



# 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 36

WINTER 2015



# TROUT UNLIMITED

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

# *From Randy's Desk . . .*

Ah winter! I like to fish in the winter. Although the weather is not always the best, fewer anglers provide a nice compensation. Solitude is wonderful.

I hope everyone had a very happy holiday season. I would like to thank all of you who helped make this past year a good one for the chapter. We carried a full slate of projects throughout the year so a person did not have to look very hard to find something of interest to get involved. This year will be no different. Many of our projects have already begun. In the early part of the year you can help with our free fly tying courses held in January and February. Any student in the fly tying courses will also have an opportunity to receive a ten dollar rebate on a new membership to TU. Our most important project is the spring fundraising banquet. This year's event occurs on March 21, 2015 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. We always welcome volunteers to our banquet committee, which has been working since October.

The Trout in the Classroom schools got their shipments of eggs in November. Classroom programs will occur in the early months of this year and will conclude with release day programs in April and May of 2015. Anyone interested in helping children to understand cold-water conservation as well as fishing is welcome to help.

The Cold-Water Conservation Corp. is an ongoing project for the entire year. It involves water monitoring of local streams throughout the year. The program will be expanded this year to include identification of aquatic life in local streams. Currently we have only two or three volunteers involved with this work: therefore, there is always a need for more volunteers.

In late spring and summer there is a break to do some fishing, but midsummer will find us back at it again with projects on Bens Creek, Potter Creek, and Yellow Creek. Want more? In April and May there are cleanups on Yellow Creek, Shade Creek, and Little Paint Creek.

Before I close, let me add one more thing. You can do all of this and still look good while wearing a brand new tee shirt or fishing shirt featuring the Mountain Laurel name and the TU logo. See the flyer in this newsletter to order one or more.



Catch One,  
*Randy*

## **Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited 2014 OFFICERS**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>President</i><br><b>Randy Buchanan</b><br>1745 Regal Drive<br>Johnstown, PA 15904 | <i>Vice-President</i><br><b>Gary Cooper</b><br>Rear 704 Scalp Avenue<br>Johnstown, PA 15904 |
|--|---|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Secretary</i><br><b>Dave Maher</b><br>417 Old Farm Lane<br>Johnstown, PA 15904 | <i>Treasurer</i><br><b>Pat Buchanan</b><br>1745 Regal Drive<br>Johnstown, PA 15904 |
|---|--|

### **DIRECTORS**

|                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Greg Shustrick<br>David Wright | Butch Kerchenske<br>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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## **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.

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Chapter Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, March 21, 2015 Holiday Inn, downtown Johnstown. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$30.00 per ticket. For tickets call 266-4763. Members will receive tickets in the mail.

### Monthly Chapter Meetings

Tuesday, January 13, 2015  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015  
Tuesday, March 10, 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, January 13, 2015  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015  
Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Gander Mountain Lodge, Gander Mountain Store 6:30 p.m.

### Banquet Committee Meetings

Wednesday, January 7, 2015  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Buchanan Residence at 7:00 p.m. All Meetings

### Fly Tying Courses

Mondays – January 5, 12, 19 & 26 2015  
February 2 & 9

Gander Mountain Lodge, Gander Mountain Store  
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays – January 10, 17 & 24 2015  
February 7, 14 & 21 2015

Gander Mountain Lodge, Gander Mountain Store  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To sign up for the beginner's courses, go to the service desk at the front of the Gander Mountain Store and sign up. Be sure to specify Mondays or Saturdays. The courses are free. Mountain Laurel will supply tools and materials, however if you have your own tools, you are encouraged to bring them.

### Other Events of Note

The Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber of Commerce Sports and Outdoor Show  
Frank J, Pasquerilla Conference Center Downtown Johnstown January 30 & 31 & February 1, 2015  
MLTU will have a booth at the show. Member volunteers are needed.

New Leaders "Webinar" Training Program hosted by PA Trout Unlimited January 8, 2015 – 7 to 8 p.m.  
This training is for young members who either are currently leaders or would like to become leaders in their chapter. We recommend this highly.

You must register. Contact Samantha Kutskel at [skutskel@coldwaterheritage.com](mailto:skutskel@coldwaterheritage.com)



The Leaves have dropped with only the occasional oak clinging to its leaves. The ground is carpeted with the discarded leaves making quiet movement almost impossible. Each step brings a crunch like that of walking on potato chips. Only a rain can bring quiet to one's wanderings. The nostrils fill with a musty, sweet smell, the result of rotting vegetation. A squirrel rustles noisily away at one's approach, startling a ruffed grouse from his hide in a clump of green briar. He roars away quickly only to glide to a stop a hundred yards away. Moving along, one notices a six inch wide sapling whose side has been scarred white by the antlers of a rutting buck. A chipmunk hurries along, his cheeks stuffed with acorns, on his repetitive route in search of food before winter. Gone are the crimsons and gold of early fall. It is late fall now, and winter cannot be far behind. Enjoy the subtle beauty of this season for like all other seasons, it will not last.

### MLTU Phone Tree

by Andy Fresch

MLTU has been trying to keep up with the times as far as communicating information about upcoming events. By utilizing our website and our new Facebook page, we can pass along current information faster and more efficiently.

However, we realize that not all of our members are computer savvy or have constant access to the internet. For this reason we are starting a phone tree to aid in reaching more members about upcoming events or last-minute schedule changes.

If you would like to join the phone tree, please call Andy Fresch at 814-525-5612. If no one answers please leave a message with your name, phone number, and that you would like to join the phone list. We hope this idea will result in more participation at our scheduled events. We look forward to seeing you at our next project.

## ***“In the Current”***

by Gary Cooper and Dave Wright

A group of volunteers including MLTU members met at for a riparian planting on the recently completed section of Quemahoning Creek below the dam. Approximately 1200 trees were planted, some around each structure that was completed. Dave Maher reported that there were a good number of volunteers at the work day. He said that the crew was very busy, and that the work was done by around one-thirty.

Andy Fresch has been named the new membership chairman for the chapter. Andy has already come up with several suggestions for engaging the membership. We have approximately 300 members and the goal is to have everyone become an active participant. Being a member of Trout Unlimited is meant to be much more than simply receiving a magazine subscription. We thank Andy for accepting the position, and we wish him luck!

The chapter participated in the Outdoor Expo held at People’s Natural Gas Park on October 3, 4, & 5.

Though the weather was cold and not many people were there, the MLTU volunteers did their best to spread the word about what MLTU does.

Greg Shustrick was elected to the board of directors of the chapter in September. We welcome Greg’s expertise and wish him well. We also want to thank out-going director Mark Lee for his many years of service to the chapter. Thanks Mark!

Greg Shustrick said that some work will be done on the North Fork of the Benscreek next year. MLTU may be able to help with that work.

Bedford County’s Yellow Creek trout stocking schedule could be changing in the future. The fly project and section of the stream immediately above the project are classified as Class A wild brown trout waters, yet still receive annual stockings. The practice of placing hatchery fish over wild, self-sustaining populations is in question. The PFBC is currently seeking public comment on this issue. If you would prefer to write a note, it can be addressed to:

Executive Director, PFBC  
P. o. Box 67000  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

Or E-mail your comments to [www.fishandboat.com/recomments](http://www.fishandboat.com/recomments)

The iconic “Iron Bridge” crossing Clear Shade Creek has been replaced by a modern cement structure. Time Marches on!

### **Humor**

“Most people (trout fishermen) don’t really know what they want, but they are pretty sure they don’t have it.” **Alfred E. Neuman**

## ***March Will Bring Spring on the Twentieth and Our Banquet on the Twenty-First:***

A snowy landscape, chill winds, and icicles hanging from the rafters. Winter can be very beautiful and breathtaking, but it can also be depressing for people who love to be outdoors. March 20 will herald the arrival of spring and the next day Mountain Laurel will hold its annual spring fundraising banquet. Tired of winter? Come on out and kick of the spring fishing season with a bang by attending our banquet and supporting the chapter.

Soon you will be receiving your tickets in the mail. You are the members of MLTU. We need your support to continue our important work. Mark this date, March 21, 2015, on your calendar. When you receive your tickets, don’t lose them. Fill out the stubs, write a check, and send both in.

What can you expect? A good meal (roast tenderloin or stuffed chicken breast) will be served. A fine selection of fishing gear will be raffled off. We have a nice selection of prizes for ladies attending. Most kids, 12 and under, get prizes. Silent auction prizes give everyone a chance to bid on items they really want. We think our prize selection is one of the best around. How about a nice meal? We have a restaurant tree where you’re guaranteed to get a prize at least equal to what you spend.

We accept cash and VISA or MASTERCARD. We want you to have a great time, but we also need you to spend some money to support our chapter. You will have a chance to win some great prizes. Bring a friend, your spouse, or your significant other. Whether you are a regular attendee or a first timer, a man or a woman, an older person or a young person, we want to welcome you to our banquet. Come and learn about Mountain Laurel, meet other members, and give us your ideas. In that way we can all grow together. We hope to see you there.

Gary L. Cooper  
MLTU Banquet Chairman

## ***How Can You Help Our Banquet?***

There are a several ways you can help with our banquet. First, if you tie flies, you can tie a box of flies for the raffle at the banquet. Get your materials out and start tying now. Is your wife or girlfriend a creative person. Could she make a basket for our women’s raffle? That would be great. Do you know anyone who owns a business? Ask them if they would like to be a prize sponsor for \$150.00. Call Gary Cooper for details and forms. (266-4763) Can you solicit a business for a prize? We accept almost anything. Do it now! Get out there and help us to have another great banquet.

## *Trout in the Classroom – A Valuable Program*

by Melissa Reckner

School students participating in PA TROUTS “Trout in the Classroom” became the proud parents of over 150 viable brook trout eggs around Election day. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, in partnership with the PA Council of Trout Unlimited, chose Brook Trout, Pennsylvania’s state fish. “They are the only trout native to Pennsylvania (Technically a char – Ed.), they spawn in the fall, and since they act as the proverbial “Canary in the Coal Mine,” their presence or lack thereof provides lots of opportunities to educate youth about cold-water ecosystems.” Throughout the year students will be studying and caring for these trout, and teachers will be connecting numerous lessons to the program. In the spring students will release the surviving trout into a state-approved body of water. Remember, it’s not about the number of trout released, it’s about the experience. Many students will then participate in a related field trip. Volunteers are always needed to help with these field trips. If you would like to get involved with Trout in the Classroom, visit [www.patrountintheclassroom.org](http://www.patrountintheclassroom.org) or contact Melissa Reckner at [mreckner@kcstreamteam.org](mailto:mreckner@kcstreamteam.org) or call Melissa at 814-444-2669.

Currently MLTU supports TIC in the following schools:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Berlin Brothersvalley | Forest Hills                           |
| Bishop McCort         | Penn Cambria Middle School (2)         |
| Cambria Heights       | Saint Benedict Catholic                |
| Conemaugh Township    | Shade/Central City Jr./Sr. High School |



## *State Council News and Notes*

by Gary Cooper

Chapter member Jeff Ripple, who is the Environmental Chairperson for PA Trout, Reported that the state legislature has passed a new law allowing development right down to the stream bank on many of our most precious watersheds. Thus there will be no riparian buffers to prevent siltation and pollution of those watersheds. For more information contact Jeff at 814-701-9703.

Jeff Ripple wants to remind chapter members that it is important to contact their federal legislators and ask them to support the clean water act, and in particular, the regulations which apply to intermittent and ephemeral waters. These waters are important to larger rivers and streams and help to support fish life such as wild brook trout. Their loss could also have an adverse effect on drinking water supplies. Make your feelings known to your legislators now!

The New “TU Event Print Shop can provide chapters with an easy affordable way to print high-quality posters, flyers, tickets and more. 20 percent of all purchases made will be donated back to TU.

TIC tee shirts are now on sale. Check out the “PA Trout in the Classroom” website for details. All proceeds go directly to the TIC program

PA TROUT will be selling tee shirts starting in January. All proceeds will benefit youth education programs. Go to the PA TROUT website for details.



## ***PFBC News***

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Board of Commissioners, at their January 21, 22, 2015 quarterly meeting in Harrisburg, will recommend to the Executive Director the continuation or elimination of stocking of hatchery trout in ten segments of streams that have been confirmed to contain Class A wild trout populations. Class A populations are deemed sufficient to create a viable recreational fishery and are a natural resource conservation success story. However, these stream segments have been historically supplemented with hatchery trout in the past.

The policy of the PFBC is not to stock hatchery trout in designated Class A waters. This policy can be found in two PFBC Bureau of Fisheries Guidance documents.

However, this is a governance policy set by the Board of Commissioners and external and other influences can be taken into consideration to make exceptions or changes to the written policy by the Board of Commissioners.

Any changes or lack of changes in regard to stocking will not add or delete or alter any tackle regulations on any of the waters.

The action taken will set the precedent for any future waters that may someday fall into this category.

The stream segments are:

Fishing Creek - Clinton County 2.4 miles

Little Lehigh Creek - Lehigh County, two sections 7.9 miles and 3.3 miles

Martins Creek - Northampton County, 7.6 miles

Monocacy Creek - Lehigh/Northampton Counties, 3.4 miles

Penns Creek - Centre County, 13.1 miles

Pohopoco Creek - Carbon County, 3.0 miles

Yellow Creek - Bedford County, two sections 2.7 miles, 1.5 miles Fly Fishing Only Section

Public input is being sought regarding if all or some of the ten segments of water should or should not continue to be stocked.

Comments may be submitted electronically by completing the form at [www.fishandboat.com/regcomments](http://www.fishandboat.com/regcomments) or in writing to Executive Director PFBC P. O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

Lenny Lichvar  
District 4 Commissioner  
PFBC  
[LennyLL@yahoo.com](mailto:LennyLL@yahoo.com)  
814-659-7057

## ***Going Fishing With Chuck (Somewhere)***

Get the new trout season started with a casual gathering of friends, good food and drink with Chuck Furimsky who will present a fly fishing program. This will be a narrated video of one of Chuck's many adventures! This program will be held on April 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Rizzo's in Windber. This program will feature the Italian Feast at a price of \$25 per person.

Starting at 6:00 p.m. we will feature some local fly tyers to entertain early arrivals along with a 50/50 and a small raffle. For more information or to schedule your place at the program attend the March and April meetings or Contact Randy Buchanan at 814/467-4034. Reservations are required by Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

## ***Chapter to Offer Free Fly Tying Courses***

This year Mountain Laurel Chapter will be offering free fly tying classes to the public. The courses will be held in the winter at the Gander Mountain lodge in the Gander Mountain Store, although the exact dates have not been set yet. These are beginner level courses. Tools and materials will be provided by the chapter. Top level instructors will be on hand. If you are interested, or if you know of anyone who is interested, all that you have to do is to register at the front desk at the Gander Mountain store. For Information call Gary Cooper at 814-266-4763.

