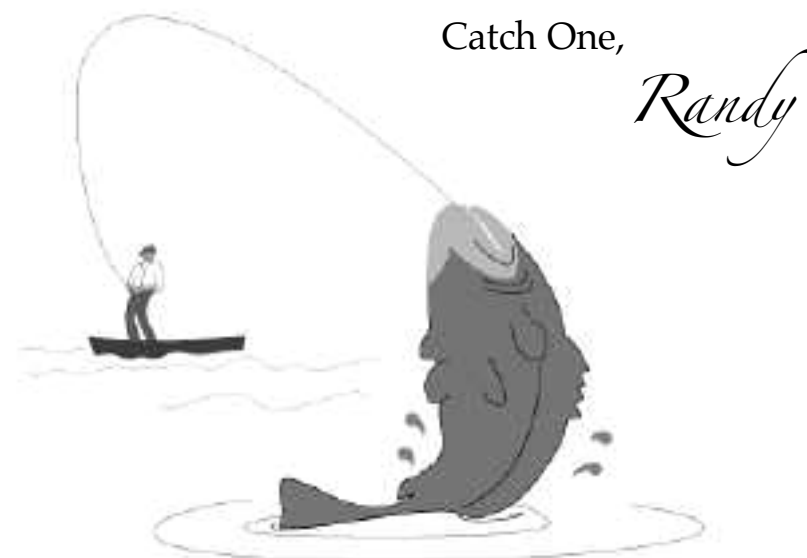
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

# *From Randy's Desk . . .*

First of all, I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and that all of you have a safe and healthy new year. Here at MLTU we are thankful for many things, from a good nucleus of workers to many generous supporters. We are also grateful for our recent Best Chapter Award from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. I know what a great job we do, but it is still nice to be recognized.

In the coming year, we have much to do. We must continue to reach out to our youth to educate them to environmental concerns, especially threats to clean, cold water. We must be on alert to the dangers posed by Marcellus Shale drilling. We will continue our work on the Bens Creek, as well as possibly working on Potter Creek in Bedford County.

We will continue to support the Yellow Creek Coalition. Cleanups, stockings, and other activities will occupy our time. We must raise money to support these activities. I urge you to attend our annual fund-raising banquet on March 19, 2011. This is our chief fund-raising event of the year. Come and support cold-water conservation, because without cold water, we will eventually have no water. I look forward to your help this year.



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

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Mark Lee  
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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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## **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.



Most of deer season is gone, except for the muzzle loader people. Squirrels and grouse may still be pursued if the weather cooperates a little. The streams seem cold and bleak, filled with gun metal gray water. Still the winter fisherman can find open water to fish and a few fish to catch. Fur and feathers beckon now. It is a time to clean tackle and to replenish stocks of flies for the coming year. Now we can reread favorite books on angling, books which recall to us memories of happy days afield. We dream and plan for the coming season. We stay warm while the winter winds howl outside.

March will be here before we realize. A few warm days in February whet our appetites, but there will be more snow to disappoint us in the days ahead. Fear not! Those first blue wings will emerge in the nasty weather to chase away the chill. Soon the Skunk Cabbage will peek through the snow, signaling the coming spring. Can April be far behind?

Gary Cooper

## *Chapter News and Notes*

Chapter Member Melissa Reckner received the Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach from Dave Rothrock, President of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited at the Council's October meeting in State College. Missy was recognized for her efforts in coordinating the Trout in the Classroom Program in Cambria and Somerset Counties for MLTU. Congratulations and good work Melissa.

The chapter needs instructors for the winter fly tying classes. If you have tied flies for awhile, come and lend your instructional skills to a new generation of fly tiers.

Speaking of flies, all of you members out there who tie flies can help out the chapter by tying a dozen or so flies for our annual spring banquet. Just tie them up as you tie flies this winter, stick them in a box and bring them to the banquet. You can also help by soliciting an area business you know for a prize for the banquet. Perhaps you could even get the business to be a prize sponsor for our banquet. Do you build rods or wading staffs? Maybe you might want to donate to our banquet. There are lots of ways you can help out the chapter. If you want more information, call Gary Cooper at 266-4763.

Don't forget our website at [www.mltu.org](http://www.mltu.org).

Make your plans now to attend this year's pig roast of the Yellow Creek Coalition.

The coalition works to maintain access to Yellow Creek in Bedford County, a popular fly fishing destination. This year's goals include acquiring conservation easements in the fly project. The pig roast will be in June. Stay tuned for further details.

We may be returning to work on Potter Creek this year after an absence of several years.

## *Mountain Laurel Wins Best Chapter in State Award!*

At MLTU we are usually very busy. As a result, we often do not submit a bid to the officers of Pa. Trout to be considered as the best chapter in the state. We all know we do good work, but we also do not always seek recognition. This year chapter member Melissa Reckner decided to submit information on behalf of the chapter. At the fall state council meeting in October, Mountain Laurel Chapter received the endorsement of Pa. Trout as the best chapter in Pennsylvania. We received an engraved fly box as the best chapter. This fly box will be filled with flies and auctioned off at this year's banquet. A hearty thanks must go to Melissa Reckner for submitting the information that won us this award.

All chapter members should be proud of this accomplishment. Many in our chapter work very hard on stream projects, cleanups, the banquet, the newsletter, fly tying courses, youth outreach, and the Yellow Creek Coalition. Many of you help by supporting our banquet. All in all, this award represents the collective work and support of a lot of people. Thanks to all of you. With your continued help and support we will continue to be the best chapter in Pennsylvania, even if we don't always apply.

## *It's Banquet Time Again!*

As January spreads its wintry veil over the landscape, it is time once again to turn our thoughts to the annual fund-raising banquet of MLTU. This year's banquet will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. As usual the doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to be served at 6:30. Tickets are available from Gary Cooper by calling 266-4763. Each ticket costs \$30.00. Dinner choices are flank steak or stuffed chicken breast. Be sure to check the dinner choices on your dinner stubs before you send the tickets in.

This year's banquet will feature many wonderful prizes to take a chance on. There will be lots of fishing tackle to choose from. There will be kid's prizes, a raffle for ladies prizes (including jewelry), special raffles, silent auctions, and lots of ways for you to spend your money. Cash or credit card will be accepted (Visa or Mastercard). Please remember, this is a fund-raising banquet. The money raised supports the efforts of our chapter for the coming year. We need to raise this money to continue our important work.

Be generous. Bring a friend or two, or bring your wife. Spend what you can to support cold-water conservation and enhancement.

The general raffle has three levels. The best prizes are on the third level. In order to purchase a third level ticket you must buy a package of at least \$50.00. We sell packages of \$50, \$100, and \$200. We also have less expensive packages for those not interested in the upper level prizes.

So put March 19, 2011 on your appointment calendar. Get ready for a night of food and fun. We will pass out chapter awards, celebrate our Best Chapter Award, and honor those who have helped our chapter. Come join us for a great evening!

## **Upcoming** Chapter Events

### **Monthly Chapter Meetings**

Tuesday, January 11, 2011  
Tuesday, February 8, 2011  
Tuesday, March 8, 2011  
Tuesday, April 12, 2011  
Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Regular meetings are held at the Gander Mountain Lodge at 7:00 p.m. The Public is welcome. **Board of Directors** meetings are held at the same location date at 6:30 p.m.

### **Winter Fly Tying Courses**

Mountain Laurel Chapter will run two beginners fly tying courses again this year. The courses will be held at the Gander Mountain Lodge on Monday evenings and on Saturdays. The cost of the course is \$20.00 per person. Tools and materials will be provided. Interested persons should sign up at the customer service desk at the front of the Gander Mountain store. The twenty dollars will be collected on the first night of the course. For more information, call Gary Cooper at 266-4763.

### **Monday Course**

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. Also on February 7th.

### **Monday Course**

9:00 to 12:00 p.m. January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and February 5th.

### **Annual Fund-Raising Banquet**

This year's fund-raising banquet will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. The cost of a ticket is \$30.00. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m.. From 5:00 to 6:30, guests may examine the items to be raffled, purchase raffle tickets, take chances on special prizes, bid on silent auctions, and enjoy the musical entertainment. Dinner will be served at about 6:30. Following dinner there will be a brief program of awards. Then the raffles will begin. It should be a great evening for cold-water conservation.

### **Yellow Creek Coalition Meeting**

Sunday, February 13, 2011. Ronnie's Cabin - 2:00 p.m.