

The Flyline

Mountain Laurel Chapter
Trout Unlimited

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

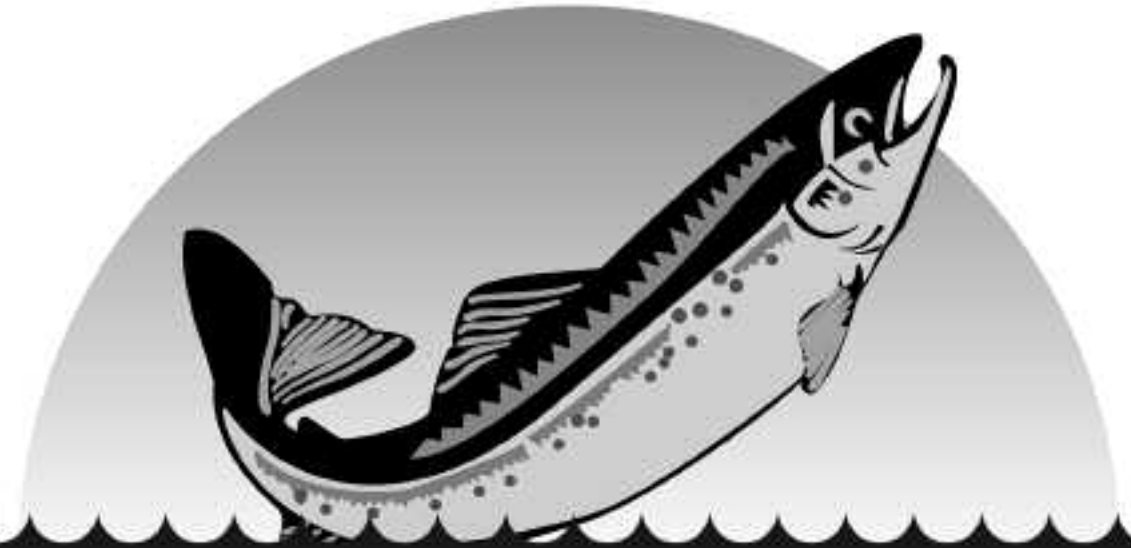
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WINTER 2013



TROUT UNLIMITED

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TROUT UNLIMITED

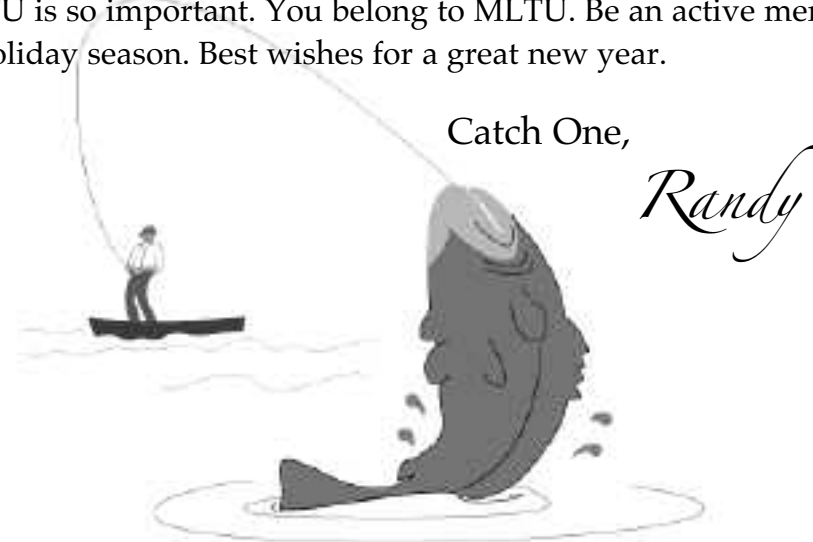
From Randy's Desk . . .

If you read this, December 21, 2012 has come and gone, and we are still here. That means it is time to continue with the important work of MLTU. One thing on the agenda is the restructuring of The Yellow Creek Coalition. We are rewriting the by-laws. Soon we will be offering memberships, something we have never done before. Trout Unlimited will no longer be directly involved, but individual members may participate of their own accord.

Hopefully we will be having our winter fly tying courses. Not many have signed up at this time, but there is still the opportunity. The banquet committee is hard at work planning this year's banquet. All of you, as members, should plan now to attend this year's banquet. In addition, you can solicit prizes for the banquet, tie flies, or seek out new sponsors. Be more involved in our banquet. (See the banquet article later in this issue for more details.)

Were you satisfied with your trout season this year? What can you do to improve yourself? First of all you can use the winter to read as many books on fishing and fly tying as possible. You can learn a lot from books. There are some great videos available on any number of fishing and tying situations. Again, you can learn a lot. Go to Fly fishing and tying shows. At these shows there are seminars and the chance to talk to professionals. Ask questions and learn. Tie lots of flies. Restock your fly boxes. Pay attention to the flies you really used. Do you need to increase your selection? Don't be afraid to innovate. Try some of your own ideas. Clean your equipment. Make sure everything is in good working order. Do you have casting problems? Practice on the lawn and on winter fishing trips. Perfect your basic casting, and learn some new casts.

Resolve to become a better TU member. Cold, clear water is the key to great trout fishing. That is why MLTU is so important. You belong to MLTU. Be an active member. I hope you had a great holiday season. Best wishes for a great new year.



Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited 2011 OFFICERS

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Johnstown, PA 15904

DIRECTORS

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David Wright
Butch Kerchenske

Jassim Hassan
Len Lichvar
Andy Fresch

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.

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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 . . .



There is always something going on in a river or stream. Though winter may blanket the landscape, life continues unabated beneath the surface of the water. Next years hatches are maturing in the form of tiny nymphs among the rocks and in the gravel. As they grow, they shed their exoskeletons. By spring they will be ready to hatch. Sometimes high water in late winter scours out new runs and holes to be learned with the approach of spring. After spawning the trout are wintering in holes, recovering their strength after the strain of spawning. Some will not make it.

Along the banks, next years crop of wild flowers lies hidden under the snow and leaves. By February, the first shoots of skunk cabbage will herald the coming spring. Underwater the caddis flies will clean the stream of sunken leaves from the fall. Predatory nymphs like dragonflies and stoneflies will prey upon smaller organisms to survive. Smaller nymphs will glean plankton and other nutrients from the currents. Unlucky small baitfish will fall victim to predatory trout in the shallows.

Sparse hatches of midges will provide food for the trout. Perhaps a warmer, cloudy day will bring a hatch of small olives. It only takes a increase of a few degrees in water temperature to start the sluggish trout feeding. Each day brings a natural drift of aquatic organisms to restock lower areas of the stream. Though it may appear dead, there is always something going on in a stream

State Council and National TU News and Notes

National has three major concerns as far as legislative concerns. The first is the farm bill. The second is the Fiscal Cliff. The third is the Sportsman's Bill which provides for fish habitat, fish passage, and Restoration.

Nationwide TU volunteers donated 675,000 volunteer hours during the past year. This has a total estimated value of \$14,708,520. TU chapters recruited 2,500 new members and hosted 4000 meetings and events which were attended by 70,000 people. Chapters generated over \$10,000,000 in revenue. TU is alive and well in the United States.

Don't forget that state council is offering hats, Back the Brookie license plates, TU license plates, and rods. You can get details online in the fall issue of PA TROUT's newsletter.

PA TROUT's policies on trout are available in the fall issue of the states newsletter.



MLTU Spring Fund-Raising Banquet Set for March 16, 2013

The Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its annual Spring Fund-Raising Banquet on Saturday, March 16, 2013. The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. As usual, there will be a nice selection of fishing gear and other prizes available to guests. There will be three levels of regular raffles, special raffles, and more. In January we will be mailing banquet tickets to members. If you need more tickets, call Gary Cooper at 266-4763. Each ticket costs \$30.00. When you fill out your ticket stubs, be sure to check your meal choices - Chicken or Steak. Send your stubs and a check to Gary Cooper. Make the check out to MLTU, not to Gary Cooper.

How can you help with the banquet? First of all, come to the banquet. Bring one or several friends. Bring your wife or girlfriend. Support MLTU and its work. Second, go out and solicit prizes for the banquet. Go to businesses in your area and ask for a prize. Third, if you tie flies, tie a set of flies as a banquet prize. Fourth, Go to a business and ask them to be a banquet sponsor. Sponsorships cost \$150.00. If interested in number four, contact Gary Cooper for literature to use. You can help in many ways.

This year's banquet will have a change in the way we sell tickets. We can no longer use roll tickets due to the states new small games of chance law which took effect in February. We will be printing our own tickets. Each sheet of tickets requires that you provide your name, address, and phone number. It is probably a good idea to bring ten or fifteen address labels to use on tickets. This will save time at the ticket table. Otherwise not much will change.

This is MLTU's major fund- raising event of the year. Be there and support the important work we do. We will have a great evening, and we want you to be part of it.

Gary Cooper
Banquet Chairman

Upcoming Chapter Events

Regular Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
Tuesday, March 12, 2013
Tuesday, April 9, 2013

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

Board of Directors Meetings

Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
Tuesday, March 12, 2013
Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Board of Director's Meetings are held at Gander Mountain Lodge in the Gander Mountain store at 6:30 pm before the regular meeting

Chapter Fund-Raising Banquet

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Holiday Inn - Downtown Johnstown. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$30.00 per ticket. Call Gary Cooper at 266-4763 for information or for tickets.

Banquet Committee Meetings

Thursday, January 17, 2013
Thursday, February 21, 2013
Thursday, March 7, 2013

Banquet Committee Meetings are held at the home of Buchanan Residence at 7:00 pm.

Chapter Fly Tying Courses (Tentative)

Monday, January 7, 2013
Monday, January 14, 2013
Monday, January 21, 2013
Monday, January 28, 2013
Monday, February 4, 2013
Monday, February 11, 2013

Saturday, January 12, 2013
Saturday, January 19, 2013
Saturday, January 26, 2013
Saturday, February 2, 2013
Saturday, February 9, 2013
Saturday, February 16, 2013

All courses are held at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Monday courses are held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday Courses are held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The cost for each course is \$20.00. Sign up at the front desk at Gander Mountain by the end of December. Money is due on the first day of the course.

Other Events

February 24, 2013

Cabin Fever - Penns Woods West Chapter - Cranberry, Pa.

January 5, 2013
March 16, 2013

PA Trout - Winter EXCOM Meeting
PA Trout - Spring EXCOM Meeting